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Student Government stalls



ANDY KENNA/The Observer

Members of the Council of Representatives meet last December. Student government has been undergoing a process of restructuring and continues to work towards reforming itself.

Restructuring leads to gradual changes, uncertain progress

By MATT BRAMANTI
News Writer

After months of work, the restructuring of student government is far from over. It began after former student body president Pat Hallahan's October report to the Board of Trustees. In that report, Hallahan's administration proposed changing the mission and composition of the Campus Life Council to promote

the views of students on university policy decisions.

But the trustees' reception of the idea was less than warm. Last May, the trustees recommended that student government leaders restructure the student union to create more efficiency. One board member said he was "a little disappointed" that student government was asking for CLC changes before putting its own house in order.

Last semester, the Executive Cabinet reformed itself into the Council of Representatives, reflecting the addition of student senators, and a broader representation of student government

constituencies. The new council began examining the entire constitution, looking for areas that could benefit from consolidation and greater efficiencies.

However, the process was difficult at first. Many council members asked where existing organizations would fit within the new system. And so the slowdown began. Student Union Board manager Charlie Ebersol insisted student government be totally reinvented. "We need to look at this as starting from scratch," Ebersol said during a November council meeting.

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Student-athletes succeed in class

By MIKE CHAMBLISS
News Writer

When the NCAA and USA Today honored Notre Dame with the 2003 Academic Achievement Award, it was just the most recent addition to Notre Dame's long tradition of academic excellence among athletes.

Patrick Holmes, director of academic services for Student-Athletes, points to the fact that Notre Dame is ranked second on the all-time list of universities with the most academic all-Americans.

"Notre Dame tries to make sure that each student maximizes his or her potential and receives the education

he or she was promised," Holmes said.

Women's golf coach Debby King agreed, saying the classroom success of Notre Dame athletes is due to a combination of the caliber of student that chooses Notre Dame and the University's high expectations for athletes.

"We have graduated either 99 or 100 percent of the athletes who exhaust their eligibility at Notre Dame."

Patrick Holmes
director of academic services for student-athletes

"The students that come here are already committed to graduating in four years and getting good grades," King said. "Once they are here, the standards

are so high that we just get high quality kids."

Although the University grade requirement for eligibility is a 2.0 average after

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Grant to help fight Indiana 'brain drain'

By LAUREN O'BRIEN
News Writer

Saint Mary's College was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the Lilly Endowment's "Initiative to Promote Opportunity through Educational Collaborations" to help fight the phenomenon known as "brain drain" within Indiana.

Lilly Endowment will donate a total of \$38.9 million to 36 Indiana colleges and universities in an effort to diminish the number of students who leave the state upon graduation to work.

At Saint Mary's, a group of ten faculty members contributed to the College's grant proposal, with the leadership of Ed Ackerly, director of corporate and foundation relations.

"The focus of the grant is that Lilly wants to address the problem of the low number of residents in Indiana who have a college degree," Ackerly said. "They want to change that because it affects the state in terms of salary and tax base."

Through the proposal, Saint Mary's will raise awareness of internship and career opportunities in Indiana. To make such prospects more attractive, students and faculty who

pursue internships, fellowships or experiential learning within the state can apply to receive part of the grant.

Five grants are expected to be available for this summer, with plans to offer ten in subsequent summers. The proposal focuses primarily on summer experiences in order to defray inherent expenses that may discourage students.

"We don't want students to have to choose between an exciting internship possibility and a summer paying job that is not moving their career forward," said Patrick White, vice president and dean of faculty.

Another aspect of the program is the post-baccalaureate grant for graduates who decide to stay in or return to Indiana. The College would contribute up to \$12,000 to the first year salary at an organization such as a small company or a non-profit that would otherwise be unable to sufficiently compensate the individual.

The first step of the program is to hire a director, who will then determine the process through which Saint Mary's will administer summer grants to students and faculty.

see GRANT/page 4

Asian awareness highlighted

Fliers promote keeping an open mind about ethnicity

By JENNIFER ROWLING
News Writer

Notre Dame's Asian-American population is increasing, and AAA In Focus is doing its part to broaden the University community's awareness of multicultural issues — sometimes through controversial methods.

To promote the third annual AAA In Focus Student-Run Conference on Asian and Asian-American issues, the group posted fliers that stated stereotypes of Asian-Americans such as "Are all Asians over-achievers?" and "Are Bruce Lee and Lucy Liu the only Asian presence in Hollywood?"

The fliers were anonymously removed from several dorms, and a table publicizing the conference in Lafortune was taken down.

Ryan Leung, executive chair of AAA In Focus, said the fliers were intended to bring existing stereotypes to students' attention.

"The mission from the beginning in making these fliers was to bring up stereotypes and perceptions of Asians," Leung said. "None were created by us. They existed in everyone's minds."

He added that ignoring such

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sponsored by **asian american association**

Courtesy of the Asian American Association

stereotypes only furthers their acceptance.

"We wanted to bring them to the front and make people face them," Leung said. "Only when you challenge these issues and look at them face to face can progress and change be made."

Students will have the opportunity to challenge such stereotypes at the third annual AAA In Focus Student-Run Conference on Asian and Asian-American issues, which will be held today and Saturday.

The theme of this year's conference is "Personal Journeys in Professional Lives:

Celebrating Asian-Americans in the Workplace." Asian-Americans involved in a multitude of careers are leading workshops with the intention of preparing students of all backgrounds for the working world.

Kathleen Wong, specialist in Asian American Studies at Arizona State, is the opening speaker, and Hollywood actor Parry Shen, featured in *Better Luck Tomorrow* and *The New Guy*, is assisting in the workshops.

Contact Jennifer Rowling at jrowling@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Oh Canada

It feels so great to be 21. Want to get into the high-class bars of South Bend? Sure thing. Want a beer at T.G.I.Friday's? No problem. Now that I'm 21, I don't have to worry about making trips up to Canada in order to get into bars, right?

So, anybody want to go to Windsor?

I'm sorry, but after four months of tasting the South Bend scene and the scene back home around Detroit, while it can be nice, none of it compares to the experience of a night in downtown Windsor.

Though many students around South Bend may not be up to traveling three hours to get up there, Windsor is definitely worth the trip. Besides the fact that it is Canadian, it is an excellent place to hang out with friends. It is also a great opportunity make fun of random Canadians for all sorts of things, whether it be the play money they use or the way they say "ouut" and "aboutt." It can even be fun toying around with the Windsor police, who are basically useless. No, I take that back — the cops are always hard at work standing outside the club doing nothing, maybe hitting on a couple of girls standing in line waiting to get in.

Of course, Windsor has its dirty hangouts. For the guys, there's Cheetah's, and for the ladies, there's Danny's. True Canadian class in these joints.

But when it comes down to it, with all the Canadian-bashing one could possibly do, they do have one thing going for them: The girls there are ridiculously hot. Unlike the girls one might see dancing on stage at Heartland or the ones you see hooking up on the second floor of Boat Club, these ladies from the North are some prize pieces if I ever saw one.

Then, of course, there's the Windsor Casino. For those of you who like to gamble, this is the place to be. It can also be an excellent source of beer money for those going to the bars afterwards. There's even an outdoor ice rink a block away from the casino where pickup hockey games are played 24/7. Feel free to go out and check a couple of Canadians to the ground.

Joker's, Woody's, Wired, Reactor, O, Voodoo, Peppers, Honest Lawyer, Ryan's Pub. This is about a quarter of the nightclubs that line Ouellette Street in downtown Windsor, and all are hopping throughout the weekend.

So for those of you looking for more fun than hanging with townies at the Backer, take a trip up to Canada. And those of you under 21, instead of taking a chance with your fake IDs, hit up Canada and drink legally. Just make sure you bring some good Canadian jokes with you — laughing at them is half the fun.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Mike Harkins at mharkins@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S YOUR PREDICTION FOR THE SUPER BOWL?



Kristin McIntyre
Junior
LeMans

"The Eagles."



Betsy Brown
Junior
Holy Cross Hall

"The Panthers."



Roz Byrne
Junior
Holy Cross Hall

"The Patriots because it's stupid if the Panthers win. It's like when the Marlins win."



Katy Cari
Junior
LeMans

"I have no idea. What's the halftime show?"



Brigid Kelly
Senior
Holy Cross Hall

"Panthers. They're my favorite animal."



Molly Welton
Senior
LeMans

"Tom Brady is hot."



Mike Harkins

Graphics
Editor



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Alumni freshmen Matt Medlock and Adam Lacack and Old College freshman Thomas McCall stand triumphantly next to the igloo they built on South Quad Wednesday night. The three then slept inside their creation overnight.

OFFBEAT

Crystal ball predicts fire
SHAWNEE, Okla. — Firefighters in this central Oklahoma town peered into a crystal ball and found the cause for a fire.

It didn't take long for Shawnee Fire Prevention Officer Jimmy Gibson to figure out what caught a homeowner's sofa on fire and brought fire crews to the rescue.

Once the couch was extinguished, Gibson reached into a hole burnt into the sofa and found a glass gazing ball. Soon, sunlight shining through the ball burned two holes in the leg of his pants.

Firefighters then placed the ball in the grass, and within 30 seconds the ground was smoking.

"It has dynamic heat. We were caught off guard," Gibson said. "I couldn't believe how quickly it burned."

Firefighters believe the fire started when sunshine came through a large set of windows and through the glass ball.

Bars ban bladder bursts
MINNEAPOLIS — "Go before you go." That's the slogan under consideration for a new campaign in Minneapolis to combat

public urination.

The bar business is thriving in the city's Warehouse District, and many patrons are apparently leaving with a full bladder.

The Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association plans to spend \$10,000 in an effort of convince patrons to use the bar restrooms before they call it a night.

Public urination is also a civil crime punishable by an \$80 fine.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Come discuss diversity and multicultural issues at Notre Dame at the third annual Asian American Awareness In Focus Conference at 7 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center.

Enjoy the romantic notes of Notre Dame music professors Georgine Resick and John Blacklow tonight at 7 p.m. in the Annenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum. The two will present a recital of music for voice and piano titled entitled "Late Romantic Songs." This concert is part of the 2003-2004 Notre Dame Dept. of Music Faculty Artist Series.

Flash back to the 80's at Legends tonight starting at 9:30 p.m. Band Son of Glam: A Tribute to the 80's will play memorable songs from the decade.

Watch the St. Edward's Hall Players' performance of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest Saturday night from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Washington Hall.

Come cheer on local band Sudsbury Shore live at Reckers on Saturday night at 10:00 p.m. as they play familiar covers and original hits from their new album, *Tsunami*.

Check out the SUB showing of Jack Black's comedy *School of Rock* on Saturday night at 8 and 10 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 10 LOW 0	HIGH 6 LOW -2	HIGH 14 LOW 9	HIGH 27 LOW 24	HIGH 29 LOW 17	HIGH 21 LOW 7

Atlanta 54 / 29 Boston 24 / 14 Chicago 9 / -7 Denver 54 / 31 Houston 57 / 44 Los Angeles 66 / 49 Minneapolis -3 / -7 New York 28 / 15 Philadelphia 29 / 15 Phoenix 70 / 46 Seattle 45 / 37 St. Louis 18 / 10 Tampa 66 / 52 Washington 45 / 37

SMC adjusts parking system

By KELLY MEEHAN
News Writer

Saint Mary's has adjusted its parking system to more efficiently handle overcrowding and other problems due to the recent snow and inclement weather.

Although the parking lot behind Angela's Athletic Center is designated as the main student lot, the College now permits students to park in the LeMans, Regina, Madeleva and Dalloway's Clubhouse parking lots from 5:30 p.m. until 7 a.m. Two other lots have also been set aside for special purposes. The Senior Parking Lot is located next to the Angela Parking Lot, and Rows 2-8 of the Science lot have been reserved for commuting students.

Despite these measures, however, students expressed anger at citations they received for parking violations while they were trying to find parking in the snow.

"I am frustrated by the small amount of parking space and the confusion about where I can and cannot park," freshman Claire Anderberg said. "I am especially upset over this because I have received three parking violations from parking in the wrong lot at the wrong time."

Additional parking is something toward which the Saint Mary's community continues to work. However, there are



ALLISON NICHOLS/The Observer

Cars parked at Saint Mary's are often not only covered with snow and ice, but face difficulty getting in and out of the lots.

no definite plans to create new parking sites in the near future, said Security and Safety Program Coordinator Chris Pennino.

"During the first part of each academic year, there are some complaints about parking, but our students get acclimated to the College's parking lots, rules and procedures rather quickly," said Pennino.

In addition to extra parking, SMC Security also provides an escort service to safely drive students from their cars to their dorms during hours of darkness.

"Students are asked to remain in the warmth and safety of their car with their headlights on so that our escort driver is alerted to their location," Pennino said.

Saint Mary's students are allowed to have a car throughout all four years of school, as long as they purchase a \$50 year-long parking pass and abide by all parking and driving regulations. Students who are found in violation of the rules may be fined a \$15 fee.

Contact Kelly Meehan at
kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

E-mail hoax claims to be from Observer

Observer Staff Report

A series of hoax e-mails were sent Wednesday evening and early Thursday morning to over 100 members of the junior class, fraudulently claiming The Observer was conducting a poll for an upcoming article.

The e-mails were sent from

a variation of the address ndsmcobserver@hotmail.com and claimed The Observer was conducting a poll to determine the five hottest junior men and women. The Observer is not conducting such a poll.

The Office of Information Technology is currently investigating the incident.

Lecturer to speak on 'other' Americas

Special to The Observer

J. Michael Dash, professor of French and director of the African Studies Program at New York University, will deliver a lecture titled "The Relating Island: The South of the South in the Americas" at 4 p.m. Monday at the Eck Center auditorium.

Presented by the University's Working Group for the Americas, in conjunction with its Institute for Latino Studies and African and African-American Studies Program, the event is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception. The lecture is a continuation of the "Caribbean Inventions" conference held last fall at Notre

Dame.

Born in Trinidad, Dash previously served for 21 years as professor of Francophone literature and chair of modern languages at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. He specializes in the study of Haitian literature and French Caribbean writers, especially Edouard Glissant, whose works "The Ripping" and "Caribbean Discourse" he has translated into English. He is the author of numerous books, including "The Other America: Caribbean Literature in a New World Context," "Libete: A Haiti Anthology" (with Charles Arthur), and "Culture and Customs of Haiti."

NOTABLE IRISH

Sponsored by Student Government, Student Affairs, and Legends

Name: Sarah Ponko

Major: Architecture

Sarah Ponko takes her Summers away from Notre Dame seriously. In the summer of 2002

she cycled 4,000 miles across the country, from Connecticut to Washington, with the Yale Habitat for Humanity club. The trip to raise money for Habitat for Humanity Foundation took 63 days, but Sarah says that she enjoyed that experience. This past summer Sarah was involved in the Jimmy Carter Work Project, participating in an effort to build 35 houses in one week for needy families in Anniston, Alabama. It was during this experience that Sarah was able to meet with former President Jimmy Carter. Currently, Sarah serves as a Women's Boxing Club co-captain; she fought and won her inaugural women's boxing Fight Night bouts in November 03.



Name: Joe Friel

Major:

Electrical Engineering

Joe Friel is a senior

Air Force ROTC cadet who founded the Notre Dame

Pilot Initiative. The program is sponsored by Air Force and Navy ROTC, and provides a path for students on campus to learn about the principles of aviation. The NDPI mission states to "teach the science of flight, inspire the art, and produce aviation candidates." Joe intends for the program to serve as starting point for volunteers interested in piloting for charity and search and rescue missions. Joe attained his pilot's license as a senior in high school and has logged over 300 hours of flight time. He will graduate in May and be commissioned into the United States Air Force to serve as a developmental engineer. However, he will continue being a pilot and encourages ND students to think about the NDPI.



Changes

continued from page 1

In November, a structure began to emerge. The plan was to create two major sides of student government: programming and policy. The programming side would devote itself to coordinating on-campus events, both at the campus and dorm levels. In the past, there have been scheduling conflicts and other problems that led to ineffective programming efforts. According to student leaders, the proposed Campus Programming Council would bring together dorm representatives to decide on events, which would apparently improve publicity efforts, reduce scheduling problems and increase event quality.

Last semester, council members pledged to have a structure set by the beginning of 2004, with only the details to flesh out. Leaders began holding working sessions every Sunday. The goal was to hammer out the details in these informal sessions, then bring the measures to council meetings for rapid closure. So the question remains: what's taking so long?

Student body president Jeremy Lao, who assumed the office when Hallahan graduated early, said the process is slow by its nature. "It needs to be done right," he said. "The devil's in the details."

He certainly is. Some of these "details" are important, like where off-campus representatives would be represented in the new scheme. But others, while time-consuming, aren't quite so compelling. In order to give student leaders enough time to evaluate new proposals, the council enacted a rule last semester requiring three days' notice before debating. The measure appeared to slow the progress of the council's work — just as greater speed was needed.

Lao denied undue delays, saying the council has found a "happy medium" between speed and quality, and saying the group is on pace to meet its self-imposed March 31 deadline.

However, the slow progress has

raised certain implications for the election student leaders. On Monday, judicial board president Elliot Poindexter announced four tickets would be running for the positions of student body president and vice president. The tickets differ on the issues and on their approaches to the race, but they all have one unfortunate element in common: none of them know exactly what their potential jobs will be.

Lao downplayed the significance of these problems, saying there is still plenty of time.

"We have until March to make students aware of what these new positions will be," Lao insisted, but he admitted that leaders would have to adapt to a very different system, which is still in flux.

"Transition, no matter what, is not going to be easy," he said. "People will just have to adjust in the end."

The problem is multiplied on the residence hall level. Under the proposed structure, each dorm would elect three key officials: a president, a campus programmer and a policy representative. However, several halls have already elected their hall presidents under the old system, and it is unclear whether those elections would have to be held again.

What is clear, however, is that during the process of rewriting the constitution, the council of representatives has not been working on specific student issues.

Lao said those matters have been turned over to other bodies in student government.

"We still have the student senate and the office of the president to work on issues," he said. "Nothing has shut down for this. We still have the policy and issue bodies working."

Though notably absent from the list of presidential candidates, Lao and his vice president, Emily Chin, said the difficulties this year made no impact on their decision not to run for re-election.

