ND unveils program to monitor licensee factories

By TIM LOGAN
Assoc. News Editor

In an attempt to ensure compliance with anti-sweatshop provisions in Notre Dame license agreements, the University announced that it will hire an accounting firm to monitor factories worldwide where Notre Dame clothing is made.

This independent anti-sweatshop initiative will be accompanied by the creation of an on-campus task force to address the issue of sweatshop labor, the University's responsibilities to inform the public of alleged abuses and prevent them. Administrators said these steps will put more weight behind the existing code of conduct, which was written in 1997.

"We were ready to move from having a code to having independent monitoring to ensure the code is being followed on the ground in the factories," said William Hoye, associate vice president of corporate social responsibility and chair of the sweatshop task force.

Under the new initiative, the accounting firm of PriceWaterhouse Coopers will be contracted to conduct random spot checks of factories. The firm will also inspect factories where alleged abuses have been reported. If violations of the code are discovered, the University will decide whether it is appropriate to terminate a contract for a first offense. "We've had a wonderful code of conduct, but no provisions for monitoring. In this business, you absolutely have to have this," Hoye said.

William Hoye, Sweatshop Task Force Chairman

"There are types of conduct, such as work-above-labor violations. The track record of these companies is very poor," he said. "But having a code of conduct without verification is not enforceable."

The task force, which will include faculty, administrators, students and staff members, will work on ensuring that the code is enforced. One of the first steps will be to collect from the $200 licensees a list of all manufacturing sites. In some cases, these licensees have dozens of subcontractors, complicating matters. This list will be used to select sites at random for inspection, and may be released to the public as well.

The task force will also discuss Notre Dame's position on a range of other labor rights issues.

"In over-arching goal is to come to terms with and explore the most difficut aspects of the sweatshop issue, things like the living wage, public disclosure of licensed factories and the right to organize," Hoye said.

Manufacturers of Notre Dame sweatshirts, t-shirts, caps and other merchandise — similar to that sold in the bookstore — will now face scrutiny under the University's new licensing contract.

Study finds few SMC feminists

By COLLEEN MCCARTHY
Saint Mary's News Editor

Saint Mary's students are hesitant to identify themselves as feminists, and often view feminism negatively after spending four years at the College, said Susan Alexander, Saint Mary's assistant professor of sociology in a lecture based on her 1994 research.

Alexander first explained that feminist sociologists assume feminists work to transform social institutions to improve women's social status because social structure, not biology, forces men and women into unequal positions in society.

Feminists also work to link the social and political, Alexander reported.

"Feminists have to make a permanent commitment to overcoming inequality," she said. "Gender social change can't happen solely through individu­al efforts. Feminism is a way of thinking and acting."

Soon after arriving at Saint Mary's, Alexander realized that, "this is not how students at Saint Mary's perceive feminism."

In response, she conducted a survey in 1994 to discern student views on feminism, differences between seniors' and freshmen's perceptions of feminism and how students identify with feminism.

Alexander hypothesized that, if a women's college like Saint Mary's promotes women's issues, students should have a viable understanding of feminism. She found that surveyed students fell into four categories: some held mixed views of feminism, others had a positiv­ely positive or negative view, with others labeled "ambiguous," claimed not to know the meaning of the term "feminist." Alexander found that 13 percent of students surveyed held a mixed view. One student in this category defined a feminist as someone who stood up for her rights, while another student said she would not define herself as a feminist to men because she was not extreme.

Thirty percent held a posi­tive view of feminism and indicated that a feminist is "confident" in herself. About 33 percent held a negative view of feminism. Students in this group the behavior of feminists as always fighting, fighting, fighting. They said a feminist

Graduate Student Union Council plans forum on BOT decisions

By BRAD UNTIEDT
News Writer

After heavy debate, the Graduate Student Union Council (GSUC) decided against passing a formal resolution denouncing the Board of Trustees' Feb. 5 decision to not include sexual orientation in the University's non-dis­crimination clause.

The group will prepare and hold an open forum on the matter, specifically inviting members of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Fellows and making them aware of the council's disapproval of the decision.

"We want to make the administration more account­able and establish a public forum so it could be more of a democracy and not have leadership," said GSUC president Marybeth Graham.

This will allow us to voice our disapproval of the Board of Trustees for the way that they made the University aware of the final decision," Graham said.

GSUC member Cathleen McMahon expressed similar disapproval.

"We want to tell the Board of Trustees that we are very displeased with their decision and actions," McMahon said.

"This is something that is important and something that we have to pursue."

The group decided to forgo passing a prepared resolution but plans to make a formal move after the forum. The resolution will sent to members of the Board of Trustees and Board of Fellows.

"We all know that they probably won't accept it," said McMahon.

"I will at least make them aware of what we see WORKERS / page 4

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"We thought if anything, Saint Mary's would be promot­ing feminism and what we were left asking was if Saint Mary's was promoting a nega­tive view of feminism."
The Observer

Inside Column

Star gazing

There once was a village where the people celebrated the light of the sun by day and waited for its return by night.

When night came, the people closed their eyes and waited for the emerging fire of day, enveloped by the veil of darkness that fell upon them each evening, and welcomed the departure of the sun, rejoicing every day for its return.

One day, one of the villagers declared that he was going to make night disappear.

He climbed up on a ladder, with a hammer in one hand and a nail in the other, and pecked away at the sky, making peepholes with his hammer and nail.

He made a miracle.

To the village's surprise, the man had created light. With each little peephole punched in the sky, light began to pour into the village, as if you could look above at the galaxy, so far away, and realize that the stars look smaller than you are.

And you feel important.

The village was a few nights ago side-by-side with my best friend, and let the wind whip through my jacket and bring icy tears to my eyes as I stood beneath the stars, saw how distant they were and felt important. I wish we'd see my best friend every two years.

By any conventional means of social standards, we shouldn't be friends; she is two years older than I and lives over 500 miles away. We define the saying "opposites attract" to a point. It's easy and I'm conservative; she listens to hip-hop when I play my jazz, her life is like a soap opera while mine is about as predictable as the next page in a boring book.

But even though it was so much larger than I and lives over 500 miles away, we both sing in the car, are incurable slobs, and are reserved.

I laughed as we sat there and talked about the past and what about the future.

He talked about how our dreams had changed, and that we'd suddenly realized there was no little man on a ladder, punching 500 miles away to make stars.

Typically, we were standing in front of the world's largest man-made star, the focal point of the city of Honolulu, that is the modern cure for the electric star that stands above the city, and illuminates three counties below.

But even though it was so much larger than the natural stars, its vastness couldn't scare me. Standing above the city, looking at matchsticks that were as large as the galaxy above us, she'll always understand me better than anyone I'll ever love.

I laughed as we sat there and talked about the past and what about the future.
Group receives expense update

By COLLEEN McCARTHY
Saint Mary's News Editor

An update of expenditures and a visit from the director of Saint Mary's Security highlighted Tuesday's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting.

Annie Marie Riche, executive treasurer, presented a current budget report detailing the amount spent by the board so far this year and the amount remaining for the rest of the year.

Having spent $102,514.37 of the 1999-1999 budget, Riche is left with $23,625.63 to finish out the year.

"I recommend trying to have at least five $5,000 remaining for startup costs for the new board," Riche told the group.

The board had a larger amount of money to work with than usual this year due to increased enrollment, explained Sarah Sievert, student body president.

Because a fee is assessed in tuition costs, this increase helps fund the student government budget.

Rick Chlebek, director of Saint Mary's Security, also addressed the board Tuesday, raising concerns about campus security. He suggested that the board combine recommendations from the Performance consulting group with ideas from students and Saint Mary's Security to present to the administration.

Chlebek submitted a list of security and safety improvements for board members to review and amend. Suggestions included increased lighting on campus as well as sidewalks in the circle outside Holy Cross Hall and along the road that runs between Holy Cross Hall and the security building to Regina Hall.

"Right now, with no foliage on the trees, it looks as though the campus is illuminated just fine," said Chlebek. However, Chlebek asked board members to accompany him on a campus safety walk after spring break to address areas of safety concern on campus.

"As young ladies, you might be more apprehensive to walk in some areas on campus than I would because they are dark," said Chlebek.

The board works with Security to submit safety recommendations, there is a good chance these recommendations will be addressed and possibly implemented, Chlebek said.

"We have an administration now that is willing to listen to recommendations and that may be interested in implementing some of these recommendations," said Chlebek.

Board members will join Chlebek for a campus safety walk on March 16.

In other BOG news:

• Athletic commissioner Cindy Trabsh reported that the pep band was a success at the basketball games and that three Saint Mary's students approached her about continuing the band's participation next year.

Debate team wins at Eliot invitational

By SHANNON GRADY
New Writer

Entering its 100th year on campus, the Notre Dame debate team has shone no evidence of aging.

The team finished first at the Elitinvitational hosted by Washington University in St. Louis by winning the parliamenary debate and impromptu speaking titles and the sweepstakes overall. The sophomore duo of Priscilla Clements and Kate Huettenman won the tournament's showcase event—the individual debate competition.

Overall, the team posted a record of 6-2.

"The final round was magical," Clements said. "I'm just tickled pink that we won. At Notre Dame we are about championships in all areas. If debate can add to that reputation—even a little bit—then all of Notre Dame wins."

The Notre Dame debate team scored 90 overall points, 40 points ahead of the second place team at the Feb. 12-14 event. This is the team's second first-place finish this year after capturing the title at the College of DuPage last month.

Chris Hucker, a Notre Dame law student and coach of the team, said he is "immensely proud of these kids."

"This victory, coupled with last month's triumph at DuPage, is just a tremendous message to the region. This was an even bigger tournament than last time," Hucker said.

Huck added that these tournaments are good practice for the national tournaments that will be held later in the year.

