ND eyes 2008 presidential election

Students, professors scrutinize Clinton, Obama, Brownback, Edwards, other hopefuls

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

With election 2008's Iowa primaries less than a year away, as presidential hopefuls hustle to announce their candidacies, the politically minded on Notre Dame are sitting vice president is running for the job, leaving the door wide open for potential candidates.

One by one, they're walking through the Notre Dame's political minders, Hillery Clinton (N.Y.), former Sen. John Edwards (N.C.) and Gov. Bill Richardson (N.M.) have proclaimed their intentions to run for president, and Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.) said he will make an official announcement on Feb. 10.

In the running, but potential Republican candidates include Sen. Sam Brownback (Kan.), mayor of New York City Rudy Giuliani and Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich.

The openness of the race, coupled with front-loading in the nomination procedure — that is, starting caucuses and primaries for early in 2008 — is prompting hopefuls to announce their candidacies so early, said American Studies professor Robert Schumh. The candidates are likely to be set by February of that year, he said.

When it comes to the Republican primaries, Notre Dame College Republicans president Sarah Way doesn't think McCain or Giuliani mark the first time in 80 years that neither the sitting president nor sitting vice president is running for the job, leaving the door wide open for potential candidates.

Business administration sophomore Joyce McDermott experienced a ticket seller senior Johnny Keenan "It's an election. It could go either way at any time," she said.

Hodges and Payne ran a dedicated campaign and attributed their success to their persistence. The pair said the main difference between winning and losing was meeting new people. "We did whatever we could to get our message out. We sat outside the dining hall, went door-to-door in dorms and put posters all over the roof," Miller said.

Suspension provokes debate

Students divided over McAlarney decision

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The University decided Monday how to deal with Notre Dame basketball player Kyle McAlarney's marijuana possession charges — suspension from Notre Dame — but students are still grappling with the case and its outcome.

Many students said they support the decision to suspend the sophomore guard — who was pulled over and arrested near campus early on Dec. 29 — and bailed it as consistent with due process, while others expressed frustration with what they saw as unfair aspects of University policy.

"This was a big punishment, but it was deserved," freshman Jill Schreider said. "It sends the message there's no special treatment for athletes and the policy is fair." But students like junior Jake Watson said the University overreacted to the arrest since marijuana was involved — an issue not just for McAlarney, he said, but any student caught for possession.

"They'll just fine someone $15 for getting drunk with a beer in the hallway under age, but I know people who get kicked out of the school for having pot," he said. "Really, this should be a less severe offense than under

Keenan Revue tickets sell out in 13 minutes

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Tickets for the Keenan Revue, a traditionally irreverent annual production, sold out at a rate of more than 100 per minute Thursday.

"It was a great and rousing success," said sophomore ticket seller Peter Vignali.

Vignali and fellow ticket seller senior Johnny McDermott experienced a busy afternoon distributing tickets to one of the most anticipated campus shows of the year.

The Revue is a sketch comedy production run by Keenan Hall that pokes fun at various aspects — and people — of the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's communities. Tickets were distributed Thursday at Saint Mary's from 1 p.m. to 3 and at Notre Dame from 4 p.m. to 6 in the Joyce Center.

"The first people showed up at the JAC at 1:15 and ticket distribution didn't start until 4," McDermott said. "We were cleaned up and out of there by 4:20."

Tickets for the Thursday and Saturday night performances went fastest. Despite the rush, sellers
INSIDE COLUMN

Fantasy films on the rise

The fantasy film is the hot thing in Hollywood right now and no one is the worse off for it. Since the "Lord of the Rings" phenomenon, films have been released that have taken the fantasy genre to new places and audiences to worlds they never thought existed.

Well, what do I mean when I say fantasy? Some would say it means only those stories that are similar to "Lord of the Rings" in which valiant humans and elves too snobby for their own good fight evil sorcery or some other devil that is threatening to take over the world, Middle Earth or whatever the battlefield of the film might be called.

I would like to take a more general approach. This year, the third installment in the "Harry Potter" series will be released with rumors of a few more. Those few could include a "Pass the Buck" film similar in the way the "X-Men" film series is branching off into films about exclusive characters, such as Wolverines.

These films have captured the hearts of children and adults alike, and while many will say the original was the best, the creative team at DreamWorks is still motivated enough by the competition from Pixar to release what I think will be an extremely delightful film.

Perhaps the film that has gotten to most press concerning the fantasy genre is last year's Academy Award nominated "Pan's Labyrinth." From the wild imagination of Mexican director Guillermo del Toro, this film brought adults to the fantasy realm and pulled it away from the need for reality. It is a story every elven king to have ever existed and the kids who only want to see the donkey make fun of Shrek more. "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "Shrek" series are great films, but the way del Toro parallelles the human world and fantasy world is amazing. This is where fantasy films are going and where I hope they continue to go.

This may all be a flash in the pan, you say. However, there are more fantasy films coming. The Hobbit is due out in December.

Contact Marty Schroeder at masched4@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and notes 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 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE HOBBY BAKER IS?

"Duh, a person that bakes hobbies. It was a vocab word in 5th grade."

"The clubbing of baby seals."

"Skiing."

"A hobo baker."

"Yes, I do. It's Cutty Spurks' favorite hobby."

"It's like the Heisman for hockey. Figure it out."

The French department will present "Le Medecin Malgre Lui" today and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Philbin Studio Theater of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The show is directed by professor Paul McDowell, left, who will act in the play along with senior Annie Lauer.

OFFBEAT

NJ warns: Don't eat squirrels near dump

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey has warned squirrels near a toxic waste dump about consuming the critters because they could be contaminated with lead.

It is the first time the state has cautioned Ringwood residents — many who are members of the Ransapough Mountain Indian tribe who hunt and fish in the area — about their squirrel intake, said Tom Slater, a spokesperson for the Department of Health and Senior Services.

A lead-contaminated squirrel was found in the area two months ago, prompting the agency, along with the state Department of Environmental Protection, to send out letters advising that adults eat squirrel to more than twice a week and even less for children and pregnant women.

Lead, which is harmful in small amounts, can damage the nervous system, red blood cell production and the kidneys.

Drug dog sniffs on death threats

LETICIA, Colombia — He's had a price on his head since 2004 and a 24-hour guard monitors his food for poisoning. For a 5-year-old, she has made a lot of enemies.

But none of this keeps Agata, a golden Labrador who is one Colombia's best drug-sniffing dogs, from doing her job.

