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University looks to revise du Lac

Student government proposes changes to Notre Dame's student conduct guidebook

By MADELINE BUCKLEY and SARAH MERVOSH
News Writers

Editor's note: This is the second and final installment of a two-part series examining the policies and possible revisions of du Lac, the student handbook.

Senior John Saulitis has been on both sides of the University's disciplinary process.

He faced the consequences of ResLife himself and used that experience to assist others as a peer advocate.

One thing Saulitis has learned is that students who are ResLifed at Notre Dame are not "criminals."

"People make mistakes, and when you make something as rigid as the ResLife process, as du Lac is, you're going to catch a lot of good people that maybe did something that they regret," Saulitis said.

The University is currently making revisions to du Lac, the student handbook, and student government will make recommendations for changes Monday. If accepted, the recommendations would update du Lac to make it more student-friendly, student body president Grant Schmidt said.

Associate Vice President for Residence Life Bill Kirk said du

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Possible Revisions Proposed By Student Government

- Medical Amnesty Policy
- First offenses handled within the residence hall
- Lessen restrictions on drinking games

JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

Dance Team wins Ireland championship

Photo courtesy of Caitilin O'Brien

The Saint Mary's and Notre Dame Irish Dance team poses with their trophy from the All-Ireland Dance Championships.

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's and Notre Dame's Irish Dance team was victorious over the weekend in their competition held in Killarney, Ireland.

The group, comprised of eight women — five from Saint Mary's and three from Notre Dame — took first place during the All-Ireland Dance Championships, competing in the Ceili Club Competition Feb. 21. The team is coached by Deirdre Robinett, a senior at Saint Mary's who won the 2009 World Irish Dancing Championships, and Katie Grennan, a senior at Notre Dame.

This was the group's first time at this event, said Caitlin O'Brien, a Saint Mary's senior on the team.

O'Brien said even though this was the team's first time competing together at the international level, all of the girls have competed at the national level before individually.

Mary Miller, a Saint Mary's junior on the team, said it was nice to finally come together with her former opponents to compete.

"It was just so exciting competing with all my Saint Mary's and Notre Dame friends," Miller

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Robinson Center celebrates anniversary

By JOSEPH MCMAHON
Associate News Editor

When the Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) first opened nine years ago in the Northeast Neighborhood of South Bend, the Center's director Jay Caponigro was not really sure how Notre Dame's attempt at reaching out to the community would be received.

"We weren't sure exactly what we were going to do when we opened the doors," he said. "We had some ideas from the neighborhood ... but we weren't sure what the best way to do that was."

Since that time, Caponigro, who has been the director of the RCLC, a division of the University's Office of Public Affairs and Communication, since it first opened, has helped build long lasting relationships with community leaders while improving Notre Dame's standing in South Bend.

"I've been here nine years since we opened the Robinson Center, and for me it has been a great opportunity to represent the University and work with a

see ROBINSON/page 6

Dorm Drinks sold to new ownership

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

A popular campus beverage vendor is under new ownership.

Dorm Drinks, the Notre Dame beverage supplier, changed hands in January, new Chief Executive Officer Marc Anthony Rosa said.

"We took over in January, so it's a relatively new thing for us," Rosa said.

Rosa, a sophomore, works with two sophomores — Chief Financial Officer Richard Gonzalez and Marketing Director John Paxton — to lead the company.

"Even during our lulls we're still seeing growth, so it's a really exciting time to be a part of it," Rosa said.

Rosa, Gonzalez and Paxton found out earlier this year that the previous owners, seniors Adam Heisman and Jack Jeffery, were selling the company, Rosa said.

"Dorm Drinks was created [in 2007] essentially out of need," Rosa said. "They and their buddies wanted drinks. They started delivering drinks to their friends and it turned out to be a very profitable company that worked out well."

The new owners have seen positive results, Rosa said.

"It's been extremely profitable," Rosa said. "It's profitable because

see DRINKS/page 4

Students appreciate card swipers

Friendly dining hall workers help greet patrons with smiles

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
News Writer

If you've ever been to South Dining Hall on "wing night," John Ritschard will be sure to greet you at the door with his dancing chicken and a friendly reminder that delicious wings wait inside.

Ritschard, who swipes cards during dinner, said he spotted the dancing chicken at a garage sale and just knew it would be perfect.

"At the last wing night [John] had a stand in front of his card swiping station so that his dancing chicken could

see SWIPERS/page 6

SARA FELSENSTEIN/The Observer

John Ritschard, right, swipes a student's ID card as he enters South Dining Hall.

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER *Jazz festival preview* page 3 ◆ *Farley Fiasco* page 12 ◆ *Women's basketball heads to Seton Hall* page 24 ◆ *Viewpoint* page 10

Inside Column

'We're like a family'

I don't think there's any way I can really sum up this past year in a column. Serving as Editor-in-Chief of The Observer has been the most challenging and the most rewarding experience of my life. The paper has so shaped my time at Notre Dame; I've sacrificed school work, times with friends and much-needed sleep, but, looking back, those things were small compared to the great sense of accomplishment I received by leading a newspaper through easy, and also very difficult, times.

Jenn Metz

Editor- in-Chief

I'm very proud of my work at The Observer, and more importantly, I'm very proud of my staff. They've consistently amazed me with their work ethic, ability and dedication. I will be forever grateful for having the chance to work with such wonderful people.

The thing I'll miss the most about The Observer is the office itself. The windowless rooms in the basement of South Dining Hall are cluttered time capsules; I've found something new every time I've been down there. I've also found a friend who knows more about The Observer than I can even imagine.

I can't claim to be the first person to have the pleasure of working with Shirley Grauel. Our office manager for three decades, Shirley has been a constant presence at The Observer, providing us with much-needed chocolate and a smile every time we pass her desk.

Shirley calls me "boss" sometimes, a title I find completely inappropriate to describe our relationship. Though we work together, I've come to consider her one of my closest friends: someone I can turn to for a hug when times are tough, someone I can confide in, someone I can trust.

Past Editors gave me different bits of advice when I took over as Editor-in-Chief, but all were sure to include variations of the same message: Take care of Shirley. Talk to Shirley. Go and see Shirley as much as you can.

Shirley has shaped their lives as much as my own. She's the glue that holds The Observer's past and present together. And it's for her that generations of Observer alumni will travel to South Bend in a few weeks.

I can't wait to meet these people who are currently faceless names to me, to hear their stories, to share our memories of the newspaper and the office that connect us. But more importantly, I can't wait to have the opportunity to celebrate Shirley's retirement. I am honored to have worked with her during her final year at The Observer, and only wish future Editors would have been able to meet this amazing individual.

As I take my nameplate off the door and clear my office of photographs and file folders, I feel content. Though I've removed all personal touches, I hope that my work will leave a mark on the paper and the office of Editor-in-Chief, that it will have shaped The Observer into a better publication than it was the year before. I hope that next year's staff will build upon this year's accomplishments and continue to strive for journalistic excellence.

My mark, however, will be miniscule compared to that left by Shirley Grauel. The paper will not be the same without her, and it would not be where it is today if she didn't take that job 30 years ago.

When I look back on my time here at Notre Dame, my most important memories will be about The Observer: Seeing my first byline on the front page freshman year; running the News department; interviewing University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh; leading the paper during President Obama's controversial Commencement appearance. Most all of them, however, will be about the people I worked with — thank you for your friendship and support.

On behalf of all Editors and staff before me, I'd especially like to thank Shirley. You have changed all of our lives for the better, and we are so grateful for knowing you.

Shirley said it best when talking about the indescribable bond shared by those who have worked at The Observer: "It's hard to explain … we're like a family."

Though it's hard to leave the family behind, it's time for a change. The thing about family, though, is that they're always with you, and that's the comfort I take with me closing the Editor-in-Chief's office door — my office door — for the last time.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@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: *If you were a utensil, what would you be?*

Ross McCauley

freshman Stanford

"A spork because it has the best of both worlds, like Hannah Montana."

Angie Schott

freshman McCandless

"A spatula because it's flat."

Ian Montijo

freshman Stanford

"A grapefruit spoon, sharp as a tack but I still have curves."

Katie Kyler

freshman McCandless

"An ice cream scoop because I'd always be cool and make people smile."

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

MACKENZIE SAIN/The Observer

Students created a snowman on Bond Quad on Thursday. Many Notre Dame students took advantage of the fresh snowfall to partake in winter activities around campus.

Offbeat

Woman coaxes 5 year old daughter to commit theft

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis woman faces a theft charge for allegedly coaxing her 5-year-old daughter into stealing a woman's purse at a restaurant. According to a probable cause affidavit, a 24-year-old woman admitted asking her daughter to steal the purse Feb. 14 at a Chuck E. Cheese restaurant. The woman allegedly told officers she pointed out the purse she wanted her daughter to take and urged her to "Do it for Mommy" when the victim wasn't looking.

An arrest warrant was issued Thursday for the woman, who faces charges of theft and contributing to delinquency of a minor.

Virginia couple's German Shepherd found in Florida

DELAND, Fla. — A Virginia couple has been reunited with their German shepherd, which was found hundreds of miles from home in Florida. Pamela Holt, of Stuart, Va., says she thought DeLand Animal Control Officer Gary Thomas was playing a "mean trick" when he called to say he found 18-month old Deacon. The dog had been missing since December. The Holts thought their dog had died.

According to police reports, a convenience store clerk saw Deacon and another dog running in traffic on Feb. 18. The clerk called authorities and the dogs were taken to a kennel.

Deacon had a microchip implanted, which helped Thomas track down the Holts. The couple arrived in Florida to pick up Deacon this weekend.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

The Ten Years Hence Speaker Series presents "The Evolving Media and Its Consequences for American Society" today from **10:40 a.m.** to **12:10 p.m**. in the **Jordan Auditorium** at **Mendoza College of Business**. The event is **free** and open to the public.

An **Anniversary Celebration for the Robinson Community Learning Center** will take place **tonight** from **5: 30 p.m.** to **7:30 p.m.** The event will take place at the **Robinson Community Learning Center** and is open to the public.

The play **"Natural Selection"** will be performed **tonight** at **7: 30 p.m.** in the **Philbin Studio Theatre** at the **DeBartolo Performing Arts Center**. Tickets are available by calling **631-2800**.

The film "**The Cook, the Thief, His Wife and Her Lover"** will show **tonight** in the **Browning Cinema** at the **DeBartolo Performing Arts Center**. Tickets are **$3** for students, **$4** for seniors and **$6** for general admission and are available by calling **631-2800.**

An **Organ Recital** will take place **Sunday** at **5:30 p.m**. in the **Reyes Organ and Choral Hall** at the **DeBartolo Perfomring Arts Center**. Tickets are **$5** for students, **$10** for faculty and staff and **$15** for general admission. Tickets are available by calling **631-2800**.

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

Local Weather

	Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
High	31	25	34	34	36
Low	27	23	27	28	24

Atlanta 49 / 26 **Boston** 39 / 33 **Chicago** 29 / 22 **Denver** 43 / 27 **Houston** 61 / 42 **Los Angeles** 70 / 52 **Minneapolis** 30 / 9
New York 36 / 33 **Philadelphia** 38 / 30 **Phoenix** 74 / 53 **Seattle** 54 / 45 **St. Louis** 42 / 22 **Tampa** 61 / 44 **Washington** 40 / 29

ND Collegiate Jazz Festival set to begin

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
News Writer

The 52nd annual University Collegiate Jazz Festival (CJF), the longest-running college jazz event in the nation, will be held at 7 p.m. this Friday and Saturday at Washington Hall.

Nine bands in total will participate in CJF, including Notre Dame's own Jazz Band 1 and the Notre Dame New Orleans Brass Band.

Other jazz groups represented at the Festival will come from Tennessee State University, Western Michigan University, Capital (Ohio) University, University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Alma (Michigan) College, Indiana University at South Bend and the Reunion Jazz Orchestra of Chicago.

"I'm excited to see the outstanding collegiate jazz musicians at their best," said student coordinator Mike Rodio, a sophomore. "We're especially happy to welcome the Tennessee State Jazz Collegians this year. Tennessee State has always boasted an extraordinary jazz program, and they will bring some incredible talent to the Festival on Saturday night."

Five highly acclaimed jazz artists will judge the performances. The judging panel is led by saxophonist Jeff Clayton, who has played and recorded with artists like Stevie Wonder, Gladys Knight, Kenny Rodgers, Michael Jackson, Patti LaBelle, Madonna and Earth, Wind & Fire. Other judges include renowned musicians Ira Nepus (trombone), Llew Matthews (piano), Marion Hayden (bass) and Willie Jones III (drums).

At the end of Friday night's program, the five judges will play a jam session together.

The CJF is distinctive because it focuses on learning, not rankings. The judges will select outstanding musicians from each performing group, and provide a feedback session for each group immediately after it performs.

"Some of the bands this year are perennial favorites, and others are new this year, like Tennessee State. We gradually put things together, from the advertising to the merchandising to encouraging volunteers to participate."

Mike Rodio
student coordinator

The five judges will also present a clinic Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Ricci Band Rehearsal Hall on the east side of campus. The clinic is free and open to the public. The judges will discuss and demonstrate performance methods, and answer questions about instrumental techniques and different jazz styles.

Rodio and fellow sophomore student coordinator Bert Hootsmans have been working on the Festival since the beginning of the year. Amy Geist of the Student Union Board and Larry Dwyer, Director of Jazz Studies and Assistant Director of Bands, also helped to coordinate the Festival.

"We started with the basics, sending information about the Festival to jazz groups throughout the nation," Rodio said. "Some of the bands this year are perennial favorites, and others are new this year, like Tennessee State. We gradually put things together, from the advertising to the merchandising to encouraging volunteers to participate."

Rodio said he believes jazz is still very popular among the young people of college campuses, and that even if students don't regularly listen to jazz, they should still come out and see the show.

"Jazz is very much alive on college campuses, and we're proud of Notre Dame's tradition of showcasing collegiate jazz talent from across the nation," Rodio said.

All CJF events are free but ticketed for Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsens@nd.edu

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ND Mobile Web Arrives

By CASEY KENNY
News Writer

Notre Dame's Office of Information Technologies (OIT), in collaboration with its Office of Public Affairs and Communications (OPAC), recently released ND Mobile Web to provide mobile device users with useful information about Notre Dame resources.

The Web site, m.nd.edu, is accessible to a global audience and connects users with a wide selection of Notre Dame resources, such as news, athletics, emergency campus information, OIT alerts and student, faculty and staff directories.

The mobile Web site was launched to meet the growing popularity of smart phones.

"Everyone on campus seems to have mobile phones and we were looking for a way to provide the mobile experience to them," said Chas Grundy, OPAC's director of interactive marketing. "ND Mobile Web on your phone is a great way to find a number, check out a computer lab, or grab ND news and sports scores."

"Everyone on campus seems to have mobile phones and we were looking for a way to provide the mobile experience to them."

Chas Grundy
OPAC director of interactive marketing

According to a recent University press release, this mobile platform was developed through a close collaboration between OIT and OPAC.

"The world of communications and technology is intrinsically linked and our partnership is key to delivering new tools to campus to help our Notre Dame family stay educated, engaged and connected," said Todd Woodward, associate vice president for marketing communications.

One of the features of ND Mobile Web is its "Find an Open Lab" resource. A student interested in seeing whether a particular computer lab is busy can choose this feature and be provided with the real-time number of available computers.

"The new mobile culture emphasizes real-time answers to your most pressing questions," Grundy said in the press release. "It empowers you right now because of where you are and what you are doing."

"It keeps you from wasting time waiting in line for a computer."

Joe Mackel
freshman

Other resources available on ND Mobile Web include ND on YouTube, which allows users to browse videos on Notre Dame's YouTube channel, and NDPrayerCast, which delivers spiritual content such as information about Basilica masses and campus ministry.

Students are enthusiastic about this new site and the opportunity to get immediate answers to questions and concerns.

"I really like the 'Find an Open Lab' feature," freshman Joe Mackel said. "It keeps you from wasting time waiting in line for a computer."

Junior Tim Purcell also likes the convenience and real-time features of the Mobile Web.

"Now I can save time and check scores when I'm standing in line at Starbucks," he said. "Maybe in the future they can even put The Observer on Mobile."

Such an idea may be a reality in the future for the resources of the Mobile Web are expected to grow rapidly.

"We are continuing to develop ND Mobile Web," Grundy said. "In the future, we hope to add more features such as an online map, calendars, tools, events and more."

Contact Casey Kenny at ckenny@nd.edu

ND prof wins CAREER award

Special to the Observer

Robert Nerenberg, assistant professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame, has been named a 2010 National Science Foundation (NSF) Early Career Development (CAREER) Award recipient. The CAREER program, established by the NSF in 1995, is the highest honor given by the U.S. government to young faculty in engineering and science.

A faculty member since 2004, Nerenberg's research centers on biofilm processes in environmental engineering, especially for water and wastewater treatment. For example, he and his research team have developed a novel wastewater treatment process, the Hybrid Membrane-Biofilm Process (HMBP), that reduces energy requirements by up to 50 percent and minimizes emissions of nitrous oxide (N2O), a potent greenhouse gas.

Nerenberg's CAREER project, titled "Dynamic Structure and Function of Biofilms for Wastewater Treatment," uses a novel research platform combining microsensors —bacteria tagged with an anaerobic fluorescent protein — and confocal laser scanning microscopy, to determine the dynamic behavior of bacterial biofilms. The new platform will be used to study the effects of biofilm detachment and re-growth, as well as sudden shifts in nutrient concentrations, on the biofilm microbial community structure, activity and N2O emissions. This research is directly relevant to biofilms in wastewater treatment but may also enable research on industrial and clinical biofilms.

Several educational components were included in this CAREER project. For example, Nerenberg will work with Hispanic students in local schools, encouraging them to pursue careers in engineering and science. He is well suited for this task, given his 14 years living in Argentina, where he obtained his secondary and undergraduate education. He also will train local high school teachers to use simple molecular tools and help them develop teaching modules for their students. In addition, a pilot undergraduate research exchange program with the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Chile will be initiated as a means to provide collaborative international research experiences for undergraduate and graduate students.

Nerenberg is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Microbiology, American Water Works Association, International Water Association and Water Environment Federation.

Nerenberg received his doctorate in civil and environmental engineering from Northwestern University in 2003 and his bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Buenos Aires in 1990.

Please recycle The Observer.

Du Lac

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Lac is reviewed every six to eight years, and he characterized this process as a "major" review.

The University is evaluating all student life policies for "their effectiveness, consistency and appropriateness with [the University's] mission," Kirk said.

Schmidt said the most important recommendation will be for the adoption of a medical amnesty policy, which was recently passed in Student Senate.

If adopted by the University, the policy would prevent a student seeking medical treatment for a friend from getting in trouble with the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLH).

The policy would allow ORLH to educate the student, through alcohol classes for example, but the incident would not go on the student's disciplinary record, Schmidt said.

Saulitis agreed that student safety should come before the rules of du Lac.

"Maybe that person falls and hurts themselves and there's parietals. You can't sit there until the morning if they've broke an arm or something like that," Saulitis said. "Student safety should always come before the rules at Notre Dame."

Kirk said his Office has not yet been provided with details on student government's suggestion for a medical amnesty policy.

Schmidt said student government will also propose that discipline be handled at the most localized level possible. In particular, the recommendation will ask that first offenses be handled at the discretion of the rector.

"If you [get in trouble] in Fisher, don't you think if it's your first incidence of intoxication, the rector of Fisher should probably call your rector?" Schmidt said.

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber said, "Our mentality is that problems should be dealt with at the most localized level. Things that can be handled in dorm often should be handled in dorm."

Breen Phillips Hall rector Rachel Kellogg said many du Lac first-time offenses are handled in the residence halls, and she thinks students are often unaware of this as ORHL and rectors are concerned about privacy issues.

"There are a lot of first-time issues that get dealt with in hall that I think a lot of people don't see," Kellogg said.

Schmidt recognized that many rectors already communicate with each other before taking the discipline to a higher level, but said this policy would make it a requirement that a student's rector be given the choice to deal with the incident in the dorm.

Junior Zach Reuvers has been ResLifed more than once, and he said he sees an inconsistency in the way the University handles some infractions in the dorm and some in ORLH.

Reuvers said he was ResLifed for playing beer pong — a drinking game involving shooting ping-pong balls in cups of beer — in his dorm room, but he said he knows of other instances where drinking game violations only levied a hall fine.

"The [disciplinary] process in the residence halls needs a clarification," Reuvers said. "They admitted in my hearing that they don't typically hear drinking game sanctions unless they are really serious."

Along with the medical amnesty policy, student government is also discussing a recommendation to lift the ban on drinking games, Schmidt said.

"I'm not trying to condone underage drinking," Schmidt said. "But we are trying to address that the general culture on campus has changed."

Weber said drinking games have become a part of the culture, and are often times not abusive.

"The genesis of drinking games has gone from drinking games are a way to get drunk, whereas now drinking games are such a part of drinking culture," Weber said. "Drinking games happen to be a part of the casual drinking culture that is not binge drinking."

Schmidt said the goal is to prevent abusive drinking, and allowing drinking games on campus may help reduce the number of students who go to off-campus parties.

"We will recommend that they at least look at that policy because a lot of times students are driven to off-campus parties [because of on-campus alcohol rules]," he said. "We want people to stay on campus."

Kirk said it is unlikely the University will revise du Lac to allow drinking games.

"Drinking games are virtually always associated with drinking alcohol to excess and with the intention of becoming intoxicated … I can't envision a change in our rules or regulations that would in any way moderate the University's disapproval of such behavior," he said.

Kellogg said drinking games can be problematic in the dorms, especially for freshmen.

"Its so easy to get drunk faster than you intend to," she said.

Under student government's recommendation for a revision of the drinking game ban, the rector would determine whether the drinking game caused students to abuse alcohol, Schmidt said.

As a rector, Kellogg said she sees her role in enforcing du Lac as educational.

"It's not just a list of dos and don'ts," she said. "It's more about living together in a community that is fair and pleasant for everyone."

In his role as a peer advocate, Saulitis said while every University needs a disciplinary process, he sees some weaknesses in the ResLife system.

"I think the biggest problem with ResLife that they've gotten to the point where it's all about the rules and not about the students anymore," he said.

To make the process more "about the students," Saulitis recommended students work for ORLH and sit on the decision-making panel in administrative hearings.

"I think students would be as tough as the people in Reslife," he said. "I think a student would ask different questions, would ask important questions."

Kirk said the University is seeking student input on possible du Lac revisions.

"We look forward to hearing from students," he said. "All the input will be considered — whether or not it will find its way into the revision of du Lac will depend entirely upon its consistency with the University's mission to contribute to the moral, intellectual, spiritual and social growth of the students and groups that make up our University community."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu and Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of Caitlin O'Brien

The Saint Mary's and Notre Dame Irish Dance team poses with the trophy they won this past weekend at a competition in Killarney, Ireland.

Dance

continued from page 1

said. "We all went to different dance schools and competed against each other when we were younger, and it was awesome for all of us to compete on the same team years later in Ireland."

O'Brien said each competing team performs two choreographed dances, which are judged by a panel of five judges.

"In this particular competition, the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Ceili was the only American team and also the only college team to participate," O'Brien said.

She said the team hoped to represent the Irish background of both the University and the College.

"Because the team is comprised of both Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students, we hoped that attending the All-Ireland Dance Championships would bring further recognition to the strong Irish heritage that is prominent between the two campuses," O'Brien said.

She said she hopes this victory will bring more attention to the club on the two campuses, like the recognition they have gained in the Irish dancing community.

"We also hoped that beginning this tradition would help to provide great recognition to a club that is very much involved with activities between the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame community," O'Brien said.

O'Brien said the team wants to make the All-Ireland competition a tradition in the years to come.

"We hope that our success at the competition has laid a strong foundation for future teams to be sent on behalf of Saint Mary's and Notre Dame," she said.

The entire dance team at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame is actually made up of more than 50 dancers, and is "one of the largest and highest quality teams in the country," O'Brien.

The decision to participate in the competition was "made to further perpetuate the growth and improvements that the team has been experiencing since its inception in 2000," O'Brien said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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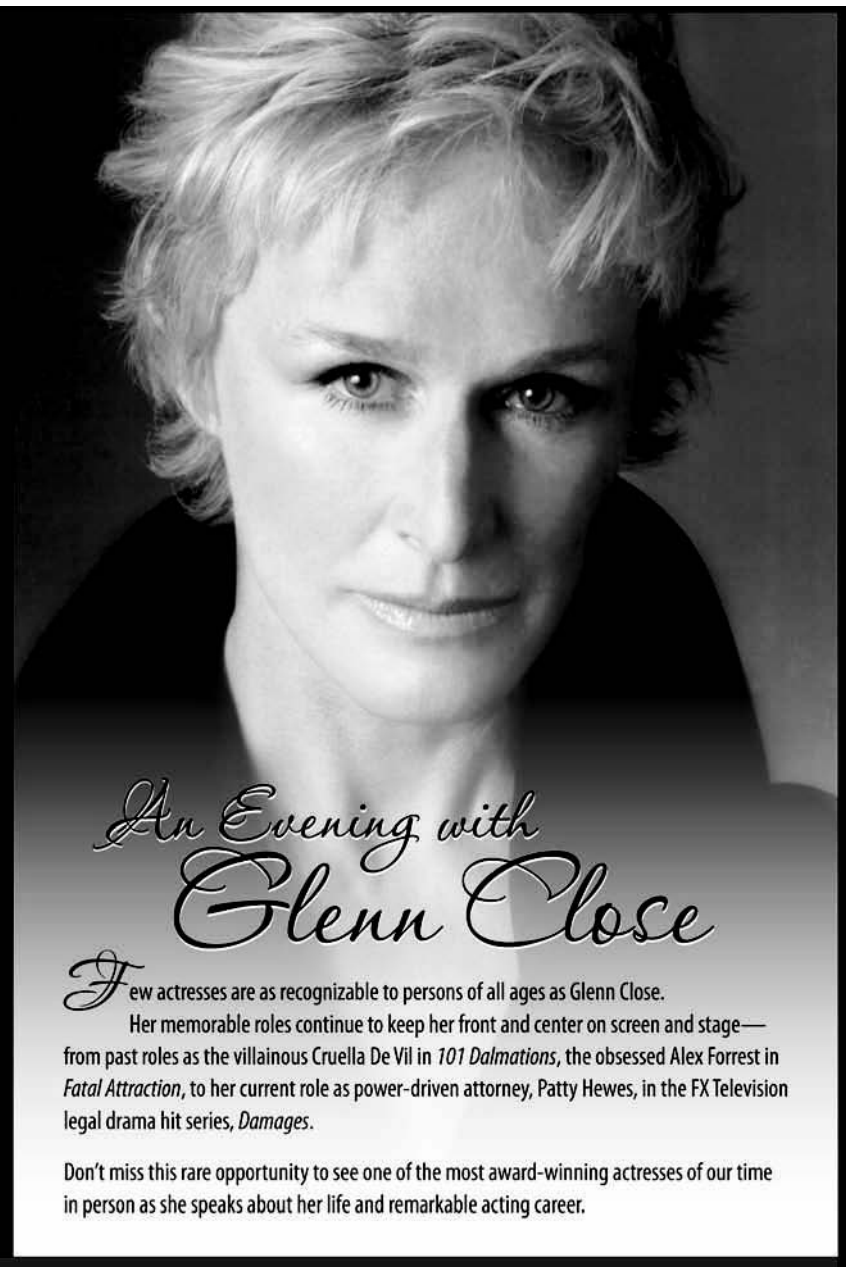
To order tickets, call the Box Office at (574) 284-4626 or visit MoreauCenter.com

An Evening with Glenn Close was made possible by the Margaret M. Hill Endowed Visiting Artist Series.



