Construction cause of SMC gas leak

Authorities respond to line breach near Le Mans Hall; report it is harmless and contained

By LIZ HARTER and MANI STRONGE

Construction workers installing storm sewers on the south side of Le Mans Hall, east of the Moreau Center for the Arts, struck a low-pressure gas line, allowing a small amount of gas to seep from the ground onto Saint Mary's campus at approximately 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Timm Ringer, the College's maintenance supervisor, said there is no danger to students, but said he did not know how long it would take to turn the gas off.

"We brought in the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), we're waiting from the word them to be able to do this down to see what it's going to affect on the buildings," Ringer said.

Bill Hambling, director of the facilities department, said in a statement to The Observer that NIPSCO was on campus within 10 minutes of the gas leak.

"NIPSCO quickly capped the line and determined there was no need for an evacuation of either building," Hambling said in the statement, released by Croft Brien, director of media relations.

St. Patrick's Day kicks off March Madness

Student Activities holds first-ever basketball shootout; championship party awarded to winners

By ELIZABETH KUHN

Student Activities held its first-ever basketball shootout competition in celebration of St. Patrick's Day and the beginning of March Madness Monday on the Fieldhouse Mall. Students lined up to shoot free throws and 3-pointers in hopes of winning a private NCAA Championship party in the LaFortune Ballroom for themselves and 52 friends.

"We just wanted to offer the students a way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, as well as the men's and women's basketball teams, who have done so well this year," said Erin Sekerek, the Student Programs Coordinator at the Student Activities Office. "We thought this would be a perfect way, especially since the women's selection show is tonight."

The shootout, which was organized by the Student Activities Programming team, began at 4 p.m., with participants attempting five shots from the free-throw line and three shots from the 3-point line.

The real challenge began at 8 p.m. with an intense game of knockout for all students who had qualified by making 10 out of 14 free-throw shots. The winner of this game would then take home the grand prize of the private championship party.

College chooses new RAs

44 students selected to oversee dorm life

By LIZ HARTER

Shortly before spring break, the Saint Mary's Office of Residence Life informed 44 students that they would be hired as resident assistants (RAs) for the 2009-10 academic year. The group includes 39 students who are new to the position.

Life as a Saint Mary's RA intertwines dorm living, the full-time workload of a college student and the significant responsibilities of creating unique living situation for students who decide to take on the job.

Sophomore Melissa Croft said she was very excited after being informed that she will be the RA of 5 South in McCandless Hall, but is also "very nervous, but the good kind of nervous."

She said she has wanted to be an RA since she found out what the position entailed when her older sister, Elaine, attended the University of Chicago.

"I think it is a really unique opportunity to be a part of the campus community and to get to know several groups of people including the student residence life staff, my particular hall, and the women in my individual section," Croft said.

Croft said she is looking forward to the RA experiences.

ND installs new alert system

Second trial proves more successful; OIT improves e-mail delivery

By MADELINE BUCKLEY

More than 20,000 test messages, voice-mails, and e-mails were successfully sent to students, faculty, and staff Friday afternoon as part of the University's effort to set up a system of communication for an emergency.

The ND alert test was a response to problems that occurred in the previous test of the system, which took place in November. Chief Information Officer Gordon Wishon said, "We specifically ran this test to see if the refinement we made had been effective," Wishon said. "We don't have all the results in yet, but the preliminary results look very good."

After the first system test, OIT noted a delayed delivery of a number of the emergency e-mails, and students and faculty reported "garbled voice messages," Wishon said. In the past months, OIT looked closely at these failures, and made the necessary changes.

To improve the delayed e-mails, OIT has worked with the system administrators and "made some changes in the way campus e-mail is delivered," Wishon said.

Before the campus-wide test, the department conducted some internal tests, all of which indicated that the changes were effective.

As for the voice-mails, OIT discovered the source of the problems, and Wishon said there have been no reports of garbled messages. Of all the methods of communication, Wishon said text messaging worked best.

"Over 96 percent of all texts were delivered successfully," Wishon said. "Our text messaging system keeps exceeding our expectations."

Alumnae discusses leadership roles

By NIKKI TAYLOR

Saint Mary's alumnae and Board of Trustees member Paula Dawning spoke about her life and the opportunities she thinks are important for women in leadership roles at the Saint Mary's Leadership Luncheon Monday.

A South Bend native, Dawning took the audience through her life and the important lessons she took away from her varied experiences. She said she can see the formation of leadership qualities throughout her life.

For example, Dawning was the fifth of thirteen children. "Being one of thirteen kids, you learn how to speak up for yourself, or you get lost in the crowd," Dawning said. "You learn how to fend for yourself.

Dawning was very thankful for her Saint Mary's education and the opportunities it gave her. In particular, she was able to spend her sophomore year in Angers, France. While in France, Dawning had her first real experience with being different, as she was one of the only African-Americans in the city.

"I learned how to go in and be different, and be unique. That served me well in corporate America," Dawning said.

After graduation Dawning...
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**The year's best holiday**

As I sit here and think about the cold, the snow, and the mountain of homework that is piling up on my desk, I find myself not being able to wipe a giant smile off of my face. Why? It's because my favorite holiday occurs this week. Easter?

Nope. The best holiday of the entire year is the First and second rounds of the Men's NCAA Tournament a four day basketball extravaganza that is unlike any other sporting event anywhere.

I know I am not alone. America is coming down with a case of March Madness along with me, whether it is for good or for bad. Online business magazine Slate.com estimates that $3.8 billion are lost in worker productivity during the NCAA Tournament and that $756 million are wagered every year on the tournament. That isn't even counting the millions of classes skipped by high school and college students to catch the games.

But there is a reason for it. More than any other sporting event, the tournament allows for fun participation by filling out a bracket (and likely wagering a few dollars in a pool). It is the only event where you get to pick the winner of such a vast amount of games, sliding each team as much or as little as you decide. Don't like a team? Pick them to lose in the first round and then root vehemently against them. Or, go ahead and do as I did and put the Fighting Irish ultimately in charge of your bracket, and the power is intoxicating.

And because everyone has a bracket, each of the 63 games has a meaning. You, personally, have picked a winner for all of the games that are at on any given moment. Since you have probably laid down some cash, or are just playing for bragging rights with your friends (or both), you will find yourself up at 3 a.m. trying to win every single game, no matter how much you cared about the team one week ago, before the tournament started. Go ahead, watch and see how many people will be glued to the UNLV-Kent game on Thursday afternoon.

The only things we love more than our brackets are upsets. It is an American institution, something we have seen over and over again in our lives. We love to see the scrappy underdog challenge and beat the talented favorite who might not be as talented as them after all. We love to question why America fell in love with George Mason, a No. 11 seed who skated basketball pleasant North Carolina and Connecticut on its way to the Final Four in 2006. And even though these underdogs are not as talented, and have almost no realistic chance to win the tournament, it is a once a year treat to see them play with the intensity and passion that they do.

So go ahead, skip class, ditch work and become a couch potato for the weekend. Use this column as an excuse note if you need to. The best holiday of the year starts Thursday at 7:20 p.m. and for one, am not going to miss a minute.

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

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** What was the best concert you've ever been to or wanted to attend?

- Cate McMillinra Cypress Hill, because Scary Spice's microphone doubled as a whip.
- Chantelle Bryant U2 concert, because they're my favorite band.
- Geoffrey Mooney I would go see Usher because he's sexy.
- Michelle Pratt I would go to a U2 concert because I like to rock out.
- Paul Zidak OAR was cool. They performed really well and it was a cool venue.
- Savannah Breen Best concert I've been to was Stained because I like their music.

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**IN BRIEF**

The next debate in the Student-Faculte Series: “Global Warming: How Should We Respond?” will take place today at 7 p.m. in the Dooley Room of the LaFortune Student Center.

The American Cancer Society Club of Notre Dame will host the Relay for Life Kickoff today from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the LaFortune Student Ballroom.

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Man sues strip club over lap dance eye injury

NEW YORK — A businesswoman claims in a lawsuit that he was injured when a stripper giving him a lap dance swiveled and smacked him in the face with the heel of her shoe.

Stephen Chang, a securities trader, said in court papers filed Friday that he was at the Hot Lap Dance Club near Madison Square Garden and was getting a paid lap dance when the accident occurred early Nov. 2, 2007.

According to the lawsuit, as the dancer swung around, the heel of her shoe hit him in the eye, causing him "serious injuries." A man who identified himself as the manager of the Hot Lap Dance Club said he was unaware of the accident or the state Supreme Court lawsuit.

An arsonist caught after stealing police car's gas lamp

WASHINGTON, Mich. — A Monroe County sheriff's deputy on a stakeout to catch an arsonist arrested the suspect.

Detective Thomas Redmond, 31, unscrewed the gas cap and started siphoning the fuel before he approached Redmond's unmarked vehicle.

Police say the teen uncrowed the gas cap and started siphoning the fuel before Redmond got out of the car and chased him. Authorities say the teen later admitted to the two arsons as well as three other arsons in 2006.

Several officers, including Detective Thomas Redmond, watched the 17-year-old walk away from his Lambertville home early Sunday carrying a bucket before he approached Redmond's unmarked vehicle.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

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**CORRECTIONS**

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalistic integrity at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at (574) 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
ND aids Nat’l Park Service
Three undergraduates conduct research related to cutting costs

Special to The Observer
The University-National Park Energy Partnership Program (UNPEPP) has funded a joint project between the Notre Dame Energy Center and the National Park Service at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to provide energy related consulting services to the park during this coming summer.

During the course of the project, three undergraduate students from the University will work with park officials, conducting on-site research that will result in specific recommendations for capital improvement at the Indiana Dunes facilities.

According to Joan Brennecke, Keating-Crawford Professor of Chemical and Biocatalytic Engineering and director of the Notre Dame Energy Center, the students’ work will focus on energy conservation and savings.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to put their training into practice in a real-world setting that encompasses project management skills, teamwork and leadership opportunities," she said. "It also promotes discussion on a realistic and responsible use of resources."

As part of the project, students will be required to track and quantify the cost savings — and projected payback in terms of resources, such as energy use reduction and lowered greenhouse gas emissions — relating to their recommendations.

Participants in the 10-week project are Tom Furlong, a junior studying aerospace and mechanical engineering; Brian Klein, a senior political science major; and Jackie Miranda Mullen, a sophomore pursuing degrees in German and history.

Among the projects the students are scheduled to complete during the summer program are energy audits of one-third of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, designs for a geothermal heat pump system for the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, designs for a grass roof system for Building 110 at the park headquarters, and the creation of educational materials for park guests that describe the proposed improvements and energy savings.