Stationed in the southern Amazon River border town of Leticia, Agata works at the local airport. She is the only Colombian police dog to have a contract put out on her by drug smugglers tired of having their goods confiscated.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The 18th annual ND Student Film Festival takes place today and Saturday at 7 p.m. and 10 in 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, $5 for faculty/staff and $3 for students.

Summer Shakespeare presents "The Romeo and Juliet Story: In Concert" today at 7:30 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theatre in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The performance features two singers, three actors and a 30-piece orchestra onstage. Ticket prices range from $12 to $50.

The Student Activities Office and O'Neill Hall are sponsoring an Improv Comedy Show in Carey Auditorium today at 8:30 p.m. The show will feature the Chicago Comedy Company with an opening act from ND's own Humor Artists. This event is free for all students.

The film "An American in Paris" will be shown at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $6 for the general public and $3 for students.

The South Bend Symphony will perform music by Mozart and Salieri at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $25 for the general public and $10 for students.

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

TODAY TONIGHT SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY 30 LOW 15 LOW 33 HIGH 18 HIGH 18 18

TONIGHT 30 LOW 5 LOW 10 HIGH 6 HIGH 6 0

SATURDAY 33 LOW 0 0 0 0

SUNDAY 18 6 6 6 6

MONDAY 18 6 6 6 6

TUESDAY 18 6 6 6 0

Students head to Iraq war protest

By SONIA RAO

Thirty Notre Dame students will join herds of protesters Saturday in Washington D.C. to speak out against the war in Iraq, three days following U.S. President George W. Bush’s State of the Union address. The protest is sponsored by the United for Peace and Justice coalition, and will be complemented by musical performances, workshops and guest speakers.

Sophomore Michael Angulo, vice president of the Progressive Student Alliance, attended a war protest September of his freshman year and decided to organize a trip for Notre Dame students.

“At the end of last semester I found that the United for Peace and Justice coalition was organizing a national protest in D.C... I talked to some friends and there was some interest in getting vans and Notre Dame students to go,” he said.

Vans will be leaving from Notre Dame starting at 9:30 a.m. Friday to make the nine and a half hour trip to Washington. The march will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, weaving around various governmental buildings and stopping in front of the White House, Angulo said.

In addition to the march, keynote speakers will include the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins and Jane Fonda, according to the United for Peace and Justice Web site.

Angulo said he was excited to see Notre Dame students interested in activism.

“I’m really glad to see that more people, especially moder­ate middle-class America, are really showing their opposition. ... This protest is going to bring a lot of different groups together. Whether it’s the people who were against the war from the beginning or the people who thought the war wasn’t handled well and based on faulty information.”

For freshman Laura Lasen, the tipping point was learning that President Bush believed “the war will be over by the time he’s done with his presidency, which is two years from now,” and realized two years was too long to wait.

“The United States needs to do what they have to done, but they need to relinquish some of their power to the United Nations or some other international organization,” she said.

Freshman Dan Savage has a more personal reason for traveling to Washington, as a family friend recently died in Iraq. He also has other motives, however.

“I’m doing it because I think it’s important to remind the President that... he didn’t have the majority of the population to win his presidency and that to act with such disregard to opposition without consideration of bipartisanship at all was wrong,” he said.

Contact Sonia Rao at seal6@nd.edu.

Gurulé covers terror finances

Special to The Observer

As Jimmy Gurulé faces students in his spring semester class “The Law of Terrorism,” he knows his audience is willing to delve into the complexities that Al-Qaeda, and global terrorism in general, present.

Too often, says the professor of law, sociology and public law, media and politicians, in particular – have been willing to settle for more simple, black-and-white perspectives, that take a hard line of certainties.

“But the issues are extremely complex, defying simple resolution,” he said.

Gurulé is among a number of international legal experts who have gained firsthand insight on how the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, have dramatically changed the law, both domestically and internation­ally.

His perspective on the recent conviction and hanging execu­tion of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is informed by his participation, in spring 2004, in a Judicial Conference on Rule of Law in Iraq. The meetings, in The Hague, assembled the Iraqi judges who would later try Hussein. Some had been incarcerated under the dictator; all had lived under his iron fist.
Elections
continued from page 1

is likely to earn the candidacy. McCain is too consistent on most issues, she said, and while Giuliani will get recognition for the post-Sept. 11 work he did in New York, Way said he’s "pretty liberal on a lot of domestic issues."

In any case, Way pointed out, there’s a lot of time before Nov. 2008 — time for journalists to dig deep. "As soon as the media starts to really scrutinize these people, they are supportive and will be very helpful in the future."

Ferreira and Antonelli did not return Observer phone calls Thursday night. "There is itself was "typical," elections commissioner Christin Molnar said. "The turnout was pretty average, but there were more people who voted in the runoff than the preliminary, which was different," she said.

While Hodges-Payne were victorious, Molnar saw potential in each of the three original tickets. "All three tickets had strong support, but the three tickets had less feasible ideas, but they all wanted it and probably would have done a good job." Ferreira echoed Molnar’s confidence in the candidates. "Everyone did a good job presenting their issues. Each had their own specialty and the student body has its own specialties. That is just the way it goes," she said.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@slaimnary.edu

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The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Friday, January 26, 2007
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Pope calls for Christian unity talks
VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday called for honest dialogue among Christians of divisions.

Benedict presided at a prayer service in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, the first in a series of high-level talks that mark the end of a week of prayer dedicated in churches around the world to efforts aimed at unifying Christianity.

"Honest and loyal dialogue constitutes the typical and indispensable instrument in the search for unity," Benedict said.

Christians were praying "so that all the discord of Christendom may lead to giving harmonious testimony to the men and women of our times," said Benedict, who is devoting much of his papacy to achieving Christian unity.

In his homily, Benedict said through such encounters as Thursday's service it has been possible to perceive the joy of brotherhood, together with sadness for the tensions that remain.

Sunni lawmaker accuses Iraqis PM
BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Sunni lawmaker accused the Shiite prime minister of persecuting his sect and said his government's efforts at national reconciliation were nothing more than a sham. The premier accused the Sunni of supporting the kidnapping of Shiites and said his government's efforts at unity remain.

This televised display from the floor of the Iraqi parliament on Thursday mirrored the sectarian divide on the streets of Baghdad, where a suicide car bombing killed at least 26 people in the Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City and two rockets slammed into the heavy fortified Green Zone not far from the U.S. Embassy.

Congressman questions caucuses
WASHINGTON — White House hopeful Tom Tancredo was asked Thursday by the Congressional Black Caucus and other race-based groups of lawmakers about his efforts to segregate lawmakers. This was the third straight appearance by Republicans who are widely known as a vocal critic of illegal immigration.

