College's five-year plan propagated

President Mooney's 'strategic plan' underway after unanimous Board of Trustees vote

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

After a unanimous approval at the Board of Trustees' meeting in October, Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney's "Strategic Plan" for the College has now been finalized, published and distributed to students, faculty and alumnae through the quarterly College magazine The Courier and on the College Website.

The five-year plan, which includes a series of goals and recommendations for the College, is now underway, executive assistant to the president Susan Dampeer said.

The document, entitled "Plan to Leadership 2012," Mooney's five-year strategic initiative for the College to enhance Saint Mary's national reputation and academic credentials. The Board of Trustees approved it after their first meeting of the academic year, in October.

"The trustees approved the plan unanimously and were very pleased with the way it turned out," Dampeer said.

Mooney announced plans for the initiative in her College Forum address in August 2006 and held 12 one-hour sessions throughout the fall to explain the plan to the College community.

A committee was later formed, which included the President's Cabinet, four faculty members, a student, a director of institutional research, the chief information officer, a staff representative and a student representative. Within the committee, there were subcommittees -- including Academic Initiatives, Student Initiatives and Resource Planning.

Since their October meeting, Mooney made some changes to the plan, as suggested by the trustees. Most of these changes, however, were minor, Dampeer said.

"Dr. Mooney took the board's suggestions, but most were with the format, not with the content," Dampeer said.

Mooney picked the finalized plan to California alumnae between Thanksgiving and Christmas and received more positive feedback, Dampeer said.

"The plan is clear and easy to understand. There isn't a lot of fluff and it's all things we can realistically accomplish," she said.

While Mooney customized her plan for the College's present situation, she is not the first College president to enact a five-year plan. Former College President Marion Eldred created a similar plan during her administration.

"It was in the natural progression to do (a plan) again," Dampeer said.

Some of the goals of the plan include making Saint Mary's one of the best colleges in the nation, diversifying the campus, stabilizing and growing enrollment and increasing financial resources. Each of the goals is followed by Mooney's recommendations to fulfill them.

While some of the goals are lengthier than others, they all have similar priorities, Dampeer said.

"Several of the goals will be happening simultaneously," Dampeer said. "There are certain people responsible for each goal -- when it will happen, how long it should take and how much it will cost. This way we can make sure things happen."

The plan is tailored to fit in the five-year window, but many things, such as financial aspects, remain overseas.

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SMC students return from abroad

Women experience fall semester academic programs in a trio of European countries

By KRISTEN EDELEN
News Writer

Forty-two students have returned from a semester abroad in Italy, Ireland and Spain, while 29 of their classmates who are studying abroad for the full academic year remain overseas.

The Saint Mary's Rome program had a fall 2007 enrollment of 51 students, with 12 of them staying for the academic year, and 47 students joining them putting enrollment at 99 for the spring semester.

"For the past 37 years, returnees have invariably remarked that studying in Rome is indeed a life-changing experience," Peter Chercha, Italian professor and director of the Rome Program said.

He believes the program's strengths are the interdisciplinarity aspect of classroom instruction and on-site visits, as well as the connection between courses and Italian culture.

Lisa Anderson, a junior who studies Italian cinema, says she especially enjoyed her Italian cinema class. "I have a dream about the way campus should be, how it should look, and how students should be educated. I'm proud to be a Saint Mary's woman," Anderson said.

One major thing that is working into Hodges' vision is the increasing enthusiasm with which the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. is being celebrated this year, she said.

"It's just amazing to see how things are working into that vision," Hodges said. "I really feel like God is moving things forward the way that they should be and the College is moving forward in leaps and bounds.

April 4 marks the 40th anniversary of King's assassination.

This year, instead of a series of various scattered events held by different groups on campus, those groups will be uniting under the newly-formed Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Steering Committee.

The committee -- led by the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Laraa Olin Detis -- comprised various faculty and staff on campus.

"In the past we had, our office had a program and campus ministry had the memorial service. This year we're coordinating all of that," Ortiz said.

Activities will stretch over Monday, the national holiday, to see KING/page 3

One club sport not squashed

ND students engage in squash events, matches

By THERESA CIVANTOS
News Writer

When most people hear the word "squash," they think of a season past around the table at Thanksgiving. For a growing number of Notre Dame students, however, squash is a sport that has grown into something bigger.

"People think it's a vegetable," said Randy Rainosek, a member of the Notre Dame Squash Club. "It's such a great sport too!"

Squash Club treasurer Pedro Gochicoa agreed, saying that when people are asked to travel, meet a lot of people and get exercise in an exciting way. Squash is a sport similar to racquetball and is somewhat popular in the northeastern United States. At the college level, nine players compose a squash team, with each player engaging in a one-on-one match with a player from the opposing team until one team has won five matches.

Professionally, squash is an individual sport like tennis.

Many Ivy League schools have varsity squash teams, leading to a belief that playing squash gives competitive edge to college applicants at top-tier schools.

We do field a lot of e-mails from high school applicants wanting to play squash here," said Javier Falomo, the club's vice president.

"They'll send us their resumes, and we have to tell them we can't help them get in; we're not a varsity sport yet."

The Notre Dame Squash Club has been around since the 1980s, Rainosek said, but "it disappeared for a while."

In 2003, the club made a major comeback under the leadership of past president James Zhang.

"The club was pretty weak for a while," James Zhang and Geoff McGuen really brought it back, Gochicoa said. "James Zhang started informally recruiting his friends to join in his sophomore year."

The style of attraction remains. The club does not formally recruit, nor does it hold try-outs to join.

"You're not required to have any level of skill to join the club," Falomo said. "We see PLAN/page 3

MLK Day sees increase in student enthusiasm

Saint Mary's students plan celebration of leader's life, 40 years after assassination

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

In March 2007, then-Saint Mary's student body president-elect Kim Hodges shared her dream for the future of the College, while talking about her hopes for the Diverse Students Leadership Conference.

"I have a dream about the way campus should be, how it should look, and how students should be educated. I'm proud to be a Saint Mary's woman," Hodges said.

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Inside Column

Dude, where's my bike?

Fortunately, my Clover Hidge apartment was spared due to the barrage of burglaries over winter break. My beloved pink bike, however, was not. The ultrawell-intentioned father turned the key, and we took a test run. Time to show yourself in.

The safest part of my story happened Wednesday, when I spotted my bike leaning against a construction fence near Stephenville. I ran to it, hopped on board, and rode off. With a full day of classes ahead and no spare for the bike, I decided to "hide" it behind a fence post near Alumni Hall. When I returned a few hours later, it was gone.

It's only mildly flattering that my bike is such a cool item. Though rusty and old, it boasts an extra large seat, giant handlebars, and even an odometer. I broke the news to my mother, who loaned me the bike yesterday. She's upset but it was a special present from my always well-intentioned father when she turned 40, and I'm in a lot of trouble.

So please, whoever took my bike, bring it back. I work (some would say live), at the Observer office in the basement of Snuffy Hall. Park the bike outside and turn yourself in. I promise I won't put a mug shot of you on the front page. This might be a futile plea, but I've had good luck in the past when my belongings have been lost or stolen. For example, when I was 14, I unknowingly dropped my wallet in our local mall's parking lot. I had been saving up to buy some exciting money for months and had journeyed to downtown Columbus for a big game. I was spending at City Center Mall. I didn't realize my wallet was missing until a few hours later, and when I returned to the parking lot to look for it, the blue and black wallet was nowhere in sight. I was teary-eyed the whole way home from the mall.

But, as it turns out, very nice people had found my wallet. Noticing my distress, a woman who recognized me kindly mailed it to Bishop Watterson High School the very next day. I was called to the front office, and there was my wallet in a manila envelope with a note "Some Friends" who had wanted to be sure it got back to me. So here's the deal, bike-snatchers. Be a good friend and give the Pink Lady back. Pretty please?

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

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mkmalone@nd.edu

Corrections

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publisher and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-454-5 so we can correct your error.

Question of the Day: What is your favorite "Family Guy" moment and why?

Andrea Jacobson

"The FCC song. It goes to every outrageous Family Guy moment in about a minute and a half."

Cory Hakanen

"When Stevie says: 'Imagine the dance I'm going to have to do to get our insurance deposit back.'"

John Fullard

"When Mayor West rolls around in nuclear waste to get spectral poopers like the Griffins. It's silly because it's realistic out of nowhere."

Liz Lefebvre

"When Stevie practices for the Olympics and crashes into the glass case... Uh-oh!"

Richie Davidson

"The chicken fights, because they reference great movie fights like Indiana Jones."

OFFBEAT

Third time isn't a charm

LYNDONVILLE, Vt. — Stacie Warren wasn't satisfied with one husband, so police say she married again and again. Warren, 33, was cited last week on a second charge of bigamy for having three husbands. State police said Warren married Frank Gray last year while she already was married to two other men. Vermont State Police Trooper Cathie Field said Warren married a third time two months after being charged with bigamy in 2007. In that case, both Warren and her second husband were charged with bigamy because the man also was already married to someone else, police said. Warren apparently married one man, then moved on and married another without getting divorced, Field said. He said pre­scription drug abuse may be a factor in the case.

Boomerangs really do return

BRISBANE, Australia — Boomerangs really do come back — even after 25 years. Officials in an Australian Outback town were surprised when a boomerang arrived in the post. Along with it was a note from a guilt-ridden American who said he stole it years earlier from a museum in the mining town of Mount Isa, and now felt rotten about it. "I removed this back in 1983 when I was younger and dumber," said the note, according to Mount Isa Mayor Ron McCallough. "It was the wrong thing to do, I'm sorry, and I'm going to send it back," said the note.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

The film "Miss Navajo" will be shown tonight at 8 and 10 in Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Preforming Arts Center as a part of the Worldviews Series. Director Billy Luther will be present. Tickets are $6, $5 for faculty/staff, $4 for seniors, and $3 for all students.

Men's and women's indoor track will host the ND Indoor Opener tonight at 5 at the Lafontaine Sports Center. Admission is free.

The Student Activities Office and the Freshman and Sophomore Class Councils will host a Retro Video Dance Party tonight from 9 to midnight in the LaFortune Ballroom. Admission is free.

The Student Activities Office is hosting free ice skating in the Joyce Center this Saturday from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. The free skating will be followed by a showing of the Will Ferrell film 'Blades of Glory' in the Montgomery Auditorium of LaFortune at 11:30 p.m.

The men's tennis team will play matches against Toledo Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Ed Kene Tennis Pavilion. Admission is free.

The film "All About Eve" will be shown in Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Preforming Arts Center Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are $6, $5 for faculty/staff, $4 for seniors, and $3 for all students.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
The Observer is now accepting applications for its 2008-09 Editor-in-Chief.

