Laetare Medal brings controversy

Some upset by recipient Sheen's previous statements which clash with Catholic teaching

By JOHN TIERNY
New Writer

On March 2, Laetare Society members discussed awarding support for Undergraduate Honors Conf. (BOG) in this year's Commencement weekend for embracing the Catholic faith throughout his life. This announcement has brought controversy over whether Sheen, best known for his work in film and the NBC drama "West Wing," deserves the award for his positions on the war in Iraq, abortion and homosexual rights.

Father James McDonald the University's Associate Vice President, Counselor to the President, said the goal of awarding the medal is not to find someone who will not generate controversy even though this year's choice is unpopular with some. "Sheen" is an incredible man of deep faith," McDonald said. "Most what struck me was his genuine humility about himself as a believer in God. He's a man who's integrated faith in his public life in a very deep way."

see SHEEN/page3

Faculty, students debate global warming

Necessity of government intervention in environmental policy, student activism questioned

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

As the final part of the student-faculty debate series, two Notre Dame professors and two undergraduate students met Tuesday to discuss global warming and environmental policy.

Professor Dr. Mark J. McCreary, chair of the chemical and biomolecular engineering department, presented a background explanation of the issue of global warming, how solar radiation affects the climate and how the temperature changes as a result of this radiation.

"Until the late 1950s, no one knew that people have influenced earth's temperature," said McCreedy, adding that carbon dioxide levels have risen significantly over the past 50 years.

Presenting graphs that depicted temperature over a few thousand years, McCreary said the temperature has steadily increased in recent years.

"If the temperature has been steady for thousands of years and then just over 150 years takes a jump, you have to ask why," McCreary said.

On the skeptical side of the global warming debate, senior Bret Shapot questioned statistics suggesting global warming as a result of increased carbon dioxide levels.

see DEBATE/page 3

BOG

Majors seek funds for trip

Members discuss awarding support for Undergraduate Honors Conf.

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Senior communications studies major Sam Peterson visited Tuesday evening's Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting, seeking funds for a trip to the Undergraduate Honors Conference of the Southern States Communications Association in Savannah, Ga.

Peterson and three other communications majors submitted their senior presentations and attended the conference.

"This is a great opportunity for Saint Mary's to get recognition," Peterson said.

The group approached BOG to get funds for transportation, food, and room and board for the four seniors to attend the conference.

COR

Group sets agenda for upcoming year

By JOSEPH MCMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The Council of Representatives discussed different ways of integrating transfer students into the student body Tuesday.

It also discussed what issues should be on its agenda once student body president-elect Bob Reisch takes over for current student body president Liz Brown on April 1.

Representatives, who officially serve as members of the advisory body to the executive branch of student government, listed a number of issues they would like to see addressed, including the lack of funds for transfer students.

"We need a conscious effort to welcome transfers to the class," senior class president Bridget Keating said.

Student body council (SUB) manager Phillip Ross said transfer students "cluster together," and said more should be done to integrate them into campus life.

Judicial Council president Ashley Weiss, who is herself a transfer student, supported this idea.

“The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's University"
INSIDE COLUMN

The power of video games

Remember what the word pong means before college? I never actu­ally played it on the Atari as a little kid, but it started a revolution. My first video game was Super Mario Bros 3; my parents wouldn't let us have a Nintendo at our house, but they bought one and kept it at my grandparents' house. Whether it was to keep us from playing all the time or to get us excited about visiting our grandpar­ents all the time, I don't know but it resulted in both.

Since the glory days of Super Mario, when the cartridge only worked half the time and only two people could play at a time, video games have come a long way. Now I can play Call of Duty 4 with my cousins in Oregon and Washington, enjoying a fun game while keeping in contact with family members I typically wouldn't hear from except at holidays.

Some people look down on video games and say that they destroy childhoods and eyesight, creating introverted personalities and fuzzy minds, and I agree that there are some who become addicted to this virtual reality. For the most part, however, if you keep things in per­spective and remember that a great world exists outside of the TV screen, then these games can be a great way to relax and connect with friends. With increasingly advanced tech­nology being applied to more fields and in new ways, sometimes keep­ing up to date can be difficult — having skills in video games can help with this transition.