Eight men finally arrested in 1971 case
SAN FRANCISCO — A fingerprint on a cigarette lighter, shots fired and an informant helped lead to the arrests this week of eight men accused of killing a police officer in the 1971 disco outing.

The evidence was recovered using forensic techniques that didn't exist 30 years ago, according to the document, which was used to obtain an arrest warrant in the case. Prosecutors say members of the Black Liberation Army, a violent offshoot of the Black Panthers, stormed the lobby of a San Francisco police station the night of Aug. 29, 1971, killing Sgt. John V. Young with a shotgun and injuring a civilian clerk with gunfire.

House prohibits 'serial meetings'
INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana House passed legislation Thursday that would prohibit so-called "serial meetings" — separate gatherings by less than a quorum of a government body — to do business with the purpose of conducting official business.

The bill, approved 89-7 and sent to the Senate, would close what proponents call a loophole in Indiana law that allowed Indiana University's trustees to meet without public notice to discuss basketball coach Bob Knight's fate shortly before his firing in 2000.

Lebanon
Beirut clashes cause city curfew
University cafeteria scuffle breeds Hezbollah-Sunni violence; 3 killed, 169 injured
Associated Press
BEIRUT — It started with a lunchtime scuffle in a university cafeteria. Within minutes, portable bulletproof shelters near nearby homes had moved in and their Shiite Hezbollah guards were walking-talking to call in reinforcements armed with clubs and stones.

Some eight hours and a deadly melee later, Beirut was under curfew for the first time in a decade.

The violent standoff underlined what Lebanese have feared for months: that the confrontation between Hezbollah and Sunni backers of the U.S.-supported government could rage out of control.

At least three people were killed and 169 were injured before army troops backed by tanks and firing barrages of warning shots into the air dispersed most rioters.

But the fallout reached far beyond the casualty count. The clashes reinforced fears that Lebanon's sectarian divisions are erupting into violence as they did during the 1975-1990 civil war.

"We are afraid about the future of the country. We are afraid about civil war," said Mohammed Abdul-Sater, a 21-year-old Shiite student.

It was the third straight day of violence, sparked by a televised speech Tuesday that came about a crucial meeting of foreign ministers in Paris. The conference Thursday raised pledges of 87.7 billion dollars to help Prime Minister Fuad Saniora's U.S.-backed government rebuild after last year's devastating Israeli-Hezbollah war.

The money and show of international support could boost the embattled Saniora. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah has vowed to bring him down unless the opposition is given more power.

"The chaos has paralyzed the government," Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said Wednesday that donors were backing the wrong party in the standoff and that he could topple Saniora at any time.

In Paris, Saniora pleaded to his countrymen to "distance themselves from tensions."

"No one can help a country if the people of this country don't want to help themselves," he said. "I call on your wisdom and reason.

"Leaders on all sides called for calm. Nasrallah who has insisted in recent days he does not want Lebanon to tumble into civil war demanded on Thursday that the opposition return to the negotiations.

"If sectarian divisions explode in Lebanon, it would likely further fuel Sunni-Shiite tensions around the Arab world, already heightened by Iraq's turmoil. Mainly Sunni Arab nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia have shown alarm at Hezbollah's increasing strength in Lebanon and have backed Saniora.

Thursday's clashes in Beirut showed just how quickly any spark can turn into a wildfire.

Students said it began with a scuffle in the cafeteria of Beirut Arab University between Sunni Muslims and supporters of the Shiite Hezbollah. As Sunnis in the surroundingTarik el-Jadidah district moved in, Hezbollah activists called in reinforcements.

Cheney's spokeswoman testifies
WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney's spokeswoman testifies Thursday that she herself could not recall for the jury a reporter's call about Portsmouth State University's anti-smoking policy.

The date is important because Libby will testify. Fitzgerald argued Thursday she told Russert on July 6, 2003. The defense tried to show that there had been no memory lapses.

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Lennon
continued from page 1

There's no one who better reflects what Notre Dame is about," said Executive Assistant to the President for University Relations Francie Shavers, who spoke at the dinner. "Its values, its spirit, the desire to embrace everyone who genuinely loves the students and the University.

Of the 150 people in attendance, there were 12 former presidents of the Alumni Association, the current board members, their families, and University officials, among them University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh.

Vice President for University Relations Lou Nanni announced the creation of the Charles and Joan Lennon Endowment for Excellence—a fund with $275,000 contributed by Lennon's Alumni Board colleagues to better allow the Alumni Association to provide services to its members.

When Lennon addressed the crowd, he told attendees they "weren't here to honor Chuck Lennon," but to honor "you who have given me this opportunity to take what God has given me to a new level."

The dinner also honored Lennon with a tribute video and a tribute book, containing letters written by past and present Notre Dame and U.S. government officials as well as friends and family, lauding Lennon's love of Notre Dame and dedication to the University.

The video highlighted Lennon's history with the University and contained comments from faculty and students who have given me this opportunity to take what God has given me to a new level."
Ford: 2006 loss largest in history

North American sales decreases, extra costs lead to $12.7 billion decline

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks suffered their biggest pullback in two months Thursday, with the Dow Jones industrial average losing a three-digit decline as a lackluster home sales report and a disappointing bond auction haled the market's two-day rally.

The market's recovery for much of the session after the National Association of Realtors' report of sales of U.S. existing homes fell 0.8 percent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.22 million. Then, in the afternoon, a less-than-enthusiastic reception for the Treasury's latest sale of five-year notes sent bond prices falling and yields rising sharply, rattling stock investors already worried about

higher interest rates.

Stocks fell further while the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to highs not seen since the summer.

Earlier in the day, investors' cheer over quarterly reports from eBay Inc., Nokia Corp. and AT&T Inc. had failed to translate to gains as strong earnings news had done in previous days.

"We had a great run," said Ryan Larson, senior equity trader at Voyager Asset Management, a division of HBC Dan Baercher. "I think people are kind of tired right now and looking for other avenues."

The Dow fell 119.21, or 0.94 percent, to 12,002.56.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 16.23, or 1.13 percent, to 1,423.90 and the Nasdaq composite index was down 32.04, or 1.30 percent, to 2,434.24. The pullback comes a day after the Nasdaq rose well over 1 percent and the Dow set record trading and closing highs. The Dow's decline erased nearly all the previous two-day rally of about 145 points.

Bond prices fell in response to the auction and the Fed's news, which also showed the inventory of existing homes available for sale fell 7.9 percent to 3.51 million. The yield on the benchmark 10-year note jumped to 4.87 percent from 4.81 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against major currencies, while gold prices fell.
Suspension demands clarification

Twenty-five years. That's how long it took Notre Dame basketball player Kyle McAlarney to hear from the University as to whether he would be punished for his late December arrest on misdemeanor marijuana possession charges. That's quite some time, especially considering that it took Saint Joseph's Church only 18 days — until Jan. 17 — to rule that McAlarney should enter into a pre-trial diversion program.