Applicants should submit a resume and 12-15 page application to The Observer’s South Dining Hall office by Tuesday, January 22 at 5 p.m.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at 631-4542 or m.hanna1@nd.edu with questions.

Plan
continued from page 1

retention and beautifying the campus are ongoing, Dampeer said.

Although a chosen body reviewed the plan this year, it will also be reviewed every year in order to keep it as a "living document," as Mooney described in the plan.

"The committee will be fresh each year by virtue of the fact that people leave their positions, we hire new people, and the students change," Dampeer said.

Currently, the committee has more than 20 members — including administration, faculty, staff and senior Maggie Siefer.

Several initiatives are already underway. The College is currently working to increase enrollment, and a committee has been formed to change the general education requirements of the College.

"Nothing happens that fast, and there certainly hasn't been anything dramatic since October," Dampeer said. "But things are starting and some are clearly moving.

Dampeer, along with other members on the planning committee, are optimistic about the success of the plan.

"Sometimes you work really hard, but things just sit on the shelf," she said. "But this is a living document that is already moving forward.

"The full text of the Strategic Plan can be found on the Saint Mary's Web site.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler01@saintmarys.edu
Squash
continued from page 1

definitely encourage people to join no matter what their skill level at Squash.
Squash, although similar to racquetball, is tougher to master. Palomo said.

"One thing about squash that makes it different from racquetball is that the ball doesn’t bounce as much," said Palomo. "You have to practice a little more to start really having fun with it."

The squash team will be competing in the West Coast Round Robin from Feb. 1-3 at the University of Southern California. The squad will also compete at the Notre Dame Invitational at Harvard from Feb. 15-17.

Recently, the Squash Club has gained prestige both on and off campus. It won best club of the year in 2007, and past president James Mary’s Irish program director.

Nineteen students participated in the 2007 fall semester, 14 are staying the entire year, and on January 29, eight more students will arrive in Maynooth for the spring 2008 semester, Chambers said.

Irwin sees her experience at the large university, located 20 miles outside of Dublin, led her to a greater appreciation for the smaller or atmosphere of Saint Mary’s. But, she said, “I’d go back in a heartbeat.”

Contact Theresa Civanatos at

Squash consulting group names its first director

Special to the Observer

Stephen A. Perla, superintendent of schools for the Catholic Diocese of Worcester, Mass., has been appointed the first director of Notre Dame’s Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Consulting Initiative. His appointment becomes effective in June.

“ACE is committed to strengthening and sustaining under-ensured Catholic schools,” said ACE founder Rev. Timothy R. Scully, CSC, director of the Institute for Educational Initiatives at Notre Dame. “This new consulting initiative is one more effort to ensure that our Church’s educational ministry remains strong and vibrant. With Steve’s experience and passion for Catholic education, ACE Consulting will address many of the most pressing needs in Catholic schools from coast to coast. I am very grateful in the choice of Worcester for the gift that they are making to our efforts to strengthen and sustain Catholic schools nationally.”

Before becoming the superintendent of Catholic schools in Worcester in 2004, Perla served for more than 10 years as the founding executive director of the Parents Alliance for Catholic Education, a Massachusetts group which advocates on behalf of students and Catholic schools. He also has served in a variety of administrative positions in higher education and as mayor of Leominster, Mass., from 1988 to 1992.


Emphasizing the challenges facing contemporary Catholic education, the report recommended that Notre Dame undertake 12 “strategic initiatives,” among them the establishment of ACE Consulting to provide administrators and Catholic school advisors with “high-quality, affordable consultative guidance in marketing, strategic planning, fundraising and other areas essential to school success.”

Founded in 1994, the Alliance for Catholic Education supports a variety of programs serving Catholic schools in the United States and abroad. Central to its mission is the preparation of teachers and leaders for service in Catholic schools. While earning a master in education degree, approximately 150 college graduates serve annually in schools in 32 communities. The ACE Leadership Program was begun in the summer of 2002 to train qualified and faithful principals for Catholic schools. Notre Dame trains more Catholic school leaders than any other institution of higher education. The publication of “Making God Known, Loved, and Served” hopes to expand its commitment to serve Catholic Church’s educational ministry.

"ACE Consulting group names its first director"
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Islamic extremists seize Pakistani fort

International investigators probing the source of a listeria outbreak said Thursday the strain that sickened a pregnant woman, who then miscarried, was the same strain that caused at least 22 soldiers dead or missing.

The insurgents later abandoned the fort and melted away into the hills, said military spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas. "There is no negotiation with the militants, they have gone from there," he said.

The attack underscores the significance of the ground, but they did further erode confidence in the U.S.-allied government's ability to control areas where the Taliban and al-Qaida flourish.

At least 9 dead in suicide bombing

BAGHDAD — A female suicide bomber struck a Baghdad market, Islamic extremists attacked and seized a small fort near the Afghan border, leaving at least 22 soldiers dead or missing.

A witness said people shouted slogans against al-Qaida in Iraq as they carried the dead and wounded from the blast scene near a market-place in Diyalta province — a region of farmland and palm groves northeast of Baghdad that holds strategic havens for extremists.

Diyaal remains one of Iraq's most violent regions and the insurgents are trying to overwhelm al-Qaida strongholds in the capital and elsewhere around the country.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

Listeria outbreak linked to dairy plant

Investigators probing the source of a listeria outbreak said Thursday the strain that sickened a pregnant woman, who then miscarried, was the same strain that caused at least 22 soldiers dead or missing.

While officials have not yet determined exactly where the milk was contaminated, they said it's possible the contamination occurred in the plant and we have connected the patients to the product in the plant, now it would be nice to know exactly how that happened, but that is part of the ongoing investigation," said Dr. Alfred DeMaria, state director of communicable disease control.

A woman said she had shopped at a store that sold possibly contaminated milk, but that she did not know where the milk had come from.

Man charged for killing police officer

Bolton, N.H. - A man charged for killing police officer Cullemore was released on personal recognizance in the apparent ambush slaying of two officers at a crime-ridden apartment complex, and police were searching for at least one more suspect, authorities said Thursday.

Dwight Jamal Johnson, 28, of Decatur, was taken to the Doorkill County Jail and charged with two counts of murder, county Police Chief Terrell Bolson said Thursday. Deonavo Dumbrum, 32, was charged with two counts of murder Wednesday night after a massive search that involved SWAT teams, police dogs and a helicopter.

Bolton made another appeal to the public Thursday for information about the officers' slayings, and issued a warning to those still at large.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Bill to keep Great Lakes water supply

INDIANAPOLIS — The state Senate unanimously passed a bill Thursday evening for Indiana to join a regional compact intended to prevent the federal government from taking control of the Great Lakes' water supply.

The bill, which passed the Senate 47-0, now heads to the House of Representatives.

Sen. Beverly Gard, R-Bloomington, said both the Senate bill and the House bill have "amendments that the environmentalists have expressed "overwhelming support for" her bill. She said drought-stricken states are already seeking purchase water from the Great Lakes, which between them hold about 20 percent of the world's supply of surface fresh water.

**UNITED KINGDOM**

19 injured during crash-landing

British Airways plane was arriving from Beijing at Heathrow Airport; investigation continues

Associated Press

LONDON — A British Airways flight from Beijing carrying 152 people crash-landed Thursday, injuring 19 people and causing more than 200 flights to be canceled at Europe's busiest airport.

Investigators will speak to the pilots and study the plane's flight data recorders and maintenance records to determine what caused the crash-landing at Heathrow airport, tearing the plane's underbelly and damaging its wings.

Nothing suggested it was terror-related, Scotland Yard said.

Witness Crowch, an aviation analyst with 35 years of experience as a commercial pilot, said the landing gear punched through both wings, indicating a "massive vertical impact." That suggests a total loss of engine power may have caused the plane to crash, he said.

Robert Cullemore of Aviation Economics, a London-based aviation consultancy, said the pilot kept the plane in the air long enough to prevent a disaster.

"If it had landed 200 meters (656 feet) shorter than it did, it may have hit perinatal units in the hospital and killed some other buildings and the car park, clearly we would be dealing with fatalities and obvious damage," Cullemore said.

Fire trucks surrounded the Boeing 777 after it landed, spraying thousands of gallons of water around the aircraft. Two of the plane's giant wheels were ripped from the craft during the landing and could be seen on grass near the runway.

Passenger Paul Venter said the landing gear was locked when the craft was about to land.

"The plane was calm, it came out and went for touchdown, and the next moment we just dropped. I couldn't tell you how far," he said.

Venter said he didn't speak to the pilot, but I saw him, and he looked very pale," Venter said.

The plane's wheels appeared to collapse as it came down in the grass in front of the airport's southern runway, witness John Rowland told the British Broadcasting Corp.

"It crashed into the runway, debris was flying everywhere, there was an enormous bang and it skidded sideways," he said.

Hillingdon Hospital said it was treating 13 injured, and six went to other hospitals.

British Airways said one person suffered a broken leg.

The accident on one of Heathrow's two runways occurred just before a plane carrying British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and a delegation of business leaders, including Virgin Chairman Richard Branson, was about to depart for China.

The prime minister's plane was about a half mile away, an airline official said.

More than 200 flights were canceled — nearly a fifth of the day's flights, airport operator BAA said. Planes were able to take off and land on Heathrow's northern runway, air traffic control company Nats said. Some flights were diverted to other airports.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch was investigating, British Airways Chief Executive Willie Walsh told reporters, adding the airline line didn't want to speculate on the cause. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board also said it was sending a team of investigators to help.

It was the first accident involving the Boeing 777, a mainstay of many carriers' fleets, since the plane entered service in 1995, said Boeing spokesman Liz Verdirer in Seattle.

**Wreckage of a British Airways plane covers the runway after it crashed-landed at London's Heathrow Airport Thursday. Investigators are still searching for the cause of the crash.**

The Boeing 777 was relatively new at six years old, Walsh said, adding the pilot was one of BA's most experienced having worked for the company for nearly 20 years.

Passenger Terrell Finnick told the BBC that he at first thought the plane had made a hard landing.

"There was no indication that we were going to have a bad landing," he said. "When we hit the ground it was extremely rough."

"Then the emergency exits were opened and all told we should all go through as quickly as possible, and the moment I was away I started to realize that the undercarriage was away, and we had missed the runway," Finnick said.

"Now I realize I've had a close call," he said.

10 nurses face child endangerment charges

Associated Press

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — For months, the nurses complained that they were subject to demeaning and unfair working conditions — not what they were promised when they came to America from the Philippines in search of a better life that would allow them to study and work as nurses.

But in doing so, they put more than their own careers at risk and could lose their nursing licenses and be deported.