An Evening with Glenn Close

Few actresses are as recognizable to persons of all ages as Glenn Close.
Her memorable roles continue to keep her front and center on screen and stage—from past roles as the villainous Cruella De Vil in *101 Dalmations*, the obsessed Alex Forrest in *Fatal Attraction*, to her current role as power-driven attorney, Patty Hewes, in the FX Television legal drama hit series, *Damages*.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see one of the most award-winning actresses of our time in person as she speaks about her life and remarkable acting career.

Presented by The Department of Communication Studies, Dance, and Theatre
Saint Mary's College • Notre Dame, Indiana

International News

Heavy rain hits quake-ravaged capital

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The first heavy rain since the earthquake doused Haiti's capital Thursday night, soaking hundreds of thousands of homeless in a city where barren hillsides and weakened buildings are threatening to give way.

The storm hit as relief officials changed tack on dealing with quake survivors, delaying plans to build big refugee camps outside Port-au-Prince. Instead, they want the homeless to pack up their tents and tarps and return to destroyed neighborhoods.

People dashed for shelter down streets streaming with runoff from the driving tropical rain. The downpour swept trash along roadside gutters, clogging drains and turning depressions into ponds.

Turkish court charges officers in coup

ANKARA, Turkey — The struggle between the secular Turkish military and the Islamic-oriented government reached new heights Wednesday as a court jailed 12 senior officers — including five admirals, an army general and six other officers.

The officers are charged with plotting several years ago to topple the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, news reports said Wednesday. More officers could be charged later this week.

Former chiefs of Air Force, Navy and Special Forces were also among about 50 officers detained by police in a sweep Monday.

National News

Rhode Island teachers appeal firings

PROVIDENCE — The entire staff of teachers fired in a radical attempt to improve one of the worst performing high schools in Rhode Island will appeal their dismissals to school authorities, the head of the teachers union said Thursday.

The board of trustees overseeing the school system in Central Falls, one of the poorest communities in the state, voted Tuesday to fire 88 high school teachers and other support staff by the end of the year. Other administrators will also lose their jobs.

Those teachers will appeal their dismissals to the school district's board of trustees, said Jane Sessums, president of the Central Falls Teachers' Union. She plans to meet with union lawyers and other labor representatives in the coming days before deciding whether to take additional legal action.

Sessums said she still hopes negotiations will resume, although her union has not made any requests to school officials to continue talks.

Orthodox Jewish school forfeits game

YAKIMA, Wash. — A small Orthodox Jewish school forfeited a consolation game in a Washington state high school basketball tournament so players could safely observe a religious fast.

Northwest Yeshivam elected to forfeit the game Thursday rather than break the "Fast of Esther," one of five fasts on the Jewish calendar that prohibits eating or drinking anything until nightfall.

School officials said the risk to players not able to rehydrate during the game was unacceptable.

The on-court formalities were brief.

Northwest Yeshiva players, led by coach Jed

Local News

Woman accused of using child in theft

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis woman faces a theft charge for allegedly coaxing her 5-year-old daughter into stealing a woman's purse at a restaurant. According to a probable cause affidavit, a 24-year-old woman admitted asking her daughter to steal the purse Feb. 14 at a Chuck E. Cheese restaurant. The woman allegedly told officers she pointed out the purse she wanted her daughter to take and urged her to "Do it for Mommy" when the victim wasn't looking.

An arrest warrant was issued Thursday for the woman, who faces charges of theft and contributing to delinquency of a minor.

Governor will run for reelection

New York's Paterson won't drop bid despite domestic violence scandal

Associated Press

AP

New York Gov. David Paterson, left, is under pressure to drop his run for a full term this year after a domestic abuse complaint against his top aide.

NEW YORK — Despite calls from leading Democrats to step aside, Gov. David Paterson said Thursday he won't drop his election bid amid a growing scandal surrounding accusations of domestic violence against a key aide.

The embattled governor said he will be speaking to key New York Democrats about his political future but for now he's continuing his campaign to be elected governor. Paterson rose to governor in 2008, when former Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned in a prostitution scandal.

Paterson also said he will cooperate fully with a state attorney general's investigation into contact his administration had with a woman who accused aide David Johnson of domestic violence. No criminal charges were brought after the Halloween 2009 confrontation.

"I'm not suspending my campaign, but I am talking to a number of elected officials around the state as I would fellow Democrats to hear their opinions," Paterson said before a gala of the group 100 Black Men at a Manhattan hotel.

Asked if he would withdraw if fellow Democrats asked him to, Paterson responded: "I am obviously listening to them. I've got an open mind about this thing. I want the Democrats to win in November."

Paterson's comments came after a day of developments surrounding Johnson and any role the administration and state police played after the Halloween confrontation.

Paterson's top criminal justice Cabinet member resigned over the burgeoning scandal, saying conduct by the state police was "distressing" for an administration that has devoted itself to reducing domestic violence.

Elected officials and other candidates for office clamored for Paterson to end his campaign — formally launched just days ago — as the turmoil mushroomed around Johnson. A police report detailed in The New York Times discusses a confrontation between Johnson and the woman over her Halloween costume.

The Times reported Wednesday on court papers showing a phone call between state police and the woman. Paterson's office acknowledges he talked to the woman but says she placed the call, and a spokesman for the governor denied anyone tried to keep the woman from pursuing a domestic-violence case.

Paterson's office has not made Johnson available for comment.

The state police said in a news release that they won't comment on any aspect of the case during the investigation by the office of Andrew Cuomo, the popular attorney general whom many would like to see run as the Democratic candidate for governor instead of Paterson.

The Paterson administration asked Cuomo's office to investigate the matter, and the attorney general's office said it would look into whether crimes or other wrongdoing were committed. The state police said Cuomo asked the agency not to open its own internal probe.

Rick Lazio, a Republican candidate for governor, said Cuomo should tell New Yorkers if any of his staff gave the Times any information for the Johnson story.

"If you do not disavow any connection to this story the same conflict of interest would be present and any findings of your investigation would be immediately called into question," Lazio said in a written statement.

Criminal Justice Services Commissioner Denise O'Donnell abruptly quit Thursday afternoon, saying state police Superintendent Harry Corbitt had assured her his agency was not involved in the confrontation involving Johnson.

Corbitt denies misleading O'Donnell. He said that he told her state police weren't involved in the investigation, not that they hadn't contacted the woman.

Scholars debate late-term abortion bill

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Legal experts from both sides of the abortion rights debate clashed Thursday over whether a Nebraska bill seeks to outlaw most abortions after 20 weeks would pass constitutional muster.

Emboldened by the Supreme Court's 2007 decision upholding a ban on what abortion rights opponents call partial-birth abortions, in which a fetus is partially removed from the woman's womb and then destroyed, some Nebraska legislators are seeking to ban all late-term abortions except when the mother's life is threatened. They're basing their argument on the disputed notion that a fetus feels pain during the procedure.

"This legislation has a very strong chance of provoking a constitutional challenge, but also of prevailing," said Teresa Collett, a law professor at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, who testified at a legislative hearing on the bill at the behest of National Right to Life.

Caitlin Borgmann, a law professor at The City University of New York, disagreed.

"It bans all abortions at a fixed time of pregnancy before viability. That is a slippery slope," she said.

If the bill were to pass — and it's unclear it would — it would surely face a court challenge and could end up in front of the Supreme Court. The committee did not indicate when it might vote on the bill.

The U.S. Supreme Court established in its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that a woman has the constitutional right to an abortion.

But supporters of the Nebraska legislation say the high court's ruling on so-called partial-birth abortion, in which the court for the first time upheld a ban on a specific type of procedure, opened the door to challenge other procedures.

They say the ruling acknowledged states have an interest in preserving fetal life. And they say the court discarded Roe v. Wade's viability requirement because the so-called partial-birth method could have been used to abort fetuses before they could survive outside the womb.

Drinks

continued from page 1

we offer really low costs and people respond well to it."

Students place orders through dormdrinks.com and deliveries are made on Wednesdays and Sundays, Rosa said.

"You come back to your dorm and you want a snack, and you have it right there at your door," Rosa said.

Rosa said dormdrinks.com, the group's Web site, will soon be redone.

"We're going to make it easier," Rosa said. "We want as few steps as possible for you to get your stuff."

The new Web site is slated for release sometime next week, Rosa said.

Besides a new Web site, the company will also experience a new management style.

"We found for what they did, it worked very well for them," Rosa said. "It worked for now, but it's not going to work in the future. For future plans we're just going to have to change several aspects."

These aspects include the distributors the company uses and the ways its clients are handled.

Dorm Drinks hopes to expand to other campuses, including Saint Mary's and Holy Cross, as well as regionally, Rosa said.

"By next year we should have at least four," Rosa said. "I hope that's something we stick to."

In addition to external expansion, Rosa said Dorm Drinks hopes to expand internally, offering services to student clubs and faculty.

PAT COVENEY/The Observer

New Dorm Drinks CFO Rich Gonzalez, left, and CEO Mark Anthony Rosa hope to expand their business, Rosa said.

"Student clubs want to have events where they offer beverages with competitive prices, and that's something these clubs don't want to have to think about," Rosa said.

Rosa said the most popular item is Nestle Pure Life bottled water.

"Something that people don't know is that we have snacks, like chips and cookies," Rosa said. "Soon we'll be offering macaroni and cheese and other meal products."

This isn't Rosa's first experience with owning a business — Rosa also owns a media management company.

"It started out as a side project. A couple of my buddies were in bands and they needed some business help. They needed to get their plans off the ground," Rosa said. "One band turned into two and before I knew it I created a media management company."

The company manages the long-term career goals of collegiate bands, Rosa said.

Rosa said proper time management is how he gets everything done.

"Despite this economy, there is still money out there," Rosa said. "You have to refine what you need and be very specific and on top of your game. There's no doubt in my mind that you can get the resources, funding, manpower and products that you want."

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Robinson

continued from page 1

great team that really cares a lot about what was going on in the neighborhood," he said. "A primary goal of ours has been to build relationships between Notre Dame and the community."

While the Robinson Center will celebrate its ninth anniversary at a ceremony this Friday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., Caponigro will be promoted to director of community engagement, effective March 1.

"The University built a lot of trust over the past nine years from a lot of different initiatives and because of that it has created more opportunities for us to collaborate with more partners in the community," he said. "That's what the new position takes off into."

According to Caponigro, the University's desire to increase collaboration between Notre Dame and the community led to the creation of his new position.

"That's what this new job will be about — to help refine our engagement so that we really do have an impact where needed," he said.

One strong indicator of the need to expand service entities like the Robinson Center is the community's changed attitude toward the University. Caponigro said when he was first appointed RCLC director, he often heard the criticism that Notre Dame wasn't involved in the community.

"Now, I hear the criticism that more neighborhoods want Robinson Centers," he said.

The RCLC now serves over 5,000 South Bend residents each academic year through "innovative programs" such as tutoring, violence-prevention, youth entrepreneurship and performing arts projects for adults and children, Caponigro said.

"What we've done over the past nine years is build those relationships and couple them with programs that really focus on helping young people realize their potential with math, with science, with the performing arts and helping senior citizens experience things they never have before like playing the [Nintendo] Wii and building their own Web sites," he said.

"That's been the best part of this job — that we've been able to help people realize their potential by offering programs that really pique their interest."

Caponigro said the RCLC has been aided by the over 250 Notre Dame students who volunteer there.

"It helps us do so much more," he said "We can reach out to the community with those great resources."

Although he is scheduled to be promoted soon, Caponigro said the Robinson Center had not yet named his successor, but they continue to "search for the best candidate."

In the future, Caponigro said he would continue to work to improve Notre Dame's presence in South Bend and build relationships with both community leaders and ordinary citizens.

"I hope those partnerships continue because this place runs on them," he said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

Swipers

continued from page 1

have more room to move," sophomore Theresa Hall said.

Ritschard will also make sure to let students know when the dining hall serves steak fries or the coveted hot apple crisp.

Ritschard and his wife Lila swipe ID cards together on the right side of South Dining Hall three nights a week. Both said they just enjoy talking to students and hearing how their days have been.

"John and Lila are both always so upbeat and happy to see everyone. John always has compliments and says how glad he is to see you," sophomore Christina Carson said. "If you ask him how he is, he sometimes replies with 'I'm as fine a frog's hair' or 'I'm as fine as the hair on a flea.'"

Hall also appreciates the enthusiasm the Ritschards bring to the job.

"John is always commenting on how he and his wife are glad we could make it or that it's a pleasure having us at the dining hall," Hall said. "He lets people know if there's something good at the home style or carving station. He is always telling people what he recommends they try that night."

John and Lila Ritschard do their best to reach out to students beyond casual conversation. They brought several students home for Thanksgiving dinner last November and gave out miniature candy canes at the last meal before winter break. They also offer candy bars on students' birthdays.

"We check for birthdays on students' ID cards," Lila said. "If it's their birthday, we give them a candy bar. Usually they're surprised and don't know how we knew it was their birthday. It's a simple little thing we do, but it's nice because they're far away from home."

Ada Bradley also swipes cards at South Dining Hall during dinner. She has been working on the Notre Dame campus for 20 years. She was first involved with the catering services and then did some bartending before she began swiping cards at South Dining Hall.

"The students keep us young," Bradley said. "I'm still in touch with some graduated students."

Bradley said she always tries to raise students' spirits if they seem tired or overwhelmed with schoolwork.

"[Students] are down sometimes and you have to build them up. I always tell them better times are coming," Bradley said. "I saw a girl crying once and I told her 'If this is over a fella, he's not worth it.'"

South Dining Hall may have that traditional collegiate atmosphere, but North Dining Hall has multiple levels and more open space. But which dining hall has the friendlier card swipers greeting students each day? Now that's an impossible call.

Charlotte Lootens works three days a week at North Dining Hall during both breakfast and lunch, and has worked for Notre Dame Food Services for almost 28 years. For 15 years she worked inside the dining hall, serving hot food and manning the salad bar. She has been swiping cards for the last 13 years.

"I like just talking to students," Lootens said. "I enjoy the students and everything about this job."

Lootens usually works during lunch with her good friend Barbara Varga at North Dining Hall.

"I just love when [the students] come in," Varga said. "I speak to every one of them."

Varga adds a unique touch to her job by entertaining students with her famous word of the day.

"Today's word is 'centsiblity' because I think students should be sensible with their money," Varga said. "Students will usually ask me what my word of the day is. Sometimes I make up my own, but usually I try to find ones like 'wonderful,' 'amazing' and 'fantastic.'"

Meals are traditionally a time of relaxation and comfort spent with family or friends. But in college, it's easy to rush through them just like everything else. Many students said they appreciate the positive greetings they receive from card swipers — greetings that remind students to enjoy their meals and forget their stress for a little while.

"I love how friendly Charlotte [Lootens] is," sophomore Lauren Ruhling said. "She even checks your ID card to try and remember your name. Being so far away from home, it's nice to be greeted by a familiar face when I go to relax at the dining hall."

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsens@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones	10,321.03	-53.13
Up: 1,830	Same: 137	Down: 1,949
Composite Volume: 989,418,152		

AMEX	1,834.21	-18.72
NASDAQ	2,234.22	-1.68
NYSE	7,013.45	-17.22
S&P 500	1,102.93	-2.03
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,101.90	+0.01
FTSE 100 (London)	5,278.23	-64.69

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
BANK OF AMERICA (BAC)	+1.35	+0.22	16.55
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-1.74	-0.06	3.39
STANDARD & POOR'S (SPY)	-0.14	-0.15	110.67
Sirius XM Radio Inc. (SIRI)	-2.73	-0.03	1.07
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.43	-0.53	3.64
13-WEEK BILL	+4.55	+0.05	0.115
30-YEAR BOND	-1.12	-0.52	4.58
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.93	-0.22	2.34
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)		+0.21	78.38
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)		+11.20	1,108.4
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		+1.40	88.30

Exchange Rates	
YEN	89.2650
EURO	1.3592
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0588
BRITISH POUND	1.5284

IN BRIEF

Insurers subpoenaed for documents

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California Attorney General Jerry Brown subpoenaed financial records from the state's seven largest health insurance companies Thursday, saying he's concerned companies are unjustly raising premiums.

The subpoenas include Anthem Blue Cross, the state's largest for-profit health insurer, which has come under fire recently for a proposed rate hike of up to 39 percent.

"Not only are the rate increases devastating to Californians strapped by the economy, but in some cases, they are possibly illegal," Brown said in a statement.

Brown said he's also worried that the companies have been denying payment for legitimate insurance claims.

The subpoenas cover fee-for-service health plans that reimburse doctors and hospitals for each service performed. Last month, Brown's office issued subpoenas to the same seven companies regarding their managed care plans, known as HMOs.

Brown said the companies had 30 days to hand over the requested documents. He said his investigation will examine whether rate increases such as Anthem's violate state law and whether the other health plans are planning similar premium hikes.

Old Navy boosts Gap's earnings

NEW YORK — After posting a 45 percent profit increase in the fourth quarter powered by its low-price Old Navy chain, Gap Inc. is now focusing this year on increasing market share across its North American businesses and seeking growth opportunities overseas.

The company, which also operates the Gap and Banana Republic chains, forecast brighter days for its fiscal 2011.

Its shares rose more than 2 percent, or 41 cents, to $20.80 in after-hours trading after the results were released. They had closed up 49 cents to $20.39 on Thursday.

"You won't hear anybody in this business talk about a turnaround plan," said Glenn Murphy, chairman and chief executive in an address to investors following the release of the report. "We can now evolve the business and start talking about how (it) is going to grow and move forward and compete and win."

Hummer prepares to say goodbye

Popular military-inspired SUV done in by high gas prices and bad economic times

Associated Press

AP

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger poses with a 2001 concept Hummer H2 at the utility vehicle's unveiling in New York's Times Square in April 2001.

NEW YORK — One thing you can say about the Hummer, roaring down the road, towering over subcompacts like an NBA center in a sea of toddlers: It always drew a reaction.

The beefy, military-inspired SUV began as a macho icon for enthusiasts like Arnold Schwarzenegger, who campaigned for governor in a Hummer. For others it was a symbol of excess, environmental ruin and tackiness — a view that seemed to grow in direct proportion to gas prices and economic distress.

And now the brand is likely no more. General Motors Co. said Wednesday its bid to sell Hummer to a Chinese heavy equipment manufacturer had collapsed. Government regulators in Beijing failed to approve the sale and GM said it would have no choice but to let the brand die, 18 years after its first and most enormous model started lumbering off the assembly line.

"Finally," said Ann Mesnikoff, director of the green transportation campaign at the Sierra Club in Washington. "The Hummer was the epitome of gas guzzling."

Schwarzenegger, who was instrumental in popularizing the vehicle, had a much different reaction two decades ago when he first saw the Hummer's direct military ancestor. Then a body builder turned movie star, he was on his way to the set of "Kindergarten Cop" in Oregon when an Army convoy packed with Humvees thundered past.

"I put the brakes on," Schwarzenegger said at the 1992 ceremony that AM General, besieged by requests, held to start production of civilian Hummers. "Someone smashed into the back of me, but I just stared. 'Oh my God, there is the vehicle,' I said. And from then on, I was possessed."

Hummer's earliest predecessor was the jeep, the boxy multipurpose vehicle built in large numbers for the Army in World War II. The jeep evolved into the Humvee, which saw heavy action — and entered Americans' consciousness — during the Gulf War.

In the late 1990s, GM bought Hummer from AM General and began selling a smaller but still outsized model, the H2. Sales boomed after its 2005 introduction of an even smaller model, the H3, that was roughly equivalent in size to other automakers' full-size SUVs.

Hummer's image began to change as gas prices began creeping higher, the economy started to crack and the U.S. entered the most difficult period of the Iraq war. Sales, which peaked at 71,524 in 2006, plunged to just more than 9,000 vehicles in 2009. In January, GM sold just 265 Hummers in the U.S.

Robert Thompson, professor of popular culture at Syracuse University, said that just as the Hummer had cemented an image of military might combined with off-road brawn, changes in public sentiment turned SUVs "into tantamount to the creation of the devil himself."

"Hummer almost becomes the extreme case of that — the ruler of the devils," Thompson said.

For Eric Sitterle, a technical recruiter in Cincinnati, his Hummer H2 isn't a devil — it's a great big toy.

"You feel like a kid driving a Big Wheel, a Tonka toy," said Sitterle, 28, who also sits on the board of Hummer's national owners club. "There's not very many vehicles that can climb the side of a mountain and take you on a luxury cruise at 80 miles per hour on the way home."

Sitterle bought his H2 in 2007. He noticed other people's attitudes toward Hummers started changing soon after. Some even approached him at gas stations in the summer of 2008, when gas prices shot above $4 a gallon for the first time ever.

"Why that vehicle? Why so much gas?" Sitterle said they would ask. "Sometimes I'd give them a completely arrogant response."

Montana billionaire stands ground in trial

Associated Press

MISSOULA, Mont. — Yellowstone Club founder Tim Blixseth stayed on the attack Thursday as lawyers and accountants debated over who knew what — and when — during the financial collapse of the ultra-exclusive alpine getaway for the rich and famous.

Nearly $300 million of Blixseth's personal fortune is at stake — just a piece of one of the biggest bankruptcy cases ever to roll through Montana, as the best experts money can buy battled in a packed Missoula bankruptcy court.

Banking giant Credit Suisse is accused of pushing a $375 million loan the club had no hope of repaying while "lining its pockets" with fees. Creditors said Blixseth is guilty of "looting" $286 million of it for his own use, even as he knew bankruptcy loomed.

There didn't appear too be many innocent parties left digging through the debris and dirty laundry of the former billion-dollar empire's financial ashes.

Blixseth came from the timber business to build a real estate empire that stretched around the world and catered to the likes of Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates and former Vice President Dan Quayle.

He thrashed "Predator Suisse" and the club's new owners for picking on him with legal tricks. Blixseth said that Credit Suisse promised him there would be no personal obligation to him if the club took the big loan. And he said Boston-based CrossHarbor Capital Partners is simply trying to make more money by buying up the debt out of bankruptcy in order to pursue Blixseth personally.

His lawyers have argued that Credit Suisse stacked the bankruptcy trustee board with insiders in order to focus the attack on Blixseth.

"It may be legal, but it's sneaky," Blixseth said standing outside the courtroom during a break.

Testimony focused on whether bankruptcy loomed as Credit Suisse offered the loan and Blixseth transferred money from the club to other assets.

Blixseth experts, spreadsheets and projections demonstrated that the club was flush with money and solvent — while lawyers for the creditors essentially said the numbers were cooked and the exhibits full of "garbage."

SeaWorld keeps whale despite trainer's death

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Despite calls to free or destroy the animal, SeaWorld said Thursday it will keep the killer whale that drowned its trainer, but will suspend all orca shows while it decides whether to change the way handlers work with the behemoths.

Also, VIP visitors who occasionally were invited to pet the killer whales will no longer be allowed to do so.

"We're going to make any changes we have to to make sure this doesn't happen again," Chuck Tompkins, chief of animal training at SeaWorld parks, said a day after a 12,000-pound killer whale named Tilikum dragged a trainer into its pool and thrashed the woman to death as audience members watched in horror.

Talk-radio callers, bloggers and animal activists said Tilikum — which was involved in the deaths of two other people over the past two decades — should be released into the ocean or put to death like a dangerous dog.

Tompkins said that Tilikum would not survive in the wild because it has been captive for so long, and that destroying the animal is not an option either, because it is an important part of the breeding program at SeaWorld and a companion to the seven other whales there.

Dawn Brancheau, a 40-year-old veteran trainer who adored whales, was rubbing Tilikum from a poolside platform when the 22-foot creature grabbed the woman's ponytail in its jaws and pulled her in. Witnesses said the whale played with Brancheau like a toy.

"He kept pushing her and poking her with his nose," said Paula Gillespie of Delaware, who saw the attack from an underwater observation point. "It looked like she was just totally caught off guard and looked like she was struggling."

She added: "I just felt horrible because she's someone's daughter, mother. I couldn't stop crying."

The killer whale shows have been put on hold at SeaWorld's three parks in Orlando, San Antonio and San Diego. Tompkins said they will not resume until trainers understand what happened to Brancheau. He also said trainers will review safety procedures and change them as needed.

He would not give details on what might be changed, but he said he does not expect visitors to the theme park to see much difference in the killer whale shows, in which trainers swim with the animals, ride on their backs and jump off of them.

There is virtually no contact between visitors and the orcas at SeaWorld shows, said Fred Jacobs, a spokesman for the SeaWorld parks. But in the past, VIP guests occasionally were allowed to come down to the edge of the pool and touch the whales. That will no longer be permitted, Jacobs said.

Because of Tilikum's size and history of aggressive behavior, visitors were not allowed to get close to the whale, and trainers were not permitted to climb into the water with the animal. They were only allowed to work with him from a partially submerged deck.

Tompkins defended SeaWorld's use of a whale that had already been blamed in the deaths of two other people.

"We didn't ignore those incidents," Tompkins said. "We work with him very, very carefully. We did not get in the water with this animal like we do with other killer whales because we recognized his potential."

Brancheau's older sister, Diane Gross, said the trainer would not have wanted anything done to the whale. "She loved the whales like her children. She loved all of them," said Gross, of Schererville, Ind. "They all had personalities, good days and bad days."

In a profile in the Orlando Sentinel in 2006, Brancheau acknowledged the dangers, saying: "You can't put yourself in the water unless you trust them and they trust you."

One of SeaWorld's most popular shows — about a child who wants to grow up to be a killer whale trainer — could have been inspired by Brancheau herself.

A trip to SeaWorld at age 9 instilled a desire in her to work with marine animals. She attended the University of South Carolina and majored in psychology, but got a job at a New Jersey park after graduation, working with dolphins and sea lions. She was hired at SeaWorld in Orlando in 1994.

Tilikum was one of three orcas blamed for killing a trainer in 1991 after the woman lost her balance and fell into a pool at a Sealand theme park near Victoria, British Columbia.

In 1999, the body of a naked man was found draped over Tilikum at SeaWorld in Orlando. Officials said the man had stayed in the park after closing and apparently fell into the whale tank. An autopsy found he died of hypothermia. Officials also said it appeared Tilikum bit the man.

A few months after the 1991 death in Canada, SeaWorld asked the National Marine Fisheries Service for permission to "import and temporarily house" Tilikum in Orlando, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

In a 1992 letter, the federal agency said SeaWorld wanted to move Tilikum to Orlando "for the purpose of providing medical treatment and care that is otherwise unavailable in Canada at this time."

The letter did not mention the whale's role in the deadly attack. But the agency criticized the theme parks, saying "prudent and precautionary steps necessary for the health and welfare of Tilikum were not taken by Sealand or SeaWorld."

Animal parks are inspected at least once a year by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to make sure the animals are being treated humanely and getting proper nutrition and veterinary care. Online records for the three SeaWorld parks going back to 2007 show only minor violations, such as paper feeding trays accidentally dropped into an exhibit.

Panel finds Rangel guilty

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Charles Rangel, the most powerful tax-writing lawmaker in Congress and a 40-year veteran of Capitol Hill, acknowledged Thursday that an ethics panel has accused him of accepting corporate money for Caribbean trips in violation of House rules.

The panel exonerated five other members of the Congressional Black Caucus who also were on the 2007 and 2008 trips to Antigua and St. Martin but told them they will have to pay for the trips.

The findings are certain to raise questions of whether Rangel, a New York Democrat, can continue as Ways and Means Committee chairman in an election year. Democrats took over the House in 2006 on a campaign promise to "end a culture of corruption" in Congress that they blamed on 12 years of Republican rule.