The success represents something of a turnaround for the team. Notre Dame dominated debate in the 1990s but the activity declined over the years. Thanks to the team's young members, that trend seems to have been reversed.

Ensuring participation is a key to success, organizers said. The debate team advices during Activities Night, and Hucker teaches a debate class. The class is offered second semester and is listed under Film and Television. It is an informal class that counts toward activism credit.

Huck said that anyone can join the debate team to learn how to become a better public speaker. No prior debating experience is needed.

"The girl I consider our best debater did not debate in high school," Hucker said.

He emphasized that debate is a valuable skill and is useful in any profession. The debate team hopes to offer a showcase later in the year to demonstrate the specific events in which it participates.

Things to do before heading out for spring break:

1) Water plants (real well). 2) Stop by Meijers - load up on suntan lotion. 3) Pick up application for HCA!

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For More information, contact:
Holy Cross Associates
PO Box 668, Notre Dame IN 46556
Phone: 631-5521 Fax: 631-6813 E-mail: nd.hcassoc@nd.edu
http://www.nd.edu:80/~hcassoc/
Temperatures fell, grain prices rise

Baby wheat vulnerable to winter cold

Associated Press

Wheat futures jumped nearly four percent on the Chicago Board of Trade Tuesday, ruling out a second day for forecasters for below-normal temperatures this week in major winter-wheat growing regions. Declared concerns over crop damage.

Corn and soybeans also advanced strongly. Other markets, cocoa tumbled to its lowest level in nearly three years, while crude gained.

Wheat rallied as market participants focused on recent drenches in the Plains. Not left crops affected by wetness but rather concerns over positions following Monday's unexpectedly strong rally. Soybeans advanced after the government reported export inspections jumped 14 percent last week, although market participants expected gains to be limited today on reports of increased exports from Brazil.

In the meantime, dry weather in South America and parts of South Africa could hinder late production, reducing overall yields, analysts said.

Wheat for May delivery rose nine cents to $2.63 3/4 a bushel, while corn was up 4 1/2 cents to $2.15 1/4 a bushel; and soybeans were 4 3/4 cents to $4.71 1/2 a bushel.

Cocoa fell to its lowest in nearly three years on the Board of Trade of the City of New York amid concerns for crops arriving from Ivory Coast and Ghana, the world's largest producing countries.

The peaks consumption period, in which chocolate makers buy cocoa to make their goods, was winding down with the completion Easter holiday production. The heavy buying season, however, is expected to peak gradually and up until late summer, when manufacturers will begin gearing up for holiday candy making.

Paper stocks rose 448 to $5.241 a ton. Wheat oil futures gained on the New York Mercantile Exchange amid speculation that the United States, which is a major wheat exporter, could curtail shipments to northern Iraq, where damages had affected a key oil pipeline and delayed pumping.
Two Americans, six other tourists killed by rebels

KAMPALA, Uganda

Rwandan rebels kidnapped and slaughtered eight foreign tourists, including two Americans, on Monday, drawing the rebel offensive into a full-scale war and escalating it into a full-fledged war, officials said today. The attack also killed an American tourist who was traveling with the rebels.

State Senate approves school takeover

LANSING, Michigan

Under tight security, the state Senate on Wednesday passed a bill allowing Detroit's mayor to take over the city's troubled schools from the elected school board. Eight of the Senate's 21 Democrats joined their Republican counterparts to pass the bill by 30-7. It now goes to the House, where talks are taking place to make the bill more palatable to Detroit residents. State police kept watch at the hearings, turning their gasp-wielding detector wands to scan visitors. The handful of critics who got in were quieted when they broke into applause twice as opponents spoke. "It's a clear water-right issue. We don't want to oppress people," said Pat West as she waited for a seat in the gallery. Proponents of the bill, John Engler, said the bill would authorize Mayor Dennis Archer to replace the elected school board with a seven-member "reform board.

Russian lawmakers seek end to Yeltsin/Duma feud

MOSCOW

A group of Russian lawmakers proposed a political peace Tuesday that seeks to end the constant feuding between President Boris Yeltsin's administration and the parliament. However, the draft document still faces several major obstacles. It must be debated by the full parliament for Communist lawmakers in the lower house are pushing for Yeltsin's impeachment. Also, Yeltsin has said he won't agree to any deal that infringes on his wide-ranging powers, and his administration said Tuesday that it objected to any of the proposals.

Airstrikes jeopardize Iraq's oil exports

Associated Press

An Iraqi man searches through rubble after U.S. warplanes bombed communications centers that control an oil pipeline Monday. The pipeline extends to Turkey and carries about half of Iraq's oil exports. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein al-Fattal, head of operations for Iraq's Northern Oil Company, estimated damages at $2.5 million.

Buchanan declares presidential bid

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, N.H.

Pat Buchanan, the pugnacious conservative whose insurgent campaigns hobbled Republican front-runners in 1992 and 1996, launched a third White House campaign Monday with a pledge to fight a "moral deficit that has become America's greatest enemy within." Suggesting that the Clinton administration has contributed to "a polluted and poisoned" culture, Buchanan delivered a full-throated attack on the Democratic White House.

"This temple of our civilization has been desecrated, used to shake down corporate executives, to lie with abandon to the American people, a place to corrupt women," he said.

He promised to stand against unrealistic imports, free-wheeling immigration, abortion, euthanasia, expanded judicial powers, a shrinking American sovereignty, and a once-promising economy. As a foe of the North American Free Trade Agreement and a foe of the United States.

"It's, like, ho-hum," said the Rev. Lou Sheldon, a conservative leader from California. "He's failed twice and will a third time."

Buchanan was hearing none of it. "We need a new patriotism in America that puts country first, a new conservatism. He understands the bottom line on a balanced budget," he said.

A crowd of at least 300 yelled, "Go Pat! Go!"

"It is our calling to reassert the independence and lost sovereignty of our republic, to clean up all that pollutes our culture and to heal the soul of America.

"And, to that end, I declare my candidacy for president of the United States.

Closing with his tradition battle cry, Buchanan grabbed the hand of his wife, Shelley, and shouted: "As we say, mount up and ride to the sound of the guns!"

"Pat can win if Washington doesn't demure him," said Tom Hamill of Brattleboro, N.H.

Buchanan's third campaign began where his others peaked, in this first-in-the-nation primary state.
IMF expects new loan agreement

WASHINGTON

A new loan agreement with Brazil is imminent, the head of the International Monetary Fund, Michel Camdessus, said Monday.

Camdessus told the Institute of International Bankers that economic revisions and structural reforms to underpin the revised accord have largely been completed. He said negotiators from the two sides are working out final details this week.

But it could be several more weeks before the IMF and other lenders release the second $9 billion installment of the $41.5 billion rescue package assembled in November for Brazil.

"We are now at a final stage of putting together necessary amendments to our arrangement of last November with Brazil, to introduce the changes required by the floating of the real," Camdessus said.

Last January Brazilian authorities let Brazil's real float freely against other currencies, stanching a flow of reserves which were leaving the country at a rate of about a billion dollars a day.

"We have advanced a lot. We are now dealing with the gritty necessity of the arrangement. The agreement will be a sold one," Camdessus said.

He reassured his audience of private-sector bankers they will not be required to play any formal role under the new agreement between the IMF and Brazil but said they may be asked to help in the future.

### Absentee Bidding Available

Place your bid today on exciting Notre Dame items including:
- Notre Dame Honorary Coaching Positions: Become an honorary coach for the Spring Game on April 24, 1999, including the pregame luncheon, team positions and tickets.
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- Armchair Quarterback: Attend the team mass, have sideline passes and visit the locker room after either the Michigan State, Oklahoma, or USC home game.
- Trojan War: Attend the team mass, have sideline passes and visit the locker room after either the Michigan State, Oklahoma, or USC home game.
- Season Football Tickets, and Tickets to Away Games

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Saturday, March 6, 1999
5:30-10:00 PM at the South Bend Century Center

For more information or to place an Absentee Bid call Drew Bucchere at (219) 282-8700, extension 312.

### Russia

Companies criticize U.S. steel agreement

WASHINGTON

American companies that rely on Russian-made steel, a labor union that blames imports for," '99-'00

Applications are now available in the Student Government office for 1999-2000 Office of the President Team positions

Applications are due Wednesday, March 17, 1999 by 5:00 p.m. in the Student Government office (203 Lafortune).

A list of positions available is included with the application packet.

Interviews will be Thursday, March 18, 1999 and Saturday, March 20, 1999. Please sign up for an interview when you pick up an application.

Positions will be announced on Sunday, March 21, 1999
Lewinsky will talk on tonight’s 20/20 interview

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Monica Lewinsky is finally getting her say about President Clinton (“I’m very sexual man”), Linda Tripp (“I pity her”) and her regrets for hurting Hillary and Chelsea Clinton (“I am very sorry”).

In a two-hour interview Wednesday night, the woman whose tapes with the president led to the Senate impeachment trial offers the nation her apology “for part in this past year’s scandal.”

“I wouldn’t dream of asking Chelsea and Mrs. Clinton to forgive me,” she says. “But I would like to ask them to know that I am very sorry for what happened and for what they’ve been through.”

The first lady’s spokesman, Marsha Beryl, had no comment.

Barbara Walters of ABC News won the first interview with Lewinsky since the former White House intern burst onto the headlines on Jan. 21, 1998. Lewinsky, who received immunity from prosecution for cooperating with investigators, was prohibited from speaking publicly until independent counsel Kenneth Starr’s office gave the go-ahead.

The interview was timed to help promote her book — “Monica’s Story,” written with Princess Diana biographer Andrew Morton — which goes on sale Thursday.

White House spokesman Barry TuVe refused to comment. Asked if Lewinsky’s words would finally bring an end to the story, TuVe said: “I think I can safely say ‘No to that’.”

ABC released brief excerpts from the interview on Tuesday.

