Gas leak causes seven evacuations

By KAITLYNN RIELY

Students, faculty and staff were evacuated from seven buildings Monday afternoon as the smell of gas filtered through the air from a leak near the Hesburgh Library. The gas leak occurred at 1:40 p.m. on St. Joseph’s Drive near the Library when a crew on the road repairing a broken water line struck a 4-inch gas line with a backhoe. The gas moved in a south-westerly direction and at approximately 2 p.m., Stepan Chemistry Hall, O’Shaughnessy Hall, Neuhold Science Hall, the Radiation Laboratory, Malloy Hall, the Biley Hall of Arts and Design and Decio Hall were all evacuated.

The water line break was discovered Monday morning, said Director of Utilities Paul Kempf. After lunchtime, a crew arrived to fix the break and while they were attempting to fix it, hit a gas line. “The gas main was not where it was purported to be,” Kempf said, according to the preparatory evaluation the crew made of the area. When the gas line was punctured, University officials immediately called the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIP...

Election results in run-off for two tickets

By SONIA RAO

The student body election results were revealed Monday night, but with no ticket obtaining a majority of the votes, front runners Brown-Braun and Smith-Weiss will proceed to a run-off election on Thursday.

Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow announced that Liz Brown and Maris Braun received 45.8 percent of student votes and Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss received 38.3 percent. Since candidates need to obtain a “50 percent plus one majority,” the top two tickets will compete in a run-off for the position on Thursday, Kozlow said.

With what she described as two strong platforms, Brown said she was not surprised by the results. “I think Maris and I were expecting a run-off,” she said. “We had some pretty strong tickets.”

A total of 3,492 votes were cast Monday, which was not quite up to Kozlow’s expectations. “I think we were hoping (voting turnout) would be a little bit higher,” she said. Allowing students to vote online and at various voting stations around campus, however, was an effective way to encourage participation, she said. “We tried hard to encourage voting,” Kozlow said. “We had some great results.”

Move not welcomed by Club

By AARON STEINER

Notre Dame unveiled plans last week for a $69.4 million engineering building to be built on land occupied by the University Club, so for manager Debbie Colley — along with more than 40 employees, members and a board of directors — the news meant preparing to say goodbye.

University officials notified the privately owned Club and its board of directors in a Jan. 9 letter they would need to vacate the building by Aug. 31 to make room for the new Stinson-Remick Engineering Hall.

The demolition will be a loss to Notre Dame and the

Athletics topic for Malloy

Former president appears on Web cast

By MARCELA BERRIOS

University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy flew to the University of Virginia Friday to participate in a forum on college athletics, drawing from his experiences at Notre Dame to discuss racial integration in recent decades, the academic integrity of student athletes and the roles of the news media and the federal government in shaping the future of athletic programs.

The “Intercollegiate Athletics: Their Role, their Status, their Future” discussion, hosted by the Miller Center of Public Affairs, was cybercast live and might be aired by the PBS affiliates that regularly televise the centers’ trademark forums.

Malloy said in an interview with The Observer Monday that the Miller Center studies American presidencies and public policy issues — and that its interest in intercollegiate athletics, though seemingly unrelated to the center’s field, is actually warranted. “It was approached for a center focused on the American presidency and public policy to talk about intercollegiate athletics...”

Paige speaks on No Child Left Behind

By KATE McCLELLAND

When Lyndon Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 into law, he declared it the dawn of the “century of the educated person,” but in 2007 the same proportion of children from two-thirds — are still not reading at grade level. Former Secretary of Education Dr. Rod Paige spoke at Notre Dame Monday and said he felt that his responsibility to change that statistic. Paige, the keynote speaker for Black History Month, described the achievement gap between ethnicities in today’s schools as “the most important civil rights issue of our time.”

Paige described his own experience growing up in Mississippi, where schools were segregated and minority students received inferior school supplies and facilities. Paige said he started actively working to change that situation in college. He received a master’s degree and a doctorate from Indiana University and was eventually named...
INSIDE COLUMN

Keep it simple, lovers.

This Valentine's Day, KISS. Hold it, horny same-side-sitters at South Dining hall. I didn't write that in all caps to encourage you locking lips over your spicy seafood nuggets. KISS happens to be an acronym for Keep It Simple. Sweet—adage high school English teacher pounded into us long-winded essay writers.

Imagine if same-side-siters don't zoom right over to the Question of the Day. The same question that prentists about love? There's a column for low-tiers, URL Q.T.

Please, professors, tomorrow is Valentine's Day. This isn't a column about writing. It's about people. Do you know anyone? Someone unique? Someone who I should know? Who do you know? Anyways. What does that phrase mean, anyway? And why do professors use it, and that every student in the class, E-MAIL ME (say, those folks over at Necco)

Senior Kristin Schwarz, left, and Serena Leahy dress up as Honest Abe to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's birthday Monday.

IN BRIEF

The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble will perform tonight at 7:30 in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $36 for the general public, $30 for faculty/staff/seniors and $15 for students.

Dale Becinella, a Notre Dame graduate, will speak Wednesday at 7 p.m. in room e-103 of the Hesburgh Center about his career as a lay chaplain to prisoners on death row.

The student body presidential election run-off debate will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Main Lounge of LaFortune.

The Ballroom Dance Club is hosting a Valentine's Day Ball Wednesday from 8 p.m.-10:30 in the LaFortune ball room. The cost is $4 for the night.

The student body presidential run-off election will take place Thursday. Students can vote online between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Judicial Council Web site or by clicking on a link in an e-mail from the Council.

The mens' basketball team will play Providence College Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

Junior Parent's Weekend will commence Friday with the Opening Gala and will end Saturday with the Closing Brunch.

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

OFFBEAT

Coati-mundi taken away from owner

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — An exotic animal with a long snout, bear-like claws and a tail like a raccoon scared the heck out of some narcotics investigators searching a home for drugs.

Riverside County sheriff's investigators said the "strange looking," "sloth-like" animal emerged from its hiding place in the Lakeland Village home on Saturday.

It was eventually identified as a coati-mundi, usually found in the forests of Central and South America.

Possessing a coati-mundi is illegal in California without a permit. The man who said the animal's owner, 29-year-old Norman James Vollan, will hand it over to a zoo or to someone with an exotic animal license.

In the meantime, the animal was taken to an undisclosed animal sanctuary.

Dog gets lost at airport

MADEIRD, Spain — Snowy the terrier knows all the hassle of airport security. The brown-and-white pooch spent 12 days in a sensitive outdoor area of Madrid's international airport — one of Europe's busiest air hubs — scurrying about with a dog's eye view of landing planes.

He managed to dodge security personnel until he was finally captured Sunday, after authorities called in dogcatchers.

The Jack Russell terrier became lost at the airport on Jan. 31 after arriving on an Iberia cargo plane from Britain.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and aims for the highest standard of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 651-4541 so we can correct our error.

Corrections

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT NEW MAJOR SHOULD NOTRE DAME CREATE?

Annie Pugel senior off campus "Cooking and Baking."

David Sonderman junior Stanford "How to Win a Bowl Game."

Jimmy Bettcher senior St. Edward's "ATF: Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms."

Joel Thielen sophomore Keenan "Procrastinating."

Marc Campbell senior off campus "Chilling."

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

THE HANGOVER nights are present in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Group considers new wage hikes

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary’s senior Chelsea Gulling visited the Board of Governance (BOG) to discuss the living wage campaign and how it pertains to Saint Mary’s hourly wage workers Monday night. The issue of increasing the hourly wage at Saint Mary’s will be discussed at the February Board of Trustees meeting. Gulling wanted to present her research to BOG so it could endorse the increase.

"In 2006, Saint Joseph’s County did a survey of wages and figured out where people fall in the continuum," Gulling said. "Hourly wage workers are in the lowest twenty percent.

If the Board of Trustees were to vote to implement a plan to raise wages over a three-year period, it would put Saint Mary’s workers in the 40th percentile and employees who have worked at Saint Mary’s for 25 years would be in a higher percentile.

Gulling did not know details of Saint Mary’s wage plans or the specifics of the Board of Trustees vote.

Reporters talk about Iraq war, Katrina

Sarah Childress advises students on finding journalism internships

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

"Basically, just to summarize, we’re looking for student support," student body president Susan Melndoff said.

The group voted to table the issue until further information is gathered on the subject. BOG also voted to award a $500 co-sponsorship to the Saint Mary’s theater department to help finance its upcoming trip to New York City.

In Other BOG News:

• Little Siblings weekend is Feb. 24-25. Registration has ended and over 350 siblings are attending — 50 more than last year.

• The Diverse Student Leadership Conference will take place March 1-3. Registration forms are on the Student Diversity Board Website.

• Student Academic Council is requesting nominations for the Women Honoring Women banquet. Students are asked to nominate female faculty and staff members by typing one paragraph describing why they are good leaders. Nominations can be sent to SAC@saintmarys.edu

Contact Liz Harter at
lharter07@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s Study Abroad Fair
Thursday, February 15th, 2007
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Saint Mary’s Student Center

All Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, and Holy Cross Students Are Welcome!

