MLB commissioner speaks at JACC

Bud Selig headlines Opening Night Dinner, says baseball thriving despite steroid scandals

By JAY FITZPATRICK
News Writer

Despite the ongoing use of performance-enhancing drugs, Major League Baseball (MLB) Commissioner Allen "Bud" Selig told attendees at Tuesday's annual baseball Opening Night Dinner he believes this is the "golden age" of baseball.

"We're in the midst of an amazing renaissance of baseball. The sport's never been this popular, the sport's never done this well," he said in his audience in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

The commissioner cited increased attendance and competitive balance to try to support his claim.

Last season, the 30 MLB teams drew a combined 79.5 million fans, and an average attendance of 2,903,799 fans. Selig says the MLB will break that record with 80 million fans.

Selig also stressed the importance of competitive balance, or parity, in the League. During the 2007 season, no team had a winning percentage above .600 or below .400 — and that balance came only four years after Detroit lost 119 games (the second most all-time) and six years since Seattle tied an MLB-record with 110 wins in 2001.

"I think it's important to have competitive balance," Selig said. "That's why we're in this fight to make sure we keep baseball in a world where you can have competitive balance."}

Ethical voting examined

Professor calls campaigns 'fistfights,' discusses voter responsibility

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Presidential campaigns are "a fistfight in business suits," American Studies professor Robert Schmuhl said during a lecture about ethical voting Tuesday.

"Anything goes, figuratively speaking. Brass knuckles, switch blades, and sucker punches are commonly used political techniques," Schmuhl said of the competitive — and oftentimes vicious nature — of the race to win the White House.

Electoral ethics within presidential campaigns in a lecture Tuesday.

Annual DSLC kicks off

Saint Mary's explores diversity in conference

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

Diversity will be in focus again at Saint Mary's kicks off the third annual Diverse Student Leadership Conference (DSLIC) today.

The conference is organized by the Student Diversity Center (SDC) and targets area college and high school students. The free three-day workshops will continue through Friday, highlighting the diversity in education at Saint Mary's and its social and professional impact. The DSLC includes workshops, a diversity showcase, career exposition and keynote addresses.

The mission for the DSLC is "to inform participants of the adversities and benefits within diverse academic, social and professional settings," SDC vice president and conference organizer Adriana Lopez said.

"As a senior getting ready to graduate, I believe that the main purpose of an education is to learn to become responsible citizens and better professionals in the workforce," Lopez said. "I think it is very important for students to attend the conference because it provides an opportunity for them to learn about a reality that they are going to encounter in life."

The conference opens tonight at 7 when Greenside Dunny delivers the keynote address in the Student Center Lounge. Dunny has been the executive director of the National Association of Student Professional Administrators since 1996.

Ethernet usage could boost wireless speed

By KATE McLELLAND
News Writer

Though wireless is the Internet connection of choice for many students on campus, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) says using an Ethernet cable will help speed up the network.

Every dorm room on campus is equipped with an Ethernet outlet and if students made more use of them, there wouldn't be as much traffic in the wireless network, said Dwayne Latimer, chief technology officer.

"It's like the old-fashioned party line that telephones used to be connected to — the more people on the line, the worse the connection becomes," Latimer said. However, he said OIT ultimately recommends using the connection as appropriate, saying "you're trying to accomplish online."

If you're trying to download and play a two gigabyte movie, then you should be using the wired connection for the best results," Latimer said. "But if you're watching TV with your friends and IM'ing or checking your e-mail at the same time, the wireless connection is what is best for you."

For students on the run, the higher navigation speeds may be the dealbreaker.

"I usually get on the Internet before class and I try to use the
INSIDE COLUMN
Save the good ol' Frosh-O
I don't know about you, but I loved Frosh-O. Who wouldn't love that wonderful weekend where freshmen are forced to endure 72 hours of solid awkwardness and where all manner of comfortable conversation goes to die? I had to sit in the back of the bus watching hot parking lot food stalls and panhandlers and even the man in the suit with God-only-knows how many girls I'd never remember. But, I had to crack an egg on my head and part of some sort of version of Duck-Duck-Goose. On the plus side, I got to run into Domer Fest drenched in sweat and wearing the coolest-looking orange beanie ever. (Can you say chick magnet?)

I've heard a rumor that whoever's in charge of this incredibly important (albeit uncomfortable) staple of a freshman's year wants to make some changes. Now, if these changes included requiring everyone to wear a nametag including their name, hometown, and intended major, I'd be all for them. These proposed adjustments, however, are much more drastic (not mention much less convenient).

The first proposal I've heard is that RA's should be in charge of Frosh-O. According to these rumors, there would still be a Frosh-O staff of sophomores and they would still organize interhall events, but those events would be attended and run by RA's. As a result, the number of sophomores on each dorm's Frosh-O staff would likely be cut in half. I have no real evidence to prove this, it's just that I'm a freshman this year and I want the opportunity to do more than work the same things that were done to me. People tell me I have anger management issues.

The second rumor I heard was that the one that really annoyed me. Apparently, the people in charge of Frosh-O think it's a good idea to cut the amount of time allotted for events in half so freshmen can spend more time with their parents while they're on campus.

As my fellow Observer staffer Katie Peralta said in a moment of sophomore wisdom, "Baby bird's gotta fly." Does any more really need to be said? Considering I still have about a hundred words of space to fill, yes, more does need to be said. Don't worry, reader. It's all coming soon.

My major problem with this proposal is that freshmen have had 18 years to spend time with their parents, not to mention an entire summer to prepare for their move to college. Most freshmen need to learn a little self-sufficiency, and the key to this is to maximize their time away from their parents.

It's not about meeting fellow Doners from around campus because honestly, who remembers more than a handful of people they met during Fresh-O? It's about being able to walk into classes a few days later, and not just sitting there, awkwardly staring at your perfectly arranged set of pens, but turning to the person next to you and introducing yourself. So if Frosh-O is what you really want to welcome freshmen to Notre Dame, they should do it in the most painful and awkward way possible.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Griffin Dassatti at glassatatnd.edu

CORRECTIONS
The Observer regrets itself as a professional publisher and as the chief editor at all times. We do, however, assure you that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please call us at (574) 631-6494 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHICH CANDIDATE — OBAMA OR CLINTON — HAS THE BEST CARD TO PLAY?

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"Obama because on one's sure if Clinton is really a woman."

"Bob and Grant because their posters are everywhere."

"Hillary. There is something about she-males that gets to people."

"Why does it have to be about cards? Why can't it be about chess or basketball?"

"Obama because Hillary is a witch."

"Hillary because Caitlin is a witch."

A packed student audience awaits the arrival of singer Ben Lee at Legends Saturday night.

OFFBEAT
Man charged in staged sympathy shooting
DOTHAN, Ala. — A Hartford man has been charged with two misdemeanors for allegedly staging his own shooting, which put him in the hospital, to get sympathy from family members.

Charles Gregory Hatcher was indicted by a Geneva County grand jury on charges of obstruction of justice and giving false information to law enforcement officers, both Class A misdemeanors. He turned himself into the Geneva County Jail last week and was released on $1,500 bond.

Police found Hatcher in a cotton field with a bullet wound on his back and another on the back of his leg on Dec. 3. He spent several days in the hospital. Hartford Police chose not to prosecute the case, but the grand jury indicted him anyway, Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams said.

Meth deposited in ATM, woman jaled
BREMERTON, Wash. — Credit unions accept deposits — just not methamphetamine. A woman who allegedly dropped an envelope containing money and a bag of meth at a Kitsap Credit Union was arrested and charged with drug possession, according to court documents.

A bank employee reported the deposit to police, who contacted the 18-year-old customer. Officers said she might have mistakenly included the bag when she got money out of her pocket for the deposit.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF
As part of Ethics Week, Richard "Digger" Phelps will present a lecture entitled "Community Services: An Ethical Imperative" today at 12:30 p.m. at the Mendoza College of Business.

Women's basketball will play Marquette tonight in the Joyce Center at 7.

Women's tennis will play Ohio State Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Admission is free.

The film "9 Star hotel" will be playing at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Thursday at 7 p.m. as part of the "Immigration: A Notre Dame Perspective" film series.

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

The Kellogg Institute for International Studies is hosting a lecture entitled "Unsettling Accounts: Neither Truth nor Reconciliation in Confessions of State Violence" Thursday at 4:15 p.m. in the Hesburgh Library.

The Black Cultural Arts Council is hosting its annual Black Coffeehouse Friday at 7 p.m. in the Lafortune Ballroom. Tickets cost $6.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play against Canisius Friday at 5 p.m. in the Loftus Center.

