Student government briefs trustees

Brown, Braun, Plamoottil detail state of the Student Union, plans for remainder of term

By MARCELA BERRIOS

Student body president Liz Brown's administration told members of the University's Board of Trustees Thursday that most of its work this year has been determined by unforeseen and pressing events rather than pre-established goals. But these unexpected issues "did not deplete our capacity to fulfill campaign promises," student body president Liz Brown said during her administration's record briefing this year to the Board's Student Affairs Committee.

She cited the South Bend Common Council's proposed party permit ordinance as an example of an anticipated situation that required attention. But because her October briefing was devoted to a discussion of the relationship between community relations, Brown focused Thursday on the other pressing events. These included the increase in prices for course packets, a surge in student interest in environmental issues and the need for a modified follow-up to the Notre Dame Forum on immigration in the fall.

The increase in course packet prices, Brown said, was due to the university administration having to deal with after many students and faculty members started complaining.

Student body vice president Marie Braun said that on average, prices increased by more than 35 percent. Braun and Brown said the result of the university's decision to transfer course packet sales to the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore and to move the copyright review process to an external corporation.

"It became clear we needed to respond to this issue in a timely and practical fashion and in a way that was representative of how the student body felt," Braun said.

She told the trustees that the Student Senate's Academic Affairs Committee surveyed more than 1,100 students to learn more about the popular opinion regarding the issue.

ND gives little cash to hopefuls

Edwards gets most donations from campus

By KEN FOWLER

Notre Dame's professors and students are donating less money to presidential campaigns than their peers are.

An Observer analysis of federal campaign finance records reveals that while half a year remaining before the Democratic and Republican national conventions, students and employees of the University are lagging behind similar-aged schools in donations to presidential campaigns.

Fifteen Notre Dame employees and students had given a combined $4,725 to presidential campaigns, while fourteen donors from Boston College had given more than $11,000 — and nearly 500 students from Duke University had combined to donate more than $50,000 to campaigns. The disparity was similar when compared to other elite schools.

The government requires donors to list their employer and profession when donating to presidential campaigns, and campaigns had to file their finance statements from the final quarter of 2007 this week. The Observer crosschecked the Notre Dame employees listed on the government documents with the University's directory.

GRC launches new gender group

Men of Strength seek to examine masculinity, sexuality at Notre Dame

By KATLYN SMITH

Thursday marked the first day of the first lunar month — the most important holiday in China.

Saint Mary's commemorated the event with China-themed events such as a cooking competition with College President Carol Ann Mooney, and traditional Chinese foods served in the Dining Hall during dinner.

The final of the celebrations for the first day of the "Year of the Rat" was the College's annual "China Night," sponsored by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Pacific Asian Islanders Club and Student Diversity Board.

The group is rooted strongly in its Catholic tradition, it's open to men of all

College celebrates Chinese New Year

By MAGGIE HAGAN

While most students battle the frigid with snow boots, fleece hats, gloves and parkas, 133 men from Siegfried Hall stripped around with plastic cups for extra cash for the charity. Robbie Bernardin, a junior, as he walked from Farley to Siegfried dressed the same way as many of the Day of Man participants.

"I was freezing, but I felt like a man," Bernardin said. He began brainstorming with his roommate about ways they could test their ability to withstand cold temperatures. They eventually came up with the idea of doing something to benefit a charity, and the

Siegfried holds Day of Man for homeless

Dorm residents don shorts, sandals in second annual campus benefit for South Bend charity

By KATLYN SMITH

The participants walked around with plastic cups for donations, and they stood outside North Dining Hall at dinner to try to rake in some extra cash for the charity. Robbie Bernardin, a junior, thought of the event last year as he walked from Farley to Siegfried dressed much the same way as many of the Day of Man participants.

"I was freezing, but I felt like a man," Bernardin said. He began brainstorming with his roommate about ways they could test their ability to withstand cold temperatures. They eventually came up with the idea of doing something to benefit a charity, and the

Residents of Siegfried Hall show off their T-shirts during Thursday's Day of Man, benefitting South Bend homeless.

see DONATIONS/ page 4

see TRUSTEES/ page 4

the idea for MOS last spring. Masters of Divinity students are required to complete three years of field education before graduation, Vassel said. His first-year credit came from his tenure in Carroll Hall as an assistant rector, his second-year credit will come from creating MOS.

Vassel said he thought of the support group after considering his undergraduate experience at Notre Dame.

"Sexuality and spirituality came up a lot," he said. "In this group, men can come to integrate their faith and sexuality." The name of the group comes from the passage in 2 Corinthians 12:10, which reads: "For when I am weak, then I am strong," said Heather Rakocy, director of the GRC and supervisor of Vassel's initiative since August.

The two researched if the group would interest Notre Dame students would be interested by interviewing undergraduate men.

"We wanted to get the pulse of the Notre Dame culture," Rakocy said.

After receiving enough positive feedback, the pair planned the implementation of the group early last fall.

"There are three main thrusts of the group," Vassel said, "Share, pray and support." While the group is rooted strongly in its Catholic tradition, it's open to men of all

College celebrates Chinese New Year

By KATLYN SMITH

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The final of the celebrations for the first day of the "Year of the Rat" was the College's annual "China Night," sponsored by the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Pacific Asian Islanders Club and Student Diversity Board. It featured traditional Chinese dances and musical performances.

Jinggui Guan, a first year international student and minor in ceramic art, performed on a peacock dance and "Phoenix Instrumental" with a bawu, a customary Chinese instrument.

"I hope to see people in America more about Chinese culture and how we celebrate the New Year," Guan said.

Sophomore Wenwen Bai also performed "Fishing Boat in the Sunset" with a guzheng, a guzheng instrument.

Saint Mary's vice president and dean of faculty, Patricia Fleming, introduced the evening and recognized the college's future partnership with
INSIDE COLUMN

Hail to the Chief

Like the Saint Mary's executive student body president and vice-president, Chris Connolly recently ran unopposed in and won the election for Editor in Chief for The Observer's 2008-2009 term. Maybe he ran unopposed because he intimidated the competition. Maybe it was because no one else wanted to run. Or maybe it was because he was endorsed by the likes of Oprah, Chuck Norris, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

I can say now that I feel more than honored to be writing this... and no, Chris is no longer standing over my shoulder.

I was first introduced to this fine individual back in December, when I was informed that he would be my date to The Observer's annual holiday office party.

"Hey, are you Chris?" I asked the strapping fellow sitting behind me one night at work.

"Yes, you must be Katie. Guess what? I am missing a knuckle on my left hand," replied Chris, holding up a left hand with the fourth finger about the same length as the pinky finger.

"Wow, are you serious?" He was. Serious. As the ulster 8Mac gives Kyle Cassilly.

This was my first impression of our new Master and Commander. Since his inception as leader of the finest newspaper this side of the Mississippi (sorry Karen, I am editorializing), Chris has thus far implemented several of his promised initiatives for his minions down in the basement of South Dining Hall.

Chris recently installed hot tubs for the general use of Observer staffers, which is why you may have noticed many of us are spending far more hours down here in the Swamp. This makes those long 12-hour shifts far more bearable — desirable even. Chris has also made major improvements on the entertainment that many staffers wanted, particularly those who were fed up with ancient clericalism.

Chris's philosophy is that as long as you keep winning, you do not have to work. And you get paid. And win. Now you see why we run those Write News?

Additionally, Chris has erected a gourmet Texas steak house right across from Shirley the office manager's office. Chris accepts nothing but the highest quality for his faithful staff, which is why he has also switched The Observer's ancient sweater chairs for new state-of-the-art Sharper Image massage chairs.

To say that I feel fortunate to call Chris my superior is an understatement. Look out, Hillary. Here comes Ilume.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@smu.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets lack of professional publication and arises for the highest standards of journalism at all times. Should, however, misspelling that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-6345 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN BOOKS AND MUSIC, WHICH WOULD YOU GIVE UP?

Andrea Martin

senior Walsh

"If it gives me an excuse not to do my homework, then I'll give up books."

Charlie Gardner

sophomore Knott

"Music, because I'm PL5 and strange like that."

Jonathan Sarna

sophomore Carroll

"To sound enlightened, I'm going to go with books."

Katie Gilbey

senior Welsh Fan

"Music. I'm an English major, I'd still give up books."

Marcia Carranco

freshman McGlinn

"Books. I need music to work."

IN BRIEF

The Moyo Invitational men's and women's indoor track meet will be tonight at 7:15 in Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

There will be Stations of the Cross tonight at 7:15 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The Pasquerrilla East Musical Company (PEMCs) will present "Kiss Me, Kate" tonight at 7:30. Student ticket prices are $6. The show will also be playing Feb. 5, 9, 15, 16.

The hockey team will play Ferris State tonight at 7:35 in the Joyce Center.

Men's and women's fencing will compete in the Notre Dame Duels Saturday and Sunday at 8 a.m. in the Joyce Center. Admission is free.

Men's basketball will play Marquette Saturday at noon in the Joyce Center. Television coverage is on ESPN.

Charity Denim will take place Monday from 2-8 p.m. in the conference rooms of the Saint Mary's Student Center. For a $1 donation for admission, attendees will have access to 500-600 pairs of designer jeans being sold for 40-70 percent off the original price. Ten percent of the proceeds will benefit the Saint Mary's Dance Marathon and Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

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

OFFBEAT

Seemingly Immaculate Komodos hatched

WICHITA, Kan. — Two Komodo dragons have hatched at the Sedgwick County Zoo, apparently without the fertilization of a male. The dragons, both males, are believed to be the first in North America known to have hatched by parthenogenesis, which occurs naturally in some species, including invertebrates and lower plants. It happens more rarely in some vertebrates.

Two other known cases in which Komodo dragons hatched by parthenogenesis were at the London and Chester zoos in England in 2006.

The zoo in Wichita is having DNA testing done to document the mother's and the babies' genetic structure because of the remote chance that a male's sperm was stored on the female's body.

Komodo dragons are one of the few species capable of storing sperm.

School pulls spiked hot chocolate recipe

WEST DES MOINES, IOWA — Officials at a junior high school spiked an edition of the student newspaper because it contained a recipe for hot chocolate that included peppermint schnapps.

The January edition of Stillwell Junior High School's quarterly Tiger Tracks was pulled off the racks when the boozy chocolate recipe was discovered, Principal Tim Miller said. A student at the West Des Moines school submitted the recipe, which slipped through the editing process, Miller said.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TOMORROW SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY

HIGH 35 35 25 35 35
LOW 25 15 10 15 25

Siegfried
continued from page 1
benefit a charity, and the
day of Man was born.
Siegfried raised roughly $6,000 for
the Notre Dame Homeless.
Siegfried said he was
pleased with the turn out for
this year's event as well. It's
difficult to
know exactly
much
this year's event
has raised
yet because
Siegfried
residents
also get
pledges
from
friends
and
family,
said
he.

The event lasted from
midnight on Wednesday
to midnight on Thursday,
but the men will continue
to accept outside
donations for
the cause after the event
officially ends.

Bernardin was hoping
to raise somewhere around
$5,000.
Participants in the event
acknowledged the difficulty
of walking around all day in
attire more suitable for
South America than South
Bend, but most were willing
to put up with the discomfort
for a good cause.

"Exactly how much
probably our feet because it is
still really chilly out there
from the snow," said Ian
Rangel, a freshman com-
misssioner for the event. "But it
was for such a good cause
that it gave us a credible
reason to do it."

Bernardin agreed with
Hangel, saying it was
"freakin freezing," but
claimed that once his hands
and feet went numb, it "hurt
so good."

He says that walking
around in the winter weather
without protection from
the cold
gave him a
better
appreciation
for
what
the
homeless
have to go
through.

"It was tough, but
some people
have to
do that
everyday," he
said. "I know that when I
wake up tomorrow morning,
I can put on pants and a coat.
Not everyone can say that."

Robbie Bernadin
Siegfried junior

Happy
Friday.

Native American
minor considered

By AMBER TRAVIS
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame
Multicultural Affairs Committee
have begun working on a
proposal for the creation of a
Native American Studies minor
at the University.

Lai-Nin Wan, chairwoman of
the Multicultural Affairs
Committee, said past students
felt that they were not learning
anything about their Native
American heritage. The
committee created a survey, which
was randomly distributed to
900 students as a way to get
further feedback about the
potential minor.

The survey, which had four
sections, contained one section
about the possible Native
American Studies minor. Wan
said that her committee would
like to present the results of
the survey to Student Senate by
the middle of February.

She said that the committee
was unsure about the exact
elements of the minor because
the plan was still in its early
stages.

"We are basically going to try
and structure it in the same
way as a number of other
minors at the University," Wan
said. "Right now we're search-
ing for a department to sponsor
it, and once we get the results
back from our survey we'll be
able to propose [the senate]
better." 

Wan said that a Native
American Studies minor
would be important to the
University.

