University suspends McArlane

Irish point guard to miss spring, summer, possession charge

By BOB GRATI
News Writer

Notre Dame basketball player Kyle McArlane was suspended for the spring and summer semesters Monday and is currently on his way home to Staten Island, N.Y., his mother said in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon with The Observer.

Janie McArlane said her son — a sophomore who was charged with possession of marijuana Dec. 29 — was not dismissed from the University, but the news of a two-semester suspension came as a shock.

"(Notre Dame) coach (Mike) Brey thought he was dressing Kyle ... tonight for the St. John's game," Janie McArlane said. "I think he was blindsided, and that's where he has to be. I don't blame basketball in this at all. I think he was caught way off guard also."

"The athletic department and [Notre Dame Athletics Director] Dr. (Kevin) White told me they were as surprised as I am, they were shocked." Senior Associate Athletics Director John Heider told The Observer Tuesday he was unable to comment. Notre Dame sports information director Bernie Cafarelli said she could not comment due to privacy laws.

Brey cannot comment on the situation either, Cafarelli said. McArlane, who was pulled over during a routine traffic stop near campus early in the morning on Dec. 29, is at least the seventh Notre Dame athlete to face suspension or dismissal in the past three years. In 1999, Irish tailback Tony Driver was suspended from the football team for a parietals violation. In early 2002, football players Lorenzo Crawford, Justin Fitzgerald and Abram Elam were dismissed from the University following accusations of raping a female Notre Dame student in an off-campus house. Later in 2002, Irish running back Julius Jones was suspended for academic delinquency.

Since McArlane is suspended for the spring and summer semesters, not dismissed — which under the University's disciplinary handbook, du Lac, means permanent expulsion — he will have the opportunity to return to feeding the hungry and providing nutrition in some of the poorest nations on earth.

"We have a huge variety of things that we do and we're going to have six to seven athletes over the summer in different parts of the world," said the group's president, junior Jessica Pillarella. "One of the best things about us is that we steer clear of the politics ... I think anyone can agree that feeding the hungry is a good thing."

The WHC's primary activity on campus is the Wednesdays Lunch Fast, in which students pledge to donate one meal per week from their meal plans. The money from the unused lunch is then given to the WHC, which forwards it to organizations dedicated to stamping out hunger.

The Wednesday Lunch Fast, for a low semester, brings in $8,000," Pillarella said. "For a great semester we'll bring in, By BOB GRATI
News Writer

Students, professors evaluate Bush address

State of the Union reaffirms Iraq troop increase, generates debate nationwide, on campus

By JOHN TIERNEY and KATHLYNN RIELY
News Writers

U.S. President George W. Bush's State of the Union address Tuesday night came at a time when his approval ratings are low and Republicans and Democrats alike are questioning his recently announced plan to send more than 20,000 new troops to Iraq.

Bush reiterated his optimism about his recent decision to deploy more troops to Iraq as he appeared before the joint session of Congress and millions of Americans looked on — among those Notre Dame students thinking about his recent decision to introduce her work to the world.

"The President," said Smith, "is a featured guest lecturer of the Saint Mary's communication and performance studies department this week.

The College prepared for Smith's arrival by introducing her work to the community — it hosted a free screening of the film "Twilight Los Angeles," based on Smith's 2000 award-winning one-woman play, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night in Vanver Vennet Theater.

As a theatre major, senior Rachel Sokolowski said she has especially looked forward to Smith's visit.

"After graduation theatre majors have a huge variety of options, and it's definitely exciting to see someone who's taken herself so far in her field," she said. "It's very inspiring to have her come and share her thoughts."

Smith will present a series of lectures open to the public over a three-day period. Assistant professor of communication and performance studies and Smith's first presentation, "The Art of Listening," will be targeted toward theatre majors.

"I think it will be a great experience for students to actually run an interactive class," said Fitzgerald. "I think it will be a great experiment for Smith's visit, and students will be able to voice concerns, comments and what's in their hearts."

While Fitzgerald and Payne announced their promises and catered to voters with free cooks outside the Du Lac Dining Hall Tuesday, Ferreira-Antonelli did not let the vote count dictate the need to continue their campaign.

"It's the top vote-getters who makes us feel that we are com-
INSIDE COLUMN

ESP me

Apple has once again excited gadget geeks and businessmen alike by unveiling the iPhone, which, in its demo of the new product, Apple CEO Steve Jobs so eloquently described as "cool" and "awesome."

Watching the keynote demo on Apple's Web site got me thinking about the way the transfer of information is constantly being revolutionized.

Chuck Hurley and Steve Chen, the creators of YouTube, gave the world a new outlet for conveying information (whether viewers find it relevant or ridiculous). But beyond the simple conveying of information, I am consistently struck by how quickly the knowledge of a particular video can spread, especially at a place like a college campus (think: "OMG—shoes.")

Since people seem to be taking it upon themselves to use these contrivances to establish communities, small or large, where they can interact with like-minded individuals, it seems more than likely that product designers will actually put the establishment of these communities at the forefront of their future designs.

Virgin America has designed an in-flight entertainment system that, among other things, would allow passengers to email SMS/Instant message among themselves, creating an airborne community.

With the arrival of Web 2.0 (which encourages community and user-generated content), and talk of Web 3.0 (a "Semantic Web"), a man by the name of Seth Godin has proposed a Web 4, where the network would take initiative based on the way a person uses the Internet. It's a smarter Internet that takes into account how a person has previously behaved online, and proposes the best way to go about any particular Internet task.

It would perform autonomous searches that could benefit you the example, just as you're about to order the latest TV-on-DVD boxed set, Web 4 steps in and offers you a cheaper price on another site.

Additionally, the network would be aware of a person's activities that are similar to others, and would be able to put those people in touch. Essentially, it would consist of a network of "machines talking to machines".

This is where I would like to step in and suggest the future of community-based technology is not an oxymoron, or ESP. Well, sort of. More like the ability for people in a network to access each others' thoughts, and, in a way, brainstorm.

By giving one revolutionary new technology, and science isn't even sure it exists. But if the concept of ESP could be applied in technological terms, you would have the highest form of information "machines talking to machines." Essentially, it would be communication sans effort. By allowing "machines" to do what they do best—that is, process information—and then interact with each other as well as with each particular user, a powerful network without rival will have been created.

Microsoft's Zune follows the sharing of music within a local network—so why can't that technology be applied directly to our minds' thoughts?

Just think: In the future, you may hear your best friend say, "ESP me."

Contact Jeff Albert at jalbert@nd.edu.

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-634-1840, at our online纠正我们的错误.

Jeff Albert
Graphics Editor

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY: What's your favorite movie of all time?

Anne Marie Giangliallo
senior
Pasquerilla West

"A Few Good Men" — I'm partial to anything Aaron Sorkin does.

James Aldridge
sophomore
Keenan

"Roots" because it's my roots.

Kallen Wade
freshman
Knot

"Godfather. I like to see people get shot.

Laura Martinez
junior
Howard

"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" I wish I could have done that in high school.

Marcela Monsalve
sophomore
Pasquerilla East

"I would need to check my facebook...but "Monsoon Wedding" (Bollywood) or 'My Fair Lady' or ..."

Vince Houghton
graduate student

OFFBEAT

Dunking parakeet becomes Web video star

BRADENTON, Fla. — Teaching a parakeet to put up is no tap-in. Ask David Cota, who spent months training his Indian ringneck parakeet A.J. to use a tiny putter to sink putts on a miniature green, making the 5-inch tall bird an Internet video star.