UNPEPP is a nationwide program that links universities with national parks to address energy issues within the parks. Through these partnerships, parks gain assistance with energy related issues, while students obtain problem-solving experience in the energy field. Since its inception in 1997, UNPEPP has funded numerous partnerships between universities and national parks. Funding typically ranges from $15,000 to $20,000 per project and is used to support students, and faculty and project personnel.

The Notre Dune Energy Center works to develop new technologies to meet the global energy challenge. Housed in the College of Engineering, the center focuses on five areas of expertise: energy efficiency, safe nuclear waste storage, clean coal utilization, carbon dioxide separation, and storage and renewable resources. The center, which was established in 2002, is also committed to playing key roles in energy education and training, the development of energy policy and the exploration of the ethical implications associated with energy.

NYC investigates crane safety after accident

NEW YORK — They are part of New York’s skyline: hundreds of spindly construction cranes like the one that toppled over the weekend, pulverizing parts of a city block below and killing seven people. As the machines work furiously amid a supercharged building boom, experts say it’s always a risk.

Operating cranes in a city of 8.2 million people where apartments and offices are stacked so closely and on top of one another is especially tricky.

"Because of the tightness of a construction site in New York City, there’s always the problem of having less space, and also there’s the problem that if anything does go wrong, there are a lot of people at risk," said Gene Corley, a structural engineer.

The city will launch a safety sweep of the cranes in use around the city, Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster said Monday, although officials have no reason to believe the accident was "indicative of a larger problem.

Six construction workers and a woman in town for St. Patrick’s Day were killed Saturday when the crane broke away from an apartment tower under construction and toppled like a tree onto buildings as far as a block away. The last three bodies were found Monday.

The crane was being lightened with a new section — a process known as "jumping" — when it tumbled to the street. A 6-ton steel collar used to secure the crane to the building came loose, the buildings department said.

When the collar fell, it clanged into another collar on the ninth floor that acted as a major anchor, and without that support the counterweights at the top of the crane’s tower pitched it over, the buildings department said. Pieces of the crane hurled themselves forward as they crashed to the ground, coming to a rest a full block away. By the time it was over, a brownstone was pulverized, at least seven other buildings were damaged, and 24 people were injured.

The scale of the damage gives some sense of a construction crane’s heft and span.

This particular model, known as a tower crane, had a 300-foot mast, comprising 13 sections that each weighed 11,000 pounds. The cab and deck at the top of the mast weighed about 50,000 pounds, the boom weighed about 20,000 pounds, and the counterweights added up to about 80,000 pounds, city officials said.

Is it secure?
Shred to be sure!
Look for the shredding bin in your ND Residence Hall

Documents you should shred include:
- Documents with Social Security numbers
- Credit card statements and offers
- Bank statements and offers
- Checks or copies of checks
- Credit and debit card numbers
- Driver’s license numbers
- NetID and other passwords
- Passport and/or visa information
- Medical information
- Grades, old tests, class notes and papers
- Other personal and confidential information

When in doubt, shred it!
Residence
continued from page 1
ward to leading students in what is traditionally a fresh-
man hallway, and hopes that she can find a way to keep "I don't even know if this is feasible but I would likely really like
Mario Kart tournament as a section event," she said. "I'd like to have events that allow the girls to get to know each other and the campus community." Coughlin said she would try to strike a bal-
ance between sticking to the rules and letting her resi-
dents have fun.
"I don't want to be known as the sticker for the rules but girls are scared to approach or be around me because we're the 'joke' RA who lets you get away with anything, and girls will try to manipulate," Melissa Croft sophomore said. "I hope to create a neighborhood atmosphere where people can communicate in a safe way, that the women of the University can feel comfortable and every device is working."
Timm Ringer maintenance supervisor for Saint Mary's. Ringer said none of the buildings on campus should be negatively affected by the leak because the domes still have heat. "There's no gas whatsoever in LeMans (Hall), except for the gas dryers," Ringer said. "The gas coming out of the stove line is around 7 p.m., Sekerek said they had a gas leak in the River and it always smells like rotten eggs. The gas leak was detected at around 7 p.m. and was initially thought to be a gas leak, but turns out to be a gas leak in the River.
"I want to create an environment in which students can communicate their concerns and their needs. I'm here to listen and help resolve any issues that they may have." "I've been around campus and have heard from students that they are thankful that the University is sending these messages," Gordon Wishon chief information officer said. "I hope that students continue to voice their concerns and that the University will listen and address them.
The feedback from the students has been very positive, and that's what we're here for - to listen and respond. The University is open to hearing from students about any issues they may be experiencing.
"We continue to explore other means to get emer-
gency notices out to the community," he said. "Student safety is our number one concern.
Currently, the University is developing a public address system in addition to the ND Alert system. By December 2008, every building on campus will have a device installed which will allow the University to transmit a message to the students of what is happening in the event of an emer-
gency, said Amy Coughlin, Director of P ro ject Management. "It is a public address system that enables the campus net-
work to com-municate an urgent message to the dormitory, dining halls, and classrooms of South Quad before moving to other buildings on campus," Coughlin said. "The public address system will provide the University with the ability to communicate an urgent message to the campus community, whether it's weather-related or another hazard," she said.
"I don't want to be known as the sticker for the rules or the girls are scared to approach or be around, but I also don't want you get away with anything, and girls will try to manipulate." Melissa Croft sophomore
Suicide bomber leaves at least 43 dead BEIJING - A suicide bomber struck Shifei worshippers in the holy city of Karbala on Monday, an official and a witness said, killing at least 43 people and leaving pools of blood on the street leading to one of Iraq's most revered shrines.

The blast was the deadliest in a series of attacks that left at least 72 Iraqis dead, including six youths killed when mortar rounds slammed into a soccer field in eastern Baghdad.

Two U.S. soldiers also were killed Monday in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad, bringing the American toll in Iraq to 116. U.S.-led war enters its sixth year. At least 3,990 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Ireland encourages alcohol constrain DUBLIN, Ireland - Irish politicians and police urged the nation Monday to have fun during St. Patrick's Day festivities - but not too much fun.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern called on celeb­rants to drink moderately "and not to get behind the wheel after doing it."

"There's no reason why people can't enjoy themselves and be part of the celebrations without going over the top," Ahern said in Washington, where he was presenting President Bush with a ceremonial bowl of shamrocks.

Police vowed to crack down harder than in previous years on rowdiness and drunken driv­ing, which typically follow the parades in Dublin.

Suicide bomber leaves at least 43 dead

Paterson sworn in following scandal

New York's first black governor succeeds Eliot Spitzer, eager to move past predecessor's scandal

New York Gov. David Paterson speaks to a joint session of the legislature after being sworn in at the Capitol in Albany Monday.

"This transition today is a historic message to the world. That we live by the same values that we profess, and we are a government of laws, not individuals," Paterson said.

Paterson took the oath of office from Chief Judge Judith Kaye, who ascended to the pinnacle of the state's highest court in 1993 after former Chief Judge Sol Wachtler was caught threaten­ing and harassing an ex­lawyer.

Paterson, 53, rose from the lieutenant governor's office after Spitzer resigned last week amid allegations that he hired a call girl from a high-priced call girl service.

"We move forward. Today is Monday. There is work to be done," Paterson said.

"There was an oath to be taken. There's that trust that needs to be addressed. There are issues that need to be addressed.

Paterson, according to ex­perts, was at his Columbia County farm house south at the time of Spitzer's swearing in.

Where Spitzer's 14-month tenure was marked by part­i­san sniping, Paterson, a fol­low Democrate, reached across the aisle in his remarks from the or­ate Assembly chamber. The crowd gave the new governor a two-minute standing ovation and chanted "David! David! David!"

"What we are going to do from now on is what we always should have done all along," the former state sen­ator said. "We're going to work together.

Legislators gave Paterson hearty applause when he called for cooperation, and lauded the "hard work" made by Republicans in the budget, and Paterson also promised to root out corruption at the Executive. The 14-month tenure was marked by part­i­san sniping, Paterson, a fol­low Democrat, reached across the aisle in his remarks from the or­ate Assembly chamber. The crowd gave the new governor a two-minute standing ovation and chanted "David! David! David!"

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Kosovo
UN, NATO troops clash with Serbs
Repossesion of courthouse causes protests; 63 wounded in attacks

Associated Press
KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Kosovo — Serb demonstrators and police briefly clashed with peacekeepers Friday, as NATO soldiers and police continued their effort to establish order in Kosovo since it declared independence from Serbia last month.

The Serbs traded gunfire with U.N. forces in hours of clashes that wounded at least 63 U.N. and NATO forces and 70 protesters outside a U.N. courthouse.

The clashes began when the U.N. stormed the courthouse in the divided northern town of Kosovska Mitrovica just before dawn to pull out protesters who had been trying to take it for three days to protest Kosovo’s independence.

Hundreds of Serbs swarmed the area, blocking three red-and-white U.N. police vans as they moved through the angry crowd and ordering the officers to open the doors. About half of the 53 arrested Serbs went free. The rest were taken out in armored vehicles and were released by the U.N. after questioning.

Hamas military police said they came under fire from protesters and shot back as they evacuated wounded officers. Machine-gun bursts could be heard until midday, although it was not clear who was firing. At least one U.N. vehicle and one NATO truck were set afire.

The U.N. said later it was pulling out of the Serb-dominat­ed northern half of the town because of the shooting.

NATO helicopters hovered above the city, but NATO troops remained, but the U.N. withdrew could fuel a widespread Kosovo Serb desire to split from largely ethnic Albanian Kosovo and rejoin Serbia.

Predominantly ethnic Albanian Kosovo has been under U.N. con­trol since 1999, when NATO launched an air war to stop Slobodan Milosevic’s crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists.

Serbia, which considers the territory the heartland of its religious homeland, says Kosovo’s declara­tion of independence was ille­gal under international law.

The Serb minority dominates about 15 percent of the territory in northern Kosovo, including about a third of Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo’s second-largest city.

“We will protect you just like we protect the Serbs in Serbia,” Slobodan Samardzic, Serbia’s regional government minister for Kosovo, told the protesters.

He urged them to continue protesting with the goal of keep­ing Kosovo in Serbia. Monday’s clashes came exactly a month after that Western-backed declara­tion.

“We will reach the goal only if we are patient, smart and organ­ized and if we believe in what we want to accomplish,” Samardzic said in the clearest indication yet that Serbia’s government is orchestrating the protests.

Contributors to the NATO force said 27 Polish officers, 15 Ukrainians and about 20 French soldiers were wounded, with eight French troops taken to a hospital. One of the French sol­diers suffered head wounds from the explosion of a NATO mortar cock­tail, though none had serious injuries. Authorities did not say how the other peacekeepers were wounded.

Hospital officials said most of the civilians suffered injuries from stun grenades, tear gas and explosive devices. One struck in the eye by a bullet was in critical condition.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the vio­lence and pledged that the U.N. will continue “to take measures required to implement its mandate,” to administer Kosovo, spokeswoman Michele Montas said.

