Sorin Hall senator Jeremy Staley shares his concerns about the First Year of Studies department and its evaluation process.

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A panel of students, faculty and staff represented six religions.

Joelena Brooks-D’Vitta, senior humanities major spoke about Bahá’í and its origins. Founded in Persia approximately 192 years ago, followers of Bahá’í believe that there is one God who created all messengers, or prophets to guide individual search for faith during times of spiritual crisis. D’Vitta explained there are several obligatory prayers but little ritual in Bahá’í and that there are 19 days of fasting during sunrise hours in March.

Cindy Mongrain, a member of Campus Ministry presented Roman Catholicism and described the rituals practiced and sacraments of Catholics.

"We believe kind of outside things when we think about it, our God became human," Mongrain said.

Doherty spoke of her experiences of being brought up as a Presbyterian who family was unable to find a Presbyterian Church in southern Indiana and joined a United Methodist Congregation. The congregation was founded in 1964 with the principles of abstaining from alcohol, illegal drugs, gambling and tobacco. They attend services that last from one and a half to two hours, receive communion once a month and have male and female pastors.

SMC sponsors religion forum

By MELANIE BECKER

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"The most contested aspect of Turnitin.com, an online plagiarism-detection company. Turnitin.com enables professors and faculty members to submit a student’s paper and to receive a set of “Originality Reports” within 24 hours, revealing if any Internet documents or resources are used in the student’s work.

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Contact Caitlin Early at Caitlin.Early.20@nd.edu

By MEGHAN DOWNS

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Turnitin.com detects student plagiarism

Senate criticizes First Year of Studies

By CAITLIN EARLY

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INSIDE COLUMN

Can you keep promise?

The end of the semester is approaching and with it the hunt for seniors, like me, that pretty soon decisions are going to have to be made. Will life beyond South Bend be with them? Will their decisions be made, and how will they make a commitment she is making, has made her current commitment? Will they not only continue, but improve? When will they graduate? Once that is determined, they will have to decide whether they want to continue the worth of the degree they are receiving.

While home over the break my best friend from high school shocked me with her pronouncement that she was becoming a nun. Now I shouldn't say that it was a complete shock because it is something she has been considering for a couple of years now but I never actually thought she would do it.

Now it's not like you can just wake up one day and say, "I think I'm going to be a nun," but you can just accept a change like that. It is a major commitment and it will take her several years to actually complete the promise of Sister.

Apparently there are three levels before becoming a nun. First there is postulancy, when you live in the convent for one to two years, then there is novitiate, which is the beginning stage of religious life and is another two years, and then the third is the junior-pressed stage, which is the first profession of vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. It is only after five years of yearly renewing these vows that perpetual vows are taken and only then will my friend give herself forever to God.

The time and contemplation that goes into becoming a nun has been made aware of the commitments many seniors are making, especially when I consider the amount of seniors becoming engaged. Marriage is just as an important commitment as a vocation but it worries me when so many today seem to rush to get married. When you consider that the divorce rate in America hovers around 50 percent, but it worries me when so many today seem to rush to get married. When you consider that the divorce rate in America hovers around 50 percent, it is only after five years of yearly renewing these vows that perpetual vows are taken and only then will my friend give herself forever to God. The time and contemplation that goes into becoming a nun has been made aware of the commitments many seniors are making, especially when I consider the amount of seniors becoming engaged. Marriage is just as an important commitment as a vocation but it worries me when so many today seem to rush to get married. When you consider that the divorce rate in America hovers around 50 percent, it is only after five years of yearly renewing these vows that perpetual vows are taken and only then will my friend give herself forever to God.

Consider all the celebrities that seem to easily marry and divorce, and are married and divorced and over again. I'm not saying that celebri­ ties are representative of most people but that even there is the attitude that marriages can so easily be absolved is detrimental of the lack of respect for the institution of marriage. I mean look at J-La, that girl really needs to slow down because the media and the attitude towards marriage.

For me having a friend that is going to be a nun, and knowing the great commitment she is making, has made me reevaluate the commitments in my own life and how I plan to fulfill them.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Sarah Nestor at Nest9877@saintmarys.edu.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ ND

♦ UNICEF card and gift sale: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Hesburgh Library Concourse.

♦ Lecture: "Critical Thoughts on the (Allegedly) Poor Quality of Democracy in Latin America." 4:30 p.m. in room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

♦ Movie: "The Man Who Wasn't There." 7 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium on the first floor of the Hesburgh Library.

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ SMC

♦ Lilly Campaign Meeting: 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the Stapleton Lounge.

♦ Religious Studies Christmas Party: 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Stapleton Lounge.

♦ Moreau Chamber Ensemble and Wind Ensemble: 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre.

WHAT'S GOING DOWN

Suspicous person case closed

The case reported on Nov. 24 of a suspicious person at the Lofts Residence Center was investigated further and is being closed. The case has been reclassified to soliciting without permission.

Car vandalism in parking lot

A student reported vandalism to his vehicle while parked in the Library lot on Nov. 30 between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. There are no suspects.

Citations issued for driving violations

NDSP issued state citations for exceeding the posted speed limit and no driver's license on Ivy Road on Tuesday.

Occupational accident reported

A University employee was transported to the University Health Center for treatment of a knee injury in the Lafortune Student Center on Wednesday.

Vandalism case updated

The case of vandalism at the Stadium on Nov. 23 has been assigned for a follow-up investigation.

WHAT'S COOKING

North Dining Hall

Today's Lunch: Boiled thin spaghetti, bottled moustaccoli, pepperoni pizza, cheese pizza, vegetable pizza, four cheese pizza, cherry turnover, Swiss cheese pizza, four cheese pizza, cherry turnover, fried chicken, fried salmon, pepperoni pizza, fried chicken, chicken, fried fish, grilled salmon, cheese pizza, creamed chicken, cheese pizza, chicken, chicken, cheese pizza, creamed chicken, cheese pizza, chicken, chicken, and french fries.

Today's Dinner: Boiled thin spaghetti, bottled moustaccoli, pepperoni pizza, cheese pizza, vegetable pizza, four cheese pizza, cherry turnover, Swiss cheese pizza, four cheese pizza, cherry turnover, fried chicken, fried salmon, pepperoni pizza, fried chicken, chicken, fried fish, grilled salmon, cheese pizza, creamed chicken, cheese pizza, chicken, chicken, cheese pizza, creamed chicken, cheese pizza, chicken, chicken, and french fries.

South Dining Hall

Today Lunch: Turkey tetrazzini, mushroom marinara, spinach cheese, tortellini, calzones, pretzel sticks, garden quiche, baby lima beans, pasta, tomato soup, chicken and dumpling soup, Southern fried chicken, whipped potato, bacon slice, plain rice and fries.

Today Dinner: Turkey tetrazzini, mushroom marinara, spinach-cheese tortellini, calzones, pretzel sticks, eggplant parme­ san, herb chicken vegetable medley, swiss steak, grilled salmon filet, rotisserie chicken and roasted herb-garlic rutabaga potatoes.

Noble Family Dining Hall

Today Lunch: Spicy beef and rice soup, potato leek soup, cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza, mashed potatoes, chicken breast, cabbage, beef, tomato, tomato sauce, baked fish, potato, rice, vegetable eggrolls, breaded cheese sticks and chicken patties.

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LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY

HIGH 26 26 26 26 26 26
LOW 18 18 18 18 18 18

Accepting Applications for Controller for Observer

Sophomore Accounting Majors
Need to contact Business Office

631-5313

or email:

lewalski.1@nd.edu

Senate
continued from page 1

Jake Teske, senator from Kesough Hall, said, "It's detailed and we think it's a fair proposal to pass and we feel that Academic Affairs could serve a greater role and that the University can use us."

In other Senate News:

- Senate unanimously approved Dave Brenner, senator from Dillon Hall, as the 2003 president of The Shirt. Brenner will be responsible for choosing the design, marketing and processing aspects of The Shirt. When asked about how the saturation of the market will effect The Shirt, Courtney Schuster, the 2002 president of The Shirt, said that more people are aware of the shirt, making it a collector's item, and that people may have an incentive to buy The Shirt because it supports student clubs and charities.

Brenner said, "We want to build from off the momentum from this year and we want to see the percentage of people wearing The Shirt T-shirts continue to go up. I think if we focus on the excitement and unity from The Shirt then the money issues will handle themselves."

- Senate chose Staley to replace Kate Schlosser, senator from Pangborn Hall, as the Faculty Senate Representative. Schlosser said, "It is a great opportunity to serve as the representative because you get to work with professors on a level that you usually don't get to."

Contact Meghanne Downes at mdownes1@nd.edu

GSU Children's Christmas Party

Friday, December 6, 2002
7:00-8:30PM
University Village Center

Children's games, Christmas songs & stories, & a visit from Santa Claus.

All grad students & families are invited.

Sponsored by: GSU graduate student union

Give your car a Christmas present
Store your automobile indoors during vacation.
Avoid theft, vandalism, and weather damage.
To reserve call Abe, "The Dorm Storage Man"
574-239-1310 or email storage@sbwd.com.
Free ride from storage facility to campus or airport!
Associated Press

BOSTON

The Rev. John D'Arcy said his superiors just what he thought about a priest sus­pected of sexual abuse, alco­holism and drug use so fre­quent he was known as a "pothead."

"If a man like this does not seek help, he should not be given an assignment," D'Arcy was told in 1983 by Bishop Thomas Daily about the Rev. Richard Buntel.

The information was not unusual for D'Arcy — he sent notes seeking to intervene in at least three cases of troubled priests in the Boston Archdiocese, some of which were released Tuesday among a cache of documents related to the clergy sex abuse crisis.

But D'Arcy's outspoken­ness was so rare among the Boston clergy that it highlights the general silence in other parts of the priesthood, observers said.

Explanations for priests falling to call out their errant colleagues range from a church culture keen on avoiding scandal to simple ignorance that crimes were being committed.

There's also little evidence speaking out had an effect. Buntel was reassigned despite D'Arcy's warning that he was called a "pothead" by members of a for­mer parish because of fre­quent drug use.

Buntel was placed on administrative leave in March 1994. That year, an allegation from 1983 resur­faced that Buntel had offered cocaine to a 15-year-old.

