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Jenkins greenlights 'Monologues'

Despite criticism from Church leaders, the 'Vagina Monologues' will again be performed on campus

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

"The Vagina Monologues" will be performed on campus this spring, University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement Monday, a month after criticism from Church leaders revived debate about the role of the sexually explicit play at a Catholic university.

Jenkins said the student proposal to perform the "Monologues" — which received approval from several academic departments and the dean of the College of Arts and Letters before he reviewed it — was consistent with guidelines reached in spring of 2006.

Those guidelines, formed by

Jenkins and chairs from Arts and Letters after 10 weeks of campus-wide discussion, stipulate that academic panels will be held after each performance, and at least one panelist will offer "a thorough and sympathetic account of the Catholic tradition in relation to the issues raised in the play."

The performances will take place March 24-26.

"My decision on this matter arises from a conviction that it is an indispensable part of the mission of a Catholic university to provide a forum in which multiple viewpoints are debated in reasoned and respectful exchange — always in dialogue with faith and the Catholic tra-

see JENKINS/page 4



Observer File Photo

Britt Burgeson performs in last year's Vagina Monologues on Feb. 26, 2007 off-campus at the First Unitarian Church.

College's former pres dies

Sr. M. Alma Peter served SMC for 34 years

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

Thirty-eight years after her inauguration as the President of Saint Mary's College, Sr. M. Alma Peter died at Saint Mary's Convent Friday.

Alma Peter was 98 years old and worked for Saint Mary's for 34 years in both a teaching and administrative capacity. She served as the College's president from 1970-72.

Current president and 1972 alumna Carol Ann Mooney expressed sadness at the loss of the former educator.

"I have known Sister Alma since my days as a student at Saint Mary's College," she said. "I am deeply saddened by her passing."

After taking her Final Profession in 1933, Alma Peter received a bachelor's degree from Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles and a master's degree in chemistry from Marquette University. She also held an honorary doctor of humanities degree from Saint Mary's College and an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University of Notre Dame.

She joined Saint Mary's faculty in 1950 and became the academic dean in 1955. She was instrumental in

see SMILE/page 6

Hilton Garden Inn faces burglary attempt



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Two suspects attempted to rob the Hilton Garden Inn on Feb. 28 in the early morning.

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Security, Notre Dame Security/Police and St. Joseph's County Police apprehended two burglars attempting to rob the Hilton Garden Inn on Indiana Route 933 in the early morning hours of Feb. 28, local news outlets said.

The St. Joseph's County Police received a call at 4:10 a.m. from the front desk clerk at the Hilton, the news outlets reported. The Hilton borders Madeleva Drive, which is Saint Mary's property.

The clerk reported that the hotel had been robbed and a maintenance man was attempting to subdue one of the suspects in front of the hotel, according to the South

Bend Tribune.

Sgt. Dale Shines, a Saint Mary's security guard, was monitoring the St. Joseph County Police frequency at the time of the robbery and decided to patrol the area, David Gariepy, director of Saint Mary's Security, said.

"[The attempted burglary] caused a concern for our campus should the perpetrators have decided to escape towards our property," Gariepy said.

NDSP also responded to the robbery after being contacted by the St. Joseph's County Police, who requested mutual aid from another police agency, Phil Johnson, director of NDSP said.

Gariepy said NDSP arrived "nearly simultaneously" with

see HILTON/page 4

Speakers kick off Body Image week

Conference promotes awareness of eating disorders, examines campus health

By ANN-MARIE WOODS
News Writer

People feverishly working out on the elliptical machines, countless wannabe bodybuilders pumping iron, students running around the lakes in the middle of winter and the Subway line surpassing the few people at Burger King are scenes that may seem familiar to most here at Notre Dame.

The student government's gender issues committee, however, is now raising the question of why this is the case. Is Notre Dame simply a healthy campus? Or are there deeper issues concern-

ing health and body image that pervade the campus, as students obsess over a need to be thin, fit and "perfect"?

With millions of Americans, many on college campuses like Notre Dame, suffering with eating and body image disorders, the gender issues committee has organized "Live As You Are: 2008 Health and Body Image Conference," in conjunction with National Eating Disorder Awareness Week.

Promoting greater awareness and understanding of eating disorders, the "Live As You Are" conference is bringing these issues to the forefront of Notre Dame, hoping to provide support, education, and insight for

professionals and students alike.

Sophomore Patrick Tighe, co-chair of the student government's gender issues committee, has been a part of the planning and organization of the conference, along with senior co-chair Brenda Doyle. Modeled after last year's Eating Disorder Conference, Tighe and Doyle "decided to change the conference to make it more gender neutral and attract as many people as possible," Tighe said.

Started in the spring of 2007 by a Notre Dame student suffering with an eating disorder, the conference has

see IMAGE/page 4

Observer appoints eight new editors

Observer Staff Report

Five new editors assumed their roles on the 2008-09 General Board positions, Editor-in-Chief Chris Hine announced Monday. Three editors are abroad, and will begin their roles in the fall of 2008.

"It's a challenge to put out five papers per week while maintaining good grades in the classroom," Hine said. "But I have complete faith in everyone's ability to maintain the high standards established by outgoing editors."

The other appointments are:

- ◆ Bill Brink, news editor
- ◆ Mary Jesse, graphics editor
- ◆ Kara King, viewpoint editor

◆ Liz Harter, Saint Mary's editor

◆ Jessica Lee, photo editor

In the fall, junior Jenn Metz will take over as news editor. Brink, along with junior Dan Murphy, will become co-sports editors in the fall.

Freshman Matt Gamber and junior Fran Tolan will jointly run the sports department for the rest of the spring semester, with oversight from Hine, one of two co-sports editors since last March, and Managing Editor Jay Fitzpatrick.

Senior Tae Andrews will continue to oversee the Scene department with help from Hine. Junior Analise Lipari, who is currently abroad, will take

INSIDE COLUMN

What a sad truth

Racism in America isn't any more curable now than it was 30 years ago. For those of you who read "racism" and flipped to the comics, bear with me. Just wanted to grab your attention. Because what I recently saw made me reverse any optimism I had about the progress we have made in this country. The following is not a sick joke; it actually happened.

Over spring break, at a large southern state university, I watched a college student tie a piece of rope around the neck of an African-American Barbie doll, tie the other end to a ceiling fan and turn it on, to raucous laughter of most others in the room.

Anyone who says racism is gone is absolutely kidding themselves. This incident told me two things. First, no amount of sensitivity training can eradicate racism set deep enough into a personality to inspire something like this. (Although I didn't have the privilege of witnessing this, the guy claimed he rigged lysol and a lighter together to blow-torch the doll's face as well). He must think this was funny because no one told him otherwise. He must have grown up in a society that, even if it didn't condone it, certainly didn't prohibit this type of behavior. Unless the stem of the problem is removed, manifestations like this will occur.

Second, the twisted humor was infectious. Most people in the room who didn't break into laughter fell into slack-jawed shock and let loose a "That's terrible," or something along those lines. As time passed, however, their faces slowly broke into sheepish smiles, and they became more and more amused.

Some might see this as a harmless college prank, egged on by alcohol and an audience. It may be relatively harmless in the privacy of an apartment, but what happens if it becomes public? Anyone remember the Jena Six?

Others may fault me for making a sweeping generalization about a country based on one incident. Perhaps this was just an isolated incident; this guy's family and upbringing was an exception to the rule. But I don't buy that, and I bet many other people don't either. I know people who refer to people by their race as though that is the most important characteristic about them. And it's not usually done tastefully. Then again, can it ever be done tastefully?

As long as racism goes unchecked during childhood, people will continue to become racists. It may seem harmless when a doll takes the brunt of the suffering, but if a person becomes the target, it represents a continuing problem in this country.

It goes deeper than whether someone can catch a taxi or not. As I sat there watching, my mind racing in disbelief, I realized the true extent of the problem. I was asleep to this issue, and watching what I did woke me with a start. It is sown underneath the soil of our society, and the only way to remove it is to dig it out, seed by seed.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu



Bill Brink

News Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT RETURNING TO CAMPUS AFTER SPRING BREAK?



Katie Gradecki

sophomore
Welsh Fam

"That Easter is in a week and a half."



Jenny Scully

sophomore
Walsh

"Seeing John Saulitis all day every day."



Dan Haggerty

sophomore
Morrissey

Being neighbors with John Saulitis all day every day."



Marissa Treece

freshman
Lewis

Going back to the D-hall — South for sure!"



Brian Lee

senior
Off-campus

"Finishing school in two months."



Justin Tresnowski

senior
Off-campus

"Having internet so I can watch 'Lost.'"



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Pat O'Brien, left, lands a right cross during his win over Jack Dillon in the second round of Bengal Bouts on Feb. 28. The semifinals begin tonight at 7, where O'Brien will face Chris Izaguirre. Izaguirre lost his championship bout to Sagare Navare last year.

IN BRIEF

The Bengal Bouts semifinals will be held tonight at 7 at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Tickets are available at the Ticket Office.

Ann Simonton will deliver the keynote address, entitled "Sex, Power and the Media" of the "Live As You Are: 2008 Health and Body Image Conference" at 5 p.m. in McKenna Hall.

The RecycleMania Art Contest will take place tonight from 5 to 8 p.m. in the Dooley Room of the LaFortune Student Center. The contest will judge art made from recycled materials.

Chi Epsilon will show the film "World Trade Center: Anatomy of a Collapse" tonight at 6 in the engineering lounge of Fitzpatrick Hall. The film, produced by the Discovery Channel, is part of the Civil Engineering Movie Series.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play Delaware at 3 p.m. Thursday on Moose Krause Field.

The film "I'm Not There," which tells the story of legendary singer Bob Dylan at different stages of his life and with different actors in the lead role, will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Thursday at 7 p.m.

There will be Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

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

OFFBEAT

Collision with overpass cancels obese man's date

MEXICO CITY - When Manuel Uribe went out on a date, he made all the necessary arrangements: a forklift to carry him out of the house and a flatbed tow truck big enough to haul the formerly half-ton man and his bed to a party.

But even the open road wasn't big enough to handle Uribe's dream of celebrating a budding romance and his success in losing about 440 pounds.

Uribe was halfway to a picnic near his Monterrey-area home on Sunday when

one of the posts holding a sun-shielding tarp over his bed hit an overpass.

Uribe's blood pressure dropped so much his doctors advised him not to go on and the celebration — being documented by about two dozen photographers and reporters from around the world — was canceled.

March Madnes: rest and relaxation after vasectomies

SPRINGFIELD, Ore. - For guys who park in front of the TV during college basketball's March Madness, the Oregon Urology Institute has a suggestion:

Why not use that time to recover from a vasectomy?

"When March Madness approaches you need an excuse ... to stay at home in front of the big screen," the clinic's radio ad says. "Get your vasectomy at Oregon Urology Institute the day before the tournament starts. It's snip city."

Institute Administrator Terry FitzPatrick said men need two to four days to recover from the procedure — but not all take the time.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

LOCAL WEATHER

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH	45	39	50	50	37	36
LOW	40	35	35	30	28	28

Atlanta 60 / 39 Boston 45 / 28 Chicago 48 / 25 Denver 63 / 29 Houston 68 / 54 Los Angeles 67 / 52 Minneapolis 43 / 25 New York 46 / 32 Philadelphia 47 / 32 Phoenix 82 / 54 Seattle 51 / 45 St. Louis 66 / 33 Tampa 74 / 55 Washington 51 / 34

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the article entitled "Theology on Fire lecture focuses on friends" in the Feb. 28 edition of The Observer incorrectly identified the speaker at the lecture as Richard Egan. Egan's name is actually Keith. The Observer regrets this error.

ND ranked No. 13 in top 25 Latino colleges

Special to The Observer

Hispanic Magazine has ranked the University of Notre Dame 13th on its 2008 list of "Top 25 Colleges for Latinos," the sixth year the University has made the list since its debut in 1999.

The magazine based its evaluations on academic excellence, Hispanic enrollment and achievement, selectivity, graduation rates, student-to-faculty ratio, percentage of Hispanic faculty, financial aid, cultural programs, and support for Hispanic students. It gathered information from numerous sources including the universities, Hispanic scholarship organizations, U.S. News & World Report's annual survey "America's Best Colleges," and Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, which publishes a list of the top 100 institutions that award bachelor's degrees to Hispanics.

Diversifying Notre Dame's population has been a top priority for the University for some two decades. Since 1987, minority enrollment has increased from 7.5 percent to more than 21 percent. Hispanics currently constitute 9 percent of undergraduate enrollment.

Hispanic Magazine praised the Latino Community Leadership Seminar sponsored by Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies (ILS), which each year brings 40 top Latino high school students to campus in an effort to foster commitment to the community and Catholic tradition, introduce them to Notre Dame, and allow them to earn one

college credit for their efforts.

Additional information on the Latino Community Leadership Seminar is available at <http://www.nd.edu/~lclsem/>.

Founded in 1999, the ILS plays a pivotal role in providing an academic environment that advances knowledge and understanding of the Latino experience in the United States. As an interdisciplinary unit, the institute seeks to incorporate the study of the Latino population of the United States as a vital component of Notre Dame's academic mission and also provides an administrative home and support for the Latino student clubs on campus.

"Students are central to our mission and have been incorporated into the life of the institute from the beginning," said ILS director Gilberto Cardenas, assistant provost for institutional relations and the Julian Samora Professor of Latino Studies.

"Recognizing that the needs of individual students vary, we strive to create a sense of community at Notre Dame through maintaining a balance among education, research and outreach. We have established both a minor and supplementary major in Latino studies and offer a variety of classes in fields including political science, sociology, theology, literature, history and art. We provide a wide array of research and experiential learning opportunities, and we sponsor or subsidize a gamut of cultural and academic events for students many initiated by the students themselves."

Vatican takes new stance on sin

Genetic manipulation, mind-altering drugs among Church issues

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — In olden days, the deadly sins included lust, gluttony and greed. Now, the Catholic Church says pollution, mind-damaging drugs and genetic experiments are on its updated thou-shalt-not list.

Also receiving fresh attention by the Vatican was social injustice, along the lines of the age-old maxim: "The rich get richer while the poor get poorer."

In the Vatican's latest update on how God's law is being violated in today's world, Monsignor Gianfranco Girotti, the head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, was asked by the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano what, in his opinion, are the "new sins."

He cited "violations of the basic rights of human nature" through genetic manipulation, drugs that "weaken the mind and cloud intelligence," and the imbalance between the rich and the poor.

"If yesterday sin had a rather individualistic dimension, today it has a weight, a resonance, that's especially social, rather than individual," said Girotti, whose office deals with matters of conscience and grants absolution.

It's not the first time that the Vatican has sought to put a modern spin on sin. Last year, the Vatican took on the problem of highway accidents, issuing a kind of "Ten Commandments" for drivers against the sins of road rage, alcohol abuse and even rudeness behind the wheel.

"If yesterday sin had a rather individualistic dimension, today it has a weight, a resonance, that's especially social, rather than individual."

Gianfranco Girotti
head of Apostolic Penitentiary

Vatican officials, however, stressed that Girotti's comments broke no new ground on what constitutes sin.

On the environment, both Pope Benedict XVI and the late Pope John Paul II frequently expressed concern about the fate of the Earth. During Benedict's papacy, Vatican engineers have developed plans for some Holy See buildings to use solar energy, including photovoltaic cells on the roof of the auditorium for pilgrims' audiences with the

pontiff.

John Paul also dedicated much of his long papacy to condemning the gap between have and have-nots in speeches in his travels throughout the world as well as in writings.

"The poor are always becoming poorer and the rich ever more rich, feeding unsustainable social injustice," Girotti said in the interview published Sunday.

Closer to home, Girotti was asked about the many "situations of scandal and sin within the church," in what appeared to be a reference to allegations in the United States and other countries of sexual abuse by clergy of minors and the coverups by hierarchy.

The monsignor acknowledged the "objective gravity" of the allegations, but contended that the heavy coverage by mass media of the scandals must also be denounced because it "discredits the church."

Benedict has been leading the Vatican's campaign against abortion, and Girotti was asked about the "widespread perception" that the church doesn't consider the "difficult" predicament for women.

Girotti rejected that view, saying that Catholic organizations help unwed mothers, educating "their children who come into the world because of their lack of foresight" and facilitating adoption.

TOUR GUIDES NEEDED

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions
intends to hire new guides
for the summer 08, fall 08 and spring 09 sessions



Applications are available for pick up now:
220 Main Building

Please return by 5pm on Tuesday, April 1.
Questions? E-mail Beth Giudicessi: eguidice@nd.edu



Hilton

continued from page 1

Shines and both worked to apprehend a second suspect between the Hilton Garden Inn and the Inn at Saint Mary's.

When Shines arrived, he offered assistance to the St. Joseph's County officer already there and ascertained whether or not other suspects were involved. He also determined whether a continuing threat existed that might have affected the safety of Saint Mary's campus, Garipey said.

Garipey commended the fast decisions of the front desk clerk and the maintenance man in calling the police and hindering the suspect's escape in keeping the campus safe.

"Quick action by all emergency responders coupled with the alert actions by the Hilton Garden Inn employee, in delaying the suspect's

departure, resulted in the best possible outcome," Garipey said.

Many Saint Mary's students hadn't heard about the incident when they returned to campus from spring break.

Junior Jessica Sobczyk was one of them, but said a robbery occurring so close to campus did not change her view of Saint Mary's campus.

"It doesn't change my opinion of security at Saint Mary's," Sobczyk said. "I still feel safe on campus."

The incident is not prompting Saint Mary's Security to add new security patrols of the area of campus around the Hilton Garden Inn, Garipey said. Upon completion of the Spes Unica aca-

demic building in the same area this coming fall, however, he said there will be additional security coverage via surveillance cameras in the area.

"Nothing provides a complete security blanket and we therefore encourage all to be aware of their surroundings and vigilant to suspicious persons and activity," he said. "We encourage everyone to report all suspicious activity and persons to campus security or the police."

The Observer could not reach the Hilton Garden Inn and the St. Joseph County Police.

Contact Liz Harter at charte01@saintmarys.edu

"It doesn't change my opinion of security at Saint Mary's. I still feel safe on campus."

Jessica Sobczyk
junior

President

continued from page 1

implementing the Study Abroad program in Rome, of which she later served as director, and she also served as the counselor of the College's Ireland program.

Alma Peter became acting president of Saint Mary's following the death of President Monsignor John McGrath. She served that role during the time when the College and the University of Notre Dame were determining whether or not to unify. In November 1971, Notre Dame and Saint

Mary's jointly announced termination of unification plans. Notre Dame said it would admit women beginning in September 1972. Saint Mary's remained an all-women's college.

Mooney said Alma Peter was more than just a president and administrator, but someone important to the College's heritage.

"Saint Mary's has lost not only a former president, but a woman who helped to shape our future during a

pivotal time in our history," she said. "She and I enjoyed many visits over the past few years. I will miss her wisdom and friendship."

"She and I enjoyed many visits over the past few years. I will miss her wisdom and friendship."

Carol Ann Mooney
Saint Mary's president

9:30 a.m., with the funeral Mass and Eulogy beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Contact Liz Harter at charte01@saintmarys.edu

Image

continued from page 1

taken on a new dimension this year by incorporating speakers addressing various topics related to eating, exercise, health and the influence of the media on body image.

The keynote speaker, Ann Simonton, a former top fashion model and now one of the nation's leading authorities on the effects of the media on body image, will speak tonight at 5 p.m. in the McKenna Center.

"We wanted someone who would have more appeal to a broader audience," Tighe said.

Other speakers at the conference will include well-known doctors who have studied eating disorders and related psychological problems. In addition, several graduate students at the University will present papers on eating disorder and body image in what Tighe called the "call for papers."

The University Counseling Center will give several presentations "addressing how to deal with these issues and what to do if you suffer with an eating disorder or know

someone who might," Tighe said. The conference will emphasize the resources and programs available for students struggling with various health and body image issues.

Furthermore, the provocative film *Thin*, which was also shown last year, can be viewed again Wednesday night at 8 p.m. This documentary about a prominent

eating disorder treatment center reveals the emotional and physical effects of anorexia and bulimia on both the victim and their families.