"Running would just take too much time away from writing a good constitution," Lao said.

Contact Matt Bramanti at mbramant@nd.edu

Athletes

continued from page 1

the third semester, King assigns mandatory study hall hours to golfers whose grades fall below the 3.0 mark.

"It's a tough commitment for them with class in the morning and practice in the afternoon," she said.

Swimmer Courtney Choura feels that Notre Dame offers a supportive atmosphere for student-athletes.

"The coaches and the Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes are motivational, but they also try not to

put too much extra pressure on us," Choura said. "During busy times of the semester, the coaches are pretty lenient and make sure we have time for studying."

The Office of Academic Services for Student-Athletes is an important aid that offers tutoring and mentoring for varsity athletes, cheerleaders, managers and trainers. The program helps student-athletes who are struggling in class, and provides faculty mentoring for exceptionally high-achieving athletes.

The program, which began in the mid 1950's, was one of the first of its kind. "Fifty

years ago, Notre Dame was on the cutting edge in providing academic guidance to student-athletes; now it has become an NCAA requirement," Holmes said.

Holmes is pleased with his office's role in ensuring that student-athletes excel and graduate in four years.

"We can't control playing time or transfers," Holmes said, "But over the last measured ten-year period, we have graduated either 99 or 100 percent of the athletes who exhaust their eligibility at Notre Dame."

Contact Mike Chambliss at mchambli@nd.edu

Grant

continued from page 1

The \$750,000 grant will be

spread out over five years, with a built-in evaluation process of the program and the overall career development services agenda.

"Saint Mary's is committed to being a national college,

but we want to make students aware of the opportunities in Indiana," White said.

Contact Lauren O'Brien at obril648@saintmarys.edu

REVUE SEASON



Residents of Keenan Hall perform in the Keenan Revue Thursday night. The Revue will take the stage of O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's tonight and Saturday night at 7:30 pm. No more tickets are available for the popular comedy show.

ANDY KENNA/The Observer

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WORLD & NATION

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COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BBC head quits, employees shocked

LONDON — The chief of the BBC stepped down Thursday as the badly rattled broadcaster struggled to respond to harsh criticism from a judge who repudiated its report that the government "sexed up" intelligence on Iraq.

The resignation of British Broadcasting Corp. director-general Greg Dyke stunned BBC employees, and hundreds of them rallied outside the network's offices around Britain to show their support for him. One local BBC radio station briefly went off the air in protest.

The BBC apologized for errors it made in the story, which was at the center of a furious, months-long battle with the government.

Suicide bomber kills 10, wounds 50

JERUSALEM — A suicide bomber struck a bus near Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Jerusalem residence Thursday, killing 10 Israelis and wounding 50 in the deadliest attack in four months and disrupting modest U.S. efforts to restart peace talks.

The blast blew out the back and roof of the green city bus and sent body parts flying into nearby buildings. Survivors crawled out of broken bus windows. The bombing was only 50 feet from Sharon's house, but he was away at the time.

The bomber was a Palestinian police officer — causing much chagrin within the Palestinian Authority, which has been under international pressure to use its police force to stop such attacks.

NATIONAL NEWS

Unions: Overtime law hurts veterans

WASHINGTON — Labor unions fighting the Bush administration's overtime proposal enlisted help from veterans Thursday, contending many would lose the premium pay if they had received training in the military for white-collar jobs they now hold.

"That's not a way to thank people for what they've done for this country," said Chris Owens, policy director for the AFL-CIO.

The administration rejected the criticism, contending the proposal makes no change from current case law regarding military experience.

Air quality still needs improvement

WASHINGTON — Despite progress in cleaning the air over the past three decades, the government could do more by cracking down on groups of pollutants and letting companies trade rights to foul the sky, scientific experts said Thursday.

They also said air quality standards should take into account climate change whenever possible.

The Clean Air Act of 1980 requires the government to set national health-based air quality standards to protect against carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, lead and particulate matter, or soot. States have to devise plans to meet those standards.

LOCAL NEWS

Same-sex marriage ban supported

INDIANAPOLIS — A majority of members in the Indiana House — all 49 Republicans and five Democrats — have signed on to a proposed constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage.

House Republicans said Thursday that support for the proposed amendment to the Indiana Constitution should persuade Democratic leaders to give it a chance to advance in the House.

Budget deficit expected to soar

Bush budget projects \$154 billion rise in Medicare expenses, deficit to hit \$534 B

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's new budget projects the Medicare overhaul he just signed will be one-third more costly than estimated and this year's federal deficit will surge past a half trillion dollars for the first time, administration and congressional officials said Thursday.

The White House will estimate the cost of creating prescription drug benefits and revamping the mammoth health-care program for the elderly and disabled at \$534 billion for the decade that ends in 2013, the officials said. The number will be in the 2005 budget Bush proposes Monday.

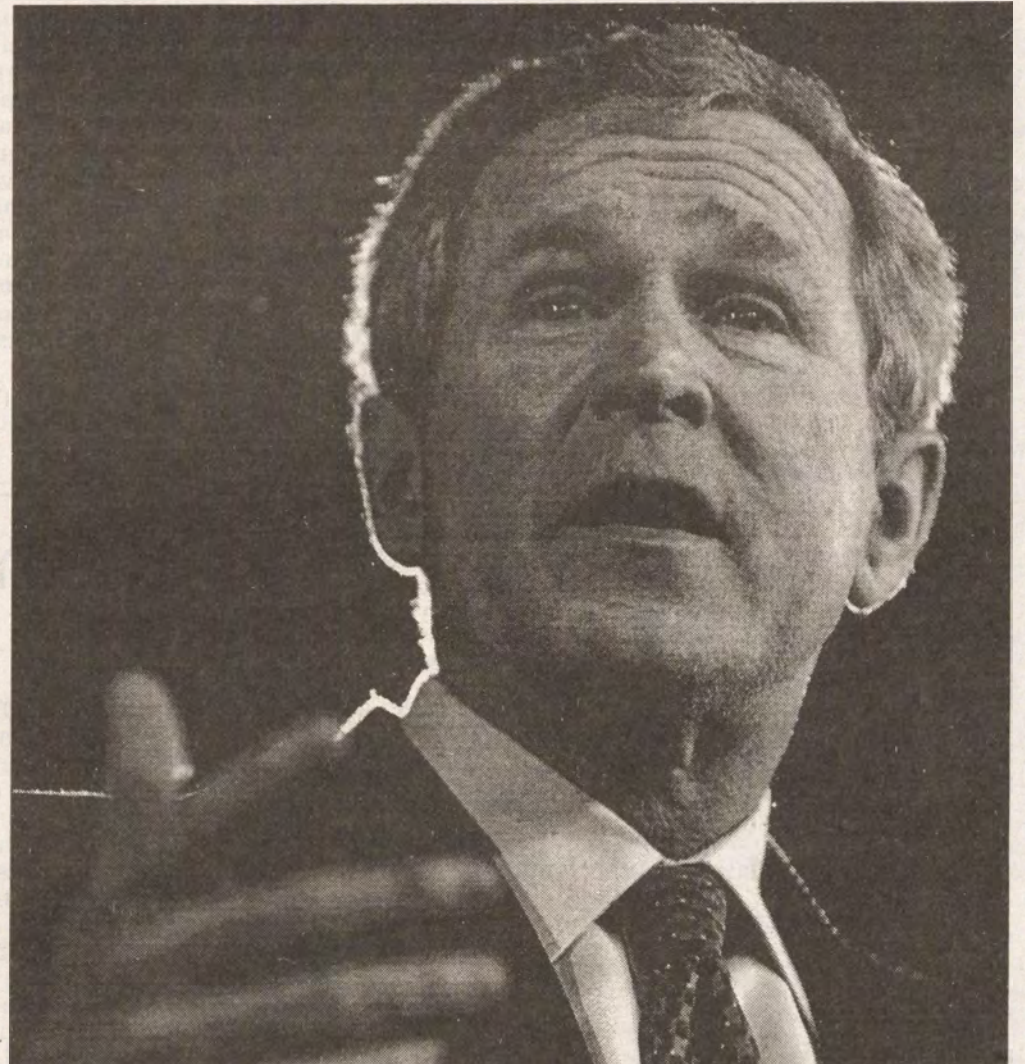
While muscling the Medicare package through Congress in November, Bush and Republican leaders won pivotal votes by reassuring conservatives that the cost over that period would track the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's estimate of \$395 billion. The measure passed both chambers narrowly, giving the president one of his top legislative triumphs since taking office.

The new figures represent the first time the White House has released its projections of the bill's costs. They could deepen an election-year wedge between the White House and conservative Republicans upset over spending and budget deficits that they say have grown too high on Bush's watch.

The numbers raise questions about whether administration officials revealed everything they knew before the vote on Medicare, some conservatives complained privately. Bush signed the bill Dec. 8.

"No one vote has caused me more angst in my short political career," said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas. "I hope this will embolden conservatives and others" to control spending.

Hensarling was among



Reuters

President Bush spoke yesterday at a fundraiser in Connecticut. The White House today revealed his Medicare changes will cost \$134 billion more than estimated.

several conservatives who voted for the measure after being told by Bush, House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and others that the costs should fall within the Congressional Budget Office estimate.

Rep. John Shadegg, R-Ariz., a conservative who voted against the bill, said he never believed the \$395 billion cost estimate because such long-term forecasts are "meaningless."

The White House is reluctant to antagonize conservatives, the base of the GOP, in an election year. Such internal party divisions could make it harder to push legislation through Congress, which Republicans control by narrow margins.

Nearly everyone expects

the cost of the Medicare bill to increase over the years, as the huge baby boom generation retires and medical costs grow. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, director of the Congressional Budget Office, has said the measure's costs in its second decade could exceed \$1.5 trillion.

Administration officials said their Medicare cost estimate was not ready until now. Bush included a less detailed 10-year, \$400 billion estimate for the bill's price tag in his budget last February.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy and other administration officials said the estimating difference with the Congressional Budget Office was understandable and relatively close, considering the mil-

lions of beneficiaries, hundreds of billions of dollars and time period involved.

"The president made a commitment to seniors and he kept it, and part of that was providing prescription drug coverage," Duffy said. "The president is committed to making sure cost controls continue in Medicare."

Administration officials said they could not initially explain precisely why the projections differed.

Joe Antos, a health policy expert at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said it was probably due to different estimates of the number of people expected to participate in federally subsidized health plans and health care tax breaks that the bill would create.

AFGHANISTAN

Explosion kills seven U.S. troops

Associated Press

KABUL — An explosion at a weapons cache in killed seven U.S. soldiers and wounded three more Thursday, in one of the deadliest incidents since U.S. forces deployed in Afghanistan. The U.S. Central Command also said an American soldier was missing.

An Afghan interpreter also was wounded by the 3 p.m. explosion near the city of Ghazni, 60 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul. The

soldiers were working around a weapons cache when the blast happened.

Centcom spokesman Capt. Bruce Frame said the cause had yet to be determined in the blast, among the most damaging blows to American troops since they deployed in Afghanistan more than two years ago.

The Taliban were driven from power but sporadic fighting has continued. Earlier this month, the U.S. death toll reached 100. Sixteen of those deaths occurred in combat —

including seven when two helicopters took enemy fire in March 2002.

The toll includes deaths in other areas of Operation Enduring Freedom, such as a helicopter crash in the Philippines nearly two years ago that killed 10 American soldiers — the deadliest in the operation. Seven soldiers were also killed on Jan. 9, 2002 when their tanker plane slammed into a mountain in Pakistan.

The United States provides 9,000 of the 11,000-member coalition troops stationed in Afghanistan.

SMC brings fellow to stay on campus

By TERESA NOWAKOWSKI
News Writer

Helen Thimmayya, who has taught English and Communications at Women's Christian College in Chennai, India for 15 years, will spend a semester at Saint Mary's through the United Board Fellows Program.

The Fellows Program provides an exchange in which faculty and administrators can develop leadership experience, expand their content area in creative ways, and earn promotions upon returning to India. First, a fellow spends a semester at an institution of higher education in Asia and is then matched with a school in the West, where he or she spends another semester. These fellows are assisted by their host schools, which provide a coordinator who secures the fellow's comfort, visa, travel, office and housing space.

Thimmayya's coordinator at Saint Mary's is Sister Marianne Farina, Director of Scholarship for the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership and a teacher in the department of justice education. Farina believes that this program will aid in a "cross cultural understanding" that will allow Saint Mary's to be more open to diversity.

"Diversity is something we are striving for," Farina said. "Helen is learning from us. We're learning from Helen." She added that Saint Mary's hopes to become more global, focusing on the differences and similarities that exist between cultures.

Thimmayya's goal, Farina continued, is an academic immersion. Thimmayya is allowed to "enter through the eyes of the students," which Farina described as the most "genuine and authentic way" to enter a college atmosphere.

Thimmayya will sit in on Communication courses, as that is her field of expertise. She hopes to be able to implement what she learns here in her

own classroom in India.

Thimmayya is also able to attend meetings with the various committees on campus to see how they function. Through these meetings, Thimmayya can "build up [her] own skills," Farina said, and add new aspects to her existing experience.

One idea that surprised Thimmayya was the amount of self-governance and judicial action the students have at Saint Mary's. At the Women's Christian College, students are involved in service, cultural activities, organization and academic councils, but they do not have a judicial board composed of students.

Thimmayya said she was also impressed with Residence Life. In the residence halls at Women's Christian College, the directors are older women who "guide the students," she said, but at Saint Mary's, the younger hall directors encourage students to relate.

Coming from a college of 100 faculty members, Thimmayya said she "is not going to create a stir" when she returns to the Women's Christian College. Instead, she will discuss small changes with her department and the director of the school.

Thimmayya, who spent last semester in the Philippines, said that the Women's Christian College gives a chance to all students by motivating intelligent students to move forward while aiding those who may be struggling academically in school.

"The girls [in India] are very sheltered," she said, adding that parents send their children to a women's college because they view it as more secure. However, she said she realizes that "students are students," no matter what the culture.

Thimmayya, who has a husband and a 16-year-old son in India, said she has been pleased with her Saint Mary's experience so far. "Everyone goes out of their way to greet and help," she said.

Contact Teresa Nowakowski at
nowa9294@saintmarys.edu

Poll: Guest worker plan incomplete

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Hispanics generally approve of President Bush's proposal for a national guest worker program, but their opposition grows after they learn its details, according to a poll released Thursday.

The survey found 42 percent of respondents supported Bush's immigration reform plan, with 20 percent opposed and the remainder undecided. But opinions split 45-45 once respondents were informed that most immigrant workers would have to return home once their legal status expired.

"They seem to think that the proposal is incomplete," said Sergio Bendixen, who conducted the poll for New California Media, a nationwide coalition of ethnic news organizations.

Bush's proposal would give currently undocumented immigrants renewable three-year permits to work U.S. jobs.

Three-quarters of respondents said they preferred a plan that lets foreign workers earn citizenship through their work — a central theme among proposals from members of Congress since Bush announced his plan earlier this month.

White House spokesman Trent Duffy said Thursday that Bush opposes giving illegal immigrants a direct path to citizenship.

"This president doesn't make decisions based on polls, he makes decisions based on what he thinks is right," Duffy said.

Duffy also questioned the value of the poll because a key question mischaracterized Bush's proposal as limiting

immigrants to a six-year stay. Bush opposes letting undocumented workers stay indefinitely, Duffy said, but details of how many times workers could renew their initial three-year visas will be negotiated with Congress.

Bendixen responded to Duffy's objection by saying that the number of years was less important than the fact that immigrants would be forced to leave eventually.

Pollsters between Jan. 20-26 conducted a telephone survey of 800 people with Latino surnames who identified themselves as being Hispanic.

Such methodology is sometimes used by pollsters but critics say it is not as reliable as drawing a sample through random-digit dialing. The sampling error margin was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Bush team defends Patriot Act

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration intensified its defense of the anti-terrorism Patriot Act on Thursday, threatening to veto legislation in Congress that would scale back key provisions.

Attorney General John Ashcroft, in a letter to Senate leaders, said the changes proposed in the Security and Freedom Ensured Act, known as SAFE, would "undermine our ongoing campaign to detect and prevent catastrophic attacks."

Ashcroft told reporters that President Bush would veto the bill if it reached his desk.

The threat came a week after Bush, in his State of the Union address, urged Congress to reauthorize the Patriot Act before it expires in 2005. A few months earlier, Ashcroft embarked on a 32-city speaking tour in a bid to answer critics who contend the law threatens civil liberties and privacy rights.

Ashcroft said the political offensive "reflects the stakes America has in the war on terror. When American lives are at stake, we need to have all the capacities to disrupt and to defeat terrorism that we've been successfully using over the last 28 months."

The Patriot Act, passed

shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, expanded the government's wiretap and other surveillance authority, removed barriers between FBI and CIA information-sharing, and provided more tools for terror finance investigations.

Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union and a staunch critic of the new law, said the veto threat shows that the Bush administration is on the defensive. The ACLU has filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging a key portion of the law, and 241 state and local governments also have gone on record opposing it.

"The attorney general's attack on the SAFE Act shows how out of step the Bush administration is with growing national concern over the Patriot Act," Romero said.

Earlier this month in Los Angeles, a federal judge issued the first court ruling striking down a portion of the law. U.S. District Judge Audrey Collins ruled that provisions barring "expert advice or assistance" to groups designated foreign terrorist organizations was too vague, threatening First and Fifth Amendment rights.

The SAFE Act, which has not yet had a hearing in either the House or Senate, was intro-

duced last fall by Sens. Larry Craig, R-Idaho; Dick Durbin, D-Ill.; and other lawmakers of both parties who say the Patriot Act has gone too far.

"I believe it is possible to combat terrorism and preserve our individual freedoms at the same time," Durbin said then. "This legislation restores the necessary checks and balances to the system."

The bill would modify so-called "sneak and peek" search warrants that allow for indefinitely delayed notification when a person's property is searched, mandating such notice within a week's time.

In addition, warrants for roving wiretaps used to monitor a suspect's multiple cell phones would have to make sure the target was positively identified and was present at the site being monitored before information could be collected.