Luncheon
continued from page 1
— worked as an admissions coun­sellor at the University of Notre Dame, and then moved to work for 22 years at AT&T in sales, where she became the first African-American to manage a national account with Volkswagen.

Her job at AT&T required her to move around the U.S. and abroad. Dawning said one must be open to the next step ahead in corpo­rate America.

“Change is the only thing that is certain,” Dawning said. “You need to embrace it and move quickly.”

Dawning made a major career move when she left AT&T, and said it is the most important thing she has ever done.

As superintendent, Dawning said she had the chance to lead leadership lessons. “One such lesson was that no one is right all the time,” Dawning said.

“After you graduate you leave behind the town years where you think you know everything, and realize that you still have a lot to learn,” Dawning said.

Dawning told of a time when as the superintendent she was asked by a concerned parent to review the lyrics to a song that one of the high school marching bands was going to play in an upcoming parade. Dawning looked at the lyrics on the Internet and did not approve. She told the band to play a dif­ferent song. The story pro­ceded to be picked up by one hundred different news venues, including CNN and Sports Illustrated, and was spoofed on “Saturday Night Live.”

She ended up telling the par­ticipants that if they got up a peti­tion the band could play the song in the parade, which they did. That did not stop Dawning from getting a barrage of e­mails and requests for inter­views.

“If you say nothing it dies a natural death,” Dawning said about her handling of the media.

She learned an important lesson from this experience. “You have to learn how to recover because you can’t always get it right,” Dawning said.

Dawning also offered advice to students about how they can be more successful leaders. She stressed that a good leader lets other people know that they are valued. She also spoke of the importance of good communica­tion, and critical thinking skills.

Balance and being able to pace yourself are also trade­marks of a good leader, Dawning said. It is also impro­tant, she said, to get involved in the community around you.

“It gives you a greater sense of purpose,” Dawning said.

Dawning summed up her talk by reminding the audience to be conscious of our legacies.

She asked, “When you take your last breath and look back on your life, what do you think about it?”

Contact Nikki Taylor at ntaylor10@stautmans.edu

Career Opportunity
Still looking for a distinguished career that rewards you mentally and financially?

Xerox has Services and Solutions Executive positions available in its largest revenue producing entity...

Atlantic Coastal Operations
Washington, DC – America’s most affluent & educated city
Charlotte, NC – America’s fastest growing metro area

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Submit résumé by 11:59pm on March 23, via Go IRISH website

Pre-Night/Presentation: March 27 (7:00-8:30pm) in DeBartolo Hall
On-Campus Interviews: March 28 (8:30-4:00pm) in Flanner Hall

Please recycle
Wall Street undergoes seesaw trading

Wall Street recovers as investors grab bargain stocks following buyout of Bear Stearns

**Markets**

**Dow Jones**

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**Commodities**

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**Exchange Rates**

**In Brief**

Paulson praised for economic tactics

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, the consummate Wall Street baron who amassed a fortune at investment bank Goldman Sachs, is applying his insider knowledge to help manage a credit-market meltdown.

Known as "Hank the Hammer" when he led Goldman Sachs, Paulson is winning praise for using hard-nosed Wall Street tactics to strike deals seen as critical to coping with the worst crisis since the financial markets since the savings and loan crisis of the early 1990s.

Paulson leads the President's Working Group on Capital Markets, which briefed President Bush at the White House on Monday. He said the president was "quite pleased" with the results of the marathon negotiations over the weekend that resulted in a deal for the sale of troubled investment house Bear Stearns Cos. to JPMorgan Chase & Co.

**Industrial production hits record low**

WASHINGTON — Industrial output fell in February by the biggest amount in four months, providing yet another gloomy assessment of the economy's health.

The Federal Reserve said Monday that output at the nation's factories, mines and utilities dropped by 0.5 percent in February, the biggest decline since a 0.6 percent fall last October.

It was a far weaker reading than the slight increase of 0.1 percent that many analysts had been expecting. It served to underscore the severity of the current economic slowdown.

Daniel Meckstroth, chief economist for the Manufacturers Alliance/MAPI, said he believed that the manufacturing sector fell into the worst recession in October and the overall economy followed in December.

"The economic shock of a housing collapse, credit crunch, including financial sector turmoil, and sky-high oil prices have squeezed consumers' budgets to the point where there is no growth left," he said.

**Wall Street clawed back from sharp losses Monday as investors snapped up bargain stocks following JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s buyout of Bear Stearns Cos.**

The Dow Jones industrials returned from an initial drop of nearly 200 points to finish up about 21 points higher on Monday. He said the president was "quite pleased" with the results of the marathon negotiations over the weekend that resulted in a deal for the sale of troubled investment house Bear Stearns Cos. to JPMorgan Chase & Co.

**Conseco Inc. hires Morgan Stanley**

In its statement Monday saying it was declining the partnership's request for board seats, Conseco referred to Steel Partners' intention to hire an independent bank to look at ways to increase the value of the company.

"We share with Steel Partners, as well as other shareholders, a common interest in taking actions that will increase the value of the company," the company said in a statement attributed to Conseco CEO Jim Prieur.

In that regard, we have been working with a major investment bank for several months regarding strategic alternatives and plans to maximize shareholder value for Conseco. We believe, and hope Steel Partners would concur, that we already are exploring courses of action suggested by them," said Prieur, who took over as CEO 18 months ago.

Steel Partners had no immediate comment on Conseco's rebuff. A request for comment was left with a spokesperson for the partnership.

Conseco spokesman Tony Zehnder said the company had no comment on the strategic options beyond its written statement, but one expert said the insurer probably was shopping itself around.

"That's the most likely scenario," said Todd Perry, a corporate finance and governance expert at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business.

Alternatively, Conseco also might try to find a so-called "white knight" equity investor that would allow the company's current management to remain in place.

Separately, Conseco reported its fourth quarter financial results and said again that it plans to restate results for fiscal years 2003, 2006 and the first three quarters of 2007. As a result, its net income may swing by $15 million in any given period.
Yreka still has independence hopes
Northern California city sought separation from state 67 years ago

YIRKE, Calif. — In extreme Northern California, far from the bright lights of Hollywood and the foggy glamour of San Francisco, is a place unknown to most of the state's counties that once sought to make it a separate state called Jefferson.

The idea lasted only a few days in 1941 before it was quashed by the attack on Pearl Harbor. But for a few who remember the movement, the memory embodies the mindset of a people that still longs for more autonomy.

"We've always fostered an independent streak up here," said Calv Rinehart, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce in Yreka (pronounced YEE-kah), about 270 miles north of San Francisco.

More than six decades later, many residents of the mountainous region along the California-Oregon border continue to complain that their concerns are overlooked and undervalued by decision makers in more populated areas.

The State of Jefferson began as part political stunt, part political gesture. But today, the movement is made up of tourist-friendly, folksy interwoven with more serious themes of discontent.

In the Palace Barber Shop on Yreka's main drag hangs an animal skull decorated with the XIX, which was adopted by the Jeffersonians of 1941 to signify their disgust with being "double-crossed" by authorities.

"A lot of the laws and different things that affect us are voted on by people who've never been here and don't know anything about us," said John Lisle, a barber in the shop, which stands across the street that is said to have offered haircuts since Yreka was a Gold Rush town.

Another barber, Richard Pease, agreed: "When we vote on something, it doesn't make much difference at all because one precinct down there outnumbers the whole county here. You vote, but you feel like your vote is going down the tube."

Siskiyou County, home to Yreka, has about 46,000 residents spread over 4,400 square miles. Although registered Republicans have only a modest edge over registered Democrats, residents are often at odds with more liberal parts of the state.

The 1941 secessionists were angry about the region's poor roads, which became useless in winter.

"Our Roads are Not Passable. Hardly Juckassable," went the rallying cry.

These days, it's not hard to get to Yreka. Interstate 5, which runs the length of California, is a long, smooth route through fire-covered hills and Mount Shasta, a popular recreation spot.

But there is plenty of rosemary and sage over a long-standing government limits on logging and fishing, and a proposal to rip up a series of hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River to help struggling salmon runs.

Bill Overman, chairman of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, is among those concerned that removing the dams will hurt property values for people living along the reservoirs. Like previous leaders, he chafes at the feeling that outside forces are calling the shots.

"We would like to be able to take care of our resources and be able to manage them properly, and we can do that if we're just allowed to," Overman said.

The idea of forming a separate state out of the counties in far Northern California and southern Oregon has come up several times in the past.

"It's really a very, very old historical tradition in America that people sort of removed from the center of power resent the center of power," said Jay Mullen, professor of history at Southern Oregon University.

The 1941 movement got started when Gilbert Gable, mayor of Port Orford, Ore., announced that a number of Oregon counties should join with California neighbors to form a new state. His idea was to draw attention to the region's rotten roads.

In recent years, especially in Siskiyou County, and Yreka became the nascent state's temporary capital. Jefferson's attempt to secede nationally was thwarted by local chapters of the ACLU.

Jefferson's attempt to secede nationally was thwarted by local chapters of the ACLU.

But with the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, the movement was shelved.

Today, the brief chapter is memorialized on a Web site, jeffersonstate.com, and a barn south of Yreka painted with the name "State of Jefferson."

It's also recalled in the name of Jefferson Public Radio, based in Ashland, Ore. License plate holders reading "Resident of the State of Jefferson" are a popular item.

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Officials survey tornado damage

Twister knocks Atlanta's hotel rooms out of use

ATLANTA — Workers struggled to get their offices Monday through debris and snarled traffic days after a tornado struck downtown, but no long-term effects on the city's lucrative convention and tourism industry were anticipated.

The twister knocked hundreds of hotel rooms out of commission and significantly damaged the city's largest convention venue, the Georgia World Congress Center, said Spurgeon Richardson, president and CEO of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"We are open for business," Richardson told reporters.

A volleyball tournament next weekend was still on and expected to bring 35,000 people to Atlanta, though it will likely be scattered among venues throughout the metro area instead of concentrated at the World Congress Center as planned, officials said.

The Omni Hotel lost the use of nearly 500 rooms when the tornado struck Friday night but is still hosting a 600-person U.S. Department of Energy conference this week, said hotel marketing director Mike Sullivan.

At least 27 people were injured but no deaths were reported in the city. Two people were killed in northwest Georgia when a separate storm moved through Saturday.

Statewide, storm damage was estimated at $250 million. Gov. Sonny Perdue said he would ask the federal government to expedite a declaration of Atlanta as a disaster area.

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Attention Seniors!

Notre Dame’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions anticipates hiring Admissions Counselors this spring!

As part of the Undergraduate Admissions staff, the counselor is expected to make an important contribution to the recruitment and selection of the first-year class by managing relations with the prospective applicants, their parents, high school personnel and alumni in an assigned geographic area.