"The reason why we wanted
this minor is because it is
something that Notre Dame
doesn't have, and we feel that
we do need to have it," she
said. "In a structural way it's
absolutely different from other
cultural minors. It's different
in that it's addressing a complete-
dly different population. It
would not only be for the Native
American students, but it
would be for the Notre Dame
population in general."

Co-president of the Native
American Studies Association
of Notre Dame (NASAND)
Anthony Holt agreed with Wan.
"I think it's a great idea," Holt
said. "I think there are a lot
of Native Americans who
would be very interested
in programs and classes that
would be offered at the
University."

Being involved with NASAND
has given Holt the opportunity
to interact with a variety of
people from different tribes
and backgrounds, he said, but
there are few Native American
resources or classes offered at
the University besides the
group.

Contact Amber Travis at
atravis@nd.edu

4th Annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture at Notre Dame

Obstacles and Choices in Christian Mission

7pm, Sunday, February 10th
Moreau Seminary Auditorium

Diego Irarrazaval, CSC
Universidad Catolica Silva Henriquez
Santiago, Chile

Discussion and Reception to Follow

Sponsored by Holy Cross Mission Center
Co-Sponsors: Moreau Seminary, Campus Ministry, Sisters of the Holy Cross,
Center for Social Concerns, Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies,
Department of Theology, Institute for Church Life

Contact Kady Smith at
ksmith@nd.edu

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Center for Social Concerns, Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies,
Department of Theology, Institute for Church Life

Contact Kady Smith at
ksmith@nd.edu
The Senate has encouraged faculty members to put their course materials online, using the Libraries’ electronic reserves. The Senate requested a list of faculty members who are putting their course materials online, including the Libraries’ electronic reserves, to help keep costs down for the students.

Chair, Senior Director of Student Services, Sheena Plamotlaid, said students are still paying a little more than 10 percent more than they were last year. This is said to be the result of the increased royalty fees to the company that handles the copyright review and other related costs. The Senate has encouraged faculty members to put their course materials online, using the Libraries’ electronic reserves, to help keep costs down for the students.

Executive assistant Sheena Plamotlaid talked to trustees about the unexpected surge of interest in ‘green’ issues observed among students, faculty members, and administrators during the fall semester.

The creation of the Officer of Sustainability by Executive Vice President and Dean John Albrecht—began in the summer of 2006, with the goal of increasing the campus’s sustainability by 20% within the next five years. The university has already surpassed this goal, with a 25% reduction in energy consumption and a 50% reduction in water usage since 2006.

The officer of sustainability will lead the creation of a sustainability plan for the university, which will be developed in consultation with faculty, staff, and students. The plan will outline specific goals and strategies for reducing the university’s environmental impact, and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The officer of sustainability will also lead the university’s efforts to reduce its carbon footprint, and will work with local and regional partners to increase the use of renewable energy sources.

Finally, the officer of sustainability will lead the university’s efforts to educate students about sustainability, and to encourage them to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

The creation of the officer of sustainability is a major step forward in the university’s efforts to become a leader in sustainability. The university is committed to reducing its environmental impact, and to creating a more sustainable future for all.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Archbishop calls for limited Shariah

LONDON - The archbishop of Canterbury on Thursday called for a limited application of Islamic law in Britain, Muslims praised the proposal but the government rejected it.

The unusual suggestion from Britain's highest ranking Christian leader would, if adopted, allow British Muslims to choose to resolve marital and financial disputes under Islamic law, known as Shariah, rather than through British courts.

Archbishop Rowan Williams said in a radio interview with British Broadcasting Corp. that incorporating Islamic law could help improve Britain's flagging social cohesion.

"Certain provisions of Shariah are already recognized in our society and under our law, so it's a good thing we're bringing in an alien and rival system not as if we're bringing in an alien and rival system," said Williams, who gave a speech on the topic Thursday evening.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown's spokesman immediately rejected Williams' proposal.

Leading Shi'ite cleric reduces workload

Baghdad - Iraq's most influential Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, has sharply reduced his workload in recent months, raising new questions about the health of the aged leader and the prospect of a dangerous power vacuum without a clear and dominant successor.

Any change in al-Sistani's role or reach could have far-reaching consequences for both Iraq and the United States, which considers the Iranian-born cleric as perhaps the most powerful figure in Iraq and a vital stabilizing force in the oil-rich Shiite heartlands of southern Iraq.

NATIONAL NEWS

CIA head debates waterboarding

WASHINGTON - The CIA director raising doubts about whether it's currently legal to use the interrogation technique to extract information from terrorism suspects.

"It's a good thing we have a clear and dominant successor," said Clinton, who loaned her campaign $5 million in the roughly even split of delegates still being allocated after Tuesday's primaries and caucuses as evidence her campaign has the financial muscle to compete.

LOCAL NEWS

High school coach admits to child porn

INDIANAPOLIS — A high school swim coach faces charges involving children on a hard drive in his apartment, court documents state.

Brian D. Hindson, 40, of Carmel was arrested in late January after authorities searched his home and found a file containing computer video files of child pornography, according to federal court documents.

Brian D. Hindson, 40, of Carmel was arrested on Monday, March 4, 2008, after authorities searched his home and found a file containing computer video files of child pornography.

Diplomats say Iran has advanced centrifuge

VIENNA, Austria — Iran's nuclear project has developed its own version of an advanced centrifuge to churn out enriched uranium much faster than its previous machines, diplomats said Thursday.

"It's a significant development," said a U.N. diplomat, who asked not to be named because of U.N. rules restricting comments on matters under consideration.

"It's the same group to announce to the field is down to two, our chances."
Man stab wife inside school

Suspect charges into fifth-grade class, wounds woman in front of kids

Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio — A man charged into a school where his estranged wife was a teacher Thursday morning, firing a gun before stabbing her as her fifth-grade class watched, police said. He later was found dead in his home after apparently shooting himself during a standoff with police.

The teacher, Christi Layne, was in critical condition at a hospital in nearby Huntington, W.Va., a hospital spokeswoman said.

Police originally said William Michael Layne shot his wife at Notre Dame Elementary, but Chief Charles Horner said it was unclear whether a gunshot fired in the school hit her.

Minutes before the teacher was stabbed, police say her husband stabbed and wounded a different woman in an alley about five blocks from the school.

Horner said at a news conference that he did not know whether that victim, Stephanie Loop, 22, knew the teacher. Loop was also in critical condition.

Christi Layne had filed for divorce Jan. 25.

“She was terrified something like this would happen,” said Rebecca Bennett, Christi Layne’s attorney.

She said shooting happened around 9 a.m. at the Catholic school on Portsmouth’s main road. Student Emmaly Baker said she hid in the classroom’s cloakroom when the gunman came in.

“We heard gunshots, and we heard her yelling. I was scared,” she told WSAZ-TV. “The police officer came and got us and she was still laying there and she was hurt really bad.

“The suspect fled, and for hours after the shooting, a SWAT team surrounded a house about two miles away. Neighbors saw officers shooting at the house at one point, and police said those shots were with low-caliber bullets used to disable surveillance cameras.

Layne hadn’t installed those cameras in his yard. Neighbors Jack Freeland said police eventually broke through the door with a battering ram and went in.

Police had been involved in a domestic dispute between the Laynes about two weeks ago, Horner said, but he did not give details.

The 56-year-old suspect, known as Mike, was a retired assistant director at the city’s water distribution plant. He apparently shot himself in the head with a shotgun, Coroner Terry Johnson said. He was found in the garage behind his house near the school, Horner said.

Freeland, 37, who often talked with the suspect, said that the couple had separated last summer and that Layne had been acting strangely for several months.

“At nighttime, he was out digging up his yard at 1, 2 in the morning,” he said.

Parents, many with cell phones clutched to their ears, congregated across the street from the school and began leaving with their children around 10:30 a.m., said Kathy Hall, the office manager at the Cornerstone United Methodist Church, which also is across the street.

“She wasn’t afraid for my own safety, I was afraid for the children, because these turn out so terrible, you know,” Hall said.

The scene was chaotic, with police cars and ambulances surrounding the school and the fire department blocked off the street.

The school and another Catholic school nearby were locked down, said Deacon Tom Freeland, the vice chancellor of the diocese.

“Men of Strength will work to redefine and examine what kind of strengths define a man,” Rakoczy said.

“The group has not begun its meetings yet, but it has advertised through posters and dining hall announcements,” he said.

MOS is unique in that it’s a completely private organization.

“It is a safe and confidential environment,” Rakoczy said.

Vassel said he is open to feedback on the group and wants the men involved to feel welcome to both meetings and emailing him.

Rakoczy said the e-mail system has worked well so far, and they saw a student express interest before the group was publicized.

Vassel plans to weigh the opinions of men who attend meetings in order to decide on the course of the group.

“We want to leave some kind of legacy so that the group is not solely dependent on me,” Vassel said.

The MOS is not the first group that the GRC has sponsored for men. The Center sponsored the group Men Against Violence, which brought in the anti-sexual- assault activist Jackson Katz to campus in November.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

GETS THE ADRENALINE GOING. YOURS AND WHOEVER READS ABOUT IT ON YOUR RESUME.

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You can also visit us on the web! http://www.nd.edu/~army/home2.htm

ARMY ROTC. START STRONG.
Market Recap

Stocks

Dow Jones

12,247.00  +46.90

S&P 500

1,236.91  +10.46

Nikkei (Tokyo)

12,207.15  +0.00

FTSE 100 (London)

5,724.10  -151.30

Companies

Company % Change

S&P/DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)  +0.66  133.93

PowerShares QQQ  +0.70  43.11

CISCO SYS (CSCO)  +1.30  23.38

MICRO CAP (MSPF)  -1.40  28.12

Treasury

10-Year Note  +3.38  12.22

13-Week Bill  +2.94  2.10

30-Year Bond  +2.88  4.50

5-Year Note  +3.78  2.77

Commodities

Light Crude (NYMEX)  +0.97  88.11

Gold (NYSEARCA)  +5.00  91.09

Pork Bellies (CME/BH)  +1.81  97.00

Exchange Rates

yen  +0.050  107.500

euro  +0.009  1.096

canadian dollar  +0.006  1.096

British Pound  +0.018  0.5148

GDP growth slows

WASHINGTON -- The Bush administration is looking to boost the sagging economy by releasing a fiscal relief plan. Under the plan, consumers would get a rebate check of $1,200, but that check would be subject to income taxes. Bush reportedly wants to go higher, up to $2,000. But there is growing concern that a fiscal relief plan could push the federal budget deeper into deficit. The plan is expected to face opposition from Republican leaders in Congress.

In Brief

Wall Street posts modest gains

NEW YORK -- Wall Street finished moderately higher in bullish trading Thursday as investors, still nervous about the economy, decided to buy back into a stock market pummeled by three straight days of selling.

With the market having largely priced in the possibility of a recession, many believe there are plenty of good bargains at cheap prices. Before Thursday, the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen this week by 543 points, or 4.26 percent, giving up all of last week’s sharp gains.

Though the market ended up rising Thursday, trading was extremely fickle due to the release of gloomy data that included declining January sales at major retailers, a drop in December sales of pending homes, and a disappointing outlook from Internet networking supplier Cisco Systems Inc. The major indexes wobbled throughout the day.

"We’re kind of trying to create a silk purse out of a sow’s ear here," said John Johnson, chief investment officer of Johnson Illuming Advisors. "The earnings are bumpy, the economic numbers are low.

The Dow rose 46.90, or 0.38 percent, to 12,247.00 after trading down about 50 points and up about 130. The index remains more than 13 percent below its record close on Oct. 9, 2007, at 14,164.33.

Unemployment falls slightly

WASHINGTON -- The number of newly laid off workers filing applications for unemployment benefits dropped last week, but not enough to indicate that strains on the labor market are easing.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that 356,000 claims for jobless benefits were filed last week, a decline of 22,000 from the previous week. The decline only erased a part of the huge jump of 72,000 in claims of the previous week.

The four-week average for jobless claims rose to 335,500, which was about the same as the previous month.

A severe slowdown in economic growth that has raised concerns about a possible recession has begun to affect the labor market. The government reported last week that the economy shed 17,000 jobs in January, the first monthly job loss in more than four years.

Senate passes fiscal relief plan

WASHINGTON -- The Senate passed an economic recovery plan Thursday that would spend $600 to $1,200 in rebates to most taxpayers and $300 checks to low-income people, including disabled veterans and the elderly.

The 81-16 vote capped more than a week of political maneuvering that ended with most Democrats dropping their demand that the proposal offer jobless benefits, health aid for the poor and tax breaks for some industries.

GOP senators blocked those ideas, but agreed to add the rebates for other people and disabled veterans to a $161 billion measure the House passed last month.

House leaders said they would try to pass the Senate bill as early as Thursday night to send the measure to President Bush. Bush indicated he would sign the measure and said the Senate made changes "in ways I can support.

