South Bend job market in decline

University takes spot as top area employer

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Indiana’s continued loss of jobs in the first months of 2007 increases Notre Dame’s role as a major employer in the South Bend area, a finance professor said.

According to figures released March 30 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Indiana lost 7,400 jobs in February 2007 after being one of only three states in 2006 to report a net loss in jobs — approximately 12,700.

Ohio was the only state to report a larger job loss in February, with a decline of 9,700.

Finance professor Jeffrey Bergstrand said the loss of jobs is “part of the overall trend” in many Midwest states because of the decline in the American manufacturing industry. Most of the jobs lost in Indiana came from the state’s manufacturing and construction sectors, which have been struggling.

Bergstrand said what is happening in Indiana “reflects a global trend” as workers move from production-related occupations to service-related jobs.

This trend is affecting not only Indiana as a whole but also the immediate South Bend economy, he said.

“The year’s end manufacturing data is very negative,” Bergstrand said. “But that has to be put in the context of the overall national picture.”

ND offers dining, religious options for Easter break

Students remain on campus to avoid hassle

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

With the extended Easter weekend this year, students and faculty members are preparing for the holiday break.

Students traveling home for the weekend will be flocking to the South Bend Regional Airport, housing to Chicago airports and loading up the trunks of their cars for the trip home. And for those who are staying on campus, the University provides a number of ways to celebrate Easter.

Some students are glad to be heading home for the holiday break — including freshman Mary Kusek, who will be traveling to Fond du Lac, Wis., to spend the Easter weekend with her family.

“I’m excited to be going home because Easter is the one holiday where my whole extended family gets together,” Kusek said.

But with only two days off from school, traveling home is often time-consuming or expensive for students. Angela Amido, a freshman from Memphis, said she is staying on campus to avoid the hassle of making the trip home.

“I think that Easter at Notre Dame would be a hassle and prayer service.

South Bend Regional Airport

Not all students will be celebrating Holy Week by going to the Basilica Sunday for Easter Mass, but many who stay on campus will be taking advantage of the spiritual opportunities Notre Dame offers for the holiday.

Catholics have a “duty” to attend Mass on Easter, said theology professor Father Paul Kollman. If possible, he said, Communion should also be received during the Easter season — the obligation to receive Communion once a year is known as the “Easter duty.”

Communion services are also encouraged to receive the sacrament of reconciliation before Easter, although this is not required "unless one is in a state of mortal sin," Kollman cautioned, however, against viewing the Sacrament as a "legalistic term."

"The liturgies of Holy Week are beautiful, and help prepare us for celebrating the fullness of the risen Christ on Saturday," Kollman said.

St. Mary’s Sisters

Basilica celebrates Holy Week traditions

Students carry a cross Tuesday during a campus-wide Stations of the Cross.

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

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INSIDE COLUMN
No frills, no thrills

Every heard of the phrase "you get what you pay for"? It's a statement applicable to anything and everything, especially nowadays in the context of air travel.

Recall the in-flight experience of yesteryear, when those who could afford flying received luxurious service in return. You've seen the well-groomed passengers spread out in reclining seats on TV Land, waisted on by beautiful stewardesses. In those days of black-and-white television, flying was so classy that piano bars were on longer seen.

And about those fares — you probably jumped at the offer of a $100 one way to New York, Great, just get ready to be squeezed in a middle seat for a six-hour red-eye flight. Want the afternoon flight instead, or a window-side seat? That's cool — just be prepared to cough up an additional $50 to $100. The strike continues, even with your feet still on the ground. Companies like Spirit Airlines now charge passengers $10 for each checked bag up to two bags and $100 for a third. Tardiness is also a problem. A USA Today study concluded that the overall performance of U.S. airlines declined for the third consecutive year in 2006. One in every three flights was delayed.

In earnest, the airlines really can't afford to be trucking your butt cross country for less than $200 a seat. It's called "the stretching effect." Low markups cause financial woes and wage reductions, which spill over to poison labor relations. Poor morale among employees causes luggage mishandling, cancelled flights and bumped passengers. The airlines that committed themselves on the receiving end, wounding or if damaged fares was worth the suffering.

But any savvy passenger can still work the system. The key is to arrive at the airport to change your seat assignment at no extra cost. Travel light to spare your personal items — and your wallet — from check-in fees. If your bag is lost or damaged, demand compensation to buy new items or have the airline replace your bag.

Lastly, if your flight is overbooked and you can surrender your seat for a travel voucher, do. A standby passenger once coveted my seat so badly he proposed $100 in cash if I relinquished it to him. Unfortunately, my mood declined the offer for me, convinced that it was drug money. Drug money or not, that's ample cash to purchase an upgrade.

Another note to self: Want flagship service? Travel separately from Mom.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Rohan Anand at ranan@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS
Due to a reporting error, in the article "City steps slide with 7-3 victory" in the April 4 edition of The Observer, Noreen Danke's byline Smith was incorrectly called Matt Smith. The Observer regrets this error.

The Observer • PAGE 2

Thursday, April 5, 2007

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE EASTER TREAT?
"Easter hunting because they lay Easter eggs." — Mark Sullivan, sophomore
"Solid milk chocolate Easter bunnies." — Maureen Clark, sophomore
"Chocolate eggs because they lay chocolate bunnies." — Matthew Zell, sophomore
"I like Peeps, because you only live once." — Chris Esber, sophomore
"Anything but Peeps." — Allison Hickey, sophomore
"Hollow chocolate Easter bunnies — but they have to be hollow." — Brian Mahon, sophomore

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Members of Notre Dame students for Environmental Action (NDSEA) Erin Burns, left, and Bill Ehrlich put together signs Wednesday to campaign against excessive energy use and carbon dioxide emissions for Earth Week.

OFFBEAT
Couple fights to name baby 'Metallica'
STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Metallica may be a cool name for a heavy metal band, but a Swedish couple is struggling to convince officials it is also suitable for a baby girl.

Michael and Karolina Tomaro are locked in a court battle with Swedish authorities, which rejected their application to name their six-month-old child after the legendary rock band.

"It suits her," Karolina Tomaro, 27, said Tuesday of the name. "She's decisive and she knows what she wants." Although little Metallica has already been baptized, the Swedish National Tax Board refused to register the name, saying it was associ­ated with both the rock group and the word "metal." Tomaro handling the case also called the name "ugly."

Chicago suit charges 'negligent dancing'
CHICAGO — A woman is suing her dance partner, claiming he dropped her on her head after flipping her into the air at an office party.

Lacey Hindman, 22, was a victim of "negligent dancing," says her lawyer, David M. Baum. In the suit, Hindman claims that during a party at a Chicago bar and restaurant in April 2006, David Prange grabbed her by the forearm and tossed her in the air, and then she crashed to the wood floor. Hindman said in the suit, filed in Cook County Circuit Court, that she suffered a fractured skull and brain injuries. She is seeking damages for medical bills and lost wages for time missed from work.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

The Lord's Supper Mass will be held today at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Tenenbaums service will be held tonight at 11 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play against Duke University today at 4 p.m. in the Dowraugh Stadium.

Classes will not be held Friday through Monday in observance of the Easter holiday. Classes will resume Tuesday.

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion will be held at 3 p.m. Friday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Ben Har will be shown as a silent film with piano accompaniment by Dave Brazen on Friday at 7 p.m. in O'PAC's Browning Cinema. The cost is $3 for students.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play against the University of California Saturday at 1 p.m. in Moose Krause Stadium.

The Paschal Vigil Mass to celebrate the Lord's passion will be held at 9 p.m. Saturday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Easter Mass will be held at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon Sunday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
Protest continued from page 1

peace.

"As he said in his speech against the Vietnam War, 'There comes a time when silence is betrayal,'" Angulo said of King.

NDPF member Casey Stanton, a senior, addressed the obligations of Christians concerned about the war.

"We call ourselves followers of Christ, but our actions in the world show we are more like a Judas," she said. "We should be more concerned about our brothers and sisters — innocent Iraqis ... and American soldiers."

Angulo said Peace Fellowship members were "inspired to hold the rally by the Catholic Worker demonstration in front of the Main Building March 26, during which several members of the Catholic Worker movement received arrest tickets by the Notre Dame Security Police.

"They came to campus to raise awareness about peace, but (peace activists are) already on campus," Angulo said. "We felt that we needed to do more to educate people at Notre Dame."

The decision to stage an event which came after the Progressive Student Alliance's "Week of Action" in March — was also motivated by the strong turnout at the March 19 lecture by two Marine veterans on the Iraq war.

"After 170 people came to see the veterans, we realized there was a desire on campus to have more dialogue about what's going on in our country and in Iraq," Angulo said.

Following Wednesday's rally, Angulo said the Peace Fellowship plans to continue its anti-war activism through "professors to speak out against the war and have more dialogue" with the Reserve Officers' Training Corps.

The Peace Fellowship has held several forums with ROTC cadets in the past. The rally was disturbed at one point by hecklers who called the participants "hippies" and told them to "go get high," but the shouts did not halt the proceedings.

Contact John-Paul Witt at jpwitt@nd.edu

Angulo said the veterans, we realized there

News correspondent to speak at lecture

Special to The Observer

Noted broadcast news correspondent and anchor Judy Woodruff will deliver the 2007 Red Smith Lecture in Journalism at 7:30 p.m. April 12 in the Cares Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library at the University of Notre Dame.

Woodruff, senior correspondent for "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS, will examine the role of reporters in a talk titled "Are Journalists Obsolete?" The event is free and open to the public.

Earlier this year, Woodruff returned to "The NewsHour," where she reports from across the United States, conducted studio interviews and serves as substitute anchor. From 1993 until 2005 she anchored the daily program "Inside Politics" on PBS. Prior to joining CNN, Woodruff was White House correspondent for NBC News and served as chief Washington correspondent for "The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour" on PBS.

Woodruff has served as a visiting fellow at Duke University, of which she is a graduate, and Harvard University. Her interest in the political views of young people resulted in the record of PBS documentary "Generation Next: Speak Up. Be Heard." She is currently working on a book, "Generation Next" documetary, which will be broadcast later this year.

Woodruff is the recipient of many journalism honors, including the 2002 Edward R. Murrow Award for continuing coverage of the Sept. 11 ter­ rorist attacks and the 1997 News and Documentary Emmy Award for outstanding instant coverage of the Centennial Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta. In 1995 she won the CableACE award for Best Newscaster and in 1994 she was named the inaugural recipient of the National Women's Hall of Fame President's 21st Century Award.

The Red Smith Lecture in Journalism was established in 1983 to honor the sportswriter and 1927 Notre Dame gradu­ ate Walter W. "Red" Smith, who won the Pulitzer Prize for distinguished criticism in 1976. At the time of his death in 1982, Smith was a column­ istic for The New York Times.