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

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Wednesday, February 13, 2008

LOCAL WEATHER

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Senior class sponsors series

Weekly events aimed at preparing students for life after college

By LINDSAY SENA

As seniors finish their final semester, they are forced to look toward the real, sometimes intimidating world after college.

To help ease the transition, the Senior Class Council is hosting "What's Next Wednesdays," a series of seminars co-sponsored by the Alumni Association, Annual Fund and Center for Social Concerns.

The Senior Class Council hosts several senior-specific events throughout the year, senior class president Bridget Keating said.

"We're hoping to celebrate our last year together and look ahead and prepare for life beyond Notre Dame," she said.

The series, which will be held the next four academic Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom, will feature the following topics:
- "Staying Out of the Red: Personal Budgeting."
- "Beyond the First Job: Developing a Career Plan."
- "Real Estate in the Real World: Finding Your First Place."
- "Turning Paychecks into Nest Eggs: Investing for the Long Term."

The seminars, whose themes were discussed and agreed upon by each of the sponsoring organizations, will feature guest speakers ranging from Notre Dame professors to local experts, Keating said.

The upcoming seminar on personal budgeting will be relatively "hands on," Keating said.

"It will definitely be an open, casual forum with the speaker presenting his or her material and then plenty of room for questions and answers," Keating said.

Food and prizes will be offered at each of the four seminars. Students will be entered in a lottery for a pair of tickets to the first home football game of the 2008 season, Keating said.

"We're excited about the collaboration and serving the senior class," Keating said.

Both positions are salaried, about six to 10 hours a week.

Looking for solid business and accounting experience to put on your resume?

The Observer is accepting applications for a 2008-09 Business Manager and Controller. Responsibilities include preparing a yearly budget and handling payroll for a 200-person staff.

Since the Controller will take over as the 2009-10 Business Manager, Controller applicants should be sophomores, or juniors staying for a fifth year.

Contact Lindsay Sena at lsena@nd.edu

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Please contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu or Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.
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see Ling. "So, seen.

People compare our sport to

the Olympics in terms of penalties and

it's just not fair because we play

every year."

Selig said baseball is using the best available science to combat steroids use, including the Olympic labs in UCEA and Montreal.

The commissioner also responded to former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker's alle­

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pakistani groups may form coalition

ISLAMABAD — The leaders of Pakistan's two main opposition parties said Tuesday they would form a coalition government if — as expected — their groups win the biggest number of votes in next week's parliamentary elections.

The hour-long meeting of Benazir Bhutto's widow husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ended Tuesday, the day after a survey by a U.S. government-funded organization predicted the opposition would score a landslide victory in the Feb. 18 balloting.

Zardari told reporters his Pakistani People's Party would invite Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N as well as "other democratic forces" to join a governing coalition even if Bhutto's group won enough legislative seats to rule on its own.

Peace talks give hope to Kenyans

NAIROBI — Peace talks to end postelectoral bloodshed in Kenya moved to a secret location Tuesday for a final push. Negotiators said the opposition has proposed sharing power with the government for two years before holding new elections.

Progress at the talks has given a sense of hope to many Kenyans, who have seen more than 1,000 people die and some 500,000 flee their homes in violence that followed the Dec. 27 election. Much of the upheaval has pitted ethnic groups believed to be linked to politicians against one another.

National News

Astronaut recovers for spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL — The German astronaut who was too sick to perform a spacewalk refused to say what ailed him, but insisted he's feeling great. - Friday was the launch day.

"Nothing could have been happier than when we finished (Monday's spacewalk) with the major installation of Europe's new lab," said Michael Schliefgen.

"I'm tested, I'm ready. Now let's make it happen," he said.

Republican front-runner John McCain won all three GOP primaries, adding to his momentum Tuesday. The other delegates will meet Wednesday for broadcast interviews Tuesday. "So that's all I want to say because medical issues are private."

Schliefgen, 56, pointed out that he helped coordinate Monday's spacewalk from inside.

Junior high boy shot, wounded

VA. BEACH, Va. — An 11-year-old boy was shot and wounded in a junior high school computer lab Tuesday, and another eighth-grader was taken into custody, authorities said.

Worried parents gathered outside the 1,150-student E.O. Smith Junior High School, which was locked down. Students were released classroom by classroom.

The wounded boy had improved since arriving at St. John's Regional Medical Center in extremely serious condition, police spokesman David Keith said. "We are guarded optimistically he will make a recovery," he said.

Local News

Bill calls on Hoosiers to save water

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana House overrode Gov. Mitch Daniels' veto Tuesday that had called on Hoosiers to save water. The bill, which was approved on a vote of 91-8 Wednesday, went up in state capital, and schools allowed students to watch the telecast of America's apologists to the world. The vote means the bill's passage is "a great accomplishment for Indians." "We are now to reach right now with New York to get the Compact adopted. Indiana could be the first state to pass both the legislation and implementing language together," she said.

Obama, McCain sweep Potomac

Clinton falls behind for the first time after losing D.C., Maryland, Virginia primaries

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama powered past Hillary Rodham Clinton in a major victory Tuesday for Democratic convention delegates Tuesday on a night of triumph sweetened with outsized primary victories in Maryland and Virginia. "Tonight, we're on our way. Obama said. "We're not going to stop. We're going to take the White House and we're going to make it work." Clinton, the former first lady now struggling in a race she once commanded.

The Associated Press count of delegates showed Obama with 1,210. Clinton had 1,188, falling behind for the first time since the campaign began. Not only was close to the 2,025 needed for nomination.

His victories were by large margins - he was gaining about 75 percent of the vote in the nation's capital and nearly two-thirds in Virginia. In Maryland, he was winning up close to 1 percent.

By contrast, Clinton was attempting to rein her campaign in the midst of a losing streak. Her deputy campaign manager resigned, the second high-level departure in as many days. Campaigning in Texas, where she hopes to triumph on March 4, she said she was "looking ahead, not back.

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Snow
continued from page 1

The assessments test whether roads are safely passable and parking lots can be adequately cleared, he said.

Lyphout and Saint Mary's senior Mark Karasek said conditions in the past have been very heavy snowfall with high winds that may cause drifting.

Any class canceled due to weather conditions would be rescheduled at the discretion of individual professors, Lyphout said.

Of the eight weather-related decisions 40 resulted in class cancellations.

The last campus closure occurred in December 2000 during final exams week. According to Executive Vice President of News and Information Dennis Brown, campus roads and parking lots were rescheduled during the last three remaining exam days.

Since Saint Mary's is a residential campus, snow days are rare, Gariepy said. He could not say how many snow days have occurred in the College's history, but remembered only one in the past 17 years.

"Most students are residents for the most part students are here," he said. "The decision basically comes down to watching weather conditions and road conditions as well as recommendations made by local government entities.

In contrast, Indiana University-South Bend has canceled classes three times this semester due to weather conditions. Cortlandt said in the South Bend Tribune.

Gariepy also said that if roads were not cleared, campus grounds remain open. Saint Mary's students said their decision to stay depends whether Notre Dame decides to close.

If the University were to cancel class, Lyphout said, the campus would have a collaboration between him, Provost Tom Burish and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves.

The campuses would be notified about canceled classes and closures through e-mails and voicemails, Lyphout and Gariepy said.

University snow-clearing operations are crucial in keeping campus roads and walkways open.

"This winter has been really unusual with torrential downs of rain and big spikes in temperatures," said Bill Thistlethwaite, superintendant of Landscape Services.

"We get rains and the temperature will fall and ice everything up," he said which has made it really difficult.

Thistlethwaite said more employees have worked this winter in order to keep up with the weather conditions.

"The way we run our crews has changed a lot to make plowing more efficient," he said.

It takes about 23 people from the University's Landscape Services crew to clear snowy paths each night, including four people on the night shift and three people on the early morning shift.

Thistlethwaite said the walks and campus roads are first priority for clearing snow, followed by faculty staff and commuting student parking lots.

Other student lots are the Landscape Services last priority.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

Prayer from Around the World

10:00 pm, Wednesday, February 13
Walsh Hall Chapel

Christian Taize Prayer

The Observer • NEWS
Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Director quits Olympic project

Stars urge Chinese govt to take responsibility in Sudan conflict

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Film director Steven Spielberg and actress Mia Farrow joined activists working to unseat China from using the Olympics as a backdrop to address human rights concerns, urging Beijing to ease political leverage on Sudan's government to help end the country's Darfur conflict.

Spielberg announced Wednesday he would no longer act as an artistic adviser for the opening and closing ceremonies, saying he could not reconcile working on the Olympics while China and other nations were not doing enough to ease the suffering.