Yes, the arrest occurred over winter break, but it probably took the office of Residential Life and Housing significantly longer to handle the case. And yes, Notre Dame isn't governed under federal law, to comment on individual disciplinary proceedings.

But don't students, basketball fans and apparently, the McAlarneys deserve just a little clarification?

Notre Dame is a private, Catholic institution, and those who wish to elect to know how to expect several differences from other college environments. But it's unfair that students, coaches and parents — at least in this case — know nothing about what to expect.

The administration need not close to a month to respond to a case picked up by the national media hours after McAlarney was arrested and sorted out by South Bend a week before the school could issue its decision. During this span, McAlarney attended classes and practiced with the basketball team, before being suspended from a semester he was allowed to be. If he received word in a more timely fashion, McAlarney could have moved on with his life at a different school, with hopes to return to Notre Dame or intentions to start over somewhere else.

It's easy to say that McAlarney should have known, that possession is frequently grounds for suspension at Notre Dame, that he shouldn't expect to be treated differently than any other student.

Except, for some reason, his mother is saying he did. Or she did, at least. Which raises a whole new set of questions about how McAlarney was really treated. When the only voices in the discussion are McAlarney and his mother, it would seem to be some of the University's biggest secrets something — however general — that might explain the situation. It would seem to be a failed communication. Notre Dame owes those accused of breaking University rules a timely response. The administration needs to know how to take the case.

Letters to the Editor

Keenan Revue must take care

Last week, two friends told me that they were recently raped. The previous spring, I listened to similar stories from two other dear friends. The experience of hearing these four devastating stories is impossible to describe. I felt helpless and sick.

The psychology of rape is subtle and devastating. The mental and spiritual claws that my friends pounced on to me that sprung from their victimization is staggering. Chaos is the right word. But perhaps, the most important bit of this to focus on is that, each time, the man did not conceive this forced sex as violence. Three of the four raped were sated, the woman broke off their 'hook' as just being bogy. The violence of this woman's rape is no less.

I planned on going to the Keenan Revue this year. I lived in Keenan for four years and knew of the camaraderie and fun that can come of Revue week. But with the pain of these women's stories and the memory of the moment of the rape, enough for the men to brush off their "titre" as just being bogy. The violence of this woman's rape is no less.

I do not fear feeling bad or offended. My uneasiness stems from questions about the kind of culture that the show creates and expresses. Even if there are no jokes about rape, this does not mean the material does not touch issues of sexual violence. The cultural formation of women who would take advantage of a woman is complex. I consider this cultural formation to be tied to women's self-image issues (especially eating disorders), irrational homophobia, objectification of women, domestic abuse, insane drinking. In the past, the show laughs at all of these subtle matters. I have a hunch that the roots of this are deeper than I know, much deeper than a two-hour show.

I hear that this year's staff has taken special care to clean up the show, and for this effort they should be thanked and commended. But still I fear that we do not ask enough deep questions about a culture that is so close to confront sexual violence.

Paul Mitchell
fifth-year senior
off campus
Jan. 24

Condoms undermine Catholic ideals

With Notre Dame being a Catholic institution of intellectual exchange, I would like to take this opportunity to partake in the ongoing dialogue regarding the use of contraceptives and condoms. Many of those who have不到位 does not excuse what Elwout; what was really going on was really "morally harmful." (Letter to the Editor, Jan. 22). Although I missed reading the letter, after reading the disagreeing responses I feel the need to address some of the assertions and judgments.

Let me start by attending to the definition and purpose of sex, as set forth in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Sex is to be the selfless act of love that consummates the loving relationship between a man and a woman, and is best appropriate in the context of marriage. In this sense, sex is said to be unitive, that is, uniting the persons both physically and spiritually, the ultimate goal of which is procreation. To that end, in the Catechism, sex is described as "an act originating in the couple, and with their consent, by means of the mutual giving between the sexes, begetter of new life, effecting the unification of the spouses and the procreation of children." The Church states that the procreative act is the natural and normal act, since the act is necessary for procreation, and the procreative act is the act of love. Without children, the couple is not truly united at the interior level. The procreative act is therefore the purpose of all sexual activity, and not only is it necessary for procreation, but it is also necessary for the maintenance of marital love and fidelity. The Church also states that the procreative act is necessary for the continuation of the human race and the preservation of the family. Therefore, the procreative act is the primary purpose of sex, and all other acts of love are secondary.

The Catholic Church teaches that the procreative act is the purpose of all sexual activity, and that contraception is therefore not permitted. The Church teaches that contraception is not only immoral, but it is also ineffective, since it is impossible to prevent conception. The Church also teaches that contraception is not a solution to the problem of overpopulation, since it does not address the root causes of overpopulation, which are poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to basic healthcare. The Church teaches that contraception is not a solution to the problem of overpopulation, since it does not address the root causes of overpopulation, which are poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to basic healthcare. The Church also teaches that contraception is not a solution to the problem of overpopulation, since it does not address the root causes of overpopulation, which are poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to basic healthcare.

The Church teaches that contraception is not a moral evil, since it does not prevent conception, and therefore it does not interfere with the procreative act. The Church also teaches that contraception is not a solution to the problem of overpopulation, since it does not address the root causes of overpopulation, which are poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to basic healthcare. The Church also teaches that contraception is not a solution to the problem of overpopulation, since it does not address the root causes of overpopulation, which are poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to basic healthcare.

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In the Martini’s parking lot the other day, I passed a poorly but enthusiastically maintained Mazda whose rear-end was easily visible and had been stuck between two bars—just enough of them along the lines of this: “Conscientious Non- Conformist.”

The cheap shot is correct, however, as it is in this case. When the mass of men and women subscribe to barbaric opinions or listen to savage, banal and unsullied musings, they generally do so for some arguably good reason that has nothing to do with their iden- tity as “consumers” or “individuals,” as “conformists” or otherwise. The crown of this ideologically loaded jape, on the other hand, could have put up mass- produced demand for a cheap shot to a dignified operation of individuality only for one end—a popular creation.

In one respect, I cannot help sympathiz­ ing with its trite, full message. Reading the major intellectuals of the nineteenth century and after, from Alexis de Tocqueville to G.K. Chesterton and W.H. Auden, one encounters the constant fear of a unitedness that men are all growing alike. The person under the reign of modern society had become a black-coated, straight-laced, drones and so had become because of the pressures of modern industry, the workplace and especially the offices of that “different option” of the modern state, mass education.