The ethics panel also ended another widespread investigation Thursday, saying if found no violations of House rules by six lawmakers who steered government money and projects and contracts to favored companies that had donated to their re-election campaigns.

A copy of the letters and an accompanying report on them were obtained by The Associated Press. All six — four Democrats and two Republicans — are or were senior members of the House Appropriations Committee.

The most prominent of the them was the late Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., the former chairman of the defense appropriations subcommittee who died earlier this month. The other five lawmakers exonerated in that probe are Reps. Norman Dicks, D-Wash.; Marcy Kaptur, D-Ohio; Peter Visclosky, D-Ind., Todd Tiahrt, R-Kan. and C.W. "Bill" Young, R-Fla.

In the Rangel case, the ethics committee's report did not include any formal charges that could have brought him a more serious censure against the 79-year-old New York Democrat. However, it's not the end of his ethics problems.

The panel, formally the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, is still investigating Rangel's use of official stationery to raise money for a college center to be named after him and incomplete financial disclosures that omitted some income and assets, including rent he received from a vacation home in the Dominican Republic.

Rangel's staff knew that corporate money paid for the Caribbean trips, the committee said, but it could not determine whether Rangel's aides told him about it.

Those who did not know about the corporate financing, according to the committee, were Reps. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, Yvette Clarke of New York, Donald Payne of New Jersey, Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick of Michigan and Donna Christensen, the nonvoting delegate from the Virgin Islands.

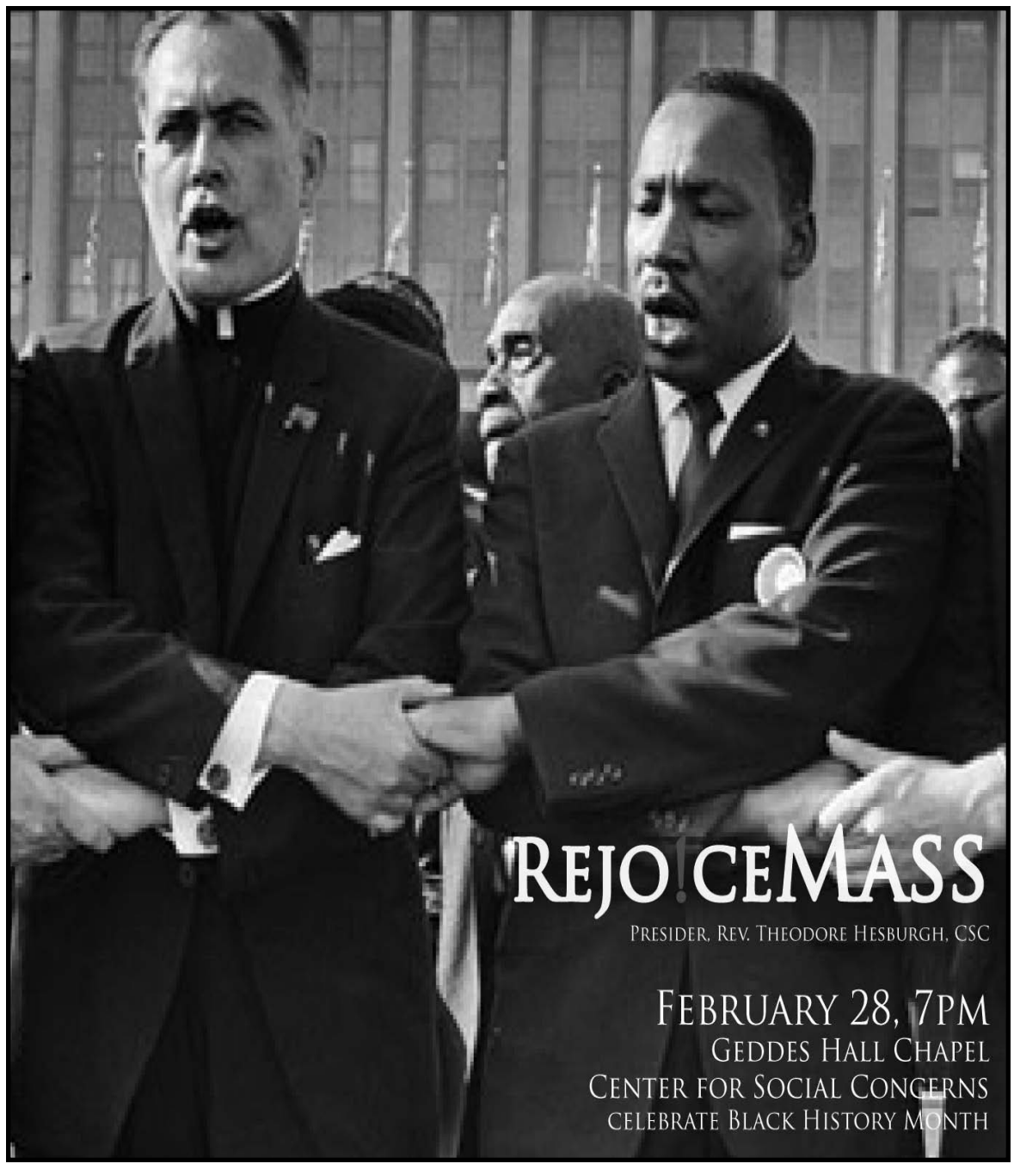
"Common sense dictates that members of Congress should not be held responsible for what could be the wrongdoing or mistakes or errors of staff unless there's reason to believe that member knew or should have known, and there is nothing in the record to indicate the latter," Rangel said at a hastily called evening news conference Thursday evening.

Who chairs the Ways and Means Committee is especially important this year, when Democrats are trying to overhaul the nation's health care system and Congress has to decide what to do about billions of dollars in tax cuts Americans at every income have enjoyed for a decade but are due to expire in December.

Less than two hours before the ethics panel's findings were first reported by the AP, Rangel had attended President Barack Obama's daylong summit on health care. The government already covers about half Americans' health care costs, mostly through programs that originated in or came through the committee Rangel chairs.

Democrats want to extend the tax cuts for middle- and low-income families, including an expanded child tax credit, while raising taxes on families making more than $250,000. They would allow the top income tax rate to rise from 35 percent to 39.6 percent, the level it was before former President George W. Bush's tax cuts.

Rangel was first elected to the House in 1970 from New York's Harlem district, defeating Adam Clayton Powell Jr., at the time the most prominent black politician in the country.



NYC mother accussed of killing autistic son

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gigi Jordan quit a high-powered job as a pharmaceutical company executive and abandoned her social life to devote all her time to her severely autistic son.

For most of his tortured life, Jude Michael Mirra repeatedly banged his head on the floor, screaming and unable to speak, writhing in pain. His mother, trained as a nurse, went to exhaustive lengths to help the 8-year-old, desperate for a cure.

But nothing worked. Her only child is dead now — by her own hands, according to police.

After years of struggling — with his autism and her inability to help him — Gigi Jordan gave up. To those who knew her, she was a loving, overprotective single mother who snapped under incredible strain. To prosecutors, she was a killer.

Jordan, 49, twice-divorced and living in New York, brought her only child to the Peninsula Hotel on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue on Feb. 3. She paid cash for two nights in a $2,300-a-night suite. After posting a "Do Not Disturb" sign on the door, she double-locked it and jammed it with a chair.

Inside, prosecutors say she fed Jude a fatal overdose of various prescription drugs and took pills herself. Two days later, police alerted by a concerned relative burst in and found her semiconscious on the floor, "babbling incoherently," with a faint pulse. Her son lay dead in his pajamas, face up on the bed.

Hundreds of prescription pills were strewn around the bedroom, police said.

In what was meant to be a suicide note, Jordan suggested she was driven by mercy: Jude was "in constant pain," she wrote. "I hope Jude is in a better place." A person familiar with the investigation who wasn't authorized to release the note publicly spoke of it to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

As an ambulance rushed her to an emergency room, she asked for an attorney.

From the jail ward of a Queens hospital, Jordan was arraigned via video link on Feb. 16 on charges of second-degree murder. She pleaded not guilty.

Her attorney, Gerald Shargel, told the court there was a "very viable psychiatric defense" for Jordan, saying she shouldn't be held criminally responsible for her son's death because of her mental state. He declined to elaborate.

"This is one of the saddest cases I've ever seen," Shargel said outside the courthouse.

Assistant District Attorney Kerry O'Connell argued that Jude's death "was completely premeditated." She cited Jordan's "articulate" written explanation for what she did, a document which "took her obviously a long time."

A dermatologist and longtime friend, Dr. Marcus Conant, said Jordan confided in him as she tried desperately to fight Jude's autism.

Her life became "an obsession with her inability to help the child she loved. It literally drove her crazy," said Conant, who couldn't imagine her ever harming the child. She was "brilliant," Conant said, going to "incredible ends," studying the latest medical literature and consulting with leading experts.

That obsession with finding a cure even drove her to Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, where Jude underwent a rare umbilical cord blood stem-cell transplant on April 30, 2007. It didn't work. Jude's pain and screams persisted.

About one in 110 U.S. children have autism, a spectrum of neurological disorders that affect communication and social interaction. While there are no medications that can cure autism, studies show that early identification and intervention can improve long-term outcomes.

With her wealth, Jordan could have hired expert care for the boy but "we had no nannies," Jude's father, Emil Tzekov, told the New York Daily News. "She could afford them, but she wanted to do everything herself. She made sure all his food was perfect, that he was sleeping so many hours. Everything."

At one point, she considered sending him to a school for autistic children in California.

Instead, Jordan moved, Conant said.

"Perhaps she was overprotective," he added, not fully entrusting her son to anyone.

"She was looking for a cure, for a miracle," said Conant.

Jordan was convinced two years ago that members of a devil-worshipping cult were violently abusing the boy. She sought out a Wyoming sex-crimes investigator she saw on television, Flint Waters, and brought the child to see him — even though Wyoming authorities had discouraged her visit.

Cheyenne police detective Tom Hood said authorities placed her in emergency detention there for a psychiatric evaluation "to make sure she was not a danger to her son, herself or other people." When she was determined to be no threat, Hood said, she was reunited with her son.

Autistic children often "cannot express pain or discomfort through speech," says Dr. Timothy Buie, an autism expert at Harvard Medical School who works at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital for Children. Many suffer a sensory processing disorder, Buie said, so that even an earache or an upset stomach "is profoundly magnified." They communicate distress by screaming, head-banging, even harming themselves, he said.

"Some people can't stand a child who cries for an hour," said Conant. "Can you imagine living with a child who's been screaming for eight years?"

Some parents of autistic children who try everything and still fail to improve their child's condition reach a breaking point, said Cammie McGovern, an Amherst, Mass., author with a 13-year-old autistic son. Some take their distress to the extreme, she said, ending their child's life and taking their own.

That was Jordan's goal, police said.

"It's so lonely to love a child who is unable to express that back," said McGovern, whose novel "Eye Contact" examines the relationship between a mother and an autistic son.

"You are driven to the loneliest place on earth, facing what feels like a failure with a child you haven't saved — and you've believed with all your heart that if you worked hard enough you could," said McGovern.

Conant, who said he never thought Jordan could hurt Jude, believes her obsession was "a control issue, the feeling that she would be the one to save that child, almost a salvation quest."

He said he met Jordan 15 years ago through pharmaceutical industry mogul Raymond A. Mirra Jr., managing member of the RAM Capital Group and other health care ventures. Jordan and Mirra, whom she married in 1998, amassed a fortune running their companies.

While still married to Mirra, Jordan became pregnant by Tzekov, a Bulgarian-born yoga instructor in Santa Barbara, Calif. Mirra adopted the baby, promising him financial security and in return, Tzekov signed away custody rights.

Jordan divorced Mirra in November 2001, according to public records in Nevada.

Six days later, she married Tzekov. A photo from that time shows a happy threesome, with a curly-haired, smiling Jude sitting between his smiling mother and beaming, handsome father.

But in 2006, Jordan and Tzekov divorced, and by 2007, she forbade him from seeing Jude.

Tzekov's next contact with his son was in a Manhattan morgue.

When he heard about his death, Tzekov was stunned.

"I cannot understand," he told the News, his eyes welling with tears. "Gigi was a loving mother. She was not a killer."

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Revisions to du Lac will benefit student body

THE OBSERVER **Editorial**

According to du Lac, the Notre Dame student handbook, the punishment for breaking parietals can range from receiving a disciplinary conference to expulsion from the University.

Yet Associate Vice President for Residence Life Bill Kirk said expulsion is rarely used as punishment for a parietals violation.

"There are several sanctions … listed in du Lac that do not accurately reflect the way that such violations of rules have been addressed in the past," Kirk said, referencing expulsion as the punishment for breaking parietals as one of these sanctions.

Changing the punishment for a parietals violation is one area the University is looking at in the du Lac revision process — a task the University has undertaken to make sure the policies in du Lac are up-to-date with student needs. Many of the statements under examination are related to the University's alcohol and disciplinary policies.

Revising du Lac is long overdue, as the parietals example shows that some policies are out of date and inconsistently enforced.

Kirk said it is likely the wording on the parietals violation punishment will change to more accurately reflect the Office of Residence Life and Housing's (ORLH) course of action when students are caught.

This is an important change.

Making du Lac more accurate and accessible to students is crucial, as many disciplinary policies described in du Lac are vague and leave room for discrepancies in enforcing University rules.

The University has reached out to student government for input in the du Lac revision process, and the administration should seriously consider implementing some of student government's suggestions.

In particular, Student Senate recently passed a resolution to instate a medical amnesty policy in du Lac that would offer a student immunity from punishment if helping another student whose health or safety is at risk.

A medical amnesty policy would be a valuable addition to the handbook because it offers students the commitment that the University values their safety as its first priority.

Additionally, student government is recommending that first-time offenses be handled in dorm whenever possible. This would give rectors discretion in handing out punishments, and a one-time offense would not go on a student's permanent record. Rectors know the student in a personal way that is impossible for the ORLH staff, putting them in a better position to hand out punishments and offer the student any guidance they may need.

The University has taken the initiative in revising du Lac, a necessary step that shows students that the faculty and staff are looking to create the best system possible to manage the student body. The administration has indicated they want student input, and it should put into practice several of the suggestions put forth by the student body through student government.

Revisions to the punishment for parietals violation and an addition of a medical amnesty policy, among other changes, will benefit the student body by making du Lac more accessible, fair and consistent.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sexual Assault Awareness Week

We are the students, faculty and administrators who serve on the University's Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP). Committed to eliminating sexual violence at Notre Dame, CSAP brings together men and women from across our campus to form a network of awareness, care, and support.

Our purpose is two-fold:

1) to lead and coordinate campus education and prevention efforts.

2) to ensure the University has appropriate people and services in place to provide confidential, professional and compassionate assistance to those who have been victimized. For more information about CSAP, please visit csap@nd.edu.

CSAP's work is guided always by the University's over-arching commitment to the "formation of an authentic human community graced by the Spirit of Christ."

Clearly sexual violence has no place in such a community. As our campus marks Sexual Assault Awareness Week, we invite you to join us in our efforts to address these important issues. Whether or not we have been personally affected by sexual violence, each of us has a part to play in creating a campus climate that is safe and respectful, and that honors the human dignity of each individual.

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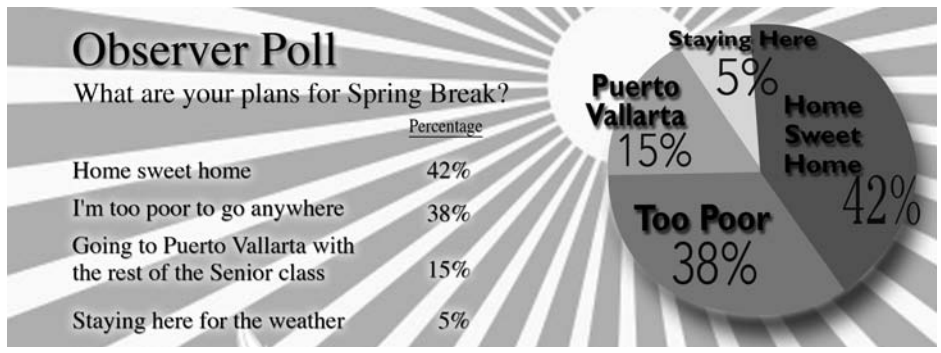
Members of the Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention
Feb. 25

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We know what we are, but know not what we may be."

William Shakespeare
British dramatist and poet

Something Obama is not

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

A year into Barack Obama's presidency, critics continually attempt to define him as a liberal out-of-control, tax-hiking, big-government, deficit-spending Socialist. Throughout the year, conservative commentator Glenn Beck called the president a racist. Last week, conservative entertainer Rush Limbaugh characterized health care initiatives as reparations, invoking coded racist language that appeals to certain haters in our American society. The Fox network cable programs are peppered with insinuations and outright charges that Obama is a socialist whose goal is to end our free market way of life as we know it. Yet, upon closer examination, the president has a more measured and reasoned style of governing than his senate voting record.

While this column was written while the president hosted his six-hour transparent health care summit with congressional leaders, astute political observers could have predicted Obama's approach. The Obama style of governing is not liberal. In fact, the Liberal wing of the Democratic Party, Obama's core support against Hillary Clinton in the 2008 presidential primary season, remains disappointed in Obama's increase of troops in Afghanistan. They are disgruntled because the Guantanamo Bay prison facility has yet to be closed. They seethe at Obama's casualness regarding the health care public option, along with his unyielding reach for bipartisan support rather than to steamroll the legislation like George W. Bush and a Republican controlled congress did for their legislative agenda.

Obama's call for deficit reduction, now hypocritically and disingenuously opposed by seven Republican champions and cosponsors in the senate who until Obama's election had made deficit reduction a Republican mantra, is not traditionally a liberal initiative. Regardless of how we define attacks on our homeland — terrorism or criminal violations — Obama's policy has resulted in capturing more high-level operatives in a more compressed timeline in Afghanistan than Bush policy. Also in one year, Obama policy matches Bush policy in arresting those bent on attacking our homeland as well as obtaining actionable intelligence from those criminals, albeit illegal enhanced interrogation techniques. War and security have never been traditionally liberal strengths either — until Obama.

In 1994, the Public Broadcasting System aired an American Experience program, a five hour biographical documentary examining Franklin D. Roosevelt's life. Last week's re-airing eerily accentuated the parallels and similarities between conditions as FDR and Obama entered office, along with how similar the nation's mood stood at the end of both men's first year in office. While FDR's first hundred days were sweepingly unprecedented in dramatically addressing the Great Depression, Americans grumbled by year's end that change had not come as quickly as they expected. Unemployment was still at record levels despite millions returning to work. The documentary included a 1934 snippet of the Republican National Committee Chairman advocating "less taxes, smaller government and an end to the wasteful government deficit spending that is not creating jobs." Yet, despite an impatient American public and Republican calls for less government a quarter of the way through his first term, the next scene quoted people explaining why they overwhelmingly voted for FDR's first reelection bid.

Something Obama lacks is FDR's disarmingly robust and warmly infectious laugh. Obama's calm professorial demeanor is an asset in itself, but at times can be so cool that he does not always convey the FDR grandfatherly assurance or joviality. Both men could effectively deliver these FDR lines, "It was this administration which saved the system of private profit and free enterprise after it had been dragged to the brink of ruin. The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today. Let us move forward with strong and active faith…the great public is interested more in government than in politics… [Party labels do not matter as long as politicians do] the big job that their times demanded to be done."

But imagine Obama, a year into his presidency, saying this FDR quote on the need to sacrifice principles for higher purposes, "If I come out for the anti-lynching bill now, [the Southern Democrats] will block every bill I ask Congress to pass to keep America from collapsing." This practical approach is one of the typically hard choices all presidents must weigh. Addressing health care reform now is such a choice Obama believes outweighs marching in step with liberals in support of the health care public option, especially if costs and deficits can be reduced anyway. For as FDR further remarked, "Above all, try something…When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."

History is least objective when we sit square in the middle as events unfold. With historical FDR/Obama similarities also come totally unique and unrelated circumstances. Scholars will evaluate and judge well after the fact. Few remain in Washington who can describe the Kennedy presidency's Camelot aura. Years from now, maybe Obama's first year will rival the JFK aura or FDR impact — historians have yet to comment. Regardless, FDR summed up political pitfalls best when he said, "I think we consider too much the good luck of the early bird and not enough the bad luck of the early worm."

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at GaryJCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A random act of kindness

We've all seen the quote on the wall of the upstairs of South Bend's finest eatery, Sidedoor Deli: "Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you." Princess Diana really threw out some words to live by. But last night, someone performed a random act of kindness for me and I think it deserves some credit.

After a late night snack at Nick's Patio, my roommates and I were making the hop, skip and a jump back to our apartment at Clover Ridge. It was cold (it is South Bend in February) but it was manageable. Just as we were jaywalking into the Martin's parking lot, a mini van cruised up behind us with a window rolled down. It was one of Michiana's finest cab drivers, Dudley, who hollered out the window, "Girls, you look cold, how about a free ride home?"

We gladly accepted the 200-yard drive back to our toasty abode and Dudley drove off into the night. I wanted to take a hot second to thank him for the ride. I hope that one day I can do what Lady Diana suggested and return the favor. I'm grateful for the selfless acts of friends and strangers; It makes me pretty confident that our world is a great place.

Keep the chain going! Hold the door open for the lady behind you at Studebagels, let your professor know how much he means to you, leave a piece of chocolate by your neighbors door. Do it not for the reward, but because some day you may be freezing cold and walking home and someone might do the same for you.

Clare Orfanos
junior
Saint Mary's Collegel
Feb. 25

A Heavenly note on why the Notre Dame family matters

As a Notre Dame alumnus, it doesn't take long to learn how much the Notre Dame family means. Some of us were blessed to have had friendships and mentors of faculty members who had a heavy presence in our lives for four years at the Golden Dome. One of those friends and mentors to me and many other Notre Dame students was Dr. Gail Walton, Director of Music at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

On Wednesday, Gail's battle with illness ended and she joined our Notre Dame family in heaven. I share with you Gail's impact on my life as a reminder of why the Notre Dame family matters.

I came to Notre Dame raised on Christian values but as a non-Catholic. When I auditioned for choir my freshman year in 2000, I wasn't sure I would feel comfortable in a choir that sang at masses weekly. Gail Walton and Andrew McShane selected me to sing for the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir and I did so for four years.

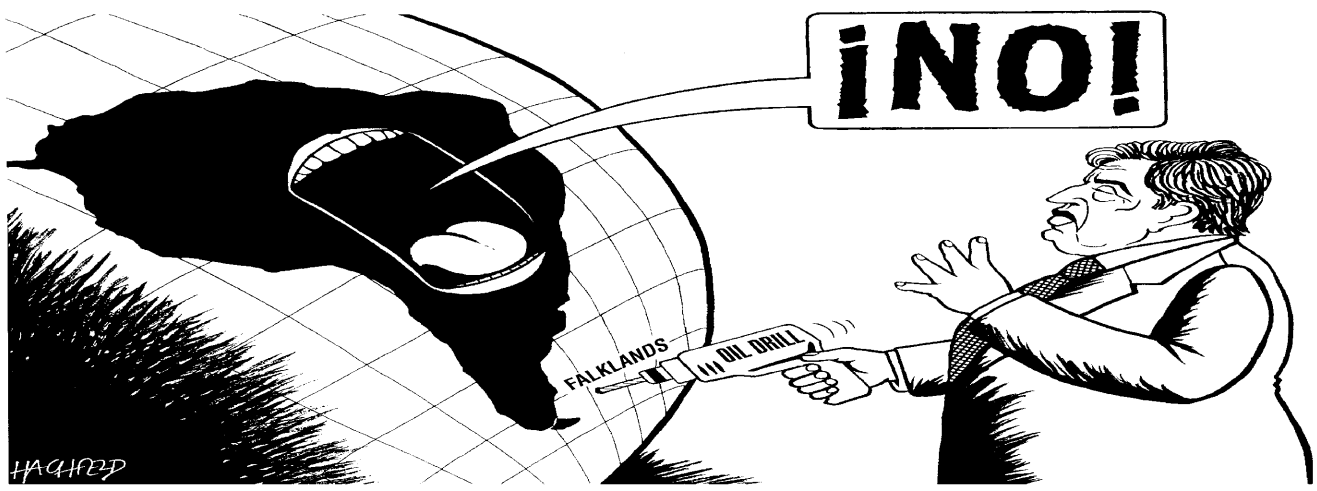
Gail had a profound influence on my life beyond music. Singing at the mass at the Basilica weekly, I was exposed to the Catholic faith. Gail provided an extraordinary example to me of what it meant to be a faithful Catholic through the respect she trained us to have for our service in the liturgy and the way she personally conducted herself with class. I was baptized after graduating from Notre Dame during my first year of law school. I was touched by a stunning bouquet of flowers sent to me by Gail Walton and Andrew McShane on that special day of my entrance into the Catholic Church.

Gail Walton gave so much more to us students at Notre Dame than training and excellence in music. She brought us closer to God and made us better people. The Notre Dame family matters because of people like Dr. Gail Walton who helped us grow beyond our years at Notre Dame.

Thank you Gail, we love you and will miss your presence terribly in the Notre Dame community.

Laura Hoffman
alumnus
Class of '04
Feb. 25

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Floating Into 'The Sea' With Corinne Bailey Rae

By ALEX KILPATRICK
Assistant Scene Editor

British soul sweetheart Corinne Bailey Rae blew us all away with her 2006 summery single, "Put Your Records On," off her self-titled debut album, a jazzy take on the pop R&B genre. Now, after a long hiatus, her sophomore album, "The Sea," has a more mature sound, with less pop and more soul.

Following the commercial and critical success of her debut album, Rae began work on songs for her second musical endeavor in late 2007. But she was forced to take a tragic break from her music after her husband, Scottish saxophonist Jason Rae, died of an accidental overdose in March 2008.

After a period of grief and isolation, Rae revisited material for "The Sea" in 2009, when she began album recording sessions at Limefield Studios in Manchester.

According to an interview with Rae in the UK's Observer, she implemented a live band in the album's recording, something that was not done on her debut LP.

"On the first album, it was me and a producer in a basement going through hundreds of snare drum sounds to find the right one," Rae said. "With a live band, you can stretch out more and try new things out without feeling you're having to undo this meticulously built-up track."

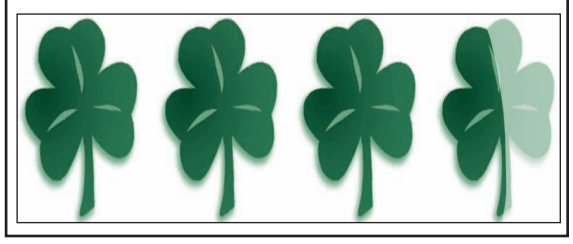
"The Sea" comprises songs both written before and after her husband's death, and many of the songs carry personal themes for Rae. For example, opener "Are You Here" is about pure, irresolvable emotion and that's clear from the song's first line, "He's a real live wire," and the quiet carefully plucked guitar chords that Rae plays along with dream-like vocals.

Lead single "I'd Do It All Again" has a more jazzy sound and portrays the influences of classic R&B musicians including Curtis Mayfield, Sly & the Family Stone, Nina Simone and Leonard Cohen, to whom she was listening at the time of recording. The song was written almost immediately after an argument with Jason and describes commitment to a relationship even during difficult moments, Rae said.

"Almost as he was leaving the room, I just sat down and wrote it," she told the UK's Observer. "It's just about how I felt about him at that time. Even right in the middle of the worst times, I remember thinking that I would choose this exact life again, that I would do it all again."