"This plan is robust, broad-based, timely, and it will be effective," Bush said in a statement. The compromise, he said, was "an example of bipartisan cooperation at a time when the American people must expect it.

The Senate plan would rush rebates of $600 for individuals, $1,200 for couples — to most taxpayers and cut business taxes in hopes of reviving the economy. Individual rebates were limited to $7,500 a year and couples could get rebates up to $15,000 which would get rebates.

People who paid no income taxes would get rebates of at least $3,000 — including through Social Security or veterans benefits — would get a $200 rebate. Rebates of 70 percent were expected and Bush shortly thereafter agreed to sign the measure.

In the House, where the plan is expected to pass, the House voted 402-2 to give Bush $150 billion in tax cuts.

Democrats decided on Thursday against insisting on their package. Instead, they agreed to the bipartisan measure, costing $161 billion over two years, to Bush.

"It’s our responsibility to pass the strongest bill that we can, and so I think it’s tremendous what we’ll be able to accomplish," said Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "We had to finish this quickly.

The retreat came after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sided with Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Pelosi, D-Calif, urged the Senate to stop its infighting and pass the bill.

"There’s no reason for any more delay on this," Pelosi said.

Thirty-three Republicans joined 46 Democrats and the Senate’s two independents to pass the measure. Sixteen Republicans voted against the plan.

Reid defended his decision to try to pressure Republicans on the larger proposal by offering it as a take-it-or-leave-it proposition along with the rebates for older people and veterans.

"I feel very strongly that we did the right thing," Reid said.

Gift cards redeemed for basic items

NEW YORK -- Here’s a sign of how shaky the economy has become: Walmart says its shoppers are redeeming their holiday gift cards for things like: saucy sauce, diapers, laundry detergent instead of iPads or DVDs.

Part of the problem is that shoppers armed with gift cards would provide a lift after a difficult holiday shopping season — partly because shoppers tend to spend even more than expected, according to the Bain & Co. But that didn’t seem to happen last month, and retailers were feeling the pain.

On Thursday, the nation’s retailers turned in their worst January in almost four decades as high gas prices and food prices, a slumping housing market, tighter credit and a tougher job market pushed consumers to the edge.

Sales at 43 retailers surveyed by the BAIU-International Council of Shopping Centers rose just 0.5 percent in January, well below the original 1.5 percent forecasts.

The results — based on sales at stores open at least a year — followed an anemic 0.7 percent pace in December and were below the 2.1 percent gain for all of last year.

Jill Panfil, a 26-year-old homemaker from Sterling Heights, Mich., was using a $20 Walmart gift card on Thursday to stock up on grocers and pet supplies. She wasn’t in the market for a present for herself.

"Twenty dollars at Wal-Mart is easy to spend," she said.

"Gift cards are being used as a secondary way to save," said Rurt Finkling III, managing director of the New York-based retail consulting firm Strategic Resource Group.

Even at department stores, he said, consumers are using gift cards to buy basic apparel such as socks and lingerie.

The assessment by Walmart Stores Inc., the world’s largest retailer, that gift card redemptions were below expectations and people were buying only necessities shook up industry observers.

Retailers record gift-card revenue only as cards are redeemed.

"It shows you the level of worry. Even with free money in your hand, (consumers) aren’t willing to spend on anything more than necessities," said Michael P. Nienstra, chief economist at International Council of Shopping Centers.

Nienstra said January’s retail sales performance was the weakest for that month since at least 1970, when comparable records started.

Shoppers appeared to be looking at gift cards not as "free money" but rather as their own personal cash," said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America’s Research Group, citing his recent surveys with consumers.

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The University of Notre Dame
Honors Our Patroness
On the Occasion of the 150th Anniversary
Of the Appearance of the Blessed Virgin
at Lourdes

THREE DAYS OF PRAYER
IN ANTICIPATION OF
THE FEAST DAY ON
FEBRUARY 11

BASILICA OF THE
SACRED HEART
6:15-6:45 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - WE HONOR THE PATRONESS OF NOTRE DAME
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - WE HONOR THE PATRONESS OF OUR COUNTRY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 5:15 PM

SPECIAL MASS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SESQUICENTENNIAL
OF THE APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY AT LOURDES

FATHER PETER D. ROCCA, C.S.C., PRESIDER
FATHER THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C., HOMILIST

“And our hearts forever, love thee Notre Dame”
Shuttle Atlantis leaps into orbit
Europe's gift to international space station flies despite fuel problems

Associated Press
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After two months of delay, shut­tle Atlantis blasted off into orbit Thursday with Europe's gift to the international space station, a $2 billion science lab named Columbus that spent years waiting to set sail.

Atlantis and its seven-man crew safely rode away from their seaside launch pad at 2:40 p.m., overcoming fuel gauge problems that thwarted back­to-back launch attempts in December.

The same cold front that spawned killer tornadoes across the South earlier in the week stayed far enough away and, in the end, cut NASA a break. All week, bad weather had threatened to delay the flight, making liftoff all the sweeter for the shuttle team. The sky was cloudy at launch time, but rain and thunderstorms remained off to the west.

"Three, two, one, zero, and liftoff of space shuttle Atlantis as Columbus sets sail on a voy­age of science to the space sta­tion," NASA's Launch Control exclaimed.

Probably no one was happier than the 300 Europeans who gathered at the launch site to see Atlantis take off with their beloved Columbus lab. They celebrated with Belgian and French chocolates and sparkling grape juice, in keep­ing with NASA's no-alcohol rule at the Kennedy Space Center.

"It's not very European," observed Italian astronaut Paolo Nespoli, smiling, as he popped open bottles of juice and filled plastic wine glasses. He flew on the last shuttle mis­sion.

Twenty-three years in the making. Columbus is the European Space Agency's pri­mary contribution to the space station. The lab has endured space station redesigns and slowdowns, as well as a number of shuttle postponements and two shuttle accidents. "It's all as exciting as heck," said an emotional Alan Thiele, Europe's space sta­tion program manager. "I've lost about 500 grams (about 1 pound) so far, and that's just because we've been ears."

Columbus will join the U.S. lab, Destiny, which was launched aboard Atlantis exact­ly seven years ago. The much bigger Japanese lab Kibo, or Hope, will be launched aboard three shuttle flights to get to ground, beginning in March.

Atlantis' commander, Stephen Frick, and his U.S. German and French crew will reach the space station next month and begin work on Columbus. The lab is a big part of the space station and will allow long­term missions to begin.

"We're off to the west."

Columbus, which brings to the space station truly international capability and participation.

Michael Griffin
NASA administrator

Besides Columbus, Atlantis will drop off a new space sta­tion resident, French Air Force Gen. Leopold Eyharts, who will swap NASA astronaut Daniel Tani and get Columbus working. Tani will return to Earth aboard the shuttle, ending a mission of nearly four months.

In NASA's relief, all four fuel gauges in Atlantis' external fuel tank worked properly and the final stage of the countdown. The gauges failed back in December because of a faulty connector.

"Certainly, no launch can be any more momentous than the launch of Columbus, which brings to the space station truly international capability and participation.

NASA was anxious to get Atlantis flying as soon as possible. The agency was eager to keep alive its hopes of achieving six shuttle launches this year. The space agency faces a 2010 deadline for finishing the space station and retiring the fleet of shut­tles. That equates to four or five shuttle flights a year between now and then, something Griffin considers achievable.

"We're coming back and I think we are back, from some pretty severe technical problems that led to the loss of Columbia. We understand the fuel now," he said, referring to the launch of the tank of insulating foam that kept breaking off the fuel tanks."

"The life of the world will be any more momentous than the launch of Columbus, ending a mission of nearly four months.

The life of the world will be any more momentous than the launch of Columbus, ending a mission of nearly four months."

Special to the Observer

Father Arthur S. Harvey, 96, died Monday at Holy Cross House on the Notre Dame cam­pus, where he had lived since 1933.

A native of Washington, D.C., Harvey was educat­ed at St. Paul's school and high school and worked for the Washington Railway and Electric Company before coming to Notre Dame in 1942 to study for the priesthood in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

After graduating from Notre Dame in 1947, Harvey studied theology at Holy Cross College and was ordained on June 5, 1951, at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. He studied drama at Catholic University, earning a gradu­ate degree in 1953, and returned to Notre Dame to embark on a long and cele­brated career as director and drama director on campus. His many produc­tions included "Hamlet" and "Long Day's Journey into Night," "My Fair Lady," and "South Pacific." He retired in 1969, and began to serve for many years as an assis­tant to Father Edmund P. Joyce, Notre Dame's executive vice president, but twice returned to Washington Hall to direct highly acclaimed productions of "Death of a Salesman" and "The Crucible."

"Perhaps more than any other person, Father Arthur Harvey is considered the father of theater at Notre Dame," said Mark C. Pilkinton, professor of film, television and theater.

"Trained as an accountant but blessed with an abiding interest in the theater, Father Harvey was able to achieve both artistic merit and academic integrity."

"Harvey was very much involved in his early years as Phil Donohue, Reg Rain and Gene Gorki, and supported by a faculty that included Fred Shubert, an observant and remarkable period of serious and good theater at Notre Dame."

"During his tenure, Father Harvey was extremely influential in the making of the Washington Hall stage the grandest of Broadway, but he also identified and nurtured talent."

The Notre Dame Alumni Association voted Harvey the most influential person honored in honor of Harvey in 2000 to be given annually to a gradu­ante for outstanding contribu­tions to the performing arts. The first recipient of the award was Harvey.
Thinking about grad school?

One of the "Indicators of Excellence" on the Notre Dame website (which advertises its ranking as top 25 school and a "New Ivy") is the fact that Notre Dame is "first among U.S. Catholic colleges and universities in the number of undergraduates who have gone on to earn a doctorate since 1920." In spite of its historical success, Notre Dame isn't producing future scholars at the same rate it once did. In September, Father Jenkins reported to the faculty that less than five percent of Notre Dame graduates have gone on to Ph.D. and other research-based doctoral programs between 1995 and 2004, the lowest rate among any of the top 25 schools. Statistical quilting aside — the number excludes those who take time off before postgraduate study, but so do the figures for other schools — the point is that Notre Dame's graduates are less likely than those of our peer institutions to become the next generation of researchers, teachers, and intellectual leaders.

After Father Jenkins' speech, other administrators suggested that graduate students could become an "additional mentoring resource" for those students considering Ph.D.s. However, the graduates who do have regular contact with undergraduates, TAs, are not in the best position to be the kind of resource the administration envisions. In the classroom, undergraduates are under the academic authority of the TA, and because the relationship is by nature subordinate rather than supportive, few people are going to look to their TA for informal career advice.

Because TAs have to maintain a strictly professional relationship with their students, and because they have to be impartial judges of students' academic performance, students have a vastly different relationship with their TA than they would with, say, a guidance counselor or academic advisor. Not surprisingly, there is little informal interaction between TAs and their students.

For example, TAs get five free dining hall meals so that they can meet in a casual setting with their students, but very few students take advantage of this opportunity even if they know about it. It's the academic equivalent of having lunch with your boss; you probably aren't going to have a completely free conversation or exchange of ideas with the person who decides your final grades. The combination of authority and professional distance makes TAs poorly suited to give out career guidance.

And yet there are almost no other opportunities for graduate students and undergraduates to interact, except for the 54 assistant rectors in residence halls — many of whom come from the professional schools, which already attract plenty of undergraduates.

Basically, grad students are a part of Notre Dame's classroom life exclusively, and otherwise invisible in its residential or social life (occasional appearances in the Observer notwithstanding). As a result, most undergrads probably think that grad students really are all the stereotypical hopeless shut-ins who are incapable of talking about anything non-academic.

There are plenty of graduate students who would be happy to have the opportunity to simply talk to anyone thinking about pursuing graduate work, myself included. But if the University wishes graduate students to be this "additional mentoring resource," it will need to set up a way for undergraduates and graduate students to have this kind of dialog to happen in a setting that isn't regimented and hierarchical, only in such an environment can the discussion honestly address the pros and cons of graduate school, and allow prospective graduate to make a sufficiently informed choice.

Until undergrads can look to grad students not just as graders and discussion leaders, but as sources of advice and even mentors in short, until grad students become a part of student life outside of just the classroom-they will never become the resource that the University wants. An 800-word column is hardly enough space to outline the problem, but let me suggest some potential solutions anyway.

Getting more Ph.D.s to serve as AIs seems like an obvious solution, but one that might be constrained by lack of space or interest. What about having graduating students affiliated with each hall as a sort of non-resident advisor, with whom students could discuss their coursework, academic progress, skills related to their discipline, or even future plans for grad school, with someone from their department? Having grad students within each department hold occasional "office hours" for the same sort of interaction?

There is, of course, no single reason why so few newly-minted graduates go on to graduate school, and likewise there is no guarantee that having this sort of advising, or any other scheme, will result in more undergraduates going on to graduate school. But at the very least, it will give people thinking about postgraduate study study an additional resource for information and advice, and it will set doctoral research on more people's radar screens. Above all, any opportunity for undergrads and grad students to have open discussions about graduate school is a positive step.