"Sudan's government bears the bulk of the responsibility for these ongoing crimes but the international community, and particularly China, should be doing more," Spielberg said in a statement. "China's economic, military and diplomatic ties to the government of Sudan continue to provide it with opportunity and obligation to press for concrete action that will work to protect the civilian population in Darfur." 

Farrow, a U.N. goodwill ambassador, shivering in freezing weather outside the Chinese Mission, said: "I am running out of the people of Darfur.

Another letter signed by 120 lawmakers also called on Hu to use his "significant influence" to help with peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. Olympic speedskating gold medalist Joey Cheek, who co-founded the Team Darfur athletes coalition, joined activists in Washington. Rallies also were scheduled for Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston and Chicago and for 10 other countries, including France, Germany and Egypt. 

Farrow and several humanitarian groups have been critical of Spielberg for continuing to work on the games, even as the Sudanese government said it would no longer act as an Olympic sponsor.

The U.S. Olympic Committee plans to ask American athletes to comply with IOC rules, but won't impose additional measures.

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Another letter signed by 120 lawmakers also called on Hu to use his "significant influence" to help with peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts. Olympic speedskating gold medalist Joey Cheek, who co-founded the Team Darfur athletes coalition, joined activists in Washington. Rallies also were scheduled for Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston and Chicago and for 10 other countries, including France, Germany and Egypt. 

Farrow and several humanitarian groups have been critical of Spielberg for continuing to work on the games, even as the Sudanese government said it would no longer act as an Olympic sponsor.

The U.S. Olympic Committee plans to ask American athletes to comply with IOC rules, but won't impose additional measures.

Director quits Olympic project

Stars urge Chinese govt to take responsibility in Sudan conflict

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Film director Steven Spielberg and actress Mia Farrow joined activists working to unseat China from using the Olympics as a backdrop to address human rights concerns, urging Beijing to ease political leverage on Sudan's government to help end the country's Darfur conflict.

Spielberg announced Wednesday he would no longer act as an artistic adviser for the opening and closing ceremonies, saying he could not reconcile working on the Olympics while China and other nations were not doing enough to ease the suffering.

"Sudan's government bears the bulk of the responsibility for these ongoing crimes but the international community, and particularly China, should be doing more," Spielberg said in a statement. "China's economic, military and diplomatic ties to the government of Sudan continue to provide it with opportunity and obligation to press for concrete action that will work to protect the civilian population in Darfur." 

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**General Motors hits another bump**

Company ends year with record $38.7 billion loss, announces further buyouts

**Associated Press**

DETROIT — General Motors' new Chevrolet Malibu and Buick Lucerne were still looking in order as the cause of the second widescale service disruption in less than a year.

Research in Motion Ltd. said customers in the United States and Canada “experienced intermittent delays” for about three hours Monday beginning about 3:30 p.m. EST. RIM said no messages were lost, and voice and text messaging services were unaffected.

“It is too early to determine root cause at this time, but RIM does have a team addressing this issue to define the root cause and prevent it in the future,” the company said in a statement.

The Blackberry service, which lets users check e-mail and access other data, has been profitably in every quarter since the company went public in 1999. Analysts estimated the outage was costing RIM about $1 million per minute.

In Brief

RIM investigates Blackberry outage

SAN JOSE — The company that makes the ubiquitous, addictive Blackberry smart phones said Tuesday it was still looking into what caused the second widescale service disruption in less than a year.

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The Blackberry service, which lets users check e-mail and access other data, has become a lifeline for many business executives and is increasingly popular among consumers with smart phones like the Blackberry Pearl. Outages have been rare in the Blackberry’s nine-year history, but when they do hit, subscribers have become addicted to the gadgets are quick to unleash their fury.

Venezuela ends deal with Exxon

CARACAS — Venezuela’s state oil company announced Tuesday that it has stopped selling crude to Exxon Mobil Corp. in response to the United States’ oil companies to cut off all oil shipments.

Venezuela and Exxon have been at odds over the nationalization of its oil industry, and the U.S. government has escalated the dispute by placing sanctions on the Venezuelan government.

The move is likely to be a setback for the oil industry, which has been seeking to diversify its sources of supply.

Foreclosures account for home sales

WASHINGTON — A growing share of home sales are from foreclosures, especially in states hardest hit by the housing bust. In some parts of California, for example, 17.5 percent of home sales were from foreclosed houses.

The trend, which is putting additional downward pressure on home prices, is most notable there and in Nevada, Florida, Arizona, and Oregon. According to an Associated Press comparison of recent sales data and foreclosure sales data, for example, 17.5 percent of home sales were from foreclosed homes, more than quadruple the national average.

The growing proportion of foreclosure sales is both a symptom and cause of worsening conditions in the weakest housing markets, real estate experts say. Homeowners who aren’t on a deadline to sell are yanking their properties off the market, and this means the remaining inventory is increasingly held by banks eager to unload foreclosed properties at fire-sale prices rather than carry the costs on their books. Property values and local tax revenues are suffering as a result, consumer advocates say, especially in neighborhoods with lots of minority residents for whom lending standards were weakest.

“There is a real complacency, or an under-appreciation of how bad this is,” said Ramsey No, a real estate analyst and former real estate broker in San Diego who regularly combs through the local sales database to assess the impact of foreclosure sales.

Reversing to such concerns, the Bush Administration and lenders including Bank of America Corp. and Citigroup Inc. unveiled a plan Sunday to give seriously delinquent borrowers a 30-day break from foreclosure while lenders try to work out a way to make the mortgage more affordable.

The AP’s foreclosure analysis compared the annual rate of existing home sales in the third quarter of 2007 — the most recent quarter available from the National Association of Realtors — with foreclosure data from foreclosure sales data provided by RealtyTrac Inc. of Irvine, Calif. The analysis found:

In Colorado, foreclosure sales accounted for 15.6 percent of home sales in 2007, up from 10 percent in 2006. In California, the number jumped to 11.3 percent from 3.7 percent. In Tennessee, it rose to 5.2 percent, and in Michigan it climbed to 9.3 percent from 4.9 percent.

In the United States, foreclosure sales accounted for 15.6 percent of home sales in 2007, up from 10 percent in 2006.
Economic stimulus misguided

Last Thursday, Congress passed an "economic stimulus package" worth $167 billion. Under the plan, Americans earning between $3,000 and $75,000 would get $300 to $600 plus $300 per child. Those earning between $75,000 and $150,000 would get a $1,200 rebate. The IRS will have the checks out by the end of the summer. Congress hopes that the plan will ward off the recession clearly emerging, despite the Republican front-runner's statements that the American economy is fundamentally solid. Listening to the triumphant and self-congratulating tone of the major players in both parties, one would think that Congress might have found a cure for cancer, or at least done something useful for a change. "There were no winners or losers in this except the American people, who saw us rise above any differences we might have had and work to agree-
mend on what is the No. 1 issue, and that is our slowing economy," said Sen. Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Senate majority leader Harry Reid hailed the plan as an "example of how government is supposed to work." Unfortunately, this is an example of how government does work. Neither party seems willing to talk about where this $167 billion rebate is going to come from. In 2007, the U.S. federal budget was approximately $28.6 trillion. However, the U.S. government only collected $2.4 trillion. Total expenditures exceeded revenues by an incredible $400 billion. The U.S. government simply doesn't have the money to afford such a rebate, but Congress really just doesn't care. What's another $167 billion, anyways? Government doesn't produce any wealth of its own. Nearly everything it gets, it takes from the private sector. It can only get wealth in three ways. First, it can forcefully take it from individuals in the form of a tax, whether they like it or not. Second, it can inflate the currency, essentially printing money out of thin air, which leads to poor investment decisions, inflation and eventually a bust as the American public is now witnessing. Finally, it can borrow by selling bonds to investors. Usually when there is a deficit, the Treasury sells government bonds to investors. The Treasury uses this money to meet the shortfall between what it wants to spend (always too much) and what it collected in the form of taxes (also too much, but not enough to cover expenditure increases). The U.S. government promises to pay investors on those bonds as bondholders over the life of the bond, finally paying back the face value of the bond at the maturity date. Last year, the U.S. government paid $243 billion just on the interest on its debt. Supporters of the stimulus bill hail it as a plan to partially remove the heavy burden of taxation off the back of the American taxpayer. The fact is that the bill merely shifts the burden from the current to future taxpayers. When a government reduces taxes without reducing spending, it leads to even larger deficits, more government borrowing, increased future expenditure in the form of interest on the debt and therefore saddling future generations with higher future taxes.