"It doesn't look all that tough nowadays, but try to get a bird to hold a little stick basically in its beak. The first time, he snapped it right in half," Cota said. A.J. ran also dunk a tiny basketball on a tiny court.

He rolls over. He shakes. His play does, too. A "Tonight" show dar­ling from the end of the Johnny Carson era, A.J. and Cota are staging a comeback thanks to such Web sites as YouTube.com. A.J. has a MySpace page and his own Web site, permanent resident can.

Woman takes potty break, falls in lake

SANDUSKY, Ohio — A woman going to the bath­room outside lost her balance and fell into Lake Erie, said police, who had to pull her out of the frigid water. Officer Kevin Youskikvitz and the woman's friend helped pull her out early Monday and wrapped a blanket around her until an ambulance arrived.

She was treated at a hospital and released.

The woman's friend called police and the woman needed to go to the bathroom and lost her balance near the water.

The name of the 25-year-old woman was not released.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A reading of Homer's Iliad will take place today in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall at 6:10 p.m.

RecSports is sponsoring a blood drive today from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. at Huts. Registration is required.

Today is the last day to make changes to class schedules for the semester on InsideND.

The Academic Council Meeting is taking place today in the McKenna Hall auditorium from 3 p.m. to 5. Attendance is by invitation only.

Kellogg institute visiting fellow Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo will give a lecture on "The Use of Appointment Strategies in Presidentialism" from 4:15 p.m. to 6 Thursday in room C-103 of the Heebish Center. Sponsored by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the event is free and open to the public.

The 18th annual Student Film Festival will take place Thursday through Saturday at the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The festival features 13 short films made as class projects during the past year. Tickets are $6 for general admission, $3 for faculty/staff and $3 for students.

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

CHRISTIAN MAGALDES/Photo Editor

Charles Cossell, center, and Jeff Lakusta, both members of the Freshman Class Council, put their cashbox to work as they sell Class of 2010 shirts at South Dining Hall Tuesday evening.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Organizations’ funds reviewed

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Members of the Council of Representatives (COR) reviewed the 2006-07 reallocation budget in a brief meeting Tuesday night in LaFortune.

The total budget of $41,037 was allocated to various organizations, including a $3,000 reimbursement of the technology fund.

The reallocation is really a spending review and not a reallocation per se,” said Student Union assistant treasurer Kadeja Gaiens, who added that the treasury reserves the right to take money away from organizations that have not been spending requested funds.

In the case of this semester, $3,000 was reallocated from the Class of 2007 funds to Senior Week, Gaiens said. In addition, Judicial Council received $1,000, student government $5,000 and Student Union Board $21,018.90.

In other COR news:
The Class Councils of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 were the collective “Organization Spotlight” for the week. Each class president took a turn describing recent and upcoming events for his/her class, including new freshman T-shirts, a service opportunity at a local soup kitchen for their class members.

Contact Sonia Rao at srao1@nd.edu

Hispanic Outlook honors SMC

College one of eight Ind. schools chosen for providing opportunities

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

Saint Mary’s recently joined the ranks of only eight Indiana colleges and universities to be recognized by Hispanic Outlook magazine for providing the best educational opportunities for Hispanics. The publication honored schools from each state by placing them on the 2006 Publisher’s Pick List. Notre Dame was also included.

For Saint Mary’s to be included in a list like this is an honor, said Melanie McDonald, director of media relations at the College.

“Schools are selected based on interviews with students of the institution,” she said. “The Saint Mary’s students surveyed obviously felt supported and felt that a network of programs and people are in place at the College to make a Latina student’s experience at Saint Mary’s a positive one.”

With the aid of the National Center for Education Statistics, Hispanic Outlook compiles the list each year using student surveys as well as an important calculation: the number of degrees granted in proportion to the Hispanic population at the institution. The list represents the magazine’s “latest and best thinking about which colleges and universities offer Hispanic students a solid chance of academic success,” publisher José López-Isa said on the magazine’s web site.

The Admissions Department at Saint Mary’s has been working diligently to increase diversity on campus. This fall, the Office for Enrollment Management presented the most diverse class in 15 years, according to McDonald.

“Prospective Latina students, who make up a portion of that underrepresented [minority] group, are learning that Saint Mary’s offers support to Hispanic students in many forms,” McDonald said.

Latina students have various campus organizations and offices that cater to their continued success, such as the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Center for Women’s InterCultural Leadership, the Mexico Study Tour, the Student Diversity Board and La Fuerza, a student-run group.

Jeanne Choquehuanca, president of La Fuerza, sees inclusion on this list as a way for Saint Mary’s to distinguish itself from other institutions.

“The honors tell us that we are making a difference in our efforts for greater diversity and tolerance,” she said. “Still, there is an obvious lack of diversity at our college, and this award hopefully will not indicate to our community that efforts for greater diversity should lessen.”

La Fuerza works to promote Latina culture both on and off campus.

“This organization especially aims to reach out to incoming Latina and minority students. These efforts are sometimes difficult, but we always extend our welcome and support to all students,” Choquehuanca said.

Veronica Dominguez, a sophomore Latina student at the College, said Saint Mary’s offers a welcoming environment — to all its students.

“I do not feel that Saint Mary’s is only a good environment for Hispanics. It is a caring environment with the common goal of preparing strong women for the future,” she said.

This recognition by Hispanic Outlook is not the first distinction for the College regarding academic rankings.

“Just like our number one ranking by U.S. News & World Report, recognition by Hispanic Outlook brings news of our excellence to a broader audience,” McDonald said.

Hispanic Outlook Magazine has served as the premier news source for Hispanic education in higher education for 17 years. Published biweekly, the magazine reaches approximately 50,000 readers annually.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler01@saintmarys.edu

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Ethiopian troops start to withdraw

MOGADISHU, Somalia—Ethiopian troops whose military strength was crucial to helping Somalia's 2-year-old government to regain control of its capital, enter the capital.

President Bush faces long odds in trying to make headway in this divided-governed town with its latest batch of domestic initiatives. The administration has many apparent tailormade to address long-deferred domestic concerns.

Democrats, now the majority party in Congress, reacted coolly to Bush's effort to regain control of the agenda with a handful of new and recycled State of the Union proposals on health care, energy, education, and immigration.

Beyond fresh calls for bipartisanship from both sides, Bush faced skeptical lawmakers and a new president, a man reared in an unpopular war, with the 2008 elections increasingly becoming a complicating factor.

In his address, he congratulated the new Democratic majorities, singled out House majority leader Nancy Pelosi for praise and called for bipartisanship. "Like many before us, we can work through our differences," he said.

Many of the goals he outlined in the kind of things Democrats would generally support, said Stephen Wayne, a professor of government at Georgetown University.

But for Bush, it's likely to be a hard sell.

Polls suggest a shift in public opinion earlier this month when he outlined his effort to increase troop strength in Iraq.

And Democrats on Tuesday sought to keep attention on Iraq.

"We're in this conflict with no illusions about the outcome, which is why we're operating in," said White House counselor Dan Bartlett.

Perhaps Bush's best shot at success is immigration overhaul. But then his proposal for a guest-worker program and a path to citizenship always had more support among Democrats than among fellow Republicans. Noting that "convictions run deep" on immigration, Bush said, "Serious, civil and conclusive debate" on the issue.

Bush rewarded criticism for immigration brought more Democrats than Republicans to their feet.

In general, an unusually subdued Bush signaled a "readiness for bipartisanship" in his speech that had largely been missing in his past appearances, said Wayne Fields, a specialist in presidential rhetoric at Washington University in St. Louis. "Otherwise, whatever he was talking about was pretty familiar.