The case has unfolded against the nurses last year.

The nurses are accused of aiding and abetting illegal entry, among other charges.

"The act of providing them with a document to aid them in entering the United States jeopardized the lives of children and women who would otherwise not have the protection of a medical provider," federal prosecutors said.

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"Coming to the United States is like the fulfillment of your nursing career," said Maria Theresa Ramos, who arrived on Long Island in 2002.

The nurses are accused of aiding and abetting illegal entry, among other charges.
October 25, 1963
Dr. King speaks at Notre Dame
Reprinted from Scholastic

Remember the Dream
Prayer Service

Monday, January 21, 2008
12:30 p.m., Main Building Rotunda

Please join Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.,
President, and Rev. Hugh R. Page Jr. Dean of
First Year of Studies, as they lead a prayer service
to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

All members of the Notre Dame community and their families are welcome.

A reception will immediately follow.
Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke addressed the House Budget Committee Thursday, supporting a tax rebate as an answer to the threat of economic recession.

Bernanke voiced his support for a stimulus package in an appearance before the House Budget Committee. He stressed that it must be temporary and must be implemented quickly — so that its economic effects would be felt as much as possible within the next 12 months. "Putting money into the hands of households and firms that would spend it in the near term is a priority," he said.

Especially important is making sure a plan can put cash into the hands of poor people and the middle class, who are most likely to spend it right away, he said. Though he added that research shows affluent people also spend some of their rebates.

He declined to endorse any particular approach, but did say he preferred one that would not have a long-term adverse impact on the government's budget deficit. Bush and congressional leaders from both parties consulted via conference call Thursday for about 30 minutes. Both sides basically were in agreement that they needed to cooperate to do something quickly, Perino said.

**NYSE buys Amex, ending old rivalries**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Stock Exchange on Thursday agreed to buy the American Stock Exchange, ending a once intense rivalry that began in colonial times when brokers traded in lower Manhattan. The move is a priority, especially important is making sure a plan can put cash into the hands of poor people and the middle class, who are most likely to spend it right away, he said. Though he added that research shows affluent people also spend some of their rebates.

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**Federal Reserve contemplates tax rebate**

House leaders hope money will increase consumer spending, stave off recession

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — You could find hundreds of dollars in your pocket later this year, and the government is in such a hurry to get it that it will go right out and spend it for you.

Tax rebates are emerging as a key weapon in the government's arsenal to stave off recession, endorsed by President Bush, congressional leaders and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Thursday.

The idea is that if people see more money, they will spend it, which is what has been showing dire signs of falling since the first national recession since 2001. Democratic and Republican leaders in the House are eying rebates in the range of $300 to $800 a person.

All the talk of rescue efforts failed to soothe Wall Street. Dow Jones industrial stocks were down 24.8 percent from their October high, falling for a seventh consecutive month, critical that activity will be weak at least through the spring of this year.

**BRIEF**

**Construction down 24.8% since 2006**

WASHINGTON — The steep slump in housing is intensifying at the end of last year, pushing home construction down by the biggest amount on record and enough to push the country into a recession.

Whether the housing slump will be severe enough to spill over into recession depends on whether the housing slump will be severe enough to spill over into recession depends on whether the housing slump will be severe enough to spill over into recession depends on whether the housing slump will be severe enough to spill over into recession depends on whether the housing slump will be severe enough to spill over into recession depends on whether the housing slump will be severe enough to spill over into recession depends on whether the housing slump will be severe enough to spill over into recession.

**IN BRIEF**

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Babysitter charged in toddler’s murder

Police report one-year-old was found with bruises, other injuries after his death last week

Associated Press

ELLINGTON, Conn. — Julie Adkins-Gasque never worried when her 1-year-old son sported a black eye. Torres, her 2-year-old brother, had played rough with the baby sister’s son, she thought.

Yet there was the working mom on Thursday, burrying her boy, Elijah Gasque, in a freezing graveyard and trying to understand how he wound up with a blackjack skull in the care of the 25-year-old sitter, Valley Torres.

“What did he cry too much for her? I don’t know why she would do it.” Adkins-Gasque said after the funeral. “I’m angry, I’m hurt, I’m shocked sometimes. I miss my son.”

A judge in Hartford arraigned Torres on a murder charge Thursday and set her bail at $1 million. Authorities alleged Torres, 19, fell asleep after her head struck a door frame as she ran around with him slung over her shoulder in a sleeping bag.

A family friend, Mayra Velazquez, said she was shocked to hear the news.

“She’s a good mother,” Velazquez said through an interpreter. “She took care of her kids.”

Adkins-Gasque said she met Torres months ago through a friend and asked him to watch her son as much as five days a week. She noticed fresh bruises on him four or five times, but Torres explained that Elijah fought with a toy.

“I thought she was letting her son get out of control,” Adkins-Gasque said, thought that’s just the way it was.

Last Thursday, Elijah came home with a fresh bruise on his forehead, his mother said. But she left her son with at Torres’ apartment in Hartford again Friday because she had to work and couldn’t find or afford a different sitter.

According to a police report, Torres called Adkins-Gasque at that night and told her that Elijah had a seizure and collapsed during a game of ring-around-the-rosy.

When officers arrived, Torres reportedly told conflicting statements to them about the injury, saying 2-year-old son fell and hit himself in the head with a toy xylophone, and that Elijah may have been hurt when he fell after she twisted him in the air and set him down facing a headrest. After more questioning, Torres said the boy was injured in a game in which he bundled him in a sleeping bag and jogged with the bag slung over his shoulder, according to the report.

Going through one doorway, Torres lost her balance and fell with Elijah, the report said. When she opened the door, a large black eye and broken nose drew the attention of police.

The child died at a hospital the next day. The police report noted Elijah had a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain, as well as medical examiner’s office ruled the death a homicide.

Torres admitted she had initially lied about the boy’s injuries because she didn’t want people to think she intentionally hurt the boy if she told the truth, police said.

She was initially charged with risk of injury to a minor and reckless endangerment and was released on bond Tuesday. Officers re-arrested her late Wednesday and charged her with capital felony, a murder charge that carries a possible death penalty. She was released on parole if she is convicted.

On Thursday, Hartford Superior Judge Carla L. Loomis granted defense attorney Claudia Jones’ request to keep Torres on suicide watch at the jail.

Jones declined comment after the hearing.

Torres, who was shackled dressed in a sleeveless black hooded sweatshirt, did not speak during her court appearance, but was overcome with emotion and had to sit down.

Police report one-year-old was found with bruises, other injuries after his death last week

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Omar Bin Laden aspires to peace

Associated Press

Conservatives resurrect state law

Policy allows public to launch grand jury investigations against citizens

Associated Press

Omar Bin Laden's son, Omar, 26, and his wife ride horses in Claro. The son supports peaceful Islam.

CAIRO - Omar al Bassam is a striking resemblance to his notorious father - except for the dreadlocks that dangle halfway down his back. Then there's the black leather biker jacket.

The 26-year-old does not resemble him in al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, but in an interview with The Associated Press, he said there is better way to defend Islam than militancy: to be an "ambassador for peace" between Muslims and the West.

Osama - one of bin Laden's 19 children - raised a tabloid storm last year when he married a 52-year-old British woman, Jane Felix-Brown, who took the name Zaina Al Sabah. Now the couple say they are planning a 3,000-mile horse race across North Africa to draw attention to the cause of peace.

"I'm about changing the ideas of the Western mind. A lot of people think Arabs are all terrorists. This is not the truth," Omar said the AP last week at a cafe in Cairo shopping mall, where he is staying.

Of course, many may have a hard time not thinking about the idea of "Bin Laden: peacemaker."

"Does he think he can be a negotiator," said Al Sabah, who is trying to bring her husband to Britain. "He's one of the only people who can do this in the world."

Omar lived with the al-Qaida leader in Sudan, then moved with him to Afghanistan in 1996.

There, Omar says he trained at an al-Qaida camp but in 2000 he decided there must be another way. He left his father, returning to his homeland of Saudi Arabia.

"I want to be in that situation to just fight. I like to find another way and this other way may be like we do now, talking," he said in English.

He suggested his father did not oppose his leaving - and Al Sabah interjected that Omar was courageous in breaking away, but mother elaborated.

"We see in Kansas a perfect example of a system which has virtually become active vigilantism," said Lee Thompson, an attorney for Tiller.

At least two of Osama bin Laden's sons, Hamza and Saad, are believed to have an active role in al-Qaida - with Hamza believed to be in the Pakistan-Afghan border zone and Saad thought to be in Iran, perhaps in training camps.

Tiller has long been at the very heart of the same kind of life. He was convicted of 15 first-degree murders in 1989 and later, in 2006, his clinic was bombed.

Good for defending the Arab or Muslim world?" said Alsabah, who earlier said he trained in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

"If you look at the people of Kansas have given themselves, the law is there to protect the people," he said.

"We have seen a system that is too soft on abortion."

"There are a lot of people who want to be advocates, especially the bin Ladens, like this, they will find him through satellites," he said.

"They came and goes just like any other tourist," said a security official, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

"He's a terrorist," said Alsabah, who earlier had a hand in the creation of the al-Qaida's "cellular" network.

"If he had something and took them, they will find him."

"I'm trying to bring her husband back. Then there's the black leather biker jacket."
Amtrak may strike for first time ever

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Commuters stranded from Virginia to Massachusetts. Train service shut down at major terminals in New York, Chicago and Boston. A flood of extra cars on congested highways around Washington and San Francisco.

Come Jan. 30, that nightmarish vision of Amtrak's 36-year history, and it's still likely that one will beverted, either through a last-minute deal or intervention by Congress.

But if workers do walk out, the 71,000 people who take Amtrak every day won't be the only ones affected. Hundreds of thousands of people who ride commuter trains will join them, since many such services depend on Amtrak's service or infrastructure, particularly in the Northeast.

The dispute involves about 10,000 employees whose last contract ended Dec. 31, 1999. After years of unsuccessful mediation, a presidential emergency board issued a report on the dispute Dec. 30. Amtrak employees aren't at work, trains can't run on those tracks. Some 218,000 daily trips are taken on the affected service.

There has never been a strike over Amtrak's 36-year history, and it's still likely that one will beverted, either through a last-minute deal or intervention by Congress.

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In this sensitive documentary, filmmaker Billy Luther, whose mother was crowned Miss Navajo 1966, opens the door to the Miss Navajo competition, inaugurated in 1952. This competition challenges contestants with diverse styles, physiques, and political orientations to answer tough historical questions in the Navajo language and showcase their spiritual and practical knowledge of practices like governance, traditional singing, or butchering a whole sheep. The film subtly illustrates the sacred dimension of Miss Navajo as well—how participation places the young women on a timeless matriarchal continuum going back to creation and the first Diné (Navajo) life-giving ancestor, Changing Woman.