'The Sea'
Corinne Bailey Rae

Record Label: Capitol
Noteworthy Tracks: "I'd Do It All Again," "Are You Here," "Closer," "Love's On Its Way," "Paris Nights / New York Mornings"



Personal favorite "Feels Like The First Time" gives insight into the emotional influence of Jason's death on Rae with the lyrics, "I could pretend that I was okay / I wind around the parties, drink in hand / I could pretend that you went away / That I had changed and I no longer hear the band."

"Blackest Lily" is sprinkled with faint modern rock and electronic influences, while "Closer" has more of that rhythm and bluesy feel that we've all come to know and love from Rae. "Love's On Its Way" is also a softer jazzier piece but climaxes with a loud chorus towards the end.

The catchiest tune on the album, "Paris Nights / New York Mornings" is an upbeat throwback to Corinne's summery jazzy pop days, while "Paper Dolls" is a somewhat out-of-place rock song with lyrics, "All my life all my life / I said it's not right / Nobody told me I could do something / Nobody told me I could be something."

Overall, "The Sea" is not perfect but it is a solid effort and has a much more mature sound than Rae's debut album. The dichotomy between the sense of commitment in the songs written before Jason Rae's death and the deep sense of loss in the songs written after gives the album more emotional depth than most of today's albums.

Contact Alex Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu

Farley's Finest Host Winter Carnival for Literacy

By JORDAN GAMBLE
Associate Scene Editor

Hills are hard to come by in South Bend, and there certainly aren't any local sliding centers like the one in Whistler, British Columbia. So how is Farley Hall hosting a bobsled race for its signature event this year?

By taking over the north dome of the JACC and going for a flatter course — the hockey rink, to be specific. From 7 to 10 p.m., teams will compete in a bracket tournament. The rules? Four team members drag a sled holding the fifth person down the length of the ice rink and back again. For $25, students can either register their five-person teams at studentshop.nd.edu or at the event itself.

The hall council said its inspiration was "Cool Runnings," a film about the Jamaican bobsled team at the 1988 Winter Olympics.

With the event coming at the tail end of the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, the Fiasco's organizers are hoping to capitalize on the current interest in icy sports.

"We liked the idea of being on ice, because no other dorm really does that," said junior Jess Shaffer, Farley Hall president and current Observer Scene Editor.

The "bobsled" race is just one part of the Fiasco. Other attractions include carnival food, various carnival-type games and a raffle. The prizes include a Nintendo Wii and books signed by University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh — Farley's first rector in 1942 — and Farley's first female rector, Sister Jean Lenz.

Each of Farley Hall's floors also assembled gift baskets for the raffle. At least one basket will include an iPod, while others have themes like "Notre Dame Fan's Starter Kit," which is filled with various items from the bookstore.

Like all dorm signature events, the Farley Fiasco raises money for charity. Senior Stacey Gill, one of Farley's resident assistants, helped coordinate the partnership with First Book, a literacy organization that provides age-appropriate reading for underprivileged children. First Book can donate a book to a school for only $2. By that math, each bobsled team can effectively donate 12-1/2 books with their $25 entry fee.

"I'm just excited because $2 is such a small donation," Gill said. "It's tangible in that it gets a brand-new book."

First Book has always had close ties with auditing and tax firm KPMG, where Gill will be working next year. The company wanted to sponsor an event on campus, and Gill directed their attention to Farley Hall's winter carnival idea.

"KPMG seems really excited about having a long relationship with Farley, too," Gill said.

The event has been in the works for nearly two years, and Farley's hall council is excited to finally get it off the ground. Enthusiastic residents have volunteered their time to supervise the event or publicize it in the dining halls, helping them along. Seventy-five residents helped tie-dye the t-shirts (to go along with the "Cool Runnings" theme) that will be on sale for $5 at the event.

Participation and hall spirit have long been a tradition in Farley Hall, from hallway decorating contests to creative costumes at pep rallies.

"We have a pretty large hall council. From our freshmen reps to senior commissioners, we're super involved. Just the fact that it's a 'come-one-come-all' atmosphere helps, too," said hall council member Kate Hunger, a junior.

Come one, come all, to the first annual Farley Fiasco in the North dome of the JACC. The races and activities start at 7 p.m.

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JACLYN ESPINOZA | Observer Graphic

BENGAL BOUTS

Friday, February 26, 2010

THE OBSERVER

Film screening gives 2010 Bouts more punch

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Every time one of the 188 boxers in this year's Bengal Bouts throws a punch, there is an impact.

Bengal Bouts senior co-presidents Chris Cugliari and Pat Burns and Bouts' five senior captains have spent countless hours teaching others the best ways to make an impact, both in and out of the ring.

This aspect of their jobs became a little easier after the November on-campus debut of "Strong Bodies Fight," a documentary produced by Bengal Bouts alums Mark Weber and Pat Ryan and Notre Dame film professor Bill Donaruma.

The film documents the history of the Bengal Bouts and its partnership with the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. It contains footage of the Bengali people and countryside shot when Weber, Ryan and three others visited the country in May 2008.

The 2010 Bengal Bouts were the first to benefit from the additional exposure.

Photo courtesy of John Maier

Bengali natives pose with four members of Bengal Bouts during their Summer Service Learning Project in Bangladesh this summer.

"We've got a great relationship with the current captains and the guys who are fighting now," said Ryan. "They've had the opportunity to see it and from what we've been hearing from them, guys have been telling us how much of an inspiration it has been, especially in preparing for the fights. It's great to see what the big picture is as they get ready for the fights. It's really helpful and encouraging for them."

"Strong Bodies Fight: Rough Cut" showed three screenings at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Nov. 6 and 7. The producers collected feedback from the audiences in order to make changes and come out with a final version.

"The reaction was fantastic," Ryan said. "We had three showings on that weekend and we had three standing ovations … People enjoy hearing the story. It's what we hoped from the outset. The Bengal Bouts is such a unique story and people got to see that in a really dynamic way."

This year's captains arranged a screening of the movie for the boxers prior to the first night of fights, Feb. 13.

"Showing the movie to everyone involved in the program was great because it really put a face to the missions," Cugliari said. "It really established that we do have a personal relationship with these missions and the people that we're helping. We're not just throwing money at a problem; we have a tangible, personal relationship."

Senior captain John Maier and junior Bobby Powers, two of the four students to go on Notre Dame's first International Summer Service Learning Project in Bangladesh this summer, emphasized the importance of experiencing the mission.

"It's relaying a personal experience," Maier said. "In all honesty, freshman, sophomore year, boxing was more on the radar. You know you're supporting a good cause and what's going on, but … I didn't even really know what the motto of the club meant, 'strong bodies fight so weak bodies may be nourished.'"

"All the captains yell 'Shokti,' which is Bengali for strength, and then everyone else yells 'Shahosh,' which means courage in Bengali."

John Maier
senior captain

Powers credited the filmmakers' efforts as a driving force behind the creation of the ISSLP.

"It's just an exponential growth," he said. "The documentary came out, now we have four guys a year going over for six weeks. For eighty years we didn't do anything really personal like that, and now we're going there for six weeks. That started with the documentary."

The four boxers even began a new tradition for the team.

"This year we brought back two words we would say [after practice]," Maier said. "All the captains would yell 'Shokti,' which is Bengali for strength, and then everyone else yells 'Shahosh,' which means courage in Bengali."

Cugliari said the movie has been very inspirational to this year's fighters.

"We've seen people become more enthusiastic during the tournament, going out and trying to get donations from people, tell people about this cause," he said. "Now all of our boxers, they know what it's about.

"It's just kind of been one constant reminder throughout the tournament," he added. "It's obviously going to be on the back of everyone's minds as you step into the ring."

But the movie's reach extended beyond the boxers themselves.

"We saw an impact on the rest of the student body," senior co-president Pat Burns said. "I went to a party after the premiere and they were taking donations for the missions just based on what they had seen in the documentary."

Donaruma said the producers hope to finalize the film this summer and begin entering it into film festivals, with the main focus on the Sundance Film Festival. If chosen, "Strong Bodies Fight" would be a part of the 2011 premiere circuit, Ryan said.

From there, the impact of Bengal Bouts can only grow.

"It's for the Notre Dame community and for the current and former boxers," Ryan said. "We're really excited to get them something they'll be proud of and to share it with the whole world."

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Motivation and patience drive Burns' fourth trip to finals

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Sometimes the "science" in "sweet science" goes out the window and chance takes over.

That's what happened to Pat Burns in last year's championship bout against Benford Begay. Begay threw out his right shoulder in the first round, relegating his right arm to dead weight. But when he started throwing his right later in the fight, he caught Burns off guard.

"He kept coming over the top of my left hand with that right hand and that's why I eventually lost the fight," Burns said.

Burns, a senior captain and co-president of the Bengal Bouts, has made it to the final bout in each of the last three years but has not won a title. And he likes to remind himself of that by watching DVDs of each of his championship losses before he fights.

"I just watch it for the motivation, knowing that if you don't come out with 100 percent, trying as hard as you can, going to the final bell this is what could happen," Burns said. "I watch it with that kind of mindset."

The Michigan City, Ind., native's path to three straight finals appearances began quietly. His sister Meredith attended Notre Dame and competed in Baraka Bouts, then witnessed the Bengal Bouts spectacle. She recommended he try it when he got here, and he took her up on it.

Burns played soccer and baseball in high school and played Interhall football in the fall of his freshman year, but said he was out of shape when he started Bouts.

"I hadn't really worked out after high school so it was sort of a perfect thing," he said.

Burns said he liked the way Bengal Bouts turned an individual sport into a team effort, and he found it funny that the boxers helped each other get better when they might face that same person in the tournament. Dragging his sore body to practice every day was tough, he said, but as he got better it became easier.

"I'm sure there were times on Fridays when I decided not to go in but as I kept going more and more I got more and more motivation to do it and get better," he said.

The first time he stepped in the ring gave him the biggest adrenaline rush he's ever felt, he said. The nerves disappeared, however, once he got hit.

"Get hit in the face once, and everything goes away and your body takes over," he said. "My first fight, it wasn't pretty, it was a brawl, but after that first fight I knew it was something I wanted to keep doing."

After his sophomore year, Bengal Bouts president Hunter Land named him and senior Chris Cugliari to be junior captains, something Burns said he was proud of. The new responsibilities of teaching the novices took time away from Burns' workout, but he said he found quick workouts to do at high intensity to save time.

As a mechanical engineering major taking 16 credits, Burns said being co-president takes good time management skills. He and Cugliari joked separately about the juxtaposition of Cugliari's 10-credit business course load and Burns' 16 credits, and Burns said that as a result Cugliari handles more of the administration issues while Burns focuses on training the younger boxers.

When he finally does get in the ring after his duties and class work, his style reflects his personality — calm and levelheaded.

"I try to keep control of the fight, I don't go out and brawl with people," he said. "If everything is slow and controlled I feel most comfortable."

"I've seen it on numerous occasions where it would seem that Pat's in a very close fight. It's almost a battle going on," Cugliari said. "And then all of a sudden Pat will throw one punch and the fight'll be over. They stopped and they've gone over to check his opponent and his eyeball's pointing one way or something like that."

Something similar happened Tuesday in the semifinals against Jason Healy, which Burns won with patience and well-timed aggression. He waited until the third round, when he saw Healy drop his left hand after a jab, then unleashed a flurry of punches that chased Healy around the ring and sealed the fight.

PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior co-president Pat Burns heads to his fourth straight finals Saturday. Burns has yet to emerge from the finals victorious.

"I told my cornermen I had to throw a billion punches and that's the only way I was going to win," he said after the fight.

Burns faces John Tchoula, one of his best friends, in the finals Saturday.

"It'll be one of those things where we're messing around with each other right up until we get in the ring," he said, "and then after the fight it'll be all over."

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Co-president hopes to leave legacy from time in Bouts

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

For co-president Chris Cugliari, the Bengal Bouts are all about passion for boxing, vision into the future and the development of young men beyond even their own expectations. Nothing is more satisfying to Cugliari than to watch a fighter change from a scared young freshman, full of doubts, into a self-confident man ready to face the challenges of life.

"I have seen a lot of people come down here in their first couple days and be very nervous, but I have never seen someone step out of the ring at the end of the process without a smile on his face," Cugliari said.

The Bouts are about teaching, and that is the common thread which drives Cugliari in everything he does for the program, from researching new techniques and training methods to passing on life lessons.

"You have 18- to 22-year-old kids come in here, and some of them might have self-doubts, or things about themselves that they are just unsure about," Cugliari said. "And they come down here and they have the huge challenge of going through a rigorous training program and stepping through the ropes in front of hundreds of people and putting it all on the line. And that says a lot about their growth and character development throughout the process."

Cugliari first got involved in the Bouts when he heard about it from his cousin, Michael Kane. Cugliari entered into the program as a freshman in 2007 and excelled beyond even his own expectations, making it to the final round and being named Freshman Boxer of the Year.

"That is what really got me hooked," Cugliari said. "I found a sport here at Notre Dame that I not only really enjoyed doing and training for, but it was something I picked up on pretty quickly and was successful at."

Hailing from Saint Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Cugliari played football throughout his high school career. Finding a sport that he could excel at became important to the undersized Cugliari, who did not have the physical build to play football at the college level. In boxing, Cugliari was able to find his niche.

"I wanted something that could fulfill my competitive drive, something I could spend time on, and just compete here at Notre Dame," Cugliari said.

And compete he did, rising quickly through the ranks of the Bengal Bouts' hierarchy, becoming only one of two junior captains last year, along with current co-president Pat Burns. Cugliari said he believed it was a great opportunity to get some leadership experience and to learn how to teach boxing.

As co-president this year, Cugliari made it his mission to push the Bouts to take a step up in terms of the technical boxing aspect.

"I really wanted us to step it up a notch in terms of what we were teaching, how we were training," he said. "Not to say that in the past it was bad, but the sport had modernized a lot, but I wanted the Bengal Bouts to take a step up."

To achieve this goal, Cugliari wanted everything from a training standpoint to be done with the primary purpose of developing the fighters into better boxers. You did not condition simply to condition, Cugliari reasoned, but to improve your performance in the ring.

To bring these fresh new ideas into the program, Cugliari made it the mission of his captains to learn all they could about the sport of boxing.

"We just encouraged everyone to go out and learn as much as possible, to bring it back to the Bouts, and really share it with the entire program," Cugliari said. "A lot of stuff may not take effect right now, but hopefully in a couple years their impact will be felt."

Two boxing mentors shaped Cugliari's experience: friend and training partner Mike Lee and personal trainer Paul Scianna.

Lee, a 2009 captain and three-year champion who has since signed a professional boxing contract, provided Cugliari with an insight into what it takes to be a great boxer.

"I just think that Mike and I just share a great love for boxing, and so when I was able to work out with him this summer, I cannot thank him enough for all he was able to expose me to," Cugliari said.

Scianna has been Cugliari's personal boxing coach for several years, and Cugliari said that his secondhand effect on the Bengal Bouts has been substantial.

But Cugliari said his greatest influences in his life are his family. His parents have always taught him to set goals in life and to make a difference.

"My father raised us with this idea that we need to dedicate yourself to something, you need to find a reason to get out of your dorm room everyday and get active in society," Cugliari said.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer
Senior co-captain Chris Cugliari raises his fists during his semifinal fight Tuesday against Brian Robillard.

The other great influences in his life are his brother Brian and sister Meghan. Cugliari defines his role as their older brother as setting an example of responsibility and kindness for them to follow.

No greater example can be found, he said, than in the Bengal Bouts' dedication to supporting the Holy Cross mission in Bangladesh.

"This is not a fight between two boxers, this is a fight between two nations trying to end poverty," Cugliari said. "You can really see that these people have taken it upon themselves to really strive to better themselves."

If Cugliari could leave only one thing behind, it would be that he helped people succeed.

"I hope that my legacy would be that there are a handful of guys in the program right now who will be able to look back a few years from now and say to themselves, 'I've seen myself grow as a person, and I have seen myself overcome these challenges, and I can thank someone like Chris Cugliari as someone who showed me that I can overcome the boundaries in my life,'" he said.

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Ponzio's experience about more than fights

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Nick Ponzio's four years as a boxer have taught him that what a fighter does outside the ring matters a lot more than what he does inside it. The senior from Dallas, Texas, made living that message his mission as a Bengal Bouts captain.

"I want to pass on a passion for the sport. Boxing is something you can't really half-ass," Ponzio said. "You have to be committed to it. We know that some guys will train for five months and be in the ring for four and a half minutes, so you really have to look at the larger goal of our efforts here and realize that the boxing is only part of this event."

The finance major formerly of Keenan Hall acknowledges that it was hard for him as a young fighter to realize the scope of the Bouts' mission. Crediting his own coaches and captains for teaching him, Ponzio tries to instill a sense of tradition and social mission in the boxers he now leads.

PAT COVENEY/The Observer
Senior captain Nick Ponzio backs his opponent, junior Dominic Golab, against the ropes Tuesday in a semifinal fight.

"Some people look at it as just a boxing match you train for five months for, but it's really so much more than that," Ponzio said. "For a program that's been around for 80 years, it's pretty amazing to be a part of it, and see how much it's grown in terms of what we do for them [in Bangladesh]. Eighty years ago, we were donating just so that people over there could eat, and now we're sending enough money over there to build up an infrastructure and build schools."

Ponzio, who has reached the semifinals twice in his four years as a fighter, said he felt an immediate connection with boxing as a freshman.

"I started originally playing Interhall football, and a couple of the guys on the team said I should check out boxing," Ponzio said. "I immediately fell in love with it. I absolutely love my time doing it. Even though it can be a daily grind, it's a good thing. I'm really glad that I'm doing it."

While his mother was not thrilled with the idea of Ponzio fighting, his father understood the impact and significance of the Bengal Bouts as a Notre Dame alumnus.

"When they came up to see me fight, they got to chance to see the impact that we have," Ponzio said. "They understood that it's not just a boxing tournament."

> *"It's an experience like nothing else. When everyone is watching you and the lights are on you, it's pretty hard to emulate."*
>
> **Nick Ponzio**
> **senior captain**

Looking back over his time as a fighter and captain for the Bouts, Ponzio cited his first fight as his favorite moment. Like most who tape up for the first time, Ponzio called it an experience without compare.

"I don't really remember much of my first fight because the adrenaline was pumping so much, but it was an incredible feeling," Ponzio said. "It's an experience like nothing else. When everyone is watching you and the lights are on you, it's pretty hard to emulate."

With several years of fights under his belt, Ponzio looked towards becoming a captain as a new goal. Remembering the impact that his own captains had on his development, Ponzio hoped to teach the passion and importance of the Bouts to younger fighters.

"I've always kind of looked at [becoming a captain] as a goal," Ponzio said. "When I started boxing freshman year, I looked up at the captains and thought that it would be cool to get to that point. I think captains really give [the Bengal Bouts] a team atmosphere. This gave me the opportunity to lead people."

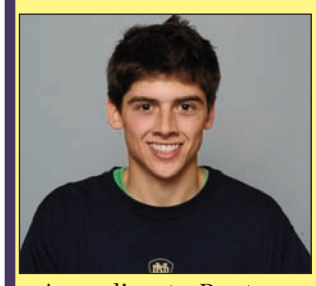
Ponzio said his journey from freshman to senior captain in the Bouts has changed him and given him a resiliency that he didn't know existed before. In the tradition of the Bengal Bouts alumni before him, Ponzio will leave the program with a strength he never knew he had, earned in service to a mission to the people of Bangladesh.

"When you get knocked down and get beat up a little bit, you come out of it better and that's the only way to get better," Ponzio said. "Maybe it can be hard from an outsider's perspective to see the parallels, but once you've done it, you have the mentality that you can get back up from anything and be a better person because of it."

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

124 pounds

Jack Lally vs. Steven Rivera

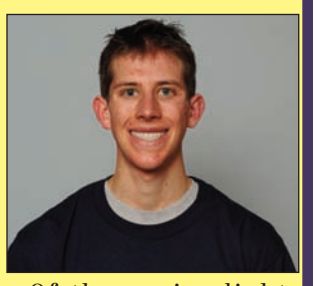


According to Bouts co-president Chris Cugliari, "[Lally is] a tall left-handed freshman, very advanced for a freshman. Very good technique with solid power behind his left hand, with good range."

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: LALLY
When Chris Cugliari says a fighter is advanced for their age, that means something, especially when he has sparred with said fighter. Lally's left hand will likely catch the lighter Rivera off guard early, and he'll hold onto that lead.

Myers: RIVERA
Hey Steven, I could give you 50 reasons ... why you're going to win this fight.



Of the senior lightweight, Bouts co-president Chris Cugliari said, "Rivera is small. He's very calm in the ring, and fights with good defense. He closes the distance well."

133 pounds

Chris Cugliari vs. Michael Sayles

Cugliari will look to his jab to set the tone in the finals after losing in the semis last year. The senior captain possesses a nice balanced technique with punishing punches for a lower weight class.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: SAYLES
In the lower weight classes, speed generally beats power. Thus, Sayles beats Cugliari.

Myers: CUGLIARI
When I interviewed Cugliari Monday, he was wearing a Cavs shirt. So he literally had, "Be the undisputed favorite but choke at the last second" written all over him. But if anyone can erase some of Cleveland's woes, it's him.

Sayles, a senior captain as well, will return to the finals where he fell last year. He will look to use his quickness to avoid Cugliari's jabs and to create opportunities for dangerous combinations.

140 pounds

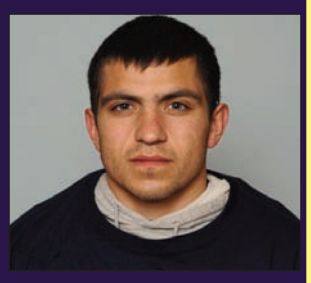
Michael Johnston vs. Albert Toscano

Johnston will look to claim his first title on the strength of his ability to throw many punches in a short period of time. Even as he throws one punch, he moves into position for the next.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: TOSCANO
While Johnston throws more punches than seems possible in short rounds, Toscano works the body, until he gains access to the head, and then he ends it.

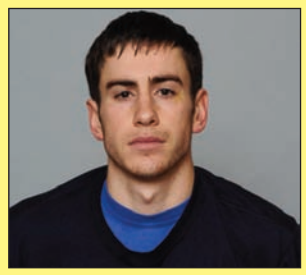
Myers: TOSCANO
Objectivity is key here, and it would just be biased for me to pick a second Clevelander. Plus, Toscano sounds like "Tuscan" which makes me think of pasta. And pasta is fantastic.



Toscano suffered a bloody nose in the semifinals, but still won the round unanimously. That just goes to show how his quickness makes up for his lack of reach and every punch he throws, hurts.

147 pounds

Kieran Bulger vs. Kevin Ortenzio



Bulger, a senior, is a defensive fighter who shows great discipline. He uses his opponent's aggressiveness against him, and utilizes a strong final round to leave his opponent hurting.

STAFF PICKS

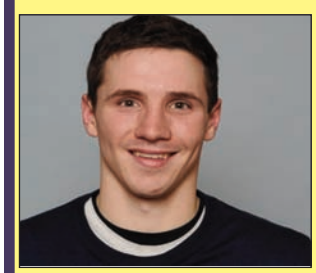
Farmer: BULGER
In the semifinals, Bulger showed a tremendous right hook. If he connects with Ortenzio's chin more than once, Ortenzio may not fully recover for a week or two.

Myers: BULGER
Bulger's hometown is Schaghticoke, N.Y., which I can neither locate nor pronounce. But anyone who is from there is probably tough and awesome.

Ortenzio's deliverance of punches, especially uppercuts, allows him to rack up points while avoiding blows from his opponent. Look for him to get out fast, and stay ahead throughout.

151 pounds

Tim Thayer vs. Bobby Powers

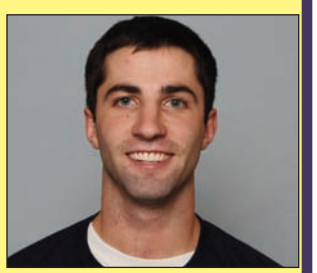


Thayer is one of the strongest fighters in the tournament and is now looking for his third title in three years. If he claims it, he will have his strong right hand to thank, along with years of experience.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: THAYER
In a fight that cannot be over-hyped, two defending champions meet. The two have never been in the same weight class, and, after a tough fight, Thayer will prevail for his third title.

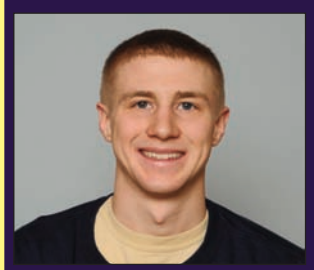
Myers: THAYER
In every generation there is a chosen one, destined to fight the Powers of evil. The "Slayer" will deliver strong punches and witty remarks on the way to victory.



Last year Powers beat then-Bouts president Mark Weber in the final. This year in a class six pounds heavier, he'll look to use his range to his advantage, and possibly end another fight early.

155 pounds

Ryan Slaney vs. Adam Cowden



"Dayman" Slaney started slow in his semifinal matchup, but before the fight was over, had bloodied his opponent's nose twice. Obviously, is punch has power, but his defense could use work.

STAFF PICKS

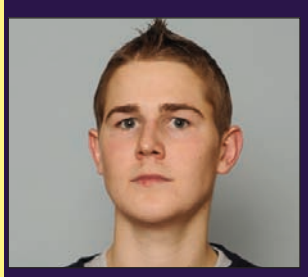
Farmer:
Both boxers could end this fight with bloodied noses, so weak stomachs please turn away. In the end, Cowden hits harder, he just needs to keep his nose from bleeding too much.

Myers: SLANEY
The senior lives in Carroll Hall, which means he has to be extra fit just to get to class every day. That extra conditioning will translate into a win.

Cowden hits harder than anybody else in his weight class, but, like Slaney, the sophomore leaves himself open to a shot or two as well. Will need to keep face intact to get the win.

160 pounds

John Maier vs. Alex Oloriz



Maier returns to the finals looking for redemption after his defeat last year. The senior captain relies on an extended reach to slip his punches in.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: MAIER
Last year Maier lost to Rodgers, and Oloriz bears some resemblance to Rodgers, but Maier's experience should overcome Oloriz's youth, and in three full rounds, Maier will come out with his title.

Myers: MAIER
I'm picking Maier on the condition that he never grants an interview to Playboy.

The freshman Oloriz throws accurate and lethal punches that turn into combinations without pause. He will need to use such to get under Maier's long reach.

163 pounds

Jordan Bucci vs. Matt Hopke

Bucci looks to defend his title. The senior has been to the finals each of the past three years, and last year overcame the threat of a longer reach to claim his title.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: BUCCI
If the housemates and former Alumni residents wait until Saturday to ease the title tension, expect Bucci's experience and grittiness to top Hopke in the most emotional fight of the night.

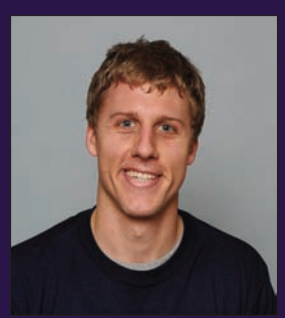
Myers: HOPKE
Both earn points for being proud Dawgs. Hopke gains the edge because his sister lives in Cavanaugh.

This is Hopke's first trip past the semifinals. To earn the title he will need to rely on his timing and quickness. Hopke's best bet to upset Bucci is to start quickly.