Darryl Campbell is a first-year graduate student in history. He can be contacted at dcampbell@nd.edu.

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

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EDITORIAL CARTOON

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TODAY'S STAFF

New to Observer...

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Katie Peralta
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Cara King
Deidre Krasula
Sam Werner
Chris Hine
Mary Jesse
Mark Witte
Viewpoint

Observer Poll

What was your favorite Super Bowl commercial?

Budweiser Clydesdales 151 53%

Doritos Moustache 54 19%

BridgeSaddle Squirrel 43 15%

Fed-Ex Pigeons 37 13%

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A torn jacket is soon mended; but hard words bruise the heart of a child."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

U.S. poet
Letter to the Editor

Fear over climate change justified

In his letter entitled "Stop the Climate Change Propaganda," (Feb. 7) Matt Gore throws a bunch of stats and studies at us in an attempt to undermine the "fear mongering" techniques of a professor who was rightly spreading the word about the importance of environmental issues. Even if the statistics that Gore references are valid, he is failing to see the big picture.

Statistics and studies can be slanted to support any argument, but the fact that humans are putting an unnatural strain on the environment is undisputable. The level of foreign chemicals and man-made pollutants in the environment has been increasing at an alarming rate for quite some time now, obviously changing the dynamics of our environment. Animal and plant life, not to mention entire ecosystems, will not be able to adapt quickly enough to keep up with the current rate of environmental degradation.

Change is needed now, and maybe "fear mongering" is exactly what we need. The average person is surprisingly complacent and uncaring when it comes to the impact we are having on the future of our planet. If we continue along our current path, our actions will compromise not only the futures of a couple exotic species off in some forest somewhere, but the well-being of future generations and quite likely our current generation will also be at stake.

Look around you. The writing is on the wall. It is becoming pretty clear that the time for fear is now. In the end of Gore's letter, he claims to support conservation and the use of alternate energy sources based on potential short-term and long-term benefits. If that is so, then why did he even write his letter? The only part that anyone will read is the headline "Stop the climate change propaganda," which, on a base level, contradicts this point. It seems to me that his article was an unneeded attack against a sentiment of "fear" that is definitely warranted when it comes to the future of our planet. I know I'm scared, and maybe he should be too ...

Daniel Collins
sophomore
Alumni Hall
Feb. 7

Perspective: Sept. 14, 1983

Grass famine

The following letter was forwarded to us to forward to you
-Ed. Board

Dear President Nixon,

For several years now I have been smoking grass (marijuana to you I suppose) with my happy collection of oft-stoned friends. We dutifully followed your warnings and fearfully resisted those evil characters who tried to push us down the long road towards dirty-tempered heroin death. Now, great father, what are we to do?

Our grass has run out and there's a dark man with a black shirt and white tie sitting near me in the huddle. Oh well, no one cares for me.

Signed,
Phil Welchman


Submit a Letter to the Editor.

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 350 words in length and submitted by 3 p.m. to be considered for publication the next day.

www.ndsmcobserver.com
Sullivan relishes the ‘blonde role’

By TAE ANDREWS  Scene Editor

Carolyn Sullivan seems to think blondes have more fun, even if she isn’t a natural one. To prepare for her twin roles as Lois/Bianca in “Kiss Me Kate,” Sullivan watched what she calls “dumb blonde” roles—performances from actresses in other musicals, including those performed by Marlene Dietrich in “The Blue Angel.”

Upon being asked to describe “Kiss Me Kate” in three words or less, Sullivan replied, “Odds bodkins.”

Getting into character no problem for versatile Rice

By TAE ANDREWS  Scene Editor

Kelly Rice doesn’t have a lot of difficulty getting into character.

“I really just try to think about everything that is going on in Lilli’s (her character) life at that moment during the show,” she said. “She is very difficult to play because she is always very conflicted and there are very few times where there is only one thing she wants that she can actually have. She may be a diva, but her occasional animosity stems from her very deep emotional confusion.”

Rice has been singing since the tender age of six. She participated in her first musical at age 12 and started vocal training at age 13. Rice was also a member of the ensemble of last year’s PEMCo production of “Ragtime.”

“We are playing with a lot of quirkiness in this role,” Rice said. “We are going for the more broad, comedic style of ‘Kiss Me Kate’ but the roles are quite different.”

Making a milage of the double roles, Rice said her characters are very different. Rice added, “I feel like a bit of a diva in this role and I’m quite fond of her.”

“Kiss Me Kate” is on stage through March 8 at the PEMCo Performing Arts Center, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrews@nd.edu
A job description for the position of director of "Kiss Me Kate" might read something like this: Must have an eye for talent, flexible creativity and the vision to put it all together.

As the man running the show behind the scenes, Connor Nowalk has all that and more.

"Casting is an interesting thing, because for any given role there are several people who could play it," Nowalk said. Given the sheer amount of talent on display during the auditions, he said that the casting process amounted to matching various talents to roles.

"Joe Jurasko excelled in all three areas of performance: singing, dancing and acting," he said. "We knew we wanted to utilize his talents, but we weren't quite sure how."

Nowalk also found himself playing matchmaker in order to pair off actors to ensure that they had onscreen chemistry. Carolyn Sullivan's smooth jazz voice and commanding stage presence made her a perfect fit for the part of Lois.

"I put the two of them together in a scene during callbacks, the chemistry was there, and we knew we had our pair," he said.

Nowalk also paired Kyle Carter and Kelly Hice as the characters Fred and Lilli. "When the show was in, the more parts I started to love all aspects of theater," he said.

Starting primarily as a performer, Nowalk made his directorial debut as a freshman at the Notre Dame, Nowalk knew that he wanted to direct a show here before he graduated. "By taking the audience on this trip to see exactly where they are going, we hope that people will know exactly where they are in the theater." Starting auditions in mid-October, Nowalk and co. got into the swing of things with rehearsals starting after Fall Break. Excluding breaks and finals, the production has had about 10 weeks of rehearsals.

"In a production featuring so many parts, Nowalk said he didn't further muddled things up by trying to put his own take on the material in the show. "Kiss Me, Kate is not really the kind of show that lends itself to 'directorial interpretation,'" he said. "Sure, you can taste a little bit of 'Connor Nowalk in it,' especially in the humor, but for the most part, I wanted to let the show speak for itself.""
Canucks rally in close one over Thrashers

Ducks continue goal-scoring 'streak' against Rangers; Stars savage win in road on the won over wobbling Wild

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Atlanta’s Eric Perrin delivered an unintentional assist on Alex Burrows’ game-winning goal for Vancouver, and Thrashers goal­
tender Kari Lehtonen was left with a painful memory of his chest as evidence.

Burrows’ goal midway through the third period ended a rare three-period rally for Vancouver and ended a frustrating four-game road trip by beating Atlanta 2-1 on Thursday night.

Burrows’ goal 11:14 into the third period came after contact between teammate Ryan Kesler and Perrin in front of the net. Perrin’s stick hit Lehtonen below his right collarbone, knocking the goalie off his feet. Lehtonen was sitting on his backside in front of the net and was unable to defend Burrows’ shot.

After the game, Lehtonen showed a 6-inch red streak on his upper chest.

“They stick hit me right here,” Lehtonen said, pointing to the mark. “That’s why I went on the bench. I didn’t get up fast enough.”

“I’m complaining a lot because I thought it was their player’s stick, but I was wrong. Sometimes things like that happen.”

Daniel Sedin scored on a power play for Vancouver early in the third period after a second goal by Perrin had given the Thrashers a 1-0 lead.

The Canucks had been 1-19-1 this season when trailing after two periods.

Vancouver ended a streak of four straight losses by one goal, including three on the road, to Tampa Bay, Florida and Dallas.

“We really wanted to find a way to win tonight,” Burrows said, recalling that period when we got together and played a real gritty third period.”

Robert Luongo stopped 27 shots for Vancouver. The Thrashers dropped their second straight game at home.

“It’s been tough, but you’ve got to stay positive,” Lehtonen said. “It’s the time of year when we really have to get the points, and it’s terrible that we didn’t.”

“It’s our lyra Kovalchuk was shut down on six shots.”

“Number one priority was to shut him down and try to get under his skin,” Burrows said. “I just think going at him is part of my game.”

Said Luhtonen of Kovalchuk: “Obviously, he is a big part of their team. We put a lot of focus on him. We didn’t want to give him much room.”

Ducks 4, Rangers 1

Jean-Gabriel Giguere is enjoying the Anaheim Ducks’ newfound offense, and not only because it makes his job much easier.

Giguere stopped consecutive shots in the two games prior to Thursday’s visit to Madison Square Garden and said only if his won to show for it since the Ducks dropped a 1-0 shutout loss to St. Louis.

Seven games in two teams is a windfall for the team that is averaging only 2.37 per night — second-fewest in the NHL.

“It’s much easier to win when you get that many goals,” Giguere said. “It’s never fun to score, I’m sure the guys are having a lot more fun now.”

 Cory Perry and Chris Kunitz scored 1:27 apart to break an 0-0 tie in the second period.

Marc-Andre Schneider staked the Ducks to a lead in the first when Ryan Callahan tied it for the Rangers, who won their second straight game at home to trail Vancouver in the Pacific Division. Once Anaheim returns home, it will have only seven away games remaining in its final 21.

“We still have a lot of road trips left,” forward Ryan Getzlaf said.

The Ducks, who hadn’t played at Madison Square Garden since Oct. 28, 2003, won 12-3-4 against the Rangers — 6-2-2 in New York

Stars 1, Wild 0

Niklas Hugman’s 20th goal of the season was the season’s only.

Hagman scored early in the third period, Mike Smith stopped 25 shoots and the Dallas Stars beat the Minnesota Wild Thursday.

Dallas has won five straight and is 1-2-2 in its last five home games.

Hagman scored his second goal in three games when he took a pass in the left circle from Loui Eriksson, fought off a check from Martin Skoula, cut across the crease and put a backhand past Niklas Backstrom at 5:11 of the final period. It was his seventh game-winning goal, one against Alexander Ovechkin’s league-leading Washington.

“It seemed like a game where one goal was going to decide it,” Dallas coach Dave Tippett said. “Both teams were playing hard and we were fortunate to get it.”

Hagman’s previous career best was 17 goals last season with the Stars.

“I’ve been able to play a little bit more offensively, and get the chance to play on the power play,” Hagman said. “Of course, scoring 20 is nice, but the whole season overall I’ve been pretty happy with the way that things have gone, and the way the team is playing right now has helped a lot.”

The goal came moments after Smith stretched to make a right pad save on Marian Gaborik, who tried to tip a feed from Pavol Demitra into the Dallas net on the Wild’s best scoring opportunity.

“I don’t do the splitts too often, but it was a moment that called for it,” Smith said.

It was the second shutdown of the year for Smith, who started the first in six games.

Tiger, Marce, who has started 41 games, did not accompany the team on the trip after injuring his neck when he collided with teammate Jeff Halpern in Tuesday’s win over Vancouver.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Observer Classifieds, 624 South Dong Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per person per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.
AP Top 25

Men's Basketball Poll

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USA Today/ESPN Top 25

Men's Basketball Poll

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NCAA Women's Basketball
Big East Standings

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MLB

Roger Clemens, right, stands with Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas, at a news conference on Capitol Hill on Thursday. Clemens visited individual congressmen on Thursday to deny Brian McNamee's claim that he took steroids.

Rocket begins his lobbying on the Hill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roger Clemens spent Thursday going door-to-door on Capitol Hill, lobbying congressmen investigating whether he used drugs. His accuser, Brian McNamee, gave a seven-hour deposition behind closed doors, and the trainer's lawyers presented photographs of evidence they said prove the star pitcher was injected with steroids.

McNamee headed straight for an exit, not speaking a word to reporters, when he emerged from his interview with lawyers from the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. His attorneys wouldn't discuss the deposition, but they did talk at length about two color photographs they showed the committee for the first time.

"Roger Clemens has put himself in a position where his legacy as the greatest pitcher in baseball will depend less on his ERA and more on his DNA," said one of McNamee's lawyers, Earl Ward.

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner's repeated denials of McNamee's allegations in the Mitchell Report about drug use drew Congress' attention. Clemens spoke under oath to the committee Tuesday for the first time he addressed the allegations under oath, and therefore the first time he put himself at legal risk if he were to make false statements.

There is a public hearing scheduled for Wednesday, when Clemens, McNamee and other witnesses, including New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte, are to testify.

McNamee's attorneys said their client turned over physical evidence to a federal prosecutor for the Northern District of California last month, shortly after Clemens held a Jan. 7 nationally televised news conference at which he played a taped conversation between the two men with conflicting accounts at the center of the issue.

"At that point," Ward said, "(McNamee) decided there was no holds barred.