Mark Clinton a sexual passionate man? Walters asks the 25-year-old woman. “Gosh, I’ll probably get in trouble for saying this,” Lewinsky began before describing the president as “a very sexual man” who feels comforts by his “strong religious upbringing.”

“I think he struggles with his sexuality because I don’t think he thinks he’s OK,” she said. “I think he thinks he has to hold himself back. And then can’t anymore.”

Lewinsky had singing words for her former friend, Linda Tripp, who secretly tape-recorded their telephone conversations about the president and turned them over to Starr’s investigators.

“I pity her,” Lewinsky said. “I would hate to be her.”

Lewinsky said she was drawn to Tripp at the point because both of them had worked at the White House, where Lewinsky longed to return. She said she confided the facts to Tripp when co-worker kept saying things such as “You’re just the intern who got the president would like” and “I bet you could have an affair with him.”

The Daily News in New York also published excerpts from the interview on Tuesday. The newspaper said it had obtained in part the transcript from ABC confirmed its authenticity and said it was being leaked.

The Daily News says Lewinsky called Clinton her “sexual soul mate” and insisted their relationship was about a “man and a woman, and not a president and an intern.”

THE BAYER LECTURE SERIES

The Center for Environmental Science & Technology at the University of Notre Dame presents

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Earth Day to the Millennium:
The View After 30 Years in the Environmental Arena

From early years in federal service including congressional staff in 1976, through a career that has included environmental education on the faculty of Williams College, service as an Assistant Administrator of the USEPA, as Commissioner of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and now responsible for International Paper Company’s environmental program, Mr. Jorling will review lessons learned and how they might bear on policy into the future.

Thursday
March 4, 1999
4:00pm
DeBartolo Hall Room 138

Mr. Thomas C. Jorling
Vice President, Environmental Affairs
International Paper
Purchase, New York

AUSTIN, Texas

Bush may run for presidency in 2000

Bush said he has been buoyed by the parade of elected officials who have lined up to Austin to urge him to run.

Tuesday’s announcement came as no surprise, for sources had been putting out the word for more than a week, but it is the first formal, public step Bush has taken toward a White House race.

"Exploratory committees are 1.m., but they are signals," said Larry Sabato, political science professor at the University of Virginia. "They have some significance, because for the first time in a concrete way, he’s showing some seriousness."

Bush picked the time line that Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator whose low-balling 1992 campaigns shocked the Republican Establishment in 1992 and 1996, opened his third presidential run in New Hampshire.

Bush said he’s not worried about trailing the competition.

"I don’t fear failure. I really don’t," he said. "Should I decide to run, if things don’t work out, that’s just the way it goes. And if things do work out, I don’t fear success, either."

Formation of the exploratory committee allows Bush to raise funds, something he’s been prolific at in Texas.

Campaign finance records show he raised about $16 million in his 1994 challenge of Democrat Gov. Ann Richards, and $17.7 million for last year’s re-election campaign.

Bush got 37 percent of the vote against Richards in 1994, but dropped to 6 percent against Democrat Garry Mauro in 1998 — the most by any Texas gubernatorial candidate since John Connally 32 years before.

During that term as governor, Bush formed the group that now calls "compassionate conservatism." His education proposals included making sure all Texas children reach up to third grade; helping students who fail in high-school; after-school re-summer programs; and ending automatic social promotion of students.
Study: Light trucks pose greater danger

Associated Press

DETROIT

Officials at the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration say more research is needed to determine what can be done to make so-called light trucks less dangerous in collisions with cars after releasing their latest crash test report.

Sport utility vehicles, pickups and minivans pose a greater risk of injury and death to drivers and passengers in cars, according to the report, released Monday.

The government agency conducted four tests involving offset front-end crashes between 1997 Honda Accord and four other vehicles: a 1997 Chevrolet S-10 compact pickup; a 1997 Dodge Caravan minivan; an Acura SLX SUV; and a 1997 Chevrolet Lumina sedan.

In nearly every injury measure, the dummy in the Accord sustained greater injuries in 35-mph crashes with the pickup, minivan and SUV than it did in a crash with the other sedan. The differences were even more pronounced when those of last year’s side-impact crash tests involving the same models.

The Accord dummy in the front passenger seat sustained greater injuries when the car was struck by the minivan and SUV. But injury measurements were higher when the Accord was struck by the Lumina than they were when the car was struck by the pickup. The midsize Lumina is heavier than the S-10.

Light trucks generally are heavier than cars and have stiffer frames than cars, which could mean more energy in a crash is transferred to the car in an accident. Regulators have been interested in this mismatch between light trucks and cars as trucks have become more common on the road.

Light trucks also account for nearly half of all new vehicles sold in the United States. Robert Lange, engineering director of vehicle development for General Motors Corp., noted that with one exception, the dummies in all the vehicles sustained survivable injuries despite the severity of the crashes — including the Honda’s occupants.

In a series of crashes, the dummy in the Accord did not appear to show there’s a huge crash-compatibility problem between cars and light trucks, Lange said. “It seems to prove, once again, that physics work. The occupants have given more energy to the occupants of a lighter vehicle in a collision.”

In a related study released Monday at the Society of Automotive Engineers’ annual convention, the University of Michigan’s Transportation Research Institute found that being struck by a truck is worse than being struck by a car of the same weight.

That’s true whether it’s a front-end or side-impact crash, the study said.

That study, based on actual crash data, determined: teens who drive twice as many car drivers were killed in car-light truck truck collisions than in similar collisions between cars, in which the truck was the other car of the same weight as the light truck.

In 1996, the study estimated, at least 2,000 car occupants would have died had their cars collided with other cars instead of light trucks.

Automakers set sales records

Strength of SUV demand buoy sales totals

Associated Press

DETROIT

Ford, Honda and Toyota set February U.S. sales records on booming demand for pickups, sport utility vehicles and minivans.

Every major automaker that reported sales figures Tuesday posted improved results compared with February 1998. In nearly each case, the biggest gains were in light trucks.

Ford Motor Co. and DaimlerChrysler AG each had an eight percent improvement. Honda Motor Co. said its sales rose 14 percent on surging demand for its Odyssey minivan and SUVs. Toyota Motor Corp. was up 10 percent, even struggling Nissan Motor Corp. managed a four percent gain.

At Ford, car sales fell six percent, a reflection of consumers’ increasing attraction to larger, more versatile and safer trucks.

Ford’s robust truck numbers were better than some analysts expected and helped boost the company’s February sales mark set in 1996.

“The market’s been roaring and nothing surprises me,” said analyst Clark Baringer of ING Barings. “The truck market this year is much stronger than I thought it would be.”

Ford set February records for sales of F-series pickup — the top-selling vehicle nationwide for 17 years — and the Taurus. Ranger sales were up 27 percent over last year, while Ranger sales increased a surprising 46 percent.

“A strong economy, confident consumers and product innovation have proven to be a winning trifecta,” said Bob Breyer, vice president of marketing and sales. “We’re heading into spring supported by strong employment, income, lower interest rates and an affordable array of products.”

DaimlerChrysler said its car sales were up nearly nine percent, while truck sales rose seven percent. Combined SUV sales at the German-American automaker were up 19 percent. The Jeep division set a February record.

Jamie Jameson, vice president of sales and marketing, said SUV demand remains strong despite increased competition.

DaimlerChrysler’s SUV sales were up 19 percent, led by the redesigned Jeep Grand Cherokee and the Dodge Durango.

“We’re selling every one of those puppies we can build,” Jameson said.

Honda’s February sales total outpaced the record set in 1998 and was led by the automaker’s best truck sales ever — up 75 percent and beating its previous truck record set last August. The redesigned Odyssey minivan, made in Canada, had the biggest gain.

“Usually we see things cool off in the first quarter, but there wasn’t even a pause this year,” said Dick Colliver, vice president of American Honda Motor Co.

Toyota posted double-digit gains in cars and trucks to break last year’s February record. Strong sales at the Camry and Corolla helped boost car sales 16 percent, while big discounts on sales of the Sienna minivan and Land Cruiser luxury SUV led to a 24 percent gain in trucks.

Strong sales at Nissan’s luxury division, Infiniti, helped drive Nissan’s total up. Nissan’s truck sales improved nearly 5 percent.

General Motors Corp. was scheduled to release its figures Wednesday.

Thank you for using The Observer to catch up on news.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING OPEN HOUSE

Engineering majors, check out the cool jobs you can have as an Electrical Engineer. Tour our state-of-the-art labs. Talk to engineering students and faculty. Have some food; we start serving at 6:00 p.m. Don’t be late.

The Cushman Center for the Study of American Catholicism presents

a panel discussion of

The Missionary Movement in American Catholic History

Angelyn Dries, OSF

Marquette University

Thursday, March 4, 1999

4:15 p.m.

116 DeBartolo Hall

Participating in the panel are Professor Dries, Philip Gleason, Professor Emeritus (Department of History), Robert Pelton, C.S.C. (Kellogg Institute), and Bradley Malkovsky (Department of Theology).
WASHINGTON

The Senate, dedicated Tuesday to the Year 2000 computer problem, looking at threats ranging from small-business bankruptcies to Russian missile malfunctions. "Forecasting Y2K is a lot like predicting weather," Sen. Christopher Dodd said. "You can only track the storm and watch the efforts."

Dodd, D-Conn., and Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, who head a special Senate panel on the "Y2K" problem, issued a 160-page report outlining serious potential problems in health care, energy supply and government services if action isn't taken to change computers by the end of the year.

They also emphasized that, for most Americans, disruptions in vital services will be minimal. People can expect, Bennett said, "a bump in the road, but it will not be crippling, and it will not last for an undue length of time."

Seeking to allay fears of widespread social and economic chaos, Dodd said people should have canned goods and water on hand Dec. 31 as a normal procedure, but there is no need to stockpile food. The Senate, by 99-0, passed a bill establishing a Small Business Administration program to provide loan guarantees to small companies trying to repair computers or affected by interruptions in supplies.

