Financial aid changes won't hurt ND

University will still meet all student need

By CLAIRE HEININGER
New Editor

Notre Dame students who receive federal financial aid will not suffer as a result of recent changes to the government formula that determines aid eligibility, according to University administrators. The changes, which will take effect in the 2005-06 academic year, will mean reduced federal aid for some college students in many states, particularly New York, Delaware, Massachusetts, Michigan, South Carolina, Virginia and Wisconsin. But because Notre Dame is committed to meeting 100 percent of each student's demonstrated need, the University will make up for any cuts in federal aid, said Joseph Russo, director of the Office of Financial Aid.

"The impact in our mind is relatively modest," Russo said. "We're very blessed here that we do have resources, and we can make those commitments."

Approximately one-third of all Notre Dame undergraduates receive some federal financial aid — types of which include Pell Grants, college work-study, federally subsidized Stafford Loans, Perkins Loans and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants — but not all will see their eligibility affected, Russo said.

Depending on a student's individual circumstances, the University will compensate for any reduced eligibility for one form of aid with aid from other sources, Russo said. And while he didn't want to belittle students at other universities who will be hurt by the changes, he said speculation about the decrease has been "blown way out of proportion."

"It's somewhat of a political issue ... and I do think it's been totally exaggerated," he said. "It is not going to change the [national] demographics of who's going to college."

The cuts' impact on Notre Dame students who are in the process of applying to college will be cushioned by the University's financial aid office. 

"We've been in contact with South Bend's Transpo, and we're going to make sure those people are well taken care of," Russo said.

Early 2009 applicants impress

Ethnic minority numbers constant

By CLAIRE HEININGER
New Editor

With its Dec. 31 application deadline past, the Office of Admissions now turns its attention to shaping the Notre Dame Class of 2009 — which, thanks to 2,800 early action action applicants, is already coming into focus.

That number is 200 applicants lower than last year, but this year's early action group is academically stronger than past applicant pools. Director of Admissions Dan Saracino said.

And while the admissions office is still counting regular decision applications, he said, and therefore still "guessing" what the final applicant pool will look like, early action offers a preliminary picture.

Of the 1,362 applicants who were admitted under early action — the remaining 1,438 were denied or deferred to the regular decision pool — 17 percent are ethnic minorities, Saracino said.

"That should transfer into a total of 22 or 23 percent when the dust settles come May," he said, which is consistent with the Class of 2008.

CSC moves up break deadline

Seminar applications due 2 weeks earlier

By TRICIA de GROOT
News Writer

Due to a request by the Office of the Registrar, the deadline for applications to Center for Social Concerns service learning seminars has been moved up two weeks compared to past years.

The change was made to simplify the registration process for these one-credit courses, said Angela Miller-McGraw, director of the Appalachia Program and Educational Immersions for the CSC.

"Students will be able to register by special permission within the registration period, which will reduce paperwork for the Registrar's Office and the CSC, and we will also be able to finalize details with students earlier," she said.

Notre Dame students participate in a Center for Social Concerns service learning seminar last semester.
Get out your Eagles green

You should be pleased to know that we are coming up on arguably the best time of the year. The first is in full, when South Bend is warm and the NFL is wide open and the Irish are free of embarrassing gridiron losses and baseball is starting to get really interesting, although my beloved Phillies are usually eliminated around this time. The second is March, when college basketball is the passion of every sports fan and the bracket queen is a beautiful vision whose one can hope the Eagles have a stellar rotation and deep ballparks. But it’s a new year right now, a new season beginning, a time of year where the slate is wiped clean and every student sees dozens of hot showers and 4.0 grades. This is the time where conference play is starting in the always interesting Big East basketball conference and spring break plans are being made and most importantly, I am strengthening my soul to endure another round of the playoffs.

There are a lot of religious people in my part of eastern Pennsylvania, but most of us aren’t devout Eagles fans the way the Amish are devout Christians. It’s a salve on very day of, because there’s always something new to discuss. When Terrell Owens burst onto the scene before this season began, we had a new set of antis to discourse over the dinner table. Andy Reid’s brilliant management of the salary cap, a surprisingly dominant secondary and the Campbell’s Soup commercials featuring Donovan McNabb and his mother that there’s never a dull moment in Eagles country.

By November, it looked like a straight shot to the Super Bowl against the much reviled Steelers from the dirtier, less civilized western part of the great state of Pennsylvania. Like Eagles fans everywhere, I was allowing myself dreams of the big dance that has eluded my beloved team for the past three straight years. I couldn’t have written a better script with a happier ending.

And then came Dallas to ruin everything. Okay, all is not lost. But suddenly the NFC is a wide-open gambler’s night mare. And with the barely .500 Vikings upping the Pacemakers, I feel like anything can happen at my favorite feeling.

When Owens went down against Dallas, a little piece of my heart died.

So come this weekend, I’ll adjust the channel on my motor antenna on our television, put all fragile objects far out of reach and tune into the NFL playoffs like the other 14.6 billion Americans. I’ll have a meal that I thought I’d never eat. And all the while, the Eagles are playing with jubilation.

In the end, the Eagles are about as close to unbeatable as a team can get these days. I know nothing of sports, but – like most people – I am a devout fan of the Eagles and will support them come what may. It’s an occupation that’s dear to my heart.

Questions of the Day: What’s the worst plane flight you’ve been on?

Mike O’Connor
Carroll freshman

“The one that got cancelled that was supposed to take me home for Thanksgiving.”

Carrie Lott
Off campus senior

“Tolifo, 30, said the woman on duty at the gas station was more than a little skeptical when two men showed up with a trolley and a truck, wanting to remove her ATM. ‘She calmed down when I explained that the machine was empty and that I had a contract to pick it up,‘ Tolifo told the local Roanoke Rapids newspaper.”

“Tolifo, 30, said the woman on duty at the gas station was more than a little skeptical when two men showed up with a trolley and a truck, wanting to remove her ATM. ‘She calmed down when I explained that the machine was empty and that I had a contract to pick it up,‘ Tolifo told the local Roanoke Rapids newspaper.”

Jackie Carter
Freshman Associate

“I’ve only been on one plane flight, but the food is great next to smelled like salmon.”

Dan Keough
Sophomore Palygore

“My luggage got lost and I had to sit next to two fat guys.”

OFFBEAT

Bank discards loaded cash machine

OSLO, Norway — Arild Tofte and Kasse Hegdahl know that recycling pays, but they weren’t quite prepared for the jackpot that a scrambled cash machine contained. It was full of cash. Enough to buy a house and take a luxury vacation.

The two Norwegians run a recycling company in the western Norway town of Aordanalen, and had been hired by the Sparebanken Moore bank to remove an outdated automatic teller machine, or ATM, from a gas station, media reported Wednesday.

In Brief

Campus Ministry will sponsor a mass for victims of the Asian tsunami today from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The film “Motorcycle Diaries” will be shown today and Friday at two times, 7 and 10 p.m., in the Browning Theater of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The Notre Dame women’s swimming team will take on Michigan and Illinois Friday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Rolfs Aquatic Center.

The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will sponsor a preview of the movie “The Choir” Friday at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Theater. The film won a Golden Globe award and will be shown in French with English subtitles. Tickets must be reserved in advance through DPAC.

The men’s tennis team will play Toledo Saturday from 11 a.m. in the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The men’s basketball team will compete against St. John’s Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Joyce Center Arena.

Saint Mary’s will celebrate the inauguration of new president Carol Mooney on Friday, with events planned throughout the day.

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

Correction

Due to a printing error, an article in the Jan. 12 edition of The Observer said that International Student Services and Advising for Non-Hiune students or professors were going to be cut in the spring term. The ISA does not track students and only certified students will be cut.

Due to a printing error, an article in the Jan. 12 edition of The Observer said that the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team was officially dedicated Jan. 4. There was actually a small informal event that day, and the official induction will be a University event at a later date.

The Observer regrets these errors.
Returning students face airline problems, delays

By STEVE KERINS

For Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students traveling home or for vacation over winter break, airport hassles in South Bend, Chicago and elsewhere caused delays and frustration. Numerous incidences of severe weather, increased volume at major airports due to holiday travel and logistical issues combined to produce increased delays and cancellations.

Airports and airlines began to experience increased problems during Christmas week, causing US Airways and Comair to ground dozens of flights. The airlines also cited increased sick calls from staff and crew and computer troubles as causes. Also, a prolonged cold snap and heavy snows slowed air travel throughout the Midwest.

Heavy rains and snow in California and other areas of the Southwest over the past several days have caused major and minor travel delays at airports nationwide. "I had one flight cancelled because the plane broke down and another one was cancelled because of snow in Nevada," said freshman Jessica Badger, who was traveling back to Notre Dame from her hometown, Carson City, Nev. "We took an orchestra tour to California," said sophomore Patrick Wood. "We flew back to D'Hare. We were delayed an hour. It was a couple days after they shut down the airport, so they overcompensated."

Freshman Louis Gularte flew from San Francisco to Chicago's O'Hare airport, where his United flight to South Bend was cancelled. "There was no South Bend flight that I really could have gotten on," he said, noting that there were too many stand-by passengers for too few remaining flights. "I took the bus back."

Other students experienced problems due to airport issues. "I was going from Los Angeles to South Bend, with a stopover in Cincinnati," sophomore Liz Clifton said. "The elevators at LAX were broken, and I had to wait an hour and a half to get to the gate. My flight was delayed for two hours because of equipment malfunctions."

In Cincinnati, Clifton found more delays. "The flight to South Bend was delayed seven hours and full from stand-by. I would have had to stay overnight, so I eventually got off in Cincinnati and had my husband Mark drive me to South Bend," she said.

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

Astronaut, ND alum returns

Special to The Observer

Astronaut and Notre Dame graduate James D. Wetherbee has retired from NASA to pursue other interests. He flew six times aboard the space shuttle and is the only U.S. astronaut to command five space flights.

Most recently, Wetherbee, 52, served as the space shuttle lead in the Independent Technical Authority at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC). His earlier positions included service as technical assistant to the director of JSC's Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate, two years as director of Flight Crew Operations at JSC, and five years as the deputy director of JSC.

"Jim is a true expert in space operations, who has dedicated his life to space exploration," said Director of Flight Crew Operations Ken Bowersox. "His engineering sense and relentless attention to detail were critical to the success of all his space missions. Those same skills will serve our country well, as Jim moves on to new challenges."

Wetherbee was selected to the astronaut corps in 1984 and served as pilot on his first space flight in 1990. He was the commander on missions in 1992, 1995, 1997, 2001 and 2002, and his flights included the first rendezvous by a shuttle with the Russian Mir Space Station, a docking mission to Mir, and two flights to the International Space Station.

Woman charged in child's death

Earlier Wednesday, the 12-year-old was ordered held without bail following his arraignment on rape and murder charges; the juvenile case was closed.

District Attorney William Bennett said Marisol Alverio acted with malicious intent to commit rape and murder. Bennett did not reveal the relationship between Alverio and the 12-year-old, whose name was not released because of his age.

However, the victim's aunts and a male friend of Alverio said she was the older boy's mother. They said she was a family friend who had been caring for the preschooler while his parents were in Puerto Rico on family business.

Bennett would say only that the caregiver was not a member of the victim's immediate family.

And still we rise...