Semester Programs
- Rome, Italy
- Dijon, France
- Maynooth, Ireland
- Semester Around the World
- Seville, Spain
- Innsbruck, Austria
- Fremantle, Australia
- Women’s Studies in Europe
- Pieternaritzburg, South Africa

Summer Programs
- Environments of Ecuador
- Honduras Service Learning
- Internship in the European Union
- European Study Program
- Greece Study Tour
- Korean Culture Study

Spring Break Programs
- Poland to Prague
- Business in Mexico City

Saint Mary’s Semester Programs

Rome, Italy
204
Maynooth, Ireland
205
Semester Around the World
120
Seville, Spain
225
Pieternaritzburg, South Africa
223
Dijon, France
224
Women’s Studies in Europe
240

Semester Programs:
Deadline for Applications — March 1st

If you are unable to attend an information session please contact the Center for Women’s InterCultural Leadership at SMC cell@ saintmarys.edu

Denardolo Room

Saint Mary’s Study Abroad Info Session
Thursday, February 22, 2007
5:00—6:00 p.m., DEBARTOLO HALL
NOTRE DAME CAMPUS
SMC, ND, & HC STUDENTS ARE WELCOME!!
Gas leak
continued from page 1
SCD] to repair it. The gas distribution system on cam­
bus belongs to NIPSCO, he said.
For about two hours, gas streamed up into the air in
large amounts from a small area between Stepan
Chemistry Hall, the Radiation Laboratory and the
Hesburgh Library.
People inside were told to leave the buildings and then
shortly afterward told to leave the area. Students and
class in professors and their offices streamed out of the
buildings and then walked away from the
area that was soon blocked off with caution
tape.
The build­
ings were evacuated as a precautionary
measure, Kemp said.
"It was
because you can smell the gas doesn't
mean there is a great concen­
tration of it, he said.
"If we can smell the gas, we
typically will evacuate people
out," Kemp said.
Notre Dame Security/Police (NIPSC] blocked off entry to
O'Shaughnessy, Malloy and Decio Halls and between the
Radiation building and Stepan Chemistry Hall. They
blocked off this area to keep
people out of spaces where the
concentration of the gas may be higher, Kemp said.
In circumstances like this, said Associate Director Phil
Johnson, NIPSC evaluates the
particular circumstances and then chooses a course of
action.
"In an emergency response we take the measures that we
think are necessary to protect the public safety," Johnson
said.
While the buildings were being evacuated, NIPSC could not
find the valve to turn the gas off, so instead they
exposed and damaged sections of the line and
squeezed the gas line together to shut it off. It takes time to
do either method, so the amount of
time it took NIPSC to repair the leak was not
usually, Kemp said.
At 3:25 p.m. NIPSC
was able to put a clamp on the pipe and the leak
dissipated substantially at that time," said Dennis Brown, assistant vice presi­
dent for News and Information.
There were no injuries as a result of the incident, Notre
Dame Associate Vice President for News and
Information Dan Wofford said. The gas was not "harmful
to anyone, but people were being evacuated from
buildings as a precautionary measure.
"This is natural gas, like you would use in your home.
Outside, there are no harm­
ing, he said.
Fire alarms were turned on to evacuate people from the
buildings, including Stepan Chemistry Hall, where graduate
student Brian Wilson was at the
time of the leak.
"People went outside, but
when the alarms stopped, we
went back in," Wilson said.
"Then we smelled the gas and
left the building again."
Faculty, staff and students who were in the buildings when
they were evacuated were allowed to re-enter
later in the afternoon to obtain items they had left
behind. As of approximately 5 p.m., the seven buildings
were available for use.
The buildings are expected to be fully re-opened today.
There should be no odor of
gas remaining in the build­
ings, Kemp said. When the
gas leak was occurring, the fans in the building were
quickly turned off so outside
air would not circulate in.
"We went through each building after the leak was
contained and tested the air for traces of gas," Kemp said.
Only Stepan Chemistry hall had very low traces at the
time.
John-Paul Witt contributed to this report.
Contact Kaidynn Riey at
kriey@nd.edu

Malloy
continued from page 1
because periodically Congress, and in rare cases the White
House, have intervened to insti­
tute reforms when things aren't
going in the right direction," he
said.
He offered the 1906 creation of the National Collegiate
Athletic Association (NCAA) at the urging of President
Theodore Roosevelt as an illus­
tration of the role the federal
government has played in
intercollegiate athletics in the
past.
"Roosevelt was concerned by the levels of violence, serious
injuries and deaths related to
football in a given year and
threatened to ban the sport if
regulations and supervisions were not immediately estab­
lished, Malloy said.
"If things in intercollegiate
athletics don't go well, presi­
dents and people in Congress
get interested."
He also noted throughout his
lifetime the changing landscape of
intercollegiate athletics in light of the gradual integra­tion
of women's sports into collegiate
athletics over the last decades.
A former Notre Dame basket­
ball player, Malloy recalled
watching players from the one
African­
American player in the team
during his years as an
undergraduate student, and
noted that there are no African­
American coaches in any school.
"The greatest changes in my lifetime in
athletics have been
racial integration and
opportunities for women," Malloy said.
"And they both still need work
done to be fully implemented."
He said he accepted the con­
tent invitation to participate in the forum because he thought
it was important to discuss these changes and the future of
intercollegiate athletics, as they are an
auxiliary unit of the univer­
sity and affect the lives of people
related to the institution.
However, he was also driven to Virginia after he found out
his friend and Chancellor of the
University of Mississippi, Robert Khayat, was the other
guest speaker.
"I spoke at Robert [Khayat'sl inauguration and we were on
the NCAA foundation board for many years," he said.
"When we each heard the other
speaker we both agreed to do it."
He said their experiences as former coaches and leaders of their respective uni­
versities added weight to their
arguments.
"When you're an insider you
have the totally romanticized view that some people have
in the utterly cynical view that
other people have," he said.
"You understand the pluses and the
minuses because you've been through it yourself."
Some of those minuses include the scrutiny that young student athletes undergo
to the lens of the rapidly prolifer­
ating sports media, Malloy said.
In the last five years, sports
magazines and publications, T.V.
stations and the Internet's chat rooms, blogs and Web
sites have tracked student ath­
est and made them household
names.
"This is a huge change in the
life of student-athletes," he
noted. "If you read all these materials, you
know so much about them
outside the classroom on the
front foot on the cam­
pus."
"Or when an athlete gets into trouble it is
instantly news around the
country that
just never existed before."
When asked for his opinion regarding the proper discipli­
ne given to student athletes in the
spotlight, Malloy only said that athletes should be subjected
to the same rules and yardsticks as non-athletes.
He decided to comment on the recent controversy sur­
rounding former Irish point
guard Kyle McAlarney, saying he spoke at the forum about the young player's
decision to enter the National
Football League (NFL) draft.
McAlarney's suspension fol­
lowing his arrest in December for possession of drug paraphernalia was
considered excessive by some critics — a result, they said, that was directly related to
the basketball player's celebrity.
However, disciplinary issues are not the only ones where student athletes are known to receive special considerations — to the advancement or detri­
ment of the athlete's career.
During the forum, Malloy also raised the question of academic integrity for student athletes — a cause supported by NCAA President Myles Brand.
He said Brand's steps to guarantee every member institu­
tion in the NCAA protects the impartiality of its athletes' aca­
demic success. Malloy and the NCAA have already outcome of the
football player's decision to enter the National
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the basketball player's celebrity.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China fails to meet environmental goals

BEIJING — China, admitted Monday, had failed to reach its pollution control commitment for 2006 and had fallen further behind as the economy picked up speed.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection Agency said faster-than-expected economic growth meant that sulfur dioxide emissions increased by nearly 1.8 percent, or 463,000 tons, over the previous year, according to a report on its Web site.

Chemical oxygen demand, a water pollution index, rose by 1.2 percent, the report said.

The increase in sulfur dioxide emissions was driven by a slight increase of major pollutants by 10 percent by 2010, with the main emissions source being coal and the main producers being a power producer and consumer of coal, depending heavily on coal-fired plants for electricity.

Explosions occur near U.S. base

WASHINGTON, Staff at a military base north of Baghdad, said they were investigating a suspected extremist attack on the U.S. base after two small explosions occurred outside a military base south of Tokyo, police said Tuesday.

There were no reports of injury or damage at Camp Zama or from nearby residents, Kanagawa prefectural police spokesman Hisashi Kikukawa said.

Investigators found a pair of metal tubes planted in the ground at a nearby park. They were believed to be used as rocket launchers and pointed toward the base, Kikukawa said.

He said investigators suspect an attack by leftist extremists, but cannot rule out a possibility of a terrorist attack.

NATIONAL NEWS

Veterans' information missing

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs began notifying 1.8 million veterans and doctors Monday that their personal information was exposed on a portable hard drive that has been missing from an Alabama hospital for nearly three weeks.

The hard drive may have contained Social Security numbers and other personal information from about 535,000 individuals and billing information on 1.3 million doctors nationwide who were treated at the VA.

That's more than 37 times more people than authorities initially believed were affected.

An employee at the VA medical center in Birmingham reported the external hard drive missing on Jan. 22. The drive was used to back up information on the employee's office computer and was used for VA research projects, the department said.

Bush honors Black History Month

WASHINGTON — President Bush honored Black History Month on Monday, focusing on people who helped win freedom and opportunities gained at great price, he said.

"And our call for this country is never to rest until equality is real, opportunity is universal and every citizen can realize his or her dreams." President Bush on Monday focused on people from the past and the future.

Local News

States braces for heavy snow storm

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana readied more than 4,000 snow plows to hit the highways and can­celling events due to a major winter storm brewing down in much of the state.

About a dozen officials from the Department of Homeland Security and other state agencies hunkered down in the basement of the state government complex in Indianapolis on Monday night to direct emergency operations as the storm swept into the state from the southwest.

"If the storms hit as predicted we know there will be problems but every resource state gov­ernment has is ready to go," Gov. Mitch Daniels said in a prepared statement.

CHINA

North Korea closer to disarmament

Associated Press

BEIJING — Six countries reached a tentative agreement Tuesday on initial steps toward North Korea’s nuclear dis­armament that could usher in the first comprehensive round of negotiations in more than three years of talks marked by delays, deadlock and the communist country’s first nuclear test explosion.

The six-nation group, which meets biennially, said it called on North Korea to immediately freeze all nuclear activities and is considering asking the International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct a special mission for verifying that the North is fulfilling the commitments.

The draft agreement contained com­mitments on disarmament and energy cooperation and was signed Tuesday by the six countries, which are the United States, South Korea, China, Russia, Japan and Europe.

The draft agreement was presented to the United Nations Security Council on Wednesday evening in the form of a working draft, and it was expected that the council would endorse it on Thursday.

The draft agreement would be submitted to the five most powerful members of the council, which have the right to veto any resolution, and if approved, it would be sent to the six countries for ratification.

In the last few days, the talks had appeared to be on the verge of failure but were extended and now show signs of progress.

"We feel it’s an excellent draft, I don’t think we’re the problem," he said.