Bush also proposed reducing gasoline prices. "We'll reduce our U.S. dependency by 10 percent over the next 10 years through tougher fuel economy standards and mandatory production of more ethanol and other alternate fuels. It was welcomed by some environmentalists, but they said it didn't go far enough to combat global warming without a mandatory cap on carbon production.

Bush also pushed a tax plan to pay for health care costs, but that had already been received skeptically by Democrats, who suggested it wouldn't do enough to help the poor and uninsured and could encourage some younger and healthier workers to drop out of workplace plans.

Polls show that rising health care costs are now the major economic concern of Americans. And Bush called for extending the Children's Health Insurance program and a path to citizenship.

But critics suggested his plan was: "not good enough to fully fund the program.

Bush's State of the Union agenda was clearly an effort to try to change the subject away from Iraq.

Bush wanted "to get the public to see him and his policies as winners even though he failed to win their affection."


determine one-child limit

Chinese government is committed to solving gender imbalance within 10 to 15 years with education campaigns, punishments for sex-selective abortions and rewards-like retirement pensions for parents who have girls.

"This problem is a reality of rural China," said Zhang. "We have a 2,000-year feudal history that considered women inferior to men, that gave boys the right to carry on the family name and allowed men to be emperors while women could not."

He called gender imbalance "a very serious challenge for China."

Bates Gill of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said pension benefits would help, but other financial incentives like school fees for girls, would also need to be included. He also thought the effects of such projects would take several years before families learned they could trust the government to deliver on their promises.

Zhang said China's basic policy-in effect since the late 1970s-was reviewed and renewed without change last month. The policy limits urban couples to one child and rural families to two to control the population and conserve natural resources. Beijing says it has helped prevent 400 million births and has aided the country's rapid economic development.

President Bush receives applause before delivering his annual State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill Tuesday.
Electrion
continued from page 1
mucilating the whole to the student body, Ferreira said, "I really don't think this is going to work."
Ferreira said that she believes there will be student reconsidering their previous election decisions.
Ferreira said that the students were evenly divided in their vote, "Some students were voting yes, and some were voting no, so it was a very close vote in that sense." She added, "I think the majority of students were happy with the ticket that was elected, so we need to move forward." •

McAlarney
continued from page 1

repeal for the fall 2007 semes-
ter. Associate Vice President for News and Information Don Wycliff told The Observer Monday morning he "can't talk about that, because it is a personnel matter or other records," and Residence Life and Housing Administrators身体的某个单词被省略或重复。
Oil prices trigger stock rally

U.S. plans to double Strategic Petroleum Reserve create optimism for investors

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street rebounded Tuesday, rising modestly as crude oil surged more than $2 a barrel, and triggered a rally among energy producers.

Investors regained their optimism for energy companies as they expect profits off a series of positive earnings reports.

Energy prices spiked after the Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said the U.S. will double the size of the nation’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Prices were already rising as a cold snap in the Northeast United States was seen increasing demand for heating fuel in the region.

Exxon Mobil Corp., led by Chairman and CEO Lee Raymond, and among the Dow Jones industrials’ biggest gainers, while fellow refiners ConocoPhillips and Chevron Corp. also surged during the session.

The advance in oil stocks helped the Dow recover from an 84-point decline at Monday’s close, its biggest drop in two months and a reaction to a reaction to investor uneasiness about earnings.

The markets also got a lift Tuesday from robust earnings reports from United Technologies Corp. and Texas Instruments Inc. This helped offset a warning from Intel Corp. that it was not posting a profit in the fourth quarter because of a steep decline in chip sales.

“Earnings are not coming in all that bad,” said Brian Gendreau, an investment strategist with FTN Midwest, who was encouraged by the strong showing from telecom operators and equipment maker Alcatel-Lucent that it will not post a profit for the fourth quarter but said it would post a profit for the year.

Allied Media analysts are any better than those of the stalwarts on either side of this long-running debate over whether mutual funds managed by professionals beat index funds or mirror major market indicators are up, and optimism about corporate earnings reports.

Optimism about growing demand for sweet crude rose $2.47, or 4.7 percent, to settle at $56.64, or 0.45 percent, to settle at $112.55.

The dollar was mixed amid investor uneasiness about earnings.

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New kids on the block

The Observer

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Observer Poll

If the Democratic primary were held today, who would you vote for?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A revolutionary education?

It's a common scene early in the semester: a group of students, shuffling around their classes, sometimes dividing a course into multiple sections. Commentators, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes." —Proverbs 26:15

This week's staff includes seniors from across campus.

Jan 25

The Observer Online

www.ndsmcobserver.com

Policies

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame and Notre Lady. Its primary mission is to inform, enlighten and entertain our readers. To provide a means for the free expression of views on the campus and to serve as a forum for students to share their ideas and opinions, The Observer reserves the right to publish all letters submitted. All letters should be signed and include the writer's name and address. All letters will be screened and run at the discretion of the editors.

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Kara King

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Deirdre Krasula
Amy Dixon

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

The Observer is published Monday through Friday during the academic year. Distribution is free to all Notre Dame students and faculty. Letters of 300 words or less are preferred. The editors reserve the right to edit Letters for clarity and style. All Letters must be dated and include a contact phone number. The views expressed in Letters represent the opinions of the individual writer only.

Observer Poll

If the Democratic primary were held today, who would you vote for?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes." —Proverbs 26:15

This week's staff includes seniors from across campus.

Jan 25
Sex is good, condoms or not

Let us be frank about the fact that sex is good. In fact, sex is great. It is holy. God is a big proponent of sex, and I get the feeling that a lot of sex is good made in, and of itself, apart from its function. Creation was good before humans ever existed.

I would agree with Eleanor Strong "Contraceptive society morally harmful," Jan. 23) that God knows best. But I take strong issue with the idea that the Church always knows best. Passive acquiescence to theology with such far-reaching implications, when the experience on the ground screams in pain for the Church's 2,000 years of collective experience, is truly a great resource. But contraception is too new, and its theology is just being worked out at a time when there are life and death decisions riding on the Church's interpretation. People, including priests, make mistakes. It doesn't mean everything the Church has ever said was wrong. Far from it. It just means we need to be careful. So with that said, the irony of the Church's position is that while attempting to uphold the sanctity of sex, it actually deems it objectionable. It objectifies it, really, in the sense that it is something we do not need to feel worth as humans today tends to be tied to what we can produce for our efficient profit-driven economy. Contraception, a tool with the idea that something can be good just because it is, not because of what it can produce. And the union of two people into one flesh through sex is something that is holy whether or not it can or does produce another human life.

It is an expression of love, a very deep and painful one, and not one that condoms or a pill can even begin to defile. If you want culpability for "more abortions, fewer children, more divorce and more AIDS cases," I suggest something other than contraceptives as the scapegoat. Millions of lives are riding on that careless statement.

Eleanor Strong recently argued in her Letter to the Editor ("Contraceptive society morally harmful") that contraceptives "erode respect for human life." But there is something else plaguing the world, and it too has to "respect for human life." It's called HIV and this pandemic has already claimed the lives of 25 million people.

Myers includes the words "at least" when ordering what the administration should pay its workers. Is it not obvious that we have scarce resources in a society and, therefore, in a university? As William F. Buckley Jr. once said, "ideals are fine, but as it approaches reality, the costs become prohibitive." I've been proven to be insufficient and leave future victims without the ability to make personal decisions and to protect themselves. As she continues in her misguided approach to solving the world's moral dilemmas, Strong contends that contraception robs the human race of a "stable, loving family" structure. Guess what? There are 40 million AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa and I don't think condoms have orphaned any one yet. You may find it morally wrong to protect the gift of life and the promise of a family through sexual-protection, but it is my opinion. The letter continues with her attack on such preventative-measures, claiming contraceptives "implicitly condone promiscuity." This broad assumption lacks any empirical evidence. Sexual protection allows for couples to physically express themselves without the fear of death, disease or an unwanted pregnancy. In no means do they cause individuals to have sex. They simply serve as protection, not as encouragement.