The legislation also would reinstate standards in place prior to passage of the Patriot Act regarding library and other business records by forcing the FBI to show it had reason to believe the person involved was a suspected terrorist or spy. The measure would impose expiration dates on nationwide search warrants and other Patriot Act terms, providing for congressional review.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,510.29	+41.92	
Up: 1,209	Same: 127	Down: 1,038	Composite Volume: 1,887,774,976

AMEX	1,194.76	-13.29
NASDAQ	2,068.23	-9.14
NYSE	6,555.71	-0.26
S&P 500	1,134.11	+5.63
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	10,779.44	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	4,411.50	-56.60

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
JDS UNIPHASE (JDSU)	-1.98	-0.10	4.94
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	-3.06	-0.82	25.96
INTEL CORP (INTC)	-1.56	-0.49	30.89
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-4.44	-0.24	5.23
SIRIUS SAT RADII (SIRI)	-1.78	-0.05	2.76

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.32	-0.16	50.15
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.05	+0.02	41.97
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.09	+0.03	32.10
3-MONTH BILL	0.00	0.00	9.17

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.81		32.81
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-16.40		399.40
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.10		83.525

Exchange Rates			
YEN			106
EURO			0.806
POUND			0.5507
CANADIAN \$			1.33

IN BRIEF

Wages, benefits grow modestly in 4Q

WASHINGTON — Workers' wages and benefits grew by 0.7 percent in the final quarter of 2003 — the smallest quarterly increase in a year — as companies still uncertain about the durability of the economic recovery kept a close eye on their bottom line.

The increase in the employment cost index for the October-to-December quarter marked a moderation from the 1 percent advance registered in the previous quarter, the Labor Department reported Thursday.

The 0.7 percent increase in compensation was the smallest since the fourth quarter of 2002 and was slightly weaker than the 0.9 percent rise that economists were forecasting.

In a second report from the department, new claims for unemployment benefits last week dipped by a seasonally adjusted 1,000 to 342,000, the lowest level since the end of December, a sign that the pace of layoffs is stabilizing.

Judge delays Stewart case testimony

NEW YORK — A federal judge placed a roadblock in the government's case against Martha Stewart on Thursday, delaying the testimony of its star witness and chastising prosecutors for withholding information that might undermine the witness' credibility.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum came moments before Douglas Faneuil, the former brokerage assistant who handled the stock sale at the center of the trial, was to take the stand.

Lilly's 4Q profits increase slightly

INDIANAPOLIS — Eli Lilly and Co.'s fourth-quarter profit edged up 1 percent as three new drugs fueled strong sales growth that was offset by higher marketing and manufacturing costs to support the new medications, the company said Thursday.

Lilly reported net income of \$747.2 million for the October-December period, or 69 cents per share. That compared with \$736.3 million, or 68 cents a share, in the year-ago quarter.

Microsoft offers \$250K reward

Company announces compensation for information regarding virus author

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Microsoft Corp. promised Thursday to pay \$250,000 to anyone who helps authorities find and prosecute the author of a fast-spreading computer virus.

The cash reward is the third so far under a \$5 million program Microsoft announced in early November to help U.S. authorities nab authors of unusually damaging Internet infections aimed at consumers of the company's software products.

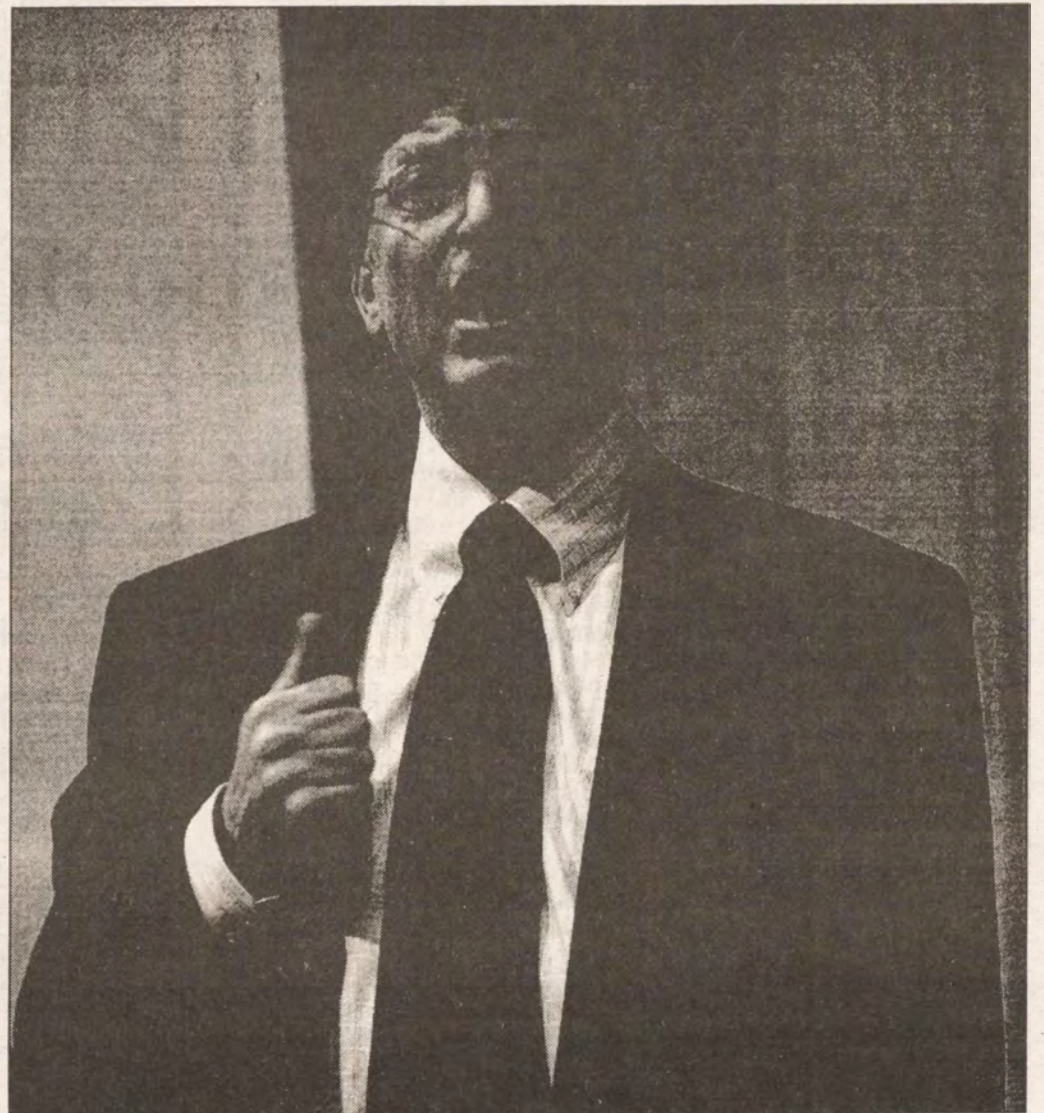
The "MyDoom.B" virus, spread by e-mail, causes victims to launch an electronic attack starting Tuesday against Microsoft's own Web site, and prevents victims from visiting the Web sites of leading antivirus companies. The virus poses as an authentic-looking error message.

Among the only clues to the identity of the possible author was a mysterious message inside the virus, "Andy, I'm just doing my job, nothing personal, sorry."

"This worm is a criminal attack," said Brad Smith, Microsoft's senior vice president and general counsel. "Microsoft wants to help the authorities catch this criminal."

Microsoft urged anyone with information about the author of the "MyDoom.B" virus to contact the FBI, Secret Service or Interpol.

The company targeted by an earlier version of the same virus, The SCO Group Inc., previously offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the creator of the Mydoom.A version, which is more widespread. Experts have said



Zuma Press

Microsoft owner Bill Gates speaks yesterday at a conference in Vienna. His company today announced a large reward for information regarding the "MyDoom.B" virus.

the same person probably created both versions.

Government officials and others have described the \$250,000 rewards as the highest in recent memory funded entirely by the private sector — akin to cash bounties paid in the late 1800s by Western banks to vigilantes who hunted robbers.

Internal FBI documents, obtained by The Associated Press, indicate the government is a cautious supporter of Microsoft offering cash bounties.

FBI officials in October gave conditional approval to Microsoft for the concept. But they cautioned that they won't share secret details of any investigation with Microsoft executives and won't promise to launch any formal investigation whenever the company announces a reward.

In the documents, obtained under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, the FBI said it was developing "a more formal operating protocol for working with Microsoft" and with other

companies that want to offer similar rewards.

Microsoft said residents of any country are eligible for the \$250,000. The company has said previously it will not pay rewards to anyone involved in creating the viruses.

Previous rewards of \$250,000 each were offered for information about those responsible for the Blaster and Sobig viruses, which spread rapidly last summer among hundreds of thousands of computers running Windows.

AMEX plans alliance with bank

Associated Press

NEW YORK — American Express announced its first deal on Thursday to allow a major American financial institution to issue its credit cards in the United States.

American Express, which is based in New York, said that MBNA Corp. will issue American Express-branded credit cards starting later this year, allowing the company to reach a much larger customer base. American Express also will continue to issue its own cards.

The alliance was made possible by a 2001 ruling in an antitrust case brought by the Justice Department. A federal court in Manhattan ordered Visa and MasterCard to drop rules that prohibited their member banks, including MBNA, from also issuing American Express and Discover

cards.

MBNA already issues Visa and MasterCard credit cards and will become the first financial institution in the nation to participate in all three major card networks.

In a statement, MasterCard said it plans to appeal the antitrust case to the Supreme Court in an effort to stop the deal.

Visa vice president Daniel Tarman threw a dart at American Express, saying Visa "partners with — rather than competes against — [card] issuers" — a reference to American Express continuing to issue cards itself.

American Express and MBNA did not disclose financial details of their arrangement.

MBNA, which is based in Wilmington, Del., bills itself as the nation's largest independent issuer of

credit cards, many of them distributed through professional and university programs.

American Express chairman and chief executive Ken Chenault said Thursday that "this is a milestone agreement for us."

"Now there will be three networks actively competing," which should spur innovation in the industry, Chenault said.

Bruce Hammonds, MBNA president and chief executive, said the deal will result in more choices for customers, including credit cards with rewards offerings from American Express.

American Express is a diversified travel and financial services company that was founded in 1850. It is best known for its charge cards, which, unlike credit cards, require payment in full each month, and its travelers checks.

McCain wants outside look at spying failures

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Parting company with his fellow Republicans, Sen. John McCain said Thursday he wants an independent commission to take a sweeping look at recent intelligence failures.

The White House has dismissed the proposal, saying the CIA is committed to reviewing the intelligence behind claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. The Bush administration also argues that the weapons search is not yet complete.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., has expressed frustration with those who suggest an outside investigation is needed before his committee has a chance to complete an inquiry now underway. Senate Armed Service Chairman John Warner, R-Va., supports letting the committee finish its work.

In an interview with The Associated Press, McCain said he believes the public needs an assessment that won't be clouded by partisan division. The Arizona senator said he is seeking a full-scale look not only at apparently botched intelligence on Iraq's weapons capabilities, but also flawed estimations of Iraq, North Korea and Libya and the faulty assessments from other Western intelligence services.

"I am absolutely convinced that one is necessary," McCain said, "because this is a very serious issue and we need to not only know what happened, but know what steps are necessary to prevent the United States from ever being misin-

formed again."

McCain's comments come less than one week after the CIA's lead weapons inspector, David Kay, left his position and began stating publicly that he didn't expect fallen Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction would be found.

Kay and some Democrats, including Senate minority leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., have also stated the need for an outside investigation into the intelligence community. Along with the Senate inquiry, several retired intelligence officers have delivered a review to CIA Director George Tenet on the performance of the CIA and other agencies.

McCain, who was one of the loudest voices in a successful campaign to form a commission on the Sept. 11 attacks, said he spoke to administration officials, but doesn't know what — if any — action the White House will take. McCain believes the investigation would take over a year, removing the findings from election-year politics.

McCain said the commission should consider a series of questions: Were the estimates wrong? If so, why? Who is responsible? What steps need to be taken to ensure that the president has accurate intelligence information?

Names McCain suggested for the commission include former House Speaker Tom Foley, D-Wash., former Secretary of State and Treasury George Shultz, former Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and former national security adviser Brent Scowcroft.

"I am absolutely convinced that [an independent commission] is necessary, because this is a very serious issue."

**John McCain
Senator**

Refund loan fees rising

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two consumer groups reported Wednesday that taxpayers paid \$1.5 billion in high fees in 2002 to get immediate loans on their expected tax refunds.

Taxpayers can get such loans from their tax preparers instead of waiting for the Internal Revenue Service to issue a check for their return, as long as they pay a fee for the service.

The Consumer Federation of America and the National Consumer Law Center, using data from the IRS, said one in 10 Americans chose to get a refund anticipation loan from a tax preparer in 2002. More than half were lower income workers who claimed the

earned income tax credit.

The groups said the fees charged for the loans undermine the earned income tax credit program by siphoning off money intended to help working families make ends meet. The credit returned more than \$36 billion to more than 20 million recipients last year.

"These fees transfer billions in wealth, paid out of the U.S. Treasury, from working poor families to multimillion-dollar corporations," said Chi Chi Wu, an attorney with the National Consumer Law Center.

The advocates said loan fees ranged from \$20 to \$105, with an additional \$28 to \$58 in administrative fees. The effective annual percentage rate for

the loan can range from 70 percent to 700 percent, they said.

The company that services the most refund anticipation loans, Household

International, said the annual percentage rates for its loans range from 34 percent to 129 percent, roughly equivalent to the charge for a cash advance from a credit card.

Company spokesman Mark Friedlander said all families should have access to a variety of financial options.

"It is of utmost importance that all customers, especially those customers facing financial challenges or living on a limited budget, are provided with complete information on the products they are considering," he said.

Commission report to be delayed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Relatives of Sept. 11 victims asked Thursday that the deadline for a commission investigating the attacks to produce a final report be extended to next January to limit the influence of election-year politics.

The commission is scheduled to finish its work on May 27. But panel members this week asked Congress for a two-month extension, citing a need for full analysis of reams of documents about the disaster.

The relatives' organization, Voices of Sept. 11, said even more time is necessary.

"An extension of two months places this commis-

sion in the middle of politics," the group said. "To do so is an insult to the dead."

The organization said the panel "is turning away valuable, vital, relevant information regarding 9-11 because of time constraints. With all the whistleblowers coming forward, they need more than two months to fully investigate these claims."

Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., said Thursday they plan to introduce legislation next week that will set a Jan. 10, 2005, deadline for the report.

"An extension until after the November elections is warranted to ensure a comprehensive and thorough investigation in a nonpartisan environment," McCain

said.

The Bush administration and Republican House leaders oppose any extension, saying the longer the process takes the more politicized it becomes.

The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States was established by Congress to study the nation's preparedness before Sept. 11 and its response to the attacks, and to make recommendations for guarding against similar disasters.

The 10-member, bipartisan group held a two-day hearing this week that highlighted a series of government missteps in customs and aviation security that allowed many of the 19 hijackers to elude detection.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CLUBS

Announcing the Spring Club Information Meetings

Academic: Monday February 2nd - 7pm, 117 Hayes-Healy

Athletic: Monday February 2nd - 7:30pm, 129 Hayes-Healy

Cultural: Wednesday February 4th - 6pm, 117 Hayes-Healy

Performing Arts: Wednesday February 4th - 6:30pm, 129 Hayes-Healy

Social Service: Thursday February 5th - 5:30pm, 129 Hayes-Healy


Special Interest: Thursday February 5th - 6pm, 117 Hayes-Healy

The CCC strongly encourages that the person who will fill out the budget forms and an active club member/future officer attend the meetings with an existing officer.


Elections for new CCC Division Representatives will also occur at these meetings.

Club Information Meetings are mandatory. Each club must have two representatives at their division meeting. A lack of attendance may jeopardize a club's eligibility for Club Coordination Council funding this year.

ccc@nd.edu with questions...



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Terrorism prosecutor accused of misconduct

Associated Press

DETROIT — Just six days after the World Trade Center crumbled, FBI agents raided an apartment and uncovered what they said was evidence of more plots, helping launch a case that would be hailed as a major victory in the war on terror.

Now, seven months after two Arab immigrants were convicted of being part of a terrorism conspiracy, investigations into the lead prosecutor in the case and the FBI's Detroit offices have intensified doubts that those convictions will hold up.

As U.S. District Judge Gerald Rosen considers whether to grant the defendants a new trial, new allegations of misconduct by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard Convertino are being investigated by the Justice Department.

The public disagreement between Convertino and his superiors is highly unusual and

could indicate the government is trying to distance itself from the prosecutors, some observers said.

"The Justice Department and the U.S. Attorney's office have sent some pretty strong signals that they're concerned about the behavior of their prosecutors during this trial," said David Moran, a law professor at Wayne State University.

Meanwhile, the agent in charge of the FBI's Detroit field office, Willie Hulon, has been recalled to Washington amid an internal investigation that focuses, in part, on the handling of an informant who says he broke the law while spying on terrorism suspects.

The Detroit case had been touted as an early success in the Bush administration's war on terror. The FBI's raid on an apartment yielded fake documents, airport badges and a videotape the government said showed possible U.S. targets, including Disneyland and the MGM Grand

Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Authorities also found a day planner with what prosecutors said were sketches of an American air base in Turkey and a military hospital in Jordan.

U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft made such strong statements about the case's significance before the trial ended that he was admonished by the judge for twice violating a gag order.

The probe into Convertino, who was removed from the case in September, is examining whether he withheld evidence from the defense, threatened a defense lawyer with an unfounded criminal investigation and arranged to reduce the sentence of an illegal immigrant on trial for drug charges in exchange for acting as an informant in the terrorism case.

Convertino refused to comment on the existence of a department investigation but vehemently denied the charges as laid out in

the Detroit Free Press, which first reported the investigation this month. He said the leak by Justice Department officials was an attempt to smear him and endangered the life of the drug defendant-turned-informant, Marwan Farhat.

The leak "was meant to deprive me of the opportunity to answer any baseless allegations in the proper form," he told The Associated Press.

A lawyer for Convertino, William Sullivan, said that as a result of the disclosure of informants' names, "one individual was actually shot at." He said that after the incident, which did not result in any injuries, Convertino helped preserve the person's safety.

