Tickets vie for student body votes

Presidential candidates campaign in debate

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

The four tickets for Monday's student body presidential election met at LaFortune Student Center for the traditional presidential debates Wednesday night.

Junior Liz Brown and sophomore Matthew Smith were given a platform to present their respective proposals to improve student life at Notre Dame and sway a few votes before Monday's election.

Campus culture can be culprit for disorders

Weight gain concerns may lead women, men to bulimia, anorexia, excessive exercising

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Last year, when an anorexic Brazilian supermodel died weighing 88 pounds and designers announced the creation of size 00 clothes for the thinnest customers, body image debates raged through the style capitals of the world.

Notre Dame may be far removed from runways, but it hasn't escaped the same problems that plague the fashion industry — and that's the reason behind Student Senate's "Eating Disorders and the Campus Culture" conference, which begins today.

Disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder and muscular dysmorphia are as prevalent at Notre Dame as at other college campuses — if not more so — due to a variety of factors within the University's environment, say University staff members and the conference's student organizers.

Perfectionism and competition

Student body president Lizzi Shappell said students in any top-20 university like Notre Dame are ambitious in the classroom — and outside of it too.

"It's a very competitive, perfectionist culture," Shappell said. "I think that combined with the pressures that most women and men, even, experience from the media — those two things together make the college campus a high pressure environment for keeping up that aura of perfection." 

"Notre Dame Food Services matronialist Jocelyn Antonelli also stressed the dangers of perfectionism, which she said creates a proneness to eating disorders.

"Students want perfection in every area — including how they look and how they eat," Antonelli said.

Such perfectionism can foster eating disorders and body image issues, ranging from compulsive exercising and anorexia to bingeing and purging meals, Shappell said.

"Notre Dame is really a pressure cooker for these disorders," she said.

Valerie Capistran, a counselor and eating disorders specialist at the University Counseling Center, said typical Notre Dame students "work hard and play hard."

"Both can be positive. Both can be negative," she said. "Finding a balance is a challenge for many students. Many have excelled (in the past) and find it difficult when they aren't 'number one,' but one of many very successful students."

The fear of transitioning from superstardom to another face in the crowd is an "ingrained sense of pressure," Capistran said.

"Conscience would not be necessary, however, without free will — choices that 'talk us closer to destination, or literally we are damned,'" he said. "Choices bring us closer or further away from God. When we go against our conscience, we diminish who we are." 

Incandela said it is important to recognize the difference between right and wrong, and advice about moral choices, conscience, conscience, and conflict.

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Snow no match for removal team

Crews work through winter weather to keep ND roads, sidewalks clear

A snow plow clears a sidewalk Monday near the Jordan Hall of Science.

While students are often looking for a reason to cut class, snow is not a viable excuse at Notre Dame. Within hours of any snowfall — heavy or light — sidewalks and roads on campus are cleared to make cross-campus travel as safe as possible for students.

That snow doesn't clear itself, however. The work is done by Notre Dame's Landscape Services Department, which employs a few votes before Monday's election.

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INSIDE COLUMN

A woman's scorn

Dateline Italy — The land of pizza, Popes and pasta. Enter the latest, hottest political scandal. No, it's not about pregnant chads, a stained dress, or even a major political figure yelling "byaaa" during a speech.

It's about honor, loyalty, and respect. I'm talking, of course, about the scandal involving the former Prime Minister of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, 70. It seems that he made a few comments, such as, to Miss Amazonia Adia Yespica, "I'd go with you anywhere." And about a Member of Parliament of his own party, Mara Carfagna, "Take a look at Europe! I'd marry her if I weren't married already."

If I weren't married already. He's married, of course, to the (beautiful, if I say so myself) former model and actress Veronica Berlusconi, 50. His wife of 27 years.

To us Americans, this may not seem so bad. Admittedly, those old enough to remember the last 10 years have been desensitized to extramarital affairs in government. But it seems that, while that's true in Italy, a "boy will be boy", response from the electorate, the deliberate, public, verbal besmirching of a woman's honor is intolerable. I mean, I didn't see any letters to the New York Times after the events of 1998.

But Veronica returned fire: "These are affirmations that I see as damaging to my dignity, affirmations that I cannot resist." And about a letter to the La Repubblica newspaper, she was impressed. I applaud Veronica for having the courage to stand up for this affront to her self-respect.

On the other hand, in 2002, while he was prime minister, Berlusconi said of the Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen that Rasmussen was "the best-looking prime minister in Europe... He's so good looking, I'm even thinking about marrying him if I weren't married already."

Between you and me, I think Veronica should've seen this coming. If Berlusconi wasn't using his A-game "playboy tactics" at home, he had no business using them abroad. You don't slack off during the year and work hard during summer vacation.

Now Veronica has a tell-all book deal, for "Veronica's Tendency," and Don Silveri tendered an apology. "I was reluctant in private, because I am playfully but also proudly. Challenged in public, I thought I'd give it a try."

I think Veronica is great for standing up to this maltreatment. But a book allowing the government to build a facility in Italy by using "all my playboy tactics, even if they have not been used for some time."

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

Contact John-Paul Witt at jwitt1@nd.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO STAY WARM IN THE COLD?

Joey Statz, freshman Alumni "Surround yourself with big sweaty men."
Christine Kennedy, freshman McGlinn "Hot chocolate and warm clothes."
Alex Gorrell, freshman Alumni "A very furry suit."
Mike Schubert, junior Alumni "Beast up."
Elisha Acosta, senior Badin "It's impossible."
Britta Zoeller, seniors Badin "Under armor."

OFFBEAT

Woman fakes heart attack, scares off intruder

HAMPDEN, Maine — An 80-year-old Hampden woman who was watching the Super Bowl alone faked a heart attack to scare off a man who had broken into her home and was pushing her into the bedroom, police said.

Daniel Thaem, 45, of Winterport was arrested a short time later and charged with aggravated criminal trespass and assault. Thaem is a convicted sex offender in Alabama, police said.

The woman was watching Sunday night's Super Bowl when she spotted a man walking through her house, said Hampden police Sgt. Dan Stewart. When she asked the man what he was doing, he growled at her and began pushing her toward the bedroom.

Stewart said the woman pretended she was having a heart attack and told the intruder her heart medication was in her car in the garage. After they retrieved the medication, the man fled.

Malaysia weighs college bathroom course

KUALA LUMPUR — It's never too late for toilet training. Some Malaysian colleges may soon offer courses on how to keep public restrooms clean, the national news agency reported Thursday.

The effort is meant to help Malaysia's public lavatories become as hygienic as those in countries such as Britain and Singapore, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Robert Lau was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

"Clean toilets cannot merely be judged by the eyes," Lau was quoted as saying. "This matter also involves the use of cleaning equipment, soap, fragrances and proper tissu¬es."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Freelance writer, editor and publisher Anne Elisabeth Moore will teach her tricks of the trade at 2 p.m. today in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Center.

David Lodge from the department of Biological Sciences will give the lecture "The Other Alien Debate: Biology and Policy of Invasive Species" at 4 p.m. today in room 120 of the Law School.

Efrain Inbar, Professor of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University, will give the lecture "Israel's Security Environment"tonight at 8 in Room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center.

As part of the Notre Dame Literary Festival, writer, novelist, essayist, editor, and founder of the independent book publishing house McSweeney's, Dave Eggers will read from his latest work in Room 101, DeBartolo Hall tonight at 8.

Join the ND community for "Artists for Africa," a special evening of celebration for Africa with music, dance, and education at 10 tonight at Legends.

The Kellogg Institute will be hosting the annual Celebration of Brazilian Carnaval featuring live music by the group "Chico Samba," Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight in South Dining Hall. Admission is free.

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

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Contact John-Paul Witt at jwitt1@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 7 edition of The Observer, the article "New Engineering building approved," reported that the University did not disclose the name of the architect charged with the construction project. In fact, the University did announce RSA Designs, an Indianapolis-based firm, is already working on the project.

The Observer • PAGE 2

Thursday, February 8, 2007
After nearly six years, the Notre Dame Amnesty International senator Gary Nijak took the podium at the Senate meeting Wednesday to brief senators about progress made in the Fair Trade coffee campaign.

On Oct. 4, Senate passed a resolution calling for Fair Trade coffee to be exclusively offered in all non-franchised Food Services operations. This exclusivity has not been achieved.

The campaign needs a new marketing strategy, Nijak said Wednesday. They are aiming for a “new attempt at marketing a social justice program rather than what has been happening on campus,” he said.

Nijak has met with Dean Carolyn Woon of the Mendoza College of Business and other people in the business school to discuss different ways to market. Amnesty International also discussed its marketing techniques with David Prentkowski, the director of Food Services. They talked about clearer labeling of the Fair Trade coffee available at the dining halls, posting information at the sites about what Fair Trade means and possibly advertising for related lectures on the LCD screens in the dining halls.

Nijak wants to branch the initiative beyond just coffee and try to introduce Fair Trade chocolate to campus.

“This isn’t something that is limited to coffee,” Nijak said. “This is a much larger idea.”

An Oct. 5 Observer article described Fair Trade pricing as a commitment to pay farmers $1.26 per pound of coffee beans, which should be enough to support a family. Fair Trade coffee allows farmers to sell beans directly to the roaster rather than through middlemen, exporters and importers.

Amnesty International and other groups on campus have several events planned for later in the semester regarding the Fair Trade issue, including a showing of the movie “Black Gold” at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and a lecture by theology professor Mary D’Angelo on Fair Trade and how it relates to teachings of the Catholic Social Tradition.

The majority of Wednesday’s meeting was spent discussing details regarding oversight in the student government — a topic that has been the subject of much debate in Senate and in the Council of Representatives over the past few weeks. The Senate first passed a resolution that allows the chairperson of Senate to “waive committee assignment of any resolution, letter or order and hold immediate consideration of it before the Senate in extraordinary circumstances.”

This resolution allows all non-constitutional amendments to be passed through Senate quickly should the need arise.

After this resolution was passed, Senate Oversight committee chair Chris Hollon brought up two more oversight issues for discussion. The senators debated transferring the account number for presidential programming from under the Student Union Board (SUB) to student government and also increasing the monetary limit an organization like SUB may spend before it must notice the Financial Management Board. Questions, discussions and debate continued for approximately 30 minutes until Senate senator Mariana Montes said the senators should delay debating the issue until a resolution has been written.

In other Senate news:

• Faculty senate representative Linda Sharp said the Faculty Senate discussed clarifying the online code and developing definitive plans for crisis situations in classrooms at Notre Dame at their meeting this week.

Contact Kaitlynn Riey at kriely@nd.edu

Notre Dame

Fair Trade products urged

Amnesty International seeks new campus-wide coffee campaign

By KAITLYNN RIELY

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Contact Kaitlynn Riey at kriely@nd.edu

Saint Mary’s Web site restructured, updated

By ROHAN ANAND

Visitors to Saint Mary’s home page might have been surprised at what they saw when they accessed the Web site after Jan. 12.

“After nearly six years, the College’s homepage unveiled its new look in early January — an initiative freshmen Ashley Nealon deemed a "good public relations move."

Keith Fowlkes, chief information officer at Saint Mary’s, explained from a technological standpoint that a Content Management System (CMS), which allows for easier updating, more interactive features and the ability to share information amongst multiple sites on campus, now drives the new system.

“Basically, it’s the newest, latest and greatest edition of software allowing us to keep up to date and manage all of the information on the Web site,” he said.

Fowlkes said the OIT system at Saint Mary’s would no longer use an HTML editor for creating web pages. In addition, the internal Web site has new forums and discussion centers which will allow visitors to partake in interactive surveys and polls.

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
WELCOMES EARLY ADMITTED ENGINEERING INTENTS

Matthiew A. Abeling
J. Augustiniky
Brandon Barrett
Megan E. Barry
Jonathan M. Barry
Charles W. Bernhard
Graham P. Boechler
Michael J. Bohmer
Christopher M. Borchers
Nicholas W. Bosler
Ryan P. Calkin
Arianna S. Cassani
John C. Cockerman
Thomas A. Connelly
Emily M. Cook
Kelsey Dumbad
Katelyn Dubeus
Daniel E. Ferrara
Megan E. Fitzgerald
Paul Florey
Matthew Fordsnik
Maria Gaither
Taylor H. Gilbert
Charles A. Gray
Thomas Griffith
Katherine R. Heinen
Kyle Higby
Michael D. Hill
Abigail L. Jackson
Steven R. Jacinette
Alyssa Jank
Ryan A. Jansen
Joseph Jensen
Sam Karch
Connor P. Keenan
Karrinat M. Keller
Marie E.N. Kelly
Eric Leicht
Kathryn M. Lentini
Amy P. Libardi
Danny C. Lucero-Dixon
Dinaelle J. Mai
Michael Mactort
Sean P. McMillan
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Charles W. Mitchell
Zane M. Norman
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Kurt C. Rigler
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Ryan A. Jansen
Katrina R. Keller
Mary E. Nolan
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Kathleen Mehary
Ryan A. Jansen
Michael D. Soilelewski
Kathleen Mehary
Mary E. Nolan
Ryan P. Calkin
Joseph Jensen
Benjamin Stoddard
Sarah K. Weiler
Abigail J. Winters
Rachel K. Witt
Francisco Zarama

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN OUR CLASS OF 2011.
Former EPA head addresses environmental issues

Whitman suggests increased federal action to cut back on emissions, served one term as first female governor of N.J.