The Smith Lectureship seeks to foster good writing and to recognize high journalistic standards. It is administered by Notre Dame's John W. Gallivan Program in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy. Previous Red Smith Lecturers include James Reston, James J. Kilpatrick, Art Buchwald, Charles Kuralt, Georgie Anne Geyer, Ted Koppel, Jim Lehrer and Frank McCourt.

The series is made possible by a gift from John and Susan McMeel and Universal Press Syndicate. The series is made possible by a gift from John and Susan McMeel and Universal Press Syndicate. A South Bend native and 1957 Notre Dame graduate, John McMeel is chairman of Andrews McMeel Universal, the parent company of Universal Press Syndicate. He is a member of the advisory council for Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters and a member of the advisory committee of the Gallivan Program.

Universal Press Syndicate, which is based in Kansas City, Mo., will publish Woodruff's lecture and distribute it to several thousand journalists and educators.
Faith
continued from page 1
when we receive new mem­
ers into the Church through
Baptism during the Easter
Vigil," he said.
Brett Perkins, Campus
Ministry director of
Protestant student resource
students, said Protestants are extend­
ed an official invitation to
join the Notre Dame commu­
nity to celebrate Easter, but
the efforts to include these
students are not extraordi­
nary.
"Campus Ministry doesn’t
focus on being interdenomi­
national this week because
it’s so special for the Catholic
faith," Perkins said.

Easter
continued from page 1
really nice experience," Amido said.
For those who are staying,
North and South Dining Halls
will remain open for the dura­
tion of the break, though with a
modified schedule. As they
have done for all Fridays in Lent,
both will serve a non­
meat cold buffet Good
Friday, while South Dining Hall
will offer a special Easter buffet
Sunday from noon until 4 p.m.,
complete with a traditional
roasted lamb, hors d’oeuvres
and a variety of desserts.
The restaurants in LaFortune
will remain open for a small
portion of the break. Burger
King and Sharro will be closed on
Friday, Saturday and
Sunday, and Starbucks will be
closed on Saturday and
Sunday. The Huddle Mart
and Subway will be closed only
on Sunday.
The Hesburgh Library will
stay open for those students
looking to get some work done
over the holiday weekend. It
will keep its traditional hours
on Friday and Saturday, but
will be closed entirely on Sunday.
The Basilica of the Sacred
Heart, the Hesburgh Library
and other religious buildings
will celebrate Holy Week. A cele­
bration of the Last Supper will
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Basilica at 3 p.m., followed
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On Holy Saturday, the Great
Paschal Vigil will be held at 9
p.m., and the week culminates
with Easter Sunday Masses at
5 a.m., 10 a.m., noon and 9
p.m.
Contact Katie Peralta at
kveralta@nd.edu

Economy
continued from page 1
facturing was dominant (in
the South Bend economy). A
minority was employed in
service related industries," Bergstrand said. "There has been a lot of growth in terms
of financial services as well as
growth of jobs in health
services, he said.
Bend has been a regional
center for health services,
"really nice experience," Amido said.
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Protestant students attend
services during the Triduum
- Holy Thursday, Good
Friday and Easter Sunday —
days when the Church
reflects on the Last Supper, and the
Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ.
"Protestant students will
attend Mass, but are more
interested in non­
Eucharistic services like
Stations of the Cross on Good
Friday or the office of
Tenebrae, night prayer
celebrated at 11 p.m. on Holy
Thursday," Perkins said.
No dorm liturgies will be
offered during Holy Week, in
part to foster community
among all students, Perkins said.
Protestant and Orthodox
students who wish to attend a
local Protestant church for
Easter can find a ride through Campus Ministry
on an individual basis, Perkins said.
All students who do not go
home for Easter are encouraged to
attend services in the
Basilica on Good Friday and
Easter. "I’ll go on
Holy Thursday, but I have to take
practice MCAT," she said. "I don’t mind
having to go to the Basilica —
I enjoy being part of the
greater ND community." Some
students prefer to celebrate
Easter at home, such as sophomore
Jonathan Poelhuis, an evangelical non­
denominational Protestant.
"I think we have to
attend non­
Catholic services, because
we are not Catholic," he said.
"I am an individualist,
and I don’t like to go to
Mass. I usually worship at
home," she said.

Easter
continued from page 1
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Contact Katie Peralta at
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A Progressive Agenda for Mexico
6:00 pm - Tuesday, April 10th
Hesburgh Center Auditorium

Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas Solórzano
Former Head of Government, Federal District, Mexico
Founding Member, Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD)

Kellogg Institute
Cosponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies (ILS)

Get a news tip? E-mail obsnews@nd.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pelosi meets with Syrian leader

DAMASCUS — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi chatted with the White House on Middle East policy Wednesday, meeting with Syria’s leader and insisting “the road to Damascus is a road to peace.”

That brought a sharp attack from the Bush administration, which has rejected direct talks with Damascus until it changes its ways.

Washington accuses Syria of backing Hamas and Hezbollah, two groups it deems terrorist organizations. It also says Syria is fueling Iraq’s violence by allowing Sunni insurgents to operate from Lebanon to threaten the American-backed government.

Iraqi leaders rejected direct talks with Syria since the Bush administration announced the release of 15 captive British sailors Wednesday and then gleefully gobbling up the crew’s thanks and handshakes in what he called an Easter gift.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair expressed “profound relief” over the peaceful end to the 13-day crisis. “Throughout we have taken the right approach — firm but calm; not negotiating, but not confronting either,” Blair said in London, adding a message to the Iranian people that “we bear you no ill will.”

The announcement in Tehran was a breakthrough in a crisis that had escalated over nearly two weeks, raising oil prices and fears of military conflict in the volatile Middle East region.

The move to release the sailors suggested that Iran’s hard-line leadership decided it had shown its strength but did not want to push the standoff too far.

Iran did not get the main thing it sought — a public apology for entering Iraqi waters. Britain, which said its crew was in Iraqi waters when seized, insisted it never offered a quid pro quo, either, instead relying on quiet diplomacy.

Syria, Iran’s close ally, said it played a role in winning the release. Syria exercised a sort of quid pro quo to solve this problem and encourage dialogue between the two forces, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said in Damascus.

The announcement of the release came hours after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi met with President Bashar Assad in Damascus, trying to show that a U.S.-Syrian dialogue with the Bush administration — which rejected it by the White House on Wednesday, meeting with Syria’s leader and insisting “the road to Damascus is a road to peace.”

U.S. terrorist sees lighter sentence

S conflict between the two forces, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said in Damascus.

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BRUSSELS — Scientists and diplomats from more than 120 countries debated the urgency of changes in the Earth's climate Wednesday as they tried to finalize a report on global warming that will guide policymakers for decades to come.

In closed-door meetings, the delegates argued over revisions to a five-page draft text, in one case making changes to highlight how global warming will reduce staple crops in countries such as China and India, where millions of people could go hungry.

The conference is due to release the report by Friday. The text is a synopsis of a more than 1,100-page assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, with contributions by more than 1,000 climate experts, on the impact of global warming and the vulnerabilities of economies, ecosystems and human health.

It will be presented at a Group of Eight leaders summit in June in Germany, during which the United Nations will press President Bush to sign on to international talks to cut emissions.

The report also will be the basis for a conference in December in Indonesia to set an international framework for controlling the emissions of carbon dioxide after 2012, the expiry date of the Kyoto Protocol, which mandates emissions curbs for industrial countries.

The United States, which has refused to coordinate action to curb greenhouse gas emissions with other countries, was playing a low-key role in Brussels so far, said delegates on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Delegates said the talks were going slowly, with disputes over the level of confidence attached to the statements. Some countries wanted the wording either toned down or the level of certainty reduced, delegates said.

The issue was handed to a smaller “contact group” to resolve.

“We have made too little progress so far,” said Hans Verolme of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature, who is attending the sessions. “We want to make sure that what comes out in the end is crisp, well structured and understandable to the layman.”

R.T.M. Sutarmihardja, a delegate from Indonesia, said one difficulty was juggling the interests of each country in weighing the impact of climate change.

“If we want to include everything, we would need a bigger conference,” he told The Associated Press outside the conference room.

The report stresses that climate changes will have a more devastating impact on poor countries — and poorer citizens within those countries — because they are less capable of adapting to shifts in weather patterns.

Many of the regions expected to be most affected already suffer for severe water shortages and hunger, which will only get worse, the final report is to say, while some parts of North America and Europe will benefit in the short-term from milder winters and longer growing seasons.

The text is the second of four reports by the climate change panel. The first, issued in February, updated the science of climate change, concluding with near certainty that global warming is caused by human behavior.

World leaders discuss global climate change

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Glocksen latest to kiss ‘Idol’ stage goodbye

NEW YORK — Gina Glocksen, who had her share of good and bad “American Idol” moments, kissed the show goodbye Wednesday, becoming the latest casualty in viewer voting.

The exit of Glocksen, 22, of Naperville, Ill., trimmed the top four to three and set the stage for Monday’s program.

Judge Randy Jackson said on Tuesday’s program that Glocksen — the show’s resident rocker girl, with her red highlights and all-black outfit — gave a “nice, controlled performance” of the classic song “Smile.”

His colleague Simon Cowell, who has griped that Glocksen was not in the same league as other finalists, sported a frown.

Glocksen let out a sob when she heard the result but managed to sing through her tears while performing on “Idol” for the last time.

Haley Scarnato and Phil Stacey had the next-lowest vote tallies in the phone balloting, which drew about 33 million calls and text messages.

Scarnato, 24, of San Antonio, is not opposed to showing a little skin on “Idol.” Though Cowell derided her take on “Ain’t Misbehavin’” as a bit “pageant-y,” he applauded her “nude legs.”

Cowell said Stacey’s performance of “Night and Day” was too dark and dreary, while Tony Bennett — this week’s celebrity guest coach — heaped praise on the 29-year-old Floridian, calling him one of the best singers he’s heard.

Wednesday’s program also featured a performance by Michael Bublé, who sang “Call Me Irresponsible.”

Among this week’s survivors were favorites Melinda Doolittle, LaKisha Jones and Jordin Sparks. Sanjaya Malakar — the singer who won Kimbo’s sympathy but also got the judges’ favorite but still managed to rack up viewer votes — also made it through.

In its sixth season, “American Idol” continues to rule the ratings. It has attracted 26 million to 37 million viewers per telecast this season.

Have a happy Easter!
IN BRIEF

NM residents vote on space attraction

UPHAM, N.M. — Billionaire Richard Branson looks at a bleak and featureless expanse of the New Mexico desert and sees the perfect spot on which to build the future — a $198 million launch complex that would blast paying tourists into space.

Whether enough folks around here share his vision remains to be seen.

Spaceport America, as sketched out by Branson, would be funded by $198 million in state, local and federal money. The first rocket flights would take place in 2009 and would initially be suborbital trips that would offer five minutes of weightlessness at about $200,000 per person. Eventually, the spaceport could offer trips into orbit and beyond.