The priests had no direct knowl­edge of the scandal, according to the Rev. Reese, who is now bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese in Indiana,

D'Arcy wrote again.

"In hindsight, we could have been more responsive," he said.

D'Arcy, who is now bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese in Indiana, was out of town and did not respond to calls for com­ment. He explained his rationale for coming for­ward in a letter about Buntel, written while he was an auxiliary bishop in Boston.

"It is my conviction, as I believe it is yours, that we who are in the position of responsibility have the obligation to pre­vent scandal in those cases where it seems almost de­finite that it will occur," he wrote.

In 1978, when Cardinal Humberto Medeiro led the archdiocese, D'Arcy wrote to church officials relying complaints about the Rev. Thomas Forry's abrasive manner, according to the church files released Tuesday. A year later, after Forry was accused of beat­ing up a housekeeper, D'Arcy wrote again.

He added that criminal priests are often expert deceivers, and can fool even the people they live and eat with daily.

"These guy are incredibly manipulative and they lie," he wrote. "They could get an Academy Awards."

Dean Hoge, a Catholic University sociologist who has studied the priesthood, said while priests may not know intimate details about each other, the culture also reflexively protects itself, keeping scandal bottled inside.

"It's a little like a club or military unit," he said. "In general, there's not much whistleblowing."

The Observer+

NEWS

University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Students

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs

(Confidential information, education, and resources)

Contact Sr. M.L. Guile, CSC, 1-5550, or student members (see web site for student contact info.)

Office of Campus Ministry

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their families; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; confidential discussion and support)

Contact Fr. J. Steele, CSC, at Steele.31@nd.edu

University Counseling Center

(Individual counseling)

Contact Dr. J. Lafferty at Lafferty.32@nd.edu

Cookies and Hot Cocoa will be available

Sponsored by: BP, Cavanaugh, Farley, and PE

Contact: Lafferty.3@nd.edu

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES SALE

An opportunity to buy gifts that support fair trade for developing countries. All profits support artists and help in paying a fair wage for their work!

STOP IN ON FRIDAY TO BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT GIFTS!

Friday, December 6, 2002, 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Breen Phillips Hall - 24 Hour Lounge
Bush: al-Qaida responsible for attacks on Kenya

Associated Press

WASHINGTON
In a grim update on terrorism's global reach, President Bush said Wednesday he believes Osama bin Laden's network was involved in last week's Madrid bombings, and he complained that terrorists have been able to "stop the peace process" in the Middle East.

Fleischer said the president sees the Madrid bombings as a "provocation that set Europe on notice that the new teams of experts of being spies and staging the installation his experts secured a dozen land mines," Ramadan said, "and the aim is that one of them will go off." Responding to Iraqi protests over Tuesday's palace visit, a U.N. official countered that the Inspectors are taking the right approach — navigating between Iraqi complaints and U.S. pressure for more "severe" inspections. And, said inspection team leader Demetrius Perricos, "we are getting results." Among other things, Perricos reported that the five-hour inspection of a suspected installation his experts secured a dozen Iraqi artillery shells — previously known to be there — that were loaded with a powerful chemical weapon, the agent for mustard gas. It was the first report of such armaments traced and controlled in the week-old round of new inspections. The inspections resumed last week after a four-year suspension, under a new U.N. Security Council resolution requiring Iraq to surrender any remaining weapons of mass destruction and shut down any programs to make them.

A critical deadline approaches this weekend for the Baghdad government. Bush has notified the Security Council that he intends to invoke the "inspect or we quit" doctrine after Jan. 27, if the inspectors aren't allowed into the country.

Iraq protests weapons inspections, calls experts spies

Baghdad

Iraqi troops murdered suspected militant: Israeli helicopters blasted a Gaza City building on Wednesday, killing a suspected militant in one of several violent incidents on a day also marked by Israeli statements about Palestinian statehood. Israel's chief rabbi said Wednesday that a new Mideast peace talks, just before filing for bankruptcy. No Roman Catholic archdiocese in the United States has ever taken such a step, which would give a secular court control over its finances and open it up to unprecedented scrutiny.

Clouds delay landing of space shuttle: Thick clouds moved in at the last minute and prevented shuttle Endeavour from returning to Earth on Wednesday with the former residents of the international space station. The delay added a 183rd day in orbit for American astronaut Peggy Whitson and her two cosmonaut crewmates — and probably a 184th day, given Thursday's stormy forecast.
most basic and frequently used prayer. The Torah, which became the first five books of the Christian Bible, is used as the religious book of Judaism.


Additional dietary and kosher restrictions exist in Judaism as a sign of the respect of all life forms, including animals. After death they believe there is no hell, but estrangement from God from those who have sinned and not done penitence.

Within Judaism there are three branches of faith. Orthodox, the strictest sector, has dress regulations, preservation of life by refraining from birth control and abortion, and sex segregation. The Conservative sector allows for men and women to worship together but does not allow for the prevention of birth. Reform Jews have a different interpretation of Judaism and have female rabbis.

"There are different views (between branches) of gender and how strictly laws should be enforced," Johnson said.

Tanushree Bera, first-year biology and physics major, spoke about Hinduism.

Known as the oldest religion, Hinduism has three gods, Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the protector) and Shiva (the destroyer of evil).

Hinduism was the root of what is known as the caste system. Brahmins (priests and teachers), Kṣatriya (Rulers and Warriors), Vaiṣya (Tradesman and craftsmen) and Śūdra (the menial workers) make up Hindu society.

Hinduism has many dietary restrictions, including cows, which are seen as the providers of milk and life. Like Baha’i, Hinduism believes that God has come to earth several times to save the world in times of crisis.

Hinduism is based on the honesty, purity, self-control and non-violence. One who has not followed this way of life will not have a restful soul.

The session was wrapped up with several questions from the audience and panel members discussing the connections between the religions represented.

Tanushree Bera, first year student

"The truth is one, but called by different names."

"The truth is one, but called by different names," Bera said.

"The truth is one, but called by different names," Bera said.

Add. displays have been set up in each residence hall by SDB.

Contact Melanie Becker at beck0931@stmarys.edu
United loses loan guarantee

**Company setback after Fed reject plea**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON United Airlines lost its bid for $1.8 billion in federal loan guarantees Wednesday, a major setback to the nation's second-largest airline in its efforts to avoid bankruptcy.

The Air Transportation Stabilization Board said that despite efforts to pare costs, "the business plan submitted by the company is not financially sound."

Chicago-based UAL Corp., United's parent company, had asked that the government guarantee $1.8 billion of a $2 billion private loan package. Without the guarantee, United had said it would probably have to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The $1.8 billion is the largest request received by the board, double the amount that US Airways was conditionally granted earlier this year.

The board was established by Congress last year to oversee a $16 billion loan program, part of an airline industry bailout after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The board, in its statement, said United's plan "does not support the conclusion that there is a reasonable assurance of repayment or that it would pose an unacceptably high risk to U.S. taxpayers."

Two of the three board members — Treasury's undersurgeon for domestic finance, Peter Fisher, and Federal Reserve Board member Gerald LaFleur — rejected United's request. The third member, Kirk Van Tine, the general counsel of the Transportation Stabilization Board, voted to defer a decision until Dec. 9 to allow United to submit additional financial information.

"These are hard decisions, and I certainly feel for the affected employees," said Gramlich. "At the same time, the loan board has a responsibility to taxpayers and to fostering the long-term health of the airline industry," he said, explaining his decision to reject United's request.

Fisher said: "This is not just about costs. It's about a business plan that is fundamentally flawed."

The board's executive director, Daniel Montgomery, told reporters that United still has an opportunity to file a revised request with the board even if the airline were to file for bankruptcy.

There was no immediate comment from United nor its unions on the board's decision.

After losing an industry-record $2.1 billion in 2001, United is on course to exceed that loss this year as it struggles amid a weak economy and a decline in business travelers.

A bankruptcy would be unlikely to have any immediate effect on passengers. United has said it would continue flying its normal schedule, as US Airways has been doing since its Chapter 11 filing in August.

But United is trying to avoid a filing because its stock shares would probably become virtually worthless and it would lose control of its restructuring to a judge. The airline is 55 percent owned by its employees.

United shares had risen 7 cents in regular trading Wednesday to close at $3.12 on the New York Stock Exchange. But the shares plummeted in after-hours trading, losing 55 cents of their value, or 17.2%, to $1.40 each.

The board's decision makes it "highly likely" that United will be forced to file for bankruptcy, said Aaron Gellman, an airline industry expert and professor at Northwestern University's Transportation Center.

But the decision doesn't mean United's schedule will be decimated, he said. "They will not stop flying. When they come out of bankruptcy, they'll come out leaner and meaner."

The board in early November sent a letter to United, seeking additional information including details on cost savings that could be achieved from labor unions and from management, capital spending commitments and pension obligations.

**Market Recap**

**Market Watch December 4**

**Dow Jones**

7,873.85  -5.08

**NASDAQ**

1,430.35  -18.61

**S&P 500**

917.57  -3.17

**AMEX**

822.39  +49.75

**NYSE**

487.57  -0.87

**Top 5 Volume Leaders**

**COMPANY**  **% CHANGE AGAINST PRICE**

NASDAQ 100 INDEX (QQQ)  -2.21  -0.68  26.57

CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO) -0.62 -0.89  14.43

INTEL CORP (INTC) -2.81 -0.57  19.74

SUN MICROSYSTEMS (SUNW) -2.81 -0.11  3.76

SPDR TRUST SER (SPY) -0.45 -0.42  92.45

**In Brief**

Mechanists urge vote ratification

United Airlines mechanic Ricky Taube drove 70 miles to his union hall last week to vote against wage cuts the carriers says are necessary to keep it out of bankruptcy.

On Thursday, he planned to repeat that scenario in a second membership vote that could unravel United's effort to avoid a Chapter 11 filing.

But a government panel took the urgency out of the vote late Wednesday, rejecting the airline's request for a federal loan guarantee to keep a lid on inflation, an important factor for Federal Reserve policy-makers as they try to energize the economy through low interest rates.

"The board's decision makes it highly likely that United will be forced to file for bankruptcy," said Peter Fisher, an airline industry expert and professor at Northwestern University's Transportation Center.

But the decision doesn't mean United's schedule will be decimated, he said. "They will not stop flying. When they come out of bankruptcy, they'll come out leaner and meaner."

