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Bengal Bouts celebrates 80th year

Program plans to send millionth dollar to Holy Cross Mission in Bangladesh, will host prelims Saturday

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

This year's Bengal Bouts tournament, which begins this weekend, marks two milestones for the boxing club, as the group will celebrate its 80th anniversary and send its millionth dollar to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

"There's so much surrounding the club right now," senior captain Michael Sayles said. "The goal is to raise \$80,000 on the 80th."

The club — started in 1920 by Knute Rockne — will hold

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Photo courtesy of Chris Cugliari

Senior captains, from left to right, Tim Thayer, Will Burroughs, John Maier, Patrick Burns, Nicholas Ponzio, Chris Cugliari and Michael Sayles pose in a promotional photo for this year's tournament.

College revises housing policies

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

With room selection for the 2010-11 academic year quickly approaching, the Department of Residence Life and Community Standards at Saint Mary's is working to help make the process run more efficiently with changes to the former quota system, renovations and additions to the Web site and more information sessions and more activities for students.

The quota system is one of the more disputed issues that has come up over the years, according to Slandah Dieujuste, director of Residence Life at the College. The system limited the number of students from the different class years that could live in each hall.

"We have heard quite a bit over the years how students didn't think that was the best way to do room selection so we got rid of the quota system this year," Dieujuste said.

The one exception, she said, will be in Queens Court, a small wing on the second floor of Le Mans Hall, which will be reserved for incoming students.

"Instead of having first year students scattered around Le Mans, we want to try to create

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Visiting scholar addresses sustainability



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Visiting scholar Margaret Carroll Boardman delivers a lecture discussing the importance of sustainable development Thursday.

By KATIE PERALTA
Assistant News Editor

Access to food and clean water is an essential human right, and science and technology have a key role to play in sustainable development.

This loaded message was the theme of a lecture titled "The Fight Against World Hunger: Phase II of the Agricultural Green Revolution," delivered Tuesday at the Hesburgh Center Auditorium by Reilly Center visiting scholar Margaret Carroll Boardman.

From a family of Notre Dame graduates and daughter

of a U.S. diplomat, Boardman lived in a number of different developing countries growing up, one factor that stimulated her interest in sustainable development, she said.

"It's controversial and complicated," Boardman said.

Phase II of the Green Revolution, she said, began in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The lecture focused on ways technology can develop agricultural methods that would achieve food security for "the

see LECTURE/page 6

Chattopadhyay brings experience to teaching

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

The only thing longer than Professor Tamo Chattopadhyay's last name is his list of life experiences.

"This is my fourth life," Chattopadhyay said. "Growing up in India, finishing high school, that was my first life. I was a little bit adventurous and I wanted to study science."

Chattopadhyay received a scholarship to study Physics in Moscow, Russia, which he considers his second life.

"It was a major culture shock. It was the former Soviet Union, around 1983," Chattopadhyay said. "It was a

very different society and a fascinating social experiment."

His third life was spent in New York City, arriving in 1992 and working in finance with companies like J.P. Morgan.

"I quickly realized everything I had learned in physics was in great demand in finance," Chattopadhyay said.

"Here is a turning point for my life, around 1998, when I was secure in my career, I just began really to question, what is it that I want to do?" Chattopadhyay said. "Is this the most rewarding way to spend life? All of this is fun, but somewhere I was feeling a little bit

see PROFESSOR/page 4

LNO celebrates 24th anniversary

Event helps raise funds for St. Joseph County Special Olympics

By CAITLYN KALSCHUR
News Writer

Late Night Olympics (LNO), an interhall competition that benefits St. Joseph County Special Olympics, is back for the 24th time, beginning tonight at 6 p.m., coordinator Tim Novak said.

The Games will involve 14 events and take place in the Joyce Center field house and the Rolfs Aquatic Center. Events will include volleyball, men's and women's 3-on-3 basketball, innertube water polo, target golf, cornhole, broomball, men's and women's racquetball, kayaking, dodge-



Observer file photo

Students play dodgeball in during the Late Night Olympics at the Joyce Center last year.

see OLYMPICS/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Bad romance

It has often been noted that the relationships and interactions between members of the opposite sex are strained here on this campus. People note unfair gender relations, segregation of dorms, parietals, the ring by spring and the infamous “Hook-up” culture we cultivate here under the Golden Dome, as just a few examples of these growing tensions.

Carly Landon

News Wire Editor

In this midst of all this criticism, it is great to be reminded that romance isn’t dead. Boys on campus will get girls numbers and text them, which is practically the love note of this century. Members of the opposite sex will meet up at parties, and the occasional lunch-date occurs. There are the infrequent Starbucks’ or Reckers’ meetings, and even the classy dorm date — just “chilling” in a dorm room. Nope, romance really isn’t dead. Life at Notre Dame must confirm it. Valentine’s Day is heading our way, and it will bring us the reassurance that love is alive and well. Thankfully, we don’t even have to go far as the dining hall will be hosting a romantic feast, sure to win you the girl or boy of your dreams.

Here’s a few ideas for how to meet that special someone.

Go up to that cutie from class. Last semester, a boy in class came up to me and asked if I wanted to hang out or get lunch or something. I apologized saying I had a boyfriend. To which he promptly responded with a sideways glance saying he had a girlfriend. We haven’t talked since, but hey maybe it’ll work for you. I’ll cross my fingers.

An even better idea is utilizing the romantic setting of the Library to your advantage. How could you not fall madly in love when surrounded by all those dusty books and hieroglyphics stenciled into the cubicles? On a recent visit, it was a night when I’d really thought chivalry must be dead. But to my dismay, my knight in shining armor arrived, masked in a handsome grey hoodie. There I was, attempting to tackle a large pile of homework, and there he was: walking wistfully by, sitting at a nearby table dreamily tapping his fingers seductively, shaking his leg effortlessly, having his hood pulled up so I couldn’t see his face. Anything he could do to pester me he would. It seemed to me to be his ultimate mission. In the old days, annoyance led to attraction, and attraction led to instant marriage, just look at Romeo and Juliet. What an awesome plan. My cloaked suitor must have known.

For three hours, he sat there, without a book on his desk, just teasing me silently with his aggravating presences. Finally, as I packed up to leave, he handed me a note and fled. I didn’t get to see his face as his abundant confidence led him to flee, or more literally, run out of the Library. But don’t worry, he gave me his number.

So this hooded figure, this Romeo-esque studier, Phantom of the Library and I have never met. But believe me we are getting somewhere. Somewhere so far we are embarking on a real life Notre Dame romance, all I have to do is text him and we are there.

So this to all you other Domers: Romance truly isn’t gone. It is here and alive within this campus. It can be yours, just grab a date, take her or him to D.H. Apparently you can even walk up to a random girl and sparks will fly and a deep, meaningful relationship will bloom. Good luck!

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Carly Landon at clandon@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR VALENTINE’S DAY?



Kim Plemel
sophomore
Ryan

“Avoid it at all costs.”



Sam Laycock
freshman
Farley

“I’m watching the Daytona 500!”



Max Scodro
sophomore
O’Neill

“It’s the day after my birthday. It’s stealing my thunder.”



Jesse Hoelscher
freshman
Zahm

“Hanging out with my girlfriend.”



Melissa Santos
junior
Pangborn

“I have a date with Jesus. 10 p.m. Pangborn Chapel.”

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Pangborn Hall’s phoxy mascot advertises Project Pink, the dorm’s signature event, on South Quad on Thursday afternoon. Project Pink is a fashion show that features all pink clothing items.

OFFBEAT

Teen found in igloo with pot, bong and knife

NEW CASTLE, Del. — Police responding to a report of a suspicious man carrying a gun instead found two legs sticking out of a homemade igloo. New Castle County police said the legs belong to Delaware teen who was arrested Wednesday after he was found to be carrying a survival knife, a hammer, 7.5 grams of marijuana and two marijuana pipes.

County police spokesman Senior Cpl. Trinidad Navarro said the teen was released to his parents. Police said he was charged with carrying a concealed deadly weapon,

carrying a concealed deadly instrument, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuanalegunt saepius.

Boston forgives tickets given during non-storm

BOSTON — Boston officials said the owners of thousands of vehicles ticketed or towed during a snow-storm that never was won’t have to pay a cent. With forecasters predicting up to a foot of snow on Wednesday, the city declared a snow emergency, which requires main thoroughfares to be free of vehicles to allow plows to fully clear the

streets.

The Boston Transportation Department said the city ticketed 3,353 vehicles at \$45 a pop and towed another 229 at \$90 each.

Then the snow came — barely a dusting.

Mayor Tom Menino said the unpredictable nature of the storm and the fact that many families are already struggling prompted him to waive the fines.

Transportation Department Tom Tinlin said the decision was “in the best interests of the city.”

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Fifth Annual Edith Stein Project: “No Man is an Island: Creature, Culture and Community” will take place today from noon to 9:30 p.m. in McKenna Hall. The event is free and open to all.

A short classical concert entitled Bach’s Lunch: A Noontime Concert will take palce today at 12:10 p.m. in the Penote Performer’s Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The event is free but tickets are required. Call 574-631-2800 for reservations.

The film “Broken Embraces” will be shown tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students, \$4 for seniors and \$6 for general admission. Purchase tickets online at performingarts.nd.edu

The musical drama “Parade” will be presented by PEMCo. tonight at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are \$6 for students and \$8 for all non-students. Tickets can be purchased at the LaFortune Box Office or by calling 574-631-8128.

The Brazilian Carnaval will be celebrated tonight from 8 p.m. to midnight at South Dining Hall. The event features live music and dancing. The event is free and open to all.

Notre Dame’s 1st Annual “Polar Bear Plunge” will take place Saturday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Joseph’s Lake. The cost is a \$5 donation to Haiti relief.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 26 LOW 21	HIGH 20 LOW 16	HIGH 26 LOW 16	HIGH 26 LOW 16	HIGH 26 LOW 21	HIGH 30 LOW 20
Atlanta 34 / 24 Boston 36 / 18 Chicago 28 / 18 Denver 47 / 32 Houston 49 / 34 Los Angeles 68 / 48 Minneapolis 28 / 16 New York 34 / 21 Philadelphia 33 / 19 Phoenix 72 / 49 Seattle 51 / 46 St. Louis 34 / 25 Tampa 53 / 41 Washington 35 / 25						

Campus flower shop anticipates Valentine's

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, Irish Gardens is facing a huge spike in business, but Notre Dame's student-run flower shop strives to maintain its personal approach to customers while dealing with a large increase in orders.

"Valentine's Day is our busiest time of year, hands down," Michelle Maloney, senior and general manager of Irish Gardens, said. "This year we've been trying to make it even easier for customers to order flowers."

Irish Gardens, which has been operating since 1972 when women were first admitted to the University, is attempting to make ordering effortless for students, the shop has staffed a table in LaFortune where customers can place orders. The store's hours have also been extended for the weekend to accommodate last-minute orders.

Despite the inevitable rush of late orders, Maloney said that Irish Gardens encouraged customers to place orders early by providing discounted delivery on orders placed prior to Feb. 10.

This year, the shop is offering



eight different pre-made Valentine's Day bouquets that incorporate a variety of flowers and vary in size to accommodate any budget. In addition, customers can create their own bouquets by choosing from the shop's selection of flowers sold by the stem.

Maloney said one of the shop's defining characteristics is the level of personal interaction customers have with the employees who make their orders.

"It helps us learn more about our customers and understand exactly what they're looking for, which is really useful when a

guy comes in completely unsure about what kind of flowers he should order," Maloney said.

Maloney also said Irish Gardens receives a great deal of business from other sources,

such as girls ordering flowers for friends, parents ordering from across the country for their children and even faculty and staff members placing orders at the shop. Even though cross-country customers may not have direct contact with employees, the shop strives to maintain a personal connection with every customer.

"The personal experience is really what sets Irish Gardens apart," Maloney said. "We all work really hard throughout the week to make sure that customers have a positive experience with the shop."

Contact Kristen Durbin at
kdurbin@nd.edu

"The personal experience is really what sets Irish Gardens apart."

**General manager
Michelle Maloney
Irish Gardens**

IRS cracks down on worker abuse



In this Dec. 2, 2009 photo, Celso Mena, who was injured while working on a construction job, talks about the accident, at his home in Nashua, N.H.

Associated Press

NASHUA, N.H. — The Internal Revenue Service and 37 states are cracking down on companies that try to trim payroll costs by illegally classifying workers as independent contractors, rather than as full employees, The Associated Press has learned. The practice costs governments billions in lost revenue and can leave workers high and dry when they are hurt at work or are left jobless.

Many who have studied the problem believe it's worsened during the economic downturn, fueling even more aggressive recovery efforts by states.

"I think the economic downturn has had a serious impact ... has exacerbated the problem," said Vermont Rep. Warren Kitzmiller, who chaired a panel that recently reported on the issue. "Businesses are looking to trim costs in every way they can, and some are coming very close to shading the legal with the illegal on that question."

For a growing number of companies, including Target, FedEx Ground and Comcast, cutting costs means removing workers from the payroll or bringing on new workers — sometimes through intermediary companies — without making them full employees.

The Society for Human Resource Management, representing company personnel departments nationwide, said it surveyed members in October 2008 and found 12 percent of them were moving to use more independent contractors, contingent and temporary workers because of the recession.

By designating workers as "independent contractors,"

businesses can save as much as 30 percent of payroll — avoiding unemployment insurance and workers' compensation payments, as well as the employer's share of payroll withholding.

The practice also deprives states of sorely needed income as rising jobless rates strain their budgets. The nation's unemployment rate in January was 9.7 percent.

Typically, unless workers fight for and win a ruling that they should have been treated as full employees, they aren't able to collect workers' compensation for the injury or unemployment benefits when left jobless.

The federal Government Accountability Office estimated that employee misclassification resulted in the underpayment of an estimated \$2.72 billion in Social Security taxes, unemployment insurance taxes and income taxes in 2006, the last year for which figures are available.

The IRS said it would begin a three-year study of the issue this month. State crackdowns include:

♦New York: A multi-agency team reported finding nearly 31,500 cases of employee misclassification and nearly \$390 million in unreported wages from Sept. 2007 and the end of 2009. It had ordered employers to pay more than \$28 million in past-due wages, taxes and penalties.

New York's numbers were up significantly. Its team found 12,300 misclassification cases in the 16 months ending in December 2008; by a year later it had found about 19,200 more.

u California: Orange County prosecutors said last year they would seek \$38 million from a

couple for workers' compensation fraud for failing to pay premiums and submitting claims for 42 injured but uninsured workers at their construction companies

♦Florida: A 2008 statewide grand jury found some construction contractors conspired with check-cashing stores to fake payments to a bogus subcontractor, cash the checks themselves and pay workers cash, under the table.

♦Ohio: The state's Bureau of Workers' Compensation ruled last year that a former state attorney general's top aide improperly classified all four employees at his Youngstown construction firm; on appeal only two were found misclassified. The state won't say how much he owes in restitution.

Matthew Capece, an officer with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, called the states' efforts encouraging.

"We're beginning to see the state and federal government fighting back and taking more interest," Capece said. But, "There's a lot of road left to travel to fix this."