But in poor southern New Mexico's ranching country, some say they have no intention of paying for such adventures.

Branson has said he chose the southern New Mexico desert as a launch site because of the weather, the large expanse of open desert and the support of the state.

Airline business to pick up profits

SINGAPORE — After six years of losing money, the global airline business is expected to be profitable in 2007, a top aviation official said Wednesday, and Asia will spearhead the industry's future growth.

By 2010, Asia will become the world's largest aviation market, accounting for one-third of the world's air traffic, said Giovanni Bisignani, the International Air Transport Association's director general and chief executive.

"Aviation is the world's most exciting industry and Asia is the region that is going to drive it forward," Bisignani said in a lecture. "Asia's growing importance is clearly defining a new leadership role in all aspects of the industry."

Bisignani said the Geneva-based IATA, the governing body that regulates international air travel, respects the global airlines industry to make a combined net profit of $3.8 billion this year.

The industry had suffered six years of losses, amounting to more than $40 billion over that time, as airlines were hit a lull in travel after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, high jet fuel prices and health scares like SARS.

Companies pursue new approach

EMC's "Mod Squad" seeks to inform struggling borrowers, not foreclose on homes

NEW YORK — As home foreclosures mount, mortgage companies are knocking on doors, sending letters and making phone calls with a simple message for struggling homeowners: They'd rather modify your loan than foreclose.

EMC Mortgage Corp., which has a $7 billion loan portfolio that includes subprime loans made to homeowners with weak credit, this week launched a 30-person team it calls "the Mod Squad."

Members will spend an unlimited time on the phone with troubled borrowers, sorting through their bills to compute a workable monthly payment. In an industry that often rewards workers for getting the borrowers out of the office quickly, the team is preparing to speak to just three people a day.

"You can't just run this like a call center; it needs to be run like a counseling center," said John Vella, president and CEO of EMC. Right now, $2.14 billion in mortgages, 27 percent of EMC's portfolio, is in default, up from 1.93 percent a year ago.

Lenders have long modified loans for homeowners facing job loss, illness, divorce or a death in the family. But with many bor­ rowers across the country struggling to keep up with mortgage payments, mort­ gage companies increasingly are promising anyone who's having trouble mak­ ing payments for any rea­ son to give them a call.

Critics say lenders made loans to borrowers who weren't creditworthy with terms that would be impossible for them to meet. Whether the current wave of workouts will meet the expectations of homeowners with weak credit — and delay bad loans hitting lenders' books — is an open ques­ tion.

Regulators will be watching to see how many are successful, said Susan Wachter, a professor of real estate and finance at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

The scant public infor­ mation on modifications makes evaluation tricky, said Thomas Lawler. The former chief economist at Fannie Mae now runs his own consulting business, Lawler Economic & Housing Consulting, in Vienna, Va.

Loose lending standards followed by lax modifica­ tions can merely delay a problem, Lawler said. He pointed to the raft of mod­ ifications done in the man­ ufactured housing busi­ ness in the mid 1990's, when easy credit led to a wave of defaults and repossessions.

"If people had known what the servicers were doing, red flags would have been raised, but by the time people knew what was going on, it was too late," he said.

Advocates say that half the people in foreclosure never talk to their banker before losing their house, and many could rework their loans if they only got help.

"It's tragic," said Colleen Hernandez, president of the nonprofit Home Ownership Preservation Foundation. "We have the capacity to help a whole lot more people.

Calls to her group have picked up markedly. Its 24-hour hotline, (888) 995-4673, is getting 300 calls a day, from 75 daily in the first quarter of 2006.

Bridgestone awaits USW ratification

NASHVILLE — The United Steelworkers union said Wednesday that it has reached a tentative con­ tract agreement with tiremaker Bridgestone Firestone North America, covering workers at the company's six U.S. plants, including those in Indiana.

The union said it wanted to brief its members on the agreement reached Tuesday night and did not disclose terms of the deal in a news release.

"The tentative agreement and any con­ tract proposals follow the pattern established in the new labor contract and Goodyear contracts," said USW Executive Vice President Ron Hoefer of the Steelworkers Rubber and Plastic Industry Conference.

The union said that workers at the six plants will vote on the contracts on April 25. If the contracts are approved, they will expire on July 18, 2009.

The plants include Akron, Ohio; Nobleville, Ind.; Des Moines, Iowa; Russellville, Ark.; La Vergne, Tenn., and Oklahoma City.

Workers at the Warren County, Ohio, and Bridgestone, Ill., plants are considering individual contract offers that cover workers there.

Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. workers at 12 plants in 10 states ended a three-month strike in December by approving a three-year agreement covering 14,000 employees. The deal included plans to close a Texas tire factory and creates a $1 billion health care fund for retirees.

Goodyear said the pact will help reduce its costs by $610 million over three years and $300 million a year thereafter.

After Goodyear settled its contract with USW, Bridgestone went back to negotiating with the union in January, according to Bridgestone spokesman Dan MacDonald.

Goodyear is third among the world's biggest tiremakers after Japan's Bridgestone Corp. and France's Group Michelin.

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, a subsidiary of Bridgestone Corp., is based in Nashville, Tenn.

The company said in a released statement that "it's been our goal throughout this process to achieve contracts that are in the best interests of both parties and allow our compa­ nies to participate successfully in a fiercely competitive market.”

"We now look forward to the union membership's ratification vote, a process which will likely take several days," the statement said.
ZIMBABWE

National media prints threat on Briton's life

A normally busy road in Harare is quiet on the second day of a national strike Wednesday in Zimbabwe's capital.

Associated Press

HARARE — Zimbabwe's state-run newspaper appeared to threaten a British diplomat it accused of supporting government opponents on Tuesday, suggesting on its front page that she could be welcomed home "in a body bag" if she persisted.

Britain immediately summoned the Zimbabwean ambassador in London to explain the article in the Herald, calling the threats "shocking and absolutely unacceptable."

Tensions in Zimbabwe have been high since police violently broke up a prayer meeting last month, detaining and severely beating the country's most prominent opposition leader and other members of the Movement for Democratic Change. President Robert Mugabe has warned his top associates don't hurt most Zimbabweans or they meddle in local politics.

Trucks of riot police drove through Zimbabwe's capital and helicopters flew overhead Tuesday on the first day of a national strike to protest deepening economic hardships blamed on Mugabe's government.

On Tuesday, the Herald newspaper made what seemed like a death threat against British Embassy political officer Gillian Dare, calling her "the purse holder and financier of an alleged terror campaign by the Movement for Democratic Change."

"It will be a pity for her family to welcome her home at Heathrow Airport in a body bag just like some of her colleagues from Iraq and Afghanistan," said an article on the newspaper's front page.

Dare, "labeled in some sections of the media as a British spy, could one day be caught in the crossfire as she plays night nurse to arrested MDC local normals," the newspaper said.

A British Foreign Office spokeswoman on Tuesday that "the threat 'shocking and absolutely unacceptable' and said Zimbabwe's ambassador was called to a meeting in London with Permanent Undersecretary Peter Ricketts, who "emphasized that we expect Zimbabwe to offer protection to our diplomats."

Dare remained at the embassy working as normal, she said, speaking on the government's customary condition of anonymity.

During Tuesday's strike, soldiers armed with automatic rifles stood at intersections in Harare's main industrial district where some factory gates were closed, along with several banks, shops and fast food stands. Most downtown shops were open, and commuter buses were full of passengers.

Zimbabwe's main trade unions called the two-day strike to protest an economic crisis that has brought 80 percent unemployment, the world's highest inflation rate — 1,700 percent — and acute shortages of food, hard currency and gasoline.

Labor unions planned no street demonstrations for fear of provoking police action.

Mugabe's crackdown on dissent has brought international condemnation, though he received a boost last week when southern African leaders publicly backed him at a summit.

He has blamed the economic crisis on sanctions imposed by Britain, the United States and other Western countries. Western governments say they meddle in local politics.

The Congress of Trade Unions blames the meltdown — Zimbabwe's worst since independence in 1980 — on government corruption and mismanagement. Mugabe's government disrupted the agriculture-based economy in 2000 with violent seizures of white-owned commercial farms, part of a program to redistribute land to poor blacks.

Military helicopters swooped over downtown Harare in a show of force and later flew over the nearby Epworth township. Water cannon and trucks of riot police drove through the city center.

Four trucks carrying soldiers were seen headed to the southern town of Chimanimani.

Executives at one Harare engineering plant said its workers planned to ignore the strike because the lunch provided in the canteen was the only daily meal they could rely on. Other workers feared their pay would be withheld.

An electrical store kept one of its main entrances shut, a practice seen in previous strikes enabling businesses to close hurriedly in case of unrest.

"It's patchy, but it looks like a military occupation down here," said a factory owner in eastern Harare who asked not to be identified. "We've left it to our people to decide what to do. A few haven't arrived."

Police ordered township shops and bars to close early Monday evening as paramilitary police were deployed and water cannons patrolled.

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SOLOMON ISLANDS

Diseases break out in refugee camps

Associated Press

MUNDA — Diarrhea has broken out among children biffled in camps of tsunami survivors in the Solomon Islands, a Red Cross official said Wednesday — the first worrying sign that thou­ sand of people who lost their homes in the waves may be at risk of disease.

International aid was slow to trickle in to survivors, particularly in the hardest-hit town of Gizo in the western Solomon Islands. At least 2,000 people spent a third unbrel­ tered night on a hillside near Gizo following Monday’s earthquake and ocean surge.

A New Zealand military transport plane unloaded an aid package of tarps, water and food rations in the town of Munda late Tuesday, fol­ lowing a shipment of similar supplies delivered earlier by a police patrol boat.

Six doctors and 15 nurse­ es reached Gizo on Wednesday.

A n ­Australian air force transport plane left S y d n e y before dawn Th u r s­d a y loaded with humanitarian relief sup­plies bound for theSolomons, a Defense Department official said.

On Wednesday, a supply boat left the capital of Honiara for the 10-hour journey to Gizo, but two oth­ers were delayed because provisions could not be found in the capital to fill them, chief government spokesman Alfred Masuelia said.

Frustrations were starting to show among survivors, many of whom fled the tsunami with whatever sup­plies they could carry.

"There’s no water to wash, no water to drink, “ said Esther Zekele, who fled the tsunami waves with her hus­band and five children. The single sack of rice they brought to higher ground was half-empty, and no aid officials had come to their makeshift camp.

“We are just waiting, wonder­ing why they haven’t come,” she said.

Getting aid to villagers further afield could take at least two more days because of damaged roads, airstrips and wharves.

“We have not reached peo­ple as far as we could … because of the widespread nature of this particular dis­aster,” said Fred Fakari, chairman of the National Disaster Management Council.

Making things worse, many canoes and other boats were washed away or destroyed, and fuel was con­taminated with sea water, Western Province Premier Alex Lokopio said.