The National Federation of Independent Business said more than half the nation's small firms that use computers have yet to act to make their systems immune to the Y2K bug. "The majority of small businesses are not ready, and they are not even preparing," Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said.

"It may come down to a choice between debt or dissolution or rolling dice," the bill, S.314, still needs House consideration.

The Bennett-Dodd report concurred that small businesses and local governments that lack the money or expertise to repair their systems faced the biggest risks. It said 64 percent of hospitals, mostly smaller units, haven't tested their Y2K repairs, and more than 80 percent of doctors' offices aren't prepared. The effects could be temporary loss of medical records, or, more serious, breakdowns in computerized equipment.

Bipartisan devices, the report said, are the "Trojan horses in the health-care industry's compliance. Malfunctions in blood gas analyzers, for example, could shut down operating rooms.

While the pharmaceutical industry is generally well prepared, 80 percent of ingredients used in drugs come from abroad, many from countries that could face serious Y2K disruptions, the report said.

Bennett said telecommunication and power systems are in relatively good shape, but there's real reason to worry about oil imports from such major suppliers as Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Nigeria. All are 12 to 18 months behind the United States in addressing Y2K problems.

Bennett and Dodd also held a secret session for senators to discuss national security and international issues rising from disruptions that could occur when computers spread the year 2000 as 1900.
I'm stepping out of the closet. Most of you will never look at me the same way again, and if my parents ever find out, they will dream strange dreams. For years, I denied it, but I think it's time that I acknowledge who I am and carry on with the Republican Party. I'm a Republican.

Issac Ruiz

Okay, I'm not really a Republican, but I did vote in two Republican primaries. They meant nothing to me. I didn't want to do it, but as they say, "When in Texas -... go to the polls."

For years, I've tried to mask my Republican tendencies by overcompensating with sensitive and correct positions on issues like civil rights, welfare and international affairs. I've never been able to hide my views regarding — this is hard to say — that diluted-three-letter word, T-A-X.

"Why me?" I've often asked myself. How can I represent my peers — my desire for lower rates, my craving for a simpler conduct — when I carry the views of the Texas Pulse? I don't know.

I have no choice, though, but to deal with the problems that the Republican party faces today. The problems of the Republican party are the problems of The Observer.

The Trouble with Republicans Today

That's the problem with the Republican party. For too long, they've worried too much about dirty words like S-E-X instead of focusing on other words like T-A-X.

That's the problem with the Republican party. For too long, they've worried too much about dirty words like S-E-X instead of focusing on other words like T-A-X. Way too many good candidates sell out because they think it will win them an election. This time the strategy won't work.

New Jersey Gov. Christine Todd Whitman admitted before the Republican National Convention last month that, "[Many Americans right now have an impression of the Republican Party that's mean-spirited, vindictive and... not attending to the public's business."

At the same conference, Gov. John Rowland of Connecticut lamented that his party had alienated women, minorities and homosexuals in recent years. He summed up the party's problems: "I will report to you that the good news is that the rich people and the business people still like us, but that's about it."

Like Rowland said, unless each of those people votes five or six times, the Republican party is in trouble. I am no longer a practicing Republican. My views on most issues mean that I usually support less conservative policies and, therefore, less conservative politicians. Still, I hope that after Gov. Bush reads his copy of today's Observer, he'll reconsider his strategy for becoming president. Otherwise, I'm afraid the Republican party and I have had our final fling.

Issac Ruiz is a second-year law student. He can be e-mailed him at isaac.ruiz@nd.edu.

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

GARRY TRAUBEUD

DOONESBURY

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is no fun in doing nothing. The fun is in having lots to do and not doing it."

— Mary Little
**Letter to the Editor**

**End Affirmative Action**

In a recent issue, The Observer ran several articles regarding the topic of affirmative action. With our privileged and rather sheltered lives here at Notre Dame, it is easy to praise affirmative action for its role in bringing different backgrounds together (and the articles certainly had no shortage of positive things to say in this vein). Admittedly, life would be boring if we were all the same.

However, the articles—and, it seems, a large portion of the academic society at Notre Dame—underestimated the recognition of how harmful affirmative action is. It denies opportunities to those in the “majority”—minorities needing help as much or more than others. At the same time, it wrongly suggests that people are unable to succeed without outside assistance.

Perhaps the most striking claim made by one of the articles was that affirmative action does not entail “preferential treatment and unfair advantages for minorities and women.” Far from fiction, preferential treatment is at the heart of every affirmative action plan. Let me share a few stories that I hope will convince you of this fact.

In the middle 1970s, my father took the civil service exam to become a firefighter in the City of Buffalo. At the heart of civil service is the concept of merit-based hiring; by utilizing an objective hiring process, one hopes to give the “best job” to the “best” individual regardless of extraneous factors. Interestingly enough, it originated in China centuries ago in order to eliminate nepotism. With my father suggested to help me, he had to wait several years for a job — until only two weeks before he decided to take the test.

Minority applicants who were ranked over 300th received job assignments before his. Only several years ago, one of my uncles took the civil service exam (remembe the goal of civil service is objective hiring) to become a police officer in the City of Buffalo. Recently, hiring processes in the police department have been used to hire three minority applicants. However, because of minority hiring trend preference, he had to wait several years for a job — until only two weeks before he decided to take the test.

Hiring then proceeds in the order of the ranking list. Simply, “the best person gets the job.” When my father took the exam, he placed 36th out of several thousand applicants; so he should have been able to pass the job. However, because of minority hiring trend preference, he had to wait several years for a job — until only two weeks before he decided to take the test.

In short, affirmative action is strongly demorizing to both the whites it discriminates against and the minorities it suggests are unqualified to compete. As a society, we need to stop giving jobs and scholarships and the like. When, in fact, race is the primary criterion upon which they are awarded (in cases of affirmative action, obviously).

Number 36 on the firefighter rankings is not remotely close in number 300 on those same rankings; being 36 (or being a minute for the police officer physical exam) is not comparable to doing 50 of them. Affirmative action has everything to do with setting different — that is, unequal — standards for white and minority applicants to become right. We need to stop trying to find equality of opportunity when there is none. It would be the same as pretending that everyone is inherently unequal. We need to end affirmative action.

Leah Ashe  
Supreme Colleen  
February 27, 1999

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**University of Maryland**

**The Pig’s Gotta Be Penned Up**

Did you ever wonder what it was like to live in Communist Russia or Hitler’s Germany? Well, you already know part of it. Despite the popular misconception that we live in a democratic country, this country has become a police state. Martial law has been declared and all conceptions about the “fair” trial have been thrown out the window.

OK, so maybe it’s not that drastic, but let me explain where I’m coming from. When you pull over a stated for speeding you are on the road, how do you feel? Do you feel safer because you know there are witnesses looking out for the safety and security of your popula­tion? Or, do you get paranoid and worried about what you might be pulled over for?

I’m willing to bet that for the most of us, it’s the latter. It shouldn’t be this way. Cops shouldn’t have this all-powerful right to arrest drivers, especially in a society that is becoming more and more populated with women and minorities. Yeah, I said it. Cops are as biased as a member of the Ku Klux Klan when it comes to pulling over minorities.

I have a black friend who got pulled over just once a month just because he drives a nice car. The story is always the same. “I see your license, etc.” “Sure, officer.” “You are going too fast.” “Where were you going?” “Home, officer.”

“Got anything in the car I should know about?” “Don’t tell me you haven’t heard that before. I believe he has a nice car and he’s black, it’s a drug dealer.” But the cops will tell you it gives them cause to be suspicious. Why don’t we fight to stop this?

I used to get the same thing all the time just because I have a bunch of stickers on my car and I had long hair. I once got pulled over at 8 in the morning over a winter break, on my way to visit my high school, and a cop asked what I had been smoking that morning. I wanted to say, “It’s 8 o’clock in the morning, I would like to have started smoking pot this early!”

This is when you fight to be sure that it happens to innocent until proven guilty. Unless you bring in extensive charts, witnesses, or expert witnesses, you’re not going to get any plea that is plea for a lesser charge. These cops are going to make sure you are pulled over. A majority of cops are on some absurd power trip. They don’t understand that the people they are arresting are not the same as the ones coming from the District, my friend and I were both pulled over and all seven passengers in our cars were thrown to the ground, nine arrests.

Turns out someone had called in and said we had a gun. OK, I understand why we were treated like that. However, once they realized that we didn’t have a gun, they didn’t change their tone. You’d think, after they had thrown everyone on the ground and almost beat up one of my friends, that they would apologize. That’s what they did at least say, “Sorry for the inconvenience.”

Nope. All they did was give us unreasonable speeding tickets, which basically means, “We think you were speeding, but we can’t prove it.” I guess they had to get something of the stop.

On a side note, why do cops come to stuff their faces with coffee and doughnuts? I swear, you can’t be at a donut shop for more than a couple of hours without seeing a cop pick up a drizzle or two intended for his buddies back at the cig. I can just hear the squeals of joy, I’m just saying, if I were a cop, I’d stay as far away from doughnut, just because of the stereotypical.

But back to what I’ve been trying to say. We should think of the police as protectors of our safety. But instead they harass us. I’m just curious as to why there has not been major uproar about this. The police need to answer to a higher authority. There needs to be a citizen’s control board or something that reviews complaints about officers. Moreover, we need to complain about the police if they are protecting our safety. But instead they harass us. So, I’m just curious as to why there has not been major uproar about this. The police need to answer to a higher authority. There needs to be a citizen’s control board or something that reviews complaints about officers. Moreover, we need to complain about the police if they are protecting our safety. But instead they harass us.

Write a letter to his or her superior, to the mayor, the governor and to the local paper. Make sure you include his or her name.

We need to fight to keep our freedom. If injustices are going on, the only way to stop them is to fight them. Or it will get worse.