Friday, January 18 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
Director Billy Luther will discuss the film and answer questions from the audience after the first screening.

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On Dec. 27, Benazir Bhutto was tragically assassinated outside a political rally in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Later that day, I embarked on my parent’s house in Northbrook, Ill. for the state of Iowa, where I would learn more about politics in a few days than I have in any poli sci class yet. Half a world away from Pakistan, I, wrote to film a documentary about the Iowa caucuses, but what was found was real, unadorned democracy that is seemingly taken for granted.

Across southeastern Iowa, I met with normal people who were far more involved with the political process than average people from other states. People like Gregory Monroe, a democrat who I spoke with at an Obama rally in Muscatine. He had personally seen many of the candidates, and was struggling to determine who to caucus for. He felt that there were a lot of great candidates to choose from this year and was using his personal meetings with the candidates to help him decide which person was the most honest and qualified to lead this country. While he felt privileged to be able to personally see all of the candidates in Iowa, he might not have fully recognized how fortunate he was.

Benazir Bhutto’s death was hanging over my trip to Iowa. She was a former Prime Minister of Pakistan who was the first woman to lead a Muslim country. When she died, she was the leader of the opposition party, and a strong voice in bringing Pakistan back towards democracy. She died in a suicide attack while leaving a campaign rally in preparation for elections that have now been postponed due to her death.

At campaign events in Iowa, similar to the one where Bhutto was killed, I saw leaders of what could be considered our opposition party talk about the need for change. John Edwards told a group of supporters in Tipton that he was here to fight for the working class. Barack Obama told a crowd in Muscatine that he knew how to bring change because he had been fighting for it his entire life. Both men criticized the ruling party, but their lives were not in danger.

In fact, I found myself very receptive to these ideas of change as Senator Barack Obama and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee won the caucuses using honest tactics to spread their ideas about change. Huge crowds turned out to their events as the candidates were able to shake hands with hundreds of Iowans in the weeks leading up to the caucuses. People were not concerned about what might happen if they supported opposition candidates, and they were free to participate in real democracy. Their choices were not influenced by the state or even the media, but by their opinions after personal encounters with the candidates.

In most of the United States the media and advertisers dominate the political landscape, but in Iowa, democracy is what it was meant to be. Candidates are truly chosen by the people, and retain politics is the way they make their decision. Candidates are able to develop personal relationships with voters, and the voters are able to gain trust in the candidates. This is not only made possible by Iowa’s first-in-the-nation status, but also by the strong democratic traditions of the United States.

In Pakistan, a woman was killed for trying to restore democracy to the country, and she was killed at a rally similar in intent to the ones I attended in Iowa. It is not as if this attack came as a surprise. Earlier in 2007, Bhutto had also been the target of an assassination attempt, but she soldiered on in an attempt to bring democracy back to the troubled nation.

When I was in Iowa, I came within feet of several of our presidential candidates. John Edwards, Barack Obama, Ron Paul, and Mike Huckabee were all close enough that I might have shaken their hands if I was not preoccupied with filming them shake other people’s hands. Yet, I never felt I was in danger. In the United States we sometimes get so caught up in our own political differences and we sometimes become so enamored with criticizing certain candidates that we forget how lucky we are to be able to safely participate in our democracy.

In Iowa, citizens are even luckier as they are able to personally meet our political candidates, and discuss their merits through a caucus process. Nobody gives any thought to the fact that it might be unsafe to go to events where the opposition candidates are speaking and presenting their views. Let alone opposition candidates who are mainly arguing for democracy in general.

So as our presidential nominating process continues, and much of the country votes on Super Tuesday, I urge everybody to go out and vote. People rarely contemplate the luxuries we are granted by being born into this country and we must not forget the millions of people in our world who do not have the same rights that we have. While Iowans are particularly lucky, we must remember how privileged we are as Americans living in our United States.

Bob Kessler is a junior majoring in political science and economics. He is also a writer for the website saltyslx.com. He can be contacted at rkesler@nd.edu.

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

An old boss of mine shared with me an anecdote about her young nephew. The boy had overheard his parents arguing over finances and naturally he wanted them to stop. He opened the door to the room in which they were arguing and profoundly stated he had the answer to their problems: debt consolidation. He was fooled; this boy was no seven-year old financial prodigy. His knowledge was derived solely from commercials during their first-in-the-nation selection process. Iowa workers also demand a personal, up-close style of campaigning that leads to both excitement and exhaustion for the candidates and their staffs. While most caucus-goers expect candidates to court them, some actually keep track of how many times each candidate contacts them through mailers, telephone calls and door-to-door visits. By caucus week, many caucus-goers were annoyed by last-minute campaigning and refused any contact from the campaigns. Some even changed their support on a whim, like one college student who abandoned Edwards for Clinton after the Secret Service kept him isolated in 2004 for arriving late at an Edwards event.

Interestingly, though, a great number of Iowans remain undecided as they enter the caucus room.

For the Clinton campaign, Hillary enlisted the former president to stump across Iowa — two mega-speakers in one campaign. The president's stump speech faced humor with serious pronouncements as he captivated Democrats in an hour-long session. He is fond of relaying the story of how a year ago a worried friend asked him, as a former president, to arrange tea time on an exclusive golf course near the Clinton home. The two rowed chuckles as Clinton quotes his reply to the friend, "You used the operative word, 'former,' but I'll try." The story continues with how Clinton, as part of a foursome on the golf course, is the last to put on the green. As he turns to leave, already trailing behind his golf party; Clinton's caddy stops him to admit that he is not a caddy but had to speak with the former president. Clinton elicits another chuckle from the audience, "So I think to myself that this guy is either a journalist or a terrorist." It turns out, Clinton says, that the man is a firefighter from New York City. He tells the president that he needed to relay his thanks for Hillary's work after 9/11 since she was the only official to recognize that the air would harm the recovery workers after the towers collapsed. The firefighter admits that he has the best health insurance available — that is not his issue. He watched hisрадes die during 9/11 and as a result of the air afterward. Clinton says that the two of them are standing alone on the green, tears streaming from their eyes, as the firefighter tells the president that he just had to come personally to say his thanks.

At this point in Clinton's speech, the Iowa audience is hanging on his every word. It is absolutely quiet in the hall. Clinton concludes by saying that when people ask him how for nearly 40 years he knew Hillary, to tell why she is the best candidate, he did not know how to answer. At the interject that met him that he had been a firefighter a year ago. He tells Hillary's compassion, intelligence and common sense especially demonstrated in being the first to recognize and act on assistance for the recovery workers.

After the Burlington speech, Clinton staff documented while walking door-to-door, that nearly five percent of caucus-goers they contacted enthusiastically admitted to support Hillary after hearing the former president speak. Although icy conditions kept many older supporters away from their caucus precincts, it was evident that she had great support despite a one percent deficit from second place. Do not underestimate how profound of an asset her husband can be for her in tomorrow's Nevada caucus and next week's South Carolina primary. The Democratic nomination may just be decided by who has an articulate former president in their campaign camp.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His comments appear every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotdog@com "The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer."

Creating early brand loyalty in kids unethical

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Since taking over as president of basketball operations for the New York Knicks in 2003 and then assuming the role of head coach in 2006, Thomas the Tank Engine has run the Knicks into the ground. The Knickruckers have remained the little blue and orange engine that couldn’t, due in large part to Isaiah Thomas’ lavish spending, terrible trade decisions and inept leadership.

He has spent more money than the gross domestic product of some third-world countries, assembled a crack squad of washed-up has-beens, never-were and never-will-bees and made the Knicks into a running joke in the sports world. To quote Ozzy Osbourne, the Knicks have been “going off the rails on a crazy train” for the past four years, and Thomas is the conductor. It’s time to cut this ride short.

These days Thomas finds himself surrounded by boos and jeering every time the Knicks take the court at Madison Square Garden, turning what should be a home game into a decided-ly hostile environment. Chants of “Fire Isaiah” from the Garden faithful have the hoops fanatics of New York calling for his head. The vox populi have spoken and they want Thomas out. It’s time to give the people what they want. Of course, Madison Square Garden isn’t the Coliseum of ancient Rome, and thumbs-up or thumbs-down yay-or-nay socialism from the fans shouldn’t determine decisions at the management level. However, in Isaiah’s case there are plenty of reasons to doubt Thomas. The numbers speak for themselves.

4-14: the Knicks’ record this season. 3-12-07: the date Knicks owner James Dolan extended Thomas’ contract by multiple years, citing “significant and evident progress” as the motive for the extension.

101-61: the score of the Knicks’ Oct. 17 loss to the Boston Celtics, in which the C’s powerwashed the floor clean of any semblance of the Knicks or professional basketball with an absolute drubbing. In the offseason, the Celtics made bold moves to acquire All-Stars Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen. Perhaps Thomas should have taken notes. Unlike his many moves which have blown up in his face, the Celtics’ two new stars, combined with incumbent superstar Paul Pierce, have created a new-luck-power triad which has set fire to the league, leading the C’s to an 18-2 start.

Using his carte blanche powers as executive and then coach, Thomas has put together a squad of overpaid underachievers who don’t play team ball, whine, moan and create a media circus even in a city nicknamed Zoo York. They’ve made headlines for all the wrong reasons. Isaiah’s trade for Stephon Marbury, his prized point guard, has worked out horribly for all involved. Marbury has failed to provide any semblance of leadership, his numbers are down and even worse, he and his coach have taken their lashing public, as highlight-ed by a slew of recent headlines adver-

tising their malcontent to the sports world.

Then, of course, you have the Brawl with the Denver Nuggets on Dec. 16 of last year, one of the most vicious on-court altercations in recent memory. Even here, Thomas may have played a misguiding role: the fight erupted after he allegedly told one of his players to intentionally commit a foul. The Knicks have had a reputation (and some might even say a tradition) for thuggery dating back to the 1990s and teams featuring Patrick Ewing, John Starks, Anthony Mason and Charles Oakley. However, those Pat Riley-coached teams did something Thomas’ teams don’t: they won basketball games.

Even worse, Thomas may now be blaming the fans for causing the team to lose. According to a New York Daily News story, during yet another recent loss, Thomas was overheard saying the Knicks’ fans were “a bad sixth man.” Season ticket holders also allegedly overheard Thomas say “It’s your fault” to the fans for the mounting losses. They too because they want to cheer, Isaiah. It’s time for Isaiah Thomas to stop making excuses and start packing his bags. It’s time to give the fans what they want, since it’s been abundantly clear that the product on the court cant. Thomas has taken this oversized franchise and run it into the ground, ensuring that the Knicks will remain terrible for the remainder of this decade and possibly well into the next. It’s time for Isaiah Thomas to go.