And she doesn't stop there. Strong alleges that the prevalence of contraceptives in our society has also caused a terrible sequence of events: they lead to more abortions and the spread of AIDS. These conclusions, however naive, any supportable evidence, and are the result of reckless, misguided assumptions. Contraceptives prevent unwanted pregnancies that could easily result in more abortions and condoms prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Such preposterous attitudes toward sexual protection have already claimed the lives of millions in Africa, where rumors suggest having sex with a virgin cures AIDS. Therefore, if you want to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, the most effective way to stop the spread of this disease with which Strong finds so morally repulsive — condoms. To end this great death requires more than idealistic policies of abstinence. These policies have been proven to be insufficient and leave future victims without the ability to make personal decisions and to protect themselves. As she continues in her misguided approach to solving the world's moral dilemmas, Strong contends that contraception robs the human race of a "stable, loving family" structure.
American Idol Feature

‘American Idol’ breeds talent, brings fame

It’s hard to avoid the “American Idol” phenomenon. Everyone knows who Simon Cowell is and can name at least one of the “Idol” winners or contestants. The show has produced a Grammy winner, a Golden Globe winner, a Country Music Award (CMA) female vocalist of the year and several platinum-selling recording artists. And it’s only getting bigger and better.

When the first season of “Idol” aired in 2002, it had nine million viewers. The premiere of the current sixth season enjoyed more than 57 million viewers. Its success single-handedly revived the talent show genre and gave rise to several successor shows, including “America’s Got Talent,” “Rock Star: INXS” and the latest, NBC’s “Grease: You’re the One That I Want.”

While “Idol” first began as a quest to find the best undiscovered young pop superstar, the show has since evolved and has lessened its age restrictions and opened itself to more genres, including rock and country.

Even before the 24 finalists (12 males and 12 females) are named, the city open-call auditions are almost as popular to watch as the final contestants. As exciting as it is to see the young new talent, it is equally exciting to watch the delirious masses attempt to perform.

The season has introduced U.C. Berkeley student William Hung to the world, and he has since become a cult celebrity — even releasing his own album. Season five brought the Britneyan twins, Derrell and Terrell, and all of their accompanying drama. They both made it to Hollywood out of Chicago, and Derrell quit when he mistakenly heard that his brother had been cut.

After he realized his error, he begged Cowell and the other judges to let him have his spot back. They agreed, but both twins were disqualified when they were recognized for being wanted for identity theft. Although the sixth season is only several weeks young, there have already been several (infamous) auditions, and several ambitious people have put online guides to the MySpace profiles of some of the worst auditions.

The show has become so popular that appearing on “American Idol” is enough in itself to make the individuals almost instantly famous. They do not necessarily even have to win to become a true American idol.

As viewership has increased yearly, more and more of the finalists outside of first and second place have become exceptionally popular. Of the season five finalists, more than a third of them either already have a debut album on store shelves or are set to release one. Several more finalists, like Ace Young, have released singles online.

Even beyond just selling albums, the ’Idol’ alumni have met with success even outside the music arena. Most recently, season three contestant Jennifer Hudson won a Golden Globe and has been nominated for an Academy Award for her supporting role in “Dreamgirls.” Season three winner Fantasia Barrino starred in a Lifetime movie based on her book, “Life Is Not a Fairy Tale.” Season five contestant Kellie Pickler is getting her own sitcom, currently in production with FOX.

Within the musical arena the original American Idol, Kelly Clarkson, garnered herself two Grammys and season four winner Carrie Underwood has twice won the CMA award for top female vocalist of the year, and has also been a Grammy nominee.

With all of the success that “American Idol” and its contestants have enjoyed, it is a sure thing that it is not going away anytime soon and will continue to exist for the American public to enjoy — William Hung and all.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

CD Review

‘Daughtry’ a solid album from popular ‘Idol’ rocker

From his very first audition, Chris Daughtry made his presence felt during season five of “American Idol.” While Bo Bice and Constantine Maroulis cracked open the door of the rock genre during season four, Daughtry blasted it open. His pulse-pounding performance of Fuel’s hit “Hemorrhage” was praised by all three judges and was popular with the audience.

His performance even impressed the members of Fuel, who asked him to be their lead singer after his departure from the show. His unforgettable renditions of Johnny Cash’s “Walk the Line” and Bon Jovi’s “Wanted Dead or Alive” cemented his fan base and earned him a spot among the “American Idol” greats. He finished the season as the fourth-place finalist.

After the show ended, Daughtry declined the offer to sign with Fuel and instead chose to follow his own solo career. He formed his own band and recorded “Daughtry,” a debut album that debuted at number two on the Billboard charts. His first single off the album, “It’s Not Over,” is currently rated at 21 on the Billboard charts and is gaining in airtime popularity. The song, co-written by Daughtry and fellow “Idol” contestant Ace Young, exemplifies his style of solidly blending together rock and pop qualities (much in the vein of artists such as Nickelback).

Most of his album is a mesh of pop and rock, although individual songs vary on where they fall on the pop to rock scale. Songs like “Used To” and “Home” easily fall under the pop category, whereas “What I Want” and “Gone” are nothing but rock.

His version of rock, however, is much more blended and stylized than some of his hard-rocking predecessors, and it is fairly easy to assume that Daughtry will find much more success in the pop circles than the rock.

Although he tends to be grouped and compared to acts like Nickelback or Fuel, Daughtry still manages to impress upon his listeners his own unique sound — albeit it’s obvious from the energy and enthusiasm of his album that he is doing what he loves to do.

Daughtry’s talent becomes apparent in the fact that there really isn’t a bad track on the album. He wrote or co-wrote every song on the album with the exceptions of “Feels Like Tonight” and “What About Now,” the latter written by Ben Moody from Evanesence.

Daughtry’s vocals are great on all of the songs, and he sounds even better than he did when he was on “Idol.” The rest of the band is also excellent, with the guitarist specifically standing out. The song “What I Want” even features a special guest appearance by Guns ‘N Roses guitar legend Slash.

The people behind “American Idol” never miss a beat, and this album is no exception. Every store carries the same “Daughtry” album except for one — Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart features a special “bonus” edition of the album, which contains two extra tracks: acoustic versions of “Home” and “Crashed.”

“Daughtry” is a solid hit through and through — it has already gone platinum — and its success only guarantees a promising future for its artist. Chris Daughtry has managed to do what some former Idol contestants struggle with — he transcended the “Idol” fan base and created an album that even non-Idol fans can’t help but enjoy.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu
Personality helps Pickler after loss on show

Jessica Simpson gained dubious fame for asking a now infamous question while pondering a can of Chicken of the Sea: "Is it chicken or tuna?" Following in Simpson's vein of dumb-blondie antics is Kellie Pickler, whose debut came in season five of "American Idol." Whether it was her confusing the meanings of "mink" and "minx" or her drawn-out Southern pronunciation of "tarantulas," she warmed the hearts of all her viewers. Even the show's producers recognized her lasting popularity and they filmed a recurring segment called "Puck n Pickler," where chef Wolfgang Puck introduced Pickler to unusual food for comic relief on the show. She continued to be popular on the show, singing in the finale episode and doing several promotional spots for later shows.