The board in early November sent a letter to United, seeking additional information including details on cost savings that could be achieved from labor unions and from management, capital spending commitments and pension obligations.

**Productivity expands 5.1 percent**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON U.S. companies' productivity grew more briskly in the summer than previously thought, according to orders to factories rose in October for the first time in three months, suggesting the struggling economy will avoid falling into a new recession.

Productivity, the output per hour of work, grew at a surprising annual rate of 5.1 percent in the third quarter, the Labor Department reported Wednesday.

The performance was even better than the percent growth projected at a month ago and represented a rebound from the tepid 1.7 percent pace in the second quarter.

Gains in productivity are helping to keep a lid on inflation, an important factor for Federal Reserve policy-makers as they try to energize the economy through low interest rates.

Separately, factory orders rose 1.5 percent in October after falling in both August and September, the Commerce Department said. That provided a dose of good news for the nation's manufacturers, who have been trying to get through a late-summer rough patch.

Big-ticket manufactured goods, including cars and household appliances, posted a 2.4 percent increase in October and "nondurable" goods, such as clothes and food, rose 0.6 percent.

"The reports show that the economy by no means will go into a double dip recession," said economist Clifford Waldman of Waldman Associates. "Consumers have enough energy to stay alive and keep the economy going because wages are growing at a healthy clip."

But on Wall Street dipped on profit warnings from Disney and Hewlett-Packard. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 5 points at 8,738.

Travelers wait in line at a United terminal. United Airlines finds itself on the verge of bankruptcy after officials denied the company's request for loan guarantees.

After losing an industry-record $2.1 billion in 2001, United is on course to exceed that loss this year as it struggles amid a weak economy and a decline in business travelers.

A bankruptcy would be unlikely to have any immediate effect on passengers. United has said it would continue flying its normal schedule, as US Airways has been doing since its Chapter 11 filing in August.

But United is trying to avoid a filing because its stock shares would probably become virtually worthless and it would lose control of its restructuring to a judge. The airline is 55 percent owned by its employees.

United shares had risen 7 cents in regular trading Wednesday to close at $3.12 on the New York Stock Exchange. But the shares plummeted in after-hours trading, losing 55 cents of their value, or 17.2%, to $1.40 each.

The board's decision makes it "highly likely" that United will be forced to file for bankruptcy, said Aaron Gellman, an airline industry expert and professor at Northwestern University's Transportation Center.

But the decision doesn't mean United's schedule will be decimated, he said. "They will not stop flying. When they come out of bankruptcy, they'll come out leaner and meaner."

The board in early November sent a letter to United, seeking additional information including details on cost savings that could be achieved from labor unions and from management, capital spending commitments and pension obligations.

**Company setback after Fed reject plea**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON United Airlines lost its bid for $1.8 billion in federal loan guarantees Wednesday, a major setback to the nation's second-largest airline in its efforts to avoid bankruptcy.

The Air Transportation Stabilization Board said that despite efforts to pare costs, "the business plan submitted by the company is not financially sound."

Chicago-based UAL Corp., United's parent company, had asked that the government guarantee $1.8 billion of a $2 billion private loan package. Without the guarantee, United had said it would probably have to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The $1.8 billion is the largest request received by the board, double the amount that US Airways was conditionally granted earlier this year.

The board was established by Congress last year to oversee a $16 billion loan program, part of an airline industry bailout after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The board, in its statement, said United's plan "does not support the conclusion that there is a reasonable assurance of repayment or that it would pose an unacceptably high risk to U.S. taxpayers."

Two of the three board members — Treasury's undersurgeon for domestic finance, Peter Fisher, and Federal Reserve Board member Gerald LaFleur — rejected United's request. The third member, Kirk Van Tine, the general counsel of the Transportation Stabilization Board, voted to defer a decision until Dec. 9 to allow United to submit additional financial information.

"These are hard decisions, and I certainly feel for the affected employees," said Gramlich. "At the same time, the loan board has a responsibility to taxpayers and to fostering the long-term health of the airline industry," he said, explaining his decision to reject United's request.

Fisher said: "This is not just about costs. It's about a business plan that is fundamentally flawed."

The board's executive director, Daniel Montgomery, told reporters that United still has an opportunity to file a revised request with the board even if the airline were to file for bankruptcy.

There was no immediate comment from United nor its unions on the board's decision.

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Advent

Waiting for What?

by Kelly Rich
Campus Ministry Intern

It's hard to believe the end of the semester is already so quickly approaching. Just a few months out of undergrad, I remember all too well the nervous craze of finishing up class work while at the same time getting ready to leave for home, or trying to pack up an entire dorm room before heading into a semester abroad.

This is the context in which most of us find ourselves as the Advent season begins. As the four Decembers of my undergraduate career came and went, it's not that I wasn't mindful of a spirit of waiting. I was waiting alright — waiting for finals to be over, the semester to be done and for Christmas break to begin. But each year, when I finally made it home and joined my parish for the fourth Sunday of Advent, I was inevitably saddened by the realization that the season had, once again, passed me by with my hardly noticing it. And I would promise myself that the next year would be different.

Now almost one week into this year’s Advent season, and remembering the promise I made to myself so many times before, I would like to invite you to think with me about what exactly this time of the year signifies for us as Christians. During this season we are reminded that we know neither the day nor the hour that Christ will come again, and Advent is meant, in part, to turn our minds and hearts to preparing for that unknown day. But the season is not simply about something far off and undisclosed; it is about remembering that Christ has already come, and that the Kingdom, though not fully so, is already among us. During Advent we are urgently called to let Christ be born in us today, and so that, by our own work and by the witness of our lives, the building of the Kingdom continues here and now. The real challenge of Advent is making straight the path of our own hearts so that we might become Christ for one another. How do we do this?

We can start by asking ourselves: Who is Christ? He is the Lord of Love. If we want to let the Lord of Love live in us, we must ourselves be defined by love. Perhaps we can say with confidence that we love our friends and family well. And yet, Christ tells us to love even our enemies. How well do we love the person who has betrayed us in some way, the person who we find to be stubborn, or hard of heart? “Love is the measure,” Dostoevsky wrote. Let us make it our measure.

As violence and war increase in every part of the world, and our own country prepares for war against Iraq, we are challenged to ask ourselves if we reveal the Prince of Peace. As we wait for finals to be over, do we argue that peace is not practical, and speak of waging a war we claim can be just. Proclaiming a message of peace and non-violence — proclaiming God’s own mercy and forgiveness — is most certainly counter-cultural, but it is the message of Christ, and so for us who call ourselves Christians, can there be anything else?

Christ is the Lamb of God. During Advent we are asked to think of how we make of ourselves a sacrifice for others. Do we give of our time and resources — which are economic, but are also spiritual, emotional, and intellectual — to help others? Do we seek out the lonely, the despairing, the excluded, the poor, the sick, and the hungry, in order to offer what we have to care for what they lack? Are we liberators at Christ was, working on behalf of the oppressed and marginalized, which includes people as close as our own community and as far as other parts of the world? What gifts has God given each of us to offer for the sake of the rest of the Body, and do we use our gifts for this end, rather than for our own gain?

These challenges are great, but they should not overwhelm. Rather, they should keep us hopeful, for it is in accepting them that we accept the invitation to life in Christ, and Christ’s life in us. "Our joy during this season of Advent is in knowing that although we wait for Christ's coming again in glory, we have the opportunity by our own lives to let him come every day on earth.
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VENEZUELA

Protests escalate in strike against gov't

CARACAS
Marches aimed at ousting President Hugo Chavez's leftist government spread across Venezuela on Wednesday, with tens of thousands of people banging on pots and waving flags to support an indefinite general strike.

Under international pressure, strike leaders suggested they were ready to resume talks on early elections, but extended their strike for a fourth day. More businesses were open Wednesday, even as the strike began to affect production in the world's No. 5 oil exporter.

More businesses opened as the strike wore on, but disruptions began to affect Venezuela's oil industry, the world's fifth largest exporter. A shipping agent claimed workers stopped loading tankers, and a tanker crew anchored off the western city of Maracaibo, refusing to deliver gasoline.

Chavez's government, however, insisted oil operations were normal. Thousands of Chavez supporters staged rallies in two downtown Caracas plazas.

Opposition and government delegates met with Organization of American States Secretary General Cesar Gaviria to explore resuming talks on an electoral solution to the crisis.

Hopes for a solution grew after the national elections council voted 4-1 Tuesday to hold a non binding referendum on Chavez's rule on Feb. 2. Council members said their vote should overcome objections by the Supreme Court, which ruled last week at least four votes were needed.

The opposition threatened to intensify the strike.

"We radix the success of this active strike, and if necessary in the coming days it will become even more active," said strike leader Carlos Ortega, president of the country's biggest group of labor unions.

Chavez, who canceled a planned trip to Brazil on Wednesday, has insisted that the constitution allows a binding vote only halfway into his six year presidency, in August. He called the strike a "desperate" effort to unseat him and said it would fail.
This summer I was a best man at the wedding of a close friend. I say "a best man" because, by a somewhat unorthodox arrangement, I was sharing the honor with two other friends. While we were three in number, we were one in purpose: We all wanted to make sure the wedding was the best day of our friend's life, while at the same time accepting the least possible amount of responsibility.

Two duties were absolutely unavoidable. Firstly, each of us had to wake up nightly in a cold sweat after dreaming of increasingly elaborate scenarios involving the loss of the rings (on good nights, involving the loss of the rings and Oscar Winner Halle Berry). Secondly, we had to organize the stag night. The stag night tradition began in England as a ritual to ward off evil spirits, but that was a long time ago. In these less superstition times the principal purpose of the stag night is to get the maximum amount of alcohol into the groom in the shortest time possible.

Traditionally, the stag night took place on the night before the wedding, but a full two weeks before the ceremony has become the norm in modern England. This gives the groom ample time to have his stomach pumped and let his hair grow back. Organizing the stag night requires a delicate sense of judgment: As best men it was up to us to navigate between the Scylla of a sober groom and the Charybdis of a dead one. (The bride was particularly insistent that the latter outcome would not be tolerated.) We did not take on the challenge empty-handed. To aid us in our duties, we had acquired the Bottle Bong, a device of such lameness it's hard to imagine how people ever got blood poisoning without it.