Contact T. Edward Andrews at tandrew@tions.edu

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
You might say Brother Ali stands out in the hip-hop crowd. In an industry dominated by black artists and performers, white rappers such as Eminem and Vanilla Ice have always been novelty acts, but Brother Ali goes beyond the pale. He’s an athlete.

Born Jason Newman in Madison, Wis., Brother Ali moved to another frigid city in a frigid state. After arriving on the Minneapolis, Minn., hip-hop scene, the fair-skinned MC’s career began heating up. Brother Ali, who will be performing at Legends Saturday, eventually managed to prove naysayers and doubters wrong by signing a deal with music label Rhymesayers Entertainment.

As you might imagine, growing up albumino made for a difficult childhood for Mr. Ali. He learned to grow a thick skin and work on his lyrical rhyme scheme. Day by day, what he lacks in melanin he makes up for with colorful rhymes.

Unlike many of the hip-hop artists churning up FM airwaves with trash talk of drive-by shootings and strip club jaunts, Brother Ali’s music offers a return to hip-hop’s edge of superheroes, whatsoever and his comic book aficionados have always considered the stance of The Observer.

T. Edward Andrews
Scene Editor
By T. EDWARD ANDREWS
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As you might imagine, growing up albumino made for a difficult childhood for Mr. Ali. He learned to grow a thick skin and work on his lyrical rhyme scheme. Day by day, what he lacks in melanin he makes up for with colorful rhymes.

Unlike many of the hip-hop artists churning up FM airwaves with trash talk of drive-by shootings and strip club jaunts, Brother Ali’s music offers a return to hip-hop’s edge of superheroes, whatsoever and his comic book aficionados have always considered the stance of The Observer.

The unthinkable has occurred. As the Associated Press reported in a story Wednesday, longtime comic book heartthrob and celebrity couple Peter Parker t.a.k.e. Spider Man, if you have no knowledge of superheroes, movie theaters or life whatsoever and his wife of two years, Mary Jane Watson, have made like a wishbone and split. This is bad. Really bad. This is worse than the collapse of Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, the collapse of Bennifer or the inevitable collapse of Brangelina.

And, much like the collapse of the Soviet Union, no one saw this coming. Well, perhaps one man did. Joe Queda, the editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics, invented the storyline that tore asunder the Peter-MJ split has much more to do with an less-than-desirable cretin from the opposite end of the theological spectrum, an uninsured character named Mephisto who essentially plays the role of the devil in the Marvel comics universe.

In the current Spidey storyline, entitled "Brand New Day," Peter Parker’s beloved Aunt May suffers grave injury during an attack. In order to save her, Peter makes a deal with Mephisto in which the Satanic character will restore Aunt May’s health in exchange for splitting up Peter and MJ, and even worse, erasing everyone in the universe’s memory of it (except, of course, for the wall crawler’s fans, who are in arms over this latest little plot twist). It would appear that Peter Parker isn’t the only one striking deals with the devil. Mr. Quesada, in a blunt plug to boost comic book sales, has sold out the fans in the interest of selling them more products.

I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again: Peter and MJ, as he calls her, have stood as the best celebrity couple in comics for as long as I’ve been a "fan." As I like to call them, stood for the best of comics: attractive de-godders with personalities as beautiful as their artificially drawn, inked and colored exteriors. An entire generation of comic book readers has always been able to count on Peter-May being there for them.

Comic book aficionados have always wanted to be Peter: smart, nerdy without being too nerdy, ability to stick to walls, crime-infested streets of the nation’s inner cities.

"Welcome to the united states / land of the free / home of the slave / grand imperial guard / where the dollar is sacred / and power is God."

"Pioneered so many ways to degrade a human being / that it can’t be changed to this day / legacy so ingrained in the way that we think / we no longer need chains to lock us down."

Brother Ali is an interesting, laid-back delivery: His voice makes for smooth listening, and yet it’s laced with soul and drips with biting satire. Brother Ali’s music features a variety of colorful influences, including some blues, folk and soul accompanying his beats.

Prior to "The Undisputed Truth," Brother Ali released an album entitled "Champion" in 2004. Between albums, Brother Ali suffered a fall from grace, including separating from his wife of 10 years, living as a homeless person and bartending for custody of his son. His hunger and guilt took their way through his voice to the ears of his listeners. Of his latest album, Ali has said, "I want a man who's made up an album that gives you no choice but to feel what I’m feeling at the time. I made choices that sent me through the wringer in the past few years and [producer] ANT and I have made music that really communicates the feeling of those situations."

All counts among his friends underground rapper Slug from the hip-hop group Atmosphere. The group is also signed under the Rhymesayers Entertainment music label, and Atmosphere member ANT produced Brother Ali's first album, "Shadows on the Sun."

Given that he’s legally blind, Brother Ali may actually not see color, which is fitting considering his status as an aberration in the rap world. His MySpace page describes Ali as a "modern urban Normal Rockwell" and "a cross between John Gottlieb and Mahatma Gandhi." That’s fitting praise for a man whose professional career continues to straddle lines of color and convention.

With the release of "The Undisputed Truth" in April of last year, 2007 saw Brother Ali continue to push toward developing a national audience. Hip-hop magazine The Source gave Ali an interview in October of last year while Rolling Stone magazine named him a "New Artist to Watch." Brother Ali also appeared on "The Late Late Show" and "Late Night with Conan O’Brien," performing his songs "Uncle Same Goddamn" and "Take Me Home."

Brother Ali has made no bones about his future aspirations, saying that he is "trying to be one of the greatest of all time." Much like Muhammad Ali, the greatest boxer of all time and whose image graces the cover of his CD "Champion," Brother Ali has the mouth to talk the talk, and the skills to back it up. After the successes of 2007, Brother Ali kicks off 2008 and continues his push to the top tonight at Legends. The future looks bright for this up and coming hip-hopper.

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Scene and Heard

The Observer

Comick book supercouple splits, fans cry collective tear

The unthinkable has occurred. As the Associated Press reported in a story Wednesday, longtime comic book heartthrob and celebrity couple Peter Parker t.a.k.e. Spider Man, if you have no knowledge of superheroes, movie theaters or life whatsoever and his wife of two years, Mary Jane Watson, have made like a wishbone and split. This is bad. Really bad. This is worse than the collapse of Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, the collapse of Bennifer or the inevitable collapse of Brangelina.

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Peter Parker and Mary Jane’s split has caused an uproar in the comic book community and it spells potential doom for couples everywhere.

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Peter Parker and Mary Jane’s split has caused an uproar in the comic book community and it spells potential doom for couples everywhere.
Not this time. Louisville took the lead two minutes in, using its size to power past Marquette's guard-heavy lineup. Looking inside to Padgett and Carter on offense and extending the zone on defense, Louisville played through the line of efficiency coach Rick Pitino, who has preached would come once the Cardinals finally got healthy.

Pitino, eight weeks removed from a fractured knee cap, continued to key Louisville's surge. He made 8 of 9 field goals, many of them tip-ins after he bounced his way between bodies in the lane.

The Green Eagles simply had no answer. They missed all 12 3-pointers and were overwhelmed in the lane. Louisville outrebounded Marquette 43-30 and contested nearly every shot.

Louisville broke it open with a 12-0 run early in the second half after Marquette cut it to 30-26. Padgett started it with a hook shot, the followed with a layup off a nifty pass from Edgar Sosa. Jerry Smith then harassed Preston Knowles ended the run with a pull-up jumper as Marquette coach Tom Crean glared at the officials for a no-call at the other end of the floor.

Marquette managed to make it 50-40 with just over eight minutes left, but an 11-2 Louisville run, capped by a 3-pointer from Williams, sealed Louisville's eighth win in nine games.

Louisville squandered an opportunity to bury the Golden Eagles early. Despite holding Marquette without a basket for nearly seven minutes and forcing the Golden Eagles into 25 percent shooting, Louisville only led 27-19 at the half.

Marquette managed to stay in it by forcing 11 Louisville turnovers, as the Golden Eagles got their hands into passing lanes, allowing them keep within striking distance despite their lowest scoring half of the season.

Things didn't go any better for Marquette after the break. Though the Golden Eagles were briefly able to get the deficit to four, Louisville withstood the oslaught and pulled away.

Vikings 56, Bulldogs 52

Cedric Jackson scored 14 points as Cleveland State, a program in disarray for most of the past 20 years, stunned No. 12 Butler on Thursday night for the Vikings' first regular-season win over an AP top-25 team.

A Nathan Bullock added 14 points, the last one coming on a free throw with 2.6 seconds left for Cleveland State (13-5, 6-0 Horizon League), whose students stormed the floor after the final horn.

The Vikings came in 1-26 in games against ranked opponents, with their only win coming on March 14, 1986, against No. 16 Indiana in the NCAA tournament under coach Kevin Mackey.

Fresenius Matt Howard scored 16 points to lead Butler (16-2, 5-0), which missed a barrage of 3-pointers in the final seconds as they tried to tie it. Mike Green, the Bulldogs' leading scorer had 12 points of 4-of-11 shooting before fouling out and senior A.J. Graves had 5 and went only 2-of-11 from the floor.

It was Cleveland State's night from the start and the win validated second-year coach Gary Waters' turnaround with the Vikings, who went 10-21 last season and haven't had a winning season since 2000-01.

Last season, Butler made a school and conference record 20 3-pointers in a 92-50 thumping of Cleveland State. But the Bulldogs were just 6-23 from behind the arc and they couldn't buy a 3 when they needed one down the stretch.

Green's two free throws pulled within 50-48 with 3-21 left, but Jackson, a transfer from St. John's, was left open on the right wing and drilled a 3-pointer to put the Vikings ahead by 10.

Cleveland State fans, who have seen so many potential upset elite teams in the past, began sensing the upset before Graves drove through the lane and dropped in a high-watching shot that went 20 feet in the air. But with a chance to pull Butler closer after a turnover, Graves, an 89-percent free throw shooter, missed the front end of a 1-and-1 2:23 to go. George Tandy then scored inside for Cleveland State and Campbell, and Julian Beiko missed on 3 in the last minute as Butler lost for the first time in nine games.

Cleveland State has been a mess for months. However, Waters, who built Kent State into a perennial 20-win team, is slowly turning around the Vikings, who were only 3-13 in the Horizon last year.

It's been 21 years since Cleveland State made its receivable NCAA tournament run when guard Kenny "Mouse" McFadden and crew of unknowns upset Bobby Knight's Hoosiers and Saint Joseph's before losing in a regional semifinal to David Robinson and Navy.