Even after being bounced, the "Idol" producers recognized her lasting popularity and they filmed a recurring segment called "Puck n Pickler," where chef Wolfgang Puck introduced Pickler to unusual food for comic relief on the show. She continued to be popular on the show, singing in the finale episode and doing several promotional spots for later shows.

Although she finished in sixth place, Pickler has returned to the public eye with the release of her debut album, "Small Town Girl," which debuted at number one on the Billboard country chart. The album is standard fare as far as country music goes, and her catchy lyrics and upbeat voice will make the release instantly popular with country fans. Her first single off of the album, "Red High Heels," has consistently been in the top 20 of the country charts since its debut. A catchy and sassy song that talks about her love for collecting shoes, it is the perfect introduction for Pickler to the world outside of "Idol." In a break from tradition and a show of support for Pickler, the production company for the "Idol" contestistas released her album two months before. "Idol" winner Taylor Hicks was set to release his. In previous years, all of the contestants were under contract not to release their albums until after the first and second-place winners released theirs.

"Small Town Girl" is full of energy, and Pickler celebrates everything that makes up her vivacious country personality. Although much of the album is upbeat and energetic, it also balances out these moments with more emotional, sentimental songs. The tearjerker track "I Wonder," which is scheduled to be her second single release, is an ode to her mother, who left her when she was a young child. It's obvious that Pickler put her heart and soul into the song, and it is sure to be a successful country ballad in the future.

All it takes now is simply an appearance on "American Idol" to become a recording pop artist. Ayla Brown, who released her debut album "Forward" last year, is proof of that. Although she made the top-24 field of finalists, she was eliminated in week three of the finale. Even though she lasted a relatively short time on the hit television show, her brief stint sufficed to gain enough of a fan base to warrant recording an album. Typically albums can take a long time to record, mix and produce her debut CD all in less than two weeks. She only had a limited time to record her album because she is also a basketball player at Boston College, which she attends on a full basketball scholarship. She only had a small window of opportunity between the end of her "Idol" contract and her official enrollment at BC, where she is obligated to follow NCAA regulations concerning the recording and promotion of music.

"Forward" has a very contemporary pop feel to it. From the upbeat first single "Know You Better," which displays a decent vocal talent which is as good as most recording pop artists today — where it doesn't take the most amazing voice in the world to make a hit song. Much like "Know You Better," which is gaining in radio play, her covers of "I Quit" and "Sugah" are driven by upbeat and catchy lyrics. Her version of "Sugah" is much more developed than the one recorded by fellow "Idol" alums Justin Guarini and Kelly Clarkson for their cinematic travesty, "From Justin to Kelly" (2002). Likewise, Pickler's arrangement of "I Quit" is much more upbeat and faster than Hepburn's original release.

Most of Brown's album is written by such well-known songwriters as Diane Warren, who wrote the ballad "I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing" and Tommy Sims ("Change the World"). While Kelly Clarkson's album, "Breakaway," was good enough to stand on her own, and she didn't make it far enough on "Idol" to have that built-in level of success. While Kelly Clarkson's first album wasn't terrific, she had the support of her "Idol" win to continuously put her name in the public eye until she truly was good enough to stand on her own. Brown's next release will surely be better, but the question remains as to whether this album will garner enough success to warrant another.

Contact Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu
"Pan's Labyrinth" unravels imaginative world on big screen

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

Few films are able to meld the everyday world with a fantastical, mythical dream world better than "Pan's Labyrinth." This film tells its story through the eyes of a little girl who finds herself undergoing Herculean tasks at the bidding of a seeing-foot faun while dealing with the after effects of the Spanish Civil War.

The grittiness of the war is clear in the violence, the fantasy of her hidden kingdom is clear in her awe and the way these two worlds mirror each other is undeniably clear in the brilliant parallels director and screenwriter Guillermo del Toro weaves into this film. Few films this year are as lush and beautiful as "Pan's Labyrinth." This, in relation to the story it tells, is the strongest aspect of the film. The lighting is beautifully done, especially during scenes shot at night. The proper amount of eeriness and fantasy is inserted into the film, which brings the war-torn real world together with the fantastic underground kingdom, a place described in the prologue as a world without pain or sadness.

The central driving force of the narrative revolves around a young girl named Ofelia who travels with her mother to live with her mother's new husband, Captain Vidal. Vidal is a captain in the Nationalist army that has just taken control of Spain. He's been assigned to a rural outpost to quell any opposition posed by Republican forces hiding in the forests.

The actor behind the vicious and ruthless Captain Vidal is Sergi Lopez, who puts in the best performance of the film. He is exacting and unbounding in his quest to destroy the small Republican force and raise his son under his militaristic guidance. Vidal's bloodthirstiness is matched by one other character in the film — the Pale Man, a fearsome antagonist young Ofelia faces in the second task she is given at the labyrinth near her house. Only the imagination of a first-rate filmmaker could have thought up the night- mare that is the Pale Man, whose eyeballs are embedded in his hands. The only way to truly experience the character is to see his inspired design on the big screen.

The makeup in "Pan's Labyrinth" — which was recently nominated for an Academy Award — is incredible. The fantasy elements are impeccable because they are not life-like. This may seem an odd assessment, but the make-up helps sell these creatures in exactly the way a young child might imagine them. The fantastic characters here do not attempt to be real in the way those in Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" do.

Pan's Labyrinth

Director: Guillermo del Toro
Writer: Guillermo del Toro
Starring: Ariadna Gil, Ivana Baquero, Doug Jones and Sergi Lopez

The script, penned by Del Toro, is humorless but complicated, brimming with ideas and creativity. Unfortunately, it too often lacks thematic unity, spiraling in several different directions without fully exploring most of them. "Pan's Labyrinth" is also quite dark and violent, with many disturbing scenes that are difficult and off-putting. For a film touted as an escapist fantasy, there's simply too much reality. The harshness and brutality of the "real world" threaten to overshadow what is ostensibly the narrative crux of the picture, which dilutes much of the film's impact.

Ivana Baquero, all of 12 years old, is superb as Ofelia. In many ways, the film rests on her shoulders, and her controlled, measured performance mixes innocence and wisdom perfectly. Sergi Lopez offers the other standout performance as the monstrous Captain Vidal, evoking shades of Ralph Fiennes' "Hannibal Lecter" from "Schindler's List." It's not hard to see why critics are raving about "Pan's Labyrinth," since it feels like a picture specifically designed to make an artistic statement. Unfortunately, it never quite coalesces as a complete work, but it does hint at future greatness from a filmmaker starting to hit his stride.

Del Toro has proven himself a director capable of great visual beauty, but he has yet to make a movie that fulfills his enormous potential. He is far more talented than previous works like "Mimic," "Blade II" and "Hellboy" might have indicated, and "Pan's Labyrinth" is a great leap forward for him as an artistically-minded filmmaker. The picture is, however, never as immersive or emotionally effective as it should be.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

IMAGINATIVE FILM LACKS DEPTH AND MEANING

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

"Pan's Labyrinth" wants badly to be a great movie, but its reach exceeds its grasp. It is a creative and unique film, and its originality is admirable, but it never pulls together as a single work, and that lack of cohesiveness ultimately prevents it from being as good a picture as it could be.

Set against the turmoil of 1944 Spain, when the Spanish Civil War was coming to a close, "Pan's Labyrinth" follows Ofelia (Ivana Baquero), a girl who accompanies her mother Carmen (Ariadna Gil) to a military camp. Carmen has married the brutal Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez), who is attempting to weed out a group of rebels who have taken to the mountains. Carmen and Ofelia are looked after by Mercedes (Maribel Verdú), one of Vidal's servants. Mercedes' brother, however, is one of the leaders of the rebels, and Mercedes is secretly aiding them. During all of this, Ofelia is drawn to a nearby labyrinth and confronted by a mysterious faun named Pan (Doug Jones), who also plays the eerie Pale Man, who informs her that she has the soul of a lost princess and must pass three tests to prove herself and take her rightful place in her father's true kingdom.