Supporters also claim it will stimu-
late the economy because more money in the pockets of taxpayers will lead to higher spending and thus, more jobs. This completely ignores what the bondholders would have done with their dollars had they not bought the government bonds. The investors would have either invested in the American economy, saved the money in a bank which the bank could then loan out to others, or spent it all, of which are good things.

The most amusing part of this whole episode is that both parties agree on the need for lower taxes in order to improve the American economy. The largely bipartisan stimulus package is indeed an admission taxes do act as a drag on the American economy, however fiscally irresponsible it is. For once, it seems that Congress is cor-
rect. But what is pacifying is that if taxes are bad for the economy, then why should Congress wait until a recession hits to cut taxes? If letting Americans keep what is rightfully theirs is such a good thing, then why isn't Congress making this a permanent policy? It’s too bad that Congress lacks the courage to cut both taxes and spending.

Mark Poyer is a senior finance major and vice president of the College Libertarians. Their Web site is http://ndlibertarians.blogspot.com. He can be contacted at mpoyer@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinions of the majority of the Editor in Chief and Managing Editors. Assistant Managing Editors and department editors.

Contact information: Letters to the editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Madeline Nies.

Observer Poll

How long will the Notre Dame men's basketball team stay in the streak last?
Feb. 21, Pittsburgh
Feb. 24, Syracuse
March 5, St. John's

Internet voting ends at 9 p.m. Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Quote of the Day

"I know very well that one must fight, for one is often in contradic-
tion to the spirit of the age." — Auguste Rodin, sculptor

BETTER PAYING JOBS!

WHAT SHOULD WE BUY WITH OUR STIMULUS CHECK?

Observer Poll

Submit a Letter to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

Wednesday, February 13, 2008
Monologues’ promote discussion

Monday marked the 150th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady in St. Bernardette at Lourdes. In honor of the occasion University President Emeritus Father Hesburgh delivered the homily for the Basilica’s evening mass service. This beautiful sermon, which celebrated the miracles associated with Notre Dame — particularly Father Sorin’s naming a (then) mere log cabin the University of Our Lady, the university’s rebuilding after a devastating fire, and the creation of the Golden Dome — served as the recon­ciling capstone to the controversies that have afflicted the University recently.

I was deeply disturbed to hear that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops had retreated from its original intention to hold its seminar on Notre Dame campus because the timing of the event might look like support for Eve Ensler’s “Monologues.” I understand the Conference of Catholic Bishops’ semi­nar is a private event and that those who objected to holding it at Notre Dame were not doing so to reflect adversely on the university, but a con­ference in February does not indicate endorsement of a production in March.

Our Lady is loved and protected by the Father and nothing that human beings can do can stain her, so some have claimed on-campus perfor­mances of the Monologues would do. What can be stained are human institutions like universities — but not by a sincere search for the truth, wherever that search leads us. Notre Dame is a Catholic university.

Love and pursuit of truth, as a Catholic institution and as a university, is its absolute mission and staging the “Monologues,” in an appropriate aca­demic forum, is consistent with that mission. The “Monologues” is not in line with Catholic doctrine. They were not meant to be. They were written from a secular perspective to explore women’s identities and to acknowl­edge women’s value as whole persons. Personally, I think the way the various skins articulate women’s value is mostly (though not entirely) wrong and would be greatly enhanced by includ­ing Catholic perspectives (as Notre Dame’s Loyal Sons and Daughters does). But this does not destroy the fact that the production attempts, however wrongly, to acknowledge women’s experience. What remains is for Catholics to take this attempt in the right direction, not to discourage an open discussion of women’s char­acters in each skit are trying to con­vey about women’s experience of suf­fering, joy, pleasure — and the deva­sation that abused sexuality causes. Father Jenkins made the right deci­sion in balancing the demands of aca­demic freedom with those of Notre Dame’s Catholic identity. His decision has been misrepresented by the national media and he has not received much support from those on either side of the controversy.

Father Hesburgh’s sermon crystal­lized for me why I had felt this to be a particularly pernicious injustice.

Father Hesburgh spoke about the rever­ence that Father Sorin had for Our Lady — that it was his particular love for her that channeled his faith in God into the creation of this university. The miracles that Father Hesburgh mentioned are visible signs of Our Lady’s intercession, but they are not the only miracles. The repentance of hardened sinners, the healing of bod­ies broken by illness, or and the redemption of humanity by Our Lord’s suffering — these are miracles.

If faith is the belief in things not seen, then faith can find Christ in the expe­riences described in the “Monologues.” The faculty discussion panels that Father Jenkins’ policy requires to be part of any on-campus production of the “Monologues” are the academic response to Christ’s directive, “Seek and ye shall find.”

Catholic faculty and students have a duty to participate in these panels and discussions actively and whole-heart­edly. We are at Notre Dame to find the Truth; let’s seek it with courage and charity, trusting that God will not mis­lead us. Father Jenkins is continuing the faithful leadership of Father Sorin.

Father Hesburgh (the first Notre Dame President to admit women to the uni­versity of Our Lady), and Catholic leaders who, trusting in God’s good­ness, take on the burden of turning a musturd seed into a flourishing uni­versity.

Good for Notre Dame.

Sam Cahill
English Ph.D. candidate
off campus

February 12

Telephones solve problems

In response to Andrea Laidman’s article (“The unwell, unregulated milieu on 11 Ms. Laidman writes that officials in Washington, D.C., worry about lifting the city’s handgun ban and “respond that lifting the ban will only make violence worse.” However, she does not stop to ask the question?

The facts seem to indicate yes. England has much more restrictive laws than America and a higher rate of violent crime than the United States (in 1996, a 25 percent higher rate of robbery in England, as seen in the study “Crime and Justice in the United States and in England and Wales, 1981-1996” by U.S. Department of Justice). One very plausible explanation for this is that criminals in places with accessible firearm laws than America and a higher rate of violent crime than the United States (in 1996, a 25 percent higher rate of robbery in England, as seen in the study “Crime and Justice in the United States and in England and Wales, 1981-1996” by U.S. Department of Justice). One very plausible explanation for this is that criminals in places with accessible firearm laws than America and a higher rate of violent crime than the United States (in 1996, a 25 percent higher rate of robbery in England, as seen in the study “Crime and Justice in the United States and in England and Wales, 1981-1996” by U.S. Department of Justice). One very plausible explanation for this is that criminals in places with accessible firearm

...ought to do this.

Christina Holstrom (“Monologues encourage misrepresentation of women,” Feb. 11) raises an interesting point; she claims that dis­cussing the Vagina Monologues as an issue of Academic Freedom is to “woefully miss the mark.” In this, I believe Holstrom to be correct. I would, however, come to a vastly different conclusion regarding the fate of the “Monologues.” “The Vagina Monologues” seeks to reclaim the sense of what it means to be a woman, to stop women from being ashamed of their sexuality and to raise awareness regarding violence perpetrated against women.

These goals are perfectly in keeping with the Catholic Church’s teaching on sex and sexuality. The Church does not speak of sex as evil or morally wrong provided it is exer­cised in the right way. Rather, the Church teaches that “sexuality is a source of joy and pleasure” (Catechism, 2362). Do the mono­logues present an inappropriate use of sex­uality? The answer may well be yes.

The play may present acts that are not well ordered to good relationships with God and others. The general ethos of the Monologues is, however, edifying to those who attend the play, provided they understand something about the feminist move­ment and approach the play with a critical eye.

Further, and this point is clear, “Monologues” raises important questions. How do we reclaim our sexuality and the correct way to express that sexuality? When sexual violence has been perpetrated against a woman for a man’s desire, how do we heal? Our esteemed President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh once said: “The University is where the Church does its thinking.” Our theology department is grounded in this philosophy; I would argue that it is not simply academic theologians who are to do the thinking of the Church. Rather we are all called to engage in this discussion.

The presence of “The Vagina Monologues” on campus is not a question of academic freedom. It is, however, necessarily tied to our Catholic character. As the premier Catholic university in this country, it is our duty to perform these monologues. Where­else, if not at Notre Dame can we have this discussion? Where else can the Church do this thinking? I urge Dean Boche, Father Jenkins and you, the students, to join me in this dialogue: Approach the monologues with a critical eye and engage in the thinking of the Church.

Mel Barbier
senior
McGlinn Hall

February 12

Please recycle The Observer
Fans look forward to writers' strike resol

I was OK until they took away "30 Rock." Then I finally realized how my older brother must have felt during the 1994 Major League Baseball strike. How was I going to survive a writers' strike that had no end in sight? At the beginning, it wasn't that bad. With the exception of "The Office," most of my favorite shows still had a handful of episodes left to air. But with each passing week, I felt new episodes slipping away from me. Some of my favorite series even ran out of episodes before Christmas break.