Responsibilities include extensive planning, travel and communication within the geographic area, assessment and evaluation of applications and conducting group/individual information sessions. Additional responsibilities will be assigned by the Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

Among our candidates, we will specifically seek an African American Recruitment Coordinator.

Candidates should possess a bachelor’s degree and strong familiarity with all aspects of student life at Notre Dame.

Essential qualities include strong communication and organizational skills, enthusiasm, diplomacy and the willingness to work long hours, including many evenings and Saturday mornings.

Please Note: Interviews will be scheduled after April 1.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2008.

Please forward your resume to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions

220 Main Building

Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director

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FRANCE

Funeral remembers last WWI veteran

PARIS — France unfurled its military majesty Monday in honor of its last World War I veteran, who died last week at 110, and all the other Frenchmen who fought in the conflict.

Flags fell to half-staff and the president unveiled a plaque at the gold-domed edifice where Napoleon is buried to honor Lazare Ponticelli and the 8.4 mil­lion other Frenchmen who served in a war that tore Europe apart.

The day of national commemo­ration was ordered by President Nicolas Sarkozy, who wants younger generations to remember the sacrifices of "les poilus" — an affectionate nickname meaning hairy or tough that France uses for its WWI veterans.

"Never again will anyone tell their grandchildren or great-grandchildren about the terrible life of the trenches," Sarkozy said.

"No more, will anyone hear the old 'pouls' tell his grandchildren or great-grandchildren: 'Never make war again.'"

"We will never forget them."

The solemn day began with a Roman Catholic funeral Mass attended by Sarkozy, government ministers, soldiers and tear-filled eyes of Pon­ticelli's family at the Saint-Louis Cathedral, part of the Invalides complex that honors France's military and houses Napoleon's tomb. "You didn't talk much but when you did, we felt your wisdom, that you doubted nothing and were determined," Ponticelli's grand­son, Patrick Largo, said during the Mass.

Flags representing all military divisions that fought in World War I were later ceremoniously unfurled.

Ponticelli was a French citizen for most of the past century and an unusual soldier who fought first for France, then for Italy, where he was born.

Representatives of the Italian Alpine brigade for which he fought, along with its French counterpart, attended the Mass.

The 1914-1918 conflict, known at the time as the Great War or the "war to end all wars," killed millions. Only a handful of veter­ ans from the war are still living, scattered from Australia to the United States and Europe.

Germany's last WWI veteran died on New Year's Day.

Monuments to battles and war dead cover swathes of France where trenches divided the landscape during the war, which left 1.4 million French soldiers dead. Ponticelli was born Dec. 7, 1897, in Betulla, northern Italy.

To escape a tough childhood, he trooped off at age 9 to join his brothers in France, eventually becoming a French citizen.

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What are you doing next summer?

May 13, to June 14, 2009

The London Summer Programme

General Information Session for summers of 2009 and 2010

Two sessions to choose from

Tuesday, March 18th at 11:45 in Mendoza's Jordan Auditorium

Tuesday, March 18th at 5:00 in DeBartolo Room 136

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EARLY ADMISSION

SUBMIT APPLICATION BY APRIL 5, 2008, FOR 2009 PROGRAMME

YOUR COMPLETED FILE WILL BE REVIEWED AND A DECISION WILL BE MADE BY JUNE, 2008

YOU CAN APPLY TWO WAYS:

- ON-LINE VIA THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES WEBSITE

- OR FILL OUT A HARDCOPY APPLICATION AND RETURN TO LONDON SUMMER PROGRAMME OFFICE

CONTACT: Liz Reagan 305 Brownson Hall 631-0622 Reagan.9@nd.edu
Obama and the end of time

Ever since I got this column, I've wanted to write about Barack Obama. At first, I wanted to praise him for being so positive and staying above the harsh rhetoric common to ambitious politicians. As a conservative (well, mainly), I wanted to express my gratitude for the fact that, from what I could tell, didn't hate me. It was so nice to see such a prominent Democrat refrain from constantly attacking Republicans of hating poor people and people of color. But I was mistaken, and that was just the beginning.

Indeed, the odiousness of his positions and policies was more than enough to infuriate me. His stance on the war was the most disturbing, as he was willing to go to war in order to protect the right of Israel to continue its oppression of the Palestinians. This is not to say that I believe in the violent overthrow of governments, but when a government is engaged in murder and mayhem on a large scale, it is incumbent upon those who have the ability to do so to act.

Obama's stance on the economy was also troubling. He promised to employ Keynesian economics, but in practice, he has done little to address the needs of the working class. The recovery has been uneven, with many Americans still struggling to make ends meet. The president has also been criticized for his handling of the debt and deficit, and for his failure to address the issue of income inequality.

Obama's foreign policy has been perhaps his most controversial. His administration has been criticized for its handling of the Middle East, and for its policies towards Pakistan and Afghanistan. The president has also been accused of being too soft on Iran and Russia.

Despite these criticisms, I believe that Obama could have been a great president. He had the opportunity to lead the country in a new direction, to address the pressing issues of our time. He had the chance to be a real leader, to make a difference. But he chose not to.

In the end, it is clear that Obama was not the leader that we needed. He was a man of the people, but he also had a vision for the future. He was a man of compromise, but he also had the courage to stand up for what he believed in.

Obama's legacy will be debated for years to come. But it is clear that he was not the savior that we had hoped for. He was a man of great promise, but he fell short of the mark.

Greg Taratola

Dome and Dome
There are certain videos posted on YouTube that have achieved Internet cult classics. An interview of a kid at a carnival, "Zombie kid likes turtles" has four million views. The video of the children's brothers in "Charlie hit my dog again" have been watched twelve million times on YouTube. A clip of a toddler with an endearing and comical laugh, simply titled "Hahaha," boasts 48 million views. These videos offer thirty seconds or a minute of humor, but give viewers a break. And while sites like YouTube have begun to play a role in the political process — evident with the abundance of videos on channels dedicated to covering the 2008 presidential primaries — videos that offer wisdom alone are largely ignored by the internet community.

"Victim to Panel: No to Death Penalty. No to Revenge," is one such clip. With only 1,700 views, it doesn’t even begin to compete on YouTube’s "most viewed" page, but the testimony offered in the video is perhaps the most insightful and comprehensive statement about the death penalty that I’ve encountered over the years. That has to count for something.

Andrea Laidman
High Sounding Words

מרטין שיין

Sheen deserving

When I received the e-mail regarding the speaker at the 2008 Commencement, one name came to mind: Martin Sheen. I was excited to hear that he is being awarded the Laetare Medal. Thus, I have to respectfully disagree with Jay Bowley (“Sheen doesn’t deserve Laetare Medal.” March 10). The fact that Sheen is not a "genius" does not disqualify him for the award. The fine actor has done much more than just play the Father in "The Exorcist." Sheen has fathered.

“Get off my plane!”

Martin Sheen

A Nobel Medal, an Emmy for Best Drama four straight years. That has to count for something. In it, Sheen plays President Josiah "Jed" Bartlet, the best fictional president ever (James "Get of my plane!" Marshall in Air Force One comes in a close second). Bartlet got a Rhodes scholarship from one college other than the University of Notre Dame. After getting a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, he won a Nobel Prize, taught at Dartmouth, served as Governor of New Hampshire and then saved the free world as President of the United States. He speaks fluent Latin, popularized the Bible and makes the Press Corps sing the Notre Dame Victory March. Obama/Hillary/McCain have nothing on this man. Our University owes a great deal to this fine President and the fine actor who plays him.

Finally, Martin Sheen has given us two other great actors of our day: Charlie Sheen and Emilio Estevez. Anyone who has seen "The Mighty Ducks" knows how crucial each of these sons was to the movie. Thus, Martin Sheen deserves the Laetare Medal for his great acting and the great acting sons he fathered.

Tae Kang
Senior
Kemen Hall
March 17

Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Dame must act in the interest of the vic­
tims of violent crime, and join in a
growing national discussion on shifting public funds from capital punishment to
straightforward initiatives that care for the
victims of violent crime and their survivors (including helping them to pay
for funeral expenses or obtaining grief
counseling). We must work toward
developing possibilities of giving justice to communities impacted by murder
without allowing emotion to become an
accepted basis for the law.

During this season of Lent, and espe­cially during Holy Week, we can consid­er the death penalty in another light, as
we recall the execution of Jesus. As
members of the Christian faith we follow
a man who forgave his killers even as he
nearied his last breath; we have a
responsibility to examine the modern
deadly crime and challenge the conven­tion­al wisdom regarding justice and
revenge that are often used to support
it.

Andrea Laidman is a senior political
scientist and peace studies major, and
the Director of Notre Dame Against
State Killing (ND ASK), a campaign for
a moratorium in Indiana. Her column’s
title recalls advice given to John Adams
by his wife, Abigail: “We have too many
high sounding words, and too few
actions that correspond with them.” She
can be contacted at abisinlled.net.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Beat Pyramid
These New Puritans
Label: Domino
Recommended Tracks: "Numerology AKA Numbers," "Elvis" and "MKK3"

The group relies heavily on drum samples, loops and other forms of electronic programming to form the backbone of their esoteric sound.

The band has pop chops as well, and they reveal them on the surprisingly catchy single "Elvis". One line claims "what will happen next, we have no clues," succinctly summing up what it's like to listen to this album. Here, an ominous bassline leads into a verse with the British Isles have produced another hip post-punk band, probably one hype that "we're being watched by experts". This then follows into a smoothly melodic chorus, with cryptic lyrics about God and waiting for something. It's a wild song, where in less than three minutes, the group proves that eccentricity and accessibility are not mutually exclusive.

"MKK3" is a quiet, brooding track that updates Joy Division's melancholy for today's short attention span culture in less than two minutes. "Navigate-Colours" continues the Joy Division fixation before dissolving into looped vocals and beats that fade in and out. In fact, nearly all of the songs on Beat Pyramid offer something of interest, with its seeming tug of war battle between conventional and offbeat sound. You might not think that the idea of mixing late '70s post-punk with modern day electronic programming could sustain a full length album, but These New Puritans pull it off surprisingly well. Perhaps that can be attributed to brevity, by not allowing anything to repeat for a long enough time to get boring. The twelve songs on the record, not counting the four sub-30 second interludes, play for a mere 35 minutes. For the non-mathematically inclined, that works out to around three minutes per song. Songs zip by, making their point and ending. It's a direct method of song writing that serves the group well.

These New Puritans have put forward an impressive effort with their debut album, challenging the listener and pushing post-punk in new directions. Not content to merely rip off their forebears, they borrow from other genres, melding everything together into one unique sound. There are moments where the bands that influence them shine through, but these are only for brief seconds. Each song is distinct, but overall the album has a cohesive sound, easily identifiable as the work of one group. If you're looking for something a little different than your normal fare, this would be a great place to start.