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18: TOWN HALL MEETING

7:00-8:00 PM

COLEMAN-MORSE CENTER

REMEMBERING IS NOT ENOUGH
Iraq continued from page 1

Ferrell found out from his battalion that the event was actually an accident.

"But their understanding was that I still merited the award, according to Purple Heart criteria," he said.

However, according to the letter Ferrell received from the Department of the Navy, a copy of which was obtained by The Observer, his injuries were purely accidental and did not merit the medal.

"Although your injury occurred during a combat operation, your command verified that your injury was the result of a vehicle accident and was not caused directly or indirectly by enemy action," the letter stated.

According to U.S. military guidelines that govern who receives the award, the medal is "awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or due to wounds received in action."

Ferrell said that according to his knowledge, 10 other servicemen who were in Iraq also recently had their Purple Hearts revoked, including the other two passengers in his vehicle.

"I don't want my own medal revoked. It would be odd for me to wear it after all this," Ferrell said.

But Ferrell has been working with U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky, D-Dan., to get the medals reinstated for some of the others.

"One situation that kind of got me going was a guy that got run over by a tank and had his medal taken away," Ferrell said, noting that Purple Hearts are awarded in cases of friendly fire but not in an accident such as this.

"They need to make sure that they know what they're doing before they hand these things out," Ferrell said.

Ferrell said his main goal is to raise awareness of the problem faced by those who lost their Purple Hearts, clarifying the criteria used to award the medal and changing the award process, if need be.

"I don't know what's going to come of this, but I'm going to keep fighting," Ferrell said.

Ferrell, who participated in ROTC, while at Notre Dame, said the school greatly affected his life.

"Growing up at a place like Notre Dame really helped make me a better officer, a moral decision maker," Ferrell said, adding that he converted to Catholicism in 1999.

Ferrell never expected that war might break out and that the military would send him to Iraq.

"War was the farthest thing from my mind," he said.

Ferrell figures that after having his Purple Heart taken away he "might as well have been in a tough accident at home," he doesn't regret going to Iraq.

"I know that it's a possibility I might not have come home, and I'm very lucky," he said.

Ferrell now has a non-combat job as an assistant operations officer at Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna10@nd.edu

Aid continued from page 1

Dame's student demographic goals will likely be negligible, said Dan Saracino, director of the Office of Admissions.

Because the core financial aid promise remains the same, the changes "are not going to hurt us in our efforts to increase and maintain socioeconomic diversity at Notre Dame," he said.

"The only way it could impact us would be indirectly, if the public reads in the press about this big cut, they may just honestly say there's no way I can afford Notre Dame now and they won't apply," Saracino added. "But if they talk with anyone [at the University] who knows about admissions and financial aid, they'll realize that it isn't going to stop their ability to come to Notre Dame."

The government expects to save $300 million in the 2005-06 academic year as a result of the adjustments, which will cause at least 1.3 million students nationwide to receive smaller Pell Grants. Though the formula is supposed to be updated annually, Russo said, the legislative changes will be the first in 18 months.

"Because the political dynamic delayed it last year ... no one wanted to be the bad guy," he said. "But the adjustment has to happen, and we don't want it to look like a show-stopper in terms of... students changing their mind," he said.

Contact Claire Heining at cheining@nd.edu

Early continued from page 1

2007's 21 percent and the Class of 2008's 22 percent ethnic minority representation.

Like the regular decision group, distinctions such as ethnic minority status stand out in the early applicant pool, where a solid academic record alone may not be enough, Saracino said.

"We kind of raise the bar a little bit with early action," he said.

Only about 200 of those who cleared that bar this year have decided to attend Notre Dame, Saracino said. But that figure is typical for this early stage in the admissions cycle, he said, adding that a rush of confirmations usually takes place when financial aid packages are offered in late March.

"The students who are going to confirm with us before April 1 are the students [for whom] money's not a big concern — ROTC scholarships, athletes," Saracino said.

Like regular decision applicants, early action applicants have until May 1 to confirm enrollment. The luxury of more time to decide on a college — more than four months, since they are informed whether or not they will be offered admission by Dec. 20 — is one advantage early action applicants enjoy, Saracino said.

That service to students is the reason Notre Dame has always offered non-binding early action instead of binding early decision, he said, and will not convert to early action — single choice, a new option offered by Harvard and Yale and Stanford Universities beginning last year.

"They're saying, basically, too, if we're going to go through the trouble of reading your file in November when it's really, really busy, we don't want to go through the trouble unless you're telling us we're your first choice," Saracino said. "And my feeling is kind of, well, tough. So, you have to work a little harder to review files... Notre Dame is fortunate in that doing the right thing [by offering open early action] is, to me, a no-brainer."

Maddie Hanna contributed to this report.

Contact Claire Heining at cheining@nd.edu

Thursday
Student Stand-up Comedy (10pm)
Brew & View: Pulp Fiction (Midnight)
Friday
Roots Rock Society - Live Reggae Band (10pm)
Beach Party w/ DJ Ill John (Midnight)
Saturday
The Argument — sponsored by SUB (10pm)
Nightclub w/ Kim-Jon (Midnight)

LEGENDS of NOTRE DAME
All Shows Free | ND, SMC, HCC ID Required

Contact Claire Heininger at cheining@nd.edu

Free Sandas.
This Friday.
Visit www.nd.edu/~legends for details.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Car bombs on the rise in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Car bombs echo across Baghdad and a constellation of cities around Iraq nearly every day, inflicting slaughter and ballot-box damage, a reminder to all who see or hear them that the country's insurgents can strike almost anywhere.

Vehicle-borne explosives, often detonated by suicide attackers, have become one of Iraq's most deadly weapons — a two-year wave of mass destruction that has led to a rate of one or more a day in recent months.

Aids spreading rapidly in Russia

MOSCOW — HIV/AIDS is spreading at a dev­astating pace in Russia, with a new study showing an estimated 1 million people infected — the true number is closer to 1 million, the study estimated the number of AIDS deaths in Russia at about 4,800, almost three times the official figure of 1,500. If officials ignore the problem, "the conse­quences will be devastating to the society, famil­ies, to the military, labor productivity" within two to three years, Feshbach said by telephone from Washington.

NATIONAL NEWS

Supreme Court makes changes

WASHINGTON — A splintered Supreme Court threw the nation's federal sentencing system into turmoil Wednesday, ruling that judges have been sentencing some 60,000 defendants a year unconstitution­ally.

In ordering changes, the court found 5-4 that judges have been improperly adding to time to some criminals' prison stays. The high court stopped short of scrapping the nearly two-decade-old guideline system, intended to make sure sentences do not vary widely from courtroom to courtroom.

In an order that has focused on that," he said, adding that they would handle any future reports that might come in.

At a meeting last month, McClellan had thanked the chief U.S. weapons inspector, Charles Duelfer, for his work. A special adviser to the CIA director, Duelfer will deliver a report on Iraq's weapons next month. McClellan said it is not expected to funda­mentally difer from the findings of a report last fall.

The report said that Iran had no weapons of mass destruction and had not made any since 1991. However, he said the govern­ment harbored intention­ions of recreating its weapons programs and had gone to great lengths to manipulate the U.N. oil-f­or-food program.

At the time, Bush strongly defended his decision to invade Iraq. Saddam "retained the knowledge, the materials, the means and the intent to produce weapons of mass destruc­tion, and he could have passed that knowledge on to our terrorist enemies," Bush said in October.

On Wednesday, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California said, "Now that the search is finished, President Bush needs to explain to the American people why he was so wrong, for so long, about the reasons for war."

The end of the weapons hunt comes as the Bush administration struggles with a dangerous security situation in Iraq leading up to Jan. 30 elections.

U.S. troops arrived in Iraq with the belief that Iraq was home to weapons of mass destruction. On Wednesday, the White House made it clear this is not the case.

Washington governor inaugurated

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Democrat Christine Gregoire, winner of one of the closest gover­nor's races in U.S. history, was inaugurated Wednesday in a legal challenge that could undo her election.

A roar of approval went up from fellow Democrats as Gregoire raised the oath of office before a joint session of the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

Republicans, who had battled unsuccess­fully to delay her inauguration, gave her a frosty reception.

LOCAL NEWS

Midwest weather causes crashes

ALTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. At least two people died and 25 others were injured when about 100 vehicles crashed on a thick fog on a Michigan highway, police said.

One person also was killed in Indiana where 18 vehicles piled up amid heavy fog on a highway east of South Bend. Numerous others were injured.

The National Weather Service had issued a dense fog advisory for the area, saying visi­bility could be less than a quarter of a mile.

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon fended off the latest challenge to his Gaza pullout plan on Wednesday, winning a parliamentary vote that had threatened to bring down his hard-line government.

But hard-liners in his Likud Party said they would work to topple him if he doesn't put his pullout plan to a national referendum — a step he has ruled out.

The prime minister signed around Sharon's 2005 state budget, which must pass three votes by March 31. Otherwise, the government must resign and new elections would be scheduled, putting the Gaza pullout in jeopardy.

Sharon this week formed a new gov­ernment with the dovish Labor Party and a small ultra-Orthodox Jewish party. The alliance, with the occasion­al backing of several opposition par­ties, gives Sharon a solid majority in favor of the Gaza withdrawal, despite objections from 13 Likud lawmakers.

Without the hard-liners' support, however, Sharon doesn't have enough votes to push his budget through par­liament. Some of the opposition par­ties backing the withdrawal oppose Sharon's 2005 spending plan.

Just before Wednesday's vote, the Likud rebels said they would tem­porarily support the budget. But they threatened to oppose the budget in subsequent votes if Sharon does not hold a referendum on the pullout plan.

"It was decided unanimously to sup­port the budget until the second and third readings," Yehiel Hazan, one of the hard-liners, said before the 64-53 vote. "We call on the prime minister to reconsider holding a referendum."

Sharon has rejected a referendum as a stalling tactic. Sharon's spokesman, Asaf Shariv, said after the vote that the prime minister's opinion hasn't changed.

Sharon was expected to court the ultra-Orthodox Shas Party to shore up support for the budget.

Sharon fends off latest challenge
Trips
continued from page 6
our site partners earlier in
the semester," Miller-McGraw
said.
The Center for Social
Concerns offers one-credit
service seminars that allow
students to examine various
social issues during fall, win­
ter and spring breaks.
Traditionally, the deadline
for the spring service seminars
has been at least two weeks
after students return from
winter break, but this year, af­ter
a series of earlier con­
versations between the Office
of the Registrar and the CSC’s
site partners, the deadline was
moved to today, the third day
of spring semester classes,
said Miller-McGraw.
The CSC is offering six sem­i­nars for the March 6-12 spring
break this year. The Appala­chia Seminar, at 225
students, is the largest. The
early deadline prompted
concerns about fewer appli­
cants compared to previous
years.
However, Miller-McGraw
said the number of applicants
remained high, but the
Appalachia Seminar still had
open spaces. She would not
provide specific numbers
about how many people had
applied as of Wednesday com­
pared to the numbers of appli­
cations received by the CSC on
the day before the deadline of
previous years.
The CSC was also not able to
accept all applicants to the
class sizes, like the Migrant Experiences Seminar and the Children and Poverty Seminar, due to limited fund­
ing and site accommodations.
"It may take some time for
students to adjust to the earli­er
application process now that
it coincides with the regu­lar
registration period, but I do
not think it will have a sig­nificant effect on the pro­grams," Miller-McGraw said.
The deadline for applications
is today, but there may be
a grace period for students
unaware of the changed dead­
dealine if spaces are still open in
the Appalachia program,
Miller-McGraw said.