Staff picks by Sports Writers Douglas Farmer and Laura Myers

166 pounds

Jason Miller vs. Gregory Bennett



"Pretty Boy" Miller often attempts to feel the other fighter out first; if Bennett attacks early, he will evade and attempt to take advantage. Look for the senior to land combionations throughout the fight, and to stay technically strong through three rounds.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: BENNETT

This one will likely end in a split decision. Miller packs a solid right punch, but Bennett may be quick enough to avoid it through three rounds. At which point, some rowdy fan support could prove to be the difference.

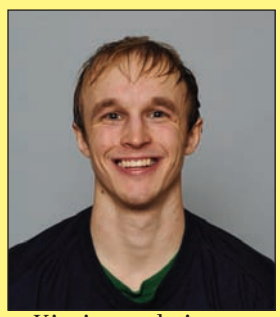
Myers: BENNETT

I wanted to pick Miller in hopes that he could hook me up with some free cookies from Subway, but props have to go to Bennett for being the only finalist to take his headshot shirtless.

Bennett answers the first bell with an explosion of intense energy. He goes on the offensive at the beginning of every round in an attempt to put his opponent on the back foot. Expect a large contigent of Zahm supporters to provide energy for the sophomore late in the bout.

173 pounds

Alex Kissinger vs. Matthew Paletta



Kissinger brings an attacking mentality to the ring and often drives his opponent to the ropes. He pushes his attacks relentlessly, and aims to wear his opponent out over a long fight. Paletta's best bet is to force the point with Kissinger, taking control of the match early.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: KISSINGER

Kissinger is one of the best conditioned fighters in the tournament, and over the years it has been proven time and time again that in toss-up matches, the competitor in better shape will previal. Kissinger will look to wear out Paletta, and by the end will simply blast his fellow senior against the ropes.

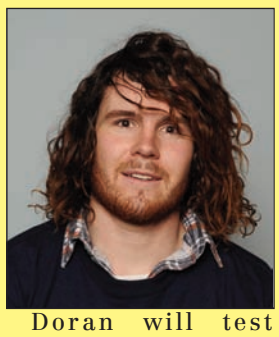
Myers: PALETTA

He's from Detroit. Consider this a pity pick, especially if he is a sports fan.

Paletta bides his time early in matches, and uses breaks between the rounds to recharge before charging at the start of the second round, and throughout the third round. Look out for the senior's strong, consistent punches late in the match.

180 pounds

Mike Doran vs. Dominic Golab



Doran will test Golab early, feinting and throwing the occasional punch. He will be aggressive but controlled in the middle part of the match and eventually his long arms should allow him to land punches from outside Golab's reach late in the fight.

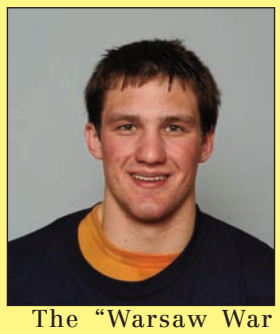
STAFF PICKS

Farmer: DORAN

Doran is a tough fighter, there is no way around that. Last year he put up a tough fight against Bouts legend Mike Lee, and this year Doran's experience has made him a much smarter fighter. Golab will be a test, but Doran will wait for an opening, and then use his length to claim his first title.

Myers: DORAN

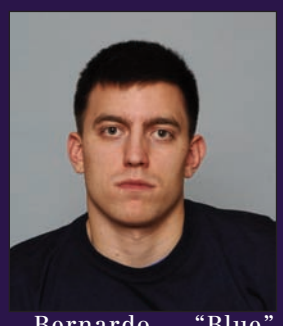
Doran spends his evenings raising money for the University at the phone center. Someone that noble can't possibly lose.



The "Warsaw War Hammer" ousted senior captain Nick Ponzio in the semifinals, and now faces last year's 175 lb. runner-up in Doran. Golab should match up well with Doran, as his physical style could reduce Doran's length advantage. Golab did leave himself open to late shots from Ponzio.

189 pounds

Bernardo Garcia vs. Tim Wallace



Bernardo "Blue" Garcia is a tall, lanky fighter with a long reach. He does not have an explosive uppercut or right hook, but employs his jab to set up a straight right. Garcia stays on the outside of the ring and picks his spots well, waits for the attack to make a mistake, and capitalizes.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: GARCIA

Garcia was literally knocked out of the ring in his semifinal match, but the junior has been in the final before, and after a loss last year down at 170 pounds, he seems to have bulked up this year. He will use that bulk as well as his reach to put Wallace's attacks at bay.

Myers: GARCIA

What do we have, "Blue"? A pair of gloves, a towel, and a referee's shirt? Let me go to my thinking chair… looks like you have a boxing title!

Timothy Wallace is another tall fighter who uses a straight left jab to set up a straight right hand that comes right at the nose of the opponent. He lunges with the jab and follow-up right hand, and avoids taking the big shot well. He rarely lets himself get caught off balance and should challenge Garcia.

205 pounds

Pat Burns vs. John Tchoula

Burns maintains a low, wide stance that makes him difficult to attack. He relies on the opponent coming opening up in attacking, allowing Burns to deal a quick right, then a swooping left aimed at the chin of the opponent. When the opportunity arises, he strikes, and does so effectively.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: TCHOULA

In the fight of the night, Burns enters his fourth final, seeking his first title, but he is about to run into a brick wall in Tchoula. Tchoula's only weakness the past two years has been fighting against length. Fortunately for "Papi," Burns is possibly a bit shorter than he is, and will not be able to hold off Tchoula's powerful, repeated shots.

Myers: TIE

Just look at these guys' pictures. Two winners right there.

John "Papi" Tchoula is a strong fighter who stays low, dodges jabs and uses quick, strong, rights and lefts to the body to weaken his opponent. If Tchoula delivers a jab to Burns' head, he could steal the fight as his decisive blow has the power to drop nearly every fighter in the tournament.

Heavyweight

Will Burroughs vs. Kevin Crepeau

Will "at the Edge of Darkness" Burroughs is simply an imposing physical specimen. His unique combination of height, weight and quickness is a nightmare for the opposition. No one has put up a decent contest for Burroughs so far, and it will be a wonder if Crepeau does so.

STAFF PICKS

Farmer: BURROUGHS

These two meet up in the final for the third time in three years. Once again, Burroughs' massive size will be the difference. Each punch he throws has the potential to end the fight, even his jabs meant to keep the opponent honest. Burroughs should prepare for his third title.

Myers: BURROUGHS

His nickname, "At the Edge of Darkness," would be a great name for a super-emo band made up of teenagers from suburban Minneapolis.

Kevin "The Long Beach Lumberjack" Crepeau is a heavy-handed southpaw, a big guy that uses a stiff right-handed jab to set up a left hook aimed at the head of the other fighter. He will need to land that punch early and often to top Burroughs for the first time in three tries.

Capsules by Chris Allen, Megan Finneran, Kaitlyn Murphy, Allan Joseph and Matt Robison

Photos courtesy of Mike Bennett of Lighthouse Imaging

Law student seeks third title to conclude challenge

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

Outweighing most of his competition by about 20 pounds, one would think Will Burroughs would be able to stomach a punch or two as he pursues his third straight heavyweight championship. Not quite.

"I hate getting it, absolutely hate it," the third-year law student said. "It hurts … It's also just the fact that you failed a little bit."

It did not take long for Burroughs to realize the comedic material he just gave his fellow captains, classmates and his competition.

"That sounds really cocky, and I'm not trying to be cocky," he said. "I'm going to get made fun of for that one."

Not many people would have the guts to give Burroughs grief. The former Division I varsity football player now weighs in at 253 pounds, standing 6-foot-2, and ended his semifinal bout 20 seconds into the first round. Yet despite his size advantage and proven potent punch, Burroughs still sees Bengal Bouts as a welcome challenge.

"It's just a challenge … My first semester here at Notre Dame, it was a tough adjustment," the 2005 Brown graduate said. "I heard about [Bengal Bouts], and one of my classmates did it when he was an undergrad. I asked him some questions, and got into it and after a few practices, I kind of got hooked."

Burroughs has always pursued challenges. After four years as left tackle at Brown, Burroughs served for Teach For America for two years as a high school biology teacher and football coach. He then opted to forsake his pre-med degree and enroll in the Notre Dame Law School.

Upon graduation, Burroughs will combine his two Irish passions — law and Bouts — as he is already enlisted in the Judge Advocate General Student Program (JAG).

The fitness aspect of the military should not phase Burroughs, at least not as much as his first day of Bouts practice did.

"The first day the shocking thing is you don't know what's going on," Burroughs said. "You're thinking boxing — you're in the gym, doing some jump rope. You warm up in the offseason with something like 500 jumping jacks, and then they say let's go for a run."

Weighing 293 pounds in his heyday at Brown, Burroughs had done some running to stay conditioned, but nothing like what he was in store for at that point.

"You think you're going to go run around the parking lot to loosen up the legs, but then 30 minutes later when you're still running, you realize these guys take it seriously," he said.

Three years later, Burroughs is one of "these guys," an honor not lost on him in the least.

"Some of these captains eat, sleep and live Notre Dame Boxing," Burroughs said. "For me, as the older law student, to get that recognition, it meant a lot."

And as the older law student, Burroughs has been amazed by how willing Notre Dame students are to embrace challenges.

"Every day I am amazed at what a Notre Dame student can do. You'll hear about someone studying for an engineering exam, but they are fighting their semifinal fight that night as well," he said. "It's a large number of undergrads who want to get hit in the face."

That willingness, not his older age, is what distinguishes Burroughs from the undergrad boxers. While many boxers learn to accept the inevitability of taking a few punches, Burroughs cannot fathom such an admission.

"Why? Why accept it?" Burroughs said, sounding legitimately baffled. "Every time you get hit you know you did something wrong."

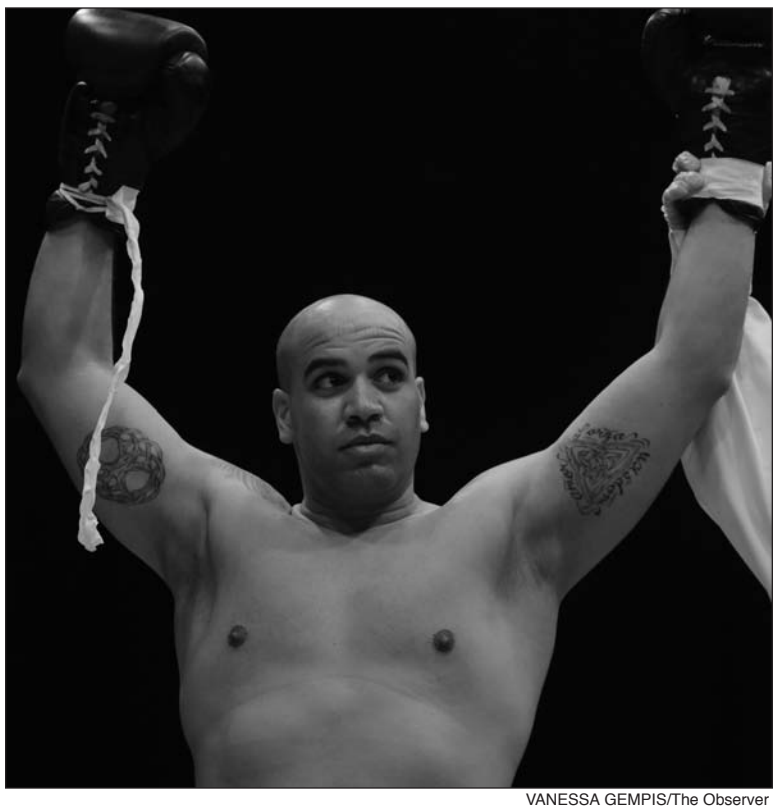
Entering his championship bout, Burroughs needs to ready for a few punches. He faced Kevin Crepeau in the title fight last year, and ended the night with a black eye.

But in the end, even the offensive lineman who dreads getting hit will admit that parts of fight night make it worthwhile.

"Walking out has got to be one of the coolest feelings," Burroughs said. "Knowing your friends and family are there. Walking out, with the robe, it's all on you, and that's kind of a cool thing. That's the challenge."

Burroughs will get to face that challenge once more Saturday night. He'll most likely get hit a few more times as well, and he could win his third heavyweight championship, in only three years.

And then, on to the next challenge.



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Heavyweight Will Burroughs has yet to break much of a sweat on his way to Saturday's final. Burroughs has won the last two titles.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Hardest hits have taught undefeated Thayer the most

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

For a fighter who is a perfect 10-0 in three years of Bengal Bouts, senior captain Tim Thayer has taken some hard punches in his career.

The Lake Placid, N.Y., native will be looking to win his third straight tournament title Saturday against junior Bobby Powers, and has used his power to put a quick end to many fights. But as he learned the sport and continued fighting while abroad in Ireland, Thayer has taken his lumps.

"My first time sparring I went against a kid who knew what he was doing, and you don't see every punch you could see before you get in there," Thayer said. "He knew how to throw an overhand right, and just clocked me a couple times. It's the hardest I've ever been hit, and it was a wake-up call there was a lot to learn."

Thayer began his Bouts career as a sophomore, attracted to the sport as a former hockey player.

"I spent my whole life playing hockey and was never allowed to fight," Thayer said.

The training was grueling at first, but the bonds built through hard work and painful training helped Thayer through the process in his first year.

"After the first week you almost completely break your body down with how hard you push yourself. You keep going because everyone around you is doing the same thing, the whole brotherhood thing really pushes you past where you think you can go," Thayer said.

After facing some tough sparring sessions and learning the sport during his novice season, soon it was Thayer doing the punishing in the ring.

"My first fight only lasted 23 seconds," Thayer said. "I knew I had a decent chance against him, but that was the first time I realized I had power. I never realized I could knock someone out."

He cruised to the tournament finals, where he won his first title in 2008 in the 146-pound division over Mark Costanzo. Thayer defeated several veteran fighters in the tournament in winning his novice year.

"Before the tournament even started I thought about how the entire thing has been so worth it, even if I didn't set foot in the ring it had been an amazing experience," Thayer said. "From my first fight on, it was just icing on the cake.

"That was when I fell in love with boxing in particular — before I loved the Bengal Bouts, but [the 2008 tournament] was when I fell in love with the sport."

After winning the tournament after his novice season, Thayer continued training throughout the spring with a mentor he met in the program, Fr. Brian Daley, who began working with the sophomore as he learned the sport.

"His love for the sport was and is electric, and something he passed on to me," Thayer said. "We began working together quite a bit and he tuned me physically and psychologically to be ready for the bouts."

> *"My first fight only lasted 23 seconds. I knew I had a decent chance against him, but that was the first time I realized I had power."*
>
> **Tim Thayer**
> **senior captain**

While studying abroad during the fall semester of his junior year in Dublin, Thayer continued fighting and developing his skills. He joined the University College Dublin's boxing club, and right away had to prove himself to another group while sparring.

"We got into the ring to spar and realized neither of us had on headgear, but neither of us wanted to be the one to say something," Thayer said. "He just nailed me with a left hook square on the jaw and I couldn't chew for two weeks."

While fighting abroad Thayer suffered the only loss of his amateur career, losing in the finals of an Irish college championship tournament. Still undefeated on American soil, Thayer returned for his junior year a trained and polished fighter.

"I had been training for a year and a half straight, and I knew I could just go out there and there was nothing in my way," Thayer said.

Now a veteran, Thayer defended his title in 2009, defeating then-senior Matt Posluszny by unanimous decision in the 150-pound division.

Whether or not Thayer wins his third championship Saturday, the boxing program has given him a sport he loves and mentor for life.

"Fr. Daley is a silent pillar of the program, and he's become a very close friend and mentor," Thayer said. "There hasn't been a fight where he hasn't been in my corner, and sometimes it doesn't feel fair — my opponent is in that ring alone, and he has to fight two men. Fr. Daley has impacted my life far beyond the ring and I know we will be friends for a long time."

Thayer plans on attending medical school after his senior year, but doesn't plan on letting go of boxing anytime soon.

"I enjoy the irony that I'm going to med school next year, but wherever I go I don't plan on giving up boxing," Thayer said. "I hope to eventually get back into Golden Glovers or something. Either way, I look back and realize I'm a much better and more confident person because of this program."

JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Senior captain Tim Thayer throws a punch in his semifinal match Tuesday. Thayer seeks his third title this weekend.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Sayles battles back from injury to reach second title fight

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

Months after Mike Sayles broke his fibula, tibia and ankle less than three weeks before the start of Bengal Bouts during his sophomore year, he still felt a lingering pain that went far beyond his right leg.

"Missing the Bouts changes your perspective on everything because there's so much more to motivate you, especially by the time you step into the ring," Sayles said. "Having it taken away from me after training for as long as I did was really the motivator. I put in all that hard work and I was feeling really good heading into the fights, so that feeling is now always in the back of my mind, always there."

And it will be again Saturday night when Sayles squares off against fellow senior captain Chris Cugliari in the finals of the 133-pound weight division.

For Sayles, who demolished his right leg playing snow football on a Sorin Hall retreat, Saturday's finals represents his last opportunity to accomplish a goal he began to work toward after winning one fight as a freshman. It's been a long road to return that required Sayles to work at the simplest of tasks most would take for granted.

"The worst part was that I couldn't get into my loft, so I couldn't sleep in my bed for a month and a half," Sayles said. "I ended up sleeping on a futon for the first half of the semester until after spring break when I could get myself up the ladder again."

Sayles said he began jogging at the end of June, but even then, he could only work out every other day to keep his ankle from locking up and causing an additional setback.

"It was really a gradual process of working back up. I went to novice season again in the fall to basically start over," Sayles said. "I had to learn how to fight differently because the range of motion in my ankle wasn't there, so it forced me to develop a different style of boxing that has carried over to how I fight now."

Even with the bad ankle and new style, Sayles came within a few punches of a Bengal Bouts title last year, falling in the finals by a split decision. And while he was naturally disappointed to lose, he couldn't help but reflect on how far he had come.

That's what the Bengal Bouts are all about, Sayles said.

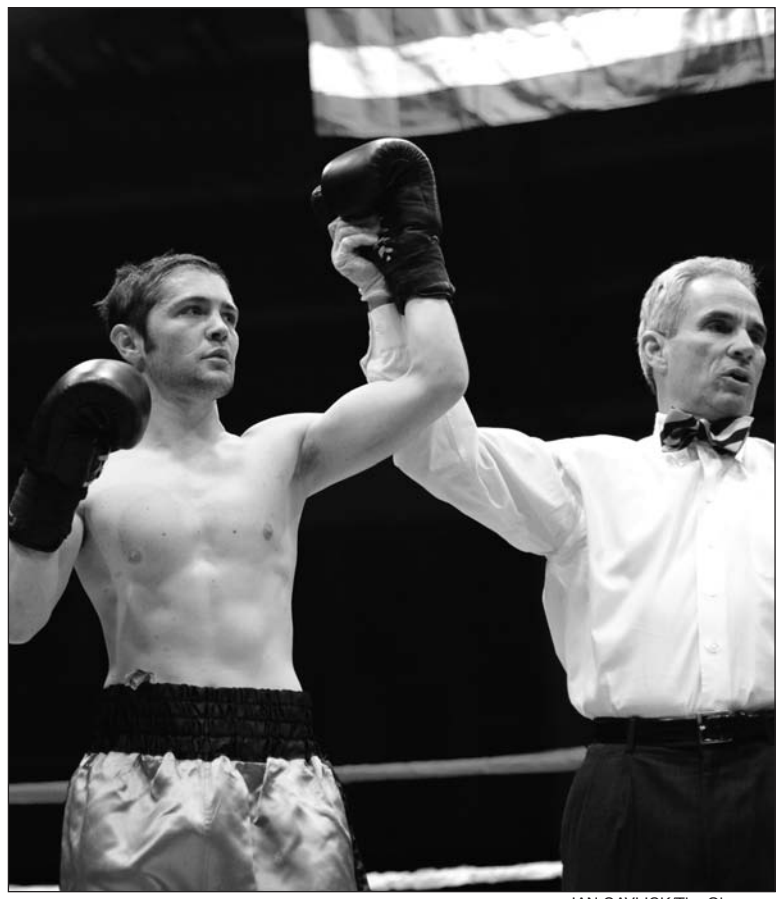
"Going to practice would suck. It would hurt, it would be painful, and I'd come back and have to ice my ankle or I couldn't walk the next day. After a while, your body gets so worn out from the workouts because they're so intense," Sayles said. " But I think going to practice every day, forcing yourself to go, is half the battle and kind of what makes it fun — pushing yourself to do things you wouldn't have thought you could have done before."

As a senior captain and a Resident Assistant in Sorin College, Sayles has served as an ambassador of sorts for the boxing club. When he speaks about the Bengal Bouts, he said he first conveys the important life lessons the sport has taught him and so many others.

"When people ask me about boxing, especially guys in the dorm, it's always everything except boxing I mention first. And then at the very end it's a throw-in that you get to learn how to box, which is pretty cool," Sayles said. "It's learning about yourself and building character. There's just so much growth for a lot of different people, and it makes me proud to see the way some of the guys develop throughout the course of the season as they learn to take certain things a little more seriously."

That message certainly resonated with Bobby Sullivan, a Sorin sophomore who lost a tough split decision in the preliminaries but who wouldn't have come that close without Sayles, he said.

"When it was time to choose who would be in our corner, it was no surprise that Sayles had a problem because too many people had chosen him," Sullivan said. "From the very start his work ethic carried over to the rest of us, always willing to work with us in and out of practice. Sayles embodied what a captain should be."



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Senior captain Michael Sayles suffered multiple injuries in 2008 but has come back to make two consecutive finals.

Sayles will graduate in May with a degree in finance and political science, and he will begin his career this fall as a financial analyst in Chicago with investment bank Houlihan Lokey.

A lover and a fighter, Sayles and fiancé Maggie McNicholas, a senior at Saint Mary's, hope to be married in the Basilica in July 2011.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Motivated Maier moves forward after finals loss

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

John Maier has already amassed plenty of hardware from his four years participating in Bengal Bouts. All he needs now is a championship trophy to add to his shelf.

As a sophomore, Maier faltered in his first fight and later received the Bill Seech Award, given to the best boxer not to make it out of the preliminaries.

A year later, after losing in the championship fight to then-senior captain Dan Rodgers, Maier was named Most Improved Boxer. This year, the announcers even declared his nickname ("My Body is a Wonderland") as the best one.

But Maier isn't quite satisfied.

"I lost in a close fight and it just pushed me to come back even harder the next year," Maier said of his 2009 championship bout. "It's not to say that if I had won I wouldn't have come back stronger, wanting to win it again, but it just pushed me that now I want to go in and win it all."

He will have a chance to do so Saturday when he takes on freshman Alex Oloriz in the finals of the 160-pound weight class.

"I think every fighter that I'm going to fight is going to be pushing me and challenging me to be the best that I've trained for," Maier said.

This summer, Maier learned firsthand that all of his training was about more than just a championship when he participated in Notre Dame's first International Summer Service Learning Project in Bangladesh. During the six-week service trip, Maier and fellow boxers Bobby Powers, Sean Pennino and Jim Woods, all juniors, taught English at the Holy Cross Missions.

"[We] just really experienced Bangladesh and our missions and what our training goes for," Maier said. "That experience, it just made everything that we do with boxing and trying to promote it as a leader that much more important. More boxers and more people staying and fighting just means more money for Bangladesh."

JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Senior captain John Maier has reached his second consecutive finals. Maier said his loss in the final last year has continually made him more motivated this year.

The experience affected how he has functioned as a leader of the Bengal Bouts, Maier said, especially in relaying what he saw to younger fighters.

> *"[Traveling to Bangladesh] made everything that we do with boxing and trying to promote it as a leader that much more important."*
>
> **John Maier**
> **senior captain**

"In coming back as a senior captain, I've been able to tie in a lot more to how we train and what we train to other people," he said.

Maier himself began fighting as a freshman when a friend from his section in Keough began needling him about going out for boxing. Maier finally assented, joining the club a week after novice season had started. It only took a week for the initial soreness to wear off and for Maier to get hooked, he said.

"Just coming in as a freshman, not really being involved in anything, I just saw it as something that could really structure my life here in college," Maier said. "And then from that day on I just loved the training and loved the fight itself, and just kept doing it for four years."

Accepting the captaincy as a senior was a natural progression, Maier said, that he had looked forward to since he joined.

"Ever since I'd gotten into boxing as a freshman I wanted to be a captain," he said. "I wanted to be a leader in the program. I just thought it was something that I could be good at, and I wanted to help people. I really like helping people with boxing."

Though his four years with Bengal Bouts have been marked with achievements from every aspect of the program, Maier still has one goal left to accomplish.

"I made it to the finals last year, and now it was the goal and determination to keep on training for the championship," he said. "I think it's just always pushing myself to do something better than I did last year."

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IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

PAT COVENEY/The Observer

The Bengal Bouts semifinals Tuesday night consisted of drama, pain, elation and relief — all within 26 fights. The fights, in 13 weight divisions, were simply the prelude to Saturday's finals, which begin at 7 p.m. in the Purcell Pavilion.

For more photos, check out the photo gallery at ndsmcobserver.com

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

PAT COVENEY/The Observer

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

JULIE HERDER/The Observer

A CALL FOR MORE CATTY VILLANS

By BRANDY CERNE
Scene Writer

Love them or hate them, catty villains — to put the term nicely — are almost always the best characters on television.

While they are portrayed as the villain to the main character, often I find myself rooting for them instead. Their acid tongues speak the truth (albeit in a nasty, sneaky way), making them the voice of reason amid the delusionals that seem to live on TV.

They exist in both reality and scripted shows, but they are always best on reality shows when they offer their own scathing commentary. Do not get me wrong, I would not want to come across them in real life, but there is no doubt that these catty villains make for the best entertainment. They can be men or women, but either way, they will do and say anything to get what they want.

It is easiest to spot them on reality shows, where casting directors search for who will antagonize the house and talk about fellow contestants during their confessionals. Each cycle of "America's Next Top Model" has a new one, but the best from ANTM's history has to be Jade from cycle six. She preyed on the weaknesses of other model-wannabe Gina, made arrogant statements like "My look is in a different realm that people cannot handle," and left the audience with a beat poem when she was eliminated. Sometimes scary but always entertaining, Jade could stand up with the best of these catty villains.

"Project Runway" also has a clearly defined villain on each season. There was Santino Rice in Season 2, Jeffrey Sebelia in Season 3, and Irina Shabayeva in Season 6, to name a few. These insensitive designers may talk badly about other designs, but they usually have the most talent and end up either winning or coming quite close. They just say what we are thinking at home when we see some of those hideous designs.

These villains do not only exist on reality reruns though. Bravo seems to specialize in giving them their own television shows, making it one of the most guilty pleasure television networks. Each "Real Housewives" location is catty in its own right, but "Real Housewives of New York City" takes it to another level.

On the outside, these women have successful careers and families. They describe themselves as classy and having etiquette. Yet after watching one episode, it becomes evident that the majority of their time is spent flitting from one cast member to another, talking about the awful behavior of the person they were just talking to. The third season starts March 4.

Bravo adds more bitchiness with its new series "Kell on Earth." It follows the life of Kelly Cutrone, head of fashion PR firm People's Revolution and former boss on "The City." Cutrone was always the best character of MTV's scripted reality shows, as she justifiably cut down blond bimbo employees left and right.

After watching "Kell on Earth," you feel bad for her employees who actually do work hard, and realize that she is a horrible boss. However, that in no way means that we want her to be nicer. Instead, I find myself waiting for her to yell at someone, which luckily happens quite often. Kell on Earth airs on Mondays at 10 p.m.