Layoffs at Chrysler imminent

Employees fear company's restructuring effort to cut 10,000 workers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Chrysler workers have taken to call­ing it the "Valentine's Day massacre," said Steve Laube, on Monday, as he and other laid-off workers reported to "jobs bank" duty, for which they'll get one-third of their pay that the union will withhold.

"We hear they're going to call it the Valentine's Day massacre," said Steve Laube on Monday, as he and other laid-off workers reported to "jobs bank" duty, for which they'll get one-third of their pay that the union will withhold.

As workers await the news, rumors fly: Two plants to be shut down; buy­out or early retirement offers similar to what Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. did to reduce their hourly work forces; flat-out layoffs.

A Chrysler worker inspects a jeep at the company's Daimler Chrysler Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio on Aug. 28, 2006. Restructuring could cut 10,000 employees.

"If we lose the 2010 workers in Newark, DeL., that assembly the slow-selling Dodge Durango and Chrysler Aspen mid­sized SUVs. Analysts say the first year of the plan.

Atop almost everyone's list for the closure is the 2,100­
worker plant near St. Louis in Fenton, Mo., that makes Jeep Cherokee's and Commanders.

"They can't give us into anything," he said. "You just hear rumors, rumors, rumors.

Analysts predict another 1,000 to 1,500 salaried workers also could lose their jobs as Chrysler Group joins its two domestic rivals in trying to downsize fac­tory capacity to match lower demand.

Much of the shrinkage, analysts believe, will come at plants that make truck­based products, victims of the changing tastes from sport utility vehicles and trucks to more fuel efficient car-based vehi­cles.

Chrysler lost $1.5 billion in the third quarter of 2006, and its sales were down 7 percent last year. Trucks and bigger SUVs historically account for about 70 per­cent of the company's U.S. sales, more than any other manufacturer.

Kevin Beadle, an industry analyst for AMR Research Inc., said Chrysler probably has 15 percent too much manufacturing capacity.

"They'll have to trim out some assembly facilities to bring their capacity to pro­duce vehicles in line with demand," he said.

DaimlerChrysler has two large manufacturing complexes in Kokomo that employ nearly 7,000 people, including a plant that makes transmissions.

The company also has said it is considering Kokomo for a new transmission plant that would be part of a joint ven­ture with Getrag Corporate Group of Germany.

Atoq almost everyone's list for the closure is the 2,100­worker plant near St. Louis in Fenton, Mo., that makes Ram pickups also is on his list because Chrysler has two other plants that make that Ram.

Chrysler won't say which plants are on the block. It says details will be released Wednesday morning to gains­ten with the company's 2006 earnings.

But most vulnerable are plants that make the mid­sized SUVs, which have fall­en out of favor with buyers, said Catherine Mudden, an auto industry analyst at the consulting company Global Insight.

The Durango and Aspen underpinnings are exclusive to those vehicles, contrary to Chrysler's movement toward more flexible manu­facturing plants that can build multiple vehicles on one platform, she said.
improve public schools
to move to Greenfield's isn't not because doing so would economic fabric of the Independent School District.

Affleck-Graves said official workers extensively with faculty and the dean of the Engineering School to find alternative sites for the new building, but none were appropriate.

University officials have proposed the Club relocate to Greenfield's International Café inside the Reshurg Center. Notre Dame established the current building to the Club, which operates independently of the University. But Colley said the proposal to move to Greenfield's is not feasible, given the size of the space and other factors at the current location.

"We were hoping for the Club to continue at another location, if that was a workable option. But, obviously there's a lot of money involved in that," she said. "We feel that they want to get rid of us.

Affleck-Graves said the University has discussed several options with the Club, in addition to the proposal to move to Greenfield's.

"We would go out of business in a short time if we accept," he said.

The board of directors is currently working on a counter proposal to present to the University officials, 'to see if there is any possibility in the University changing their terms," Colley said.

"We can't imagine that the University of Notre Dame wouldn't have a University Club," she said.

Club employees - as well as employees of Greenfield's - did not find out about the relocation proposal until it was printed in the South Bend Tribune. Colley said "They kind of caught us off guard in the face, as well as us," said Vicki Lodyga, office manager at the Club for 18 years and one of the Club's 33 full-time employees.

Many of the Club employees - some who have worked there for more than two decades - are disappointed, she said. She said this wasn't an expected course for the building.

In 2004, University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy appointed a committee to determine the future of the Club. The committee, which included five faculty members, were notified of the proposal to move the Club at that time.

In response, the club formed the Committee for the Future of the University Club. The group produced a report stating the Club should remain as it is, where it is, Conway said.

This committee gathered more than 400 signatures to petition against the relocation of the Club, including the signature of University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh. In 2006, the Club was informed that they would need to vacate by June 2008. The board and members were surprised when they received the letter that noted the termination date on Aug. 2007, Colley said.

Judith Child, a member of the Club's board, said she is optimistic the Club will continue, even while a decision on new location "is still up in the air.

The Club was founded in 1958. The current building was donated by former Indiana governor Robert Gore and designed by Robert Schultz, a former architect with the School of Architecture. It serves faculty, staff, alumni and community members who are interested in tutoring people who help care take of the entrance and walkways, he said. Kubacki said he and his crew begin working at about 7 a.m. every weekday - though sometimes there are special events earlier - and continue to work around campus throughout the day until 3 p.m.

Every entrance has its own container of de-icer, which is used as needed, but in sub-zero temperatures the de-icers don't work very well, Kubacki said. The crew also缴es with being environmentally conscious and being as safe as possible.

Before spending the day working on campus, the crew kicks off their day with a meeting the evening around 8 p.m. or later. They discuss the next day's to-do list in the meeting.
**MARKET RECAP**

**Stocks**

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**IN BRIEF**

Bush advocates free-trade agreements  
WASHINGTON — Free-trade policies that make it easier for U.S. companies to sell their products are important to the economy's vitality, President Bush said Monday as he projected a year of slower- economic growth.

On a headline economic report to Congress, made a fresh pitch for breaking down trade barriers and energizing global trade talks. He also called on Congress to extend his authority to negotiate free-trade deals, a request likely to face an uphill battle in the Democratically controlled Congress.

"This authority is essential to completing good trade agreements," Bush wrote in the introduction to the report. "The Congress must renew it if we are to improve our competitiveness in the global economy."

With the United States racking up record trade deficits and facing intense competition from rapidly growing China and India, global trade tensions have intensified.

Democrats blame Bush's free-trade policies for contributing to the trade deficit, costing U.S. jobs and exposing U.S. workers to unfair competition from low-wage countries.

House acts to install solar panels  
WASHINGTON — Thirty years ago, Rep. Jim Oberstar testified in favor of legislation to install solar panels at federal buildings. Now, as chairman of the House Transportation Committee, he's able to make it happen — at least on a small scale.

On Monday, the House approved Oberstar's bill to create a solar energy system at the Energy Department building, with the hope that the project could serve as a model for all federal buildings.

"What better symbol than the Department of Energy itself, to open on renewable energy?" Oberstar, D-Minn., asked in an interview. "Let's show definitively this works."

Oberstar's new bill directs the General Service Administration to spend $30 million to install solar panels on the south wall of the Energy Department headquarters.

**Stocks fall, Nasdaq-LSE merger fails**

**NEW YORK** — Wall Street extended its losses Monday as investors awaited a rash of key economic data this week and were left disappointed by the Dow's failure of several closely watched acquisition deals.

The markets, which pulled back last week amid widespread concerns about inflation's impact on interest rates, traded cautiously with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke set to testify about the economy before Congress on Wednesday. Government data due Friday should shed light on wholesale inflation and the state of the housing market.

"If we had an unexpected decrease in inflation, that would be a big support for the stock market," said Michael Sheldon, managing director at Epic Asset Management. "But we don't have that...we're in a bit of a vacuum...and that's why the market is underperforming."

Since the government's April slate of economic data, investors have been broadly disappointed by what they perceived as lower-than-expected inflationary pressures.

"There are a lot of people who are concerned about inflation, but I think the market is underestimating the Fed's commitment to fighting inflation," said one institutional trader.
For anyone who has been in a relationship, the words "we need to talk" bring with them the possibility of arguments, insults, honest conversations and sometimes a reconciliation that can sustain the relationship well into the future. Uttering those dreaded four words is unpleasant, but it has to be done in order to move forward.

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's have enjoyed a special and often close relationship over the years. After all, Notre Dame was only 13 when Saint Mary's showed up across the street, and their young love strengthened as each school educated one half of a growing community. Many of us have parents from both schools, and we have all heard the legendary stories about students from both schools sneaking through the tunnels to get home after parietals. Notre Dame provided men with a Holy Cross education and Saint Mary's provided women with the same, and the relationship was one of mutual benefit, respect and affection.

By the late 1960s, many of Notre Dame's all-male peer universities began to go co-ed or merge with associated all-female universities. Notre Dame began to see the benefits of combining with Saint Mary's, and in May 1971, University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh proposed a merger. A few departments began the merger process and a number of Saint Mary's students enrolled at Notre Dame and graduated with Notre Dame degrees. However, in 2002 an Observer article, Hesburgh said, "I told the sisters, 'You know, sisters, we're using all the metaphors of marriage, and I get the impression you're in favor of the marriage, but two things are missing. Number one, you don't want to take our name, and number two, you don't want to live with us. That's not marriage.'" In 1971, frustrated with a lack of progress, Notre Dame broke off the engagement. In 1972, Notre Dame co-ed educated unilaterally and the historic first class of women enrolled at the University of Notre Dame.

It has been more than 30 years since Notre Dame and Saint Mary's broke off their ephemeral engagement. Though the phrase was not in use at the time, the best term to describe the current relationship is "friends with benefits." Unfortunately for the Notre Dame community, the vast majority of those benefits go to Saint Mary's. Saint Mary's students receive the ability to take classes at a top-20 undergraduate institution, access to job recruiters who come to Notre Dame, Notre Dame student section football tickets (which are often better than those of actual Notre Dame students) and participation in nearly all of Notre Dame's larger and more organized student organizations, including the University of Notre Dame Marching Band, student managers and the cheerleading squad. In exchange, Notre Dame students get to take excellent education classes, occasionally use O'Laughlin Auditorium and go on the Saint Mary's trip around the world.

