

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 41 : ISSUE 76

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2007

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Four tickets run for student body leadership

Experienced contenders face newcomers in Feb. 12 election

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

With current student body president Lizzi Shappell and vice president Bill Andrichik due to graduate in May, eight new faces have climbed into the ring, their eyes on one prize: becoming the next leaders of Notre Dame's student government.

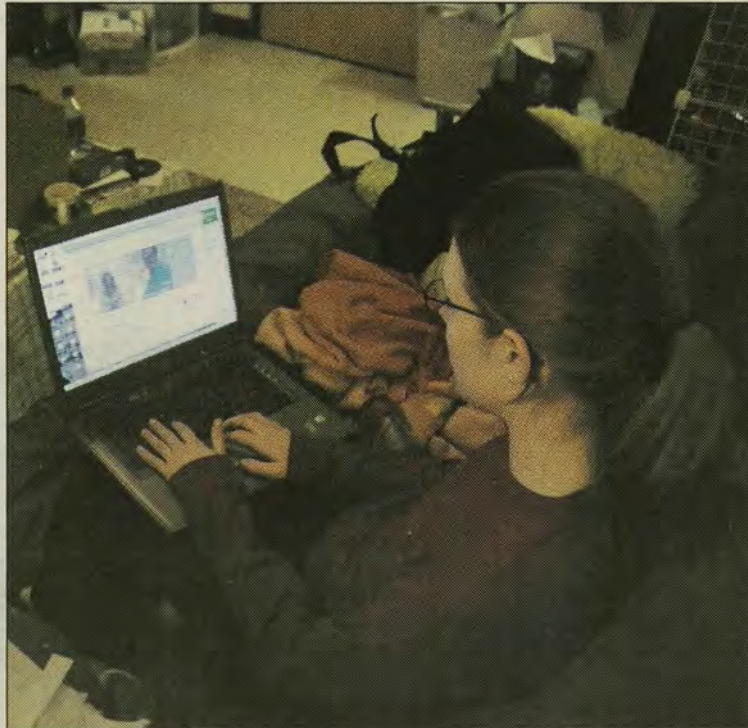
In an e-mail sent to The Observer Thursday, the Judicial Council announced the four tickets running this year.

The students running for president and vice president are junior Liz Brown from Cavanaugh and sophomore Maris Braun from Breen-Phillips, junior Danny Smith from Alumni and junior Ashley Weiss from Breen-Phillips, freshman Cipriano Rivera of St. Edward's and sophomore Catherine Kane of Welsh Family and freshmen Garrett Coggon and Mike Padberg, both from Zahm Hall.

This year's candidates include an all-female ticket, a ticket with two ROTC members and a transfer student.

Brown and Braun enter their campaign armed

see ELECTIONS/page 4



Junior Mary Catherine Sonntag browses through Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss' Web site Thursday evening.

DUSTIN MENNELA/The Observer

Candidates create personal blogs to communicate with voters

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

With student campaign races heating up, both Liz Brown and Danny Smith are doing something unprecedented in Notre Dame election history — they are both taking their campaign trail online with blogs.

While the Judicial Council, the governing body for University elections, encourages candidates to create Web sites, Brown and Smith independently came up with the idea of running a blog.

"When we were originally brainstorming our platform, we decided that we want to run a blog to keep people informed about what's going on in student government," Smith said. "We wanted people to be able to communicate with us. We realized that this is a goal for our campaign too, so the blog idea really branched off a platform idea."

While the blogs are the newest addition to the campaign trail, neither candidate wants new technologies to replace actually going out and meeting potential voters.

see BLOGS/page 6

Spring break plans already in the making



Students have turned to Anthony Travel to organize and book spring break trips.

ANDREW STEVES/The Observer

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

There seems to be one adage Notre Dame students follow in planning their spring break vacations: haste makes waste. That is, those traveling worldwide for the nine days of respite this March haven't delayed making their final arrangements.

Avoiding procrastination has certainly been economical for sophomore Brandon Doyle and his fellow quad members from Siegfried Hall, who are traveling to Orlando. Three of them will fly down and one will drive so they have access to a car once they arrive.

"We booked our tickets in December and got great airfares,"

Doyle said. "And with a car, we can easily get around Orlando — see the Disney parks, Epcot Center and Universal Studios, and visit beaches within an hour's drive easily."

Whether spring break travel plans are voyaging to domestic beaches or hopping across borders to hit up international hot spots or heading home, the majority of the student body simply wants to escape the wintry climate of Northern Indiana.

Such is the case for junior Angel Leal of Howard Hall and her friends from California and Texas. Naturally, their main priority in choosing a vacation was to land somewhere sunny.

"We felt that we had to get out of the Midwest for break this year,"

see BREAK/page 3

Shappell presents progress

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

The Student Affairs committee of the Board of Trustees gave the Shappell-Andrichik administration a positive appraisal Thursday when student body president Lizzi Shappell, vice president Bill Andrichik and chief executive assistant Liz Brown presented their State of the Student Union address to the committee members.

Andrichik said the past year has been a successful one.

"We started the year with about 35 or so platform initiatives and we have either fully completed or, if you include the things that are going to happen, like the Eating Disorders Conference and the Community Summit, then we are in the upper 20s to approaching 30 of those [initiatives]," Andrichik said.

Shappell said this year her administration was able to complete most of the objectives on their initial platform because they haven't had to deal with any of the sudden issues that arose last year, like the academic freedom debate and the disorderly house ordinance.

"It's been a far more relaxed year in that sense with not dealing with as controversial

see BOT/page 6

High turnout likely for Late Night Olympics

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Tonight the Joyce Center will transform into an athletic center with a cause, hosting one of the most widely attended charity events of the year — Late Night Olympics.

This will be the 21st year that Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students gather to raise funds for the St. Joseph County Special Olympics. Students participate in athletic events and raise money as a dorm. Last year nearly 1,200 participants raised approximately \$8,300.

"Typically, the grand prize winner takes half of the money for their dorm. Last

year, the MBA students won, but gave all right back to charity. This is the only time I have ever seen that during my time here," Bill Regan, assistant director for instructional programs and special events at RecSports, said.

Annual turnout is expected to be similar to previous years, but Regan hopes the weather will not be a factor tonight.

"I hope the snow doesn't deter people from coming out and having a good time," he said.

Late Night Olympics consists of 17 events, ranging from 3-on-3 basketball to inner tube water polo. Each

see OLYMPICS/page 6



Late Night Olympians participate in a game of intertube water polo last February. This year's event will take place tonight.

Observer file photo

INSIDE COLUMN

State of the headshots

Hello, dear reader. I am writing today about something that is important to me, and I have decided to write this in inside column format. I've decided to position my words in a column-like shape to talk to you about the sorry state of headshots in The Observer.

You may remember my other inside column (the second of three, if you are into collecting my inside columns) of Fall 2006, when I discussed the importance of having the proper headshot to go with your article in our student newspaper. I think you'll agree, articles without headshots suck.

Since my column's appearance, I have seen a larger number of headshots in The Observer (directly attributable to me), but I have also seen a steady decline in quality. This is disturbing.

CASE IN POINT: The issue of Tuesday, January 30th is strewn with awful, stupid headshots.

EXAMPLE A: Jonathan Klinger's article on fair trade in the Viewpoint section has with it possibly the worst headshot in Observer history. It appears to be cropped from a larger photo of Jonathan (or, if I may, Jon) near a coral reef. However, this cannot be so because he is wearing a suit. Ridiculous.

Further more, his head isn't even filling the frame of the headshot. There is a limited space in which to make a headshot IMPACT. I suggest you fill it, Jon.

EXAMPLE B: Marty Schroeder's article on Super Bowl commercials. The way his head is slightly cocked, but not cocked all the way, makes me distrust him and his motives. His stare suggests something to me of a secret, not unlike the Mona Lisa. I don't want to stare at the headshot and try to figure out what he is thinking; I want it all in the article. Give me a headshot that says, "no need to look here, it's all in the article." Marty, take your half-cocked Mona Lisa smiles and leave them at home.

But do not lose hope, dear readers. Among strewn piles of senseless crappy headshot rubble, there are some shiny good things. The edition of Wednesday, January 31st, in the Viewpoint section features a very well done headshot of Katie Palmitier. Neutral background, full frame, and the perfect facial expression. Wow.

While there are many terrible headshots in the Observer, not enough articles even give their writers a chance by including them. Missed opportunity. Recall Ken Fowler's passionate polemic against that Selena Roberts woman or whatever. Now imagine Ken's column with him staring right at you looking SUPER serious. HOLY CRAP! I've met Ken (nice guy) and he could do it, no problem.

So I call on you, the readers, to demand more headshots. Write in, and — oh whatever, this'll probably get cut off at the end anyways.

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

Contact Adam Fairholm at afairhol@nd.edu



Adam Fairholm

Cartoonist

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ACTIVITY WOULD YOU ADD TO LATE NIGHT OLYMPICS?



Andrea Mayus

junior
Welsh Family

"Wait, what? This parachute has a knapsack?"



Kate Kenahan

junior
Welsh Family

"Flamingo dancing."



Marie Sydlík

freshman
Welsh Family

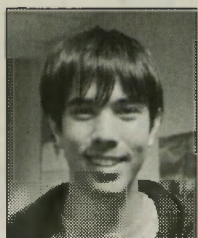
"Relays — they were fun in high school gym class."



Ryan Pantages

freshman
Keough

"Bowling — the greatest sport in the world."



Sean Mallin

sophomore
Keough

"Bikini contest, so I could participate."



Tony Crosser

junior
Keough

"A Wii tennis tournament with Father Poorman."



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Suited up at the Winter Career Fair, a slew of students exploring the business of public relations waits to talk with Ben Gardeen, an account executive from the Chicago office of Porter Novelli. An estimated 2,500 students attended the fair.

OFFBEAT

'Super Tonio' causes sensation in Cancun

CANCUN, Mexico — He is called "Super Tonio," and at a whopping birth weight of 14.5 pounds, the little fellow is causing a sensation in this Mexican resort city.

Cancun residents have crowded the nursery ward's window to see Antonio Vasconcelos, who was born early Monday by Caesarean section. The baby drinks 5 ounces of milk every three hours, and measures 22 inches in length.

"We haven't found any abnormality in the child,

there are some signs of high blood sugar, and a slight blood infection, but that is being controlled so that the child can get on with his normal life in a few more days," Narciso Perez Bravo, the hospital's director, said on Wednesday.

Fake employer took women's urine samples

OMAHA, Neb. — A 36-year-old Omaha man accused of luring women to his home and taking urine samples when they thought they were applying for a job was found guilty Thursday of two counts of

criminal impersonation.

Victims told police Kevin Oliver said he worked for cell phone company T-Mobile and was interviewing them for jobs. Prosecutors said there never were any jobs.

"To this day, we don't know what his ultimate goal was but whatever it was it was deceptive, it was damaging and it was protracted," said Omaha city prosecutor Marty Conboy. "This went on for 18 months that we know of."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The student group, Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCO), presents "Ragtime" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. "Ragtime" will also be playing Feb. 3, 9 and 10. Tickets available at LaFortune box office and are \$6 for seniors and \$8 for adults.

The Late Night Olympics will be held from today at 6 p.m. to Saturday at 4 a.m. in the Joyce Center. The event raises money for St. Joe County Special Olympics.

Country megastar Dierks Bentley, accompanied by Cross Canadian Ragweed, will perform at 9 p.m. at Legends. The event is free and open to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students with ID.

The New Orleans Jazz Orchestra will perform a show called "New Orleans: Then and Now" Saturday at 8 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Call the ticket office at 631-2800 to purchase tickets at \$15 for students, \$30 for faculty/staff/seniors and \$36 for the general public.

The Notre Dame Scrabble Club will host a Scrabble Tournament Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. There is an entry fee of \$50. There will be different divisions for players of all skill levels.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 22	HIGH 6	HIGH 8	HIGH 7	HIGH 5	HIGH 7
	LOW 0	LOW -4	LOW 0	LOW -2	LOW -8	LOW -10

Atlanta 50 / 35 Boston 37 / 28 Chicago 20 / 14 Denver 5 / -4 Houston 61 / 45 Los Angeles 65 / 46 Minneapolis 5 / -1 New York 39 / 31 Philadelphia 41 / 29 Phoenix 61 / 44 Seattle 46 / 27 St. Louis 27 / 19 Tampa 74 / 69 Washington 39 / 32

Career fair enjoys high turnout

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Nearly a quarter of Notre Dame's student body and over 100 employers trekked through snow and ice to the Joyce Center Thursday night to take part in the Winter Career Fair.

"I think this may be our largest and most diverse career fair since 1999," said Lee Svete, director of the Career Center. "There's something for every major, which is usually hard to do with a career fair. It's a mixed buffet table of opportunities."

Anita Rees, associate director of the Career Center, noted that there was a "constant flow" of students with some showing up at 3:50 p.m., 10 minutes before the fair's 4:00 start time.

"There was an especially heavy flow at the beginning," Rees said. "Employers were amazed with the turnout and they're saying how great Notre Dame students are."

Students came dressed in business suits and formal attire to network with potential employers and try to land interviews and ultimately, internships or jobs for after-graduation. Class levels ranged from freshman undergraduates to MBA candidates to even PhD candidates.

"I came at the last minute to find a job. [The Career Fair] is practice for interviewing in the future," said Liz Sarb, a studio art and design major. "I also came as moral support for my friends."

One surprise of the night was the amount of freshmen that

came to the fair to seek out employers, which "impressed" Rees.

Freshmen can have a hard time landing internships or even getting much attention from employers who are often more interested in recruiting sophomores and juniors.

"I'm not necessarily looking for an internship, but it's good to make contacts and see what's out there," said freshman aerospace engineering major Ted Reinhold, who talked to a BP Oil Company recruiter.

Freshman Melissa Dondalski, who attended the Diversity Reception before the fair, echoed Reinhold's sentiments.

"It was a little disappointing because there aren't a lot of opportunities for freshmen, but it was still a good experience to meet employers," she said.

With so many interested students, queues were inevitable at the fair. Long lines of up to 15 Arts and Letters students waited to talk to recruiters from Chicago's Field Museum while long lines of Finance majors waited at Goldman Sachs.

Students weren't the only ones who noticed the long lines.

"Employers were amazed with the turnout. They've been impressed with how many students have come out," said Suzanne Thorup, program manager for internship development at the Career Center.

Although Chicago and the Midwest were well-represented, employers came from as far as Seattle and Washington, D.C. to attend the event. Svete called it "a

testament to Notre Dame students and what they offer."

Employers also praised the student body.

"I've been in this business for 23 years and have recruited students all over the world, but Notre Dame has the highest caliber of students," said Sam Long, a recruiter from E&J Gallo Winery, based in Modesto, Calif. "They have strong integrity, great social skills and passion for what they do. They also have the strongest moral compasses of any students I've seen."

Long praised Svete for preparing Notre Dame students so well for the fair and also for the success of the fair itself.

"Lee [Svete] has such passion and integrity. He really wants the best for his kids," he said.

Many of the corporate recruiters are Notre Dame alumni. Anthony Salvador, a former linebacker on the varsity football team who graduated last spring and now works for E&J Gallo Winery, called coming back to Notre Dame for the Career Fair a "great experience."

"It's great to be able to help out the company since I'm familiar with Notre Dame students. I can point out familiar faces who are qualified for positions with the company."

Svete estimates there will be about 1,000 interviews taking place today as a result of the Career Fair, with about 81 employers scheduling upwards of 15 interviews each.

Contact Eva Binda at
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Break

continued from page 1

Leal said. "So, we began searching for places on Travelocity.com, and we got a package deal to Mazatlan [Mexico] that ended up being cheaper than Cancun or other popular sites."