Contact Ryan Raffin at rraffin@nd.edu
It all started on April 26, 1999. The greatest game of all time was released in America for the Nintendo 64. Or so we thought.

Super Smash Bros. revolutionized the way multiplayer games would be made and played. Sure, Goldeneye came out first, but if you had a computer, multiplayer first person shooters were old hat. But no one had seen the likes of SS before.

In this game, we could live out all our Nintendo fantasies. We could beat the crap out of that annoying plumber Mario, or that yellow rat Pikachu. One could control the pink ball of terror that is Kirby the way he was meant to be used: to dominate all comers. Life was good.

Just two years later, on Nintendo's new console, Super Smash Bros. Melee was released on December 3rd, 2001. I admit. I bought a Gamecube just so I could play SSBM. Melee took what was perfect, and made it more perfect. If there were a lot of Melee haters around here who still continue to play original Smash Bros. You guys are sick and wrong. More characters, more moves, more stages, better graphics, Mele had it all. Or so I thought.

For nearly seven years, we lived and died in the world of Melee. We memorized every pixel of every stage, every move of every character, and argued passionately for our favorites. We did this for nearly seven years, until just last week.

On March 9th, 2008, the greatest day in the history of mankind, the pinnacle of human achievement bestowed upon the waiting faithful. Like manna from the heavens, Super Smash Bros. Brawl descended upon the ready masses. And it was good.

A cast of 35 characters including the likes of Sonic the Hedgehog and Solid Snake return to brawl on new stages with new moves. Being a lifelong Sega fan, I know how much of a disconnect it is to be playing as Sonic on a Nintendo console, but at least I can use the spiky blue blur to destroy Mario all I want.

Nintendo has simplified the controls a little bit, allowing new players to jump in easily. But there still remains a depth of control that allows veteran players to show off their skills (and lack of social lives) whenever necessary. There is also the addition of Final Smashes, which are random items that give players the ability to perform a single powerful move.

There are 41 stages, some old, some new, and some redesigned from previous games. Unlike the previous two games, almost all of them are dynamic. Obstacles can be destroyed, and things change as night turns into day, or winter turns to spring. It's amazing the amount of detail they have loaded into the stages, and I don't see myself getting tired of any of the levels soon.

Besides that, they've added a richer single player game. While Melee attempted to have a single player adventure, it was weak and shallow. Brawl's single player game has much more depth and fun, but still pales in comparison to the times when you can play with three of your friends. After all, this was mean to be a multiplayer game.

While I don't have Wii myself, I can walk down the hall and into any room and find people playing the game. Much like I did with Mele, I can definitely see myself buying a Wii just for this game. And I bet I'm not the only one.

While admittedly fantastic multiplayer games like Halo, Rock Band, and Call of Duty 4 have stolen our hearts the past couple of years, we must remember to gather to praise and give thanks for the latest installment in the greatest multiplayer franchise that has ever existed. Let's brawl.

The views expressed in Scene & Heard are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Observer.

Mychal Stanley at wstanley@nd.edu

Super Smash Brothers fans can now wield the power of Link on the Nintendo Wii.

Mychal Stanley

Scene & Heard
NHL

Sharks' team-record 11-game winning streak ends

San Jose Sharks center Joe Thornton, right, grabs the puck from in front of Oilers right wing Zack Stortini, center, and Shark Jonathan Cheechoo, left, in the second period of an NHL game in San Jose, CA, on Sunday. The Sharks lost 2-1 in a shootout.

Associated Press

SAN JOSE — Just a month ago, Jeremy Roenick wasn’t sure he was_struggling. But San Jose Sharks would make the NHL playoffs, even with all their talent, experience and depth.

After the longest winning streak in franchise history, Roenick’s only remaining question is whether the Sharks can ride this wave all the way into June.

The Sharks’ 11-game winning streak ended Sunday night, but the 2-1 shootout loss to Edmonton still produced the Sharks’ 23rd point in 12 games. Led by a rejuvenated captain, a new defense core and a tireless goalie, San Jose has repaid to the doubters who saw the previous Stanley Cup favorites’ first 10 games as a disappointment — particularly the five before their winning run.

“We had that five-game losing streak, and when you’re in a playoff race and you get scared of actually missing the playoffs, it gets your attention,” Roenick, recalled a miserable trip from New Jersey to Philadelphia right before the streak began. “Everything started going right the other night, and it just built on itself. It’s an energy, and everybody thrives off it. We feel really confident right now.”

With 93 points, the Sharks (42-21-3-6) have leap three points ahead of Anaheim and four in front of Dallas in the tight Pacific Division after mostly trailing for 47 months. This season, the Sharks have won seven games in front of a sellout crowd.

“There is a little bit of luck, we might be able to reel Detroit in at this point,” Roenick said. “But you want to just keep on plugging and win the games in hand.”

San Jose also has two games in hand on both of its division rivals, putting the Sharks in control of their own destiny to avoid a rough final round playoff matchup. The Pacific winner will get the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference postseason, while the second- and third-place teams are almost certain to play each other in the first round.

Just in case the players forget, Wilson’s typically detailed-oriented staff has posted a spreadsheet outside the locker room with every playoff contender’s point total and remaining schedule.

“Absolutely, every single day,” defenseman Craig Rivet said when asked if he checks the standings. “Guys are very aware of what’s happening. We’re in a dogfight to try and get second place. Guys know the repercussions if we don’t. We want to be the team that has the home-ice advantage.”

The Sharks seemingly have had every advantage ever since defensemen Brian Campbell arrived from the Buffalo Sabres two games into the winning streak. Campbell, a two-time All-Star and a cornerstone of Buffalo’s back-to-back conference finalists, has been even better than San Jose expected. He immediately assumed a lead role on the Sharks’ power play, logging heavy minutes and scoring 11 points in 10 games.

Maybe Joe Thornton is rubbing off on him: Campbell is living at his childhood buddy’s Silicon Valley home until he finds a place.

“It’s easier to play on this team with as much talent as we have,” Campbell said. “Everybody on the ice is capable of scoring. I feel pretty fortunate to be in a lineup like that.”

While Campbell was the Sharks’ biggest addition, Patrick Marleau seems like a new player as well. After struggling mightily through the first 60 games, Marleau has been outstanding since the trade deadline passed.

He has six goals and three assists in the 10 games since he learned he would stay in teal, including the Sharks’ only goal against Edmonton. Marleau insists the trade deadline made no difference to him, even when his deparure from his only NHL team appeared to be part of every rumor emanating from Canada.

“He can say that he wasn’t worried all he wants,” Roenick said. “The fact of the matter is that we all got worried at that time, not just Patty. After it did pass by, I think he did settle down and put those worries out of his mind. This is a game for the free of mind, and if you get cluttered, you’re going to look out of place. I think he feels much better for it. Everybody has been waiting for Patty to get going, and he told us he was going to get going, and he has.”

Evgeni Nabokov is likely to get his third night off all year when the Sharks play league-worst Los Angeles on Tuesday night, but San Jose has won eight straight road games — after winning 10 straight earlier in the season. The NHL’s best road team (25-5-3) is the first club in NHL history with two road winning streaks that long in the same season.

“We’ve been doing it on the road all season,” said Jonathan Cheechoo, the Sharks’ second-leading goal scorer with 22 after a slow start. “If we can just start doing it at home consistently, we’re going to be a tough matchup for anybody in the playoffs.”

Sharks top team in shoot-out; San Jose has earned 23 points in 12 games despite disappointing start to season

The Observer toll the Observer CLASSIFIEDS Tuesday, March 18, 2008

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3-4 bdrm. 3 bath home close to campus, safe, cathedral ceilings, fireplace, 2-car garage, 10x20 deck, deluxe appl.


Ode to Phi in my life in my heart in my face Engineering to Accounting Independence Tony’s my roommate I’m Phi

PERSONAL

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UNPLANNED PREGNANCY Do not go it alone. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance please call St. Joe Dunn, Off. at 1-79180. For more information, visit our website at http://esan.edu/apartments/pregnancy.html or see our weekly ad in The Observer.

Adoptive, Active, loving couple, teacher and business owner, with more than enough to share your newborn with care, warmth and love.


If you or someone you care about has been sexually assault-

ed, visit http://onnd.edu/depart-
ments/rape.shtml
New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte delivers a pitch Monday during the Yankees' 8-4 win over the Boston Red Sox. The Yankees will play a spring training game today against the Virginia Tech Hokies.

**In Brief**

**Harmon to coach US men's tennis team in Beijing**

First Andy Roddick, now Patrick McEnroe.

The United States' men's tennis team at the Beijing Olympics will be missing the top player and the captain from the squad that ended the country's 12-year championship drought in the Davis Cup. McEnroe told the U.S. Tennis Association he did not want to return as Olympic tennis coach, a job he held at the 2004 Athens Games. Instead, Rodney Harmon will lead the American men in Beijing, pending U.S. Olympic Committee approval.

"I just felt like, 'I've been there, I was lucky enough to have the experience,'" McEnroe said Monday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I've been the captain for eight years. It seemed like a good opportunity for someone else to have that experience."

**Study questions results of growth hormone use**

"NEW YORK — Athletes who take human growth hormone may not be getting the boost they expected. While growth hormone adds some muscle, it doesn't appear to improve strength or exercise capacity, according to a review of studies that tested the hormone in mostly athletic young men.

"It doesn't look like it helps and doesn't look like it harms," said Dr. Hau Liu, of the National Institute of Aging, who analyzed the studies. "It brings attention to how we look at things in perspective."

**Indiana forms committee to search for new head coach**

**BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — While Indiana prepares for its first-round game in the NCAA tournament, the school said Monday that a former trustee will head a 10-member committee to search for a replacement for disgraced coach Kelvin Sampson.**

The head job became vacant last month when Sampson resigned amid allegations of NCAA violations. Dan Dakich, an assistant under Sampson and a former Indiana player and assistant under Bob Knight, took over as interim coach for the rest of the season. He is the only candidate for the head job, which will be given to the new coach.

Harry Gonso, a former Indiana quarterback and attorney, will lead the search committee, which includes athletic director Rick Greenspan and former Indiana player and assistant under Bob Knight, took over as interim coach for the rest of the season.

"I really had a new appreciation for life after that," Jeter said. "I think it brings attention to how precious life is. You realize it's going to be a special trip and you can't take anything for granted. This really puts things in perspective."

**Yankees to play game at Virginia Tech**

Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Like most major leagues, the New York Yankees don't get too excited about Grapefruit League games, especially when a bus trip is involved. Tuesday's spring training road trip will be different.

Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and the Yankees will board a bus at their Tampa, Fla., training complex to catch a flight to Virginia, then a bus to Blacksburg for an exhibition game they all want to play. The Bronx Bombers vs. the Virginia Tech Hokies.