At least 28 people were killed when waves up to 16 feet high smashed into the western Solomons following a magnitude-8.1 undersea quake. No significant tsunami waves were reported anywhere outside the improv­erished islands, located northeast of Australia in the South Pacific.

Red Cross official Nancy Jolo said the risk of disease was rising in the largest refugee camp located near Gizo.

“W hat we are experiencing right now in some of the camps is children start­ing to experience diarrhea,” Jolo told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Fakari said medical staff in Gizo had been over­whelmed by injuries and feared diseases such as diar­rhea, cholera and malaria could break out because of the unhygienic conditions and lack of clean water and fresh food.

“T he conditions at Gizo are such that these are likely things to happen un­less action is taken quick­ly,” Fakari told The Associated Press.

Survivors terriﬁed by the more than 50 jolts that have struck the region since Monday’s quake — including several regist­ering magnitude 6 or stronger — were afraid to come down from the hills where they had taken refuge, said deputy police commissioner Peter Marshall.

At one camp near Munda town, people perched on a hilltop peered out to sea with binoculars keeping a watch for another deadly wave.

“I’m too scared to go home,” said Winnie Tava, 32, whose house was nearly destroyed by the tremor. She and her husband grabbed their three small children and a few belongings and headed for higher ground, where they were joined by about 40 other families.

The family sleeps on a plastic sheet under a tarpau­lin stretched between two wooden poles. They have a single aluminum pot for cooking rice, and a kerosene lantern.

“We there’s no more kerosene, no more light,” she said.

Authorities said they were somewhat relieved that aeri­al surveillance flights over the stricken coast had revealed “no evidence of mass deaths.”

The quake had set off tsunami alerts from Japan to Hawaii amid fears of a repeat of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that left 230,000 dead or missing.
Throughout the natural world, few creatures in the existing biological kingdoms create such a lasting impression as the varieties of human beings, and none more so than the modern American. Upon venturing out into its natural habitat, and confronting a wide variety of new and foreign life, the specimen will regress to instinctive traits sociologically endowed in it. In such an acutely excited state, factors leading to the American Condition can be isolated, identified, and examined. Americans make up such a large and diverse family that only one who has spent much time carefully studying them can distinguish between the different types, from the brash Yankee to the unassuming Plainsman. Yet such regional flavors only serve to highlight common traits shared throughout the family, whether they appear in greater or lesser intensity — and with such widespread traits this study concerns itself. For example, an average American, displaced from his home and suddenly surrounded by his more distant brethren, often adopts a swaggering gait. Careful background study reveals that the subject is nurtured from a young age on a steady diet of nationalistic jeremiads. The American seldom fails to develop in his mind an idea that adherence to a vague convention, the tabloid, the computer or movie makes the concept of rebellion seem itself absurd. The specimen might appear in greater or lesser intensity throughout the family, whether they unquestioned revolution for the sake of innovation, the tabloid, the computer or movie creates such a lasting impression as a true understanding of what exactly the creature from grasping subtleties. It seems only in its self-diagnoses. Does the American realize the irony in the situation, the tabloid, the computer or movie creates such a lasting impression as an established institution. 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How safe is student travel? According to your March 6 article, "Student Travel Safety Tops University Priorities," Anthony Travel only hires bus companies that meet federal standards, which is merely a minimum needed to operate in interstate travel. All bus lines which travel out of their home state, including the one hired by Bluffton University, must meet the federal standards. The standards adhered to by Executive Coach Luxury Travel, Inc. are exactly the standards specified by Mr. Walsh of Anthony Travel. Clearly, however, safety can be a matter of more than meeting minimum standards. Federal standards do not mandate even the availability of seat belts on touring buses. It is believed that seat belt usage could have saved all the students in the Bluffton University crash and prevented many injuries. It is also quite possible that at least one fatality and a number of injuries in the University of Notre Dame swim team incident in 1992 may have been prevented with the use of seat belts. What Walsh did not address is whether the University of Notre Dame and Anthony Travel go beyond merely the minimum — and weak — federal standards question which he did not address: When hiring buses, does the University of Notre Dame mandate the availability of seat belts for travel at highway speeds? If after 15 years, Notre Dame is doing nothing more than adhering to the minimum federal standards required by law, then Notre Dame did not learn anything from the swim team accident and does not consider student safety to be the highest priority.

Katie Palmiter’s personal financial story in her Apr. 4 Viewpoint column "No money, no problems" hardly seems to be one of financial crisis — far from it — but she did raise an interesting idea. I often hear people comment, "Well, how will his sons be able to get better jobs and move away from farming?" Uganda and other Third World countries need to industrialize, improve infrastructure, bring in investment, etc. All this is only possible if the government and the people decide to move away from an economy that always falls victim to the declining terms of trade and keeps them in perpetual dependency. If the objective is to help farmers in third-world countries, there are many other sensible and effective ways to achieve this. Fair Trade needs to be examined in light of a broader, long-term perspective. While Fair Trade coffee certainly adds a jolt of self-righteousness along with its jolt of caffeine in the morning, I believe the long-term effects may not be as rosy as people make it out to be. Finally, let me point out to Palkert that I am no economist — just an average Joe (no pun intended).

Katie Palmiter
Business graduate student
Fischer Graduate Housing
April 3
Mifune’s impish performance is superbly understated, one of the all-time greats. He reveals as much with a scratch of his beard or wiggle of his shoulders as a lesser actor would with a minute-long monologue.

Eminently cool, he’s a craftsman in his role that every action comes across with a subtle grace.

The incomparable Toshiro Mifune once described his character as his ‘work of art’, and anyone who has seen his movies knows he was right. From the moment he appears in a film, you know you are in the presence of an actor of the highest order. His performances are always captivating, even when he is not speaking.

Mifune's facial expressions are as eloquent as his swordplay, and his ability to convey emotion with a mere flick of an eyebrow or a glance is something that few actors can match.

Even though the titular character has changed little from the last time we saw him, the atmosphere in ‘Yojimbo’ is lighter and more warm-hearted, far removed from the morbid tone that Mifune haunted in his earlier roles. He has some fun along the way.

As the narrative progresses, Sanjuro grows quite fond of his brood of brave but foolish young wards. As the samurai stalk through the forests, in search of work, they follow in single file behind Sanjuro, who stops to scold them as he frequently does—for their inexperience. “We can’t move like this, like a cen­tipede,” he hisses while impatiently scratching his knee. Mifune’s facial expressions in these comic exchanges are priceless. They are the work of an accomplished actor who has sunk so far into the role that every action comes across with a relaxed, commanding ease.

These scenes of gentle comedy add a great deal of depth to “Sanjuro,” but Kurosawa never forgets to give us what we came to see: unparalleled swordplay. Needless to say, the final warrior’s duel between Sanjuro and his nemesis lived up to its billing. It astounded all who saw it. Indeed, Kurosawa’s film duel, described in words. After a long, frightening pause, the outcome is decided with a flash of a sword, the screenplay read.

Tantalizingly vague, the description half­fulfilled even longtime Kurosawa collabora­tionists. Just a year earlier, Kurosawa had delivered a instant masterpiece with “Yojimbo,” as epic, haunting and beauti­ful a samurai film as had ever been done. What could the master unveil this time, the film’s cast and crew wondered? Like the rest of the film world, they were hop­ing for a spectacle and a worthy sequel. Which is exactly what they got. At its heart, “Sanjuro” is about a lone wolf who herds a flock of dim-witted but well-intentioned warriors in their quest to rescue an honorable kidnaped chamber­lain from his corrupt master.

The incomparable ‘Yojimbo’ once again plays Sanjuro, the lone wolf in this tale. He is the commanding presence that anchors the movie. Hidden beneath Sanjuro’s debauched veneer lies the same proud, noble and shrewd swordsman that we remember. He’s a crafty warrior who falls in love with his keen mind as well as his sharp sword. And although he would have been tempting to do so, Kurosawa and Mifune never retreat any steps from the vaunted ‘Yojimbo.’

The most pronounced difference between the two movies is in their tone.

Sanjuro (Toshiro Mifune), right, pensively scratches his beard and hatches a plan to set two equally wicked gangs against each other in "Yojimbo."
Are We All In This Together?

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

When does a seemingly innocent musical about love and learning turn into something that is dangerous on multiple levels?

Not to sound like a reactionary, but when discussing Disney's smash television musical, "High School Musical," I'd like to lay out a few reservations that I think need to be addressed concerning this program and all of the spin-offs it has sired.

What could be better for adolescent kids than a story about people fighting the typical high school clique stereotypes, coming together in the end and realizing we can all be ourselves? It doesn't matter if you're the brain, the basketball player or the drama star — you can be friends with anyone and we can all get along in the end. Sounds good, right? It does — aside from the completely unreal depiction of what high school is actually like.

A film like "The Breakfast Club" or a television show like the now-defunct "Freaks and Geeks" is a far more accurate depiction of what individuals go through in the cutthroat world of growing up. In "High School Musical," the problems are too easily solved, and none of the kids have those finely read problems like financial disparity between different schools, the backstabbing that's true to life and personal issues about fitting in.

In one sequence, all of the characters sing about making sure you stay in your own group and don't break the mold — or else you'll upset the primary reason why this program is as such an important piece in understanding what television programmers are doing. They are creating a phenomenon with astronomical record sales of the soundtrack, a traveling theatrical show and a planned "High School Musical: The Ice Tour," which will bring the show to a variety of venues around the country.

The very heart and soul of Disney is founded on the idea of escapist fantasy. Walt Disney created his theme parks as a way for people, if even just for a day, to leave their lives and enter the world of fantasy. We know when we walk into the Magic Kingdom that it's actually steel and concrete and there is a person inside of that Mickey Mouse costume, but that doesn't make it any less magical. The same cannot be said for the Disney Channel's "HSM." We know that's not how high school actually is, but that doesn't mean we can't still enjoy entertainment from it — much like how we don't watch "Buffy" thinking that we're going to be able to walk on the roof or go to the football team.

We need to be reminded of time to time that all our dreams have no limitations, that's what it's all about.

By ANALISE LIPARI and ERIN MCGINN
Assistant Scene Editors

Some might argue that the shiny world of Disney's modern musical classic, "High School Musical," is a bastardization of destructive fantasy that bears no semblance of a realistic high school experience. Cynics of the world seem to unite against what is commonly known to fans of "HSM," finding joy in criticizing the overly happy bubblegum pop as uncom fortably disconnected with the real world.

Frankly, those cynics are just plain wrong.

Yes, it's true that not all high school students will move to a new school, audition for the lead of a play and fall in love with a hottie like Zac Efron — and all within two hours, no less. It's also true that we can't all be as dynamic as the lead team of Ryan and Sharpay Evans, since our wardrobe aren't stylishly decked out with sequins at a moment's notice. But while the "HSM" cynic might see this as an attachment to fantasy that could disillusion the innocent youth of America, "HSM" fans know that you can be friends with anyone and we can all get along in the world.