One photo shows a crushed beer can that Richard Emery, another of McNamee's attorneys, said was taken out of a trash can in Clemens' New York apartment in 2001. Emery said the can contained needled used to inject Clemens. That picture also shows what Emery said was gauze used to wipe blood off Clemens after a shot.

IN BRIEF

Angry bar owner decided not to open fire at Super Bowl

PHOENIX — A would-be bar owner angry at being denied a liquor license threatened to shoot people at the Super Bowl and drove to within sight of the stadium with a rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition before changing his mind, federal authorities said.

Kurt William Havelock, who ultimately turned himself in, had vowed to "shed the blood of the innocent" in a manifesto mailed Sunday to media outlets, according to court documents. "No one destroys my dream," he wrote.

The documents say he was armed with an AR-15 assault-style rifle on Sunday when he reached a parking lot near University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, where pre-game activities were happening.

"He waited about a minute and decided he couldn't do this," FBI agent Philip Thorfin testified.

Bullet ripped through both of Taylor's legs, autopsy says

MIAMI — The bullet that killed Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor ripped first through his right leg and then the left, and possibly came from a 9mm handgun, an autopsy released Thursday said.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request filed after Taylor's Nov. 27 death, notes a bullet perforated the soft tissues and muscles of the right groin and the right femoral artery, a crucial pathway for blood.

The bullet tore through muscles of Taylor's upper right thigh, according to the report from the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner, then exited the leg and entered the athlete's left thigh.

A Miami-Dade police report to the medical examiner identified the weapon as a handgun, possibly a 9mm.

U.S. ready to defend its title in Davis Cup

VIENNA, Austria — Andy Roddick will face Jurgen Melzer on Friday in the opening match when the United States defends its Davis Cup title against Austria on indoor clay.

James Blake and Stefan Koubek will play in the second match of the best-of-five series. The pairings were announced Thursday.

"I don't see it as an advantage nor as a disadvantage to start," said Roddick, who is 6-6 against Melzer and hasn't dropped a set against the Austrian.

Still, Melzer is glad to get out on the court first. "I am pretty happy to be out there first as it gives me some more time to recover for the doubles on Saturday," said Melzer, who expects a loud home crowd of about 6,500 boisterous fans. "But the spectators alone won't win matches — we have to be at our best."
Willingham makes last stand at Washington

Former Notre Dame coach remains stoic despite pressure; encouraged by high-ranked recruiting class

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Tyrone Willingham has had better months.

The coach who has already been dumped abruptly by Notre Dame after just three years knows adversity. But even this has been unique.

"This year has had a lot of special hurdles to it," Willingham said with a wry smile this week, a rare good one for the Washington Huskies recently.

This lightning rod from South Bend, Ind., to Seattle was seated inside the University of Washington's Founder's Club, a courtesy-school-to-speak-in spread, donors use for pregame hobnobbing.

Many of them wanted him fired months ago.

"I'd like to kill you, it makes you stronger," Willingham said. "And I think this has made our program stronger."

While Willingham said of a Huskies program that currently has more negativity surrounding it than any in his career, he praised new athletic director Jen Cohen.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the stoic Willingham brushed off the turmoil surrounding his floundering program. "I have been faced with controversy all my life, in some form or fashion," he said.

He quoted pioneering newsman David Brinkley. He referred to chaos he had with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the provost at Stanford when he was the coach there, and President George W. Bush, when he coached Notre Dame.

Willingham, whose demeanor is as even as his 76-76-1 record in 13 seasons as a college coach, said he might have an elementary-school teacher instead, because those kids need male role models. He said he and his family love Notre Dame enough to make Washington the last stop on a football journey that began as a walk-on athlete at Michigan State in the early 1970s.

He has graduated his players. Most have stayed out of trouble at UW. He just hasn't won enough games.

Wednesday brought rare victories. 26 of them, recruits that included five of the consensus top seven prospects in Washington and some from Southern California. Many experts rank Washington's incoming class among the nation's top 25.

That's a measure of Willingham's resolve and ramrod persona. It also fuels his belief he will get Washington back to the perennial Rose Bowl days of Don James.

"I tell my football team — I use this quote from David Brinkley: "A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him," Willingham said.

"And that's what I want our young men to understand. The people who step up from being successful, that will be ourselves. Not any outside forces."

Those forces have been working overtime recently.

In December, Willingham became the first Huskies coach to finish three consecutive losing seasons as UW went 4-9. Washington lost to Washington State for the third time in four years — the last time that had happened was 1982-85. It then blew a lead at undefeated Hawaii in the finale, making a huge upset that would have provided some positive momentum heading into the offseason.

Willingham is 11-25 at Washington. He was 21-15 in the same span at Notre Dame, and the Irish fired him.

Many Huskies fans want the same for the hard-to-crack man they derisively call "Paint Dry Tyrone." Willingham makes his final stop this week at Notre Dame for his 54th birthday. He was also elected as the president of the American Football Coaches Association.

"I believe in ourselves ... (that) we will have a great program, that we will win championships," he said, his voice low and steady as always.

"Maybe at some point we collect all this information and gather it together and throw it on a table in front of the players and say, 'Our backs are against the wall. Let's go. It's us against the world.'"

Washington coach Tyrone Willingham testifies Tuesday before a state senate committee requesting funds for stadium upgrades.
Irish golfers tee off season in sunny Fla.

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

No. 20 Notre Dame looks to refocus as it kicks off the annual Florida Fling Alumni Golf Tournament.

"This is an opportunity for the student-athletes to get to know some Notre Dame alumni and establish some relationships," Irish coach Susan Holt said. "We had a great time last year in Orlando, involving quite a few of our former athletes."

Notre Dame begins its spring season this weekend after a strong first half of the season, winning its first three tournaments and finishing second and fourth in its final two.

"We're very optimistic about our short game indoors at practice in spite of the weather," Holt said. "We're still able to get solid practice in spite of the weather. We're keeping focused on each tournament as it approaches. We're trying to get better every day. We were successful in the fall and we're trying to keep doing what we're doing.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

The Irish enter the Fling after a three-month break during which Holt inked a solid recruiting class — recruits Katie Allare (Xavier Prep, Ariz.) and Becca Huffer (Littleton High School, Colo.). Huffer is ranked 17th nationally in the 2008 class, according to GolfWeek and was named the 2006 Colorado Player of the Year.

"Both (Allare and Huffer) are great players," Holt said. "They're both going to make an immediate impact and continue the trend we're on right now, which is good, we're getting better.

Neither the three-month break nor the miserable South Bend weather has slowed Notre Dame's practice schedule, and Holt looks optimistically at Notre Dame's spring season.

"We're able to work on our short game indoors at our new practice facility and work on our driving outdoors," Holt said. "We're still able to get solid practice in spite of the weather. We're keeping focused on each tournament as it approaches. We're trying to get better every day. We were successful in the fall and we're trying to keep doing what we're doing.

Shaq aims to silence critics

O'Neal hopes to bring Phoenix first title in team's 40-year history

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Shaquille O'Neal flashed that wide smile, and took on the critics who say he's too old and too slow to fit in with the slick, speedy Phoenix Suns.

"I look forward to making people eat their words," he said at a news conference Thursday. "I really do.

Wearing a Suns' purple shirt and tie with his immaculate dark suit, O'Neal met the media for the first time since the stunning deal Wednesday that sent the 14-time All-Star from the Miami Heat to Phoenix in exchange for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

He charmed the jam-packed room at US Airways Center.

"I already knew that," O'Neal said. "But thank you very much.

He acknowledged a new motivation after going from a losing team to a winner.

"I think with the addition of me it gives the guys the extra that we can make it," O'Neal said. "The first thing it takes in winning a championship is belief. If you can believe that you can do it, you can get it done. If there's ever a doubt that 'Hey, we can't do it,' you will never win. Now I think the guys really, really believe that we have a shot.

The presence of a 7-foot-1, 325-pound man in the middle should go a long way toward erasing Phoenix's image as a "soft" team. His four championship rings give him extra credibility, and his personality should, as he put it, "amp up" what has been a joyless Suns team this season.

He will energize the locker room, he said, "just by being me.

O'Neal, out for two weeks with a hip injury, said his new teammate Grant Hill, who has a long history of injuries, told him how good the Suns' training staff is.

"I've given a full commitment to the medical staff that I will be there every day before and after practice, doing whatever it takes to keep me going for the next 10 years," he said. "And I look forward to my next $200 million contract."
Irish to run in Meyo event

Top freshman working hard to get back to full health for ND

By ANDY ZICCArelli
Sports Writer

It is not often that teams lean on freshman to make a major impact, but that is what the Notre Dame women’s track team is doing this season with freshman distance runner Marisaa Treece.

Treece won the mile run last week at the Indiana Invitational, logging a time of 5:04.00. Irish coach Toni Connelly sees that as just the beginning of her accomplishments.

"Obviously, our hope is that she will reach her full potential as a runner and become a big time competitor on the national level, as have a number of our top runners in the past," Connelly said. "I think that she will have a lot of work to do to get there, but if she is persistent and patient, she certainly will have the opportunity to reach that level.

"After a strong start in training early in the year, Treece was sidelined for the remainder of the semester with an illness. "She is healthy again and working hard to get fit and able to race at a high level," Connelly said.

Treece and the rest of the Irish will be in action today and Saturday at the Meyo Invitational, one of the top track events in the country. The competition will include many teams from major conferences such as the Big East and Big Ten like Wisconsin and Iowa.

"It will be a big step up in competition, so our kids will really have to be confident and compete at their best if they expect to be competitive in such a strong field," Connelly said.

The meet will carry a special meaning for many involved in the Notre Dame community. There will be the annual running of the "Meyo Mile," and this year’s event will also include the first Ryan Shay 3,000-meter run.

Shay was the former Notre Dame standout who died on Nov. 3 during U.S. Olympic marathon trials in New York City’s Central Park.

The Irish will host the 21st annual Meyo Invitational this weekend. The event will run over the course of two days, with the competition beginning at 5 tonight and the second half beginning Saturday morning at 9:30.

This event will be the toughest competition Notre Dame has seen yet, with teams such as Purdue, Iowa, Wisconsin and Alabama in the field. Ready to step up to the challenge, however, will be the talented group of runners Irish coach Joe Piane has put together this year.

Senior Kurt Benninger will look to perform well in the shot put, and up and coming freshman Greg Davis to shine in the weight throw. Schubert has been a perennial shot put specialist since his freshman year on the team, and Davis looks to carve out a similar path. Both men have qualified for the Big East and are the best on the team in those events. Schubert has thrown 15.44 meters last year in the Meyo Invitational, while Davis posted a provisional mark of 16.79 meters.

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

MEN’S TRACK

Squad to pay tribute to Shay with race at meet

Notre Dame goes up against tough foes in Loftus this weekend

By PAT SYNES
Sports Writer

The annual Meyo Invitational will be more than just a track meet this year.

The event will honor former Notre Dame standout Ryan Shay with the first Ryan Shay 3,000-meter run. Shay died on Nov. 3 during U.S. Olympic marathon trials in New York City’s Central Park.

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Contact Pat Synes at psynes@nd.edu

THIS WEEK IN IRISH SPORTS

# 8 HOCKEY
vs. Ferris State
Friday @ 7:30pm
Saturday @ 7:00pm

HOME RUN INN
ITALIAN KITCHEN

# 21 MEN’S BASKETBALL
SAT, FEB. 9TH @ 12PM
vs. MARQUETTE

Write for Scene. E-mail Tae at tandrew1@nd.edu
Guest Speaker:
Mr. Allan “Bud” Selig
Major League Baseball Commissioner

Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 2:15-3:15 p.m.
JORDAN AUDITORIUM
Mendoza College of Business
Hosted by MBA Sports Business Club

NFC

Redskins continue search for coach

Giants ‘D’ coordinator to stay with New York

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the rising star from the Super Bowl out of the running, the Washington Redskins spent Thursday planning their next move.

Will their new coach be Jim Fassel? Ron Meeks? Steve Mariucci?

Or how about another mystery candidate? After all, owner Dan Snyder has kept the process well under wraps since Joe Gibbs resigned Jan. 8.

At least two contenders, Fassel and Pete Carroll, weren’t known to be on Snyder’s short list until more than a week after their initial interviews. And, of course, it was a mystery candidate who got the job four years ago, when Gibbs emerged out of nowhere after Snyder had higher-profile talks with other prospects.

One certainty is that the next Redskins coach will not be New York Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who withdrew his name from consideration Thursday, citing his desire to remain with the Super Bowl champions.

"His heart is in New York," Spagnuolo’s agent, Bob LaMonte, told The Associated Press. "He loves the ownership. He loves the players. He feels he has to stay there."

The Giants promptly rewarded Spagnuolo with a three-year, $6 million contract, making the defensive coordinator one of the highest-paid assistants in the league.