Anthony, a product of the elite schools of England, argued strongly that parents should be left as much control of their children’s education as possible, and that children should be left to run around with as many neurotics as they could without seriously hurting themselves. If conformity cast an increasing pall on former times, and if the commodification and “sanitization” of persons has continued unabated, what basis have we to believe the situa­ tion has gotten better rather than worse?

In ages past, occasional eccentrics sprang up in the hambles of England or in the Villages of the Italian peninsula, and their exceptional attributes were but some of the signs by which they called one to greater devotion to God. They sealed themselves up in side-cham­ bers of houses, favored and prayed; they sat on pillows, mantled and prayed; or they fasted themselves to the edges of town; or they performed works of mercy between the public and outlook. They shouted with joy the beauty of cats and the sublimity of shook foil. They were called saints, and it was on account of their unusual behavior that the great masses of people flocked in fascination to halie within the light of their eccentric hales.

The death of saints, I think we can say, was always the plot of some jealous few. In other words, the notion of popular saint­ hood cast an increasing pall on former times, through my experience (a resource I highly recom­ mended to any student in trouble) I do have experience assisting students who have been caught very similar to my decision on these experiences, I have two observations.

1. The University is consistent in its ap­ plication of the rules. Any other student caught with marijuana would have been suspended as well because that policy is unequivocal as to what punish­ ment should be, and in my experience the University is consistent in administering it.

2. It is difficult to balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the community — a core and thorny issue as the campus faced around 91 of the du Lac. However, I feel the University’s policy of mandating suspension for students who possess marijuana (p. 189) does not ade­ quately balance these needs when applied to those who have never been in trouble before and only possessed a small amount.

The students I assisted were in this exact situation, and I doubt anyone would consider them threats to the community. They weren’t possessing large amounts of marijuana and selling it, which definitely calls for severe punish­ ment. They weren’t using so-called “hard drugs.” They weren’t even using marijuana. They were just getting in fights, disrupting the dorm, or simply breaking the rules (as sometimes happens with drinking alcohol). While there is no excuse for such illegal activity, it hardly seems fair to punish them given the context.

Consider especially that driving while intoxicated, an activity which is also illegal but seems to receive much more attention as it is a way to initiate the areas of the campuses. I do not write to recommend it, but to bring to light the frailty and thrust for mercy and justice in every run-of-the-mill person. The sorrow of martyrdom comes in part from our basest common charac­ ter failing under the control of this jealousy, betraying and spurning that noble common need.

My father has almost come to tears over University rulings. Whether it be drug testing or driving or physical acts of vio­ lence, punishment as possessed does not fit the modern student. They weren’t using so-called “hard drugs.” They weren’t even using marijuana. They were just getting in fights, disrupting the dorm, or simply breaking the rules (as sometimes happens with drinking alcohol). While there is no excuse for such illegal activity, it hardly seems fair to punish them given the context.

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Consistency needed

Many of the people in the Notre Dame community are deeply dis­ turbed by the University’s decision to suspend Kyle McAlarney from school. This is the first time in my 25 years that every one of the Notre Dame supporters truly are distressed. My father has almost come to tears over University rulings. Whether it be drug testing or driving or physical acts of vio­ lence, punishment as possessed does not fit the modern student. They weren’t using so-called “hard drugs.” They weren’t even using marijuana. They were just getting in fights, disrupting the dorm, or simply breaking the rules (as sometimes happens with drinking alcohol). While there is no excuse for such illegal activity, it hardly seems fair to punish them given the context.

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While I don’t know the details of Kyle McAlarney’s situation, through my experience with the Judicial Council is resources I highly re­ commended to any student in trouble) I do have experience assisting students who have been caught very similar to my decision on these experiences, I have two observations.

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By ERIN McGNN
Associate Scene Editor

A bohemian painter falls in love with the fiancée of another man, leading to an incredible song-and-dance routine. "An American in Paris" stars Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron in a sumptuous rendering of one of the world’s most beautiful cities.

The plot is little less than dazzling. Kelly stars as the inspiration-starved painter Jerry Mulligan, who meets the gloriously rich Milo Roberts (Nina Foch) as he sets up his work for curbside exhibition. She chooses Kelly to be her latest boy toy. Milo does her best to convince him she loves him as an artist, but even to the somewhat naïve Mulligan, the transparency is evident. Still, he likes being recognized as a painter and permits himself to be swept off his feet despite his initial objections.

Roberts' amorous plans are overturned upon the arrival of the beautiful dancer Lise Bouvier (Caron). She also pursues a relationship with Mulligan and they begin a romantic love affair that is unencumbered only by their secret relationship. Bouvier is promised to Henri Baurel (Georges Guetary), a friend of Adam Cook (Oscar Levant) who rooms in the same hotel and is friends with Mulligan. The rivalry between Baurel and Mulligan remains veiled for a large part of the film. Baurel even tries to convince Mulligan that he can capture the woman's heart. Cook arches on early but refrains from interfering, though it obviously pains him to do so. As musicals of the era often did, director Vincente Minnelli spends long, laboriously took filming the dancing and singing of its stars. People expected to see Kelly dance and they got their wish in abundance. At least half of the film is spent with Kelly dancing to a musical number.

The difference between this and other similar productions is that the plot is at least admirably interesting, thanks in part to the terrific performances of Caron, Foch and especially Kelly.

The biggest spectacle in the film is probably the most worthwhile. Despite running for a lengthy 20 minutes, Kelly dances through a dreamlike reality of Paris rendered beautifully by art directors Preston Ames and Cedric Gibbons. Using famedParisian renderings of Parisian locations (such as those by Manet), Ames and Gibbons transport the audience to a surreal world.

"An American in Paris" is the weaker of the two, it still stands as a remarkable musical from an era that produced some of the world's most fondly remembered films. "An American in Paris" received an impressive six Academy Awards, coming directly with two other popular films of the time ("A Streetcar Named Desire" and "A Place in the Sun"). There were no acting nominations, but the film swept up technical prizes left and right, as well as being the surprise winner for the Best Picture Oscar.

"An American in Paris" is a triumph of filmmaking. It is entertaining as well as cinematically remarkable, with its dance-sequence closing ballet acting as a showcase for what the movie-musical is able to achieve.
Emo rockers Taking Back Sunday up to old tricks

"Taking Back Sunday," the Amityville, N.Y. based emo-punk band, recently released "Louder Now" — the group's first album under the Warner Bros. label.