"All the players are looking forward to it," Jeter said Monday. "The players that can't want to. I'm sure it will be emotional, especially for the student body."

It was 11 months ago this college town became the focus of a horrific nation after a gunman killed 32 people on campus, and then himself.

"People around the world rallied behind Virginia Tech and the community, and the Yankees were among the organizations that offered overwhelming support, donating $1 million to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund and asking if they could come play a game. They'll do it Tuesday afternoon in a stadium packed with 5,000 students who won a lottery for tickets, 1,000 faculty and staff, and victims of last April 16th. Virginia Tech coach Peter Hughes still gets choked up when he thinks about that day, and the one coming.

"Everywhere we've got guys that talk and guys that do things," the second-year coach said. "And when the Yankees call and say, 'Hey, we want to help out. We've got to do something. Here's our idea: we want to come play and here's a million dollars. How proactive is that? It blows you away, their generosity.'"

The Yankees have their own history with massive tragedy, playing in the same city where the attacks on the World Trade Towers claimed thousands of lives on Sept. 11, 2001. "I really had a new appreciation for life after that," Jeter said. "I think it brings attention to how precious life is. You realize it's going to be a special trip and you can't take anything for granted. This really puts things in perspective."

**NCAA Basketball**

Mt. Saint Mary's vs. Coppin State

7:30 p.m., ESPN

**NBA Basketball**

Nets at Bulls

8:30 p.m., CSN

Celtics at Rockets

9:30 p.m., TNT

around the dial
Woods looks to maintain perfect 2008 in Florida Swing

Associated Press

DORAL — The outcome has never been more inevitable. Tiger Woods has never looked so invincible.

The world’s No. 1 golfer faced a 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole at Bay Hill, and the moment he settled over the ball and the crowd grew quiet, it no longer mattered that Woods had not made a putt this long all week.

This one was for the win.

For most players, making such a clutch putt would be a career highlight. For Woods, it’s more like a summer rerun.

“You know what he’s going to do, right?” Arnold Palmer whispered to those around him right before Woods rapped his putt down the slope and watched it turn sharply to the right and tumble into the cup for a one-shot victory.

For Woods, it is the ultimate thrill.

“It’s knowing that you have an opportunity to end the tournament, and it’s in your hands,” he said. “Whether you do it or not remains to be seen. It’s like having the ball with a nett. But net.”

For Woods, it is the ultimate test.

“Whether you do it or not want it?” Steve Stricker said Monday. “You think that one of these times, he’s not going to get it done. But he continues to do it. And now you expect it. You just learn with him that nothing is unexpected.”

Woods’ latest victim was Bart Bryant, who did everything right and never felt so helpless. Bryant twice made birdie to tie Woods for the lead, shot a 31 on the back nine to rally from a four-shot deficit.

He heard a roar that rattled the trailer, and Bryant didn’t need one. Bryant twice made birdie to tie Woods for the lead, shot a 67 in stifling heat and waited in the scoring trailer to see if Woods could beat him. There was no television in the trailer, and Bryant didn’t need one.

“He heard a roar that rattled the trailer, and Bryant forced a smile and slowly shook his head.”

That’s why he’s Tiger Woods,” he said.

Stricker felt that way outside Chicago the second week in September, when this winning streak started. He had a one-shot lead in the final round when he got to the 12th hole, looked down toward the green and saw Woods make a 56-foot birdie putt to catch him. Woods went on to a two-shot victory.

He can sympathize with Bryant.

“That’s all you can do sometimes is shake your head and laugh,” Stricker said. “That’s what it’s getting to be — laughable.”

Golf is more global than it was a half-century ago, so Woods’ winning streak is complicated. This is the third time he has won at least five in a row, and he also won on the European Tour last month, shooting a 31 on the back nine to rally from a four-shot deficit.

And he won the Target World Challenge in December, although that doesn’t count because it was a charity event that Woods hosts for 16 top players from the world ranking.

For what it’s worth, Woods won by seven shots.

Woods is so dominant that he has won six of his last eight times on the PGA Tour, the exception being a runner-up finish to Phil Mickelson at the Deutsche Bank Championship on Labor Day. He is an incredible 16 for 25 since the 2006 British Open.

“What he’s doing now, you can’t even fathom it,” Bryant said. "You just can’t explain it. It’s just incredible. Just what he did today is more evidence of this weird zone he’s in. And he’s been in it his whole life.”

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To download the application and gather information, visit www.prcsc.org.

The PRSC is a non-profit organization committed to improve the quality of life in communities with limited economic resources. By matching volunteer interest and skills with the needs of the community, the PRSC promotes the well being of the residents while providing enriching experiences of volunteer work.
Tennessee Women's Basketball

Tennessee earns top seed in the women's NCAA tourney

Connecticut, Maryland and North Carolina fill out top four spots; rival Lady Vols and Huskies could meet in finals

Associated Press


Those No. 1 seeds — all familiar powers to college basketball fans and all previous winners — anchored the NCAA women's tournament bracket, with the Lady Vols opening defense of their championship in the Oklahoma City Regional.

Connecticut and Tennessee didn't meet this season for the first time in 13 years. That could change April 8 in Tampa, where the first of the top seeds was to play for the national championship.

Before the two could meet, Connecticut must get through new rival Rutgers. The Huskies are the top seed in Greensboro, and the Scarlet Knights are No. 2. Rutgers handed Connecticut its only loss this season.

"With so many teams to choose from, it's kind of ironic," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said. "I guess Rutgers is the No. 8 seed in the tournament and that's hard to believe, but I guess they are. If I were them, I'd be questioning a little bit what's going on.

Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer stared at the television in disbelief when the announcement was made that the Scarlet Knights would have to face Connecticut to advance to the Final Four.

"I didn't think there was any way on God's earth that this would happen," Stringer said. "I am just stunned. This is a mindblower. I just assumed that they would ask us to go through North Carolina, they have a very similar style to our play and we didn't see them this year. If I were a betting woman, I would have lost all my money today.

The No. 1 seeded Huskies (32-1) will open against No. 16 Cornell on Sunday in Bridgeport, Conn. UConn, ranked atop the AP poll for 12 of the final 13 weeks, is hoping to get to the Final Four for the first time since 2004. The Huskies lost to LSU in the regional final last season. Connecticut's four seniors have added motivation: If they don't make it to Tampa, they would become the first Huskies' class in 20 to have never made it to the Final Four. The Huskies are led by freshman star Maya Moore, who became the first Big East freshman to win Player of the Year.

North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell, however, was clearly frustrated by her team's draw. She had lobbied for the Tar Heels to be sent to Greensboro — about an hour west of the Chapel Hill campus — after they won the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament there last week. Instead, her team might have to face second-seeded LSU in New Orleans for the right to go to the Final Four. If that happens, it would be the fourth time in six years North Carolina has had to face a lower-seeded team playing close to home.

"I don't really have any thoughts," Hatchell said when asked about the draw.

"We're just ready to play. I'm going to wait until after the tournament's over to say anything."

The Tar Heels open play on Sunday against Bucknell. LSU and senior Sylvia Fowles have made the last four Final Fours. First-year coach Van Chancellor hopes to continue the streak and finally win a national championship for the Lady Tigers.

The only real surprise among the top seeds was Maryland getting the No. 1 in Spokane over Stanford, which was No. 2. Maryland lost in the semifinals of the ACC tournament for the Lady Tigers.

"I think sometimes it's hard (because) people don't see us play," Stanford coach Tara VanDerveer said. "If the world was fair, it would turn the other way. We have a great team, great leaders. We have great players. We're really excited about playing in the tournament."

While the Big East and Big 12 both have eight teams in the tournament, there are nine first-timers — Cleveland State, Cornell, East Tennessee State, Fresno State, Miami (Ohio), Murray State, Texas-San Antonio, UTEP, and Wyoming.

"I want to congratulate our players," UTEP coach Keitha Adams said. "Young ladies, you've made history today."
EU, Australia oppose boycott of Beijing Games over Tibet

Associated Press

BRUSSELS - KIRANJU, Slovenia — Amid escalating violence in and around Tibet, the message from around the world was clear: "Let the games begin."

South African nations and Olympic committees said Monday they're against boycotting the Games of the Beijing Olympics over China's handling of the unrest in Tibet, and pointed to cases of genocide that have occurred in other regions of the country.

"Under no circumstances will we support the boycott. We are 100 percent unanimous," Patrick Hickey, the head of the European Olympic Committees, told The Associated Press. The EU sports ministers and Olympic committees said sports should not be linked to such a political issue and that previous Olympic boycotts had limited impact.

"Not one world leader has come out with the suggestion of a boycott and no one has put forward the idea of a boycott," European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said in a statement. "There is a real danger that a boycott would only harm those who are most victimized by the Chinese government’s policy towards Tibet." The European Commission is the executive branch of the EU.

United Nations Security Council Chairman Sergio Vieira de Mello was killed by a bomb while on a mission in Iraq. Vieira de Mello, 58, was working to establish a mission to help bring peace to the violence-wracked country.

On Tuesday, Tibet's governor said the Chinese government had decided to implement a three-month, strengthened control and management of the region. The announcement came as troops fanned out to check problems that have spread to three neighboring provinces.

Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, who spoke in Washington on Monday, said he was concerned about developments in Tibet. "Australia strongly condemned the violence and destruction that was occurring in Tibet. We were hoping to see progress in the situation," Downer said.

The IOC "should stand up and say, 'The way these people are being treated is not acceptable,'" the South African swimmer Charlize Tersteeg said. "It can bring humanity back. It's a way of erasing the brutality that's happening there."

The head of the Dutch Olympic Committee, said it was not the role of the IOC to take a stand.

"We would like to underscore that efforts to politicize the holding of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in China are unacceptable," the government said.

"It is not the role of the IOC to take the lead in addressing such issues as human rights or political matters, which are most appropriately addressed by governments or concerned organizations," Coates said.

On Monday, Tibet's governor promised leniency to anti-Chinese protesters who turned themselves in before the end of the day, as troops fanned out to quell sympathy protests that have spread to three neighboring provinces.

The fiercest protests against Chinese rule in almost two decades have embarrassed China's communist government and hurt its efforts to have a smooth run-up to the Aug. 8-24 Olympics.

Europe has never questioned the right for the Chinese to stage the games. On Friday, a summit of EU leaders criticized China's response to demonstrations in Tibet but did not threaten a boycott of human rights grounds.

"Our countries are doing business there," Bayall said. "Everybody is going there. Economic relations between the 27-nation EU and China are moving closer. Bilateral trade doubled between 2000-05 and reached $370 billion in 2006. Europe is China's largest export market and China is Europe's prime source of imports."

Zver has argued that political pressure through sports doesn't work, saying the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games was largely ineffectual at a political level. At the same time, it badly hurt the Olympic movement.