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

While the environment is in better shape than it was 50 years ago, there is still work to be done, former Environment Protection Agency Administrator and one-time New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman said Wednesday during her "Shaping the Future: America's Environment Today" lecture.

Whitman, a Republican who served for two years in the Bush White House, stressed the importance of market-based solutions to the environmental crises of greenhouse gas and fossil fuel emissions.

"What is good environmental stewardship is also good for business," she said. "We don't have to make a choice between having a healthy environment and a thriving economy."

Although the modern environmental movement began in the 1970s with the federal government mandating stricter emission standards against the wishes of business leaders, the roles have changed.

"Today, the responsible leaders of American businesses are objecting that the federal government is not taking mandatory actions," she said. "It's a natural progress in most responsible leaders that they are more concerned with the environment."

While the Bush administration has enacted voluntary environmental reform programs, Whitman said these initiatives do not go far enough to help solve the challenges the world faces.

Although she hailed voluntary governmental programs such as Energy Star and Climate Leaders, Whitman said more federal action is essential.

"A mandatory carbon cap is necessary and probable within the next five years," she said. Whitman advocated a solution to the environmental crisis that requires businesses to meet certain standards, but allows them to meet these standards in a way that is profitable to the company. As part of this so-called "cap-and-trade" system — similar to the system employed to reduce acid rain — the government would set target to be reached, but companies have to decide how to reach them in accord with their own best interests.

When companies are unable to reach the mandatory targets, they are able to buy emission capabilities from companies that have not surpassed the regulations. The cap-and-trade system is most effective because "the government is not innovative, but the private sector is," Whitman said.

Whitman said environmental responsibility will not limit economic and industrial growth.

"Businesses can protect the environment in a way that enhances their bottom line and doesn't limit their growth," she said.

"We need to make it profitable for businesses to do the right thing for the environment. I don't care about their motives if they're doing the right thing," Whitman said.

Whitman said the White House did not manipulate climate change scientific evidence during her two years at the EPA, but she believes that policy dictates the results of scientific investigation at the federal level.

"When the science goes against what certain people want, it just gets dropped from the report," she said.

"The policy doesn't always have to be based on just the science, but they need to let the science be the science."

In her fight for environmental responsibility, Whitman said she does not hold others to a higher standard than she holds herself.

The former governor drives a Toyota Prius, which — according to Car and Driver Magazine — averages 60 miles per gallon in the city.

"I love my Prius, but we're not going to change what cars people drive right away," she said.

Whitman served as the fifth and first female governor of New Jersey from 1994 to 2001. She left the governorship to become administrator of the EPA during the Bush administration in January of 2001 — a post she held until June of 2003.

Whitman also serves as the president of The Whitman Strategy Group, a consulting firm specializing in the environmental and governmental bipartisanism. She is also the leader of the It's My Party Too political action committee, which works to elect moderate Republican candidates.

Contact John Tierney at jtierney@nd.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Lebanese, Israeli exchange fire
JERUSALEM — Fighting broke out between Israeli and Lebanese soldiers Wednesday night as Israel searched for Hezbollah bombs along the frontier between the two countries, officials from both sides said.

Lebanese soldiers opened fire and Israeli troops responded with tanks and light weapons, Israeli security officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Lebanese military officials said their troops opened fire with machine guns on a bulldozer after the vehicle crossed the so-called Blue Line — the United Nations demarcation boundary — and entered about 20 yards into Lebanon.

Prehistoric remains found hugging Bologna
Sixty-one teeth were found intact, said Elena Menotti, the archaeologist who led the dig.

Neolithic are unheard of, and these are the archaeologists who led the dig.

Some part of any breakdown can be rational explanation, but those who now know Nowak and NASA could sense the stress she was under.

“Just as we know, it’s unique,” Menotti told The Associated Press by telephone from Milan. “Double burials from the Neolithic are unheard of, and these are even hugging.”

NATIONAL NEWS

Air Force cadets caught cheating
AIR FORCE ACADEMY — Nineteen freshman cadets at the Air Force Academy have admitted cheating on a test of general knowledge about their branch of the military, and nine others are under investigation, the school said Wednesday.

The tests were part of a weekly series of exams that cadets are required to pass as part of their basic training.

The tests affect cadets’ grade-point average and their ability to advance to the second year.

By Friday, seven students caught up in the probe, 19 are athletes, but the school declined to identify their teams, citing privacy issues.

Mistrial declared for soldier
FORT LEWIS — A judge declared a mistrial Wednesday in the court-martial of an Army lieutenant who refused to deploy to Iraq, saying the soldier did not fully understand the predicament he signed himself into under the elements of the charge.

Prosecutors said 1st Lt. Ehren Watada admitted in the document that he had a duty to go to Iraq with his fellow soldiers. Watada, however, said he admitted only that he did not go to Iraq with his unit, not that he had a duty to go.

LOCAL NEWS

Homeless men charged with murder
SOUTH BEND — A second man was arraigned Wednesday on four counts of murder in the slaying of Mark Raue, a public defender during his appearance and was ordered held without bond. He is scheduled to appear in court again next week.

By Friday, seven students caught up in the probe, 19 are athletes, but the school declined to identify their teams, citing privacy issues.

Astronaut faces serious charges

Family friend speaks out about challenges, stress on female astronauts

Astronaut Lisa Nowak stands before an Orlando judge with attorney Donald Lakebak. She is charged with attempted kidnapping and attempted murder.

North Korea restarts peace talks

BEIJING — International talks on North Korea’s nuclear program convened Wednesday in a world with a new sense of optimism about the possibility of the first tangible progress on the communist nation’s disarmament since negotiations began more than three years ago.

The main U.S. envoy said Wednesday that the first steps on disarmament are a “dramatic” breakthrough for the country’s nuclear program.

The United States’ attitude, following an election of a president perceived as more willing to engage in talks, has been a factor.

The latest nuclear standoff with the North continued last month to meet North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan, and the North later said the sides had reached an unspecified agreement.

The specifics of what they discussed haven’t been made public.

Washington has also held separate talks on financial restrictions it has placed on a Macau-based bank, the North later said.

The North has backed U.N. sanctions against the nuclear test, Washington has since established a series of diplomatic overtures that have drawn praise from Pyongyang.

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Disordered eating and exercising

Junior Ashley Weiss, chair of the Student Senate Gender Issues committee, and graduate student and co-conference coordinator Althea Wishon said they believe eating disorders are more common across Notre Dame's campus than people realize — or are willing to accept.

"It's something that you wake up and see everyday," Weiss said. "You see the girls that wake up and go running every morning or the guys that are constantly at the gym — and then at the dining halls, you can see the health food craze," she said. "None of these things are bad, but just taken to the extreme." Shappell agreed, saying she knew a substantial number of people in high school and at Notre Dame afflicted with eating disorders.

"I think that body image is something that nearly every young woman has struggled with, at least at some point in time," she said. At Notre Dame, Antonelli said she thinks eating disorders often stem from dieting or restrictive eating habits. Whether a student stops snacking, skips meals or eliminates carbohydrates, these habits — often paved with good intentions — can lead to disorders, she said.

Overall, students seem to put great emphasis on eating and staying healthy, but in some cases students become so food-conscious they are anxious about eating, she added.

"Some people are so concerned about the 'freshman 15,'" Antonelli said. "This summer I had several students call before school started, stating they were anxious about (gaining weight). That's never happened before."

Antonelli said she regularly sees students for individual counseling. If she believes a student is suffering from an eating disorder, she will refer the student to the Counseling Center, she said.

In addition to problems with food, obsessive or compulsive exercising may also become an issue for those struggling with body image disorders. With a high percentage of former varsity athletes comprising the Notre Dame student body, "our campus is extremely athletic," Shappell said. Such athleticism can place too much attention on staying fit and looking good, she said.

Notre Dame RecSports co-director Sally Derengoski said while RecSports provides services to students that promote healthy exercising habits — including the new personal training program — staff members see some students "take it to the extreme."

"The great majority of students who come to play or work out are doing so within a range that is helpful and healthy," Derengoski said. "But we see cases that exceed that range? Certainly, and in those cases we work with the Counseling Center and the Office of Student Affairs to best provide for the student."

However, a person doesn't have to exercise excessively long or hard to be suffering from an eating disorder, Staples said.

"There is a measurable amount of exercise could be questionable when the individual does so for the sole purpose of burning calories or reshaping their body rather than to be healthy or reduce stress," Staples said.

Staples also mentioned binging and purging — two behaviors conducted much more secretly, she said.

Male body image: an overlooked issue

While research and media coverage have highlighted the problems of eating disorders among women, men are not exempt from eating disorders or image issues, Wishon said. "That's absolutely not true," she said. "The current statistic is that 10 million women and one million men are suffering in the U.S."

The conference's keynote speaker, Dr. Roberto Olivardia, a Harvard Medical School scholar, will specifically address the male body image issue, she said. "There's really no name for it." She said. "Men don't know what to say when they are compulsively exercising, losing weights so much they can't do anything else."

Derengoski said male Notre Dame students who exercise to a certain extent have attracted attention.

"We have had incidents with both males and females where concern has been expressed, either by a patron or staff," she said.

Staples said the athletic culture at Notre Dame could also be a contributing factor behind these disorders.

"Certainly athleticism is a piece of what drives this," she said. "Men tend to increase exercise and working out as a way to reshape their body rather than by dieting as women do."

While the Counseling Center sees only "a few" men each year with eating disorder issues, that certainly does not mean there aren't many of them affected, Staples said.

"Men are not immune to the cultural focus on appearance, but often find it more difficult to acknowledge a problem for fear of being seen as having a woman's problem," she said.

Counseling Center services in place

While conference organizers hope the event creates awareness of and dialogue about eating disorders, the Counseling Center already has a variety of services to help students struggling with disorders, Staples said. Options include individual or group counseling sessions. "The approach to treatment is comprehensive and involves students working with a physician from Health Services," she said.

The Counseling Center also consults family, friends and faculty members to detect potential victims of food or body image disorders, Staples said.

Students can call to schedule an appointment or contact health services. Wherever they feel most comfortable starting, they "will be put in touch with the other aspects of the treatment team," Staples said.

Staples said that an estimated 13 to 15 percent of the students who come to the Counseling Center each year seek counseling for eating, weight or body image concerns.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu
Apple CEO Jobs hits at RIAA

LOS ANGELES — Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs challenged major record labels to Wednesday, suggesting the company should open up its anti-piracy technology to make that happen, "this is something which would considerably increase manufacturing costs per car," he said, but added that extra costs "will be more than balanced by the fact that cars will have greater fuel-efficiency."

The plan also calls for increased use of biofuels and cleaner fossil fuels, meant to reduce car emissions by 25 percent, even lower than the 210-gram objective, EU Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas said. It also calls for added research to get a 153-gram-per-mile level by 2050.

"If action is delayed, it will cost far more," Dimas said.

He pointed to a U.N. scientist panel report Friday that warned that global warming was so severe that it would continue for centuries. Winning the battle to prevent dangerous climate change...will require very substantial reductions of greenhouse gases. All sectors of the economy should participate and transport is very important," he said.

The United States does not regulate carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles, although the government and several states are looking into proposals, said John Millet, a spokesman for the Environmental Protection Agency.

California has adopted a plan...for incremental decreases in carbon dioxide emissions, beginning with cars made in 2009. Cars and light trucks that meet new standards that would limit to 32...grams of carbon dioxide per mile.

By 2016, that figure would drop to 205 grams per mile, a 30 percent reduction over cars made in 2002. EU officials argued the new rules, if backed by EU governments, would keep Europe's ailing car industry viable in the long-term, amid growing cheap imports from Asia. "The EU car industries are at the core of our economies," said EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. "By positively taking up the climate change challenge, they will preserve and enhance their competitiveness in the long term."

Barroso is pushing EU governments to shift the 2052 EU bloc to a low carbon economy as a way of tackling global warming and carving out a new industrial niche for European industries.