Meanwhile, Snyder spent the day conferring with advisors to consider his options following a month’s worth of interviews, a person familiar with the selection process told AP. A decision could be imminent, or the owner might instead arrange follow-up interviews with one or more candidates, the person said. The owner has said he hopes to have a coach in place by the end of the week.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the club has preferred to keep details of its search private.

Spagnuolo became a hot coaching commodity during the Giants’ championship run, culminating when his defense stifled the New England Patriots in a 17-14 victory in Sunday’s Super Bowl. The 48-year-old coordinator left the franchise when Snyder fired Tom Coughlin.

But the Giants have no interest in losing the defensive coordinator, a person familiar with the team’s plans said Wednesday night after two days of interviews lasting some 16 hours at Snyder’s home. The owner has said he hopes to have a coach in place by the end of the week.

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Team narrowly falls to Alma

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's came close to pulling away with a win over Alma, but the Scots claimed some key final free throws to seal a 68-64 win. After falling behind 7-2 early, the Belles battled back to take the lead for 14 minutes in the first half. Despite the long stretch in front, they were unable to pull away as the Scots always seemed to make a shot when they needed one. Saint Mary's never managed to jump ahead of the Scots by more than seven points. Late in the first half, Alma made a quick run to take a two-point lead with 1:35 left. But then, on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by junior guard Katie Hashid (12 points, eight assists), the Belles headed into the locker room with a 31-30 lead.

The second half, though, was a much different story. The Scots (18-10, 5-6 MIAA) went on a tear, jumping out to a quick five-point lead three minutes into the half. From there, they slowly but surely built up to an eleven-point lead with 11:53 left in the game. The Belles failed to catch Alma — the Scots led by 12 at one point after a 3-pointer by sophomore guard Lacey Best-Rowden. With 7:12 left in the game, Saint Mary's was down 60-48 and in dire need of a run.

The Belles' starting five tried to answer the call. After Best-Rowden's triple, Saint Mary's went on a 12-3 run over 4:31, culminating in a pair of free-throws by Hashid to make the score 65-63 with 2:41 left. A minute and a half later, Alma's lead fell to one when Saint Mary's Kessler scored two of his team-high 18 on free throws.

In a pair of free-throws by Hashid to make the score 65-63 with 1:07 left. A minute and a half later, Saint Mary's Kessler scored a team-high 18 Thursday in Saint Mary's 68-64 loss to Alma.

Fencing

Notre Dame ready to host first home duals

Irish must compete without top epeists

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hosts the best of the Midwest this weekend — with an important pair of exceptions. Wayne State, Northwestern, Detroit Mercy and Cleveland State are among the competitors for the two-day Notre Dame Duals, but Penn State and rival Ohio State are taking the weekend off from action.

Notre Dame, ranked No. 1 on the women's side and No. 3 among men's teams, is coming off a strong performance at the Northwestern Duals last week. The Irish women went 11-0, while the men finished 8-2 at the event.

Though the Notre Dame women probably won't compete against No. 6 Northwestern — they will only host if the event moves fast enough to get in an extra round of duals — things might be a little bit tougher on the Irish this week.

Top epeists Kelley Hurley and Ewa Neli will be competing in Europe to gain qualifying points for the U.S. Olympic squad.

"Others have to step in and show that without these two, we still are strong," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "And I believe that this will happen... I believe that they will have enough courage and enough skill."

In fact, one of Bednarski's biggest concerns is that the young team might be overconfident after its performance at Northwestern. He said he has been telling the fencers to stay focused all weekend, especially against teams they have not yet faced.

"We have a lot of freshmen, so they have to learn that the best idea to have... is that it's a big danger to be overconfident," he said.

Bednarski considers the Notre Dame Duals the team's last truly regular-season event. Fencers will compete individually next week at the Junior Olympics, and the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships from Feb. 23-24 determine qualifiers for the NCAA Midwest Regional competition.

Women will compete Saturday in the Joyce Center, and the men's competition will be on Sunday.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call Chris at 631-4543.

This Week in Irish Sports

#12 Men's Tennis

SAT, FEB. 9TH VS. WISCONSIN @ 2PM

Free Glasses to Early Arriving Fans!

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Defending champion Phil Mickelson was on the verge of shooting himself out of the tournament until a birdie-eagle-birdie burst enabled him to recover with a 71.

Greg Norman, playing on the PGA Tour for the first time in 18 months, was holding steady until a four-putt on the 13th hole for a double bogey. He finished with a 76, his flameout among Chris Evert, who flew in from Florida and didn't make it out to the golf course for the first time in 16 months.

Evert has no plans to take up golf, saying it was too time-consuming with three boys — "It's like four boys with Greg," she said — and a tennis academy to run. "Tennis only takes one hour," she said, laughing.

Evert and Norman both struggled with that and didn't make it out to the golf course until Norman was on the 16th.

Jones, a 41-year-old from New Mexico who has yet to finish in the top 100 on the money list, has been around long enough to realize that one round is too early to get excited, especially in a format that uses three courses, and in a tournament where the leaderboard doesn't begin to sort itself out until Sunday.

"In the week since he has a lot of experience at Spyglass Hill to join a group of other top players that included Todd Demsey, who recently recovered from having a tumor removed from his brain.

The top 14 players on the leaderboard have combined for 10 career victories and none don't include the California State Amateur that Demsey won in 1992.

"If I'm just trying to get back to 70 tomorrow, I'll be shooting myself out of the tournament," he said.

Instead, he shot himself back into contention.

After holing a 30-foot birdie on the 11th, Mickelson hit a hybrid from 240 yards that covered the flag and settled 4 feet away for eagle. Then came a wedge that landed 10 feet beyond the flag and spun back slowly to a foot, followed by another approach to 3 feet on the 14th that put him 1 under for the tournament.

"We're trying to emphasize to the singles players that we should have won the doubles point," Bayliss said. "We served for the match twice at doubles against Duke. We want to put ourselves in a position to win as all times, in both singles and doubles.

Junior Santiago Montoya has stepped up big for the Irish at the No. 3 doubles position along with freshman Tyler Davis. Bayliss said that Montoya has become more stable on his returns, in addition to having always been solid at net. Bayliss also said Montoya has taken a lot of the coach's constructive criticism to heart and is very coachable. Assistant coach Ryan Sacchiro noted that Davis competes like a "lion" and compliments Montoya well on court.

Winning the doubles point, and competing well will be key for the Irish in both matches this weekend. The first set is set to be on Saturday against Wisconsin at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Contact Katelyn Grabarek at kgrabarek@nd.edu

**TIA**

continued from page 24

pairs of sophomores Kali Kriek and Colleen Rieley, and sophomore Cosmina the Isbrey of Ohio and freshman Kristen Rafael.

Headed into singles play, Notre Dame needed to cap off with some individual wins. "We were in every match," Louderback said. "We dropped the first two at No. 1 and No. 2 in the doubles, before Kelly (Tefft) won her match. When there are four total three-set matches, you know the competition is close. It really was a tight, tight match." Tefft needed a tiebreak in the first set over Dancevic but convincingly won the second set 7-5, 6-2 and tied the team scores at 1-1.

Notre Dame took a lead at 2-1 with Kriek's defeat of Bulldog sophomore Adrienne Kielherr 6-2, 6-2. But Georgia did not allow the Irish to score another point.

Badgers

continued from page 24

Methodist failed to meet last year in April as the match was cancelled due to cold weather conditions.

The Mustangs (4-1) have been successful in the early weeks of the season. The team's only loss came on Jan. 26 when it dropped the contest 5-2 to No. 7 Texas.

Notre Dame topped the Mustangs 5-2 when the two squads last faced off two years ago. Then sophomore Sheena Parbhoo defeated Alex Skrypko in a tiebreaker 7-6 (9-7), 7-5. Now senior Skrypko is just one of four seniors on the experienced Mustang squad.

"Our record so far has been determined by a lot of close matches," Bayliss said. "Duke, Michigan State and Penn State all could have gone the other way. It's showing that our young guys don't feel as much pressure in tough situations."

The Irish have been struggling lately in the doubles positions. Losing the doubles points puts the Irish in an early hole.

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After one match was suspended, junior Katie Potts fell to freshman Cameron Ellis 6-2, 6-4 in the deciding match, sealing the Bulldog win.

Although Notre Dame dropped the first round, the Irish are still looking to finish strong throughout the tournament against their brain-burnishing competition.

"We're looking to win the rest of our matches," Louderback said. "We want to finish strong and we're going to be playing a top-15 team so we're going to need to be focused."

Notre Dame's next opponent has not been determined Thursday night.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

Golf

Jones takes lead in Pebble Beach Pro-Am

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The celebrity watch at the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am took place everywhere but the top of the leaderboard Thursday.

Kent Jones birdied the two most famous par 3s at Pebble Beach and kept bogeys off his card for a 6-under 66 and a one-shot lead, an encouraging sign for someone who has played 270 tournaments on the PGA Tour without finishing in the top five.

"We're glad to be here," Jones, 41, said from New Mexico, where he has yet to finish in the top 100 on the money list, has been around long enough to realize that one round is too early to get excited, especially in a format that uses three courses, and in a tournament where the leaderboard doesn't begin to sort itself out until Sunday.

"I think I'm just satisfied that I played well and putted well," Jones said. "When everyone is playing different golf courses, being in the lead isn't every important. But it's nice to be playing well, obviously."

J.B. Holmes, coming off a play-off victory over Mickelson last week in Phoenix, finished second at 68. His fiancee, tennis great Chris Evert, flew in from Florida and didn't make it out to the golf course for the first time in 16 months.

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Instead, he shot himself back into contention.

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Friday, February 8, 2008
CCHA continued from page 24

sharper around the net offensively, especially on the power play," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "We had a good transition game against Bowling Green and those are the things we’re going to have to deal with against a team like Ferris State."

The Bulldogs play a suffocating defense that clings to the slot for the opposition, a system that Michigan State employs to a large amount of success.

"It’s a matter of our patience and execution of getting through the neutral zone," Jackson said. "We have to show patience and be smart when we do get an opportunity in and around the net. Those are the things that we work on all the time."

Junior goalie Jordan Pearce will start in net for the Irish on Friday. Pearce didn’t play last weekend as freshman Brad Phillips got the start and sophomore Tom O’Brien played for a period against the Under-18s.

Spotlight on Hanson Hanson, the junior center from the Pittsburgh area with a propensity for shootouts, has become something of a media star for the Irish.

Hanson was interviewed and filmed by ESPN on Monday and Tuesday for a 7:1/2 minute Sportscenter feature that will air March 2. Hanson’s mug is also gracing the March 2008 cover of Irish Eyes magazine, the first time the hockey team has ever been on the magazine’s cover.

ESPN came calling for Notre Dame’s leader in penalty minutes because his father, Dave Hanson, was one of the Hanson Brothers in the famed hockey movie "Slapshot." That, combined with Hanson’s development into full-time impact player, sparked the idea that came after ESPN’s "The Schwab" saw a story about Hanson in the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times.

Hanson also posed for Irish Eyes in a Buddy Holly garb—his father sported in "Slapshot." The younger Hanson wasn’t able to take the picture while slamming Ogie Ogilthorpe into the boards, however.

"Christian is starting to come into his own as a player, so it’s good for him to get a bit of attention," said Jackson, who also said he likes the bonus attention the program is getting through it.

Contact Kyle Cassidy at kcassidy@nd.edu

Challenge continued from page 24

freshman forward Chelsea Cole scored 17 points in the game and averaged 4.8 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

Walker also missed Pittsburgh’s 60-40 loss to No. 4 Rutgers on Feb. 2, and it is unclear whether Walker will play Sunday. She averages a double-double, scoring 14.1 per game and grabbing 10.1 boards.

After losing to Penn State early in the season, Pittsburgh’s only losses have come against No. 3 Maryland, No. 15 Duke and Rutgers. Before losing to the Scarlet Knights, the Panthers accumulated 11 straight wins.

In seven of those 11 victories, junior guard Shavonte Zellous led Pittsburgh in scoring. Zellous averages 20.1 points per game this season and shoots 45 percent from the field.

The Panthers offense thrives in conference play. In their nine games against Big East opponents, all five starters have averaged at least 10 points.

Sophomore guard Tania Nims is the only true 3-point threat the Panthers have. Nims has made 43.8 percent of her 3-point attempts.

In their last meeting, Pittsburgh beat Notre Dame 71-62 at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh on Jan. 31, 2007. Zellous scored 17 points, and Walker had 16.

The Panthers as a team shoot 45 percent from the field, have averaged 75 points a game. They also average 43.4 rebounds per game, 9.1 more than their opponents.

All four Irish losses in the last 10 games have come against conference foes. Notre Dame won its last two games by large margins—85-54 over Providence at home on Jan. 30, and 73-41 over Cincinnati on the road that wasn’t 2. The Irish shot just 36 percent in the first half and went into the break tied at 26, but they hit all 9 free throw attempts in the second half of their win.