Contact Tricia de Groot at
pgdegroot@nd.edu

Research office appoints director

Special to The Observer

Michael Edwards, currently
director of technology transfer
in Notre Dame’s graduate
school has been named assis­
tant vice president and director
of the Office of Research. The
appointment is effective Jan­
uary 18.
Edwards succeeds Howard
Hanson, who is retiring after
serving in the Office of
Research for 15 years, the last
five as assistant vice president
and director.
The Office of Research helps
faculty members obtain and
manage the funding they need
to support their research and
scholarship.
"The doubling of sponsored
research alb these two years
requires us to provide new levels of adminis­
trative support and service to
faculty and students at the
University," said Jeffrey Kantor,
vice president for graduate
studies and research. 'I'm look­
ing forward to working with
Mike to meet this challenge."
"I'm privileged to have this
opportunity," Edwards said.
"Howard Hanson, with the sup­
sport of Jeff Kantor and the
leadership of the Graduate
School, has created a culture of
outstanding support to the facul­ty. With the addition of the
superb staff in the Office of
Research, I intend to maintain
that culture and continually
seek ways to improve it."
Edwards came to Notre Dame
in 1986 as an assistant profes­
sor of military science. He
returned in 1997 as a professor
and chair of the Army ROTC
program and was named direc­
tor of technology transfer in
2000.
Prior to coming to Notre
Dame, Edwards served on
active duty in the U.S. Army for
24 years, retiring with the rank
of lieutenant colonel.

Senate
continued from page 1
they've already started
offering a discounted stu­
dent pass of $25 for 31 days
of rides. And we're still
talking about late-night
routines," Baron said.
"Now we've taken a dif­ferent
approach and are talking
directly to the bar owners to
encourage transportation
to different locations."
The Commis­
ittee on Res­
idence Life, chair­
ed by
Sarah Bates,
launched a
non­
Sen­ate member of the com­
mittee, presented a resolu­
tion calling for Food
Service's serious considera­
tion of adding a "Flex 10"
option to the two existing
meal plans.
"Flex 10" would restrict students to 10 meals in the
dining hall per week, but propor­tionally increase the
number of FlexPoints grant­
ed to them each semester. A
survey done by the Commis­sion on Resid­
ence Life found that over 50 per­
cent of respondents favored
such a plan - a number
upswards of 60 percent if
freshmen were factored out.

"We're not saying every­
thing offers it [Flex 10], but
there's a definite need, and
students deserve it," Hoeffel
said. "They're not using all
these services, and over 70
percent of students sur­
veyed said they ran out of
FlexPoints."

Student body president
Adam Istan pointed out
that, "as the Flex 14 ey­
currently stands, Food
Services assumes that
students will only eat 11 meals
per week."
"So what it comes down to
is asking for more Flex­
Points, because the Dining Halls
are going to project supply
and demand the same way," Istan said.

Debate became focused on
the plan's feasibility, but
Baines emphasized that the
resolution was intended to
be a broad statement of
support of a general idea, in
hope that it would stir Food
Services to establish a more
intense debate of the
details so that it could be
officially sanctioned or
ruled out.
The motion passed, and a
copy of the resolution will
now be sent to both the
Campus Life Council and
Food Services.

Contact Amanda Michaels at
amichaels@nd.edu
Trade deficit hits record high

Reliance on foreign oil and a record import of foreign food cause increase

**Market Recap**

**Dow Jones**

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**Treasury Secretary John Snow recognizes the need for domestic growth in the US.**

Reliance on foreign products has left the country a record trade deficit.

**Billionaire to start free newspaper**

DENVER — A media company owned by billionaire investor Philip Anschutz said Wednesday it will launch a free, six-day-a-week newspaper in the Washington, D.C., area in Feb.

The Washington Examiner, a tabloid, will replace three suburban newspapers that Anschutz's Urban Media Group bought from Journal Newspapers Inc. last year for an undisclosed sum.

The Examiner will be published Sunday in parts of Washington, a rarity for a free newspaper in a big media market. It is planning an initial daily circulation of about 250,000.

**McKesson will repay shareholders**

SAN FRANCISCO — Health services giant McKesson Corp. said Wednesday it has agreed to repay shareholders $960 million to settle a class-action lawsuit related to an accounting scandal that has resulted in criminal convictions of several former executives.

The case consolidated several class-action lawsuits brought on behalf of McKesson's shareholders burned by the financial shenanigans that occurred while the company bought software maker IIIO K & Co. in 1999.

The company said Wednesday it would establish a $2.70 per share fund for the discount and future claims stemming from 16 still-unresolved shareholder lawsuits.

The expense will saddle McKesson with an after-tax charge of $50 million. The company's shares were down 6 cents, or 14 percent, in after-hours trading Wednesday.

McKesson has been fighting dozens of lawsuits since an internal investigation concluded that HBOC had been fabricating revenue in the years leading up to its $12 billion sale.

**Engineered crops remain a success**

SAN FRANCISCO — Farmers around the globe planting genetically engineered crops enjoyed another bumper harvest last year even as political and financial pressure mounted from consumers in Europe and pockets of the United States, an industry-supported group said Wednesday.

Eight million farmers in 17 countries grew genetically engineered crops on 200 million acres in 2004, according to a report released by the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications. The report was paid for by two philanthropic groups, including the Rockefeller Foundation.

In 1996, the first year genetically modified crops were commercially available, about 4.3 million acres were under biotechnology cultivation.

"The technology is probably poised to assume a new era of growth," said the group's founder and chairman, Clive James. The group promotes use of the technology in poor countries.

James estimated that the number of biotech crop acreage could double by 2010, spurred on by China's expected approval to grow genetically engineered rice as soon as this year.

The most popular biotechnology crops contain bacteria genes that make the plants resistant to either bugs or weed killers.

While the dollar is down significantly against the euro over the past three years, it has declined much less against Asian currencies. China has refused administration pleas to stop linking its currency directly to the dollar, a practice that U.S. manufacturers contend has made the yuan as much as 40 percent undervalued, giving Chinese companies a huge competitive advantage.

Former Michigan Gov. John Engler, who heads the National Association of Manufacturers, said the administration needs to keep up the pressure on China not just on the currency issue but on other unfair trade practices as well.
The Office of Campus Ministry wishes to offer a warm “Welcome Back!” to all Notre Dame students. We’ve missed you!

For those students departing for study abroad, may God bless your travels and all your new experiences!

mass schedule

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<th>Basilica of the Sacred Heart</th>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm Vigil Mass</td>
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<td>Rev. Thomas Gaughan, csc</td>
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<td>Sunday, January 16</td>
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<td>10:00 am Sunday Mass</td>
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<td>Rev. Thomas Gaughan, csc</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45 am Sunday Mass</td>
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<td>Rev. John Conley, csc</td>
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Around Campus (every Sunday)

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<th>1:30 pm</th>
<th>5:00 pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish Mass</td>
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<td>Hall Chapel</td>
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Sunday’s Scripture Readings

1st: Isaiah 49:3, 5-6
2nd: 1 Corinthians 11:1-3
Gospel: John 1:29-34
Pakista

Renegade tribes force gas plant shutdowns

Associated Press

QUETTA — More than 2,000 troops took control of one of Pakistan's major natural gas plants and shut it down after renegade tribesmen fired hundreds of rockets, blowing up a pipeline and triggering clashes that have killed eight people in the last five days, officials said Wednesday.

Tribesmen frequently target security forces and gas facilities to demand higher royalties from gas extracted from their territory, according to the government.

Since Friday, attackers have fired 14,000 rounds of small arms fire, 435 mortars and up to 60 rockets at the plant in Sui, where about 22 percent of the natural gas supplied to Pakistan comes from, Interior Minister Atta Khan Sherpao told a news conference in Islamabad.

Soldiers were dispatched Tuesday after armed tribesmen stormed the gas plant and "started damaging it," senior government official Abdul Samad Lasi said. About 2,000 soldiers took control of the plant and captured at least five suspected attackers.

"The situation is now under control, and more paramilitary forces are expected to arrive in Sui today," Lasi said.

Sherpao said an army operation was not immediately planned in Sui. 220 miles southeast of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province.

"As far as army action is concerned, it is for the provincial government. ... If they have the matter under control the federal government will not intervene, but if they ask the federal government, then necessary steps would be taken," Sherpao said.

Eight people, three of them security personnel, were killed and another 33 people, mostly civilians, were wounded in five days of shootouts between assailants and government forces, officials said.

"The civilians suffered casualties when rockets fired by attackers hit their homes," Lasi said.

Authorities had to shut a gas plant and suspend some supplies because of the damage caused to a pipeline, said Abdur Rashied Lone, an official with the Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd., which operates the Sui gas field. He said he hoped supplies would be restored within 24 hours.

Indonesia

Affected regions' debt suspended

Associated Press

BANDA ACEH — The U.S. military faced restrictions Wednesday as the Indonesian government sought to reassess control over foreign troops, relief workers and journalists in the tsunami-devastated region, which also has been the site of a rebel insurgency.

In Paris, the world's wealthiest nations said they support the Indonesian government, aimed primarily at U.S. troops, underscore the nationalistic country's sensitivities at having foreign military forces operating there — even in a humanitarian effort.

They also come amid warnings from the Indonesian military that areas of tsunami-battered Aceh province may not be safe for aid workers.

Hundreds of from troops from Australia, Singapore, Germany and other nations are also helping the relief mission. The Indonesian military is providing security for all of them.

The aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, which is leading the U.S. military's relief effort, steamed out of waters Wednesday because the U.S. Navy only has permission from the Indonesian government to fly aircraft into its airspace that are directly supporting the humanitarian operation, said Lt. Cmdr. John M. Daniels, spokesman for the Lincoln carrier strike group.

The moves by the Indonesian government, which also includes a freeze on foreign military operations within Aceh by March 31 and a moratorium on debt payments by countries stricken by the Dec. 26 disaster that has killed more than 150,000 people,

"A three-month period is enough, even the sooner the better," Jusuf Kalla, Indonesia's vice president, said Wednesday at a news conference in Jakarta.

The government also ordered aid workers and journalists to declare travel plans or face expulsion from Aceh as authorities moved to reassert control of the rebellion-wracked area.

The White House said Wednesday it has asked the Indonesian government to explain the restrictions on aid workers and journalists.

"We'll seek further clarification from Indonesia about what this means," White House spokesman Scott McClellan. "We hope that the government of Indonesia and the military in Indonesia will continue the strong support they have provided to the international relief efforts so far."

At a Paris meeting Wednesday, a French official said the world's wealthiest nations, including the United States, believe a temporary suspension of billions of dollars in debt repayments by tsunami-devastated countries will provide a necessary "breath of oxygen" for recovery and reconstruction from the disaster that killed more than 150,000 people across southern Asia.
Journalist prisoner takes his fourth stand

Associated Press

LAKE CHARLES, La. — Forty-four years and three overturned convictions after he killed a bank teller in a lonely rural road, Wilbert Rideau took the stand Wednesday in hopes of winning his freedom by convincing jurors his actions fell short of murder.

Rideau, who became an award-winning journalist behind bars, has never denied his guilt.

His defense team hopes his fourth jury issue a verdict no worse than manslaughter, making him eligible for release because of the time he has already served.