The biggest problem with "Pan's Labyrinth" is that, despite its multifaceted complexity, it's not nearly as immersive as it should be. The continual narrative shifts between the "real world" and the "fantasy world" are jarring and the film's narrative footing is too dependent on Mercedes and the rebellion when it should concentrate on Ofelia. The three tests that Ofelia is given are simplistic in nature, and occasionally complicate (rather than clarify) her character.

The film's lack of cohesiveness detracts from the movie as a whole, though there is much to admire, particularly in its craftsmanship. The film is undeniably beautiful, especially in its art direction and sense of form. The script, penned by Del Toro, is humorless but complicated, brimming with ideas and creativity. Unfortunately, it too often lacks thematic unity, spiraling in several different directions without fully exploring most of them.

"Pan's Labyrinth" is also quite dark and violent, with many disturbing scenes that are difficult and off-putting. For a film touted as an escapist fantasy, there's simply too much reality. The harshness and brutality of the "real world" threaten to overshadow what is ostensibly the narrative crux of the picture, which dilutes much of the film's impact.

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Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

A passageway lies before Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) in the Oscar-nominated "Pan's Labyrinth," which uses dramatic cinematography to create two vivid worlds.

Ofelia (Ivana Baquero), left, encounters Pale Man (Doug Jones), one of the many eerie and fantastic characters in Guillermo del Toro's film, "Pan's Labyrinth."
BROWNING CINEMA

ND Student Film Festival (2007)
Directed by ND Students
NR, 120 minutes
Thu, Jan 25 at 7 pm and 10 pm
Fri, Jan 26 at 7 pm and 10 pm
Sat, Jan 27 at 7 pm and 10 pm

Heaven (2002)
Directed by Tom Tykwer
R, 96 minutes
Thu, Feb 1 at 7 pm and 10 pm

Shut Up and Sing (2006)
Directed by Barbara Kopple
R, 99 minutes
Fri, Feb 2 at 10 pm
Sat, Feb 3 at 10 pm
Sun, Feb 4 at 4 pm

Iraq in Fragments (2006)
Directed by James Longley
NR, 94 minutes
Kurdish, Arabic, and English languages with English subtitles
Fri, Feb 2 at 7 pm
Sat, Feb 3 at 7 pm

Birth of a Nation (1915)
PAC Classic 100
Directed by DW. Griffith
NR, 187 minutes
Sat, Feb 3 at 3 pm

FILM LINE: 631-FILM

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For details about these shows, keep an eye on our Web site:
http://performingarts.nd.edu
You can buy your tickets online, or call the DPAC Ticket Office at 631-2800.
Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - Mike Nardi had a game-high 19 points and Scottie Reynolds guided Nova to victory.

Auburn knocked off ranked team for second time in six days; strong defense helps Illini top No. 23 Hoosiers

Tennessee.

Auburn 81, Alabama 57 (15-4, 2-3) since

Auburn knocks off ranked team for second time in six days; strong defense helps Illini top No. 23 Hoosiers

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CASHIERS

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South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 5 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per

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Men's Basketball
Associated Press Top 25

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Raiders hire USC's Kiffin as head coach

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — After four miserable seasons, Al Davis knew the Oakland Raiders needed a fresh start. He couldn't have found a new coach much more fresh than Lane Kiffin.

The Raiders officially hired the 31-year-old Kiffin on Tuesday, putting the former Southern California offensive coordinator in charge of restoring glory to a three-time Super Bowl champion that fell to the NFL's worst record last year.

Kiffin, who took the job Monday, became the youngest head coach in club history and the NFL's youngest in several decades. If the job of rebuilding a 2-14 club intimidates him, Kiffin didn't show it while sitting next to Davis in a sharp black suit.

"I'm extremely excited about this opportunity and where I see this place going," Kiffin said at the Raiders' training facility next to Davis in a sharp black suit.

Kiffin, the son of Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, has just one season of NFL experience as Jacksonville's defensive quality control coach in 2000. But the 78-year-old Davis wasn't afraid to hire a coach young enough to be his grandson.

In fact, Davis wanted another talented young offensive mind to lead the franchise where John Madden, Mike Shanahan and Jon Gruden excelled in their 30s. Shanahan and Gruden won Super Bowls with other teams after leaving the Raiders rancorously when their ideas clashed with Davis' vision for the franchise.

"I think, '31 years old, wow, that's young,'" Davis said. "But you don't have to be old to be great. You have to have to be good. You have to give it what you want. You have to have a desire for a passion for football.'"

The Raiders also will retain defensive coordinator Bob Ryan, who built an above-average defense last season despite the offense's woes. Kiffin, who left for the Senior Bowl after Tuesday's news conference, plans to hire an offensive coordinator soon.

And he has plenty of additional work ahead with the Raiders.

IN BRIEF

Minnesota fires Casey due to inconsistency

MINNEAPOLIS — The Timberwolves fired coach Dwane Casey on Tuesday, one day after Minnesota lost its fourth consecutive game and only 1 1/2 seasons since he took over.

Casey, in his first head coaching job, was unable to solve the Timberwolves' inconsistencies and push them back into the thick of the competitive Western Conference, prompting vice president of basketball operations Kevin McHale to make the move.

"We were at a point as a team where we were just treading water," McHale said. "The ups and downs, we just couldn't find any consistency." The Timberwolves were looking to turn the corner at the start of the new year, when they opened 2007 with seven wins in their first eight games.

But they lost their next four games, including one to Phoenix without leading scorer Kevin Garnett and Ricky Davis.

Bears' Johnson cleared to play in Super Bowl

SPOKANE, Ill. — Chicago Bears defensive tackle Tank Johnson will play in the Super Bowl with court approval.

Cook County Judge John Moran granted a defense request Tuesday to allow Johnson to leave the state as he awaits trial on gun possession charges. The Bears will play the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl in Miami on Feb. 4.

Johnson's attorney, Lorna Propes, said Johnson will have no special restrictions placed on him while in Miami.

"Terry Johnson is going to Miami to play football and represent the Bears," she said.

Johnson was arrested Dec. 14 after police raided his home in Gurnee, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago. Prosecutors say officers found six weapons and ammunition in Johnson's home. He faces 10 counts of possession of firearms without a state gun-owner identification card.

Roddrick cruises to semifinal show down with Federer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Roddick was ruthless, treating his close friend like little more than warmup fodder for his semifinal showdown with Roger Federer.

The 2003 U.S. Open champion flat­tened Mardy Fish without blinking Tuesday, making only four unforced errors in a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinal win at the Australian Open.

"I played pretty flawless, I thought," Roddick said. "I feel good going into the semis." Roddick said he could remember making more errors in one game than he had in the entire match against Fish, who lived with him in Boca Raton, Fla., for a while and went to his high school.

"I tried my best to kind of put our friendship to the back of my head," Roddick said. "You know, it's always difficult. It's a weird, weird situa­tion."
Young duo's charm expected to boost buzz

Associated Press

DALLAS — Sitting side by side at a table, facing question after question about being the faces of the new NHL, Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin flashed their grace and charm.

Asked about trying to bring the game to a wider audience, Ovechkin smiled, turned to Crosby and said, "Can you answer?" And the 19-year-old delivered smoothly, giving a thoughtful response that included the line, "We're going to do our best to make that possible."