EU officials have said automakers have failed to make voluntary commitments on car emissions set with the commission nine years ago, when they pledged to reduce average emissions from new and imported cars to 225 grams of carbon dioxide per mile by 2008.
**Snow**

continued from page 1

30 people who work three different shifts for campus snow removal, according to Snow, Thistlethwaite said, "I'll save my opening a restaurant on campus. While we can always expect exceptions, though. Precautions are in place to make sure that the snow is cleared as soon as flurry begins open during the daytime, the removal process becomes more efficient. If you're areas of campus that require snow removal are prioritized, we've found that the process is more efficient. If you're dealing with roads, the top priority," Thistlethwaite said. "But what's most important is the parking places for faculty, staff, and commuting students." Although Thistlethwaite realizes that some students, student parking lots, also get snow removal, he said. Thistlethwaite said work last because most of the cars are already there and most students are already on campus. While we can save our Opening a restaurant on campus and start managing your call to make sure that they can clear these areas as soon as possible."

**Colum**

continued from page 1

At last night's uninspiring and hopelessly monotone debate, I was struck by how ridiculous many of the tickets' primary platforms were. Garrett Coggon and Mallory Smith's "no student government" would wind up with some concerns through the removal process. The current bitterly cold temperatures only complicate the effort; the outdoor thermometer drops below freezing during the day, the removal process slows down. In subzero circumstances, chemicals used to remove the snow and break down ice are less efficient than in warmer weather, Thistlethwaite said.

"When the temperatures are in the twenties, we can have the walk downs to bare pavement and dry by the time we come back the next day," she said. When snow falls at a rate that leaves most areas in the United States, it often means that a lot of students are already there and most students are already on campus. While we can always expect exceptions, though. Precautions are in place to make sure that the snow is cleared as soon as flurry begins open during the daytime, the removal process becomes more efficient. If you're areas of campus that require snow removal are prioritized, we've found that the process is more efficient. If you're dealing with roads, the top priority," Thistlethwaite said. "But what's most important is the parking places for faculty, staff, and commuting students." Although Thistlethwaite realizes that some students, student parking lots, also get snow removal, he said. Thistlethwaite said work last because most of the cars are already there and most students are already on campus. While we can save our Opening a restaurant on campus and start managing your call to make sure that they can clear these areas as soon as possible."

**Debate**

continued from page 1

The candidates brought different strategies and initiatives to the table, beginning with Brown and Braun's extensive involvement in student government. Collectively they have served on seven of the nine student senate committees.

Follow mentors Rivera and Coggon highlighted their military leadership experience and Madison and Smith emphasized their involvement in the student organization.

Coggan and Padberg used commonality of their experience and lack of involvement in student council.

"We're the only men on the ticket and therefore morally superior to others," Coggon quipped in his opening statement.

Smith and Weiss emphasized their "technology initiatives" as the heart of their campaign, presenting proposals to make the purchase of football tickets available online and the use of Donor Dollars in the Notre Dame Stadium possible. The pair also called for the creation of a network with Ruckus Network, Inc. to provide a "free and safe alternative" to downloading illegal music. Smith said.

Brown, however, had doubts concerning Ruckus' ability to provide a complete music experience at Notre Dame, commenting that "Ruckus only has one gigahertz to work with and that's about it." He also noted that there were too many people security issues going on that aren't even out today. Smith said.

Smith contended there was "always a problem concernng security", though he admitted iPod 'compatibility' is an issue.

Brown and Braun shared several proposals for the enrichment of the student experience, including a guest meal exchange plan that would let you take one of your unused meals and turn it into a voucher allowing your guests to save money and make the most of their meals. The all-female ticket also proposed an on-campus "Family Day" with games, prizes and a special "scream" for the crowd.

Weiss quoted a Volkswagen commercial: "In life there are passengers and drivers," she said. "Danny and I are drivers and are always ready to drive you into the future of Notre Dame." Braun emphasized his passion for the student and Brown shared her passion for student government and the experience, "students are the heart of Notre Dame," she said.

"Liz and I love this place," Braun said. "We want to make it better, we want to make it even better, and we're doing it for you guys."

"Drawing on our experience we know what's possible and what students can do," Coggon said that "as candidates, we feel that we are those who can make things happen." Padberg changed his one-word answer of "home" to "hometown" for his part in the closing statement.

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While several tons of salt are still used on average every year, the need for salt has greatly reduced at Notre Dame.

"We still use salt because we have to, but over the years we've really cut back," she said. "We have cut our salt use by about 40 percent and we're about as low as everybody else in the country except Notre Dame. Since shifts are long and weather conditions harsh, the use of sand and salt removal equipment needs to stay the same.

"It's very mentally taxing," Thistlethwaite said. "A lot of the shifts are early in the day. When you work those shifts, you can't see because of the snow, things can get hairy.

The most unorthodox ideas came from Coggan and Padberg, who put forward a five-year plan to turn two separate campuses for men and women. Under this proposal, the women would be allowed within five hundred yards of men's dorms (and vice versa) Coggan said.

Coggan proposed a "wall on campus and windows to block," separate sidewalks on slow walkers, fast walkers and bicycles, and "improving a squirrel season here so that squirrels must wear a "Vigilant Chip," Padberg had little to say other than the word "absurd," and provided a musical compliment to Coggan's proposals with makeshift aureoles.

In terms of communication with constituents, each ticket had its own ideas. Rivera and Braun mentioned more information in The Observer. Brown and Braun suggested that any student government policies and proposals should be presented to the student body and returned to off-campus students and provide a MAC network. We've got a network, and the idea was that they would communicate via "message tube," allowing for "divine intervention as to which suggestions we are able to get off campus.

In their closing statements, each ticket reinforced their commitment and desire to lead the student body next year.

"We can bring a lot to the table even though we're lacking in student government and experience," Weiss said.

"We've got our fair share of castle-in-the-air promises," First, let's talk about Ruckus Network, the Smith- Weiss solution for legal downloading. If you look back in The Observer archives around the spring 2005, you see several articles about the Student Senate considering— and ultimately rejecting— proposals to join with Ruckus. The way I see it, it makes me smile too.

"I'm going to leave the Rivera-Kane and Coggon-Padberg teams alone. The former is young and, as is obvious from Kane's comment on The Observer on Feb. 1, the latter are a bit too high school student governance-

"I think any dealings with Food Services should start.

"Brown and Braun—Fraternity and sorority skepticism to get you up to the Martin Luther King, Jr. day for another column—

"Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss had their fair share of castle-in-the-air promises.

"Weiss shouldn't be let off the hook, however, that we would bring it up during the student government election. Working with our campaign friends and friends and friends and friends, they've worked for years trying to find a solution.

"Let's just talk about a moment and the idea of the commuter. There are some of the wealthiest and most influential men and women in the country as they're being let to ask the University about important things and national competitiveness—just as it's gearing up to make a decision on "research University?"

"It makes me smile too.

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"I'll save my opening a restaurant on cam­
Jamieson then took the stage and immediately grabbed the audience's attention by tackling her grave subject material with an interactive approach.

"Why don't we co-create this lecture?" she asked.

Jamieson referenced Aristotle's theories on enthymemes and public speech, which favor deductive arguments and interaction with the audience, respectively.

"Using enthymeme, we can make active communication, which will make this talk more powerful," she said.

Jamieson, a renowned expert in political advertising and deception, has appeared on CBS and other television programs as an authority in the field.

Jamieson traced the duplicity of politics to the 1964 presidential election, inviting the audience to analyze President Lyndon Johnson's controversial anti-nuclear warfare ad campaign.

She said the 1964 election was "the dirtiest election in politics. It started here," she said. "This ad served as an iconic reference point for dirty politics."

Jamieson asked the audience to interpret the ads and explain how they swayed their thoughts on each candidate. She proceeded to show another Johnson ad, which never aired due to its sensationalist content. It featured video clips of the Ku Klux Klan and said members supported Republican candidate Senator Barry Goldwater.

"People are often bothered by the juxtaposition of ads and the placement of people and things," she said.

Jamieson then fast-forwarded to the 2004 presidential election and the role of the Internet in political campaigning. She said a verbal slip-up from Vice President Dick Cheney led audiences to visit an online blog that endorsed the John Kerry-John Edwards ticket instead of Republican platforms — mistakenly benefiting his opponent.

These blogs and other Web-based news feeds may determine future political outcomes as their popularity among the voters increases, she said.

"Although [bloggers] are one-sided, they are complete and show the future of campaigning and reaching the audience," she said.

She said political contenders down the road would need to integrate the growing trend to their campaigns' strategies.

"In politics today, young people need to find a way to make the [Internet] work for them," she said. "You can fix the system using technology and find new ways to change the system."

Jamieson ended the lecture with questions.

After Jamieson's farewell, Pauley took the stage again and invited Plamondon to say a few words. Pauley presented her with a collection of letters from the alumnae who endorsed her lecture series.
It's that time of year again — when the arctic South Bend air will induce frostbite in mere minutes and when you wonder why on earth you endure such exacerbating conditions just to get an education.

And as you witness countless students wiping out on the ice-coated sidewalks, your thoughts might skid backward in time to a young woman who was once the epitome of "trouble on ice" — former figure skater Tonya Harding.

True — Harding was the first woman to nail the triple axle, double toe loop combination, but we all know that her name would've melted into obscurity — that is, if she hadn't been a co-conspirator in the 1994 clubbing of her nemesis, Nancy Kerrigan.

And yet this skating saga was a measly single axle compared to that spectacle that would spin in the coming summer, boosting former football star O.J. Simpson into Gold Medal position on the award stand of infamy.

What about the talent-less former back-up dancer Kevin Federline? As subzero temperatures descended upon South Bend last Sunday, Federline starred in a Super Bowl commercial, our society's sure sign of infinite reprieve. And how did he attain that sought-after status symbol? He merely married (and then divorced) a trampy pop music icon.

What about former White House intern Monica Lewinsky? She simply "pleased" then-President Bill Clinton, thus securing her own medal of notoriety.

What about former Enron CEO (and now deceased) Kenneth Lay? Well, he surely would've nestled straight 6.0's in the category of egregious corporate fraud. And after that unfailing feat, his name was undoubtedly propelled into another esteemed category — that of the forevermore recognizable.

Likewise, what about Lorena Bobbitt? I needn't tell you what she did to earn her place among the notorious; more likely than not, you're already familiar with her butchery tale.

And what about Notre Dame alumnus Steve Bartaam? In 2003, he caught the scent of a city — and thus, eternal infamy. And he did this using only his hand, not his coveted Notre Dame degree.

So why then do we trek through polar snows and tolerate the "wind tunnel" of South Quad? After all, we can clearly attain everlasting renown without either an education or that highly sought-after piece of paper. So what's the moral of this story? Perhaps you should ditch your goose-down coat and your Biology textbook. Maybe you really need is a trampy wife or a black leather glove that you can claim doesn't fit.

Otherwise you, as just one of the many well-meaning students who slip on the ice in front of DeBartolo, will slip into obscurity like Tonya Harding should have.

You surely don't want a frostbitten nose. But don't you want to be frozen in time?

Liz Coffey is a senior American Studies major and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy minor. Her column appears every other Thursday. She can be reached at coffey@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Think about what Lent will mean to you

Last Sunday's Super Bowl garnered the second-largest TV audience in the history of our country for a sporting event. My own conviction is that I sometimes prefer the conference playoff games because I find them more exciting than the Super Bowl itself. But a lot of people enjoy watching the advertisements that sell for millions of dollars. One would assume that paying that much money in the Miami Skydome or 60-second ad would encourage the advertisers themselves to put their best foot forward. That certainty has been somewhat shattered by Sunday.

We all know how significant the media is in forming our convictions and even determining what values should be the most important ones for us as a people and a culture. That is the case, the spate of rather violent episodes in the Super Bowl advertisements seems to be a cautionary light for us. A number of the advertisements contained violence at some level of one kind or another. In thinking about that, I could not help but reflect on two different matters which I have been thinking a lot about lately.

We know that in our country a lack of respect for people is something that is all too easily taken for granted. This is not true only with regard to the way we talk and refer to people who are different from us but is also spills over into the relationships between men and women, our nation's conversation with regard to immigrants, the lack of progress in terms of racial equality which we are reminded of rather regularly in our celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. or just give even a passing thought to the situation in our country and a growing intolerance for those which have made our country what it is over the course of the years.

For over a decade now, young people have been spending hours entertaining themselves with violent video games, the object of which is to kill as many people as possible in the course of the game itself. I wonder if the effects of this kind of exposure are not slowly eroding away the idea of respect among us and even our respect for life itself.

Within fewer than two weeks, we will once again begin our Lenten observance which will prepare us for the great feast of Easter. It is probably not too soon to begin thinking about what we would like to do to be for us and what changes we would like to see take place within our own lives. If we begin giving some thought now to how we will live out this holy season of grace, we will not have to scramble at the last minute and perhaps fall back into previous Lenten practices which, although they are very good in and of themselves, may not be what we need at this moment in our lives.

Increased devotion to the Eucharist should certainly be a part of our Lenten observance. There is no higher degree of human solidarity than when believers gather around the Eucharistic table to listen to the Word of God, to encourage one another in their quest to make Jesus the center of their lives and who share together in receiving the body and blood of Our Lord.

It may also be a time for us to really examine how we live in solidarity with other people and what role the poor should play as we determine the almmsgiving that has to be part of our Lenten resolutions as well.