"You killed Julia Ferguson, didn't you?" defense attorney Julian Murray asked Rideau.

"Yes," he answered, in the silent, packed courtroom.

Rideau, 62, insisted the robbery-murder was unplanned, and took shape as he reflected, at 19, on his poverty and lack of prospects as a black man in segregated Lake Charles.

"In say I was unhappy is an understatement," Rideau said. "I was miserable. I was desperate for change. I felt trapped. I made the mistake of feeling sorry for myself. I felt I needed a new life. Go somewhere, start all over. Different world, world where I might matter."

Under questioning from Murray, Rideau said nothing that had happened to him justified what he did to Ferguson in 1961. Prosecutors say that despite the renown he has received as a journalist, Rideau is a cold-blooded killer undeserving of release.

They used testimony from earlier trials and Rideau's own words in arguing for a fourth murder conviction and a life sentence.

Originally sentenced to death for Ferguson’s murder, Rideau was spared in the 1970s when the Supreme Court declared the death penalty unconstitutional. Meanwhile, he made a name for himself as part of a team that earned critical acclaim for the state penitentiary's prison magazine, "The Angelite."

His first two convictions were overturned on appeal. His third stuck until 2000, when a federal court said he was entitled to a fourth trial because blacks were excluded from the grand jury that indicted him.

State parole boards have recommended clemency four times. But Rideau's bid for clemency from a no-parole life sentence has been blocked by two governors in the face of stiff opposition from the victim's family and Lake Charles authorities.

Mudslide leaves man grieving

Associated Press

A CONCHITA, Calif. — Jimmie Wallet went out for ice cream, and when he got back, everyone and everything he had left behind were gone.

On Wednesday, he identified the bodies of his wife and three of his daughters, pulled from a tangle of homes smashed by a mudslide.

"It tears these cars up like they're toys." Greg Cleveland, fire captain Los Angeles County

"They never had a chance to get out," said Scott Hall, a battalion chief with Ventura County Fire Department.

His fourth daughter, a 16-year-old, had been in nearby Ventura when the slide happened.

"At least three people were missing," said Hall. "The number of missing slowly dropped Wednesday as more bodies were found and residents on the missing list either showed up at a town meeting or got in touch with authorities."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger viewed the damage by helicopter Wednesday, and declared a state of emergency in the county.

"It's extraordinary the way people have come together here from the moment the mudslides hit," he said.

The rainstorm that triggered the slide continued to bedevil the West, causing floods that destroyed houses in Arizona in Utah, washed out roads and forcing dozens of people from their homes. No serious injuries were reported, but one man was missing in Utah.

Crews using dogs, cameras and microphones intended to keep searching for survivors in La Conchita and then reassess the rescue operation on Thursday night.

The massive mound of mud covered several blocks and stood 30 feet high in some spots.

Scattered in the mud were a variety of household items, including surfboards, dish towels, golf clubs and canceled checks.

A pickup truck looked like it had been in an explosion. Other cars and mobile homes were crushed.

"It tears these cars up like they're toys." Los Angeles County Fire Capt. Greg Cleveland said.
Hacker gives libraries nearly $11 million

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The philanthropic organization established by Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates and his wife is giving nearly $11 million to public libraries in 37 states and the District of Columbia to buy computers and software and pay for faster Internet connections.

The cash grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, expected to be announced Thursday, are on top of $11 million the foundation has already given to public libraries across the U.S. The grants do not require libraries to buy any technology associated with Microsoft products.

The grants do not require libraries to buy any technology associated with Microsoft products. The foundation established by Gates, the billionaire software pioneer whose earliest technological experiences took place in school computer labs, gave "Staying Connected" grants last year to states that included the 13 not in this year's giving.

Since 1998, the foundation has given an estimated $250 million to buy 47,000 computers at 31,000 public libraries across the country, said Martha Ches, director of the organization's Global Libraries project.

The grants do not require libraries to buy any technology associated with Microsoft products.

Robbie Reed Jr., who was paralyzed in a car accident, visits his library in Ontario, Ore., every day. It's open to work on college classes online toward his science degree.

Reed said that his home computer and its Internet connection are too slow for the work and that library computers — paid for by the Gates Foundation — make it largely unnecessary for him to travel 60 miles to his college campus in Boise, Idaho. Reed, 25, said he expects to graduate in March 2006.

The grants do not require libraries to buy any technology associated with Microsoft products.

WASHINGTON — A hacker broke into a wireless carrier's network over at least seven months and read e-mails and personal computer files of hundreds of customers, including the Secret Service agent investigating the hacker, the government said Wednesday.

The hacker obtained an internal Secret Service memo-randum and part of a mutual assistance legal treaty from Russia. The documents contained "highly sensitive information pertaining to ongoing ... criminal cases," according to court records.

The break-in targeted the network for Bellevue, Wash.-based T-Mobile USA, which has 16.3 million customers in the United States. It was discovered during a broad Secret Service investigation, "Operation Firewall," which targeted underground hacking organizations known as Shadowcere, Carderplanet and Darkprofits.

Nicolas Lee Jacobsen, 21, of Santa Ana, Calif., a computer engineer, has been charged with the break-in in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. Investigators said they traced the hacker's online activities to a hotel in Williamsport, N.Y., where Jacobsen was staying.

Jacobsen, who was arrested in October in California, has been released on a $25,000 bond posted by his uncle, who was referred to keep his own personal computer locked up so Jacobsen couldn't use it.

The hacker was able to view the names and Social Security numbers of 400 customers, all of whom were notified in writing about the break-in, T-Mobile said. It said customer credit card numbers and other financial information never were revealed.

"Safeguarding T-Mobile customer information is a top priority for the company," said a spokesman, Peter Dobrow. He said T-Mobile discovered the break-in late in 2003 and "immediately took steps that prevented any further access to this system."

Court records said the hacker had access to T-Mobile customer information from at least March through October last year.

An online offer in March 2004, traced to Jacobsen, claimed hackers could look up the name, Social Security number, birth date and passwords for voice mails and e-mails for T-Mobile customers, court records said.

The Secret Service said its agent, Peter Caviglia, should not have been using his personal handheld computer for government work. Caviglia, a respected investigator who has specialized in tracking hackers, was a T-Mobile customer who coincidentally was investigating the T-Mobile break-in, according to court documents and a Secret Service spokesman, Jonathan Cherry.

Caviglia, who won the Secret Service's Medal of Valor for his actions in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, resigned to work in the private sector. He told The Associated Press he was not asked to leave and said he was cleared during an internal investigation into whether he had improperly revealed sensitive information or violated agency rules.

The case against Jacobsen was first reported by the Web site Security Focus, which is owned by Symantec Corp.

Cherry, the Secret Service spokesman, said the agency's own e-mail servers were not affected by the T-Mobile break-in. "The account was a personal account of a Secret Service agent that was for a time compromised," Cherry said.

he Observer

is currently accepting applications for the

2005-06 Editor-in-Chief

Applicants must submit BOTH a resume and at least an 8-PAGE proposal explaining their interest in the position and their plans for running the newspaper.

Applications are due Monday, January 17 by 5 p.m.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED TO

THE OBSERVER'S OFFICE

IN THE BASEMENT OF SOUTH DINING HALL.

Contact Editor-in-Chief Matt Lozar

at 1-4542

for more information.
South shores, bears and automobiles

By the approach of Christmas Break, my December blues was at a fever pitch. It was just a hop, skip and jump to Christmas Day, where I quickly unwrapped and discarded boxes of sweaters to get to toys, toys, toys.

As it’s been said, all things change. Over the past four Decemberers here at Notre Dame, I’ve spent most of the month hiding away high up in the stacks of the Hesburgh Library. My major concentration: Christmas comics filled with Jonathan Swift and Alexander Pope, neither of whom is nearly as delicious. Since I’ve been away my little brother has gotten much stronger and can easily fend off my attempts at gift piracy. And on Christmas Day these days I quietly unwrap and discard toys to get to sweaters, sweaters, sweaters.

But rather than dwell on what used to be and what might have been, I’d rather pass along a simple December story.

My brother and I were invited to a Chicago Bears game on the first Sunday of Christmas Break by a dorm-mate and friend of mine. We hopped on the South Shore and we were immediately greeted with an hour long delay in Michigan City. When the electric train lost power, producing the holdup, we laughed. It was like a scene out of one of my favorite holiday films, “Planes, Trains and Automobiles.” We were a real-life Steve Martin and John Candy and we’d have a good story to tell when we got back.

But life wasn’t finished initiating art. As we stood outside of Soldier Field after the game waiting in the dark for our train home on a night with heavy snowfall and a high temperature of five degrees, I experienced something much more painful and humiliating than the Bears’ 24-5 loss.

The South Shore, our trusty and safe ticket back, spoil right past us. As I stood there feeling hopelessly alone and panicking as to how we’d get home, my brother’s cell phone rang. It was our friend and his dad. They had seen our predicament and were ready to drive us back to South Bend. We were certainly not expecting such an uncommon act of kindness and it proved even more extraordinary when we ended up driving most of the way home at 35 miles per hour in complete white-out conditions. In a lifetime of living in the Midwest, I had never seen driving conditions so poor. What our friend’s dad saw, however, was two boys who needed to get home. It may seem like a simple story — a straightforward act of charity — but the English poet William Wordsworth said that the best part of a man’s life is his “little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and love.” At the core of every seemingly simple kindness like this is a wealth of great love. Saint Nicholas knew that. This is the story of my brother and I witnessed it first hand.

Bob Masters is a senior English major and co-president of the Illume Artists Club. He can be contacted at amasters@nd.edu.

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

A recent conversation with a friend who is kind enough to read my column, or at least courteous enough to pretend to, revealed that he had imagined that the night before a column is due I sit down at my desk in a state of hypercaffeinated delirium and simply type the first 500 words that come into my head. Because my friend may not be alone in thinking this, I’d like to take the opportunity to set the record straight.

As it turns out, I write the night before they’re due, after consuming an epic quantity of coffee — the precise dosage is known to caffeine connoisseurs as a “dose” — but this is how the columns are created: it’s how they are finished. Each installment of Englishman Abroad is the result of weeks of painstaking research. Sometimes I even play video games.

Not to be a truly successful cultural analyst, one’s writing must be grounded in a thorough knowledge of what one is writing about. And so, this Christmas, after a sobering Christmas reading of Hans Christian Andersen’s “A Christmas Carol,” I celebrated the birth of Christ with some good old fashioned simulated violence.

I won’t go into the specifics. At the time the game was very absorbing, but once it was over I found that I had already forgotten most of the details, although I do remember saving the world, possibly the universe.

(You’re welcome.)

I’ve seen many years since I last engaged in any serious gaming — I’m not even sure whether “game” was a verb back then. So the first thing that struck me was the production values. The game looked like a movie, which made it a lot more entertaining than the movies that play like video games.

Resident Evil: Apocalypse looked as if they had shot the whole thing in slow motion and used special effects to pump up the scenario with talking. They needn’t have bothered, but the dialogue still sounded like David Mamet compared to the script for the film adaptation of Tokken, in which one of the characters actually says: “Why are you so angry? Is it because your father threw you off that cliff?” — a line that’s so stupid it glows in the dark.

But the insanity of modern movies is a sure sign that the age of video games has arrived. The technological advances of video games are only a superficial development compared to the most important change, which is their audience. That’s the real new thing; video games for grown-ups.