Companies say using independent contractors helps them keep costs down and stay flexible in an increasingly tough and competitive economy.

"Some companies desire to focus on core business functions," said Kevin Hishta, an Atlanta-based lawyer who represents employers in labor relations matters. "They may feel they do not have the expertise to handle a particular function or that it would be more efficiently handled by others." He offered as an example "a carpet manufacturer who decides 'I really don't need to be in the installation business.'"

The Department of Communication Studies, Dance, and Theatre presents

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Top, Brian DeSplinter trades punches with an opponent during the preliminaries in 2009. Bottom, Kris Perez prepares to engage his opponent during the semifinals in 2009.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Bouts

continued from page 1

the preliminary fights Saturday.

Sayles said the boxers are currently striving to hit that \$80,000 mark, and making significant progress.

"There are more people participating this year than ever before," he said. "The really unique thing about this is that we have so many people learning about a sport that not many people learn about these days, but we can also help out thousands of people."

In order to raise money, each boxer is given 15 tickets to sell. Co-president and senior captain Patrick Burns said 199 students are fighting in this year's tournament.

Burns said a high number of novice fighters joined the club this year — something he attributes to increased awareness for the service mission of the tournament.

Former boxing club president Mark Weber, a 2009 graduate, co-produced a documentary, "Strong Bodies Fight: Rough Cut," to highlight the relationship Bengal Bouts has with the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

"I think it's a good diversion. It's a good service to the Missions. 200 guys have the opportunity to help out someone halfway across the world," Burns said.

Co-president and senior captain Chris Cugliari said the club has been pushing to create a more "self-sustaining" relationship with the Holy

Cross Missions in the country.

"Our help has been moving to something more along the lines of education and working to help and maintain build schools," he said.

The boxing club recently teamed up with the Center for Social Concerns to establish an International Summer Service Learning Project in Bangladesh.

Along with its service component though, Cugliari said boxing is an opportunity for

"There's just this certain atmosphere that comes with the start of the fights."

Nicholas Ponzio
Bengal Bouts captain

Notre Dame students to fulfill a competitive drive.

"A lot of guys come in with self doubts, not sure if they can cross certain boundaries, and when they go through training and

step through the ropes in front of thousands of people it shows a lot about their growth and character," he said.

For senior captain Nicholas Ponzio, four years as part of the club has offered a chance to build relationships.

"My freshman year, I won my first fight, and then my second fight was against a kid who became the president of team next year. I ended up losing, which was a humbling experience," Ponzio said. "But he and I ended up being good friends, and we trained together the next year."

Ponzio said the energy in the Joyce Center on the day of

the fight brings him back every year, and is what he will most miss when he fights in his last tournament this week.

"There are two rings going at once, and all this yelling and screaming," Ponzio said. "There's just this certain atmosphere that comes with the start of the fights."

Sayles said the best part of the fight is the support of his dorm, Sorin College.

"Having 70-plus guys from the dorm screaming your name is far and away the coolest thing," Sayles said. "It's just insane."

Cugliari said boxing has a reputation as a violent sport, but the service and character-building aspect of the tournament offer a positive contribution to the Notre Dame community.

"Despite the reputation boxing might have as a brutal sport, it helps people push boundaries and really discover a lot about themselves. It's a sport really helps people grow," he said.

Sayles said Irish basketball coach Mike Brey will open the preliminaries with a few words, and the captains are working to procure another special guest to speak at the finals.

The preliminaries begin Saturday at 1 p.m. The quarterfinals will take place Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. and the semifinals, Feb. 23 at 6 p.m. The final fights will be Feb. 27 at 7 p.m.

"The really unique thing about this is that we have so many people learning about a sport that not many people learn about these days, but we can also help out thousands of people."

Michael Sayles
Bengal Bouts captain

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Professor

continued from page 1

empty."

At this time, Chattopadhyay decided to leave finance and go into teaching.

"After a six-month visit to India where I grew up, I decided to come back and pursue studies in international development and education. That's the current life, right now," Chattopadhyay said. "It looks like this is it. This is the life I really wanted."

Chattopadhyay joined Notre Dame's ranks in August 2008, after finishing his doctorate at Columbia University and consulting for international organizations like UNICEF.

"After finishing my doctorate, I realized that coming into an academic institution, finding a career as a teacher and researcher, is my path," Chattopadhyay said.

Chattopadhyay dedicated himself to equality in education and such initiatives. Working as a professor in the Education, Schooling and Society minor as well as with the Institute for Educational Initiatives, Chattopadhyay has begun comparative research working with students in Brazil, India and the United States.

"One of the research projects we undertook last year was an

action research project in education in India," Chattopadhyay said. "There's a very charismatic, educational leader who's a 74-year-old Irish nun who runs an amazing school in Calcutta."

Notre Dame's News and Information Office detailed the group's research on Notre Dame's home page and in Notre Dame Magazine's most recent issue on student research and volunteering initiatives.

"When I first came to Notre Dame, I was unsure. I had my doubts about teaching at the undergraduate level. I've never taught at a Catholic university. But I think what fascinated me, what continues to fascinate me, about Notre Dame is how well-prepared I find the students are, and how engaged and aware they are about issues of

social justice — how keen they are to engage," Chattopadhyay said.


"There's an ethos about service, social justice, human rights, which is for me, teaching international issues about development and education, a tremendous source of inspiration. I am enriched a lot by my students, and that really changed my perspective on teaching in many ways," he said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

"I am enriched a lot by my students, and that really changed my perspective on teaching in many ways."

Tamo Chattopadhyay
professor
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Shooting occurs ahead of Carnival

RIO DE JANEIRO — Gunfire erupted Thursday in a Rio de Janeiro slum, killing at least seven suspected drug traffickers and a policeman a day before Carnival celebrations kick off.

A police spokesman said the gunbattle in the Jacarezinho slum started while police were on a routine patrol. He declined to be quoted by name, citing standard department policy.

Jacarezinho is located in northern Rio, far from the tourist areas and the Carnival parties that open Friday and draw about 500,000 visitors each year.

But the violence nevertheless adds to concerns about the city's image and how much it will be able to curtail violence as it prepares to host the 2016 Olympics.

Milkshake murder case overturned

HONG KONG — Nancy Kissel has always maintained that she killed her investment banker husband in self-defense, fending off a physical and sexual attack, but a Hong Kong jury found her guilty four years ago of sedating him with a laced milkshake before bludgeoning him to death.

In a stunning reversal Thursday, however, the territory's highest court overturned that conviction, ordering a retrial in the case that has grabbed headlines and spawned a book and TV special with its lurid tale of adultery, drug use and sex abuse in the rarefied world of wealthy American expatriates.

NATIONAL NEWS

Tension fills Oregon over extremists

EUGENE, Ore. — The students stomped their feet, heckled and then stood and turned their backs as the speaker at the University of Oregon defended red-baiting Sen. Joseph McCarthy and called Martin Luther King Jr. a communist dupe.

With more than 30 security officers assigned to keep the peace, the 90-something patriarch of the group sat in a wheelchair next to the speaker, silently observing the spectacle while at times half-asleep.

A campus with a reputation for young, leftist radicals has been roiled in protest in recent weeks as the aging collection of extremists — deemed a hate group by those who track the issue — has intensified its message, including a Hitler salute at an event in December.

Condoms used in environmental crusade

TUCSON, Ariz. — An Arizona-based environmental group that fights to protect endangered species plans to distribute 100,000 free condoms across the U.S. beginning on Valentine's Day.

The Center for Biological Diversity in Tucson says the promotion is meant to call attention to the impact of human overpopulation on endangered species.

The group will hand out six different condom packages with original artwork. Slogans on the packages include "Wrap with care, save the polar bear," and "Wear a condom now, save the spotted owl."

The center's Randy Serraglio says human overpopulation is destroying wildlife habitat at an unprecedented rate.

The endangered species condoms will be distributed in bars, supermarkets, schools, concerts, parties, and other public events.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana knocks new climate proposal

INDIANAPOLIS — A former Indiana health commissioner and other health experts are criticizing a move in Congress aimed at preventing steps to regulate greenhouse gases.

Republican U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska recently introduced a measure that would bar the Environmental Protection Agency from issuing regulations to reduce pollution blamed for climate change. It must first pass Congress and be signed by the president.

Former state health commissioner Dr. Richard Feldman on Thursday called the measure "nothing other than bad public health policy." Feldman was state health commissioner from 1997 to 2001.

East Coast blizzards set records

Winter weather surpasses previous highs, closes schools and causes turmoil

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Crews in Maryland worked to rescue motorists stranded on highways in snow drifts up to 8 feet and utility workers scrambled to restore power to more than 100,000 customers a day after a powerful storm disrupted the lives of some 50 million people from the southern plains up through the East Coast.

The storm has been blamed for more than a dozen deaths, mostly in traffic accidents.

Snowbound airports resumed limited operations but many flights were still canceled or delayed. School systems in the path of the storm remained closed for a second day, including in Baltimore, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., although New York City school children headed back to class after only their third snow day in six years.

In Washington, the federal government was closed for a fourth straight day. The nation's capital joined Philadelphia and Baltimore in logging their snowiest winters in history.

Paul Kocin, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Washington, said the storm compares to some of the greatest ever largely because of its timing. He estimated 50 million people were affected.

"The big difference is that it occurred within a week and a half of three other storms," Kocin said. "The combination of storms is almost unprecedented — the amount of snow, the amount of impact."

The latest storm dumped over 19 inches in Baltimore, 10 inches in Washington, D.C. and 16 inches in Philadelphia. About 20 inches fell in central New Jersey and totals ranged from 10 to 16 inches around New York City.

Rescue workers in western Maryland broke through 6-to-8-foot snowdrifts to reach motorists in more than two dozen vehicles stranded



AP

Another winter blizzard obscures the view of the Capitol in Washington on Wednesday. During whiteout conditions keeping most people in doors until the weather passes.

overnight on U.S. 340. The highway became impassable after two tractor-trailers jackknifed and blocked the road.

Frederick County Director of Emergency Preparedness Seamus Mooney said by noon Thursday they were down to 12 vehicles with people still in them. He said others walked home or got rides to their destinations.

Maryland State Police spokesman Greg Shipley said none of the stranded drivers appeared to be in physical distress and most chose to stay in their vehicles rather than go to a shelter.

The biggest problem has been getting tow trucks to the scene to remove tractor-trailers blocking the road on the 15-mile stretch between Frederick and the West

Virginia state line.

Yue-Chung Siu, 25, got up early to be at work at his family's bagel store in Philadelphia by 5:30 a.m. Thursday. He said his normal 30 minute commute from Bensalem turned into an hour and 45 minutes because of detours and poorly plowed roads.

He recalled the record-breaking blizzard of January 1996.

"I was a little kid, so I had a lot of fun," Siu said. "Now, it's like half-fun, half-has-sle."

D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty said it would take another 24 hours to see a lot of normal government operations.

"Then we have a nice, long weekend and the city should be back on its feet by Tuesday," he told CBS' "The

Early Show."

Fenty has come under growing criticism for the city's snow removal efforts and for still not having cleared snow from the previous storm.

He said the city has spent at least double its normal budget on snow removal and expects to ask the federal government for help.

The storm has been blamed for at least a dozen deaths. In addition to traffic accidents, two snowmobilers were killed in Lancaster, Pa., when they struck a vehicle. A New Jersey man was killed when a tree branch hit him as he used his snowblower in his driveway. And another New Jersey man died when snow caused an awning to collapse on top of him.

HAITI

Haitian judge poised to release missionaries

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE — The 10 U.S. missionaries facing trial for trying to take a busload of children out of Haiti should be released from jail while an investigation continues, a Haitian judge said Thursday, giving the Americans their best news since their arrests nearly two weeks ago.

Judge Bernard Saint-Vil has the final word on whether to free the missionaries, though he gave the prosecutor-general the opportunity to raise objections. He said he was accepting defense attorneys' request to provisionally free the Americans while an investigation of the case

continues.

It is unclear when the missionaries, most from an Idaho Baptist church group, might be released, and Saint-Vil said it was too early to say whether they would be able to leave this earthquake-crippled Caribbean nation if granted provisional freedom. It is also unclear what bearing releasing the missionaries might have on whether they go to trial.

Saint-Vil on Thursday privately questioned the last of a group of parents who said they willingly gave their children to the Baptist missionaries, believing the Americans would educate and care for them.

"After listening to the families, I see

the possibility that they can all be released," Saint-Vil told The Associated Press. "I am recommending that all 10 Americans be released."

It wasn't known late Thursday whether the prosecutor had received Saint-Vil's formal recommendation. The prosecutor couldn't be reached for comment.

The Americans were charged last week with child kidnapping and criminal association after being arrested Jan. 29 while trying to take 33 children, ages 2 to 12, across the border to an orphanage they were trying to set up in the Dominican Republic.

Housing

continued from page 1

a small community for them,” Dieujuste said.

Residence Life will also begin posting information for room selection, including lottery numbers and times for selection, on its Web site, Dieujuste said. In the past, there has been a bulletin in Le Mans Hall, but she said that “wasn’t the most efficient way to do things.”

Unlike in the past, students will also be receiving their lottery numbers via e-mail rather than a list in Reignbeaux Lounge in Le Mans Hall, Dieujuste said.

Due to the changes being made, there will also be information sessions offered to students from any class year to help things run more smoothly, said Katy Shea, hall director of McCandless Hall.

Room selection itself has been moved from Reignbeaux Lounge to the Earley Conference rooms and Vander Vennet Theater in the basement of the Student Center, according to Holy Cross Hall director Christine Mihalopoulos.

In order to avoid making students wait all evening during selection if they have higher lottery numbers, Residence Life has created time slots for students in two-hour increments, Dieujuste said.

“The student will have a time to come during room selection and they [won’t] have to be there the whole night like in the past,” she said.

Dieujuste said students can also play a part in helping the night run better by paying attention to deadlines and the mail that is sent to them.

“It’s frustrating for me and I think for us to hear students

ask for exceptions because they forgot a deadline and it’s something we cannot make out of fairness to everyone,” Dieujuste said. “We have to keep the system.”

A Roommate Social will be held for the students in search of a roommate for next year on March 4 in McCandless Hall from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

“We are still kind of working to see how it’s going to go, but it’s going to look at trying to find people that have similar living habits to them and just an opportunity to meet people in the Saint Mary’s community that they haven’t met yet,” Mihalopoulos said.

One thing that will not change in the room selection process is the requirement for students to remain on campus for six semesters. According to Dieujuste, it is in keeping with the mission of the College, which is to be a women’s residential institution.

“That was something that was voted in by the cabinet even before I came here,” she said. “Every year we hear rumors from the students that it has been done away with. It’s here to stay.”

Lastly, Dieujuste advises students to be thoughtful of whom they choose to live with and be sure that both parties know what they are getting in to.

“Choose your roommate carefully,” Dieujuste said. “[Students] need to have an honest conversation about their lifestyles and their habits, and even the roommate’s plan of whether or not they will back next semester or if they are going abroad or will be transferring. It is their responsibility to make sure they have that conversation with their friend and that they are on the same page.”