If we take time now to think about where we would like to be on Easter as a result of our Lenten season of grace, this may be a super Lent for each one of us.

This week's FaithPoint is written by Father Richard Warner, director of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at rwarner@kent.edu.

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

U-Wire

 Declare your own personal snow day

Let's face it. No matter how much of this white stuff piles up, "Kent State University - Classes Canceled" is not going to find its way onto a school closing ticker anytime soon. So if you're lucky enough to complete the commute here successfully, avoid pile-ups, spackled vehicle back toward the direction of your bed which is still warm - then you'll find yourself in bed with an open palm and a must-have. It's that easy.

Your professor will walk in, conduct a session that runs about half the usual time, and say things he's sure to repeat next class to get anyone else caught up.

You'll get up to leave, zipping, buttoning, latching, wrapping and bundling yourself, while noticing the mushy puddles beneath the desks of you and sick boy. Sick boy will sneeze for the first time, and say things she's sure to repeat the next day.

Siegfried Hall president Ryan Szytopak Kent State University Daily Kent Stater

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Parallels exist between drunks, awesomeness

Dear Mark Pesar (Feb. 7 Letter to the Editor),

Parallels exist between drunkos and believers. First of all, both types are known as "drunks" by people who don't know any better. Second, the Barstow Bar is a hangout for Bush-Bashing, tree-hugging, French-loving propagandists in Viewpoint as much as you or I. Because of your right to freedom of speech, we won't even begin to touch on the topics you believe I certainly don't want to see tortured, your claim about the American "American value..." even though neither of us think we're being quite as national, and part of what makes this country so amazing.

Dear Tom Martin (Feb. 7 Editorial Cartoon),

Drinking. Ever since the Puritans embarked on their passage to America with more beer aboard their ship than water, this country has been centered around drinking. In the 17th century, abstainers had to pay ten percent more on their taxes because they believe in alcoholic beer. This is almost a scientific fact that those who drink all the time are healthier, stronger and more awesomeness than those that don't. If you can't appreciate and respect the importance of alcohol in America, then you're free to move to some place like Canada, or at the very least, switch to a dry dorm like Morrissey.

Tom Martin Siegfried Hall president Patrick McMaster Siegfried Hall spirit commission

Thursday, February 8, 2007
There's no 'Wincing' at The Shins' success

By CHRIS McGRADY
Assistant Scene Editor

The Shins have done it again, but not at all in the same way as before. The group's newest effort "Wincing the Night Away" is the type of speaker candy that makes the listener once again have faith in the modern music industry.

In the world of electronic parts Hilton songs, composer of covers and American Idol, "Wincing the Night Away" is more than just a breath of fresh air; it is an oxygen tank for the dawning musical aficionado.

The band originally formed in 1997 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and has been making music ever since. Originally started as a passion project of singer/songwriter/guitarist James Mercer, the band decided to become a scene for several years before reaching a national audience when two of their songs were featured in the 2004 movie "Garden State," starring Zach Braff and Natalie Portman. The soundtrack for the movie received widespread praise for its originality and the overall quality of the songs, and The Shins found themselves at center stage as a band that the soundtrack success was placed squarely on the band's shoulders. With the release of "Wincing the Night Away," the spotlight won't be leaving the group anytime soon.

The CD is one of those types that finds its way into your CD player and manages to stay there for weeks, even months. The CD starts strong and never waivers; "Some Loud Thunder," becomes one of those rare CDs that can be played from start to finish without the listener ever wishing to skip to the next song.

The first track, "Sleeping Lessons," opens quietly like a dream. Just when it almost induces you into a trance, the sound brings the song to life. From the start the CD appears to be an overall success. The next song, "Australia," is equally appealing. The best part about The Shins' sound is how much fun their music is to listen to. Listeners can't help but smile when the airy, bright songs bounce along the airways just begging for you to sing along.

The band may have its best song in the song, "Turn On Me." The track is so enjoyable that audio players' repeat buttons may quickly become worn out. This track has the type of feel-good sound that compliments the music produced by these Brooklyn/Philadelphia rockers and is reminiscent of so many different bands and that it is difficult to just one. The band's five members - Alex Ounsworth, Robbie Guerin, Lee Sargent, Tyler Sargent and Jean Greenhalgh - met at Connecticut College and now contribute to one of the most diverse-sounding rock groups around.

The CD opens with the track title, "Some Loud Thunder" and starts off on a silky smooth note. The sound seems like too much for speakers to handle and has a grainy, distorted effect. After trying built-in computer speakers, satellite speakers and headphones, the conclusion is that this is the way the song is meant to sound. However, the overall effect of this is one of annoyance. The vocals' whiny notes are amplified, and while this style of singing works for most of the band's songs, this particular track is negatively affected.

The track takes a sharp upward turn on the next track, however, with "Emma Jean Stock," a feel-good catchy sound that features sharp guitar-picking and interesting electronic effects.

Another highlight of the album is the song "Satan Said Dance," a track which opens with some particularly odd electronic sounds and takes listeners into 5-minutes of high-paced musical action. Next is "Goodbye to Mother and the Cove," a particularly addictive song. The opening guitar pattern will have the listener bobbing his or her head to the tune within the first 15 seconds of the track. There are no vocals for the first minute of the track and this period serves to display the musical talent that Clap Your Hands Say Yeah really has.

"The Sword Song" is the bonus track on the disc and is also one of the best songs. The song features a strong drum base, overlaid with melodic guitar riffs. The overall effect is an addictive mix and this very well might be the best track on the entire CD. For once, the bonus track on an album is actually a bonus.

The Shins have been well-received by critics and fans alike since their popular debut on the highly-regarded soundtrack for the movie "Garden State."

Overall, this album could quickly find itself on the way into the "album of the year" discussion. Several of the songs could be picks for single of the year, and The Shins sound is pleasant, fulfilling and overall impressive. When Natalie Portman references The Shins in "Garden State," she says, "You gotta hear this one song, it'll change your life I promise you." Well, you have to hear this album, it'll change your life - I promise you.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmgrady@nd.edu
Cavalry coming

Notre Dame signs top-10 recruiting class for second straight year, despite late defections

By CHRIS KOREY
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame has signed 18 freshmen for the class of 2011, head coach Charlie Weis announced Wednesday.

"I think we basically attained what we were trying to do at all positions," Weis said. "I have to tell you, I'm very happy with the group of young men we're bringing in here."

The Irish expected to sign two more players Wednesday, but wide receiver Greg Little of Durham, N.C., and offensive lineman Chris Little of Jeffersonville, Ga., decided at the last minute to sign with North Carolina and Georgia, respectively.

Notre Dame signed eight offensive players, seven defensive players, a kicker and two all-star players, a kicker and two All-American linemen.

"Obviously this kid can flat out fly," Weis said.

Allen broke his leg during his senior season, but is expected to be at full strength by spring workouts.

Quarterbacks

On April 22, 2006, the day of the Blue-Gold Game, Notre Dame received a verbal commitment from the nation's top-rated high school passer, Jimmy Clausen of Westlake Oaks - Park, Pa.

Clausen, the younger brother of former Tennessee quarterback Casey and Rick Clausen, passed for 3,428 yards and 49 touchdowns as a senior, leading Oaks Christian High School to a state championship. He was uncommitted as a starter.

"When you go through the lineup of our offensive or defensive line, he is the type of guy that can make us better in a short period of time," Weis said. "This kid can flat out fly," Weis said.

Robert Hughes, out of Highland High School in Chicago, is a bruising, 228-pound back who rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a senior. He committed to the Irish in January after choosing Notre Dame over Illinois.

McKnight and Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame signed two wideouts and a tight end to the class by spring workouts.

"As you go through the offensive line/defensive line, the type of guy that can couple that could play either offense or defense because we couldn't really take the risk of doubling the numbers," Weis said. "But we had to find a couple guys that were capable of playing our offensive or defensive line." The Irish also picked up five defensive back commitments before the semester.

Running Backs

Notre Dame signed two tailbacks with very different styles.

"We also enrolled at the beginning of the semester and will participate in spring practice," Weis said.

"This kid can flat out fly," Weis said.

Football is a speed back who runs a 4.35-second 40-yard dash.

Defensive Backs

Notre Dame signed five defensive backs with very different styles.

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Notre Dame signed five offensive linemen for the class of 2011 - Taylor Dever of Grass Valley, Calif., and Matt Romine of Tulsa, Okla., and one true offensive lineman - Ian Williams of Longwood, Fla.

Weis said both players will probably end up playing inside in the new defensive alignment.

In January, Notre Dame offered a scholarship to outside linebacker prospect Brian Smith out of Overland Park, Kan. Smith had committed to Iowa, but changed his mind after the Irish offered. Smith's father Chris played at Notre Dame from 1981-85.

"When our system changed (to 3-4), he became a perfect fit," Weis said.

Kickers

Late in the recruiting process, Notre Dame got a commitment from Branden Walker of Findlay, Ohio.

Walker had previously committed to Louisville, but he decided to come to Notre Dame after Weis offered. He will push sophomore Ryan Burkhart for the starting kicking job next year.

"I was only interested in bringing in a guy at this position with another scholarship if it was a guy who had a chance of unseating somebody and being able to get on the field for us as a freshman," Weis said. "We think, looking at this kid, he has the potential to do that walking in the door."
Cause and effect affects smaller schools most

Early signing period wouldn’t help teams like Ball State

Justin Trattou is a star defensive end out of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, N.J. He verbally committed to Notre Dame way back in June, and it made perfect sense. He’s a kid from a Catholic high school less than an hour from Franklin Township, where Irish coach Charlie Weis led a team to a state title. He was going to be the next big defensive end for the Irish.

Until Florida stepped in. Gators coach Urban Meyer nabbed Trattou from Notre Dame en route to Florida’s consensus No. 1 recruiting class.

In a year when they sign a quarterback prospect out of Don Bosco Prep in Franklin, N.J., it makes perfect sense. He’s a defensive end out of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, N.J. He verbally committed to the Irish, with an extensive support system behind him.

Bruce Davis is a weak-side linebacker from Cleveland. He wasn’t the biggest recruit — in fact, he wasn’t even listed as one of Scout.com’s 30-best players at his position. But he was a solid B and for Ball State.

In today’s college football, the early signing period means less and less for getting an offer from a major conference school as the early signing period would cause that situation at 15 or more schools every year.

The Hawkeyes only found out about Davis during the winter when they noticed the 6-foot-2, 230-pound defensive end out of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, N.J. He verbally committed to Notre Dame way back in June, and it made perfect sense. He’s a kid from a Catholic high school less than an hour from Franklin Township, where Irish coach Charlie Weis led a team to a state title. He was going to be the next big defensive end for the Irish.

If Irish signee Gary Gray jukes a defender during his senior year.

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound Davis was Iowa’s second-best linebacker recruit when Park, Kan., was Iowa’s second-best linebacker recruit when Davis committed to Notre Dame way back in June, and it made perfect sense. He’s a kid from a Catholic high school less than an hour from Franklin Township, where Irish coach Charlie Weis led a team to a state title. He was going to be the next big defensive end for the Irish.

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Quarterback competition headlines Irish spring agenda; freshmen look to replace holes at receiver and running back

By KEN FOWLER, Sports Editor

Hello, position battles. Spring ball and summer camp will feature a slew of freshmen battling for starting jobs, Irish coach Charlie Weis said Wednesday. And the most high-profile position battle of all will be the competition at quarterback.

Weis said early-enrolling recruit Jimmy Clausen of Westlake Village, Calif., will compete in spring and summer for the starting job with rising junior Evan Sharpless and rising sophomores Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer. And none hold a clear edge going into practices, Weis said.

Clausen, who will not throw passes until the end of February in an effort to rest his arm, enters as the consensus No. 1 quarterback in the country. Jones and Frazer were both in the top 15 at their position last year.

Behind the team’s new signal-caller could be one of two freshmen at any point. Small and speedy Armando Allen of Hendersonville, Tenn., a perfect compliment to Kamara.

"Until the Irish may have struggled in defensive recruiting and lost commitments in the final 24 hours before the letters of intent started pouring in across the fax wires, they at least got one important tangible benefit out of this year's recruiting class: stabilizing numbers."

What's more, Weis said early enrollee Gray Gary, a cornerfrom Columbus, S.C., would be in the heart of the defensive back picture as a "cover corner."

The numbers game

While the Irish may have struggled in defensive recruiting and lost commitments in the final 24 hours before the letters of intent started pouring in across the fax wires, they at least got one important tangible benefit out of this year's recruiting class: stabilizing numbers.

In 2006, Weis signed 28 players to letters of intent because of a relatively small base of scholarship players on the team at the time, due to the attrition of the already low number of signees during the three-year reign of former coach Tyrone Willingham. The annual limit is 25, but three enrolled early so the Irish could count them against the previous year's total of 15. With a maximum of 85 players on scholarship at one time, Weis said his goal is to sign 20 players yearly, which would allow five or more seniors with extra eligibility to apply for a fifth year.