All Waters needed was a signature win to make everyone believe the small school could do big things again — and now he's got it.
Simpson returns to Miami, awaiting trial

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — O.J. Simpson returned home to Miami on Thursday, a day after an angry Las Vegas judge doubled his bail but allowed him to stay out of jail while he awaits trial on armed robbery.

Simpson, what the heck are you doing? Why are you out here and not in jail?

To the judge, Simpson replied, "I don't know, Mr. Stewart. I'm tired of this." The judge ordered him to remain in jail.

"I just want, want C.J. to know that... I'm tired of this (expletive)," Simpson said, according to a transcript. "Fed up with (expletive) changing what they told me. All right?"

Alternatively, there was no indication Stewart received the message, prosecutor Chris Owens suggested it was threatening. The judge merely said she didn't like the tone.

"I don't know if it's just arro...

IN BRIEF

Commissioner receives three-year extension

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Major League Baseball owners gave Commissioner Bud Selig a three-year contract extension through 2012 on Thursday, a move made two days after some congressmen were critical of his leadership is responding to the sport's drug problem.

Selig, who has been in charge of MLB since 1992, had repeatedly said since December 2006 that he would retire at the end of 2009 and that his mind couldn't be changed.

"This is clearly it," he said after the latest approval was in a unanimous vote on the final day of a two-day owners' meeting. "I say this without equivocation.

Earlier this week, Selig and union head Donald Fehr testified before a congressional committee that both criticized baseball for its steroids problem and praised the sport for strides made during the past three years.

In March, the baseball commissioner announced his intention to extend his contract through 2012, a move that was met with mixed reactions.

"I can remember growing up in Newport News, Virginia, when my mother told me not to play baseball," said Davey Johnson, a former New York Yankees manager who served as a minor league coach for the Yankees.

"The Denver Nuggets guard donated the money to the Peninsula Community Foundation to help the Newport News Police Department continue its gun buyback program, U.S. Rep. Robert Scott, D-Va., announced in a statement Wednesday. "I can remember growing up in Newport News and Hampton and if we can prevent one more child from being killed and another family from crying and mourning the death of another loved one, then it is more than worth it," Iverson said in a statement. "The program operates money or gift cards to residents who turn in guns to police, no questions asked. Residents turned in about 400 guns within hours after the program was launched Dec. 15.

World track champion wants to race amnputee

On Monday, track and field's governing body said Pistorius, the double amputee sprinter who was recently barred from the Olympics, "don't see any problems with it.

Don't you want to compete and put your heart into it, I see no problem whatsoever."

On Monday, track and field's governing body said Pistorius is ineligible to compete in the Beijing Olympics this summer because his "Cheetah" racing blades are technical aids that give him a clear advantage.

Pistorius finished second in the 400 meters at the South African national championships last year against able-bodied runners.

He is hoping that independent tests will show he doesn't gain an unfair advantage from the racing blades and that that might change the IAAF's stance.
Pair of Patriots returns home
Seau, Harrison to face Chargers for first time as teammates in career

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The last time Junior Seau played in an AFC championship game, his team was given little chance to beat the top seed.

In January 1995, the Steelers won their first playoff game in a rout, while the Chargers eked out a one-point victory that set up the matchup between those teams the following weekend.

"Sitting in my hotel room in Pittsburgh and hearing all the cheers and pep rallies that were going around and all the Super Bowl videos that were being taped, everything was against us," the Patriots linebacker said. "The yellow towels were flying around. It was definitely a time when we thought we were against the world."

But San Diego won 17-13 in Pittsburgh then went on to one of the toughest losses in Seau's 18-year career, a 49-26 rout by San Francisco in the Super Bowl.

Thirteen years later, the Chargers aren't given much of a chance against the perfect Patriots on Sunday, the day after Seau's 38th birthday.

But he knows expectations can be overestimated. "It's remarkable the things we've done defensively," Turner said. "I don't know necessarily facing the Chargers makes it any more special."

The Patriots have spent the week building up the Chargers as the best team in the NFL since Thanksgiving. They were 5-5 before the holiday but 8-0 since then.

New England coach Bill Belichick likes to point out that his team has won fewer games in that stretch. But that's because they had a playoff bye and are 7-0 after Thanksgiving — but 17-0 overall.

San Diego coach Norv Turner isn't surprised that Belichick fawned over the Chargers.

"Everyone knows that New England right now is playing the best football in the league and it's going to be a real challenge for us," Turner said.

Tom Brady's 50 touchdown passes and Randy Moss' 23 scoring catches are NFL single-season records. So are the 589 points the Patriots scored.

But the advanced age of their defense may be catching up. They allowed three scoring drives of at least 50 yards in last Saturday night's 31-20 playoff win over Jacksonville after giving up four touchdowns in a 38-35 win over the New York Giants in the regular-season finale.

The Chargers' defense is younger with a knack for creating turnovers. They led the NFL with 30 interceptions and 48 takeaways then added two interceptions and one fumble recovery in last Sunday's 26-24 playoff win at Indianapolis. All-Pro cornerback Antonio Cromartie's 10 interceptions led the league.

"It's remarkable the things we've done defensively," Turner said. "It seems like one guy tips the ball and it goes up in the air and one of our guys finds a way to get it."
Hurley in Budapest for Olympic dreams

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Kelley Hurley is in Budapest, in pursuit of gold. The sophomore will fence in the women's epee World Cup Grand Prix event this week in Hungary, and tomorrow. Hurley is No. 2 in the nation in women's epee, behind only her sister, Courtney. Both are fighting for spots on the U.S. Olympic team for this summer's Beijing Games, where the International Olympic Committee is imposing a limit of two women's epeeists per country.

The international event offers twice the rankings points as the domestic event this weekend, and thus gives the sophomore a chance to solidify her strong position in the U.S. standings before Beijing.

Meanwhile, 14 other Notre Dame fencers and one future member of the Irish — top American fflist Gerek Meinhardt — will travel to Atlanta to compete for spots on the U.S. national team. The fencers in Atlanta will battle to qualify for this season's World Championships.

The USAF North American Cup — which will include fencers from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico — has flights for the women's epee World Cup to be held in Budapest.

Irish in Atlanta

Men's Sabre:
Freshman Avery Zuck
Freshman Barrieén Nydam

Women's Sabre:
Freshman Sarah Borrman
Freshman Eileen Hassett

Men's Epee:
Freshman Andrew Seroff
Junior Karol Kostka

Lining up

The Irish hockey squad lines up for a game before 2-1 Notre Dame victory over Bowling Green Nov. 20.

SMC Basketball

Saint Mary's to face Tri-State

Belles look to improve record behind Kessler's offensive prowess

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

After another conference win and a record-breaking night on Wednesday, the Belles are back on the court Saturday as they take on MIAA foe Tri-State in their second home game. Saint Mary's steps on the court after a 72-69 win over Kalamazoo, bringing both its conference (3-3) and overall (7-7) records to .500.

Alison Kessler led Saint Mary's in its win at Kalamazoo Wednesday night, scoring 41 points, breaking the school's previous record, set in the 1998-99 season by Julie Norman. Kessler's record is just one point off the MIAA record of 42 points in a single game. Her 41 points are also the most points scored in a game by a Division III player this season.

The Belles managed to score the first six points of the game, the highest-scoring opening the team would have in the first half. Kalamazoo led 37-33 at intermission, and Saint Mary's would not manage to regain the lead until Kessler's lay-up made the score 70-69 with 34 seconds to go in the game. Two free throws by Kessler and a missed three point by Kalamazoo's Kelsey Bailey solidified the win for the Belles. Saturday will be the first time Notre Dame to take on Louisville

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Under coach Jay Louderback, Notre Dame has become a national power, consistently ranked in the national top 10 and a threat each year to make a run in the NCAA Tournament. On Sunday, No. 9 Notre Dame heads to Louisville to take part in its first dual match of the season.

But this spring, the Irish will be without Catrina and Christian Thompson, one of the most successful doubles teams in Notre Dame history. To replace the Thompsons, Notre Dame has another formidable duo — senior Brook Buck and junior Kelsey Telf, who captured the ITA National Indoor Championship in November and are ranked No. 3 to begin the season.

On the singles side, the Irish have significant talent, with five netters ranked in the top-100 to begin the season. Only three other teams in the country can claim this accomplishment. Sophomore Cosmina Ciboula, at No. 62, is the highest ranked of the group and is coming off a freshman campaign in which she went 36-5 — including an astounding 26-1 record in dual meets, mostly playing from the No. 5 slot.

Buck sits just behind Ciboula at No. 64. Buck had an impressive 14-1 dual match record but was sidelined with an injury for a portion of last season. Rounding out Notre Dame's representation in the rankings are No. 82 junior Katie Potts, No. 88 sophomore Colleen Riceley and No. 89 Kali Krisik.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

ND Women's Tennis

The Observer • SPORTS

Contact Ken Fowler at ksfowler@nd.edu

Women's Epee:
Freshman Ewa Nellip
Junior Kim Mony lax

Men's Foil:
Freshman Steve Kubik
Junior Mark Kubik
Senior Jakub Jedrzkowiak

Women's Foil:
Freshman Hayley Reese

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The Irish hockey squad lines up for a game before 2-1 Notre Dame victory over Bowling Green Nov. 20.
**ND Women's Swimming**

**Team prepares for Big East**

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The Irish will have their hands full this weekend as they take on Louisville at the Rolfs Aquatic Center and then travel to Providence for February’s Big East Championships. Only weeks removed from a grueling trip to the Bahamas, the Irish hope to build off of their strong finish in the Irish Invitational last Saturday against Michigan, Indiana and Illinois and shake off a bit more of the rust they were suffering from.

"I think the girls have dealt with a lot of their rust from the Bahamas in this lively rivalry," Mike Modano said. "It’s quite a thing to host two of the top three American clubs in this invitational. I think the Irish will be up for this challenge this weekend." It’s still is trying to become the NHL’s All-Star goalie, and he is doing a fine job.

"It’s also very fast swimmers, but we are hopeful for another win," White said of the Irish. "Leading the way for the Irish is a strong group of young swimmers, including Joseph Samvick, Brian Tschudy, new freshman Annemarie Miller and sophomore Megan Maxwell. Junior Casey Wagner is coming off a shoulder injury and is coming on strong for the Irish late in the season, providing a big boost, especially for the 200-meter freestyle relay. She led the Irish relay to victory in the Irish Invitational.

"The Irish are young and talented, and that creates a high level of uncertainty as to what to expect down the stretch. A win means it’s a little bit harder to predict,” White said. “Wins are definitely not too far off.”