In October 2005, Saint Mary's student body president Kellye Milnos wrote a letter to The Observer entitled "Separate and Proud," extolling the continued independence of Saint Mary's. The theme was continued with this year's campaign for Saint Mary's student body president, as the Davis-Kennedy ticket "recognized[ed] the need to maintain the College's deeply rooted tradition in the sometimes-uncertain future of Saint Mary's identity," according to the Saint Mary's Student Endorsement. I'm happy that Saint Mary's students are proud of their school, but in reality they aren't separate at all. Nothing exemplifies this fact more than a quote from Saint Mary's students about a former Sheldon in an Observer article after the Army game last fall. "At my first Notre Dame game before I was a student, I wouldn't watch them in person. Then when I got to be a part of that, it was amazing. I'll always remember when the leprechaun throw a Rice Krispie treat at me and when we gave James Aldridge push-ups last year when he was in the recruiting section." This sentiment is not a fluke. In a 2005 Letter to the Editor, Saint Mary's student Christine Herdman wrote, "That's what I love about those boys that make up our Notre Dame football team." Students from a school whose leaders constantly assert their independence and separate identity also enthusiastically take part in Notre Dame activities that define our identity, and even claim that identity as their own. If that is not hypocritical, it is at least problematic.

If Saint Mary's wants to be part of Notre Dame, it should merge with the University, have equal standards for admission and tuition and contribute its fair share. If Saint Mary's says it is independent and proud of it, it shouldn't turn around and take advantage of Notre Dame's generous resources. Saint Mary's effective rejection of Notre Dame's offer ruined its "engagement" with Notre Dame 20 years ago and the College continues to display its independence in words and deeds. Notre Dame now fulfills the provision of a Holy Cross education to both men and women, and Saint Mary's should choose whether it wants to be "separate and proud" or a part of Notre Dame. Unfortunately, it didn't do that in 1971 and it won't now. Why should they buy the cow when they can get the milk for free?
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students urged to attend hockey playoffs

To the Notre Dame community, on behalf of the Notre Dame hockey team, I would like to thank you for your help in energizing Irish hockey this season. Your support, combined with the hard work of our players, has helped us earn a first round bye in the CCHA playoffs, a goal we set at the beginning of the year. Our fans have a lot to do with our success this season. The atmosphere that you have created in the Joyce Center has carried us to a 9-0-2 league record at home. The Notre Dame hockey band has been phenomenal and the cheering of JACCO’s WACCOs in section 6 has made our rink a feared place for opposing teams. As a result, the second round of the CCHA playoffs will be played at the Joyce Center March 9-11 and although we don’t know our opponent, we know we will need our fans to be louder than ever.

I realize that many of you have been looking forward to that weekend because of spring break and the opportunity to leave campus for a few days. Your classmates on the hockey team and I are asking you to hold off on leaving so quickly! The team has appreciated and thrived on your efforts all season long and they need you now more than ever. The hockey band will be there so please join them, wear gold and be loud! We would love to see a sea of gold cheering us on during this important playoff weekend. As with all of the games this season, admission is free to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross students with their ID as long as seats are available. As always, I’m sure there will be some great prizes and I can assure you there will be some great hockey.

In closing, this weekend we head to Alaska in pursuit of Notre Dame’s first-ever regular season conference championship. Upon our return, we look forward to seeing you for our last home regular season series (including Senior Night on Feb. 24) versus Ferris State, and then again at our CCHA playoff games in March on our “Road to the Joe” and beyond. Go Irish!

Jeff Jackson
Notre Dame hockey head coach

Feb. 12

U-WIRE

Alternative Valentine’s plans worthwhile

This year, I suggest that all single guys and girls, instead of awkwardly calling last weekend’s booty call in hopes of a date, try something novel for a change. Find that girl or guy who has always been there for you, because there certainly is one, and take them out. Maybe you’ve always wanted to date this person, and things just never worked out, or maybe you’ve only liked them “as a friend” or vice versa, but they probably deserve a nice night out. It’s the least you can do after dragging your sorry rear end to “the day before my dad’s birthday,” and that is the way I like it.

However, just because V-Day is a fundamentally stupid holiday that probably yields as many hurt feelings as it does happy nights doesn’t mean that it serves no purpose. Chris Mueller Daily Collegian

This column originally appeared in the Feb. 12 edition of the Daily Collegian, the daily publication at Penn State University. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Alternative Valentine’s plans worthwhile
The European Theater tends to dominate cinema, but there are a handful of films that explore the Pacific Theater as well. Here are a few of the most memorable and most recent to grace the screen.

Iwo Jima
1. "Flags of Our Fathers/Letters From Iwo Jima" (2006): Like "Tara! Tara! Tara!", Eastwood's pair of films explore both sides of the conflict, with the American perspective in "Fathers" and the Japanese perspective in "Letters." "Letters" is considered the stronger picture, despite its "art-film" sensibilities, and has been nominated for the Best Picture Academy Award.

Burma
2. "The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957): David Lean's classic follows a Japanese POW camp that forces British soldiers to build a bridge in Burma. Highlighted by a bravura performance from Alec Guinness, it explores the descent into madness that accompanies war.

Midway
3. "Midway" (1976): A star-studded cast led by Henry Fonda and Charlton Heston highlights this film about the Battle of Midway. Produced in the vein of "Tora! Tora! Tora!", it heavily features both sides of the conflict, though the soap opera dramatics tended to diffuse some of its impact.

Guadalcanal
4. "The Thin Red Line" (1998): Terrance Malick's ethereal meditation on war and nature is set against the backdrop of the Allied invasion of Guadalcanal. It received a mixed critical and commercial reception, partially due to the overwhelming popularity of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," which was released around the same time.

Salman
5. "Windtalkers" (2002): Directed by John Woo and starring Nicholas Cage, "Windtalkers" follows Navajo soldiers whose native language became a code used by the Allies. Less realistic than other modern war films, it was also considered less effective.

Guadalcanal
6. "From Here to Eternity" (1954)/"Tora! Tora! Tora!" (1970)/"Pearl Harbor" (2001): All three of these films explore the attack on Pearl Harbor in different ways, with varying emphasis on the battle itself. "From Here to Eternity" is a classic, with strong performances, especially from Montgomery Clift and Frank Sinatra. "Tora! Tora! Tora!" was a joint project between American and Japanese studios, which produced a complex, but inconsistent film.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@nd.edu
Eastwood's latest effort is an Academy favorite

By ERIN McGINN
Assistant Scene Writer

Editor's Note: This is the second in a five-part series on the 2007 Oscar nominees for Best Picture.

In a rare filmmaking move, Clint Eastwood decided to make two movies centered around the battle at Iwo Jima during the Second World War. "Flags of our Fathers" has an American side of the battle of Iwo Jima, but the stories of the three Japanese soldiers. Although the two films are told in a series of interviews and flashbacks, as opposed to the linear storyline that the book followed. He and Eastwood decided this structure would better allow for parallels to be drawn to the current war in Iraq as well as wartime hypocrisy and the manipulated propaganda.

The second film, "Letters from Iwo Jima," is based on the book "Letters From Commander in Chief" by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi. The film follows various soldiers, including infantry soldier Saigo (Kazunari Ninomiya) and General Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) as they prepare for and subsequently fight in the battle to protect Iwo Jima. As they realize that they are outnumbered and ill-prepared to fight, they begin to question why they are fighting and what their own priorities are.

Several scenes directly correlate with each other, and seeing one film deepens the level of understanding that comes from those scenes when the perspectives of both sides are taken into account. They also bring to light different aspects of war, and by focusing on the same battle these issues are brought to greater clarity. "Flags of our Fathers" questions the motives of propaganda and perception and the consequences of those actions, while "Letters from Iwo Jima" concentrates on decisions that are made in the situation of battle.

Both films serve to question the greater motivations behind war, as well as individual belief systems. In both films the characters make difficult decisions that they must choose to follow what they believe is important, regardless of what their government or others are saying. Even outside of the context of war, these are increasingly valuable questions to ask and are not only timeless, but timely with the current state of affairs in our world.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

Trashy tabloid would be a welcome addition

Britain's The Sun is a daily newspaper with the world's highest circulation and more than three million copies sold a day. This is for a good reason, given its focus on sex, celebrities, sports, sex, politics and sensational crime. People in Britain are uncannily interested in reading tabloid newspapers in fact most people, while reading little else. All of the top papers in the country are what Americans would consider just a notch above the National Enquirer.

Reading The Sun every morning over my healthy full English breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, toast and Guinness, I've come to the conclusion that we need a tabloid at Notre Dame. Please - Scholastic's "The Gipper" is anonymous, usually obscure and lacking photos. I know, I know. A tabloid would never be too hot at Notre Dame. That's what Facebook is for, right? But since Domers seem to love trawling photo albums and wall postings for hours, I think they'd enjoy reading a scandalous newspaper at the dining hall. I think they'd look out of their plate and start sifting a fry as much as any Brit.

I've also been reading campus materials, we're not all snobbily geeks from some suburb of Chicago interested only in God and our studies. I've seen many students browse the latest on Britney and JT and Scarlett, and whether Madonna and the Pits are getting a divorce. Forget AP stories as well - we'll have columns on Anna Nicole-Smith, JT and Scarlett, and whether University President Father John Jenkins is preparing to adopt a baby with Madonna and the Pits after his recent trip to Uganda.

Forget seeing racy photos of the ramp troika starring Lindsey Lohan, Paris Hilton and Britney Spears jumping out of cars in LA in next to nothing. Under the Dome, we could feature our own triumvirate of Jenkins and former University Presidents Father Ted Hesburgh and Father Edward Malloy snaking into Rocco's for a quiet dinner. Just imagine the banner headline - "Popped Collars. JJs. Ted and Monk spotted at spaghetti Yalta!" It would almost be too much for me to handle.

The Notre Dame Enquirer could cover Jimmy Clausen the way The Sun covers the British Royal Family. The butthole race would be to see what girl he'd hook up with after the game.