With greater publicity and a more inclusive range of topics, Tighe hopes for a better turnout at the

Health and Body Image Conference this year.

"Our biggest goal is to raise awareness and get people to realize this is a major problem on campus," Tighe said.

Students can register for the conference online or can attend any of the events over the next three days without prior registration. For a list of the speakers and events at the conference or to register online, students can visit the student government website at nd.edu/~studegov/.

"Our biggest goal is to raise awareness and get people to realize this is a major problem on campus."

Patrick Tighe
sophomore

Jenkins

continued from page 1

dition — even around highly controversial topics," Jenkins said in the statement.

In February, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops moved its conference from Notre Dame to a convent in Mishawaka to avoid connection with performance of the play.

The play, which had been performed at Notre Dame for six years before moving off campus in 2007, has drawn criticism in the past, most notably from South Bend-Fort Wayne Bishop John D'Arcy. In 2006, D'Arcy released a statement disagreeing with Jenkins' decision to allow performance of the play.

Jenkins said he regretted that his decision would offend people like D'Arcy as well as members of the Notre Dame community, but felt it was best for the University.

"While I know the decision is likely to disappoint many, and perhaps satisfy no one fully, it is, in my judgment, the action that best serves the distinctive mission of Notre Dame," Jenkins said.

The Observer could not reach D'Arcy Monday night.

Dennis Brown, assistant vice president for News and Information, would not comment on any recent criticism of Jenkins' decision but said the statement came because "this year's proposal has been approved."

The anthropology, sociology and political science departments co-sponsored the event, said senior Jordy Brooks, co-organizer of the play. She said she was pleased with the level of support the play has received.

"It's been great, everyone has been really supportive and helpful in making this an academic event," she said.

Brooks said the academic aspect to the performance will enhance the play.

"We wanted going into this year to make it academic," she said. "We thought it was really important that everyone understand it their own way. Adding an academic panel was one of the greatest things to do for the performance."

Brooks said she and the other four co-organizers had not received any direct criticism for planning the play.

Brown said the policy Jenkins put in place two years ago remains in effect. In Jenkins' closing statement on academic freedom and Catholic character, released April 5, 2006, he outlined four tenets of his philosophy used when determining whether the University could allow certain events.

He said sponsoring speakers and events was "an indispensable means for promoting debate on controversial subjects." Academic departments, he said, are best for deciding which events should be sponsored. The departments must make clear that sponsorship does not imply agreement with the views presented in the event, he said. Finally, he said, a Catholic viewpoint must be discussed in relation to the event.

An academic panel will discuss each performance after the play concludes, Jenkins said in his statement, and at least one of the members of the panel will discuss how issues raised in the play relate to the Catholic tradition.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism. Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 4:00 PM, Tuesday, March 25th to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.

WORLD & NATION

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Al-Qaida responsible for kidnappings

CAIRO, Egypt — Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa claimed responsibility for kidnapping two Austrian tourists last month in Tunisia in an audio recording aired Monday on Al-Jazeera television.

A man who identified himself as Salah Abu Mohammed said in the recording that the terrorist group kidnapped the two Austrians on Feb. 22 in retribution for Western cooperation with Israel, but said the hostages were in good health.

"We tell Western tourists that at the same time they are flowing into Tunisian lands seeking joy, our brothers are being slain in Gaza by the Jews with the collaboration of the Western states," said Abu Mohammed.

"The mujahedeen have previously warned and alerted them that the apostate Tunisian state cannot and will not be able to protect you, and the hands of the mujahedeen can reach you wherever you are on the Tunisian soil."

Serbian leaders call for an election

BELGRADE, Serbia — Serbia's caretaker government urged the president Monday to call early parliamentary elections in May after the Cabinet collapsed in a political impasse over Kosovo's declaration of independence and ties with the European Union.

The European Union called on Serbia's leaders to shun isolationism and keep their country on course to join the bloc, while the Bush administration urged them to focus "on the future."

Early elections are seen as a test of whether Serbia will continue on a path toward EU membership or revert to the international isolation of the 1990s under the late strongman Slobodan Milosevic.

NATIONAL NEWS

Auburn student's murderer confesses

AUBURN, Ala. — Authorities say a man accused of killing an Auburn University student confessed to shooting her.

Courtney Lockhart's statement was read at a court hearing Monday. He says in the statement that he abducted Lauren Burk on the Auburn campus, robbed her and attempted to rape her before he shot her.

The 18-year-old freshman from Marietta, Ga., was found fatally wounded Tuesday night about five miles from the campus. Lockhart in the statement describes setting her car on fire after the shooting.

His statement was read in a Lee County courtroom as several thousand Auburn University students held a memorial service for Burk on campus.

Polar bear legislation decision delayed

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Three conservation groups sued the Department of the Interior on Monday for missing a deadline on a decision to list polar bears as threatened because of the loss of Arctic sea ice.

A decision was due Jan. 9, one year after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed listing the animals as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Agency Director Dale Hall said in January that officials needed a few more weeks to make a decision. But two months later, no decision has been announced.

LOCAL NEWS

RCA Dome memorabilia to be sold

INDIANAPOLIS — Stadium seats, turf and even pieces of the soon-to-be-raised RCA Dome's roof are available to buy online by fans who want a piece of Indianapolis sports history.

A pair of stadium seats will cost \$450.

Along with fixed-price items, an online auction began Monday afternoon. Items up for bid include lockers for tight end Dallas Clark and center Jeff Saturday and the midfield helmet turf logo.

The RCA Dome opened in 1984 and cost \$82 million to build. The new home of the Indianapolis Colts this season will be Lucas Oil Stadium being built across the street for about \$700 million.

The 63,000-seat, retractable-roof stadium is scheduled to be complete by Aug. 15, about a week before the Colts are scheduled to play a preseason game there.

Spitzer surrounded in scandal

New York governor accused of being involved in a prostitution ring, called to resign

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gov. Eliot Spitzer, the crusading politician who built his career on rooting out corruption, apologized Monday after he was accused of involvement in a prostitution ring. He did not elaborate on the scandal, which drew calls for his resignation.

His stoic wife at his side, Spitzer told reporters at a hastily called news conference: "I have acted in a way that violates my obligations to my family."

"I have disappointed and failed to live up to the standard I expected of myself," he said. "I must now dedicate some time to regain the trust of my family."

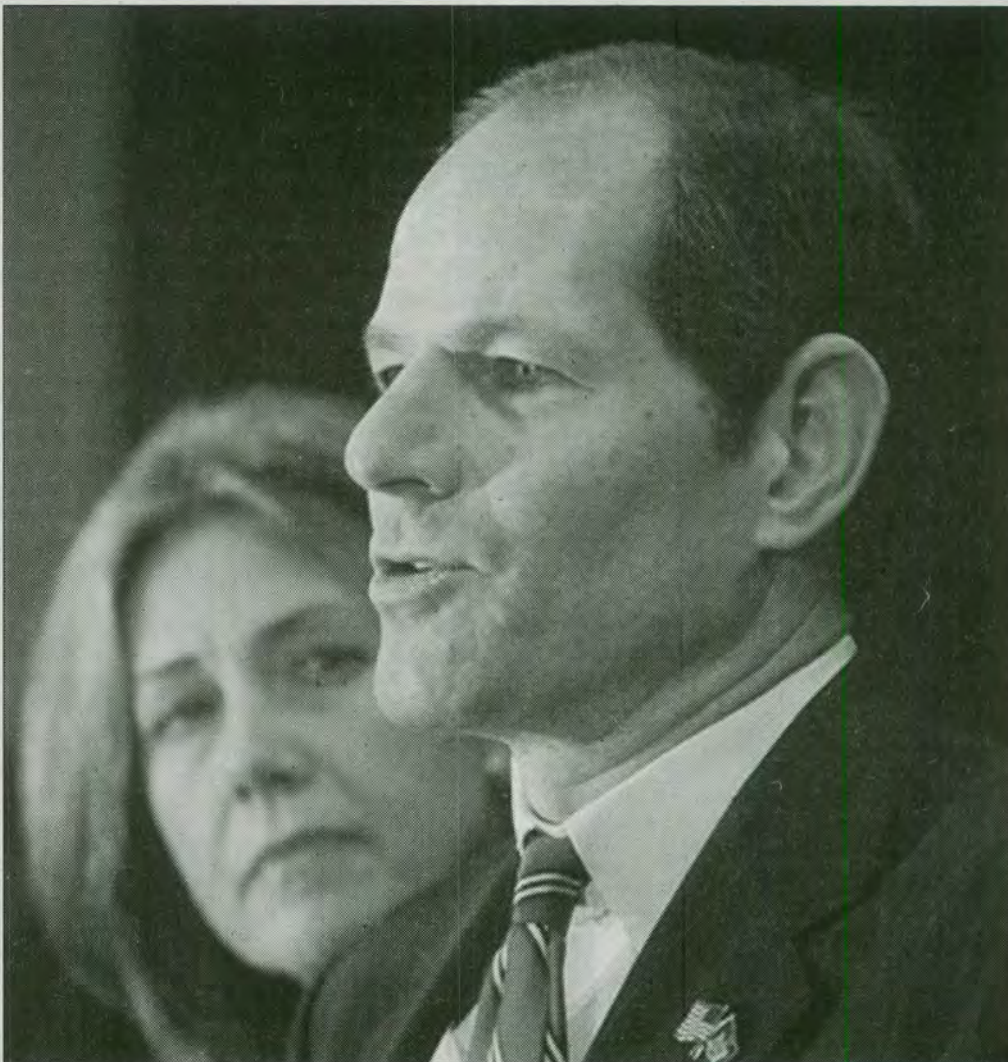
Spitzer's involvement in the ring was caught on a federal wiretap as part of an investigation opened in recent months, according to a law enforcement official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing inquiry.

The New York Democrat, identified in legal papers as "Client 9," met last month with at least one woman in a Washington hotel, the law enforcement official said.

The prostitution ring, identified in court papers as the Emperors Club VIP, arranged connections between wealthy men and more than 50 prostitutes in New York, Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Miami, London and Paris, prosecutors said. Four people allegedly connected to the high-end ring were arrested last week.

The club's Web site displays photographs of scantily clad women with their faces hidden. It also shows hourly rates depending on whether the prostitutes were rated with one diamond, the lowest ranking, or seven diamonds, the highest. The most highly ranked prostitutes cost \$5,500 an hour, prosecutors said.

The scandal was first reported on The New York Times' Web site.



New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer with his wife, Silda, makes a statement during a news conference Monday, following a report that he was involved in a prostitution ring.

Spitzer spoke hours later. Stunned lawmakers gathered around televisions at the state Capitol in Albany to watch, and a media mob gathered outside the office of Lt. Gov. David Paterson, who would become governor if Spitzer was to resign. It took opponents only minutes to call for his resignation.

"Today's news that Eliot Spitzer was likely involved with a prostitution ring and his refusal to deny it leads to one inescapable conclusion: He has disgraced his office and the entire state of New York," said Assembly Republican leader James Tedisco. "He should resign his office immediately."

Spitzer, 48, built his politi-

cal reputation on rooting out corruption, including several headline-making battles with Wall Street while serving as attorney general. He stormed into the governor's office in 2006 with a historic share of the vote, vowing to continue his no-nonsense approach to fixing one of the nation's worst governments.

Time magazine had named him "Crusader of the Year" when he was attorney general and the tabloids proclaimed him "Eliot Ness."

But his term as governor has been marred by problems, including an unpopular plan to grant driver's licenses to illegal immigrants and a plot by his aides to smear Spitzer's main Republican nemesis.

Spitzer had been expected to testify to the state Public Integrity Commission he had created to answer for his role in the scandal, in which his aides were accused of misusing state police to compile travel records to embarrass Senate Republican leader Joseph Bruno.

Spitzer had served two terms as attorney general where he pursued criminal and civil cases and cracked down on misconduct and conflicts of interests on Wall Street and in corporate America. He had previously been a prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, handling organized crime and white-collar crime cases.

IRAQ

Suicide bomb kills five U.S. soldiers

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed five U.S. soldiers as they chatted with shop owners while on a foot patrol in central Baghdad on Monday, the deadliest attack on American forces in the heavily fortified capital in more than eight months.

The bombing, just four days after nearly simultaneous blasts killed scores of people in a vibrant Shiite commercial district, again showed the insurgents' ability to strike inside a capital secured by hundreds of security checkpoints, U.S.-funded neighborhood watch groups and hundreds of miles of blast walls that surround buildings and cordon off

districts.

The military insists that recent attacks do not point to a growing trend in violence, and continues to tout the security gains achieved over the past year.

At any rate, the push over the past six months to place U.S. bases inside neighborhoods and get soldiers out of their armored vehicles increases the Americans' vulnerability to attacks. While the face-to-face contact from foot patrols builds goodwill, it also gives suicide bombers, who often slip past security vehicle checkpoints by walking, better access to striking soldiers.

On Monday, the soldiers were walking in a shopping district of the predominantly Sunni Mansour neigh-

borhood when a man in his 30s detonated his explosives about 30 feet away, said a police officer who witnessed the attack. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to talk to the media.

Four of the soldiers died at the scene, and the fifth died later from wounds, the military said. Three other American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were also wounded in the attack, which military spokesman Maj. Mark Cheadle said was "was reported to us as a suicide bomber."

Iraqi police said two civilians were also killed.

It was the deadliest attack against the U.S. military since Jan. 28, when five soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb in the northern city of Mosul.

GUATEMALA

Documentation fraud causes adoption limbo

Discrepancies found with papers of nine kids

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — Luciany Ball's adoption file says she was born 14 months ago by Caesarean section to a single mother who gave her up so she could be raised by a loving family in a six-bedroom Indiana farmhouse.

But now some of the documents appear to be fraudulent, part of a slew of irregularities at the agency handling Luciany's adoption that have left dozens of babies in danger of being seized from their anguished American adoptive parents. The probe also casts a cloud of uncertainty over some 2,900 pending U.S. adoptions.

Prosecutors describe their probe of Casa Quivira — considered Guatemala's best adoption agency — as their first serious attempt to investigate a \$100 million industry that has made tiny Guatemala the largest source of American babies after China.

The system has delivered 29,400 Guatemalan children into U.S. homes since 1990 — so many that one in every 100 Guatemalan babies born each year was growing up in an American home.

But after a monthslong investigation that began with the seizure of 46 babies from Casa Quivira last August, prosecutors say they found fraud cloaking the true identities of at least nine children and that half their birth mothers couldn't be found at all.

The fraud points to much deeper problems with the flawed adoption system that Guatemala replaced in January, and casts a cloud of uncertainty over the backgrounds of thousands of children now growing up in America. The Associated Press has learned.

After intense lobbying by U.S. parents, most of the 2,900 pending U.S. adoptions will likely go forward, partly because Guatemala lacks the resources to fully investigate them. Parents of the Casa Quivira babies, however, are stuck in the very nightmare they tried to avoid by spending at least \$30,000 per child for hassle-free adoptions.

"I certainly wouldn't want to give Luciany back," said Mary Ball, the child's adoptive mother, her eyes welling up. "She's our family. She's our daughter."

Prosecutors say the problems at Casa Quivira include illegal payments to at least one birth mother, stolen identities — including that of a child still-born 22 years ago — and a mentally ill birth mother who was incapable of giving consent.

A Guatemalan judge said he would announce Tuesday whether to pursue a trial against Casa Quivira's attorney and notary. Prosecutors also have obtained an arrest warrant against the American owner, and they want fresh DNA tests for all the babies, even those whose paperwork is apparently in order.

"Their rights to an identity are violated because if their mothers have no identity, nei-

ther do they," prosecutor Jaime Tecu told the judge.

Luciany's story reveals some of the complexities of adoptions in the poverty-ridden country.

Luciany was born on Jan. 4, 2007. Her birth mother shows up twice in her village's civil registry, with the same picture and fingerprints but different names. One says she is María Natividad Hernández, a married woman. The other — created in her village the same day she gave birth to Luciany in a hospital hours away — identifies her as Orbelina Davila Paz, a single woman.

Prosecutors suspect she got a false I.D. so she and her husband could give the baby up without going before a judge. They believe many of the birth mothers with false identity documents were trying to get around laws that require husbands and grandparents to renounce their rights in court.

Luciany's birth mother gave her to a network of notaries and attorneys supplying babies to Casa Quivira, a spotless home in the picturesque colonial city of Antigua. A few weeks later, Mary and Michael Ball started adoption proceedings for Luciany.

Mary Ball, 39, has an adopted sister, and has wanted to adopt a child since she was a little girl herself. She felt so strongly about adoption that she discussed her plan with Michael even before getting married.

She chose Casa Quivira because her best friend had adopted through the same agency. The Balls did not want to adopt an American child out of fear the birth mother would back out at the last minute.

"We didn't want to grow attached to a child and have that child taken away," said Ball, who prosecutes sex crimes and child abuse in Indiana.

Staff

continued from page 1

over as Scene Editor in the fall.

Brink, a former sports writer, is a sophomore History major with a journalism, ethics and democracy minor. A resident of Fisher Hall from Edgewater, Md., Brink started working as a sports writer for The Observer in the fall of his freshman year and has covered Notre Dame women's soccer and women's basketball.

Murphy, a junior film, television and theater major with a

minor in journalism, lived in St. Edward's Hall before moving off-campus. He is currently studying abroad in Australia. He lives in West Hartford, Conn., and began working for The Observer in the fall of his freshman year, covering hockey and men's soccer.

Metz, a sophomore from Cavanaugh, is currently studying in London. She is an English and Romance Languages major and has covered news for The Observer since her freshman year. She lives in Westfield, N.J.

Jesse, a junior who lives in Farley Hall, is a Graphic and Industrial Design major. She previously worked on ad and graphic design for The

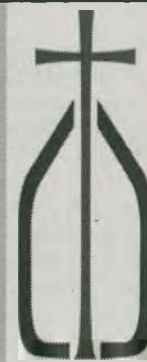
Observer.

King is a sophomore Accounting and Economics major who lives in Welsh Family. She lives in Houston, Tx., and was a copy editor for the Viewpoint section.

Harter is a junior from Cincinnati, Ohio, who lives in LeMans Hall. She is an English Writing major with a minor in Spanish and has written for The Observer since her freshman year. She covered the Board of Governance at Saint Mary's and was a copy editor for the News section.

Lee is a junior Biological Sciences major who lives in Welsh Family Hall. She has been a photographer since the spring of her freshman year.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones **11,740.15** -153.54

Up: 555 Same: 69 Down: 2,805 Composite Volume: 4,261,306,905

AMEX	2,257.82	-14.77
NASDAQ	2,169.34	-43.15
NYSE	8,534.37	-141.90
S&P 500	1,273.37	-20.00
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	12,532.13	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,629.10	-70.80

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	-1.32	-1.71	128.00
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-2.84	-0.69	23.63
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-1.93	-0.81	41.26
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-5.83	-1.22	19.69

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-2.91	-0.103	3.438
13-WEEK BILL	-7.14	-0.100	1.300
30-YEAR BOND	-2.05	-0.093	4.448
5-YEAR NOTE	-3.21	-0.078	2.353

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+2.75	107.90
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.20	972.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-3.00	81.05

Exchange Rates

YEN	101.5000
EURO	0.6517
CANADIAN DOLLAR	0.9965
BRITISH POUND	0.4977

IN BRIEF

Gas prices could reach \$4 a gallon

NEW YORK — Gasoline prices were poised Monday to set a new record at the pump, having surged to within half a cent of their record high of \$3.227 a gallon. Oil prices, meanwhile, surged above \$108 to a new inflation-adjusted record and their fifth new high in the last six sessions on an upbeat report on wholesale inventories.

The national average price of a gallon of gas rose 0.7 cent overnight to \$3.222 a gallon, 69 cents higher than one year ago, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. Last May, prices peaked at \$3.227 as surging demand and a string of refinery outages raised concerns about supplies.