Josh Kroos is a senior English and government and politics major at the University of Maryland. He can be reached at jmkroos@wam.umd.edu This column has been reprinted by courtesy of the U-Wire.
Jimi Hendrix
Live at the Fillmore East
MCA Records
***** (out of five)

The Sebadoh seems to imply the defining era of a band. This is the sound that the band Sebadoh has been striving to achieve with their past six albums. Lou Barlow (guitar, vocals) claims "it felt like we were making solo albums under a band name." But now, after a little over 10 years, the definitive Sebadoh has arrived.

But is the definitive Sebadoh any good?

Sebadoh has been known as the king of the lo-fi indie music scene since the conception of such albums as III (1991) and Bubble and Scrape (1993). These albums formed around a strong core of Eric Gaffney (drums, vocals), the punk and folk mix of Jason Lowenstein (bass, vocals). Sebadoh was three singers/songwriters pulling in opposite directions.

After Bubble and Scrape, Gaffney left, only to be replaced by drummer Bob Fay for the albums Bubble (1994) and Baracky (1996). With a new drummer, Sebadoh took a turn towards a more mainstream alternative — or maybe main-stream alternative took a turn towards Sebadoh.

Lowenstein wrote more songs and tried to take the place of Gaffney and his role. Barlow soon became known as that guy who wrote the smash hit "Natural One" as part of his side project called Folk Implosion. Sebadoh gained even more notoriety with "Ocean," the first single off of an amazing Harmony record.

Now it's 1999, and Sebadoh has risen again with another new drummer, Russ Pollard. With a new drummer comes another new style for the band.

Jimi Hendrix
Live at the Fillmore East
MCA Records
***** (out of five)

T

here was a great deal of intrigue surrounding the need for Jimi Hendrix to produce an album for Capitol records to be released in 1970. Most of this stems from the all too common practice of musicians to sign any contract that comes across the table. Such was the case with Jimi Hendrix and the lawsuit by PXP Industries that was settled with the demand for an album of new material.

To fulfill this commitment to Capitol Records, Hendrix assembled a band which became known as the Band of Gypsies. He called on his old army buddy, Billie Cox, and drummer Buddy Miles to help him. Just prior to the formation of the Band of Gypsies, Hendrix's relationship with his Experience bassist, Noel Redding, disintegrated after countless disagreements about touring and studio work as well as music.

In addition, Experience drummer Mitch Mitchell decided to take a break and go back to England. The result of the new band's efforts was four of the most legendary rock 'n' role performances — two on Dec. 31, 1969, and two in Jan. 1, 1970 — all four at Bill Graham's Fillmore East.

That is about all I am going to say regarding the background of these performances because what often happens is that these events shadow the pure greatness of the music.

Live at the Fillmore East represents Experience Hendrix's latest release of previously unreleased material. This double CD set contains tracks that are not included on the 1970 Band of Gypsies, which contained performances from the last two shows and was the last album that Hendrix authorized for release. Live at the Fillmore East contains releases from all four of the Fillmore East shows.

If you are a fan of Hendrix, you have no doubt heard recorded versions of many of the songs on these CDs. But at the time that they were performed, they were completely new to the crowd and somewhat new to the band. It was this point in Hendrix's career where he had only begun to experiment and let his creativity flow.

Live at the Fillmore East gives you a glimpse of an inspired artist who strived to be completely free with his music and pushed it to new levels. Hendrix incorporated elements of rock, B&B, soul and funk to create a very complex and new sound. You need not be a fan of Hendrix to sit in awe as you hear the music unfold.

Of note on this release are two alternate versions of "Machine Gun," a song that is heralded as one of Hendrix's greatest single achievements, as performed by the Band of Gypsies. Also included is a cover of Howard Tate's R&B song, "Stop," which the band elevated to a new level — a very funky song.

This is a great set of CDs, containing some of the best music ever performed, in my humble opinion. With that said, I would have liked to see more of the performances released, possibly in the form of a boxed set of the concert performances. However, this would entail a large number of CDs and would inevitably be very expensive.

It is also important to note that Live at the Fillmore East is more of an addition to the 1970 release of Band of Gypsies. Band of Gypsies represents the band-picked songs for release and contains some of the better versions of the songs. Live at the Fillmore East, such as the case with "Who Knows," which is one of the best songs Hendrix ever wrote, does not sit as well.

The two albums together represent an important collection in music history.

James Schuyler

The Sebadoh
Sub-Pop Records
*** (out of five)

Sebadoh fans are left crossing their fingers and praying — don't sell out, Sebadoh. There's still time.

Sebadoh
Sub-Pop Records
*** (out of five)

Tim Donohue

UPCOMING SHOWS IN CHICAGO

Afghan Whigs
Mar. 5
Metro

The Samples
Mar. 5
House of Blues

Alanis Morissette
Mar. 9
Rosemont

Rolling Stones
Mar. 26
United Center

Sleater-Kinney
Mar. 27
Metro

Lauryn Hill
Elliott Smith
Sparklehorse
Better Than Ezra
Marilyn Manson
April 4
April 8
April 9
April 15
April 20
Chicago Theatre
Metro
Double Door
House of Blues
Rosemont Horizon

Photo courtesy of MCA Records

Photo courtesy of Sub-Pop Records

THE OBSERVER Wednesday, March 3, 1999
Patty Griffin
Flaming Red
A&M Records
★★ (out of five)

The songs that make up Patty Griffin's first album, Living With Ghosts, are apples, then pears, or maybe kiwis, or licorice, or anything just as bland. While her poppier second effort cannot be directly compared with her purely acoustic debut, it is nonetheless evident that the stellar songwriting and vocal prowess that characterized her first album have waned, only to be replaced with an overproduced backing band. The album lacks continuity — it skips without caution from blues-rock to country to pop. The electric rockers are convoluted, and the ballads, especially at the end of the album, are tedious at best.

There are a few shining moments on the album, like "One Big Love," which you may have heard on the radio, and "Tony." Patty summoned up all of her songwriting talent to pen these two very impressive tunes. "Go Now," Griffin's surprisingly effective attempt at jazz, comes complete with a prominent bass and brushes instead of drumsicks. Its success relies on Patty's amazing ability to control her voice, which transforms into pure '60s-radio velvet for this novel piece.

The two minutes of distorted guitar and wailing harmonica noise that comprise the first and title track are a warning to any listeners who might expect this album to sound anything like Living With Ghosts, an album that featured only Griffin and her acoustic guitar. But the loud and fast attempt at rock is not only transparently deliberate, but it is also literally monstrous. Griffin comes closer to the mark with the more interesting "Wiggley Fingers," a gritty song with a Hendrix-style guitar riff that addresses sexuality and the shame that Catholicism associates with it.

While these songs are certainly charged, most of the album actually consists of slower numbers. "Carry Me" is a new wave pop song, similar in many ways to Sarah McLachlan's "I Will Remember You." "Christine" is a pretty ballad, despite being compromised by synthesized drums at the beginning and end. "Big Daddy" is a drummy memory in the form of a song with a sort of basic melody, but it's in the best way — it's a minor key song that has personality. The title track remains Griffin's only track that captures the big sound of the first album. Overall, Living With Ghosts is a middling effort, an attempt at a ragged, raw style that simply is not Griffin's strongest. Overall, Living With Ghosts is a middling effort, an attempt at a ragged, raw style that simply is not Griffin's strongest.
Defending champions finally face adversity

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Kentucky has been the monster of the Southeastern Conference tournament in the 1990s, running up a 20-1 record while winning it six of the last seven years.

Now, after only their second losing season since Adolph Rupp came to Lexington, the Wildcats look vulnerable.

Auburn, Tennessee, Arkansas and Florida all loomed as a threat for this week's tournament.

But the top seed in the tournament for the fifth time in the last six years. Kentucky has a first-round bye and on Tuesday faces the winner of Thursday's opening-round games on the road and at home.

"We were making the younger guys realize our season isn't over," said coach Rick Pitino.

"Just don't know if many teams have ever done that. The extra day of rest, but one of preparation will be a huge advantage."
Country's Garth strikes out

Associated Press
TUPELO, Miss.
He's sharp, he's shiny, he's brand new. And he's also a complete bust.

This was his first real game situation. Brooks tried to knock Rodriguez's second pitch to right field, but fouled it into the screen covering the first-base dugout. He hit a weak foul ball down the third-base line, then took ball one.

"I'm not proud of the statistic, but I am proud of the at-bat," said Brooks, who admitted he'd be thinking about it for a while.

"This is going to be my hardest part of the game right here. Because if every at-bat I remember as well as this one, I'm never going to get to the next one. I got to let it go. It's hard for me."

Said Bochy: "I didn't expect any more. Actually there was a pretty good slider, and he made contact to stay alive there. He probably wish he would have taken a swing at the first pitch (ta called strike). But he had a couple swings in. A lot of hits were overmatched today."

Brooks did better with his glove, cleanly handling his only hit, a single by Gary Matthews Jr. Brooks even hit the cutoff man.

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(Not to mention your eyes.)

Try the delicious new Cheese 'n Onion Melt Burger, right now only 99¢. Cery out for the tasty new Cheese 'n Onion Melt Burger on the 99¢ Great Tastes Menu at Burger King® restaurant. It's a juicy flame-broiled burger smothered with sauteed onions and melted cheese, right now just 99¢. That's right, just 99¢. It's a deal so good, it may bring tears to your eyes. But don't worry, you can always just say it's the onions.

It just tastes better.

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Major League Baseball
Helton gives Rockies power, leadership

Associated Press
TUCSON, Ariz.
He has talent, wealth and every reason to brag, but Todd Helton can't. He won't.

Instead, Helton rests his chin on the top of his bat and speaks in the humble tone of a man who has something to prove rather than one who represents the future of the Colorado Rockies.