For example, surgeons who grew up playing video games make 37 percent fewer mistakes according to Marc Premsky, a CEO of Games2Train, a company which makes informational tutorials fun by encoding the information in the form of a video game. On their Web site are all types of games with topics ranging from Windows NT to sexual harassment, and companies can even request a game to be made for their own training purposes.

There are some other fun facts about video games. Did you know that Sonic the Hedgehog is based on the most famous video game characters ever; he was originally called jump­man, appearing in Donkey Kong in 1981. Since then he has appeared in over 200 video games so far. In addition to games, Mario has starred in 24 feature films, at least one movie, and its theme song has been the source of a number of gui­tar and symphony renditions, and there has even been one rock opera composed about him!

Check it out on youtube, by Jonathan Mann, I kid you not.

Anyway, regardless of games, shows or rock operas, Mario is cer­tainly a hero of mine.

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

Contact Dustin Mennella at dmennell@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and adheres to the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4501 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What is your favorite way to emit carbon?

Tracy Jennings
Junior
Breen Phillips

"Breathing."

Colleen Kelly
Junior
McGill

"I like to open my windows while the heat is on.

Lourdes Long
Junior
Breen Phillips

"Long, hot showerers."

Bettney Dudley
Sophomore
Farley

"Trying to find the on-campus engineering wind-tunnel... in my car."

Mike Gotch
Sophomore
Keough

"Eating beans and meat in the dining hall."

IN BRIEF

Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney will speak about "HERstory" today at noon in the Coleman Morse Study lounge as part of the new initiative sponsored by First Year of Studies featuring women in the Notre Dame community. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Marilyn Krysl, the 2008 Sullivan Prize Winner, will read from her prize winning collection of short stories called "Dinner with Obama" tonight at 7:30 in the Gold Room of the North Dining Hall.

The Notre Dame Peace Fellowship will hold a discus­sion called "What Can We Do to Call For Peace?" tonight at 7 in the Doulls Room of the LaFortune Student Center.

The film "Persepolis," which tells the story of a young girl living in Iran during the Islamic Revolution, will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on tonight at 7.

Ambassador Richard S. Williamson, US Special Envoy to Sudan will speak on "Human Rights: Principles, Politics, Performance and Darfur" on Thursday at 12:15 p.m. in Room 110, Notre Dame Law School.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

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

OFFBEAT

Girl sells Illinois-shaped Corn Flakes on e-bay

CHICAGO — Sounds a little flaky, but someone has offered more than $50 on eBay for a piece of breakfast cereal that is touted as a lookalike to the state of Illinois.

Two sisters listed "The Great Illinois Corn Flake" on the online auction site, promis­ing it has undergone no alterations.

Emily Mcintire, a 15-year-old sophomore in high school from Chesapeake, Va., said she was grabbing fistfuls of cereal on her way to class when she found the flake.

"It was almost to my mouth, it didn't look like Illinois at first because it was held the wrong way," said Mcintire, but then she noticed the resemblance and said, "Oh my goodness, it's Illinois."

Black swan leaves swan-shaped boat for other swan

BERLIN — A long love story is over at a German zoo. Petra the swan and her swan-shaped paddleboat are parting ways. Petra, a black swan, became a minor celebrity in 2006 when she became attached to the boat — which is shaped like an oversized white swan — that she refused to leave its side.

Officials in the western city of Muenster decided to let her stay with it over the win­ter, bringing both bird and boat into a city zoo. However, Petra met a live swan this winter. Zoo direc­tor Joerg Adler says she and her new mate — a white swan — are building a nest together.