"I'm trying to compensate a little bit for the fact that next year's senior class only has seven or eight guys on scholarship," Weis said. "Between the fourth year guys next year that ask and are granted a fifth year and our class next year, I think that will finally put us on track to have the numbers as I perceive they should actually be."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Irish signee running back Robert Hughes stiffarms a defender during his senior season at Chicago’s Hubbard High School.

Notre Dame freshman quarterback Jimmy Clausen warms up before an Oaks Christian High School practice in Westlake Village, Calif. Clausen will compete for the starting job this spring.

"Kamara is athletic, big, fast. We see him challenging walking in the door."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

Irish signee offensive tackle Matt Romine pass blocks for Union High School in Tulsa, Okla., during his senior season. Notre Dame will replace three starters on next year’s offensive line.

by the numbers

Notre Dame’s class of 2011 team ranking according to Rivals.com and ESPN.com

Players that originally verbalized elsewhere but signed with ND: Gray Gary, Walker, and Brian Smith. The Irish also had three public verbal commitments (Trafford, Chris Little, Greg Little) sign with other schools.

True defensive tackle — Ian Williams — to sign with the Irish in the past two classes and the first since Derrel Hand in 2003.

Different states represented by the 18 players in this class: Fla. (3), Calif. (2), Ill. (2), N.J. (2), Tenn. (2), Kan., N.C., Ohio, Okla., Pa., S.C. and Va.

Offensive lineman signed in the past two classes. The Irish signed nine in the four years previous.

Players in the Top 100 list of either Scout, Rivals or ESPN: Clausen, Ragone, Allen, Kamara, Hughes, Tate, Romine, Neal.
Armando Allen
running back
5-10, 185
Hialeah, Fla.
State champion 110-meter hurdler missed his senior season with a leg injury ...
Rivals.com No. 2 all-purp. back

Jimmy Clausen
quarterback
6-3, 195
Westlake Village, Calif.
Rivals.com No. 1 player overall ... 3,428 yards, 49 TDs, 6 INTs in 2006 ... 43-0 as a starter

Taylor Dever
offensive lineman
6-6, 300
Grass Valley, Calif.
Scout.com No. 29 offensive tackle ... No. 4 tackle in state ... benches 325 lbs ... 5.2 40-yard dash

Gary Gray
cornerback
5-11, 165
Columbia, S.C.
ESPN.com No. 2 all-purp. back ... 47 tackles and 1 INT as a senior ... standout in U.S. Army game

Robert Hughes
running back
5-11, 228
Chicago, Ill.
Scout.com No. 7 RB ... 1,900 yards, 24 TDs as a senior ... benches 420 lbs, squats 500 lbs

Duval Kamara
wide receiver
6-1, 215
Hoboken, N.J.
Rivals.com No. 6 receiver ... 24.2 YPC, 9 TDs as a senior ... started U.S. Army game for East

Aaron Nagel
linebacker
6-1, 215
Leomont, Ill.
Rushed for 902 yards, 13 TDs as running back ... 42 tackles, 5 sacks as a safety in 2006

Kerry Neal
defensive end
6-3, 230
Bunn, N.C.
ESPN.com No. 4 defensive end ... 132 tackles, 30 TFL, 16 sacks as a senior ... verballed Feb. 24, 2006

Duval Kamara
wide receiver
6-1, 215
Hoboken, N.J.
Rivals.com No. 6 receiver ... 24.2 YPC, 9 TDs as a senior ... started U.S. Army game for East

Emeka Nwankwo
offensive lineman
6-5, 276
Hollywood, Fla.
ESPN.com No. 19 offensive tackle ... played both sides of the ball in high school, may switch to defensive

Steve Paskorz
linebacker
6-2, 220
Allison Park, Pa.
Surpassed 4,000 career rushing yards at running back ... missed senior year with hamstring injury

Andrew Nuss
defensive lineman
6-5, 286
Ashburn, Va.
Rivals.com No. 9 player in state ... originally recruited as offensive lineman, will begin next fall on defense

Matt Romine
offensive lineman
6-6, 270
Tulsa, Okla.
Rivals.com No. 3 tackle ... started U.S. Army game ... won two state titles at Union High School

Brian Smith
linebacker
6-2, 230
Overland Park, Kan.
ESPN.com No. 4 middle linebacker ... 126 tackles, 9 sacks as a senior ... father Chris played at ND

Mike Ragone
tight end
6-5, 230
Cherry Hill, N.J.
Scout.com No. 2 tight end ... 46 catches, 8 TDs as junior ... injured knee during senior season

Golden Tate
athlete
6-0, 180
Hendersonville, Tenn.
ESPN.com No. 2 wide receiver ... 1,923 all-purpose yards, 29 TDs, 3 INTs in senior season

Harrison Smith
safety
6-4, 205
Knoxville, Tenn.
Gatorade State Player of the Year ... Scout.com No. 25 safety ... 61 tackles, 2 INTs in 2006

Brandon Walker
kicker
6-2, 190
Findlay, Ohio
Rivals.com No. 16 kicker, Scout.com No. 6 punter ... will compete for both jobs next season

Ian Williams
defensive tackle
6-1, 290
Longwood, Fla.
82 tackles, 23 TFL, 3 sacks in 2005 ... ESPN.com No. 12 defensive tackle ... benches 350 lbs, squats 540 lbs
Gender explored in successful ‘Transamerica’

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

Although it may be a mainstream film that holds both dramatic tension and comedic wit, and portrays the essence of life in the United States, it is with regard, “Transamerica” is an effective picture that brings pain and joy to viewers through the eyes of a transsexual woman named Bree.

Bree (a marvelous Felicity Huffman, who was nominated for an Oscar for this role) is about to have sexual reassignment surgery when she discovers she has a son living on the streets of New York — the result of a one-night stand when she was still a man. In order to get approval for her surgery from her therapist, Bree travels to New York to meet her son Toby (Kevin Zegers). They then begin a cross-country road trip from New York back to Los Angeles where they discover that not all of the preconceptions they had about each other were true.

The script by Duncan Tucker is clever and funny while still capable of capturing the spirit of Bree. Her character travels through emotions as she travels across the country, and this film is as much about family as it is about trust — trust not only in others but also in one’s self.

Felicity Huffman shines as Bree, Kevin Zegers is outstandingly endearing as Toby and Graham Green is gentle and kind as the rancher Calvin Many Goats, who falls in love with Bree and is basically the only character in the film who treats Bree as the woman she wants to be. Many other characters make colorful appearances, such as Bree’s parents whom Bree meets in a last ditch effort for help. Neither her mother or father can forgive Bree, whom they call their son, and Flanagan’s are horribly humanistic. Bree (Felicity Huffman) travels with her newly discovered son Toby (Kevin Zegers) on a cross-country trip from New York to Los Angeles in “Transamerica.”

Transamerica

Where: Browning Cinema, DPAC
When: Saturday at 10 p.m.

Aside from the acting, the costumes and cinemato­graphy are excellent and the film won the award for Excellence in Costume Design — Contemporary from the Costume Designers Guild. Huffman’s costumes are those of a woman worried about appearing feminine and Flanagan’s are horribly campy while suitably charming perfectly. The travel across America is also beautifully shot and the vast­ness of the United States is spectacularly viewed in this film. New York, Kentucky and the Southwest are all present in this film as well as the denizens — some kind, others not — who inhabit them.

Overall, this film is moving not because it tells the pain of someone so the audience can walk out of the the­ater and feel they have done something humanitarian. Of course, some people responded that way. However, if a different frame of mind is brought into this film, it can be very rewarding not only as a piece of excellent cinema but as a film that allows us to examine who we are and change — change not only to be more tolerant or accepting but change ourselves into what we really are.

This film will be showing as part of the film series entitled “Queers: Reimagining Sexuality and the Self in Recent American Cinema.” It will be screened at 10 p.m. this Saturday in the Browning Cinemas in the Dellartazo Performing Arts Center. This is a free event, but tickets must be picked up at the DPAC Box Office.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

Disneys-slash-hit ‘Cars’ races to winning DVD

By SEAN SWEANY
Assistant Scene Editor

Pixar has done it again. The digital ani­mated film that has turned out such hits as “Toy Story” and “Finding Nemo” has once again made a movie that is funny, entertaining, engaging and thought-provoking at the same time with its 2006 hit “Cars.”

The John Lasseter (“Toy Story”) directed film was the seventh produced in the part­nership between Pixar and Disney (and Disney (and Pixar). There are no talking animals here, nor immediately/endearing and rec­ognizable characters and many critics cited these among the reasons why the film was not the smash success that the other Pixar films were. Film success must be viewed in relative terms, and while “Cars” was not a grand slam by Pixar’s standards, it still hit a home run by con­taining a stronger message than in any other Pixar film, being entertaining and by taking computer animation to a new level.

Indeed, computer animation has become Pixar’s forte, and the work done here does not disappoint. Turning cars into animate, living objects would seem a difficult task, yet every character in this film has as many dis­tinct mannerisms and personality traits that one could expect from live actors. Everything is in the eyes, the hands, the expressions of the characters’ eyes — how they use their tires as shields — to how they keep on going. Pixar’s animation generally weaves this theme in and out of the narrative without it becoming overly apparent. He also manages to sell a crol­ling story at the same time — a true sign of excellent filmmaking.

The DVD is light on special features, especially when compared to other Pixar releases. Several deleted scenes and one short featurette are all that give viewers insight into the making of the film, and one must wonder if the DVD was rushed into production without a full slate of extras. In spite of this, “Cars” is still a delight­fully entertaining and meaningful film worthy of purchase on DVD.

Contact Sean Sweany at sweany@nd.edu
Supersonics sneak past Pacers: Spurs upend Wizards

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Ray Allen is making up for his All-Star snub by scoring points. Lots of them.

The six-time All-Star had 33 points and nine assists Wednesday night, and rookie Andre Brown made the go-ahead basket with 23 seconds left. The Cleveland Cavaliers scored on a drive to the basket to the hoop, and desperation take the lead.

Allen had 33 points in the fourth quarter, including two straight baskets after the shot next.

"I'll just have another shot next year," said Allen, who has had 29, 29 and 33 points in the three games since the Western Conference All-Star reserves were announced last week.

"Let me just say, I have a lot of people that are very supportive, especially of all my accomplishments in my career," he said.

The Spurs, which were without All-Star Jermaine O'Neal, who did not play because of swelling from a bruise on his left knee.

"Tough loss," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "We worked so hard to get the lead, then there was a string of missed shots... The second-chance opportunities killed us. This is one we shouldn't have let get away."

Tinsley, allegedly involved in a bar scuffle after Monday night's game against Golden State, went ahead 99-92 in the final shot off rebounds by Danny Green. Green had seven rebounds and five assists. Manu Ginobili added 18 points on 6-for-8 shooting.

Before the game, coach Gregg Popovich said the Spurs' eight-game road stretch was a "sea­son-making trip for us or season-breaking."

San Antonio had dropped two straight, but the win over the Wizards put the Spurs at 2-2 during their annual get-out-of-town that coincides with the February rodeo show back home.

"It was one of our better games of the year, very honest, at both ends of the court," Popovich said.

The Spurs, who last played Feb. 1 in Phoenix, had their trouble holding onto big leads, and it nearly happened again against the Wizards. The A-Team, second-half lead was down to 11 in the final minute of the third quarter, but Fabricio Oberto kept a possession alive by punching a missed free throw to a teammate.

The sequence helped put San Antonio ahead 84-70 entering the fourth, and Ginobili opened the final period with three 3-pointers and a pair of free throws in a 12-2 run to increase the lead back to 24.

"We're getting a little bit old," Parker said, "and all those close games we used to win this year we've got a tendency to lose them. But I think we're in the right direction. I think we're improving. We definitely still have a chance to win the West. I'm going to be down to Game 2 and one possession, like always. It's going to be a big battle."" The Observer

Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson tries to pass while falling past Clippers guard Daniel Ewing and another defender during Cleveland's 94-77 win Wednesday.

Cavaliers; Spurs; Pacers; Wizards; NBA; NCAA; NBA; AP; AP

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 104 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for non-daily classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per character per day, including spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without saving refunds.

**FOR RENT**

**FOR SALE**

**PERSONAL**

**UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not know if you are pregnant? You love needs confidential assistance, please call Dr. Sue Dunn, MD, at 7819. For more information, visit our website at http://usa.education/abortion.png and read the statement of our weekly activities in The Observer.**
Florida coach Urban Meyer answers questions Wednesday about the Gators’ 2007 recruiting class. Florida signed 10 five-star recruits this year, including the top players from three states.

Associated Press

Florida won the recruiting crown in nearly as dominating fashion as the national championship. The Gators capitalized on last month’s national title win over Ohio State and down years from Sunshine State rivals Florida State and Miami to bring in the top recruiting class in the country Wednesday.