Deceptively simple in appearance, the Bottle Bong is in essence two rubber tubes, a short thick one and a long thin one which fits into its side. Used correctly, the bong is capable of thrusting the entire contents of a beer bottle down the user's throat in a matter of seconds. (I don't fully understand the scientific principle involved, but I think it has something to do with quantum gravity.) With the possible exception of the Resident Evil series of video games, science has never been so much fun.

This powerful device was ideally suited for our nefarious purposes, and yet on the back of the packet were printed the following words: not for use with alcohol. As shameless abdications of responsibility go, this was almost heroic in its brazenness. It occurred to us that other companies would do well to learn from the Bottle Bong's manufacturers. For instance, Smith & Wesson might have avoided all their expensive legal difficulties by constructing bullets. "I Shoot Smith & Wesson," it was their slogan, and it was the sort of thing that seems like a pipe dream, but according to the Internet she's had so many boyfriends she's realized it's almost inevitable that we'll get married.

Peter Wicks

Englishman Aboard

NDToday/Observer Poll Question

Should University employees be allowed to unionize?

Vote at NTToday.com by today at 5 p.m.

Quote of the Day

"Marriage is the operation by which a woman's vanity and a man's egotism are extracted without an anaesthetic."

Helen Rowland

U.S. Journalist
Holidays should be a time of action and change

The "Holiday Season" is a time full of joy in which we are thankful for family and friends. We show this love by visiting our nearest and dearest, whether it is the local mall or the local bookstore, and buying gifts for our loved ones. We start off this sea- son by giving thanks for everything and every- body. Thanksgiving is a day dedicated to giving thanks for all that we have — it is a reflection on our lives. This past Thanksgiving, I gave thanks for my parents and friends, for my brother and sister and for my safe journeys. I also gave thanks that I have a house, that I have food, that I have a job and that I have an education.

Many people are thankful for similar reasons and for similar possessions, but this does not give us permission to be apathetic about what others are unable to have. By being thankful, we are admitting to ourselves that we have what others do not.

As we proclaim our thanks, we must realize that our gratitude comes from our recognition that others are not so lucky. This is recognition that others are victims of oppression and violence, attend poor schools, live paycheck to paycheck and are struggling just to make it.

This Christmas season, in the memo- ry of Jesus Christ, many of us will come together to celebrate our families to feast and give presents. Jesus taught us how to live. He acted as an example of how to live the good life. He ate with sinners, healed the poor and criticized the vain and powerful for their habits and lifestyles. In memory of His life, we are supposed to do for us, we take time off school and work to celebrate Him. We celebrate by going to the mall to buy presents representing our love for our family and friends. We buy Abercrombie and Fitch, Meposole, Tommy Hilliger, Nike and the likes. We buy expen- sive chocolates, plan large feasts with fat birds as the centerpiece, decorate a tree with ornaments and write cards to loved ones.

Many of us will go on consuming as if there are no problems in the world. To some, there are no major or unsolvable problems in the world. But in the other "world," the world where a majority of people throughout our country live, the world of poverty and struggle, Christmas will come with layoffs, lost homes, lower wages and bombings in his home.

How is it possible to celebrate Christmas in the traditional American way: full of consumption and at the same time joyfully? This Christmas will still be Jesus’ birthday; the celebration most likely will still continue, but the sentiments just won’t be the same. Instead, sorrow will permeate the lives of those affected by greedy economic and foreign poli- cies. Many of us will try to for- get and go on shopping and consuming like the good capitalliist Americans we are, the way our President so confidently commanded us to do. But how can we forget there be Christmas when so many are unemploy- ed, in poverty, going hungry and left home- less? This is injustice.

How can we, as students at Notre Dame, celebrate the Christmas season when many workers on this campus are afraid to speak up about their con- ditions, when they have no real voice or bargaining ability with the administra- tion and when they are often over-worked?

I am not requesting that we remem- ber and pray for others who have less or pray for workers’ rights here or elsewhere. We have all heard this request, and many of us have followed through. I am asking more of each of us. I am asking that we dedicate our- selves to starting now, starting this Christmas season to work for change. I am asking that we not only remember others where we spent our presents, but also that we work for a more just world. This is our gift to those we will never meet in life.

We have an obligation to do more and to work for more. We have an obligation to fight for the poor of our country and of the world. We have an obligation to make sacrifices, to give up some of our possessions — to opt for the poor by doing everything we can. We have to change how we live. We cannot let Wal-mart tell us how to love each other, nor should we allow McDonald’s tell us how to eat. We must start working for peace and justice.

Christmas is meant to be a time of joy, but how can we ignore what is happening in the world right now? This is what Jesus asked us to do, and this is what we must do. We should not brush off the widespread poverty and suf- fer- ing of this country. We have an obliga- tion to do more.

Paul Graham is a senior sociology major and a Catholic social tradition minor. Contact him at pgraham@nd.edu. His column normally appears every other Tuesday.

The views expressed in this columns are those of the author and not neces- sarily those of The Observer.

Letter to the Editor

Notre Dame should decline a BCS invitation

The Notre Dame Mission Statement claims, "The University is dedicated to the pursuit and sharing of truth for its own sake." A noble ideal by a noble institution. But is Notre Dame willing to put life to those words when the issue is football?

I am an Iowa Hawkeye. I graduated long ago, but black and gold runs through my veins as strong as the green and gold that drives many a Notre Dame alum. Yours is a prestigious school. Its history, academic and athletic, is the stuff of legend. The University of Iowa is no lesser place, but it is less- er known. Our universities are now brought together in a controversy not of their own making, but real nonetheless. Although the issue will not come to a head until this Saturday’s contest is finished, the question will likely be framed until this Saturday's contests are finished, the question will likely be framed when the University of Iowa is no lesser place, but it is less- er known. The University of Iowa is no lesser place, but it is less-er known. Our universities are now brought together in a controversy not of their own making, but real nonetheless. Although the issue will not come to a head when the University of Iowa is no lesser place, but it is less-er known. Our universities are now brought together in a controversy not of their own making, but real nonetheless. Although the issue will not come to a head until this Saturday’s contest is finished, the question will likely be framed until this Saturday's contests are finished, the question will likely be framed. Therefore, lacking that opportunity, record and ranking should be enough to give Iowa the bowl it deserves. Unfortunately, at this point, football apparently means less than the balance sheet of viewership and attendance. My purpose in writing is to ask this University to demonstrate its pursuit of truth and truth. What better opportunity to rise above in a show of honor and courage then to say to the BCS, "Thanks, but no thanks." Yours is a school based on integrity. Your coach is a man of integrity. Live your ideals of faith and truth. What better opportunity to rise above in a show of honor and courage then to say to the BCS, "Thanks, but no thanks." Yours is a school based on integrity. Your coach is a man of integrity. Live your ideals of faith and truth.

Notre Dame should decline a BCS invitation

The Observer

Registration system frustrates freshmen

Throughout this last summer, I wor- ried about what classes I should take during my first year at Notre Dame. But now that I am here, I am left to worry whether or not I even have a choice. The freshman class registra- tion system is seriously flawed in many respects. I exclude other classes' registra- tions because I am not familiar with them; that does not mean they are not as equally insane. I like to con- sider myself a realist. I know not everyone can be perfectly happy with their schedules, but that shouldn't mean that some students have to be miserable. I was one of the unfortunate souls who was scheduled to sign up on Dec. 3 at 4 p.m. As I frantically searched for open classes— any classes that could be perfectly our choice. My point is: Why should I, and other students like me, be penalized by some asinine class raffle simply because the First Year of Studies program gets its act together.

I am asking that We should not brush off the widespread poverty and suf- fer- ing of this country. We have an obliga- tion to do more.

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Bond returns for ‘Another Day’

By C. SPENCER BEGGS
Scene Editor

While “Die Another Day” is the 20th installment in the James Bond franchise, this film rounds out the final nail into Bond creator Ian Fleming’s coffin. The series has long since forgotten the heydays of Sean Connery’s dashing secret agent. The recent slew of Bond films seem to have dropped the secret part. Bond is more likely to pull out his Beretta and blast his way through 200 goes Rambo-style than, God forbid, make up a cover story. But even though the new movies have become glorified action flick, they’re still fun to watch and there’s still plenty of classic Bond elements that show through. “Die Another Day” begins with Bond (Pierce Brosnan) surfing on typhoon-like waves onto the coast of North Korea to stop the sale of some high tech military equipment to an obtusely evil warmonger general by impersonating the moneyman. But Bond’s plan is botched when he’s captured and tortured in a prison as the classic opening sequence of writhing silhouettes of naked women dance to the theme song, there should be a constitution amendment forbidding him from appearing in movies over again.

And like other recent Bond films, the bad guy has to have a justification for why he’s evil. This time it’s because his father didn’t love him. Seriously, audiences can probably accept an old school irrational drive to destroy the world from any guy who has his own laser beam in space. The film muscles through most of these difficulties. Brosnan has mastered his role. He’s sufficiently close to parodying itself, “Austin Powers,” the bad guy has a conveniently placed Earth-destroying laser beam and blood and have memories of his name of his hero: famous ornithologist, you guessed it, James Bond. “Die Another Day” even comes deliciously close to parodying itself ala “Star Wars,” the bad guy has a conveniently placed Earth-destroying laser beam in space. “Die Another Day” suffers from a bit of awkward acting. Surprisingly, a lot of this comes from Berry who sounds like she’s reading from a children’s book at times. Even worse is a bit part written for Madonna while she contributed a decent theme song, there should be a constitutional amendment forbidding her from appearing in movies ever again.

But like other recent Bond films, the bad guy has to have a justification for why he’s evil. This time it’s because his father didn’t love him either. Of course, his wife committed suicide and he has to come to terms with.