"I'm definitely not what you'd call a star by any means," Helton said before signing a four-year, $12 million contract Tuesday. "I don't like to talk about it. It's kind of awkward for me. I don't want him to put it into the spotlight."

Helton, 25, emerged from the shadows last season by hitting .315 with 25 homers and 97 RBIs. He led all rookies in the triple crown categories and finished second to Chicago Cubs pitcher Kerry Wood in the NL rookie of the year voting.

Wood finished nine points ahead of Helton in the closest vote in 16 years. While the residents in Helton's hometown of Knoxville, Tenn., absorbed another perceived snub — Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning finished second in the 1997 Heisman Trophy voting — Helton moved on quickly.

"Was I disappointed? Yeah. For about 15 seconds," he said. "Did I think about it again? No. I just got sick of hearing people talk about it."

"If I was going to win it, I didn't want to win it for myself. I wanted to win it for the Rockies because they've never had anybody win it. It would have been a good home story."

Recognizing the talent in front of him, the Rockies actually decided to bring him to spring training and ask if he would be willing to sign a long-term contract.

"It sort of blew me away," he said. While genuinely flattered, Helton said Colorado's interest in him was clearly unforeseen.

"I think they knew what I could do, but I think they were probably surprised, but they were excited about it," Helton said.

Helton and the Rockies eventually agreed on a four-year deal that will pay him $70,000,000 in 1999, $1.3 million in 2000, $4.5 million in 2001 and $5 million in 2002.

"I hope I can outplay my contract," Helton said when asked if he feared the contract would become a ball in the age of exorbitant salaries. "That will mean the Rockies saved money and I'm playing well."

The road to a six-figure contract unfolded slowly for Helton, a former first-round draft pick who was a two-sport star at Tennessee.

Playing with the pressure of replacing two-time All-Star Andres Galarraga, Helton in his first month in the majors, hitting .259 with no homers and 12 RBIs.

"There's no normal reason a kid with his talent should go six weeks without falling into a home run," Rockies hitting coach Clint Hurdle said. "It was just classic overreaching and not staying with his strengths doing what he's capable of doing. Once he did that, he took off."
Clippers still winless as Finley leads Dallas, 112-99

DALLAS

Michael Finley scored 20 points and A.C. Green had 19 points as the Dallas Mavericks kept the Los Angeles Clippers winless with a 90-84 victory on Tuesday night.

Hubert Davis added 18 points and Steve Nash and Gary Trent each had 14 to help the Mavericks contain the Clippers in the last seven games.

The Mavericks hit 18 of 19 free throws and 13 rebounds paced the Mavericks to their fifth victory in the last seven.

The Mavericks outscored the Clippers, 20-12 in the first quarter, 27-24 in the second, 30-21 in the third and 35-19 in the fourth.

With 17 seconds left in the game, Finley drove past the Clippers, 89-84, aus the Mavericks a 112-99 win.

Finley, who scored 13 of his 20 points in the first and third quarters, hit 12 of 20 field goals and 2 of 4 from the line.

The Mavericks hit 50 percent from the field for the game and 68 percent in the first half, and used its 28-24 advantage in the second half.

The Mavericks shot 46.5 percent from the field and 20-12 from the line.

The Mavericks turned it over 10 times, while the Blazers had 22.

The game was a physical one and a key to the Mavericks was giving the ball to Robert Parish and Marques Johnson.

Dallas started a four-man lineup of Parish, Johnson, Finley and Finley.

The Mavericks started a five-man lineup of Parish, Johnson, Finley and Finley.

The Mavericks started a six-man lineup of Parish, Johnson, Finley and Finley.

The Mavericks started a seven-man lineup of Parish, Johnson, Finley and Finley.

The Mavericks started an eight-man lineup of Parish, Johnson, Finley and Finley.
Pistons run over deflated Bulls

Associated Press

CHICAGO

This is bad, even for the Chicago Bulls.

The Detroit Pistons handed the Bulls their worst loss ever at the United Center on Tuesday night, beating them 108-78. The previous low was an 88-point loss to Philadelphia last week.

Before this season, the Bulls (14-11) hadn’t lost by more than 14 at home. And that 77-63 loss to Cleveland came in 1994-95, when Michael Jordan was retired.

It was Detroit’s first victory in Chicago since March 1990, when the Bad Boys ruled.

Detroit (9-6) had six players in double figures, led by Grant Hill’s 17 points. Hill’s 17 points.

Hill and Pistons guard Joe Dumars kept up his hot streak since coming off the injury list (hamstring), scoring 16 points on 4-for-8 from 3-point range. The Pistons are 4-0 since Dumars’ return.

Rookie Corey Benjamin led three Bulls in double figures with 15 points. But the Bulls were hurt — again — by dismal shooting. They were just 31-of-83 (37 percent) from the floor, and they had more dry spots than the Dead Sea.

They were scoreless to start the second half as Detroit ripped off a 10-0 run. They didn’t score their first field goal of the fourth quarter until there was just 5:28 left to play.

Their offensive woes were summed up in one play: Randy Brown fed Brent Barry for what should have been an easy runner with 1:06 left in the first half, but the ball rolled around the rim and fell off.

Cepeda, four others make Hall of Fame

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla.

Orlando Cepeda broke down and cried.

"Some times, when things come easy for you," he said, savoring his election to baseball’s Hall of Fame, "you tend to take them for granted."

The Baby Ball’s selection Tuesday by Veterans Committee was especially emotional because it was anything but an easy journey.

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Due Friday, March 5
Tourney continued from page 24

man defense that prevented the Irish from taking the outside shots. For a team that averages 16 three-point attempts per game, Notre Dame displayed Ivey’s absence with only seven.

Even with its Big East championship game-record 56 points, Connecticut’s defense won the game. "It’s our defense that wins games for us," said Auriemma. "It’s hard to play on and keep us at full strength, especially when [Notre Dame] doesn’t have two.”

The Huskies capitalized on Ivey’s absence from the opening tip-off. With freshmen Sherisha Hill and Julie Henderson starting in her place, Auriemma’s defense targeted outside shooter Sheila McMillen, keeping her to just 2-of-7 shooting from the field.

"They put a lot of pressure early on," said McMillen. "And I think early on we just didn’t adjust right away.”

By the time they worked to spread the defense, Connecticut had already handed the Irish a double-digit deficit—one they couldn’t overcome.

"The deep bench on our team helps us move around in the lineup,” said McMillen. "And if manager Davey Johnson sends him down?”

"I’ll bust my tail,” Pete Jr. said. "I’m going to be in LA at some time. I’m a guy who’s got some pop. Left-handed pop looks so be a little scarce around here, I think Davey Johnson likes tough guys. I come to play.”

The older Rose, the career hits leader who agreed to lifetime ban for gambling, called Dodgers general manager Kevin Malone during the winter to request a favor. "Pete asked me to give his son a chance,” Malone recalled. "I’ve known both of them for years. They both have huge hearts. I figured it was a win-win situation. I told Pete it would be tough for [Junior] to make the team. He said, "No special treatment, all we ask is a chance.” And that’s the deal.”

The younger Rose, a 29-year-old whose only major league experience was a brief spill with Cincinnati Reds 18 months ago, signed a minor league contract with an invitation to spring training. And here he is, giving it his best shot.

"Nobody can tell me to stop chasing my dream,” he said. "He knows how to play, he’s not going to give up,” the elder Rose said. "He’s just now figuring out his m.o."

Rose referred to the change his son went through between the 1996 and 1997 seasons. Essentially, Pete Jr., went from a clone of his father to a power hitter, bulkling up in the gym from 200 pounds to around 230.

"I’m bigger than he is, “ the younger Rose said. "It took me longer to figure things out. I had to make a change, and I did. Basically, I’ve been at this for only a few years.”

He recently spent a week with his father, and it helped as he entered spring training. "It’s a plus when you have the hit-kings on your side,” he said. "He’s just unbelievable, a great person, a great dad, a great coach.”

And, obviously, a big fan of his dad. The younger Rose had his best season by far in 1997, hitting .308 with 98 RBIs in 112 games for Double-A Chattanooga, he was called up by the Reds and made his official big-league start on Labor Day, going 1-for-3.

Roses are blooming in Dodgertown

Women continued from page 24

all-tournament team honors, but their effort wasn’t enough to lift the Irish to an upset victory.

"Our defense was pretty good, but Notre Dame made it look bad at times when they attacked the basket," said Auriemma. "We were able to keep the pressure on the whole game through and we took advantage of the opportunities we got.”

UConn’s Ralph finished with 19 points and 10 assists while

Jones added a career-high 21 points as the Huskies claimed their sixth-straight Big East title. Abrosimova had team highs in points (23) and rebounds (17) on her way to all-tournament team honors.

Notre Dame now awaits the NCAA Tournament Committee’s decision on what seed and region they land in for the Big Dance which begins Friday, March 12 at campus sites.

Head coach Muffett McGraw and her squad hope that their 25-4 record and Big East tournament run will earn them first- and second-round games at the Joyce Center.

Despite playing almost the entire game, Ruth Riley was unable to lead the Irish to victory last night versus UConn.

Despite the extended playing time of McMillen and Riley, the offense was unable to keep up with the Huskies, and Notre Dame’s defense could not keep the “run and gun” Huskie attack in check.

The deep bench on Connecticut’s side of the court kept the team fresh at both ends of the game and able to avoid Notre Dame’s quest for a victory. While the Irish came off the season’s biggest loss and Ivey’s injury, UConn fits the game at its season’s peak, sticking the Irish with two huge losses in as many days.

Women

continued from page 24

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075 Teams is the Guiness record.

Let’s set our own in ’99.
Behind Bryant, Rodman Lakers lack needed maturity

By JOHN COPPOLELLA
Sports Columnist

Sports Illustrated picked them to go to the NBA finals; Charles Barkley ripped them; they just fired their head coach.