The initial time someone spotted Jim Caviezel 3ast of the Passion of the Christ! it would be "tres cool," as Notre Dame Angers program alums would say. But eventually, students would get tired of this D-list actor showing up all the time on campus wearing the Fitty jacket. The headline: "Students: Why is Jesus still here?"

Let's also please leave out paparazzi photos of Charlie Weis at the beach. I think we'd all agree some things are better left unpublished. For revenue, we could have the Bookstore advertise its fair and honest prices. Nothing prepared me better for the horrible British exchange rate than shopping at our Bookstore. In Britain, every day a nice girl who lost her clothes is featured on Page 3 of The Sun. With our tab, we could have a new girl every day modeling the staple of every girl's wardrobe on campus - her favorite North Face fleece. Nothing too sexy, of course. It is Notre Dame.

As you can tell by now, Notre Dame really is need of a tabloid to truly encompass our sometimes crazy student life beyond placid Student Activities stories and banal coverage of "that diplomat guy who spoke to your class. Something that is funny, inane and trashy.

Wait, we have the Irish Rover. Never mind.

Contact Bob Costa at rcosta@nd.edu

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

Pistons top Clippers, claim seventh straight win

Carmelo Anthony hurts thigh as Denver bests Golden State

Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich.—The Detroit Pistons got the Los Angeles Clippers at the right time, and they knew it.

Chris Webber had 19 points and nine rebounds and the Pistons beat the short-handed Clippers 92-74 Monday night for their seventh straight victory.

The Clippers staggered in for their last stop on a seven-game trip and fell to 8-19 on the road. They were missing Elton Brand, who was a late scratch with back spasms.

"We reminded our guys of all that this morning, before the game, during the game and after the game," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "We've been in that situation too — it isn't easy to be at the end of a trip like that, especially without Elton." Saunders even got the weather he wanted — a chilly, snowy day with a winter storm about to roll through here around the All-Star break, and they go from 7-5 degrees to 10-below, and all they had to do is sit in their hotel rooms all day. That's just how we like it.

The Clippers, who haven't played a home game yet in February, went 2-5 on the marathon trip, and one of the victories came against the struggling Boston Celtics. Los Angeles hosts Atlanta on Wednesday.

"This is the longest trip of the year, and we wanted it to turn out better than it did," Clippers coach Mike D'Antoni said. "There were a couple of game days on the trip that we played against teams that we felt we could beat, but we didn't get the job done."

Detroit, which has beaten the Clippers right night times, improved to 12-1 since Webber joined the starting lineup.

There was a period where Chris was just attacking the basket and making great plays," Tashayas Prince said. "We caught the Clippers on the back end of a long road trip, where we knew they couldn't sustain for 40 minutes and we took advantage of it.

Richard Hamilton scored 17 points and the Pistons added 14 for Detroit, which had all of its starters score in double figures. They played a near full court and when you do that, you can wear a team down," Clippers guard Cuttino Mobley said. "Before we knew it, we were down 15 and they were keeping that lead."

Mobley led Los Angeles with 17 points, and Corey Maggette added 15. Chris Kaman had 13 points and nine rebounds but fouled out midway through the fourth.

The Pistons led 45-38 at the half, holding the Clippers to 34.9 percent shooting, and took over in the third quarter.

Webber had eight points and Hamilton scored five as Detroit opened the second half with a 13-3 run.

The Pistons led 71-56 after three. Sam Cassell started the fourth with a three-point play for the Clippers but Webber scored the next four points to put the game away.

"Webber gives them another dimension because he creates easy baskets," Dunleavy said. "That was a good pick up for them, and they are playing very well."

Jazz 102, Hawks 76

Mehmet Okur had 19 points and six rebounds but sitting out the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz won their fifth in a row, beating the Atlanta Hawks Monday night.

Danny Williams added nine assists and Andrei Kirilenko had 11 points and four blocks for the Jazz, who are on their longest winning streak since eight in a row in November while opening the season-12. The Hawks had won five straight on the road, beating the Warriors 106-105 Sunday night in Oakland, but they had very little left for the Jazz.

Atlanta was just 4-for-17 in the opening quarter and was down by 12 before the end of the first period. By the fourth, it was just a battle of the reserves as the Jazz beat the Hawks for the ninth straight time. Utah outrebounded Atlanta 52-32 and the Jazz went 32-for-36 from the line.

Marvin Williams led Atlanta with 15 points. Williams also got a bloody nose when he took a forearm by Utah's Rasul Araujo early in the fourth quarter, which resulted in Araujo getting ejected and Atlanta's Josh Smith getting a technical as Williams remained down in the lane.

After Araujo left to a standing ovation from the Jazz fans, both coaches pulled their starters before anybody else could get hurt or in trouble before the All-Star break.

Nuggets 123, Warriors 111

Carmelo Anthony and J.R. Smith scored 28 points apiece and the Denver Nuggets beat the Golden State Warriors Monday night.

Anthony sat out the much of the fourth quarter after his bruised right thigh, which he hurt in the first half, tightened up on him.

Warriors guard Stephen Jackson was late for the game after testify in the trial in Indianapolis of a man who hit him with a car during a fight outside a strip club last fall. The man was convicted Monday in a ruling by a judge.

Jackson started the second half and quickly picked up a technical for arguing a call with official Jess Kersey. He finished with nine points.

Nene had 24 points for Denver and Marcus Camby had eight points and seven rebounds in his return from a four-game absence with a pulled groin and the flu. He looked like he hadn't missed a minute, playing loose and free and several times dishing the ball behind his back for big baskets before taking a seat when the game got out of hand.

Al Harrington, who started 24 hours after taking an elbow to the head from Warriors center Zaza Pachulia, led the Warriors with 24 points, and Kellenna Azubuike added 23.

Golden State was without its leading scorer, guard Baron Davis, who will undergo surgery on his left knee Tuesday, coach Don Nelson said.

"The surgery is to clean out some debris in his left knee. We won't know the length of time he'll be out until they go in there," Nelson said. "We won't make a roster move. We won't do anything until after the surgery."

The absences of Jackson and Davis didn't prevent the Warriors from running their high-octane offense in the first half, when they shot 59 percent only to trail 65-59 at the break when Smith and DerMarr Johnson hit back-to-back 3s in the closing seconds.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 111 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $1 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring fees.
**NFL**

**Men's Basketball**

**Associated Press Top 25**

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Pos | Team | Record | Points
---|------|--------|--------
1  | Florida (22) | 23-2 | 1800
2  | Ohio State | 22-7 | 1768
3  | Wisconsin | 24-2 | 1657
4  | North Carolina | 22-3 | 1644
5  | UCLA | 21-7 | 1465
6  | Texas A&M | 21-3 | 1442
7  | Pittsburgh | 22-7 | 1350
8  | Memphis | 21-3 | 1272
9  | Kansas | 21-4 | 1270
10 | Washington State | 21-4 | 1090
11 | Nevada | 22-2 | 1064
12 | Kentucky | 21-5 | 1016
13 | Butler | 23-3 | 831
14 | Georgetown | 16-5 | 727
15 | Oregon | 26-5 | 609
16 | Southern Illinois | 21-5 | 606
17 | Air Force | 21-4 | 538
18 | Oklahoma State | 19-6 | 503
19 | Arizona | 16-6 | 485
20 | Kentucky | 19-6 | 477
21 | Boston College | 16-7 | 470
22 | USC | 18-7 | 290
23 | West Virginia | 19-5 | 272
24 | Indiana | 17-7 | 253
25 | Alabama | 18-6 | 156
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**Men's Basketball**

**ESPN/USA Today Top 25**

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Pos | Team | Record | Points
---|------|--------|--------
1  | Florida (31) | 23-2 | 775
2  | Ohio State | 22-7 | 707
3  | Wisconsin | 24-2 | 698
4  | North Carolina | 22-3 | 644
5  | Pittsburgh | 22-3 | 642
6  | Texas A&M | 21-3 | 628
7  | UCLA | 21-2 | 622
8  | Kansas | 22-4 | 547
9  | Louisiana State | 21-3 | 531
10 | Virginia | 22-2 | 485
11 | Washington State | 21-4 | 462
12 | Seton Hall | 23-3 | 400
13 | Marquette | 21-5 | 307
14 | Air Force | 21-4 | 292
15 | Southern Illinois | 21-5 | 272
16 | Georgetown | 18-8 | 271
17 | Oregon | 20-5 | 248
18 | Kentucky | 18-6 | 215
19 | Indiana | 17-7 | 184
20 | Oklahoma State | 19-6 | 151
21 | Boston College | 17-9 | 131
22 | West Virginia | 19-5 | 133
23 | USC | 18-7 | 109
24 | Arizona | 17-7 | 79
25 | Virginia Tech | 17-7 | 56
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**Men's Basketball**

**Big East Standings**

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Pos | Team | Big East | Overall | Record | Record
---|------|---------|---------|--------|--------
1  | Pittsburgh | 10-2 | 22-4 | 2-2 | 4
2  | Georgetown | 6-2 | 18-5 | 1-1 | 1
3  | Marquette | 6-3 | 20-5 | 1-1 | 0
4  | Louisville | 6-4 | 18-8 | 0-2 | 1
5  | West Virginia | 7-4 | 19-5 | 1-1 | 0
6  | NOTRE DAME | 6-5 | 16-5 | 1-1 | 0
7  | Syracuse | 6-6 | 17-5 | 2-2 | 0
8  | Villanova | 5-5 | 17-7 | 1-1 | 0
9  | Providence | 5-5 | 15-9 | 1-1 | 0
10 | DePaul | 5-6 | 14-11 | 1-1 | 0
11 | St. John's | 5-7 | 13-14 | 1-0 | 1
12 | Connecticut | 4-6 | 15-9 | 2-2 | 2
13 | Seton Hall | 3-7 | 12-11 | 1-2 | 1
14 | Providence | 3-8 | 14-11 | 1-2 | 1
15 | Rutgers | 3-9 | 10-15 | 1-3 | 2
16 | Cincinnati | 1-9 | 10-14 | 0-5 | 2
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**IN BRIEF**

**Time Warner reaches deal to sell Braves to Liberty Media**

New York — Time Warner Inc. reached a deal to sell the Atlanta Braves to Liberty Media Corp. after more than a year of negotiations, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday. The agreement, which must still be approved by Major League Baseball owners, would involve Time Warner transferring the Braves, a group of craft magazines and $1 billion in cash to Liberty in exchange for about 60 million shares of Time Warner, the Journal reported, citing an unidentified person familiar with the deal.