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

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroeder@nd.edu

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

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu and Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu
**MLB**

**Tigers stave off 7-run Blue Jays rally, win 10-9**

*Nationals, Indians, Rangers all earn afternoon victories*

Associated Press

DETOUR — The Detroit Tigers got their AL championship rings, then treated thousands of hardy fans to the same roller-coaster experience of last October.

Curtis Granderson hit his first career grand slam as Detroit built a nine-run lead in the sixth inning, and the Tigers held on for a 10-9 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

"This lets us know that we can go ahead and hold teams off, and that's one of the things we're going to have to do to over 160 games," Granderson said.

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Monday closed with seven runs in the eighth off relievers Jesse Orosco and Fernando Rodney but the potential tying run was strangled at third when Magglio Ordonez, who lost two fly balls in the swirling wind earlier in the inning, made a running catch of Troy Glaus' arching ball toward the right-center, hitting the yellow home-run-line, and bounced back onto the field.

"It was kind of fun to see the players go out there. You know, we just stopped a two-game losing streak, and they're celebrating like we clinched the NL East. That tells me a lot about their character," said Leyland, who received boisterous, whirring cheers from the fans and informal champagne celebrations over the broadcast from the dugout.

Washington lost its second game to Florida by a combined score of 19-5, and then Wednesday trailed 5-0 and 6-1. It was 6-4 heading to the top of the ninth, but Young's bases-loaded single with one out off closer Jose Valverde completed the comeback. Young hit an arching ball toward the left-field corner, and outfielder Josh Willingham let it drop, hoping it would land foul. "I knew it was going to be close," Willingham said. "Thought I had a shot, but the manager, Fredi Gonzalez, agreed.

**Indians, White Sox 9**

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"I thought he was going to hit the ball in the face. He was telling me it was a great one," Sizemore said.

On a day of subfreezing temperatures with snow flurries and a biting wind, Michael's catch of Joe Creede's long fly to left with two runners on in the ninth wasn't a sure thing.

"I thought it was going to be a routine pop fly. It just kept going and it had a lot of air time," Michael said. "The wind was so tough to read. The ball tough to read. The snow and the wind didn't help too much."

**Angels, Rangers 3**

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Erving Santana held Texas to four hits in seven innings, Gary Matthews Jr. made another leaping catch and Los Angeles beat the Texas Rangers Wednesday for only the fourth 3-0 start in franchise history. "We're playing good baseball," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "We still have some things we're trying to clean up, but all in all, we've had a lot of good things happening."

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Vladimir Guerrero, a scourge of Rangers' pitchers, singled in another run in the series finale. He went 6-for-11 (.545) in the three games.

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**MLB**

**Tigers stave off 7-run Blue Jays rally, win 10-9**

*Nationals, Indians, Rangers all earn afternoon victories*

Associated Press

DETOUR — The Detroit Tigers got their AL championship rings, then treated thousands of hardy fans to the same roller-coaster experience of last October.

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**NCAA FOOTBALL**

Former Grambling State coach Eddie Robinson waves goodbye after coaching his last home game at Eddie Robinson Stadium in 1997. He transformed the school into a powerhouse for future NFL players.

**Legendary coach Robinson dies at 88**

Associated Press

To his very last day, Eddie Robinson was always battling something. There was the institutional racism that surrounded him, the piddling football budget he and his coaching staff subsisted on at predominantly black Grambling State and, ultimately, the Alzheimer’s disease that took his life at age 88.

“Eddie would fight that battle for a long time,” said former Grambling quarterback and Super Bowl MVP Doug Williams. “It was one of the many he fought in his lifetime.”

Robinson died Tuesday night, not long after being admitted to Lincoln General Hospital in Baton Rouge, La., Williams said.

He was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease shortly after he retired in 1997 and had been in and out of a nursing home during the past year.

And so ended the life of a beloved football coach who put a small school in remote northern Louisiana on the map and turned it into a virtual farm team for the NFL during a career that spanned 57 years.

Robinson built a football powerhouse with a world-wide reputation, all the while struggling to get past years of segregation and discrimination against blacks.

His success at Grambling made him the first easily recognizable black coach in any sport.

“Today we mourn the loss of a great Louisianan and a true American hero,” Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. “Coach Eddie Robinson became the most successful college coach of all time and one of the greatest civil rights pioneers in our history.”

Coach Robinson elevated a small town program to national prominence and broke down barriers to achieve an equal playing field for athletes of all races.

Robinson won 408 games, the most ever for any coach at the time of his retirement in 1997. He sent hundreds of players to the NFL and other leagues, and the majority of them were clutching college degrees when they left.

“We will be forever grateful for the more than 200 young men he developed at Grambling who started in the NFL and those who later coached the next generation of NFL players,” NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said. “He always focused on coaching his players to be better men as well as better football players.”

**IN BRIEF**

**Drunk driver kills Gainesville policeman after parade**

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — A police officer who was struck by a car after the Florida Gators’ championship died Wednesday, authorities said.

Lt. Corey Dahlem, a 22-year veteran, was struck by a black Toyota as police were clearing the streets at the University of Florida early Tuesday after the Gators’ win against Ohio State, authorities said.

Dahlem died Wednesday just before 3 p.m., hospital officials said.

The Florida Highway Patrol said the driver, Austin John Wright, 21, of Atlantic Beach, had a blood-alcohol level almost three times the legal limit. He is accused of fleeing two motorcycle officers off the road. The officers were not injured.

Wright remained in jail Wednesday on $500,000 bail.

**MLB signs multi-year, $700 million deal with DirecTV**

NEW YORK — Baseball struck a deal to keep its “Extra Innings” package of out-of-market games on cable television, an agreement that likely will allow the sport’s new TV network to be available in at least 40 million homes when it launches in 2009.

Baseball announced an exclusive $700 million, seven-year agreement with DirecTV on March 5, but during a hearing last week in Washington, Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., pressed baseball to resume talks with IN Demand, which is owned by affiliates of Time Warner, Comcast and Cox.

While baseball had set a March 31 deadline, the sides kept negotiating and announced an agreement Wednesday night.

“Our chief goal throughout the process was to ensure that fans would have access to as many baseball games and as much baseball coverage as possible.”

**NCAA Football**

**Minor League Baseball**

American League East

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Falcons coach flies to rescue in Boulder

Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — A fading, mostly empty arena. The likes of Bob Knight and Bill Self to compete against one another on the hardwood and along the recruiting trail. A program with no real history of success or much support.

Bring it all on, declared Jeff Bzdelik.

He left Air Force to take over as head coach at the University of Colorado on Wednesday, the latest in a series of career challenges he’s undertaken up and down the Rocky Mountain Front range.

"I get excited by great, great challenges," said Bzdelik, who was 50-16 at Air Force after a 2-3/2-year stint as coach of the Denver Nuggets. "He led to the playoffs for the first time in a decade in 2004."

"When somebody said to me, ‘You’re never going to win there,’ I’m kind of a sicko with that," Bzdelik said. "It’s kind of like with the Nuggets: You’re never going to make the play-offs. Hey, we did it in one year.

Similarly, he was administratively not told to schedule heavyweights at Air Force, warnings that only drove him to do exactly that, and the Falcons flourished.

Now, his biggest challenge yet.

"Maybe we can’t" turn it around, Bzdelik said. "Maybe I don’t (succeed). Maybe I fall. But I want to try.

The 54-year-old Bzdelik replaces Ricardo Patton, who went 7-20 in his 11th and final season in Boulder.

In his first season at Air Force, Bzdelik led the Falcons to the best record (24-7) in the program’s 50-year history and an NCAA tournament bid. This year, they won a school-record 26 games and reached the NIT semifinals.

"And now here’s an opportunity in my own backyard, and it’s the ultimate opportunity," Bzdelik said. "The Big 12 is intimidating and the inconsistencies of the tradition here, well, it is what it is. Now, with renewed commitment to facilities and excitement and dynam-ic leadership, can we now move it up the ladder? That excites me."

Bzdelik signed a five-year deal worth $750,000 annually plus incentives. Bzdelik said he agonized over leaving the academy, where he met with the players late Tuesday and told them he was waffling about his future. He later called his cap-tains to tell them he was leaving.

"I struggled with this, I did," Bzdelik said.

Air Force athletic director Harris Upham said the players were angry about Bzdelik’s departure, but junior Tim Anderson said the players might be disappointed but understood why he left.

"I don’t think any of us were angry," Anderson said. "I’m not angry with him. I haven’t talked to him when he said it was a hard decision and he couldn’t really decide either way. He said it was the toughest decision he’s ever made, and so I believe him."

Falcons coach flies to rescue in Boulder

NFL

Police will investigate further in Vegas shooting

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Las Vegas prosecutors asked police to do more investigating before charges are filed against Tennessee Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones in a strip club fight that led to a triple shooting.

"It isn’t that we’re missing things, they just wanted more detailed information," said Lt. George Castro, leader of the Las Vegas Police Department’s vio-lent crimes unit. "They said there might be more to this than what was recommended."

Since being drafted by the Titans in April 2005, Jones has been arrested five times and questioned by police in 10 episodes.

He met Tuesday in New York with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to discuss those cases. Goodell has said he will announce his decision on sus-pensions or other disciplinary action within the next 10 days.

Jones told the NFL Network, in an interview that will be broadcast Thursday and Friday, that football means the world to him and also addressed why trouble seems to follow him.

"Like I said man, it was the people I was hanging with," said Jones, according to an NFL Network transcript. "I made bad decisions, I was not living a lie. I promise you that I am on the right track, but I have made horrible decisions about who I am with and who I am going places with."

These are Jones’ first public comments since the Las Vegas incident.

"I just explained myself and told him nothing but the truth you know," Jones said of the meeting with Goodell. "He asked me like, ‘How can we help you?’ You know? How can he help me? What can I do to change my image? So it’s on me."

Las Vegas police have recom-mended a felony charge of coer-cion and misdemeanor charges of threat and battery against Jones in the Feb. 19 altercation at Minx, a club several blocks west of the Las Vegas Strip.

The shootout left one man paralyzed. Authorities haven’t identified the gunman, but Castro has said the 23-year-old Jones was the "inciter" of a fight that started inside the club.  

The Office of the President and the Deus Caritas Est Student Committee invite you to submit papers to Pope Benedict’s Encyclical Deus Caritas Est.

Intent to present papers must be communicated by April 16, 2007. Please email godislove@nd.edu with confirmation of the topic of your paper. Students can then present their papers at the Deus Caritas Est conference (April 27-28), make any final revisions based on discussions during the conference, and then submit final documents by May 4, 2007.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

Freshman/sophomore: $1,000 winner and $500 runner-up
Junior/senior: $1,000 winner and $500 runner-up
Graduate students: $1,000 winner and $500 runner-up

For additional information regarding the conference and call for papers please visit: www.nd.edu/encyclical. For questions email: godislove@nd.edu or call 631-6526.