All four Irish losses in the last nine games, however, came against ranked opponents—which doesn’t bode well against the ranked Panthers.

The Irish have three players who average over 10 points per game. Senior guard Charel Allen leads the team with 14.2 points per game, followed by sophomore guard Ashley Barlow, who scores 12.9 per game.

Freshman forward Devereaux Peters averages 8.9 points per game and, despite the fact that Notre Dame lost to Connecticut and DePaul, led the Irish in rebounding in both games. She averages 5.6 per game.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw’s weekly Big East conference call with reporters was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts, and The Observer was unable to contact the coach.

Contact Bill Brink at wbbrink@nd.edu
**BLACK DOG**

Michael Mikuska

**TASTES LIKE FAILURE**

Rich Provta & Andy Spangler

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**CROSSWORD**

By Will Shortz

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**JUMBLE**

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

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HOCKEY

No days off

Notre Dame takes on Ferris State in late-season home series

By KYLIE CASSILY
Sports Writer

College hockey doesn't get better than this weekend.

Too bad it’s happening over in Ohio.

While No. 1 Miami and No. 2 Michigan claw it out in the RedHawks' gorgeous new rink in Oxford, Notre Dame and Ferris State will play a two-game set in the Joyce Center. The fact that the nation's top two teams are meeting in a two-game series in February speaks to the power the Irish have had this season.

Michigan State, last year's national champions, are also ranked sixth nationally.

The Irish (20-9-1, 13-6-1 CCHA) will face the Bulldogs (10-12-4, 7-10-3 CCHA) at the start of the final month-long stretch of the regular season, during which Notre Dame will try to improve its fourth-place league standing and its NCAA Tournament seeding (now at around a No. 3).

Notre Dame hasn’t played a regular season game in two weeks because the team hosted an exhibition with the U.S. National Under-18 team last weekend that it won in overtime.

The exhibition game came a weekend after the Irish found their groove again in a sweep of Bowling Green. They had struggled mightily in the eight games after Christmas break.

"We just got to play our own game," Irish center Christian Hanson said. "It’s coming down to the stretch, and the focus is more on us to do what we got to do to win then worry about the other teams."

"We need to carry on from Bowling Green. ... It was good to see our team be a little bit more cohesive," junior Jack O'Sullivan said.

The Irish and Southern Mississipi are both in the top five in the nation.

Michigan State and the Irish are meeting in a two-game series in February this season.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish fall to Georgia in ITA Championship

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Imagine putting forth your best effort all season — and losing.

That's how No. 19 Notre Dame felt after dropping its first-round match 4-2 to No. 6 Georgia at the ITA National Women's Team Indoor Championship in Madison, Wis., Thursday night.

"That's the best we've played as a team all season," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We played hard with a lot of emotion. It was a really hard fought battle. We were right there the whole time with the sixth-ranked team in the nation."

Notre Dame won the first game of the doubles portion as the national No. 3 duo consisting of senior Brooke Buck and junior Kelsey Tefft took care of No. 36 Kelly Hyndman and Monika Tomasova 6-4, 6-2.

The Bulldogs fought back to win the doubles point, outlasting in identical 8-5 results the Irish doubles teams.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Panthers challenge winning streak

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

After the Irish knocked two straight change-ups out of the park, the Panthers will bring some chin music.

No. 16 Notre Dame will face No. 15 Pittsburgh Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Joyce Center, a tough game for the Irish after two easy wins. The Panthers (18-4, 8-1 Big East) will be Notre Dame's biggest challenge since it lost to No. 1 Connecticut at home on Jan. 27.

"It's early and we are young, but we have a better record against them there, then we do here," Irish center Christian Hanson said. "It's coming down to the stretch, and the focus is more on us to do what we got to do to win then worry about the other teams."

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STAYING LUKE

On the court, LUKE HARANGODY is a rising star. Off the court, he hasn’t changed a bit.
COMMENTARY

Harangody needs help from K-Mac

I have heard many times that Notre Dame will go as far as Kyle McAlarney and Harangody will take it this season. That statement plus the team’s fate on the wrong player.

Generally, the Irish go as Kyle McAlarney goes. Harangody has been good for a 25-and-10 stat line virtually every game. But McAlarney’s numbers have fluctuated and are usually a good indication of whether the Irish win.

Look at Notre Dame’s biggest victories of the season. McAlarney hit the game-winning shot against Kansas State on Dec. 4 at Madison Square Garden. The junior poured in 32 as the Irish topped Connecticut early in the Big East season. He also garnered player of the week honors after scoring 30 when the Irish beat Villanova on Jan. 26.

McAlarney’s effectiveness in the four Irish losses provides us with just as much evidence of how his play affects the team’s fate. In Notre Dame’s two losses at the Virgin Islands Paradise Jam, McAlarney mustered respective point totals of only three and seven. To be sure, those early-season performances are excusable for McAlarney, who was possibly still rusty in some of his first games back from his suspension last season.

But McAlarney also struggled in blowout losses to Marquette and Georgetown. Against Marquette, Harangody notched 29 points but had little help, partly because McAlarney was held to eight points by Golden Eagles guard Jerel McNeal.

In the loss to Georgetown, Harangody had a rare poor showing. But even if the big man had played well, the Irish would not have been able to compete — McAlarney managed only 10 points on 4-of-15 shooting.

You get the idea. The Irish can beat top-flight teams but only if their starting shooting guard brings his A-game.

The blow of Notre Dame’s win over Providence last Thursday illustrates the team’s need for production from the New York native.

McAlarney nailed two 3-pointers in the first six minutes of play as the Irish jumped out to a 21-9 lead. But he barely touched the ball for the remainder of the first half, and the Friars took the lead for much of the period.

It wasn’t until the Irish scored baskets on their final two possessions of the half that they regained the lead. Harangody drilled a jumper and Tory Jackson made a layup as the Irish took a 32-31 margin into the locker room.

Guess who had his first two assists of the game on that pair of buckets. That’s right: McAlarney.

And while the Irish went on to beat Providence in overtime with a limited contribution from McAlarney, Providence is not Marquette or Georgetown. In order for Notre Dame to beat the best teams in the Big East, the junior needs to step up and play at his top, elite level.

Call it the Allen Iverson Corollary. Carmelo Anthony will give the Denver Nuggets 20 points almost every game. But if Iverson shoots 6-of-22 from the field, the Nuggets are hard-pressed to beat any of the best squads in the NBA.

The same is true of Notre Dame; they need both Harangody and McAlarney to shine. Harangody is likely to come up big much more often than not. But the real question for the Irish is whether McAlarney can consistently outplay top defenders. His next test will arrive Saturday when McNeal and his teammates come to town.

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

Contact Fran Tolan at folan@nd.edu.

Crunching the numbers

BIG EAST STATISTICS

Points per game

MARQUETTE 71.0
ND 78.0

Points allowed per game

MARQUETTE 68.4
ND 75.9

Field goal shooting

MARQUETTE 46.9%
ND 42.9%

3-point shooting

MARQUETTE 34.6%
ND 30.1%

Free throw shooting

MARQUETTE 72.7%
ND 77.7%

Rebound margin per game

MARQUETTE +2.6
ND +4.8

*Stats accurate as of Feb. 5

2008 Big East Standings

Last game Next game

(9-1) W, 63-53, USF at Louisville

(7-2) W, 95-69, SHU vs Marquette

(7-3) W, 63-61, ‘Cuse vs Georgetown

(7-3) W, 71-57, MU vs Georgia Tech

(6-4) L, 57-71, L’ville at Notre Dame

(6-4) L, 61-63, UConn at South Florida

(5-4) L, 53-60, UConn vs Providence

(5-4) W, 77-65, Pitt vs Rutgers

(5-5) L, 69-95, ND at Villanova

(5-5) L, 60-75, MU at Rutgers

(4-6) L, 65-79, Prov. vs South Florida

(4-6) W, 79-65, DePaul at St. John’s

(3-6) L, 55-77, St. Joe’s vs Seton Hall

(3-7) W, 52-45, Rutgers vs Providence

(2-9) L, 45-52, St. John’s vs Cincinnati

(1-9) L, 53-63, G’Town at DePaul

Standings as of Wednesday, Feb. 6

Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney sets up to play defense in Notre Dame’s 81-74 win over Providence Jan. 31.

IRISH INSIDER Friday, February 8, 2008
Turning heads

Irish forward Luke Harangody's sensational season has garnered national acclaim.

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Every week, Notre Dame comes together to study film — and to laugh at the antics of Luke Harangody. In between critiques of their play and studying the patterns of their opponents, the Irish can't help but crack up at Harangody, who always manages to get the room laughing.

"One time, he was just running and it looked like someone yanked the carpet out from under him and he hit the deck," junior forward Zach Hilleslend said. "We usually have one or two plays every week that we just die laughing about."

But the laughs don't end there.

"He tried to dramatically draw a foul and threw his hands up," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "He did this. 'Look! he fouled me!' and threw his hands up in the air, and our guys were like, 'Get out of here, come on, the guy was like 170-points that hit you.'"

Harangody's teammates may be laughing at him, but the rest of the Big East certainly isn't.

Harangody averaged 11.2 points and 6.2 rebounds per game in his freshman campaign. This season, the sophomores trimmed down and overcame a torn ligament in his right thumb in October to lead the Big East in scoring with 20.4 points per game. He is second in rebounding in the Big East with 10.4 per game. His play this year earned him a spot in the top-30 for both the Naismith and UPI Awards, two honors given to the best player of the year nationally.

And he has Harangody in the mix. toughest players to handle this season.

"When I step on the court, it's a different feeling," Harangody said. "I feel like you have to be a little off to play in this league. You have to lose it out there."

With the added attention comes extra ribbing from his teammates, who said they love to poke fun at the "sensitive" Harangody.

"The guys on the team keep me focused," Harangody said. "They joke around with me. Zach (McAlarney), and Kyle (McAlarney) make fun of it all. So that just keeps me grounded and I try to stay humble. I have really good guys around me."

But for all the fun they have at Harangody's expense, the Irish certainly don't take for granted how Harangody has helped them to a 7-2 record in the Big East this season.

"He's never too cocky. The thing with him is, he's always about the team," Hilleslend said. "He puts up big numbers, but it's all tied into the context and the framework of what we need to do. We want to go down low to learn because it helps out everything else for us offensively. He's never too cocky, but we do a good job of bringing him down to earth even if he doesn't need the reality check. We need him to keep his performance like that because he's having a great year and if he keeps it up we have great things ahead of us."

Last season, Harangody made an impact immediately, something he didn't expect to happen.

"When I got here as a freshman, I didn't see myself playing any minutes at all," Harangody said. "I didn't even know if I could play in this league so that was the hardest hump to get over-confidence wise. I think right when we started, I started off with a couple of good practices and that gave me a lot of confidence and let me know I could play."

With the help of his coaches and teammates, specifically senior forward Rob Kurz and former guard Colin Falls, Harangody learned to cope with the difficulty of the college game and developed into a consistent threat in the paint.

"I don't think a lot of people understand how much you learn, how much more relaxed you get as you play more and more," Harangody said. "And it's the same thing this season.

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It was an easy transition because I learned how to do the little things.

After entering Notre Dame a year and a half ago, not knowing when or how much he would play, Harangody and his coach are now talking about ways to improve his game so he can play in the NBA. "I think he's going to be a prospect one day," Brey said. "It's crazy that you have to talk about that, but that's the reality of the business we're in and there's no question he has a very bright future after college. But he's the first one to raise his hand and say, 'There's still a lot of things I need to learn and do better,' but he has a bright future playing the game."

First on Harangody's to-do list for the NBA is improving his defense. "I think he could always improve defensively," Brey said. "Both in man and zone, his awareness not guarding his guy but helping his teammates, that is still a process for him and we come back to that everyday."

Harangody said he's well aware that his 6-foot-8 frame would be a disadvantage in the NBA, where he'd frequently face post players who are quick and in the neighborhood of seven feet tall, but he said he's determined to not let his height prevent him from accomplishing his goal of playing in the NBA. "People always talk about how I'm undersized and maybe they don't think I'll make it, but I don't think that's going to stop me at all," Harangody said. "And he's learned that he didn't play his best games against Georgetown's Roy Hibbert and Connecticut's Hasheem Thabeet, who are each over seven feet tall. Harangody scored 13 against Georgetown and scored 14 on 5-for-23 shooting against Connecticut."

The media's always asking, 'Oh, those were your only two bad games in conference,' and it had something to do with their size, but I just had two off games," Harangody said. "But I've watched tape and saw where I could use my body to get around them and bring them away from the basket. I'm learning. This is the first year I've really played against players like that. That's one of the things this year that I've had to deal with the most and learn the most from."