Contact Jared Jedick at jjeck@nd.edu

**NHL**

**Modano, Stars win third straight visit in San Jose**

Hasek comes up big in goaltenders battle to secure Red Wings 3-2 overtime victory against Vancouver

By ELYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

With a 1-1 record in 2008 and a 3-4 record on the season, No. 22 Notre Dame will host Louisville tonight at 5 and then travel to Providence, Evanston, Ill., where they will take on the No. 25 Northwestern Saturday.

"The meets this weekend are really important," Tim Welsh, Irish coach, said. "The meet against Louisville is an especially big one," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. Though the Irish lost their first match of the year against LSU 165-97, they rebounded and won their first home match of the season last weekend against Oakland. The Irish dominated the Golden Grizzlies and snatched first place in 10 events, resulting in a final score of 174-126.

"It is always a great thrill to the Irish to the victory against Oakland were sophomore John Lytle, sophomore Ross Moore, and junior Michael Biffen who notched the wins, winning both the three-meter and one-meter events.

In the second meet of the weekend, the Irish will face Wildcats senior Kyle Rubolz, who is the reigning Big Ten swimmer of the week.

The Irish met with both of this weekend’s opponents in the 2006-07 season. Notre Dame lost to the Wildcat’s 167-131 but beat the Cardinals 146-94.

Contact Elysa Michalak at emichalak@nd.edu

**Men’s Swimming**

**Swimmers ready to challenge Cardinals**

By ELYN MICHALAK
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MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Squad looks to build on earlier successes

Indoor Opener starts spring season in Loftus

By PAT STYNES

After winning 24 of 31 events at the Blue and Gold Invitational in December, the men's team looks to start out strong in 2008. At the Invitational, both old and new members stepped up, with multiple freshmen earning Big East qualifications and senior Kurt Benninger blazing through the 3,000-meter race to the second-fastest time in the nation this season.

Notre Dame will host the Indoor Opener tonight at 5:30 in the Loftus Center.

Irish coach Joe Piane said he is very pleased with how the younger players are doing well to fill the gaps left by last year's seniors.

"It's tough to come back and perform on a high level when you lose players of that high a caliber," Piane said. "But the underclassmen are stepping up in a big way, and this year's upperclassmen haven't missed a beat."

The Irish will look to freshman Miklos Szebeny in the short distance events. An international student who hails from Hungary, he came to Notre Dame already a very accomplished sprinter. He captured the national title for his age group multiple times in both the 100- and 200-meter events. He also co-owns the record for the 4x400 relay. When Szebeny ran in his first event back in December, he settled in with ease as he took first place in the 200-meter dash.

The long distance events will be an opportunity for veterans to continue to improve. Senior Kurt Benninger will look to dominate in the 3,000-meter race. Meanwhile, sophomore Jake Walker will look to keep improving after an impressive debut at the invitational when he outran the competition in the 5,000-meter race.

The team will also look to freshman thrower Greg Davis, who showed potential with a first-place finish at last month's qualifier.

Contact Pat Stynes at pstynes@nd.edu

Irish sophomore jumper Matt Schipper pole vaults at the Blue and Gold Invitational on Dec. 7 at the Loftus Center.

**Women's Track and Field**

Irish kick off regular season

Connelly looking for freshmen, veterans to compete in event

By ANDY ZICCARELLI

The Irish will host their annual home meet on Feb. 23, and perform on a high level this year's upperclassmen of short distance events. An international student who hails from Hungary, he came to Notre Dame already a very accomplished sprinter. He captured the national title for his age group multiple times in both the 100- and 200-meter events. He also co-owns the record for the 4x400 relay. When Szebeny ran in his first event back in December, he settled in with ease as he took first place in the 200-meter dash.

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**Australian Open**

Henin extends winning streak to 31

By ANDY ZICCARELLI

Melbourne, Australia — Justine Henin ran her winning streak to 31 matches Friday, overcoming serving troubles to hold off 25th-seeded Francesca Schiavone 7-5, 6-4 in the third round of the Australian Open.

The top-ranked Belgian star will face Aravane Rezai or Hsieh Su-wei in the fourth round of the women's draw, beating 25th-seeded Kimiko Date-Krumm of Japan 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Leander Paes of India and his Austrian partner, Jurgen Melzer, took 17th-seeded Jan-Michael Gambill and countryman Jared Palmer 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to advance to the quarterfinals in a Cairo Classic quarterfinal.

Rafael Nadal, who has suffered with illness. Both will run distance for the Irish.

Notre Dame will look to carry the success it had more than a week ago in a 5-2 win over Michigan State.

"There will be several more teams here, the level of competition will be similar to the first meet," said Connolly.

The meet will start with the long jump, and the running events will start with the 60-meter dash at 6:30 p.m.

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Leander Paes of India and his Austrian partner, Jurgen Melzer, took 17th-seeded Jan-Michael Gambill and countryman Jared Palmer 6-2, 2-6, 6-4 to advance to the quarterfinals in a Cairo Classic quarterfinal.

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Notre Dame will look to carry the success it had more than a week ago in a 5-2 win over Michigan State.

"There will be several more teams here, the level of competition will be similar to the first meet," said Connolly.

The meet will start with the long jump, and the running events will start with the 60-meter dash at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

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**Australian Open**

Henin extends winning streak to 31

By ANDY ZICCARELLI

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SMC Swimming

Team to look for fresh start in doubleheader

By PETER REISENAUER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s hopes to get back on the winning track this weekend when it faces Olivet and Hillsdale in its first meet to nationally ranked Hope.

"Hope is one of the best teams in our conference and we definitely put up a good fight against them," Belles captain Melissa Gerbeth said.

Saint Mary’s is fresh off its post-Christmas training in Orlando, Fla., where the team practiced twice a day in what Gerbeth called the "most intense training we have had all year."

Coach Ryan Dombkowski hopes that team building through this training will carry over to the last five weeks of the season — and especially in the meets against Olivet and Hillsdale.

"This weekend we have two of the most talented teams of the season," Dombkowski said.

Dombkowski noted the importance of his entire team stepping up this weekend but highlighted a couple of key performers he hopes will carry them to victory.

"We will need huge individual contributions from our returning conference distance champion (Gerbeth), to talented stroke specialists Casey Ritzer, Caroline Arness, and Maggie Williams, to our sprinters Lauren Hartman and Meredith Lierz, all the way to anyone just swimming in a single event."

Dombkowski said. He also made special mention of sophomore Lindsey Nelis, who swam to a time of 18:39.01 in the 1,650-yard freestyle against Hope and was named the Saint Mary’s college athlete of the week for her performance.

Contact Peter Reisenauber at preisena@md.edu

Hoyas

continued from page 28

true road game the Irish have played was the loss to the Golden Eagles.

But even though the Hoyas are unbeaten at home, Notre Dame sophomore forward Lake Harangody said the Irish are ready to play well away from South Bend.

"We’re going to put it right one of these times," he said. "We have to have confidence like we do when we’re at home. Notre Dame isn’t alone in its road woes. So far in the Big East season, home teams are 26-7 — and with only one surprise among them.

"Other than Cincinnati over Louisville, the other road wins probably should have happened," Irish coach Mike Brey said.

"There hasn’t been one where you’d say, ‘That was a solo.’"

"We can change that this weekend.

In order to buck that trend, the Irish will need to contend with Georgetown center Roy Hibbert, who stands at 7-foot-2 and is averaging 12.5 points per game this season, respectively. However, neither is taller than 6-foot-9.

The last time the Irish played against a 7-footer, Connecticut’s Hasheem Thabeet, both Kurz and Harangody scored 14 points, but they did it on a combined 10-for-35 shooting from the field — and two of Kurz’s baskets came on three-pointers. Thabeet also had 10 blocks in the game.

Harangody said he has studied tape of that game in preparation for matching up with Hibbert — focusing mainly on the positives of his performance.

"I watched it against Connecticut and I saw where I was successful," Harangody said. "I can be physical and get in, or take him away from the basket and use my speed."

Kurz, whose stellar outside shooting makes him difficult for other big men to guard, said he may try to draw Hibbert out of the paint to free it up for other Irish players going to the hoop.

"There are times when he’s going to be matched up on me and I’ll try to take him away from the basket,” Kurz said.

Brey is confident his forwards will be able to score despite Hibbert’s presence. In fact, he said he’s more worried about his team controlling the ball and having good possessions.

"The biggest key to start us taking care of the ball early," Brey said. "Turnovers hurt us last year there and turnovers hurt us last Saturday in Milwaukee.

In addition to Hibbert, Georgetown has two other players, forward DeJuan Summers and guard Jonathan Wallace, that average more than 10 points per game, while Austin Freeman averages 9.9.

Notre Dame lost Thursday night for Washington, D.C. The team will visit Walter Reed Army Medical Center this morning.

It’s just a powerful personal experience," Brey said of the visit. "Anything we can do to thank our troops, our fighting men and women.

The contest with the Hoyas will be on Saturday. It will be televised on WMYS, a local South Bend station that is not available in Comcast’s on-campus package for Notre Dame students.

Contact Chris Khovery at chkovery@nd.edu

Kuntz

continued from page 28

have one more year to play and I’m going to graduate from Notre Dame,” Kuntz told A/P. "The time is the only thing that’s not 100 percent.

Kuntz started the first 10 games at nose tackle for the Irish before suffering torn ligaments in his left knee against Air Force on Nov. 10. Kuntz also cracked a bone in his spine against Navy on Nov. 3. These injuries forced Kuntz to miss Notre Dame’s wins over Duke and Stanford to end the season.

Kuntz finished 2007 with 42 tackles and a team-high nine break-ups before the injury. His back-up, freshman Ian Williams, started in place of Kuntz in Notre Dame’s last two games and finished the season with 45 tackles en route to being named a freshman All-American.

Contact Joy Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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Michigan
continued from page 28

The Irish have reason to be confident heading into this match-up, having beaten the Wolverines in all three of their meetings last season, including a 7-3 thrashing at Yost Arena and a 2-1 victory in the 2007 CCIIA Championship.

"The fact that we have had success against them might give us a little more confidence heading in there," Jackson said. "But that was then and this is now and we're going to make sure we do the things that are necessary to have success."

The Irish will need to add life to their power play that has looked weak since the beginning of winter break. Notre Dame has failed to score in its last 30 chances with the man advantage. Breaking out of their slump against Michigan won't be an easy task for the Irish. The Wolverines have killed 92.9 percent of power plays against them this season — fourth best in the country.

"We just need to get back to basics," junior forward Erik Condra said. "You can't think about it too much because then you start not scoring and the streak continues."

"You can't think about it too much because then you start not scoring and the streak continues."
Erik Condra
Irish forward

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Toledo
continued from page 28

for Andrew Roth.