My favorite reality villain? Hands down, comedienne Kathy Griffin. Griffin rightfully has her own reality show, also on Bravo, "Kathy Griffin: My Life on the D-List." The more fame Griffin has received from her Emmy-award-winning show, the more opportunities she has had to interact with other celebrities, which pays off in hilarious material for her fans. Griffin holds back on no one as she details these encounters that show everyone how ridiculous celebrities and Hollywood culture can be. Many think she is overly cruel, but you can see from the show that she has a good heart. Most celebrities deserve it, anyway. "Life on the D-List" is currently filming new episodes.

So thank you, television — and especially you, Bravo — for giving us what we want: more catty villains. Even though they may not be nice, they are something better: truthful and entertaining. After all, who wants to watch a bunch of people be nice to each other? If I did, I would watch Extreme Makeover Home Edition, which just for the record, lost two years in a row at the Emmys to My Life on the D-List.

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JACLYN ESPINOZA I Observer Graphic

OLYMPICS

USA wins first medals ever in a Nordic sport

Associated Press

WHISTLER, British Columbia — They swore they didn't care which one of them won gold to become America's first Olympic champion in a Nordic sport.

Anyone who watched, knew Billy Demong skied to win.

He attacked on the final hill, hustled into the stadium and raced across the finish line well ahead of three-time silver medalist Johnny Spillane, giving the United States a 1-2 finish Thursday in the large hill competition at Nordic combined.

Challenging wind gusts and pelting rain, sleet and snow on the jump hill did little to dampen the Americans' jubilation.

"I don't think either of us really cared which one was first or second," Demong, of Vermontville, N.Y., said after ending America's golden goose egg in Nordic sports at the Winter Games by winning the 10-kilometer cross country leg in 25 minutes, 32.9 seconds.

Spillane, of Steamboat Springs, Colo., was four seconds behind him, and Bernhard Gruber of Austria, who had a 34-second head start after jumping the farthest off the large hill following a restart, was 10.8 seconds back and won the bronze.

Twice before at these Vancouver Games, Spillane was edged for the gold medal on the stadium straightaway, first by France's Jason Lamy Chappuis in the normal hill race and then by Austria's Mario Stecher in the team relay Tuesday.

"Whoever was first and whoever wasn't second didn't really matter that much," said Spillane, the only U.S. multimedalist in Nordic sports. "Skiing into the stadium down that final stretch was quite a bit of fun."

He knew he couldn't catch Demong and couldn't be caught by Gruber, so he had a leisurely finish to relish his third silver.

Demong started in sixth place and 46 seconds back, but quickly caught his teammate and Gruber on a one-man breakaway from the chase group for a three-man race the rest of the way.

They didn't have to worry about some of the best World Cup athletes catching them after worsening weather in the morning hampered the top jumpers on the large hill, relegating them too far back in the field to be a factor.

The cross country race was run in much better weather, but the soft, sometimes choppy snow put a premium on the proper wax and ski setup. Unlike the team relay when Demong was done in by bad skis, he had the perfect combination this time to put the Americans atop the podium.

But the damage had been done to the sport's better athletes, including the top five in the World Cup standings, who had terrible jumps in horrible conditions.

"It's a joke," Norway's Magnus Moan fumed of final Nordic combined race at the Winter Games after managing to jump just 112.5 meters in a driving, wet snow and tail wind that pushed him down early.

That had him starting 2 minutes, 21 seconds behind Gruber, who jumped in much better conditions after a restart earlier in the morning. Gruber, ranked 22nd in the World Cup standings, capitalized on a rogue headwind that helped him stay aloft for a top jump of 134 meters.

"It's like a lottery. Some guys got good conditions, some others terrible conditions," shrugged World Cup leader Jason Lamy Chappuis, of France, who won the gold in the normal hill 10K but started this race in 29th and finished in 18th.

The complaints about the wintry weather didn't faze the Americans.

"This is an outdoor sport," Spillane said. "And I can tell you that most of the time, the last five or 10 guys have the best conditions. So, it trades off all the time."

Todd Lodwick, America's only five-time Olympic skier, did his part to help his teammates after also being done in by weather woes.

"Once I saw those two guys pull away, I jumped in front (of the chase group) and tried to slow down the pace," Lodwick said.

It worked perfectly.

"I could see that Todd, in his own way, was doing a job for the team, and not attacking," Demong said. "He was just always at the front, covering those strong guys like Hannu (Finland's Manninen) and (Germany's Bjoern) Kircheisen.

"It shows again that we operate on a team basis."

With Lodwick doing his part, Spillane and Demong took turns trading the lead and using tactics they learned while doing bicycle intervals in France during training last year: accelerating and times, decelerating at others, a tactic that eventually did in Gruber.

"They were just too strong," Gruber said.

OLYMPICS

Canadian women win gold

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Canada's game. Canada's ice. Canada's gold. Again.

Marie-Philip Poulin scored two goals, Shannon Szabados made 28 saves, and Canada rolled through its American rivals, 2-0, to win the gold medal in women's hockey for the third straight Olympics Thursday night in front of a raucous Vancouver crowd ringing cowbells and frantically waving thousands of maple leaf flags.

After Poulin's two first-period scores, the Canadians dominated every aspect of the biggest game in this young sport, earning their 15th straight Olympic victory.

"I looked up in the stands and saw a sign that said, 'Proud to be Canadian,' and that's what I am today," Szabados said. "My teammates were unbelievable today. We played a great game, and this is an incredible moment."

Playing with a consistency and passion its men's team hopes to emulate this weekend, Canada remained unbeaten at the Olympics since 1998, when the Americans won the first women's gold.

The Canadians kept nearly the entire game in the Americans' end — outpassing, outshooting and simply outworking the only team in women's hockey with a chance of standing up to them.

While some debate the viability of an Olympic sport with two such dominant powers on top, the Canadians celebrated — and several even went back on the ice an hour after their win, carrying champagne bottles and posing for pictures in the near-empty arena.

"We commit. We work hard," said Canadian captain Hayley Wickenheiser, a four-time Olympian with three gold medals. "It's up to the rest of the world to catch up. This is not as easy as it looks, trust me."

Earlier, Finland won the bronze medal, beating Sweden 3-2 in overtime.

Canada got two first-period goals from Poulin, the super-speedy 18-year-old forward from Quebec who claims she felt no Olympic pressure. Their smooth, graceful goalie did the rest, with Szabados capping her first Olympics with flawless netminding in a win that sometimes seemed just as one-sided as Canada's 18-0 victory over Slovakia to open the Olympics 12 days ago.

Much of the Canadian men's team, which faces Slovakia in the semifinals Friday, watched the game from press box seats above the ice, while Michael J. Fox, Wayne Gretzky and several Canadian gold medalists from other sports were in the stands. Several members of the American men's team were there, too.

"We kept turning to each other after the game and saying how much we love having the Olympics in Canada," four-time Olympian Jennifer Botterill said. "This country has supported us any time we've played, and today was an amazing example of that."

Jessie Vetter made 27 saves for the Americans, whose offense evaporated in front of Szabados and the Canadian defense. The potent power play that produced 13 goals in the last four games went 0-for-6, and the Canadians consistently won most of the battles in a physical, grinding game.

When the puck went to center ice and time expired, the Canadians skated into a massive pile-up near their goal. Several cheering fans threw flags over the glass to the players, who wrapped them around their shoulders like capes.

Meghan Agosta, voted the tournament MVP for her Olympic-record nine-goal performance, draped a flag over herself and Sarah Vaillancourt. Coach Melody Davidson congratulated her assistants and then shared a long hug with a team manager who lifted her off the ground, her heels in the air.

Several Americans were in tears, including four-time Olympians Angela Ruggiero and Jenny Potter, who had her two children on the ice with her for the medal presentation. The Canadian crowd raised a chant of "U-S-A!" while the players got their bouquets.

"When you give your whole life to something and you come up short, as a team, it's just awful," Ruggiero said, choking back tears. "It's a little different than playing on the men's side. You really give your life to it. You make lots of sacrifices to win the gold medal."

The only matchup that matters in women's hockey was set up in Monday's semifinals, when the Americans routed Sweden and Canada clobbered Finland to finish two dominant runs through the field. Canada outscored its opponents 46-2, starting with an 18-0 rout of Slovakia. The Americans had a 40-2 advantage, with neither team winning by fewer than five goals.

"This rivalry will never end," Szabados said. "It will keep going and going."

Canada's Jayna Hefford predicted the gold-medal match would be the best game in women's hockey history, matching two nations with far larger talent pools and financial resources than the rest of the world combined.

It might have been the best game ever — but only for the Canadians, who didn't waste their once-in-a-lifetime chance to win gold medals on home ice.

After losing the Canada Cup to the U.S. team on this same ice in September, Canada clearly built on the lessons of six straight exhibition victories over the Americans in the months leading up to the Olympics, showing quicker skating and smarter puck movement throughout.

The Canada Hockey Place crowd was hopping from 45 minutes before Potter and Wickenheiser took the opening faceoff, with competing chants of "Go Canada Go!" and "U-S-A!" reverberating through the rink.

Davidson waited until game time to reveal she had chosen the up-and-coming Szabados over Kim St. Pierre, who won the gold-medal game over the Americans in Salt Lake City in 2002. Szabados, who plays on a men's college team in Alberta, beat the Americans in the final of the Four Nations Cup last fall.

Both teams took early penalties, and the Americans failed to score on a two-man advantage for 40 seconds. Moments later, Poulin flung a quick pass from Botterill through a corridor of four U.S. defenders for the Quebecois star's fourth Olympic goal.

Poulin did it again 2:55 later during 4-on-4 play, collecting a faceoff and ripping a shot that was simply too quick for Vetter to see. Poulin's face shield couldn't conceal the broad grin on her face when she watched the replay on the overhead scoreboard.

The Americans got nearly 100 seconds of 5-on-3 advantage early in the second, but couldn't connect. The drought extended into the third period, with the U.S. team putting far too many of its shots high, right where Szabados could see them.

"Szabados played out of her mind," U.S. forward Monique Lamoureux said. "It's never fun to lose, especially in a championship game."

CLASSIFIEDS

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http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu

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

NOTICES

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"Aaron broke the clock!"

"Hey, have you seen Slumdog Millionaire? It's loosely based on my life."

BUFFALOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!

"Yes madam, I am drunk, but you are ugly and in the morning, I'll be sober."

"I'm normally not a praying man, but if you're up there, please save me Superman."

NCAA Division I Men's Baseball USA Today Rankings

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

NCAA Division I Women's Softball USA Today Rankings

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

NCAA Women's Basketball Big East Standings

	team	conf. w-l
1	Connecticut	14-0
2	West Virginia	12-2
3	Georgetown	12-2
4	NOTRE DAME	11-3
5	St. John's	10-4
6	DePaul	7-7
7	Providence	7-7
8	Rutgers	7-7
9	Syracuse	6-8
10	Marquette	5-9

around the dial

Olympic Ice Hockey
United States vs. Finland
3 p.m., NBC

NBA
Mavericks at Hawks
7 p.m., ESPN

MLB

AP

Cardinals Manager Tony LaRussa, left, speaks with GM John Mozeliak during spring training in Jupiter, Fla. LaRussa has said he will not read a book about Mark McGwire's steroid use. McGwire was hired as the Cardinals hitting coach this offseason.

LaRussa scoffs at new McGwire book

Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa has no plans to read a new book that suggests Mark McGwire knew steroids would boost his power at the plate.

The book, to be released Monday, is by McGwire's estranged brother, Jay McGwire. He says Big Mac knew he became a better hitter because steroids enhanced his size and strength.

Last month, McGwire admitted taking steroids and human growth hormone during the 1990s, but said he only did so to recover from injuries — not to improve his performance. He hasn't commented on the book as he works with hitters at the Cardinals' spring training facility in his new job as batting coach.

La Russa told reporters Thursday that the allegations sound familiar. He said someone he knew read an advance copy and it doesn't sound as though the book includes "first-page-to-last-page damning stuff about Mark."

The manager said he doesn't plan to read it.

"What's the point?" La Russa said. "It's stuff that's already been gone over a bunch of times. I don't know what it's going to change."

Estranged from his brother for eight years because of a family dispute, Jay McGwire has gone public in "Mark and Me: Mark McGwire and the Truth Behind Baseball's Worst-Kept Secret," which is scheduled for publication Monday by TriumphBooks.

Jay McGwire says in the book that he persuaded his brother to start using steroids regularly in 1994 and set him up with a supplier. He says Mark regularly used an array of drugs through 1996 that included Deca-Durabolin, human growth hormone, Dianabol, Winstrol and Primobolan. McGwire later used androstenedione, a steroid precursor that wasn't banned by baseball until 2004, when it became a controlled substance.

Jay McGwire, a former bodybuilder who turns 40 on May 5, said he was introduced to steroids by friends in 1989, beginning with pills of Anavar. He says his brother only gave in to using steroids after an injury-filled 1993 season.

La Russa, who managed Mark in Oakland before the pair reunited in St. Louis, recalled seeing Jay McGwire in the Athletics clubhouse, but said he didn't think Jay was taking steroids.

Mark McGwire hit 70 homers for the Cardinals in 1998, shattering Roger Maris' record of 61 set in 1961.

In Brief

Concussions get more emphasis at combine

INDIANAPOLIS — NFL draft hopefuls are undergoing more thorough exams for head injuries at this week's annual scouting combine.

All 329 invited players will be given a baseline brain activity exam — called the ImPACT test — and will likely face more grilling than previous classes did about their concussion histories. Those implementing the changes call it smart football.

In past years, it was up to individual teams to conduct such tests.

By examining everyone at the combine, the league will have a more standardized way of evaluating players and potentially collecting data about repeated hits to the head. It's another step toward making the game safer as awareness increases about the long-term dangers of concussions.

Fight breaks out after S.C. high school game

GREENVILLE, S.C. — A boys' high school basketball playoff game in South Carolina finished with a brawl after the buzzer.

Multiple media outlets reported the fight broke out Wednesday night as players gathered to shake hands following Southside's 61-55 win over Abbeville in the Class 2A playoffs.

Fans from both schools rushed out of the stands to join the fight, overwhelming the three police officers on hand.

More Greenville County sheriff's deputies rushed to the gym as coaches got the teams off the court. Sheriff's Lt. Tim Ridgeway says no arrests were made because officers were most concerned with clearing the building.

Southside coach B.J. Jackson says he's worried some of his players will be suspended for the semifinal game Saturday against Keenan.

Wizards buy out Ilgauskas' contract

WASHINGTON — The Washington Wizards bought out the contract of center Zydrunas Ilgauskas and waived him, the team announced on Thursday.

The 7-foot-3 Ilgauskas, who was acquired from Cleveland on Feb. 17 as part of the three-team trade that sent Antawn Jamison to the Cavaliers, didn't play for Washington. He reported on Feb. 19, took a physical and immediately returned to Cleveland.

The 34-year-old is averaging 7.5 points and 5.3 rebounds this season.

"We agreed to terms with Zydrunas on a contract buyout, giving us further financial flexibility and allowing our young big men to continue to develop over the remainder of the season," Wizards president Ernie Grunfeld said.

NBA

Cavs defeat Celtics behind LeBron's 36

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Celtics were better early, then LeBron James and the Cavaliers blew right by them.

Story of this game.

Story of the season.

James had 36 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, Mo Williams scored 14 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter, and Cleveland dominated the second half in a 108-88 victory Thursday night.

Unable to stop Rajon Rondo or the Celtics in the first quarter, the Cavaliers turned up the defense in the fourth, limiting the Celtics to 3-of-21 shooting and snapping a nine-game losing streak in Boston, counting playoffs.

"We haven't had much success here," James said. "We've lost nine times coming into this building. So it gets the monkey off our backs. But don't read too much into it."

James kept the Cavaliers in it for three quarters on a night they lost Shaquille O'Neal to a first-half thumb injury, then Williams made four 3-pointers when Cleveland outscored Boston 35-14.

"I think in the second half our level of aggressiveness really stepped up on both ends of the floor," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said. "There was no panic among our guys. We knew 24 minutes was a lot of time. We just started chipping away from it."

Ray Allen scored 21 points, and Rondo had 19 points and 11 assists for the Celtics, who badly missed injured All-Star Paul Pierce (right thumb) when their offense went stagnant in the final 1 1/2 quarters.

"They were a lot more aggressive in the second half. They made adjustments to stop Rondo's penetration," Celtics forward Kevin Garnett said. "We knew it was a real big test. We can't play one half and relax."

Cleveland improved to 20-10 on the road, tying Boston for the best in the NBA, and avenged a 95-89 home loss on opening night.

That came back when Boston looked like the class of the Eastern Conference while the Cavaliers struggled early. But the Celtics have been unable to stay healthy and Cleveland has left the Celtics and everyone else in the East behind, opening a 5 1/2 -game lead over Orlando while dropping Boston 7 1/2 games back in a tie with Atlanta.

This game followed a similar path. Boston was much better early inside a rocking TD Garden, but most of the green-clad fans were gone before the final minutes after the deeper Cavaliers wore them down.

Cleveland outscored Boston 60-32 in the second half, allowing just five baskets in the final 17 1/2 minutes.

"When they were scoring that much, it was deflating. Took our wind away," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "We went from being a team with stops and attacking to the team being attacked."

"We've lost nine times coming into this building. So it gets the monkey off our back."

LeBron James
Cavaliers forward

The Cavaliers trailed for nearly all the first three quarters, then quickly took control in the fourth. Williams' basket gave them the lead for good at 79-78 with 9:13 to play, and he drilled consecutive 3-pointers to extend it to 93-83 with 5 1/2 minutes remaining.

James had the next four points to make it a 14-point game in another big night against the NBA's most storied franchise. He came in averaging 30.2 points against Boston, just shy of Michael Jordan's 30.7 mark for best in NBA history.

He had to do a little extra after O'Neal appeared to be hurt when Celtics forward Glen Davis whacked his hand while trying to block a shot with about 7 1/2 minutes left in the second quarter. O'Neal left for good about 30 seconds later, and the report said he had a "significant" right thumb sprain.

And they are without a backup center for now after trading Zydrunas Ilgauskas to Washington before the trade deadline. The Wizards waived Ilgauskas on Thursday after reaching agreement on a buyout, and he could decide to rejoin his former teammates after waiting the mandatory 30 days.

"When they were scoring that much, it was deflating. Took our wind away."

Doc Rivers
Celtics coach

Cleveland had struggled defensively since the trade, a pattern that continued Thursday. The Celtics made 10 of their first 13 shots, with Rondo making five of the baskets and assisting on the other five. His layup with 33 seconds left gave Boston a 31-21 lead after one quarter.

Newcomer Nate Robinson's 3-pointer extended the lead to 40-27 with 9:46 remaining in the half. The lead was still double digits after Allen nailed two 3s late in the half, and Boston carried a 56-48 lead into the break.

The Cavaliers limited the Celtics to 6-of-20 shooting in the third quarter, trimming the lead to 74-73 after James made a free throw with 0.4 seconds left.

NCAA Men's Basketball

Blue Devils tested by Tulsa

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Mike Krzyzewski wanted a pre-tournament test for his Duke players. For perhaps longer than expected, they got one.

But ultimately, the fifth-ranked Blue Devils—and their "Big Three," plus one—was too much for Tulsa, pulling away for a 70-52 victory Thursday night.

Nolan Smith scored 18 points, Kyle Singler added 17 and Jon Scheyer finished with 15 points for the Blue Devils (24-4).

They used a big run early in the second half to break open a surprisingly tight game and extend their decade-long non-conference winning streak at Cameron Indoor Stadium to 77 by winning an out-of-the-ACC matchup designed to prepare the Blue Devils for the unfamiliar but high-quality foes that figure to lurk in the NCAA tournament bracket.

"We've got to keep getting better, and you don't get better by taking time off," Krzyzewski said. "Right now, you've got to keep working, and we knew that this game would put us in that position."

Jerome Jordan had 12 points to lead the Golden Hurricane (19-9). In losing their fourth straight, they finished with a season-low point total and were denied their first victory against a top-five team since 1996. Leading scorer Ben Uzoh, who entered on a streak of three straight 20-point games, finished with eight on 3-of-15 shooting while being hounded primarily by Smith.

"You knew they would be prepared for Ben, for the most part," Tulsa coach Doug Wojcik said. "He competed, missed a couple shots on the break. In our league, he probably gets a few more trips to the free-throw line, but it's good for him."

Brian Zoubek, a 7-foot-1 senior, has stepped out of the shadow of the Scheyer-Smith-Singler trio lately to become one of the most valuable players for the Atlantic Coast Conference leaders. He finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds, and started the game-breaking 18-3 run with a layup through the 7-foot Jordan's foul with 19:05 remaining.

AP

Duke's John Scheyer, left, shoots over two Tulsa defenders in Duke's 70-52 victory last night.

"He isn't the athlete Jordan is, but (Zoubek) is strong," Krzyzewski said of the dueling 7-footers. "I was just happy that he held his own against Jordan. … No one won that matchup, but we didn't lose it, so that was kind of a win for us."

Smith then reeled off six straight points and Scheyer scored eight in a row before Miles Plumlee hit a hook shot to make it 52-37 with 13 1/2 minutes left.

That had the Blue Devils well on their way to their 18th straight win at Cameron. They have won 41 straight at home against unranked opponents, they are 16-0 there this season with all but one of those victories by double figures, and Friday makes it 10 years since St. John's became the last non-ACC team to beat them on their home court.

Justin Hurtt added 11 points for the Golden Hurricane and tied it at 34 with a free throw with 19:20 to play, but they missed 6 of 7 shots after that while turning it over three times during Duke's decisive spurt.

Steven Idlet had 10 points for Tulsa, which finished 1 of 10 from 3-point range and shot 26 percent from the field during the second half.

"I thought we had some shots inside that we just didn't convert," Wojcik said. "But I'm just really proud of my team. I'm glad to have played the game and have the experience. We're going to get better from this."

Lance Thomas had 10 rebounds while his post partner Zoubek reached double figures for the third time in four games.

"I think that everybody has a lot more confidence in me right now— offensively, defensively and all over the court," Zoubek said.

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OLYMPICS

Vonn to ski despite injury

Associated Press

WHISTLER, British Columbia — It will take more than a broken pinkie to stop Lindsey Vonn's pursuit of Olympic glory.

The two-time World Cup overall champion from Vail, Colo., will put a plastic brace on her injured finger, wear a mitten over it instead of a ski glove — even tape the ski pole to her hand if she has to — and climb into the starting gate as scheduled for Friday's slalom.

Did you expect anything less?

It's the last women's Alpine event of the Vancouver Games, and Vonn is trying to become the first American woman to medal in three of them in the same Olympics.

Vonn cracked the base of her right little finger and tweaked her shin and back when she crashed during the first run of Wednesday's giant slalom. She tested the finger in a series of practice runs Thursday and was satisfied that she can race.

"Training was OK," Vonn wrote on her Facebook page. "I still feel pretty beat up after my crash in GS yesterday. I was able to modify one of my gloves and make a brace for my right hand. It seemed to work without too much pain, so I will try and race tomorrow."

Her husband, Thomas Vonn, said in an interview with The Associated Press that she's "a ball of hurt right now," but the pain is "manageable."

"After taking a fall like that, you're always going to wake up sore," he said. "You never know how your body is going to adapt the next day. You could wake up fine or 'Whoa, I can't move.' She was just sore."

AP

Lindsey Vonn, shown speaking before the Olympics, will attempt to win a second medal with a newly injured finger.

Lindsey Vonn took three low-intensity runs through a slalom course Thursday, each one for a different purpose. The first pass was simply to see if she could ski at all, given her sore back, finger and shin.

She could.

The second and third runs were to see how well the finger held up banging into the gates — a common occurrence in the slalom — and if the protective padding around her hand would be sufficient.

No problems there, either.

"The goal was to find a solution so the pain was moderated enough to do it," Thomas Vonn said. "Fortunately, we have a history with hand injuries."

Last February, Lindsey Vonn sliced her thumb open on a champagne bottle during a photo op gone bad, forcing her to race the rest of the season with her pole taped to her glove.

"It's more similar than we could've imagined," Thomas Vonn said of the injured pinkie.

The 25-year-old Vonn is no stranger to injury, especially at these Olympics. She entered the games with a badly bruised right shin, the result of a crash during slalom training in Austria on Feb. 2. She even tried wrapping her leg in topfen, an Austrian curd cheese said to reduce swelling.

Still, the injury remained so painful that she struggled to slip on a ski boot in her hotel, let alone ski down a slope, and worried at one point if she would be able to compete in one event, let alone all five.

PGA

Nike stands by Woods despite sullied image

Associated Press

LONDON — Nike will continue to support Tiger Woods even though the world's best player has taken an indefinite leave from golf to deal with personal issues.

Nike brand president Charlie Denson said Thursday he does not want Woods back on the course until he sorts out his private life, which has been in the public spotlight since a bizarre car crash outside his Florida home last November revealed allegations of marital infidelity.

"We've been supportive of Tiger since the story broke and we continue to be supportive."

Charlie Denson
Nike brand president

Woods issued a public apology last week and has sought inpatient treatment.

"Under the circumstances, the more he deals with the issues and the better he deals with them, the better off he'll be when he does return," Denson told The Associated Press.

The sports giant's $650 million golf sector has been one of the hardest-hit segments of its business during the global recession, but Nike is standing by Woods despite any damage done to its imagine by his high-profile transgressions.

AT&T and Accenture dropped Woods from their roster of sponsorships, and others like Procter & Gamble Co.'s Gillette and Swiss watch maker Tag Heuer de-emphasized him in their marketing.

"We've been supportive of Tiger since the story broke and we continue to be supportive," Denson said. "He's got issues he needs to deal with and he's dealing with them. We are looking forward to him getting back on the golf course."

Woods said last week that he spent 45 days in treatment and he planned to seek additional therapy. He did not say when he'll return to the course.

"We've been in touch with his camp," Denson said. "We're very comfortable with where he's at, how he's dealing with it and we're looking forward to his return."

OLYMPICS

Canadian celebration out of line, says IOC

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA — The IOC will investigate the behavior of Canadian women's hockey players who celebrated their gold medal by swigging beer and champagne on the ice.

Players came back onto the ice more than half an hour after the 2-0 victory over the United States. Still in their uniforms and with gold medals draped around their necks, they swigged from bottles of champagne and cans of beer and smoked cigars.

"In terms of the actual celebration, it's not exactly something uncommon in Canada."

Steve Keough
Canadian spokesman

Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director of the Olympic Games, said he was unaware of the incidents until informed by an Associated Press reporter.

"If that's the case, that is not good," Felli said. "It is not what we want to see. I don't think it's a good promotion of sport values. If they celebrate in the changing room, that's one thing, but not in public. We will investigate what happened."

Felli said the IOC would talk to the international ice hockey federation and the Canadian Olympic Committee to get more information.