While students like Leal may have struck gold relying solely on Internet deals, on-campus resources such as Anthony Travel also organized some vacations that many students found attractive, said Kayleen Carr, leisure manager for the company.

"The two biggest destinations this year include a cruise on the Carnival Glory, which roughly 100 Notre Dame students have booked cabins on," she said. "The second largest destination, Costa Rica, will be hailing about fifty students."

Carr also noted that most students traveling on the Carnival Glory cruise will be seniors, as they are required to be 21 years of age to book a cabin. Most Notre Dame students paid roughly \$600 apiece to go on this cruise.

In addition, students who opted to travel on the cruise — a seven-day passage through Costa Maya and Cozumel, Mexico; the Bahamas and Belize — are mainly seniors looking to commemorate their final spring break doing something unique.

"It was the most convenient and affordable trip for us," said senior Christa Laneri, who will be going with her roommates. "We wanted to do something special like a cruise through the Western Caribbean, and a group of girls going on a cruise will be much

safer than going to a foreign country."

Junior Ted Buch found a unique way to escape the frigid weather: flying to Egypt to visit a fellow Notre Dame friend who is studying abroad at the American University of Cairo.

"I want to make a point of going somewhere for break," he said, "and I'm tired of the same old, same old. I've always been fascinated by pyramids, hieroglyphics, and now that I have a friend there, it makes sense to visit."

Many students seeking last-minute deals can use STA Travel, the world's leading student travel organization with 400 worldwide branches as a resource. Carrie Moffatt, the branch manager at the Purdue University location, said there has definitely been a major increase in college students traveling this spring break.

"Students seem to be picking up on the great deals offered in London, Paris, Amsterdam and Rome," she said, "and even more expensive vacations to places like Costa Rica and the Caribbean have been hot this year."

Buch's preparation for his journey will certainly require more cash than a trip to Central America, but for him, months of personal savings plus a job waiting tables will help fund his endeavor. Besides that, there's little to worry about, he said.

"The flight and the hotel accommodations will take up most of my costs, but I think it's all worth it," Buch said. "I imagine I'll do all the sightseeing and enjoy the nightlife in Cairo. My only hope is that I don't run into trouble anywhere."

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So you want to run



?

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talib kwell

better than ezra

Renovated health center dedicated, ready for use

Jenkins says blessing over Saint Liam Hall

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

Visitors who step inside the newly renovated University Health Center, now known as Saint Liam Hall, will discover a "magnificent transformation," as Director of Health Services Ann Kleva called the building at its dedication Thursday afternoon.

Although Saint Liam Hall was fully operational on Jan. 15, according to staff pharmacist Betsy Creary, it was blessed and dedicated yesterday as part of the Board of Trustees weekend.

University President Father John Jenkins said a prayer and

sprinkled a plaque in the lobby with Holy Water.

"Let us ask God's blessing on this place," he said.

Kleva encouraged the Trustees and special guests in attendance to tour Saint Liam Hall at their leisure after the ceremony.

While the façade of Saint Liam Hall remains consistent with the former University Health Center, the new inside bears no resemblance to the old.

"The building was completely gutted," registered nurse Pat Brubaker said. "They took all our input about what we [the staff] would like — we're really pleased that the building now supports us in our care."

"The beds are better, the doorways are better, the exam rooms are bigger, there is more confidentiality ... the care was excel-

lent before, but now we have a space that reflects that level of care."

Pharmacist Betsy Creary said she is also enjoying the new space. "Before, we just had a window in the hallway for the pharmacy, now we have much more space and there is more confidentiality," she said.

Saint Liam Hall was an \$8 million project, according to the health service's Web site. Level one of the hall features an allergy clinic, business offices, a laboratory, the pharmacy, a student insurance office, a travel clinic and an x-ray room. The second level features a small chapel, a state-of-the-art conference room, the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education, patient rooms and administrative offices. Level three is home to additional conference

rooms and the University Counseling Center, which was formerly housed in the old post office on Notre Dame Avenue.

Sister Sue Dunn, former rector of Lyons hall, attended the dedication.

"I just think it's amazing — everything is so well done. It's a very professional and welcoming place ... it's a wonderful gift to us all," she said. "It's especially great that all things related to wellness are now in the same building."

Megan Pohl, a senior who has experienced both the "old" and the "new" health centers, said Saint Liam hall trumps the old center.

"The atmosphere was much more reassuring," she said. "It looks much more like a doctor's office than the old health center did."

A plaque in the lobby reminds all who enter Saint Liam Hall that it was made a reality through a very generous gift from the William K. Warren Foundation of Tulsa, Okla.

"Saint Liam Hall is named in honor of Saint William of York, the patron saint of William K. Warren, Senior," the plaque reads. "Saint William of York was a 12th century bishop who was known for his gentleness and charity as well as a life of intercession which brought healing to many."

The final inscription reads, "May Saint William's prayers inspire each patient within this facility to retire to good health."

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Elections

continued from page 1

with years of experience in Notre Dame's student government. Brown is the chief executive assistant to Shappell and Braun, Breen-Phillip's senator, serves on the Senate Community Relations and Academic Affairs committees.

Brown also oversees the Campus Life Council (CLC) task force on Social Concerns and the Senate Multicultural Affairs committee. In her three years serving student government, she said she has served on five out of the nine student senate committees. Braun has served on two of the other four committees.

Their combined experience in student government makes for a strong ticket, Brown said.

"Between the two of us I think we really have a complete view of what student government can

do and what it is supposed to do and how it's done," she said.

Brown said her close interaction with Shappell and Andrichik has shown her the leadership the job requires.

"I'm with them more than anyone else all week and I see the demands," Brown said.

Their campaign slogan, "raising the bar, redefining the standards," sums up the Brown-Braun campaign's vision to change the way they look at the issues the student government has been addressing, Braun said.

Their campaign will focus on five main areas: rethinking community relations, promoting social concerns, improving the academic environment, "revamping" student government by making it easier for students to get involved and enhancing student life through initiatives like a guest meal exchange program and a shuttle to South Bend Airport.

Brown and Braun want to

increase student involvement in government committees through online applications and forums, but their most popular idea may be making Martin Luther King Day an officially recognized University holiday.

The Smith-Weiss ticket also comes packed with experience and overflowing with ideas for next year's student government.

Among the many proposals the candidates have made part of their platform, Smith said, are a partnership with the Ruckus Network, Inc, a legal video and music downloading site for college students and the use of Domer Dollars in the Joyce Center and the Stadium. Smith also hopes to make football ticket booklets obsolete by encoding ticket information on student IDs. Their platform includes a plan to put the football ticketing system online, create a band away-game endowment so the marching band can travel to more away games and address the high

costs of prescription drugs on campus.

Smith is Alumni Hall's senator and the chair of the CLC task force on Student Concerns. Weiss is the chair of the Senate Gender Issues committee and is the coordinator for the University's first student-run Eating Disorders Conference.

But Smith said their qualifications go beyond their student government experience. Smith has been a member of the Notre Dame Marching Band for the past three years and sits on the Deus Caritas Est committee to discuss Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical. Weiss served on the Junior Parents' Weekend committee and has political experience from the University of Rochester, where she was a student for her freshman year and half her sophomore year.

Smith said Weiss's experience at Rochester can bring a "fresh perspective" into student government. And Weiss agreed that her outside experience, along with their combined involvement in activities during their college careers, strengthens their ticket.

"Danny and I run on the fact that we are two candidates who have experience outside of the student government office," Weiss said. "When we walk into a room, we know what we are talking about on any aspect of life. Believe me, from transferring I know this."

Over the next week, Smith and Weiss hope to make it to every dorm. Twice.

"Our goal is to meet as many individuals as possible," Weiss said.

The candidates also plan to go to Clover Ridge and Turtle Creek to stomp for votes.

Smith said he and Weiss have done their research and are sure they can implement all their ideas.

"Danny and I are confident that we can answer any ques-

tion, address any issue, on several different levels," Weiss said.

Rivera and Kane also bring a unique perspective. Rivera, a freshman, served in the Marine Corps for the past few years and was stationed with the 11th Marine at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Kane is a sophomore midshipman in the Navy ROTC program.

Neither Rivera nor Kane have experience in Notre Dame's student government, but said their leadership experience in other activities makes them qualified for the positions.

"I served in high school on student government. I had a lot of experience there, but not here. But school government is the same anywhere ...," Kane said. "I think experience doesn't have a lot to do with it ... anyone can put the pieces together."

Rivera said his experience in the Marine Corps makes him the best candidate for student body president.

"Leading under stress and leading small units of Marines I think will equate leading in the student body," Rivera said. "I think there are parallels in that."

Rivera-Kane's platform includes allowing meals to roll over from one week to the next, making free tutoring available and free from freshman to senior year and extending the use of Domer Dollars and Flex Points throughout campus.

Coggon and Padberg, both freshman, make up what seems to be the unofficial annual Zahm ticket. The Observer was unable to reach either candidate for comment Thursday.

The election for student body president and vice president will take place Monday, Feb. 12 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. A debate will be held Wednesday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Main Lounge of LaFortune.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at
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MSPS COMEDY SHOW

Saturday, Feb 3, 2007
10 pm, Legends

Featuring:

DAN GABRIEL

appeared on Comedy Central's Premium Blend and
winner of the L.A. Take Out Comedy Competition

And

PREACHER MOSS

Writer for Damon Wayans, George Lopez, and Saturday Night Live

Co-Sponsored by Legends and the Muslim Student Association



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Accepting reservations for Valentine's Day

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. sees China as key to end crisis

KHARTOUM, Sudan — The United Nations hopes the Chinese president will push for a solution to the Darfur crisis during his landmark visit to Sudan on Friday. But Khartoum expects its staunchest diplomatic ally to stick to boosting commercial ties, particularly those assuring its access to Sudan's oil.

The road to Khartoum's airport was lined with the red banners of communist China and the flag of Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist regime on Thursday ahead of Hu Jintao's two-day visit, the first by a Chinese president to Sudan.

China, which is the biggest foreign investor in Sudan and buys two-thirds of the country's oil exports, has used its veto-wielding status at the U.N. Security Council to prevent harsh measures against Sudan over the Darfur conflict.

Suicide bombers kill 45 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A pair of suicide bombers detonated explosives Thursday among shoppers in a crowded outdoor market in a Shiite city south of Baghdad, killing at least 45 people and wounding 150, police said. Bombs and a mortar attack killed at least 17 others in both Shiite and Sunni areas of Baghdad.

Overall, more than 100 people were killed or found dead across the country, reflecting the ongoing wave of sectarian and insurgency bloodletting as the U.S. military gears up for a major security operation to stem the violence.

The biggest attack took place in the center of Hillah, a city about 60 miles south of Baghdad. Police and witnesses said the two bombers strolled into the Maktabat market about 6 p.m. when the area was packed with shoppers buying food for the evening meal.

NATIONAL NEWS

Engineers say 127 levees at risk

WASHINGTON — One hundred twenty-seven levees around the country are at risk of failing, according to a list to be released Thursday by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Communities near those levees were being notified as the list was readied for release in response to Freedom of Information Act requests filed by news organizations, including The Associated Press.

The figure was provided by Butch Kinerney of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's national flood insurance program. Earlier reports had said the list would contain the names of 146 levees at risk of failure, but recent inspections whittled that number down. Kinerney did not provide a list of the levees or where they are located.

Caucus conflict over mistreatment

WASHINGTON — Three female members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus accused the organization's male leaders Thursday of treating women unfairly. Rep. Loretta Sanchez said the caucus chairman called her a "whore."

Rep. Joe Baca denied uttering the insult, which Sanchez cited among grievances that led her to announce this week she was quitting the group.

LOCAL NEWS

NFL cancels church's Bowl showing

INDIANAPOLIS — The NFL has nixed a church's plans to use a wall projector to show the Colts-Bears Super Bowl game, saying it would violate copyright laws.

NFL officials spotted a promotion of Fall Creek Baptist Church's "Super Bowl Bash" on the church Web site last week and overnighted a letter to the pastor demanding the party be canceled, the church said.

Initially, the league objected to the church's plan to charge a fee to attend and that the church used the license-protected words "Super Bowl" in its promotions.

IRAN

Tehran pushes nuclear program

Ahmadinejad announces plans for uranium enrichment at anniversary celebrations

Associated Press

TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad launched anniversary celebrations Thursday for Iran's Islamic Revolution with a defiant promise to push ahead with the country's controversial nuclear program.

Ahmadinejad suggested Tehran would announce next week that it is beginning to install a new assembly of 3,000 centrifuges in an underground portion of its uranium enrichment facility at Natanz that the U.S. has warned could bring further sanctions against the country.

The Iranian leader said his government is determined to continue with its nuclear program, despite U.N. Security Council sanctions imposed over its refusal to halt uranium enrichment, a process that can produce fuel to generate electricity or for the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

Kicking off 10 days of celebrations to mark the 28th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic revolution that brought hard-line clerics to power, Ahmadinejad said Iran will celebrate next week "the stabilization and the establishment of its full right" to enrich uranium at the facility.

The chief of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said last week that he expected Iran to announce "they are going to build up their 3,000 centrifuge facility" in February. There had been speculation the announcement could come during the revolution anniversary.

U.S. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns said Iran would face "universal international opposition" over the step. "If they think they can get away with 3,000 centrifuges without another Security Council resolution and additional international pressure, then they are very badly mistaken," Burns said last week.



Crowds gather Thursday at a mosque outside of Tehran for a ceremony celebrating the 28th anniversary of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's return from exile.

The installation would be a major jump in Iran's uranium enrichment program, though it could take months to set up the 3,000 centrifuges and get them working. In the process, uranium gas is spun at supersonic speeds in a connected array of centrifuges to purify it. Uranium enriched to around 5 percent is used for fuel for a nuclear reactor; enriched to 95 percent, it can be used to build a warhead.

Iran now has two cascades of 164 centrifuges each. Tens of thousands are needed for a continuous program. The status of the new centrifuges has been unclear as Iranian officials gave contradictory state-

ments over the past month. Tehran originally said last year that the installation would begin by the end of 2006, but January came and there was no word the work had started.

On Sunday, an Iranian lawmaker said installation had begun, but he was quickly contradicted by officials from the country's Atomic Energy Organization. Mohammad Saeedi, the agency's deputy head, said, "If we begin to install centrifuges, we will publicly announce it."

Ahmadinejad's remarks Thursday signaled that Iran would begin the installation before Feb. 11 — the final day of nationwide celebra-

tions in memory of the Islamic revolution. He has also called people to the streets that day to show support for the nuclear program.

"Enemies of the Iranian nation ... must know that their wrongful beliefs will be revealed once again during Feb. 11 rallies by the great Iranian nation," he said, according to the state-run news agency.

The United States and many Western countries accuse Iran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons, a charge Tehran denies. The Security Council has threatened to impose further sanctions on Iran if it continues to refuse to roll back its program.

Casey: troop increase unnecessary

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The outgoing top U.S. general in Iraq diplomatically aired his differences with the commander in chief on Thursday, telling lawmakers that President Bush has ordered thousands more troops into Iraq than needed to tamp down violence in Baghdad.

Gen. George Casey quickly added he understood how his recently confirmed successor, Lt. Gen. David Petraeus, could want the full complement of 21,500 additional troops that Bush has ordered to Iraq.

Casey said they could "either reinforce success, maintain momentum or put more forces in a place where the plans are not working."

As the general spoke at a Senate confirmation hearing into his nomination to become Army chief of staff, the full Senate lurched toward a widely anticipated debate on the administration's policy, the first since midterm elections in which opposition to the war helped install a new Democratic majority.