That record will likely be left in the dust soon as gas prices accelerate toward levels that could approach \$4 a gallon, though most analysts believe prices will peak below that psychologically significant mark. In its last forecast, released last month, the Energy Department said prices will likely peak around \$3.40 a gallon this spring; a new forecast is due Tuesday.

Blackwater taxes 'appear dubious'

WASHINGTON — A senior House Democrat has called for a wide-ranging federal investigation into Blackwater Worldwide, alleging that the private security contractor violated tax and labor laws by classifying its guards as independent contractors rather than company employees.

Blackwater spokeswoman Anne Tyrrell called the charges "completely without merit."

"Blackwater's classification of its personnel is accurate, and Blackwater has always been forthcoming about this aspect of its business with its customer, the U.S. government," she said in an e-mailed statement on Monday.

But Rep. Henry Waxman, who chairs the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, says Blackwater's claims on its business status "appear dubious."

In letters sent Monday, Waxman asked the Internal Revenue Service and the Labor Department to investigate whether Blackwater defrauded the government of tax revenue and violated labor laws. Waxman also asked the Small Business Administration to determine if Blackwater violated federal regulations by claiming it was eligible for small business preferences.

Retail stores are feeling a cutback

Drop in consumer spending causes many outlets to file for bankruptcy

Associated Press

The signs that smaller retailers are struggling are unavoidable at malls across America: "Going out of business" sales at many Wilsons Leather stores. "Up to 70 percent off" at KB Toys.

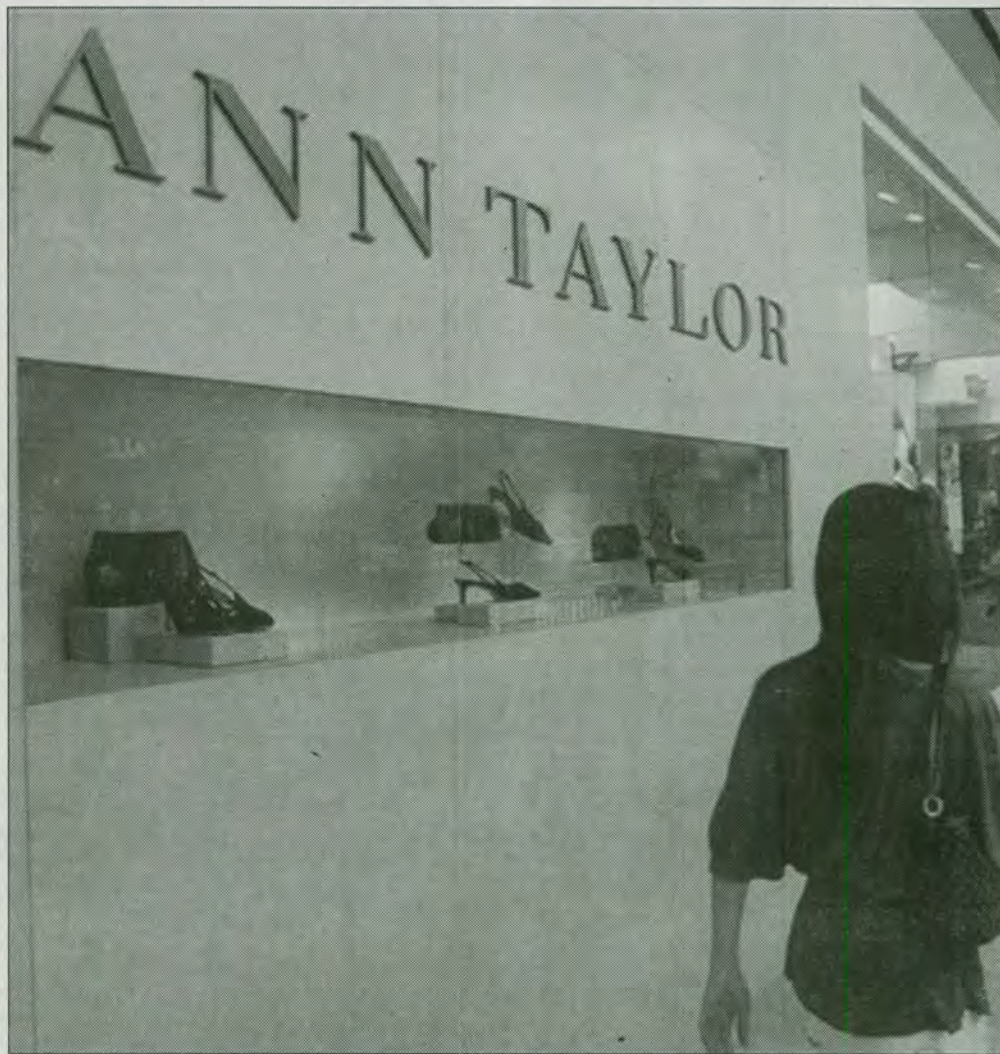
At the once-sizzling Paradise Valley Mall in Phoenix, the space once occupied by Bombay Co., the furniture chain that went bankrupt last year, is empty. Wilsons just finished liquidating its inventory. KB Toys, AnnTaylor and American Eagle feature bold posters advertising steep discounts.

"I don't think it brings much business when all these stores are closed," said Michelle Green, a sales clerk at Fred Meyer Jewelers.

Around the country, mall centers are starting to feel the recoil from a rapid expansion in recent years that allowed retailers to aim stores at almost every niche, from shoppers who wanted Talbots clothes for their children to those who craved Bombay's little wood tables.

Now, consumers who are closing their wallets amid rising gasoline prices and a housing slump are forcing specialty retailers to pare back their brands. While still healthy overall, mall centers in areas hardest hit by the housing downturn — like Paradise Valley — are suffering the most store shutdowns.

Retailers including AnnTaylor Stores Corp., Talbots Inc. and Pacific Sunwear of California Inc. have closed hundreds of stores so far this year. Gadget seller Sharper Image Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection last



A shopper walks by an Ann Taylor store a shopping mall in San Jose, Calif. Retail stores, like Ann Taylor, are beginning to feel consumers shopping recoil.

month and plans to shutter nearly half of its 184 stores.

That retrenchment, along with the Chapter 11 bankruptcy of catalog retailer Lillian Vernon Corp., marks the beginning of a wave of retail bankruptcies that's expected to go well beyond the home furnishings stores hurt by the housing malaise.

"This is economic Darwinism," said Dan Ansell, a partner at Greenberg Traurig LLP and chairman of its real

estate operations division. "Those retailers and businesses that have a product that is desired by consumers will survive, and those who do not will not."

Unless the economy dramatically improves, Ansell believes retail bankruptcies this year could reach the highest level since the 1991 recession. More closings could leave gaping holes in the nation's retail centers, which have already seen average vacancy rates creep up to between 7 percent and 8 percent from 5 percent

over the last six months, according to data from NAI Global, a commercial real estate services firm.

David Solomon, president and CEO of ReStore, NAI Global's retail division, expects the vacancy rate could hit 10 percent by the end of the year. Suzanne Mulvey, senior economist at Property & Portfolio Research, figures that vacancies could rise as high as 12.5 percent this year. Her figure includes retail spaces where tenants have defaulted on their rents.

BRAZIL

Energy company accused of labor abuse

Associated Press

SAO PAULO, — A team from Brazil's Labor Ministry found "degrading" living conditions for 133 sugarcane workers employed by an ethanol company whose investors include former President Clinton and other high-profile financial players.

At five sites inspected, workers "complained they were suffering from hunger and cold, and all of the locations were overcrowded and with terrible sanitary conditions," according to a statement issued Friday by Jaqueline Carrijo, who led the inspections last month.

The target of the probe, Brazil Renewable Energy Co., known as Brenco, apologized over the weekend and said it is fixing the problems at its rural operations, which

turn sugarcane into ethanol.

Clinton's connection is via an investment in Brenco by The Yucaipa Cos., a U.S.-based fund in which Clinton was a senior advisor until last year. His investment in Brenco is valued between \$15,001 and \$50,000, according to a financial disclosure report submitted last year by his wife, presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Yucaipa, whose chairman is prominent Democratic billionaire Ron Burkle, holds an overall 2.8 percent stake in the initial \$200 million raised by Brenco last year to start up operations in Brazil's booming ethanol sector.

Bill Clinton spokesman Matt McKenna said that the former president's investment made via Yucaipa was small but that he had been assured Brenco was "committed to the highest ethical stan-

dard with regard to the treatment of its workforce and of the environment."

"The president finds these allegations deeply troubling and expects Brenco to move swiftly to ensure that those responsible are held accountable," McKenna said, adding that Clinton is "taking steps to ensure that there is an appropriate transition for his business relationships should Senator Clinton become the Democratic nominee."

The Brazilian labor probe focused mostly on living conditions for the workers, including 17 who were paying rent to live in housing overrun by rats and cockroaches, Carrijo said. In addition, trucks lacked special seatbelts for workers who ride atop the vehicles as they throw sugarcane seedlings to the ground, she said.

Big Apple approves Harlem rezoning

Residents fear proposal will sap character from the lively main street neighborhood

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A city commission on Monday approved a massive rezoning plan for the heart of Harlem that would create condominiums, performing arts space, hotels and a 21-story office tower with such high-profile tenants as Major League Baseball.

Officials say the changes approved by the Planning Commission will revive a cultural identity that had been threatened by unregulated development on 125th Street, a lively thoroughfare where remnants of the neighborhood's legendary past sit side-by-side with newly arrived banks and chain stores.

As new development sprouts among the soul food restaurants, funky record stores and such landmarks as the Apollo Theater, Harlem's main street — named one of the nation's 10 greatest last year — is struggling to retain the character residents have cherished for decades.

But many longtime residents fear a rezoned 125th Street will price them out of their homes and erode even more of their community.

"It will be a disaster," said Sikhulu Shange, the owner of a 125th Street record store for more than three decades.

"People come to Harlem, they don't come to see a McDonald's. They don't come to see a Burger King," he said. "They want to come to places like The Record Shack, like Sylvia's (the famed soul food restaurant), where they can come down and feel the atmosphere of Harlem. All these things, they are in danger."

Many business leaders disagree with Shange's take on the zoning proposal, which has been in the works for four years and would cover dozens of blocks on 124th, 125th and 126th Streets. Columbia University plans a \$7 billion expansion on the west side of the corridor — approved late last year — that raised similar debates about displaced residents and changed neighborhood character.

The largest arts groups in the 125th Street corridor have supported it. Jonelle Procope, president and CEO of the Apollo Theater Foundation, said the rezoning "demonstrates a true understanding of Harlem, where culture is not simply important, but fundamentally woven into the fabric of community."

The plan offers developers incentives to create performing arts space by allowing them to build three square feet of space for every one square foot for the arts, said Planning Department spokeswoman Rachael Raynoff.

"We wanted to respect the heritage and respect the great

heyday of the arts," Raynoff said. "People used to come here to be entertained. We're trying to have more Apollos."

City Council Member Inez Dickens, who represents central Harlem, has also largely supported the plan, which would require the council's approval. Dickens has said fears that rezoning would create a high-rise district are unfounded. The plan, she

noted, actually sets height limits for development that don't exist now.

"If you had the resources and you could get a shovel into the ground before this rezoning, no one could stop you from building something so out of context, so out of character with the rest of the streetscape, you could pierce the very fabric of this village of Harlem," Dickens said at a public hearing.

City planners will propose one exception to the height restriction: Harlem Park, the first large office tower to be built in Harlem in decades. Major League Baseball is a likely tenant and the city has offered millions in other economic incentives.

Height is a main concern for Franc Perry, chairman of a Harlem community board. The neighborhood is one of the last business districts in New York to allow pedestrians unobstructed sky views, he said.

"It has a village character. You really do see people walking down the street saying hello to each other," Perry said.

He said no building should rise higher "than the cap of the Hotel Theresa," the landmark where Louis Armstrong, Lena Horne and Fidel Castro stayed and where Malcolm X held meetings of the Organization of Afro-American Unity after breaking from the Nation of Islam.

Perry and others also worry that allowing about 2,500 new apartments on the corridor would displace residents and threaten the street's commercial feel. Raynoff said new residents would bring a customer base for the businesses.

Shange said denser development would dwarf his small storefront, where he has fought eviction for over a year. He said when he arrived in Harlem, his store-selling Caribbean, African and gospel was one of 15 music stores.

"I'm the only one left now," he said.

About 70 other small businesses with a history on the street feel similarly threatened, he said.

"The little bit we have, we are being dislocated. It doesn't seem that there is anything we can do if they are successful," Shange said. "The only thing which will help us is that this whole plan fails."

"It will be a disaster."

Sikhulu Shange
Harlem resident

Paterson could be next N.Y. gov.

Spitzer's lieutenant would be the state's first black leader

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Less than two years after he reluctantly ran for lieutenant governor, David Paterson is suddenly in line to be only the third black governor since Reconstruction, and the first in New York.

"He's the next governor and probably quite soon," said Maurice Carroll, director of Quinnipiac University's Polling Institute and a longtime New York political reporter.

Attention turned to Paterson immediately after word surfaced Monday that Gov. Eliot Spitzer had been linked to a high-priced prostitution ring. In a brief appearance in front of reporters, Spitzer issued a vague apology and did not mention resignation.

If Spitzer quits, Paterson automatically becomes governor and would complete Spitzer's term, which ends Dec. 31, 2010.

There was no immediate comment from Paterson.

Paterson, a 53-year-old Democrat from Harlem who is mostly blind, is well respected by Republicans and Democrats.

Former New York City Mayor Edward Koch recently called Paterson "very capable, not withstanding his near sightlessness. It's never impeded his public actions or his personal actions, and he's really overcome it in an extraordinary way."



Lt. Governor David Paterson, left, may succeed current New York governor Eliot Spitzer after Spitzer was linked to a prostitution-ring scandal.

Paterson, who does not use a cane or a guide dog, can make out shapes and even people up close. He lost most of his sight as an infant when an infection damaged his optic nerve. He still talks of his fragile self-esteem in childhood and recalls not being invited to parties because "people thought I would fall and hurt myself."

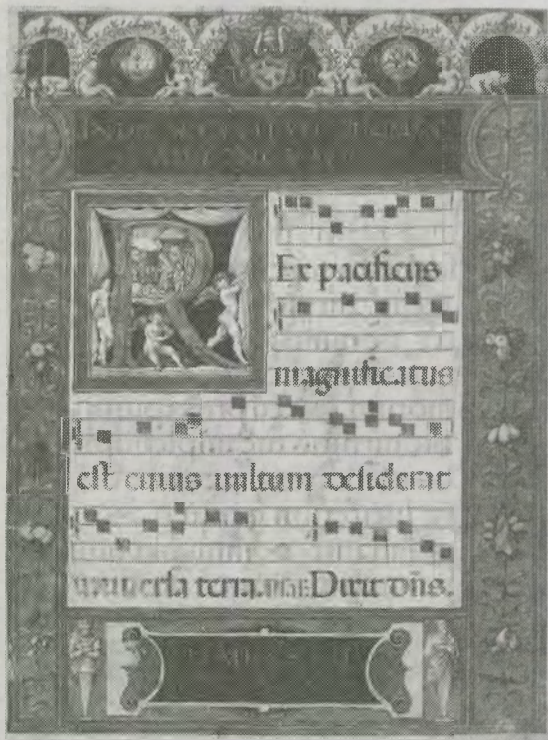
Paterson's disability has never been an issue in Albany in his 20-year political career. He has memorized lengthy, impassioned speeches without missing a mark; cited arcane legal references in fast-paced floor debates; and won more victories for his party in the

Senate than any other leader in the Legislature. His efforts brought Democrats to within a seat of taking the Senate majority for the first time in decades.

Critics and supporters alike all point to the intellect, compassion and humor that Paterson brings to the Statehouse. When Spitzer picked him to be his running mate in 2006, Paterson deadpanned: "I told Eliot, 'Whenever you are trying to reform a system, you need a person with vision and a person who is a technician,' and that's what I am ... because I sure don't have vision."

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Offspring fear risk of Alzheimer's

Study shows 22 percent of adults of parents with memory-loss disease developed the illness

Associated Press

CHICAGO — One parent with Alzheimer's disease is tough enough, but imagine the memory-robbing illness striking both parents — and knowing chances are high you'll get it, too. A study of more than 100 families for the first time gauges the size of that risk.

"I'm scared," said Jackie Lustig, 52, of Sudbury, Mass., whose father died of Alzheimer's and whose mother is living it. "I'm hoping to heck that the pharmaceutical companies come up with something better than there is now. It's not a nice way to go."

The study, appearing in March's Archives of Neurology, found more than 22 percent of the adult children of 111 couples with Alzheimer's had the disease themselves. Risk grew with age. Among offspring older than 60, more than 30 percent were affected. In those older than 70, nearly 42 percent had the disease.

Prior studies have found a 6 to 13 percent prevalence of the disease in the U.S. population older than 65.

At age 62, Gayle Dorman worries every time she misplaces her car keys. "Is this the day I'm going to start losing it?" she wonders.

The suburban Tacoma, Wash., woman spent eight years caring for her parents, who died of Alzheimer's, and in a cruel coincidence, her husband's mother, who also died of the illness.

She said she was surprised to learn "a lot of other people have a double whammy like I do." No one knows how many people have two afflicted parents, but experts say that as baby boomers age, there are likely to be more.

For now, there's no cure for the more than 26 million people worldwide estimated to have Alzheimer's, which gradually destroys memory and other mental abilities.

Dorman took part in the University of Washington study to find out more about her risk and to help researchers identify culprit genes that could lead to new treatments. Families were recruited through the university's Alzheimer's research center.

In the study, diagnoses were confirmed through medical records, autopsies and examination by researchers. The parents with Alzheimer's had 297 children who lived to adulthood and 67 of those children had Alzheimer's.

Senior author Dr. Thomas Bird of the University of Washington said he was uncomfortable saying the normal risk tripled or quadrupled in people with two affected parents because the study was small and had no comparison group.

"What I'm comfortable saying is that risk is increased and we're working on trying

to find out what the magnitude is," Bird said.

The study was funded by the National Institute on Aging and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Bird disclosed in the paper that he has a licensing agreement with Athena Diagnostics Inc. The company does lab testing for a gene related to late-onset Alzheimer's. But Bird's agreement involves genetic discoveries unrelated to Alzheimer's, he said, and the company had nothing to do with the research.

Many people with two affected parents ask their doctors to quantify their risk, experts said.

Ferry system faces rough waters

Associated Press

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash. — Starved of money for nearly a decade, the nation's largest ferry system has hit rough water.

The ferries that cruise Puget Sound and surrounding waters have become symbols of the Pacific Northwest, recalling its rich maritime history and figuring prominently in movies and television shows such as "Grey's Anatomy." But beneath their cheery green-and-white paint scheme, the aging ferries are rusty, old and unreliable.

Some boats have been yanked from service for repairs. Routes have been canceled and schedules thrown off. Washington state commuters are frustrated.

"We have a love-fear relationship with the ferries. It's our highway and there's always massive uncertainty," said Pete Gillis, 38, as he caught a ride to Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound, en route to Port Townsend, north of Seattle.

The system's problems date back to 1999, when voters repealed a vehicle-registration tax that provided much of the money to build, maintain and operate ferries. That caused fare increases, cuts in service and delays in maintaining and replacing boats.

"We had this aging, deteriorating fleet that was ignored and put on the back burner," said Democratic state Rep. Sherry Appleton, whose district west of the Seattle mainland includes three ferry runs.

State Transportation Secretary Paula Hammond says relief is on the way in the form of 13 new boats to be built over the next 20 years.

"We've allowed the system to limp along, ignoring the long-term consequences," she said. "We were delaying the inevitable, and now we see the problem square in the face."