Then came the subject of the league's MVP thus far. Ovechkin leaned right into the microphone and said, " Crosby!" Crosby laughed, started giving a politically correct answer about there being "too many guys right now," then broke into a smile and said, "I mean, the best answer would be Ovechkin right now, right?"

Pretty good, oh?

Well, they should be even more dazzling on the ice Wednesday night. "Those guys," said 10-time All-Star Teemu Selanne, who has accounting on this exciting young duo to get TV ratings up and to generate more buzz.

That's why they were the only two players selected to meet the media Monday in a group setting. And it explains how Ovechkin, a 21-year-old Moscow native, got stuck trying to compare himself and Crosby to Larry Bird and Magic Johnson.

"I feel comfortable," Ovechkin said. And I think Sidney feels comfortable, too. We concentrate on the game and don't think about our faces, the NHL or Magic Johnson or Larry Bird. We concentrate on our game and our team. Crosby plays for the Pittsburgh Penguins and leads the league with 72 points, five more than anyone else. That's a whopping amount considering the rest of the top-20 scorers are separated by one or two points.

In his bid to become the youngest MVP since Gretzky, Crosby already has become the youngest top-vote-getter for the All-Star game. And he lives with Louimex, who as the owner of the Penguins also is his bosses.

"It's been very exciting for my family. My four kids really love him," Lemieux said. "They play hockey with him all the time in the basement. They have a great time. He's a great kid, a great person, a great ambassador for our league. I feel very fortunate to have a chance to watch him play."

Ovechkin, of the Washington Capitals, has 65 points and 29 goals, one off the league lead. He also beat out Crosby last season for rookie of the year honors. Yet as great as they are separately, it's hard to talk about one without mentioning the other. "It's fun to watch the highlights every night because you know there will be a lot from both of them," Ottawa's Dany Heatley said. Happily their teammate this week, Heatley added, "It gives us a good chance."

During a light practice Monday night, Crosby (No. 87) and Ovechkin (No. 8) shared a few passes without showing off too much. On Tuesday afternoon, they worked with other All-Stars to build a Habitat for Humanity house, then were to log more ice time together during the skills contest, both were taking part in shootout events.

"We've seen each other casually at events like this, but we haven't spent a lot of time together," Crosby said. "We're on the same team, we're sitting next to each other in the dressing room, so I'm sure I'll talk to him a lot." The better they are, the better for the NHL's long-term health.
**The Observer - SPORTS** page 17

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**Spend the Night with 13 Amazing Films**

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**Alma**

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The last time these two teams met, Alma forward Ashley Matuzak paced her team with 27 points and a contest-high 12 rebounds. Saint Mary’s won that game at home by a score of 72-60.

"Ashley Matuzak is a very good player. She creates problems for us defensively," Saint Mary’s head coach Jennifer Henley said.

In order to neutralize Matuzak, Belles freshman center Anna Kammrath and sophomore forward Erin Newsom will need to play well.

Newsom has been steadily improving throughout the season and is averaging eight rebounds a game. Kammrath has become a dominant presence in the paint and is also pulling down an average of eight rebounds per contest.

"We are going to have to give more help on [Matuzak] when she attacks the basket and find her earlier in transition defense," Henley said.

Kammrath and Newsom have been keys to Saint Mary’s recent success. After a rocky start the Belles have turned their season around.

"I think our early struggles were due to three factors: adjusting to a new coach, playing an incredibly tough non-conference schedule and our overall youth," Henley said. The roster of 15 players includes only three upperclassmen - most notably junior guard Alison Kessler - and has been key contributors throughout the season. But the Belles have found success when their younger players came into their own.

Having other contributors has allowed the Belles to spread the ball around and alleviate the pressure that opposing defenses devoted to stopping Kessler and senior guard Bridget Lipke.

"When more people contribute to our offense, it really takes the pressure off Bridget and Alison," Henley said. "We are no longer a team that relies solely on our points coming from these two guards."

Henley said that she has already earned early for the spring semester at Notre Dame - Allen, quarterback Jimmy Clausen of Westlake Village, Calif., and cornerback Gary Gray from Columbia, S.C.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu

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**Hughes**

continued from page 20

juice in Chicago, especially in the Chicago Public League."

Frank said Brown’s career path and style resonate with coaches in the league, and that familiarity can trickle down to the top players as they decide what school to choose.

National Signing Day - when high school seniors can sign binding letters of intent with their chosen colleges - is Feb. 7, and three recruits have

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**Frost**

continued from page 20

has a lot of depth," Carroll said. "The points they are able to get definitely help us and they’re only getting better."

While the freshmen may not always win their events, their ability to finish strongly and score third, fourth or fifth-place points are essential to Notre Dame’s hope of capturing a Big East title next month.

"There are quite a few of these freshmen to the Big East meet," Carroll said. "It’s good for them to get their feet wet and get experience."

At the prestigious U.S. Open meet — an event that featured Olympic quality competition — freshman Natalie Stitt finished 11th in the one-meter dive, while Tiffany Bobak placed 16th. Megan Farrell and Ashlee Edgell placed 48th and 58th in the 200-meter individual medley.

Numerous freshmen also hold top team times in their respective events, including Lexie Shue (500-meter freestyle), Farrell (200-meter fly), Stacey Nedrud (200-meter backstroke) and Stitt (one-meter dive). Right on their heels are other freshmen

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**South Bend Tribune**

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**The Observer**

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Storm continued from page 20

view. "It slowed them down and changed their rhythm." So when Red Storm forward Anthony Mason Jr. dumped the ball inside to Hamilton with less than 15 seconds remaining and the score tied at 68, Irish forward Russell Carter cheated from his position out­side of the paint to prevent Hamilton from getting an easy bucket.

Once Carter took a step inside, Hamilton spotted St. John's guard Larry Wright open beyond the three­point line between the corner and the wing. Hamilton kicked the ball out to Wright, who drained the shot before Carter could get back outside. Wright's clutch shot tied the Red Storm a 71-68 lead with 9.9 seconds left.

"We gave ourselves a lot of chances to win the game." -- Mike Brey, Irish head coach

"Wright gave ourselves a lot of chances to win the game," said Brey. "He knocked down that big shot right there. We had our opportunities. We certainly had our opportunities." Notre Dame guard Colin Falls tied the game at 68 before hitting one of two free throws with 40.3 seconds left. The Irish 16-4, 4-3 Big East had a chance to tie the game again after Wright's shot, but Carter's shot from well beyond the NBA three-point line missed, giving St. John's (12-8, 3-4) the win.

"I don't want us hanging our head too much here," Brey said. "You just don't have time for that in league play." Despite missing the final shot, Carter led Notre Dame with 16 points and five rebounds, including an 11-0 personal run to begin the second half — in a game Brey wasn't even sure he'd play.

Carter hit the floor hard twice going after rebounds in Notre Dame's win over South Florida Sunday.

"He was kind of questionable for the game. He didn't practice yesterday and was very sure this afternoon," Brey said. "I said tell me after warm-ups how you feel." Carter was "great," Brey said. "He gave us a great start ... I thought he was fabulous." Before an early second-half spurt erased the Red Storm's 49-41 halftime lead, When Carter cooled off, however, the rest of the Irish could not pick up the slack. Carter scored one bench point the entire game and, besides Carter's 10-for-20 performance, shot just 27 percent from the field. The Irish also struggled from the free-throw line, shooting only 15-for-25 (60 percent).

Defensively, the Irish kept themselves in the game, limiting St. John's to just 40 percent shooting in the second half. Their inability to put the ball in the basket late, however, prevented them from taking a significant lead.