Olympics

EU, Australia oppose boycott of Beijing Games over Tibet

World 50-meter butterfly champion Roland Schoeman, however, supports calls for the IOC to take a stand.

"There is great concern about what happens in Tibet," Schoeman said. "We, as athletes, think we should have the time to do our sport and not get involved as a tool for politics."

"Either you put an end to this or the IOC is against China," Coates said. "Either you put an end to this or the IOC is against China."

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Howard leads Magic past Cavaliers with 23
Jefferson has double-double in Timberwolves win; Grizzlies snap four-game skid; Bibby drops 23 on Wizards

Associated Press
The Orlando Magic found their shooting touch beyond 23 feet. Rashard Lewis made three of five 3-pointers in scoring 21 points, Dwight Howard had 23 points and 12 rebounds and the Orlando Magic beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 104-90 Monday night.
Orlando shot better from 3-point range (43.8 percent) than it did overall (39.5 percent). The Magic won despite getting outrebounded 22-3 on fastbreak points and 46-34 in the paint.

"The main focus is to get the ball inside to Dwight," Lewis said. "Obviously he demands so much attention and they can't guard him 1-on-1. They try to take what they give us.
"If we can get the ball inside to him, we're going to be a different team." Howard agreed, saying it was key to outrebounding the Cavaliers.

The Magic began the game with a 10-0 run, but the Cavaliers answered with 26 points in the first quarter. Orlando then scored 34 points in the second and never looked back.

Howard finished with 15 points and 13 rebounds. Lewis added 19 points and 11 rebounds.

Cleveland finished the first half getting six of seven shots — including a 3-pointer and layup from Gomes — to take a 47-44 lead at intermission. Gomes had 15 in the first half for Minnesota and Snyder. Thomas had 13 for the Clippers and Maggette 11.

Cavs lose as Timberwolves snap 6-game skid
Cedar Rapids, Iowa (AP) - The Timberwolves snapping their six-game losing streak with a 47-44 victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night.

The Timberwolves' defensive intensity was the key to their victory. They limited the Bobcats to 40 points in the first half and 43 in the second.

The Timberwolves held the Bobcats to 37 percent shooting from the field and 23 percent from 3-point range.

Tracy McGrady had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets, who won their eighth straight game.

The Rockets led 104-90 Monday night.

Clippers win 104-90 over Cleveland
Cleveland (AP) - The Cleveland Cavaliers 104-90 to the Los Angeles Clippers Monday night.

The Cavaliers scored 20 points in the second quarter and never trailed.

The Clippers were led by Corey Maggette with 18 points and a double-double — 22 points and 14 rebounds — in his first game back from a lower back injury.

The Wolves outscored the Lakers 35-18 in the fourth quarter.

Maggette, who has scored at least 30 points six times in his career, scored 12 points and added two rebounds in the victory.

The Wolves are now 2-0-1 in the NBA's Northwest Division.

The Mavericks won 95-88 with 2:33 to play, but the Clippers could get no closer.

Clippers' guard Mike Miller had 21 points and six rebounds, helping the Memphis Grizzlies snap a four-game losing streak with a victory over the Charlotte Bobcats on Monday night.

Juan Carlos Navarro and Carlos Arroyo each scored 15 in the final period, with Navarro hitting a 3-pointer with 1:09 left to push the Grizzlies lead to 89-81 with 5:35 left.

The Grizzlies won 98-80 over the Bobcats in the final game of their four-game road trip.

Charlotte finished the first half of the streak with a 48-38 lead.

Grizzlies win 98, Bobcats 80

Milwaukee led 20-16 in the third quarter, but the Grizzlies outscored the Bobcats 31-10 in the final 12 minutes of the game.

Timberwolves 99, Clippers 88

Timberwolves' guard Deron Williams had 21 points and six assists for the Bobcats.

Williams had three quick points to open the period, Rashad McCants hit a 3-pointer and a long jumper before Kirk Snyder made two long-range jumpers.

McCants scored 16 points, Snyder 14 and Smith 11 for the Timberwolves.

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NBA

Howard leads Magic past Cavaliers with 23

Jefferson has double-double in Timberwolves win; Grizzlies snap four-game skid; Bibby drops 23 on Wizards

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Lease today and move into your brand new townhome for fall semester 2008.

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NCAA

continued from page 24

57, in the Conference USA championship game. They had previously lost their last two games as well, one against UTEP, before winning three straight in the conference tournament.

Janine Dodd leads the Mustangs in scoring with 15 points per game, followed closely by Delisha Willis with 12.3. Jillian Samuels shoots 38.2 percent from 3-point range for SMU. The Mustangs had an eight-game winning streak in the beginning of the season and a seven-game streak near the end.

The Irish have faced them twice, with each team winning once. The last game was in the 1983-84 season.

"Our fans should be able to go to the game."

Charel Allen
Irish guard

"We're really looking forward to playing again," Allen said. Allen expressed cautious confidence in her team's abilities to play deep into the tournament.

"Right now we are just so focused on SMU, so we will look ahead after we play them."

Charel Allen
Irish guard

If the Irish win, they will face the winner of No. 4 seed Oklahoma and No. 13 seed Illinois State, but Allen said the team isn't thinking about the second round.

"Right now we are just focused on SMU, so we will look ahead after we play them," she said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

WMU

continued from page 24

Gumpf said the team still has work to do on defense. She credited the defensive problems to the fact that the team has only been able to practice outside at Notre Dame twice this season. The weather has kept the team inside where they have spent most of their practice time focusing on hitting. "We're doing the best we can to get in reps," Gumpf said. "But once we get on dirt every single day I think we'll get a lot better."

One strong spot when the Irish are on the field has been the pitching of junior Britteny Bargar. Bargar has posted a 11-5 record so far this season along with a miniscule 0.89 ERA.

"I really don't know anything except they beat UTEP in the finals and came in third in their conference," McGraw said.

The team, McGraw said, was excited about the chance to play, 14 days after their last game. "I think we are definitely anxious to play," she said. "We had some referees come in on the other day just to stay in that game shape." McGraw said the team had been running to keep in shape. "We're really looking forward to playing again," Allen said.

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Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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The Riley Prize
in

Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism. Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 4:00 PM, Tuesday, March 25th to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.
**TENNIS**

**Nadal, Blake claim victory**

Davenport, Ivanovic dominate women’s Pacific Life Open play

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Defending champion Rafael Nadal defeated Donald Young in their first meeting, and set loss to defeat Carlos Moya in third-round matches Monday at the Pacific Life Open.

Nadal beat his 18-year-old American opponent 6-1, 6-3. Blake took a methodical 6-3, 6-4 victory over Moya.

Two-time women’s singles winner Lindsay Davenport bounced back from a second-set loss to defeat Chan Yung-Jan 6-4, 7-5, 6-2. Ana Ivanovic, ranked No. 2 and the top seed since Justine Henin is skipping the tournament, advanced with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Tatiana Garbin.

The 21-year-old Nadal, second in the rankings to Roger Federer, benefited from Young’s inconstancy. Although just some three points below Nadal in the rankings to Roger Federer, he struggled against Young’s inexperience.

"Obviously we had a huge edge in experience," Nadal said, describing how the match went. "I think he started very nervous. So I tried to score in the beginning, and he had some mistakes."

"I think that gives us a little more confidence going back. Plus most our players have only played there once, so freshmen and sophomores are undefeated at Mackey Arena," she said.

Irish guard Charel Allen, who lost at Purdue her sophomore year during the NCAA Tournament and during the regular season (65-54 on Dec. 7, 2005), said she feels more confident winning there than before.

"That’s what I was just discussing with [senior guard] Toyah Gaines, I was like ‘At least we won there so that feels good.’ But it’s a new season, we’ll see how it goes," she said.

Even though the Irish have not had a great deal of success at Mackey Arena, it still presents a clear advantage for the Irish.

They have a very winnable first two games (against No. 12 Southern Methodist and possibly No. 4 Oklahoma) before a likely showdown with Tennessee — the top-seed in the region.

And the location seems ideal. Instead of being shuttled off to Des Moines, Iowa, or Albuquerque, N.M. — two places known as bastions of Notre Dame women’s basketball fans — the Irish are playing instate where South Benders can easily support their team in person.

When they first heard the bracket pairing on ESPN’s selection show, Irish coach Muffet McGraw and her players unanimously said they were glad to be close to home because of the support their fans can give.

“Our fans are great at the home games and I feel they will make the trip to Purdue and that that will be so helpful for us,” Irish guard Charel Allen said.

Many Irish players are also from the Midwest, meaning that their families will be able to see them play. Sophomore guard Ashley Barlow, from Indianapolis native, said she received three or four text messages only minutes after the pairing was announced.

“I’ve already gotten a couple phone calls from my family... it’s about a 45 minute drive so they will all be there — all of them,” she said.

Irish forward Becca Bruszewski, who will play from Valparaiso, Ind., said she received five or six calls in the first 10 minutes after the Irish game was set.

Notre Dame got lucky this time. They limped into the NCAA Tournament with a couple bad losses, but still got precious home-state advantage in something that could prove to be a big factor in these opening rounds. And even with the bad karma they have in the Mackey Arena, the Irish took a more tuned-up version of their team for the March Madness.

“I’m proud of our team,” Allen said.

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BASEBALL

Weather postpones game

By LORENZO REYES and FRAN TOLON
Sports Writers

Back when Notre Dame head coach Dave Schrage spoke at the seventh-annual Opening Night Dinner in February, he spoke of Monday's Opening Day game against Texas-Pan-American as a day that would hopefully be filled with sunshine, green grass and most importantly for Irish fans—baseball.

Unfortunately for all those in attendance, there was only one thing these things present at Frank Eck Stadium for the St. Patrick's Day opener—and even that was in short supply. Due to inclement and wintry weather, action was suspended in the middle of the sixth inning with Texas-Pan-American up 3-2 and the bases loaded and two outs.

A make-up date of May 12 has been announced, but both squads are still working on the procedure of the remainder of the season. Several make-up scenarios are on the table. Either the action will be called a 2-2 tie or the game will be postponed to be completed at the point of the last full inning (a 2-2 tie) May 12.

The Irish bats seemed poised to break open the contest and give freshman starting pitcher Brian Dupra the early run support needed to pull off a victory when senior Brett Lilley ripped a double past the Chippewas first baseman. Sophomore David Mills then followed with a sacrifice bunt that pushed Lilley to third base. A.J. Pollock then singled up the middle to score Lilley and put Notre Dame up 1-0.

Junior first baseman Evan Sharpay's fielder's choice moved Pollock into scoring position, allowing classmate Jeremy Barnes to bring home Pollock, giving the Irish a two-run advantage.