The Washington ferry system hauls 24 million passengers each year, about a quarter of all U.S. ferry passengers. Its 24 vessels range from a tiny boat

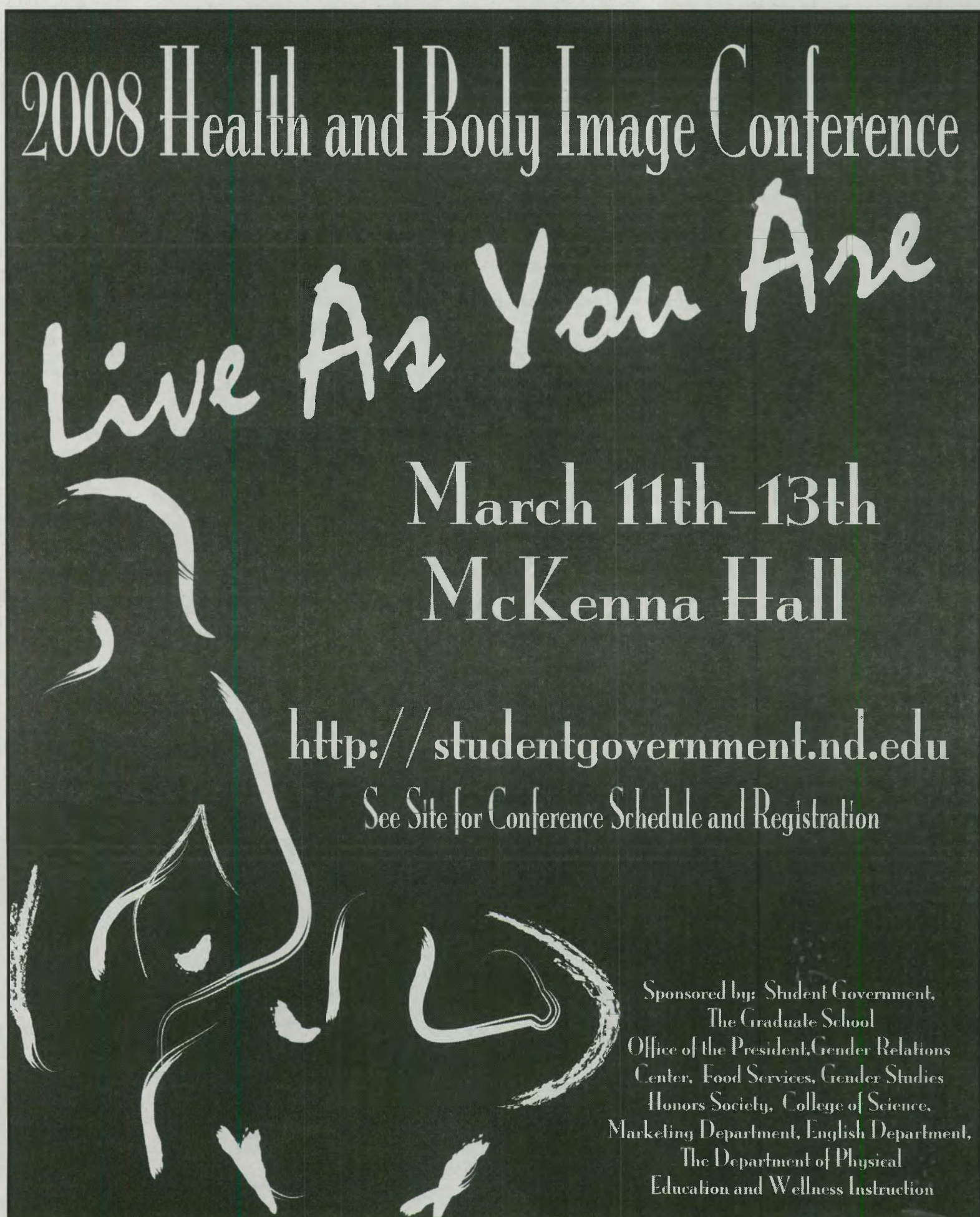
that links Tacoma to Vashon Island, to a tourist-friendly international run that winds through the scenic San Juan Islands to Vancouver Island in British Columbia.

On upscale Bainbridge Island, thousands of commuters take the ferry to work in downtown Seattle, filling boats that can carry 2,500 passengers on each 30-minute crossing.

For many riders, it's a pleasant time for drinking coffee and reading the morning paper. Some catch up on work using free wireless Internet access. Others just catch a few extra winks.

It's not cheap, even though the state subsidizes the system. A walk-on passenger pays \$6.70 a day — \$134 a month, minus commuter discounts. Driving a car onto the ferry costs \$11.55 each direction, or \$460 a month for 20 workdays.

But many commuters cheerfully swallow those prices, making up the difference on cheaper real estate across the water from pricey Seattle.



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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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Torture on, patriots

The House and the Senate presented the President with a bill last week that would have prevented American intelligence agencies, specifically the CIA, from using certain techniques of prisoner interrogation which many foreign countries and human rights groups have labeled torture. One criticized technique is waterboarding, a method where interrogators stretch a prisoner on his back and elevate his feet, gag his mouth with cloth or plastic film, and pour water onto his face.

Waterboarding induces gagging, simulates the sensation of drowning, and gives the fear of imminent death. President Bush quickly vetoed the bill, sending a clear signal that the United States will allow torture when and where it deems fit.

The sanction of waterboarding puts us in the proud ranks of interrogators from the Spanish Inquisition, Pinochet's Chilean regime, and the Khmer Rouge, all of whom used the technique or variations thereof. The President tried to draw attention away from waterboarding, pointing out the bill "would not simply ban one particular interrogation method" but "would eliminate all the alternative procedures we've developed to question the world's most dangerous and violent terrorists."

The President is correct: the bill would ban any technique not found in the U.S. Army Field Manual. Those secret, unlisted techniques (all of whose effectiveness remains disputed) include being made to remain standing for exorbitant lengths of time, undergoing slaps to the belly, and standing naked in cold cells while being drenched. The Bush administration insists the U.S. does not practice torture and tries to sanitize such methods by calling them

"enhanced interrogation techniques."

That dark euphemism cannot disguise the fact that waterboarding is designed to psychologically ravage prisoners (who may or may not have received a trial, given current U.S. policy) with the goal of extracting information. The CIA actually prohibits waterboarding presently and claims not to have used the technique since 2003, but the President wants to leave the option on the table. The consent of the President and Attorney General in specific cases could allow for its use.

The President who condones all this once staked his candidacy on promises to clean up Washington. He vowed to restore dignity to government. But if we are truly to be a nation of moral dignity acting on our principles, then our policies must reflect our character. By permitting even the chance that the CIA might use torture, we effectively give ourselves the power to choose when another human being suffers. We make ourselves the ultimate moral authority.

Supporters of this abhorrent policy eat up a masculinized vision of American justice and portray themselves as infinitely more pragmatic than those who oppose torture. They think they alone accept the "tough reality" of our current military situation and understand the valuable information torture can yield. But tell me who is more realistic: "bleeding-heart liberals" who believe we can foil terrorists without resorting to inhumane methods and compromising our morality, or "freedom-loving patriots" who buy into the action-hero image of Jack Bauer squeezing out that necessary clue just in the nick of time by a willingness to use methods outside the law? Please excuse me if I do not buy into the pragmatic argument.

Bush's veto centers on the proposition that our safety rests on not revealing our hand. "It is vitally important," he said, "that the CIA be allowed to maintain a separate and classified interrogation program." Otherwise, militant organizations can train themselves to resist acknowledged techniques, such as the nineteen outlined in the Army Field

Manual. The amount that a terrorist can prepare himself for interrogation is doubtful, and such second-guessing still does not morally justify the techniques, yet this argument actually contains some logic. Interrogation can reveal information; terrorists resist interrogation when they know techniques beforehand; therefore, keep a few secret methods in reserve.

Nevertheless, the argument is fundamentally flawed, and most certainly bereft of the morality to which we aspire. Its problem lies in a dogmatic adherence to the accepted discourse of resolution, a discourse with conflict built in. To be clearer: the desire to keep our arsenal of anti-terrorist methods perpetually one step ahead of the enemy anticipates, in its very nature, the continued existence of conflict. It does not allow for a way out of the confrontational cycle. This mode of thinking assumes that "might makes right" and that our military superiority must precede our moral justification. First we kill the bad guys, then we show everyone how virtuous we are. It precludes the possibility of a non-violent solution to our hostilities. Bush's veto symbolizes the broad renunciation of diplomacy and locks us into an endless contest of strength.

If we wish to fully commit ourselves to accepting an international leadership role then we must reject the use of secret torture techniques on any prisoner, terrorist or otherwise. We must also abandon the testosterone-driven, pulp-fiction-born notion that such techniques are the best defense against an unavoidable reality. Rather than resign ourselves to an endless cycle of conflict, we must look beyond the violent discourse of military superiority, become better than our enemies, and set a moral example for the world.

James Dechant is a senior English and Theology major. Questions, comments, and rude remarks can be sent to him at jdechant@nd.edu.

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



James Dechant

Foregone Conclusion

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To have a right to do a thing is not at all the same as to be right in doing it."

G.K. Chesterton
author

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

page 11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Boxing with purpose

In response to Ryan Simmons' "Strong Bodies Fight" (Feb. 28), I agree that there is much more to the Bengal Bouts than winning a trophy. The Bouts do a fantastic job of raising money for the poor and underprivileged of Bangladesh. His view that all the practices and training were worthwhile, even though he does not get to fight, is a great view of the situation and one that I'm sure the boxing club desires for all their fighters.

However, I have a problem with Simmons' statement that "...selfish pride is for freshmen and novices who learn to drop after their first year." First, I would not consider fighting just for a shot to win "selfish pride." Numerous fighters enter the ring to prove to themselves that they are capable of facing fear, taking a punch and delivering one back. Some happen to be good at it and enjoy it — others, not so much.

Who's to say if one enters the Bouts in order to try to win is because of selfish pride? It could be out of a competitive nature and the desire to win — all the while keeping the mission of the Bouts in perspective.

Furthermore, I see no correlation between this so-called "selfish pride" and freshman and novices who drop after their first year. Simmons is wrong judging those who do not fight after their first year. Those young men (and women of the Baraka Bouts) should be complimented and applauded for at least trying and having the courage to enter the ring, not ridiculed because they find it is not for them. Their one year of

service did not go to waste. They participated in the Bengal Bouts and helped raise money for the Bangladesh Missions.

Many fighters participate for one year to say they gave it a shot, and in the process helped a great cause. As a former Bengal Bouts participant (only fighting one year), I am disappointed Simmons believes fighters drop after one year due to "selfish pride." Before joining the boxing club, I had never been in a true fight. I wanted to participate in the Bouts in order to prove to myself that I can take a punch and return it while helping a great cause along the way. However, this year I joined the Notre Dame Rugby Club and to add boxing, along with other activities and school, would be far too great a time commitment for me. I'm sure others have not boxed after their first year due to similar reasons, or because of class, or because boxing simply wasn't their thing.

Bengal Bouts participants deserve a great amount of respect, and the purpose of the fights should be kept in mind. However, those who box but do not continue after their first year should not be associated with "selfish pride," but instead remembered and applauded for their year of dedication, hard work, and service.

Ben Frost
sophomore
Dillon Hall
Feb. 29

Real issues

Congratulations to Greg Yatarola on his recent Observer article, "Challenging male promiscuity," (Feb. 26). From my reading of the Letters to the Editor for almost the last five years, it would seem that the main interest of students is sex. Students live for the weekends to be free of classes and to get to the important issues of alcohol and sex, or at least attempting to find a sexual partner, and if not in reality, at least in imagination.

This school year has been the first time in five years that I've seen any articles specifically countering the wanton use of sex, besides those arguing against "The Vagina Monologues." Also, each year there are several things put on by the student Right To Life organization, including talks on respect for sex. So it has been refreshing to see the article regarding pornography by Fr. Lou DeFra and the recent Yatarola article.

A college-age man caught me off guard one day by asking me how to keep pure and chaste. I didn't know if he was Catholic or not, so I didn't give him the complete answer — which for a Catholic would be frequent participation in the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist, both attending and receiving. A third major help would be daily, individual, private prayer, including prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Brother Bill Mewes, C.S.C.
alumnus
Columba Hall
Feb. 28

Nerds hurt too

Last I checked, which I do at least six times a day, The Observer was "an independent newspaper serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's." It's right there on the cover, so I don't know why I'm constantly checking that, but that's a separate issue.

Despite this stance, The Observer forces its audience, practically at gunpoint, to turn against itself several times a year. I agree with Liz Froehke's view ("Offensive comic strip demeans women," Feb. 27) that the Viewpoint has been pretty dull lately, what with there being no comic strip controversy in the last several months. In fact, it rarely stirs an exciting debate, outside of politics, campus traditions, the Vagina Monologues, race and gender issues, and religion — which certainly speaks to the actual intellectual vigor of its audience, you bottom-feeders, you — but publishing a truly offensive comic that not only is disparaging to, but also "disparages against," nerds and so many of the students whose petty whims you supposedly "serve" should not be your fall-back for increasing readership.

The "nerdy-guys-commenting-on-girls'-frigidity" comic published recently ("Lollerskates," Feb. 26) actually hurts the opposite group that it intends to insult. It makes active, "cool" people with real lives — like comic writers — look like arrogant bullies. And we all know that a bully is really just insecure in his newsprint core. How pathetic that a person who has actually spoken to a girl before feels the need to pick on a group of nerds that even U.S. News and World Report's rankings — and they totally make them — would not place in the same category, namely "appealing people."

So pathetically pathetic. The saddest part of all this, for me, is that nerds make up part of The Observer staff. I can't believe any self-respecting nerd...actually exists. But if he did, he would never allow this offensive material to be a part of what he represented. At least not after he stopped crying.

I love Notre Dame. Carnally. Possibly because of that, I don't actually have any close "cool" friends, but if I had some, you popular Observer people would be making them look ignorant and arrogant. Hey, come to think of it...

Anyway, Notre Dame is like a red giant in a small spiral galaxy: South Bend. (Astrophysics metaphors always did it for me better than outdoorsman ones.) Outside of this star cluster, there are much bigger ones in which you "interesting" people (who leave your rooms on Saturday night) would feel much smaller. Remember that, and stop trying to instigate a debate that isn't even valid, that has been beaten into the ground, that no one wants to have, and that I happen to be participating in with great vehemence and verbosity.

If The Observer's mission is to serve Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, and me personally, but mostly just me, then I suggest it start promoting the shared and unique aspects of both "cool" people and nerds that we all have to be proud of, whether we like it or not, and stop encouraging material that turns this community against itself in an infinite regress of inward turns spiraling into nerd-hate oblivion.

Bow to my hypersensitivity!

Andy Gray
sophomore
Siegfried Hall
Feb. 27

Defending 'Breytopia'

During the recent presidential elections for Student Government, we all heard numerous campaign promises and pledges by the various candidates. I noticed a recurring theme: most of the candidates stressed that their most important goal was service to the student body. Bob Reish and Grant Schmidt, the winners in that hotly contested election, seemed to put particular stress on the idea that their actions would be directly tied to whatever issues were deemed especially important by the students.

Well, gentlemen, consider this your first request. Last Friday, the faithful members of "Breytopia," the dedicated ranks of the Leprechaun Legion that camp out in advance for basketball games, were broken up and chased off by NDSP, threatened away by citations and ResLife. Many seniors were bullied out of camping for the last basketball game they will get the chance to see.

At a school that has developed such a strong home-court advantage (36 straight home wins speak for themselves), to have this entirely unnecessary and uncalled for display against school spirit and team support is simply outrageous. This is not the first time NDSP has chosen to break up one of these sleeping sessions, and I doubt that it will be the last unless quick and efficient action is taken.

Students camping out for basketball games is far from unprecedented at schools around the country, and even has a rich history at our own University.

The team's performance over the past few years shows that Mike Brey is bringing the program back to the status it rightly deserves. However, when one

looks at the truly elite basketball programs around the U.S. (North Carolina, Kansas, Duke, etc.), it is easy to see what these institutions have in common: an enthusiastic, energetic, and dedicated fanbase. To have Notre Dame's own security force take actions to cut fan energy is entirely counterproductive to the rise of the program. Imagine Duke shutting down Krzyzewskiville! This type of action should not be tolerated by Father Jenkins, Father Poorman, and the rest of the administration, and especially not by our own Student Government.

If Bob and Grant really want to make their mark in the coming year, they should get started right now by opening discussion with NDSP and ResLife about arranging a safe haven for students that want nothing more than to camp out and watch our Fighting Irish take the hardwood. With almost all of this year's squad returning, next year is bound to be an exciting year for Notre Dame basketball. It would be unfortunate if, during a year that could be so important for the program, the University allowed the negative actions of NDSP to continue.

In the words of one very distinguished (and awfully handsome) former presidential candidate: "The only thing that should be louder than these pants is the voice of the student body." Well, Bob and Grant, I hope you are taking the time to listen: this is an issue that must be addressed.

Dan Rimkus
freshman
Zahn House
Feb. 24

Comics in good humor

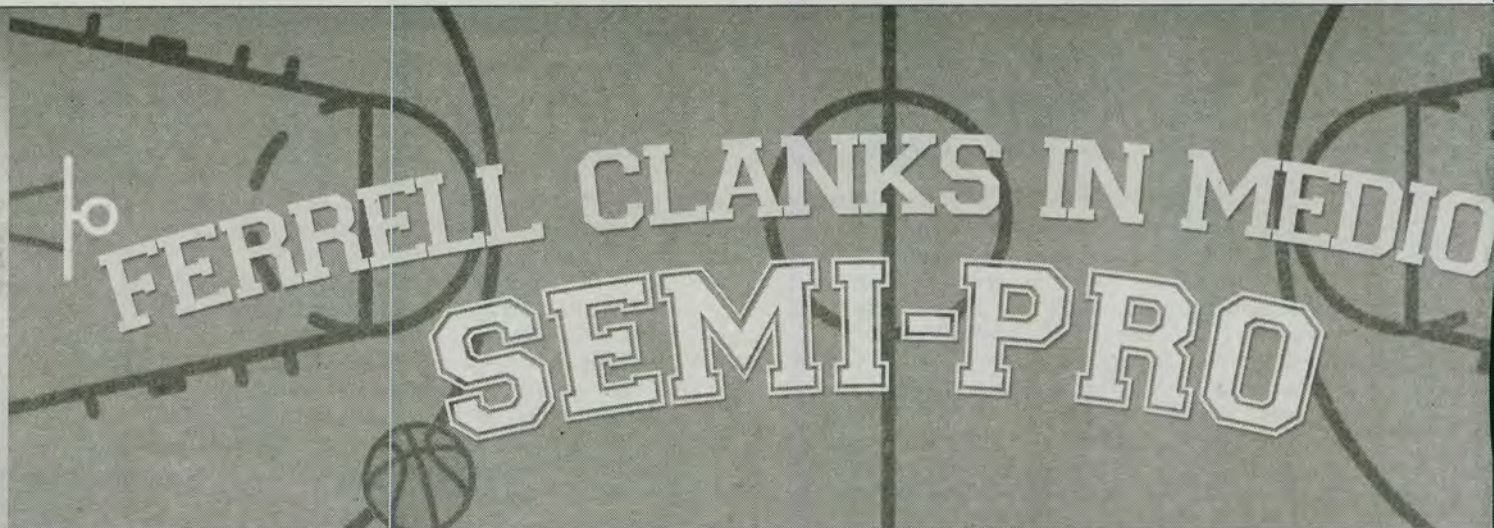
If I ever have any daughters in the future, I would love for them to attend a college like Saint Mary's. However, as Liz Froehke and others' outrage illustrates, there is one thing that is clearly not being taught at Saint Mary's: a sense of humor. You have to be able to poke fun at yourself. "Black Dog" ran a comic making fun of Georgians (Feb. 27), portraying them as wanting nothing more than a big trailer. I've lived in Georgia my entire life and never once set foot in a trailer. Yet I laughed. From the typecast character of Cohutta on MTV's "The Real World" to the brother-"loving" Georgia girl on "Nip/Tuck", pop culture repeatedly represents Georgians in a stereotypical way. Yet they're hilarious in their absurdity.

And that's the point of the comics. You don't get a caricature made at Disney World only to be outraged that it doesn't look like you. Being offended at

a comic that pokes fun at a Saint Mary's education only reveals your inner insecurities about such an education. If we're going to get offended at every comic that stretches the truth to the point of absurdity, we get stuck with poorly drawn pictures that only leave us confused ("Flu at ND" anyone?).