"No one is even that close to them," said recruiting analyst Tom Lemming of Scout.com. "They got help everywhere. In the past 10 years, this has to rank right up there in top recruiting classes."

Every position is absolutely loaded." The Gators also were picked as the top class by SuperPrep, Rivals.com and National Blue Chips, beating out Southern California, SEC rivals Tennessee and LSU, and Texas. The Trojans closed strong, adding top running backs Joe McKnight from Louisiana and Broderick Green from Arkansas on Wednesday to a class that already included another top back in Marc Tyler, defensive end Everson Griffen, SuperPrep’s No. 1 overall player, the nation’s No. 1 receiver, Ronald Johnson from Michigan; and blue chip linebacker Chris Galippo from Anaheim, Calif.

"USC continues to be the place that a lot of skill-position players look to first," said analyst Robby Burton of Rivals.com. "That doesn’t mean the guys they get on defense aren’t special. It just means they have the pick of the litter when it comes to offensive skill players."

But the Gators’ class was best of all, signing eight of the top 16 players in talent-rich Florida. They have taken advantage of tough times for both the Hurricanes and Seminoles."

Mike Tyson enters rehab after most recent drug arrest

PHOENIX — Mike Tyson has checked himself into an inpatient treatment program for “various addictions” while awaiting trial on drug charges, his lawyer said Wednesday.

"He needed to get involved in something that would help him with his addiction," attorney David Chesnoff said. Chesnoff wouldn’t describe Tyson’s addictions, but police said the former heavyweight champion told officers that he used cocaine frequently.

Chesnoff said Tyson checked himself into an undisclosed facility shortly after appearing in a Phoenix courtroom.

The 40-year-old Tyson pleaded not guilty on Jan. 22 in Maricopa County Superior Court to felony drug possession and paraphernalia possession counts and two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence of drugs.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. signs for contract extension with DEI

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — As Dale Earnhardt Jr. continued contract extension negotiations with DEI, the company came to terms with another driver named Earnhardt.

Jeffrey Earnhardt, the 17-year-old grandson of the late Dale Earnhardt, has signed a “long-term driving services contract” with Dale Earnhardt Inc. The signing came as Earnhardt Jr. prepared to meet Wednesday with team officials to discuss his future with his father’s company.

Earnhardt Jr’s contract with DEI is up at the end of the season, and negotiations have been tense since stepmother Teresa Earnhardt seemingly questioned his commitment in a December interview with The Wall Street Journal.

With the season set to begin with Daytona on Feb. 18, team officials would like to resolve Earnhardt Jr’s situation.

Landis could receive 2-year ban from racing in France

PARIS — Floyd Landis could be banned from racing in France for the next two years if the country’s anti-doping agency issues a maximum penalty Thursday for his positive doping test at last year’s Tour de France.

The American cyclist will not attend the hearing, but will be represented by his lawyers. Landis’ spokesman Michael Henson said Wednesday in a conference call.

The laws have personal agency’s power to ban the American from racing in France for two years and the country’s anti-doping agency can impose a maximum penalty.

The lawyer could also be banned for two years if the country’s anti-doping agency issues a maximum penalty Thursday for his positive doping test at last year’s Tour de France.

"It’s not because someone is positive that he must be automatically suspended," Bordry said. "The rights of the defense are very important."
The International nixed from PGA schedule


Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The International, known for its unique scoring system on a Castle Pines golf course held in the mile-high air outside Denver, will no longer be on the PGA Tour schedule effective immediately, a tour official said Wednesday.

The absence of a corporate sponsor was mostly responsible for canceling the 21-year-old tournament, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision had not formally been announced.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and tournament founder Jack Vickers were expected to make it official Thursday morning. They spent the last two weeks in a final effort to find a sponsor, then announced their failure.

International spokeswoman Joanna Busack said Vickers would not comment until Friday on July 5-8, but tour officials expected to make it official when it was played a week before the PGA Championship and that became an issue with Vickers. He often lamented the absence of golf’s top draw, and he continued to ask the tour for different dates. It moved from a week after the PGA Championship to two weeks before the final major, then the week before the PGA.

Tiger Woods online played twice, the last time in 1999 when it was played a week after the PGA Championship and that became an issue with Vickers. He often lamented the absence of golf’s top draw, and he continued to ask the tour for different dates. It moved from a week after the PGA Championship to two weeks before the final major, then the week before the PGA.

PGA

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OLYMPICS

Ham twins prep for ‘08

Gymnastic medalists will rejoin US team after college graduation

Associated Press

A few months ago, Paul Hamm said that he was finished with gymnastics.

The Olympic gold medalist and twin brother Morgan were having too much fun being regular college students. They actually had free time, and no coach or training schedule to dictate what they should do with it. They could focus on school and were close to finishing their degrees.

The more they talked, though, the Hamm’s realized that it was time to walk away. The Beijing Olympics are a year away and a half away, and the brothers want one more chance to show what they’re capable of.

And, they hope, snag the United States’ two more medals in the process.

“Our No. 1 goal is to help the team get back into medal contention.”

Morgan Hamm
American gymnast

Hamm also was the first U.S. man to win the Olympic all-around title. Soon after the event, however, the International Gymnastics Federation acknowledged a scoring error had been made on South Korean Yang Tae-young’s second-to-last event. Yang wound up with the bronze, and the Koreans protested. When FIG president Bruno Grandi suggested Hamm share the medal as acknowledgment of a mistake, Hamm was forced to defend his gold well after the games were over, all the way to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

CAS eventually declared Hamm the rightful gold medalist, and Grandi told the AP in October that he considered the American the true Olympic champion.

But he would have been 9 under par in stroke play, while Lehman would have finished at 13 under.

He would have been 9 under par in stroke play, while Lehman would have finished at 13 under.

"It’s a good thing I had this format this week," Wilson said. He would have been under par in stroke play, while Lehman would have finished at 13 under.

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"Our No. 1 goal is to help the team get back into medal contention."
A Missing Chapter on the Missing Chains: Telling Tales and Making it up in the Irish Countryside

Guy Beiner
Department of History
Ben-Gurion University of Negev
Thursday, February 8th
4:00 PM Hesburgh Center Auditorium

Followed by the launch of Beiner's new book:
Remembering the Year of the French: Irish Folk History and Social Memory
Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007
by James Smyth, Department of History

Is God Calling You? Come Explore the Congregation of Holy Cross Priests and Brothers
With an evening of prayer and conversation with Holy Cross religious and other discerning men
Blessed Brother Andre, C.S.C.
Dinners
5:30-7:30pm Begins at Log Chapel, Dinner to Follow

Friday February 9th
The Venerable Fr. Moreau CSC

Friday February 23rd
Holy Cross Charism and Mission

Friday March 2nd
Discerning a Vocation
(574) 631-6385 vocations.631nd.edu

Please recycle
The Observer.

NCAA Basketball
Streaking Georgetown takes down Louisville

Associated Press
LOUISVILLE, Ky. — On a night when Louisville honored one of its greats, it was Georgetown that ended up turning back the clock.
The 22nd-ranked Hoyas continued their rise Wednesday, easing by Louisville 73-65 for their sixth straight win.
"We are definitely settling into a groove and a lot of the experiences that we went through earlier in the year are paying off now," said Georgetown coach John Thompson III.
If the Hoyas (17-5, 7-2 Big East) keep dominant performances from center Roy Hibbert, their early season struggles may finally be behind them.
Hibbert controlled things at both ends of the floor, scoring 20 points and grabbing 11 rebounds while making 9-of-10 from the field and limiting Louisville center David Padgett to just one field goal.
"I just wanted to be dominant as much as I could," Hibbert said. "I was just open on the baseline ... and my teammates got me the ball down there."
Hibbert scored in a variety of ways, getting dunks, lay-ups and even driving in a jump shot. He never tired despite playing a season-high 35 minutes and helped the Hoyas keep their composure whenever the Cardinals made a run.
"I just felt we needed to keep him in there," Thompson said. "His presence at both ends was felt. What I didn't want was David to get into a comfort zone. I felt Roy's size would kind of contain him a little bit."
Earl Clark tied a career-high with 14 points for Louisville (16-8, 6-6), who had been searching for a signature win to bolster its resume for the NCAA Tournament. But the Cardinals shot just 33 percent from the floor in losing their 13th straight game to a ranked opponent, splitting a night when Louisville named the floor at Freedom Hall in honor of former coach Denny Crum.
"We could have played them 10 times and they would have won nine," said Louisville coach Rick Pitino. "We would have had to play almost a perfect game to win."
The Hoyas were nearly perfect in one sense, committing a school-record low one turnover, setting a Big East record in the process. Still, it wasn't nearly enough to stop the Hoyas, who rarely let the Cardinals off an uncontested shot and came up with every important rebound and loose ball.
The Hoyas outrebounded the Cardinals 35-30, outscored them 30-14 in the paint and shot 56 percent from the floor. Forward Jeff Green was nearly as hot as Hibbert, making 7-of-10 from the field and adding seven rebounds.
"We used our height advantage and they couldn't defend us," Green said. "We got stops on defense and ran our offense."
The Hoyas did whatever they wanted offensively, getting it inside to Hibbert and Green with ease. Whenever the Cardinals sent extra bodies to double-team, the Hoyas simply kicked it out for open 3-pointers.
The win was Georgetown's first by single digits this season. And while the Hoyas were never really threatened — Louisville never got closer than five in the second half — Georgetown responded each time the Cardinals made a run.
"We've been in this environment, in very difficult environments like this all year," Thompson said. "The crowd gets into it, they go on a run and our guys are used to that. We did a good job of just settling down." Louisville pulled within 58-53 on a free throw by Edgar Sosa with under four minutes to play, but Hibbert kicked off Georgetown's next possession, and DaJuan Summers followed with a 3-pointer to push the lead up to 10. Louisville would get no closer than seven the rest of the way.
"We stuck together when they made runs," Hibbert said. "We didn't want to go back-and-forth. We wanted to keep it to our tempo."
As dominant as the Hoyas were, Thompson is wary of getting ahead of himself. Georgetown started the season ranked in the Top 10, only to fall all the way out of the rankings in November. They're back in the Top 25 and confident they're not the same unfocused bunch that stumbled out of the blocks three months ago.
"We're much more of a team," Hibbert said. "We've gotten older and we're smarter."
Beginner race car drivers, though they lack experience, are given an opportunity to learn about the motorsports business and what it takes to use a race car to make money. At the University of Northwestern Ohio, students work with the school's motorsports program to clean the cars for the ARCA Racing Series. About 2,000 fans show up on race day to watch their pit crews work on the sprint cars, stock cars and trucks.

The university's first stock car team started competing there last year. This season, it will have two teams racing in cars with "student driver" on the rear bumper. "It lets everyone know that they're out there to learn and not to push the other guys into the wall," said university president Christopher Castile.

7.56 out of 9.0 - Brooke Agosto
7.56 out of 9.0 - Benjamin Agosto

The pair almost stayed home. Considering that the pair has 16-24, they had 16-24.

"I'd like to see the judges reward us a little bit more on the second mark instead of holding us back and protecting other teams. We're trying hard things, we're doing things no one else in the world is doing. Give us some credit for that. Be fair to us." Language was no problem in the ice dancing, where Benjamin Agosto blurted out a response before a question was asked.

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**NASCAR**

Ohio school offers motorsports class

Students learn race car engine mechanics

Associated Press

LIMA, Ohio — Michael Klonek learned to drive at a young age to help his dad, Dan, who farms in the Lima area. He says he learned the best way to handle a problem that crops up when a stock car is flying around a dirt race track at 60 mph.

"It's more than just step on the gas and turn left," Klonek said of driving for the University of Northwestern Ohio's stock-car team. "It makes you realize you really are going 200 mph or more out here."

Lima's school is one of a handful of places where students can study how to build a race car from the bottom up. The high-performance motorsports program trains them for a career in auto racing — whether it be working in a pit crew or in the shop.

"A lot of people just see NASCAR and drag racing and a lot of the off-road racing," said Steve Klausing, an instructor who works with the school's race club. "There's a lot that goes into the six days before the race."

Auto racing's growing presense on television and its widespread appeal to mainstream fans has led to more leagues, teams and job opportunities in a sport that in a way is waxing again.

"It needs highly skilled crew members. It used to be that growing up with your dad in the garage was good enough to get you through," said Dan Baldwin, spokesman for the ARCA series. "But it requires more than just a guy who works in the garage. We're seeing more and more drivers and crew members who are college graduates."

ARCA has become a stepping stone race for not only the drivers, but also crew members.

About 20 students from the Ohio school spent their weekend last year working with ARCA teams. A group from the school traveled to Florida this week to work at the ARCA 200 on Saturday at Daytona International Speedway.

They'll work on the engines, clean the cars for race day and watch how the pros adjust the aerodynamics of the cars to make them run faster.