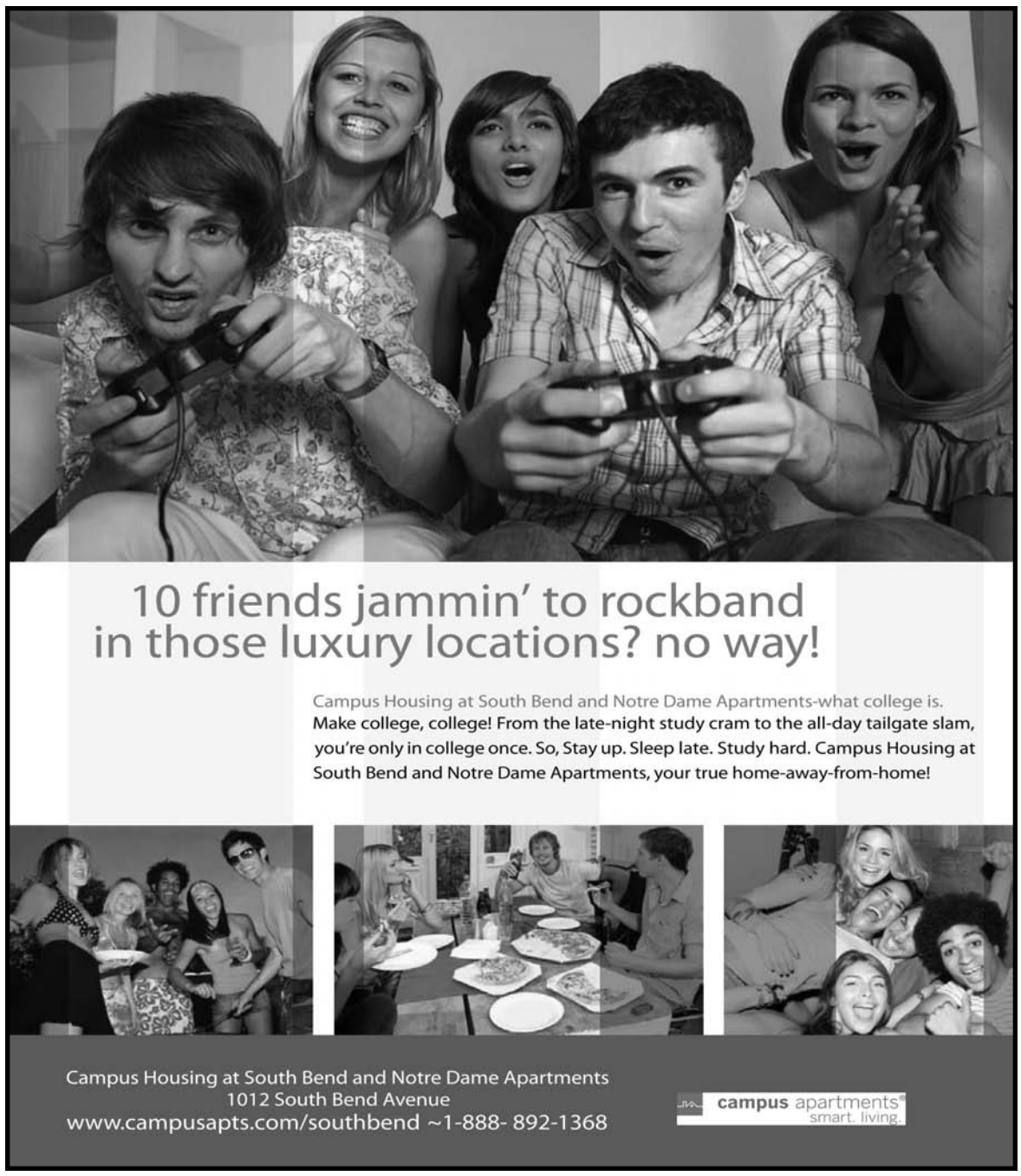
"We will first find the facts and then act accordingly," he said.

Steve Keough, a spokesman for the Canadian Olympic Committee, said the COC had not provided the alcohol nor initiated the party.

"In terms of the actual celebration, it's not exactly something uncommon in Canada," he said, referring to raucous locker-room celebrations that are a tradition in some professional team sports.

"If these athletes were of legal age, then it's not something that's against the law," he said. "We can understand there's a lot of sensitivity around celebrations."

"We condone celebrations. ... We don't condone actions of irresponsibility," he said. "I think Canadians understand it's quite an emotional moment for our team. It was not our intention to go against any IOC protocols."



Recycle the Observer.

Women's Lacrosse

Irish open home schedule

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

The Irish returned home from their season-opening win at Hofstra and are preparing to face Duquesne in the squad's home opener Saturday.

The Dukes are looking for their first win of the season, while Notre Dame focuses on fixing flaws from the film it broke down following its victory over the Pride.

"Obviously, it's a long season and right now, we're not doing enough things well," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "We need to figure out what aspects of our game we're going to focus on."

The Irish (1-0) and Dukes (0-2) have met five times before, with Notre Dame winning each time. Most recently, Notre Dame opened its 2009 season at Duquesne with a 22-7 win en route to a 16-5 season, while the Dukes finished 9-8 on the year.

Duquesne, however, returns the core of their team, including senior attack Meghan Frederick, the reigning Atlantic-10 Offensive Player of the year, and all-conference redshirt senior attack Kat McNish, who has the second-most assists of any active college player.

In addition to Frederick and McNish, the Irish will have to contend with freshman midfielder Lauren Johnson, who has tallied five goals in the Dukes' two games.

Though Notre Dame will tailor its game plan to Duquesne's strongest players, Coyne is more concerned with her own team's play at this early part of the season before Big East play starts.

The Irish's first game revealed some of those aspects Coyne said her team could improve.

"We didn't feel we capitalized enough on our opportunities on both sides of the ball," she said, among other flaws.

Notre Dame will focus on pushing the pace of the game to dictate the flow to their advantage. On both ends of the field, the Irish will try to keep the tempo up while harassing the Dukes.

"We want to take advantage of fast break opportunities, not so much force the issue, but not settle right away into the slow-down game," Coyne said. "From the defensive standpoint, we want to shut down some of our opponent's options in the transition and put more pressure on our opponents to make it more difficult to get into their settled offense."

Notre Dame looks to win its home opener against Duquesne Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

NCAA Men's Basketball

Hummel goes down, will miss tournament

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — One unfortunate step by Robbie Hummel has put Purdue's Final Four hopes in jeopardy.

The do-it-all junior forward will miss the remainder of the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.

The injury occurred during the first half of No. 3 Purdue's 59-58 win over Minnesota on Wednesday. Purdue made the announcement after Hummel underwent an MRI examination on Thursday afternoon.

"Injuries are a part of the game, but this is obviously disappointing on multiple levels because of everything Robbie Hummel has done for this program both on and off the court," Purdue head coach Matt Painter said in a statement. "As he begins his recovery and rehab, Robbie will continue to provide integral leadership as we pursue our team goals down the stretch."

Reaching those goals — winning the Big Ten title, gaining a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament and reaching the Final Four in Indianapolis — now will be more difficult. Hummel ranks second on the team with 15.7 points and 6.9 rebounds per game.

Hummel's value always has gone beyond statistics.

"Rob does something for us offensively and defensively that balances our team," Painter said last season while Hummel was out with a back injury. "He's a facilitator. He moves the basketball, he makes the extra pass, he gets the ball inside. ... Some of the basic things that don't show up in a box score is what we miss."

The Boilermakers (24-3, 12-3 Big Ten) are on a 10-game win streak, lead the Big Ten and are enjoying their highest national ranking since 1994. Now, Purdue heads into Sunday's showdown with Michigan State without one of their stars.

Purdue struggled last season while Hummel recovered from the back injury. In Purdue's first 11 Big Ten games last season, the Boilermakers were 6-1 with him and scored 68 points per game while allowing 60. Without him, Purdue was 1-3 and averaged 60 points while surrendering 63.

When he returned to near full strength at the Big Ten tournament, he lifted the team by averaging 16 points and 9.3 rebounds per game and received the most outstanding player award.

He had been healthy all season until Wednesday night. Purdue led 26-14 when Hummel drove to the lane and felt his right leg give slightly as he tried to plant with 7:11 left in the half.

"Obviously, we missed him, because we had a good start to the game," Painter said after the game. "He gives us a balance to the game. He can go inside or outside, and he's a good passer. When we lost him, it hurt us a little bit."

SMC Tennis

Belles prepare for first road match

By LUKE MANSOUR
Sports Writer

The Belles take on North Central College Sunday in their first away match and final tune-up before their annual spring break trip.

"We don't have a lot of history against this team, so we have to plan on them getting up for us," Belles coach Dale Campbell said. "Also, playing at their place, we could be playing on a fast indoor surface, which we have not played on yet this year. We will potentially have to make adjustments to handle the different pace."

Only a week after suffering a tough loss to non-conference opponent Case Western to begin its season, Saint Mary's faced a daunting task as No. 24 Olivet-Nazarene came to town last weekend.

But the Belles (1-1, 0-0) were up to the task, scoring a signature victory in just their second match of the season, toppling the Tigers by a score of 5-4.

The Belles came back from an early 3-1 deficit to claim their first victory of the season, getting key victories at the No. 4 and No. 5 singles spots to record the victory.

"In one aspect, it helps in that we know we can fight back in matches and pull out a close team victory," Campbell said. "It shows how important it is to hang in every match and to try and pull out a win."

Juniors Franca Peluso and Mary Therese Lee both had to come back from deficits in the first set of their matches. Peluso fell behind 5-2 in her match at No. 4 singles before storming back to win the first set in a tiebreaker.

Lee also had to battle back from a 5-4 deficit to claim her first set 7-5. Both juniors' experience was on full display as they were able to hang mentally tough with the outcome on the line.

"We are trying to improve our mental toughness and we certainly talk about that," Campbell said. "With our lineup consisting of primarily juniors and one senior, we are looking for that maturity to carry over into their decision-making and poise in their matches."

Lee also teamed up with junior Jillian Hurley to record a win for the Belles at No. 2 doubles.

The pair survived a rally by their Tiger opponents and held on to win 9-7.

"We know we can fight back in matches and pull out a close team victory."

Dale Campell
Belles coach

"Some of my teammates pulled out tough matches and really stepped up to the plate and made up for those of us who struggled," senior Camille Gebert said. "It was a great mental and physical effort to come up strong when we needed it the most."

Hurley and junior Jessica Kosinski recorded wins at the No. 1 and No. 3 singles positions, respectively, to round out the scoring for the Belles.

Hurley won in straight sets 6-2, 6-4, while Kosinski battled back from a one-set deficit to record a 1-6, 7-5, 6-3 victory.

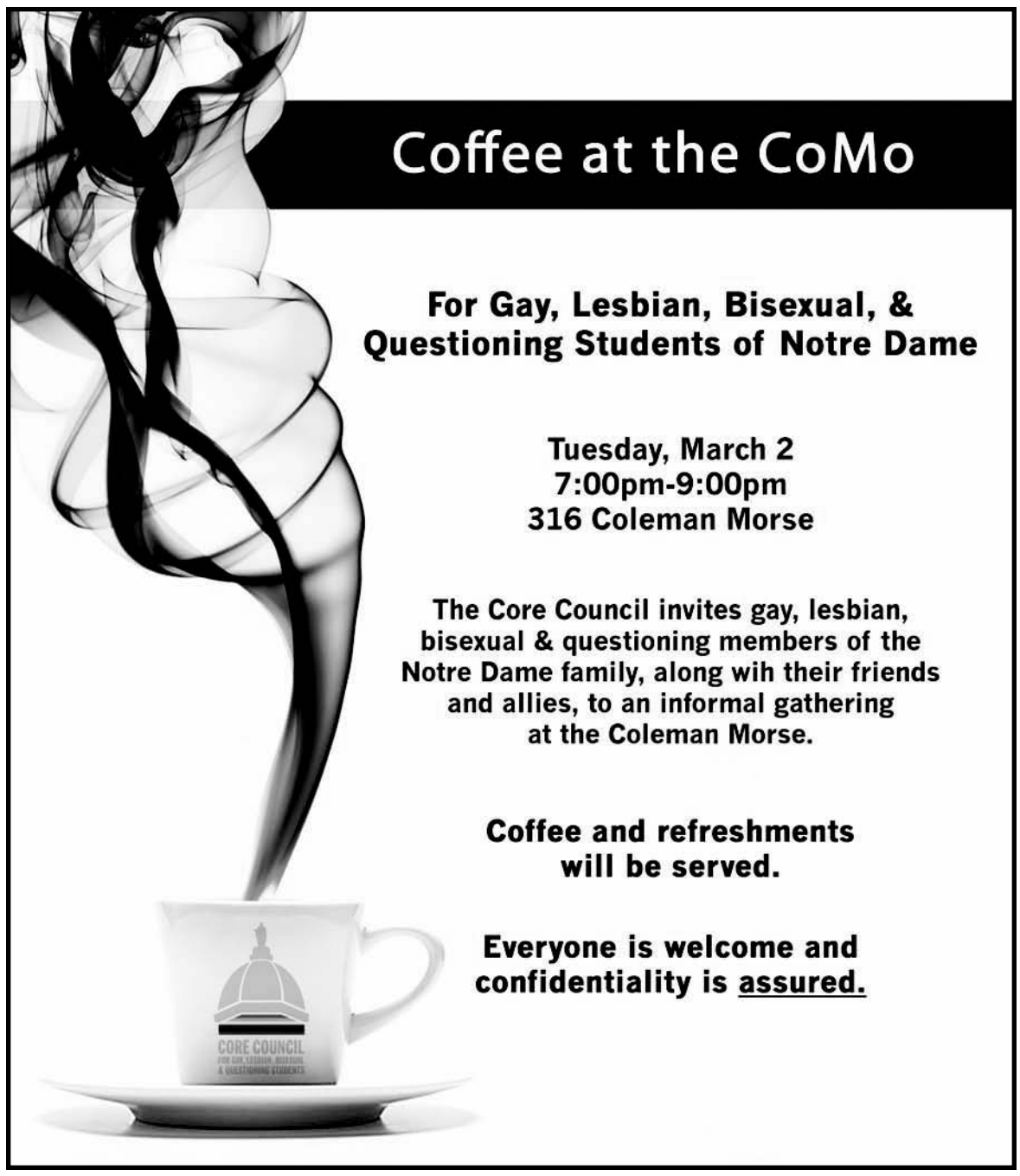
"Jessica Kosinski did a great job of coming back and winning in three sets in her match," Campbell said.

Still, one trouble area for the squad remains at doubles, where the Belles have lost five of six matches in their first two dual meets.

"We need to work on our doubles play," Gebert said. "We have always been stronger in our singles lineup than our doubles lineup, and I think this is what has kept us from getting over the hump and beating the top teams in the past."

The Belles will take on North Central on Sunday at 1 p.m. in Naperville, Ill.

Contact Luke Mansour at lmansour@nd.edu



ND Women's Tennis

Ranked teams visit Irish

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

The Irish hope to extend their three-game win streak by challenging No. 14 Georgia Tech and No. 13 Tennessee this weekend in home matches.

"[Georgia Tech and Tennessee] are in the top 15, had wins at the national indoor [championships] and both teams are known for their competitors," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We have had good matches with both in the past."

The Irish (8-1) beat then-No. 1 Northwestern Sunday in a win that caused them to move up 10 spots in the rankings to No. 7.

Coming off last weekend's upset over the Wildcats and a mid-week sweep of No. 17 Ohio State, motivation and high spirits are widespread throughout the Irish lineup, but Louderback said a dose of humility is needed for playing difficult top-15 programs like Tennessee and Georgia Tech.

"We are going through a tough stretch of teams right now and have to be prepared for each match," Louderback said.

The lineups and doubles teams should remain the same for the Irish going into this weekend's matches.

"Our lineup has been working out pretty well, so we're going to keep it the same for this weekend," said sophomore Kristy Frilling, Notre Dame's No. 1 singles player.

Last weekend, the Irish switched their doubles teams around, which helped them win the point in both matches against Northwestern and Illinois.

"We have gone 9-0 since we changed our No. 2 and No. 3 doubles pairings," Louderback said. "I have been very happy with how they have played as teams."

"We are going through a tough stretch of teams right now and have to be prepared for each match."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

Frilling is still undefeated nine matches into the season and is ranked No. 23 in the NCAA. She will be facing the toughest competition she has seen so far this season Saturday in Georgia Tech's Irina Falconi, the top-ranked women's player in the country.

"I went to France with her in December and we were on the same team so I got to watch her play a bit," Frilling said. "She's a crafty player so I'll have to be really smart on Saturday."

After facing Falconi, Frilling will play No. 7 Caitlin Whoriskey from Tennessee.

"[Whoriskey] has a big game and is very aggressive," Frilling said. "I think for both of these matches I have to be smart and consistent, but still aggressive."

Last season, the Irish lost to the Yellow Jackets 4-3.

"I think we're definitely looking to get some revenge on Saturday," Frilling said.

In practice the Irish have been working on maintaining the success they have had recently.

"Since we've been playing so many matches in a short amount of time we're really just working on staying in shape and making sure our bodies are fit and healthy for every match," Frilling said.

The Irish will play Georgia Tech Saturday at 11 a.m. and Tennessee Sunday at 10 a.m. at Notre Dame's Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

Men's Lacrosse

No. 3 ND looks to stay hot against Penn State

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

The No. 3 Irish will look to avoid a letdown after beating then-No. 2 Duke 11-7 to start the season as they take on Penn State Sunday in the team's home opener.

Irish coach Kevin Corrigan says the team is buzzing with anticipation and excitement for the start of the home slate.

"It's always exciting to start at home," Corrigan said. "Not only do you get to play in front of friends and classmates, but I think the players appreciate not having to worry about the chaos and uncertainty of travel."

The team has done its part to drum up a lot of excitement on campus for the start of its home slate. After besting Duke on the road to begin the season, the Irish (1-0) jumped from No. 9 to No. 3 in the U.S. Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association poll and generated their fair share of buzz in the lacrosse world.

Corrigan said his players won't let the success go to their heads, though, as they take on a Penn State team that stumbled to a 24-17 loss to open the season against Robert Morris.

"It's as simple as this," Corrigan said. "If they beat us, we're both 1-1. So there's no extra credit for the win last week. Obviously we're excited to have it, but it's a long season and we have to go out there and execute this weekend."

Despite their loss to Robert Morris, Penn State offers a significant challenge, boasting a young, athletic squad. In the opener, sophomore Matthew Mackrides scored five goals and freshman Billy Gribbin added four of his own.

Corrigan focused his team in practice this week on ironing out some flaws shown in the Duke game as well as preparing for Penn State's attack.

"It's so early in the year, at this point you usually worry more about yourselves than you do about the opponent," Corrigan said. "We're looking at improving our decision making in the half-field as well as our transition game. But we're also trying to prepare for the style of the game [Penn State] is going to bring. They're very athletic, and play very hard. Their style of full-field play is not unlike what we play but they present some challenges because they're so athletic."

The Irish and the Nittany Lions will square off at 1 p.m. Sunday in the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions welcomes the following prospective students to Spring Visitation I 2010

Brenda Acevedo	CA	Jennifer Gile	ID	Ariana Rangel	FL
John Angarita	TX	Shivani Goel	GA	Erika Rivera	TX
James Arana	TX	Ameesh Goyal	TX	Miguel Salinas	TX
John Cheng	NY	Karla Jimenez	TX	Dylan Sonnier	TX
Caleb Cobbin	IN	Hien Luu	CT	Jeannie Tran	UT
Kristine Corachea	CA	Veronica Martinez	CA	Mauricio Valdovinos	TX
Kiara Davis	IL	Alyssa Navarro	IL	Grace Welte	KY
Shaaya Ellis	NY	Michael Nichols	NC	Charles Yu	TX
Viviana Garcia	TX				

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions also thanks the following Notre Dame students for their service as student hosts and their commitment to diversity.

Stephanie Escobar	Welsh Family	Cindy Espinoza	Walsh	Carolina Goncalves	PW
Bryan Dimas	Stanford	Cedric Strickland	O'Neill	Priscilla Cavazos	Breen-Phillips
Joe Chavarria	St. Edward's	Nicholas Huryk	Duncan	Michael Castillo	Zahm
Brian Kwak	Knott	Stephanie Perez	Breen-Phillips	Armani Sutton	St. Edward's
Aaron Quarles	Siegfried	Tanya Alconcel	Farley	Christie Ahn	Lewis
Ava Lee	Badin	Chelsea Nobriga	Pangborn	Alejandro Sigala	Keenan
Ellen Ellick	Pangborn	Anne DeMott	Cavanaugh	Columbine Che	PE
Nia Daye	PE	Laraque Stewart	Duncan	James Doan	Fisher
Alicia Martinez	Lewis				

Men's Tennis

Team to face three opponents

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

No. 31 Notre Dame will have a busy weekend, as the Irish host Michigan State Saturday before a home doubleheader with Wisconsin and Toledo Sunday.

"Each of these opponents bring something special to the table," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said.

The Irish (3-5) return to their home courts this weekend after playing their last five matches on the road. Notre Dame was most recently defeated 4-3 by No. 26 Washington in Seattle on Feb. 20. The Huskies were Notre Dame's seventh ranked opponent in eight matches — four of which were decided by one point.

"We are really excited to have the opportunity to compete at home this weekend," Bayliss said. "It will be a challenge to play three matches in two days, but we feel that we are ready and want to show how much we have improved in several areas."

Washington gained an early lead by winning all three of the doubles matches and the points at singles Nos. 1, 4 and 5. The Irish got on the board at Nos. 2, 3 and 6 singles.

This weekend, the Irish will look to continue their series leads over the Spartans, Badgers and Rockets.

The Irish lead the all-time series against Michigan State 46-32 and have won the last 20 meetings between the teams dating back to 1989. Under Bayliss, Notre Dame holds a 19-1 record, last dropping a home match to Michigan State 5-4 in 1985. The Spartans are 7-3 this season, going 5-1 in their last six matches.

"Michigan State graduated their top two players from last year's team, but have landed a terrific freshman in Dennis Bogatov from Chicago, someone we recruited last year," Bayliss said. "He gives them punch in the mid-lineup and is a talented shot-maker and the Illinois state high school champion from last year. Ronnie Huliwitz plays at No. 1 and is a tough out. He makes very few mistakes. Austin Brooks is at No. 2 and features a strong forehand and great quickness."

Similarly, the Irish lead the series with Wisconsin, 47-16, and have won 17 of the last 19 meetings. But the Badgers took both meetings between the teams last season.

"Wisconsin has spent time in the top 25 this year and has great strength in the top of their lineup," Bayliss said. "Moritz Bauman is from Germany and beat us twice last year, downing Brett Helgeson in straight sets at the Blue Gray National Classic. He is a lefty with a great backhand and serve and has extraordinary court presence. He is ranked No. 7 in the country. Marek Michalika plays No. 2 and is almost as tough. They will be our biggest challenge of the weekend."

Notre Dame and Toledo have also met numerous times, with the Irish holding a 24-2 edge on the Rockets. Bayliss has led his team to a 6-0 record over Toledo, and will look to continue that in their third match of the weekend Sunday. The Rockets enter the match with a 6-6 record.

"Toledo finished third in the MAC in 2009 and has a veteran presence at the top of their lineup featuring several international players," Bayliss said. "It will be a challenge to take them on almost immediately after playing what is likely to be an emotional match with Wisconsin. This will be a physical challenge, but we have trained hard this year and believe we can handle it."

The Irish will face Michigan State Saturday at 3 p.m., Wisconsin at Sunday at 2 p.m. and Toledo Sunday at 6 p.m. All matches will be played in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"Certainly we will try to take advantage of our depth and keep fresh players coming in the three match, 30-hour period," Bayliss said. "We have experimented with some changes in our doubles lineup and will see how any of the new combinations perform. We feel we have 10 guys who can play pretty good singles and another couple who add punch to our doubles.

"We have lost three matches 4-3 so far and all were against teams with top 20 resumes or expectations. Coming close is not the goal, so we hope to get the chance to finish off another with the score at 3-3."

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SMC Basketball

Belles end tourney with loss to No. 11 Calvin

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's hung with No. 11 Calvin early but could not keep pace with the Knights' record-setting shooting and fell 86-70 in the semifinals of the MIAA tournament Thursday. The loss effectively ended the Belles' season, barring a surprise at-large selection for the NCAA Tournament.

The Belles (15-12, 9-7) kept the contest close during the first half, coming within one point of Calvin (23-4, 14-2) with six minutes left in the period. To do so, Saint Mary's forced turnovers on the defensive end and turned them into points with athletic plays.

From that point, however, the Knights turned on the afterburners and took a 16-point lead into the intermission. Halftime did not slow Calvin down at all, as the Belles fell behind by as many as 33 points before the Knight reserves entered the game and the Belles were able to cut the lead back down to 16.

Calvin's post players provided much of the offense in the game. Freshman forward Carissa VerKaik had 19 points and nine rebounds, setting a single-season school record for points.

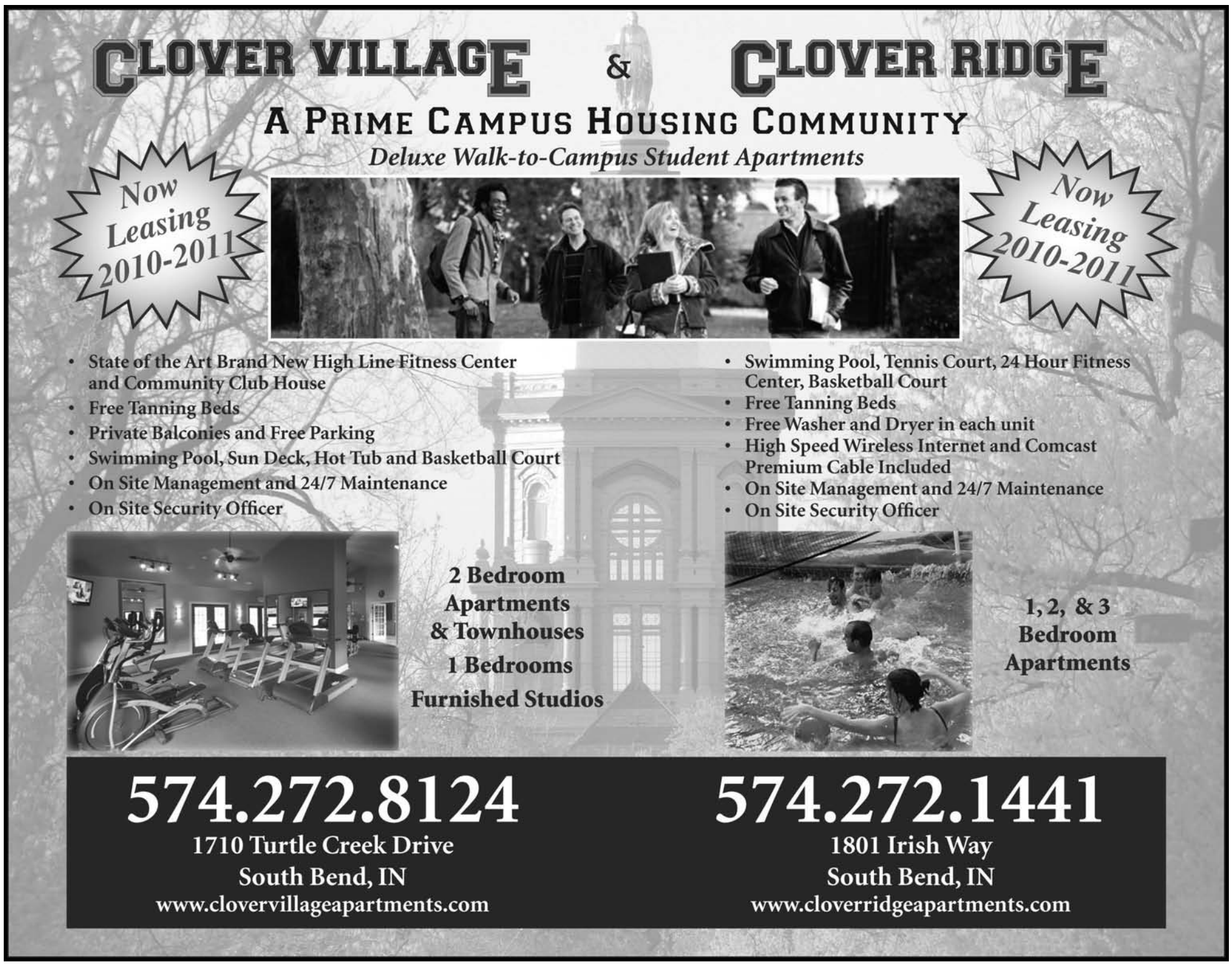
Senior forward Brook VanEck added 14 points and freshman forward Allison Wolffis scored 12 points off the bench.