Run to Rebuild

A Benefit for "Rebuilding Together"

Join RecSports & Food Services in the annual Spring Run

NCAA BASKETBALL

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Associated Press

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These are Jones’ first public comments since the Las Vegas incident.

"I just explained myself and told him nothing but the truth you know," Jones said of the meeting with Goodell. "He asked me like, ‘How can we help you?’ You know? How can he help me? What can I do to change my image? So it’s on me."

Las Vegas police have recom-mended a felony charge of coer-cion and misdemeanor charges of threat and battery against Jones in the Feb. 19 altercation at Minx, a club several blocks west of the Las Vegas Strip.

The shootout left one man paralyzed. Authorities haven’t identified the gunman, but Castro has said the 23-year-old Jones was the "inciter" of a fight that started inside the club.
MLB Yankees-Rays rained out

Andy Pettitte's return to the Yankees was pushed back a day because of rain, while Johnny Damon's injury left him unsure when he'll play again.

The scheduled game between New York and the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Wednesday afternoon was postponed, washing out what would have been Pettitte's first start in pinstripes since the 2005 World Series.

"It's definitely disappointing because you're ready. You want to get this day over with because you're so excited for it," Pettitte said. "I'm obviously anxious to get out there."

No makeup date was announced. After the series finale Thursday night, Tampa Bay isn't slated to visit Yankee Stadium again until July 20.

Both scheduled starters were bumped back a day, so Pettitte will pitch against Jae Seo on Thursday night. Temperatures in the low 30s are expected, with gusting winds.

"Bundle up," Pettitte said. "It sounds as though Damon won't be behind him in center field. New York's speedy lead-off hitter has a sore right calf and wasn't in the posted lineup Wednesday."

"I could barely walk," Damon said. "It felt like cramps the other day, but it's definitely much worse than that."

Damon left Monday's opening victory over Tampa Bay with cramps in both calves, but said Wednesday only the right one was still bothering him. In the clubhouse, he had his right calf wrapped.

"We're probably dealing with a strain, but to what degree we don't know yet," general manager Brian Cashman said. "It's not swelling. But it's sore."

Melky Cabrera was slated to start in center field Wednesday, and second base-man Robinson Cano was in the leadoff spot.

Cabrera will fill in for Damon until he returns. If Damon has to go on the disabled list, the Yankees would probably call up an outfielder from the minors. But after talking with team physician Dr. Stuart Hershon, Cashman said a stint on the DL would be "nothing that's being recommended right now."

No tests on Damon were ordered yet. First, Hershon wants to see how Damon feels Thursday, Cashman said.

The GM was asked if an injury to Damon might open up a spot for former outfielder Bernie Williams on the major league roster. Cashman had a one-word answer: "No."

"Williams, a longtime stalwart and a former hero, deplored New York's offer of a minor league contract in the offseason and never came to spring training."

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NCAA BASKETBALL Michigan signs Beilein to school-record deal

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan desperately wanted to hire John Beilein and was willing to make an unprecedented move to pay basketball coach in school history.

Beilein clearly coveted the job because he's going to pay his previous employer to leave — and he accepted an offer without visiting the Ann Arbor campus.

"The buyout issue is sensitive, but I wanted to be the coach of Michigan," Jim Beilein said Wednesday after being introduced at a news conference. "Obviously, the buyout was something I had to consider."

Michigan will pay Beilein $1.3 million over a three-season, plus, non-monetary contract, as part of a six-year contract. Athletic director Bill Martin, who said football coach Lloyd Carr is making $1.6 million a year, hopes Beilein's contract demonstrates a commitment to basketball at a school where that has been questioned.

"It does to me," Martin said.

Martin said negotiations on economic with Beilein took 10 seconds, adding he didn't need to address the buyout issue.

"It never came up because there was no way Michigan was going to pay it," Martin said. "To John Beilein's credit, he said, 'The buyout is my responsibility.'"

Both Beilein and West Virginia hope to keep the resolution private.

"The agreement on the buyout is between coach Beilein and West Virginia University," the school said in a statement from its general counsel's office. "Any details will be worked out between the two parties."
NBA

Bosh's clutch free throws sink host Orlando

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Chris Bosh scored 28 points, including five free throws down the stretch, to lift the Toronto Raptors to a 111-108 win over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday night.

Hedo Turkoglu shot off a rebound to start the final sequence to score a career-high 37 points, but missed his last two shots, including a 3-pointer from the wing. Turkoglu had gone a combined 6-for-25 in the previous two games.

Anthony Parker added 20 points, while Joey Graham scored 19 and T.J. Ford had 16 and eight assists. Turkoglu tied the game at 106 on a 3-pointer with 3:18 left, but Bosh didn't score for the next two minutes. Bosh hit the free throws, but was called for goaltending on Turkoglu's layup with 47 seconds left.

Trailing 109-108, Turkoglu made a jumper. Dwight Howard got the rebound, but Bosh drew an offensive foul on Grant Hill.

With 9.4 seconds left, Bosh drained two foul shots to seal the win.

It was the Magic's second loss in the final two minutes after a fallacious cushion on the last two remaining Eastern Conference playoff spots. The Magic hadn't already clinched a spot in the postseason.

Both Howard and Bosh scored career highs (32 and 41 points, respectively). These teams met in February, and both were on track for even better nights after 14 first-quarter scores.

But Howard didn't score in the final minutes of the third quarter, finishing with 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Bosh slowed down considerably.

The Magic didn't miss much in the first three quarters, getting six-to-one points in 37 (and 37) and field goal percentage (83 percent). Frequent last-shotivariate by the Bobcats, they couldn't do much right.

Orlando, which had a 15-point third-quarter lead, turned that into a 12-point deficit into the fourth and lost their third straight, falling to 2-9 since coach Isiah Thomas' contract-extension when New York was in eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

Both teams entered with slim playoff hopes. The Knicks were 10th in the East, 2.1 games behind Orlando for the final playoff spot, Philadelphia had won a game of New York with its victory.

The Knicks had a final chance after Korver, who came in leading the NBA in free throw shooting, missed an attempt with 2.1 seconds left. But Igudola got a piece of Bosh's hurried shot behind the arc and time expired.

Bahamians Bosh tormented at All-Star Game

WASHINGTON — Chris Bosh could have been a hero in the first quarter of the NBA all-star game, but he wasn't.

Bosh had 16 points and eight rebounds for the Bobcats, who had six of nine.

Wallace's injuries are usually measured in weeks, not days, and the Wizards' defense on the Wizards the previous night, getting 34 points and 14 rebounds in a 122-102 win at Charlotte on Tuesday.

Raymond Felton added 19 at time and seven point, scoring 83 percent.

Wizards forward Chris Bosh goes to the basket during the second quarter of Toronto's 111-108 win over Orlando Wednesday, Bosh finished with 28 points in the contest.

The Observer - SPORTS

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Students Fly Cheaper
Rowers face tough test in Indy regatta

By DANIELLE KELLER
Sports Writer

After winning the Lubbers Cup Title last weekend, the Irish will travel to Indianapolis this Saturday to compete in the Indiana Invitational. In the first match of the day, the No. 13 Irish will race No. 15 Wisconsin. Later in the day, Notre Dame will take on Indiana and Purdue. Although only one of the opponents is ranked, Irish coach Martin Stone views each team as tough competition.

"I think that all three crews that we face will present challenges," Stone said.

After a shift from their usual lineups during last Saturday's regatta, the Irish plan to return to the original crews used earlier in the season. The reason for the changes, Stone said, was to allow younger players to gain more racing experience. Even though the lineups were different, the team performed well in last weekend's regatta, winning the varsity-four, second varsity-four and second varsity-eight races.

The varsity-eight, novice-eight and second varsity-eight boats all finished second. Saturday's competition marks the second race of the season for Wisconsin. In their first competition, the Badgers' varsity and second varsity crews went undefeated against Indiana. Stone said that Wisconsin was an especially swift team, having finished in the top 20 last season.

Last weekend, Indiana competed in Cincinnati. The Hoosiers swept away the competition, winning races against Dayton, Eastern Michigan and the Bearcats. The Indiana Invitational is the fourth outing of the spring season for the Irish. They will compete in the Windemere Real Estate Regatta April 14-15 in Redwood Shores, Calif.

Contact Danielle Keller at dkeller@nd.edu

Irish look to regain form in Dallas

By JAY WADE
Sports Writer

No. 5 Notre Dame will try to reclaim the consistency that brought it an 11-match winning streak earlier this season against Southern Methodist University (SMU) Saturday in Dallas.

The Irish, 18-3 overall, have been inconsistent lately, getting shut out by No. 2 Ohio State March 21 and then turning around and beating No. 5 Illinois 5-2 two days later. "After the win against Illinois, especially after the Ohio State loss, hopefully it will help us focus and end the season as strong as possible," Irish junior Sheeva Parbhu said.

While the Mustangs (12-5, 0-1 Conference USA) are not ranked, they have been on a five-game winning streak and are coming off a 5-2 victory against No. 45 Wisconsin. Notre Dame and SMU have traded blows over the past few seasons, with the Irish claiming a 5-2 victory last year and the Mustangs winning two years earlier by the same score.

"When you go on the road, you cannot take anything for granted," Parbhu said. "We only have a few matches left, so we have to make them all count.

Parbhu has his own reasons to be focused for the SMU match. His overall record of 90-25 (55-12 in dual matches) puts him one win away from tying Luis Haddock for No. 10 all time on the Irish wins list.

Similarly, No. 9 Stephen Buss has his own record to break on Saturday. His 101 career wins have him one victory away from the Irish win list. Recent weather in South Bend, however, might be a problem as the Irish travel to a hot Texas for outdoor play.

But Parbhu was not concerned about the climate change, since the Irish are leaving today for Dallas and will have plenty of time to get acclimated to the heat. Also, a little heat could go a long way for the Irish, he said, as it should prepare them for their upcoming matches in places such as Tampa, Fla., for the Big East tournament, and Athens, Ga., for the NCAA Tournament. With only a handful of matches before these two big tournaments, the Irish will look to come out sharp against SMU. The first set is scheduled for 1 p.m. Central Time.

Contact Jay Wade at jwade@nd.edu

ND Women's Golf

Irish head to Indiana Invitational

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look for a positive performance Monday in Indianapolis and hosted by Crooked Stick, will end the following day. The lineup will feature senior co-captain Noriko Nakazaki from the No. 1 spot, where she has led the team in scoring in seven out of eight tournaments this year. Nakazaki topped the Irish squad when she finished in a tie for sixth at the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational March 19th.

Freshman Annie Brophy will see off from the second spot thanks to her consistent contribution throughout the season. Her best round came at the UNLV Invitational, where she ended up with a one-over par 73.