Penn State will provide some steep competition for the Irish, especially in doubles, Bayliss said. "Penn State plays good doubles, and they will challenge us there," Bayliss said. "They are the 'Beast of the East.'"

Penn State's coach, Todd Bacceler, was an assistant under Bayliss from 2003-06. "They have come a long way under Bacceler," Bayliss said. "They have a very talented freshman [Eddie Bourchier] from Australia, and their No. 1, Michael James, hits a very big ball. Bacceler will have a tough match-up against him."

Bayliss and Parbhu make a very strong doubles tandem for the Irish. The duo returns as well as anyone but they tend to break down at net. Bayliss compared playing doubles to a marriage. Like a married couple, a doubles relationship can go south if not everything goes right, he said, and the pair spends much time together. However Parbhu and Helgeson are good friends both on and off the court. "Unfortunaltly, they just don't like each other, neither likes to take charge," Bayliss said.

While the Irish lost good players to graduation last season, Bayliss feels his team is deeper than the 2006-07 squad. Sophomore Sean Corrigan and McGraw were both on the team last year, but didn't see much playing time. This year, however, both are in the hunt for open positions. They are less experienced than last year, but Bayliss feels the freshmen will grow from their experiences.

After the Irish host Penn State on Sunday, they will also host Toledo at 6 p.m. No. 1 Virginia will come to South Bend to take on the Irish on Jan. 27.

Contact Katelyn Grabarek at kgrabarek@saintmarys.edu

Big East
continued from page 28

said, "You have to go into every game expecting a battle...".

Pacing the charge for the Hoyas will likely be senior forward Jarred Marrow, who leads the team with 15.2 points per game. Georgetown's only scorer in double figures, she also has 5.8 boards per game.

"Marrow is a tough match-up for us," McGraw said. "She will be able to face up our big guys and post up our guards."

McGr aw also said her squad will have to match up well with Georgetown's big women, especially 6-foot-5 center Aminata Diop. McGraw said she will likely give more minutes to centers Erica Williamson (6-foot-4) and Melissa D'Amico (6-foot-5). In Notre Dame's 69-58 win over Villanova Wednesday, Williamson played only eight minutes and D'Amico never came off the bench.

"Villanova is a small team and they look advantage of Mel defensively last year," McGraw said. "Erica looked better in practice last week guarding on the perimeter so she got the start. Mel, Erica and [freshman forward] Recca [Ruszewski] should all get more minutes against their bigs."

McGraw said she will not tinker with her lineup from Wednesday night's win, choosing to keep freshman forward Devereaux Peters on the bench — at least at tip-off.

Peters had a strong game at both ends of the court against the Wildcats, tallying 15 points, six boards, seven steals and three blocks in 28 minutes. McGraw said she would like to see Peters get more minutes, something that could be difficult since Peters has fouled out of all but one of conference game season.

Another big factor for Notre Dame's offense against the Hoyas will be junior guard Lindsay Schrader, who hit all five field goal attempts against Villanova despite giving McGraw her biggest scare of the season.

Schrader went down hard on the court grabbing her left knee, bringing memories to the Irish coach of when Schrader tore the ACL on her right knee last preseason. Schrader said after Wednesday night's game that she knew it was not the same kind of pain as when she tore her ACL, but McGraw said that it was still a "personal scary moment" for her.

The Hoyas do not present the same 3-point threat that Villanova did, having hit only 31.7 percent of their shots from beyond the arc. Against Notre Dame, Villanova was 9-of-16 from three-point land — something that has been McGraw's biggest concern for the last two seasons.

"They had a kid last year who made five, but she gradu­ated," McGraw said. "We still have to guard them tight out there, I think most of Villanova's were in transition and not against the man-to­man."
CROSSWORD

Friday, January 18, 2008

The Observer is now accepting applications for new cartoonists. Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

BLACK DOG
MICHAEL MIKUSKA

TASTES LIKE FAILURE
RICH PROTVIA & ANDY SPangler

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter in each square, to form four ordinary words.

OSOME

ANS: FLYDON

Hey, you're leaving trails. Get out!

WHAT SHE DID WHEN THE REPAIRMAN GOT DIRT ON HER CARPET.

GATILH

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers: PIPER TOPAZ GENDER POWER WONDER

Yesterday's Jumbles: PIPER TOPAZ GATHER HANGON
Why his pals were like ice cubes — THEY "GROPPED" IN

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zooey Deschanel, 28; Kid Rock, 37; Jim Carrey, 46; Susan Sarandon, 49.

Happy Birthday! You will have to dig deep to get the proper information, especially when it pertains to friends and relatives. Do what's best for yourself not the people who are trying to give us in to their favors. Your numbers are 14, 23, 40, 41, 48, 57, 64, 72.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Nothing is impossible and the people who try to tell you otherwise will be guilty. You are a driving force and once you set your course, it isn't likely anyone can stop you. Start today. 3 stars.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may pressure you to do something you don't want to do. Don't give in. Your time will be better spent learning something new that will help you engage in a professional challenge. 3 stars.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't wear rose. The more productive and protective you are, the easier it will be to interest others to get involved. A conversation with an expert will lead to an interesting proposal. 3 stars.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can get things organized today. Try to use your personal paperwork and keeping so far are fully aware of how much money you have to invest or put into something that you've been waiting to do for some time. 4 stars.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make sure you're clear about what you're doing and what you expect everyone else to take care of. Love is in the air but don't have yourself in a vulnerable position. 2 stars.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An opportunity to get away should be taken advantage of. On the road, work or play enjoy a little trip. — board — is one of the many things you can do in the picture. 5 stars.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you don't need it, don't buy it. You will be regretted by what others have done. Be the lady who comes to cash. Overcommitting not get you ahead or you won't get what you want. Love is in the picture. 3 stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do as much as you can by phone, real or visiting swindles with whom you are close. Be semi-silly and live your life in every place. The end result will help to weaken the dark. 3 stars.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Allow yourself space to do things and moan to expand. Someone may question what you are doing. If he or she can see your vision, perhaps you shouldn't involve him or her.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should be ready to make heavy, come money, come money or collect money today. Real estate, investments and taking care of your personal needs will pay off. A change of heart will make your life easier and more rewarding. 3 stars.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19): You will be happy if you let your emotions take over and ease you in a vulnerable position when discussing plans with a loved one. Be direct. Use reverse psychology and you will stand a better chance of getting your way. 3 stars.

PISCES (Feb. 18-March 20): Someone may play emotional mind games with you or be completely deceptive regarding what he or she is up to. Remember: it is better to put things on your mind as one. Keep things to yourself and observe what others are doing. 4 stars.

Birthday Baby: You have stamina and courage. You are not afraid of the unknown or what you can't see in the reach of your grasp. You are a Good Samaritan, always watching for how you can better the world around you.


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THE OBSERVER
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Second chance

Notre Dame will look for a big win against the Hoyas in D.C.

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sport Editor

One week ago, Notre Dame was crushed on the road against a ranked opponent. On Saturday, the Irish will get a chance to redeem themselves.

After bouncing back from the ugly 92-66 loss to Marquette last Saturday with a 91-74 win over Cincinnati Tuesday, Notre Dame travels to Washington, D.C. to take on No. 5 Georgetown at the Verizon Center.

The Hoyas and the Irish are tied with two other teams atop the Big East at 0-3. When the Hoyas take on the Irish, they are coming off a 69-60 loss on the road at Pittsburgh Monday. Its only other loss this season came at No. 2 Memphis on Dec. 22.

Notre Dame is 11-0 at home this season, but just 2-3 away from the Joyce Center. The only two-a-day practices on Jan. 7.

Senior forward Rob Kurz scrambles for the ball in Notre Dame's 91-74 victory over Cincinnati Tuesday. The Irish travel to Washington, D.C. to take on Georgetown Saturday.

see HOYAS/page 24

HOCKEY

Icers lace up for two against Wolverines

ICER LEFT wing Garrett Regan shoots in Notre Dame's win over Nebraska-Omaha on Nov. 30. The Irish face Michigan this weekend.

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will take on the top team in the country for the second time this season when it faces No. 1 Michigan in a two-game series this weekend. The Irish hope to pull another upset, having already beaten then-No. 1 Miami (Ohio) on Nov. 9.

The Irish will play both games in front of a mostly hostile crowd. Tonight's opening game will be played at Michigan's Yost Arena, dubbed by Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson as "without a doubt the most difficult, challenging place to play in college hockey." The second game, technically a home contest for Notre Dame, will take place at The Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich.

"It's a little bit more challenging knowing that we'll be on the road for both games," Jackson said. "But knowing that we'll have last change and having our fans and our band there will go a long way towards helping us."

see MICHIGAN/page 26

MEN'S TENNIS

Team set for doubleheader

The team returned to South Bend a week early and started two-a-day practices on Jan. 7. Also, the Irish took part in the Mary Davis Memorial Shootout at the Eck Tennis Pavilion on Jan. 13.

Despite the rigorous practice schedule, the team is fairly healthy. "We have a few humps and bruises, but no major injuries," Bayliss said. "Freshman Matt Johnson is the only one who, if we played tomorrow, couldn't go. He hasn't been able to serve for a week, but we're hoping he can get back on court soon."

The top two singles spots are filled by junior Brett Helgeson, and senior Sheeva Parbhoo, but the other four spots are still up for grabs. Bayliss said five freshmen — Johnson, Stephen Havens, David Anderson, Daniel Stahl and Tyler Davis — are competing for the spots along with junior Santiago Montoya and senior Kevin Stahl.

see TOLEDO/page 26

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish to test press against Hoyas

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will face another tough Big East road test this weekend when it travels to Washington to play Georgetown Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Hoyas are next to last in the Big East at 0-3, but still hold an overall winning record (10-6) like every other team in the conference. Georgetown has done a good job of securing its home court so far this season, with its only loss in the MCI Center a 57-47 defeat at the hands of No. 5 Rutgers Tuesday.

"There are no easy conference games, even at home," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

see BIG EAST/page 26

FOOTBALL

Kuntz not in school for spring

DEFENSIVE tackle Pat Kuntz is not enrolled at the University this semester for what he told the Associated Press was "personal reasons."

Kuntz did not elaborate when contacted by AP at his Indianapolis home, and Director of Football Media Relations Brian Hardin said the University would have no further comment — other than that Kuntz is not enrolled — due to federal education privacy laws.

The 6-foot-3, 285-pound junior told AP that he hopes to return to Notre Dame as early as this summer and still hopes to play football for the Irish in the fall.

No matter what I'm going to be back there. I'm going to..." see KUNTZ/page 24

Irish junior guard Lindsay Schrader drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 77-46 win over Michigan on Dec. 2.

see MICHIGAN/page 26