Sullivan did not specifically name Farhat, but he is the only active informant to be named in media reports and has since left the country.

In a letter written before his

departure, obtained by The Detroit News and confirmed to the AP by a federal law enforcement official, Farhat claimed FBI agent Robert Pertuso told him to break the law by stealing mail from people the government identified as terror suspects.

That claim is part of the focus of an internal FBI probe into the Detroit office, law enforcement officials say. The FBI declined to comment.

The U.S. attorney's office and the Justice Department also refused to comment on the Convertino probe or any other aspect of the terrorism case.

Karim Koubriti, 25, and Abdelilah Elmadoudi, 38, were convicted of conspiracy to provide material support for terrorism and to engage in fraud and misuse of visas and other documents. Ahmed Hannan, 35, was convicted of only the fraud charge, and Farouk Ali-Haimoud, 23, was acquitted.

NASA to reevaluate Hubble decision

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — NASA's chief agreed Thursday to review his decision to cancel the Hubble Space Telescope's final servicing mission and let it deteriorate and go out of operation. The decision comes after the space agency was bombarded by pleas to save the craft.

Adm. Hal Gehman, chairman of the board that investigated the Columbia shuttle breakup last year, will "review the (Hubble) matter and offer his unique perspective," NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said in a letter to Sen. Barbara Mikulski, who released a copy of the letter.

O'Keefe had defended his decision earlier this month to cancel all space shuttle missions to the Hubble, which has revolutionized the study of astronomy with its striking images of the universe. He had cited the risk to the astronauts on a Hubble mission and President Bush's plans to send humans to the moon, Mars and beyond as the reason for NASA's change of focus.

The decision prompted letters from Mikulski and a joint letter from all members of Congress from Maryland, from where the orbiting platform is operated.

Hubble's fate has also become a cause for amateur and professional astronomers worldwide.

E-mails have poured in to the

Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, which coordinates the use of Hubble's instruments.

"It's been overwhelming. My e-mail is overflowing," said Steve Beckwith, director of the Space Telescope Science Institute.

"Every day, we've had offers of ideas, political support and even money. Every day, I get people who want to know how they can contribute to keeping Hubble alive."

Web pages have also been set up dedicated to saving the floating space telescope.

Mikulski, the ranking Democrat on the Senate subcommittee that that oversees NASA's budget, had asked for a review of the decision.

"My view is when someone is told they need major surgery, any prudent person would get a second opinion," Mikulski said. "That's what I told Administrator O'Keefe and that's what he has agreed to do. Hubble has made so many extraordinary contributions to science, exploration and discovery. We cannot prematurely terminate the last servicing mission without a rigorous review."

NASA spokesman Robert Mirelson said O'Keefe has not changed his decision but asked Gehman to give "his view on basically all the questions on the table," including safety, scheduling and the recommendations of the Columbia board.

Arnold to decide clemency plea

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Still on his political honeymoon, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is facing his first plea for clemency, from a condemned inmate set to die by injection Feb. 10 for hacking four people to death.

Few expect the Republican Schwarzenegger to show mercy toward Kevin Cooper. The crime was extraordinarily grisly, and granting clemency on the first request to hit his desk could hurt the new governor politically just when he needs all the help he can get to solve the state's fiscal crisis.

Moreover, no California governor has granted clemency to a condemned murderer since Ronald Reagan in 1967 spared the life of a severely brain-damaged killer.

Nevertheless, defense attorneys and legal scholars are optimistic the new governor just might exercise his authority to grant clemency at some point during his term.

"Arnold Schwarzenegger seems to have a real open mind," said Maria Stratton, the federal public defender in Los Angeles, who represented the last inmate to be executed in California, Stephen Anderson. Anderson had pleaded

with Schwarzenegger's predecessor, Gray Davis, to commute his sentence to life without parole. Anderson went to his death in 2002.

Schwarzenegger, Stratton noted, has already granted parole to at least six murder-

ers and settled a long-running lawsuit, filed by inmates during the Davis administration, by affirming parole violators' rights to contest their charges.

Davis and his predecessor, Republican Pete Wilson, rejected every clemency petition that came before them, allowing 10 inmates to go to their death since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976.

Davis, who lost a recall election

to Schwarzenegger in October, also burnished his tough-on-crime credentials by overturning nearly all recommendations by the state parole board to release convicted murderers.

"Somewhere down the road, clemency petitions will stop being decided on automatic pilot," said Frank Zimring, a University of California legal scholar and author of "The Contradictions of American Capital Punishment." "All through the Wilson and Davis regimes, there was no such thing as executive clemency in California."

Schwarzenegger, a social liberal and fiscal conservative, is on record as supporting the death penalty. But capital punishment did not come up during the recall campaign, and he has said next to nothing about how he will enforce

it as governor of the state with the nation's biggest death row, with 640 inmates.

Schwarzenegger may have more room to maneuver than Davis, a liberal Democrat who was careful never to give Republicans ammunition

against him when it came to crime.

"Someone who is a Republican and who is playing cops in the movies can show a little more flexibility on issues such as the death penalty," said John Pitney, a political science professor at

Claremont McKenna College. "Nobody doubts Arnold Schwarzenegger's toughness."

Some wonder whether Schwarzenegger's wife, Maria Kennedy Shriver, might encourage him to show mercy. But the Kennedy connection cuts both ways, Pitney said.

"The Kennedys are liberal, but if two of your uncles were murdered, that might temper your sympathy for convicted killers," Pitney said, referring to the assassinations of John and Robert F. Kennedy.

Schwarzenegger spokeswoman Ashley Snee declined to speculate on how he will respond to Cooper's petition. "The governor's office is in the process of reviewing the materials," she said. "Each case is reviewed on the facts of the case."

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THE OBSERVER

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Maura Cenedella

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SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Ted Bangert

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CONTROLLER: Paula Garcia

CONTACT US

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR & ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

(574) 631-4324 smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 photo@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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OBSERVER ONLINE
www.ndsmcobserver.com

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

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Andrew Soukup.

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TODAY'S STAFF

News	Graphics
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Will Puckett	Sports
Joe Trombello	Justin Schuver
Viewpoint	Megan Hawley
Nicole Clery	Steve Coyer
Illustrator	Scene
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Lighten up on Keenan Revue

The barrage of indignant letters arrives every year, complaining and protesting — both before and after — the Keenan Revue. Various groups hem, haw and rant by highlighting insults and demanding retractions. They cry discrimination and disrespect, and they shamelessly bash the Keenanites involved for material deemed vulgar and irreverent. The critics are correct in their complaints: It is vulgar and irreverent. It's also clever and hilarious. The Revue is a tradition of comedy and wit, affectionately satirizing all we know and love about Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. It's time to stop complaining.

Thankfully, the snaking ticket lines and insanely fast sellout times indicate that the majority of the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's community have largely ignored the criticism leveled by a select few. Most people realize there is a difference between good-natured comedy and mean-spirited ridicule, and the Keenan Revue is unquestionably characterized by the former. Yes, the Keenanites make fun of Saint Mary's students. They also pick on Notre Dame girls and Zahm Hall. Even The Observer is often one of their favorite targets. Do we care? No.

Most correctly understand that the jokes in the Revue should be taken with a grain of salt. The show, while exploiting common

stereotypes, simultaneously rips apart the stereotypes themselves. People don't just carelessly throw around deep-rooted, malicious prejudices. If Keenanites really believed the insulting claims they toss around, it is highly doubtful that they would publicly flaunt them. Legendary Chicago columnist Mike Royko poked fun at various ethnic groups for years and invoked waves of hate mail campaigns and protests. What many failed to understand was that Royko's political incorrectness was an indirect indication of acceptance. If Royko made fun of a group, he believed they were truly part of the Chicago community, and it's usually OK to make fun of your own ilk.

In the same strain, if Keenanites taunt a specific group or institution, it's only because they know they can. Their material focuses on aspects considered integral to Notre Dame, and mocked groups should feel more honored than insulted. It's good-natured banter, highlighting and teasing elements of the Notre Dame community. It's Saturday Night Live, South Bend-style.

So when attending the Keenan Revue, sit back, take it lightly, and laugh out loud. And to those in the Revue, have fun and good luck.

And please try not to be too hard on The Observer.

The Observer Editorial

Remembering Professor Tom Stritch

Last week, an era at Notre Dame ended with the passing of Thomas J. Stritch, professor emeritus of American Studies. At the age of 91, Stritch was the last of the University's mid-twentieth century "bachelor dons," faculty who lived in the residence halls and mentored students. While his spirit may have joined the other Notre Dame Mr. Chips in the world beyond, his influence thrives in the students he touched, including me.

Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

Stritch reminded me of Lieutenant Tragg, the short, white-haired, bellicose character on the 1950s "Perry Mason" television series. His deep, unique voice was readily recognizable when passing his classroom door. His mastery of the English language dazzled listeners and never betrayed the fact that he, like the other fully tenured University "dons," usually taught their entire careers while holding no more than a masters degree. Upon his 1934 graduation from Notre Dame, Stritch began his nearly 60-year teaching experience in 1935.

Originally a teacher of English, American literature and journalism, Stritch and Professor Ron Weber almost single-handedly established the department of American Studies while I attended Notre Dame in 1970. Weber chaired the new department that melded American literature, politics, communications and history at a time when our nation's culture was still exploding with antiwar fervor in the post-assassination 1960s. The pair were perfectly matched.

Weber's administrative talents complemented Stritch's zeal and steady guidance. The department became an instant success, and I declared it my major at the end of its first year.

It is obvious today that Stritch was a man of destiny. He was a man of his time which allowed him to initially settle into his "bachelor don" role. It seems incredible that those who lived among the students could, in one sense, extend their youth on their beloved campus. A study of those lives probably would reveal a longevity well beyond their fellow classmates who departed for business careers devoid of the laughter and melancholy prevalent among college life.

Living among the students in Lyons Hall, Stritch joined the most notable "bachelor don" and fellow English professor, Frank O'Malley. I was, in a way, also a man of destiny, for I lived in Lyons Hall and was one of the very few who regularly spoke with those two campus giants well beyond the midnight hour. They taught us how to strive for the meaning of life during those most sacred of educational experiences. Each lived a vigorous existence, pursuing the life of the mind, attempting to fuse the life of the ideal with the real. And while I was not remotely near as scholarly, both touched me in a valuable way.

Never again will persons such as those "bachelor dons" live as perpetual students within the confines of collegiate dormitories. In today's digital existence, we find the meaning of life through a Google search. Thinking back on my encounters with Professor Stritch, I cannot help but feel like Scrooge watching the ghosts of his youth at boarding

school. But oh, those are such wonderful memories.

Someone once said that a teacher's life is like a pebble falling in a still pond. It ripples out so long as part of the teacher remains within a student's soul. Stritch was such a teacher. My sister, Notre Dame '79, e-mailed Stritch's obituary to me and simply wrote, "I loved this guy's class." That is the highest praise any student can bestow.

For all the benefits I received from Professor Stritch's zest, despite my lack of attention or understanding at the time, I doubt that I can throw as large a pebble or wake the pond as far as he. Yet, it is his type of existence at Notre Dame with scholarly dedication, tolerance and wit that leaves those who follow with a sense of fulfillment. Each generation may be part of a radically reborn culture, but each will have its own Stritch.

It is fitting to honor a literature teacher with a poem. To Professor Emeritus Thomas J. Stritch I dedicate the following as I complete this column beyond the midnight hour:

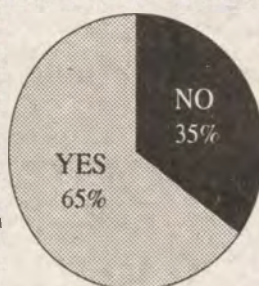
Out of the strain of doing
Into the peace of the done,
Out of the thirst of pursuing
Into the rapture of won.

Gary Caruso served as a public and legislative affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. His e-mail address had previously been erroneously listed in The Observer but is now correct. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com.

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

OBSERVER POLL

Should the Keenan Revue remain at Saint Mary's?



*Poll appears courtesy of NDToday.com and is based on 232 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

Socrates
Greek philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fitzpatrick must check his facts

I am astonished that The Observer published Edward B. Fitzpatrick's letter in yesterday's edition without checking the facts. Mr. Fitzpatrick's central charge is false. When a faculty colleague in the Department of Theology, who also served as confessor and spiritual director for a number of students, brought these allegations to my attention, I reported them immediately to then-Provost Timothy O'Meara. His investigation led eventually to Fr. Burtchaell's resignation. I made no comment in the press about the case because the matter was under investigation. As a lawyer, Mr. Fitzpatrick should understand that. Finally, it would surprise Fr. Burtchaell and many others in the Notre Dame community, then and now, that he would one day be described in The Observer as my "good friend and theological soulmate."

Rev. Richard P. McBrien
Professor of Theology
Jan. 29

Minorities put in the work, too

Only at Notre Dame would a school newspaper have the audacity to print an editorial such as that of Patrick Duncan's. As a minority student attending this school, I am appalled and deeply offended by this display of outright classism.

Duncan cited Greg Parnell's column that stated that poor whites perform better academically than middle-class blacks and Andrea sees it just as a matter of socioeconomic class. Well, it is. Try living in a society that puts you down since birth; try living in a society that tells you that you are sub par; try living in a society that outright says that whites are better than blacks and see how motivated you are to try to do better. Many of these children are self-fulfilling prophecies; since they are told by people such as Duncan that they are underachievers since the time they enter school, they believe what they are told and, thus, do not strive to better themselves. It is a matter of socioeconomic class. People that live in impoverished neighborhoods sometimes do not have the means to reach their full intellectual capacities, and they deserve the chance to do so. And they lack the chance due to backward thinking of the majority which seems to feel that derision and mockery are a means of motivation.

As for immigrant children excelling where the blacks do not, it is a matter of culture. When immigrant families move to America, they feel the need to prove themselves and achieve more than most Americans do. Also, they have not yet suffered from the classism and racism that runs rampant in this country; trust me, I know. My mom was an immigrant to this country, and I am a first generation American. I have yet to have my spirit killed by this culture, and that is why I made it to Notre Dame. As I said before, minorities are self-fulfilling prophecies because of articles such as Duncan's.

Furthermore, what does music have to do with anything? Listening to Garth Brooks or Aerosmith all day isn't going to make you smarter. A person's musical preference has no bearing on their intelligence and academic performance. That was just an unnecessary assault to the African-American culture. The fact that Duncan sunk to that level as a means of attack shows his profound lack of morals and virtue, and I believe his prejudiced state of mind.

Duncan was correct about one thing — blacks, and other minorities, are "the victims of patronizing whites who would rather exacerbate the problem and feel good about themselves than actually face the problem and help solve it." Thank you for making that point clear; I couldn't have said it better myself. Instead of trying to help educate blacks and help them reach their potential, the majority of this country has taken it upon themselves to belittle and ostracize them. I also agree that throwing money at them isn't the answer. Helping them is. Ceasing the use of the stereotypes that Duncan himself chose to revolve his article around, and giving the impoverished blacks the ability to end the cycle his cohorts have helped to create.

As for the excessive amount of money that is seen in the projects — well, that is kind of funny. Having had to live in a similar type of atmosphere at one point in my life, I can say with certainty that the money comes from the rich whites. Yes, it comes from rich Caucasians that go to the projects to get a hold of certain pharmaceutical desires. True, some people do take advantage of the government and welfare, but this does not only hold true to blacks. I happen to know students around the nation that have the resources to pay for college, and have financial aid because their parents happen to know accountants and lawyers. Therefore, evasion and fraud and things of that nature are not held strictly within the minority culture.

And I am curious about this guarantee; do you have access to the Harvard admissions records? If not, then you have absolutely no right to make the claim that a poor black would not make it into Harvard. Again, the patronizing is not necessary.

Additionally, the claim that middle-class black children who are outperformed by lower-class whites are the ones getting into the schools of their choice is bias. I happen to be a middle-class minority; are you trying to say that I only got into Notre Dame due to my minority status? If so, you are highly mistaken. I, as well as most of the students here, worked extremely hard to make it here. In fact, I had to work twice as hard as any Caucasian, alumni legacy or male that applied. If anything, minorities have to prove their worth to be accepted into institutions such as Notre Dame. If anything, we have to over-perform; you have it backwards. Additionally, we don't get rewarded for our efforts, we get scornful articles in school papers discrediting our achievements and ridiculing our merit, as well as questioning our intelligence. Some Notre Dame family.

Fabiola Quinones
sophomore
Cavanaugh Hall
Jan. 28

Focus on diversity, not stereotypes

It is amazing how living "down the street" from a subsidized housing project in Annapolis automatically qualified Patrick Duncan as an expert on black culture. In a Jan. 28 editorial, Duncan made an allegation that was as credible as Bill Clinton's claim, "I did not have relations with that woman." According to Duncan, blacks spend all their money on "cell phones, cars with bizarre and costly modifications, very expensive footwear, and cigarettes," among other superficial things. Moreover, he stated that one of many reasons blacks perform so poorly on standardized tests is because of their "total immersion in a crude pop culture. Pumping 50 Cent into your ears all day will keep you from ever learning at all." If that was the case, then Justin Timberlake's lyrics must be laced with subliminal messages containing many answers to difficult analogies and algebraic computations.

His article was one of many targeting affirmative action. Discrepancies about affirmative action arise because students do not have a clear understanding of the law's policies. Affirmative action does not rob others from opportunities; it simply gives preference to minorities who possess the same merit and qualifications as the majority. To make a mockery of affirmative action by comparing it to the demographics of the NBA is absurd. In a Jan. 26 editorial, Greg Parnell stated, "Blacks compose only 12 percent of the population, but 75 percent of NBA players are black. Is it sensible then to place a quota on the number of blacks who can play in the NBA, so that the races are more evenly distributed?" This suggestion is as ludicrous as the idea of setting a quota on the number of African American players in the National Hockey League or adding another layer of cream to an Oreo cookie to make the percentages of black and white parts equal.

Instead of engaging in frivolous debates, students should push to erase campus-wide narrow-mindedness by incorporating a real introduction to other cultures. The focus of a liberal arts education is to create truly well-rounded individuals. In addition to two semesters of theology and philosophy, perhaps two semesters should be devoted to the study of diversity.