By MARTY SCHRODER
Assistant Scene Editor

Taking Back Sunday's formula on their third album "Louder Now" does not seem to hurt. They stayed true to the emo-punk rock recipe that the band is so very good at. While still a solid album that many teenagers and boys will be listening to and lamenting their loss of love and romance, it fails to do much in the way of new material that the truly creative bands are capable of.

This band used to be spot on. With its heyday being the mid-90s to mid-00s, the band is not what they used to be. Their music is still good music but the critics will begin to tear them down the line, but "Louder Now" will keep the band's fans happy. They rock hard and sing about doomed relationships and, of course, the girl that got away. However, "Louder Now" will keep the band's fans happy. They rock hard and sing about doomed relationships and, of course, the girl that got away. However, If Taking Back Sunday wishes to be truly recognized as a band that is serious about music, they must begin to move in a new direction.

Taking Back Sunday is going to be long forgotten as one of the ubiquitous emo-punk bands that are dominating the airwaves.

Recommended tracks: "What's it Feels Like to be a Ghost?", "Liar (It Takes One to Know One)" and "My Blue Heaven"
ND Track

Irish set to host home competition at Loftus

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will continue its early indoor track season with another home meet today in the Notre Dame Invitational. 

So far this season, the Irish have proven themselves capable of succeeding indoors. 

Notre Dame's season began at the Blue and Gold Invitational. The Irish men's and women's teams dominated the meet with 42 Big East qualifying times and scores across the board. 

For the women's team, the distance runners performed exceptionally well, with five qualifying for the Big East championships. 

At the Purdue Invitational Jan. 11, the Irish had numerous Big East qualifiers, including sophomore Anna Weber in the mile and sophomore Mary Saxer in the pole vault. 

In the Notre Dame Indoor Opener Jan. 16, the Irish were dominant in all aspects of the meet. 

The men's and women's teams combined for 13 event winners, as well as 15 additional top three finishes in the Big East Championships. 

The Notre Dame distance runners on the women's side were again able to put up strong numbers. Senior runner Amy Kohlmeier crossed the line for the meet at 4:55.66, only to be followed by second-straight Irish runner. 

One difference between the Notre Dame Invitational and other meets this season is as simple as the athletes competing. 

"We have a couple of guys that haven't run yet, a guy in particular with a complete (sprinter) Jeff Farnell — that sprinter Ryan Postel said. "He has a problem with his hamstring, so coach hasn't let him run yet." 

But the Irish athletes will compete this weekend in various, not necessarily familiar events. 

"We are going to be doing some things differently. A lot of fun will be in events that normally wouldn't be," said Postel, who was the 200-meter dash. 

Postel normally runs longer sprints, including the 400-meter dash. 

Even though the Irish are already entering their third tournament of the indoor season, their form still isn't ahead of the tough matches here on. 

"The Notre Dame Invitational is sort of like an early season for the race, the Meyo Invitational," Postel said. "So we don't have any specific goals for this race." 

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfittpat@nd.edu

MLB

Slammin' close to signing deal with Rangers

Associated Press

DALLAS — Although Sammy Sosa and the Texas Rangers were close to finalizing a $21 million, three-year deal Thursday, a final resolution isn't expected until at least early next week. The Rangers and Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, have exchanged a couple proposals since the 35-year-old, who has 585 career home runs, worked out twice for Texas. The most recent workout was Jan. 15.

An agreement appears likely, but Katz has been travel-

ing and the wife of Rangers general manager Jon Daniels is due to give birth to the couple's first child.

Texas did agree to a minor-

deal with right-hand Dan Haren, who will play for spring training with a chance to compete for the fifth slot in the rotation behind Kevin Millwood, Vicente Padilla, Brandon McCarthy and Robinson Tejeda.

Wright has a 67-98 career record with a 3.48 ERA in 260 games (237 starts) over parts of the last 11 seasons with Colorado, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Kansas City and San Francisco.

He went 6-10 with a 5.19 ERA in 34 games (21 starts) for the Giants last season. 

If he is selected for the 40-man roster, he would be a $900,000, one-year contract that would pay him $150,000 in performance bonuses based on innings.

The bonus starts at 120 innings and top out at 180 innings.

Like Wright, Sosa will have to show up on the Rangers' roster. 

Sosa hasn't played in the majors since 2005 with Baltimore, where the seven-
time All-Star hit 221 with 44 home runs and 45 RBIs in 102 games. 

His major-league debut came in 1987, when he played only 25 games before being traded to the Chicago White Sox.

If completed and he makes the team, Sosa's contract would likely have a base salary of about $300,000.

He would have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses, in the millions.

In his career with the Rangers (1989), White Sox (1989-91), Chicago Cubs

(1992-2004) and Orioles, Sosa has batted .274 with 449 home runs and 1,418 RBIs in 1,616 games.

The Rangers have only played in major-league history to hit 60 or more home runs in three straight seasons.

The Observer • CLASSIFIEDS

Friday, January 26, 2007

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Happy Birthday Lammie P. H. Amy

Killer Tofu.
Former Cowboys coach Bill Parcells is silhouetted before Dallas’ game against Indianapolis Nov. 19. The Cowboys hired former Dallas quarterback Jason Garrett to become the team’s new offensive coordinator Thursday.

Cowboys hire Garrett for vague job

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys added Jason Garrett to their coaching staff Thursday night, and said he would remain a candidate to replace retired head coach Bill Parcells.

Garrett, the backup to Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman for two Super Bowl titles in Dallas from 1991-99, was quarterbacks coach in Miami the last two seasons — his only coaching experience. Garrett also had been in line to become the Dolphins’ offensive coordinator for new head coach Cam Cameron.

The Cowboys said Garrett’s responsibilities and title won’t be determined until the head coaching search is complete. The most likely scenario, however, is that Garrett will become the offensive coordinator if he’s not the head coach.

“The nature and timing of this hire is unique in that we were dealing with a limited window of time in which to talk to Jason about returning to Dallas,” Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement.

“The Dolphins gave Dallas permission to talk to the 40-year-old Garrett, but also told the former quarterback that he had to decide by Thursday if he was going to sign a contract extension. That deadline passed with Garrett still in Texas.

“Jason is someone who is held in high regard as a bright offensive mind throughout the NFL,” Jones said. “We are grateful to the Dolphins for granting the Cowboys permission to explore this opportunity. Jason will now proceed further in our head coaching search as an in-house candidate.”

San Diego defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, the former head coach at Denver and Buffalo who also had interim stints in New Orleans and Atlanta, is scheduled to interview Friday about the head coaching vacancy.

The Cowboys also plan to talk to San Francisco offensive coordinator Norv Turner, a former head coach in Oakland and Washington, and New Orleans defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs.