Michael Jordan sat courtside at their last game, and Dennis Rodman is joining them. The Los Angeles Lakers have been in the news a lot lately, but it's not necessarily a good thing.

Sporting a record of 9-6, the Lakers could easily be mistaken for a decent Western Conference team. They aren't playing as well as the aging Utah Jazz or the depleted Seattle SuperSonics, but those two teams are leading their respective divisions and pulling away from the Lakers as the short-lived NBA season completes the first third of its course.

Growing pains are causing the Lakers' collapse. The squad's most vocal leader, Nick Van Exel, was too vocal or too scared to come out. His departure vacated a leadership spot on a team lacking edichtful leaders, which hurt the team on and off the court.

Shaquille O'Neal has been a brilliant leader. He leads the league in scoring, has been a rebounding and shot-blocking machine and has even improved his free-throw shooting. Along with the SuperSonics' Gary Payton, he is a candidate for the league's MVP. Off the court, he has backed up trash-talking to the San Antonio Spurs' David Robinson and Tim Duncan, and has become the most feared player in the league.

The rest of the Lakers, however, haven't stepped up in similar fashion. Kobe Bryant has attempted to take Van Exel's leadership role by taking all of Van Exel's shots — in addition to the shots Bryant would normally take. Although talented, Bryant's immaturity and selfishness has plagued the Lakers all year and reminds fans of a young Jordan who didn't use his teammates to his advantage. Bryant's rookie could hurt his development. In a two-point loss to the Indiana Pacers two weeks ago, Bryant shot an off-balance three-pointer with five seconds remaining. However, his obvious immaturity is not hampered by fans that chant his name each time he gets the ball. With his new, enormous contract extension, he will fight to get his hands on the ball and not look to his team mates for support.

The problem is, outside of O'Neal, no one has asked for the ball from Bryant. Eddie Jones has been shooting less since Van Exel left. Derek Fisher has been a pass-first, short-last point guard, and this reluctance has not kept defenders honest. Rick Fox usually gets lost in the shuffle.

Robert Horry can hit the three-pointer. Elden Campbell is in Ellison Campell. And Rodman is arguably the worst shooter in the league.

But Rodman's signing is the critical juncture of the Lakers' season. Rodman, with all his antics, is one of the best defenders in the history of the NBA. A tireless worker, he has led the league in rebounding for the past seven seasons. He is a walking contradiction: On the court, he shrugs away from the glamour of scoring instead favoring unheralded jobs like the aforementioned defense and rebounding. Off the court, he will do anything that will bring him fame.

This is not what the Lakers need right now. In San Antonio, Rodman divided the team by exploiting Robinson's timid locker-room persona. After being expanded to Chicago for Will Pereluo, Rodman ran into Jordan and head coach Phil Jackson, two individuals who embody leadership. Only through those two individuals were Rodman and his side kept at bay on the court as his life became more extravagant off the court.

Rodman comes to a Lakers team that just fired its head coach, Del Harris, and does not have the leader of Jordan's or Jackson's magnitude. Even with his successful NBA history, O'Neal cannot command Rodman's respect. Bryant is only 20-years-old. The rest of the Lakers are either too passive, too old or too scared to try to control Rodman.

In the words of Van Exel: "If he [Rodman] comes in with his great show, the internati- onally we always brings to the game, he's going to be great for that team. If he comes in with all his antics and just thinks about what Rodman the show, he's going to kill it.

Barkley ripped the Lakers for being on NBC. "Every week and for four more entertainment value than efficiency. "Jordon got the best to the Lakers, but sitting courthouse was non-other than Jordan, sitting next to Jack Nicholson, snickering at the game left behind.

Maybe he was laughing at Barkley and his comments, maybe it was at Bryant trying to take his place, or maybe it was at the Lakers face with Rodman.

The view expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
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THIS IS WHERE IT GETS GOOD
McKeown, Stanley lead sluggers past Southern Illinois

NEW ORLEANS, LA

The Notre Dame baseball team exploded for seven runs in the third and fourth innings on its way to a 15-5 win Sunday afternoon over Southern Illinois in final-day action of the University of New Orleans Invitational at Privateer Park.

Notre Dame (3-4) scored a pair of runs in the third inning to force a 2-2 tie before taking the lead for good with a five-run fourth. Senior leftfielder Chris McKeown (1-0) pitched three scoreless innings in relief of junior righthander Scott Cavey to record the win.

McKeown scattered three hits over the three innings while recording three strikeouts and no walks. Junior rightfielder Jeff Perconte paced the Irish offense with a 4-for-4 day at the plate, four runs scored and two RBI.

"Chris was really the key to that game," said head coach Paul Mainieri. "He pitched magnificently out of the bullpen."

Southern Illinois (3-3) used three hits to score twice in the bottom of the first inning, but Cavey kept the Irish within two runs in the second inning, when he stranded runners at second and third.

SIU righthander Dave Piazza took the loss after yielding seven runs (four of them earned) on eight hits and two walks over the first four innings.

Notre Dame tied the game in the third inning, thanks to a double down the leftfield line by freshman catcher Paul O'Toole's RBI single to left and a run-scoring double to right by surging freshman centerfielder Steve Stanley, who racked up four RBIs before the day was done.

"I think special recognition should be given to Stanley, who had such a rough start," said Mainieri. "He rushed his first five games of his career he hadn't had a base hit. Then on Saturday he had a couple of hits before getting three hits and a sacrifice fly on Sunday. It was really good to see him getting it going."

SIU briefly regained the lead with a run in the bottom of the third, after a triple and RBI groundout, but Cavey then worked out of another jam by stranding two more Saluki runners.

Junior leftfielder Jeff Felker drove in Notre Dame's first of five runs in the fourth inning, with a bases-loaded single through the left side of the infield that plated senior first baseman Jeff Wagner, who had walked, went to second on a fielding error and took third on an infield single by junior DH Matt Nossebaum.

O'Toole then drove home freshman third baseman Andrew Huskey with a sacrifice fly for a 4-2 lead, followed by RBI singles from Perconte, Stanley and Wagner.

Perconte doubled with one out in the seventh and stole third on a bunt-four pitch to sophomore second baseman Abe Porzel. Stanley then plated Perconte with a single and Porzel later scored on a wild pitch before Wagner singled home Stanley for a 10-3 Irish lead.

Notre Dame tacked on four more runs in the seventh, highlighted a Porzel triple that plated O'Toole and Perconte. Stanley followed with a sacrifice fly before junior shortstop Brant Ust sent an opposite-field shot over the rightfield fence for his third home run of the season.

A single run in the eighth upheld the Irish advantage to 15-3, after Felker reached on an error went to second on a single by freshman catcher J.P. Deveine and scored on a throwing error. Facing a potential end of the game by the 15-run rule, SIU came up with two runs in the bottom of the eighth versus freshman righthander Matt Buchmeier, cutting the lead to 15-5.

Irish sophomore All-America righthander Aaron Heilman threw just four pitches while shutting down the Salukis in order to close out the ninth, thanks to the set-up work of senior closer Chris McKeown.

Irish sluggers travel to San Antonino, Texas, this weekend. They will take on highly-ranked Penn State on Saturday and Sunday.

"I feel really good about our team. I feel like on Saturday and Sunday we really showed our potential," said Mainieri.

"The key for us is going to be whether or not we get consistent pitching. If we do that we're about ready to put it all together."

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Seniors Basketball Lead by Example

By JOEY CAVATO

It wasn't supposed to happen like this.

Two of their classmates weren't supposed to leave after one season.

Younger players were supposed to fill the void and contribute to the rebuilding process, but that didn't happen either.

The only constants throughout Notre Dame's first four years in the Big East conference have been senior captains Phil Hickey and Antoni Wyche.

Neither has been spectacular, but both solidly played their supporting roles.

Pat Garrity and Troy Murphy filled their biographies in the media with awards and honors, but Hickey and Wyche contributed the foundation of Notre Dame's rebuilding.

"When I came to Notre Dame I wanted to be a part of a rebuilding," Wyche said. "I thought our class would be a big part of helping the program get back to where it used to be. Unfortunately, due to transfers and injuries and all kinds of things, it didn't work out quite the way I planned."

"There've been a lot of adversity," Hickey said. "It would have been easy to just quit or transfer but that's not Tone and my character. We stuck through it we wanted to be part of this foundation that was the beginning of the Big East."

Stuck through it they have, and they have also given more to this team than what one usually looks for in the statistics.

"I bet you that together they haven't missed over five practices in four years and says a whole lot," MacLeod said.

"Dinged up and banged up they continue to battle. They have really been great representatives for the team and the University."

"They've been leaders in the locker room," Troy Murphy said. "Phil has really helped me out as far as talking to me about players coming up and referees and how to deal with different things in the league. He's been so valuable to me personally just helping me out and Tone is probably the funniest guy I've ever met in my life and he's a great guy. They've both made me feel at home when I first got here and they've really helped me out in adjusting to college."

Things definitely would have been easier for Hickey and Wyche had the Gary Bells, Doug Gottlieb and Keith Friels stuck around, but Hickey and Wyche don't shy from hard work.

They also will accept roles outside of the spotlight. They were also willing to allow freshman Murphy and David Graves to carry the scoring load.

"I think we have to be leaders and lead by example," Hickey said. "If leading by example means doing the hard work that's fine. I think we had to give up some scoring opportunities so we could continue the foundation to build."

"They want the team to win, I guess that's what sets Antoni and Phil apart," MacLeod said. "Do they want to score? Sure. But if David and Troy and Harald can score and help us win and Phil and Tone are on the floor they'll take that. It's about the team, not so much about who scores the points. Tone and Phil both would say 'they're glad these freshman came here.'"

Hickey and Wyche have not lead the team to great accomplishments such as 20-win seasons or NCAA Tournament bids, but their four years have not been unproductive.