Fulls finished with 16 points on 5-of-13 shooting, but converted with a career-high 32 points with seven of his points coming in the first half. Wright finished with 23 including the game-winner over St. John's guard Eugene Lawrence added 13.

The loss drops Notre Dame from second to sixth place in the Big East standings as it prepares to face Villanova Saturday at the Joyce Center. The Wildcats defeated Notre Dame 102-87 last Wednesday in Philadelphia.

"Villanova's very good and very hot right now," Brey said. "But they bumped us so I hope our guys remember that."

Contact Chris Hine at cmhine@nd.edu

Eagles continued from page 20

finish." Notre Dame was unable to knock down shots when it needed to most, especially in the paint. As a team, the Irish shot only 35.5 percent from the floor, including 4-for-13 from beyond the arc. In the post, the Golden Eagles were able to outscore the Irish 36-26 as well as out rebound them 37-31.

"I thought we lost the game on the boards and in the paint," said McGraw after Wright's shot, but McGraw said. "They got inside — I think they got 36 points in the paint. Late in the game, they got like three of four offensive boards for put­backs. We just didn't do a good job boxing out." Despite the outcome, the Eagles were able to keep the game close with Marquette throughout the first half, even taking a 13-12 lead at 13:44. The Golden Eagles would soon recapture that lead, however, and would hold on to it the remainder of the match.

The Irish had one more chance at the lead after guard Melissa Lechlitner drove the lane for a layup and was fouled, making the score 42-41. Lechlitner missed the free throw for the old-fashioned three-pointer and — even though forward Ashley Bedore grabbed the rebound — missed the go-ahead layup. After that, Marquette continued to pull further away from the Irish, eventually wearing out an 11-point lead with 3:42 to play that would be good enough to ride to victory.

Another disappointment was the play of guard Charel Allen, who put up 17 points and eight rebounds in the loss. Although this would be a good line on most nights, Allen finished scoring 56 points in two games last week, a feat that earned her Big East player of the week honors. But Allen finished the game against the Golden Eagles a meager 6-of-20 shooting, missing both of her 3- point tries.

Allen did not give up hope late in the game. She continued to try and find her shot, and was inte­gral in keeping the score rea­sonable by making crucial baskets in the second half. "I was happy I still well continued to shoot even though she was having an off night," McGraw said. "I was a little disappointed that nobody else could pick up the slack."

Defensively, the Irish were only able to contain Marquette's potent offense, not effectively shut down,ing the Irish offense only 17 points off the bench.

"Our bench has been excel­lent this year and tonight they weren't," McGraw said. "Ashley Barlow gave us a lift early, but nobody really played well. We just didn't do anything well." After the loss, McGraw said that there was not one single thing the Irish could do to improve after their performance against Marquette before a matchup with No. 5 Connecticut.

"You look at a game like that where you didn't do anything right, so you feel like you're stuck back at ground zero," she said. "But I just think everybody's got to come ready to play.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

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**FOOTBALL RECRUITING**

Chicago running back Robert Hughes commits to Weis, Irish

By KEN FOWLER  
Sports Editor

Chicago running back Robert Hughes, a highly regarded 5-foot-11, 228-pound bruiser from Hubbard High School, announced in a press conference Tuesday he will attend Notre Dame. "I think he brings a very physical style of play to Notre Dame," said Mike Frank, who covers recruiting for Irisheyes.com, a member of the Scout.com recruiting network.

"The one thing you know you're going to get from Robert is you're going to get 100 percent of his effort."  
Hughes chose Notre Dame over Illinois after an intense recruiting battle.  
With the pickup, the Irish now have 19 recruits in this year's incoming class, including two running backs. Miami-area prospect Armando Allen verbally committed to Irish coach Charlie Weis at the beginning of December, and the addition of Hughes gives Notre Dame its second-straight recruiting class with two premier tailbacks. In 2006, the Irish signed current freshmen James Aldridge and Munir Prince. Aldridge ran 37 times in seven games for a 3.8 yards-per-carry average. Prince saw action in 10 games but had only 12 attempts for 21 yards.

Allen is considered to be one of the fastest backs in this recruiting class. But in Hughes, Frank said, the Irish land a physical specimen with impressive size. "It's all solid muscle," Frank said of Hughes' large frame. "He's a very cut, very strong kid. I just think he's going to bring a real toughness to Notre Dame."  
Hughes eclipsed 1,000 yards in his first three seasons at Hubbard, and his best performance came in his third season, in which he rushed for more than 1,900 yards.

"He brings a bigger back with some power, but he's also shifty," Frank said. "He's got the ability to cut right and left, which is not something all the bigger backs have."  
Full stats from Hughes' senior season were unavailable. Hughes, who is listed as running the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds, played in the Chicago Public League, the high school conference of new Irish defensive coordinator Corwin Brown. Brown was an all-state player at Judge High School in Chicago and was scheduled to meet with Hughes Monday. Frank said for long-term Irish recruiting in the area, "He's a guy who has a lot of see HUGHES/page 17

**SMC BASKETBALL**

Belles head to Alma for MIAA tilt

By DAN COOPER  
Sports Writer

After a big win over Adrian last Saturday, Saint Mary's travels to Michigan today to face the Alma Scots in an MIAA matchup with tournament implications.  
The Belles — 5-4 in the MIAA and 6-10 overall — are currently in a three-way tie with Albion and Olivet for third in the conference. Alma is sixth in the conference at 3-5 and 7-8 overall on the season.

see ALMA/page 17

**ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING**

Talented freshmen give squad depth, humor

By CHRIS HINE  
Sports Writer

No. 19 Notre Dame entered the final event of last week's Michigan Invitational — the 400-yard freestyle relay — with a slim 7.2-point lead over No. 10 Michigan for second place. Things looked up for the Wolverines when one of their teams touched the wall first and grabbed 40 points.  
A few seconds later, however, the Irish broke any hopes the Wolverines had of catching up. Four Irish relay teams managed to outscore the rest of Michigan's squad and preserve Notre Dame's finish over a higher-ranked opponent.

"And while the Irish upperclassmen were important to the upset, senior captain Katie Carroll said the keys to the event were the six Notre Dame freshmen who contributed to the scoring. Overall the freshman class were solid," Carroll said.  
see FROSH/page 17

**ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

Marquette tops ND, 71-62

By JAY FITZPATRICK  
Sports Writer

In a night where everything had to go right for the Irish, nothing did.  
Notre Dame (13-4, 4-2 Big East) started its three-game road trip Tuesday with a loss to No. 19 Marquette (18-2, 5-1) 71-62 in Milwaukee.

"I don't think anything went right for us tonight," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said in a phone interview after the game. "It was just a bad game from start to finish."  
see EAGLES/page 18

**SPORTS AT A GLANCE**

**NHL**

The NHL hopes for another Stanley Cup run.  
Crosby and Alex Ovechkin can be the new faces of the league.

page 16

**NFC**

The Oakland Raiders are one of the NFL's top teams.  
The 49ers are one of the NFL's top teams.

page 15

**TENNIS**

Andy Roddick advances to the finals of the Australian Open to face Roger Federer.

page 15

**NCAA BASKETBALL**

Villanova 82, Providence 73

Mike Nardi scores 19 in the Wildcats win over the Friars.

page 14

**NCAA BASKETBALL**

Auburn 81, Alabama 57

The Tigers beat their second ranked team in six days with the win over the Tide.

page 14

**NCAA BASKETBALL**

Illinois 51, Indiana 43

The No. 23 Hoosiers lose their first game after appearing in the Top 25 Monday.

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**THE OBSERVER**

Wednesday, January 24, 2007