Two years ago, when I first considered attending this institution, I did not own a cell phone, I did not drive a car with bizarre and costly modifications and 50 Cent was nothing more than the price I paid for a copy of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Nowhere but Notre Dame, amongst some of the nation's brightest, most athletically and academically talented students, will you find such blatant ignorance.

Maryann Erigha
freshman
Pasquerilla West Hall
Jan. 29



Student section disappointing

After attending the game tonight against Miami, we would just like to say how ashamed we were of the student section. We were appalled that the students booed Chris Thomas, a player on our team, as he reentered the game. The treatment he received from the student section, especially during the second half of the game, was worse than anything dished out to the Miami players. We're pretty sure that he was wearing an Irish uniform, and yet the way he was treated you would have thought that he was wearing a Hurricane uniform. Even if Thomas was having a bad game, he is still on our team, and yelling things like "airball" when he misses a shot and booing him are not supportive. The entire team needs to know that we're behind them 100 percent of the time, not just when they're playing well.

Clare and Maura Hoyt
sophomore, freshman
Le Mans Hall, McCandless Hall
Jan. 28

Keenan Revue fights crime on Saint Mar

Combining comedy, music and the Ninja Turtles, Keenan continues one of the most popular dorm events of the year



Paul VanLeeuwen, a member of the Keenan Revue band, plays for one of the songs that mark the beginning and end of each act.

By LAUREN WENDEL
Scene Writer

South Bend winters are usually filled with scenes of bundled-up students braving the frozen tundra known as South Quad, late-night snowball fights outside of Coleman Morse and the always controversial, yet always entertaining, Keenan Revue. The winter of 2004 is no different, with the 28th annual Revue adding comedic insight to everything from Michael Jackson to dorm dances to the Middle East peace process.

Keenan residents have been performing the Revue since 1976, when original creators Tom Lenz and Rick Thomas noticed the musical and comedic talents of fellow hall mates during a basement talent show. The show grew from there and has become a campus-wide tradition, drawing crowds from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross. All of the skits are written and performed by over half the residents of Keenan Hall, who often spend two weeks devoted to perfecting their material for this signature event. Although censors often reject a large number of their ideas, the residents still manage to create an off-the-wall, exciting and mostly crude two-hour show.

The free tickets for the Revue were handed out last week to students. All were gone within a half hour, making it one of the most popular events during the school year.

Director Patrick Downey and producer Trevor Kusiak, along with countless other volunteers, including writers, stage managers and choreographers, have been working for the past four months on creating a theme and organizing the many other aspects that go into making the Keenan Revue a success. Close to \$13,000 was raised this year, mostly from alumni donations, to offset production costs that accompany the show.

This year's theme should not disappoint viewers. The residents settled on a "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle" theme and pepper the show with skits dedicated to those teenagers-turned-crime-fighting-turtles. The show's opener reveals the real way in

which the teens morphed into turtles — by stumbling upon a radioactive beer can in Notre Dame's tunnels.

The inspirations for such ideas come from the news and events that happen around campus and the dorm.

"We don't take ourselves too seriously; we just want people to laugh," Downey said. "This shows what 300 guys can put together in two and a half weeks."

The Revue has its fair shares of cross-dressing, male stripping and all-too-painful-to-watch dancing, but also contains some well-written humorous observations on modern society. Nothing is safe or sacred to this group of students, who poke fun at Notre Dame ushers, airport security, "metrosexual hobbits," Steve Bartman (the Cubs' fan), kegs and eggs parties and modern-rap-turned-poetry. There are also several musical interludes that keep the audience interested, if not laughing, consistently throughout the first half.

The second half brings much of the same satirical and often explicit humor, with such skits as "Cracker-t," "Stephen Hawking's Drama 101," Michael Jackson surprising some young admirers and the creative "The Keenan Revue News." One of the most relatable skits shows two students expecting knockout dates for their dance, only to discover they have been set up with 6'5" lady boys. The show does not lack its share of dorm and St. Mary's jokes, although most are toned down after the Wednesday dress rehearsal.

The Keenan Revue offers humor for all types and shows the creative talents of the hall's residents. When asked what his favorite skit from the Revue is, one Keenan resident replied, "Let the show speak for itself." Indeed, these men show that, like the group's favorite Ninja Turtle, Raphael, they are "cool but crude." As the cast likes to remind us, if you have any complaints, keep them to yourself, because tickets were free.

Contact Lauren Wendel at
wend8627@saintmarys.edu



Exclusive to the men of Keenan Hall, male stripping and even stripping to make this event

OK Go to Legends this weekend for Revue alter

The great music of OK Go continues the Legends list of hot up-and-coming bands to perform on campus



Besides being amazing musicians, all four members of the band were voted to The 50 Hottest Rockers list in Elle magazine.

By REBECCA SAUNDERS
Scene Writer

This Saturday, the majority of campus will have two major options: trek all the way to Saint Mary's to watch the Keenan revue, or take the short trip to Legends and watch professionals put on an incredible concert. The rumors flying around campus are true — OK Go, a Chicago-based, nationally known band is coming to Legends Saturday, and the best news is, as always, it's free! (And by free, I mean included in tuition).

OK Go is a well-known four-piece band that plays punk rock with a pop twist (think Phantom Planet, Rooney and a more upbeat Guster). Their self-titled album, "OK Go," is a 12-song masterpiece that any respectable college student is obligated to own. Some of their best known songs are "Get Over It" ("Hey! Get, get, get, get, get over it!") and "You're So Damn Hot" ("You don't love me at all, / But don't think that it bothers me at all.

/ You're a bad-heart boy trap, baby doll, but you're ... / You're so damn hot!"). The songs are memorable and will get stuck in your head for days, but you'll be happy about it because they are just that good. One critic calls them "part indie rock, part stadium rock, part straight-up pop with the occasional whiff of The Pixies or The Cars or Elliot Smith." With a mix of fast, slow, hard, light and everything in between, the music of OK Go is enjoyable for anyone and everyone. There is not a single song on their album that allows standing still, and don't try to fight it.

Beyond simply their great music, OK Go is known for putting on a terrific live show. With Damian Kulash on vocals and guitar, Tim Norwind on bass, Dan Konopka on drums and Andy Duncan on keyboards and guitar, OK Go is not an act to be missed. They are four fun and smart guys that have fun with who they are and what they do. If that isn't enough for some of you females sitting on the fence, all four of the members of the band just recently made the "Elle girl" list of "The 50 Hottest Rockers," which is a boast no one over at the Saint Mary's auditorium can make.

The night is going to be kicked off by a modern rock,

New Jersey-based band called Spiraling, which has the reputation as one of the East Coast's best independent bands. With a sound a bit harder than OK Go's, Spiraling is a four-piece band that has become known without the support of a label, but just through support of fans due to their tremendous talent.

Doors open at 8:45 p.m. at Legends for one of the biggest nights Legends has yet presented. This is a concert any average college student would put down \$20 to see, and it is available to students for free — and you didn't even have to wait in line for tickets. Do yourself and your music collection a favor, and take the short trip to Legends this Saturday night for an unforgettable concert — and say hello to your new favorite band.

Contact Rebecca Saunders
at rsaunders@nd.edu

Saint Mary's Campus

continues one of the most popular



Exclusive to the men of Keenan Hall, those involved in the Revue use comedy skits, music, dancing and even stripping to make this event the most well-attended dorm event all year.

or Revue alternative

t of hot up-and-coming bands



OK Go is a Chicago-based band that is quickly becoming well-known for their great music and great live shows.

Preparing a super Super Bowl party

Super Bowl Sunday is around the corner, and if you're planning on watching the game, you're probably expecting the same old get together — football, beer and maybe some potato chips if you're lucky. Why don't you spice up your Sunday and throw a gridiron bash that's sure to impress your friends? All it takes is a quick trip to Martin's, a stop at the Huddle or, if you're daring enough, just a run to the Dining Hall with some baggies and a large coat. When serving a sports crowd, the best bet is to serve hearty but simple finger food. Your guests' focus is on the game, so no need to whip up a gourmet meal for this event. If you want to save time, Subway offers delicious super-size hoagies that can be divided into individual servings. For an appetizer, the easy but tasty Artichoke Dip with Pita Chips is a winner. And for dessert, these Rocky Road Brownies will satisfy everyone's sweet tooth. Even if your team loses, everyone wins if you get to watch the game with good food and good friends.

Maureen Malloy

Scene Writer

And if you want to be extra festive...

- ◆ Plant a sports flag or a small plastic field goal post in the dip.
- ◆ Cut football shapes out of heavy brown construction paper for drink coasters.

Some Like It Hot Artichoke Dip

- 1 (14 oz.) can artichokes hearts, drained and chopped
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 clove garlic, finely chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 1 quart casserole, combine all ingredients. Bake uncovered 25 minutes. Serve with pita crisps.

Courtesy of Beth Reed

Pita Crisps

- Pita bread
- olive oil

Italian seasoning

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cut bread rounds into 6 wedges each. Separate each wedge into 2 pieces. Brush with olive oil, then sprinkle with Italian seasoning. Bake until slightly brown.

Courtesy of Beth Reed

Rocky Road Brownies

- 6 (1-ounce) squares unsweetened baking chocolate
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup walnut pieces

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Coat an 8-inch square baking pan with non-stick spray and set aside. In a glass mixing bowl, melt the chocolate and butter together in the microwave on high for 1 to 2 minutes or until the butter is just melted. Mix it up to melt the chocolate completely. Stir the sugar into the melted chocolate until dissolved. Mix in the vanilla and eggs. Stir in the flour and salt just until combined. Spread the batter evenly into the prepared pan. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until wooden toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Immediately sprinkle the marshmallows and nuts evenly over the brownies. Stick it under the broiler for 2 minutes, or until the marshmallows are light golden brown. Allow to cool to room temperature. Drizzle the caramel or chocolate sauce over the cooled brownies before cutting. Yields nine large brownies.

Courtesy of Tyler Florence, Copyright © 2003 Television Food Network, G.P. All Rights Reserved

Events This Weekend

One Flew Over the the Cockoo's Nest

Friday and Saturday 7:30pm - 10pm
at Washington Hall

New Jersey-based band called Spiraling, which has the reputation as one of the East Coast's best independent bands. With a sound a bit harder than OK Go's, Spiraling is a four-piece band that has become known without the support of a label, but just through support of fans due to their tremendous talent.

Doors open at 8:45 p.m. at Legends for one of the biggest nights Legends has yet presented. This is a concert any average college student would put down \$20 to see, and it is available to students for free — and you didn't even have to wait in line for tickets. Do yourself and your music collection a favor, and take the short trip to Legends this Saturday night for an unforgettable concert — and say hello to your new favorite band.

Contact Rebecca Saunders
at rsaunder@nd.edu

NHL

Murray's overtime goal leads Bruins to 2-1 win

Associated Press

BOSTON — Glen Murray's 500th career point came at a perfect time for the Boston Bruins.

Murray reached that milestone when he scored his second goal of the game 2:25 into overtime, giving Boston a 2-1 victory over the New York Islanders on Thursday night.

The Bruins had lost two straight at home. Andrew Raycroft made 23 saves for Boston.

Murray leads the team with 17 goals, and this was his first game-winner of the season.

"They really haven't been going in a lot this year, but if you keep getting chances eventually you'll get one in," Murray said. "It's always nice to get the game-winner in overtime."

Murray came off the bench on a shift change and surprised Jason Blake, who didn't realize anybody was on him until it was too late.

Murray stole the puck from Blake at center ice and beat goaltender Rick DiPietro with a backhand flip on a breakaway.

"Our hockey club played well tonight, good enough to win. It's my fault. I turned the puck over in a crucial time of the game and it cost us," Blake said.

Murray had scored just three goals in his last 15 games. It was his second two-goal game of the season, the other coming in a 4-

0 win at Columbus on Nov. 14.

New York tied it at 1 midway through the second period on Oleg Kvasha's second short-handed goal of the season, a wrist shot from the right circle. Kvasha's goal, his 11th, was the 10th short-handed goal allowed by Boston this season, the second-highest total in the NHL.

Capitals 5, Hurricanes 3

On paper, the Carolina Hurricanes should have no problem with the Washington Capitals. On the ice, it's another matter.

Bates Battaglia broke a third-period tie and Peter Bondra scored twice to help Washington beat the Hurricanes 5-3 Thursday night.

Carolina leads the Capitals in the Southeast Division standings and outshot them 35-19 Thursday night. But Washington has won five straight against the Hurricanes dating to last season.

"Sometimes the shot clock isn't always indicative of what happens in a game," Carolina goaltender Kevin Weekes said. "They're a highly skilled team. You give them time and space and power-play opportunities, they're going to capitalize."

Bondra had one of Washington's two goals on the power play. He assisted on the other.

Washington defenseman Jason Doig, who gave Rangers star Eric Lindros a concussion with a



Devils goalie Martin Brodeur watches a shot get past him as teammate David Hale looks on in New Jersey's 5-2 loss against the Detroit Red Wings Thursday night.

hard, clean hit Wednesday night, collided with Carolina's Kevyn Adams in the first period. Adams departed with an injured left knee.

Predators 6, Blue Jackets 4

Scott Walker cared more about the final score than his big goal.

Walker tied the Nashville franchise record for goals, leading the Predators to a 6-4 victory

over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Thursday night.

"We're just trying to get points and win games now," Walker said after his 15th goal of the season gave him 81 with the Predators to tie Cliff Ronning. "I just happened to get that goal. I didn't even know how many I had, but that's great."

Nashville's Wyatt Smith scored his first goal in more than a year. Kimmo Timonen, Martin

Erat and Vladimir Orszagh each had a goal and an assist, and Marek Zidlicky and Andreas Johansson had three assists apiece.

"They got frustrated. Everyone could see that," Johansson said of the Blue Jackets. "That opened up a lot of different opportunities for us. We could take a shot or pass — they were running around and making it easy for us."

Devils' Brodeur threatening single-season shutout record

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Standing in his goaltender's crease during a morning skate, Martin Brodeur saw his New Jersey Devils teammates coming toward him and kicked out his leg.

A dull thud echoed through the empty Continental Airlines Arena as the slapshot hit off his pad.

It was another routine stop for Brodeur, who is following his first Vezina Trophy-winning season with a spectacular campaign. He is again among the NHL leaders in wins and goals against average, and his 10 shutouts are six shy of breaking Tony Esposito's 34-year-old single-season, modern-era record.

"I'm a pretty simple guy," said the 31-year-old Brodeur, who has led the Devils to three

Stanley Cups since 1995 and helped Canada win an Olympic gold medal in 2002.

"I love the game. That's it," he said. "Every time I go in the net, it's just that little black puck trying to get through me. I block everything else out."

That focus was tested during the Devils' championship run last season by a much-publicized separation from his wife.

"Tough skin," Devils coach Pat Burns said about Brodeur. "All the stuff he had to go through concerning last year, I don't know how he focused going through it. People weren't very nice to him. People brought his personal life into the public."

Brodeur, who doesn't like discussing his private life, said the publicity surrounding the breakup was surprising.

"Now I understand what dif-

ferent levels guys like Kobe Bryant go through and what a lot of athletes go through," Brodeur said. "Before, I was the one saying, 'Look at this guy.' It's hard enough to deal with these people talking to you about it all the time."

When Brodeur plays hockey, though, it's hard not to talk about him. He appeared in at least 70 games in seven of the last eight seasons.

At the morning skate, as Brodeur readied to face the next group of players, veteran forward Sergei Brylin glided toward the net, seemingly out of the goalie's sight line.

Within seconds, there was another thud and the puck fell in front of the crease. Brylin got his stick on it and almost immediately snapped it toward net.

The puck never made it in. Brodeur fanned out his glove



New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur stops Montreal's Richard Zednik in a game earlier this season. Brodeur has a chance to break the NHL's record for shutouts in a season.

hand and picked the puck out of the air like a first baseman snagging a bad throw from an infielder.

"He loves to make saves like that," Brylin said with wry

smile. "He tries all the time. He can't let up. He never quits."

Igor Larionov added: "He is the best goaltender in the world."

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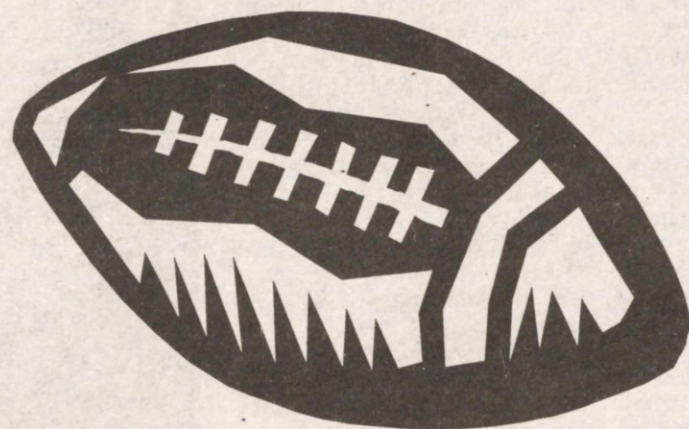
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NBA

Kidd scores 33 points to help Nets to win over Magic

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Jason Kidd snapped out of his slump to help the New Jersey Nets rolling under new coach Lawrence Frank.

Kidd scored 20 of his 33 points in the first half to help the Nets beat Orlando 89-79 Thursday night, giving Frank his second victory since taking over for the fired Byron Scott earlier this week.

"With any team, your best players have to perform," Lawrence said. "Jason Kidd is our difference-maker. He's the reason we've been to the NBA Finals two years in a row."

Kidd shot 15-for-27 in climbing out of a slump that saw him score 32 points in his previous three games. He also had 10 rebounds for his 24th double-double of the season.

"I like to pass the ball and get guys involved," said Kidd, who had eight assists. "But my teammates and Coach Frank kept calling the same play, and encouraging me to shoot and knock it down. That's pretty much what I did in the first half."

Kidd shot 9-for-17 before the break. He scored the Nets' first 14 points of the second quarter — seven on fast breaks, six on jumpers and a free throw off a technical.

"That's my job — to make some shots once in a while," Kidd said.

Kenyon Martin had 18 points while Richard Jefferson added 13. Lucious Harris scored all 12 of his points in the final

quarter.

Tracy McGrady, announced as an All-Star starter before the game, scored 22 points. Keith Bogans scored 13 and Rod Strickland came off the bench to add 12.