Bond is eventually ransomed by M6 when the name of one of their agents is broadcast from the prison. Thinking Bond had cracked his cool, his boss, M (Dame Judi Dench), makes a prisoner swap. Back in an M6 medical facility, M rescinds Bond’s double-O status. Bond, of course, immediately escapes and begins an investigation into who set him up, taking him all around the globe including exotic locations like Havana and Iceland. But Bond doesn’t have to take this one on alone. Halle Berry joins as the latest Bond girl named Jinx, an American secret agent. Jinx isn’t the run-of-the-mill “oh, James” Bond girl. She’s not Jinx’s equal in every way. Of course, she’s still uncontrollably attracted to him. “Die Another Day” doesn’t really have an innovative plot, but it is an incredible tribute to the franchise. For example, when Bond first sees Jinx emerge from the ocean ala Phoebe Cates from “Fast Times at Ridgemont High,” the shot and the music have recreations of the entrance of the first Bond girl, Honey Ryder (Ursella Andrews), from the first Bond movie, 1962’s “Dr. No.” Bond poses as an ornithologist for about five seconds — a subtle reference to where Fleming borrowed the name of his hero: famous ornithologist, you guessed it, James Bond. “Die Another Day” even comes deliciously close to parodying itself ala “Austin Powers,” the bad guy has a conveniently placed Earth-destroying laser beam in space.

Halle Berry as the American secret agent Jinx in “Die Another Day,” MGM is considering spinning the character off and giving her a franchise of her own.

Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs3@nd.edu

’Solaris’ shines as an art flick

By C. SPENCER BEGGS
Scene Editor

In the near future, NASA discovers a planet deep in space called Solaris. The planet is a glowing soft purple orb with vivid solar flare-like bands emanating from it. But when a team of scientists sent to analyze whether it Solaris can be accessed as an energy source send cryptic and disturbing messages back to Earth requesting that a psychiatrist be sent to help the crew, Chris Kelvin (George Clooney) is selected to make the journey to Solaris.

Upon arrival, Kelvin discovers two of the five crew members dead in the morgue and one missing. The remaining two are agitated, depressed and unwilling to submit to Kelvin’s psychoanalysis of their space sickness. But the lines between madness and sanity get blurred as Kelvin begins to experience what has driven the crew to its loopy state: when he wakes up in the morning of the second day his wife is in bed with him. Of course, his wife committed suicide three years before.

The apparitions on board aren’t monsters; they seem to be real flesh and blood and have memories of their former lives on Earth. Kelvin and the crew must unravel the mystery of the pulsating Solaris that seems to be the key to the visitors before they crack up entirely.

“Solaris” is a remake of renowned Russian Filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky’s 1972 adaptation of Stanislaw Lem’s novel. The film is a classic and the remake follows in its footsteps nicely.

“Solaris” is a slow boiler. The movie requires a lot of thought to come to terms with. It has a unique blend of romance, theology, philosophy and science fiction. Basically, this movie is a PLS major’s wet dream.

Unfortunately, “Solaris” really isn’t meant to be a mainstream movie. Released over Thanksgiving weekend, in 2,500 theaters nationwide, the film wasn’t well received by audiences. “Solaris” was marketed as a sci-fi flick, but the movie really fits into a romantic or psychological drama genre.

“Solaris” doesn’t have brain-eating aliens or a prince charming figure. It is a fairly complex movie that might disappoint audiences looking for run-of-the-mill forgettable Friday night fare.

Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs3@nd.edu
Michael Moore's documentary "Bowling for Columbine" is a critical look at the epidemic of violent crime in America. The film consists of mostly candid interviews with celebrities on topics from guns and racism to corporate greed.

Whatever your views, while watching this film it is good to remember that all stories are told with a good deal of personal bias and Moore's is no exception. It remains, however, that "Bowling for Columbine" is an exceptional film that should be seen by anyone who wishes to take being an American or living in America seriously.

"Bowling for Columbine" is a film that is designed to affect its viewers and is hugely successful in this attempt. In my experience, it left most of its audience either walking out of the theater or in thankful applause. While no doubt Moore certainly has his detractors, as with "Columbine," his insights and irony are brilliant. It is unfortunate that this film probably will be missed by those who need to see it most.

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

Anne Hamilton is an overly opinioned film critic who spends far too much time watching movies. She can be contacted at ahamilton@nd.edu
BASEBALL

Sollmann tabbed as preseason Big East Player of the Year

Special to The Observer

The preseason accolades have started to pour in for the Notre Dame baseball team, with junior second baseman Steve Sollmann and sophomore righthander Grant Johnson earning individual honors while the Irish have been picked to repeat as Big East conference champions.

The National College Baseball Writers Association nominated Sollmann as a preseason second team All-American while the Big East coaches selected him as the 2003 preseason Big East Player of the Year. Johnson was named a third team NCBWA preseason All-American and joined Sollmann on the 15-player preseason all-Big East team.

Sollmann — whose .362 career batting average ranks ninth in Notre Dame history — overcame an injury-plagued first half of the 2002 season. His .396 mark (12-for-41) in nine 2002 NCAA Tournament games. He also had 12 runs batted in, scored 15 runs, made just one error and did not strike out in those nine NCAA games.

After batting just .174 through his first 11 games of the 2002 season, Sollmann recovered to match his 2001 mark and post a .362 season batting average. He finished among the Big East overall 2003 leaders in hits (fifth), runs (fifth) and triples (fourth). Sollmann’s other season stats included 47 RBI, two home runs, eight doubles, 6-of-6 stolen bases and just eight errors in 29 games played (.969 fielding pct.). His clutch hitting included a .443 batting average with runners in scoring position, highlighted by the game-tying hit in the ninth-inning rally that eliminated Rice from the College World Series.

Johnson — who earned Freshman All-America honors from Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball — capped his stellar rookie season by earning a spot on the U.S. Under-23 National Team. He was part of the starting rotation on an elite staff that set a Team USA record with its 1.48 summer ERA.

Johnson and Sollmann with the Irish included a 3.46 ERA in 18 appearances. The 6-2, 205-pound sophomore righthander compiled a career-high seven wins and nine complete games.

Johnson and Sollmann were named to the College Baseball America College Baseball Watch List for All-America honors while the Big East preseason poll is the 25-1 tournament team. They were part of 2002 all-Big East second baseman Steve Sollmann jumps for the ball against in a game against Western Michigan last year. Sollmann was voted Big East preseason Player of the Year Tuesday.

Notre Dame second baseman Steve Sollmann jumps for the ball against in a game against Western Michigan last year. Sollmann was voted Big East preseason Player of the Year Tuesday.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Gesser’s status uncertain as Cougars prepare for Bruins

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. Jason Gesser tested his sore right leg in practice, but Washington State coach Mike Price said it is still not known whether his star quarterback can play against UCLA on Saturday.

The decision on whether Gesser can play likely won’t be made until just before the game, Price said.

"It’s still 50-50 and no one’s going to know until Saturday at 1:30 p.m.,” Price said, referring to the scheduled kickoff.

The No. 7 Cougars (9-2, 6-1 Pac-10) will drench a Rose Bowl berth if they beat UCLA (7-4, 4-3).

Gesser, a senior who was picked as an All-Pac-10 offensive player of the year, suffered a high right ankle sprain, pulled calf muscle and knocked kneecap early in the third quarter of the opening-game loss in triple overtime to Washington State.

Price said Gesser has been doing everything he can do with the first-team offense in practices since the Thanksgiving break ended.

"I’m just going to throw the ball and see how it feels. See if I can transfer my weight," he said. "I don’t want to strain it by trying to haul the ball off.

"I don’t think I told you guys I was going to play two weeks ago," he said. "I feel the same way. I’ve got to go out there and show the coaches I can play and be productive.

Junior Matt Kegel has had most of the snaps with the first-team offense in practices since the Thanksgiving break ended.

Washington State faced a similar situation in 2002, when Gesser broke his right leg in the ninth game of the season against Oregon.

Kegel started the next two games, leading WSU to a 33-27 victory over Southern California before suffering a 51-3 loss to Washington.

Since then, Kegel has played sparingly in a dozen games. This season, he completed 26 of 39 passes for 303 yards, a touchdown and an interception.

Price said the Cougars plan to practice some plays from the slot but to accommodate Gesser’s limited mobility.

Gesser said he has been in rehabilitation four-to-six hours a day, icing the injury and trying to build strength and mobility through massages and exercises.

I’ll do whatever it takes to play,” Gesser said. "I don’t know what I can do with this type of injury.”

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My old, you’re getting old. Happy birthday 22nd from The Observer.
Wagner scores 29 as Cavaliers end 15-game skid

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Rookie Dajuan Wagner scored 29 points to help the Cleveland Cavaliers snap their 15-game losing streak with a 111-101 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Rookie Carlos Boozer and Ricky Davis each scored 26 points for the Cavs, who won for the first time since a home-opening triumph over the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers on Nov. 5. The losing streak was four shy of the franchise’s worst single-season loss string, set at the end of the 1981-82 season.

Jalen Rose scored 37 points to lead the Bulls, who have lost eight straight and 14 of 16.

Cleveland’s two rookies missed all four of their shots in the fourth quarter as the Cavaliers controlled the boards, 56-38.

Sixers 99, Celtics 93 — Allen Iverson had 27 points as the Philadelphia 76ers extended their winning streak to eight and stayed perfect at home with victory over the Boston Celtics.

Iverson made a spindling 12-foot jumper to break a 92-92 tie, and Coleman made a 3-pointer with 1:10 left to cap a 9-0 run and give Philadelphia a 97-92 lead. Iverson made two free throws with 28 seconds left to seal the win.

Keith Van Horn had 13 points and matched a season-high with 13 rebounds and Snow added 13 points and eight assists for the 76ers, who are 10-0 at home. The start is Philadelphia’s best since winning 22 in a row to begin the 1966-67 season. It is the longest home winning streak at 769-99.

Paul Pierce had 34 points. Antoine Walker had 19 points, nine rebounds and seven assists and Walter McCarty scored 10 for Boston.

A driving layup by Walker gave the Celtics a 92-88 lead with 3:36 left. Snow answered with a layup to pull the 76ers within two, and a leaner by Iverson knotted the score at 92. After trailing by as many as 16 points of the first half, Philadelphia came back to tie the score at 60 when Iverson made a 3-pointer with 6:40 left in the third. The Sixers scored 13 of the last 16 points of the quarter to lead 75-71 after three.

After a 3-pointer by McCarty, Boston took a 54-38 advantage with 2:45 left in the first half. The 76ers scored 11 of the last 13 points to pull within seven, 56-49, at the break.

Wizards 88, Pistons 83 — Jerry Stackhouse and Michael Jordan combined for 16 points in the fourth quarter as the Washington Wizards beat the Detroit Pistons.

The game marked Stackhouse’s first regular-season appearance at the Palace since being traded from the Pistons to the Wizards for Richard Hamilton in September.