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Lecture

continued from page 1

poor and excluded of the world,” a significant goal given the booming world population.

“The world population has exploded as never before in history,” Boardman said. “Most of the expected growth is in developing countries.”

Sustainable development, she said, means something different to everyone. It can mean food protection, technological innovation, protection of the environment and respect for indigenous people, among other definitions.

“Pope Benedict noted that we can’t solve problems of development in the world without addressing technology,” Boardman said.

Boardman outlined three agricultural systems and methodologies in practice: organic, biotechnological and hybridization.

“The systems are not mutually exclusive in theory, however, in practice they currently are exclusive due to national regulatory systems,” Boardman said.

Hybridization, she said, includes scientists crossing plant genomes to isolate and introduce new traits like height and sun tolerance.

The first two, organic and biotechnological, however, she said, are the most important agricultural systems in play today.

“Organic farmland has grown tremendously over the past 10 years,” Boardman said.

Although it is growing, she said, organic farmland is still relatively small and occupies only 1 percent of planted acreage in the United States.

“It’s challenging. I have to wonder since I can’t feed myself or my family from my



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Visiting scholar Margaret Carroll Boardman talks about the challenges of sustainable development in a lecture Thursday.

[own organic] garden, how will we feed the [hungry] people of the world?” she said.

Boardman noted the problem of labor shortage as hindering the development of the organic industry.

“If we’re going to do organic gardening, we are going to have to find more labor,” she said.

Pest management, market expansion and sanitary storage are among other hindrances to organic farming, she said.

Biotechnology advancements have, Boardman said, helped farmers around the world develop technology that fortifies crops and fosters a stronger possibility for distribution and consumption. They have been monitored in the United States for more than 20 years, she said.

Genetically engineered (GE) crops are one such innovation.

“Most of you have been eating genetically engineered food for years,” she said. “GE foods are the fastest to grow in acreage than any other crop in history.”

She said Europeans are much more wary of GE crops than Americans are.

Boardman outlined the biotechnological advancements

of a number of countries and continents, including China, Mexico, Brazil — which in 2008 was third largest producer of GE crops — and Africa, where the situation is “very complicated.”

“The population going to soar because of international aid,” she said. “The problem is that aid is not going to teach Africans how to solve their own agricultural problems.”

Boardman pointed to awareness and education as two key factors that will progress sustainable development.

“Lack of understanding can delay the progress of sustainable development,” she said.

The talk was sponsored by two groups focused on global sustainable development, the International Development Research Council and The Reilly Center for Science, Technology and Values.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

Read
RULES OF THE GAME
A Beginner's Guide
to Government and Economics
Blogger: Jon Rouse '75
www.jonrouse.blogspot.com

Olympics

continued from page 1

ball, men’s and women’s table tennis, and an obstacle course.

Though the games have been in action for 24 years, there are a few changes to this year’s schedule.

“This year’s games will begin with an opening ceremony featuring the Notre Dame Marching Band and some Special Olympians from St. Joseph County,” Novak said. “I really think it will be a great kickoff to the night.”

Any student is eligible to be a part of Late Night Olympics and all dorms have a representative for students to contact if they’re interested in participating in the games.

“I’m excited for volleyball — we get competitive,” Lyons Hall representative junior Katie McKeough, said.

Aside from the competitive aspect of the games, there is the impact this event has on the community, namely the St. Joseph County Special

Olympics.

“Last year, St. Joseph was one of the few counties that didn’t have to cancel its winter or summer games because they had enough money, due in part to funds raised from Late Night Olympics,” McKeough said.

The Special Olympians will take part in what both Novak and McKeough call their favorite part of the event: The St. Joseph Lions versus Notre Dame staff basketball game.

“You get the chance to meet Olympians and talk with them. To see the people you affect is uplifting,” Novak said.

If being an Olympian isn’t the kind of thing you’re into, there are other ways to help out, Novak said.

“There will be T-shirts for sale at the event for \$10 and there is a penny war going on until Friday at midnight with jars at Rockne Memorial and Rolf’s Fitness Center,” he said.

Contact Caitlyn Kalscheur at ckalsche@nd.edu

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Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,144.19	+105.81	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,889	104	911	803,300,842
AMEX	1,833.91	+47.67	
NASDAQ	2,177.41	+29.54	
NYSE	6,898.72	+79.60	
S&P 500	1,078.47	+4.29	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	9,963.99	0.00	
FTSE 100 (London)	5,161.48	+29.49	
COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+0.31	+0.01	3.21
SPDR S&P 500 ETF TRS (SPY)	+1.05	+1.12	108.13
BOSTON SCIENTIFIC CP (BSX)	-9.89	-0.82	7.47
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	-0.27	-0.04	14.63
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+11.67	+0.39	3.73
13-WEEK BILL	-34.48	-0.05	0.095
30-YEAR BOND	+10.12	+0.43	4.68
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.15	+0.05	2.37
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)		+0.64	75.16
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)		+18.90	1,095.2
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		+0.50	86.75
Exchange Rates			
YEN			89.7450
EURO			1.3693
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.0512
BRITISH POUND			1.5704

IN BRIEF

Google seeks compromise with China
SAN FRANCISCO — Shedding China’s shackles on free speech is proving to be easier said than done for Google Inc.
The Internet search leader is still censoring its results in China a month after Google’s leaders took a public stand against Chinese laws that require the removal of links to Web sites that the government deems subversive or offensive.
Citing the sensitivity of the talks, Google officials won’t say how the negotiations have been going since the company issued its Jan. 12 threat to shut down its China-based search engine and possibly leave the country altogether. Google is demanding that the government tear down the so-called “Great Firewall” that seeks to keep China’s citizens from finding politically sensitive information and images.
Google’s top lawyer, David Drummond, initially said that Google would take a few weeks to meet with government officials before deciding what to do. But Google officials now say the company might parse its Chinese search results for several more months while it steers through a political and cultural minefield in search of a compromise with the ruling party.

Dairy industry fights for control
BOISE, Idaho — Livestock groups that lost a recent Idaho Supreme Court decision asked lawmakers Thursday to come to their defense by scaling back local authority over large dairies with thousands of cows and tons of manure.
Idaho Dairyman’s Association lobbyist Ken McClure told the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee that Idaho should limit counties to matters involving the location of dairies and forbid them from passing stricter air and water quality standards than those already on Idaho’s books.
Counties oppose the proposal, arguing existing environmental laws have done little to address the cumulative effects of large dairies that have helped make Idaho the nation’s third biggest milk-producing state but also led to pollution concerns.
“We’re not shutting the doors” to dairies, said Tom Faulkner, a Gooding County commissioner. “We’re just saying we want to protect the existing resources of the county.”

Health insurer raises questions

WellPoint Insurance price hike defense fails to satisfy feds and creates confusion

Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS — Health insurer WellPoint is blaming the Great Recession and rising medical costs for its planned 39 percent rate increase for some California customers of its Anthem Blue Cross plan.
But Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius isn’t buying the explanation proffered in a letter delivered to her Thursday.
Sebelius said “it remains difficult to understand” how premium increases of that size can be justified when WellPoint Inc. reported a \$4.75 billion profit in the last quarter of 2009. She also noted that the premium increases are 10 times higher than the increase in national health care costs.
President Barack Obama has seized on the premium hikes in California as an ill omen of what will happen around the country if lawmakers fail to enact health care overhaul legislation. “If we don’t act, this is just a preview of coming attractions,” he said at a press conference Tuesday.
Brian Sassi, the head of WellPoint’s consumer business unit, said in the letter to Sebelius that because of the weak economy, healthy people increasingly are dropping coverage or buying cheaper plans. That reduces the premium revenue available to cover claims from sicker customers who are keeping their coverage.
The result was a 2009 loss for the unit that sells individual policies to people who don’t get insurance through their employers, he said. Higher rates for this group, which accounts for about 10 percent of Anthem’s eight million customers in California, are needed to cover the shortfall expected from the continuation of that trend, according to the letter.
“When the healthy leave and the sick stay, that is going to dramatically drive up costs,” Sassi said in an interview. He declined to



Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testifies in Washington on Feb. 3, saying she misunderstood the move in light of the profitability of Anthem’s parent company, WellPoint Inc.

specify the size of the unit’s loss.
Affected customers can choose plans with lower premiums but higher out-of-pocket costs, he said.
Sassi told Sebelius that insurance costs also continue to rise because medical prices are increasing faster than inflation, and people are using more health care. That use increase is driven by an aging population, new treatments and “more intensive diagnostic testing,” he wrote.
Sebelius ordered a federal inquiry earlier this week after the size of proposed premium increases for individual policies was widely publicized. A congressional committee also has asked for information on the increases and requested testimony from WellPoint CEO Angela Braly at a Feb. 24 hearing.
WellPoint is the largest publicly traded health insurer based on membership and is a dominant player in the individual insurance market in California. Based in Indianapolis, the company runs Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in 14 states and Unicare plans in several others.
WellPoint as a whole made a profit of \$4.75 billion in 2009, though \$2 billion of that came from the sale of a business.
Rates for individual health insurance policies tend to rise much faster than those of employer-sponsored coverage.
The pool of customers is

more stable for group health insurance. In the individual market, healthy people are more inclined to drop coverage when they see big price hikes because they don’t have employer help paying for it, said Robert Laszewski, a health care consultant and former insurance executive. That leaves behind sicker customers who stay because they still need coverage.
Sassi said as much as one-third of their individual insurance customers leave every year. That volatility can lead to big changes in the mix of people covered and rate swings. Administrative costs also can be higher for individual lines because the insurer has to sell each policy individually instead of to a larger group.

Feds pass on surest solution to Asian carp

Associated Press
TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — The surest way to keep rampaging Asian carp from gaining a foothold in the Great Lakes is to sever the link between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River basin, created by engineers in Chicago more than a century ago.
That would thrill environmentalists and those who make their living in the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry, which could be devastated by a carp invasion. Not so the barge operators who move millions of tons of commodities on the Chicago-area waterways each year.
And so, pulled in different directions by both, as well as politicians in the Great Lakes states, the Obama administration this week proposed a \$78.5 million plan that appears to make no one

happy.
“It appears to be politically negotiated rather than scientifically based ... sort of like trying to cut the baby in half,” said Thom Cmar, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. “It offers a lot of middle-ground alternatives with no discussion of why any of them would actually work.”
Shippers worry about a promised study that would examine closing more often a pair of navigational locks at Chicago, and the prospect that a long-term study could recommend severing the connection between the river and the lakes for good.
Environmentalists, meanwhile, fear the plan’s reliance on strengthening an electric barrier designed to block the carp’s advance — and other measures, such as stepping up efforts to find and

kill fish that may have slipped through — is an expensive gamble that might not be enough to ward off an infestation.
“We’re spending close to \$80 million just for a short-term deterrent,” said Joel Brammeier, president of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, an environmental group. “We need to stop pushing money toward temporary solutions and get everyone on track toward investing in one that works for good — and that means absolute physical separation.”
Bighead and silver carp — both native to Asia — have been migrating toward the lakes since escaping from Deep South fish ponds and sewage treatment plants in the 1970s. The biggest can reach 100 pounds and 4 feet long, consuming up to 40 percent of their body weight daily in plankton, the base of the aquatic food chain.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER

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Meet Skylar Diggins and the women's basketball team

You've probably never seen Skylar Diggins play.

It's a shame, really. She's quite a spectacle to see. But she also plays for the No. 4 team in the nation, which happens to play in a competitive conference right here on campus and it's free for you to see.

But you don't.

You all go to the football games. That team hasn't posted a winning season since the majority of you have been here, yet there you were, clad in yellow, screaming away, counting down until the 1812 Overture so you could boo.

But the women's basketball team mows down opponent after opponent, goes 22-1, 9-1 in the Big East, and you don't go.

It's no fluke. The Big East is a tough conference. And Irish coach Muffet McGraw has shown she can win a championship: She did it in 2001. The team has a talented group of seniors in Lindsay Schrader, Ashley Barlow and Melissa Lechlitner. Add Skylar and that lineup can deal with anyone in the country.

The impact Diggins has had on this team is incredible. You really should see for yourself — but even money says you haven't, so here's a taste. She was named the 2009 Gatorade National High School Female Athlete of the Year. That's the whole nation, every sport. That puts her in the company of LeBron James and Candace Parker. She's currently 12th in the Big East in scoring and averages 15 points per game in conference play. She was the Most Valuable Player of the Paradise Jam tournament (which the Irish won) and recently had 23 points and 10 rebounds in a

win over Cincinnati.

But that won't resonate with any of you because none of you have seen her play.

So come out. Don't just come for Skylar, though. Come watch Schrader, the team's leader, a passionate player who is third in the conference in field goal percentage. Come watch Barlow, a stout defender, or Lechlitner, a veteran with great court vision.

More than that, come support a good team.

The Irish won't disappoint. You supported the women's soccer team when they were highly ranked. Show that same support for women's basketball. It is one of Notre Dame's top athletic programs, and with the combination of Diggins and the senior leadership, this is its year to

make a push for a championship.

There's no better time to start than Sunday, when Notre Dame takes on DePaul at 3 p.m., because the Purcell Pavilion will turn into a Pink Zone, where the team will raise money for breast cancer research. There will be a silent auction and Pink Zone merchandise sales, and the team hopes to raise \$55,000.