One day after critics of Bush's revised war strategy merged two competing Senate measures, the

White House worked to hold down the number of GOP defections while two liberal Democrats attacked the compromise as too weak.

"It is essentially an endorsement of the status quo, an endorsement I simply cannot make in light of the dire circumstances in Iraq and the need for meaningful action now," said Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, who is seeking the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination.

Casey endured occasional sharp criticism as he appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Olympics

continued from page 1

dorm is paired with a dorm of the opposite sex to compete for the grand prize.

"We have an event for everyone," Regan said. "There are more competitive events as well as the more laid back, such as kayak races and target golf."

Money is raised in five different ways for the event, starting with each participant's required entry fee. Each dorm is required to give at least a \$150 donation in order to be eligible for the grand prize. Other scheduled activities are Penny Wars throughout the night, which began Monday, a raffle and open skating.

Late Night Olympics is one of three major fundraisers sponsored by RecSports this year. Other events RecSports sponsors include the Domer Run in the fall for ovarian cancer, as well as a run in the spring to benefit the local Rebuilding Together initiative. Late Night Olympics, however, is the biggest event.

"We get such a great turnout because it is something fun and different to do," Regan said.

With every dorm is planning to participate, Late Night Olympics officially starts today at 7 p.m., but begins gradually, Regan said.

"We start slow, but everything is in full swing by 9:30," he said.

Events are generally designed to be self-officiated and those that are not will be refereed by a RecSports student worker.

Safety is also one of Regan's top priorities this weekend.

"We want this to be a fun event," he said. "We want kids to be smart, because we don't like to throw people out."

Students who appear to be intoxicated will be asked to leave.

"In the past, there hasn't been anything drastic, but we just want to make this a fun night for everyone," Regan said.

The signature event of the night will take place at 9:30 p.m. in the field house when beneficiaries from the Special Olympics play a game of basketball against rectors and staff members.

"People really seem to like this event. Students get a chance to see where their money is going," Regan said.

Regan has high hopes for another successful year from an event that has become a growing tradition on campus.

"We would like to see out numbers up and encourage everyone to come out, even on this cold winter night," he said.

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Blogs

continued from page 1

"I'd be concerned about the blog being a little too impersonal if we were going to lean heavily on it, but we're just going to use it as a supplement to what we were planning to do prior to even developing the blog idea," Brown said.

While the Brown and Smith campaigns are experimenting with the use of blogs, they will also continue to use the standard campaign Web sites and Facebook groups — methods voters became familiarized with during past elections.

Student body president Lizzi Shappell said the addition of blogs allows candidates to continue the recent trend of using technology more consistently throughout the campaign.

"In my two years of campus-wide elections, I have noticed increased use of Web sites and Facebook groups," she said.

Although Brown believes that the Facebook group is "not quite indicative of how much support you really have," she does find the group provides an effective means of communication with students.

"Facebook is a great way of getting the word out about our campaign, and it's a way to get people to go the Web site," she said. "It's also our best way of messaging large groups of people."

Although Facebook can add to a campaign, both Brown and Smith have recognized the hidden dangers of the site and said

they took measures to ensure privacy by restricting who can view their photos.

"[Vice Presidential candidate] Maris [Braun] and I have clean profiles anyway," Brown said. "Everyone's been increasingly concerned, since ResLife has been checking them. It's not really anything we were worried about. Unless you have something to hide, there's really no reason for your profile to be private."

Smith also opted to keep his profile open to allow others to check out his basic information — information he believed voters have the right to know.

Despite technology's assistance throughout the campaign, Smith believes that it remains secondary to talking with students.

"It's still as important to meet as many people as possible in person. No form of technology can replace going out and meeting people," he said. "A lot goes into meeting people and students take much more from a face-to-face interaction than they do from something online."

"The easiest way to get information out is online, but we also want to communicate with people."

Shappell agreed that a campaign needs to be run on the ground, regardless of the candidate's use of technology.

"While these are effective methods of campaigning, I think the posters, dorm visits, debates and publication endorsements remain equally important elements," she said.

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BOT

continued from page 1

events," Shappell said.

One Board member agreed, joking that Shappell might look back on her administration as the "golden years" of student government.

A board member said the issues the Shappell-Andrichik administration chose to tackle were "substantive" and ones they "could really impact."

"It's been a pleasure to work with all of you," a Trustee said. "You've been thoughtful, tenacious, organized ... and I think very effective."

The Observer has a policy of not attributing information or quotes to specific members of the Board.

Thursday's presentation in McKenna Hall was a more detailed version of the speech Shappell gave Jan. 17 to the Student Senate.

Shappell described the plan for next week's Eating Disorder's conference, which she said should take the issue in a "more academic direction." In light of a recent law passed in Spain banning extremely thin models from participating in runway shows, the eating disorders discussion is a "timely topic," Shappell said.

Shappell said she hopes by having an academic discussion, the University community can start to decide how to best address the existence of eating disorders on campus.

Shappell updated the Board on their community relations progress — an issue that has been a central concern for student government for the past two years.

Shappell described her administration's approach to community relations — a year after the passing of the disor-

derly house ordinance — as "more proactive" than reactive. Shappell cited evidence of the proactive nature of her administration by describing the success of the South Bend bus tour for freshmen that took place in August and her hopes for building relationships with community leaders in the upcoming community summit.

One Board member said, in light of Notre Dame's recent involvement with the Millennium Village Project in Uganda, that it's important for Notre Dame to stay involved in its own community as well.

"Oftentimes schools are highly criticized for the fact that they are across the ocean but not even in their local area," the Board member said.

And the South Bend bus tour and the community summit are good ways to get involved, the Board member said.

One trustee asked Shappell if she had an agenda for the community summit. Shappell said they will come to the meeting with certain discussion topics — like better integrating students into off-campus neighborhoods and promoting internship and service activities — but they won't have an agenda.

"We are more so looking to network and establish relationships and get conversations started that we hope can continue outside this summit through the appropriate parties," Shappell said.

Brown updated the Board on the status of the College Readership Program, an initiative that provides three papers — the New York Times, the Chicago Tribune and USA Today — to four different locations across campus five times a week.

Brown said the program has been a success, with approximately 90 percent of the

papers read each day. The program is under budget, Brown said, so they are considering adding another dispersal location in the Hesburgh Library and installing taller racks in the North Dining Hall location.

Andrichik briefed the Board on the work he has done to improve student-alumni relations. His goal has been to increase communication between the two groups, he said.

One major push he has made has been to grant students access to the Golrish network so they can utilize alumni contacts in their job search. Discussions with the Career Center, the Alumni Association, the Development Office and other parties involved have resulted in a compromise, Andrichik said.

"Now, students during senior year only and graduate students have access to the full contact network of over 100,000 active e-mail addresses and lists," he said. "Those students take a 20-30 minute long class before being granted access, which allows them to have their resume checked and to learn the proper way to contact someone professionally."

Andrichik said he has also been working on ways for students and alumni to interact in a social atmosphere and is working with the Alumni Association to transition the Golrish Network to a new software program that will allow for a better networking Web site.

This is the second of three meetings the Board of Trustees will hold with members of the student government this year. The topic of the first meeting in October was to brief Board members on the Facebook Web site.

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Come and Listen

Come and Read

Come and Play

Lectio@Eleven

A Late-Night Cabaret for the Soul

11:00 pm every Tuesday at Recker's
Free pizza supplied by First Year of Studies!

February 6 featuring:

Music by the Lazy Susans

Lectio@Eleven brings a cabaret of great music and great writing, read aloud, for the Notre Dame community. Come to Recker's and hear it with your own ears!

We are always looking for more readers and musicians. If interested, contact Jonathan Couser at jcouser@nd.edu or call 631-3923.

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Dow Jones 12,673.68 +51.99

Up: 2,425 Same: 111 Down: 874 Composite Volume: 2,961,687,306

AMEX	2,145.76	+22.05
NASDAQ	2,468.38	+4.45
NYSE	9,327.69	+72.96
S&P 500	1,445.94	+7.70
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,603.77	+84.27
FTSE 100(London)	6,282.20	+79.10

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
MOTOROLA INC (MOT)	+0.50	+0.10	19.95
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-1.36	-0.09	6.55
S&P DEP RECEIPTS(SPY)	+0.60	+0.86	144.61
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-0.11	-0.05	44.02

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.23	+0.011	4.837
13-WEEK BILL	+0.30	+0.015	4.99
30-YEAR BOND	+0.14	+0.007	4.933
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.31	+0.015	4.834

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.84	57.30
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+5.10	663.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.10	102.60

Exchange Rates	
YEN	120.7150
EURO	0.7677
POUND	0.5081
CANADIAN \$	1.1789

IN BRIEF

Visteon Corp. plans plant closing

INDIANAPOLIS — Visteon Corp. plans to close an eastern Indiana auto-parts plant in September, a move that will idle nearly 900 workers in a county where it has for decades been the largest employer.

Visteon announced the closing of the Connersville plant on Thursday, as part of the company's three-year plan to fix, close or sell about 30 facilities to make the company more globally competitive, said Jim Fisher, a spokesman for the Michigan-based company.

"We've done a very thorough review of this facility," Fisher said. "We do not believe there is a viable business case for continuing to operate it."

The plant in Connersville, some 60 miles east of Indianapolis, has about 750 hourly and 140 salaried employees. Visteon and union representatives will begin negotiations over severance packages, Fisher said.

Stocks rise following spending data

NEW YORK — Stocks climbed for the third straight day Thursday as an already buoyant Wall Street embraced robust consumer spending figures and largely overcame disappointment in Google Inc.'s profit report. Both the Dow Jones industrials and the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies closed at new highs.

The gains followed Wall Street's best day of the year on Wednesday, when it advanced sharply after the Federal Reserve signaled that the economy remained solid and that inflation was mostly in check. The central bank's comments, which followed its decision to leave short-term interest rates unchanged, injected a bit of confidence into an uncertain market. The first month of the year had revealed investor uneasiness about whether stocks were poised to climb higher from sharp gains seen in 2006 or whether the Fed and a drop corporate profits would bring an unceremonious end to the party.

Economic data continued to play a big role in trading, as it has all week. As expected, consumer spending in December showed its biggest increase in five months, rising 0.7 percent.

"It seems to me the Fed is on hold for the foreseeable future and stocks are taking solace in that," said Brian Levitt, corporate economist for OppenheimerFunds Inc.

Exxon Mobil posts record profits

Oil conglomerate announces high numbers despite fourth-quarter earnings

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Tick. Tick. Tick. In those three seconds, Exxon Mobil made \$3,750 last year.

In the same three seconds, the average American worker made about 20 cents.

More than ever, time is money. And for oil conglomerates like Exxon Mobil Corp., the money has never been better.

The Irving, Texas-based company on Thursday posted the largest annual profit by a U.S. company — \$39.5 billion — even as earnings for the last quarter of 2006 declined 4 percent.

The record net income amounted to roughly \$4.5 million an hour for the world's largest publicly traded oil company, which produces about 3 percent of the world's oil.

That compares to about \$12 an hour for the average U.S. worker, according to the Labor Department.

But out-of-this world profits may not last. The lower commodity prices that sank their teeth into Exxon's fourth quarter may linger for at least the first part of 2007, even as the cost of doing business rises because of factors such as a shortage of drilling equipment and labor.

So while big players like Exxon Mobil Corp., Chevron Corp. and ConocoPhillips — first, second and third, respectively, among integrated U.S. oil companies — are expected to continue to rake in piles of cash, the totals aren't likely to be the eye-popping amounts of recent quarters.

"I'd say overall, if you look for earnings to decline 5 to 15 percent from the huge highs this past year, you're probably going to see most of these companies fall within that range," said John Parry, a senior analyst at energy consulting



Exxon Mobil Corp. posted a \$39.5 billion record Thursday — the highest annual profit of a U.S. company, topping thier 2005 record.

firm John S. Herold Inc.

Exxon Mobil's profits didn't go unnoticed on Capitol Hill, where one lawmaker called them "outlandish" and said oil companies have benefited too long from a Republican-backed energy policy that cheats American taxpayers.

Exxon Mobil wasn't alone among oil and gas entities posting a huge profit in 2006. On Thursday alone, three other companies — Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Marathon Oil Corp. and Valero Energy Corp. — also reported best-ever full-year profits. The four companies combined had earnings of \$75.6 billion last year.

Last week, Houston-

based ConocoPhillips said its \$15.5 billion profit last year topped its previous record from 2005 by about \$2 billion dollars.

Chevron is scheduled to report 2006 results Friday.

Exxon Mobil's 2006 profit beat its own previous record for a U.S. company of \$36.13 billion set in 2005. Its net income for 2006 equals the approximate gross domestic product — a measure of all goods and services produced within a country in a given year — of countries like Ecuador, Luxembourg and Croatia.

Also notable was Exxon Mobil's revenue, which rose to \$377.64 billion for the year, surpassing

the record \$370.68 billion it posted in 2005.

"Exxon Mobil continued to leverage its globally diverse resource base to bring additional crude oil and natural gas to market," said Rex W. Tillerson, chairman of the Irving, Texas-based company.

Exxon Mobil's record earnings followed a year of extraordinarily high energy prices as crude oil topped \$78 a barrel in the summer — driving up average gasoline prices in the United States to more than \$3 a gallon. Prices retreated later in the year as crude oil supplies grew and concerns over Middle East tensions eased, among other factors.

Senate votes to raise minimum wage

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate voted overwhelmingly Thursday to boost the federal minimum wage by \$2.10 to \$7.25 an hour over two years, but packaged the increase with controversial tax cuts for small businesses and higher taxes for many \$1 million-plus executives.

The increase in the minimum, the first in a decade, was approved by a 94-3 vote, capping a nine-day debate over how to balance the wage hike with the needs of businesses that employ low-wage workers.

A top priority of Democrats, the wage hike has both real and symbolic

consequences. It would be one of the first major legislative successes of the new Democratic-controlled Congress.

"Passing this wage hike represents a small but necessary step to help lift America's working poor out of the ditches of poverty and onto the road toward economic prosperity," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

President Bush urged the House to support the measure, including the tax help for small business. He said, "The Senate has taken a step toward helping maintain a strong and dynamic labor market and promoting continued economic growth."

The bill must now be reconciled with the House version passed Jan. 10 that contained no tax provisions. House

Democrats have insisted they want a minimum wage bill with no strings attached, though some have conceded the difficulty of passing the legislation in the Senate without tax breaks.

Republicans stressed the importance of the business tax breaks in the bill, though it was a significantly smaller tax package than Republicans had sought during previous attempts to raise the minimum wage.

"The Senate's reasonable approach recognizes that small businesses have been the steady engine of our growing economy and that they have been a source of new job creation, a source of job training," said Sen. Michael Enzi, R-Wyo., who helped manage the debate for the GOP.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, February 2, 2007

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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THE
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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599-2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$160 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame
and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Election result symbolic, foretelling

Kimberly Hodges' recent student body election victory represents more than a successful campaign driven by a goal-laden platform — it marks a milestone in College history.

As the first black president of the 1,500-member Saint Mary's student body, Hodges is a testament to the College's initiative to increase minority representation on campus — and an encouraging sign for that initiative's future.

This year Saint Mary's boasts its highest percentage of students representing diverse multicultural backgrounds — 10.1 percent. It's fitting that more of those voices are finding their way into student government.

Hodges helped increase the number of black students from one in the Class of 2009 to 13 in the Class of 2010 — a cause she supported through visits to Chicago high schools.

Those visits shattered the vision of a completely homogenous Saint Mary's student body, and she returned to Saint Mary's with at least 50 applications from students with diverse backgrounds.