So I applaud Didier and the other comics that tread the line of absurdity. And if you disagree with me, you can find me in my '69 Dodge Charger making out with my sister and writing my next Viewpoint about how the South should have won the War of Northern Aggression. Damn Yankees.

John Neiner
senior
off campus
Feb. 28



By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

Will Ferrell's act may be getting old but it's still good for a few laughs. In his latest comedy offering, "Semi-Pro," Ferrell squeezes into a pair of short shorts and continues his trend of playing an oversized buffoon who can't seem to get a grip on reality. It's a shtick that has brought in box office gold over the years, but after seeing "Semi-Pro," it is clear that Ferrell will need to explore new avenues before his comedy becomes stale. But then again, he does wrestle a bear this time around.

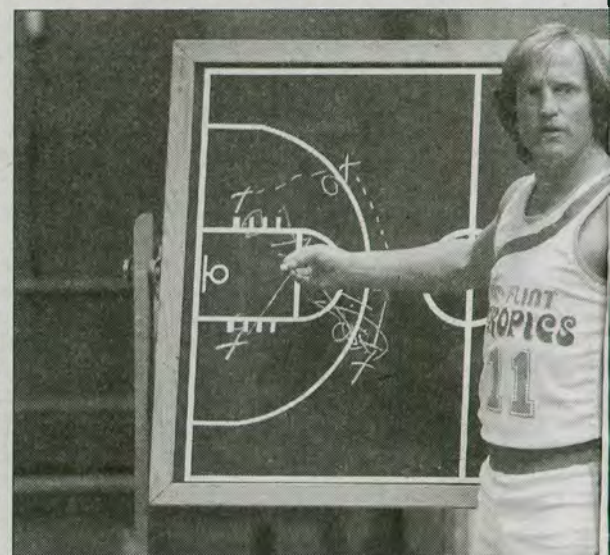
Ferrell stars as Jackie Moon, a one-hit wonder (for the disco ditty "Love Me Sexy") and owner, head coach and power forward of the Flint Tropics, the worst team in the American Basketball Association. When Jackie finds out that the ABA is going to merge with the National Basketball Association, he convinces the ABA commissioner (David Koechner) to take the top four teams to the NBA, giving the Tropics one last chance for survival. Not only does Jackie become an expert at promotions to increase attendance (hence the bear wrestling), but he trades the team's washing machine for former Boston Celtics player Ed Monix (Woody Harrelson). Monix is a

washed-up point guard, but he takes his basketball know-how and tries to turn the team around in time for the merger.

The movie hits a major snag with the pacing. First-time director Ken Altermann doesn't keep the funny coming fast enough and instead tries to inject some heart into the plot. But scenes like those between Monix and lady love Lynn (Maura Tierney) fall flat. Harrelson plays the straight man too straight, and Tierney is even straighter. We care little for their relationship because they're just so gosh darn boring. Michael Cera proved in "Superbad" that the straight man can be funny too, but Harrelson's performance evokes little laughter in "Semi-Pro."

Of course, every comedy has bright spots. André Benjamin of Outkast makes a refreshing appearance as a funky NBA-wannabe trapped on a terrible basketball team. Comedians Will Arnett and Andrew Daly are brilliant as the loyal Tropics radio announcers and television show hosts. Arnett's Lou Redwood always has a drink in his hand as Daly's Dick Pepperfield does most of the real announcing. Daly's humor is so dry and spot on, that at times we forget that he's an actor and not a real sportscaster.

However, just like the Tropics play like a second string high school bas-



Woody Harrelson demonstrates the Xs and Os of Ed Monix, a member of the last-place Flint Tropics.

ketball team, the cast appears to be a collection of second string players from the Will Ferrell and Judd Apatow gangs. With star players Paul Rudd and Steve Carell moving on to bigger and better projects, Ferrell is left with people like Rob Corddry and Andy Richter. While there is no doubt that these comedians are absolutely hilarious, "Semi-Pro" does little to demonstrate their comedic talent. These actors will have to keep on trying to find their "Anchorman" since Altermann never quite lets them shine. "Semi-Pro" can make no claims of brilliance; it's meat and potatoes comedy.

Will Ferrell-style. True fans of Ferrell will appreciate his performance, but those looking for a good movie won't find it here. "Semi-Pro" could have used more over-the-top, ridiculous situations and less realism and heart. After all, one of the funniest scenes in the movie fea-

tures Jackie Moon and the sea horse and rehearsing for a float at a bowl crous, but it v "Semi-Pro" i Ferrell's bran running out of s

Contact Cassie cbelek@nd.edu

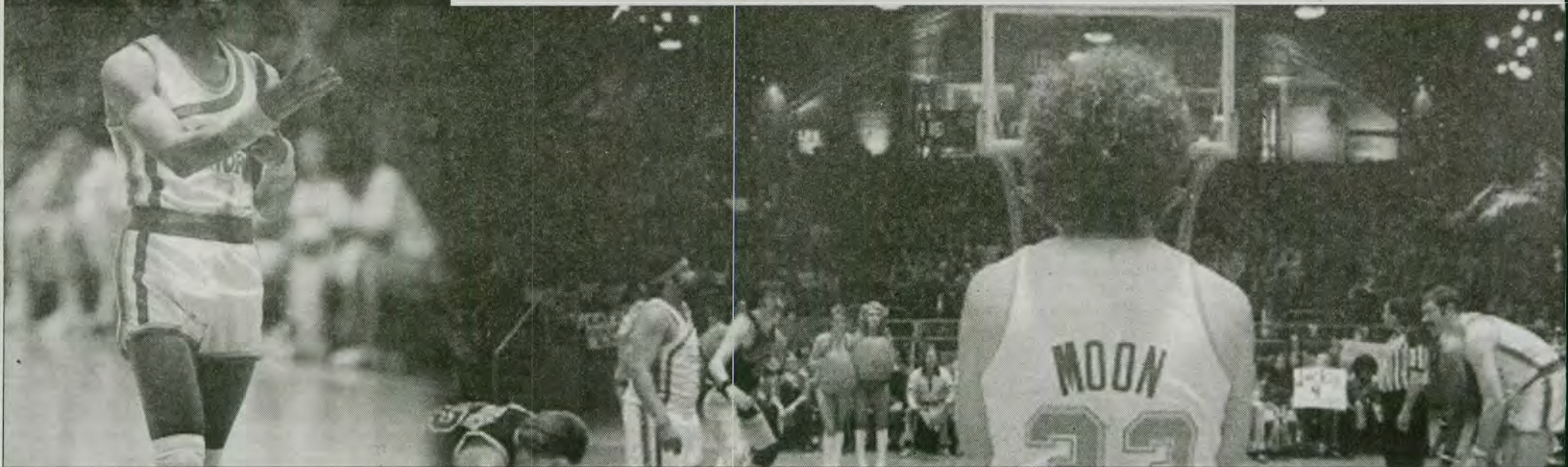


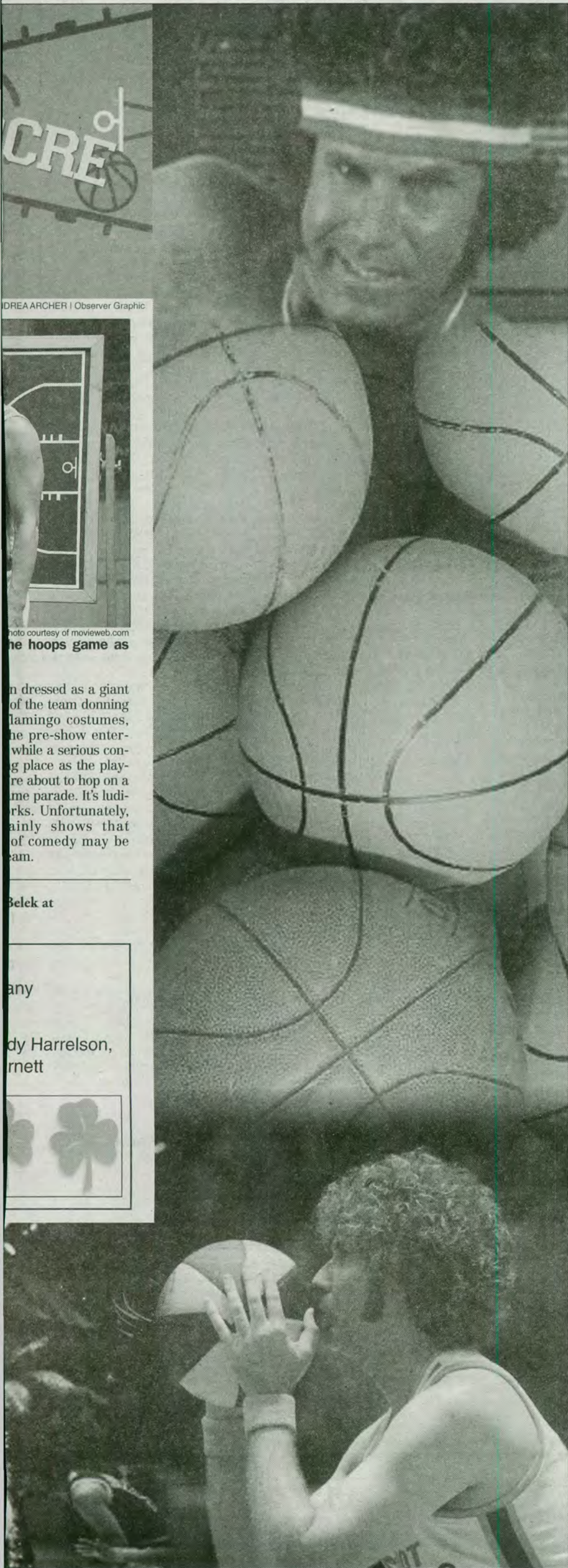
André Benjamin adds some ABA-era afro thunder to the mix as Clarence "Coffee" Black, one of Jackie Moon's fellow miscreants.

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Semi-Pro Donners' Comp

Director: Kent Altermann
Starring: Will Ferrell, Woody Harrelson, André Benjamin and Will Arnett





DREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

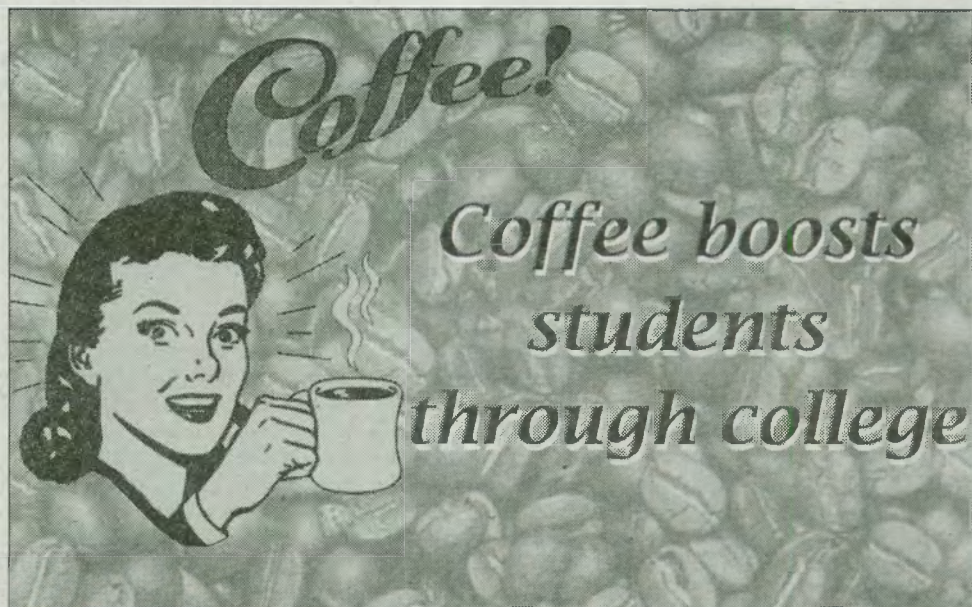
Photo courtesy of movieweb.com
the hoops game as

n dressed as a giant
of the team donning
flamingo costumes,
he pre-show enter-
while a serious con-
g place as the play-
re about to hop on a
me parade. It's ludi-
rks. Unfortunately,
ainly shows that
of comedy may be
eam.

Selek at

any

dy Harrelson,
rnett



MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

"I feel like my mind is an encore."
These immortal words were uttered by
a friend during a much needed coffee
break. After hours of drawn out academ-
ic exertion, we, like many others, flocked
to Waddick's
for our daily
ritual of cal-
fination. This
remark most
likely does
not warrant
being recounted in print. But alas, I've
looked beyond the superficial lunacy of
the comment. Its claim made me consid-
er some very real an existential truths
about life under the influence, of caffeine
that is.

Jess Shaffer

Scene & Heard

Truth Number One: Coffee defies reali-
ty. In college, there is no escape like caf-
feine. Okay, maybe there is no du Lac
friendly escape like caffeine. The most
obvious case of coffee's delusional power
is its dominance over sleep deprivation.
Coffee is the all-nighter's best friend.

Any advisor or physician would suggest
water and healthy eating habits as the
perfect fuel for your academic fighting
machine. But then again, who listens to
someone whose trying to rob us of our
god given right to eat fried foods and stay
awake into the wee hours of the morn-
ing? This article is about wonderfully
unhealthy caffeine habits, not addiction
to carrots and such.

Ultimately, everyone knows that noth-
ing provides a quick fix like a hot cup of
joe. Coffee can defeat the worst karma
and the dreariest day with rejuvenation
and energy. It provides miraculous serv-
ices to college students everywhere.

Truth Number Two: Cause and Effect.
As mom always said, "Everything in
Moderation." Caffeine can do strange
and wonderful things. Case and point: 2
AM trip to St. Liam's after two pots of
extra strong coffee. Heart palpitations
aren't as cool as they sound. And then
there is the whole confusing affect of
being awake when you should be asleep.
There is that point in caffination where
up becomes down. The thin line between
opposites becomes confused and non-
sense ensues. Remember that mental
encore.

Truth Number Three: You are what



Photo courtesy of scooterjoescoffee.com

Other coffee drinks such as this latte
can provide a break from the routine.

you drink. The beautiful thing about cof-
fee is its ability to compliment the per-
sonality of every drinker. Black coffee for
those not so faint of heart. Frappaccinos
for our beloved pink-iPod-listening Grey's
Anatomy fans. Cappuccinos for seniors
missing their year abroad in Europe. Soy
infusions for granola yuppies. Mochas
for chocolate lovers. The stereotyping is en-
dless. Coffee is all about what you, as an
individual, want. Just remember that you
define your coffee. Don't let your coffee
define you.

Caffeine may be the path to greater
enlightenment. So make sure to hit up
your café of choice. Whether it comes
from Waddicks, Decio, or Starbucks,
approach your daily jolt with a newfound
appreciation. It may open your eyes to
your own, nonsensical mental encore.
Then again, it could also leave you a
sleepless zombie. But at least you'll be in
good company.

The views expressed in Scene & Heard
are those of the author and do not
necessarily reflect those of The Observer.
Contact Jess Shaffer at
jshaffe1@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of fitrianiangrum.wordpress.com

A piping hot cup of joe can help even the most beleaguered and sleep-deprived stu-
dent power through his or her studies, no matter what time of night or early morning.

MEN'S LACROSSE

UNC hands squad first loss

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame lost for the first time this season 8-6 to North Carolina Saturday in Chapel Hill.

The Irish (4-1), ranked No. 7 in the most recent Nike/Inside Lacrosse Poll, lost despite outshooting the Tar Heels 41-29. Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan said his team was done in by a combination of an outstanding performance by UNC goalie Grant Zimmerman and a general lack of execution by the Irish.

"It wasn't them, it was us," Corrigan said. "We had the first five shots of the game, and their goalie had four saves before they even had the ball at the offensive end of the field. We controlled the ball for the large part of the game, we just gave up some goals we didn't need to give up and didn't take advantage of our opportunities."

Junior midfielder Ben Hunt scored the Tar Heels' first goal

with 5:45 left in the first period. The score was Hunt's first of five and began a run of five unanswered Tar Heels goals that lasted until the second half.

Corrigan said he did not berate his team at halftime because it knew its situation.

"I think our guys felt like [we] weren't dominating play," he said. "[The Tar Heels] were dominating the scoreboard but they weren't dominating play. It wasn't anything I felt like I had to say or do. We were disappointed in the poise we showed offensively but we knew that we were right in the game. We just had to start cashing it on opportunities."

The Irish responded to their collective disappointment by going on a tear of their own. Senior midfielder Michael Podgajny scored Notre Dame's first goal just over three minutes into the second half. Podgajny quickly followed up the first of his two goals with an assist to junior midfielder Peter Christman just over a minute later.

When senior attack Alex Wharton capped a 4-1 Irish run with 4:24 left in the third quarter, the score was 6-4 in favor of North Carolina. Despite the run, the Irish could not overcome Zimmerman's spectacular play in a game where the keeper set a career high with 18 saves.

While Corrigan was disappointed at the first loss of the season, he said the Irish still know what they have to do to be successful in Saturday's game against Dartmouth and beyond.

"It's just part of the continuum of the season. What we take from [this loss] is nothing different from what we've been talking about," Corrigan said. "We know that when you play good teams you can't give goals away. We created opportunities for ourselves; we just didn't make them count. I don't think we learned anything new we just confirmed some things we already knew."

Contact Griffin Dassatti at
gdassatt@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish fall to Yellow Jackets, blank Hawaii

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hosted the defending national champion Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets then traveled to sunny Hawaii, splitting the pair of matches, and falling to 8-7 for the dual season.

Georgia Tech 5, Notre Dame 2

The No. 2 Yellow Jackets (10-3) came to No. 19 Notre Dame on March 1, boasting six ranked singles players, including four ranked in the top 30.

The Irish started the match strong, winning the first two doubles matches and the doubles point.

"Our doubles teams played really well," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We had lost to their one team last year."

Irish doubles squad Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley notched the first win by a score of 8-4. The duo of Brook Buck and Kelcy Tefft followed suit, avenging last year's loss with an 8-2 victory over Georgia Tech's Whitney McCray and Kristi Miller, the No. 19 doubles pair in the country.

With the doubles point in hand, Irish pair Kali Krisik and Kristen Rafael forced a tiebreaker in their match but dropped the tiebreaker, losing 8-7 (7-4).

Georgia Tech quickly bounced back, sweeping all three matches in the first half of singles play. The Yellow Jackets were led by No. 4 Amanda McDowell and No. 6 Kristi Miller. Krisik, Ciobanu, and Buck all came out on the losing end of their matchups and the Irish fell behind 3-1 for the match.

The Irish needed the final three singles points to take the match, but No. 19 Maya Johansson clinched the match for the Yellow Jackets, defeating Rafael, 6-3, 6-4.

The showdown between each team's No. 1 went to Georgia Tech's Miller, who defeated Tefft, 6-3, 6-4.

Rielley notched the only singles victory for Notre Dame. Her upset of No. 84 Christy Striplin, 6-2, 7-6 (7-3), made the final score 5-2.

The outcome was not what the Irish would have liked, but

the team was pleased with the effort.

"We played well overall, and the kids felt good about the match afterwards," Louderback said.

Notre Dame 7, Hawaii 0

The outlook became sunnier for Notre Dame as they traveled to Honolulu to face Hawaii (0-8).

The Irish swept every match on the way to a 7-0 triumph.

Now the No. 1 doubles pair in the nation, Buck and Tefft got the momentum going with an 8-3 victory. Ciobanu and Rielley clinched the doubles point with an 8-1 win, and Krisik and Rafael completed the doubles sweep, winning 8-4.

Now the No. 39 singles player in the country, Tefft validated her ranking with a 6-3, 6-1 win over No. 81 Sophie Kobuch.

Buck cruised to a 6-0, 6-0 win, and Ciobanu sealed the match for the Irish with a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

Krisik, now No. 113, Rafael, and Rielley all won in two sets to give Notre Dame a clean sweep of the match.