"It gives any racing program a place to look for help," said Bill Kimmel, crew chief for eight-time ARCA champion Frank Kimmel. "If you take my kid off the street, we have to show them every step of the way."

He usually pairs a student with an experienced crew member. Kimmel's team, based in New Albany, Ind., hired one of his former drivers whom he considers a young boy to be a mechanic.

Motorsports students attend Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis to learn about race cars and how to work with crews.

"It gives us a chance to learn and to work with some of the best drivers and crews in the business," said Ryan Wawrzyniak, a sophomore at the school.

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**figure skating**

Shen, Zhao lead pairs competition

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo had no problems expressing themselves on the ice in taking the lead of the pairs competition at Four Continents after the short program Wednesday night.

Off the ice is a different story. "We're retiring," Shen said through an interpreter about their performance.

From skating? After Four Continents? Really?

After a quick huddle with their interpreter — while a buzz went around the room — they got the translation straight.

"We're taking some time off after the World Championships in March," Shen said with a smile.

Shen and Zhao lead Chinese counterparts Tong Jian and Pang Qing by 3.49 points heading into Thursday's free skate.

Not bad considering Shen and Zhao almost skipped Four Continents. Coming so close after the Asian Winter Games and given Zhao's superstitions about events at high altitude, the pair almost stayed home.

"We're very tired," Shen said. Considering their recent medical maladies, Tong and Pang are just happy to be skating.

Tong wears a headband to hide the scar from a Jan. 1 car accident in Beijing — his head crashed through the window — and Pang can't skate longer than an hour at a time in practice due to a kidney ailment.

However, they turned in a fairly polished short program.

"Going to this competition is a high point for us," said Tong, who had 16 stitches to close the wound to his head.

Defending Four Continents champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin landed their signature throw triple axel, but they still were in third place, 7.56 out of the lead. Brooke Castile and Benjamin Ookioki, who won the U.S. Championships in January, are in seventh place after each made a mistake on a side-by-side double axel.

"It's about the skate and not about the title," Castile said. "Look at this as another experience."

Baldwin was upset with some of the marks after their performance. He thought the pair deserved higher, especially for their spiral sequence.

"That's one of our best things," Baldwin said. "We kind of hit our heads on that. I'm not sure why."

"I'd like to see the judges reward us a little bit more on the second mark instead of holding us back and protecting other teams. We're trying hard things, we're doing things no one else in the world is doing. Give us some credit for that. Be fair to us."

Language was no problem in the ice dancing, where Benjamin Agosto blurted out a response before a question was asked.

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Thursday, February 8, 2007

The Observer • SPORTS

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Soccer

US tops Mexico in friendly

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The sell-out crowd belonged to Mexico.

The game went to the United States, 3-0.

Jimmy Conrad scored his first international goal, Donovan converted a late breakaway and the Americans improved to 8-2-1 against Mexico since 2000. The United States is 7-0-1 against Mexico on home soil in that stretch, outscoring its southern neighbor 13-0.

"We've clearly done well. I think mentally we do have an edge," Donovan said. "But we were also a little bit lucky." Playing in front of a heavily pro-Mexican crowd of 46,642, the Americans improved to 8-2-1 against Mexico since 2000. The United States is 7-0-1 against Mexico on home soil in that stretch, outscoring its southern neighbor 13-0.

"Right now, we're on top, and we're going to try to stay there," U.S. defender Chris Albright said.

The victory provided a boost for interim coach Bob Bradley, who is hoping to persuade the U.S. Soccer Federation to lift his interim tag. Before the game, U.S. president Sunil Gulati told reporters the result is "not going to lead to a direct decision as to who the national team coach will be."

Bradley is 2-0 since he was hired Dec. 8 to replace Bruce Arena.

"The work that we put in this month has been very good," Bradley said. "Not only to prepare us for these two games but to establish a foundation for every camp."

The United States started slow but finished in a rush. Conrad, playing in his 19th international game, headed home a corner kick by Donovan in the 52nd minute, beating goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez inside the left post with a 24-yard shot.

Donovan doubled the clipper in the 90th minute off a pass by Ricardo Clark. It was the 27th goal in 86 international appearance for Donovan, who scored in his second straight game after going scoreless in 18 consecutive national team appearances over 1 1/2 years.

"I think we showed what we're made of," said Conrad, who played an outstanding two-way game.

But Mexico didn't go quietly in the first game under coach Hago Sanchez. The Mexicans had nine shots, seven in the second half, and pressured the Americans relentlessly after Conrad's goal.

"I think the way the team functioned, the way it looked on the field, left or right field, was as satisfied," Mexican captain Rafael Marquez said through a translator.

"All the same, it hurts because of the rivalry between the two teams and the importance of the match. However, we have to take the positive from the match. We created a lot of opportunities but we just couldn't convert. It's just the beginning."

Sanchez had assembled a veterans team in a clear attempt to win rather than experiment for the upcoming World Cup cycle. "They made it pretty open to us, to see how this game and they were bringing everybody back. We thought we [we] have even more of an advantage," Donovan said.

Howard said it was nice to take over from Kasey Keller as the Americans' goalkeeper, shut out the Mexicans in his first national team appearance since last September.

Both teams are preparing for the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean, and the start of 2010 World Cup qualifying next year. It was the first game for the Americans against the TriCentes since Sept. 3, 2005, when the United States clinched its fifth straight World Cup berth with a 2-0 victory at Columbus, Ohio.

Emotions flared late, with Marquez and American forward Eddie Johnson exchanging a few words. After a challenge, the Mexicans struggled off the field without shaking the Americans' hands.

"We've had tremendous success in this match and we've had a lot of hard work, the team strode off the field, as if it were its own." Mexico is customary.

"We're human — it would be nice if you guys [reporters] and the people that come would say it's really poor," Donovan said. "But the reaction to those words is the way we play, we were able to do everything for the fans as well as each other. It's just the beginning."
Indianapolis — Indiana Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley and teammates Marquis Daniels and Keith McLeod were involved in a fight with a bar manager after a home loss to the Golden State Warriors on Wednesday.

No one was immediately arrested or charged after the Tuesday fight. Indianapolis police Lt. Doug Scheffel said Wednesday that the investigation would take several days to complete the investigation to determine whether charges would be filed.

The players denied any involvement.

Witnesses told officers that Tinsley had threatened to kill him, the report said. Witnesses told officers that McLeod had shouted people during the scuffle that happened about 2:15 a.m. at the club on the city’s west side.

The confrontation followed another fight involving a person officers said was trying to steal coats from the coat check area, police said.

The manager and witnesses told officers they were arguing in front of the club, which time both witnesses stated that the life of the victim was in danger, according to the report.

Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh said in a statement Wednesday that the team was aware of the allegations but would have no further comment until police complete the investigation.

A phone number provided by the NBA Players Association for Tinsley’s agent, Raymond J. Brothers, was answered by a message saying it was no longer in service.

The three players all said they were not involved in the fight.

"I had nothing to do with this," Tinsley said in a statement released by the team. "I’m extremely upset that my name has been associated with this."

Daniels’ agent, Glenn Schwartzman, said the players were at the nightclub for an event celebrating the Indianapolis Colts’ Super Bowl victory and that Daniels was not involved in the fight.

"It is 100 percent, no doubt about it," Schwartzman told The Associated Press. "He is a good guy who did nothing wrong other than be an NBA player and out with the community after the Colts won the Super Bowl."

Tinsley was at a strip club with then-Pacers teammate Stephen Jackson in October when a fight broke out during which Jackson fired a gun into the air several times before he was hit by a car.

The three players all said they were not involved in the fight.

Center John Amaechi comes out as openly gay player

Associated Press

The small, exclusive club of openly gay professional male athletes has a new member.

Former Utah Jazz center John Amaechi, who spent five seasons with four teams, on Wednesday became the first NBA player to publicly come out.

Amaechi will appear on ESPN’s Outside the Lines on Sunday, and his autobiography “Man in the Middle,” will be released Feb. 14.

"He is coming out of the closet as a gay man," Amaechi’s publicist Howard Bragman said.

Martina Navratilova, perhaps the most famous openly gay athlete in the world, praised Amaechi’s decision and said it’s imperative for athletes to come out because of what she called an epidemic of suicides among young lesbian and gay teens.

"It’s hugely important for the kids," she said. "It doesn’t just affect them alone. It affects the world. We’re role models. We’re adults, and we know we’re in the public eye, and we know they don’t have a clue that, she said. "He will definitely help a lot of kids growing up to feel better about themselves."

Throughout his career, while he played for the Los Angeles Lakers and the Utah Jazz, Amaechi became the sixth professional male athlete from one of the four major American sports (NBA, MLB, NFL, NHL) to publicly discuss his homosexuality.

Former NFL running back Dave Kopay came out in 1977; offensive lineman Roy Simmons and defensive lineman Esera Tuaolo came out more recently; Glenn Burke, an outfielder for the Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland A’s in the 1970s; and Billy Bean, a utility player in the 1980s and 1990s, also have come out.

Each did so after retiring.

Burke died of complications due to AIDS in 1995.

"What John did is amazing," said Tuaolo, who came out in 2002. "He does not know how many lives he’s saved by speaking the truth.

Tuaolo said coming out would be a relief to Amaechi.

"Living with all that stress and that depression, all you deal with as a closeted person, when you come out you really truly freely yourself," Tuaolo said. "When I came out it felt like I was getting out of prison.

NBA commissioner David Stern said a player’s sexual identity is not important.

"We have a very diverse league. The question at the NBA is always ‘have you got games?’ That’s it, end of inquiry," he said.

In his book, Amaechi describes the challenge of being gay in a league where it’s assumed that all players are heterosexual. He describes the blatant anti-gay language and attitudes he experienced in NBA locker rooms, and writes that while playing in Utah, coach Jerry Sloan used anti-gay innuendo to describe him.

Amaechi also said he had been targeted by racists in the NBA.

"There should be more long-term changes," Amaechi said. "There should be a very diverse league.

In the past a year, the NBA’s policy has changed and the league now has an anti-hate policy that was announced then.

In a statement released by the NBA, the league announced then.

NBA policy on hate crimes.

Amaechi will appear on ESPN’s Outside the Lines on Sunday, and his autobiography “Man in the Middle,” will be released Feb. 14.

Center John Amaechi announced in his autobiography "Man in the Middle" that he is gay.

Jazz center John Amaechi announced in his autobiography "Man in the Middle" that he is gay.

Center averaged 6.2 points and 2.6 rebounds. He began his career with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 1995-96, then spent a few years playing in Europe. He rejoined the NBA to play for the Orlando Magic from 1999-01, then played two seasons for the Utah Jazz.

The 6-10 Amaechi also announced then.

Other measures ban clubs from having economic ties with fan groups and stiffen police terms for committing violence against police from five to 15 years.

The measures must be approved by parliament within 60 days to remain in effect. The cabinet also approved a proposal for more long-term changes, putting club coverages in charge of guaranteeing security inside stadiums and involving the clubs in the ownership of the sports arenas, now owned by local authorities.

Premier Romano Prodi’s cabinet was reacting to the fatal attack on 38-year-old policeman Filippo Runci last week.

At least 36 people have been arrested, including 15 minors, and at least two more taken in for questioning in Friday’s violence at Catania’s stadium, where the local team was playing in a cross-island rival Palermo. The violence led to the postponement of Italian league games Saturday and Sunday.

Investigators in Catania were examining a film of the fatal attack in hopes of identifying suspects, police said.

Authorities did not say what the stadium’s closed-circuit television cameras contained. Italian news reports said the film showed the fight outside the stadium and that police never lost contact with the Catania-Palermo match had started Friday night, including youths with partially covered faces approaching Runci and one of them hitting him in the abdomen.
DURHAM, N.C. — The crowd was rowdy and lustful. Duke, determined to end a nagging streak, had built a big lead. But Ohio State was a surging juggernaut.

Yet North Carolina's youngsters kept coming. And by the end, those Tar Heels had escaped one of college basketball's biggest defeats in recent years, handing the Blue Devils their third consecutive loss in nearly eight years.

Freshman Brandan Wright scored 19 points while Tyler Hansbrough added 18, leading the Tar Heels (21-3, 7-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) to a 66-63 win over the Blue Devils (18-5, 5-5) who trailed by 13 points early in the game before finally going ahead to stay in the final minutes.

This time, however, the Tar Heels hung around while constantly building in an endless stream of fresh bodies while pressuring Duke's ballhandlers the entire way. By the time the game was entering its final minutes, North Carolina looked poised to go ahead when DeMarcus Nelson got to the foul line in a tough shot over Josh McRoberts on the next possession.

Duke managed to close the gap to 63-62 on a 3-point shot by Scheyer, but the Blue Devils failed to get the ball out of bounds and Hansbrough knocked down a straightaway jumper on the next play to make it 66-63 with 1:17 left. That started a six-point run from the Tar Heels, who took their largest lead at 70-63 with 1:17 left, but Lawson followed with a driving basket against three defenders that allowed the Tar Heels to seal the game.