These recruitment efforts change the College's image at the

most necessary level — the one that will draw prospective students who have the ability to alter the diversity breakdown. There's nothing more powerful in drawing students to a college than testaments from people who go there and love it.

Hodges didn't love it immediately, however — and that makes a testament from her more powerful. Although she initially felt out of place as one of three black women in her freshman class, Hodges decided to stay at the College and find her sense of purpose, a much needed attitude that shows ability to succeed at Saint Mary's does not depend on race and religion.

It is imperative that her push for increased diversity continues during her time on the faculty hiring committee because College professors should reflect the multicultural needs and backgrounds of their students.

Being a minority in a nearly homogenous campus environment can be intimidating, but Hodges' ambition and student government success offers a updated image of the traditional Saint Mary's woman and will hopefully contribute to future diversity initiatives at the College.

The Observer Editorial

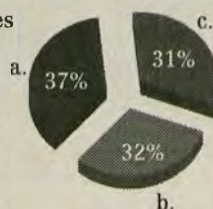
EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Did the University handle Kyle McAlarney's case fairly?

	% of votes	# of votes
a. Yes, his punishment was consistent with University policy, but the policy is too severe.	37	667
b. Yes, his punishment was appropriate.	32	579
c. No, his punishment was not fair.	31	560



This poll is based on the result of 1806 votes at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The highest reward for man's toil is not what he gets for it, but what he becomes by it."

John Ruskin
English essayist

Global warming grounds Punxsutawney Phil

On Gobbler's Knob this morning, Punxsutawney Phil endured his 121st rude awakening while being groped, as usual, in inappropriate places — all in the name of the groundhog's prognostication and the local economy's enrichment. Although Phil has seen his shadow more than 90 percent of the time during his storied past, much to the dismay of us Northerners, the betting money this year challenges that trend.



Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

With weather forecasts calling for snow showers in Pennsylvania, nearly three-quarters of Las Vegas betters believe (at 13-4 odds) that Phil will not see his shadow and that spring is just around the corner. But alas, global warming will soon retire ole rodent Phil and devastate not only the lives of ordinary Punxsutawney citizens, but of Phil and his protectors ... including Bob Roberts (a name worth repeating) whose official title is "His Protector."

Once higher temperatures increase throughout the world, the cold weather season will abbreviate. As the winter calendar diminishes, Phil will need to adjust his timetable of six more weeks of potentially cold weather. The Groundhog Club's "Inner Circle," those gentlemen who wear top hats and bestow titles that belie reason upon

each other, will advise Phil on how to adapt his predictions.

Phil might slice the 6-week extended cold weather timetable back to a month, and continue to decrease his options each subsequent year until February in Pennsylvania averages 60-degree daily temperatures. At that point, it would not matter whether or not the sun cast Phil's scary shadow. On the upside, though, Phil would improve his accuracy record, thus rivaling his distant cousin and fellow furry forecaster, Georgia's General Beau Lee, Ph.D. Cousin Lee claims a 94 percent accuracy record ... hardly a difficult task even for a rodent in a state that averages 44 degrees in February and 53 degrees in March.

On the down side, the demise of the world-famous Yankee groundhog would be the tipping point for both a local and national economic catastrophe. Every element of our GNP would suffer. One simply can review today's Groundhog Day schedule to realize how global warming would end most activities, thereby casting the nation into a rodent-like state — going down the hole.

Imagine the confusion in the local Punxsutawney unemployment office while bureaucrats attempt to match the expertise of the Inner Circle's members to new jobs. The conversation would sound something like this:

"Hello, we are recently unemployed because we did not heed Al Gore's warning about global warming. Can you assist us?" asks Treasurer and Head Hailmaker Keith Shields.

"What have you gentlemen done prior

to this?" asks the bureaucrat.

Vice President and Chief Healthman Paul Johnston answers, "These two are Co-Handlers, but that one is a Cloud Builder while the other is a Fog Spinner."

"I thought you were all either butlers, waiters or funeral directors," replies the bureaucrat.

"Actually," interrupts the Big Flake Maker, "These two also work well together. He is the Stump Warden, and that's the Burrow Master. And this duo is the team of the Iceman and Storm Chaser."

Peering over his bifocals, the bureaucrat asks, "Why are those gentlemen sitting way over there so far away from everyone?"

Sky Painter answers, "Everyone keeps them at some distance. He's the Plow Man, and he's the Big Windmaker."

For Phil's part, to survive the rodent would need another skill like playing chess. He would be reduced to a more demeaning setting, like appearing in sleeping pill commercials with Abe Lincoln. He would become sullen knowing that his inability to weather global warming single-handedly caused a great depression that rivaled the 1929 stock market crash.

For example, Vegas oddsmakers would no longer handle two-way action on bets covering Phil — other than to speculate if he might bite Lincoln. Toyota, the official car of Phil, sales would fall behind GM, Ford and Chrysler. While Phil's Food Court would close and the groundhog cookie decorat-

ing would end, only the pancake breakfast, complete breakfast buffet and Groundhog Luncheon would barely survive. Pro Wrestling would cancel the Groundhog Rumble at the Community Center Gym, thereby threatening the future of the sport.

The mayor would no longer perform Groundhog Day wedding ceremonies in Phil's Wedding Chapel at the Civic Center. Phil's funhouse and maze would close as would Phil's Shadow Chaser event at the Punxsutawney Christian School. Upset Christians would demand the cancelation of pagan rituals like the "Phil Phind Scavenger Hunt," the Woodchuck Whittle Carving Show and the crowning of Little Mr. and Miss Groundhog.

Anarchy would rein as alcoholic beverages or illegal substances would now be permitted on the premises. The movie "Groundhog Day" would play nonstop, and conditions would force Phil to move to Georgia and live with his Rebel cousin where he would be forced to eat grits.

Global warming gloom would spread over mankind. Damn Al Gore and his crystal ball!

Gary Caruso, Class of '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hottline@aol.com

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Added cost from dining hall theft only encourages

On Jan. 31 a front page article detailed this year's crime spree in the dining hall. Over 40,000 items were stolen, totaling a cost of \$25,000. As a student at the university and an avid thief, I question the validity of the university's claims. To begin, the numbers of items stolen are rounded off, and my guess is they are rounded up, perhaps to the nearest half-thousand. If the University wants to call attention to a theft problem, specific numbers will make the problem more realistic in the eyes of the students. Also, it is very likely that every missing utensil is considered "stolen," including lost or broken items.

Secondly, Director of ND Food Services Dave Prentkowski threatens passing the cost on to the students. We already had \$200 added to our tuition to pay for stolen items. This did not help cover the costs, rather it encouraged those not stealing to begin so they could get their \$200 worth. Passing on the costs to the students is not going to fix the problem. This also fails to take into account the return of silverware at the end of the year. Many dorms have containers at the end of the year for students to return stolen dining hall goods that they stole for school-year-only use. We have senior citizen volunteers guarding the dining hall. Shouldn't they be enough to catch the thieves?

If you ask me, the students are stealing for two reasons, neither being to "stock their dorm rooms." The students want to make back the extra \$200 on their tuition bill, and they want the challenge of successfully stealing from a guarded dining hall. Take away the guards at the exits and stop adding charges to tuition. The result will be an immediate increase in stolen goods, for probably a week, and then students will get bored and the numbers will drastically decrease. Now that I know I will be charged next year to replace equipment I'm not stealing, I may begin "stocking my dorm room" in order to cover the extra costs.

Tyler Elson
junior
Dillon Hall
Feb. 1

EDITORIAL CARTOON



SCENE & HEARD

Humorous 'Office' deserves place among the elite

Not too long ago, I was watching an episode of "Seinfeld" and remarked that they don't make shows like that anymore. It's not just that "Seinfeld" was funny or that it was sharp and relevant — it was one of those rare shows that reached critical mass and became a cultural indicator. The proof of this is the way in which "Seinfeld" became quotable and everyone knew the reference. Things like "not that there's anything wrong with that" or "no soup for you" were immediately recognizable and people even referred to certain situations as a "Seinfeld moment."



Brian Doxtader

Scene Editor

It's hard for sitcoms to reach that same kind of level nowadays. The cancellation of "Seinfeld" and "Friends" left an empty void of sharp, well-written comedy. The ones that come clos-

est, like "Arrested Development," were too clever for their own good and were canceled in the face of low ratings.

Which brings me to "The Office," NBC's adaptation of the British hit of the same name. "The Office" has everything going for it — it has a genuine talent in star Steve Carrell, is well written, funny and has serious and effective emotional undertones. The show has improved steadily with age, and by now (the third season) the characters and their relationships have been firmly developed and the plotting has found its own identity, differentiating it from the British version.

"The Office" is part of the new age of sitcoms, a mockumentary style that uses hand-held cinematography and direct addresses to the camera. Like "Arrested Development," it seems too clever for its own good, and while it has been a critical success (much like Ron Howard's show), it is consistently outperformed in the ratings department. "The Office" is part of Thursday's line-up, which includes perennial favorites "Scrubs" and new



Photo courtesy of nbc.com

Steve Carrell, far right, stars as idiotic office manager Michael Scott on NBC's "The Office." The show is known for its witty humor and sharp dialogue.

hits like "30 Rock," and has just been picked up for a fourth season.

More than any other sitcom on television right now, "The Office" is close to reaching a critical mass akin to "Seinfeld." Though viewership is not as high as, say, "American Idol," its fan-base is devoted. Even Sports Illustrated's Stewart Mandell used to regularly mention the show in his weekly column. Yet "The Office" is so close to escaping "cult show" status in reaching mainstream audiences. "Arrested Development," like the once-canceled "Family Guy," posthumously found new fans on DVD, but "The Office" still has a chance to become the biggest show on television. If that happens, it would be a true rarity, something only achieved by shows like "Seinfeld" and "The Cosby Show" — the best show on TV could also be the most popular.

The best parts of the show are the dialogue and the acting. "Daily Show" alums like Steve Carrell (who won a Golden Globe for this role) and Ed Helms whip off quotable lines effortlessly such as "I'm always thinking one step ahead. I'm like a carpenter ... who

builds stairs" or "Toby is in HR, which technically means he works for corporate, so he's really not part of our family ... also, he's divorced so he's really not part of his family." These are among the countless gems in each week's script.

I'm really pushing for "The Office" to succeed because we need more shows like it — shows that are insightful and intelligent. "Seinfeld" worked because it said a lot about our society and we were able to see some of our most ridiculous fears and hopes reflected in it. "The Office" works for much the same reason, but it's a better show, with a strong cast and lots of personality. It's really a once-in-a-lifetime kind of show, the kind of program that makes "Must See TV" a truism, the kind program that people will talk about years from now and say, "They just don't make shows like that anymore."

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

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



Photo courtesy of sonypictures.com

The classic show "Seinfeld" is often compared to "The Office" for its brilliant casting, clever humor and the cult-culture that forms around the show.

PLAY PREVIEW

PEMCo's latest production is truly impressive

By ANALISE LIPARI
Assistant Scene Editor

With "Ragtime," the Pasquerilla East Musical Company takes a sweeping step into deeper and far more serious territory than it has ventured towards before. Tackling such issues as poverty, racism, motherhood, love and the spectacle of the "American dream," PEMCo's "Ragtime" is a rousing success.

By far the most ambitious production that PEMCo has undertaken in recent memory, the strength of "Ragtime" is a testament to the power of a magnificent score and an earnest, energetic cast. Quelling doubts regarding how well an amateur cast of students could tackle "Ragtime," a musical rife with deep social, political and emotional strife, the production is impressively well done.

The complex and interwoven plot is set up very well with the play's open-

ing number, "Ragtime," which juxtaposes against one another three central, conflicting groups: the upper-class, white community of La Rochelle, New York, the mass groups of immigrants from Eastern and Western Europe and the residents of New York's Harlem, and each group gives rise to a central plotline. In Harlem, ragtime-playing pianist Coalhouse Walker (Kyle Carter) intoxicates dancers with his rebellious new type of music. In New Rochelle, a typical American family headed by Mother and Father (Jacqui Acuña and Tim Politano) lives a seemingly content life of economic success. Lastly, in the Lower East Side neighborhoods of New York, Latvian immigrant Tateh (Tim Masterton, also co-producer) strives, like millions of others, to capture his piece of the great American pie.

If, for any reason, a potential audience member were contemplating not seeing "Ragtime," Kyle Carter's performance as Coalhouse Walker

should and will overwhelmingly persuade them to change their mind as soon as possible. Carter is remarkable in a role most doubted could be even adequately filled; he is magnetic, sweet, affable, powerful and altogether extraordinary.

The depths of his surprisingly impressive voice and his mastery of Coalhouse's emotional range are striking, and, to his credit, his strengths as a performer firmly anchor the show.

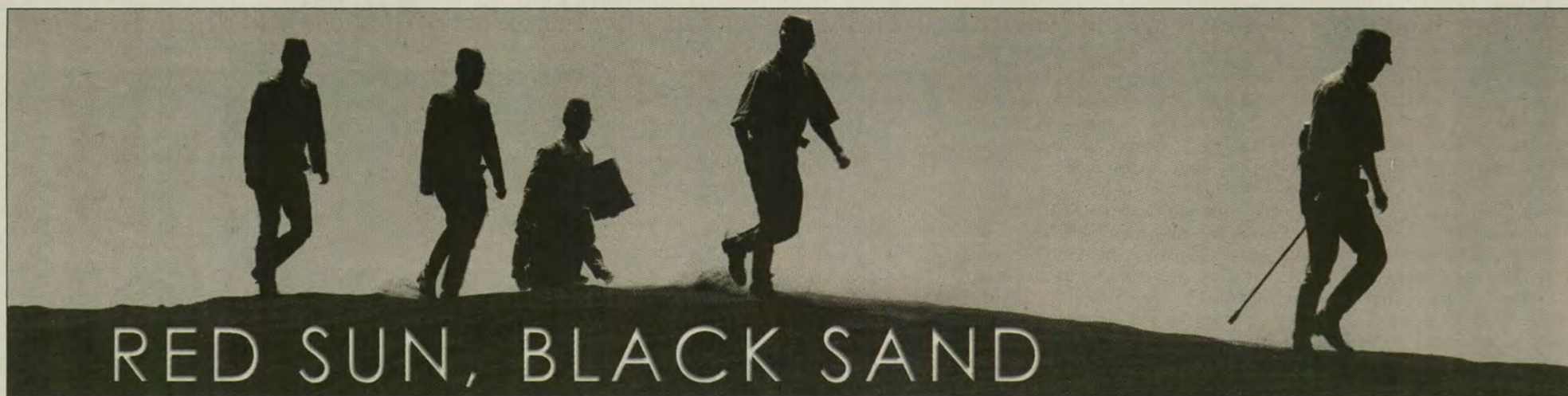
Acuña, as well, demonstrates her notable skill as a musical theater actress, playing the role of the unknowingly forward-thinking Mother with grace and subtlety, as well as her possessing a simply beautiful voice.

Other cast members of particular note include Will McAuliffe as Younger Brother, a man seemingly lost in the early twentieth century's tumultuous change who finds an unexpected calling; Allison Giovinazzo as Evelyn Nesbitt, a scan-

dal-ridden media darling whose moral ambiguities capture the attention of a nation; Andrew Wright as Booker T. Washington, a figure whose educated, peace-conscious attitude towards race relations comes in jarring conflict with episodes of racially motivated violence.