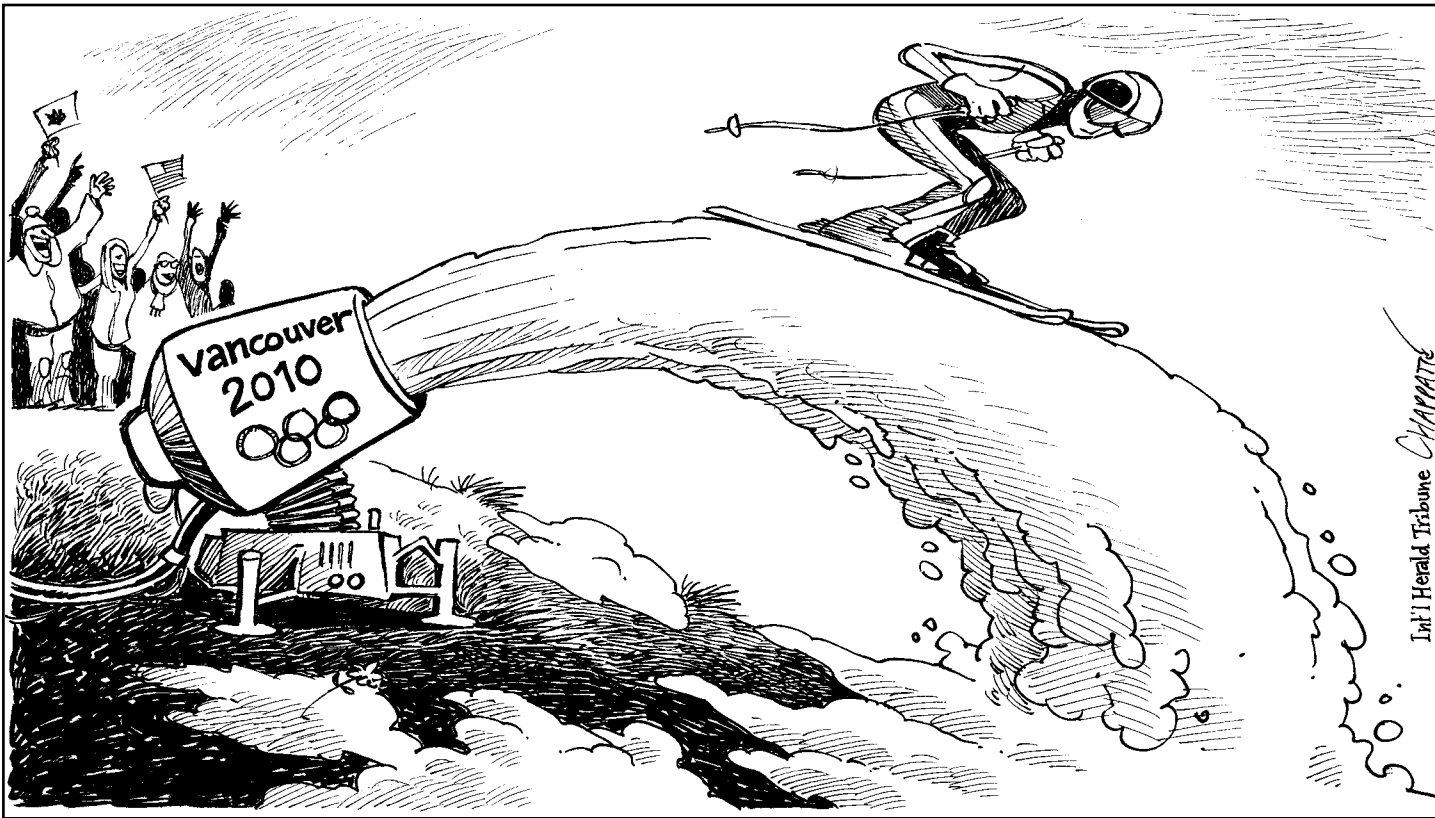
Last year they got \$48,000. Help them reach their goal.

And help them reach their goal of a championship. Come watch Skylar work her magic, come scream loud on defense, come watch great basketball.

The first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament are being held in the Purcell Pavilion this year as well. That's when the Irish will really need you. If you cheer enough, maybe they'll get much farther than that.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Please don't forget to donate whatever you can to support Haiti relief efforts around campus.

Observer Poll

Which of these is the best student government platform idea?



Treehouse

Votes

55

Percentage

47%

Follett textbook rental

43

39%

Perspectives

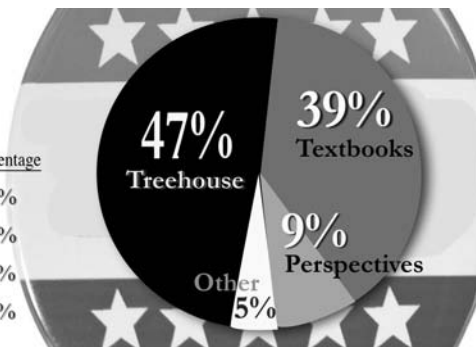
10

9%

Other

5

5%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Often it does seem a pity that Noah and his party did not miss the boat."

Mark Twain
U.S. author

True love in Bali?

She wasn't on the dance floor at Club Fever sipping on a mixed drink. She was neither dripping with sweat inside The Backer, nor was she chatting with her friends in a small circle at Finny's. While I suppose it's possible that I stepped foot into her apartment, I wouldn't know it now. No, the love of my life wasn't in any of these places (or at least I think), because from where I sit right now (in a beachfront bar on the Indonesian island of Bali), the love of my life is still absent from my life.

A year ago I wrote a Valentine's Day-themed piece in this paper describing my quest to find the love of my life at Club Fever. That weekend I spent time searching not only the dance floor of Fever, but also the crowded confines of Finny's and The Backer. I moved between bars and house parties distributing Winnie the Pooh Valentines (complete with my name and phone number) to unsuspecting girls along the way, but I didn't find her that day, or that week, or that semester.

Instead I spent much of those mornings



Bob Kessler

The 19th Grade

working off my hangovers by watching movies like "Definitely Maybe" and "When Harry Met Sally," or re-runs of "The O.C." that I had recorded off SoapNet. Distracted with my utter failure to purchase a ring by spring, I postponed my search and left the country to teach English in China. I didn't think I would find the love of my life in Asia, and thus far I haven't. In fact, I have found searching here to be immensely more difficult.

The thing about Notre Dame bars is that you have to show your ID to get in. At Finny's, it is nearly impossible to enter if you are under 21, and at The Backer it is incredibly difficult. Most Notre Dame students see this as a burden; they want to go to the bars, and they don't want to get a fake ID to enter. For me, however, this burden is actually a gift, because (don't let my Blogspot profile or Observer picture fool you) I look like a 17-year-old.

At the bars of South Bend (and all of America), the fact that you need to show an ID to enter means (in theory) that everybody inside is over the age of 21. While this is an afterthought to most patrons, it was of critical importance for me because it subconsciously told everybody that I met inside that I was at least over the age of 21, and not the St. Joe's High School student I appear to be.

Here in Asia, however, there are no

legal drinking ages, and I have been asked my age more times by other patrons than I ever anticipated when I first crossed the Pacific. For me, trying to dance with a girl in the clubs of Shanghai, Vang Vieng (Laos) and Bali has been almost as difficult as explaining what hair cut I want to the Chinese stylist using nothing but hand motions.

How can I possibly find true love in these circumstances that are almost as horrible as the new Facebook interface?

Usually after a few drinks (OK, after a lot of drinks), I get fed up with all the ageism that is thrown in my direction from Australian, Swedish and Canadian girls, and I talk to a local for a while. Usually this local is very nice, until she asks me if I want sex, at which point I remember that paying for sex falls outside of my moral spectrum (and I am a pro-choice morally repugnant Obama voter).

After rejection and dejection, I leave the club or drinking place longing for the days of The Backer and Finny's where I was rarely asked my age and at least had a chance at a Notre Dame hook-up. I might wander the streets for a while or maybe pass out in the back seat of a Chinese cab while thinking about that parallel universe where Flight 815 never crashed and where I am living in Chicago

right now and going on a Valentine's Date to "Valentine's Day" (the movie) with some really awesome girl.

Before I go to bed, however, I always wind up in the same position: with my hands on a keyboard and my eyes on Gmail. I'll send messages to my friends spread all across the States telling them about my adventures and how great the drinking is in these strange corners of Asia, but deep down I know this isn't why I'm in the Internet café or the hostel lounge at three in the morning. Deep down, I just want my friends, because the adventures and everything are great, but they would certainly be greater if I could be able to share them with the people whom I love instead of just telling these people about them on my Buzz (whatever this is).

So with this weekend being Valentine's Day, I wish they all were here with me; if not because I miss them, then because the white sand beaches have to beat the white snowpocalypse.

Bob Kessler is a 2009 graduate currently on vacation from his position as an English Teacher in China and you can contact him at bob020787@gmail.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PEMCo. misses the point

While I understand your point of view, and while I agree with you about the message behind "Parade" being all the more pertinent at a university like Notre Dame, which needs improvement in several aspects of diversity and tolerance, I think you and the PEMCo. staff are missing the point. Diversity in the arts is always a good thing, but why is this only an issue when a racially-charged play is being performed? Wouldn't a show like "Mamma Mia" that just happened to have some non-White leads serve the same purpose, namely subverting mainstream ideas about how race/ethnicity should play a certain part? I think the frustration Erdina ("Need for diversity in the arts," Feb. 8) expressed is in response to PEMCo. treating diversity like a pet project every few years, rather than as a general principle of an organization that should strive to maximize its talent, regardless of racial background.

Jasmin Simmons
junior
Pasquerilla West Hall
Feb. 10

A call to love

In case people haven't been keeping up, there is a lot of discussion on campus and around the nation about gay rights. And yet, I feel like so much of the conversation is lost in isolating and destructive rhetoric. When I read some of The Observer Viewpoints, it is painfully clear that many Catholics fail to understand the Church's teaching regarding human sexuality, whether it be heterosexuality or homosexuality. As a lesbian who struggled with identity, I read everything (yes, literally everything) the Catholic Church has written on the issue of human sexuality and homosexuality. I have read every passage from the Bible commonly thrown into the ring when discussing same sex attractions. I have read Biblical exegeses surrounding those texts. Am I an expert? Far from it. Have I done my homework? Yes.

When people make comments like, "There is no evidence that homosexuality is innate," it is already clear to me that that individual hasn't read anything the Catholic Church teaches on sexuality. Based on psychological evidence, from both secular psychological research and research conducted by Vatican psychologists, the Church maintains that a person's sexuality is an innate part of his or her creation. It cannot be controlled, chosen or changed. It simply is. To try to change a person's sexuality is to change something God gave him or her. It cannot and should not be done. However, the Church teaches that there is only one ethical and moral expression of physical sexuality: That is, in a monogamous marriage between a man and a woman.

That being said, our sexuality, whether heterosexual or homosexual, is something we express everyday. Our sexuality is a divine and mysterious gift from God. Being homosexual does not automatically mean that a person engages in homo-genital acts just as much as being heterosexual doesn't mean a person engages in hetero-genital acts. Theologians describe our sexuality as that which makes us most like the Divine in that it brings out our creativity; it draws into meaningful friendships. A man or woman called to chaste life (i.e. priests, sisters, nuns) is still a sexual being; he or she is still heterosexual or homosexual, however, in accordance to vows, does not act upon that sexuality

through physical intimacy.

When lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and ally students ask that sexual orientation be added to the non-discrimination clause, we are not asking anyone to forfeit their belief in Catholic sexual morality. In fact, we are asking that the University uphold the Church's teaching on human dignity. Adding "sexual orientation" does not mean that we are "imposing the beliefs of a minority on the majority." We are not asking the University to condone same-sex marriage. We are not asking the University to condone homo-genital acts. What we are asking for is the exact same thing that the Catechism of the Catholic Church demands of Christians: "They [gay persons] must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided" (2358 Catechism of the Catholic Church).

We are human beings, with the same goals as you. We are no different than you. Listen to our stories; get to know us; hear about our struggles. We are all students of higher learning. Even more important, we are all children of the same all-loving God. Part of being a student means stepping out of one's comfort zone and engaging with people who are different. Part of being a follower of Christ entails a radical call to love. When people stop labeling those who are different as "others" and start calling them "brother and sister," they truly are bearing Christ to the world.

I invite every professor and student at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's to engage in a mature, intellectual and open discussion regarding sexuality, heterosexuality and, especially, homosexuality. Don't enter the discussion entrenched in beliefs, on either side, formed by someone else. Be open to the conversation. If nothing else, at least you can come away from the discussion able to say that you stepped out of your comfort zone. Dialogue requires of us that we listen, so open your hearts.

Laurel Javors
junior
LeMans Hall
Feb. 9

Fill this space.

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

Support the Bouts

Tomorrow afternoon the Bengal Bouts Tournament will be upon us. Nearly 200 men will not only be fighting each other but will also be fighting for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. Since November, these boxers have given their sweat, blood and tears not only to the rigorous training necessary to ready themselves for the sweet science but have also directed as much effort (if not more) to raise donations for people thousands of miles away in order to provide them with food and education.

This year in itself has special importance to the Boxing Club. This year will be the 80th anniversary of the Bengal Bouts Tournament where the Boxing Club will donate its one millionth dollar to the cause, a remarkable feat. Not only will that be achieved, but it may be possible that over \$80,000 will be donated, an amount never reached by prior tournaments. However,

this mission is not possible without the support of each boxer's family and friends and all the people here at Notre Dame.

If you have not already, go find a boxer, buy a ticket and support the cause and your friends. You will not be disappointed. Not only will you witness the unique sport of boxing, but your donation will provide tremendous impact (more than you could ever imagine) on a person you will never meet.

Simply, support the Bouts!
"Strong bodies fight, that weak bodies may be nourished." — Dominic "Nappy" Napolitano

Dominic Golab
junior
Stanford Hall
Feb. 11

I'm Still Running Through the Airport



By Shane Steinberg

1	Like a Star – Corinne Bailey Rae
2	Falling Slowly – Glen Hansard & Marketa Irglova
3	Collide – Howie Day
4	You Picked Me – A Fine Frenzy
5	High – James Blunt
6	First Time – Lifehouse
7	Brighter than Sunshine – Aqualung
8	Somewhere over the Rainbow – Jason Castro
9	Universe and U – KT Tunstall
10	Sea of Love – Cat Power
11	Such Great Heights – Iron and Wine
12	Your Hand in Mine (With Strings) – Explosions in the Sky
13	Say it to me Now – Glen Hansard
14	We Might Fall – Ryan Star
15	Crown of Love – Arcade Fire
16	Blind – Lifehouse
17	Iris – The Goo Goo Dolls
18	Warning Sign – Coldplay
19	Sideways – Citizen Cope
20	Swallowed in the Sea – Coldplay

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but the number of moments that take our breath away. So as we think back on or live those moments, the ones that stand suspended in time – a time when nothing else mattered, nothing at all, except for that one person – here it is--the thing that dreams are made of, the one that we dream of: True love.

LOVE IT OR HATE IT...H

‘VALENTINE’S DAY’ A PREVIEW

By ALEX KILPATRICK
Assistant Scene Editor

It’s the American Valentine’s version of “Love Actually.” “Valentine’s Day” is meant to represent the all-encompassing spectrum of humanity’s views on love and the meaning of Valentine’s Day. Whether you’re going to see it for the endless list of cameos, to make fun of the chick flick clichés or even for the meaningful insight, the movie will be a must see.

The romantic comedy, directed by Garry Marshall (who directed the classics “Pretty Woman” and “Runaway Bride,” along with the “Princess Diaries” movies) and written by Katherine Fugate, will star nearly 20 A-list Hollywood celebrities, which begs the question of why so much money went into making this big-budget movie for such a minor Hallmark-dominated holiday. According to Associated Content, New Line Cinema and Warner Brothers are hoping that with the expected success of this movie, Valentine’s Day will become a new money-maker for the movie industry.

What “Love Actually”

was for the Christmas season, “Valentine’s Day” is now expected to be for the Valentine’s Day “season.” The film features multiple meshed together plotlines and stars a team of the top romantic comedy stars in the industry, including Julia Roberts, Ashton Kutcher, Jessica Biel, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Alba, Jennifer Garner, Patrick Dempsey, Topher Grace and Bradley Cooper.

Set in Los Angeles, the characters are all loosely related to each other. Julia Roberts plays Kate Hazeltine, a captain in the U.S. Army, who meets Holden (Cooper). In the meantime, florist Reed Bennett (Kutcher) proposes to girlfriend Morley (Alba), while his best friend Julia (Garner), a grade school teacher, falls for Dempsey’s character, Dr. Harrison Copeland.