By the time I was in my mid-teens video games already felt like something I should have put behind me, moving on to more mature (and hence girl-attracting) pursuits, such as practicing the electric guitar and writing angsty rimed sonnets for a band with a name like “Ennio.”

When people think of video games they usually focus on its beginning, Literally, an adolescent is someone who is in the process of becoming an adult (a social, not a biological category). As sociologists have recently begun to notice, kids are getting older younger (the sociologists are, as usual, about a decade behind the better funded market researchers who by now have abbreviated the phenomenon to KGOY).

“Tweens” is now the accepted term for the increasing number of 10-year-olds who are beyond the suffocating clothing and entertainment of 16-year-olds. It is used to be said that a generation of a conservative is a liberal with a teenage daughter; these days, thanks to tweens, the witticism is out date.

We are still waiting for the vocabulary to describe the fact that adolescence is also being extended in the other direction; if 10 is the new 16, then 30 is the new 20.

The strange thing about men in their mid-20s playing video games is that these days there isn’t anything strange about it. Men’s magazines such as FHM (“lifestyle” is the accepted euphemism for the category) contain pictures of pneumatic celebrities and video game reviews and see nothing odd about these days there isn’t anything strange about it. Men’s magazines such as Men’s Health, or at least courteous enough to pretend to, revealed that he had imagined that the night before a column is due I sit down at my desk in a state of hypercaffeinated delirium and simply type the first 500 words that come into my head. Because my friend may not be alone in thinking this, I’d like to take the opportunity to set the record straight.

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Kelly Clarkson breaks into pop rock

By BECCA SAUNDERS

Move over Avril and Ashlee, there is a new pop rock princess on the scene. Kelly Clarkson is a name everyone has heard, unlike most of her songs, which until now were not really worth listening too. In her second album "Breakaway," Clarkson reveals a new side of her self and a greater depth in her musical ability as an artist. The former wannabe pop princess has increased her breadth as she tackles songs with much harder rhythms and a darker side of her unquestionably strong voice.

Clarkson, the winner of the first "American Idol" contest, released a platinum album after the finals of "American Idol" in 2002. The album, called "Thankful," certainly had fans, but Clarkson's true talent and musical persona was still greatly called into question. "Breakaway" is an answer to the cynics who did not believe Clarkson to be a true "Idol." In "Breakaway," Clarkson proves that she is a mature musician who has sufficiently stretched herself and her music in her second album, and the results are nothing less than impressive.

The first two singles from "Breakaway" sum up the content of the album in a couple of ways. While the singles, "Breakaway" and "Since U Been Gone" are both great songs, they are very different from one another. "Breakaway," which was featured in "The Princess Diaries 2," is a ballad backed by a strong melody that showcases the diva side of Clarkson's powerful voice. Written by Avril Lavigne, "Breakaway" pretty much sounds like a slow track from an Avril Lavigne album, but with a much more powerful voice that was meant to sing ballads. The song talks about a dreamer that "grew up in a small town" and eventually leaves to pursue her dreams. Singing of the difficulty of leaving to do so Clarkson sings, "I'll spread my wings / And I'll learn how to fly / It's not easy / It's not easy / Goodbye / I gotta take a risk, take a change / And break away." The lyrics are cheesy, but any slight fan of the pop genre cannot help but get caught up in the emotion of this song. There are a handful of ballads backed by strong keys with Clarkson belting out huge notes and crescendos on the album. Conversely, there are also a handful of songs like "Since U Been Gone," which is a guitar driven rock song with a pop flavor. Hardly sentimental, "Since U Been Gone" is a song about newfound freedom after being dumped by a boyfriend. The song's energy is undeniable, "Since U Been Gone" is certainly one of the strongest songs on the album.

The new direction of Clarkson most likely has something to do with her choice of writing partners and producers for "Because of You" (written by Clarkson and David Hodges). This also may explain why in "Because of You" and especially in "Addicted" it is hard to tell if you are listening to Alanis Morissette or Kelly Clarkson.

"Breakaway" is a good album that shows great potential for Kelly Clarkson. However, Clarkson's true music style is not clear after listening to "Breakaway" as so many different paths are explored throughout the album. "Breakaway" is precisely what the title suggests for Clarkson, a break from the world of pop and into the world of rock, but how much farther is Clarkson going to travel? Only album three will tell.

Contact Becca Saunders at rsaunder@nd.edu

GTA music better suited for game

By MARIA SMITH

Fans of "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" have eagerly awaited the release of its official soundtrack and the more inclusive box set. The soundtracks from "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" were released on CDs originally, and fans hoped that the new soundtrack would reach the same heights.

The smaller official soundtrack concedes highlights from the hit video game into a two-disc set with an eclectic mix of hip-hop, funk, country and other genres. The collection of older hits from Rage Against the Machine, 2Pac, Public Enemy and others is obviously designed to take fans back to the rough streets of Los Angeles in the early 1990s when the artists were in their heyday. The expanded box set, with eight CDs with songs from the radio stations of the fictional Los Santos, aimed at the music paths of the game that want as much of the music as they can get.

Many of the songs on the official soundtrack are excellent in their own right. This is inevitable with a soundtrack that has picked its material from the artists who have already stood the test of the past decade or longer and remained popular. The problem is that the collection isn't really good enough to justify buying the soundtrack instead of investing in entire CDs by the acclaimed artists it features, nor does it carry the bragging rights of owning the box set. Fans of the game could certainly make a worse purchase, but it isn't a classic.

The box set offers a wider selection of less common music, which might be good for people who want to delve into more obscure music, but many of the tracks are not of the same quality as the hits on the condensed soundtrack. The discs also include imitation radio commercials and station identifications, which probably entertain some people but will be extremely irritating to others. Fans will be disappointed to learn that many of the songs featured in the game are not included in the box set. Some of the harder hip-hop has been removed, along with several others songs probably removed to save space, and other songs included are not actually the same versions featured in the game.

Anyone who buys the set will probably not like at least some of the featured genres, and will end up paying for music they will never really want to hear. Most fans have one or two favorite stations, and will not be likely to listen to the others much. Radio Los Santos modern hip-hop is a common favorite but has been cut to a mere five songs for the box set, while K-Rose country is likely to irritate anyone who is not a determined country fan. Annoying radio stations of various genres are readily available in most places for free, and people who spend the $50 to buy the box set will probably have to admit they only bought it for the sake of owning it and not for the quality of the music.

The songs chosen for "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" work well with in the context of the game. However, as with many soundtracks, they do not stand as well on their own, especially considering the substantial quantity of several songs in the box set. Leave the box set on the shelf and save your money for the next big game.

Contact Maria Smith at smsmith@nd.edu
Mario shows promising future

By COURTNEY WILSON
Scene Music Critic

R&B singer Mario is back with a new look and a fresh style. His sophomore album, appropriately titled "Turning Point," represents a maturing not only in his style, but his musical ambitions as well. At the age of 18, Mario released his first album, and gained a squad of teen followers with the remake of rapper Biz Markie's "Just a Friend." Now, at the age of 18, Mario attempts to extend his young fan base for a slightly older market.

"Let Me Love You," the album's first single, reflects somewhat of a progression from his previous songs about puppy love to a more mature, relationship kind of love. The new song has already dominated radio airwaves nationwide, pushing record sales sky high, and allowing the single and the album to climb their way up the Billboard charts.

Seeking the help of Scott Storch, the ever-popular producer of such recent hits as Beyonce Knowles' "Baby Boy" and Fat Joe's club favorite "Lean Back," Mario has succeeded in creating an inspired album with soulful vocals and infectious beats.

Great things can be expected from the R&B, semi Hip-Hop star. Often compared to leading songwriter Usher Raymond, Mario makes reference to these similarities on the CD's first track, "18," featuring J-Record label friend Cassidy. In it, he explains that he still has time to catch up to the older star, who coincidentally scored his first hit song at the same age of 15. If you insist on comparing the two stars, however, it must be said that "Boom," track number three of the record, is a pale comparison to the Usher favorite, "Yeah!" that it seeks to reproduce. "Boom" attempts to pick up on the same clubby, like sound of "Yeah!" by featuring the same Lil Jon as well as the Ludacris-like comparable rapper Juvenile. Between the three artists, however, none bring enough capacity to save the song.

Also featured on the CD is a remix of "Let Me Love You," which offers an equally enjoyable party-like version featuring Jadakiss and T.I. Besides these few songs, Mario does not need much help in the making of this record. His smooth and soulful vocals are enough to carry the album, but nostalgic lyrics and catchy beats are what make this record an obvious hit.

In addition to "Let Me Love You," which is easily the best song on the entire CD, songs like "How Could You," and the reggae beat "Girl I Need" recall an Usher-like sentiment in which many can easily relate. "How Could You" is reminiscent of a romance gone awry by what Mario refers to as a "ghetto karma suita." "Like Me Real Hard" is fan with lyrics that repeat, "You don't have to love me, just like me real hard!"

The CD undeniably sets out for a love-like theme, but maintains its youthful appeal with songs like "I Couldn't Say No" and "Nike's Fresh Out The Box." You know Mario is not going to get too serious on you when he compares a new love interest to the feeling of opening a fresh pair of kicks.

Mario has come a long way from the young cornrowed kid we have seen on previous music videos such as "Fraid My Hair." In fact, the first scene of the "Let Me Love You" video shows him leading his boyish crores for a more mature short cut, which in a way reflects the change in his music. Starting from a young age, Mario has successfully paved his way from belting out karaoke tunes with his mom and impromptu performances at the local barbershop, to a lucky break with music mogul Clive Davis. Mario surpasses his debut album "Just a Friend 2002," and brings a superior thirteen track CD chock full of head bopping hits on "Turning Point."

Contact Courtney Wilson at cwilson6@nd.edu

Architecture an elfin delight

By MATTHEW SOLARSKI
Scene Music Critic

Once-adormed pino trees lie dead on the sides of suburban roads, the snow has taken on a loathsome muddy hue, and the convoluted hybrid musical toys which offer an equally scene of the eight boys and girls of Architecture in Helsinki have pieced together an absolute charmer. The eight instruments to create their inspired pop, including glockenspiel, clarinet, and Impromptu performances at the local barbershop, to a lucky break with music mogul Clive Davis. Mario surpasses his architecture, the sound a lot like Architecture in Helsinki.

With elfin voices and childlike whimsy, the eight boys and girls of Architecture in Helsinki have pieced together an exceptional debut album. Each song on "Fingers Crossed" plays out like a pre-school classroom vignette starring delicate elf children, who have called their vast imaginations for quirks and melodies sure to fly even the most peevish of listeners. From the irresistible one-two punch of synthesizer and handclaps on the grooviest opener "One Heavy February," to the austere closing organ chords on "Vanishing," this record is an absolute charmer.

Architecture employs a smattering of instruments to create their inspired magpie-pop, including glockenspiel, clarinet, recorder, tuba, and quite possibly several of the convoluted hybrid musical toys popular among the Whos in Whoville. The songs are relatively short and cater to those with even shorter attention spans, often consisting of several tiny "move­ments" within a single two-and-a-half-minute track. Architecture caps off this saggy recipe with fragile, pixie-like female vocals, and a male vocalist who is clearly the Will Ferrell among the elves, sounding more like a boy in the throes of puberty. While in certain contexts this would surely spell disaster, in the case of Architecture it is surprisingly well.