The boat is to be returned to its local owner on Thursday.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

An NDP officer stops students celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on South Quad Monday.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY

HIGH

43

LOW

23

TONIGHT

HIGH

33

LOW

13

THURSDAY

HIGH

38

LOW

25

FRIDAY

HIGH

35

LOW

29

SATURDAY

HIGH

40

LOW

23

EASTER

HIGH

35

LOW

25

Atlanta 68 / Boston 59 / Chicago 43 / Denver 56 / Houston 72 / Los Angeles 69 / Minneapolis 40 / New York 54 / Philadelphia 59 / Phoenix 60 / Seattle 46 / St. Louis 48 / Tampa 88 / Washington 89 /
Debate continued from page 1

"The burden of proof should rest on those people who believe that global warming is a real and dangerous threat," Shapot said.

Shapot said additional levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere might not have a further negating effect, but might increase its concentration.

Shapot argued against cloud data from thousands of years ago which point to global warming, noting that the levels of error were far too high to be considered significant.

Sheen continued from page 1

He said specific stances on controversial issues were not the focus of the Laetare selection committee, rather, the committee focused on Sheen's body of work as a whole.

"We review all that can be reasonably attained by searching public records," McDonald said. "But when you take his lifetime of service, what most stands out is his commitment to his faith as a Catholic. No one phrase on a given day disqualifies him." McDonald said Sheen did not earn the Laetare Medal for any particular action or position, but was instead awarded with it "in view of all of what he's done integrating his life of faith with his professional life."

The Laetare Medal is given each year to an American Catholic whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church, and enriched the heritage of the nation, according to the Laetare Medal citation presented to General William Starke Rosecrans in 1896. McDonald also said Sheen's views on abortion are not "pro-choice." He said while Sheen may have made a comment that could be interpreted as being pro-choice, that does not mean Sheen is pro-choice.

"If you look at the whole thing, I don't think you can conclude that," McDonald said. "When people do research, they have to be very careful about when a statement was made. The judgment of importance has to depend on the context." McDonald said his office received many letters expressing gratitude for selecting Sheen for the medal.

He said one such letter discussed Sheen's charitable work on behalf of fighting mental illnesses and addiction.

"But when you take his lifetime of service, what most stands out is his commitment to his faith as a Catholic." 

James McDonald Chairman of the Laetare Medal committee

"Men and women of good faith can differ in good faith on different choices," McDonald said. "It's in the public interest of the government intervention, as they have to shoulder the burden of proof should rest on those people who believe that global warming is a real and dangerous threat," Shapot said.

Shapot said additional levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere might not have a further negating effect, but might increase its concentration.

Shapot argued against cloud data from thousands of years ago which point to global warming, noting that the levels of error were far too high to be considered significant.

He questioned whether temperature rise would necessarily lead to drastic meteorological changes, such as increasing the wind speed of hurricanes.

"It's just a fact that people do live where storms are. They have to since the population is growing," Shapot said. Shapot criticized the notion of sequestering carbon dioxide considered one of power plants, saying it is an expensive process blue-collar taxpayers will pay for.

"They will have to shoulder the burden of the changes we make," Shapot said. Supporting an opinion contrary to Shapot's, political science professor Lou Ayala said Ayala described the environment as a public good — something from which all members of a group benefit — even if some members do not help contribute.

"This public good suffers from a problem," said Ayala, adding that it is true that not everyone helps to protect the environment.

"The government has a responsibility to take action towards this problem, Ayala said, because "the negative [effects] associated with not participating are too high." He also said everyone will reap the benefits of more government intervention, as they would enjoy cleaner air and cleaner water.

"It is in the public interest for the government to step in," Ayala said, adding that the United States accounts for 30 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.

"But the government must do this more efficiently," Ayala said. "We need to move past the idea that oil is the answer to energy problems. It's time for people to look into green technology such as hybrid cars."

Both Ayala and Mori said the government ought to provide the funds to subsidize alternative fuels to offset the cost of hybrid vehicles.

"Ayala said the solution to global warming is not one the government can solve overnight, but rather one which requires the attention of everyone."

"I'm all for student activism," said Ayala, referring to the need for student interest in issues like global warming. "People just need to invest their resources and fuel political interests."