After weeks of indoor practice and matches, Louderback was happy to get some time playing outdoors.

"The biggest thing was getting a chance to get outside and play in the heat," Louderback said. "We were outside all week, and we got a lot of work outdoors."

In addition to the outdoor reps and confidence boost, the team took time to reach out to the community, visiting a local hospital in Hawaii.

"Our kids had a chance to visit a children's hospital, and it was a really great experience for all of them," Louderback said.

The Irish also took advantage of being in Hawaii and got a chance to have a little spring break, too.

"We had a nice luau while we there," Louderback said.

Though the team now returns to chilly South Bend, the Irish look to stay on the hot streak they started in Hawaii. They take on Illinois at home Wednesday.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Team falls to defending champs

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

On March 1, Notre Dame traveled to Illinois to face the defending national runner-up. In the end, the No. 7 Fighting Illini proved why they advanced so far in last season's tournament, as they easily defeated the No. 15 Irish by a score of 6-1.

The Illini began the match with two decisive performances to get the doubles point. Irish junior Brett Helgeson and senior Sheeva Parbhu fell 8-2 to the Illini pair of senior Ryan Rowe and sophomore Billy Heiser, who are ranked No. 20 nationally. With the loss, Helgeson and Parbhu fell to 8-5 on the year.

The No. 27 Illini pair of senior Brandon Davis and senior Ruben Gonzales, ranked No. 27 nationally sealed the doubles point with an 8-3 win over the Irish duo of junior Santiago Montoya and senior Andrew Roth. Irish freshmen

Stephen Havens and Tyler Davis earned the only Irish doubles win with an 8-5 triumph over the Illini's No. 3 pair of freshmen Abe Souza and Connor Roth.

Irish freshman David Anderson recorded Notre Dame's only other point of the match out of the No. 4 singles slot. Anderson defeated Illini junior Marc Spicjaric. Anderson lost the first set 5-7, but he rebounded to take the second set 6-2 and clinched the match in a tiebreak, 1-0 (10-8). With the win, Anderson improved to 15-9 on the year. Anderson was also one of four Irish freshmen to start in singles play on the day.

Anderson's strong performance could not be matched by his teammates, as Illinois won the other five singles matches, including four in straight sets. Illinois earned its first singles point when No. 30 Heiser defeated Havens in straight sets, 6-3, 6-1. It was Havens' first match at the No. 3 spot and he fell to 7-6 on the year

with the loss.

Illinois' momentum continued as Gonzales defeated Irish captain Parbhu 6-2, 6-3 in straight sets. The loss dropped Parbhu to 19-8 on the year.

Ryan Rowe clinched the match for Illinois with a straight-set 6-3, 6-4 win over national No. 32 Helgeson. Rowe also defeated Helgeson this fall at the ITA Midwest Region Championships. Despite the loss, Helgeson still holds and impressive 22-5 record on the season.

The Irish woes continued as freshman Dan Stahl lost to Illinois freshman Waylon Chin in straight sets, 6-4, 6-2. Illinois earned its final point when Souza won a tiebreak over Davis at No. 6. Davis won the second set in a tiebreaker after dropping the first set 6-1, but he was defeated 10-3 in the match tiebreaker. The loss was Davis' first singles loss of the spring.

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FIRE DANA JACOBSON

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AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, March 11, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

AP Top 25 Women's Basketball Poll

rank	team	record	points
1	Connecticut (49)	30-1	1,249
2	North Carolina(1)	30-2	1,189
3	Tennessee	30-2	1,157
4	Stanford	29-3	1,087
5	Maryland	30-3	1,012
6	LSU	27-5	1,010
7	Rutgers	24-6	953
8	California	26-5	879
9	Baylor	24-5	773
10	Duke	23-9	759
11	Texas A&M	23-7	691
12	Utah	27-3	657
13	Oklahoma	21-7	641
14	Old Dominion	26-4	621
15	Kansas State	21-8	505
16	West Virginia	24-6	485
17	NOTRE DAME	23-8	466
18	Oklahoma State	23-6	456
19	George Washington	25-6	380
20	Vanderbilt	23-8	241
21	Marist	31-2	209
22	UTEP	27-3	205
23	Louisville	23-8	141
24	Virginia	23-9	114
25	Ohio State	22-8	82

AP Top 25 Men's Basketball Poll

rank	team	record	points
1	North Carolina	29-2	1,776
2	Memphis	30-1	1,693
3	UCLA	28-3	1,646
4	Tennessee	28-3	1,626
5	Kansas	28-3	1,517
6	Texas	28-3	1,360
7	Duke	26-4	1,316
8	Wisconsin	26-4	1,309
9	Georgetown	25-4	1,300
10	Xavier	26-5	1,043
11	Stanford	24-6	1,036
12	Butler	28-3	976
13	Louisville	24-7	959
14	NOTRE DAME	24-6	802
15	Connecticut	24-7	767
16	Drake	28-4	672
17	Purdue	24-7	646
18	Vanderbilt	25-6	565
19	Michigan State	24-7	497
20	Gonzaga	25-6	474
21	Washington State	23-7	375
22	Indiana	25-6	357
23	Davidson	25-6	181
24	Brigham Young	25-6	154
	Marquette	22-8	128

NCAA Men's Fencing

rank	team	previous
1	Penn State	1
2	Ohio State	2
3	NOTRE DAME	3
4	Columbia	5
5	Pennsylvania	6
6	St. Johns(NY)	4
7	Harvard	7
8	Duke	NR
9	Princeton	8
10	Brandeis	9

NBA



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade talks to reporters at a press conference Monday. Heat coach Pat Riley announced that Wade will sit out for Miami's remaining 21 games this season to further rehab his left knee.

Wade finished for the season

Associated Press

MIAMI — Dwyane Wade needs time to heal, and the Miami Heat saw no reason to further postpone the inevitable.

Wade will miss the remainder of the season so he can further rehabilitate his surgically repaired left knee, which has bothered him for about a year. He will undergo a powerful shock-wave treatment later this week, and hopes he will be pain free in time for next season.

"I'm doing what's right," Wade said Monday night. "I would love to be out there with my teammates, but in the long run, I think my

teammates would love for me to be healthy and be out there with them when we're fighting to get in the playoffs again."

There's no chance of that this year — Miami entered Monday's game against the Los Angeles Clippers with the NBA's worst record, 11-50.

So, with all hope of saving this dismal season gone, Heat coach Pat Riley agreed that the time has come to shut down his All-Star guard.

"There's no doubt it's a function of the record. My God, it didn't take a news bulletin for that," Riley said. "Yes, we aren't going to make the playoffs. It's a

lost season. We know that. We don't want it to be a lost career. That's how I look at it."

Wade finishes the season averaging 24.6 points, fifth-best in the NBA.

He will miss Miami's final 21 games, and essentially get about 3½ months off before the U.S. Olympic men's basketball team reconvenes to resume training for this summer's Beijing Games. Riley clearly has some concerns about seeing his franchise's best player expose himself to potential injury, but indicated he won't bar Wade from playing for his country, either.

"That's Dwyane's deci-

sion," Riley said. "He wants to be an Olympic champion."

Wade still wants to be part of that, yet acknowledged that playing in China isn't his primary goal right now.

"I'm still committed to the Olympic team," Wade said. "But right now, my focus is on getting healthy."

That's been his focus for some time.

Injuries have been a constant throughout Wade's five NBA seasons, especially since the Heat won the title in 2006. He dislocated his left shoulder last February, returned for the final few games of the regular season, but was so

IN BRIEF

Brewers' pitcher not worried about contract

PHOENIX — Ben Sheets thinks separating money from pitching is no big deal.

"To me, the business end is totally different than the baseball end," said Sheets, entering the final season of a \$38.5 million, four-year contract. "I've never worried about it and I'm not going to worry about any of that. It has no bearing on how I play the game or anything else for that matter."

The three-time All-Star could be in line for a hefty contract — if he stays healthy. He's averaged 13 missed starts a year during the past three seasons.

"There ain't nothing you can do about it. People want to say whatever, look at it either way," Sheets said in his Louisiana drawl. "There's going to be topics and it's nothing to do with me. It might be about me, but it's nothing to do with me."

Suspicious liquids found on flight further Olympic fears

BEIJING — China disclosed Monday that suspicious liquids were found on a flight headed to Beijing from a far western Muslim region, and Olympic organizers tried to dismiss fears that the summer games were under threat.

The government announced over the weekend that authorities had foiled a plot by Islamic terrorists targeting the August games and also said there was an apparently unrelated attempt to crash a passenger jet on Friday.

Scant details were initially released about the reported plot or the airplane incident.

However, China's head of civil aviation said Monday that the flight from the far western Xinjiang region to Beijing had been diverted after some passengers were found with suspicious liquids.

Michigan to improve handicap access in stadium

DETROIT — The University of Michigan agreed to improve wheelchair access at one of the nation's largest football stadiums as part of a deal approved Monday with a paralyzed veterans' group that had sued the school.

U.S. District Judge Sean Cox signed the consent decree outlining the changes, avoiding a possible trial.

Starting with this season, 96 new accessible seats — plus seats for companions — will be available along the east side of the stadium, which can seat more fans than any other such site. And by the start of the 2010 season, at least 329 accessible seats, plus seats for companions, will be available.

The agreement also includes five years of court oversight.

around the

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn vs. Louisville
7 p.m., ESPN2

MEN'S GOLF

Sandman earns third place overall

By PAT STYNES
Sports Writer

Irish coach Jim Kubinski certainly knew what he was talking about when he said Junior Josh Sandman "has the talent to mix it up with the top players."

Over spring break, Sandman played the best golf of his career, posting a score of seven-over par and leading Notre Dame to a 12th place finish at the USC Collegiate Invitational.

Sandman finished in third place individually, just two shots behind tournament winner, USC's Tim Slutiter.

"Josh is as physically talented as any player in the country. He is growing both emotionally and in his decision making," Kubinski said. "I've seen several top players grow in leaps and bounds from their freshman year to their junior year. Josh is in that position."

But the 12th place finish for

the Irish was not solely based on Sandman's strong showing. Sophomore Doug Fortner did well in his return to his home state of California, shooting 17-over par and placing 39th. But the sophomore's first-round 81 handicapped his strong finish. He posted scores of 74 and 75 in the second and third rounds, respectively.

"Josh is as physically talented as any player in the country."

Jim Kubinski
Irish coach

Freshman Connor Alan-Lee and sophomore Kyle Willis also contributed to the Notre Dame's success. Each player shot 21-over par, tying for 56th place in the tournament. Like Fortner, both underclass-

men had trouble with the wind. But each player finished strong with second and third rounds of 75 and 77, respectively.

The Irish will continue their season this weekend in Statesboro, Georgia, where the team will participate in the Schenkel E-Z-GO Invitational, which is hosted by Georgia Southern.

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ND SOFTBALL

Bargar, Irish start season strong

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame celebrated spring break in style, winning three of four in the Worth Invitational and three of five in the Long Beach State Invitational, including a 2-1 victory over No. 24 Virginia Tech.

Junior standout Brittney Bargar was named the Big East pitcher of the week after posting a .55 ERA in 25.1 innings throughout the week.

"The pitchers really stepped up for us this week," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "Brittney [Bargar] pitched a one-hitter for us against Long Beach State, and we lost 1-0. That is almost unheard of."

Senior Katie Laing had a strong offensive performance for the Irish, breaking the Notre Dame career record for doubles with 50.

"Katie Laing does not get cheated when she is at bat," Gumpf said. "She is consistent and she just fights and fights until she gets a hit."

The Irish began the break in Fullerton, Calif., by beating up Pacific University 11-3 and UC Davis 6-5, behind strong pitching from Bargar and freshman Jody Valdivia. Valdivia tallied a career high nine strikeouts against UC Davis.

The bats came alive for the Irish, who had been in a bit of a slump before those games. Laing



Former Notre Dame hurler Kenya Fuemmeler throws a pitch against Seton Hall on March 25, 2007.

and freshman Sadie Pitzenberger both crossed home plate three times, and Laing and sophomore Heather Johnson combined for six RBI's.

"I think we are making some small strides in improving our hitting," Gumpf said. "But our primary goal is still to have better at-bats and hit the ball consistently."

The Irish lost to Cal State-Fullerton 1-0, in a game they thought they should have won.

"We felt like we needed to beat them because we should," Gumpf said.

The Irish got their revenge later in the week when the two teams met for a second time, this time with the Irish on top of another 1-0 contest.

Next came another offensive explosion against UC Riverside, in

which Laing broke the Notre Dame doubles record while going 3-4 with 3 RBI's.

The Irish then traveled to the Long Beach State Invitational in Mayfair Park, Calif., to take on some of the best pitching in the NCAA.

"We faced three of the best pitchers in the nation going against UCLA, Virginia Tech, and Long Beach State," Gumpf said. "Virginia Tech's pitcher [Angela Tincher] is probably the best in the entire country."

The Irish believe that facing the best and competing is the best measure of the team's progress.

"Every game is important to show that we are able to compete with the best pitching in the country and even beat them," Gumpf said. "That is great for the girls confidence."

The Irish lost to UCLA and Long Beach State in one-run heartbreakers. In those two contests, the Irish pitching staff allowed just two earned runs over 13 innings.

Bargar allowed only one run and six hits with four strikeouts in a 2-1 victory over Virginia Tech, while Valdivia also impressed against Cal State-Fullerton in the rematch, hurling seven shutout innings.

The final game of the trip, a 3-1 victory against Cal State Northridge, belonged to Pitzenberger, whose two-run double was enough to ensure the Irish of victory.

"As a freshman, [Pitzenberger] really handles herself with great self-confidence," Gumpf said.

Pitzenberger's work ethic has rubbed off on all of the freshmen, who all have excited Gumpf.

"Everyone is contributing," Gumpf said. "This is a really great freshman class."

The Irish hope to ride their momentum into next weekend's Charleston Southern University Invitational.

Contact Jared Jedick at
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SMC SOFTBALL

Strong pitching performances highlight road trip

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's posted an 8-2 record on its spring break trip to Florida.

On the first day of play, the Belles split their two games. The first, a 10-0 win over Clark University, was highlighted by the performances of junior pitcher Calli Davison, who gave up three

hits over five shutout innings, sophomore outfielder Ashley Peterson who went 3-for-3 with three runs scored, and freshman outfielder Hayley Bojorquez. Bojorquez had a single and a double while

driving in two runs in her first college game. In the second game of the day, a 14-12 loss against Anna Maria College, Davison and junior Ashley Fusaro had four RBIs each.

The Belles split again on day two, beginning with an 8-0 win over Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) followed by a 5-3 loss to Dominican University. Against WPI, Davison won her second game with six shutout innings and senior McKenna Corrigan went 2-for-3 with 3 RBI.

The Belles swept their competitors on the third day of the trip, winning 6-0 over Wisconsin Lutheran and 5-4 over St. Joseph College. Davison notched another win with seven shutout innings against Wisconsin Lutheran, and Corrigan got the win against St. Joseph's.

The fourth day of competi-

tion was another Belles sweep as they defeated Eastern University 7-1 and bested DeSales University 4-2. Pitching was once again an important factor against Eastern, as Davison improved her record to 4-2. In the second game, the offense was the key as Peterson drove in three runs and sophomore Maureen Healy went 3-for-4.

On the last day of their trip, the Belles put together another two-game sweep by once again beating WPI, 10-2, and getting revenge on Dominican with an 11-2 effort. Healy and Peterson had big games again, both going 3-for-4 against WPI. Davison won her fifth game of the trip and struck out seven.

The Belles will begin their home season on Thursday against Manchester College.

Contact Laura Myers at
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SMC TENNIS

Belles start season over .500 in Orlando

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Playing seven matches in five days isn't ideal for any team, but Saint Mary's managed to come out on top in four of them as it opened up its tenth season over spring break in Orlando. Their young team of two sophomores and eight freshmen ended the week with a record of 4-3.

"One of our goals of the week was to have a winning record and we achieved that goal," Belles coach Chuck Rubino said. "Another goal we achieved was showing improvement, which we definitely did towards the end of the week."

Saint Mary's began play on March 2 against Methodist College, an NCAA qualifier last season. The Belles lost 8-1, with their only victory coming from freshman Laura Arnolds, who beat Methodist's Lauren Hulse 6-4, 6-3.

As the week progressed, Saint Mary's seemed to overcome their first match anxieties and grabbed a 7-2 win over Martin Methodist early on Monday. But the Belles were unable to keep the momentum as they lost 8-1 to Div. II Grand Valley State Monday afternoon.

Against Martin Methodist, freshmen Belles Jillian Hurley, Betsy Reed, Jessica Camp, and Jessica Kosinski all came out on top in singles play. Sophomore Lisa Rubino also won her match. Rubino and Reed dominated Martin Methodist's Fidelina Diaz and Allison Winters 8-2 on the doubles side, while the Saint Mary's pair of sophomore Camille Gebert and Hurley fell 8-1 to Martin Methodist's Jenny Herring and Flora de la Garza.

The Grand Valley State matchup was another story for Saint Mary's. The Belles weren't swept thanks to a win by No. 2 singles player Hurley, who downed Grand Valley's Katelyn Grashorn 7-6, 6-4.

A day off from competing proved to be exactly what Saint Mary's needed. On both Wednesday and Thursday the Belles beat both

King's and Ursuline 9-0. Gebert and Hurley proved themselves as the Belles No. 1 doubles pair, winning 8-0 on Wednesday and Thursday. No. 3 Reed had a strong showing of her own on Thursday, defeating Ursuline's Danielle Robinson 6-0, 6-0.

Saint Mary's finished off the week of competition Friday, defeating St. Scholastica 7-2 but losing 6-1 to Wayne State. Gebert and Hurley showed their strength once again with an 8-5 defeat of St. Scholastica's Katie Motley and Paula Beckermann, but were unable to carry their winning way into the afternoon, losing 8-2 to Wayne State's Milena Vuksonwovich and Sharon Gill.

"No. 2 singles player Jillian Hurley had a great week, going 6-1," Rubino said. "She played exceptionally well; she was slow on first day and then won six in a row."

Hurley was named one of Saint Mary's athletes of the week, an honor Rubino said is well deserved.

Overall, the Belles were pleased with their first week of competition.

"Over spring break, it became apparent that have really good chemistry as a team, which is going to be an advantage when it comes time to pull together some big wins," Gebert said. "I hope that we can stay competitive as our season starts in hopes of bringing home a title."

Looking ahead to the start of MIAA competition on March 18, Rubino said his team is well prepared.

"This week was good prep for the MIAA in terms that we saw teams that were a lot better than MIAA teams, such as Grand Valley and Wayne State. St. Scholastica is comparable to our team and others in the MIAA, and there were some weaker teams," Rubino said. "This was a good stepping stone for us as we get into the MIAA matches next week."

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ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish go 1-2 on west coast

By ANDY ZICcarelli
Sports Writer

Notre Dame headed west to California for its spring break, but took a very businesslike approach to its relaxing destination. The Irish played three games against Pac-10 competition, falling to Stanford and Oregon before finally breaking through with an 18-8 victory over California Saturday.

Over the course of the week, forward Jillian Byers continued to play at a high level, notching 15 goals in the three games. Byers has netted 30 goals on the season. Byers, who Irish coach Tracy Coyne called an "awesome finisher," now has 142 career goals, which puts her at second on Notre Dame's all-time list. Byers has been named a preseason first-team

All-America by Inside Lacrosse magazine.

"Jill understands how to work her defender and get herself open and the team has been great at been finding her so she can finish," said Coyne.

After dropping the opening game of the trip at Stanford, 13-9, the Irish looked poised for a rebound against Oregon, racing out to a 7-5 halftime lead. The Ducks, however fought back and managed to tie the game late. Senior Caitlin McKinney poured in three goals in the game and Byers added six of her own, including one with 4:38 left that gave Notre Dame a 13-12 lead.

But the Irish could not hold the lead. Oregon scored with 15 seconds remaining to tie the score at 13-13. Then, with three seconds left, Ducks attack Ilsa van der Berg fired a shot

into the net, giving Oregon the decisive goal and the victory. Irish goalie Erin Goodman stopped 12 shots but could not stop the final two, which proved to be the difference.