If the arrangements are somewhat child­ish, the lyrics are wildly precocious. In "Souvenirs," the vocalist muses melancholically, "We've got souvenirs, so yesterday didn't mean too much." The record's centerpiece, the riotous "The Owls Go," contains a lyrical transformation worthy of the finest wordsmiths, as "finding a replacement with a heart sedated, I'll forget you" later morphs into "attie in a base­ment with a knife serrated, I'll protect you." A bizarre breed of elf children these are.

Although their name might lead one to assume otherwise, Architecture reside far from wintry Finland — and even further from the North Pole, as it were — hailing from Australia, of all places. The octet has garnered comparisons to several of indie-pop's finest collectives, including Belle & Sebastian and Broken Social Scene. With a brand new record set to arrive in March, Architecture in Helsinki is poised to enter the hearts of America's youth well before they go a-caroling one more.

Contact Matthew Solarski at msolarski@nd.edu
Texas A&M guard Acie Law IV goes to the basket against No. 19 Georgia Tech at midcourt in the second half. Law, who fell to the court in the first half, had 13 points and scored 19 points in a victory that tied the school record for consecutive wins at 17.

"It feels real good to get the first Big 12 victory," said Law, who was on the court in the final seconds of the game.

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Thursday, January 13 at 8 p.m.
The Morris Performing Arts Center, downtown South Bend

Founded over a quarter of a century ago, the St. Petersburg State Ballet Theatre is one of the most distinguished classical companies in Russia. The younger sibling of the Kirov and Bolshoi Ballet companies, the St. Petersburg Ballet has presented its rich, varied performances to sold-out audiences in more than 50 countries. As part of Notre Dame's NDPresents: Live at the Morris series, the ensemble will present Sergei Prokofiev's dramatic and passionate Romeo and Juliet, choreographed by Sergei Vikulov. Based on Shakespeare's famous tragedy, this very accessible three-act ballet enchants audiences with its combination of delicacy, pageantry, and lyrically sweeping melody and movement.

Tickets: Orchestra/Mezzanine: $38, $30 faculty/staff, $25 all students
Main Floor Rear/Boxes/First Balcony: $33, $26 faculty/staff, $22 all students
Second and Third Balconies: $28, $22 faculty/staff, $20 all students
To purchase tickets, call the Morris Performing Arts Center Box Office at 235-9190, or visit www.MorrisCenter.org.

Music
Music for Two Gambas and Organ
A NOTRE DAME FACULTY PERFORMANCE
Reyes Organ and Choir Hall
Friday, January 21, 8 p.m.
Tickets $6, $5 faculty/staff, $4 seniors, $3 all students

John Blacklow Recital
A NOTRE DAME FACULTY PERFORMANCE
Leighton Concert Hall
Wednesday, January 19 at 8 p.m.
Tickets $10, $8 faculty/staff, $6 seniors, $3 all students

Organist Craig Cramer
A NOTRE DAME FACULTY PERFORMANCE
Opening Recitals on the Fritts Organ
Reyes Organ and Choral Hall
Thursday, January 20, 7 p.m.
Friday, January 21, 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 22, 8 p.m.
Sunday, January 23, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, January 25, 8 p.m.

These performances are open to the public and free, but tickets must be obtained through the DeBartolo Box Office.

The Marian Anderson String Quartet
Presented by The Fischoff National Chamber Music Association
Declo Mainstage Theatre
Thursday, January 27 at 7:30 p.m.

These performances are open to the public and free, but tickets must be obtained through the DeBartolo Box Office.

Film
BROWNING CINEMA
Tickets $6, $5 faculty/staff, $4 seniors, $3 all student
Tickets go on sale each Monday before the screenings.

Motorcycle Diaries (2004)
Thursday, January 13 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
In 1952, two young Argentines set out on a road trip to discover the real Latin America. The diverse geography they encounter begins to reflect their own shifting perspectives. As they arrive at a leper colony, the two are beginning to question the value of progress as defined by economic systems that leave so many people beyond their reach. Their experiences at the colony awaken within them the men they will later become.

Les Choristes (The Chorus) (2004)
Special FREE Sneak Preview of this soon-to-be-released Miramax film
Friday, January 14 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Set in 1948, a professor of music, Clement Mathieu, becomes the supervisor at a boarding school for the rehabilitation for minors. What he discovers disconcerts him — the current situation is repressive. Through the power of song, Clement tries to transform the students.

Notre Dame Student Film Festival
Thursday, January 20 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Friday, January 21 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Saturday, January 22 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Monday, January 24 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Tuesday, January 25 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Wednesday, January 26 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Williams to play again 3 years after conviction

Former Nets star forward to join Idaho Stampede

BOISE, Idaho — Jayson Williams signed a contract with the Idaho Stampede of the Continental Basketball Association, and was set to play Wednesday night.

The former NBA All-Star, who faces reckless manslaughter charges related to a 2002 shooting at his New Jersey mansion, has said he hopes to use the CBA as a springboard for his return to the NBA.

The 6-foot-10 forward turns 37 next month.

He quit professional basketball in 2000 because of knee problems.

"Interested NBA teams want assurances that I am fully recovered and can withstand the rigors of daily competition," Williams said in a statement Wednesday. "The very competitive CBA will provide me with this opportunity."

Williams was expected to play in the Stampede’s game against the Yakima Sun Kings Wednesday evening. The Stampede signed Williams to play again for the New Jersey Nets and Philadelphia 76ers. He averaged ten or more rebounds per game in his final four NBA seasons.

Williams played nine seasons for the New Jersey Nets and Philadelphia 76ers. He averaged ten or more rebounds per game in his final four NBA seasons."

Complete a short On-Line survey and be eligible to

SBC family of companies and the University of Notre Dame are interested in providing the best communication services possible to students, and are conducting a research study to better understand your needs and perceptions of the current communication offerings.

We would appreciate your participation by responding to a brief online survey. To thank you for your time, you will be asked to submit your name for a drawing for an iPod. Don’t miss this opportunity to provide your opinions and a chance to win an iPod.

Access the following link to complete the survey and submit your name for the drawing.

www.mindwaveresearch.com/nd

The survey will be available Jan. 11th through Jan. 13th.

Sweepstakes official rules will be posted in the Sorin Conference room located in the Fortune Student Center beginning January 11th through January 13th.

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Pray for the victims of the tsunami--

Thursday, January 13
5:15 pm Mass
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Fr. John Jenkins, C.S.C., President-elect, will preside and preach. Music provided by the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir.

A collection will be taken up at the Mass to assist the relief efforts.

This Sunday, January 16, collections will be taken up at all the Masses offered on Campus.

Members of the faculty and staff are invited to join us in this Campus-wide effort. Donations can be set to:

Tsunami Relief, 114 Coleman-Morse Center

All monies will be forwarded to Catholic Relief Services which "provides food, water, shelter, medicine and household necessities through their on-site staff and local partners."

See www.crs.org

Contributions to the tsunami relief made before January 31, 2005 are tax deductible for the 2004 tax return for those who itemize. Alternately, this deduction can be applied to the 2005 tax return.
Bryant returns to a familiar state

Lakers star plays against Nuggets in Colorado, where rape allegations surfaced

Associated Press

TUCSON — Kobe Bryant has spent more time in Colorado than he would have liked the past two years, flying in and out dozens of times for hearings in the sexual assault case against him.

On Wednesday, the Los Angeles Lakers star returned to the Rocky Mountain state for the first time since the case was dropped.

"It's not a big deal to me," Bryant said Monday in Minnesota. "I'll deal with it. Not a big deal to me, bro."

What Bryant went through during the past 18 months certainly was a big deal.

Bryant was accused of sexually assaulting a woman in his room at a Vail-area hotel where she worked in June 2003.

The case was about to go to trial when prosecutors dropped the felony sexual assault charge last Sept. 1 because the woman said she would no longer participate.

Bryant avoided a possible prison term, though he still faces a civil suit and repairing a severely tarnished image.

It was an experience that forced Bryant to take a deep look at himself and his priorities.

"When I think about last season, I think about what a blessing it was to go through something like that," Bryant said. "I don't look at it as a curse. I look at it as a blessing. It got me close to God.

"God helps you and he carries you through many days."

"It feels like a burden, but there are many people in this world who have bigger crosses to bear. My wife's healthy, my daughter's healthy, my family's healthy. You've got to keep that in perspective." Bryant has shown he can shake off outside distractions.

Last season, he played four times after spending the day in the courtroom and was stellar each time, hitting a game-winning shot at the buzzer to beat the Denver Nuggets and contributing a 42-point effort in the playoffs against San Antonio.

Bryant also shrugged off a media frenzy and plenty of boos last season in his first trip to Denver after he was accused of sexual assault, finishing with 27 points.

Then again, Bryant always seems to play well against the Nuggets, no matter where they play.

He set the Pepsi Center record with 51 points in February 2003, a month after scoring 42 points against the Nuggets in Los Angeles, and started off this season with 25 points in an opening win against Denver.

Last week, Bryant scored the first 14 points of the fourth quarter and 42 overall to lead the Lakers to a 99-91 victory.

In that game, Nuggets interim coach Michael Cooper reportedly told DerMarr Johnson to "lock him up" within earshot of Bryant, and later said he felt the Nuggets had done a good job keeping the Lakers star in check.

Bryant responded by telling The Los Angeles Times: "If that's keeping me in check, wait until next time."

Even without the extra incentive, the Nuggets know it isn't going to be easy.

"Kobe is a great player," Johnson said. "You can't guard him by yourself."
Controversial King sues ESPN for $2.5 billion

Promoter contends a "SportsCentury" segment lied and insulted him

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For once, Don King kept quiet.

Instead of pontificating, the boxing promoter stood stiffly in the background as his lawyer discussed a defamation suit King filed Wednesday against ESPN. The attorney said King is entitled to damages of more than $2.5 billion.

The lawsuit says a "SportsCentury" segment aired last May accused King of being "a snake oil salesman, a shameless huckster and worse," claimed the flamboyant promoter underpaid Muhammad Ali by $1.2 million and killed in a 1954 killing promoted underpaid Muhammad Ali.

"I just felt this was the straw that broke the camel's back. I can't take it anymore, and I'm going to fight back," King said at a news conference. "I seek justice." King, wearing a garish American flag tie and two flag lapel pins, then quietly stepped back and let lawyer Willie Gary answer questions.

Gary called the SportsCentury segment "a story designed to orchestrate and create an impression that is not there," and said the network had refused to retract parts of the program that offended King.

The suit, filed in state court in Broward County, Fla., names ESPN and its parent company, Walt Disney Co., among the defendants. Also named are Disney-owned ABC Cable Networks and Advocate Communications, as its lawyer underpaid Muhammad Ali.

King is suing cable sports station ESPN for defamation.

"It was slanted to show Don in the worst way ... Don is a strong man, but he has been hurt by this," Willie Gary, lawyer.

Don King addresses reporters after a recent news conference.

King sued former heavyweight champion Terry Norris in late 2003 to settle a suit. King sued former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis for libel.

King also had beaten federal charges including tax evasion and fraud. He served nearly four years in prison for the 1967 beating death of a man who owed him money. In 1954, he killed a man who was robbing a numbers house he operated, but it was ruled self-defense.