Even just from the preview, one can see the same old trite plotlines, whether it’s Emma Roberts’ character Grace planning her first time with her boyfriend Alex (Carter Jenkins) or Biel’s character Kara planning a “We Hate Valentine’s Day” party. One can only hope that the previews will not represent the movie as a whole, or we will be pay-

ing \$8 to see a bunch of cameos wrapped into one huge cliché of a rom-com.

John Debney composed the score to “Valentine’s Day,” recorded it with the



Hollywood Studio Symphony at the Sony Scoring Stage and wrote the song, “Every Time You Smiled,” for the movie with lyricist Glen Ballard, performed by Carina Round. The soundtrack also features Jewel’s “Stay Here Forever” and “Today Was a Fairytale” by Taylor Swift, who makes an appearance in the film opposite Taylor Lautner.

Overall, the film looks like a clichéd American version of “Love Actually” for the Valentine’s Day season, but it does include cameos from several big budget Hollywood actors and actresses, so if you enjoy seeing any of these stars on the big screen, the movie is sure to be a well-produced film.

Contact Alex Kilpatrick
at akilpatr@nd.edu



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



By MAIJA GUSTIN
Assistant Scene Editor

Do you plan on spending this Valentine's Day with the most constant friends in your life, Ben and Jerry? Or would you just like to bring in the dynamic duo to join you and your significant other for a quality double date? Either way, Ben and Jerry are there for you, ready to provide with their typical brand of frozen goodness. Whether you're a chocolate lover, dig the cookie dough or just want some fruity fun, there is a flavor for everyone. Get those spoons ready.

Here are, in no particular order, 10 of Ben & Jerry's best, to be enjoyed by all.

1. Cherry Garcia

This classic flavor, named after Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia, is a longtime favorite. In it, cherry ice cream gets swirled together with cherry and fudge chunks to create the perfect balance of fruit and chocolate, guaranteed to please even the most discerning palette. It can even be found in a "healthy" low fat version, making those chocolate Kisses on the side

seem like a great idea.

2. Half Baked

This ice cream, an ode to Dave Chappelle film "Half Baked," features the delicious combo of chocolate and vanilla ice cream mixed with pieces of fudge brownies and bites of cookie dough. Perfect for those couples that just can't seem to decide between Ben & Jerry's Chocolate Fudge Brownie Ice Cream and Chocolate Chop Cookie Dough Ice Cream (both also terrific choices), or for anyone who thinks they can handle a mouthwatering combination of baked goods and ice cream. Again, this flavor can somehow be deemed "healthy" by buying the low fat version, just in case.

3. Phish Food

Ben and Jerry take their love for fellow Vermontians the band Phish to a new level with this entirely unique flavor. In it, one will find chocolate ice cream swirled together with gooey marshmallows, caramel and fudge fish.

4. Dublin Mudslide

Just because it's Notre Dame. This popular flavor is perfect not only for Valentine's Day, but for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day season as well. Treat your taste buds to some Irish Crème liqueur ice cream mixed with chocolate chip cookies and a coffee fudge swirl. Although originally released as a limited-time-only flavor, its popularity brought Ben and Jerry to their senses, and can now be found year-round.

5. Fossil Fuel

For the kid in all of us. Enjoy your sweet cream ice cream with chocolate cookie pieces and a fudge swirl by adding some fudge dinosaurs to the mix!

6. Stephen Colbert's AmeriCone Dream

Stephen Colbert 2012? Even if you're not so into Mr. Colbert, can you turn down an ice cream that sends its proceeds

to The Stephen Colbert AmeriCone Dream Fund, which gives money to help disadvantaged children, veterans and the environment? I didn't think so. The combination of vanilla ice cream, fudge covered waffle cone pieces and a caramel swirl should be the icing on top of the cake of the best altruistic ice cream out there!

7. Karamel Sutra

Another classic Ben & Jerry's flavor, Karamel Sutra is sure to please any caramel fan out there with its core of soft caramel encircled by caramel and chocolate ice creams and fudge chips.

8. Dave Matthews Band Magic Brownies Encore Edition

This delicious flavor features black raspberry ice cream mixed with sweet cream ice cream and fudge brownies. Regardless of your high expectations, its sure to please all, once again mastering Ben & Jerry's knack for mixing fruit and chocolate to delicious results.

9. ONE Cheesecake Brownie

It's as simple as it sounds. Cheesecake ice cream combined with cheesecake brownie chunks. Made in conjunction with Google, the proceeds from this ice cream go to Google's ONE campaign, which aids the fight against extreme poverty and preventable diseases globally.

10. Chubby Hubby

And to top off this extensive list of flavors, guaranteed to have a flavor for everyone, comes the complex concoction of vanilla malt ice cream, rippled with fudge and peanut butter and loaded with fudge-covered peanut-butter filled pretzels. This flavor was invented with the help of some fans back in 1988, and has stuck around ever since. Perfect for the pretzel-lover and the peanut butter-lover alike!

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

Lovin' the Single Life



By Single Observer Staffers

- 1 99 Problems – Jay-Z
- 2 Single Ladies – Beyoncé
- 3 Just Dance (Ft. Colby Odonis) – Lady Gaga
- 4 I Gotta Feeling – The Black Eyed Peas
- 5 Independent Women Pt. 1 – Destiny's Child
- 6 In My Head – Jason Derulo
- 7 Single – Natasha Bedingfield
- 8 Since You Been Gone – Kelly Clarkson
- 9 Telephone (Ft. Beyoncé) – Lady Gaga
- 10 Haven't Met You Yet – Michael Bublé
- 11 Let It Be – John Lennon
- 12 No Scrubs – T.L.C.
- 13 Wannabe – Spice Girls
- 14 SexyBack (Ft. Timbaland) – Justin Timberlake

Why feel bad being single on

Valentine's Day? You're in college, the

best possible environment for the

unhitched, so take advantage! Get

pumped with these tunes and hit the

town, showing Notre Dame what's up.

NFL

Rams to have new owner

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Rumors that the St. Louis Rams were being sold have been rampant the past couple of years, raising concerns that the franchise would end its recent sad-sack run with a move out of town.

The Rams announced Thursday that its majority owners have indeed agreed to sell their stake, but to a potential buyer within driving distance — and one who doesn't want to relocate the once-proud franchise.

If approved by a 75 percent vote of NFL owners, Chip Rosenbloom and Lucia Rodriguez, the children of the late Rams owner Georgia Frontiere, will sell their 60 percent stake to Shahid Khan, the 55-year-old president of an auto parts manufacturer, Flex-N-Gate, in Urbana, Ill.

"Today is a tremendously exciting day, I think, for the organization," said Kevin Demoff, Rams executive vice president of football operations and chief operating officer. "Whether or not the sale to a prospective buyer goes through I think it reaffirms to everybody the commitment this club has to St. Louis and our belief in this marketplace."

Demoff said he wasn't aware whether an agreement had been submitted to the NFL. He said the sale could be completed as early as May.

Kitty Ratcliffe, the head of the St. Louis Convention & Visitors Commission, applauded the Khan announcement.

"I thought that was very good news," she said. "It's someone from the general area, is a fan of the team, has been in the dome and obviously has ties to the area."

Forbes magazine recently estimated the Rams franchise has a value of \$913 million, 25th out of 32 teams, though some experts have said a more realistic sale price will be closer to \$750 million. The sale was first reported by the Web site for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Stan Kroenke, a billionaire from Columbia, Mo., owns the remaining 40 percent of the franchise as well as the NBA's Denver Nuggets, the NHL's Colorado Avalanche, Major League Soccer's Colorado Rapids plus a large stake in the Arsenal soccer club.

Kroenke has 60 days to decide what to do with his stake in the franchise. He could choose to sell or make a bid to become the sole owner, although such a bid would be complicated by the NFL's restriction of cross-ownership. A spokesman for Kroenke did not respond to an e-mail from The Associated Press.

"I believe at the end of the 60 days you'll know who is buying what percentage of the club, if



Shahid Khan, shown at a ceremony at the Unieversity of Illinois, has agreed to buy the Rams pending approval from the league's owners.

they're actually moving forward on the sale," Demoff said.

During the process, Demoff said the Rams were under no financial constraints.

"We're excited to go into free agency and to the draft, and find ways to improve this team," Demoff said.

The sale of the Rams has been expected since Frontiere's death in January 2008. Her children are both involved in other interests and neither has ties to St. Louis.

A group headed by St. Louis Blues owner Dave Checketts was also interested in buying the Rams. Conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh was initially part of the Checketts group but was dropped in October after adverse publicity about his involvement.

The sale has raised concerns in St. Louis, which lost the Cardinals franchise after the 1987 season when Bill Bidwill moved the franchise to Arizona. Several games last season were not sold out, though that was partly due to the on-field performance — at 1-15, the Rams had the worst record in the league.

Khan did not return calls to his home or company by The Associated Press.

According to federal court records in Illinois, the Internal Revenue Service has accused Khan and his wife, Ann, of improperly sheltering \$250 million in income between 1999 and 2003, reducing their taxes by \$85 million. In an interview with The (Champaign) News-Gazette in early 2009, Shahid Khan said the couple paid the IRS \$68 million to settle the dispute, but insisted he'd done nothing wrong.

"There isn't a hint of a criminal issue here," Khan told the newspaper, saying he planned to try to get the money back through litigation. It wasn't clear whether he's taken legal steps since then to recover the money and an IRS spokesman declined comment Thursday.

Forbes last year ranked Flex-N-Gate as the 229th largest private company in the U.S., with an estimated \$2.14 billion in annual revenue. The company says on its Web site that it has more than 9,500 employees at plants and other facilities in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Argentina and Spain.

St. Louis was without an NFL team from 1988-94.

The NFL passed over St. Louis for the smaller Jacksonville, Fla., market when it awarded an expansion team in 1993. Two years later, civic leaders convinced Frontiere, a St. Louis native, to move the team from Los Angeles, the nation's second-largest market, back to her hometown.

The Rams within a few years put together a powerhouse team that won a Super Bowl a decade ago behind Kurt Warner and the rest of the "Greatest Show on Turf." But lately, the Rams have been one of the NFL's worst teams, going 6-42 from 2007-09.

A loophole in the Rams' lease allows them to move after the 2014 season if the Edward Jones Dome is not deemed among the top quarter of all NFL stadiums by various measurements. The dome is fast becoming one of the league's older venues, and getting it into the top quarter seems unlikely.

OLYMPICS

Vonn encouraged by right shin's recovery

Associated Press

WHISTLER, British Columbia — Each of Thursday's steps was seen as a sign that, yes, Lindsey Vonn might very well compete in five Olympic races, after all, and might be able to think once again about medals, not medicine.

Painkillers and a Novocaine-like numbing cream for the American's badly bruised right shin? They seemed to dull the aching.

Wearing ski boots, something painful and depressing every time she tried it last week? She yanked them on and did a course inspection.

Actually skiing down a hill for the first time since getting injured Feb. 2, albeit only in a free run and not on the official course? It hurt, sure, but was the most exciting step of all, one that convinced Vonn she was ready to take part in the opening women's Olympic downhill training session later Thursday.

Alas, that practice wound up being called off after only two racers because of thick fog and low visibility — yet even that development was deemed encouraging by the group known as the Vonntourage.

"I was happy to be back on snow today," said Vonn, who lives and trains in Vail, Colo. "My shin was still very painful, but I feel like the injury is finally progressing a bit. I am always disappointed when a training run is canceled, but in this situation I definitely welcome the extra day to heal."

Indeed, her husband, Thomas, called the cancellation "fantastic."

"It's not like all her competitors are getting multiple runs down the course. Nobody got to ski it, really, today," said Thomas Vonn, who serves as a coach and chief adviser to his wife. "So it's another day of healing, and hopefully tomorrow she feels even better."

He said she still aims to race in all five women's Alpine events, which certainly would be a relief to the U.S. Ski Team, U.S. Olympic Committee and her fans — to say nothing of NBC and her various sponsors.

"She's never taken any races off the table. It's going to be a day to day: If she can do it, she's going to do it," Thomas Vonn said. "But she's not pulling out of anything at this point, and it's looking better than it was yesterday."

U.S. Ski Team women's coach Jim Tracy was as optimistic as anyone.

He knows full well her history of brushing aside injuries and pain — whether it was making the quick transition from hospital bed to starting gate after a horrific crash in downhill training at the 2006 Turin Olympics, or managing not to miss a single race after badly bruising her arm in December.

Said Tracy of his team's most famous member: "She'll be ready."

Before her injury became known Wednesday, Vonn was widely considered a candidate to win perhaps three or four medals — including an overwhelming favorite to win golds in the downhill and super-G — and become the breakout star of the Vancouver Games.

The first women's race of the Olympics, the super-combined, is scheduled for Sunday, and the outlook for Vonn evolved quite a bit in the 24 hours since the two-time World Cup overall champion raised the possibility of not being able to compete at all.

"She had a smile today," Thomas Vonn said. "It's very encouraging. Like, it seems like it's kind of turning a corner, based off today."

Lindsey Vonn has been trying all manner of measures to speed the healing process since she banged her boot against her right leg in a headfirst tumble earlier this month during pre-Olympic training in Austria. She tried things as basic as stretching. She tried laser therapy. She even tried wrapping her leg with an Austrian curd cheese to bring down the swelling.

On Thursday, she raised the bar, writing on her Twitter feed in the morning that she "took a bunch" of painkillers and "numbed my shin with some creams."

Later in the day, Vonn posted on Facebook: "The pain level has gone down from a sharp debilitating pain to something that I feel I may be able to grit my teeth through."

U.S. Ski Team doctor Bill Sterett's assessment? "Everything," he said, "seems to be resolving."

Although a physical therapist recommended changing boots, possibly by cushioning where the top of the equipment meets the bruise, Thomas Vonn said they decided against that, lest it affect her performance.

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.

PERSONAL

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we can help.

For more information, visit Notre Dame's website:

<http://csap.nd.edu>

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

Do not go it alone. Notre Dame has 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 web site:

<http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu>

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Four condos for sale under \$150,000.

Steps to Notre Dame.

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FOR RENT

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2 apartments available near downtown SB 129 N. St. Louis Blvd (between Jefferson St. & Colfax St.) Both apartments 1000 SF no deposit required \$350.00 per person per month includes utilities upstairs apartment 2/3 bedroom kitchen bath and livingroom \$375.00 per month per person includes utilities downstairs apartment 2 bedroom kitchen bath livingroom diningroom and laundry room. References and lease required Please call 574-274-2110

Happy Valentine's Day, Shivani. Surprised?

Devlin, it looks like the trip to Paris has been cancelled, at least with this friend. Maybe with my other, navel friend.

"I'm honestly not sure what's worse, being from Texas or being from Jersey."

"Hey Mr. Scott, what'cha gonna do, what'cha gonna do to make our dreams come true?"