The play asks several difficult questions of its audience about the truthfulness of possibility and social mobility in America — specifically the America of a century ago, with the existence of Jim Crow laws and dirty tenements rampant, but these questions are, no doubt, still very meaningful for audiences today. With symbols of great promise, like Coalhouse's beloved Ford Model T, come also failure, unhappiness and death. The cast does a fine job of articulating the nuances of these issues, well aided by the strength of the source material.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu



RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA/Observer Graphic

EASTWOOD UNEARTHS HEARTFELT STORY OF IWO JIMA

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Critic

The art of writing letters, that once great vessel of human emotion, is slipping steadily into distant memory. Keystrokes have supplanted penmanship for documenting our most heartfelt hopes, dreams and wishes. Of this increasingly quaint practice, Elizabeth Hardwick, an American literary critic, once wrote, "Letters are above all useful as a means of expressing the ideal self; and no other method of communication is quite so good for this purpose."

In his most accomplished artistic statement to date, "Letters from Iwo Jima," director Clint Eastwood addresses Hardwick's romantic notion headlong, for the soul of Eastwood's film is revealed not through words but in the aching sentiments and desperate scrawls of soldiers, written shortly before sacrificing their lives.

Originally titled "Red Sun, Black Sand," an elegantly vague alias, "Letters from Iwo Jima" is a tale of honor about Japan, a nation that cherishes that virtue above all others. Set 61 years ago, it reveals the 1945 Battle of Iwo Jima from the perspective of the Japanese soldiers who fought and died there, and whose several hundred letters, unearthed many decades later, inspired the film's emotion.

Shortly after wrapping production on "Million Dollar Baby" in 2004, a film that earned him dual Oscar statuettes for Best Director and Best Picture, Eastwood undertook his most ambitious project yet — a World War II opus seen through the eyes of the American and Japanese forces that invaded and defended that island's harsh black soil. The clash at Iwo Jima had tremendous implications for both nations. Over 20,000 Japanese troops, forced to guard the tiny island with only ground forces, and 7,000 Americans perished in a battle that lasted almost a month longer than the United States expected.

Wisely, Eastwood decided to split the expansive story into two segments. While "Flags of Our Fathers," the American take on the conflict, was a fine

picture, it's in "Letters from Iwo Jima" that the veteran director most fully realizes his goal. With poignancy and reverence, he shows us the harsh truths of war and its ability to reveal the very best and worst qualities of the human race.

With over 20,000 voices to consider, Eastwood and screenwriter Iris Yamashita settled upon a handful of generals and soldiers, navigating them through the bloody conflict. The story begins with the arrival of Lt. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) to the shores of Iwo Jima. Having studied in America, Kuribayashi is sent to fortify the island defenses against the impending arrival of the American armada. A brilliant tactician, he forgoes more traditional trench warfare techniques, devising a scheme to dig expansive underground tunnels through the black volcanic rock of the island.

In an early scene, Kuribayashi steps out from the plane and into the light. As he surveys the vast, desolate reaches of Iwo Jima's shoreline, we are privy to his innermost thoughts, revealed through his first letter.

"I am determined to serve and give my life for my country," he writes, the key word being determined. Knowing full well the extent of

America's military might, Kuribayashi has come to this island to die, like an ancient samurai whetting his blade before his final battle. Eastwood spends the next two hours helping us to understand why.

Embracing his inescapable fate, Kuribayashi, a kind but firm leader, implores his troops to make these tunnels the last stand against the waves of American troops who make landfall halfway through the film. The Japanese soldiers digging those tunnels include Saigo (Kazunari Ninomiya), an idealistic baker unused to the terrors of warfare, and Shimizu (Ryo Kase), a quiet, reserved former member of Tokyo's military police force. Both men are young and idealistic, forced to deal with violence and death despite the contradictions to their gentle natures.

Perhaps Kuribayashi's staunchest supporter is Lt. Colonel Takeichi Nishi (Tsuyoshi Ihara), a Japanese nobleman and Equestrian Gold Medal winner at

the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles. Nishi, like Kuribayashi, faces a stern moral challenge because of his fondness for his friends in America. Together, they form the emotional core of the film and a moral compass for American audiences trained to abhor Japan as the faceless enemy in most World War II films. Emanating strength and nobility, their performances are the strongest in a film that features a superb cast and unrelentingly powerful performances. Watanabe is no stranger to themes of honor and sacrifice for his country, having previously debuted in the American consciousness with "The Last Samurai." Just as Watanabe was a boon in that film, Ihara is a gem in this one.

Horrifying, powerful, visceral, uplifting, bleak and deeply affecting, "Iwo Jima" covers the gamut of emotions. It's a deeply human film, one of those rare war pictures that reveres life even as it takes so much of it. The movie says more about war in its quietest lull than the loudest cacophonies of lesser films like "Pearl Harbor" and "Windtalkers."

A little past the midway point of the movie, the Japanese troops win a minor victory. Briefly halting the tide of the American forces, they wound and capture an enemy. Despite their dwindling medical supplies, Nishi orders his team's medic to tend to the American soldier and introduces himself. "I lived in California for a while," Nishi says in excellent English, adding that he considers Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, two of Hollywood's most beloved film stars from that time period, to be good friends.

Eyes wide with wonder at their mention, the soldier, who looks barely old enough to shave, responds in kind. "Oklahoma is where I'm from," he admits through the pain. In that one moment, the connection between these two men, meeting in the harshest of scenarios, is revealed. Their respect is mutual. Had they met in another life, they might even be friends. The scene ends shortly thereafter, and the bloodshed continues.

On a technical level, every aspect of "Letters from Iwo Jima" is transcendent, with four Academy Award nominations

to its name — Best Picture, Best Director, Best Sound Editing and Best Original Screenplay. But "Iwo Jima" is a film of such harsh beauty, it deserves a dozen more. Chief amongst these is the stark and evocative cinematography employed by Tom Stern, a longtime Eastwood collaborator. Utilizing a desaturated color palette, Stern has seemingly leached away all the vitality in the film, leaving a pallor that suits the film's mood.

Eastwood has claimed Best Director honors twice at the Oscars, for 2004's "Million Dollar Baby" and 1992's "Unforgiven." While both of those triumphs were deserved, his latest directorial effort — completed at the tender age of 76 — surpasses them. Every great picture has a signature moment that stands the test of time, causing viewers to ruminate on its impact decades after its completion. "Letters from Iwo Jima" has at least half a dozen, more than enough to make it the best war film since 1998's "Saving Private Ryan."

While crafted with the cinema, the most visual of mediums, in mind, here is a film that has all the affection, melancholy, warmth and genuine human feeling of the most sincere, handwritten letter.

It took an American director born and bred in westerns to show us the high costs of war for the ravaged nation of Japan. Eastwood and his collaborators make us care so deeply for these characters, these human beings, that when they fall, we can barely stand to watch.

Readying his troops for the final banzai charge, Kuribayashi addresses them in the pale moonlight.

"A day will come when they will weep and pray for your souls," he says with a tender but steely resolve. He draws his samurai sword, the most revered symbol of the motherland he will die to protect. "I will always be in front of you," he concludes.

Sixty-one years later, that day has come.

Horrifying, powerful, visceral, uplifting, bleak and deeply affecting, "Iwo Jima" covers the gamut of emotions.

It took an American director born and bred in westerns to show us the high costs of war for the ravaged nation of Japan.

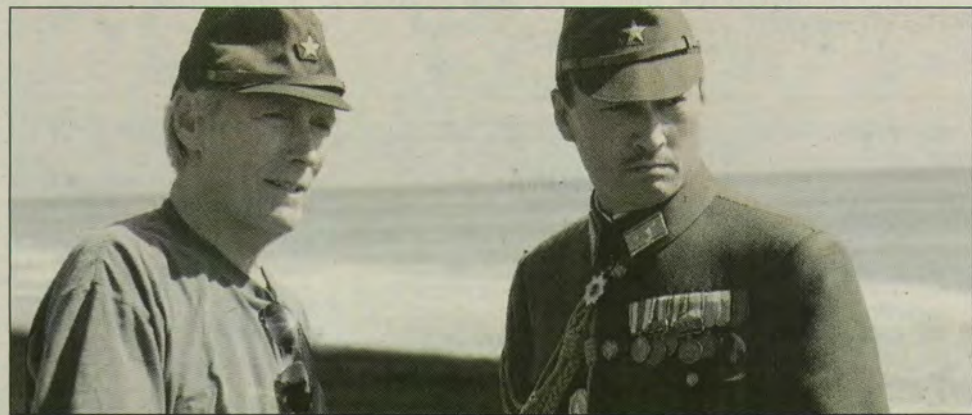


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Clint Eastwood, left, directs Lt. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) in preparation for a scene from "Letters from Iwo Jima."



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe), far left, and Takeichi Nishi (Tsuyoshi Ihara), far right, strategize over Japan's defense in the deeply affecting war film.

NHL

Kolnik breaks slump, leads Panthers in victory

Dunham's playing experience behind the net with Hossa, Kovalchuk gives Islanders needed boost to defeat Thrashers

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Florida Panthers center Jozef Stumpel stayed sharp and helped a struggling teammate get out of a slump.

Stumpel had two goals and an assist against Washington, and new linemate Juraj Kolnik snapped a five-game point drought with a goal and an assist in the Panthers' 6-3 victory over the Capitals on Thursday night.

"We got a big performance out of people like Jozef Stumpel," Florida coach Jacques Martin said. "I thought his line was really excellent. Juraj Kolnik gave us a big game on that line, and it seems like the change of lines really helped out."

Stumpel had three points for the second time in three games and has posted 15 points in 11 games.

"I feel comfortable out there," Stumpel said. "We got this one done, and obviously we need to get the next one."

Martin Gelinas, the player replaced by Kolnik on the line that includes Stumpel and Rostislav Olesz, also had a good night with two power-play goals. The Panthers finished 3-for-6 with the advantage.

"We just have to play a simple game, especially on special teams," said Stumpel, whose second goal came during a power play. "Make sure you get goals, and we don't get any against. Just playing our hockey."

Ville Peltonen had the other goal for the Panthers, 7-1-2 in their last 10 home games.

Chris Clark, Alex Ovechkin and Dainius Zubrus scored for Washington, 2-7 in its last nine. Ovechkin scored for the fourth consecutive game and extended his point streak to 13 games, the longest in the NHL this season. He leads the league with 33 goals.

The Panthers beat Washington for the third time in 19 days.

"They seem to play pretty well against us," Capitals defenseman Jamie Heward said. "They've got a lot of speed, and they have a lot of cohesiveness now. They're doing the right things. They're playing well together."

Ed Belfour stopped 27 shots and improved to 20-6-2 against Washington. Olie Kolzig made 26 saves for the Capitals.

Stumpel opened the scoring at 1:17 when he backhanded in a long rebound from the slot.

His second goal came at 8:14 of the second and gave Florida a 4-1 lead. After Ruslan Salei's

slap shot from the point went off the post and hit the back of Kolzig's leg, Stumpel retrieved the puck from behind the goal line and flipped it over the Washington goalie.

Stumpel came close to recording his first hat trick since Feb. 3, 1998, when he took a cross-ice pass near the net. Kolzig denied him with a sliding save.

Stumpel set up Kolnik's goal when he fed him a cross-ice pass on a 2-on-1 and Kolnik one-timed it past Kolzig.

"It's always nice to play with Jozef," Kolnik said. "He's a smart center. He knows where his wings are."

Islanders 5, Thrashers 2

Spending last season with Atlanta gave Mike Dunham an appreciation for Marian Hossa and Ilya Kovalchuk.

So it was no surprise the New York Islanders goalie felt satisfied after stopping the prolific Thrashers scorers.

"They have the power to do it," Dunham said. "We knew they would get their chances. We just wanted to keep them to a minimum."

Jason Blake scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period and Miroslav Satan had a goal and two assists to help the Islanders beat the Thrashers on Thursday night.

After blowing a 3-0 lead in the third period on Wednesday and losing to Detroit in overtime, the Islanders couldn't hold a 2-1 advantage as Jim Slater's wrist shot got by Dunham on the stick side with 10:23 remaining.

Blake bailed out New York with a breakaway goal 2:19 later, sending the puck from the right circle over the shoulder of goalie Kari Lehtonen. It was his fourth goal in five games and his team-leading 27th.

Dunham battled injuries as Lehtonen's backup last season, appearing in just 17 games and posting an 8-5-2 record. He watched Hossa and Kovalchuk practice nearly every day, however, and worked against both players many times.

"Sometimes goalies come back to a team that released them last year with something to prove," Islanders coach Ted Nolan said. "He played well tonight."

Hossa, whose scored the winning goal against New Jersey on Tuesday, missed a penalty shot in the second period after Brendan Witt tackled him to prevent a breakaway. Hossa's drive clanked off the outside of the right post.

"I got lucky on the penalty shot," Dunham said. "He hit the post. When you play the game,



Islanders goalie Mike Dunham makes a save against Thrashers center Glen Metropolit in New York's 5-2 victory over Atlanta Thursday night.

anything can happen, so whatever you're familiar with from practices goes out the window."

Kovalchuk, the NHL leader in power-play goals last year and seventh this season, thrust his left arm in frustration after he blew a chance with 16:44 remaining.

Atlanta has failed to score a power-play goal in five of six games, going a combined 3-for-30. The Thrashers also blew a 5-on-3 opportunity in the first period.

"I got a lot of chances," Kovalchuk said. "I need to shoot 100 percent."

Trent Hunter's 12th goal, which came on the power play with 3:59 left, made it 4-2. Victor Kozlov scored twice, including an empty-netter.

New York earned three of a possible four points in Atlanta during a seven-day span. The Islanders fell behind 3-0 to the Thrashers in the opening six minutes last Friday but rallied to force overtime.

Atlanta, the Southeast Division leader, had won three of four and five of seven.

"I felt at 2-2 that we missed a lot of good scoring chances," Thrashers coach Bob Hartley said. "We could have scored 20 goals. What counts is that we had the game, we had the crowd behind us and the momentum, and we gave it away."

The Islanders had lost five of seven and 11 of 15 to fall into 11th place in the East. New York

has earned points in five straight games — four since the All-Star break.

Nolan rested center Alexei Yashin, who has tendinitis in his right knee, and No. 1 goalie Rick DiPietro, who was knocked out quickly by the Thrashers in the previous meeting after he allowed three goals on five shots.

"Especially after the last so-called defeat, we responded well," Nolan said of his team's loss to Detroit. "Missing the people we were, it was a good win for us."

Pittsburgh 5, Montreal 4

The Pittsburgh Penguins were introduced to playoff-style hockey by the Montreal Canadiens. The youthful Penguins like the way they responded against an opponent that looked to be trying to intimidate them from the start.

The Penguins squandered a two-goal lead late in the third period, but

Evgeni Malkin won the shootout by deftly faking out David Aebischer with an inside-out move as Pittsburgh beat Montreal on Thursday night for its fifth consecutive victory.

Erik Christensen also put the puck past Aebischer as the Penguins won their second shootout in a row — they beat Dallas 4-3 on Friday — after losing five of their first six. Montreal dropped its fifth in nine shootouts as Marc-Andre

Fleury stopped the final two Canadiens shooters, Chris Higgins and Tomas Plekanec, after Alex Kovalev had matched Christensen's score. Fleury made 40 saves in regulation and is 9-1-2 in his last 12 starts.

"I've never seen the (Eastern Conference) playoff race so close, five or six teams are so close, and it was a playoff atmosphere," said Sergei Gonchar, who scored twice on the power play and had another slap shot deflected in by Malkin. "You could see their intensity was there. But we're playing with more confidence."

The Canadiens trailed 4-2 after Gonchar scored twice during a rare seven-minute Pittsburgh power play in the second period. But Montreal tied it on goals by Mike Johnson and Mathieu Dandenault in the final 5 1/2 minutes of the third, with Johnson's shot deflecting in off Gonchar and Dandenault's shot bouncing in off defenseman Rob Scuderi's skate.