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Illness keeps Jets' QB Pennington off field

New York prepares for second-round playoff game against top seed Pittsburgh

Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — All of a sudden, the New York Jets have issues at quarterback.

Chad Pennington missed practice Wednesday with a stomach virus, backup Quincy Carter went home to Georgia to be with his ailing mother.

Pennington may not be able to practice Thursday, but coach Herman Edwards is confident his franchise player will be ready for Saturday's playoff game against Pittsburgh.

"He'll play," Edwards said. "I wouldn't be shocked if he did."

Pennington called Edwards on Tuesday night to say he was sick.

He came to Jets headquarters Wednesday and tried to practice, but Edwards took one look at him and sent him inside to get some rest.

Carter went home Tuesday, so No. 3 quarterback Brooks Bollinger took the snaps with the first-team offense at practice.

Edwards said he did not know when Carter would return.

That means Bollinger would be the backup for game, not exactly the ideal situation for the Jets, who need Pennington at his best to have a shot at beating the Steelers.

Pennington, who got sick from his wife and said he had intravenous fluids to help him get better, Edwards was not worried about Pennington.

"Generally when guys get sick they have good games," said Edwards, who also is under the weather. "I thought one time Michael Jordan got sick and he had, what, 100 points or something like that. Maybe that's a good sign when guys get sick."

Pennington is coming off his best game of the season, straining his right rotator cuff in November, throwing for 279 yards in a 20-17 overtime wild-card win over San Diego.

"If anything, it rests his arm another day," Edwards said. "There's always a positive in everything if you look at it that way. Now you can spin it the other way and say this glass is empty, but I've still got some water in it."

Pennington had one of his worst games of the season in the first meeting with Pittsburgh, throwing three interceptions and finishing with a quarterback rating of 23.4. It was his second game back since the injury, so he looked a little rusty.

But against the Chargers, Pennington threw long and short, and looked to be back to his old self.

"I think that's the only way we win, with Chad playing the way he did," Curtis Martin said earlier this week. "We need Chad to be the MVP of the playoffs for the New York Jets in order for us to win. It can take us all the way.

"Chad is the leader of this team. His play takes this team to a whole other level. When he's on point, a lot of other things can go wrong and we still seem to get the job done. We need that."

Missing a few days of practice could disturb his rhythm and his preparation for the biggest game of the season.

Meanwhile, defensive end John Abraham also is questionable with a sprained right knee and practiced Wednesday and would be a game-time decision.

"But injuries to his two biggest players will not deter Edwards. "I don't get hung up on all that stuff, I really don't," Edwards said. "I learned a long time ago you coach the players that are available."

"When they get back to practice, they get back to practice."

Defensive coordinator Donnie Henderson discusses plays with the Jets' secondary. New York was without starting quarterback Chad Pennington for Wednesday's practice.
Around the Dial

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic

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Eastern Conference, Central

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Western Conference, Northwest

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MLB

Baseball reaches new steroid agreement

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball players and owners have reached a new agreement on steroid testing and plan to announce it Thursday. The Associated Press has learned.

The agreement will include penalties for first-time offenders, an AL player said on condition of anonymity. Other details, such as the frequency of tests, were not immediately available.

Baseball and union officials were preparing an announcement, and commissioner Bud Selig and union executives intended to discuss the agreement Thursday after an owners' meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz., players said.

"I'm glad we could come to an agreement," said Chicago Cubs pitcher Mike Rondinger, who was briefed on the deal Wednesday. "It was the right thing to do. I think it was something that needed to be done, and I think players understand it needed to be addressed."

The sides spent the past month negotiating the deal after the union's executive board gave its staff approval to pursue an agreement on a more rigorous testing program.

Some in Congress threatened to take action unless baseball reached an agreement on its own.

"I think it's going to entail more testing, some out-season testing, yes, more in-season random testing and stiffer penalties," said New York Mets pitcher Tom Glavine, a senior member of the union.

"We're excited about the agreement," Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said he anticipated confirmation of a deal by the end of the owners' meeting.

"It will be wonderful once it's done, but I don't want to pre-empt any announcement, and I certainly don't want to pre-empt all the work the commissioner has done on this, so I'll reserve my comments until after it's announced," he said.

Selig declined comment Wednesday. Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, also declined comment.

Players and owners agreed to a drug-testing plan in 2002 that called for survey-testing for steroids the following year. Because more than 5 percent of tests were positive, random testing with penalties began last year. Each player was tested for steroids twice over a single five-to-seven-day period.

In Brief

Baseball hopes to find new owner for Nationals

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Major League Baseball still is targeting April for finding an owner for the Washington Nationals, now that the new home of the former Montreal Expos has been determined.

"I would expect that we would start the diligence with the prospective buyers within a week to 10 days," baseball's chief operating officer Bob DuPuy said Wednesday during a break in the owners' meeting. "We've got materials assembled in New York, and we'll be inviting groups in, and we'll go from there."

Asked if six to eight prospective ownership groups were expected, DuPuy said, "a little higher than that, and my guess is it will sort itself out over time."

Ownership of the Washington, Oakland and Milwaukee franchises were to be discussed during the two-day session at a north Scottsdale resort.

Agassi sets up meeting with Roddick

MELBOURNE, Australia — A sleeker, fitter Andre Agassi beat Olympic gold medalist Niels Almacen of Chile 6-1, 7-6 (4) in the first round of the Kooyong Classic on Wednesday to set up a match with Andy Roddick.

Roger Federer beat Gaston Gaudio 5-7, 6-1, 6-4, closing with an ace and a sharp forehand to tune up for his second-ranked Roddick advanced in the exhibition tournament with an easy 6-1, 6-4 win over Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic — a late replacement for injured Paradox Stichappon.

Agassi and Roddick will meet Thursday in the eight-man promotion-relegation format, while Federer next plays Friday against Tim Henman, who had a 6-1, 7-5 win over Argentina's David Nalbandian.

Federer, who will be looking for his fifth Australian Open title, trimmed down to about 163 pounds from 176 after concentrating on strength and fitness instead of tennis technique.

Diamondbacks add Estes, trade Hillenbrand

NEW YORK — The retooling Arizona Diamondbacks made two more deals Wednesday, finalizing a contract with pitcher Shawn Estes and trading infielder Shea Hillenbrand to Toronto.

Arizona's moves came one day after it sent Randy Johnson to the New York Yankees and acquired Shawn Green and Javier Vazquez in separate trades.

Estes turned a two-year offer for more money from the Washington Nationals. He and his wife, Heather, and their sons, 15-month-old Jackson and 3-month-old Cody, live in Paradise Valley, about a 20-minute drive to Bank One Ballpark.

He becomes the third new starting pitcher on a Diamondbacks roster that has been dramatically overhauled after the team lost 111 games last season. Arizona also signed free agent Russ Ortiz.

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College Basketball

Duke at N.C. State 7 p.m., ESPN

NBA

New Jersey at Houston 8 p.m., TNT

Cleveland at Los Angeles 10:30 p.m., TNT
Assistants continued from page 28

In his six seasons as Ole Miss' defensive coordinator, Haywood's teams have finished in the top eight nationally in defense six of the last seven seasons, including a second overall ranking in 2004 at 162 yards per game. Minter's defense against the run, and three of his players earned all-America honors — free safety Jeff Burris, corner back Bobby Taylor and tackle Barry Bryant.

"I mean, when you get guys with that ability to come and join your staff, if you don't get them, then you're the one making the mistake by not trying to get them." — Latvia, who served as Cutcliffe's offensive coordinator all six years at Ole Miss, will join Cutcliffe on Weis' Notre Dame staff.

Minter is another member of Weis' staff with previous ties to Notre Dame, as defensive coordinator under Lou Holtz. In 1994 he was hired as head coach at the University of Cincinnati and held that job until 2003. In 2004, Minter again served as a defensive coordinator for Houston, this time at South Carolina.

In 1992, Minter's defense was the fourth best nationally against the run, and three of his players earned all-America honors — free safety Jeff Burris, corner back Bobby Taylor and tackle Barry Bryant.

Haywood, a four-year letter-winner at Notre Dame (1982, 1984-86), has served as running backs coach and co-special teams coordinator at Texas since the 2003 season. In 2004, he was promoted to recruiting coordinator at Texas and at Ole Miss.

"As running backs coach, you bring in a head coach with Notre Dame ties, and a defensive coordinator with Notre Dame ties, I think you're on the right track to get going," Weis said.

Lewis has been the defensive nickel package coach for the NFL's Miami Dolphins since 1996. Under Lewis' guidance, the Dolphins have finished in the top right of passing defense six of the last seven seasons, including a second overall ranking in 2004 at 162 yards per game. Minter served the past two years as tight ends coach at Wisconsin following nine years at Arizona. In 1998, with Ianello as offensive coordinator, Arizona finished with a 13-1 record and finished the season ranked No. 4 in the nation.

Minter will join Notre Dame's staff after leaving South Carolina, where he served as defensive line coach for the Gamecocks the past two seasons.

Polian is one of the youngest members of Weis' staff, with only eight years collegiate experience.

Polian served as running backs coach/recruiting coordinator at Central Florida in 2004 under George O'Leary.
Belles BASKETBALL

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Staring at a 6-8 record, Saint Mary's discovered com­posure and poise at the per­fect moment. In the second half of a highly contested, must-win game, the Belles came up with all the right plays at the right times to secure a 66-61 victory over the Bulldogs of Adrian College on Wednesday night. "It definitely wasn't easy," Belles coach Suzanne Bellina said. "We really gasted this one out.

Saint Mary's jumped out to an early 13-3 advantage and led for the entire first half. Freshman guard Allison Kessler hit a lay-up as time expired to give the Belles a 1-point moment.

In the second half of a highly offensive rhythm it was missing in the first half, the Bulldogs slowly chipped away at the Saint Mary's lead. Adrian applied full-court pressure and developed the offensive rhythm it was missing in the first half. Freshman forward Emily Creachbaum had 12 points and five rebounds in the first half.

In the second period, the Bulldogs closely picked up the Saint Mary's lead. Adrian's post players were missing in the first half, Saint Mary's forward Amanda Rainsberger led with 19 points and eight rebounds. "It's not easy," said Belles center Jesse Borowiak hit a baseline jumper as time expired to give the Belles a 1-point lead back to four. This marked the beginning of a second-half trend. Time and time again, Adrian pulled within one basket of the Belles, only to have Saint Mary's immediately score on its next possession. Creachbaum, Bush, Kessler and Bridget Boyle all had clutch baskets that kept the Bulldogs out of striking distance.

"We really did a job of staying calm and making the plays when they needed to be made," Bellina said.

With 1:10 left, Adrian guard Jess Borowiak hit a baseline jumper to bring the Bulldogs within one point. Saint Mary's responded as it had throughout the second half. On the next possession, the Belles went to Creachbaum, who coolly sank two foul shots to put their lead back to six.

The Belles closed out the game with flawless free throw shooting down the stretch. Creachbaum, Boyle and Bridget Lipke combined to go 6-6-6 from the line in the final minute, ensuring the win. "Creachbaum led Saint Mary's in the winning effort. The Belles' leading scorer on the season had 24 points and 10 rebounds. The forward carried Saint Mary's offensive, making up for the fact that the team shot only 33 percent from the field.

"(Creachbaum) is so solid and consistent," Bellina said. "She just always gets the job done.