Harangody described himself as "shy" off the court and Brey has tried to help him deal with the increased attention by increasing with him in frequency to keep his primary focus on basketball. "We just need to limit his distractions, because it is happening play by play this season," Brey said. "He's really level-headed and I have full confidence he can handle it, but I just want to make sure we're not overwhelming him and distracting him because we need him focused down the stretch."

Harangody is not your typical college basketball star. He's not one of the one-and-done freshmen men who blanket ESPN, and he certainly isn't going for style points in and out night. But he's a consistent, hustling, and dominating presence in the paint. "He's so focused and every objective, mission or goal or assignment, he meets with what you see," Brey said. "And if he succeeds over goes to his head, he has his teammates, like Hilleslend, to keep him grounded."

"He's just a big bear. He's a big bear of a man on the court and he's a sensitive bear off the court, he even has bear hair," Hilleslend said. "He's just a really good kid and we're happy for all the success he's having."

Contact Chris Hine at
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Irish forward Luke Harangody by the numbers

| Pts./game | 11.2 | 20.4 |
| Reb./game | 6.2 | 10.1 |
| FG% | 45.9% | 52.2% |
| FT% | 81.9% | 79.5% |

Freshman Year Sophomore Year

"He's just a big bear. He's a bear of man on the court and he's a sensitive bear off the court. He even has bear hair." Zach Hilleslend Irish forward

"It's the same thing this season." Luke Harangody Irish forward
Rivalry between Phelps, McGuire set stage for modern series

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

Packet of mustard. Notre Dame and Marquette have played 109 
times, but they share 1,000 games worth of his-
tory.

The Irish have played the Golden Eagles more than any other oppo-

nent. The series between the two teams used to be 
an annual affair — often with an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament on the line for the two independ­ents.

But since 1995, when Notre Dame joined the Big East and Marquette joined Conference USA, the teams have met only eight times. 

Resulted in the Big East, the Irish and Golden Eagles are 
back at each other's throats. During Marquette's 92-66 
win at the Bradley Center on Jan. 12, Notre Dame sophomore forward Luke 

Haranagody could feel the emotion emanating from the crowd. 

"It's definitely different," he said. "We're both Catholic schools ... but we could definitely feel the rivalry.

Geography and religion 

The Notre Dame-Marquette rivalry series began in the early 20th century, at a time when the Irish sched­uled mostly regional Catholic schools.

They played Marquette, they played De Paul, they played Detroit, Mercy, they played St. Louis," said Mike Coffey, author of the book "Echoes on the Hardwood.

"Marquette was a more residential campus. It was a little more similar to Notre Dame."

Mike Coffey 
author

"Echoes on the Hardwood"

Lake Haranagody Irish forward

"We're both Catholic schools, but we could definitely feel the rivalry."

The competition between Irish coach Digger Phelps, above, and Marquette coach Al McGuire ignited the Notre Dame-Marquette rivalry.

Irish guard Russell Carter drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 85-73 win over Marquette Feb. 24, 2007. The game was the first win for the Irish over the Golden Eagles since Marquette joined the Big East.

In 1995, the Irish and the newly-christened Golden Eagles joined separate confer­ences. Between that year and 2006, when Marquette joined the Big East, the teams played only four times. "They fell off the schedule entirely for a good part of the '90s," Coffey said.

Back together 

Since joining the Big East, Marquette is 3-1 against Notre Dame. On Jan. 20, 2006, the first meeting of the two teams as conference brethren, Golden Eagles topped the Irish 67-65 on a last-second runner by guard Patrick Novak.

Later that year, Marquette won again, this time by eight at the Joyce Center. Last season, Notre Dame got its revenge with an 85- 
73 win in the only meeting.

Marquette's win was the widest mar­gin of victory in series his­tory, at 26 points. Saturday, with both teams ranked and the 33-
game Irish home winning streak on the line, the stage is back to the stakes it had in the 1970s. What's more, the game is being played during ESPN's "Rivalry Week."

"It almost seemed, when Notre Dame would play Marquette in those days, that they would get into a race to see who could get a 
technical first." Mike Coffey 
author

"Echoes on the Hardwood"

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Mike Coffey

"Echoes on the Hardwood"
ELECTION 2008
Maris Braun president
vice president George Chamberlain

Who They Are
Braun, student body vice president, is a junior in Breez Phillips Hall majoring in finance and history. Chamberlain, Sorin senior and a junior majoring in political science and psychology

In Their Words
- Top Priority: Student-life issues. "The biggest things are those that affect students every day."
- First Priority: Implementing book delivery from the Bookstore to dorms.

Bottom Line
Veterans of the system, they throw around the student government catchphrases - pursuing things being feasible ultimately comes down to funding, and support of the administration (Maris Braun)

Bill Ehrlich president
vice president Mike Roscitt

Who They Are
Ehrlich is an off-campus junior majoring in finance. Roscitt is a junior in Stanford Hall majoring in finance and economics.

In Their Words
- Top Priority: Making student government more laid back. "If it's silly, I'm not going to do it."
- First Priority: Erect tetherball poles on the quad.

Bottom Line
When asked why he's running for president, Ehrlich responded, "Why not, right?" He views his campaign with Roscitt as partly a "social experiment" — an alternative to the Braun and Rimkus ticket.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS

Primary Election: Monday, February 11
Run-off Election: Thursday, February 28

CLASS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Primary Elections: Monday, February 25
Run-off Elections: Thursday, February 28

NOTRE DAME S
President and Vice P

Rick Hollowood president

Who They Are
Hollowood is a sophomore accounting major in Knott Hall. Tomala is a sophomore computer engineering major in Knott Hall.

In Their Words
- Top Priority: Improve the quality of toilet paper supplied on campus.
- First Priority: Improve the quality of toilet paper supplied on campus.

In Our Words
- Best Idea: Add The Wall Street Journal to the College Leadership Program in place of USA Today.
- Worst Idea: Use student government funds to purchase toilet paper and muffins.
- Most Feasible Idea: Convince Food Services to serve a meal in place of a cover charge.
- Least Feasible Idea: Removing the Bock.

Bottom Line
Fun Fact: In high school, Rick sold T-shirts with his name on it to almost everyone in his small, rural high school.

Cooper Howes president
vice president Daniel Rimkus

Who They Are
Howes is a Zahm freshman. As is Rimkus.

Their Platform
- Installing the Temple Guards from the Nickelodeon show "Legends of the Hidden Temple." Offenders may elude the Guards with a pendant of life, which they can acquire through a feat of strength performed in front of a head of ResLife — Ollor the stone ox.
- Construct a nuclear power plant.
- Buy Club 23 with $700,000 worth of points. Instead of a cover charge, accept Flex Points.
Peter Kelly president

Who They Are
Kelly is a junior living in St. Edward's Hall majoring in economics and mathematics. Poelhuis is a junior living in St. Edward's Hall majoring in mathematics and Arabic.

In Their Words
◆ Top Priority: Instituting a free shuttle bus to take students from off campus locations to campus on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.
◆ First Priority: Pass a Senate resolution allowing them to work with the administration to bring the shuttle bus to campus.

In Our Words
◆ Best Idea: Screen SUB movies during the week as well as on the weekends. At little to no extra cost, SUB could capture the party-going audience for its events by mixing up the schedule.
◆ Worst Idea: Change freshman orientation to focus on events bringing just a few freshmen together. Sure, large group events can be awkward, but orientation is unavoidably so. Let the freshmen mix.
◆ Most Feasible Idea: Weekday SUB films would require little extra expenditure, and students would likely attend cheap flicks rather than study all night.
◆ Least Feasible Idea: The shuttle bus. It would be great, but the Board of Trustees is unlikely to change its veto from the last time student government tried this and Poelhuis propose. Still, the Board of Trustees didn’t go for the “drunk bus” then, and it’s doubtful any of those liability issues have disappeared. That doesn’t mean it’s not a worthy idea, however, just not enough to base a platform on. Their lack of experience at the campus wide level of student government could also stand in their way, despite their emphasis on their strong communications skills.

Bottom Line
The pair calls its idea to institute a shuttle bus for students heading back to campus on late weekend nights “ambitious, but doable.” If only. While Kelly and Poelhuis are perfectly sincere when they say they’d do it, they may be unaware of just how quickly a similar idea tanked in 2004. Kelly and Poelhuis’s plan is even broader than the 2004 “SafeBus” proposal, which did not include the Thursday night service Kelly and Poelhuis propose. Still, the Board of Trustees didn’t go for the “drunk bus” then, and it’s doubtful any of those liability issues have disappeared. That doesn’t mean it’s not a worthy idea, however, just not enough to base a platform on. Their lack of experience at the campus wide level of student government could also stand in their way, despite their emphasis on their strong communications skills.

Bob Reish president

Who They Are
Reish, junior class president, is a finance major living in Sorin Hall. Schmidt, sophomore class president, is a psychology major living in Knot Hall.

In Their Words
◆ Top Priority: Organize a Midwest Intercollegiate Council of student government leaders from universities throughout the region.
◆ First Priority: Enact free DVD rentals through student government. And conduct in-depth surveys of student bodies to find out what students want.

In Our Words
◆ Best Idea: Off-campus discounts — low prices and prompting students to get off campus is a winning combination. Also, the Last Lecture series would allow students to get to know the great professors they can’t have in class.
◆ Worst Idea: The senate student outreach committee is well-intentioned but unnecessary. Deepening the bureaucracy of student government is not the way of the future.
◆ Most Feasible Idea: Free DVD rentals. The DVDs are sitting unwatched in the student government offices.
◆ Least Feasible Idea: Improve the quality of drinking water in the Rock.
◆ Fun Fact: Reish ate sticks of butter as a child. Schmidt can put 20 sunflower seeds in his mouth and spit them out — seeds and shells separated — 10 seconds later.
◆ Notable Quote: “If we accomplish only two of these platform ideas, but students feel their voice was heard... I think that’s so much more successful.”

Bottom Line
These guys take student government seriously — too seriously, some might argue. Reish has been involved ever since he was student body president in high school, and Schmidt looked at student government opportunities on different campuses before choosing Notre Dame. But that means they’re taking this campaign seriously. The amount of research they’ve conducted is impressive, and they’ve already begun forming the administrative and intercollegiate contacts they’ll need to get their often-ambitious ideas off the ground. Reish and Schmidt would bring perhaps the most comprehensive plan to office, complete with ideas for improving academic, athletic, community relations, social, student government and other areas of student life. They plan to conduct a survey to choose which initiatives to focus on. Look out for the Midwest Intercollegiate Council to boost Notre Dame’s reputation.

TUDENT BODY
resident Candidates

President
Alex Tomala

vice president

Jon Poelhuis

Grant Schmidt

vote for
student body president and vice president

Monday.
The Observer-endorses Ehrlich-Roscitt ticket

During its endorsement discussion, the editorial board of The Observer found itself engaged in a debate over the merits of the candidates but a discussion over the very nature of student government. Supporters of the traditional probid of student government candidates argued against others who have grown dissatisfied with it for being too narrow and wanting the wants and needs of its constituencies. Student government ranges from apathy to outright mockery. Now, more than ever, typical students have seen an elitist club focused on producing in the past year. There is little to suggest that student government would not carry no force and impact nothing. Student government is about improving life at Notre Dame, whether that be through trolley poles or recognition of non-marginalized groups.

The majority of the The Observer Editorial Board, including Bob Heish and Mike Roscitt for Notre Dame's 2008 election. Bill Ehrlich and Mike Roscitt for Notre Dame's 2008 election.

Bill Ehrlich would indeed bring a new perspective to student government by offering a different platform. A new generation could shake hands and make connections with the Board of Trustees of the University and student government. Their good ideas, but they cannot be able to achieve those objectives. The proposals would have a direct impact on student life at Notre Dame.

Ehrlich's platform isn't all fun and games. He also proposes to push for long-overdue University recognition of an official gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender student organization. This would make students feel more comfortable on campus and encourage them to continue at Notre Dame.

Reish and Schmidt for president and vice president.

Reish and Schmidt for president and vice president.

Student government can catch a lot of flack. When you take the most polished and ambitious of a fairly polished and ambitious student body and give them a limit on the executive level of student government, the students' frugality while encouraging greater discourse with the South Bend Common Council, even in a time without outside involvement. Council meetings in preparation for their run for office. After the party permit ordinance debates this fall, these relationships have proven more important than ever. The relationships between the student body and the university have been strained, but with the current administration's focus on inclusivity and social justice, these relationships have proven more important than ever.

And on a broader level, the university's idea of a Midwestern collegiate Council could enhance student life at Notre Dame while raising the university's reputation as a leader among institutions. The Ivy League Council has allowed Ivy League institutions to provide an open exchange among peer institutions. The real key to success for running mates will be the ability to pursue good ideas that are not already found in their current platform. They should consider ways to realize Ehrlich's goal of pressuring the university to recognize a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender student organization. This would make students feel more comfortable on campus and encourage them to continue in their national government and student government, students can avoid furthering their own alienation from student government by choosing...