Based on the closing price of Time Warner's stock Monday, the market value of those shares would be about $1.27 billion.

Liberty Media spokesman John Orr and Time Warner spokesman Ed Adler declined to comment on the report, which the Journal posted on its Web site Monday.

**Underdog Yates Racing takes top pole places at Daytona**

**DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.** — It seemed certain at times last season that Robert Yates Racing was going to close its doors. The once-great NASCAR team had hit rock bottom, and owners Robert and Isugg Yates couldn't stand coming to the race track any more.

But that seemed ages ago on Sunday after David Gilliland and Bicky Rudd put Yates cars on the front row for the Daytona 500. "Robert has got a little bit of a bounce in his step again because he has a program that is working, it is clicking," Rudd said.

It was far from working last season, when Yates lost his drivers, a sponsor and both of his crew chiefs in a tumultuous year that featured the team collapsing to the point that Yates was convinced he was dying.

**Man convicted of hitting Warriors' Jackson with car**

Indianapolis — A man who hit former Indiana Pacers guard Stephen Jackson with a car during a fight outside a strip club last fall was convicted Monday in a ruling by a judge.

Deon Williford waived his right to a jury trial, allowing Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford to render a verdict. She found the 23-year-old man guilty of felony battery and failure to stop at a scene of an accident, a misdemeanor.

He will be sentenced Feb. 28. He faces two to eight years in prison for the felony and up to a year for the misdemeanor.

Jackson, who now plays for Golden State, left the courtroom to catch a flight to Denver, where the Warriors play Monday night.

"I leave everything in God's hands and continue to work on playing basketball," he said.

**Former Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer fired following 12-2 season**

San Diego — Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer was fired Monday night in a shocking move by team president Dean Spanos, who cited a "dysfunctional situation" between the coach and general manager A.J. Smith.

Less than a month after San Diego's NFL-best 12-2 season was wrecked in a home playoff loss to New England, Spanos cited the exodus of both coordinators and other assistants in firing Schottenheimer. The coach had a year left on his contract and will be owed more than $3 million.

"When I decided to move ahead with Marty Schottenheimer in mid-January, I did so with the expectation that the core of his fine coaching staff would remain intact," Spanos said in a statement. "Unfortunately, that did not prove to be the case, and the process of dealing with these coaching changes convinced me that we simply could not move forward with such dysfunction between our head coach and general manager."

"In short, this entire process over the last month convinced me beyond any doubt that I had to act to change this untenable situation and create an environment." The firing was first reported by ESPN.

Schottenheimer didn't immediately return messages left on his office and cell phones.

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips was hired as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, following offensive coordinator Cam Cameron and two other assistants out of town for better jobs. Although Schottenheimer said last week that change was inevitable, Smith denied the speculation, saying, "Both in the same year — Wow."

Tight ends coach Rob Chudzinski became Cleveland's offensive coordinator, and linebackers coach Greg Manusky was hired as San Francisco's defensive coordinator.

Running back coach Clarence Shelmon, who's never been a coordinator, was promoted to replace Cameron. Shelmon accepted only a one-year contract due to what had been Schottenheimer's lame-duck status.

Three days after the 24-21 playoff loss to New England, Schottenheimer declined the team's offer of a $4.5 million, one-year extension through 2008, which came with a club option $1 million buyout.

**around the dial**

**NCAA Basketball**

Kentucky at Tennessee 7 p.m., ESPN

Michigan at Michigan State 9 p.m., ESPN

**Compiled from The Observer's Wire Services**
Duke unranked after recent skid

Associated Press

Duke's Top 25 streak is over.

Saddled by its first four-game losing skid in 11 years, Duke fell out of The Associated Press poll Monday for the first time since the end of the 1995-96 season. The Blue Devils had been in the media poll for 201 straight weeks - the second and longest streak behind UCLA.


"If you do it for a long period of time, it means you've been good that long," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of his team's streak that began in the 1996-97 pre-season poll. "We never bring it up. It's a nice stat thing.

UCLA and Memphis are now tied for the longest active streak at 34 straight weeks in the Top 25.

Duke was No. 8 two weeks ago before losing in the final seconds to Virginia and Florida State. The Blue Devils lost to then-No. 5 North Carolina 79-73 on Wednesday and fell 72-60 at Maryland on Sunday for their first four-game losing streak since Jan. 3-13, 1996.

"We travel a narrow road between winning and losing," Krzyzewski said. "We were in a position to win, you have to make sure you know that. They are doing a lot of things to put themselves in a position to win.

Duke received 150 points, falling just eight short of No. 25 Alabama.

The Blue Devils will try to end their slide Wednesday against Atlantic Coast Conference leader Boston College. Duke senior guard in Tuesday's loss to Virginia (16-8, 9-2) are finally back in the poll at No. 21 after falling out in week 3.

Florida remained a unanimous No. 1 for the second straight week, garnering all 72 top spots during the week of Feb. 12.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Andy Reid takes leave from Eagles

Coach takes time to address sons' problems

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Andy Reid is facing a crisis far tougher than a quarterback controversy or a disruptive player.

The Philadelphia Eagles coach will leave the team for a month to deal with developments that have rocked his family the past two weeks.

One son tested positive for heroin, another was charged with driving under the influence, another was arrested on drug and weapons charges. The team said the leave will last until mid-March.

"He's not going to come into the office. His priorities will be his family for that period of time, but he will be available to have a couple of calls with us and collaborate and sit down with the team's leadership to make a plan."

Joe Banner
Eagles president

"It's his family's time to be at ND!!

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Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski argues a call during Duke's 72-60 loss to Maryland Sunday.

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INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS

Pound denounces IOC's reprimand

WADA head says he's not responsible to group for comments

Associated Press

LONDON — The head of the World Anti-Doping Agency said Monday the international Olympic Committee was wrong to reprimand him for criticizing Lance Armstrong last year.

"This has nothing to do with either the IOC ethics commission or the IOC board," Dick Pound told The Associated Press by telephone from Montreal. "Anything I do or say in relation to doping is done in my capacity with WADA."

"I'm responsible to WADA, not the IOC," he added.

"Everything I've done has been in accordance with instructions or approval from WADA."

The IOC chastised Pound last week for comments about the seven-time Tour de France winner, suggesting he should be "a bit careful" with his words.

A frequent critic of cycling's doping record, Pound criticized a Dutch report last year that cleared the seven-time Tour de France winner of doping allegations.

Pound said the report was prepared by a lawyer with no expertise in doping control and that WADA was considering legal action against Armstrong.

Armstrong then sent an eight-page letter to IOC president Jacques Rogge and the executive board last June accusing Pound — a senior IOC member from Canada — of "reprehensible and indefensible" conduct. Armstrong asked that Pound be forced to step down as chairman of the doping agency.

Armstrong said the IOC reprimanded him.

"All I've ever said is, 'Lance, if the analysis was right... there may be a case to answer to,'" Dick Pound

World Anti-Doping Agency

"If I don't do anything in relation to doping for the IOC," he said.

"I've never said is, 'Lance, if the analysis was right... there may be a case to answer to,'" Dick Pound

World Anti-Doping Agency

"I've ever said is, 'Lance, if the analysis was right... there may be a case to answer to.'"

"I still tell them with the greatest of respect, 'I think you've got it wrong,'" Pound said.

"I was going to wonder if the IOC is serious or not," Armstrong said.

Armstrong also appreciated some of Pound's efforts to clean up sports, but he thought the IOC had also sent Pound an important message.

"It's been a long process," Armstrong said. "Considering the IOC has heard this before, like this, it's a significant gesture and I appreciate it. I hope he learns his lesson."

The French sports newspaper l'Equipe reported in August 2004 that six of Armstrong's urine samples from the 1999 Tour de France tested positive for EPO. There was no reliable test for EPO at that time, but urine samples were preserved and analyzed later when improved testing technology was developed.

The International Cycling Union then appointed Émile Vrijman to investigate the handling of those samples by a French anti-doping lab. His report released on May 31 exonerated Armstrong "completely" of any doping infractions.

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NCAA Men's Basketball

Cardinals crush No. 7 Panthers

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A young Louisville team has improved steadily all season and is in position for a first-round bye in the Big East tournament. Still, coach Rick Pitino couldn't believe what he was hearing about the Cardinals.

"Nothing. No buzz. No hype — at least until now," David Padgett and Derrick Caracter neutralized Aaron Gray inside while Louisville's 2-3 zone defense was taking away No. 7 Pittsburgh's outside shooting, and the Cardinals took both halves to rout the Panthers 66-53 Monday night.

The Panthers (22-4, 10-2 in Big East) sustained their worst loss since moving into the Petersen Events Center in 2002, where they had been 78-7. Their worst previous defeat was 73-64 to Connecticut on Feb. 26, 2005. They hadn't lost by double figures at home since an 81-67 defeat to Georgetown on Feb. 5, 2001. This one was never close, a stunningly easy romp for Louisville (18-8, 8-4 that tightened the Big East race. The Cardinals raced to a 13-2 lead that they increased to 33-14 in the first half, partly because conference-leading Pitt had more turnovers than points for most of the half.

Pitt ended with 19 turnovers, 15 before halftime, as its Big East-born offense managed just 32 points in the first half, compared to 53 for Louisville. A long-handed Gray wasn't a factor again.

"It's been a long process," Armstrong said. "Considering the IOC has heard this before, like this, it's a significant gesture and I appreciate it. I hope he learns his lesson." The French sports newspaper l'Equipe reported in August 2004 that six of Armstrong's urine samples from the 1999 Tour de France tested positive for EPO. There was no reliable test for EPO at that time, but urine samples were preserved and analyzed later when improved testing technology was developed.