With the win, Saint Mary's moves to 7-8 overall and 2-4 in the MIAA. Bellina stressed the importance of the victory as the Belles try to make up ground in the conference. "We were playing the top teams for the past week or so," she said. "This stretch, starting tonight, is so important for us.

Four of the bottom teams in the conference were 1-4 heading into tonight. We wanted to start a drive back to the middle of the pack with a win tonight.

Saint Mary's will look to continue to move up in the standings on Saturday with a road contest against Alma College.

SAINT MARY'S 66, ADRIAN 61

at the ANGELA ATHLETIC CENTER

SAINT MARY'S (7-8, 2-4)

Kessler 2-6 6-7 10, Lipke 0-0 6-6 4, Boyle 3-3 0-0 6, Hourston 2-2 0-0 4, Creachbaum 0-2, Rainsberger 2-4 6-8 14, Bush 4-11 6-8 14, Creachbaum 9-14 6-8 24, Malvo 0-1 2-2, Marks 1-1 1-2 3

ADRIAN 44-65

1-3 2-13 10, Bush 4-11 6-8 14, Creachbaum 9-14 6-8 24, Malvo 0-1 2-2, Marks 1-1 1-2 3

3-point goals: Saint Mary's 6 (Kessler 2-2, Lipke 0-0, Boyle 0-1, Rainsberger 0-1, Kessler 0-1), Adrian 0.

Free throws: Saint Mary's 11 (Mary's 8-11), Adrian 11 (Mary's 6-11, Adrian 5-11).

Total Fouls: Saint Mary's 26, Adrian 20.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbreann@nd.edu

Belles defeat Adrian in conference matchup

Recruits

continued from page 28

ing most of his career at Valley Forge Military Academy in Wayne, Penn., Turkovich will move down the line and play offensive tackle for Notre Dame. Turkovich's three-star prospect gained 50 pounds in order to play tackle during his senior year at Valley Forge after three years as a tight end.

"I committed because of the education and I believe in what coach Weis is going to do," Turkovich said to Irisheyes.com. "I believe in him. I think very good things are on the way for Notre Dame.

Neither player will be committed officially to the Irish until they sign their national letters of intent in early February.

Duncan is successful off the field as well, carrying a 3.4 GPA and a 1090 SAT. His choice came down to Notre Dame and Duke. LSU was in the running for him until Nick Saban resigned to coach the Miami Dolphins.

Turkovich held his prospective school narrowed down to Boston College, Wisconsin and Notre Dame before his commitment to the Irish.

"He's quick-footed and a really solid player," Frank said. A handful of prospects will be making their college choices known this weekend at half-time of the Army All-America Bowl in San Antonio. Among these high school stars will be wide receiver D.J. Hord from Rockhurst High in Kansas City.

The 10-ranked player at his position according to Scout.com, Hord has narrowed his list to Kansas State and Notre Dame.

"It was so much fun," Hord said to ESPN.com's Tom Lemming about his recent visit to Notre Dame. "I met a lot of players, Coach Weis was a really nice guy. I finally got to meet him face to face with my family. Overall, it was a really great experience."

—Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

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University of Notre Dame Department of Music Present

Friday, January 14, 2005

8:00 p.m.
Bad Loss continued from page 28

weren’t. Not this time.

And so the Irish watched as Connecticut dominated inside. They watched Huskies freshman Charde Houston score 15 points in the second half, good for 19 on the game. They saw Ashley Battle, who averages seven points a game, put up 15 points. They watched as they were beaten by a team with less talent.

Sure, All-American Jacqueline Batteat hurt her ankle with five minutes to play in the first half. Sure, she shot just 2-of-12 from the field. If this happened last year, Connecticut would have blown out Notre Dame.

But this year’s Irish team is good enough to win despite those numbers by Batteat. What killed Notre Dame were turnovers, offensive rebounds and a lack of intensity.

“Rebounding was the problem in the second half,” forward Crystal Erwin said. “We also didn’t play with nearly enough energy.”

Notre Dame committed 17 turnovers, including seven by point guard Megan Duffy. No matter who you play, it’s tough to win when you turn the ball over 17 times.

Battle, the Connecticut senior, called the win the “turning point of the season.” She said it was the first time the Huskies played the way they could.

And so they got the upset, unlike a year ago.

Geno Auriemma, who boasts a career .835 winning percentage, said it best.

“The win was incredibly important,” he said. “At some point, we needed to win a game like this so our team could be reminded of who we are.”

Well, Connecticut, having to reaffirm who they are?

A team who has won the last three national championships and four of the last five?

Well, thanks to Notre Dame, Connecticut knows who they are again. That’s what Wednesday’s game did.

But on the other side, Notre Dame has to regroup.

Batteat must get healthy, Duffy has to take care of the ball and defensive rebounding needs to improve. In the meantime, the Irish have to deal with another upset, their third loss of this young season.

“I think they expect to be one of the better teams in the league, and they certainly act like it and they play like it,” Auriemma said.

Just not on Wednesday.

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

Contact Heather Van Toveren at hvantoveren@nd.edu
Thursday, January 13, 2005

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andy Lawrence, 17; Melanie Jaye Charloite, 27; Zolt Zilbert, 10; Faye Doria, 61; Sissy Spacek, 50.

Happy Birthday: You are creative in a way that spells money no matter what you look at. You should be able to convince others to pay money behind you. This can be a great year if you are confident, work hard and follow through on your promises. Your numbers are 3, 19, 25, 30, 31, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have plenty of energy and a do-as-now attitude. A lot can be accomplished if you do your homework first. Someone will take an interest.****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let anyone get you today. Be strong and steadfast. Emotional upset can be expected; someone will try to hold you back.****

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): A creative idea will interest someone you talk to. Don't will yourself short -- you are the one to realize your ideas. Love is in the picture.****

CANCER (June 22-July 22): If you try to work at home, someone will bother you. Don't let smile comments get to you. It's not up to you to do someone else's work.****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): There is plenty happening around you. Get out and mix and mingle with people who are doors. Call in from your ports. You can zoomer if you must.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more unique you are, the further you will get today. Your numbers will get everyone around you thinking. You can take a leadership position.***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There is plenty happening around you. Get out and mix and mingle with people who are doors. Call in from your ports. You can zoomer if you must.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be questioning your current personal situation. A time or two chances to your living quarters may be required. Talk to a trusted friend.**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Money and how you make it may be on your mind but it's the research you do that will clarify what you should be doing. Put in a little extra effort or get a head start.***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have probably taken on too much and may be questioning your current personal situation. A time or two chances to your living quarters may be required. Talk to a trusted friend.**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Listen to yourself for a moment and then begin again. You have to show off negativity and back away from anyone who brings you down so you can move forward and make progress.***

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Getting involved in a group is a good thing to from a social standpoint. However, look for hidden costs in

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EUGENIA LAST

Horoscope

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Birthday Baby: You have a good mind and a vivid imagination. You have

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astrology.com and eugenialast.com.
Huskies dominate second half as Irish lose second straight Big East contest

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Connecticut proved Wednesday it isn’t ready to roll over, despite a rocky start to the Huskies season. Notre Dame, on the other hand, now sees its chances of a Big East title slowly slipping away.

With an 8-8 Connecticut team in town and an opportunity to rebound at home after its first Big East loss against Villanova on Sunday, Notre Dame came out at the Joyce Center and got completely dominated in the second half by the Huskies in a 67-50 loss. The Irish dropped to 13-3 and 2-2 in Big East play, while Connecticut improved to 9-4 and 3-0 in the conference.

“We have a game like this, and we expect our veteran players to step up and play well,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Irish fell apart against a weaker Connecticut team

The Huskies rebound better, played better defense and most of all wanted the win more than the Irish.

For Notre Dame, it was a bad loss.

But wait, a loss to Connecticut — a national powerhouse — a bad loss?

Yes, that’s right, a bad loss. This year’s Huskies are not last year’s team. They have struggled all season, losing games to Arizona State, Michigan State and Tennessee, games the Huskies of old would have won. It took over-time for Connecticut to beat South Florida at home.

Wednesday’s win over the Irish was the Huskies’ first win over a ranked opponent this season. And so Notre Dame is left with a two-game losing streak and a mediocre 2-2 Big East record.

“We have a lot of work to do,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

The Irish struggled most of the game. They played as if they were the underdogs of just a year ago. But they

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Linemen give their word

Paul Duncan and Michael Turkovich commit verbally

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame received a verbal commitment from one of the top high school quarter-backs in the country this summer. Six months later, the Irish have found some players to protect him.

Offensive linemen Paul Duncan and Michael Turkovich are the ninth and 10th additions to Charlie Weis’ first Irish recruiting class after making their verbal commitments during a visit to campus this past weekend.

Notre Dame quarterback recruit Evan Sharpley was excited by the decision of his future teammates.

“They’re a couple of big dudes,” Sharpley said. “They should really be able to help our team out.”

Duncan, from East Paulding High School in Dallas, Ga., is rated the 28th-best lineman in the nation and has earned a four-star rating from Scout.com. Standing 6-foot-6 and weighing 288 pounds, he is projected to play offensive tackle for the Irish.

“What I like about Notre Dame is the tradition they have and the academics that are so strong,” Duncan said on Scout.com. “I feel that

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FOOTBALL

New assistants bring experience, specialty

Weis adds football minds and recruiters to Irish staff

By JUSTIN SCHUYER
Associate Sports Editor

Even with his current team trying to win its third Super Bowl in four years, new Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis has done his homework in assembling a new coaching staff for the 2005 season.

Weis’ staff includes former head coaches like quarterbacks coach David Cutcliffe, Notre Dame alumni like offensive coordinator/running backs coach Michael Haywood and even current NFL assistants like defensive backs coach Bill Lewis.

“We need to go out there and find the guys who had the best foundations in recruiting and at the same time I wanted

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November 13, 2005

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Fumbled opportunity

Megan Duffy and the Irish struggled in the second half.

By JUSTIN SCHUYER
Associate Sports Editor

The defending national champion Connecticut Huskies found their game Wednesday night at the Joyce Center, and No. 7 Notre Dame lost its own.

Connecticut dominated the Irish in the second half en route to a 67-50 win.

Irish fell apart against a weaker Connecticut team

The Huskies rebound better, played better defense and most of all wanted the win more than the Irish.

For Notre Dame, it was a bad loss.

But wait, a loss to Connecticut — a national powerhouse — a bad loss?

Yes, that’s right, a bad loss.

This year’s Huskies are not last year’s team. They have struggled all season, losing games to Arizona State, Michigan State and Tennessee, games the Huskies of old would have won. It took overtime for Connecticut to beat South Florida at home.

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Linemen give their word

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SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary’s 66
Adrian 61
Emily Creachbaum scored 24 points as the Belles earned an important conference win.

page 25

NFL

Pennington sits out practice

The New York Jets did not practice their quarterback Wednesday due to illness.

page 22

BOXING

King sues ESPN

Famous boxing promoter Oscar De La Hoya is suing ESPN defamed his name.

page 21

NBA

Bryant returns to Colorado

Kobe Bryant said he was not concerned returning to the state of his recent trial.

page 20

CBA

Jayson Williams returns

The retired former Nets star signed a contract with the Idaho Stampede.

page 18

NCAA BASKETBALL

Texas A&M 74
Texas 63
The Aggies upset the Longhorns in College Station, led by 24 points from Acie Law IV.

page 16