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

The Observer: Notre Dame's Independent Daily Newspaper

We have openings in all departments. Please call if you're interested in:

News: Bill at 631-5323
SMC News: Liz at 631-5323
Sports: Chris at 631-4542
Viewpoint: Kara at 631-5303
Scene: Tae at 631-4540
Ad Design: Kelly at 631-8840
continued from page 1

transfer student, helped run the orientation for transfer students last fall. Although she said more meetings need to be done to help ease the transition for transfer students, she said Reish was pleased with the number of including transfer students in freshman orientation.

"Transfer students already have a year under their belts and bring a different perspective," she said.

Chris Tillet, who served as a proxy for SUBtreasurer Kadeja Gaines, said limited space in dorms often causes transfer students, especially those that enroll at Notre Dame for the first full semester, to seek off-campus housing. He said many transfer students he had spoken with were upset at the lack of on-campus housing available to them.

"It's a big complaint with a lot of kids that I've talked to," Tillet said. In response, Reish said he would like to increase freshman participation in student government when he becomes president, and asked the Council if they thought he could get more freshmen involved.

Freshman class council president Kate Clibberoe said students who had participated in student government in high school would be the most likely to participate at Notre Dame.

"We should target freshmen who have already been involved," she said.

Executive assistant Sheena Plamoottil said one of the major problems should be to simplify the "Student Government 101" information sessions held at the beginning of each year for freshmen interested in student government.

"I found it hard to describe how to do policies work," she said.

Reish said perhaps student government could do mailings to all incoming freshmen asking them to visit the student government Web site.

Student body vice president Maris Braun said one focal point of COR and student government in general next year will be energy and environmental issues.

Braun said she was dissapointed with the lack of events focused on immigration since last year's Notre Dame Forum, and said that COR should do all it "to keep up energy" with next year's Energy and Environment Forum.

continued from page 1

Frank and Sierra Campoll are the others accepted into the conference, however, they were not in attendance at the BOG meeting.

In other BOG news:

- The Maria Pieta Award for Outstanding Teaching is looking for nominees, student body vice president Kelly Payne said. Students are encouraged to email their pick for the best lower division course professor to mariapietaward@staintmarys.edu.
- "This is one of the biggest awards we give to our teachers here," Payne said.
- Board of Governance will be holding this year's service project on April 4-5, student body president Kim Hedges said. The program is called Rebuilding Together, and the group will gather and then helping to make repairs on a house for two elderly women in the community.
- Women Honoring Women, a dinner celebrating outstanding female administrators and professors in the Saint Mary's community, will be held April 2 Payne said.
- BOG is preparing for its yearly turnover on April 1, announced Chief of Staff Sarita Fritzler.

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
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

German leader earns Israeli ovation

ANGELA MERKEL earned a standing ovation from Israel's parliament Tuesday after pledging to stand by Israel's side against any threat, particularly from Iran, and paying tribute to the victims of the Holocaust.

In an emotional speech, Merkel said Germans are still "filled with shame" about the Nazi genocide. But her unprecedented warm reception by the Jewish state also signaled that traditions are increasingly willing to look to the future.

Germany has proven a staunch ally of Israel, particularly after the 2005, Israel's leaders say they are counting on Germany to take a lead in diplomatic efforts to prevent war.

Iraqi extremists smuggle art for funds

ATHENS, Greece — Iraqi extremist groups are now tapping into the nation's vast antiquity smuggling networks to finance their attacks, a U.S. military expert on stolen artifacts said Tuesday at an A.H.N. conference.

Marine Reserve Col. Matthew Bogdanos, who led the military probe into the looting at Baghdad's National Museum after the fall of Saddam Hussein, claimed both Sunni insurgents such as al-Qaida in Iraq and Shiite militias are taking funding from the trafficking in antiquities.

Bogdanos, a New York assistant district attorney, joined the A.H.N. conference this week as part of a campaign to educate the public about the annual springtime feast of threatened antiquities.