McGrady would have passed Allen Iverson for the NBA scoring lead with a fifth-straight 30-point game. After a 10-point opening quarter, it appeared fairly certain McGrady would break ahead in his quest for a second straight scoring title.

But Jefferson's tight defense shut down McGrady the rest of the way. McGrady missed 14 of 20 shots, and blamed a schedule that had Orlando playing its fourth game in five nights.

"I was tired, so I'm pretty sure a lot of the other guys were tired," McGrady said.

New Jersey opened a 13-point lead in the third quarter, outscoring the Magic 14-6 in a five-minute span.

Trail Blazers 93, Hawks 85

ATLANTA — The Portland Trail Blazers sure enjoyed the third quarter.

Rasheed Wallace hardly could miss, and Damon Stoudamire kept finding him. Darius Miles got a couple of chances to show off his fists-banging-on-his-forehead salute to a dunk, including one where he soared underneath the basket and slammed it in on the other side.

"We played basketball, man," Derek Anderson said.

Wallace had 11 of his 20 points during that dominating

period, and Zach Randolph finished with 22 to help the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Atlanta Hawks 93-85 Thursday night.

The Trail Blazers have won four in a row on the road after a 2-16 start away from home.

"Everybody was getting shots from every angle," Anderson said. "It's a momentum builder. How can we sustain it? That's the key for us."

Stoudamire had 13 assists — including eight during that third quarter — and Miles scored 16 points for Portland. Wallace and Stoudamire left without talking to reporters.

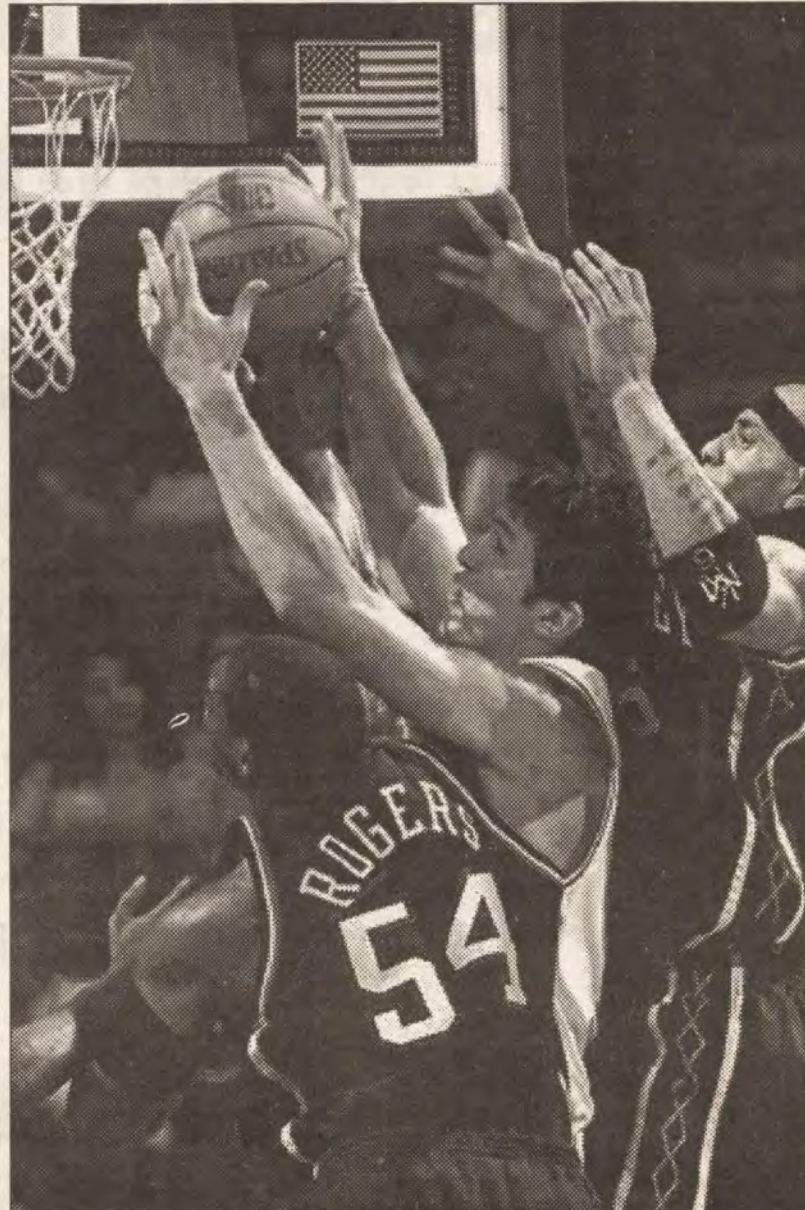
"We're proving we can play basketball now," Ruben Patterson said. "We've got a little streak going. We've got to keep it up."

Stephen Jackson led the Hawks with 15 points, and Jason Terry added 14. Atlanta has lost three of four, including the past two at home, and it still has three left on a five-game homestand.

Leading scorer Shareef Abdur-Rahim was held to 13 points on 4-of-12 shooting, and had all seven of his rebounds in the first half.

Theo Ratliff, who sat out the fourth quarter with leg cramps, calmly dissected the struggles of his teammates, starting with the 17 turnovers.

"When you give a team fast breaks and dunks, they build their confidence and get in the flow of the game," Ratliff said. "And that's what happened in the third quarter. The same thing happened last game."



Orlando's Zaza Pachulla fights for a rebound against Rodney Rogers and Kenyon Martin of the New Jersey Nets.

Fans select Kobe as All Star despite sex scandal

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kobe Bryant was selected to start in the NBA All-Star game, voted in by fans despite a sexual assault charge.

The Los Angeles Lakers star led Western Conference guards with 1,759,717 votes in final results released Thursday, fourth among all players.

He was picked to start in front of his hometown fans at Staples Center on Feb. 15 in the 53rd NBA All-Star game.

Bryant's teammate, Shaquille O'Neal, was beaten out for the second straight year by Houston's Yao Ming. The Chinese center edged O'Neal by less than 32,000 votes.

"That's cool," O'Neal said. "Where he's from there are 2 trillion people."

But it was O'Neal who got more electronic votes from fans around the world, while Yao had the advantage in paper ballots available in the United States and Canada.

Joining Bryant and Yao on the Western Conference squad were Rockets guard Steve Francis, San Antonio forward Tim Duncan and Minnesota forward Kevin Garnett, last year's All-Star game MVP.

Toronto Raptors forward Vince Carter led all players with 2,127,183 votes. It's the

fourth time he's finished first in the voting, tied for second all-time with Julius Erving. Michael Jordan holds the record with nine.

Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal will be the other starting forward for the Eastern Conference. The center is Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons, and the guards are Philadelphia's Allen Iverson and Orlando's Tracy McGrady.

Bryant is charged with sexual assault for allegedly raping a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort during the off-season. He faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted of felony sexual assault. Bryant, 25, says the two had consensual sex.

It's been a tough season for Bryant on the court as well.

He leads Los Angeles in scoring at 21.7 points per game, but he missed six games because of a sprained right shoulder and has heard plenty of boos on the road, where the Lakers are 7-12.

The 29 head coaches will vote for the reserves in their respective conferences. Those results will be announced Feb. 3.

Indiana's Rick Carlisle will coach the Eastern Conference All-Stars. Flip Saunders of the Minnesota Timberwolves will lead the West.

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TENNIS

Safin knocks Agassi out of Australian Open

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andre Agassi put his fingers to his lips and bowed after going five sets with Marat Safin. He blew kisses to all corners of the court in what has become a postmatch ritual.

"You never know when it's your last," Agassi said. "So you want to say bye properly."

It was certainly goodbye for the 33-year-old Agassi at this Australian Open. The defending champion rallied after dropping the first two sets but lost Thursday's semifinal to an opponent who has fortified his game and is playing as if he were No. 1 again.

Safin, who upset top-ranked Andy Roddick in the quarterfinals, won 7-6 (6), 7-6 (6), 5-7, 1-6, 6-3 in a calm, consistent and powerful display.

The unseeded Russian ended Agassi's 26-match winning streak at the Australian Open — an Open era record — and denied the American a shot at a ninth Grand Slam tournament title.

"It couldn't go any better," said Safin, the 2000 U.S. Open champion. "I think I played one of my best matches in my whole life."

Safin next meets the winner of Friday's semifinal between Wimbledon champion Roger Federer and French Open champ Juan Carlos Ferrero, a showdown for the No. 1 ranking.

Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters will play for the women's No. 1 spot after winning their semifinals.

Henin-Hardenne downed No.

32 Fabiola Zuluaga of Colombia 6-2, 6-2, and Clijsters eliminated No. 22 Patty Schnyder of Switzerland, 6-2, 7-6 (2).

This will be the third all-Belgian final in four Grand Slams, and the second straight not to feature the Williams sisters. Clijsters is 0-3 in Grand Slam finals, including two losses to Henin-Hardenne.

"In those matches, I knew where the problem was laying and I knew that it wasn't psychological," said Clijsters, who has a 9-8 edge in head-to-heads. "I was a little bit exhausted at the end of those two Slams. This year, I think I've become a little bit smarter."

Henin-Hardenne made 25 unforced errors, including 15 in the second set against Zuluaga, the first Colombian woman to reach a Grand Slam semifinal.

"People are going to make a lot of noise, again — it's an all-Belgian final, which I understand is huge for a little country," Henin-Hardenne said. "But I think that both Kim and me are getting familiar and used to this situation."

Agassi won Australian titles in 2000, 2001 and 2003 and hadn't lost a match at Melbourne Park since the fourth round in 1999.

"You have to play really great against Andre to beat him," Safin said.

Safin entered the tournament ranked No. 86 after struggling all of 2003 with a wrist injury sustained in the first round of last season's Australian Open.

"I came here to try to win it.



Zuma Press

Andre Agassi returns a shot in his match against Russia's Marat Safin in the Australian Open Friday. Agassi fell to Safin in five sets in their semifinal match.

And I'm almost there, just one left to go," he said. "Everything is going my way for the moment."

Agassi, seeded fourth, was tested like never before in Melbourne.

"I could possibly have won in straight sets — it's a four-point swing there," he said. "It's certainly the toughest day I've had."

After giving up triple match point with a wayward backhand return, Agassi then watched as Safin ripped a backhand winner down the line to seal victory.

Before facing Agassi, Safin beat four other Americans —

Brian Vahaly, Todd Martin, James Blake, and Roddick, the U.S. Open champion.

All three semifinals were played under the roof at Rod Laver Arena because of rain. The cooler conditions worked for Safin, who had spent more than 15 hours on court in five matches.

Agassi was fresher after four straight-sets wins and a default in the quarterfinals when an injured Sebastien Grosjean pulled out in the second set.

Safin reached the Australian final in 2002 when Agassi was out with an injured wrist. He hasn't been back to the final at a major since and missed the

last three in 2003 after withdrawing in the third round in Australia.

Against Agassi, he resembled the player who upset Pete Sampras to win the 2000 U.S. Open.

"I managed to stay with him on the baseline. I managed to serve 33 aces — for me it's a big thing," said Safin, who did not have a double-fault. "It gives you much more confidence."

He also kept his temper in check, though he belted one ball back into the net and disputed a few calls. He muttered to himself in the fourth set, but even Agassi marveled at his



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2/1 BUS, A&L

Northwestern Mutual - F/T & Internship

2/4 BUS

General Electric - Internship

2/4 BUS, A&L, SCI, ENG

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2/4 BUS, A&L, SCI

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2/6 A&L, BUS, SCI, ENG

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23 applicants for 43 slots

NFL

Union creates new drug testing system

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The NFL players' union is setting up a program that encourages companies to put their nutritional supplements through rigorous testing to guarantee they're free of banned substances.

"If the players take these products, this is a way for us to guarantee that what they take is what's on the label," executive director Gene Upshaw said Thursday at a union news conference, held annually during Super Bowl week.

A handful of players have been suspended by the league since it banned ephedra in 2002 as part of its strengthened steroid policy. Almost every time a suspension occurred, the players complained that they took products that claimed to be clean but weren't.

The union is working with NSF International, an independent, nonprofit company that administers health and safety programs. Supplements that pass the purity test will carry a seal of approval from NSF.

But while the NFLPA touted its new checking system for supple-

ments, all of its representatives did so with the caveat that they still didn't endorse them.

"But supplements are part of our society," said Trace Armstrong, a player representative. "The problem we were encountering was, by and large, an industry that was unregulated. There was no safe haven."

Upshaw also announced the union would go to work soon to extend its collective-bargaining contract with the NFL for the fourth time since it ushered in unrestricted free agency in 1993. The contract doesn't expire until 2007, but Upshaw wants the union and the league to be well positioned for the next TV negotiations after the 2005 season.

Upshaw painted a rosy financial picture for the union and the league, boasting that overall compensation for the players has increased nearly threefold since the start of the contract.

He also said the union approved of the league's progress on hiring minority coaches. With Dennis Green in Arizona and Lovie Smith in Chicago, the NFL now has five black head coaches, the most in its history.

AROUND THE NATION

page 18

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Friday, January 30, 2004

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Jersey	23-28	.535	4-6	-
Boston	22-25	.468	4-6	3
New York	20-27	.426	6-4	5
Philadelphia	19-27	.413	2-8	5.5
Miami	19-27	.413	4-6	6.5
Washington	13-31	.295	4-6	10.5
Orlando	13-34	.277	4-6	12

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Indiana	34-13	.723	7-3	-
Detroit	30-16	.652	7-3	3.5
New Orleans	26-19	.578	4-6	7
Milwaukee	25-20	.556	6-4	8
Toronto	21-22	.488	3-7	11
Cleveland	17-28	.378	6-4	16
Atlanta	14-32	.304	4-6	19.5
Chicago	13-33	.283	2-8	20.5

Western Conference, Midwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Minnesota	31-13	.705	8-2	-
San Antonio	30-17	.638	4-6	2.5
Dallas	29-17	.630	9-1	3
Houston	26-19	.578	6-4	5.5
Memphis	25-19	.568	8-2	6
Denver	27-21	.563	5-5	6
Utah	23-22	.511	5-5	8.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Sacramento	31-12	.721	7-3	-
LA Lakers	27-15	.643	6-4	3.5
Seattle	22-22	.500	3-7	9.5
LA Clippers	19-24	.442	4-6	12
Portland	19-24	.442	4-6	12
Golden State	18-25	.432	5-5	12.5
Phoenix	17-30	.362	5-5	16

Big East Standings

Men's College Basketball

	team	conf.	overall	pct.
1	Pittsburgh	6-1	20-1	.952
2	Providence	5-1	14-3	.824
3	Connecticut	4-1	16-3	.842
4	NOTRE DAME	4-2	10-6	.625
5	Syracuse	3-2	13-3	.813
6	Seton Hall	3-2	13-4	.765
7	Miami	3-3	13-7	.650
8	West Virginia	3-3	11-5	.687
9	Villanova	3-3	11-7	.611
10	Rutgers	3-4	11-6	.647
11	Georgetown	2-4	11-5	.688
12	Boston College	2-4	13-6	.684
13	Virginia Tech	1-5	8-9	.471
14	St. John's	0-7	4-13	.235

Women's College Basketball

	team	conf.	overall	pct.
1	Connecticut	6-1	15-2	.882
2	Miami	5-2	16-2	.889
3	West Virginia	5-2	14-5	.737
4	NOTRE DAME	5-2	12-7	.632
5	Boston College	4-3	14-4	.778
6	Villanova	4-3	14-4	.778
7	Virginia Tech	4-4	15-4	.789
8	Rutgers	3-3	11-7	.611
9	Seton Hall	3-4	11-7	.611
10	Syracuse	3-4	6-11	.353
11	Georgetown	3-5	9-9	.500
12	St. John's	2-5	8-10	.444
13	Pittsburgh	2-6	6-11	.353
14	Providence	0-6	4-13	.235

around the dial

NFL

Superbowl XXXVIII Patriots vs Panthers
Sun. 6:00 p.m., CBS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kentucky at Vanderbilt Sat. 12 p.m., ESPN
NOTRE DAME at Rutgers Sat. 12 p.m., NBC

NBA

New Orleans at Philadelphia Fri. 7 p.m., ESPN
Cleveland at Milwaukee Fri. 9:30 p.m., ESPN2

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL



Fans look on at a Dodgers game on July 1, 2003. Frank McCourt bought the franchise from News Corporation for \$430 million yesterday.

McCourt purchases Dodgers for \$430 million

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Frank McCourt talks a good game. Time will tell if his team plays enough of them.

The \$430 million sale of the Los Angeles Dodgers from News Corp. to McCourt was unanimously approved by baseball owners Thursday, more than 3 1/2 months after the sides reached an agreement.

Under scrutiny over his finances and a target of local criticism, McCourt made some bold promises at a Dodger Stadium news conference.

"Welcome to a new era of Dodger baseball," he said.

"I intend to restore the glory days of Dodger baseball with a team worthy of support from our fans. We've committed not just to buy this team, but to win a world championship."

The Dodgers haven't won a postseason game since beating Oakland in the 1988 World Series.

"That's way too long," McCourt said. "My first objective is to end the drought. I truly know I can provide the leadership that this team needs to win."

The price is the second-highest for a baseball team, trailing only the \$660 million paid for the Boston Red Sox two years ago. The

highly leveraged purchase, likely to be completed within a week, probably will set off the third change in management in six years for the marquee franchise, which hasn't qualified for the playoffs since 1996.

"The Dodgers are one of our great franchises," commissioner Bud Selig said in a telephone interview. "We need stability there. We need a lot of energy. Having an unresolved ownership situation was, frankly, hurting the franchise."

McCourt said his wife, Jamie, will be vice chairman of the team, and Corey Busch, who helped negoti-

ate the purchase, will be part of the front office.

"While today is not the day to talk about specific personnel changes, I do want to say I plan to act quickly and decisively to make the changes I feel necessary to get to our goal," McCourt said.

The O'Malley family controlled the Dodgers for nearly 48 years before selling to News Corp. in March 1998. The corporation quickly tired of running the club, and former movie executive Robert Daly took over as chief executive officer in October 1999 after purchasing a minority stake.