In desperation for new TV of any variety, I began counting down the days until "American Idol" and "Rock of Love 2." I became even more dependent on my favorite soap opera, "General Hospital." In the past, I would let a few episodes at a time accumulate on my DVR, but now I found myself more excited than ever to check in on the residents of Port Charles every day.

I turned to TV on DVD as well. Season 1 of "Felicity" and Season 2 of "The Wire" comforted me, as did my brother's "Family Guy" DVDs. I even started re-watching "Arrested Development" for the 20th time.

I think most people can agree that it got easier when late night returned. How glorious was Conan O'Brien's flaming red strike beard? I think I could watch that man spin his wedding ring on his beard? I think I could watch that. But now every time I turned on the TV, I was left with what felt like nothing. I decided to watch "Family Guy" and "The Office," which I had never watched before. However, the writers still deserved to get compensated for all their hard work.

Unfortunately, it took a $2 billion hit to the L.A. economy for producers to officially recognize the potential of new media. The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation estimates that $1.3 billion of that loss was from businesses outside of the studios — caterers, florists, costume shops, hotels, and restaurants that were secondary earners. It's time for the industry and its city to get back on their feet.

And when production does start back up, my television viewing habits are back to normal, I can return to obsessing over "30 Rock" and crossing my fingers that "Friday Night Lights" doesn't get canceled. And, I can figure out what I'm watching over "30 Rock" because of the strike or because I actually enjoy it.

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

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

RETURN BRINGS NEW APPRECIATION

Finally, the writers' strike is coming to an end. The weekly worry of my television set will return. On Tuesday nights, I'll be checking my e-mails to see if they'll be zipping back and forth between the east and west coast guidelines.

I was dancing around my room, announcing to my roommates (asleep until that moment) that our favorite shows — "House," "Grey's Anatomy" and "Gossip Girl" — will be returning. Tears glistened in my eyes as I read the words: "We're telling everyone to come in on Monday." All I can say is: it's about time.

The cause for celebration is not only that "The Office" is coming back, but also that the writers successfully brought about the change they were looking for.

They will be compensated for their work being viewed on what is called "new media" (basically the Internet). But even though Hollywood is going back to work this week, it is the first time in months that TV viewers will see new production, and this means that we may not get new TV shows for weeks. My biggest fear is that some shows will be discontinued for the season. These past few months have thrown into sharp relief just how much television is integrated into my life. Even though it may not be my sole reason why it is so hard to give up on them, it is a painful reality.

I'd like to see that the writers get paid for their work, but I'd also like to see more new shows. I think I can deal with one season of "The Office" or even two, but I'm already counting down the days until next season.

The writers' strike was a crushing blow to me, and I'm sure many others. I was left feeling angry, and made to feel like TV was abandoning me, about TV abandoning me, about TV abandoning me. But now, I realize it was all for a good cause.

The writers' strike was a turning point for me. I think I can deal with one season of "The Office" or even two, but I'm already counting down the days until next season.
 Valentine's Day brings petal power to campus

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

Irish Gardens general manager Ann Marie Szymanski says she enjoys watching romance bloom on campus almost as much as she loves flowers. "Every employee has a cute story from Irish Gardens," she said. "It's kind of the beauty of working there."

Tales from the shop, located in the basement of LaFortune Student Center, range from feel-good affairs to romantic comedy.

One such story occurred one day when a graduate student walked into Irish Gardens around closing time and purchased seven red roses. When Szymanski inquired as to why he bought seven, an unusual number in the floral industry, the man answered that he was giving the odd number of flowers to his wife to commemorate her baby daughter having slept through the night for the first time since she was born. The infant slept seven hours in a row.

On another occasion, a man entered the store and asked Szymanski, "Which types of flowers say that you're sorry?"

With her advice, the man settled on five Casablanca lilies in a vase. Within the next hour the same man returned and began placing more flowers for purchase. After Szymanski asked him what had happened, the man replied only, "I've made someone else mad."

Stories such as these, Szymanski said, have made her three-year career at Irish Gardens worthwhile.

As general manager, her responsibilities include overseeing the accounting of the shop, ordering the necessary supplies and flowers, designing and procuring advertisement and putting together bouquets. Financial manager Megan Julien and products manager Sarah Snyder round out the Irish Gardens management trio. "They are both a huge help to me," Szymanski said. Julien and Snyder assist in accounting, ordering flowers and designing bouquets. Like Szymanski, Julien has worked at Irish Gardens for the past three years, while Snyder has worked for Irish Gardens for two years.

Szymanski said Irish Gardens normally pulls in around $100 a day. The student-run business anticipates a $6,000 take for the four weekdays through Valentine's Day on Thursday.

"That is what it has been around in the past," she said. On Monday alone, Valentine's Day pre-orders amounted to $2,000 dollars, more than 20 times the typical take on an average day. In preparation for the big day, Szymanski said the company ordered over 3,000 roses, 400 carnations, 300 daisies and more than 400 other types of flowers.

Three flower arrangements have separated themselves from the rest of the field as Irish Gardens' most popular bouquets. Szymanski describes "The Whole Twelve Yards" as "your classic dozen roses in any color you choose." Petal purchasers can choose from red, orange, peach, white, hot pink, light pink, lavender, yellow and "fire and ice" as their colors. "The Girl Next Door" features five large Gerber daisies in bright colors. "The Classic Romantic" bouquet includes a stargazer lily, stock, roses and spray roses. "It's a very elegant bouquet," she said, while noting that "Romantic" is her favorite arrangement.

During her time at Irish Gardens, Szymanski has noticed a pattern among male customers. The stereotype of a "nervous male," as she calls him, will approach the cases of flowers inside Irish Gardens' shop. "Irish Gardens is one of the most popular in the Student Center, stare at them for a couple of minutes and then turn with a look of panic in [his] eyes seeking help."

This is when our employees swoop in with tons of suggestions," she said. "Most boys just know that red roses demonstrate too much commitment and that they are definitely looking for something more tentative."

Ann Marie Szymanski
general manager
Irish Gardens

"Most boys just know that red roses demonstrate too much commitment and that they are definitely looking for something more tentative."

Ann Marie Szymanski
general manager
Irish Gardens

For young men trying to "say it with flowers," Irish Gardens offers a plethora of flora with which potential suitors can express themselves, including Gerber daisies, yellow roses and alstroemeria. These flowers are tailor-made for situations "where the boy likes the girl but doesn't know exactly how to show it," Szymanski said.

Bouquet business figures to remain busy between today and tomorrow for the one-stop flower shop.

Contact Tae Andrews at
tandrew@nd.edu

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Flowers such as these Gerber daisies figure to be popular items today and tomorrow as Valentine's Day shoppers buy bouquets for would-be significant others.
Hummel’s career night propels Purdue upset

No. 9 Butler needs overtime to take down Wisconsin-Milwaukee; No. 22 Pitts¬burg handles Providence with stifling defense

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Robbie Hummel scored a career-high 24 points and had 19 rebounds as Purdue beat No. 10 Michigan State 60-54 Tuesday night.

Hummel, a freshman, also grabbed 11 rebounds and made 4 of 7 three-pointers.

Travis Mace scored 12 points and Kranton Grant added 11 for Purdue, which won its 10th straight game to remain alone in first place in the Big Ten standings. The Boilermakers (11-1 Big Ten) have won at least 20 games for the second straight year.

Freshman guard Kalin Lucas scored 17 points for Michigan State, and Raymar Maker scored all his points in the second half for the Spartans (20-4, 8-3).

The Boilermakers made a 20-0 run early in the second half on a dunk by Marcus Green, but the Spartans responded with a 7-0 run, tying the game at 40-30 and forcing Purdue to call a timeout.

Purdue led 52-52 in the final minutes before Hummel made a long 2-point jumper as the shot clock wound down to make it 54-52 with 20.7 seconds left and forced Purdue to call another timeout.

Purdue led 56-52 in the final minutes before Hummel made a long 2-point jumper as the shot clock wound down to make it 56-52 with 20.7 seconds left and forced Purdue to call another timeout.

Neither team scored on the other end to put the game out of reach.

Purdue made the shots defensively by forcing two-stop-clock violations in the final 2 minutes of the game. The Boilermakers went on an 11-0 run and held Michigan State without a field goal for more than 4 minutes to take a 20-point lead.

Purdue closed the half on a 12-2 run that included three 3-pointers and eight points from Hummel to take a 34-18 lead.

Purdue forced 14 turnovers and held Michigan State to 37 percent shooting before the break.

Butler 83, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 75

Mike Green scored 10 of his 24 points in overtime and had 13 rebounds and eight assists despite spraining his right ankle in the final minute to help No. 9 Butler rally to beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Tuesday.