Saturday, however, the Irish bounced back. Notre Dame came out with a fury, amassing a 12-4 halftime lead behind four goals from Irish junior Jane Stoeckert. The 12 first-half goals were a season-high for the Irish.

In the second half, the Bears could not get much closer, as the Irish continued their aggressiveness on both offense and defense, capturing the victory 18-8.

The Irish will return home for a three-game homestand starting Thursday against Delaware.

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ND WOMEN'S ROWING

Squad has strong showing in first meet

Observer Staff Report

The Irish defeated Northeastern in all nine races between the two teams on the last day of Notre Dame's spring break trip in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

The Irish varsity eight blue boat beat Northeastern's A and B squads in the opening race.

And the Irish were just getting started. Notre Dame won the other two varsity eight races, as three varsity four races and three novice

eight races.

"We had a good week of training outdoors and trained very hard," head coach Martin Stone told und.com. "I was pleased with how we responded in our first races of the season. We know what we need to work on, but all in all, it was happy with our performance."

The Irish will next compete in the Windemere Real Estate Rowing Classic March 29-30 in Palo Alto, Calif.

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Team cruises at Rio Verde Invite

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

The Irish started spring-cleaning a little early last weekend, sweeping both the team and individual awards at the Rio Verde Invitational.

After struggling at last month's Central District Invitational, No. 26 Notre Dame cruised to a comfortable first-place finish at last weekend's Rio Verde Invitational in Rio Verde, Ariz. The Irish shot an 11-over par 875 (294-290-291) to capture their program-record fourth team victory this season.

Notre Dame freshman So Hyun Park led the field with a 4-under 212 (72-70-70), her second career first-place finish. Two other Irish golfers also finished in the top-10 — Annie Brophy and Kristin Wetzel finished second and sixth, respectively. Park and Notre Dame carded tournament-low individual and team scores of 70 and 290, respectively.

"I feel like we all played well," Irish coach Susan Holt said. "The opportunity to score low at the golf course was there and we took advantage of that. We capitalized when we needed to and we were able to lower our scoring average. I think it'll give us a confidence boost for the rest of the season."

No. 48 Texas Tech led after the first round, shooting a 291, but faded in later rounds to finish 18



WU YUE/The Observer

Sophomore Annie Brophy attempts a putt during the Irish Invitational on September 23, 2006.

strokes behind the Irish, good enough for second place (893). Minnesota (894), Arkansas-Little Rock (908), and Eastern Michigan (909) rounded out the top 5.

Notre Dame was led by a one-two punch of young golfers, with sophomore Brophy shooting an even-par 216 (71-73-72) on the tournament. The second-place result was her highest career finish and lowest career three-round score, while Saturday's 1-under par 71 was her lowest career 18-hole score.

Fellow sophomore Kristin Wetzel finished sixth overall with a five-over par 221 (74-72-75), a

career-best score and placement. Junior Lisa Maunu shot a 14-over par 230, tied for 26th overall (81-75-74) and freshman Katie Conway shot a 16-over par 232, tied for 33rd overall (77-76-79).

Irish sophomore Julie Kim completed the round as an individual entrant, shooting a 21-over par 237 (77-80-80) in her first event of the season.

Notre Dame hits the links again this weekend at the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational in Austin, Texas, March 17-19.

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SMC GOLF

Belles struggle at St. Andrew

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's finished 10th in an 11-team field at the St. Andrew Spring Invitational at Woodlake Resort and Golf Club.

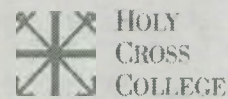
Belles senior Kate O'Brien

led the Belles with a two-round total of 173. O'Brien finished in a tie for 22nd place.

Emily Gore's 184 was the Belles second-best finisher. Perri Hamma, Meredith Fantom and Meghan Lehr

rounded out the scoring for Saint Mary's with respective scores of 184, 191 and 194.

Pfeiffer won the team event with a team score of 639, 97 strokes ahead of the Belles.



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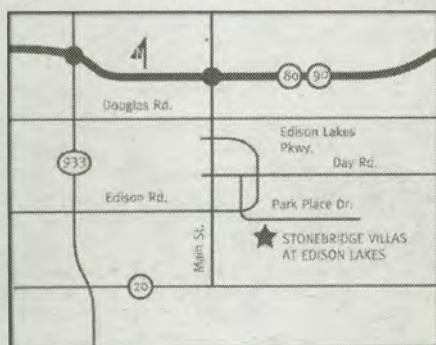
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FENCING

Deep Irish squad downs Buckeyes

By KEN FOWLER
Senior Sports Writer

Ohio State stood tall, but Notre Dame showed off its depth at the Midwest Regional on March 2.

Buckeyes fencers captured titles in five of the six events at the Regional in Detroit, but the Irish earned 11 medal positions, compared to Ohio State's seven.

With that, and the combined results from the regular season, Notre Dame automatically qualified the maximum 12 fencers to the national event, which begins Thursday.

The Buckeyes, meanwhile, earned 11 automatic berths. Ohio State senior epeeist Kaela Brendler finished ninth at the Regional but received an at-large bid to the NCAA Championships to give the Buckeyes the maximum 12 entrants.

A year ago, Penn State earned the national title ahead of second-place St. John's and third-place Columbia. Notre Dame and Ohio State qualified only 11 fencers in 2007, but finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

This time, Ohio State, Notre Dame, St. John's and Columbia will be the only teams with the full allotment at the national event. Ohio State, ranked No. 1 on the women's side and No. 2 on the men's side, will also have another factor playing in its favor — home-strip advantage.

Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said Ohio State is the favorite, but he is looking forward to the event, at which seven of the Notre Dame fencers will be freshmen.

"It's encouraging and it's a little bit scary," Bednarski said of

the youth movement.

He said that the young team is not fully prepared for the "intense pressure" of the national event, but that they are "mentally strong."

"A young team is always unpredictable," he said.

The story from the Regional, though, was the back-and-forth between the Buckeyes and Irish, who look poised to make a run at the title. That is, if they don't knock each other off in the process.

Notre Dame's sweep of the medal positions in the men's epee — Karol Kostka earning gold; Greg Schoolcraft, silver; and Greg Howard, bronze — was the only such dominance in any weapon.

Ohio State's Andras Horanyi won the men's foil competition, but Irish freshmen Zach Schirtz and Steve Kubik were the other medalists. In men's sabre, Buckeye fencers Sergey Smirnov and Dexter Wilde took the top two spots, respectively, and Notre Dame freshman Barron Nydam placed third.

Buckeye Alexandra Obrazcova won the women's epee event, while Northwestern's Christa French earned second and Irish sophomore Kelley Hurley took fourth.

In women's foil, Buckeye Oksana Dmytruk bested Notre Dame junior Adrienne Nott and freshman Hayley Reese.

Irish freshman sabreist Sarah Borrmann finished third, behind Ohio State champion Siobhan Byrne and Buckeyes runner-up Eileen Grench.

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WOMEN'S TRACK

Weber, Hasan shine at Wilson Invitational

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Not even some of the fiercest competition Notre Dame has faced all season could keep Anna Weber from continuing her dominance in the throwing events at the Alex Wilson Invitational this weekend at Loftus Sports Center.

The junior took first place in the weight throw and finished fifth in the shot put. Her throw of 19.23 meters met the NCAA provisional mark.

Another standout was junior Alyssa Hasan who won the pentathlon by over 200 points. Hasan, coming off a second place finish at the Big East Indoor championships, has already met the NCAA provisional mark for the Pentathlon.

The tough competition limited

the number of Irish competitors who were able to place in their respective events.

Freshman Marissa Treece finished off her successful season by placing seventh in the 5000-meter run. Senior Jacqueline Carter and Freshman Abby Higgins took 17th and 18th place, respectively, in the 800-meter run.

The Alex Wilson Invitational was the last-chance for athletes to set NCAA provisional marks in order to gain entry into the National Championship meet. With the exception of the national meet, this marks the end of the indoor season.

Monday night the qualifiers for the NCAA meet were announced and Hasan will be the only Irish representative.

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HOCKEY

Irish set to face Ferris State

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

No. 12 Notre Dame split its last regular season series two weekends ago with Western Michigan and after sitting out the first round of the CCHA playoffs with a bye, the Irish will play Ferris State in the second round.

The Irish (22-12-4) will play the fifth-seeded Bulldogs in a best-of-three game series this weekend at home starting Friday night and running through Sunday, if necessary. Ferris State (17-15-5) was one of four higher-seeded teams to win its first-round series last weekend as the fifth-through-eighth place squads advanced, while first-through-fourth place teams sat out.

The Bulldogs swept their first-round opponent, Western Michigan, by scores of 4-3 in

overtime and 6-3. Those wins came a weekend after the Irish were shut out 3-0 on the road to Western Michigan before winning at home on senior night, 3-1.

Notre Dame and Ferris State were cluster-mates this season, playing each other four times — two at home and two on the road. The Bulldogs frustrated the Irish, gaining a 2-1-1 edge. The two teams last played in a two-game set at the Joyce Center, where Ferris State won 5-3 before they tied 2-2 on Feb. 8-9.

In other parts of the CCHA, first-place Michigan takes on Nebraska-Omaha while second-place Miami faces Bowling Green. Third-place Michigan State and Northern Michigan complete the second-round matchups. The winners will meet at Joe Louis Arena next weekend for the semifinals and finals.

Notre Dame's 3-0 loss to Western Michigan on the first weekend of spring break continued a long scoring drought for the Irish when they fired 40 shots on net without hitting the twine. But during the season finale, the Irish found a way to light the lamp three times for the 3-1 win on senior night.

All three goals came on the power play and were scored by consistent, but snake-bitten, Irish snipers Ryan Thang, Erik Condra and Mark Van Guilder.

The second-round series against Ferris State will begin Friday night at 7:35 p.m. at the Joyce Center, while Saturday's game will begin at 7:05 p.m. Sunday's game, if necessary, will begin at 7:05 p.m.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Pair of ballers named to Big East first team

By CHRIS KHOREY and
CHRIS HINE
Sports Writers

Notre Dame sophomore forward Luke Harangody and junior guard Kyle McAlarney were voted to the All-Big East first team Monday by the league's head coaches.

This is the third straight year that the Irish have had at least one player on the all-conference first team. In 2006, guard Chris Quinn was honored while guards Colin Falls and Russell Carter both had a spot last season.

Harangody led the conference in both scoring and rebounding during the regular season, averaging 23.3 points, including a career-high 40 against Louisville Feb. 28, and 11.3 rebounds per game.

"To be on the first team is a huge honor," Harangody said. "You kinda think who you're among right there and it's a good class to be in."

McAlarney averaged 15.0 points per game and led the Big East with 62 3-pointers made. He scored over 30 points on three different occasions.

"I'm pretty surprised, I'm shocked that I made it," McAlarney said. "There are so many good players in this league."

Harangody was named to the Big East All-Rookie team last season. This honor is the first season-long conference honor that McAlarney has received.

In addition to the Irish players, Cincinnati's Deonta Vaughn, Georgetown's Roy Hibbert, Louisville's David Padgett, Pittsburgh's Sam Young, South Florida's Kentrell Gransberry, Seton Hall's Brian Laing, West Virginia's Joe Alexander and Connecticut's A.J. Price and Jeff Adrien also made the list.

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ckhorey@nd.edu and
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Break

continued from page 24

the game was knotted at four when sophomore A.J. Pollock stepped to the plate with two outs. The rightfielder delivered a two-run double that put the Irish up 6-4. Headed into the ninth inning, Irish junior closer Kyle Weiland had the task of securing the victory and did just that, tossing a scoreless frame to close out the game and pick up the save.

Tate continued to contribute, going 3-for-4 with two runs scored against the Bonnies. Tate also added a stolen base in the contest that helped spark the Irish.

Despite not picking up the decision, Irish freshman starter Brian Dupra pitched well, going 6 and 1/3 innings and allowing only three hits and two earned runs. On only 74 pitches, the righty struck out four batters and didn't allow a walk. Irish senior reliever Tony Langford picked up the win although he allowed a two-run homerun and surrendered the lead.

Boston College 7, Notre Dame 2

In the second half of a double-header, Notre Dame dropped the decision to the Eagles partly because it allowed three home runs on the evening.

Senior pitcher Wade Korpi's homecoming to Lake Worth, Fla., was ruined despite a decent outing. The southpaw went 6 and 2/3 innings, allowing four earned runs on nine hits. Three of those hits were infield singles.

Eagles sophomore catcher Tony Sanchez hit a three-run blast in the fifth inning to put Boston College up 5-1. In the seventh and ninth frames the Eagles picked up solo home runs from senior outfielder Ryan Akel and freshman catcher Dave Laufer to give Boston College more than enough run support to beat the Irish.

Notre Dame 11, Maine 10

As the game went into extra innings Tuesday, Sharpley had seen enough action. Sharpley belted a two-out

solo walk-off home run in the bottom of the tenth to propel the Irish over the Black Bears on March 4.

Sharpley entered the contest in the seventh inning as a pinch-hitter, and the move paid off as the infielder went 3-for-3 on the day with a double and three RBIs.

Notre Dame's bullpen contributed 4 and 1/3 scoreless innings to bide time for the Irish bats to get the squad back in it with late runs. Sophomore relievers David Mills and Stephen Mazur, as well as junior Brett Graffey led the charge, striking out six, and allowing only two walks.

Lehigh 4, Notre Dame 2

On Thursday, Notre Dame allowed a pair of home runs that gave its opponent the runs to pick up a victory. Lehigh combined the long ball with a solid pitching performance from sophomore hurler Rob Russel, who allowed two runs in 6 and 2/3 innings.

Mountain Hawks sophomore closer Jordan Warncke picked up his second save of the season with 2 and 1/3 innings of scoreless relief that secured the Lehigh win, dropping the Irish record to 4-4 on the year.

Texas A & M Corpus Christi 5, Notre Dame 2

Tournament host Islanders benefited from a solid performance from their senior starting pitcher, Brian Anderson, who went seven innings without allowing a run to pick up the win.

Aside from the home-field advantage, Irish coach Dave Schrage said the credit should go to the Islanders' hurler for the win.

"It was their home opener," Schrage said. "They were excited to play and had a big crowd behind them but the credit should go to their pitcher. He did a great job against us, and overall had a good outing."

Notre Dame starter Phelps fell to 1-2 on the year as he went six innings, allowing four earned runs and a season-high four walks.

Notre Dame 10, South Alabama 4

The Irish bounced back

from an opening-round loss in the Whataburger Classic with a victory over the Jaguars on March 8. An eight-run fourth inning put Notre Dame past South Alabama, as the team strung together a series of hits.

"We put a lot of hits together, and hitting is contagious, so before we knew it, we had put up a solid inning that helped us get the win," Schrage said.

Schrage said he hopes his offense can begin to produce on a game-to-game basis.

"I was pleased with the run, but we need to see more of these," Schrage said. "The frustration comes when we can't play consistent baseball and see these results in consecutive days."

Korpi benefited from the Irish scoring and picked up his first win, going 5 and 1/3 innings and allowing three runs on nine hits.

Arizona 16, Notre Dame 0

In Notre Dame's most lopsided defeat of the season, Arizona notched 20 hits and scored at least one run in every inning to crush the Irish Sunday.

Wildcats junior starter Ryan Perry excelled in the contest, going seven scoreless frames and allowing only a pair of hits while striking out seven.

"He's a great talent," Schrage said. "His pitches were hitting the 97 MPH mark. He had an excellent outing, and that's why he'll probably be one of the top-10 picks in the draft."

Although the defeat was an ugly one for the Irish, Schrage tried to take some positives from the loss.

"This showed us that when we relax and play our style, that we're a pretty good team," Schrage said. "But we went out there and played nervous."

After the bitter loss, however, the Irish are looking ahead.

"We have four days to put this behind us," Schrage said. "This is a loss that can wake the team up — hit them right between the eyes. Hopefully we can turn it around and play better from here on out."

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Bulls

continued from page 24

back. They scored but we didn't put our heads down and my shot ended up falling."

With Kurz in foul trouble for much of the game, Irish junior forward Zach Hillesland delivered 10 points and seven rebounds in 28 minutes of playing time.

Even though it might have been somewhat of a stretch, Jackson compared Hillesland to the forward's favorite NBA player.

"I told [Hillesland] during the game he was attacking the rim like Kobe Bryant," Jackson

said. "He was just getting in there and going. He played smart and he played poised. He knew he had a mismatch and he took advantage of it."

Freshman guard Dominique Jones led the way for South Florida with 20 points and seven rebounds.

Irish coach Mike Brey said he was glad his team secured a first-round bye for the Big East tournament. The Irish do not have to suit up for Wednesday's

opening round and will play in the quarterfinals Thursday against either Marquette or Seton Hall.

"This was a grueling week for us because it was three games in a week and we had to play hard to get them."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

refreshed."

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"This was a grueling week for us because it was three games in a week and we had to play hard to get them," Brey said. "So to not play until Thursday, I think, helps us get our legs under us and get a little more

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

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Nominations are due by Tuesday, March 11, 2008.



Irish sophomore guard Ashley Barlow fights for a rebound during Notre Dame's 64-53 loss to Pittsburgh Sunday.

Collapse

continued from page 24

Up 14-2 early, Notre Dame gave up a jumper and a pair from the charity stripe to Panthers guard Xenia Stewart, but bounced back with a strong traditional three-point play from guard Brittany Mallory to go back up 17-6. That was Notre Dame's last points for the next five minutes.

The Panthers clawed their way back in the game (pun intended) by simply waiting for Notre Dame to miss shots. And miss it did. Irish guards Lindsey Schrader, Melissa Lechlitner and Mallory combined to shoot 4-for-24 from the floor, including 0-for-6 from 3-point land.

Despite the atrocious percentage (14.2 percent for my fellow Arts and Letters students), Irish coach Muffet McGraw said that the shot selection wasn't the problem.

"They were all good shots. Brittany Mallory is our 3-point shooter. We want her to shoot 3s. Schrader had some wide-open looks in the lane. Lech's shots were all pretty good," she said. So if you're already taking all

the right shots, there has to be something that can be done to make this team better before Good Friday when the NCAA Tournament starts. And the solution is simple: Do the little things better.

In psychology, there is a term "gestalt," which means the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Case in point is Notre Dame's loss on Sunday. What cost the Irish in the second half was not doing the little things — Mallory missing open 3-pointers, the guards leaving Panthers guard Xenia Stewart open to hit game-deciding triples and not boxing out Walker in the post. Forward Becca Bruszewski and Ashley Barlow each committed two fouls in six and seven minutes, respectively, and Lechlitner turned the ball over five times without getting an assist. (At least she was in good company since every Irish player who saw minutes had at least one give-away.)

The other main issue with these problems is how prevalent they have been all season.

McGraw has talked about wanting to make her team's 3-point defense better since media day. Back in October, she said it was a point of emphasis for her team. Even going back to last season it was a major problem for the Irish. And what did McGraw say was the final nail in Notre Dame's coffin against Pittsburgh?

"[Stewart] hit those two 3s and I thought that was the game," she said.

Same crap, different day.

But it's not just the 3-point defense. Big men have pestered the Irish all season long. Walker might not be in the same league as Tennessee's Candace Parker and Connecticut's Tina Charles, but her 18 points and 13 boards made it seem that way.

Now, I'm not pretending that I know how to fix these problems mostly because that's not my job. I'm a sports writer, not a basketball coach. McGraw, on the other hand, is. She has to find a way to make these little problems disappear come Tournament time if she wants her team to keep dancing.

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

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IRISH HOCKEY



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Panthers

continued from page 24

"It's really disappointing to play so well for 29 games," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "We've really had a great season and to end on a note like this the last two games is really disappointing for us after all the hard work we've put in throughout the year."

Pittsburgh center Mercedes Walker had 18 points and 13 rebounds in the game. Stewart had 13 points and guard Mallorie Winn added 12.

Irish guard Charel Allen led her team with 17 points and eight rebounds, and guard Ashley Barlow added 11. Notre Dame only shot 30.6 percent from the floor in the game.