IN BRIEF

Pitino returns after two-day medical leave

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Rick Pitino returned to Louisville on Thursday and resumed his coaching duties after a two-day medical leave.

The 51-year-old Pitino underwent tests at the Cleveland Clinic on Tuesday and Wednesday to determine the cause of a "urological pain" that's persisted in his left side for months.

Assistant coach Kevin Willard stepped in for Pitino and led the fourth-ranked Cardinals to a 64-48 win over Houston on Wednesday night.

Pitino was not available for comment Thursday, but was expected to discuss his medical condition in a news conference Friday, sports information director Kenny Klein.

The Cardinals (16-1) play Marquette on Saturday at Freedom Hall.

Closer clears waivers and is released

SEATTLE — Former Seattle Mariners closer Kazuhiro Sasaki cleared waivers Thursday and was released.

Sasaki, who turns 36 next month, plans to continue his career in Japan. He completed paperwork this week in Seattle to terminate his contract, giving up a guaranteed \$8.5 million for next season.

Sasaki said he wanted to be with his family in Japan. He spent four seasons in Seattle, becoming the team's career leader with 129 saves.

Olympic trials will be held in South Bend

DUCKTOWN, Tenn. — Canoe and kayak slalom trials for the U.S. Olympic team will be held in South Bend, Ind., instead of the Ocoee River because organizers failed to raise the

money needed to stage the event in Tennessee.

The team trials were to be held on the Ocoee River in April, but organizers couldn't raise the \$200,000 needed.

"There are unique circumstances surrounding the Ocoee. It's an expensive place," said David Yarborough, chairman of USA Canoe/Kayak.

The primary difference between the Ocoee and other runs is the cost of the water, Yarborough said. Tennessee Valley Authority offered to help sponsor the event, but not pay the \$55,000 cost to release water from the Blue Ridge Dam to create the whitewater rafting conditions.

South Bend was the only other bidder, Yarborough said. That trials site was created by using a channel diversion in a river in the city's urban area.

The Ocoee was the site of Olympics whitewater events in 1996.

FOOTBALL

Irish moving into the home stretch

Coaching staff to entertain only one recruit in this final weekend

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The upcoming weekend is the final opportunity for recruits to make official visits before signing national letters of intent on Feb. 4.

After losing and dropping a few players from its list, Notre Dame will welcome just one recruit this weekend — Willingboro, N.J. native Ell Ash.

Ash is 6-foot-5, 258 pounds and can play both sides of the ball, according to Irish Insider columnist Mike Frank.

"Ash can play a number of positions," Frank said. "He can play defensive end, defensive tackle, offensive tackle and offensive guard. I think the coaches will really make a push for him this weekend."

Ash primarily played offensive tackle in high school.

Notre Dame has received 16 verbal commitments, and that number may not climb much higher with only Ash visiting and with recent developments of remaining prospects.

New Jersey linebacker Brian Toal, rated third by ESPN recruiting analyst Tom Lemming and third by Rivals100.com, chose to visit local Rutgers over Notre Dame and other schools this weekend. Toal visited Boston College, Miami, Penn

State and Tennessee, as well.

According to Frank, family ties could have kept Toal out of Irish reach. Toal's brother, Greg, plays for Boston College.

"Look at the flipside, if I were a Notre Dame player and my brother wanted to go to B.C., I wouldn't be too happy about that," Frank said.

Los Angeles defensive tackle Darryl Richard visited Notre Dame in October but will decide between Georgia Tech and Miami (Fla.), Frank said.

Wide receivers Bobby McCoy (Houston, Tex.) and Chancellor Young (Seattle, Wash.) are out of the picture.

McCoy chose Arizona over Notre Dame, and unconfirmed reports say the Irish revoked a scholarship from Young.

Frank said he spoke to Young and believes Young's commitment because they have less of a need at wide receiver.

"Notre Dame got four terrific wide receivers last year," Frank said, "and at this point, [coaches] probably don't want to take someone who won't challenge the people in front of him. That

would be a waste of a scholarship. That's probably how they feel."

The Irish have no commitments at wide-out yet, but head coach Tyrone Willingham is visiting 6-foot-4, 201-pound Christopher Vaughn on Saturday.

Vaughn played just two years at the St. Thomas More School in Oakdale, Conn., but his athleticism has Boston College, Iowa, Michigan State and UCLA after him in addition to Notre Dame.

The Irish are still working to sign players because with just 16 verbal commitments, Willingham and his staff have more spots to fill if they choose to.

"The maximum [amount of players] they want to take is 19, but they could go as high as 23," Frank said.

Smith announces tomorrow, Lambert waits

Offensive tackle Allen Smith from Corona del Sol High School in Tucson, Ariz. will announce his decision tomorrow in an ESPN.com chat with recruiting expert Tom Lemming at 2 p.m.

Terrail Lambert, a top defensive back choosing between Notre Dame and Florida State, may wait until signing day to make an announcement.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

*"Notre Dame got four terrific wide receivers last year."***Mike Frank**
Irish Insider columnist*"I think the coaches will really make a push for [Ash] this weekend."***Mike Frank**
Irish Insider columnist

NFL

Panthers' defense sparked by Peppers

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Mike Rucker and Brentson Buckner would make great directors of the Julius Peppers highlight film. His fellow defensive linemen on the Carolina Panthers already have some clips picked out.

Rucker's favorite came in the preseason, when Peppers leaped to block a pass, was hit around his knees, flipped and still managed to land on his feet.

The one Buckner remembers best was "seeing how quickly he goes from zero to 60" after Peppers intercepted a pass against Dallas in the playoffs and returned it 34 yards.

They're both good picks. Yet there's one thing missing — something from his specialty, rushing the quarterback.

His versatility is typical of what makes Carolina's defensive line so tough. Any offensive line that concentrates on trying to stop Peppers is risking Rucker getting to the quarterback from the other

side, or letting Buckner or Kris Jenkins come up the middle.

"Stopping their front four is the key to being successful against Carolina, and it's probably the toughest thing to accomplish," said New England left tackle Matt Light, who will mostly face Rucker in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

"All those guys are very good athletes, very talented and had a lot of success this year. It's going to take a great effort to beat them."

Led by the line, Carolina's defense was one of the best this season. They've been even better in the playoffs.

They started by shutting down a Cowboys offense that had its way against the Panthers six weeks earlier, then kept it up against St. Louis. While Rams coach Mike Martz was criticized for playing conservatively in that game, Carolina should be credited for influencing his decision.

The Panthers were at their best in the NFC championship, holding Philadelphia to just a field goal. Carolina intercepted four passes, recovered a fumble and knocked out quarterback Donovan McNabb.

The Patriots will be another stiff test. Their line hasn't allowed a sack in the playoffs,

despite losing starter Damien Woody to an injury before the AFC championship.

New England's offense isn't fancy. Quarterback Tom Brady manages a balanced run-pass system that lacks a headliner at receiver or running back. It works because they're efficient and have few weaknesses.

Whatever the Patriots try, Carolina will be ready, especially up front. Rucker said the beauty of the line is that they stop running backs as well as quarterbacks.

"When a team comes in here, they're not saying, 'Hey, this guy is just going to run upfield, so we can trap him or we can draw him or just block down against him,'" Rucker said. "They can't do that. We're all going to stop the run, we're all going to pass rush."

Rucker led the team with 12 sacks. Peppers had seven, although he pressured quarterbacks another 32 times, 12 more than Rucker. Jenkins had five sacks, as did reserve end Al Wallace.

Still, the unquestioned attention-getter is Peppers.

After playing football and basketball at North Carolina, he was the second overall pick of the 2002 draft. He had 12 sacks in his first 12

games, then was suspended from the final four for taking a banned dietary supplement. He won rookie of the year anyway.

Although his numbers were down this season, Peppers thinks he's playing better, especially against the run. And he still makes plays others can't even fathom.

Rucker said there are times when he's barely out of his stance and Peppers is going into his third step.

"He definitely does some crazy things with his body," he said. "You would think you'd tear a muscle doing the things he can do."

The craziest was the flip.

"It looked like he was going to land on his neck, but he landed on both feet," Rucker said. "We rewound that probably 10, 15 times because we didn't understand how he did that. He's just so flexible, such an athlete, that it wasn't really a big problem. He just started laughing."

Peppers laughed again when asked about it Thursday. That's easier than trying to explain how he did it.

*"You would think [Peppers would] break a muscle doing the things he can do."***Mike Rucker**
Panthers defensive lineman

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Swimmers to face 3 Big Ten opponents

By MATT PUGLISI
Sports Writer

The women's swimming and diving team looks to take care of a trio of Big Ten opponents and continue its march to the Big East Championships when the No. 21 Irish (5-1) travel to East Lansing, Mich., tonight to challenge Michigan State (1-7) and Ohio State (8-3) at 5 p.m., before returning home to host No. 16 Michigan (7-1) Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m.

"OSU has one of the best diving teams in the country and a really good breaststroker from Australia," head coach Bailey Weathers said. "Michigan is pretty comparable to Indiana and is

one of our toughest meets."

On the strength of four event victories by senior Marie Labosky, including three of the Irish's six on the final day of the two-day Michigan Invitational, the Irish rallied to edge Illinois, 197-173, in the squad's most recent meet on Jan. 16 and 17.

In addition to winning the 200-meter individual medley — Notre Dame's sole victory on the invitational's first day — Labosky picked up first place finishes in both the 400-meter individual medley and the 200-meter backstroke before joining freshman Katie Carroll, Ann Barton and Ellen Johnson to post a victory in the 800-meter freestyle relay.

Carroll (100-meter freestyle) and seniors Lisa Garcia (200-

meter butterfly) and Meghan Perry Eaton (3-meter board) rounded out the first place finishers for the Irish.

While Perry Eaton's second place finish on the one-meter board marked the first time this season that she failed to win the event, the senior came back with a vengeance on the 3-meter board, setting a Notre Dame record with a score of 335.85 and preserving her undefeated mark in the event this season.

The men's squad looks to finish off an impressive January when the Irish (5-7) welcome St. Bonaventure (6-4) to the Rolf's Aquatic Center Saturday at noon.

"We just want to swim smart, strong races," freshman Ted Brown said. "Our main focus is

the Big East [Championships], but we would like to finish on a strong note."

After stumbling to a 1-5 start, the Irish have rebounded to go 4-2 in January, dropping only a pair of away meets to No. 15 Northwestern and No. 17 Pittsburgh.

Despite taking at least two of the top three spots in 10 of the 12 individual races and three of the top five spots in 13 of the 14 overall swimming events, the Irish fell just shy in their bid to upset heavily favored Northwestern, losing 155-133.

While three freshmen — Brown (200-yard freestyle), Louis Cavadini (100-yard freestyle) and Scott Coyle (1-meter board) — each produced an event victory

and six other Irish swimmers — freshmen Tim Kegelman and Alan Carter, sophomores Tim Randolph, Tyler Grenda and Steve Shomberger and senior co-captain Matt Obringer — each recorded at least one second place finish, Notre Dame's inability to take the top spot in the various events ultimately cost the Irish the meet.

"The coaches and swimmers were pleased with how close we were to No. 15 Northwestern," Brown said. "I think it shows we've been working hard and belong among the top teams in the country."

Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu.

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish go on the road to face No. 8 Duke

By KATE GALES
Sports Writer

On paper, calling Sunday's road match with Duke "tough" seems like an understatement.

The team is ranked No. 8, with three-time All-American Phillip King leading the way.

His number two, Ludovic Walter, ranked No. 7 nationally in singles with a lethal 130-mph serve, might be a "little challenging."

Walter and partner Jacob Zimmerman are ranked No. 2 in the country after winning the ITA National Indoor Doubles tournament in November.

This could be disheartening to a lesser team. But Irish coach Bobby Bayliss is far from giving up.

"Over the years, we've played pretty well in this situation," Bayliss said.

Two years ago, Notre Dame traveled to Duke in January and beat the top-10 Blue Devils squad.

"It's a big challenge but we're

optimistic, and I think we'll play a great match," he said.

"They're better than that, probably," said Bayliss of Duke's No. 8 ranking. "They have a chance to be a Final Four team this year — I expect them to be one of the very top teams in the country."

The No. 49 Irish are 3-1 (1-0 Big East).

King is unranked after sitting out the fall season. However, he played professionally before entering college, taking expense money but no prizes.

"He entered Duke as a second-semester freshman having done real well professionally," Bayliss said. "He was one of the top 250, maybe 300 players in the world before he went to college ... he's extremely quick and we're yet to have any real luck with him."

"With Walter, anybody who plays him will have to expect to return a 130-mph serve."

The trio of Luis Haddock, Matthew Scott and Brent D'Amico will prepare to take these top players and their teammates. D'Amico sat out against

Illinois State this past weekend with tightness in his forearm, but he is expected to be back against the Blue Devils.

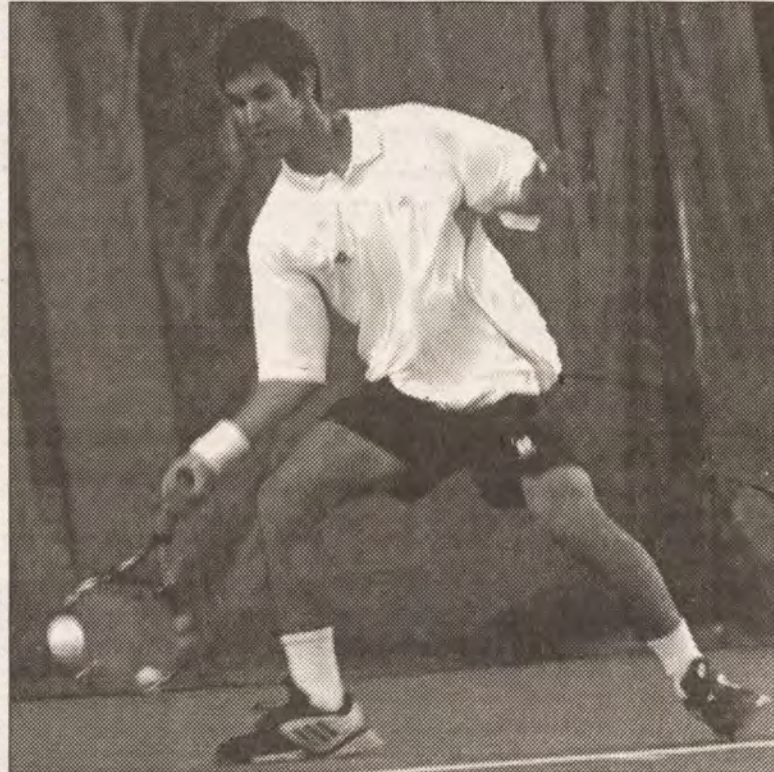
Scott, who spent the winter sidelined with a stress fracture in his leg, is still not at full strength.

"Matt's having some problems with his foot, which is something we have to be pretty concerned about, but at this point we're hoping he will be able to go," Bayliss said of Scott, ranked No. 68 in the nation.

After Tuesday's match against No. 10 Kentucky was canceled due to weather conditions, the team was able to focus on beating the Blue Devils. The team will be able to watch Duke face Texas A&M, who beat the Irish last Saturday.

"We're having a pretty good week of practice, we played some competitive sets yesterday and we worked hard in doubles," Bayliss said Tuesday night. "We're getting into that time of the year when things heat up."

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Luis Haddock makes a hit in a match against Illinois State. Haddock will be relied on to face top Duke players Sunday.

Tennis

continued from page 24

winning streak against the team. The Buckeyes finished fourth last year in the Big Ten and No. 47 overall with a 12-12 record. Ohio State is coming off a 4-3 loss to No. 10 Tennessee last Sunday, and looks to be a threat to Notre Dame with six returning starters.

"They have a good indoor team with big kids who hit the ball well," said Irish coach Jay Louderback of Ohio State's team.

An Irish victory over the Badgers on Sunday depends on the health of Wisconsin's team, said Louderback.

"They've had some injuries," Louderback said. "But they always compete well and the kids are always ready — even on a down

year."

Wisconsin has already found success as a team this season with a 7-0 sweep over Drake and a 5-2 win over Western Michigan last weekend. They return four starters from last season's team, including senior Shana McElroy, who was ranked nationally at No. 103 last year. As a team, Wisconsin finished 11-12 and sixth in the Big Ten last year.

Last year's match between the Irish and the Badgers resulted in a 5-2 Irish victory. Louderback says he expects a similar outcome this weekend.

"The kids worked hard to get in shape and they've really been preparing in practice. They're ready to go," Louderback said.

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu.

FENCING

Champion fencers to host meet

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

For the first time all season, the Notre Dame campus will finally get to see their defending champions in action. The Irish fencing team will play host to the Notre Dame Dual Meet, beginning Saturday morning and continuing through Sunday.

The home cooking will be a nice change for a team which has only competed on the road.

"Not traveling the day before, not having to worry about packing and unpacking, it's definitely a plus," senior epeeist Kerry Walton said. "A lot of people show up at these meets, more so than at a lot of other schools that we've been to. It's a morale booster."

A plethora of teams coming from both coasts will be making the sojourn to South Bend for the weekend. Duke, Cal State Fullerton, UC San Diego and Air Force join seven other Midwest teams in the competition.

However, the headline match

up will pit Notre Dame against a skilled Ohio State team. Last season, the Buckeyes prevented Notre Dame from sweeping the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships by defeating the men's team by a 435-410 combined score. That memory coupled with last week's streak-ending loss to St. John's has the men's Irish team looking for retribution. Senior foilist Matt Castellan knows that even though the losses hurt, they make the team smarter.

"It was tough, but it's something that we're learning from," he said.

Even the freshmen possess a renewed vigor. Rookie foilist Frankie Bontempo is eager to redeem himself after last weekend's disappointing performance in New York.

"We're gonna do the best we can to beat them as badly as possible because we're all pretty upset about the loss," he said.

Bontempo will get his chance facing off against a highly touted Buckeye foilist, fellow freshman and native Israeli Boaz Ellis.

"I want Boaz Ellis," Bontempo said. "He's going down."

The women will face a stiff challenge as well. While the women's team did take the conference championship last year, they did so by the slimmest of margins. They managed to nip Ohio State by a tight 425-420 score. However, they will look to continue the success that has brought them a 10-0 record. Driving that success has been a surprising group of freshmen.