Both are former Dallas assistants. It wasn’t clear when those interviews would take place, but Turner is coaching the Sooners on Saturday.

Parcells retired Monday after going 34-32 with two playoff losses in four seasons with the Cowboys, ending a 19-season career that included two Super Bowl titles with the New York Giants.

Blue Devils top Tigers with buzzer-beater layup

DURHAM, N.C. — David McClure hit a layup as time expired Thursday night to lead No. 10 Duke to a 68-66 win over No. 19 Clemson. McClure’s basket capped a wild final 13 seconds for the Blue Devils (17-3, 4-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who blew a five-point lead before answering with the sophomore’s stunning basket.

With the score tied at 66 after Vernon Hamilton erased the deficit with a layup and a 3-pointer, Josh McRoberts inbounded the ball with 4.4 seconds left to freshman Jon Scheyer. Scheyer pushed the ball near midcourt, then set a pick ahead of McClure.

McClure, who had a stop on Hamilton, laid it up over the outstretched arms of K.C. Rivers for the win as the horn sounded.

Duke’s players immediately spilled onto the floor in celebration and mobbed McClure.

Federer slams Roddick in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — If he could pick any player from any era to test himself against, Roger Federer would like a shot at Red Rover or Bjorn Borg.

Laver, the last man to win all four majors in one season, was at the stadium that carries his name Thursday to witness Federer dismantle Andy Roddick in the Australian Open semifinals. After what he saw, Laver would just as soon sit down with Federer in the locker room — after the matches.

Federer likes to put on a show when Laver is at Rod Laver Arena, and called his 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 victory over Roddick his best match in Melbourne.

“I had one of these days when everything worked,” the Swiss star said. “I was unbeatable. I was playing out of my mind. I was shocked myself.”

N.C. State coach returns after bout with cancer

SAN DIEGO — Brandt Snedeker knew the score. He just couldn’t believe where he was.

The only time Snedeker had ever been 9-under through nine holes was sitting in front of a monitor playing a Tiger Woods video game.

He knew that wasn’t the case Thursday in the Buick Invitational because Woods was two groups ahead of him on the North Course at Torrey Pines and well behind him on the scoreboard.

And when the 26-year-old rookie added yet another birdie, he even started taking away some of Woods’ fans.

“I don’t know if they know who I am or what was going on,” Snedeker said. “But they were sure rooting me on like they were my best friend. It was great.”

So was his opening round of the year.
SMC SWIMMING
Belles enter home meet with low expectations, high hopes

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

It's not often a team heads into a competition expecting to lose, but when Saint Mary's swims against Calvin tonight, the Belles will emphasize other aspects of the meet against the top-10 opponent.

"Calvin is a national challenger, and, well, Saint Mary's isn't quite there yet," freshman Jen Lebiedz said.

But neither the coaches nor the swimmers are the least bit concerned about it. The Belles, who have two wins this season, shun the inevitability of the outcome and focus instead on their individual goals and achievements. When a meet victory is most likely out of reach, a season-best time or fine-tuning of technique become the new goal.

"Most coaches have a pretty good idea of how meets will play out before they happen," Belles coach Ryan Dombkowski said.

Dombkowski strives toward small personal improvements that will enhance future success. He tries to refine portions of the race, such as the start or turn, and also pushes the swimmers toward new low times.

Lebiedz sees the meet as a chance to measure her abilities before the MIAA championships in two weeks.

"This meet is pretty important in regards to conference; it's really our jumping point," she said. "From here on out, it's all about conference, so a great meet against Calvin would help to put everyone in the right mindset."

That mindset can make or break a swimmer - a swim race is a delicate balance of emotions that must be kept in check. Dombkowski related the idea of peak anxiety versus performance to a bell curve - too little will make the swimmer lackadaisical, too much will cause over-worrying and either way performance suffers.

The Belles swim at 6 p.m. at Washington High School.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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Belles look to shake the Thunder

Team wants to pick up fourth win in five games against Tri-State

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

The Belles had already turned their season around when they won three of four games between Dec. 6 and Jan. 2. Now they've turned it up a notch.

Saint Mary's is 7-10 overall but 6-4 in the MIAA and tied for third in the league with Olivet. The Belles are on the heels of another 3-0-4 streak. Before the run started, the Belles came within a missed free throw of forcing overtime against national No. 12 Calvin on Jan. 6. And Saturday, they could take a two-game lead for the third spot in the MIAA with a win this weekend.

"It's very important to capitalize on teams during the second half of the season," has said. "We need to keep our momentum going."
New York continued from page 20

building a team." Bednarski said the Irish would use Saturday to rest after the long bus trip. The competition begins at 7:30 a.m. Sunday. He said the fencers would meet with members of the Notre Dame Club of New York City, some of whom will be cheering on the Irish the next day at the Cole Sports Center in Manhattan.

"I have really high expectations," Irish assistant coach Gia Kvaratskhelia said. "Everybody's pumped up and ready to go." After the Notre Dame Duals, Kvaratskhelia said, the Irish had Monday off. Some fencers worked out individually, but the best team practices of the week were Tuesday and Wednesday, he said.

Kvaratskhelia said the Irish hope to face Columbia and Columbia on Wednesday, he said. "Everybody's pumped up and ready to go." After the Notre Dame Duals, Kvaratskhelia said, the Irish had Monday off. Some fencers worked out individually, but the best team practices of the week were Tuesday and Wednesday, he said.

A year ago, the Irish men and women each finished 4-1 at the elite eastern competition.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu

Shamrock continued from page 20

season with victories over Purdue, Michigan State, Pittsburgh and Hawaii. Maintaining its pristine dual meet record will be on Notre Dame's mind as it enters the pool this weekend.

"It is important to us, and having a perfect dual meet record was one of our goals at the beginning of the season," Irish senior Katie Carroll said. Of the four teams coming to campus this weekend, Penn State will likely pose the greatest threat to Notre Dame's undefeated mark. The Lions, currently ranked No. 15 in the country by CollegeSwimming.com, also have yet to lose a dual meet. Their latest victory was a 195-105 thrashing of No. 22 Rutgers. "The Big Ten is always very strong, so it will be good for us to swim against one of their fastest teams," Carroll said. "This weekend will also be a good test of where we stand against West Virginia which has a good young team." With the Big East championships less than three weeks away, "Everything we do every day has some relationship with what we want to see for us at the Big East Championship." Tim Welsh Irish coach

The proximity of the Big East Championships will certainly be on Notre Dame's mind this weekend. The Irish view the meet as a chance to further prepare themselves for Feb. 14 in East Meadow, N.Y. "The Big East Championships are the focal point for everything," Welsh said. "Everything we do every day has some relationship with what we want to see for us at the Big East championship. This weekend, we're trying to sharpen everything and get faster for the Big East.