"Those were tough bounces to take, but we stuck with it and got the two points," Penguins forward Sidney Crosby said.

Crosby, drilled in the midsection by Maxim Lapierre immediately after the opening faceoff to set the tone for a physical and feisty game, assisted on each of the Penguins' first three goals. Crosby became the first player to break the 80-point mark this season with 82, including 25 goals.

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Happy Birthday Hannah!!!!

Happy late Birthday Katie!!!

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic

team	record	pct.	GB
Toronto	23-23	.500	-
New Jersey	22-24	.478	1
New York	20-28	.417	4
Philadelphia	15-32	.319	8.5
Boston	12-33	.267	10.5

Eastern Conference, Central

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	26-18	.591	-
Chicago	26-20	.565	1
Cleveland	26-20	.565	1
Indiana	24-21	.533	2.5
Milwaukee	18-28	.391	9

Eastern Conference, Southeast

team	record	pct.	GB
Washington	27-18	.600	-
Orlando	24-22	.522	3.5
Miami	21-25	.457	6.5
Atlanta	17-27	.386	9.5
Charlotte	17-28	.378	10

Western Conference, Southwest

team	record	pct.	GB
Dallas	38-9	.809	-
San Antonio	32-15	.681	6
Houston	29-16	.644	8
N.O./Ok. City	19-26	.422	18
Memphis	12-35	.255	26

Western Conference, Northwest

team	record	pct.	GB
Utah	30-17	.638	-
Denver	22-21	.512	6
Minnesota	22-23	.489	7
Portland	20-27	.426	10
Seattle	17-29	.370	12.5

Western Conference, Pacific

team	record	pct.	GB
Phoenix	36-9	.800	-
L.A. Lakers	28-18	.609	8.5
L.A. Clippers	23-22	.511	13
Golden State	21-25	.457	15.5
Sacramento	18-26	.409	17.5

Men's Basketball			
Associated Press Top 25			
	team	record	points
1	Florida	19-2	1773
2	Wisconsin	21-1	1734
3	North Carolina	19-2	1672
4	Ohio State	18-3	1545
5	UCLA	18-2	1482
6	Kansas	18-3	1414
7	Pittsburgh	19-3	1330
8	Duke	18-3	1211
9	Oregon	19-2	1209
10	Texas A&M	17-3	1197
11	Memphis	17-3	1086
12	Oklahoma State	18-3	1023
13	Butler	19-2	933
14	Marquette	19-4	903
15	Nevada	19-2	766
16	Virginia Tech	16-5	608
17	Air Force	19-3	506
18	Washington State	17-4	483
19	Alabama	15-5	305
20	Arizona	14-6	282
21	NOTRE DAME	17-4	236
22	Texas	15-5	209
23	Stanford	14-5	208
24	Vanderbilt	15-6	200
25	Clemson	18-4	188

around the dial

NBA

New Jersey at Orlando

8 p.m., ESPN

NBA



Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony was not one of seven reserves named to the Western Conference All-Star team. Anthony was suspended for 15 games earlier this season due to a fight against the Knicks.

Anthony left off All-Star roster

Associated Press

NEW YORK — One bad night may have overshadowed all the good Carmelo Anthony has done this season.

The NBA's leading scorer was not among the seven reserves announced Thursday night for the Western Conference team that will play in the NBA All-Star game.

Denver teammate Allen Iverson was chosen, extending his streak of consecutive All-Star appearances to eight. He started the last seven games while playing for Philadelphia. Anthony, who is averaging 31.3 points but missed 15 games while suspended for his role in the brawl at Madison Square Garden, was the most obvious omission.

Earlier Thursday, Anthony said he hoped his suspension wouldn't prevent him from earning his first All-Star spot.

"I hope no one holds that over my head over anything," he said. "Things happen. One incident like that is held over one person's head, life ain't fair."

"I did my punishment. I could've easily kept my name out there by appealing it and doing other stuff about it, but I just did my 15 games suspension and hopefully put that behind us."

Steve Nash, Amare Stoudemire and Shawn Marion were all chosen from the Phoenix Suns, but Dirk Nowitzki was the only player picked from the Dallas Mavericks, who have the league's best record. The Mavericks had been hoping Josh Howard would be selected as well.

Detroit and New Jersey had multiple reserves picked for the Feb. 18 game. Chauncey Billups and Richard Hamilton, who both made their first appearances last season, are going back, and Jason Kidd and Vince Carter will represent the Nets in the game at UNLV's Thomas & Mack Center.

Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal and first-timers Dwight Howard of Orlando and Caron Butler of Washington round out the East reserves.

The seven reserves were voted on by the head coaches in their respective conferences. Coaches couldn't vote for their own players, and had to select two forwards, two guards, a center and two players regardless of their position.

The remainder of the West reserves were San Antonio guard Tony Parker and Utah forward Carlos Boozer.

IN BRIEF

Retired NFL players lobby for better pensions

MIAMI — They limp through life, often too proud to ask for handouts but desperately in need of help. They are the aging NFL retirees and, as a rule, the older they are, the less they receive from the league's pension and disability funds.

"An embarrassment," is what famed former player and coach Mike Ditka called it.

"Twenty percent of nothing is nothing," former Bills offensive lineman Joe DeLamielleure said.

Ditka, DeLamielleure and another Hall of Famer, Lem Barney, joined one-time Packers star Jerry Kramer on Thursday to promote Kramer's endeavor to auction championship rings and other valuable memorabilia to raise money for their fellow retirees.

Ditka described the situation as "shameful," saying he received a \$100,000 donation from an owner of a sport other than football.

Concussion forces Matheny to retire after 13 seasons

SAN FRANCISCO — Mike Matheny's decision to retire was made for him. His doctor refused to clear the long-time catcher to play in 2007 after a concussion sidelined him for the final four months of last season.

Matheny's announcement Thursday that he is hanging up his catching gear after 13 major league seasons came as no surprise. He didn't play again for the San Francisco Giants after May 31 following a series of foul tips he took in the mask — and doctors warned him that he was more susceptible to even further damage if he received another blow.

"This is not a shoulder, a knee or an elbow," Matheny said on a conference call. "We're talking about the brain. ... I didn't expect this. I don't think anybody did."

In early December, Matheny underwent another extensive battery of tests at the Sports Concussion Program.

Judge allows negligence lawsuit against NFL

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A federal judge ruled Thursday that Korey Stringer's widow can proceed with her negligence lawsuit against the NFL and equipment maker Riddell Inc. over his heatstroke death.

Kelci Stringer sued the league and Riddell following her husband's death in 2001, claiming the NFL hadn't done enough to insure that equipment used by players protected them from injuries or deaths caused by heat-related illnesses.

Korey Stringer, a 335-pound lineman for the Minnesota Vikings, died from heatstroke after he practiced in the sweltering heat and humidity that pushed his body temperature to 108.8 degrees. He was 27.

Judge John Holschuh dismissed one of the lawsuit's claims, in which Kelci Stringer argued that the NFL didn't set proper guidelines for practicing in the heat.

MEN'S TENNIS

Seminoles visit ND for weekend matches

By **DEIRDRE KRASULA**
Sports Writer

All signs point forward for the Notre Dame men's tennis team as the Irish will look for their second and third wins against No. 13 Florida State today at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Notre Dame blanked Indiana 7-0 on Monday to better their record to 2-1 overall (1-0 at home). Notre Dame's wins over Indiana and William and Mary gave the team a two-point jump in the Fila rankings to move to No. 11.

The Irish last faced the Seminoles in 2006 where they rallied for a 4-3 win in Tallahassee. Notre Dame has won four of its last five against Florida State. The Seminoles have posted a 5-0 mark for the season after garnering victories over Florida Atlantic, Georgia State and Furman. The Seminoles first singles player, Jonathas Sucupira helped secure a victory over Georgia State with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Andres Arango.

The Irish will look to get ahead early by taking at least two of the doubles matches. Coach Bobby Bayliss feels grabbing the doubles point will be a helpful boost for the team.

"We'd really like to start off playing consistent and yet aggressive double," he said.

Jumping out to the 1-0 lead after doubles play will relieve pressure for the Irish singles.

"It all starts there if we can get that first point of the match from doubles," Bayliss said. "Either team that gets the doubles point only has to split the singles to win the

match so it's a big momentum builder."

Coming out of the gate with the doubles point under their belt will allow the Irish to focus on the singles matches. Notre Dame will be challenged by Sucupira as well as senior Ytai Abougzir. Abougzir is ranked No. 2 in the world in under-18 play.

The Seminole will have to make an adjustment to play on the indoor courts at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Irish also have the added boost of home court advantage as well as team that is healthy and playing well.

“The added boost you get from a home crowd that spurs you on and pushes you a little higher is always an advantage,” he said.

The Irish will look to come away from Florida State's match with a win to prepare them for Saturday's match against No. 8 Duke.

Notre Dame fell to the Blue Devils 4-3 in Feb. 2006. The Blue Devils lost senior powerhouses Ludovic Walter and Jonathan Stokke, but have promising talent in freshman Dylan Arnould and Aaron Carpenter. Carpenter clinched the 7-5, 6-3 victory in

sixth singles to give Duke the 5-2 win over No. 52 Old Dominion.

Despite losing in 2006, the Irish will hope that the combination of home court advantage and talent will lead to a strong showing against the Blue Devils.

"All signs point to our team playing a very good match both days."

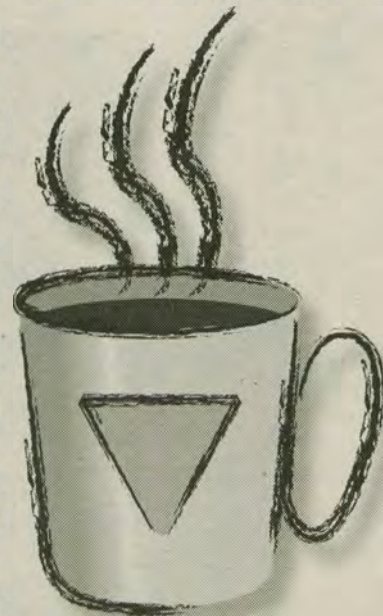
Contact Deirdre Krasula at
dkrasula@nd.edu

"We'd really like to start off playing consistent yet aggressive doubles."

Bobby Bayliss Irish coach

"All signs point to our team playing a very good match both days."

Bobby Bayliss Irish coach



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ND TRACK

Team faces home challenge

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has had a lot of success this season, but will face its biggest test of the season when it competes in the Meyo Invitational this weekend at the Loftus Center.

The Meyo Classic is the highlight of Notre Dame's indoor season with top teams from across the country participating.

The Irish have started the season strong, with multiple qualifiers for both the men and women's teams. The last time the squad competed at the Notre Dame Invitational Jan. 26, 31 Irish athletes qualified for the Big East championships later this month including six Notre Dame male mile runners.

Notre Dame's female team was just as impressive in the distance events, with two Irish athletes qualifying for the mile and 3,000 meter races.

Both teams have also performed well in the sprint events, with each gender sending at least one runner to the conference championship in the 60, 100, 200 and 400-meter dashes.

Despite having such success in almost every event, Irish coach Joe Piane said that every event is critical to the team's success.

"We need to have good performances to get us prepared for the Big East meet," he said. "So may it be the 60 meter dash or the 35 pound weight, we need to perform well in order to be prepared properly for the Big East championship."

The main event of the Meyo Invitational every year is the "Meyo Mile" in which the top distance runners from across



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish distance runner Todd Ptacek runs in the mile during the Notre Dame Indoor Opener Jan. 19 in the Loftus Center.

the country compete. This year, Notre Dame will provide some of that talent, including junior Jake Watson and senior Todd Ptacek, who run the mile in 4:03 and 4:05, respectively.

"It should be a very, very good run," Piane said of the meet's signature event. "Hopefully we'll have somebody approaching four or at least approaching four."

With only one meet remaining before the Big East championship, the Irish will have to try to accumulate as many conference bids as possible this weekend. The only remaining meet this season is the Windsor Team Challenge, and Piane said he is not sure of how many competitors he is going to send.

"So we really gotta jump on the horse real quick and get

some kids qualified," Piane said. "And we've done it on the women's side and the men's side."

Overall, Piane has been pleased with his team's performance in the indoor season. Piane said that so far the team is accomplishing its goals for the indoor track season.

"Our goal is always to do well at the Big East and hopefully at the NCAAs. So the first step is to get as many kids qualified for the Big East as possible," he said. "Generally we have 28 to 30 or 32 per gender qualified and I think we're pretty close to that now."

"We'll get a few this weekend."

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ND SWIMMING

Irish focus on Big East despite Louisville meet

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men and women will both travel to Louisville this weekend, but they will be in a New York state of mind.

This weekend's meet against the Cardinals will be the final meet for both the men and the women before they head to East Meadow, N.Y., and Long Island, N.Y., for the Big East championships that begin Feb. 14.

"We're looking very much at the Big East [championships]," Irish men's coach Tim Welsh said. "We're in a sharpening process right now, and this weekend is our last chance to get things right before we get to New York."

For the No. 17 men's squad, Louisville will be a reprieve from the stiff competition the team has faced in recent weeks. Notre Dame suffered their first dual meet loss of the season at the hands of then-No. 8 Northwestern by the score of 167-131 Jan. 20. The Wildcats — now No. 6 — are undefeated in dual meets on the season.

Last weekend, the Irish hosted the Shamrock Invitational in which they participated in a quadruple dual meet against No. 19 West Virginia, Penn State, Connecticut and Oakland. Notre Dame went 2-2 on the weekend, defeating Connecticut and Oakland but falling short against Penn State and still-undefeated West Virginia.

The Irish will look to pick up some momentum this weekend against a Louisville squad that

has floundered their way to a 3-9 dual meet record. The Cardinals lost in their last meet 189-110 against Jan. 27.

"Louisville isn't as fast up front or as complete as Northwestern or West Virginia, but they're very good in the stroke events and the relays," Welsh said. "I would put them as one of the top four teams in the Big East."

The Notre Dame women can expect a stronger challenge from Louisville this weekend. The Cardinals hold a 10-2 record in dual meets this season, and they are coming off a 189-111 win at Western Kentucky Jan. 27.

"I don't know how much of a threat they'll be to us," senior Katie Carroll said. "I don't think they have the depth we do, and I think it will be our depth that pulls us through."

That kind of confidence is not surprising after Notre Dame's showing in last weekend's Shamrock Invitational. With wins over Oakland, Connecticut and West Virginia, the Irish went 3-1 on the weekend with the only stumble coming against No. 15 Penn State.

With their defeat of West Virginia last weekend, the Irish gained the upper hand on one of the primary challengers to Notre Dame's bid for their 11th consecutive Big East title. The Irish face a similar opportunity this weekend against the Cardinals.

"This is another good opportunity to send a message," Carroll said. "It will show them that we're not messing around."

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"We're looking very much at the Big East [championships]."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

"I think it will be our depth that pulls us through."

Katie Carroll
Irish senior

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FENCING

Irish prepare for Midwest Duals

Bednarski will not rest top competitors

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame wants to make the most of its home tune-up.

The Irish host Indiana, Michigan State and Purdue in the Midwest Duals Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Langford Gym — the team's usual practice facility in the northeast corner of the Joyce Center's second floor — before traveling to Durham, N.C., Feb. 9 for the two-day Duke Duals against some of the best teams in the Southeast.

"This will be a tune-up for our fencers before the longer competition next week," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

For the No. 5 Irish men and No. 2 Irish women, Saturday's competition should be easier than their duals in New York a week ago, when the squads combined to finish 7-5. At Purdue, Michigan State and Indiana, fencing is only a club sport.