"The freshmen are definitely picking up our slack," Walton said.

Ultimately, coach Janusz Bednarski knows that going against an experienced Ohio State team with seven freshmen in his lineup translates into lot of question marks.

"We can expect to have big bouts and a lot of unknown results," he said.

One thing is certain. Win or lose, this post-match dinner will be in the familiar dining hall.

Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu.

Write for Sports.
Call 1-4543.

ND TRACK

Irish face tough test at home



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Notre Dame women sprint to the finish in the 60 meter dash during last week's home meet. The Irish host another, more challenging meet this weekend,

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

For the second week in a row, the Notre Dame track and field teams will stay at home. Michigan State, DePaul, Marquette and Butler will take on the Irish tonight at 7 p.m. in the Loftus Sports Center — and coach Joe Piane expects his team to be tested.

"Michigan State should be very strong in the sprints," he said.

Piane also believes the Irish will be challenged by Butler and Marquette in the distance events.

Notre Dame will have to do without their distance quartet of Eric Morrison, Thomas Chamney, Kurt Benninger and Ryan Postel. The four of them will compete in the distance medley relay Sunday in Boston at the adidas Invitational.

The meet is sponsored by USA Track and Field and features

some of the top college teams in America. The event will be televised nationally Sunday at 6 p.m. on ESPN2.

Despite their absence, the Irish men are expected to do well in other events Friday night.

Selim Nurudeen will be tough to beat in the 60-meter hurdles, as the junior is currently first in the Big East and 12th nationally with a time of 7.90 seconds.

Senior Godwin Mbagwu is the Big East leader in the triple jump and is also fourth in the conference standings for the long jump.

Junior Trevor McClain-Duer is coming off a first place finish last week in the 500 meters and will make another run at the top spot tonight.

The Notre Dame women are ranked 21st nationally. They are led by the 4 by 400-meter relay team of Tiffany Gunn, Ayesha Boyd, Okechi Ogbuokiri and Kristen Dodd. Last week, they posted a time of 3:45.70

seconds, good enough to rank first place in the Big East.

Gunn, a junior from Little Rock, Ark., is also second in the conference in the 500 meters, seventh in the 60-meter hurdles, and ninth in the 400 meters.

High jumper Stacy Cowan will try to improve on an already successful season. She ranks second in the conference and 15th nationally with a jump of 1.78 meters, very close to the school record of 1.80 meters.

Freshman Maryann Erigha is expected to be strong in the 60-meter dash, as she has posted a time of 7.55 seconds, good enough for second place in the conference.

Sophomore Molly Huddle and junior Kerry Meagher should do well in the mile run. Huddle is third in the Big East with a time of 4:49.21, and Meagher ranks fourth with a mark of 4:52.32.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu.

Rutgers

continued from page 24

To do so, Notre Dame (10-5, 4-2 in the Big East) will have to win in one of the most hostile atmospheres in the Big East. Rutgers (11-6, 3-4) is 8-1 in the Rutgers Athletic Center this year, with their only loss a one-point defeat against Connecticut.

"They," Brey said, "seem to shoot it ungodly in that building."

However, Notre Dame has enjoyed most of its success this season on the road. The team's "road warrior" mentality carried them to solid wins against Villanova and Virginia Tech, and the Irish narrowly missed ending Pittsburgh's home win streak in a close loss versus the Panthers in early January.

And going on the road gives Notre Dame — which has often played well one game, then struggled dramatically in the next — a chance to maintain the level of play the Irish exhibited against Miami.

"It's getting late now, and what you have to start thinking about is consistency," Jordan Cornette said. "You have to be consistent for 40 minutes in a game and consistent from game to game. We had a great game [Wednesday], but you can't go into the RAC saying that, 'Oh, we played good against Miami,

maybe we should be able to steal one here.'

"No, you have to go in there and say, 'We played tough against Miami, let's play tough here, and let's get one on the road.'"

The Irish have often criticized themselves for their inability to begin games well. Thus, they often find themselves trailing by a deficit that becomes insurmountable as the game wears on.

And at Rutgers, where fans drape themselves over the barriers screaming at opposing teams, the Irish know how important it is to jump out to an early start.

"A big part of winning that game is to come out early and get some enthusiasm going," Torrian Jones said. "They can't get any easy 3s early in the game, and we have to wear them down."

Brey walked away from Notre Dame's 72-62 win against Miami last night pleased with the balanced offensive effort he saw. Although Chris Thomas tied his season low with seven points Wednesday, all four of Notre Dame's other starters broke the 10-point barrier.

"We," Jones said, "needed a game like [that] to get our confidence up."

Saturday, Notre Dame will find out if their confidence stays up.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu.

SMC SWIMMING

Belles face close contest in evenly matched meet

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's swimming coach Greg Petcoff thinks this weekend's meet against the University of Chicago could be close. Just how close?

"It could come down to the last relay," Petcoff said.

As the end of the 2003-04 swimming season nears, Saint Mary's faces the challenge of trying to defeat a team that is very similar to themselves, both in and out of the pool.

"They are more like us than any other team we have competed against this season," Petcoff said. "They are more like us with times but have also faced similar struggles."

Both teams have had similar best times this season but have also suffered injuries and seen swimmers not return for a second semester.

The Belles, who currently stand at 0-6 in the MIAA, must defeat Chicago on the road this weekend to claim their first victory of the season.

Fortunately for Saint Mary's, Chicago is coming off an 0-2 weekend against Carthage College and Wheaton College. The team has struggled against competition for most of the year after beginning the season with a pair of victories. Despite losses, Chicago swam very comparable times to Saint Mary's, which competed against Alma College last weekend.

Saint Mary's will probably have to perform season best times, as the Belles face competition of equal talent.

Leading Saint Mary's are sen-

iors Megan Ramsey and Maureen Palchack, who continue to be the backbone of the team. The two veterans hope to pull off victories in the 50-meter freestyle and the 200-meter individual medley, as they will face Chicago's Sonja Swanson and Emily Testa.

The race of the meet, however, will be in the 200-meter freestyle between Saint Mary's sophomore Kelly Nelis and Chicago's Deb Ayoub. These women's times last week, at separate meets, were only separated by .3 seconds.

"Kelly [Nelis] was able to hit the same splits in practice as she did last week," Petcoff said. "But we need her to get out in the first half of the race and compete."

One of the toughest challenges Saint Mary's will face is Chicago's rising freshman Katherine Yang, who finished third in the 1000-meter freestyle in a time of 11:8.59 seconds last weekend.

"Yang is someone a lot of teams wish ... had joined their program," Petcoff said. "But I would feel confident putting Ramsey up against [Yang] in the thousand [meter race]."

Ramsey, who did not compete in the 1000-meter freestyle last weekend, swam 10:57.02 against Kalamazoo earlier this season.

But Saint Mary's cannot hold anything back if they expect to earn a victory this weekend.

"It is time to get ready; if we take our races too tentatively, that is not all right," Petcoff said. "We need to be the aggressive ones."

Contact Dan Tapetillo at dtapetil@nd.edu.



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Irish Guard and team captain Le'Tania Severe goes for a post up during the 82-64 win against Wisconsin at the Joyce Center Dec. 4.

CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Basketball

continued from page 24

Katy Flecky and Breona Gray.

"We're playing with a lot of confidence, and the good news is we're getting a lot more contributions with [Erwin], [Flecky] and [Gray] coming off the bench," McGraw said. "They're just playing great, and that's a big boost for our offense. That's something we've been missing — to see our benching scoring so many points is a great thing."

In the Miami victory, Notre Dame's bench outscored the Hurricanes' bench 33-8. Gray and Flecky each had seven points, while Gray added four points. Courtney LaVere led the

team with 15 bench points.

Irish forward Jacqueline Batteast continued her outstanding play; she has either reached or been just short of a double-double in her past eight games, dating back to Jan. 4. She has averaged 15.3 points and 8.5 rebounds this season. Guard Megan Duffy also averages in double figures in points with 11.2 per game.

Notre Dame's greatest advantage Saturday will be the Joyce Center. The Irish are a perfect 8-0 at home this season.

"We're hoping for a big crowd, because that's what's really been helping us at home," McGraw said.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoe@nd.edu.

Hockey

continued from page 24

Alaska Fairbanks has been a thorn in the heel of the Irish for the past two seasons, winning four straight games against Notre Dame. In their last trip to South Bend, in the 2001-02 season, the Nanooks came away with 7-5 and 6-5 victories over the Irish.

Despite the recent history of the series, the Irish are still looking to finish out the year strong, playing six of their final 10 games at home, where Notre Dame is 7-1-1 so far this season.

"The Joyce Center has been so good to us this year," Poulin said. "It's going to be a huge factor in our last ten games, because this is a home-dominated league right now and we have to protect our turf."

In their recent four-game road trip, the Irish collected a 1-2-1 record, which included a tie and victory over then-No. 4 Wisconsin. A reason for the poor performance on the road has been an offense that has struggled as of late.

Only three players, forwards Mike Walsh, Rob Globke and Aaron Gill, scored for the Irish on that road trip. Seniors Globke and Gill combined to score seven of the eight goals.

This trend is consistent throughout the season, as the trio has also scored exactly half of Notre Dame's 66 goals this year. Globke has 15, while Gill and Walsh each have nine.

"We've got to score goals," Poulin said. "And Mike Walsh, Aaron Gill and Rob Globke can't be the only ones scoring goals. We've got to get some guys scoring here; we're fully capable, we've just got to look to shoot the puck more."

Despite an inconsistent offense, the Irish have remained competitive due to a



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Goaltender David Brown makes a save during an Irish 1-0 win against Boston College earlier in the season. The Irish will look to Brown to help maintain a solid defense in this weekend's games.

dominating defense. Notre Dame's scoring defense of 2.38 goals per game is first in the CCHA and ranked tenth nationally.

Take out the Dec. 5-6 weekend against Western Michigan, where the Irish allowed a combined 14 goals, and the number drops even lower.

"We've played well defensively all year, and weekends like Western are going to happen every now and then," Poulin said. "We've got to play smart in our defensive end this weekend against a very potent offensive team."

Alaska Fairbanks is a high-

risk, high-reward team that scores many goals but also gives up its fair share. The Nanooks average 3.42 goals a game, but give up an average of 3.57 goals per game.

The team is led by a trio of high-scoring forwards in Kelly Czuy (eight goals, 12 assists), Ryan Campbell (eight goals, 11 assists) and Curtis Fraser (10 goals, eight assists). The Nanooks have eight players in double-digit scoring figures so far this season.

Keith Bartusch and Preston McKay have shared the responsibilities in net, with each putting up relatively

average numbers in front of a team that is not the most responsible defensively.

Bartusch has a record of 4-5-0 in 11 games, with a 3.43 GAA and an .882 save percentage. McKay has a record of 5-6-0 in 12 games, with a 3.77 GAA and an .889 save percentage.

Face off Friday is scheduled for 7:35 p.m., and Saturday's game is scheduled for 7:05 p.m.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles face two must win games

By STEVE COYER
Sports Writer

After a disappointing 62-44 loss to Albion College Wednesday, the Belles are still searching for their first conference win. They hope that search ends Monday.

In a critical home game, the Belles (5-13) will take on Olivet College (6-12), the only other team in the MIAA that has yet to win a conference game.

With tough upcoming games against Hope and Calvin, the Belles know this is very close to a must-win situation.

"Olivet at home is probably our biggest game of the season," Belles coach Suzanne Bellina said. "We need to be ready to take care of business and know that we are going to have to be at our best."

Last Saturday, the Belles broke a seven-game losing streak at home, but the momentum from that game failed to help them against Albion.

"We were not happy with the second half at all," Bellina said.

Some positives came out of the game, such as the exceptional effort of the bench. Forward Anne Hogan came off the bench to score 10 points, while Bridget Boyce, Bridget Lipke and Justine Mullen brought added intensity.

The goal against Olivet will be for the Belles to have both their starters and bench players performing at their best for the entire game.

Contact Steve Coyer at scoyer@nd.edu



irish athletics

MEN'S & WOMEN'S FENCING

Saturday, January 31st & Sunday, February 1st

- Notre Dame Duels beginning @ 8:00 am each day
- The team takes on Ohio St. @ 11:00 am

First 100 fans receive Gold Game T-Shirts from Aeropostale

Gold Games 2004...BE THERE



MEN'S HOCKEY VS. ALASKA-FAIRBANKS

Friday, January 30th @ 7:35

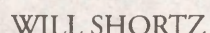
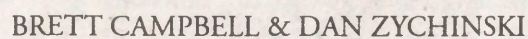
Whiteout Night at ND Hockey

- First 2,000 fans receive **Whiteout T-Shirts**, sponsored by: Famous Dave's, Comcast & Play-it-Again Sports

Saturday, January 31st @ 7:05

- First 1,000 fans receive ND Hockey Skate Ice Scrapers, sponsored by South Bend Orthopaedic

Free Student Admission and Papa John's Pizza to first 250 students each game!

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Crosswords for young solvers: The Learning Network, nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women face No. 23 Boston College

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

So much for enjoying a win. Just two days after defeating No. 16 Miami in Coral Gables, Fla., Notre Dame will face another ranked opponent, No. 23 Boston College, at the Joyce Center Saturday at noon. The Irish (12-7, 5-2 in the Big East) are 5-3 against ranked opponents this season.

The Golden Eagles (14-4, 4-3) are fresh off a 76-42 pounding of Providence Wednesday, where guard Amber Jacobs scored 18 points on 6-of-10 shooting.

Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said stopping the guard trio of Jacobs, Jessalyn Deveny and Claire Drosch will be her team's first priority.

"Boston College guards are just really good," McGraw said. "They don't beat themselves. They're a little like Villanova in that they're very smart and good shooters."

Deveny averages 16.1 points and 6.1 rebounds per game and Jacobs tallies 15.7 points and 4.6 assists a contest.

Drosch comes off the bench to score 7.9 points per game.

Those three are the center of an Eagles offense that shot 54 percent against Providence Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, the Irish will look to win their fifth straight game against a ranked opponent. Notre Dame has beaten Virginia Tech, Connecticut, Villanova and Miami since Jan. 10. Those wins have put Notre

Dame in a tie for second place in the conference, with Miami and West Virginia at 5-2.

Connecticut, whom Notre Dame defeated 66-51 on Jan. 13, leads the Big East at 6-1.

On Wednesday, Notre Dame faced a 16-1 Miami team averaging 75 points a game. But the Irish defense, which has suffocated opponents for the past three weeks, used a zone to hold the Hurricanes to a mere 50 points, including just 22 in the second half.

McGraw praised her team's defense after the game but said she was even more excited about the performances of bench players Crystal Erwin,

"Boston College guards are just really good. They don't beat themselves."

Muffet McGraw
Head coach



CHIP MARKS/The Observer

Guard Megan Duffy, who got around a Villanova defender last Saturday, will be integral to an Irish win Saturday.

see BASKETBALL/page 22

HOCKEY

Irish look to redeem hard losses

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish (12-9-3, 8-8-2 in CCHA) will try to put a disappointing weekend behind them this Friday and Saturday as they face off against Alaska Fairbanks in a pair of games at the Joyce Center. Notre Dame dropped a pair of one-goal games to Northern Michigan last weekend to fall to eighth in the CCHA.

"We really played very well on Saturday night last week," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "I think we played well Friday night as well, but the way the league is set up — it's so tight that if you start worrying about everyone else, you're going to be in real trouble."

"We're playing a team that's right with us in the standings this weekend, and we've just got to play and win."

The Nanooks (12-12-0, 11-9-0) currently have 22 points and sit in fourth place in the league. Notre Dame has 18 points, but has an advantage with two games in hand over the Nanooks.

see HOCKEY/page 22

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish head to nightmarish Rutgers

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Mike Brey has a dream. Actually, it's more like a nightmare.

When Brey goes to bed at night, he has a flashback to Notre Dame's journey to Rutgers last year. There, Brey watched Scarlet Knight guard Jerome Coleman hoist up 3-pointer after 3-pointer — and most of them went in.

"They're not good basketball shots," Brey said. "But they go in."

In that game, Coleman drained 7-of-12 3-pointers en route to helping Rutgers to a 95-82 win against Notre Dame a year ago. The Irish, who haven't won in Piscataway, N.J., since Brey's first year at Notre Dame, hope to avenge that loss Saturday.

see RUTGERS/page 21



TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Chris Thomas shoots during Sunday's loss to Kentucky. Thomas, who tied his season low points scored Wednesday, has to step up for the Irish to beat a strong Rutgers team.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Women lose first opener in eight years

By ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

The No. 21 women's tennis team lost their first season opener in eight years to No. 34 Michigan Thursday night.

The 4-3 Wolverine victory puts the Irish at 0-1 to begin their spring season. Doubles proved to be a weakness for the Irish.

At No. 3, junior Sarah Jane Connelly and sophomore Kristina Stastny dropped their match against Michigan opponents Kim Plaushines and Debra Streifler by the score of 8-5. Freshmen Catrina and Christian Thompson also fell to Michigan juniors Michelle DaCosta and Leanne Rutherford 8-6.

The nationally ranked duo of senior Alicia Salas and sophomore Lauren Connelly garnered an 8-6 win at No. 2 over Michigan's Elizabeth Exon and Kavitha Tipirneni.

Faring better in singles, the Irish claimed victories with No. 1 Salas defeating Exon 6-2, 6-4; No. 4 Connelly winning 6-4, 6-3 over Chrissie Nolan, and No. 6 Stastny 6-7(3), 6-4, 5-7 triumphing over Kara Delicata.

The Irish look to secure victories this weekend and gain momentum for the rest of the season in meets against No. 47 Ohio State and No. 62 Wisconsin.

On Saturday, the Irish will challenge the Buckeyes, hoping to continue their eight-match

see TENNIS/page 20

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

FOOTBALL

The coaches welcome recruit Eli Ash this weekend.

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ND SWIMMING

Women's swimming will take on three Big Ten teams this weekend.

page 20

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish travel to face No. 8 Duke.

page 20

FENCING

The team will host their first home meet of the season Saturday.

page 20

ND TRACK

Notre Dame will host four teams at Loftus this weekend.

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SMC SWIMMING

Saint Mary will face the University of Chicago in a tight meet Saturday.

page 21