"These two kids have done a lot of things that people don't talk about," MacLeod said. "They've helped youth groups. They spent a lot of time with young kids. They're not full of themselves. They're well- respected. How can you not respect two kids who work as hard as they do?"

After being a part of all the Big East 'firsts' for the Irish, Hickey and Wyche would like nothing better than to lead the Irish to their first Big East Tournament win today against Seton Hall.

"We had a lot of ups and downs in my four years here," Wyche said. "But I think we made great strides in being competitive in the Big East and think we got better each year in the conference."

"This is a must-win game for us," he continued. "We have a chip on our shoulder knowing that we haven't won a game yet. It is something that we're getting real geared up for."

After the Joyce Center crowd gave Hickey and Wyche a standing ovation on senior day last Sunday, Murphy put an exclamation mark on the victory.

"He hustled down a pass from Graves and brought the crowd to its feet with a tremendous dunk."

Graves and Murphy had big smiles on their faces, and when they were taken out of the game they were greeted by Hickey and Wyche.

"This freshman class is what I envisioned our freshman class doing," Wyche said. "They have a solid foundation for the future and I definitely think we're heading in the right direction. We're right there and I think we need to make that next step to get over the top."

"Hopefully we created a good foundation that will be successful for the other guys," Hickey said. "It's great and that's what I wanted. I wouldn't trade my four years for anything. It's been a great experience."

"Hopefully it just carries over," he continued. "It would be a good transition. That's all I ever wanted to see was to see Notre Dame be successful and I think it's definitely headed in the right direction."

MacLeod knows that Hickey and Wyche are also going in the right direction.

"They're going to make a contribution when they leave Notre Dame outside of basketball, and they already have," MacLeod said.

"They've gained a great deal of respect they've grown, you can't help but really respect what they've done."

Irish senior Phil Hickey looks to the basket in a recent game against Georgetown. While playing much of his career in the shadow of superstars Pat Garrity and Troy Murphy, Hickey has been a dependable presence on the inside. Hickey and the Irish take on Seton Hall tonight in the Big East Conference Tournament.
SLURRED SPEECH

DAN SULLIVAN

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Lyric poet
2 Beethoven
3 Declared
4 Out of one
5 "Jane's Tin" author
6 "Show Girl" tune
7 At home, but
8 Popped in on
9 Dance
10 Individually
11 Noted name
12 Modern jazz
13 New source
14 It's served in
15 Not at
16 Got out
17 One of the Brady Bunch
18 Depost
19 Galleries, e.g.
20 Post of the Year, 1960-64
21 Pencil
22 Abbr. for F. Lee
23 "Show Girl" declaration
24 Like some tennis
25 Footnote abbr.
26 Knowledg3
27 What I "love" in a 1915-1927
er
28 A road is an abbr.
29 A.A.A.
30 Theatrical abbr.
31 A.A.A. suggestions
32 Hoops nickname
33 Library
34 A.C. abbr.
35 European car
36 "Gimme the" abbr.
37 Long ---
38 Like a keyhole, perhaps
39 Dangerous gun
40 Knowledge abbr.
41 Certain O.
42 Gewurztraminer

DOWN
1 "...hot 'n' Roll"
2 Acid type
3 Color slightly
4 "Schindler's List"
5 "...to, for one, in Shakespeare"
6 A key in the Ring's
tour of Berlin song
7 Stratford's
8 Hot in the
decor's theme
9 Like some
10 Photographer
11 "...62's talk show
12 Restock
13 Breathe by a nose
14 Broken down
15 Pink slippers

CROSSWORD

1 "Lyric poet"
2 Beethoven
3 Declared
4 Out of one
5 "Jane's Tin" author
6 "Show Girl" tune
7 At home, but
8 Popped in on
9 Dance
10 Individually
11 Noted name
12 Modern jazz
13 New source
14 It's served in
15 Not at
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40 Knowledge abbr.
41 Certain O.
42 Gewurztraminer

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY

Dame Helen Mirren, Jackie McLean, John Maybury, John Malkovich, Robert Mapplethorpe, Lyle Waggoner, Jimmy Page. Happy Birthday! You can be the best of both worlds if you are prepared to work hard this year. You've been busy the last three years, now all you have to do is believe in yourself and keep up the good. You're the only one holding you back. You must get motivated and take a confident approach to all that you want to accomplish this year. You need to let go of the past and push forward. Aries (March 21-April 19) You may have a problem with your love if you forget to do something you promised to do. Channel your anger into making things better not worse. Don't get angry without due cause.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) You will need to pick up some additional knowledge to be successful in order to make your business more efficient. You will be able to ask for a raise or put your name up for a promotion.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Too much to deal with. Take your time. Don't have to make decisions now. Things will work themselves out. You could get involved in someone else's business and an appraisal.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) You should take some time out and re-evaluate your emotional situation. You may want to consider a vacation or a trip to see a friend. You almost sell your car.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Money making opportunities are present. Make your decision quickly if you want to win. Few lessons with equipment may set you back if you have neglected regular practice.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You could have a problem with your lover if you don't take care of your partner's needs. Your partner's needs are the most important thing.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You must earn the respect of all those around you. You will not be able to get away with what you've been doing.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You are the one who will determine the future of your relationship. If you are happy, you can stay happy. If not, you may want to consider breaking up.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You need to make sure you have the support of your friends and family. If you don't, you may feel isolated and alone.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may have to put aside some of your goals in order to get along with others. You should take a break before the next major event.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You need to get your act together. You have not been doing your best with regard to your personal life.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) You need to take action. You can't just sit around and wait for things to happen. You need to be proactive.

The Observer

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Irish to take on Pirates at Big East Tourney

By JOEY CATADO Assistant Sports Editor

John MacLeod is hoping that the fourth time will be the charm.

Today at 11 a.m. the Notre Dame men’s basketball team will make its fourth attempt at a win in the Big East Tournament.

“We didn’t want to play in that 11 o’clock game,” senior guard Antoni Wyche said. “It seems like every year we’ve played in that game and we haven’t had any luck.”

On the other side of the court, Seton Hall looks to change the luck of the Irish. Notre Dame has won the previous two games this year versus the Pirates.

The 14-15 Irish are eager to prove themselves after finishing eighth in the conference standings.

The Irish return to action against the Pirates today in the Big East Tournament at 11 a.m. at the Louis Brown Athletic Center.

With junior point guard Nile Ivey out with a sprained knee, the third-seeded Irish don’t view much of a chance.

“It’s hard to play us at full strength, much less when down a man,” said Notre Dame head coach Geno Auriemma. “Give credit to those Notre Dame kids though for how hard they battled. They’re a good team.”

Notre Dame kept the deficit under 10 for much of the first half, but Tournament MVP Shea Ralph’s lay-up with 7:51 remaining in the first period pushed the Huskies’ lead to 15.

UConn lead by as many as 18 in the half, but a late Irish run led by captain Sheila McClenan and junior Julie Henderson closed the gap to nine just before halftime.

Aguardas and Ralph, however, provided too much for the Irish defense to handle.

“All tournament team, all conference, six-straight championship,” said Auriemma. “Obviously they were missing a key player and we knew they were going to be a little bit weak at the guard spot.

We had to attack that and we put a lot of pressure on Sheila McClenan, and I think the poor kid just wore out.”

The Huskies pressure caused 24 Irish turnovers and kept McClenan at bay. The senior three-point specialist Dame. The 6-foot-5 center got off just four attempts from downtown but connected on two and finished with 13 points.

Big East Defensive Player of the Year Ruth Riley played a strong game inside for Notre Dame, scoring a game-high 26 points and had three blocks to break Marian Williams scored in double digit.

And unlike UConn’s average senior regular season game this year, most of coach Geno Auriemma’s players were healthy and in uniform.

It was a different story for the Irish, as Notre Dame dropped its 10th-straight loss to the Huskies because of a short bench.

Losing point guard and the team’s leading Notre Dame scorer Antoini Wyche and McMillen and Riley earned

Irish guard Sheila McClenan attempts to move past a defender in last night’s game versus Connecticut.

McClenan and company couldn’t make up for the loss of injured Neile Ivey and fell 96-75.

“We still feel we have something to prove going into the tournament,” Wyche said. “I think we have that chip on our shoulder knowing that we haven’t won a game in the tournament.”

The Irish were predicted to finish 12th in the conference at the beginning of the year and they used that for motivation all year long.

“We didn’t feel like we were a 12th-place team,” MacLeod said. “The good thing is we didn’t listen to it. We heard it and we used it but we didn’t believe it. We’ve accomplished quite a bit. They’ve grown and continue to grow and they’ve meshed as a unit.”

McClenan hopes that growth will carry over into the tournament as the Irish are looking to enjoy New York more than they have in the past.

“We’re likely to win one; we’d like to win more than one,” MacLeod said. “You want to stay in New York. The last three years, three hours after the showers are taken we’re on the bus back to LaGuardia. That’s not the ideal way to participate in a tournament. We want to stay and do something. It would be significant.”

If the Irish are going make it there, they’ll have to do something else significant - beat a team three times in one season.

Knowing that you’ve beaten a team twice is always bittersweet. You know you can beat them. You also know that they’re hungry and they feel that they’re

“We played well against them the last two times,” Troy Murphy said. “We’re confident going in. We’re coming off a good win and we want it to carry over Wednesday. I think we could make a run it would be great to be in the NIT."

“We just have to relax and get ready for that game Wednesday,” Wyche said. “It’s going be tough to beat a team three times in a row and do something we’re going to have to do. We have to come out and show we can’t afford to have a lot of turnovers.”

MacLeod thinks that his team has the grit and the determination to come out and make some noise.

“We’re still getting better and we haven’t let down since last year,” MacLeod said. “They like each other, they like to play, they’re together. We’ve got a popped a couple of times but we’ve learned from it.

The winner of today’s game will play top-seeded Connecticut tomorrow.