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"I didn't recognize that team," coach Jamie Dixon said, referring to how shuggishly his team played at the start. "Some of the turnovers we were committing, I didn't recognize."

What Pitino didn't recognize was the lack of attention for his Cardinals, who need to win only twice more to get to 20 wins.

"We have to play Pitt, or someone like Pitt, because everybody is talking about signatures wins and not paying attention to us," Pitino said.

"We think that when we go to DePaul and South Florida and win in the fashion we win, they're great wins, but nobody else does."

As watched TV, I realized I shouldn't coach or play anymore because we don't even get mentioned. The writers don't even mention us for the NCAs."

Pitino told his team there was only one way to get that recognition.

"I told the guys that if you want to dance (in the NCAs), you've just had Christmas come early because you have to play Pitt... and you have to beat them," Pitino said. "And that's the hard part because they are a great team."

The 6-foot-11 Padgett and 6-8 Caracter, effective together in the same game for the first time since early in the season, were too much for the 7-foot Gray to handle by himself inside. Gray drew his fourth foul with 14:06 remaining as Caracter scored inside to make it 42-27, and Gray wasn't a factor again.

"It was just a bad day. It's going to happen sometime," Gray said. "Maybe it's better it happened now rather than down the road. The true test is how we respond to this... not what happened out there. I'm still very confident in this team and this coaching staff. I don't foresee this happening again."

"So much for comparative scores. Louisville lost to Dayton and Massachusetts, teams that Pitt easily beat."

"How we played is not indicative of this team," Gray said. "But we're going to get past it. Maybe it's something we needed to show us how we good we aren't."

"Or maybe how good Louisville can be."

Padgett, who sprained a foot "Saturday against South Florida and was questionable to start, had 16 points and four blocked shots."

Caracter, a highly recruited freshman just off a six-game suspension for violating various team rules, played his second strong game in a row with eight points and four rebounds. He had 16 points and 10 rebounds in substantial playing time Saturday after Padgett was hurt.

Pitt was similarly sloppy for much of its 74-68 victory Saturday over Providence, its fifth consecutive win and 12th in 13 games, but Gray bailed them out with 22 points and seven rebounds. He couldn't do this time, finishing with 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Pitt had no success shooting long-pointers over Louisville's effective zone.

Pitt came into the game shooting a Big East-best 42.6 percent from 3-point range, but missed its first 13 shots from beyond the arc until Ronald Ramon hit one with about seven minutes remaining.
MLB

Union asks for decision reversal

Giants slugger Barry Bonds, seen reacting to a call, was one of 10 players originally investigated by federal prosecutors in 2003.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Major League Baseball Players Association asked a federal appeals court late Monday to revisit its December decision to allow investigators probing steroids in sports to use the names and urine samples of more than 100 players who tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs.

The 2-1 decision in December by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned three lower court decisions and could help authorities pinpoint the source of steroids in baseball.

Investigators seized computer files containing the test results in 2004 during raids of labs involved in MLB's testing program. The samples were collected at baseball's direction the previous year as part of a survey to gauge the prevalence of steroid use. Players and owners agreed in their labor contract that the results would be confidential, and each player was assigned a code number to be matched with his name.

Guest Diagnostics of Teterboro, N.J., one of the largest drug-testing firms in the nation, analyzed more than 1,400 urine samples from players that season. Comprehensive Drug Testing of Long Beach, Calif., coordinated the collection of specimens and compiled the data. Comprehensive joined the players in their petition to the appeals court to rehear the case with 15 judges.

If the December decision survives, the players who tested positive could be called before a grand jury and asked how they obtained their steroids.

Federal investigators originally demanded to see the 2003 results for Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield, who was recently traded to the Detroit Tigers, Jason Giambi and seven other players. When they raided the testing labs for those 10 results, investigators also seized computer files containing the test results of nearly 100 other players not named in the government's subpoena and warrants.

"If the majority's decision is allowed to stand, it will create circuit law giving the government carte blanche to use a warrant for some piece of data on a computer as the pretext for seizing the entire computer."

MLBPA

NFL

Arrington released from Giants

New York's Lavar Arrington winces in pain after tearing his ACL Oct. 23 against Dallas. The linebacker was released Monday.

Associated Press

FAR RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants released linebacker Lavar Arrington and two other starters Monday in the first major shake-up under new general manager Jerry Reese.

New York also cut linebacker Carlos Emmons and offensive tackle Luke Petitgout, both of whom were slowed by injuries over the last two seasons.

The release of Arrington ended a brief and contentious tenure with the Giants for the former Pro Bowler, who was signed last year for $49 million over seven years but suffered an Achilles injury against Dallas on Oct. 25 and played in only six games.

"Lavar's situation is unfortunate because he was just starting to really become a factor in our defense at the time of his injury," Reese said.

Reese, who last month replaced the retired Ernie Accorsi, served notice that he will not stand pat with a team that won the NFC East in 2005 but was humiliated in a first-round playoff loss to Carolina, then squandered into the playoffs last season with an 8-8 record and again lost in the first round.

"These are difficult decisions," Giants head coach Tom Coughlin said. "But as Jerry and I looked at the roster, these are decisions we felt we had to make as we start to compose our team for the upcoming season."

Combined with the retirement of running back Tiki Barber, the Giants now have additional salary-cap space to pursue free agents this offseason. Emmons had two years remaining on a five-year contract worth $16.5 million and was to make $2 million this year, and Petitgout had two years left on his contract and was due $3 million for 2007.

Arrington, whose contract was filled with incentives, was scheduled to make $900,000 next season.

Petitgout started 106 games at tackle and guard over eight seasons for the Giants, but broke his leg against Chicago on Nov. 12 and missed the Giants' final seven games. He became expendable when guard David Diehl switched to left tackle and played well in his absence.

Dumping Petitgout's contract could give the Giants a better shot at re-signing free-agent center Shaun O'Hara.

Emmons, acquired from Philadelphia in 2004, played in 36 games in three seasons but missed a total of 11 games in the last two seasons with a pectoral injury.

Calls to the agents for all three players were not immediately returned Monday evening.
Carter continued from page 20

on strong note. Notre Dame is currently sixth in the Big East standings, tied with Syracuse and Pittsburgh for a bye again with both the Mountaineers and Louisville, which is in fourth place at 8-4.

Experts at ESPN.com believe that the Big East would get six teams in and that the Irish would be slotted in the 7-10 seed range if the NCAA Tournament began today. A Big Dance bid would be the first for the Irish seniors.

But Carter said that he and his teammates are focused on more pressing matters.

“Getting there my senior year would be big since we haven’t been there before,” he said. “But that isn’t what we’re focusing on right now.”

The Irish face Providence Tuesday, Feb. 20 and Marquette Feb. 24 in games that will be tough but could also provide Notre Dame with more quality wins to impress the tournament committee.

Those games are also key in the race for a bye in the Big East tournament. Providence is just a half game behind the Irish at 5-5 and DePaul is a full game back at 5-6. Both teams would suddenly be contenders for a bye again with a win over Notre Dame.

“We’re in contention for the fourth spot,” Carter said. “We have to worry about our next few games. They’re going to be tough games.”

The Irish also have trips to conference bottom-feeders Cincinnati (10-14, 1-9) Sunday and Rutgers (10-15, 3-9) March 3, both of whom would fall into the “bad loss” category if Notre Dame were to drop a game to either one. However, both games are on the road, where the Irish are just 3-5 this year.

Carter said that hard work will help the Irish win away from the Joyce Center, which will be important at neutral sites of the Big East and NCAA Tournament.

“There’s always room for improvement,” he said. “We need to improve as a team and as individuals to achieve our goals from the beginning of the season.”

As for the teams competing with the Irish for the fourth first-round bye, the Orange have four games left before the conference tournament.

They play at South Florida Wednesday, then host Connecticut Saturday. They have a week off, then a trip to Providence, and finish with second place Georgetown.

The Mountaineers have only three games left. They also have a road game with the Friars, but they get to host Seton Hall, who is only 3-7 in conference. West Virginia finishes its season against the first place Pittsburgh, who may have clinched the Big East title or at least a bye in the tournament by the time that game is played.

Contact Chris Khoury at ckhoury@nd.edu

Banquet continued from page 20

year’s team has worked very hard to adjust to the new system he has instituted. “There are new coaches, new terms, new plays,” Shrage said. “I’m really proud of these players. They’ve worked very hard.”

Shrage, who coached at Northern Illinois and Northern Iowa before spending the last four seasons at Evansville, expressed enthusiasm for a season that is sure to include new faces in the Irish lineup.

“Isn’t it great to talk about basketball on a night when a winter storm’s coming in?” he joked.

On a more serious note, the new coach outlined the major goals that he has for his players. He stated that he wants all of his players to graduate and win a championship ring.

At the banquet, members of last year’s team received Big East Championship rings. Shrage also said he wants his players to leave with a “great feeling in their heart about Notre Dame.”

In their speeches, Leyland and Counsell touched on their experiences at many different levels of baseball. Leyland, 62, spoke about his eleven years as a coach in the minor leagues, as well as his fifteen seasons as a major league manager. Leyland, who was named the 2006 American League Manager of the Year, led the Detroit Tigers to the World Series last season after they had finished 30 games below .500 in 2005. “(The 2005 Tigers) had good players but they didn’t have a good team,” said Leyland. “It took a while to make them realize they were good.”

Leyland also said he is spoke to Irish baseball players Monday afternoon before the banquet.

“I was telling them that they’re good players but I want them to develop a confident swagger,” he said.

Counsell, who captained the Irish to within a game of the College World Series in 1992, told the audience that he was honored to be back at his alma mater. He applauded the state of the school’s baseball program, saying that it had definitely progressed in the past several years.

“What I remember about being here is how hard we worked and how we wanted Notre Dame baseball to matter,” Counsell said. “The program is obviously in great shape.”

Shrage has adopted the motto “Tradition Never Grads” for this year’s team. He repeatedly stressed his high expectations for his players, including his first Irish recruiting class.

“There’s a sense of responsibility that comes with putting on a baseball jersey at Notre Dame,” he said. “These players have it.”