Central Michigan would not go away quietly, and followed with a pair of runs of its own in the top of the inning, nullifying the lead. In a frustrating series of events for Notre Dame, Central Michigan used infield singles to chip away at Notre Dame's lead. With two runners aboard, Chippewas senior Noah Lankford's one-out, two-run double knotted the game at two. Dupra promptly retired the next two batters, leaving Lankford stranded.

Dupra run into some trouble, but managed to escape without any earned runs until the sixth frame, when he hit senior Jeff Hine at chine@nd.edu

The Irish will return to the diamond tomorrow when they face Xavier at the Frank Eck Stadium at 5 p.m. Freshman Ryan Sharpay will take the mound against the Musketeers in search of his first win of the season.

Today the Irish were trying to hold off a successful weekend where they won 2 of 3 games. Notre Dame was poised to sweep its three games in the Irish Baseball Classic in San Antonio this weekend before squaring off a seven-run lead against Texas-Pan American Sunday. The Irish beat Buffalo 13-1 Friday and shut out Southern Illinois 4-0 Saturday before falling to Texas-Pan American 10-8. With a 2-1 record for the weekend, Notre Dame improved to 7-2 on the season.

Junior right-hander David Phelps surrendered just one run on four hits in seven innings of work to pick up his second win of the season against Buffalo.

The Irish offense gave Phelps plenty of breathing room, record-

12 hits in the rout. Freshman third baseman Greg Sherry led the balanced Irish attack, going 3-for-3 with three runs scored.

Sophomore designated hitter David Milles went 2-for-2 with two RBIs. Sophomore hurler Steven Mazur and freshman Cole Horan each tossed a scoreless inning to close out the victory. Senior Mike Kepri, senior Troy Langford and junior Kyle Weiland kept the Chippewas at bay as junior second baseman Jeremy Barnes led the Irish to a 4-0 over Southern Illinois. Barnes pounded out three hits, including a seventh inning solo home run to put the game out of reach. Kepri and Langford combined to hold the bases in the seventh but Langford struck out the final two Chippewas batters of the frame to preserve the lead for Notre Dame. Langford worked a perfect inning and Weiland closed out the contest. Sophomore centerfielder A.J. Pollock went 2-for-4 with a run scored in the win.

The Broncos ended Irish hopes for a perfect weekend, scoring runs in the seventh inning to come from behind and match the win. The Irish took a big lead after scoring six runs in the fifth inning, but Bronco batters led off of the frame with a home run and the Irish couldn't hold on and squandered six runs of its own in the seventh to cut Notre Dame's lead to 7-6. The Broncos completed their comeback with three runs off of Mazur and Johnson in the eighth inning. Johnson took the loss for the Irish in his first decision of the season. Barnes went 2-for-4 with an RBI in the losing effort.

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BELLES

continued from page 24

Zambri, and their No. 2 singles, sophomore Michelle Mulder. Both Zambri and Mulder are strong top players for the Brits this season, each going 3-2. The real dividend is when they join forces to become Allison's No.1 doubles team, going 4-1 this season. Their next challenge will most likely be Saint Mary's No. 1 doubles, sophomore AndrewHorne.

"Winning our doubles will give us an advantage," Gilbert said. "We need to start off strong in each match, and keep the interest going throughout. We have a very good chance at beating them, so long as we play to our potential." The Belles travel to Albion today to take on the Brits in their conference opener at 3 p.m.

"Our matches are all going to be tight, as we need to step up our game," Gilbert said. "Giving up will not be an option. I believe we will rise to the occasion."

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Write Sports. Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
**ANOTHER UNFUNNY CROSSWORD**

**LIZ MURPHY & SARAH MUSCARELLA**

**Things to say after your roommate discovers your door is locked and you're the only one inside.**

**BLAcK DoG**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2008**

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**CROSSWORD**

**Across**

1 A shin
2 Decorative molding
3 Yolk shade
4 Un Rott"
5 "Look both ways before crossing," e.g.
6 Tea
7 In front of a hydrant, say
20 Notice for late ticket-buyers, maybe.
21 "Waking Devine" (1998 film)
22 Ignited
23 "Uh-oh"
27 Cool, in a cat
36 They might be near I.C.U.
39 Hair removal product
40 Tic-tac-toe loser
43 Atlanta
48 1986 Grammy Awards

**Down**

15 "I'm not mentioning Stuffy, all for me."
26 "Oh my bad dude, I just took a shower and must have "forgotten to unlock the door."
27 Hair
28 "Yeah man, I think the door lock is "busted or something."
33 Hair
34 "...and why not?"
35 Who was in "Bewitched"
39 "...and why not?"
41 "Waking Devine"
43 "In the name of the Rose"
44 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
45 Part of M.O.P.
46 "The Name of the Rose"
47 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
48 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
49 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
50 "I'm not mentioning Stuffy, all for me."
51 "Waking Devine"
52 "In the name of the Rose"
53 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
54 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
55 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
56 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
57 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"

**WILL SHORTZ**

36 Fear of "The Nancy"
37 School lady
38 Things hidden in 17, 25, 49 and 57-Across
39 Plan
41 "Loch Ness monster, e.g.
42 Octopuses
43 Umbera who wrote "The Name of the Rose"
44 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
47 Part of M.O.P.
48 "The Name of the Rose"
49 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
50 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
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56 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"
57 "1998 song by the Goo Goo Dolls that was #1 for 18 weeks"

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**HOROSCOPE**

**EUGENIA LIST**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Billy Corgan, 41; Rob Lowe, 44; Aye Orange, 22; Germane Bhrm, 47; Marilyn Monroe, 80; Arielle Dombasle, 48; Karen Russell, 44; Jerry Lewis, 80; Didier Lewis, 54.

**Happy Birthday:** Peace into unknown waters and learn something new. The more you have said to your/Wife or in your life experience, the easier it will be for you to find your way. Children or younger friends will make a difference in the way you are expected to advance because you are the ultimate to try. Your numbers are 1, 14, 17, 23, 34.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have to take the bad with the good today. Try to remain unbiased and positive when dealing with friends or relatives. Discussing older, political or controversial subjects will lead to fangs. 5 stars

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone is likely to try to make you feel guilty for something you want to do. Don't let this person ruin your/fun. Sometimes you simply have to do what is best for 2 stars.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Relate to someone who has more experience and who can help you see things clearly. If you want success, don't get involved in something or about a change at home, take a pass. Don't make a decision without being sure. 4 stars

**CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your heart into whatever you do. A change may not be your idea of a good thing, but, in the end, it will work in your favor. Don't become emotional regarding finances. Money makers will improve. 3 stars

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be your/own critic get the better of you. If someone makes you angry, don't fight it. Focus on making money and getting work out of the way rather than worrying over spending money in trying to please others. 3 stars

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be too concerned about who anyone else does. You can more easily make plans. Make plans will help you make profitable changes and eventually start new partnerships or pick up a new hobby. Love in the stars and romance is 3 stars.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Being successful will bring everyone from trying to ruin your star. Help include the book to Adams things from a different little differently. Someone special wants to get to know you better. 4 stars

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may find it difficult to keep your/characters under control especially when discussing matters that concern someone's family. Try not to tell this person what you think from what really important. 2 stars

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will really feel yourself as thinking that you have more than you do. It is difficult not to make promises or commitments that will put you in a good. A change of mind or heart may bring serious repercussions. 3 stars

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are pretty much in control, so follow through with your thoughts and actions and your timing will be impeccable. You can undertake any number of being consistent with something that means a lot to you. 3 stars

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pressure will put you on you to help a cause. If it is important to your work, reconsider your position and make a little of time. 3 stars

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You will get more done working from home today. An opportunity to ease up will appear and this will help you concentrate on the past. As you have a week you will have an interest in someone who is looking to make an investment or 3 stars

**Birthday Baby:** You are energetic, enthusiastic and determined to succeed. You are creative, ambitious and will not take on a challenge. You are serious-minded but love to have fun. 4 stars

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**THE OBSERVER**

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Lucky 13

McGraw sends team to NCAA tourney again

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will hit the dance floor for the 13th consecutive year.

The Irish (23-8) earned a No. 5 seed and will play Southern Methodist University Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in West Lafayette, Ind.

Last season, the Irish received a No. 9 seed and lost in the second round, 60-51 to No. 1 seed North Carolina after beating No. 8 seed California 62-59.

Notre Dame is 23-13 all-time in the tournament and won the national championship in 2001.

The end of the season was not kind to the Irish. They dropped their last two games, including their first-round Big East tournament game - a 64-53 loss to Pittsburgh. Notre Dame raced to a 14-2 lead, but went 8-for-27 in the half and was up only one at the break. Pittsburgh rebounded from shooting 25 percent in the first half to hit 14 of their 32 second-half shots, including 3-pointers to put it ahead for good.

"We want to get away from that (two game losing streak) and start a new streak and get busy at practice," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

The Mustangs (24-8) amassed the most wins in program history this season. They beat Texas-Ft. Worth Sunday, 73-59. They are currently ranked No. 12 in the Big East. The Big East, which Notre Dame, Pitt, and St. John's call home, starts their NCAA tournament play today against Britons, who are currently ranked No. 20 in the Big East.

The Irish did get their 12th win of the season Friday when they defeated Adrian 9-0.

With the offense's improvement, the Irish have gotten better on the other end of the floor. Sophomore Camilln Cnbnrt are currently ranked No. 1 in the Big East, with winning the conference co-championships.

Last Saturday, the Belles went up against Division II Indiana Wesleyan Wildcats, losing 6-3 and falling to 4-4. Saturday wasn't a complete failure for the Belles, however, as it gave them a chance to get back on the court and compete once more before Albion.

Gebert and freshman Jillian Hurley each continued their individual success in the singles division. Gebert won her match 6-2, 6-2, putting her at 4-4, and Hurley went 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, putting her to 7-3. On the doubles side, the duo of sophomore Lisa Rubino and freshman Betsy Reed were the only victors for the Belles, winning 8-4 and putting them at 3-3 as a pair.

Sophomore guard Melissa Lechti9er drives to the hoop during Notre Dame's 70-55 win over Seton Hall on March 1.

ND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

Irish head to Kalamazoo

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

After competing in tournaments in Arizona, Florida, California, and South Carolina over the past month, Notre Dame will head to Kalamazoo, Mich., to take on Western Michigan University.

Irish coach Deanna Gumpf hopes that the switch to a colder climate will do nothing to cool off her team's red hot hitting. The Irish scored 46 runs in five games at last weekend's Lowcountry Invitational in Charleston, S.C., including a 16-2 thrashing of Charleston Southern.

"We've gotten better offensively and that showed this past weekend," Gumpf said. "We hit the ball much better."

While she was satisfied with the offense's improve-

Junior pitcher Brittney Bargar pitches during Notre Dame's 3-0 win against Ball State April 18, 2007.