Julie Kim, a fellow freshman, will shoot from the No. 3 spot. Due to an injury early in the season, Kim will golf in only her fourth collegiate event. Since recovering from the injury, however, she has impressed coach Susan Hunt enough to become a consistent name on the Irish scorecard.

Kristin Wetzel, another freshman, and sophomore Lisa Maun round out the lineup at fourth and fifth spots.

"Over the three-week layoff we have been playing as much as possible to stay competitive between each other," Maunu said. "We have all been working on our swing and putting to fine tune them."

The sophomore also commented on what the invitational means in terms of preparation for the Big East championships. "This tournament is very important for Big East and for momentum into regionals," she said. "We have to have a strong tournament in both this tournament and Big East so we can hopefully pull up our regional ranking."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

Longhorn Invitational March 19th.

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Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu
SMC TENNIS

Belles travel to Madison

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will travel to Madison, Wis., this weekend to compete in the Midwest Invitational, a selective tournament featuring some of the top squads in Division III. "It's a really big deal," senior captain Kelly McDavitt said. "You have to be invited to it. We haven't been invited to this tournament in three years, so we're really excited about it." The Belles will face Wisconsin-La Crosse Friday, a team that they fell to in the second match of their season. The Eagles are two-time defending champions of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. "The Eagles are very good, so we'll have to be at our best," McDavitt said. Postel with a time of 4:7.
Arizona State's some short sprinters due to event at all this season invitational in the event which he has already qualified in.
we might not even run that shortage of sprinters, athletes over the past two Relays was cancelled due to inclement weather.
Dame could scratch the Mideast Regional, Notre and Saturday.
The Irish performed well in 2006, fourth in a heated match against Benn and Fekete in the No. 2 doubles spot. In the final match of the day, the duo of Belles sophomore Grace Gebert and O'Brien lost to Schoenewald and senior Courtney Tornow 8-5. The winner will continue play on Saturday. Contact Elysh Michalak at emichalak@nd.edu

MEN'S GOLF

Weather could wreak havoc at Boilermaker Complex, the site of the tournament.

"We've played there a number of times," Irish said. "We've had a couple of tournaments there, and we even had NCAA Regions there three years ago. We've been there a lot." The rest of the field, while solid, is not quite as strong as it was last weekend at the AdminStaff Augusta State Invitational in Evans, Ga. "You always like to win," Irish said. "But it's a good field, even though it might not be as strong as Augusta State's." In order for the Irish to have a good showing, Irish, an All-America candidate, will have to use his experience to lead the way through the harsh conditions. Fellow co-captain Adam Gifford will try to use momentum from his one-under-par 71 in Georgia to carry him to another low score in West Lafayette. After the Boilermaker Invitational, the Big East tournament is only two weeks away, April 22-24 in Louisville.

Contact Chris Doyen at cbbrink@nd.edu

More athletes look to qualify for NCAAAs at Indiana meet

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

After qualifying 14 athletes over the past two weeks, Notre Dame will be competing in the Indiana Relays Friday and Saturday. "The weather could be halted by weather. Due to weekend forecasts, there is a possibility that Notre Dame could scratch the meet," senior Ryan Posen said.

"Our Notre Dame sprinting coach (John) Millar is discussing not running anyone at all and scratching the meet," Postel said. "It is something I do not plan to do 30s this weekend there. Not exactly ideal for racing." The Women's record of competition of the 2006 Indiana Relays was cancelled due to inclement weather. If the Irish do compete, Postel will run the 400-meter dash, an event in which he already qualified for regionals. Postel placed first at Arcata's Big Sur Classic invitational in the event with a time of 47.20 seconds.

The Notre Dame men will not participate in the 4x100 meter relay due to a shortage of sprinters, Postel said. "As it stands right now, we might not even run that event at all this season because we are lacking some short sprinters due to various reasons," he said. The Irish performed well at last year's Indiana Invitational. Sophomore Patrick Smyth won the 5,000 meters with a time of 14:12.61. Senior Todd Ptacek, A.J. Androosy, who graduated in 2006, and junior Jake Watson finished 3rd-4th in the 3,000 meter steeplechase, with Ptacek's time of 8:58.05 leading the way. On the women's side, senior Molly Haddell finished fourth in the 5,000 meters, crossing the line in 15:54.41. If the meet is scratched, the Irish could run the Mount SAC Relays in Walnut, Calif. Notre Dame likely will send only sprinters and field athletes to the event. Postel said that the distance runners will not be competing. That would leave the Irish with eight events to earn or improve their qualifying spots before the Big East Championships, which begins May 4 in Storrs, Conn.

After that, Notre Dame then has the Georgia Tech Invitational, held on May 11-12, to prepare itself for the Big East Regional, which begins May 25. Irish athletes who qualify go on to race in the NCAA Championships in Sacramento, Calif. June 6-9, and from there to the USA Track and Field Outdoor Championships, which begins May 23-24 in Indianapolis. Currently, the Irish have 37 athletes qualified for the Big East Championships.

Contact Bill Brink at wbbrink@nd.edu

Track and Field

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

The toughest opponent Notre Dame will face this weekend at the Boilermaker Invitational in West Lafayette, Ind., might not even show up to compete. While Big Ten schools — including Ohio St., Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan St. and host Purdue — will make up part of the field, the Irish might have to devote just as much attention to the inclement weather. "It's not going to be focused as much on pure golf and scoring really low," senior co-captain Cole Irish said. "It's going to be more of a survival test with how bad the weather is supposed to be. Being a northern team, I think we might have an advantage there."

With flurries possible on Saturday and high temperatures not expected to break 44 degrees, the Irish will have the opportunity to put their well-developed cold weather games to the test.

Notre Dame has another reason to head into the weekend with some confidence. The team is very familiar with the Kampen Course at the Birck Boilermaker Complex, the site of the tournament. "We've played there a number of times," Irish said. "We've had a couple of tournaments there, and we even had NCAA Regions there three years ago. We've been there a lot." The rest of the field, while solid, is not quite as strong as it was last weekend at the AdminStaff Augusta State Invitational in Evans, Ga. "You always like to win," Irish said. "But it's a good field, even though it might not be as strong as Augusta State's." In order for the Irish to have a good showing, Irish, an All-America candidate, will have to use his experience to lead the way through the harsh conditions. Fellow co-captain Adam Gifford will try to use momentum from his one-under-par 71 in Georgia to carry him to another low score in West Lafayette.

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Contact Chris Doyen at cbbrink@nd.edu

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Contact Chris Doyen at cbbrink@nd.edu
**Demons**

continued from page 24

East player of the week Monday with a .722 batting average (13-for-18), two doubles, a triple, four RBIs and six runs scored.

Brown was also named Louisville Slugger/NFCA Player of the week Wednesday. Brown is currently atop the Big East standings for batting average (.477) and on-base percentage (.531). Her frequent trips around the bases have given the power hitters in the lineup a chance to gain RBIs; Brown leads the Big East in runs scored with 24.

With her strong pitching during the streak, sophomore Brittany Bargor earned an honorable mention in the Big East. Wednesday after going 3-0 with no hits, Louderback said.

Louderback feels that her team didn't really hit the big ground strokes.

Irish senior Kenya Fuemmeler will also take the mound, riding a series of strong performances before.

She has a 7-5 record with a 2.60 ERA, seven complete games and 57 strikeouts this season.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

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**Streak**

continued from page 24

good," Notre Dame coach Jay Louderback said. "They all play about the same and they use the lob a lot. It looks like we're going to be indoors and their doubles would probably be better outside just because they use the lob and don't really hit the big ground strokes."

Indiana easily defeated Big Ten rival Ohio State 6-1 Wednesday, capping its streak of consecutive Big Ten triumphs.

After the Irish battle the Buckeyes Wednesday, Ohio State will travel to Columbus, Ohio, for a match with the Buckeyes that begins at 2:30 p.m. Monday.

Coming off a tough loss against the Hoosiers Wednesday, Ohio State will be looking to get back on the winning track they had been on before Indiana match. The Buckeyes defeated Syracuse and Michigan State the previous week.

The Irish have won 14 straight matches and have not been challenged much during the streak.

In addition to the recent success, the Irish welcomed back freshman Colleen Riley.

Contact Dan Maloof at dmaloof@nd.edu

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**Duke**

continued from page 21

Irish defense with one of the best offenses in the nation, averaging almost 16 goals per game.

Junior attacker Carolina Cryer leads the Duke offense with 35 goals and 9 assists. Senior attacker Kristen Wangbo, recently named ACC player of the week, has also had a strong season with 24 goals and 21 assists.

But the Irish have two players of the week of their own. After winning over Connecticut and Duquesne, sophomores Jillian Byers and Erin Sullivan were named offensive and defensive Big East Tournament player of the week, respectively.

Byers tallied four goals and an assist in both games last weekend for a total of 10 points on the week. Billings scored three goals in the two games, and she also grabbed six ground balls and forced three turnovers.

The Irish have found success lately with impressive defensive play and balanced offensive production. Over the four-game winning streak, the Notre Dame defense has allowed an average of just seven goals per game.

In addition, several Notre Dame players have assisted leading scorers Caitlin McKinney (32 goals this season) and Byers in the offensive scoring. Senior Meghan Murphy and sophomore Jane Storeck have recorded points in every game of the current nine-game winning streak, and seniors Kaki Orr and Lena Zengraf have been equally impressive.

**Notre Dame vs. California**

The Irish will be tested by a solid California team Saturday at 1 p.m. The hard-luck Golden Bears enter the Irish Center with a 5-3 record, with two of those losses being against ranked opponents in overtime.

California is looking to rebound from a heart-breaking 9-6 overtime loss at Ohio State and pick up its first road win of the season. Struggling to score on the road, the Golden Bears are 0-2 away from Vanderbilt 9-6 in Nashville.

Defense has fueled Cal's success, with the Golden Bears giving up an average of just 8.25 goals per game on the season.

Senior Laura Cavallino leads the team with 19 goals and nine assists.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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**SMC Golf**

Tri-State Invitational cancelled

By BILL BRINK

Sponsor Winter

The Belles have another week to fine-tune their game after cold weather and wind forced the Tri-State Invitational, scheduled for this weekend, to be cancelled Wednesday.

Tri-State, located in Angola, Ind., is experiencing much the same weather and conditions that South Bend started to see Wednesday morning.

The tournament, which was to feature teams from around the region and is hosted by Tri-State every year, will be combined with the NCAA qualifying tournament April 12.

"We'll have teams from around the region in the [league] tournament, so it will still be a tournament within a tournament," Belles coach Mark Hamilton said.

Hamilton said the week off will be beneficial for the Belles, but the widespread of the cold weather conditions ensures that Saint Mary's opponents will not be getting a leg up on the Belles after the week off.

Contact Bill Brink at w brink@nd.edu

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**SMC Softball**

Hope game postponed by snow

Contest with Flying Dutch may be played April 26 instead

By REBECCA SLINGER

Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will have to wait to face MIAA second place Hope College — thanks to the weather.