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Irish pitcher Brett Graffy delivers to the plate last season. In 2006, the right-hander threw 26.2 innings while giving up 11 earned runs.

Irish pitcher Brett Graffy delivers to the plate last season. In 2006, the right-hander threw 26.2 innings while giving up 11 earned runs.

Irish pitcher Brett Graffy delivers to the plate last season. In 2006, the right-hander threw 26.2 innings while giving up 11 earned runs.
DePaul
continued from page 20
conference. The Wildcats dropped their last game against Seton Hall 56-51 in the final seconds, and they are just 3-7 on their home court. But they lost those nine games by an average of just 7.6 points, and five games were decided by 10 points or less.
"Villanova's always a tough game for us to play," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Sunday after Notre Dame's win over DePaul.
The last six regular-season meetings between the teams have been decided by an average of 2.8 points per game. Notre Dame leads the overall series 13-8, but Villanova has won five of the last seven games.
McGraw was pleased with the Irish play against DePaul, but felt improvement was needed.
"I think we got to continue to work on our defense," she said.
"We gave up 70 points tonight, and I don't know how many they scored in the last two minutes but it was way too many.
Recently, the Irish have greatly improved other facets of their game. Notre Dame out-rebounded its opponents 41 to 29.7 in the past three games, and it held Louisville, the top rebounding team in the Big East, to a season-low 29 boards.
"We're doing a much better job on the boards and we're doing a good job executing the offense," McGraw said.
Notre Dame's offense under Byrnes has shifted against DePaul, featuring a higher dose of freshmen guard Ashley Barlow in place of center Melissa D'Amico to offset the Blue Demons' smaller lineup.
"This a group that we can play with at times during the game whether we start them or not," McGraw said. "They've been pretty effective so far.
McGraw also acknowledged the need for stronger inside play.
"I think we need the post," she said. "We need the post scoring and we've got to be able to score on the block.
Villanova's frontcourt players average in all but one area of statistics. They've scored 13.8 points per game. Forward Stacie Witman averaged 17.5 points in her last six games and scored a career-high 26 points against Seton Hall. Witman has averaged 12 points per game on the season, up from four the previous year.
Conventionally, the Irish play strong in February. The team is 68-17 in the month since joining the Big East in 1995.
With an Irish win and losses from both South Florida and Pittsburgh, Notre Dame could move into a tie for third instead of fifth in the Big East standings with five games to go before the tournament.
"Now we've got to win some games on the road," McGraw said. "It's a tough stretch.
Contact Bill Brink at brink@nd.edu

Surge
continued from page 20
and South Florida at 7-4. But in the top-heavy conference, the Irish sit only 1-8 against the Cardinals, Marquette and Rutgers, all of which are in a three-way tie for second.
"That's why every game is so important to keep our standing," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.
"And to be picked to finish eleventh and still have a chance at finishing second this late in the year I think talks about the resilience of this team.
After its toughest stretch of the season Jan. 23-31 — when it played three ranked teams and got steamrolled by all of them — Notre Dame has a relatively easy schedule to finish out its regular season.
The Irish begin this stretch tonight against Big East-bottom feeder Villanova. The Wildcats are 1-10 in the conference and have not won a game since beating the Mountaineers 70-64 Jan. 6. Villanova has lost its last nine games by an average of 7.8 points to stay cement their place in the Big East basement.
After the Wildcats, the Irish will travel to Providence Saturday for a game against the ninth-place Friars. Providence ended its 10-game losing streak Saturday with a 93-77 win at St. John's for only its third Big East win this season.
Notre Dame will be playing some of the worst teams in the conference, but McGraw is not looking past either opponent.
"Now we've got to win some games on the road and it's going to be a tough stretch for us," McGraw said. "Villanova is always a tough game for us to play and is playing everyday close.
Even with a strong season so far, the Irish still have some work to do to ensure a good seeding in the NCAA Tournament.
The most pressing issue for the Irish is to win their three remaining road games against Villanova, Providence and DePaul. Feb. 26. Notre Dame is only 3-7 on the road, and none of its road wins are against a ranked team. The Irish will have to prove they can win away from the Joyce Center to impress the selection committee.
Notre Dame will also have to beat No. 23 Rutgers at home Feb. 24 to round out its home schedule. The Irish have seen success in the Joyce Center, including wins over Louisville, No. 18 Bowling Green and No. 16 Purdue, and their only loss came to Indiana Dec. 3.
But another big win over a ranked opponent would do nothing but help the Irish cause.
"It's important to take care of your home court when the NCAA selection committee starts looking at where they're going to seed us," McGraw said. "It's important to know that we've been able to do the job at home."
With seven conference wins and just three games remaining in the Big East, the Irish are almost a lock to make the NCAA Tournament. But, if it can round out its schedule with three road wins and a win over an unranked team, Notre Dame could be seeded as high as seventh come March.
Not bad for a team originally projected to barely make the Big East tournament.
But before the Irish can realize any pipe dreams about the tournament, they have to stay focused on the game at hand and take care of business tonight in Philadelphia.
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@nd.edu

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ICE DANCING

Irish center Kevin Deeth prances around Nebraska-Omaha defender Dan Charleston during Notre Dame's 4-2 win Feb. 9.
CROISSANT WORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM

BLANK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

OMITTED BIBLE PASSAGES

JESUS CURES ON THE SABBATH (Luke 15:11)

KALEIDOSCOPEMcDANIELS

LIAM MORAN

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIOKH

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Ricci, 37; Amma Rani, 52; Joanna Kerns, 54; Judy Blume, 69

Happy Birthday! This is your year to do for others what will get you ahead this year. Your actions will impress your most critical observer. This will be a year to make drastic changes but it is too soon to support your current position, so to succeed in important relationships and to form good connections with like-minded individuals you must challenge what you believe and take the initiative to be willing to accept help when you need it. Your numbers are 1, 11, 19, 21, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You could use a vacation or a change of scenery. If you can't afford to take a trip, call your route for a real talking to. In this period of good experience you could do a lot for a new hobby, vacation or circle of friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may try to convince you to spend money. If you want to be rich, you must be your own advisor of expense. You need to develop a budget that you can follow. If you can't afford to take a trip, switch your routine a bit. Talk to people with similar tastes. You will have a new hobby or circle of friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone you consider to be knowledgeable will give you some new financial ideas. Experience could lead you to a new hobby, vocation or circle of friends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone who is emotionally, outgoing and totally agreeable may be a good choice. You can please some but you can't please everyone.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have a hectic schedule. You may be a bit wishy-washy. It's what you do to help others that will get you ahead this year. networking and socializing with people on the same path will give you some great ideas.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your relationships and to form good connections with like-minded individuals you must challenge what you believe and take the initiative to be willing to accept help when you need it. Your numbers are 1, 11, 19, 21, 33, 37

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should be able to make things happen if you aren't busy, trying to get others to do things for you. Put an all-out effort. A meeting with someone you consider to be knowledgeable will give you some new financial ideas.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have the discipline to pull off a deal that you've been waiting to launch for some time now. Don't let anyone stand in your way. Emotional matters must not be allowed to interfere in your progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reevaluate your motives and go about your business with integrity. Being undependable will only come back to haunt you. A love connection is likely to ease your spirit. Don't stagnate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Not everything will be out in the open. Don't get taken for granted by someone playing a good guy role. Do your research and make your decision based on what you believe. Anger will not solve any problems.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can affect people's decisions if you paint an optimistic picture. Letting your friends pay for a vacation can affect your financial future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Bail, cash in and don't get emotional. Socializing with people on the same path will give you some great ideas.

Happy Birthday: You're inspired and ready, willing and able to act fast. You are great, worldly and a humanitarian. You are emotive, outgoing and totally unpredictable.

Eugenias Web site: eugeniasguide.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER Published Monday through Friday. The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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Clawing Back

Notre Dame looks to halt road troubles in Philadelphia tonight

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

The Irish recovered from a three-game losing streak on the road by winning their last three home games, including Sunday’s victory over DePaul. They will try to put an end to their away-game troubles tonight at Villanova.

Notre Dame’s offense will be led by guard Charee Allen, who this week was named Big East Player of the Week for her play against Louisville and DePaul. Allen averaged 23 points and 10 rebounds per game in those two games while shooting 51.5 percent from field-goal range.

By Jay Fitzpatrick
Sports Writer

Allen, who did not play last year, was also named Big East Player of the Week for her play against Louisville and DePaul.

Notre Dame’s season back on track.

The Irish are tied for fifth in the Big East with Pittsburgh.

Questions abound at season-opening banquet

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Despite the departure of the head coach who guided Notre Dame to Big East titles in each of the past five years, as well as 10 letterwinners from last season’s team, first-year Irish coach Dave Schrage expressed high hopes for his new squad at the sixth-annual “Opening Night Dinner” in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse Monday night.

“I’ve only been here seven months but I’m honored to be your coach,” he said.

Schrage, who led Evansville to the Missouri Valley Conference A-43-22 record last season, also declared that he has “got the Notre Dame spirit.”

Schrage, whose wife Jody passed away this January, introduced his two daughters to the crowd.

“I want to thank you all publicly for the support you’ve given us,” he said. “When they say Notre Dame’s a real community, they really mean it.”

Schrage also said that this season was on the verge of collapse.

Carter focuses on one goal

Irish senior has drive to play in NCAAs before leaving ND

By CHRIS KHOREY
Assistant Sports Editor

Notre Dame guard Russell Carter has just one goal for the last five regular-season games of his senior year — “Five wins.”

Carter and the Irish are riding a two game losing streak, which dropped them to 6-5 in the Big East and 18-6 overall.

Carter, who is averaging 17.3 points per game to lead the team, has had a tough year. He has improved his scoring average by almost six points per game and is being looked at by NBA teams.

But none of that will matter to him if the Irish do not finish this season with a winning streak.

Irish forward Rob Kurz slams the ball home during Notre Dame’s 64-55 win over DePaul Feb. 8.

Irish forward Kurz slams the ball home during Notre Dame’s 64-55 win over DePaul Feb. 8.