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, February 12, 2010

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

NCAA Division I Baseball Preseason NCWBA Poll

	team	previous
1	Texas	2
2	LSU	1
3	Virginia	6
4	Cal State Fullerton	7
5	Rice	9
6	Florida State	10
7	UC Irvine	13
8	Arizona State	3
9	Georgia Tech	19
10	Florida	14
11	TCU	11
12	Miami (FL)	20
13	North Carolina	4
14	Clemson	15
15	Arkansas	5
16	East Carolina	16
17	Coastal Carolina	21
18	Oregon State	24
19	Louisville	17
20	Mississippi	12
21	South Carolina	23
22	Southern Miss	8
23	Ohio State	NR
24	San Diego	NR
25	Oklahoma	18

NCAA Division I Softball Preseason NFCA Poll

	team	previous
1	Washington	1
2	Alabama	3
3	Florida	2
4	Michigan	6
5	Arizona State	5
6	Arizona	7
7	Georgia	4
8	UCLA	9
9	Missouri	8
10	Stanford	10
11	Oklahoma	16
12	California	11
13	Georgia Tech	13
14	Ohio State	12
15	Northwestern	18
16	Tennessee	20
17	Baylor	15
18	LSU	19
19	North Carolina	17
20	Massachusetts	14
21	DePaul	23
22	Louisville	NR
23	Florida State	22
24	Louisiana Lafayette	25
25	Fresno State	NR

Men's Basketball Big East Standings

	team	conf. W-L
1	Syracuse	11-1
2	Villanova	10-1
3	West Virginia	8-3
4	Georgetown	8-4
5	Pittsburgh	7-4
6	Louisville	6-4
7	NOTRE DAME	6-5
8	Marquette	6-5
9	Cincinnati	5-6
10	South Florida	5-6

around the dial

NCAA Men's Basketball
West Virginia at Pittsburgh
9 p.m., ESPN

NBA
All-Star Rookie Challenge
9 p.m., TNT

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL



Connecticut head basketball coach Jim Calhoun returned to the sidelines on Thursday after missing seven games with an unspecified ailment. Calhoun has stated the ailment is unrelated to his recent bout with cancer.

Calhoun returns to Huskies after absence

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — UConn coach Jim Calhoun appears on the mend. The Hall of Famer has to hope his return can salvage an NCAA tournament bid for the ailing Huskies.

Calhoun returned to his coaching duties Thursday after a medical leave of more than three weeks forced him to miss seven games. He has no restrictions on what he can do and will be on the bench for Saturday's game against Cincinnati.

"I both felt that the time away was important for my personal and professional well-being and that

I am ready to move ahead from this point at full speed," Calhoun said.

Calhoun returns to a team that needs a sizzling, upset-heavy winning streak to sniff the NCAA tournament. The Huskies (14-10, 4-7 Big East) have sunk to the bottom half of the conference standings a year after a No. 1 seed and a Final Four berth.

UConn's top moment came Jan. 23 when associate head coach George Blaney led the Huskies to an upset of then-No. 1 Texas. But the Huskies threw away their momentum like one of their 352 turnovers this season when they lost the next

game at Providence — and that started the second of their three-game losing streaks this season. UConn ended the skid by eking out a seven-point win Saturday against lowly DePaul (1 win in the Big East) and lost at No. 2 Syracuse 72-67 on Wednesday night.

"We still think we're pretty good," Blaney said. "We still think we can be a factor in every game we play in."

UConn has gone 3-4 in Calhoun's absence. School officials have not said what was ailing Calhoun, but said it had nothing to do with his three bouts with cancer and was not related to his heart.

The losing wasn't the only thing that took some getting used to in Storrs, a bucolic college town, located amid the dairy farms of northeastern Connecticut. UConn games without Calhoun, as New England as a bowl of clam chowder, have been way too quiet. Gone has been the stomping, the cussing, the barking at officials.

Longtime followers of the program described the 67-year-old Calhoun as more down than angry after recent losses. He never knew what kind of performance he'd get out of the erratic Huskies and almost seemed resigned to that fate.

IN BRIEF

Glavine joins Braves as assistant to Schuerholz

ATLANTA — Tom Glavine made his retirement official on Thursday when he returned to the Atlanta Braves in a loosely defined new role.

Glavine was hired as special assistant to Braves president John Schuerholz, and the two stood together before reporters for the first time since Glavine's unexpected release last summer.

The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner was bitter when the Braves let him go, but he said Thursday that any anger at Schuerholz and general manager Frank Wren has dissipated.

"I'm happy and comfortable with where we are as far as that is all concerned," Glavine said. "I talked with Frank, so that is all behind us. If I didn't feel I could work with Frank or work with John, I wouldn't be here."

Linebacker Antonio Pierce released by Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — One of the worst defensive seasons in New York Giants history claimed another victim — middle linebacker Antonio Pierce.

The Giants on Thursday released the 31-year-old veteran who quarterbacked the defense for the past five years in a tenure that included four trips to the playoffs and a Super Bowl victory over the previously undefeated New England Patriots in February 2008.

Pierce's status with the team was put into question this season when he suffered a neck injury, forcing him to miss the final seven games of the season, a year in which the Giants surrendered 427 points.

Defensive coordinator Bill Sheridan and defensive line coach Mike Waufle were fired after the season and Pierce, who signed a \$26 million contract as a free agent in 2005, was let go a month later.

Wallace recalls long road to All-Star Game

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Rick Adelman remembers drafting a raw, inexperienced 18-year-old from Alabama in 2001 while he was coaching the Sacramento Kings.

Adelman wasn't sure what to do with Gerald Wallace.

"He played one year of college and he pretty much played zone his whole career," said Adelman, now coach of the Houston Rockets. "He just ran and dunked."

On Thursday, a little less than nine years later, Wallace boarded a plane for Dallas as the first All-Star in Charlotte Bobcats history. It's the culmination of a rocky road from unhappy college kid to Sacramento benchwarmer to expansion draft pick to a player who has finally combined his freakish athletic ability with a well-rounded game.

OLYMPICS

Uncertainty dominates Vancouver Olympics

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The XXI Olympic Winter Games begin Friday, and that's about the only thing certain about them.

The star is hurting, and there's more snow in Manhattan than on some of the mountains here.

Oh, and there could be two Olympic flames.

Back in Canada for the first time since 1988 in Calgary, the games open with the Olympics' first-ever indoor opening ceremony.

Organizers have kept a tight lid on details, and that's fitting for an Olympics full of questions.

Will the potential headline act, American skier Lindsey Vonn, overcome a shin injury and vie for multiple medals? Will the snowboard/freestyle skiing venue — already needing emergency snow imports — survive the latest bout of inclement weather? Will Canada's home team thrive or wilt under the pressure of its bold ambition to dominate the games?

One burning question, at least, will be answered Friday night when the opening ceremonies end with the lighting of the Olympic cauldron. For days, Canadians have been speculating and debating whether the honor should go to hockey legend Wayne Gretzky, the greatest player ever in Canada's most cherished sport, or some lesser-known, inspirational figure.

The flame itself finally arrived in Vancouver Thursday evening after a 106-day torch relay that passed through more than 1,000 communities in every corner of Canada over a nearly 45,000-kilometer (28,000-mile) route. Vancouverites waved flags, banged tambourines and rang cowbells to welcome the flame at City Hall.

On Friday, about 55,000 spectators will pack into BC Place Stadium for the opening, under the largest air-supported dome in North America. That roof may be a blessing — the forecast predicts showers during the ceremony and through the weekend, diminishing the coast-and-mountain vistas that can be breathtaking on a clear day.

Compounding the weather problems was uncertainty over whether Vonn will be able to compete. Anything dimming her medal hopes could further damage prospects for NBC, the U.S. broadcaster, which already expects to lose millions on the Olympics.

Aided by painkillers, Vonn tested her bruised right shin Thursday, skiing for the first time since her injury last week. She came away encouraged about her Olympic prospects.

Even aside from the rain and Vonn's setback, the games' organizers had a tough act to follow — staging an opening ceremony just 18 months after the spectacular start of the Beijing Summer Olympics, watched by a couple of billion people worldwide as China strode onto the global stage.

The Vancouver Organizing Committee opted for narrower

goals, saying its foremost priority was to unite Canadians in support of the games and the national team. Canada has shed its reputation for modesty, publicly proclaimed its ambition to win the most medals, and invested \$117 million in an Own The Podium program to make first place a realistic possibility by the time the games end Feb. 28.

Canada finished third four years ago in Turin, behind Germany and the United States.

"We have a team that is confident," said VANOC's CEO, John Furlong. "The country is starving for success."

For many Canadians, success will be incomplete unless it includes a gold medal for the men's hockey team.

And that circles back to Gretzky. He played for Canada in the 1998 Olympics, which ended with a disappointing loss in the bronze medal game, and was executive director of the gold-medal winning team in 2002.

Gretzky has evaded questions about any possible role in the opening ceremony, and he's got some competition in terms of sentimental favorites whom some Canadians would like to see light the cauldron.

One is Betty Fox, the mother of national hero Terry Fox, who lost a leg to cancer at age 18, then attempted a cross country Marathon of Hope in 1980. He cut short the run after hobbling 5,070 kilometers (3,150 miles) with an artificial leg, and died of lung cancer in 1981 at age 22 — inspiring annual Terry Fox runs which have raised \$500 million for cancer research.

Another oft-mentioned candidate for the honor is Rick Hansen, a paraplegic athlete who has won numerous wheelchair marathons and wheeled through parts of four continents to raise money for research into spinal cord injuries.

There's also been avid speculation — based partly on TV footage and Internet-posted photographs — that two cauldrons might be lit, one inside BC Place Stadium and one in a plaza overlooking the downtown waterfront. And social media are abuzz with reports, based on the dress rehearsal, of some of the performers expected to appear — among them Bryan Adams, Nelly Furtado, Sarah McLachlan and k.d. lang.

As the ceremonies begin, the first big protest of the games is planned Friday outside the stadium by an informal coalition of activists with a long list of grievances.

Even before the opening ceremonies, the sports phase of the games begins Friday afternoon with ski jumping qualifications at Whistler, where fog, snow and rain have disrupted some of the Alpine ski training runs.

The Vancouver Sun took the unusual step of carrying a column on its front page this week, exhorting its readers to overlook Olympic inconveniences and be gracious hosts.

"The party's on," wrote columnist Stephen Hume. "All that stands in the way of a good time is a petty decision not to have one."

OLYMPICS

30 athletes caught doping

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — With more than 30 athletes already prevented from competing in Vancouver, World Anti-Doping Agency president John Fahey predicts cheats are more likely than ever to be caught out at these Olympics.

Fahey confirmed Thursday that more than 30 athletes had been excluded for breaking anti-doping rules in recent months, with the cases including a mixture of positive samples and failure to comply with testing protocols.

Only hours after Fahey's news conference and reports emerging from Russia that all Vancouver-bound athletes had undergone drug testing, the International Olympic Committee announced the first doping violation of the games: Russian hockey player Svetlana Terenteva, who was reprimanded but escaped a ban after testing positive for a "light stimulant."

The substance — tuaminoheptane — is contained in prescription cold medication and is banned during competition

but not out of competition.

Terenteva, a 26-year-old forward who has played in four world championships, said she used the drug Rhinofluimucil in Russia to treat a head cold last month and stopped using the medication when she arrived in Vancouver on Feb. 3, a day before the Olympic drug-testing program began. Evidence of the stimulant appeared in a doping control three days later, on Saturday.

Fahey refused to give details of the more than 30 athletes who had been excluded from Vancouver, but noted that more than 70 athletes were prevented from competing at the Beijing Olympics for violating anti-doping rules in the similar period leading into the 2008 Summer Games.

He said it was becoming more and more difficult for drug cheats to avoid detection.

"Athletes who seek to cheat at these games, it's more likely they'll be caught than in any other games in our history," Fahey said. "The approach that's been taken around the world by national Olympic committees and anti-doping agencies (is) to ensure that

they are not going to be embarrassed by having cheats represent their nation.

"It's good. It's weeding out the cheats."

Fahey said the cases were spread across more than one sport and one country.

"I don't try to put too much of an emphasis on how good, or how small the number is," he said. "Either way, it indicates we're effective. It's a number I don't think you can ignore. That's why I say it's significant."

IOC medical commission chairman Arne Ljungqvist said the cases WADA had highlighted must have come from regular doping programs of the international sports federations.

"My interpretation is they are not suddenly 30 new cases prevented from coming here, but an accumulation over time," Ljungqvist told the IOC general assembly on Thursday. "I don't know exactly what they are. They are routine cases that have been accumulated over the months leading up to the games. We have read some of them in the newspapers fairly recently."

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OLYMPICS

White prepares new trick

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Shaun White dropped his iPhone onto the table as David Bowie's "Young Americans" blasted out of the tiny speakers.

Then the world's most famous snowboarder took off his blue Team USA jacket and, with his teammates watching, shimmied over to the refreshment table in the cramped green room.

They couldn't help but laugh as the 23-year-old with the iconic red hair finished his impromptu dance while making a cup of tea before meeting the press Thursday. It's not often White lets loose, particularly with the guys he spends most of the year trying to beat.

Being the best in the world is a sometimes lonely experience for White, who has built an empire since winning gold in the halfpipe at Turin four years ago and becoming known as the Flying Tomato.

He often trains by himself in the Colorado mountains, on a halfpipe built by one of his sponsors. He usually stays by himself during regular competitions, and will spend the next few days in a separate house from his teammates to grab a few moments of sanity before the games begin.

"I do things very differently, even where sometimes I feel like everybody is at the pipe and there's so much going on and it's really distracting and it's really tough to focus," White said.

Nonetheless, White seems at ease in the spotlight. While

some of his teammates fiddled with their microphones in front of the mass of reporters, White riffed on everything from his newest trick to the state of the sport.

He says he's just a normal guy who worries about girls and his wardrobe, just like his teammates. Maybe, but he's the only member of the team who had his own public-relations representative at his side Thursday. And he's the only one with the household nickname.

Though White like to clarify something. The Flying Tomato is so 2006. He's got a new moniker — "Animal" — a reference to the wild-haired Muppets character who thrashes away on the drums. Considering the way White flips, spins and twists his way down the halfpipe, there's more than a passing resemblance.

"The Animal has become my thing here," he said.

Yet he's making an impact beyond catchy nicknames, merchandising and gold medals. He's also helping pull the sport into the future, thanks to his newest trick, which he calls the Double McTwist 1260.

White has called it "my best friend and worst enemy," and the relationship has been rocky since he started working on the maneuver, which requires him to flip twice while twisting three and a half times.

He chipped a bone in his ankle last spring, then wowed crowds in Park City, Utah, last month when he nailed it in competition for the first time. A

week later at the X Games, he smacked his face on the icy pipe while trying to nail it in practice, then stepped back onto the pipe the next day and drilled it to take gold.

Though he'd probably be a heavy medal favorite even without it, White feels it's important for the sport to show the world his signature move despite the danger.

"I feel confident with that trick," he said. "It's such an amazing thing that I feel like somewhat disappointed if I didn't keep it in the run."

It's a trick nobody else can do and one he honed in seclusion — a method that seems foreign to his teammates, who include Greg Bretz, Scotty Lago and Louie Vito.

"I don't share that same theory as Shaun, but I think that's what separates him and maybe makes him so good," Lago said.

The isolation is nothing new. White is so focused on winning he admits he puts his competitors at a distance. On Thursday, he spent 30 minutes before the news conference sitting outside the green room fiddling with his phone while his teammates hung out inside. He eventually made his way in and cut a few jokes.