Butler (22-2, 11-2 Horizon League) came in with its highest winning percentage in the midst of four games in eight days. But the Bulldogs came out flat, trailing by as many as 12 in the first half and seven in the second before Green took over the lead from the start of overtime and didn’t relinquish it.

Michigan (12-11, 7-6) squandered its big lead after too many turnovers, but Ricky Franklin, who had missed his previous four three-point attempts, tied the game at 67 with 0.8 seconds left when he made an off-balance shot with Green’s hand in his face.

That really differed Green, who took over in overtime with a flourish. Green made a pair of baskets and six free throws as the Bulldogs pulled away. Green finished 10-for-10 from the line.

Green’s senior backcourt mate, A.J. Green, had an off-game scoring just 11 points on 2-for-14 shooting. Pete Campbell and Willie Weasley added 12 points each for the Bulldogs.

Michigan’s Marcus Skinner had a career-high 25 points and 10 rebounds and Allman Hassan added 12 points on 5 of 7 shooting from 3-point range.

Trailing by as many as seven in the first half where Green was whipped for a technical for arguing with the officials, Butler came back, taking a slim lead before Green got hurt driving to the basket and appeared to sprain his right ankle with just 5 minutes to play.

Playing with just four defense on offense while Green limped on the other side, Skinner made a pair of free throws as the Boilermakers scored six in a row. When he returned, he again scored a basket and six free throws.

Most of his 24 points came in the second half on 2-for-14 shooting before the break.

Pitts­burg 82, Providence 63

Sam Young scored 22 points and No. 22 Pittsburg flirted with Providence to six points in the opening 11 minutes of the second half, allowing the Panthers to pull away for an victory Tuesday night.

Ronald Ramon, coming off a game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer against West Virginia, hit five three-pointers while scoring 15 points and physical freshman DeJuan Blair proved a difficult matchup inside for Providence with 15 points and seven rebounds.

Pitt (19-5, 7-4 East Big Ten) altered wins and losses in its previous seven games before putting away the slumping Friars 113-11, 4-8), who lost their sixth in seven games and are winless in their last eight against the Panthers. The Friars haven’t beaten Pitt since January 2001 and haven’t won in Pittsburgh since December 1998.

Providence, 1-7 on the road, stayed close for a half, leading 28-27 late in the first half after Jeff Xavier hit three 3-pointers to score in more than a month.

PROVIDENCE

CATHEDRAL 56, ONE WHO IS? 0

Call 202-737-0224 or 716-361-3224

Dr. Cameron, 70, a resident physician at St. Luke’s Hospital in New York City, was killed in a car crash on the way to work.

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For more information, visit the website at http://www.fordham.edu/administration/preventive-health/women's-center/resources.html or see our bi-weekly ad in The Observer.

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USA Today/ESPN Top 25

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MIAA Women's Basketball Conference Standings

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The Minnesota Vikings organization are with Kenechi and his family," the statute read. Two twin cities television stations first reported the news on Monday night, KSTP-TV, without citing a source, reported that the 24-year-old Udeze was undergoing tests to determine the severity of the disease. Eban Lack, Udeze's agent, declined to comment.

MBL

Former pitcher Roger Clemens, right, accompanied by attorneys Lanny Breuer, center, and Rusty Hardin, arrives at the office of Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., in Washington on Feb. 8. Clemens will testify before Congress today.

Congress to quiz Clemens, McNamee

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roger Clemens and his accusers, Brian McNamee, will be the main witnesses at a House hearing on the Mitchell Report after New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte and two others were dropped Monday night.

Former Clemens team­mate Chuck Knoblauch and convicted steroids distributor Kirk Radomski also were taken off the witness list for Wednesday's public session. One new witness was added Monday night: a lawyer who worked with former Senate majority leader George Mitchell to produce December's report on drugs in baseball.

But all attention will be focused on Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, and McNamee, his former personal trainer, who alleged he injected the pitcher with performance-enhancing drugs.

"I guess it's showtime, isn't it?" Clemens' lead lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said in a telephone interview.

Earl Ward, McNamee's lead lawyer, declined to comment on the changes.

McNamee said in the Mitchell Report that he injected Clemens who ranks eighth in major league history with 354 wins — with steroids and human growth hormone at least 16 times in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Clemens' denials of those allegations drew the attention of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

McNamee also accused Pettitte of using HGH — Pettitte acknowledged he did so for two days in 2002 to deal with an elbow injury. But the final result was just a slap on the wrist if that could earn him an additional $2 million in performance bonuses, raising the average age for a group ransacked by the departures of Johan Santana and Carlos Silva.

"If we could find the right guy, we were going to add that," general manager Bill Smith said. "We certainly weren't afraid to go in without veteran starters, but it's going to be tough for those young players to look to.
**New-look Heat fall to Nuggets in overtime**

J.R. Smith shoots career-high eight 3-pointers in 114-113 win; Billups' big fourth quarter pushes Pistons past Hawks

Associated Press

MIAMI — J.R. Smith made a career-best eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points, Kenyon Martin added 24, and the Denver Nuggets edged the Miami Heat 114-113 in overtime Tuesday night.

Carmelo Anthony scored six of his 22 points in overtime for Denver, which won on a three-straight.

Denver Wade scored a game-high 29 points, but missed a 22-footer at the buzzer for Miami — which was outscored 31-15 in the second half.

Wade — who also had 10 assists — made a 3-pointer with 2:36 left in overtime to tie the game at 110, then drove over the first row of seats in a futile effort to grab a loose ball a minute later.

Fast possession.

Anthony Carter made two free throws, putting the Nuggets up by two with 1:26 left.

Anthony added two more free throws with 2:1 seconds to play and Ricky Davis' 3-pointer with 33.6 seconds left got Miami within one point. Anthony missed with about 10 seconds remaining, but Wade controlled the rebound and Wade dribbled up the left side of the floor to one of his favorite spots.

But the shot rimmed out, and Miami left frustrated once again.

"I know it's been a tough year," Wade told fans before the game. "We're always looking up for help vote him onto the Eastern Conference All-Star team someday."

It only seems that way.

Miami Heat's Heat (4-11) scored 23 points and added a Heat season-best 18 rebounds. Dorell Wright scored 19 points and Mark 

Blount finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Allen Iverson scored 16 points in 5-for-20 shooting for Denver, and Martin scored 17 with 12 points and 16 rebounds.

Neither team led by more than four points in the first half, which ended 16-16 of the game.

Smith scored a career-high 37 points against the Heat on Dec. 8, 2006, and did similar damage to Miami on Tuesday.

He sparked a big Denver run from a 14-point deficit in the first half, and in the fourth quarter, he simply torched Miami with four 3-pointers in the first 5:07 of the final period — answering Miami baskets with scores of those long jumpers.

But despite Smith's best efforts, the game remained close throughout the fourth, with neither
team ever leading by more than four. Iverson's jumper with 1:41 remaining gave the Nuggets a 102-96 edge, before Wade's layup cut the lead in half and Blount's jumper from the left baseline with 17.5 seconds left tied it.

Wright blocked Iverson's potential game-winner with 0.4 seconds left, sending the game to overtime.

Wright, who didn't attempt a 3-pointer in 22 games between Dec. 15 and Feb. 7 — was 2-for-2 from beyond the arc in the first quarter, helping stake Miami to a 23-22 lead.

When Marion took a nifty bounce pass in the lane from former Phoenix teammate Marcus Banks and dunked with 8.17 seconds left in the half, the Heat led 42-28 — their biggest edge in any game since leading Utah by 16 points on Dec. 22.

But of course, in this Miami season, prosperity didn't last.

Denver scored the next 10 points, sparked by Smith. He scored 11 points in a 4-minute span after Marion's dunk, and added two late 3-pointers.

Billups' 3-pointer and Blount's layup helped the Nuggets a little.

And in the third quarter, the Heat got caught.

Iverson missed 11 of his first 13 shots before driving for a clutch layup while getting fouled with 3:21 left in the third, pulling Denver within 76-72. It was part of a 12-2 period-ending run by the Nuggets, who took their first lead since the opening minutes when Iverson made a 6-footer with 1:51 left, and wound up extending the cushion to 84-78 entering the fourth.

Pistons 94, Hawks 90

Chauncey Billups missed every shot he tried through the first three quarters.

Not to worry. The fourth is his season, prosperity didn't last.

Lining up in the nickname Mr. Big Shot, Billups scored 12 of his 16 points in key second-period runs in the fourth to rally the Detroit Pistons to a 94-90 win over the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night.