It was another late-game fade for the Blue Devils, who failed to score on the final play of a 66-63 overtime loss at Virginia and a 68-67 home loss to Florida State. Krzyzewski responded by shaking up his starting lineup before the Tar Heels, pulling tri-captains McRoberts and Nelson — who had started every game this season — in favor of freshmen Henderson and Zoubek.

Scherer got the Blue Devils off and running, scoring 14 first-half points — including a stick-back of a Henderson miss that gave Duke its largest lead at 35-25 at the 4-minute mark.

The foul line in the second half as the game slipped away.

"I thought we played a terrific game tonight, but it wasn't enough to beat a terrific team," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "They're very, very talented, and the depth that they have means they never take a break. So when they're playing like that, you have no way to be resilient.

North Carolina took its first lead at 62-60 when Gerald Henderson was whistled for a goal-scoring foul on Rayshawn Terry's fast-break layup with 5:15 left, then pushed the lead to 64-60 when Wright knocked in a tough shot over Josh McRoberts on the next possession.

Hansbrough knocked down a free throw with 49.9 seconds left, then pushed the lead to 66-63 with 1:17 left. That started a six-point run from the Tar Heels, who took their largest lead at 70-63 with 1:17 left, but Lawson followed with a driving basket against three defenders that allowed the Tar Heels to seal it at the line.

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Hansbrough got the Blue Devils off and running, scoring 14 first-half points — including a stick-back of a Henderson miss that gave Duke its largest lead at 35-25 at the 4-minute mark.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

UNC hands rival Duke third straight loss

Hansbrough, Wright score in double figures

Associated Press

Thursday, February 8, 2007

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UNC hands rival Duke third straight loss

Hansbrough, Wright score in double figures

Associated Press

Thursday, February 8, 2007

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Kurz

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out with a lot of energy and focus," Hillsidesland said.

The Blue Demons (13-11, 4-7 BIG EAST) are led by sopho-
more forward Wilson Chandler, who averages 8 points and 6.7 rebounds per game, and senior guard
Samantha Meo, who posts 13.5 points and 6.6 rebounds.

"We're playing a really tal-
teamed in DePaul," Brey
said. "They have arguably the best talent in the league."

The Irish are ranked No. 21 in the coaches poll, but they
dropped out of the AP poll after Saturday's loss. Brey said
his team isn't paying attention to the rankings.

"We're a slow team," he said.
"We're thinking bigger things
now and we're trying to get
some consistency."

After DePaul, Notre Dame
returns home for a game against Providence and then
travels to Cincinnati. After that,
the Blue Demons come to the
Joyce Center for a rematch before
the Blue Demons face Louisville.

The Irish have Marquette in their final home
game. Notre Dame finishes its
season against Rutgers on the
road.

The Irish are currently sixth in the Big East, half a game
behind Louisville for 10th and one
game behind West Virginia for the fourth and final bye
in the conference tournament.

"We've got six games left," Brey
said. "One thing I talked
to the guys about was this,
in the criteria for the NCAA
Tournament, they look at your
last ten games."

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Defense

continued from page 24
beyond the arc. McCoughtry
took over the game in the first
half, scoring 19 points, including
11 straight for the Cardinals.

Notre Dame switched to a box-
and-one defense at the break
and quelled Louisville's offense.

"I was absolutely thrilled with
the defense in the second half," Irish
coach Muffet McGraw said.
"I thought Breona (Gray) really
shut [McCoughtry] down in the
second half when we went to the
box-and-one. I thought that was a
big key in the win."

Louisville coach Tom Collen
felt poor play, rather than the
defensive adjustment, caused
his team's second-half melt-
down.

"Obviously it was a tale of two
halves," he said. "In the second
half we were a bit behind on a junk defense
they played the box-and-one,
and put a chaser on [McCoughtry]. It didn't really
bother us, to be honest with you.
We were just outworking on it.

The Irish trailed by as many
as 12 points at 2:25 to go in the
first half, but battled back
before halftime. Freshman
Ashley Barlow hit a 3-pointer
with two seconds remaining in
the half to pull the Irish within
seven.

"Barlow really made a differ-
ice in the game and that's why,
we started her in the second
half," McGraw said.

Barlow finished with 15 points
— her second consecutive dou-
ble-figure performance — and
six rebounds.

Notre Dame used second-half scoring runs of 11 and 16 points
to seal the game. The first began with 14:13 left and put the Irish
ahead by one. The second run clinched the win for the Irish,
who scored every point over an
eight-minute span.

"We had that run up against
us against West Virginia, and we
didn't like it much so we thought
we'd try it ourselves," McGraw
said jokingly.

Guard Charel Allen scored
two of her 21 points during the sec-
ond run. McGraw credited part
of Allen's shooting to her team-
mates' screens, particularly
those by forward Crystal Erwin
and center Erica Williamson.

"My teammates were setting
screens for me, and I'm going to
take the shot when I'm open," she
said. "It just felt good, and
most of the time it left my hand,
so I continued to shoot."

The second scoring run ener-
gized the Joyce Center crowd.

Gray

continued from page 24
which the Irish overcame a 12-
point hole, Gray hit a long-range
shot that helped break the Cardinal
run and allowed the Irish to
cut the growing deficit back into
single figures. With 2:05 left in
the first half, Gray's shooting
ended a 10-1 Louisville run and
helped Notre Dame reduce a
29-17 Louisville lead to nine
points. Early in the second half,
Gray, who finished with 12 points,
struck the lead from 11 to eight and helped kick-start a
12-2 Notre Dame run that gave
the Irish their first lead since a
12-11 advantage with 10:25 to
go in the opening half.

At times, Gray was left alone
on the perimeter and practically
begging for the ball and the
opportunity to add another bucket to her 4-for-9 total.

"I was feeling it today, so I
looked for what I had," Gray said.

Still, she should have gotten
more looks.

Beyond bringing the Irish
closer to the lead, Gray's timely
baskets also helped awaken a
Joyce Center crowd that the
Cardinals had kept quiet. Irish
coach Muffet McGraw said the
game reminded her of the 67-
58 Dec. 6 win over Purdue
in the Joyce Center — when Gray
had a season-best 22 points.

"I think it had that atmos-
phere," McGraw said. "I think
the crowd felt it and that
should probably have
happened.

Even when not scoring, Gray
was more often than not the
most important Irish player on
the court. After the Irish moved
out of the zone near the end of
the first half, Gray fulfilled her
more traditional role of No. 1
defensive stopper, as she was
assigned to stopping Louisville
forward Angel McCoughtry.

In the second half, Gray held
McCoughtry, who had 19 of her
29 points in the first half off of
a perfect 5-for-5 shooting from 3-
point range, to just two field
goals. And one of those was a
putback with 33 seconds left in
the game. McCoughtry, who
McGraw called "the best player
in the conference" and whom she
said was feeling it today, so
she didn't expect much.

"I think the crowd felt it and
that's where I think Breona Gray is just out-
standing," McGraw said. "I think
she's the best defender in the
conference and she went out and
didn't let [McCoughtry] get
the ball."

Still, it was Gray's opportun
eating shooting that stood out
most Wednesday night.

By time the Irish embarked
on a 16-0 run that gave the
Irish a 58-49 lead, Gray had finished scoring from the
field, but her importance to the
effort never wavered.

"We did it with her defense,
and she added some nice
offense," McGraw said.

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

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MIAA

continued from page 24
will be a lot different and we
will be ready to compete at
our best level," Gereth said.
"Coach Ryan [Dombkowski] and
Allica [Dombkowski] as well as
all the team will be strong factors in
pumping everyone up and giving them
the confidence to swing at their
best.

"Saint Mary's is looking to use
its months of training and are
regarding the championships as
an excellent opportunity to
build a continued confidence.
(The MIAA's) will help build
energy into next year so we
can continue to become more
competitive within our confer-
ence," Niemann said.

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Raining Threes

continued from page 24
Irish guard Tory Jackson squares up against Tide guard Ronald
Steele during Notre Dame's 99-85 win over Alabama Dec. 5.

Irish guard Breona Gray
takes the ball up the court
during Notre Dame's 64-55
win over Louisville Wednesday.

"I think the crowd felt it, and
when we got close the crowd
truly helped us," she said.

"That really spurred us on."

The Irish, who have struggled
on the boards, out-rebounded
Louisville 34-29 and held the
Cardinals to 19 rebounds in
the second half.

McCoughtry attributed the vast
improvement in the second half
not only to the defensive change
but to individual performances
as well.

"Charel, as always, kept us in
the game with her offense. Bre
did it with her defense," McGraw
said. "We had our points, we
rebounded well, we did everything we needed to do
defensively down the stretch."

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu
CROSSWORD

CROISSANTWORLD

BLACK DOG

KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

THE OBSERVER

Thursday, February 8, 2007

The Observer • TODAY

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CROSSWORD

ADAM FAIRHOLM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

LIAM MORAN

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

MURBEN

MOLDEY

JUMBLES:

Answer: "WHAT THE TAILORS FINALLY DID WHEN THEY BOTH NEEDED TO PRESS PANTS."

Answer: "THEY ARE IN THE CENTER OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TODAY!"

Yesterday’s Jumble: VALUE OZONE FACIAL GLANCE

What the shepherd got when he took his herd to market — "FLEECING"

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ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Clipping the Cardinals’ wings

By BILL BRINK
Sport Writer

A defensive shift at halftime allowed Notre Dame to shut down No. 17 Louisville’s offense and erase a seven-point half­time deficit on its way to a 64-55 win at the Joyce Center Wednesday.

The win was the second this season the Irish defeated a ranked opponent, the first coming against then-No. 10 Purdue Dec. 6 at the Joyce Center.

Louisville shot over the Irish zone early in the game, helping them grab the early lead. Forward Angel McCarthy fueled the Cardinals’ 3-point offense, sinking all five of her shots from The Observer/page 22

SMC SWIMMING

Saint Mary’s closes out season with MIAAs

By LORENZO REYES
Sport Writer

With only one meet remaining, the Belles feel they can finish the season on a high note beneath today at the MIAA championships in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Saint Mary’s finished the regular season 2-7, but the team remains optimistic about its ability to succeed in several events this weekend.

The Belles are focused on performing well not only in individual events, but in the relays as well. “Personally, I will concentrate on having a strong 200 [yard back and 500 [yard free so hopefully I can advance to the finals,” freshman Sara Niemann said. “However, I think relays are going to be the key part to our team’s success.”

Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth is also confident in her team’s ability to perform well at the conference championships. “We have a chance to score more points at the meet if we have in a few years, so every placing in the top-12 will be important as far as scoring points is concerned,” she said. “It is going to be important for every swimmer to give their maximum effort in order to place well.”

Because the MIAA championship is a three­day meet, the Belles will need to conserve their energy and remain focused for the duration. One way Saint Mary’s has tried to stay fresh for this weekend has been a lighter practice schedule this week.

“This last week we started tapering, which gave us rest and allowed our muscles to relax,” freshman Limithy Neil said. “Tapering is very important in order to allow your body to heal as well as give us a chance to visualize and think about our races.”

Even though the Belles have rested for a week, they are confident that once the racing begins they will be able to perform well.

“Once we get in the atmosphere of the championship meet everyone’s mental state begins to hit the realization of how important it is to do well,” junior Anny Covey said. “It’s just a matter of nerves and being able to use the people around you to help you.”

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MEN’S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame travels to DePaul with healthy Kurz

By CHRIS KOREY
Associate Sport Editor

Good news and bad news await No. 21 Notre Dame for its game against DePaul in Rosemont, Ill., tonight.

The bad news is that the Irish are on the road, where the team is just 3-5 this season and where they are coming off a loss to Big East bottom-feeder South Florida.

The good news is Notre Dame’s leading rebounder, junior forward Rob Kurz, is expected to play his usual 28 minutes against the Blue Demons. Kurz saw limited action in Notre Dame’s 69-63 loss to South Florida Saturday because of an ankle injury. “My ankle is feeling a lot better,” Kurz said. “I think it’s going to be 100 percent Thursday.”

Kurz, who averages 8.5 rebounds per game, gathered in just one in 19 minutes in the loss to the Bulls. “We need him healthy to be at our best,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “He’s gotten better each day since Saturday.”

The Irish (15-5, 6-4 Big East) beat Syracuse at the Carrier Dome 103-91 Jan. 30, ending a three-game road losing streak. They fell back to their old road woes with the loss Saturday. “We just didn’t play tough,” Notre Dame point guard Tory Jackson said of the South Florida game. “Things could have gone better, but they got momentum and we waited too long to fight back.”

Irish forward Zach Hillesland said Notre Dame can re­create its effort against the Orange versus DePaul tonight. "It’s just a matter of coming back, getting their shot, and holding them to two-point shots like we did against Duke," Hillesland said. "Things can get better from there." The Observer/page 22

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SPORTS

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