White is trying to embrace the idea of being on a team, at least until they hit the halfpipe Feb. 17. White spent Wednesday night in the Olympic Village with his teammates, collecting pins from foreign athletes and sticking them on his credential lanyard. He had the option of moving out Thursday, but planned to stay one more night.

USA BASKETBALL

James, Bryant to lead U.S. team through 2012

Associated Press

NEW YORK — LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Kobe Bryant and most of the reigning Olympic gold medalists could be back in U.S. uniforms this summer.

If not, USA Basketball thinks it has plenty of players who can replace them.

The Americans announced 27 players Wednesday for the national team pool that will be used to select the rosters for this summer's world championships and the 2012 Olympics in London.

It features nine players who stood atop the medals platform in Beijing and a number of emerging young stars ready for their chance.

"The pool is better than the one we had in the last quadrant and the interest level is higher, and so we feel like we're moving in the right direction," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said on a conference call, hours before he led his Duke team against rival North Carolina.

Also returning from the 2008 team that ended the Americans' eight-year gold medal drought in major competitions are: Chris Bosh, Chris Paul, Dwight Howard, Carmelo Anthony, Deron Williams and Carlos Boozer.

All of the returning players previously told USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo they were interested in coming back after spending all or parts of three years playing for the team that returned the United States to the top of international basketball.

"The reason they're back is they're deserving of being back," Colangelo said.

James, Wade and Bosh are questionable to actually play this summer. All three can become free agents and have said their contract situations are their first priority.

"I really think it's kind of early, but I think guys still want to play," Anthony said. "Of course we'll have that conversation in the near future, but they've got to take care of what they've got to take care of first, which is their contracts and things like that."

Paul is currently sidelined after knee surgery and Bryant is battling a number of injuries, so Colangelo knows he's not going to get all of his top choices. However, he isn't worried about that now, saying those decisions can wait until the team readies for its minicamp in July.

"Everything is a matter of waiting. Everyone's personal situation we're waiting for next summer. There's nothing but speculation between now and then," Colangelo said. "That's why injuries and family issues and free agency, all of these things play a role. That's why you need a pool as strong as we had and that's why we're happy about it."

The only players not returning from the team that won gold in Beijing are Jason Kidd, who previously said he was retiring from international competition with a perfect record, and Michael Redd and Tayshaun Prince, who have battled injuries this season.

The remainder of the roster includes young stars such as Kevin Durant — who nearly made the team that played in the 2007 Olympic qualifier and is considered a lock for this year's — and Derrick Rose. Also returning to the national team are Chauncey Billups and Amare Stoudemire, who played on the U.S. team three years ago.

Krzyzewski and assistants Jim Boeheim, Mike D'Antoni and Nate McMillan already committed to returning last summer.

Stoudemire is perhaps the biggest surprise on the roster. The All-Star forward from Phoenix basically talked himself off the 2008 Olympic team by publicly waffling about his desire to play at the end of the NBA season.

"There was a time when he was really not going to be considered," Colangelo said. "Had he not really reached out through his own efforts personally and his agent about his extreme desire to be part of it, he would not have been part of it. As a result of his expression of great interest, we reconsidered and he is now part of the pool."

Billups backed up Kidd on the 2007 team that went undefeated in Las Vegas, but he withdrew the next year for family reasons. He may not have made the final 12-man roster anyway, since Paul was back from an injury that sidelined him the previous summer.

Lakers forward Lamar Odom, who played on the 2004 Olympic team, also was chosen Wednesday. The rest of the players are almost entirely young players.

The roster includes: Minnesota's Al Jefferson and Kevin Love; Rudy Gay and O.J. Mayo of Memphis; Philadelphia's Andre Iguodala; Boston's Kendrick Perkins; Indiana's Danny Granger; New York's David Lee; New Jersey center Brook Lopez; Oklahoma City guard Russell Westbrook; Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge; Charlotte's Gerald Wallace; and Clippers guard Eric Gordon.

The Americans will choose a group from the roster to take part in their minicamp in Las Vegas in July. They are expected to play an exhibition game in New York before heading to Turkey for the world championships, which they haven't won since 1994.

Colangelo said Lakers center Andrew Bynum and Celtics point guard Rajon Rondo were among the only players who were asked to participate but declined.

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OLYMPICS

Whistler track is fast, but concerns abound

Associated Press

WHISTLER, British Columbia — The signature curve, the unlucky 13th, is nicknamed “50-50” — the odds of escaping its icy clutches without accident.

Curve No. 11 is known as “Shiver,” a spine-tingling bend that has made first-time visitors tremble in fear.

Sinisterly snaking its way down beautiful Blackcomb Mountain, the 16-turn Whistler Sliding Center track, which will host the bobsled, luge and skeleton competitions during the Vancouver Games, has already developed a nasty reputation before making its Olympic debut.

It’s fast. It’s furious. It’s frightening.

“It’s a great ride, for sure,” said U.S. luger Erin Hamlin, the American team’s top medal hope. “I like the challenge, so that makes it interesting and it feels that much better when you can make it down.”

That’s if you make it down.

One of only 16 international sliding tracks, the one overlooking pretty-as-a-postcard Whistler is the world’s fastest, a frozen superspeedway where sliders experience G-forces comparable to those encountered by military jet pilots.

Amateurs need not apply. Beginning with a near-vertical drop, this is a thrill-or-spill ride where the slightest mistake can send a luger hurtling headfirst into a wall, upend the bobsled and snap a skeleton racer’s bones like twigs.

The perils of the track were all too clear Thursday when Romanian luger Violeta Stramaturaru was knocked unconscious after slamming into several walls during a training run. She was strapped to a backboard and taken to an onsite medical facility, and a Romanian team official indicated that her injury was not serious.

American Megan Sweeney also crashed in her first training run Thursday, but walked away unharmed, other than a slightly torn race suit. And Australian racer Hannah Campbell-Pegg, who was wobbling during a training run and braced for a crash, questioned whether the lightning-fast track is safe enough.

“I think they are pushing it a little too much,” Campbell-Pegg said. “To what extent are we just little lemmings that they just throw down a track and we’re crash-test dummies? I mean, this is our lives and we enjoy doing this sport ... but then again, people haven’t had the runs here. The Canadians are doing fine and they’ve had a lot of runs. I still think it’s a safer track than Torino.”

A.J. Rosen, Britain’s only luge competitor, has been chewed up and spit out by the snarling Whistler monster. During a training run in October, Rosen dislocated his hip and suffered nerve damage in a wreck.

“The actual crash wasn’t that bad, but you are going at such speeds that sliding down is where I got hurt,” he said. “As you’re coming to the bottom, this track takes your breath away. It’s really fast and there is nothing really to compare it to.”

U.S. luger Tony Benshoof will never forget his first trip down Whistler’s blinding gamut of

lefts, rights, hairpins and straightaways. It was if he was transported back in time.

“I felt like I was in a sped up black-and-white movie,” the three-time Olympian said. “I was very, very surprised by the speed. It took some practice to slow everything down in your head. Ideally in luge, you want to slow everything down, and the best sliders are able to do that well.”

“It took me a while in Whistler, maybe 10 or 12 runs before I could see the laces on the baseball, so to speak. It’s a handful.”

Unlike many tracks in Europe, this one has wider, sweeping turns at the top, allowing sliders to build up early momentum and breakneck speed. By the time the men’s lugers reach the third curve called “Wedge,” they’re already approaching nearly breakneck speeds and there’s no exit ramp.

While the speed element makes for exciting racing and will keep spectators holding their breath, there have also been questions raised about the track’s safety. However, organizers insist every precaution has been taken to minimize the danger for athletes.

“Crashes are definitely part of the sport, definitely part of a new facility the first few years a track is open especially until coaches understand how to coach their athletes through particular corners on this track,” said Craig Lehto, the sliding center’s director. “On this track, we are prepared for any type of crash as it is very technically demanding and the conditions can change so quickly on this mountain which in turn changes the ice conditions very quickly.”

“Even pilots who might be used to sliding down this track might not be used to sliding on particular weather conditions at any given time.”

Lehto said doctors will be on site along with three ambulances and a helicopter pad in case any athlete needs to be evacuated.

SMC SWIMMING

Belles prepare for MIAAs

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

The Belles’ season may not have included quite as many team wins as they would have liked, but it certainly contained an array of individual accomplishments. This weekend, all of their hard work will be tested one last time for the MIAA Championships.

The past week and a half has consisted of tapering in preparation for the big weekend.

“We have been training hard since September; now we are just doing easy workouts and fast swimming to prepare our muscles for the meet,” freshman Ellie Watson said.

The team as a whole is looking to turn out fast races by as many swimmers as possible during the preliminaries, which begin each day

at 10 a.m. From there, the top swimmers will compete at night in the finals, which begin at 6 p.m.

Five individual swimmers are especially looking for top finishes in order to maintain their successful status during the regular season. Freshmen Katie Griffin, Watson, Caila Poythress and Genevieve Spittler, along with senior Sara Niemann all hold a top-15 finish in at least one event in the conference.

Griffin is 15th in the 50-yard freestyle and 100 freestyle, 11th in the 200 freestyle, sixth in the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly and 11th in the 200 backstroke. Watson’s finishes include fifth in the 500 freestyle and seventh in the 1650 freestyle and 400 individual medley. Poythress has the 13th-best time in the 200 backstroke, Spittler the fifth in the 200 butterfly and

Niemann the 14th in the 1650 freestyle. The five relay teams all have a top-five finish under their belt as well.

Now it is time for accomplishments beyond the regular season.

“We’ve been enjoying the down time we have together on deck. This weekend, we hope everyone has fast races during prelims to make it back for a second swim and score some points for the Belles,” Poythress said.

The weekend definitely offers great possibilities for many Belles. They are looking not only to come out on top, but even to shatter some school records on their way.

The team travels to Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. for meets all day Thursday through Saturday.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Rally falls just short in close loss

By TIMOTHY SINGLER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s fell in a close, hard fought battle to Wheaton 75-74 in an important game as the season begins to draw to a close.

Senior forward Anna Kammrath scored four points in the final minute of the game to keep the Belles close. Kammrath attempted a free throw with under five seconds to play and hit the first to pull within one 75-74 but missed the second shot. Freshman guard Annie Doyle’s rebound set up sophomore guard Patsy Mahoney with a 3-point attempt as time expired but the shot fell short.

The Belles, despite the

loss, played well and hung with the Thunder for most of the game. Saint Mary’s started out the game with a 20-10 lead. The Thunder stormed back however and retook the lead 21-20.

Saint Mary’s had to battle back for most of the game after the early lead fell out of their grasp. As the Belles surged back and cut the lead to a small margin, the Thunder responded and re-established a comfortable lead.

Despite the outcome of the game, Saint Mary’s showed that they could play down the stretch of a game, making solid plays during the final minutes of the game. A few crucial rebounds and baskets kept the Belles in the game within the final

two minutes.

Saint Mary’s distributed the ball well tonight as four players scored in double-digits. Kammrath led all scorers and also recorded her sixth double-double of the season with 21 points and 13 rebounds. Sophomore forward Kelley Murphy added 18 points, Mahoney scored 15 and sophomore forward Jessica Centa added 14 points as well.

Saint Mary’s will move on from this tough loss and focus on the rest of the season that lies ahead.

The Belles will travel to Hope on Saturday to take on the Flying Dutch at 3 p.m.

Contact Timothy Singler at tsingler@nd.edu




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DePaul

continued from page 20

A victory would be the ideal ending to complete Sunday's ceremony, but to do so Notre Dame (22-1, 9-1 Big East) will have to stay focused against a DePaul team that has traditionally caused problems for the Irish.

"They're always a dangerous team," McGraw said. "It's always a huge rivalry between us and DePaul. We've had some great games over the years, and it's always been a battle for us."

Currently ranked ninth in the conference standings, the Blue Demons (16-9, 5-6) are coming off a blowout loss to Connecticut last Wednesday. DePaul is led by junior Sam Quigley, an explosive point guard whose 16.6 points and 4.9 assists per game are good enough for top-10 in the conference. Quigley's numbers are even more impressive considering she is averaging 40.2 minutes per game, the most in the conference.

"She is having a great year," McGraw said. She's playing really well, playing a lot of minutes for them. I don't think she ever comes out. Our goal defensively is just try to keep the pressure on her."

But the Blue Devils are hardly one-dimensional. Anchored by freshman Katherine Harry and sophomore Keisha Hampton, DePaul has developed an effective post game to complement its perimeter offense.

"They're big," McGraw said. "They've got some really good players inside. They've got a

back line that could go 6-1, 6-2 and 6-4, and of course that's a much bigger line than we're going to put up."

DePaul's size advantage will be the biggest threat for the Irish, who rank in the bottom half of the conference in rebounding and blocked shots. McGraw said rebounding will be the team's focus in practice leading up to Sunday's matchup.

"They're a very good rebounding team," McGraw said. "We're going to have our work cut out for us on the boards. We've got to really, really work on the fundamentals of boxing out and getting good position."

To that end, McGraw will rely on the improved performance of her guards to provide support in the post in addition to their scoring role on the outside. Based on recent success, the tandem of guards senior Ashley Barlow, junior Brittany Mallory and freshman Skylar Diggins should be more than capable of keeping the Blue Devils in check.

"I'm really thrilled with the guards right now and their rebounding. Ashley Barlow has been doing a great job all year long, but in the last game Brittany Malloy got her career-high with 8 rebounds against Cincinnati and the game before that Skylar got her career-high with 10 against Pitt," McGraw said. "The guards are finally getting down there and helping out the post, so that's something that we've really kind of needed all year long."

Tipoff is at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles optimistic about year

By LUKE MANSOUR
Sports Writer

Despite coming off a disappointing fifth-place finish in the MIAA conference last year, the Saint Mary has much reason for optimism as it heads into the new season.

The Belles return all nine players from the squad that finished with an 11-10 record from a year ago.

"Because we are a bit more experienced this year, that should help us quite a bit," Belles coach Dale Campbell said. "Our expectation is to have more confidence, to make better decisions on the court and to handle the flow of the match better mentally."

Junior Jillian Hurley and senior Camille Gebert, both standouts last year, will once again lead the team. Both were named to the all-MIAA team last season. Hurley finished with a 4-4 record in conference dual matches at the No. 1 singles position while Gebert finished with an 8-0 record at the No. 2 singles position.

The experience the Belles gained over the last year will be put to the test early in the season, as they play two very solid teams in Case Western and Olivet Nazarene during the first week. Case Western had a successful fall season, going 4-1, while Olivet Nazarene will begin the season nationally ranked.

The Belles' early-season schedule should give them a good barometer of their progress before heading into their conference slate.

"Case Western looks to be a very strong team," Campbell said. "We may be looking at a nationally ranked squad. We think that

we will gain some great competitive experience early in the season."

As the season kicks off, Campbell wants the emphasis to be on improving mental

toughness on the court.

"We need to keep improving strategically and making better decisions mentally,"

Campbell said.

Saint Mary's efforts this season will be bolstered by the addition of three new players who will provide added depth to a somewhat thin roster. Brigid Hurley and Cara Rectanus are freshmen who will join

local area senior Kate Grabarek as new additions on the team this year Campbell said.