Stackhouse and Jordan each scored eight points in the final period, and both finished with 21.

Chucky Atkins led Detroit with 17 and Cliff Robinson and Richard Hamilton had 16 each. The game was tied at 81 with 1:30 to play when Jordan rebounded a miss by Larry Hughes and was fouled by Robinson. He hit both free throws after Ben Wallace missed at the other end. Stackhouse made one of two from the line to make it 84-81 with 54 seconds left.

Stackhouse fouled Hamilton, who made two of two free throws. Jordan lost the ball out of bounds under pressure from Atkins, and Brendan Haywood fouled Robinson at the other end. Robinson missed the second of two free throws, leaving Detroit down 84-83 with 16.2 seconds left.

Robinson then fouled Jordan, who made both shots to give the Wizards a three-point edge. Atkins missed a long 3-pointer, and Stackhouse put the game away with two free throws.

Hornets 89, Raptors 74 — Baron Davis returned from a two-game absence to score 18 points as the New Orleans Hornets defeated the Toronto Raptors.

Davis, who has a herniated disc in his back, started, scored two of his first four shots and turned the ball over once.

New Orleans then put together a 9-0 run to tie the game at 31. It started with a 3-pointer from Mashburn.

Davis followed with a layup after putting the ball behind his back during the drive.

Davis then stole the ball and dunked.

The teams fought evenly through the rest of the period. After Carter caught a high pass in the lane and converted a reverse dunk, the Hornets missed their next shot, but Davis stole the ball back quickly and fed Magloire for a tomahawk jam to give the Hornets a 41-40 lead at halftime.

Chucky Atkins led Detroit with 17 and Cliff Robinson and Richard Hamilton had 16 each. The game was tied at 81 with 1:30 to play when Jordan rebounded a miss by Larry Hughes and was fouled by Robinson. He hit both free throws after Ben Wallace missed at the other end. Stackhouse made one of two from the line to make it 84-81 with 54 seconds left. Stackhouse fouled Hamilton, who made two of two free throws. Jordan lost the ball out of bounds under pressure from Atkins, and Brendan Haywood fouled Robinson at the other end. Robinson missed the second of two free throws, leaving Detroit down 84-83 with 16.2 seconds left. Robinson then fouled Jordan, who made both shots to give the Wizards a three-point edge. Atkins missed a long 3-pointer, and Stackhouse put the game away with two free throws.
NCAA

Judge awards $506 million to 46 videotaped athletes

Associated Press

CHICAGO

A federal judge has ordered eight companies and three people to pay $506 million to 46 male college athletes who were secretly videotaped in locker rooms, restrooms and showers.

The videotapes were sold through Internet sites advertising "hot younger dudes."

"We look at this judgment as the court system sending a signal to the sexual predators that they're not going to get away with this," said attorney Cindy Fluxgold, who represents several of the athletes. U.S. District Court Judge Charles P. Kocoras' decision, handed down last week, grants each of the 46 plaintiffs $1 million in compensatory damages and $10 million in punitive damages. The remainder of the $506 million award pays costs and attorneys' fees.

Kocoras also ordered the defendants to surrender the videotapes and get out of the business of making and selling them. The tapes, with names such as "Straight Off the Mat" and "Voyeur Time," first came to light in April 1999, when the Chicago Tribune reported that hidden-camera videotapes, including footage taken during a 1995 wrestling tournament at Northwestern University, were being marketed online and by mail.

No criminal charges were filed. Illinois has since enacted a law making it illegal to secretly film anyone in locker rooms or bathrooms.

Fluxgold said that the 46 unnamed plaintiffs represent a fraction of the men caught on tape, many of whom have not been identified. She said she didn't have an accurate count of how many athletes were videotaped, but that the number is "in the multiple hundreds of people."

The lawsuit alleged invasion of privacy, use of the plaintiffs' images for monetary gain, and mail and wire fraud under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

The defendants, who were granted anonymity by the court, are described in the lawsuit as 28 "John Does" and "unknown Illinois State University football players."

The lawsuit says they are past or present athletes at Northwestern, Illinois State, Eastern Illinois, Indiana, Penn, Iowa State and Michigan State.

Kocoras' judgment was entered against Franko Production, Franko Productions, Rodeo, Hidvidco, Hidvidco-Atlas Video Release, AMO Video, Alias Video, Gamma/Earthlink, and individuals Daniel Franco, George Jachem and R.D. Couture.

The District Court clerk's office said no attorneys had appeared on behalf of the defendants since at least 2000. No telephone numbers could immediately be found.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Webber's father admits receiving gifts from booster

Associated Press

DETROIT

The father of former Michigan basketball star Chris Webber acknowledged in testimony before a federal grand jury that he took gifts from a banned booster.

Mayce Webber Jr.'s admission in court documents was the first time he publicly acknowledged taking anything from Eddie Martin, who pleaded guilty in May to money laundering and admitted lending $530,000 to four former Michigan players. The Detroit News reported Wednesday, Webber Jr., his son and sister-in-law, Charene Johnson, were indicted in September for conspiring to obstruct justice and making a false statement to a grand jury. All three have pleaded innocent. Each charge is punishable by up to five years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

Webber Jr. "acknowledged that Martin had given some gifts to him, and Martin put a fine. His lawyer, Robert Morgan, said in a request last month in U.S. District Court that the indictment be dismissed. Morgan declined comment Tuesday.

Webber Jr. testified in June 2002. According to the News, a university report said that Martin, paid for a hotel room for an unidentified player's father and apparently was repaid in cash. Martin violated NCAA rules when he paid for the room.

Prosecutors said Martin gave the Webber family $250,000 between 1988 and 1993, but Webber Jr. denied the claims in March.

Now with the Sacramento Kings, Chris Webber told the grand jury in August 2000 that he took gifts from Martin in high school, but couldn't remember whether he took money while at Michigan, according to a partial transcript of the trials were scheduled in Detroit, said if the trials were scheduled during the NBA season, Webber would still be expected to show up.

The government may seek to delay Martin's Feb. 20 sentencing until after he testifies at a criminal trial.
NHL

Sharks hire Wilson as new head coach

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. - Ron Wilson was hired to coach the San Jose Sharks, days after the team fired Darryl Sutter and his two assistants.

Wilson, fired by Washington last May after four mostly successful seasons, coached the U.S. team in the 1998 Olympics and in two World Cups. He also spent four years as the first coach of division rival Anaheim.

The Sharks moved quickly to fill their vacancy with a veteran coach. Sutter, the winningest coach in franchise history, was fired Monday along with assistants Rich Preston and Lorne Moleken in a surprising shakeup of a struggling team that aspire to be a Stanley Cup contender.

"Ron Wilson is an experienced NHL coach with a strong track record in both the regular season and the playoffs," Sharks general manager Dean Lombardi said in a release. "He has a proven ability to turn a team around and a track record in both the Pacific Division, but they got a 3-2 start. Wilson had his greatest success in Washington, where he led the Capitals to the Stanley Cup finals in 1998. He won two division titles, and he led Washington to 102 points in the 2000-01 season - more points than the Sharks have earned in any of their 12 seasons.

Wilson was fired over the weekend since leaving Washington, where the Capitals missed the playoffs by two points following a 36-33-11-2 season. He apparently was the only candidate interviewed by Lombardi, who promised his search wouldn't take more than a few days.

Wilson will make his debut as head coach on Friday night, when San Jose hosts Columbus. Following Saturday night's home game against Nashville, the Sharks have four days off, which will allow Wilson to further implement his plans.

Sutter led the Sharks to five consecutive seasons of improved point totals, but was fired after San Jose's slow start.

Associated Press

Sharks general manager Dean Lombardi, who now is the Sharks' leading goal scorer.

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NFL

Faulk may start Sunday vs. Chiefs

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS - There's a chance St. Louis Rams running back Marshall Faulk could make his first start in four weeks Sunday at Kansas City.

Faulk played as a reserve last week after missing two games with a high sprain on his right ankle, and he ran nine times for 29 yards. Head coach Mike Martz said that Faulk was "no worse for the wear."

Offensive tackle Orlando Pace might miss the rest of the season with what Martz characterized as "a significant hamstring tear."

"If we have him back at the end of the year for a game, I think we'd be very fortunate," the coach said.

Martz said rookie Lamar Gordon, despite continued fumbling problems, probably would get his third straight start at tailback. But he left the door open for Faulk, who again is listed as questionable.

"I don't know where Marshall is for sure," Martz said. "At the week goes on, if he feels real good, then we'll start him. But that'll be up to Marshall."

Martz said the injury isn't going to boil over before the offensive line.

"I think this is something he's going to have to deal with," Martz said. "It probably won't get a whole heck of a lot better through the rest of the season, so we'll monitor that."

Quarterbacks Kurt Warner and Marc Bulger also were listed as questionable, although Warner is expected to miss at least two weeks with a broken hand. Bulger has made slow progress after spraining a ligament on his right index finger Nov. 18 against the Bears. Martz said he would likely hold him out of practice all week.

Martz added that Bulger's finger can be taped to allow him to throw Sunday if needed. He'll probably be the backup behind Jamie Martin, although the Rams also re-signed Scott Givingson.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Sox' Thomas running out of time

Associated Press

CHICAGO - Frank Thomas is running out of time to find a better deal.

The two-time AL MVP has until Dec. 7 to sign with another club or return to his existing contract with the White Sox.

Thomas is testing the free agent market for the first time in his career after the White Sox invoked a contract clause that allows them to defer most of his $10 million salary.

"Frank's a free agent, and he's still out there exploring," White Sox general manager Kenny Williams said. "He will inform us on the seventh as to what he's found and we'll continue to monitor it up until that date. At that point and time, on the seventh, I'll have more to talk about."

But odds are Thomas will find himself back in a White Sox uniform again next season. The free agent market is lighter than in recent years with the luxury tax looming, and there's been little visible interest in the slugger.

If Thomas does stay in Chicago, his paychecks are going to have a few less zeros.

Thomas signed a contract in 1997 that was to pay him $5,927,000 for each of the next four seasons, including $3,827,000 deferred with 7.73 percent compounded interest. But because he didn't make the All-Star team, didn't finish among the top 10 in MVP voting and didn't win a Silver Slugger this season, the White Sox invoked what's called the "diminished skills clause," allowing them to cut his upfront salary.