The Knights' offensive performance set an MIAA tournament record. Their 38 field goals surpassed the previous best of 37 set by Albion in 1996. In addition, Calvin's .585 shooting performance fell just shy of setting another tournament record, a .588 rate set by Calvin in 1994.

Saint Mary's senior forward Anna Kammrath posted 18 points and seven rebounds in what was likely her last appearance for the Belles, while sophomore forward Kelley Murphy chipped in 14 points and four rebounds of her own despite the Knights' inside presence. Both forwards fouled out, however, leaving Saint Mary's vulnerable in the post, and Calvin took full advantage en route to a victory.

With the loss, it is all but certain that the Belles' season is over. Calvin will move on to the conference finals to face top-10 rival Hope for the MIAA championship.

Contact Allen Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu



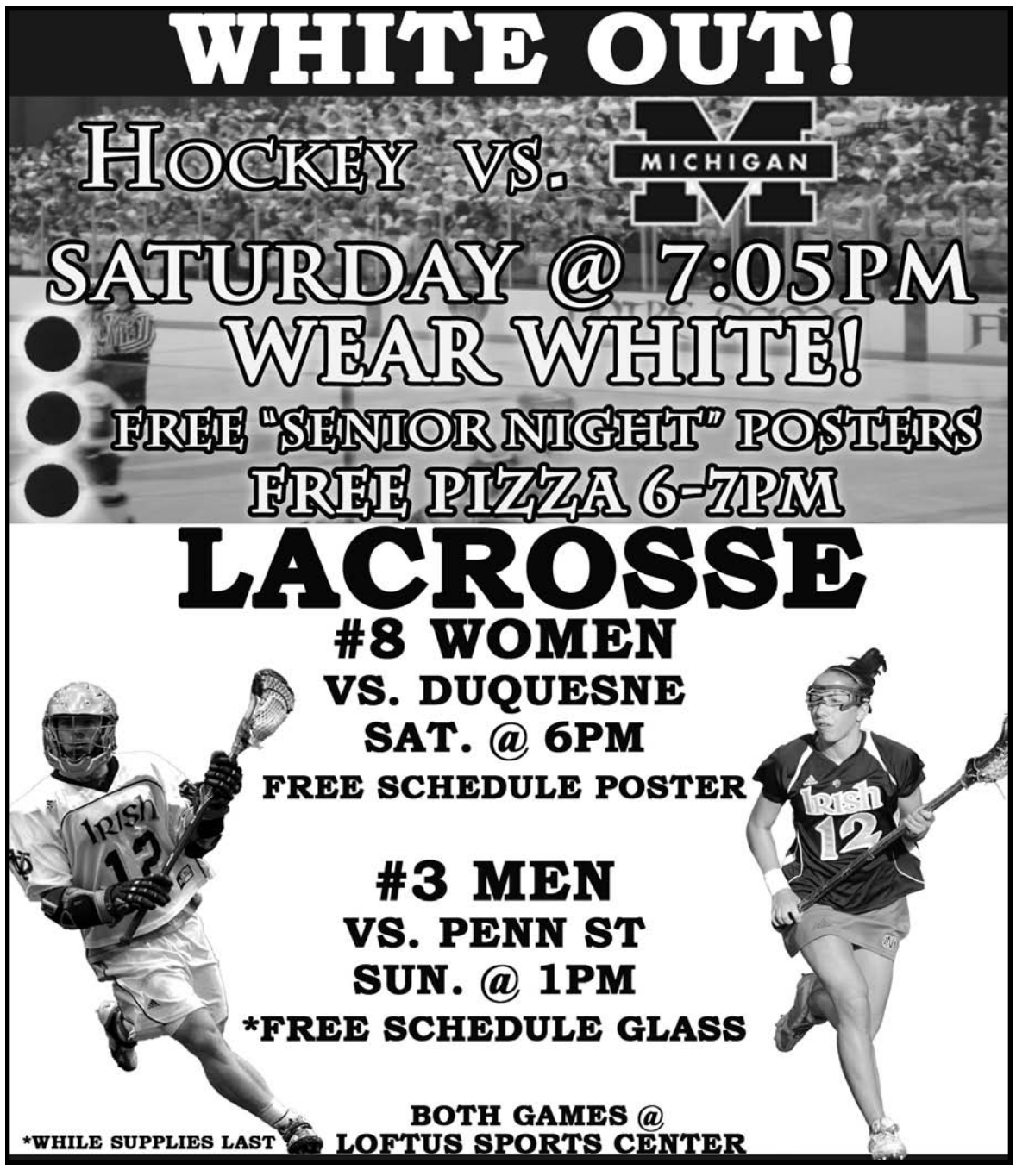
Student Affairs
is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:
http://osa.nd.edu
Nominations are due by Friday, March 5, 2010.



Gody

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games with a bone bruise in his knee.

The Hoyas have been inconsistent lately, dropping contests at Rutgers and at home to Syracuse, but rebounding Tuesday with a comeback win on the road against Louisville. Georgetown has been impressive but unpredictable this season, with huge wins at home against top teams like Duke and Villanova and bad losses to Rutgers and Old Dominion.

The Irish, who have struggled with depth and size under the basket without Harangody, will face a huge challenge in Hoyas sophomore center Greg Monroe. At 6-foot-11, Monroe is averaging 15.7 points and 9.7 rebounds per game and has also displayed passing skills out of double-teams.

Junior guard Austin Freeman leads the Georgetown offense with 17.5 points per game and gives the Hoyas a strong inside-outside game. Junior guard Chris Wright is third on the team averaging 14 points per contest.

Junior forward Tyrone Nash said the team will need to continue to respond positively to pressure to win games down the stretch.

"We need that sense of urgency we played with [against Pittsburgh]. We just want to finish it," Nash said. "We want to go in with that same mentality we had against Louisville and [Pittsburgh]."

The one bright side to the matchup against the Hoyas may be that the two teams share a common problem — lack of depth. Like the Irish, Georgetown is unlikely to play more than seven or eight players in the contest, which could result in fatigue for both teams down the stretch.

Notre Dame will face the Hoyas after one of its best performances of the season against Pittsburgh. Junior forward Tim Abromaitis had 17 points to the lead the team, but four Irish players scored at least 13 points.

While Notre Dame was clicking offensively, especially in its shooting from the perimeter, it was the defensive effort that may have been most impressive. The Irish held the Panthers to 53 points and were able to keep them in check without fouling, sending Pittsburgh to the free-throw line only seven times.

Senior point guard Tory Jackson said carrying the momentum from the win into a hostile environment will be key.

"It gets rowdy there, it gets loud and a team like that, they can make room," Jackson said. "But we've just got to be poised, be smart on offense and be great on defense."

After facing the Hoyas, the final games of the regular season do not get any easier for Notre Dame, who will then face resurgent Connecticut at home before closing with Marquette on the road.

Despite the daunting tasks ahead of them, Jackson said the team remains confident in its ability to compete.

"We believe in ourselves and we know we can play better than what we've been playing," Jackson said. "We believe."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Schrage

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We did this last year down there, and right now we just want to beat Illinois and we'll move on from there. We've set a benchmark with how we played against Mississippi Valley. Now we're going against better competition, we have to get better."

The Irish offense erupted to the tune of 39 runs in three games against the Delta Devils, a promising sign for a lineup that has been limited to hitting in the batting cages for the better part of the off-season. Senior first basemen Casey Martin was named Big East Player of the Week after batting .500 with two home runs and seven RBIs over the weekend.

"He's a senior and I think he plays with a lot of confidence," Schrage said. "It's kind of funny, out of all our hitters hitting in the cage live, he was probably struggling the most. Sometimes you get outside and the ball looks bigger. He'll tell you, his first hit was a swinging bunt, but it's a base hit, and as a hitter that gives you confidence."

Like Schrage, Martin attributes the team's offensive success to playing outdoors for the first time all season. Although the Big Ten pitching staffs will be bringing more heat, Martin said he expects a solid plate approach to lead to the same results.

"I'm glad I could contribute and help the team win a few games down there. I think everybody on the team was a little bit anxious to get outside and see some pitches live," Martin said. "Obviously there will be small adjustments because of the new pitching staff we're looking at. Everybody's having good at bats, and I think we'll be fine."

While the offense appears to be operating in midseason form, Schrage said the pitchers will still be running on a pitch count this early in the season. Irish ace junior Cole Johnson will take the rubber for Game 1, followed by junior Brian Dupra and senior Eric Maust in Games 2 and 3, respectively.

"We got some tough lineups to face," Schrage said. "Illinois returns five really good hitters in their lineup. Ohio State, one through nine, is a veteran club. This weekend, we're going to have to be a little bit more finesse. We're facing some really good fastball hitting teams, so it's imperative for Cole and Brian to get their changeups and breaking balls over."

The Irish take the field against Illinois on Friday at 4:30 p.m., against Ohio State on Saturday at 4 p.m. and against Penn State on Sunday at 10 a.m.

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Please recycle The Observer.

Road

continued from page 24

the whole team got a nice shot of confidence."

The win marked the return of senior guard Lindsay Schrader, who had been out due to a sprained left ankle. She made her presence felt immediately, scoring 17 points and grabbing six rebounds in 20 minutes of play. McGraw said Schrader's playing time will still be limited Saturday.

"She's going to be playing more I think," she said. "I haven't spoken with the trainer, I don't know how many minutes she's allowed. I'm hoping for more. I think she'll play at least as much."

Seton Hall has lost its last five games and has just one conference victory, a Jan. 30 win over Villanova.

The Pirates are led by guard Ebonie Williams and forward Kandice Green, who each average 13 points per game.

Notre Dame is currently fourth in the Big East standings and could move up with a win this weekend. They have already clinched a two-round bye for the Big East tournament, which begins March 8.

"Heading into the last two games we're trying to position ourselves for not just the Big East tournament but for the NCAA Tournament," McGraw said. "We've done a great job all year of taking care of what we need to do and now we're coming down the stretch."

The Irish will tip off against Seton Hall at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Walsh Gymnasium in South Orange, N.J.

"We've done a great job all year of taking care of what we need to do and now we're coming down the stretch."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Note:

u Senior captain Ashley Barlow is one of 30 midseason candidates for the 2010 Naismith Trophy award, the Atlanta Tipoff Club announced Thursday. The Trophy is given to the women's basketball player of the year and will be awarded in April at the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio.

Barlow averages 11.7 points, 5.3 rebounds, 2.4 assists and 2.5 steals per game. Her 67 steals this season make her just the third Irish player to grab 60 steals in each of her four seasons. The other two were Irish assistant coach Niele Ivey (1997-2001) and current Penn State head coach Coquese Washington (1988-93).

"She's done so many great things for us. … I think all year long, we need a big play, Ashley Barlow's going to make it," McGraw said. "It's a great honor for her to be mentioned as one of the top players in the country."

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

A Calmer, More Centered You:
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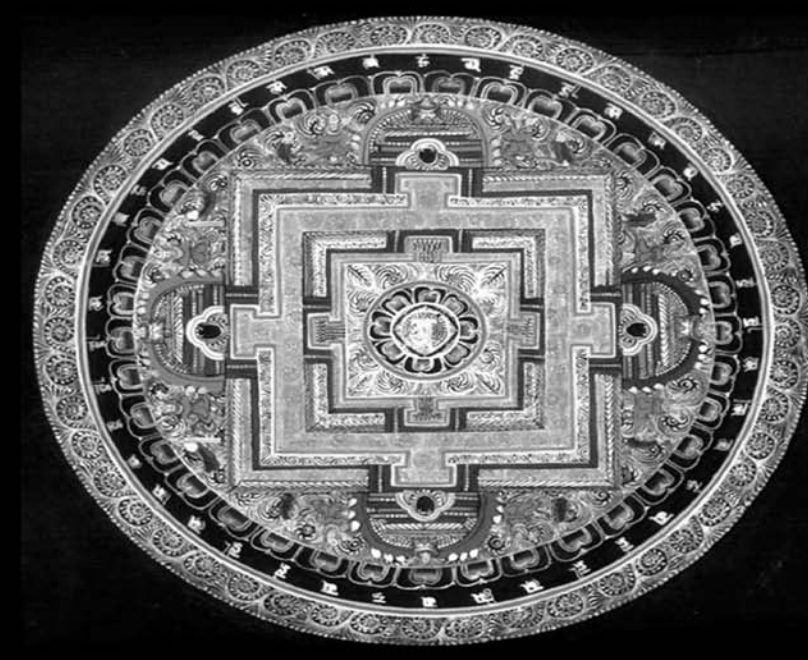
Come and experience a special program on relaxation and mediation!
Presented by Wendy Settle, Ph.D, UCC Staff Psychologist
Wednesday, March 3
Geddes Hall
5:30 pm—7:00 pm
Please RSVP by Monday, March 1 at msps@nd.edu or 631-6841
Interfaith Forum

Sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs & Services

There is an appointed time for everything,
and a time for every affair under the heavens. A time to be
born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and
a time to heal
a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a
time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.
A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them;
a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.
A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew;
a time to be silent
and a time to speak
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

Friday, February 26
"A Time To Heal" Dinner with Speakers
5:30–7:00 pm Legends

John Cavadini, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Theology
Susan St. Ville, Associate Director of Academic Programs, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies
Tim Latham, President of Men Against Violence
Sheila McCarthy, Ph.D. Candidate in Theology

Survivor stories will be read by an emcee.

All are welcome and dinner is free, but you need to RSVP by February 24 to grc@nd.edu or 631.9340.

GRC
gender relations center
311 LaFortune • grc.nd.edu • grc@nd.edu • 574.631.9340

Crossword

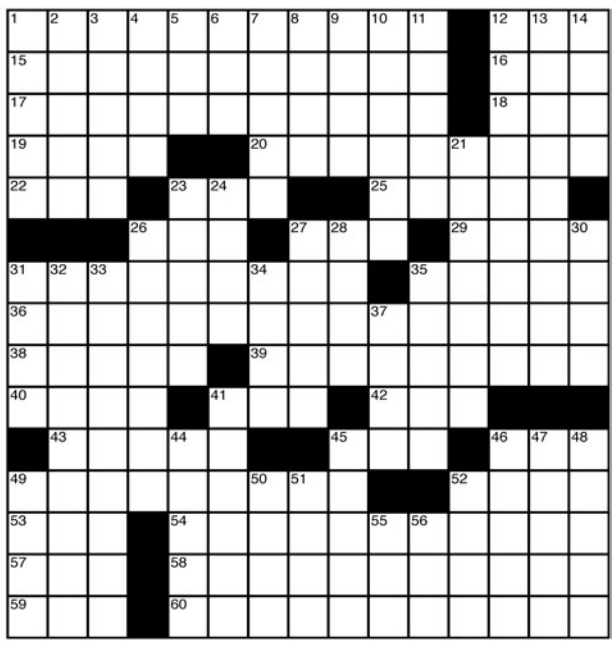
WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Pad producers
12 Name in many suit cases
15 Cry before a disappearance
16 Saturn's wife
17 Something that's just too cool
18 Recharging aid
19 Musician who was a trailblazing Rastafarian
20 European wine center
22 Matching ring recipients: Abbr.
23 Small part of an archipelago
25 Ben Franklin
26 Follower of directions
27 Cry upon being fleeced?
29 Grateful Dead bassist Phil
31 One exploring deeply?
35 Longtime name in auto parts
36 Ramen brand
38 It's sometimes forbidden
39 Free
40 Classic record label for the Bee Gees and Cream
41 M., in Milan
42 Monitor setting, briefly
43 Nickname in pioneering jazz piano
45 38-Across variety
46 "Grey's Anatomy" hookups
49 Hushed
52 Mother of the Gods
53 Big name in flooring?
54 So-called "baby busters"
57 Pronoun in 20-Across
58 Song that mentions "the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost"
59 Unit in astronomy
60 Well-known TV evangelical

Down

1 There are 746 in a single horsepower
2 Can't stomach
3 Bun bit
4 Up
5 Producer of some dishes
6 Muscle strengthened in rowing, in brief
7 Opinion opener
8 Skedaddles
9 "Uh-huh"
10 Work that marked the start of musical Romanticism
11 Admitted politely
12 "St. Mark" artist
13 Is like a moonstone
14 Make out
21 Finely tempered blades
23 Item next to a salad bowl
24 Jamaica's St. ___ Bay
26 E.T.'s pal
27 Opposite of clarify
28 The Ponte alle Grazie spans it
30 You may work out its kinks
31 Common crash site?
32 What an art student builds
33 Cabinet department
34 First name in international diplomacy
35 Passed (out)
37 En ___ tiempo (formerly, to Felipe)
41 Help line?
44 Navajo home
45 You're in it if you cry 41-Down
46 Bit of wishful thinking
47 To come, in Cádiz or Caen
48 Instruments in Ravel's "Boléro"
49 Matching
50 Superficial, briefly
51 Vint ___, the Father of the Internet
52 38-Across covering
55 Here, in Honduras
56 Result of exposing oneself at the beach?



Puzzle by Natan Last

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

	P	E	R	S	O	N	A	L		C	O	S	T	
F	I	V	E	T	O	O	N	E		D	C	C	A	B
A	G	A	M	E	M	N	O	N		S	H	A	M	U
N	O	D	S				T	A	S		S	P	A	T
C	U	E		S	L	E	E	P	O	N		U	R	N
Y	T	D		E	E	R		E	R	E		L	I	E
			O	P	T	I	C		E	R	R	A	N	T
		C	U	T	S	C	O	R	N	E	R	S		
N	E	A	R	E	R		O	A	S	I	S			
E	M	U		T	O	M		Z	E	D		I	S	A
X	E	D		S	L	O	V	E	N	S		S	T	L
T	R	I	S		L	O	O				K	O	O	L
T	A	L	L	S		L	I	M	E	J	E	L	L	O
O	L	L	A	S		A	L	E	X	A	N	D	E	R
	D	O	W	N		H	E	R	E	G	O	E	S	

Note: Each corner represents "nothing."

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Sean Astin, 39; Tea Leoni, 44; Tom Courtenay, 73; Sally Jessy Raphael, 75

Happy Birthday: Make this a year to remember. Travel for business or pleasure should be considered, along with expanding your circle of friends and taking on some interesting new hobby or activity. There is plenty you can do to raise your earning potential. Invest in yourself and your skills. You will make progress regardless but, with effort, you can do even better. Your numbers are 9, 11, 17, 22, 25, 34, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do what you can to fix up your domestic environment. A change of plans may come about suddenly; try not to let whatever happens stop you from enjoying time spent with family, friends or your lover. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep busy, especially when you are around home and dealing with family or friends. Tempers will mount if you are too aggressive or stubborn. Focus on what you can do for those less fortunate. ★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A sincere offering of the way you feel and what you intend to do will enable you to turn a problem you face into a positive experience. Don't let anyone take advantage of your kindness, generosity or your skills. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make some serious changes that will alter your life forever. An unusual opportunity must not be passed by because of fears. A partnership you are involved in will take an upward swing if you are willing to try something new. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will inspire others to support your efforts. Money, adventure and travel can all bring about new friendships and the possibility of financial gains. A love relationship will grow if you are attentive. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): What you have to offer will lead to all sorts of benefits -- personally, emotionally and financially. Opportunities to get involved with people you respect are apparent and will aid you in reaching some of your long-time goals. Love is up for grabs. ★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expect to be deluged with all sorts of changes where work, friendships and your lifestyle are concerned. You cannot skip a beat or you will miss out on an unusual and gratifying experience. ★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be torn between the good and the bad. Don't let the bad overrule what you do. Getting angry will defeat the purpose and cause you to miss out on an interesting opportunity that can change your life. Focus on the pluses. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have to pull up stakes and make a move if you want to stay on top of your finances. Don't expect friends or family to help you out or you will be disappointed. Make decisions based on facts, figures and what will serve you best. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look at the people you have associated with in the past before you decide to make a change. Partnering with someone you know you can trust will make your job much easier. An old friend will help you make a good choice. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take advantage of a job offer. You will have a gut feeling that will enable you to make a good choice regarding a financially beneficial partnership or move. Your ability to excel will push you to greater heights. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your instincts are good and your ability to attract attention will drum up personal and professional interest. Enjoy the time you spend with friends, colleagues and your lover. Each will offer you good suggestions. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You lean toward the unusual. You can mimic and become whatever you put your mind to. Your keen sense of perception gives you great insight.

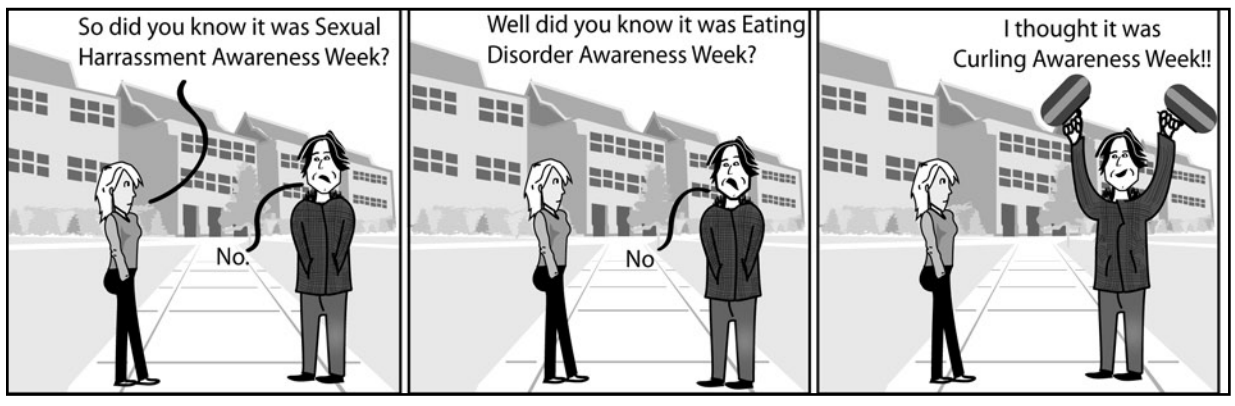
Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

Schad & Freude

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK

T.I.N.D.

DAN POHLMAN



Jumble

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

NUBEG

GULAH

JELING

TALKEN

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NEW BIBLE Jumble Books Go To: http://www.tyndale.com/jumble/

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.

A:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWASH TABOO DROPSY SOCIAL
Answer: What the history professor did — "PAST" THE CLASS

The Observer

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Last, then first

Irish to face Seton Hall before No. 1 UConn

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

No. 7 Notre Dame will travel to South Orange, N.J., to take on Seton Hall Saturday in the team's final regular-season road game.

The game against the Pirates (9-18, 1-13 Big East), who are currently last in the conference, comes two days before the Irish face No. 1 Connecticut at home.

"It's all the same for us in terms of every game is important," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We've really got to come in with a lot of focus and be ready for whatever Seton Hall throws our way."

Notre Dame has lost its last two road games, against then-No. 22 St. John's and then-No. 12 Georgetown, but is coming off of an 82-67 home win Tuesday over Marquette.

"It was great to get us back on track," McGraw said. "I think

see ROAD/page 22

SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

Senior guard Ashley Barlow passes the ball during Notre Dame's 90-66 win over DePaul on Feb. 14. Barlow and the Irish will travel to Seton Hall Saturday to take on the Pirates.

BASEBALL

Big Ten to provide challenge

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame rose to the occasion in its first test of the season, routing Mississippi Valley State for the first season-opening three-game road sweep in program history. The competition will suddenly get stronger, though, as the Irish travel to Florida for the Big Ten/Big East Challenge.

Notre Dame (3-0) will face three of the Big Ten's best in Illinois, Ohio State (3-0) and Penn State in the three-day tournament. Irish coach Dave Schrage says his team will have to play up to the higher competition if they hope to maintain their success on the road.

"It's a great challenge for us," Schrage said. "Right now we're just focusing on Illinois.

see SCHRAGE/page 21

ND SOFTBALL

Team looks to pick up more wins at Cavalier Invitational

By MEGAN FINNERAN
Sports Writer

Last weekend the Irish swept the Southern Miss Mizuno Classic, and this weekend they are looking to do the exact same thing at Virginia's Cavalier Invitational.

"Obviously this weekend in Virginia our team is looking to pick up four more wins. This season our focus has been to take each game one at a time and approach it as if it is the most crucial game of the season," junior pitcher Jody Valdivia said. "We are looking to take Notre Dame softball further than it has ever gotten in the past and our approach is to take it game by game."

The Irish (4-4) look to Valdivia, whose contribution to the tournament secured her the title of Big East Pitcher of the week, to add leadership from the mound. Leading the team at the plate are Notre Dame's three seniors: catcher Alexia Clay, infielder Heather Johnson and first basemen Christine Lux.

"We just need to put the ball hard on the ground to make things happen," Johnson said.

Losing five seniors at the end of the 2009 season forced the Irish to make some alterations, but a strong group of freshmen filled in the ranks. Although this team is a young one, it does not lacking skill or unity.

"This year, as opposed to the past, I feel the entire team has bonded together more so than individual people," Valdivia said.

With two tournaments already under their belt, the Irish will have the experience advantage over opponents George Washington, who will play for the first time this weekend, and Virginia (2-5).

"I think this weekend we are striving to get that game where we are running on all cylinders. We need to have pitching, defense and hitting to all," Johnson said.

This weekend's tournament was initially planned for Charlottesville, Va., but weather caused a transfer to Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va.

The Irish face George Washington at 11:30 a.m. and Virginia at 2 p.m. Friday, followed by George Washington at 10 a.m. and Virginia at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. Depending on these outcomes, the Irish may play one or two games Sunday.

Contact Megan Finneran at mfinnera@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Road skid next big hurdle

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

The Irish ended their recent skid Wednesday with a big win over No. 16 Pittsburgh but will have to break another losing streak on the road Saturday at No. 13 Georgetown.

Notre Dame had lost three straight and seven of its last 10 games before the 68-53 win over the Panthers. Against the Hoyas, the Irish will be looking for their first road win since a one-point victory at South Florida on Jan. 5.

Notre Dame will travel to Georgetown with senior forward Luke Harangody's injury status still in doubt. The captain has missed the past three

see GODY/page 21

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior forward Tim Abromaitis dribbles Wednesay during Notre Dame's 68-53 home win over Pittsburgh.

HOCKEY

ND opens series with shutout loss on road

Observer Staff Report

The Irish fell to Michigan 4-0 Thursday night in the first of a two-game series.

Notre Dame managed 20 shots on goal, but Wolverine goalkeepers turned all 20 away.

Irish freshman goalie Mike Johnson saved 23 shots, but Michigan (19-16-1, 14-12-1-0 CCHA) sent two pucks into the back of the net in each of the first and third periods.

Wolverines Matt Rust and Chad Langlais scored in the first period, and Brian Lebler and Chris Summers cemented the game with a goal apiece in the third. On the defensive end for Michigan, goaltender Shawn Hunwick stopped 14 shots, and once the Wolverines were up three goals, Bryan Hogan stepped into the goal and stopped six shots in 11 minutes.

Sophomore wing Richard Ryan had the most chances for the Irish (12-15-8, 8-12-7-2) as he managed three shots on goal. Ryan and the Irish opened the game aggressively, taking 11 shots in the first period, compared to seven by Michigan, but in the next two periods Notre Dame was outshot 20-9.

The two teams complete their home-and-home series Saturday at 7:05 p.m. This will be the final game for both teams before the CCHA Tournament begins on March 5.