With the just season beginning, the Belles aim is to improve with every match leading up to conference play.

"Our goals are simple right now, to get better every day, and to give our best effort," Campbell said. "With that, the results will take care of themselves."

The Belles will begin their season tonight with a home match against Case Western at 6 p.m. in the Eck Tennis Center. They open conference play March 27.

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu

"We may be looking at a nationally ranked squad."

Dale Campbell
Belles coach

"Because we are a bit more experienced this year, that should help us quite a bit."

Dale Campbell
Belles coach

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Sunny

continued from page 20

ular, the team is looking forward to freshmen pitchers Jackie Bowe and Brittany O'Donnell, catcher Amy Buntin, outfielder Kelsey Thornton and Kathryn Lux. The players have had months together, practicing, eating together and training for tournaments like the Kajikawa Classic.

"We feel like a family. We mesh extremely well and we get along on and off the field. We pride ourselves in carrying the strong bond we have off the field onto the field when we play," Kathryn Lux said.

The Irish travel to Tempe, Ariz., with games at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Friday, 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday and 10:30 a.m.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

Wolverines

continued from page 20

wins the three-setters." The Irish are coming off a tough loss to Duke in Durham last weekend and are looking to rebound and avenge their loss from last season in the NCAA Tournament. "Our match with Duke was a disappointment from a competitive point of view," Bayliss said. "We simply did not win enough big points. We held match points at No. 2 doubles to clinch the point, but didn't reach out and take it. We had match points at No. 5, won the first set at No. 6, and served twice for the first set at No. 4, but came away with nothing to show for the effort. "In short, Duke simply out-competed us, a reversal of what happened a year ago. They are a talented team, but we needed to do a better job at crunch time." Heading into the season the Irish were searching for

answers in their doubles lineup and seem to have found some early in the season having already won the doubles point four out of six times. "We served for the doubles point against No. 2 UVA and held match points for it against Duke," Bayliss said. "We have some options here also with [junior] Matt Johnson, [freshman] Spencer Talmadge and [junior] Sean Tan, all of whom were not on the travel squad for Duke. Hopefully this will continue and become a key in more success as the season continues. David Anderson and Dan Stahl have become pretty competitive at No. 3, Havens-Fitzgerald have only one loss at No. 2, and Watt- Davis have shown some promise at No. 1." The Irish are now looking for some of their singles players to follow the lead of the doubles pairings to help the team win close matches. The Irish will next travel to Seattle to take on Washington Feb. 20. Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab02@saintmarys.edu

Seton Hall

continued from page 20

time expired. Senior point guard Tory Jackson posted a season-high 25 points to lead the Irish and added six assists. After a back-and-forth opening five minutes, the Pirates took an early 15-10 lead. Notre Dame quickly responded, going on a 10-0 run to take a five-point lead. In the closing minutes of the first half, Hazell and Seton Hall caught the Irish and began to build a lead. Five points from Hazell in the final minute gave the Pirates a 49-39 lead heading into halftime. After the break Notre Dame slowly began to chip away at the Pirates lead. A Harangody 3 with 11 minutes remaining tied the contest again at 63-63. Seton Hall kept firing away from distance, taking back the lead with consecutive 3-pointers from Hazell and senior guard Eugene Harvey. Hazell's fifth 3 of the game then gave Seton Hall a nine-point lead with just over six minutes remaining. The Irish would not quit despite the deficit, even after Harangody went out with the injury. Attacking the Pirate defense, free throws by Abromaitis, Joey Brooks and Tyrone Nash brought Notre Dame back within a point at 83-82 with less than two minutes to go. Missed free throws down the stretch gave Notre Dame



PAT COVENEY/The Observer Senior forward Luke Harangody talks to the referee during the Notre Dame's 60-58 loss to Cincinnati on Feb. 4.

several opportunities to tie or take the lead, but the Irish couldn't convert from the field. Notre Dame missed three field-goal attempts in the final 30 seconds. Harangody and Nash each had 13 points and six rebounds in the loss. Abromaitis shot just 2 of 7 from the field but made all 12 of his free throw attempts to finish with 18 points. Despite shooting 54 percent from the field and 52 percent from 3-point range, the Irish were still out-gunned by the Pirates. Seton Hall shot 55 percent overall and 63 percent on 3-point shots. Notre Dame will next face St. John's Sunday at Purcell Pavilion, needing a win to continue to stay in the NCAA Tournament conversation. Tip-off will be at 7:30 p.m. Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Repeat offenders?

5 Cover

11 Ask too much?

14 Sarcastic reply

15 Unsuitable for mixed company

16 Note traded for bills

17 "That's how it looks to me, anyway"

20 Cheers

21 Weak heart, for example?

22 Does badly at the box office

24 Rubber

27 Org. that awaits your return

28 Hightail

31 In the vicinity of

34 John no one knows
- 35 Like some glasswork

36 13th-century literary classic

37 Night light used by Sherlock Holmes

40 Therapist's comment

41 King defeated at Châlons

42 Disembarrass

43 Cricket match

44 Eye shadow?

45 Put in one's _____ (interfere)

46 Mason's assistant

48 "South Park" boy

50 1950s-'60s actor known as the Switchblade Kid

52 White robe wearers

55 Crows and others
- 60 French dip's dip

61 Chevy model discontinued in 2001

62 Deadfall, e.g.

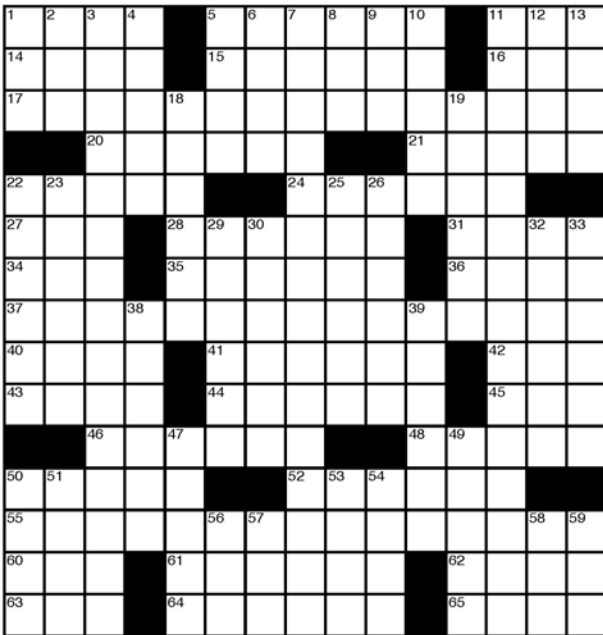
63 Jack, for one

64 Docile marine mammal

65 Daring, in a way

Down

- 1 Plame affair org.
- 2 Things used during crunch time?
- 3 Extreme exposure
- 4 Follow closely
- 5 "Vamoose!"
- 6 Cheat, slangily
- 7 Clive Cussler best seller made into a 1980 film
- 8 Member of Sauron's army
- 9 Miss _____
- 10 Dings
- 11 Charles IX's court poet
- 12 It may be played for money
- 13 _____ Ball, quinquennial dance in Harry Potter
- 18 Irritated reactions
- 19 1995 thriller about identity theft
- 22 Chocolate chip, e.g.
- 23 Stir to action
- 25 Land



Puzzle by Patrick Berry

- 26 Speedy Gonzales cry

29 Words that affect one's standing?

30 Father Time's prop

32 Monk's first name on "Monk"

33 Stopped flowing

38 Thorn, once
- 39 Acted as an informant

47 Muddies up

49 Carriage trade

50 Goya's "La _____ Desnuda"

51 1989 Radio Hall of Fame inductee
- 53 Italian boxer Benvenuti

54 Not just nibble

56 Prompter action

57 Practice overseers: Abbr.

58 Not just nudge

59 Invisible ink user

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G A L A S F A N T A B U L O U S
I K E B A N A M E F I R S T
A N T A G O N I Z E S F O R A Y
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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Lautner, 18; Kelly Rowland, 29; Jennifer Aniston, 41; Sheryl Crow, 48

Happy Birthday: Motivation will be all it takes to get ahead. Your staying power and discipline will be high this year, so accomplishing some of your long term goals will be possible. A giant push to help others will bring you the same in return. An interesting relationship will develop, broadening your horizons and lifting your spirits. Your numbers are 2, 5, 17, 24, 30, 39, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your decisions should be based on what's best for you. Jealousy and feeling guilty are a waste of time. Reconnect with someone you miss or who can contribute to your life by reinforcing some of your old goals and ideas. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Slow down and take your time or you will end up involved in something that results in unwanted consequences. Love is on the rise but getting involved with someone you have had a bad experience with in the past will only lead to more sorrow. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Participating in social or business events will bring you in contact with someone interested in your ideas and plans. Your ability to converse and work a room will pay off. Before you know it, there will be an opportunity to consider. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you don't make your move, you won't be able to take advantage of what's being offered. Your timing must be impeccable if you want to get ahead at this time. Waffling will lead to disappointment. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The competition is great and, although you do have some great ideas, so will others. You can form a partnership with someone you feel can complement what you have to offer. Being a team player will put you in a leadership position. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A problem within your relationship will occur if you have been all work and no play. If you neglect what's really important, uncertainty will develop. You will find a solution if you listen to the complaints being made. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Everyone will be in your corner. Love is on the rise and the people you are with can change your future. Let everyone know what you want and what your intentions are. Once you establish your position, the rest will fall into place. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you aren't being honest with yourself, it's hard for others to help or to be honest with you. Follow your dreams, don't be afraid to be open about your intentions and plans and focus on the positive. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A trip or gathering will lead to talks about future projects and how you can contribute. Love and romance are in the stars. Someone who makes an unexpected, last-minute change will catch you off guard. Protect your home and your assets. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let anyone push you around. Demands and ultimatums should be tossed aside. Reasonable talks and suggestions will help to calm the waters and bring everyone to the same conclusion. Diplomacy will win. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An old friend or lover is likely to surface but keep your guard up -- nothing has changed. Past experience will guide you now and save you from making the same mistake twice. Choose the people with whom you can associate successfully. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be offered help but it will be at a price. Before you get involved in something new, find out what's expected of you. A partnership may intrigue you and even sound good, but if talks become pushy, back off immediately. ★★★★★

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HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE
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BOREP
GIMCA
TIMCAP
SPYNAP

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



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

Print answer here: "O O O O - O O O O"
(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: STAID FRUIT AUTHOR CROUCH
Answer: What he considered his wife's new hat -- "HAT-ROCIOUS"

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hazell eyes are smiling

Hazell leads Pirates with 35-point night

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish continued their struggles away from home Thursday, falling at Seton Hall 90-87 for their fifth loss in six away games this season.

Pirates (13-9, 4-7 Big East) guard Jeremy Hazell tore apart the Notre Dame defense, sinking 12 of his 16 field goal attempts for 35 points. The Irish (17-8, 6-6 Big East) played the final four minutes without senior forward Luke Harangody, who suffered an apparent ankle injury coming down after a rebound.

Notre Dame had two looks at forcing overtime in the final seconds, with junior forwards Tim Abromaitis and Carleton Scott both missing 3-point attempts just before

see SETON HALL/page 17



SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Junior forward Tim Abromaitis, right, jukes around a South Florida player during the Irish's 65-62 win over the Bulls on Feb. 7. The Irish fell to Seton Hall on Thursday 90-87 in Newark, N.J.

MEN'S TENNIS

Wolverines set to come on campus

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

The Irish will travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., to square off with the Wolverines on Saturday with the opening set to begin at 6 p.m.

The Irish split their decisions with the Wolverines a year ago, defeating them at home, and then falling to them in the NCAA Tournament.

"Our matches with Michigan are always emotional," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "We expect a big crowd and it will be exciting."

"They have two outstanding players at No. 1 and No. 2 in [junior] Jason Jung and [freshman] Evan King, a lefty," Bayliss said. "We are pretty much evenly matched at the Nos. 3-6 positions and this one will come down to which team

see WOLVERINES/page 18

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Notre Dame looks to make a splash with top three divers

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

Three divers are set to lead the Irish to a strong start at the Big East Championship this weekend in Pittsburgh.

Junior divers Nathan Geary and Wes Villaflor along with freshman Ryan Koter will compete in the 1-meter and 3-meter springboard events against the best competition in the Big East, but Irish coach Tim Welsh said

he still expects his trio of divers to thrive in the championship.

"Obviously we want our divers to do well. We expect all divers to score," Welsh said. "We'd like to have two of our three divers score in the top eight and make it to the championship. All three of them making it in would be a dream scenario, but to have two in the championships and one in the consolation round is our expectation."

Each diver will complete six dives in both events, five of

which will be front, back, reverse, inward and twist, while the sixth dive will be a second dive in one of those categories.

Once each dive is completed, a technical score is multiplied by a degree of difficulty to obtain a score for each dive. At the end of the six dives, the top eight scoring divers advance to the championship round and the next eight advancing to a consolation round. Welsh said it is essential that the divers start the Championship off on the right

foot for the Irish.

"We hope they get us off to a great start. They're really looking forward to it as well," Welsh said. "There is ultimately one champion, but these two events will be scored and then the teams will head into the swimming portion, which is next week."

With a massive blizzard slamming the Eastern portion of the United States, Welsh expressed relief that his divers are already in Pittsburgh and focused on the

weekend's events.

"I spoke to them on the phone recently," Welsh said. "They are all settled and ready to go. I'll be heading out there on Saturday."

The preliminary rounds for the men begin on Saturday morning with the championship and consolation rounds slated for Sunday at Trees Pool on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish to take on DePaul in Pink

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Donning their elegant pink jerseys, the No. 3/4 Irish will defend their unbeaten home record this Sunday when they host DePaul in the annual Pink Zone game. While conference records and playoff implications are on the line, they will be the undertones to breast cancer research and awareness.

"I just think it's so important for us to get involved in something as important as fighting breast cancer," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "The great thing about this game for us and our involvement is that 75 percent of the money actually stays right here in St. Joe's County."

see DEPAUL/page 18



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior guard Melissa Lechlitner carries the ball across midcourt during the Irish's 84-59 win over Providence on Jan. 27.

SOFTBALL

Team to open season at sunny Arizona St.

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

This weekend the Irish will travel to the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., for their first tournament of the year. Notre Dame will take on Creighton, Oregon, Auburn, Oregon State and No. 1 Washington in a very busy three days.

Despite the lack of softball weather in South Bend, the team is ready to break out their cleats and mitts in sunny Arizona.

"Our hopes for this weekend are to come out strong and ready and to play and look like we have been playing outside for a couple months," freshman

infielder Kathryn Lux said. "We are hoping to win all five games this weekend."

The Irish will look to Lux's older sister, senior first baseman Christine Lux, who was an All-American last year. She also led the team in home runs. Other key veterans the newcomers will look up to include senior third baseman Heather Johnson, junior shortstop Katie Fleury and junior outfielder Brianna Jorgensborg.

The freshmen are especially excited to play their first set of games officially representing the Irish, especially after demonstrating improvements during the off-season. In partic-

see SUNNY/page 18