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Around the Dial

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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<td>10-15</td>
<td>0.400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>15-12</td>
<td>0.588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golden State</td>
<td>35-7</td>
<td>0.838</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA Lakers</td>
<td>35-15</td>
<td>0.694</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA Clippers</td>
<td>32-16</td>
<td>0.667</td>
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NCAA Football

College Football

Fresno State at Louisiana Tech 9 p.m., ESPN

Mens College Basketball

Nebraska at South Florida 7 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Milwaukee at Atlanta 7:30 p.m., TNT

AP College Basketball Polls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mens</th>
<th>Womens</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arizona (1)</td>
<td>Duke (2)</td>
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<td>Texas</td>
<td>LSU (1)</td>
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<td>Alabama</td>
<td>California (1)</td>
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<td>Tennessee</td>
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<td>Pittsburgh (1)</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
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<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>Texas Tech</td>
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<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
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<td>State College</td>
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<td>Mississippi State</td>
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<td>Mississippi State</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Tennessee State</td>
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BRIEF

LeClair out 10 to 12 weeks

Flyers star John LeClair had shoulder surgery and is expected to be out 10 to 12 weeks.

IN BRIEF

Prentice signs with Arizona

Running back Travis Prentice signed with the Arizona Cardinals on Wednesday after being cut by the Houston Texans in training camp.

LeClair out to 10 to 12 weeks

Flyers star John LeClair had shoulder surgery and is expected to be out 10 to 12 weeks.

R.C. Slocum on Monday, wouldn’t go into detail about the plans for replacing the 14-year head coach.

"We have a process under way in looking for a new coach," Gates said. "I hope we’ll have some results soon. That’s all I’ll say about the future."

"Gates also wasn’t specific about a timetable for finding Slocum’s replacement."

"I hope soon," he said.

"Gates has said he’s been considering a possible replacement for Slocum, even before the coach was fired Monday, three days after a 50-20 loss to Texas that ended a 6-6 regular season." That matched the Aggies’ worst record in 14 seasons under Slocum.

Prentice signed for a three-year deal. He had been cut by the Texans in training camp.

Franchione to Aggies rumors continue

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas Texas A&M university president Robert Gates declined to confirm reports that school officials had received permission to interview with Alabama coach Dennis Franchione about becoming the Aggies coach.

"There’s no truth to any rumors," Gates said. "I won’t comment on any rumors or speculation."

"Gates also wasn’t specific about a timetable for finding Slocum’s replacement."

"I hope soon," he said.

"Gates has said he’s been considering a possible replacement for Slocum, even before the coach was fired Monday, three days after a 50-20 loss to Texas that ended a 6-6 regular season. That matched the Aggies’ worst record in 14 seasons under Slocum."

Franchione led Alabama to a 17-8 record over the past two seasons, finishing at 10-3 this season after 21-16 victory at Hawaii on Saturday at University of Alabama.

"We have made what we feel is a strong and fair contractual offer for him to stay," Gates said.

before going to Alabama, Franchione was at TU for three seasons. He led the Horned Frogs, 1-10 the year before he arrived, to three straight bowl games and the share of the WAC title his last two years.

10 years.

"I will not impede coach Franchione in any manner if he wishes to talk to A&M," Moore said in a statement. "However, I want to stress that we want coach Franchione to finish his coaching career at the University of Alabama.

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Career, Job and Internship Fairs 2003
University of Notre Dame
The Career Center

The job and internship search is far from over! Look at the following events to continue your search for permanent and summer employment opportunities!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW YORK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Careers 2003 - New York</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, January 6, 2003</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>* 100 companies with a diverse array of career opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Apply online at <a href="http://careercenter.nd.edu">careercenter.nd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Application deadline has been extended for Notre Dame students: Monday, December 16, 2002 by 12:00 noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Students are responsible for their own transportation.</td>
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<tr>
<th>INDIANA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Journalism Job Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, February 1, 2003</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin College, Franklin, IN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Newspaper editors from the state of Indiana will be recruiting students for full-time employment and internships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Specific time, participating employers, and the contact to schedule interviews will be available soon on <a href="http://careercenter.nd.edu">careercenter.nd.edu</a>, career fair link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* E-mail contact: <a href="mailto:mks4@nd.edu">mks4@nd.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>ON-CAMPUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Winter Career and Internship Fair</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, January 28, 2003</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Center Field House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* All Majors Welcome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Internships and Full positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Review opportunities and participating employers on Go IRISH at <a href="http://careercenter.nd.edu">careercenter.nd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Use &quot;WCIP&quot; as keyword search under jobs or internships</td>
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<th>VIRTUAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hire Big 10 Plus - Virtual - Just-in-Time Career Event</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 4-April 25, 2003</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>* Just-in-Time hiring needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Hire Big 10 Plus is a consortium of midwest universities including: University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Indiana University, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, and the University of Wisconsin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Apply online at: Available soon on <a href="http://careercenter.nd.edu">careercenter.nd.edu</a>, career fair link</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* E-mail contact: <a href="mailto:pruit.8@nd.edu">pruit.8@nd.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### NEW YORK

**Monday, January 27, 2002**

* More than 80 companies and organizations are confirmed to attend. Transportation will be provided by The Career Center for the first 45 students who sign up.

* Application deadline has been extended for Notre Dame students: Monday, December 23, 2003 by 12:00 noon

* E-mail contact: ford.41@nd.edu

### CHICAGO

**Monday, January 27, 2002**

Oak Brook Terrace Conference Center, Chicago IL

* More than 80 companies and organizations are confirmed to attend. Transportation will be provided by The Career Center for the first 45 students who sign up.

* Application deadline has been extended for Notre Dame students: Monday, December 23, 2003 by 12:00 noon

* E-mail contact: ford.41@nd.edu

### WASHINGTON D.C.

**Monday, March 31, 2003**

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Building, 1170 Massachusetts Ave, NW

* Participating Colleges: Notre Dame, Duke, Yale, Richmond, and William & Mary
* Careers in Media, Advertising, Publishing, Paralegal, Lobbying and Public Policy, etc.

* Apply online at [MetroLink.careercenter.com](http://MetroLink.careercenter.com) or link through the Go IRISH Homepage.

* Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 12, 2003 by 12:00 noon

* Transportation will be coordinated through the Career Center

* E-mail contact: pruit.8@nd.edu

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**NEW YORK**

**Monday, January 27, 2002**

* More than 80 companies and organizations are confirmed to attend. Transportation will be provided by The Career Center for the first 45 students who sign up.

* Application deadline has been extended for Notre Dame students: Monday, December 23, 2003 by 12:00 noon

* E-mail contact: ford.41@nd.edu

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**HIRE BIG 10 PLUS CONSORTIUM - LIVE EVENT**

**Thursday, April 3, 2003**

University of Chicago

* Hire Big 10 Plus is a consortium of midwest universities including: University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Indiana University, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, and the University of Wisconsin

* Students are responsible for their own transportation

* E-mail contact: pruit.8@nd.edu

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**INDIANA**

**Indiana Collegiate Job Fair**

**Friday, March 28, 2003**

Sagamore Ballroom - Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN

* A great opportunity to meet face-to-face with many quality employers looking to hire late in the school year

* E-mail contact: mkb5@nd.edu

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**ON-CAMPUS**

**Winter Career and Internship Fair**

**Tuesday, January 28, 2003**

Joyce Center Field House

* All Majors Welcome

* Internships and Full positions

* Review opportunities and participating employers on Go IRISH at [careercenter.nd.edu](http://careercenter.nd.edu)

---

**Virtual**

**Virtual Job Fair**

**January 27-February 24, 2003**

* Full-Time and Internships

* Hire Big 10 Plus is a consortium of midwest universities including: University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Indiana University, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, and the University of Wisconsin

* Apply online at: Available soon on [careercenter.nd.edu](http://careercenter.nd.edu), career fair link

* E-mail contact: pruit.8@nd.edu

---

**Hire Big 10 Plus - Virtual - Just-in-Time Career Event**

**April 4 and April 25, 2003**

**Just-in-Time hiring needs**

* Hire Big 10 Plus is a consortium of midwest universities including: University of Notre Dame, Michigan State University, Northwestern University, Indiana University, University of Michigan, University of Chicago, University of Illinois, University of Iowa, and the University of Wisconsin

* Apply online at: Available soon on [careercenter.nd.edu](http://careercenter.nd.edu), career fair link

* E-mail contact: pruit.8@nd.edu
Gator
continued from page 24

Bowl. Washington State and Iowa would play in the Rose Bowl and USC and the Big 12 champ would meet in the Orange Bowl.

The Irish still have a narrow chance of squeaking into a BCS bowl. If 7-4 UCLA beats 9-2 Washington State, USC would win the Pac-10 title and the automatic Rose Bowl berth awarded to the conference champion, where they would probably face Iowa. That frees up an at-large bid that would most likely be given to Notre Dame.

If Miami makes the Fiesta Bowl, the Orange Bowl would be able to select its at-large team first. In addition to Notre Dame, an Orange Bowl official said the bowl is also considering 10-2 Kansas State, which promised the Orange Bowl Tuesday it would buy 25,000 tickets if selected.

Another, more unlikely, scenario involves undefeated Miami losing to 9-3 Virginia Tech this weekend. The loss would move 11-1 Georgia into the national championship game and possibly knock USC out of its automatic spot. Then the Sugar Bowl could select Notre Dame.

Minutes after Notre Dame lost to USC 44-13, Irish coach Tyrone Willingham started arguing his team's case for a BCS berth.

"The case is that we've played 12 ballgames and we've won 10 of those ballgames," he said. "We've been a very improved and very sound football team. This one game can not be a true indicator of that."

But Willingham's campaigning won't have any impact unless UCLA wins Saturday.

Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
WASHINGTON PROGRAM

- Study in the nation's capitol
- Work in an internship
- Fulfill philosophy, theology, and fine arts requirements
- Study public affairs
- Live in an exciting city

Applications for Fall 2003 & Spring 2004 are now being accepted online
- Open to Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors from all colleges

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www.nd.edu/~semester

Interested in running for Student Body President or Vice President?

Come to an informational meeting Thursday December 5th at 7pm in the Montgomery Theater. Information will be given out regarding elections, and we will be able to answer your questions.