Despite the Panther's comeback, Notre Dame kept the end of the game close until the last minute. Barlow made a layup to tie the score at 41 with seven minutes remaining, but Stewart hit the first of her two 3-pointers to give Pittsburgh the lead. Allen gave the Irish a one-point lead with three minutes left, but a triple from Winn and Stewart's second trey gave Pittsburgh a 56-51 lead.

"We needed to get something going and I didn't feel like I was contributing like the rest of my team, so I was just taking open looks and taking the shots," Stewart said.

McGraw said Stewart's 3-pointers sank her team for good.

McGraw acknowledged that Stewart's play late in the second half changed the eventual outcome.

"I thought Xenia Stewart was the difference in the game," McGraw said. "She hit those two 3s and I thought that was the game."

Notre Dame rendered Pittsburgh ineffective after the opening tip. Walker's layup with 17:38 left in the first half would be Pittsburgh's last basket until Stewart hit a jumper with 10:04 left, a span of 7:34. In that time, the Irish scored 14 points and

squashed the Panther offense. They swatted passes and blocked shots, clogged lanes to the basket and forced poor shot selection.

"I started to get a flashback of the West Virginia game, because when we played West Virginia we had two points and they had about twelve like Notre Dame today, and we lost that game by a lot," Pittsburgh coach Agnus Berenato said of Notre Dame's early lead.

Just as the Irish had the opportunity to bury Pittsburgh, they swapped places with their opponents. It was now their turn to turn the ball over, throw passes out of bounds and suffer through offensive stagnation.

As Notre Dame's transformation took place, Pittsburgh's offense revived itself. Walker completed two back-to-back 3-point plays, and a Winn 3-pointer and a jump shot from guard Taneisha Harrison tied the game at 17 with 4:36 remaining.

"We were too laid back. We should have kept being aggressive but we were just relaxed and laid back," Allen said. "We should have been aggressive from the start. When you are up 14-2 you want to keep shoving it down their throat but we didn't do that."

McGraw said Notre Dame's offense, which didn't click even when they had the chance early, never got off the ground.

"Overall, offensively we didn't really play well. I don't think we moved the ball well," McGraw said. "I thought when we to the zone we stood around a lot never really got going."

Notes:

♦ Allen was named first team all-Big East, and Barlow and junior guard Lindsay Schrader were honorable mentions. Guard Brittany Mallory and forward Devereaux Peters were named to the all-Big East freshman team.

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MEN'S TRACK

Irish compete in Alex Wilson Invitational

By EUGENIA ALFONZO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame spent part of its spring break competing at the Alex Wilson Invitational at the Loftus Center and preparing for the upcoming national meet.

On the first day of competition, the Irish got strong performances from senior Kurt Benninger, who ran a 3:58 mile and helped the Irish distance medley relay earn the No. 11 seed for the NCAA National Indoor Championship. Other members of the relay squad included senior Adam Currie, sophomore Blake Choplin and freshman Austin Wechter.

For field events, freshman Justin Schneider placed ninth in the long jump while freshman Greg Davis led the Irish in the weight throw with 16.8

meters and a third-place finish. Freshmen Denes Verez and John Belcher followed close behind with 14.65-meter and 13.60-meter throws, respectively.

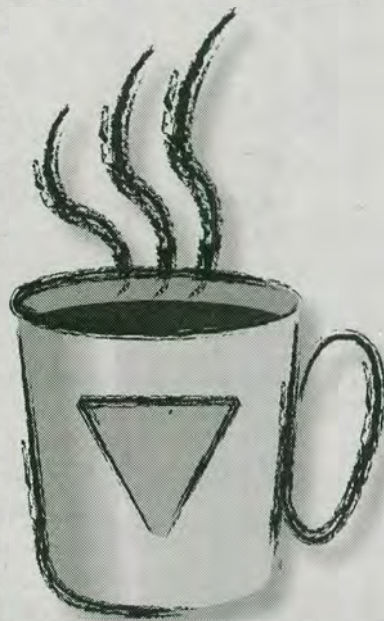
The second day held the same intensity as senior Jake Watson won the mile run with a time of 4:00, winning by almost three seconds. Other runners in the race included Irish juniors Daniel Clark and Patrick Smyth, who finished ninth and tenth, respectively.

Schneider jumped 1.94 meters for a seventh-place finish in the high jump.

The Irish now face their final indoor meet at the NCAA Championships before heading outside for what is expected to be an exciting outdoor season. The National Championships are March 14-15 at Arkansas.

Contact Eugenia Alfonzo at ealfonzo@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call 631-4543.



Coffee at the Como

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Thursday, March 13

7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

316 Coleman-Morse

The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal gathering at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.



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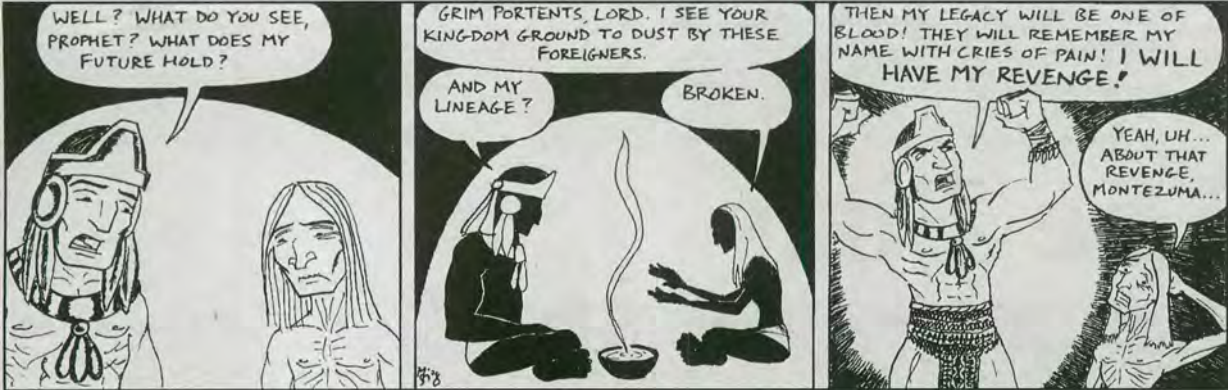
*unless otherwise noted.

SAINT
MARY'S
COLLEGE
NOTRE DAME, IN

www.saintmarys.edu

BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

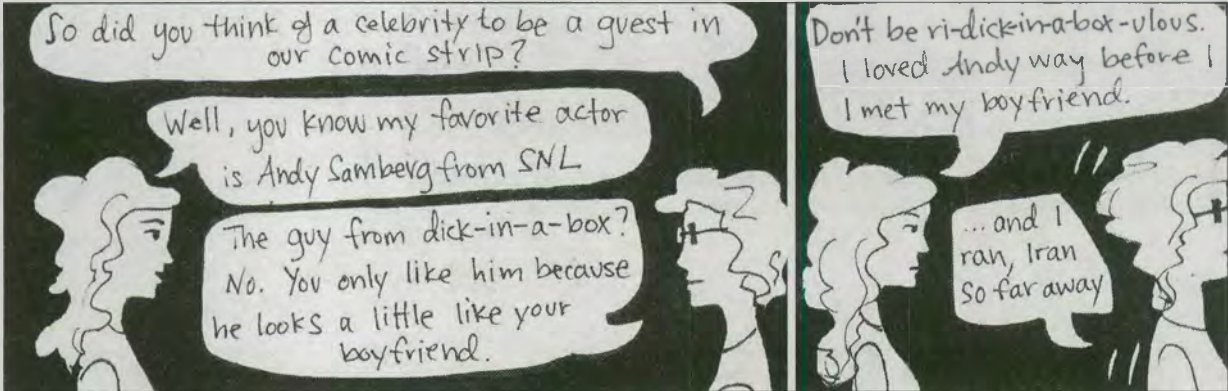


DIDIER LEWIS

<i>Things that are never funny:</i>	The sayings on the Taco Bell hot sauce packets.	The host of America's Funniest Videos.	People's answers to the 'Question of the Day'
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ANOTHER UNFUNNY COMIC

SARAH MUSCARELLA



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
- 1 Prominent feature of Dracula

6 Reunion group

11 Showman Ziegfeld

14 "Let's Make ____"

15 Search engine name

16 Designer Claiborne

17 It may end up in the gutter

19 In the style of

20 ____ acid (protein component)

21 Schindler of "Schindler's List"

23 Spy's device

26 Sweater style

29 Runs out

32 Slave girl of opera

33 Exploding stars
- 34 Fuel economy org.

35 City in Italia

39 What 17-, 26-, 50- and 60-Across have in common

43 Pageant accessory

44 Tony Soprano and cohorts, with "the"

45 Cheese hunk

46 One on a pedestal

48 Old timer?

50 Classic breakfast fare

54 Suffix with butyl

55 Reporting to

56 How-to presentations

59 ____ glance

60 Item on a set

66 Fix illegally

67 Disney mermaid
- 68 Sees red

69 Informal top

70 Center of power

71 Some retired racehorses
- Down
- 1 Wonderful, slangily

2 Fuss

3 Partner of improved

4 Big bash

5 ____ to none (long odds)

6 Stellar swan

7 Part of a repair estimate

8 "Got it!"

9 Showman Hurok

10 Went at it alone

11 Cereal morsel

12 Purple hue

13 Country/rock's ____ Mountain Daredevils

18 Nick at ____

22 Tangled, as hair

23 Big tops

24 Lei Day greeting

25 Blacktops, say

27 Surveillance evidence

28 Fact fudger

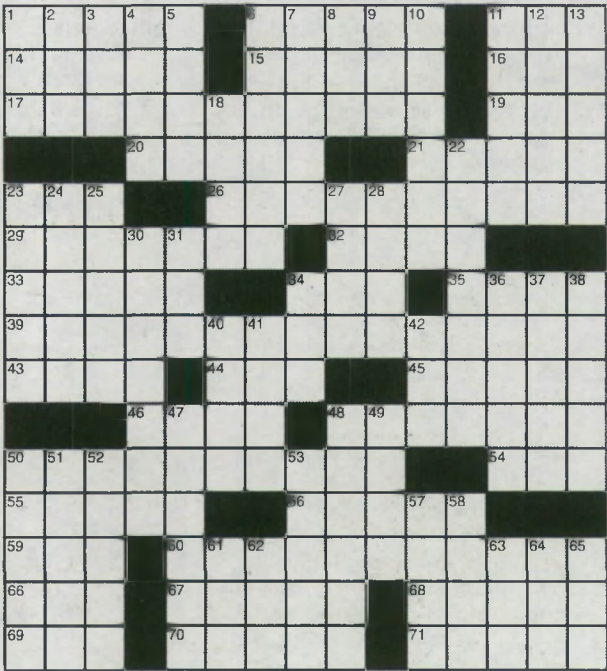
30 Common union demand

31 Part of a min.

34 Flow back

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

M	A	M	M	A	A	D	S	A	B	U	T	S
A	B	E	A	T	L	E	T	N	E	P	A	L
T	E	R	R	A	T	A	I	T	A	S	T	Y
A	L	V	I	N	T	O	F	F	L	E	R	
		N	E	O		F	E	N	T	L	C	
S	I	M	O	N	W	I	E	S	E	N	T	H
E	M	O		D	I	V	A		A	R	O	M
D	I	O	R		T	E	R	M	S		I	M
A	G	R	E	E		L	O	T	T		A	Z
T	H	E	O	D	O	R	E	D	R	E	I	S
E	T	D		W	W	I		E	R	N		
				T	H	E	C	H	I	P	M	U
A	T	A	R	I		H	A	N		I	R	E
R	O	G	E	T		E	S	T		T	E	H
M	O	O	S	E		R	H	O		E	D	I
												S



Puzzle by C. W. Stewart and J. K. Hummel

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 36 Nostalgic tune | 47 Skin-related | 58 Dirty reading |
| 37 Mullally of "Will & Grace" | 48 Makes hard | 61 "____ y plata" |
| 38 Fred Astaire's sister | 49 "Semper Fi" org. | 62 Trader ____ (old restaurateur) |
| 40 Bow-toting god | 50 Milk purchase | 63 Rhea relative |
| 41 Certain plea, for short | 51 Loosen, in a way | 64 Like Republican states on an electoral map |
| 42 Of one's ____ | 52 Bit of wisdom | 65 Braying beast |
| | 53 Parting word | |
| | 57 Klutzy sorts | |

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 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 (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

GEFUD

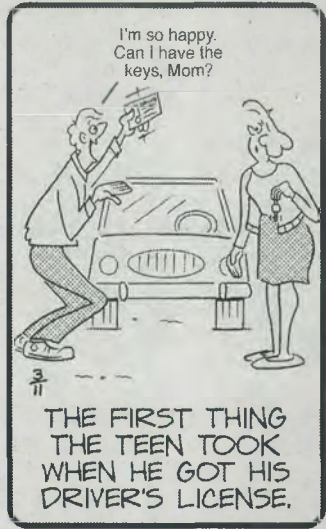
MYKUR

NIWWON

REYJES

www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



Answer here: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WEARY EPOCH OUTFIT RAREFY
Answer: When the charter pilot's son took over the business, it became an — HEIR FORCE

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LIST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shannon Miller, 31; Jasmine Guy, 44; Sharon Stone, 50; Chuck Norris, 68

Happy Birthday: Although new doors will open and old ones will close this year, you will have to remind the people around you what you really want to see unfold. Your energy will be high and your determination strong. Don't be afraid to ask for favors or to press people for what you need to complete your year's mission. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 24, 27, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid overbooking your time if you want to do a good job today. A power play may be in effect so keep a close eye on what everyone else is doing. Charm, creativity and good common sense will win out. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get bogged down with what everyone else wants you to do when you should be pushing your own talents and ideas. Discuss your plans with people in the know who want to help you out or even get involved. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can find your way to the top if you use ingenuity and imagination. Don't be fooled by anyone who is constantly changing his or her mind. Follow your own path and don't look back. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have the power to push your way to victory. Your persistence coupled with your desire to get what you want will pay off. You don't have to go too far off the beaten track in order to find what you want. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let love lead you astray or stop you from getting what needs to be done. Gauge what's important and what can wait if you don't want to lose ground. Take advantage of an opening or opportunity. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be persuasive, appealing and very knowledgeable about what needs to be done. Your vision and powerful push for what you want will be victorious. Travel and invest in yourself. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Watch where you spend your money. Bad deals surround you. Love is in the air. A new relationship can begin or you can renew your vows with someone you are already with. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotional matters will escalate, causing problems that must be dealt with. This is not the time to hide your true feelings. A chance to invest in something you believe in is apparent. Money is heading your way. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make changes and set a standard for all to follow but be aware that someone is watching your every move. Do things right and you will end up a hero for your accomplishments. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may know what you are doing but don't expect everyone else to be in your corner today. Questions will be asked, so be prepared to answer accordingly. Whatever support you need will be offered if you can prove you have a solid plan in place. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money is in the picture if you use your imagination and creative ability to persuade others to help you out. You may question emotional issues from your childhood but you mustn't let this limit what is done now. You can't live in the past. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't overspend on something that someone else is prompting you to get involved in. A secret matter is likely to entice you but you will have regrets if you do something questionable. Fix whatever is causing you trouble at home and in your personal life. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are inventive and quick to react. You are a humanitarian, a loyal friend and a great companion. You can see both sides of any situation.

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

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Pitts

ND gives up early lead, falls to Panthers

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

HARTFORD — A 14-2 Notre Dame lead 10 minutes into the first half was not enough to bury Xenia Stewart and Pittsburgh.

After the Panthers battled back, the guard hit two late 3-pointers, one with 54 seconds remaining in the game, to give Pittsburgh a 5-point lead. It would hold that lead and win, 64-53, at the XL Center Sunday in the quarter-finals of the Big East tournament.

The Panthers advance to play Connecticut tonight. The Irish (23-8) have now lost their last two opening games of the conference tournament. After a 61-51 loss to St. John's on March 3, Notre Dame has dropped two straight when it had won seven of its previous eight.

see PANTHERS/page 22



At left, Irish guard Charel Allen drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 64-53 loss to Pittsburgh Sunday. At right, Irish coach Muffet McGraw displays her frustration during her team's defeat.



Irish turn in subpar showing in Hartford

HARTFORD — As I sat in my hotel room after Sunday's game, one thought consistently ran through my head.

"How the hell did ND just lose to Pitt?"

I was appalled after the game — and with good reason. The Irish started the game with a suffocating defense that held the Panthers to two points in 10 minutes, got Pittsburgh center Mercedes Walker into early foul trouble, and managed to have a 22-21 edge on the boards.

But Big East basketball giveth, and Big East basketball taketh away.



Jay Fitzpatrick

Sports Writer

see COLLAPSE/page 21

BASEBALL

Sharpley's walk-off homer highlights trip for ND

By **LORENZO REYES**
Sports Writer

Over the week-long spring break, Notre Dame saw a bit of everything, ranging from a walk-off home run by junior Evan Sharpley, to a 16-run loss to No. 1 Arizona. Overall, the Irish went 4-4 for the week.

Notre Dame 5, Saint Mary's 0

Notre Dame junior starter David Phelps stole the show against the Mountaineers March 1, allowing only four hits in seven scoreless innings.

The Irish pitching staff struck out a total of 14 Saint Mary's batters in the game, the most since disposing of 14 USF

batters last May in the Big East tournament.

Notre Dame's offense put up an impressive performance as well, getting multiple hits from sophomore designated hitter Billy Boockford and freshman outfielder Golden Tate. Tate picked up two doubles and two runs in his 2-for-3 outing. His doubles both started Irish rallies that helped give Notre Dame the win. Boockford went 2-for-2 with an RBI double that brought in senior catcher Sean Gaston in the bottom of the second.

In the fourth frame, freshman third baseman Mick Doyle brought Tate in with an RBI single, and a Brett Lilley single brought another Irish run in.

Lilley finished the day with two RBI. With Notre Dame's lead at 3-0, Phelps had all the support he would need to finish off the victory.

Notre Dame 6, Saint Bonaventure 4

In the bottom of the eighth,

see BREAK/page 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish clinch No. 3 seed in conference tourney with win at USF

Harangody leads team as it holds off late charge by Bulls

By **FRAN TOLAN**
Sports Writer

Luke Harangody strengthened his candidacy in the Big East player of the year race with 21 points and nine rebounds as No. 14/14 Notre Dame defeated South Florida 67-60 Saturday in the regular-season finale for both teams.

With the victory over the Bulls, the Irish clinched the No. 3 seed in the Big East tournament. And after notching wins

against DePaul and St. John's earlier in the week, the Irish (24-6, 14-4) head into the conference tournament on a three-game win streak.

"I think we're playing like one of the best teams in the country right now," said senior forward Rob Kurz, who scored 14 points against South Florida before fouling out. "We feel that we have a lot of momentum."

But despite taking several big leads over the Bulls, South Florida kept coming back.

Notre Dame led by as many as 19 points in the second half but South Florida went on a 22-4 run to pull within one with just over five minutes remaining.

But the Irish were able to fend off the late South Florida rally to finish their season with 14 Big East victories in the expanded 18-game Big East schedule.

Juniors Kyle McAlarney and Ryan Ayers each drained two

free throws in the final 23 seconds to put the Bulls away.

"We did a good job of not dwelling on our mistakes and just moving onto the next play," Irish point guard Tory Jackson said. "We did a good job finishing them off at the end and knocking down free throws."

At the end of the first half, Jackson squashed a South Florida run by knocking down a long 3-pointer as the buzzer sounded.

After Jackson missed a shot with 10 seconds remaining in the half, Bulls guard Jesus Verdejo converted a three-point play to cut Notre Dame's lead to 33-27.

But Jackson took the inbound pass and streaked down the court in time to hit a running jumper from behind the arc.

"I got lucky," Jackson said. "I made a mistake the play before and kinda forced a shot. But we did a good job just getting

see BULLS/page 21



Irish sophomore forward Luke Harangody posts up during Notre Dame's 67-60 win over South Florida Saturday.