"You can not underestimate an opponent," Bednarski said. "We should win this tournament, but how we win, it's my problem."

Junior epeeist Greg Howard, the team's captain for his

weapon, said the Irish will stay focused for the event.

"It is important that we do well against them," he said, adding that falling into a false sense of security could hurt the Irish after last week's tough competition.

Bednarski said he expects the competition to feature at least one or two high-quality fencers among the weaker squads.

"Sometimes one of them is better, and we will try to show that no one, even good, can ... beat our fencers," he said.

Junior foil Rachel Cota said the women in her weapon division want to sweep the competition.

"I'm pretty confident that the foil girls will go 27-0," she said. "Our goal is to have fun."

After finishing 17-1 each in the NYU

Duals last weekend, Irish standouts Kelley Hurley, a freshman epeeist and Patrick Ghattas, a senior sabre, may see limited action. If the Irish can handle the competition without their top fencers, Bednarski will substitute younger and "fresher" fencers to face the opposition, the coach said.

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"Sometimes one of them is better, and we will try to show that no one, even good, can ... beat our fencers."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

Jackson

continued from page 20

Miami and a four-point lead over third-place Michigan.

The "nation's best" label is not the only milestone possible for the Irish this weekend. With one more conference win, Notre Dame will set a program record with 16 league wins in one season — currently the Irish are tied with the 1981-82 and 1998-99 teams at 15 wins.

"We've proved we can play with pretty much everybody we've played," Jackson said. "We haven't played New Hampshire or Minnesota or those teams. But within our conference we've shown we can play pretty much against anybody."

Bowling Green has had very few bright spots in a sub-par season, but one came last weekend when the Falcons picked up a 2-2 tie against Alaska. The Falcons have only two scorers with more than 20 points — Jonathan Matsumoto (24) and Derek Whitmore (20) — and are in last place not only in the standings, but also in team offense (1.86 goals per game), team defense (4.03 goals per game) and on the power play (.088 success percentage).

Falcons goaltenders Jimmy Spratt and Eddie Neville have split time and the brunt of the opposition's offense this season, and it shows in their numbers. Spratt has a 3.82 goals against average with a 4-15-1 record, while Neville owns a 4.18 GAA.

The Irish met the Falcons in a two-game home series earlier in the season with Notre Dame



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Irish right wing Evan Rankin skates down the ice with the puck during Notre Dame's 4-1 win over Miami (OH) Jan. 26.

sweeping 5-2 and 4-0, but that hasn't kept Jackson from fretting more over this weekend than over Miami.

"I get more nervous about these games, than I do about Miami of Ohio because I know

our guys will be as ready to play as they need to be [against Miami]," he said. "This is part of us becoming a good team, being a good team is going to be able to respond coming off a tough weekend against Miami and then going into Bowling Green, playing a team that's last in the standings."

Irish goalie Dave Brown — who came up big against the RedHawks with 40 saves on 43 shots faced in two games —

will most likely start Friday night against the Falcons, but Saturday's starting goalie depends on several factors, Jackson said.

It depends on the number of shots Brown faces in the first game and if he appears fresh when the time comes Saturday, Jackson said.

Jackson said that in order to help keep Brown physically and mentally ready, he gives the goaltender days off where he does not have to put on his equipment, but only does cardiovascular training.

"Keeping him from putting his equipment on everyday is the key," Jackson said.

The puck will drop in both games at 7:05 p.m., but it will not be televised locally.

"But within our conference we've shown we can play pretty much against anybody."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

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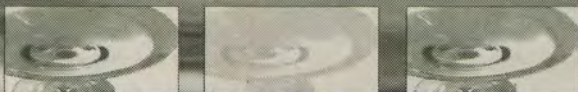
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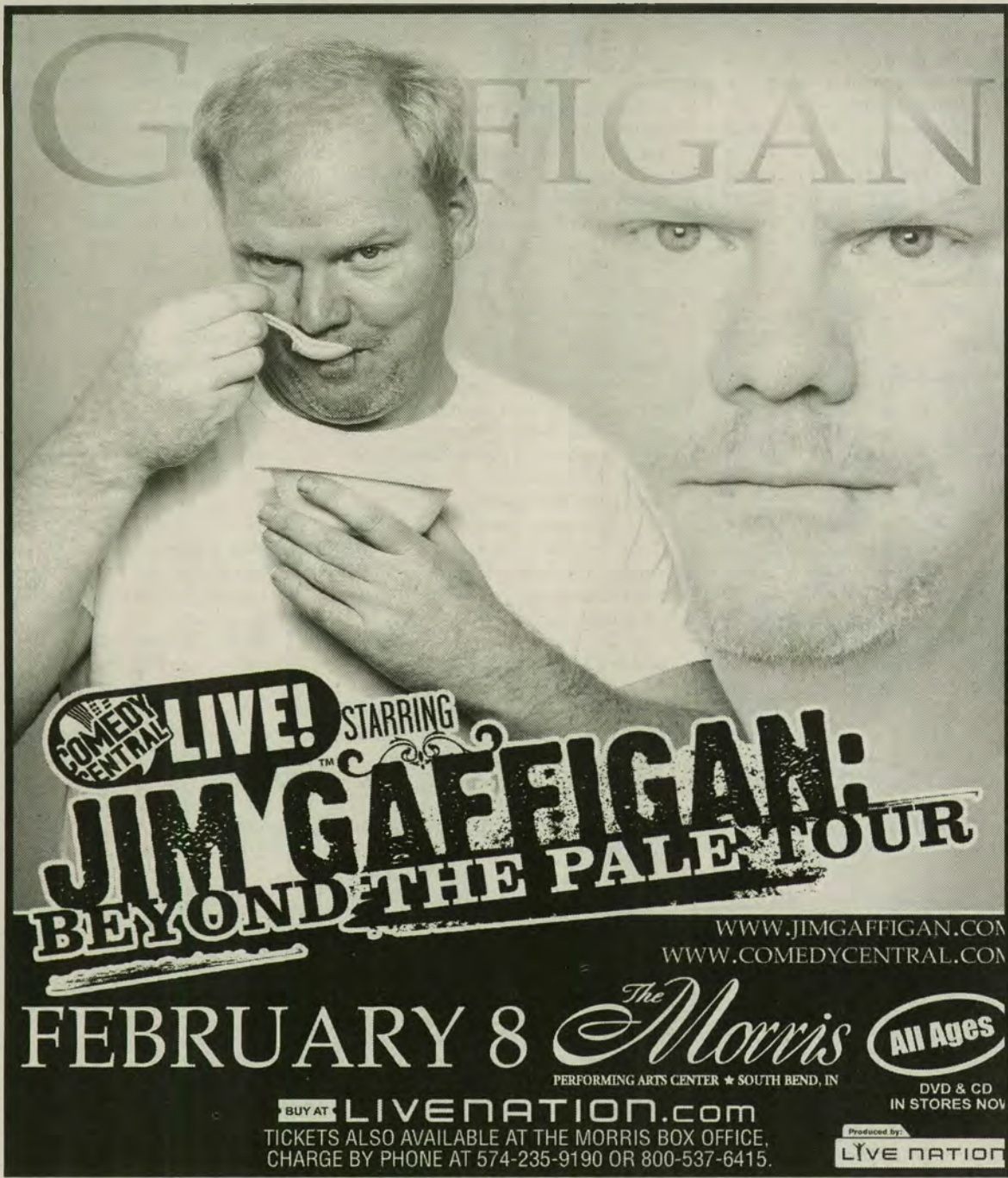
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KATE FENLON/The Observer
Belles center Maria Canfield sets a screen for guard Allison Kessler during Saint Mary's 81-72 win over Olivet Jan. 31.

Relax

continued from page 20

[Kessler].

Kessler — the Belles' leading scorer — has not been the focal point of Saint Mary's offense during the streak. Aside from Newsom, guard Bridget Lipke has averaged 13.8 points per game in the four-game stretch. Henley said center Anna Kammrath has also improved over the season.

"Anna really stepped up and worked her butt off," Henley said. "She's incredibly coachable, she's in great shape and she has a good understanding of the game. We want to work on shot selection and get her stronger in the paint, but she's played very well."

"Neither Kammrath or Newsome were starting at the beginning of the season. That shows you how hard they worked."

Regardless of her lessened impact on the team's offense, Kessler hasn't slowed down. She dropped a career-high 33 points

Wednesday against Olivet, and is now 28 points shy of 1,000 for her career.

"As only a junior, that's amazing," Henley said. "She'll get it. The only question is whether she'll get it at home or on the road."

Kammrath and Newsom will have their hands full against Calvin's inside game. Forwards Lisa Winkle — who averages 9.4 boards per game — and Marcia Harris seal up the inside.

Calvin has made 47.4 percent of its field goals and 37 percent from three-point range, a facet of their game that will take away the option of playing a zone defense. Combined with the post play, Calvin poses a potent threat. The way the Belles are playing, however, creates palpable excitement.

"We're the ones that played them closest, with a one-point loss," Henley said, referring to the 53-52 Belles loss on Jan. 6. The Belles came a missed free-throw away from forcing overtime.

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HOOK, LINE AND SINKER



DAN COOPER/The Observer
Irish forward Luke Harangody attempts a hook shot during Notre Dame's 90-45 win over Winston-Salem No. 29.

Bulls

continued from page 20

said before practice Thursday. "Even though we're young, we're not dumb. Also, they've been marketing this game in their athletic department since August. This will be their best home crowd and they'll be looking to get their hands on us."

South Florida's defense was also able to frustrate Irish guard Russell Carter in the teams' first meeting. The Bulls held the Big East's second-leading scorer to just nine points — well below his 18.4 points per game conference average.

"It's a very tough place to play in South Florida," Carter said. "A lot of teams have trouble down there."

Last time the teams squared off, Irish forward Rob Kurz picked up the slack while the Bulls concentrated on Carter. Kurz finished with a team-high 21 points and 10 rebounds.

"I think the one thing about our team is we haven't done all these special things to get one guy going if he isn't going," Kurz said. "We've usually taken advantage of them taking away a guy or two and other guys have scored."

Notre Dame, however, may have to play without Kurz for the second straight game.

Against Villanova last Saturday, he exited in the second half with a sprained ankle and sat out Notre Dame's 103-92 win at Syracuse Tuesday. Kurz would only shoot around in practice Thursday, and

maybe practice Friday, Brey said. As of now, Brey said it would be a game-time decision as to whether or not the junior big man will play.

"I don't want to play any more without him," Brey said. "We need him no matter who we play in this league, but I also don't want to do anything stupid and have this thing sore for three weeks. We will have to see how he is Saturday afternoon."

Kurz is second on the team with 14.0 points per game and first with 8.8 rebounds per contest.

If Kurz sits out, and South Florida is able to contain Carter again, point guard Tory Jackson and forwards Zach Hillesland and Luke Harangody will have increased importance in the offense. The trio had no trouble contributing against Syracuse.

Harangody (21 points, 13 rebounds) and Hillesland (14 points, 10 rebounds) each set season-highs in points and rebounds while Jackson scored a career-high 19 points at the Carrier Dome. Jackson was also able to break Syracuse's full-court pressure and get to the free throw line late in the game, going 11-of-14 from the char-

ity stripe.

"You're seeing a young man [in Jackson] who gets more confident every week. He became more confident last week when he knew Kyle [McAlarney] was not coming back and that he is the guy," Brey said. "One of the things we've worked on is to put a set in to get him into the lane ... I think we're starting to learn how to use this type of point guard as a weapon."

"You're seeing a young man [in Jackson] who gets more confident every week."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

South Florida center Kentrell Gransberry hurt the Irish inside last time, scoring 23 points and grabbing 11 boards. If Kurz is not able to play, Notre Dame will have to adjust defensively.

The Irish could take an extra step inside in their man-to-man defense, or switch to a zone to prevent Gransberry from hurting them inside again — something that has brought the Irish success earlier this season.

Notre Dame was able to effectively shut down St. John's forward Lamont Hamilton in the second half the Red Storm's 71-68 win over the Irish last Tuesday. After Hamilton scored 23 points in the first half, Notre Dame switched to a 2-3 zone defense and kept Hamilton scoreless in the second half.

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Allen

continued from page 20

too much," she said.

Overall, Allen is the Irish's leading scorer at 15.7 points per game and is second on the team with 6.3 rebounds per game. But over the recent road trip, Allen only shot 15-of-55 for 10.6 points per game. McGraw believes that one of her team's problems during the losing streak has been that no one other than Allen has been able to pick up the slack if she is shut down offensively.

"I think everybody needs to take a little more aggressive approach to the offense and look to score some points," she said. "And I think everybody needs to rebound a little bit more. I think individually we just need to step up a little bit."

While Notre Dame's offense will try to reload, its defense will be tested once again by West Virginia's strong combination of post play and three-point shooting.

Inside for the Mountaineers, junior center Olayinka Sanni has been a dominant presence averaging 13.9 points and 7.4 rebounds per game. West Virginia is also not afraid to launch shots from long distance with two players — guards LaQuita Owens and Sparkle Davis — who have each attempted over 100 three-pointers. In comparison, the Irish on the season have attempted only 204 shots from beyond the arc.

Another crucial factor in the Mountaineers' success is their familiarity with each other. On West Virginia's roster, there are three seniors and six juniors

compared with only two freshmen.

"And you remember last year, it was the same team that got to the Big East final and they're on a seven-game winning streak, so they're on a roll," McGraw said.

One of the key factors for the Irish in defending against the Mountaineers will again be the play of Notre Dame's freshmen trio of guards Ashley Barlow and Melissa Lechlitner and center Erica Williamson.

"They're outscoring most of the teams we've played," McGraw said. "When all of them are freshmen you expect a little inconsistency and certainly we've had that. But overall I'm really pleased."

Against the Panthers, Williamson was one of the few bright spots for the Irish, notching 10 points and eight boards in the loss.

"I think Erica Williamson in particular lately has really, really stepped up her game. She's given us great production of the bench both rebounding, scoring and defense," McGraw said.

Barlow and Lechlitner have been effective in some games this season, McGraw added, but their inconsistency off the bench has hurt the Irish in some games.