If you are unable to attend, but are interested in running, please email Judicial Council President Danielle Ledesma at dledesma@nd.edu.

Observer Sports... we're all over Notre Dame like last summer's umbrella.
**MENS SWIMMING**

Irish look to get back on track at ND Invite

**By LISA REIJULA**
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's swimming and diving team will have plenty of chances to show its talent in the pool this week. The Irish host the Notre Dame Invitational starting today at Rolfs Aquatic Center. Five other teams will be in attendance at the three-day event — Virginia, Louisville, North Dakota and Saint Louis.

Junior Matt Obringer cited Big East rival West Virginia as a tough competitor. "Having a good team atmosphere while we're out there has a bigger effect than other people think," Tim Randolph said.

"Having a good team atmosphere while we're out there has a bigger effect than other people think." - Tim Randolph, freshman

Several of the participating teams have faced one another or common opponents already this season. Louisville lost to West Virginia and TCU — a team the Irish defeated Nov. 16. Wyoming beat North Dakota in a dual meet earlier.

"Having a good team atmosphere while we're out there has a bigger effect than other people think," Randolph said. "Just staying motivated and cheering for each other is huge." The Notre Dame Invitational will be a great opportunity for the Irish (4-3) to make a statement in the pool and prepare themselves for important upcoming meets.

The Invitational will take place all day today, Friday and Saturday.

Contact Lisa Reijula at lreijula@nd.edu

---

**NOTRE DAME HOCKEY**

VS. BOWLING GREEN
SATURDAY - 7 PM
*Come Rock the Rink!!
*GREEN cow bells to the first 500 fans

SUNDAY - 5 PM
*MINI ZAMBONIS to the first 1,000 fans

Men's Swimming
Notre Dame Invitational
Thursday - Saturday
ALL DAY!!
Rolfs Aquatic Center

**GOLD GAME on Friday - Finals begin at 6:30 PM**
FIRST 100 FANS RECEIVE A FREE ADIDAS T-SHIRT

---

**IRISH EYES**

NOTRE DAME HOCKEY

VS. BOWLING GREEN
SATURDAY - 7 PM
*Come Rock the Rink!!
*GREEN cow bells to the first 500 fans

SUNDAY - 5 PM
*MINI ZAMBONIS to the first 1,000 fans

---

The Observer: Our sports stories are fewer than two weeks old. Guaranteed!
Crusade continued from page 24

and they play defense like USC
and we thought that would be
an advantage for us to have
had a game like that, so we
thought we'd be a little more
ready," McGraw said. "But we
actually looked really unpre-
pared."

The Irish saw domination
only once in the game. In the
opening minutes of the second
half, after allowing the
Crusaders to score on two
Jeanette Gray free-throws,
Notre Dame scored 12 unan-
swered points in three
minutes, taking a
42-30
lead with
15 minutes left to play.

"We got out and were able
to transition and get some
easy baskets," McGraw said.
"That's what we had not been
getting and did not get outside
of that little stretch."

After that, it was a struggle
for Notre Dame to keep the
lead. With just under five min-
utes remaining, Le'Tania
Severe, who had the best
Notre Dame defensive perfor-
mance along with 15 points,
scored Notre Dame's last field
goal. It was all foul shooting
for the rest of the game. In
fact, in the second half of play,
Notre Dame scored 23 points
on foul shots; the Irish only
scored 20 points from the
floor.

"There were a number of
things (that didn't go well)," Ratay hit six field goals and
Irish forward
Jackie
Batteast said.
"A lack of intensity at the
beginning of the game and we didn't come out and
match the way
they played."

It was senior
Alicia Ratay, coupled with
Severe, who
led the Irish
on the court.
Although Batteast and Katy
Blecky each added 13 points,
Ratay took control of the ball
to keep the score close and
Severe took control of her
team to keep them focused.

"I knew
it was
getting closer
and closer
and I knew I
had to
score," Ratay
said.

The Irish
will have two
days off
before
taveling to
Arizona State to face the Sun
Devils on Saturday.

Contact Katie McVoy at
mcvo5695@smu.edu
Happy Town

Happy Birthday: It's time to take control and make your move. You must concentrate on what is important and refuse to be sidetracked. Be smart, do your research well and nothing will stand in your way. Your numbers are 13, 20, 22, 23, 33.

Merry Christmas: Your ability to see both sides of an issue will enable you to plant seeds and win friends with people who can make a difference. Actualize what it is you want to accomplish and others will bend over backward to help you succeed.

HAPPY TOWN

Keep your eyes peeled. He's a tough one to spot...

Is he that nugget amidst clay under the sneeze ghost?

IT'S A FOOD MARKET.

Crossword

CLARE O'BRIEN

by Mike Argirion

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

26 Head of "Love Story"
29 Acronyms, e.g.
30 Unit smaller than a foot
31 Varied group
34 Extra-large and others
36 Second part of what's hidden
38 Precious one
40 Oral cavity
43 Trio after Q
47 "Too bad"
49方案 publishing point
53 Tune from the past
56 Husk
56 End of what's hidden
59 Half of it is a nickel
62 Italian-American
65 Expectant loves
66 Necromancer's home, in the Bible
67 Mariners
68 Evening in Venezuela
69 Swivel
70 Super Prefix
71 Academic challenge
72 Goal square
73 Exìmik's home
74 Teacher's instruction
75 Husband's wife
76 Anacron's wife
77 Exìmik's home
78 Half-a-film penitent
79 Don't go so slow!
80 Noted French landscapist
81 Establish new habits for
82 Walk slowly
83 Strongiking
84 Illustrator who pimped Twisted Tuna.
86 Decorated pilot

DOWN

26 N. Of "The Bible"
30 Larger than 1,000
30 One that's dry
32 Kohl's, e.g.
32 "I'm in love with you"
42 Circular object
44 Not where the dog wants something with the "No!
45 Since it, at a place
52 Hymn that the Good Thing... does not want it
55 Stay on the path
56 "We can do it!
57 And a fast-paced way
58 Next year's first letters
61 An ordinary thing
62 "No!
63 A very bad word
64 "No!
65 A very bad word
66 Not a thing
67 "No!
68 A second helping
69 "No!
71 A very bad word
72 "No!

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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72 "No!
73 A very bad word
74 A second helping
75 A very bad word
76 A very bad word
77 A very bad word
78 A second helping
79 "No!
80 A second helping

JUMBLE

by Mike Argirion

UNREACHABLE

1. Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to match, to form four ordinary words

LELOH

GISEE

DIPPER

THIEGY

Answers: A

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

Yesterday's Jumbles: GNARL TWINE RADIUS PALATE

Answer: How they drove to their school reunion — in the "FAST-LANE".

Stumped? Call 1-900-776-6714 (99 cents a minute)

Visit The Observer on the web at http://observer.nd.edu/
WOMENS BASKETBALL

Too close for comfort

No. 9 Irish have trouble with Valparaiso, but escape with 74-68 victory

By KATIE McVOY
Assistant Sports Editor

The war wasn’t holy. Nonetheless, the crusade was on.

Valparaiso was on a quest to end its 15-game losing streak to Notre Dame, and the Crusaders almost reached the promised land.

With just under two minutes left, the Crusaders were trailing ninth-ranked Irish by only seven. But the Irish won the final battle, and Notre Dame managed the 74-68 victory.

But right now, they don’t want to have to fight again.

"This has been a tough place to play ... We’re thinking about not coming here anymore."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

"We played fearlessly," said Crusaders guard Kathy Knoester, who totaled 14 points in a strong second half of play.

Under the leadership of junior Suzie Hammel, who scored 17 points, the Crusaders played above and beyond the expectations of their opponent. In the first half, Valparaiso rebounded from a nine-point deficit to bring the game within three as the teams headed into the locker room.

"I thought Hammel was outstanding," McGraw said. "She was impossible for us to guard ... We just didn’t have an answer for her. She did pretty much whatever she wanted to.

The Irish, on the other hand, looked anything but ready to play and McGraw had to keep her team focused on the task at hand. In the first half, Notre Dame only out-rebounded its much smaller opponent by two. The Irish looked sluggish and, despite facing a similar defense in USC, the offense looked like it was completely unfamiliar with its opponent.

"We watched them on film... We just didn’t have an escape with 7 4-68 victory.

Associate Sports Editor

Irish coach Muffet McGraw covers her eyes during Notre Dame’s game against Valparaiso Wednesday night. The Irish were able to squeak out a victory against the Crusaders, 74-68.

ANALYSIS

Gator Bowl will choose Irish if BCS overlooks them

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Sports Writer

Notre Dame’s bowl picture is slowly coming into focus, and the Irish may not like the image they see.

The only way the 10-2 Irish can lock up a spot in a BCS bowl is by earning one of the two at-large spots and finishing in the top 12 of the final BCS rankings released Sunday. If Notre Dame doesn’t qualify for a BCS bowl, the team would probably be heading for a Gator Bowl official.

The Irish officially learn their bowl fate Sunday. The problem for Notre Dame’s BCS hopes is that one of the at-large berths may already be disappeared.

The Big Ten announced Tuesday 11-1 Iowa was guaranteed a berth in one of the BCS bowls, most likely the Rose Bowl. Assuming Miami and Washington State win Saturday, each clinching their respective conference championships, USC would finish fourth in the BCS rankings and automatically clinch the final at-large spot. According to the BCS rules, a team that finishes fourth in the final rankings but doesn’t win its conference championship is guaranteed a BCS berth.

If that scenario becomes a reality and the Irish aren’t selected for a BCS berth, a Gator Bowl representative said the Gator Bowl would choose Notre Dame.

Moreover, because a non-BCS Notre Dame team falls into the Big East bowl arrangements, the Irish could not reject a Gator Bowl invitation in favor of another bowl.

That means the Irish would face 10-3 North Carolina State on Jan. 1 in Jacksonville, Fla. Under that situation, Miami and Ohio State would meet in the Fiesta Bowl for the national championship, the SEC champ would play ACC champ Florida State in the Sugar Bowl.

BASEBALL

Irish second baseman Steve Sollmann was selected Big East Preseason Player of the Year, and the Irish were selected to win the conference.

MENS SWIMMING

Notre Dame Invitational

Today-Saturday

The swimming team will face off against competitive squads from across the country in the Notre Dame Invitational today, Friday and Saturday.

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