Officials cancelled Wednesday's game between the teams Wednesday morning because of the threat of snow.

Freshman second baseman Mo Healy said the cancellation won't affect the team.

"If anything, this will give us more time to prepare. ... Whatever the schedule, we'll still be ready," he said.

The game has not officially been rescheduled, but coach Erin Sullivan said the team is looking to reschedule the game for April 26 in place of its scheduled game in Pittsburgh against Robert Morris.

"If anything, this will give us more time to prepare. ... Whatever the schedule, we'll be ready," she said.

Contact Rebecca Slinger at rslinger@smaryards.edu
Chemistry
continued from page 24

Weis let this rule slide Saturday when he fingered rising sophomore George West as his current No. 2 receiver behind rising junior David Grimes. West, in competing with rising senior Dustin Bragg, rising junior D.J. Hord, and rising sophomores Robby Parris, Barry Gallup, and Richard Jackson for that No. 2 slot.

Overall, West said he does not see the competition this spring as counter-productive.

“We have completely great chemistry and we’re all young guys and we know we’re all out there to compete,” West said Monday. “We’re all friends about it and we encourage each other. Somebody makes a good play, you know, it’s a good thing for the receivers.

“We feel as a receiving corps we have something to go out there and prove because everybody doubts us this year. We’re taking that to heart right now.”

Fullback Luke Schmidt added that competition is beneficial to the team overall, but he hopes to convince his members not to take it personally if they are not picked as starters. Schmidt is battling for time on the field with returning starter Asaph Schwapp.

“Hopefully, everyone on the team will be able to take that positively and try and make themselves better and hopefully battle for it again next year,” Schmidt said Monday.

“Hopefully, they won’t take it in a negative way, go hide themselves in a hole, just not care about the team anymore and care only about themselves. Hopefully, that’ll be a positive effect on the team.

And then there’s the quarterback.

Weis said he currently employs a system where each of the four candidates for starting quarterback, rising junior Evan Sharpley, rising sophomores Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer, and incoming freshman Jimmy Clausen — each spend time in the No. 1 position in practice.

“I think you cannot make a subjective analysis when you’re doing something that is critical because we’ve all been in the comfort zone of having Brady Quinn here since the day I walked in here. Well, Brady’s not here anymore,” Weis said Monday. “I think going under my three premises of coaching, premise No. 2 is always tell the players the truth regardless of the consequences.

“Well, that’s the one we’re talking about right now. I think it’s important to analyze the quarterbacks and just tell them, ‘That’s the way it is.’ That’s what I will do.

“When practice and training camp is over and the depth charts are set for Notre Dame’s season opener against Georgia Tech Sept. 1, Weis said he does not foresee any problems with team chemistry.

“No matter what you do, there’s going to be people who say, ‘Well, it should be this so, that should be so and so, should be so and so.’ Weis said. “I just got to worry about what’s in the best interest of the team.”

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Cincy
continued from page 24

leagues, a long way down for a squad that won the conference a season ago and had its eyes set on another title.

“We’re the defending Big East champions,” sophomore pitcher Kyle Weiland said.

“We need to start playing like it.”

Looking at the big picture, Schrag said the Irish can only afford to lose a few more contests for the rest of the conference slate. Notre Dame has 19 Big East games remaining.

“We need to play with a sense of urgency from here on out,” he said. “If we’re going to win the league, we can’t afford to lose more than six or seven games total.”

One of the reasons the Irish have struggled is their inability to drive in base runners. Notre Dame has averaged 9.6 runners left on base over its last eight games. But moving runners up hasn’t been the problem while trying to push across a run. Against Oakland Tuesday, the Irish converted 5-of-5 sacrifice bunt opportunities.

Schrag said the issue isn’t in moving runners from first base into scoring position — it’s driving them in once they get there.

“We’ve been playing for a run an inning with this team,” he said. “We’re doing a good job of bunting people over, but I’d like to see us get that one more hit to break things open.

Cincinnati comes into the weekend series half a game ahead of Notre Dame in the league standings at 2-4 and 15-12 overall. The Bearcats have won a game in each of their two Big East series, which were against Georgetown and Pittsburgh. The series with the Irish will be their first at home this season.

The Bearcats are led offensively by outfielder Tony Campana, third baseman Josh Harrison, and catcher Neall French — each of whom is batting over .300.

The weather in Cincinnati is expected to be cold and windy, which is not conducive to high-quality baseball.

Weiland said players, especially relief pitchers, need to take special precautions to stay loose while on the bench in cold weather.

“We need to keep our jacks and make sure we don’t run to the foul pole between innings,” he said. “We just need to make sure we stay warm and loose — but there isn’t a whole lot you can do in 30-degree weather.”

Irish senior Dan Kapala will start Thursday’s game, and sophomore David Phelps will begin Friday’s contest on the hill.

Because of the possibility of cancellations, Schrag has not named a starter for Saturday’s contest, instead planning to use regular starter Wade Korpi out of the bullpen in the first two games. If all three games are played, Schrag said he will make a decision Friday as to who will start Saturday.

Contact Chris Khoory at ckhoory@nd.edu

Irish center fielder Danny Dressman bunts during Notre Dame’s 7-3 win over Oakland Tuesday at Frank Eck Stadium.

Notre Dame running backs including Junior Jabbie, 37, and Travis Thomas, 26, run between drills Wednesday at the Loftus Center.
**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**
1. Secretarial jottings; Abbr. (9)
2. Lee with an (4)
9. It's held in a (4)
14. The Rain in Spain composer (5)
15. Pal of Eroyne (5)
16. ___ the hole (5)
17. Stage part (4)
18. Cooperation handbook (5)
19. Provocative military move, briefly (4)
20. Quest for a stereotypical Jewish mother (6)
23. A tiny bit (5)
24. Predict-___-on (6)
26. What the dry cleaner might say after doing a garment? (11)
28. Recesse (11)

**DOWN**
34. Characters in a hot house (5)
35. Author who inspired a Baltimore team's nickname (6)
36. Square (5)
37. Setting of many a Stephen King novel (8)
38. Bathe (4)
39. Results of oogenesis (4)
40. Friedman's opposite (4)
41. Having a bottom (4)
42. Reactions to poetry? (4)
43. Check-box option (5)
44. "Huh?" (5)
45. Like 20, 25, and 43-Across (9)
46. Stock a hardware store and garden shops (9)
47. Segot holder (9)
48. Stack, in a way (9)
49. Running amply (9)
50. Kind of nut (9)
51. Cause of a food safety warning (9)
52. Park (9)
53. George Strait's "All My... Live in Texas" (9)
54. Packard (9)

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**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

**SLICE**

**EDITION**

**DUD**

**PUBLISHER**

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**SILK**

**EDITION**

**DUD**

**PUBLISHER**

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**SLICE**

**EDITION**

**DUD**

**PUBLISHER**

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**JUMBLE**

**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

**WILL SHORTZ**

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**THE OBSERVER**

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FOOTBALL

Weis: Spring position battles won’t hurt team chemistry

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

As the Notre Dame coaching staff looks to build a winning team with the help of a few new pieces, one thing seems certain: there will be no team chemistry issues. Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis called a spring practice session on Tuesday to get the team ready for the upcoming season.

"So really, it doesn't divide the team," Weis said. "When the team realizes that this is the best interest of the team because he doesn't have any favorites, usually you don't have those problems."

Weis said he hopes to have depth charts set by the end of spring practice and then revise them again when the 15 remaining incoming freshmen enter the summer.

"The depth charts change every day," Weis reiterated. "That's part of being a starter and part of being a backup."

"It isn't like depth charts never change," Weis said. "Depth charts change eventual-ly, and injuries occur on top of it. That's part of being a starter and part of being a backup."

"It's very difficult to put those depth charts together," Weis said. "I'm the one making the decisions based on objectivity, usually you don't have those problems."

The head coach said that today's practice session was "different" and that he will not comment on who stands where. And that's by design, Weis said.

"Just imagine if I came in and told you everything that hap-pened in practice today and did that on a daily basis. I mean, God, people all across the coun-try will be drooling over that," Weis said. "You just can't do it that way. It's part of my job to protect players so we don't create a situation like that."

BASEBALL

Early pressure

Irish try to climb out of conference cellar in series at Cincinnati

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

Notre Dame has won each of its last two non-conference games, but the Irish have two more to play before they return to the Big East.

Sitting at 1-4 in conference and 3-14 overall, the Irish travel to Marge Schott Stadium in Cincinnati for a three-game series with the Bearcats today, Friday and Saturday that coach Dave Schrage called a "must-win.

"The next couple of weekends, we have to make hay in the league," Schrage said.

Notre Dame finds itself in 11th place in the 12-team conference cellar of the Big East. The Irish have lost 11 of its last 12 conference games, but the Irish have to travel to the Big East showdown at 5 p.m.

"We're looking to improve our impres-sive 19-1 overall record as it travels to Bloomington to play on the Hoosiers at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Indiana began the season with a 5-0 record in the Big Ten for the first time since 1995 and has won six straight matches over all.

"Indiana is always really tough to beat," Schrage said. "We're looking to see if we can get some confidence going into this weekend."

ND SOFTBALL

ND heads to Chicago for DePaul showdown

Wednesday's contest with Valpo rained out

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Due to frigid temperatures and icy rain, Wednesday's game against Valparaiso was postponed to April 12 at 5 p.m.

If weather permits, the Irish will face No. 23 DePaul today in Chicago for two Big East conference games at 3 p.m. and 5.

The games represent important games for Notre Dame because the Irish and Blue Demons are locked in a tie for first place at 8-0 in conference play. Overall, DePaul boasts a 24-7 record, while the Irish are currently 19-12.

Notre Dame will have to post one of its best offensive performances of the season to get the win, as it faces DePaul senior pitcher Tracie Adix, who this past week won her third BIG EAST pitcher of the week honor of the season.

The Blue Demons are led offensively by junior Sandy Vojik, who has a team-high 17 RBIs on the season. Right behind her is fellow junior Marcy Willis, who has batted in 16 runners this year.

Sophomore Amber Patton has scored many of those runs, boasting a .354 average from the leadoff spot.

The Irish are on a 10-game winning streak and have earned some Big East recognition themselves.

Senior Stephanie Brown earned her first ever Big

Women's Lacrosse

No. 4 Duke invades Loftus

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is 1-8 all time against Duke, but it has a chance to change that today.

The No. 4 Blue Devils will invade the Loftus Center today at 4 p.m. for a showdown with No. 11 Notre Dame.

The Irish (9-2) bring a four-game winning streak into the game — their eighth of the year against a ranked team.

Duke (19-1) visits South Bend on a five-game winning streak of its own, highlighted by last Saturday's thrilling 19-18 sudden-death overtime win over No. 5 Virginia.

The Blue Devils won a thriller last year in Durham, 11-10.

Duke will challenge the