"You know me, man, you know me," Billups said. "In games, if I have an opportunity I'm going to take advantage of that, whether I'm hot or not. I always feel like that fourth quarter is a different game."

Rashad Wallace carried the load in the early going, scoring 15 straight points for the Pistons in the first quarter. He finished with a 21-point night. The Hawks lost their third in a row despite 30 points from Josh Smith.

Billups went into the final quarter at 0:08 from the field, but didn't keep him from putting up more. He ripped off 10 straight points for Detroit, including a couple of 3s, to turn a three-point deficit into a 89-86 lead with 2:55 remaining.

"It was like a lid was on the basket most of the game," Billups said. "I had five of those shots (the fourth) were all I shot early in the game. I just couldn't stick them."

 Appropriately, he finished off with the biggest shot of the game, a jumper over Anthony Johnson with 22 seconds remaining for a 92-89 lead.

"That's what type of player he is," Smith said. "He's a nickel, Mr. Big Shot. In the clutch, everybody knows he's going to take the shot."

After Billups' final basket, Smith was fouled but made only one free throw. Richard Hamilton did what Smith couldn't, hitting both foul shots with 14 seconds left to seal the win.

The Hawks were held to 3-of-19 shooting in the fourth by the gritty Pistons, who led by 15 in the fourth. Smith finished with 29 points, including three 3-pointers.

Smith was fouled but made only one free throw. Richard Hamilton did what Smith couldn't, hitting both foul shots with 14 seconds left to seal the win.

Hawks forward Al Horford fouls Pistons forward Antonio McDyess as both players battle for a rebound in a 94-90 Detroit win Tuesday. Despite the loss, Horford finished with a game-high 16 rebounds.

The Pistons won nearly 6 minutes without a field goal, allowing the Hawks to surge ahead on Horford's three-point play midway through the third. The rookie pumped his fist at being fouled, then stepped to the line and swished the free throw.

The Hawks led 74-74 after a frenetic final minute to the period.

Arron Afflalo came up with a steal and was going in for a layup, but Smith scooped out of nowhere for the block.

Atlanta took off the other way and Marvin Williams went in for a dunk, but the ball rimmed out.

The Pistons tried to start a fast break of their own, but the Hawks stole it away near midcourt and Williams got another shot at the dunk. This time he didn't miss, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

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Islanders fire season-best 47 shots in victory

Trent Hunter picks up a goal, two assists in 4-3 win over Flyers; Hurricanes move into first place in Southeast Division

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — It was still early but Trent Hunter had earned his way to the front of the New York Islanders.

That was enough Tuesday when Trent Hunter broke out of his offensive funk and scored the Islanders’ most productive night in quite some time.

Hunter scored a goal and set up two others for New York, which broke a pair of seven-game skids with a 4-3 victory over the slumping Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday.

The Islanders did it with a season-best 47 shots.

“It was a nice to get that win and it gives us something to build on,” Hunter said. “We’re still not scoring.”

New York hadn’t won at home since beating New Jersey on Dec. 29 (0-2-5). The Islanders also didn’t have any victory anywhere since a 6-3 win at Carolina on Jan. 22.

Jeff Tambellini and Sean Bergenheim added goals in the second period for the Islanders, who are tied for 12th in the Eastern Conference, seven points behind the Flyers for the first time in four meetings this season.

Rolan Fedotenko scored with 5:58 to restore the Islanders’ two-goal lead, before both of Ladd’s goals in a 27-second span with 1-1/2 minutes left in the game.

New York nearly stretched its lead just past midway mark of the period, but Smith went from defenseman to goalie after Niittymaki was out of position and blocked Tambellini’s shot while on his side in front of the net.

He couldn’t do anything about Bergenheim’s breakaway goal after another turnover. Hunter sent a pass from New York’s second line to Bergenheim, who raced in front of defenseman Kimmo Timonen hooked down Niittymaki, but the Islanders forward slung in a shot to make it 3-1 with 1:19 left.

“We were better the last two games, but we just need to win,” Breret said. “We’ve had a long meeting to talk about it. We’re elected close is not good enough.”

Hurricanes 3, Bruins 2

Andrei Ladd’s two-goal sport set the tone for the game.

Ladd scored twice in the first period.

“We’re battling for a playoff spot,” Samsonov said. “For us, it’s almost a playoff game.”

Boston trailed 3-0 when Thornton’s shot from the right side went wide of the top of Ward’s glove and into the net with 5:10 left in the third.

Paul Kariya, who was traded to the Ducks for Adam Oates last July, beat Tim Thomas with a shot that went in off his skate.

Ladd scored twice on the power play, and former Bruins first-round draft choice Sergei Samsonov gave the Hurricanes a 1-0 lead with 1:31 left in the second period.

Ward protected the shutout until Thornton had two goals in a 27-second span with around five minutes left in the game.

The Hurricanes improved to 2-3-0 on their five-game road trip.

With the win, Carolina moved into first place in the Southeast, ahead of Washington and Atlanta, who play Wednesday night.

“We thought I had him beat if I could have gotten that earlier in the game,” Thornton said.

Red Berenson assisted on both of Ladd’s goals to help the Hurricanes improve to 2-3 on their five-game road trip.

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“We’re battling for a playoff spot,” Samsonov said. “For us, it’s almost a playoff game.”
Zednik moved out of ICU after neck laceration

Doctors in Buffalo have already told him next year is the realistic return target, and on Tuesday, Dr. Sonya Noor — who operated on the forward Sunday night — said she’s recommending he not resume strenuous activity for three months.

Still, the notion just might be enough for a reason of the playoff-starved Panthers to have some hope.

“We have to sit it aside now and play hockey,” said Florida defensemen Jassen Cullimore, who helped Zednik off the ice. “That’s what we do.”

The Panthers hope Zednik can travel home to South Florida by the weekend.

He has a photo of his 4-year-old daughter at his hospital bedside, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has phoned to check on Zednik’s condition and progress.

“He is awake and in good spirits,” Noor said.

He’s hungry. He wanted eggs for breakfast.

Noor said Zednik will be asked to sit up and walk a few steps over the next couple days, and if he can do those things, a discharge plan will be discussed.

Knowing that Zednik — who can talk and is alert — is doing as well as can be expected, the Panthers also felt a sense of relief. Zednik isn’t believed to have suffered any long-term brain or nerve damage, and one surgeon described him as “very lucky.”

“Doctors here and in Buffalo, giving the 32-year-old forward’s condition and progress, there’s a minimal neck swelling, or dissection.”

Martin said.

“Yet the bleeding in the head, Dr. Sonya Noor — who operated on the forward Sunday night — said she’s recommending he not resume strenuous activity for three months.

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Huskies continued from page 20

revenge in tonight's game, which will be broadcast on ESPNU. Despite a flu breakout within the team earlier this week, guard Marquette Saturday for a 86-83 victory. Senior captain Andrew Brown played sparingly after contracting the virus, and forwards Luke Haranodgy and Zach Willis donned ponchos before the game.

Coach Mike Brey said his team is only "up for its step, however. :

"It didn't run through the whole team," Brey said. "We're back to normal and it didn't cost us." 

The team stepped up at conference Saturday and took down AAC opponent Temple 80-64 at home.

Center Hasheem Thabeet led the Huskies with 24 points and 24 rebounds.

During its winning streak, Connecticut knocked off Indiana, Pittsburgh, Syracuse and Louisville during their 7-3-3.

is also a defensive force in the paint.

In a game against Notre Dame, he Big East Player of the Year candidate Luke Haranodgy — who is only 6-foot-8 — to 14 points on 5-for-23 shooting from the floor. Haranodgy, who has a wider body and is quicker than his brother, said he will try to use those advantages to taper the Connecticut defense.

"If I can be more physical and get into his body more, then I can get my shot up over him," Haranodgy said.

The sophomore also said that he can do things without the ball to pull Thabeet away from the basket. "That will bring him out," Kurz said.

Kurz, Haranodgy's front-court mate, said, "If he spends more time away from the hoop, it draws Huskies forward Jeff Adrien to work on Thabeet."

"There's some things I can do like ball screening for Kurz and Thoby," also said.

"I can't do anything to help the basketball team. Those are two huge breaks where a kid can be a little bit louder because they're small and people are packed in," Brey said. "It's about playing in tough places on the road."

Kurz is a member of the Irish in the Big East stand­

ings, but also trials third-plant Louisville, which Michigan leads ahead of them at 83. Georgetown remains first in the conference at 10-0, but Notre Dame loses on Villanova Monday.

Contact Chris Kehoe at

An Irish basketball player said "There is nothing to do with the ball to pull Thabeet away from the basket and open the floor for him."