Contact Greg Arboagast at garboagast@nd.edu

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Recycle
The
Observer.
from start to finish," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said after the loss. The Huskies (17-2, 7-0 Big East), the current conference leaders, are coming off a 88-76 win over DePaul Wednesday. Sophomore guard Kalana Greene recorded her third double-double of the season as she dropped a career-high 25 points and at least 11.6 points per contest after the loss.

"I thought what she did last week was a little over my expectations, but I think she's capable of doing that," McGraw said. "She's like a completely different player now."

For the Irish to have a chance to win, McGraw said, they must be a presence on the boards. The Golden Eagles pulled down six more rebounds than the Irish did Tuesday, snapping Notre Dame's three-game streak of positive rebound differentials. However, for the Irish to succeed, McGraw said, they must limit Connecticut's fast break points.

"The Irish will be led by junior guard Charel Allen. Allen, the reigning Big East player of the week, scored 31 and 25 points last week in games against St. John's and Syracuse, respectively. Allen scored 17 points Tuesday at Marquette. Allen's recent offensive surge has not surprised her coach."

"I thought she could get 18 to 20 points if she shot the ball enough," McGraw said. "I thought what she did last week [against St. John's and Syracuse] was a little over my expectations, but I think she's capable of doing that. She's like a completely different player now."

Despite Connecticut's potent offense, McGraw does not think what she did last week would be anything different than we've been doing all year," she said. "We're just trying to continue to get better defensively."

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"We gotta stop the transition," she said. "We can do that by taking care of the ball and just being patient with the ball."

Notre Dame has averaged just 11 turnovers in its past three games, a dramatic improvement over its 17.6 mark for the season. The Irish are currently 2-2 against teams currently ranked in the top 25, boasting wins over No. 13 Purdue and No. 16 Bowling Green with losses to No. 4 Tennessee and No. 17 Marquette. The Huskies are currently 1-2 against ranked teams, with a win over Purdue and a pair of six-point losses to Top-5 teams in Tennessee and No. 2 North Carolina.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu
Wildcats

continued from page 20

Brey said. "I don't know if there's anybody better. They put it on us last time." The Irish are also starting at a trip to Syracuse Tuesday. Because of the loss to the Red Storm and the tough game next week, Saturday's contest is crucial for Notre Dame's position in the Big East standings, where the team is currently sixth. Before the game against the Red Storm, Notre Dame was second in the East.

"One minute we're second, next we're six, but at that end, we might be first," senior guard Russell Carter said.

For Carter, the Irish are in serious contention for an NCAA Tournament berth and still have a shot at the Big East championship. "We should keep the team focused after a disappointing week," Brey said.

Brey said he has a pretty good "resume," Brey said. "We've got a pretty good thing going and we have to continue that.

The Irish allowed 102 points to Villanova in their last matchup, including 27 by guard Scottie Reynolds and 25 by forward Curtis Sumpter. Brey said improved hustle and rebounding will keep the Wildcats' score down to a more manageable level.

"Loose balls and second chance shots early put us in a hole," Brey said.

Villanova forward Dan unanim iscuda and guard Mike Nardi also hurt the Irish last time, scoring 19 and 18 points, respectively.

"They've got a lot of bodies that come at you and they come at you with a bunch of quick, bouncy guys who can run the floor and get into the paint," Brey said. "We have to do a better job of protecting the paint." Brey said the Irish may change defenses frequently Saturday to confuse the Wildcats.

Notre Dame is 4-0 in conference home games this year, but has dropped all three of its games on the road. Carter attributed the road struggles to the team's youth.

The Irish have three freshmen who see significant playing time — Jackson, forward Luke Harangody and guard Jonathan Peoples.

"Our guys are still learning the ropes of playing on the road in the Big East," Carter said.

Fortunately for Notre Dame, it will have the home center crowd behind it and — for the first time since a win over Alabama Dec. 7 — Brey said he expects a full house.

"It should be a great atmosphere," he said. "We need a little bit of help from the Alabama atmosphere."
After a week that included the news that its starting point guard had been suspended from school and a loss in the final seconds at St. John's, the No. 21/22 Notre Dame will try to get its season back on track Saturday at 4 p.m. against Villanova at the Joyce Center.

The Irish (16-4, 4-3 Big East) lost to the Wildcats (14-5, 3-3 Big East) 102-87 Jan. 17 in Philadelphia. Since then, Villanova has also beaten Texas and Providence.

"Villanova is playing very well," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "We're still in the process of getting our season back on track, but we're excited to have a opportunity to go through a tough Big East challenge in the first tournament and field of our best squads. "

"It will be interesting from the point of view that they rarely lose to the Buckeyes 14-13 on the women's side last weekend before Ohio State returned the favor with a one-point decision on the men's side," Bednarski said.

"The Buckeyes are very good teams," Bednarski said. "They're currently the hottest team in the Big East," Notre Dame coach Tim Welsh said. "It's a very big challenge for us, and I'm glad they're coming to our pool."

West Virginia is undefeated in dual meets on the season — a distinction the Irish shared until suffering their first dual meet defeat of the season at the hands of No. 8 Northwestern 167-131. The Notre Dame women's team is still able to boast a perfect dual meet record. The Irish stand at 4-0 on the road trip against ranked Big East opponents for the Irish this weekend at the Joyce Center.

"It was just a bad game" Bednarski said. "But we're glad they're coming to our pool." Notre Dame head coach Janusz Bednarski said this weekend wouldn't be easy. He was talking about both the 14-hour bus ride the Irish will be making to New York and the field of perennial top teams at the NYU Duals.

"It will be a good check for what we can do," Bednarski said of the chance to face Columbia and St. John's, two of the nation's best squads. "It will be interesting from the point of view that they rarely lose to us." One team at the competition the Irish are familiar with is the Buckeyes 14-13 on the women's side last weekend before Ohio State returned the favor with a one-point decision on the men's side.

"It was a good tournament for us because [we] had an opportunity to [go] through the first tournament and field," he said. While confident, Bednarski praised the field for the event in New York. Besides Ohio State, Columbia and St. John's, the field will include NYU, Yale, Wayne State, Stevens Tech and the Northwestern women's team.

"They are very good fencers; they have strong teams," Bednarski said. "We are still in the process of getting our season back on track, but we're excited to have a opportunity to go through a tough Big East challenge in the first tournament and field of our best squads. "

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