"I'm looking for Melissa Lechlitner to continue to shoot the ball and be aggressive attacking. And Ashley Barlow, same thing," she said. "I think all three of them — they need to take more active roles and not sit back and wait for the upperclassmen to take over."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at
jfitzpa5@nd.edu

"Even though we're young, we're not dumb."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

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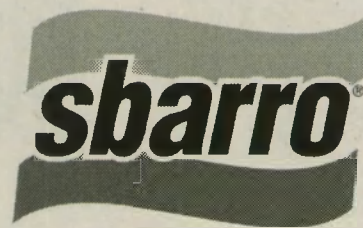
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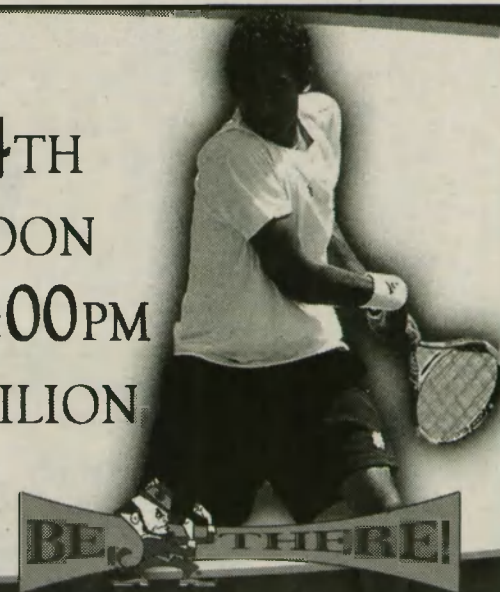
#13 MEN'S TENNIS

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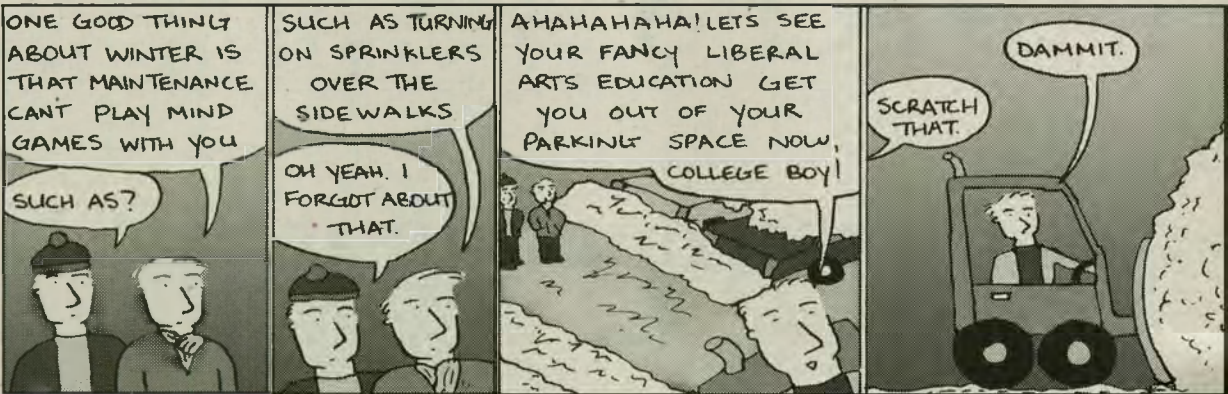
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CROISSANTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM



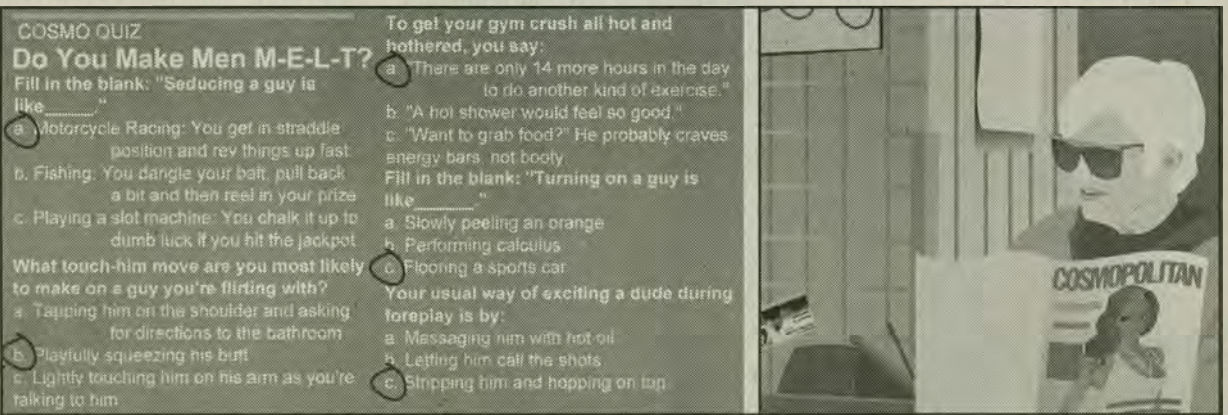
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

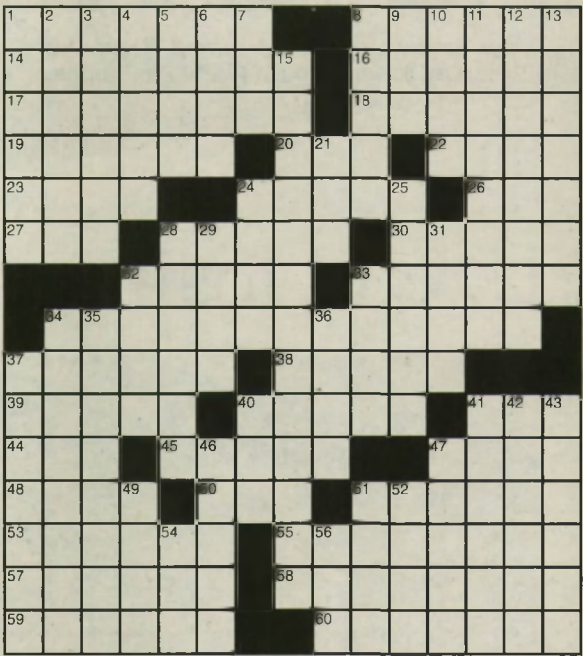
LIAM MORAN



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Seminal computer game of 1989
 - 8 Special delivery?
 - 14 Shop steward, briefly
 - 16 When some hands join
 - 17 "Sold!"
 - 18 Touching
 - 19 1982 Richard Pryor flick
 - 20 Kick in
 - 22 It's east of Mayfair
 - 23 Farm stand units
 - 24 Spider's legs, e.g.
 - 26 Article of apparel akin to a tarboosh
 - 27 Dump
 - 28 Entangles
 - 30 Wonderland directive
 - 32 Relaxed
- DOWN**
- 33 Take the top off
 - 34 Superstition that a rookie's second season will fail
 - 37 Under the table
 - 38 Key of the "Eroica"
 - 39 Kind of blade
 - 40 Break or time follower
 - 41 Go bad
 - 44 Slangy intensifier
 - 45 Tallinn's St. _____ Church, once said to be the tallest building in Europe
 - 47 Turn over
 - 48 Saragossa is on it
 - 50 Squeeze
 - 51 Major milk maker
 - 53 Met who won the 1985 Cy Young Award

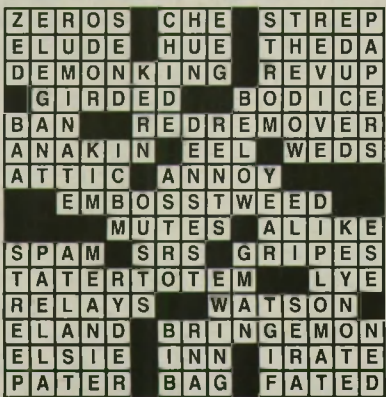


Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

- ACROSS**
- 34 It may be found in a slip
 - 35 Just out, maybe
 - 36 Some mail services: Abbr.
 - 37 Breakfast order
 - 40 An oenophile might detect a hint of this
 - 41 Winner of the first World Series (as the "Americans")
 - 42 "Swan Lake" princess
 - 43 Stiffened
 - 46 Slow
 - 47 It may appear on a record
 - 49 Something picked up in a gym
 - 51 Universal Postal Union headquarters
 - 52 Strong team
 - 54 It's a big stretch
 - 56 Large cells

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

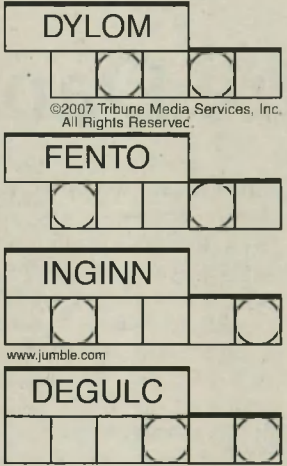


JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

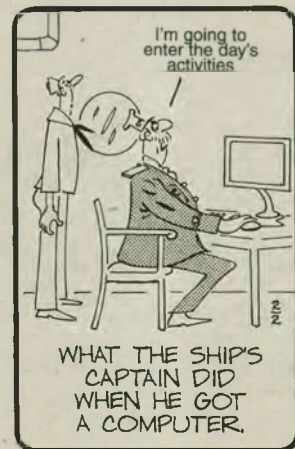
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUOTA CHESS SECEDE DUPLEX
Answer: When the pumpkin was weighed, the record was — "SQUASHED"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lola Forsberg, 7; Lee Thompson Young, 22; Lisa Marie Presley, 38; Pauly Shore, 38

Happy Birthday: The sooner you are upfront about who you are, what you are capable of doing and how much effort you are willing to put into your future, the sooner you will be successful. You have what it takes but stubbornness must be put aside if you want to excel. Your numbers are 9, 14, 16, 29, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Very little will be out in the open. Keep your wits about you and focus more on what you are doing for others. Keep your reputation as stellar as possible so that no one can put you down or complain. ***
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a very secretive approach to everything you do and you will be able to accomplish so much more. A new partnership will be iffy but that shouldn't stop you from getting to know this person better. ****
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An older individual can have a profound impact on your life today, especially in your future plans. Emotional matters will only get in the way of discovering what you are truly capable of doing. Be totally professional and straightforward. **
CANCER (June 21-July 22): There is plenty happening around you so respond accordingly. Love is in the stars -- make a point of spending time with that special person. If you are single, you'll meet someone new. Be careful if traveling. *****
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel, trying new things and expanding your interests should all be penciled in today. A partnership will take on a new flavor but be sure it's going in a direction suitable to your future plans. Anger will get you nowhere. ***
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Open up new doors that will lead to a more challenging and interesting future. Learning something new will help you determine what you might enjoy doing. Don't mince words with someone who has far more knowledge. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at the big picture and you will get some creative ideas for making financial gains. Hold on to ownership or position yourself well with partners. Home improvements will cost but will raise the value of your property. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on the creative and don't let snide remarks by those you usually trust stop you from following through with what you want to do. A love connection looks promising. Leave some time for intimacy in the evening hours. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Everything is beginning to take shape and the chance to really get into what you want to do is apparent. Talks will lead to some interesting proposals. Don't let your emotions interfere with what you are trying to accomplish. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make your point and get things done today that will shape what happens to you in the future. Make your comments count and don't be afraid to be a little bit different. Take charge and try something new. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stick to what you know and don't try to convince people that you know more. It will be sticking to things, not embellishing or taking on too much that will make the difference. Concentrate on projects that involve your community. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will enhance your reputation if you find solutions to problems that crop up. Someone you do business with may try to take advantage of you. Keep your money in a safe place and don't expect anything for nothing. ***
Birthday Baby: You are creative, intuitive and secretive. You are passionate and must be engaged in what you are doing in order to do it well. You can be the best at whatever drives you the most.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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HOCKEY

No. 2 Notre Dame vies for top ranking at BGSU

Jackson not distracted by team's success

By KYLE CASSILY
News Writer

A No. 2 unanimous national ranking with several first-place votes in the last month of a long regular season means nothing. At least that's what the Irish say.

"The ranking is insignificant

until if and when we get to Joe Louis Arena — and having to win there," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said in reference to the CCHA semifinals and championship in Detroit in March.

Coaches usually walk a modest line, but their players can sometimes be a little more forthcoming. Right?

"Rankings are nice — they're nice to see sometimes — but we try to focus on every weekend coming up," sophomore left wing Garrett Regan said. "Right

now where we're ranked isn't as important. Obviously we just want to keep playing as well as we can, and the rankings will take care of themselves."

Guess not.

But, whether they like it or not, the Irish name will come up across the country this weekend whenever national rankings are discussed, as the CCHA-leading icers travel to Bowling Green for a two-game series against the last-place Falcons. The first-ever No. 1

ranking in program history could hang on the Irish mantle, if only temporarily, with a sweep — and a little bit of Black Bear help.

If No. 9 Maine can take one — or both ends — of a bitter two-game series in the tiny village of Durham, N.H., against its archrival No. 1 New Hampshire this weekend, the pollsters could vault the Irish ahead of the Wildcats.

"To be [the] No. 1 ranked team, it doesn't bother me,"

Jackson said. "But fame is fleeting."

The Irish (21-5-2, 15-3-2 CCHA) come into the series against Bowling Green (5-22-1, 3-17-1 CCHA) after an emotional win and tie at home with No. 10 Miami last weekend that strengthened Notre Dame's iron grip on first place in the CCHA. With eight games remaining in the regular season, the Irish have a three-point lead over

see JACKSON/page 16

MEN'S BASKETBALL

From start to finish

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Even though Notre Dame defeated South Florida handily at the Joyce Center Jan. 21, there are plenty of reasons for the Irish to avoid looking past the Saturday contest against the Bulls in Tampa.

On the year, the Bulls (11-11, 2-6 Big East) are 8-4 at home. Meanwhile, the No. 19/21 Irish (18-4, 6-3 Big East) have struggled away from the Joyce Center, winning just two of their six games on the road.

"We would be really naïve and not very smart to think it is going to be easy down there. They're healthier and they've played well at home," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey

see BULLS/page 18



DAN COOPER/The Observer

Irish forward Rob Kurz (center) jumps to control the tip during Notre Dame's 66-63 win over Villanova Jan. 27. The Irish travel Saturday to face South Florida in Tampa.

SMC BASKETBALL

SMC rests, prepares for Calvin

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

It would be tough to imagine — given the nature of the team's practice Thursday — the Belles are in the midst of a four-game winning streak and preparing for a road game at Calvin Saturday.

After playing a version of the childhood game around-the-world, Saint Mary's (9-10, 8-4 MIAA) engaged in a free-throw competition. Each successive shot made allowed the player to advance one basket.

Reach the end and relax until time expires.

Fall short and run sprints.

Shortly thereafter, cupcakes were distributed and as "Happy Birthday" was sung to forward Jane Fleming, who turned 19. After that, the team was dismissed.

"They've been playing hard," head coach Jennifer Henley said. "We don't want them to get burned out."

The Belles are averaging 78.5 points over their last four games, 12 points above their season average. Leading the offense has been forward/center Erin Newsom. The sophomore — last week's MIAA Player of the Week — has averaged 19.3 points and 8.8 rebounds per game in the four-game stretch.

"Newsom has come full circle on defense," Henley said. "But unless you're looking for it, you won't notice it."

"We've scored 83 and 81 points our last two games, and it's not all [guard] Alison

see RELAX/page 17

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish look to beat WVU, end losing streak

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is hoping to end its current three-game skid, but may have to wait as they face off against a surging West Virginia squad Sunday at 5:30 p.m. at the JACC.

The Irish (13-8, 4-4 Big East) are returning home after a three-game road trip in which the team failed to win a game. Meanwhile, the Mountaineers (15-7, 6-3 Big East) have taken a different route, winning seven straight and eight of their last ten games.

"They're playing really well right now; they're in fourth or

fifth place in the Big East," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "So it's kind of a tough game to be coming off a three-game losing streak to face."

In the Irish's last game out against Pittsburgh, they failed to put two strong halves together and were outscored 45-34 in the second half en route to a 71-62 loss. One of the main factors in the team's losses over the road trip according to McGraw was the team's dependence on guard Charel Allen.

"We need to get a little more from everyone. I think that we're relying on Charel Allen a little bit

see ALLEN/page 18



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Tulyah Gaines drives past Orange guard Cintia Johnson during Notre Dame's 85-53 win Jan. 20.

FENCING

Midwest Duals

Saturday

The Irish will compete at the JACC this weekend as a tune-up for the Duke Duals next week.

page 16

ND TRACK & FIELD

Meyo Invitational

Saturday-Sunday

The "Meyo Mile" highlights Notre Dame's last home, indoor tournament.

page 15

ND SWIMMING

The men's and women's teams travel to Louisville to take on the Cardinals this weekend.

page 15

TENNIS

No. 11 Irish host No. 13 Florida State and No. 8 Duke at home today and Saturday.

page 14

NBA

The NBA releases its All-Star rosters, with the most notable exception being Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony.

page 13

NHL

Florida 6 Washington 3

Panthers right wing Juraj Kolnik breaks out of a five-game scoring drought in the Florida win.

page 12