"The thing I try to do is space the floor and give him a little room to operate," Kurz said. "In the last meeting, I was able to make some jump shots, which pulled Adrian away from the basket so he wasn't so bulled up.

Luke Haranodgy
Irish forward

"I can't even be more physical and get into their bodies more, then I can get my shot up and over them."

Big East continued from page 20

meet is of the utmost impor­
tance for the team. The compe­
tition is a culmination of all the practices, workouts, dual meets and invitational track events to lead up to the meet. "The Big East meet is our biggest and fastest meet of the year," Lytle said. "And we are all excited to see our hard work and sacrifice pay off on the track." 

On the diving side, the Irish could get some important contributions from multiple competitors. Junior diver Michael Buffle, who played in the regular season with school record-breaking performances in the final two meets, will lead a confident group into the event. "I'm going to play a big role in this meet," Buffle said. "The diving team has the potential to give the swimmers a very large lead to work with and aid them in bringing the Big East championship home. We've been practicing well, and all the divers are pretty confident and ready to head to New York."

The divers' confidence is well founded. Irish divers dominat­

ed the Big East through out the regular season. Confidence alone, however, will not be enough to bring home the title. "It's going to be a meet we are going to be walking away with unless Notre Dame finishes strong and diving well," Buffle said. "So we've been making the necessary steps. Sometimes in a game, we get prepared to win another Big East championship.

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cdoyan@nd.edu

The divers' confidence is well founded. Irish divers dominat­
ed the Big East through out the regular season. Confidence alone, however, will not be enough to bring home the title. "It's going to be a meet we are going to be walking away with unless Notre Dame finishes strong and diving well," Buffle said. "So we've been making the necessary steps. Sometimes in a game, we get prepared to win another Big East championship."

Contact Chris Doyan at
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Eagles continued from page 20

Eagles continued from page 20

Eagles continued from page 20

Eagles continued from page 20

Eagles continued from page 20

February 14-16, 7:30 P.M.
**Black Dog**

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

**Tastes Like Failure**

RICH PROTTIVA and ANDY SPANGLER

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**Crossword**

Across
- 32 See 45-Down
- 33 Come here after? e.g. a birthday
- 35 Chow candy
- 36 "Digger" force, in brief
- 38 River to the phone
- 41 What to do after completing this puzzle, with four straight lines
- 44 Children's author Blyton and others
- 46 Mythical king of the music
- 47 Whitehorse, e.g.
- 53 Subject of What do you think of this,
- 54 Japanese leader of the 1960s
- 56 "The Gift of the Magi" gift
- 58 Simple shoe shade
- 59 Promised
- 61 "The Chicago" original
- 62 Behind a bad trip?
- 63 Berlin cry
- 66 Epigram

Down
- 1 Half a dance
- 2 Keep all to oneself
- 3 New issue on What do you think of this,
- 4 Color family
- 5 Sandwich
- 6 Dragon's (asty) video game
- 7 Central courts
- 8 Alternative things going wrong
- 9 Bread for buns?
- 10 Order to attack, with "on"
- 11 Made a banking
- 12 Individual owned apartment
- 13 1928 president of Chicago
- 14 Multiple-choice choice
- 15 Kind of approval
- 16 Actor Tom of "Amadeus"
- 17 Body count
- 18 Atom fork
- 19 Acidically
- 20 Eau de cologne
- 21 Chemicals
- 22 Bunny

For answers, call 1-900-205-5566, $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

**Horoscope**

EUGENIA LAST

**Celebrations Born on This Day**: Christian Kiefer, 26; Aaron Hall, 53; Joanne Kreps, 55; Ray Manzarek, 69.

Happy Birthday. Take action when it comes to business and partnerships. Position yourself to win; situate yourself to lead this year. Once you have gained the upper hand, you can deal your cards. Emotional matters affect you, so make even bad news bring a smile to your face. Your numbers are 12, 25, 26, 34, 44.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): The influence you have on your future by the actions you take now will be long-term. Be sure you are feeling something that will make you feel happy, and help you down the road for the better. 3 stars

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Open up to the people you trust and hold back if you are questioning anyone's loyalty. Love can [say] a stage where your status and finances are nonexistent. Change in your better and short trips will not use well. 3 stars

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): Keep your finances, thoughts, and legal matters a secret. Enormous matters will oscillate if you let someone good go into your thinking for the way you feel. Begin a campaign you believe in. 4 stars

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): You will lose if you let someone get to you today. Hide your emotions if you don't want to say something that will work against you, causing grief in the future. Go through the motions without showing feeling. 2 stars

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Love is in the picture and socializing will bring a favorable way of events. We will be dead on your assessments and finding solutions will be easy. You will need to design and spark creative, profitable ideas. 5 stars

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be a sponge for information today, so put yourself in a setting that will allow you to learn. Join a conversation, take in a routine of network with people who have something in common with you. A development will lead to a partnership. 3 stars

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will be high on the Richter scale as you don't play with your feelings today. Put your cards close to your place and are what you have a mood to do in, I'll hold my ground, you will win 2 stars

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have to be yourself in the spotlight today. From your at simplify your situation and the feedback you give and the opinions you earn. Change may be necessary. 2 stars

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to make some personal changes to your routine to take a look at real estate but don't get yourself into something that may cost you dearly in the near. You will be able to talk your way into a better place, deal or situation. 2 stars

**Aquarius** (Dec. 21-Feb. 18): You may find it difficult to go along with loved ones today. Do not force any plans with your relations. Be erect and flexible through if you want to accomplish anything. Don't be emotional matters they show you 2 stars

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): It's your time to earn your way into your heart and future. Be realistic in your dealings and you will get what you want. Take a fresh look at what you can do with your goals once love. Love is in the picture and socializing will bring a favorable way of events. 2 stars

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**The Observer**

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

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**Jumble Game**

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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**TODAY**
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Something's got to give

Two of the Big East's hottest teams square off

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

18-4 versus 18-5.
No. 18 in the USA Today poll versus No. 17.
No. 2 in the Big East versus No. 4.

Notre Dame and Connecticut have nearly mirrored each other this season, and both are on a roll heading into the showdown at 7 tonight in Storrs, Conn.

The No. 18 Irish (18-4, 8-2 Big East), winners of five straight, will invade Gampel Pavilion to take on the No. 17 Huskies (18-5, 7-3 Big East), who have won seven games in a row.

Notre Dame beat Connecticut 73-67 in the teams' early-conference meeting on Jan. 5. The Huskies will be looking for revenge.

Irish center Christian Hanson checks forward David Wohlberg.

As the teams prepare for each other tonight, the question remains: Who is going to win this rubber match?

Irish play first game sans Peters

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

With changes in Notre Dame's lineup, tonight's game against Marquette at 7 in the Joyce Center will give younger Irish players the opportunity to prove they deserve playing time.

No. 16 Notre Dame's 81-66 win over No. 15 Pittsburgh showed improvement in Notre Dame's defense, but it came at a heavy price. Early in the second half, freshman Deveraux Peters collapsed to the court, shaking in pain. According to MBB results released Monday the freshman tore the anterior cruciate ligament.

Irish guard Lindsay Schrader looks to pass in Notre Dame's 81-66 win over Pittsburgh on Sunday.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish play first game sans Peters

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
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HOCKEY COMMENTARY

Time for the icers to march through the tunnel

This may be an exercise in futility, but it sounds too damn cool not to put it out there. Imagine instead of cruising around in your dorm room on a Saturday afternoon in February, kicking the cruddy TV, making Natty ones off your coffee table to make room for a Sharon's pizza, you could be tailgating outside Notre Dame Stadium for a game.

Absolutely the football team isn't going to be playing a mid-winter bowl in South Bend ever for a post-December one for that matter, it seems.

But the hockey team could play there. College hockey teams have played two separate games in football stadiums (CCHA teams, all before and the NHL has played two outdoor games as well. All of them drew huge crowds, were great to watch and put hockey under a spotlight it rarely receives.

A hockey game against Michigan in Notre Dame Stadium makes me drool. It makes me want to bundle up, grab a case from Belmont, throw down a lawn chair in C lot and wait for the gates to open.

The wondrous South Bend win-wars and city life keep us students bundled up in our dorms, apart-

MEN'S SWIMMING

Long layoff before Big East title meet

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

With 32 days in between the regular season-ending Shamrock Invitational and the Big East championships, it takes some dedication to stay focused — and, more importantly, to stay fast.

As the teams prepare for each other tonight, the question remains: Who is going to win this rubber match?

Irish center Christian Hanson checks forward David Wolitberg in Notre Dame's 2-1 win over the U.S. Under-18 team on Feb. 1.