The National Marine Fisheries Service authorities gave some of them a death sentence during a rough patch in his marriage, and that comments Tuesday indicate the couple's fidelity included a state employee. The confession came in response to the allegations, state Attorney General Wright's sermons offered a "profoundly distorted view of this country," senator says

Obama deplores pastor's remarks

Wright's sermons offered a "profoundly distorted view of this country," senator says

Associated Press

As shocking as they may be, the provocative sermons of Rev. Jeremiah Wright, the nation's first black pastor to remain peaceful, said Dwight Hopkins, a professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School. "The provocative sermon is toward expanding the democracy, expanding it so all citizens can walk through the door of opportunity." Often lost in the attention paid to Wright's fiery sermons is the technical conclusion, Hopkins said — that despite all obstacles, you are a child of God and can "make a way out of no way." That phrase, common in the language of the black church, was used by Obama in his 4,700-word speech Tuesday.

While Trinity United Church of Christ is more Afrocentric and slightly more political than most black churches, "even con-servative black churches talk about racism in a way that many whites would findounding or offensive," said Gary Dorrien, a reli­gious professor at Columbia University in New York.

"Most white Americas have a very limited capacity for dealing with black anger or acknowledging their own racist privileges," Dorrien said. "Wherever white peo­ple are dominant, white-ness is transparent to them. In black church communi­ties, dealing with that prob­lem is an every-week issue."

Wright does not focus his ire on white America, said Martin Marty, a retired professor of religious histo­ry who taught Wright at the University of Chicago.

National News

N.Y.'s new governor admits to affair

ALBANY — The state's new governor revealed Tuesday that he had affairs with several women, including his current wife. The admission came a day after he took over from former Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who was driven from office amid a prostitu­tion scandal.

Gov. David Paterson said the affairs happened during a rough patch in his marriage, and that the employee did not work for him. He insisted he did not advance her career, and that no campaign or state money was spent on the affairs.

"I do not feel I have broken my commitment to the citizens of our state," he said in a news conference with his wife, Michelle Paige Paterson.

Paterson, a Harlem Democrat, admitted an affair in an interview with the New York Daily News in 1998 while he was in bed, but his comments Tuesday indicate the couple's fidelity problems went deeper than he first acknowl­edged. He is not having an affair now, he said.

Feds may start euthanizing sea lions

PORTLAND, Ore. — Traps, pyrotechnics and beanshot shot at sea lions have failed to deter the annual springtime feast of threatened salmon at a Columbia River dam, so federal authorities gave some of them a death sentence on Tuesday.

The National Marine Fisheries Service author­ized Oregon and Washington officials to first attempt to catch the sea lions that arrive at the base of the Bonneville Dam and hold them 48 hours to see whether an aquarium, zoo or sim­ilar facility will take them. Otherwise, they could be euthanized, along with those that avoid trap­ping.

Local News

CVS settles claims for $37 million

CHICAGO — CVS Caremark Corp. agreed to pay $37 million to the states and the federal government to settle claims that the nation's largest pharmacy chain billed Medicare patients for a more expensive formulation of an antidepressant, authorities said Tuesday.

The settlement in the case — the first of its kind for a retail pharmacy company — came after a lengthy investigation that began in 2001, when a suburban Chicago pharmacist alerted authorities. The company has agreed to pay $3.1 million to the Illinois Medicaid program to settle the allegations, state Attorney General Steve Carter said.
RUSSIA

Putin rejects U.S. military proposal

Associated Press

 Moscow · Russia. had a short answer Tuesday for President Bush's top national security advisers who came to ask for detente in the simmering argument over launched U.S.- missile shield at Russia's doorstep. "They'll be of no use." Maybe, "Not yet." 
The United States and Russia got no closer to settling their public differences over U.S. plans that Russia sees as a potential threat and a turf battle over influence in nations once under the Soviet thumb. 
Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said he will take a closer look at U.S. proposals meant to allay Russian fears, but added that the best way to end the disagreement would be to scrap the plan for placing missile interceptors in Poland and a tracking radar in the Czech Republic.

"We've leaned very far forward in this in an effort to provide reassurance," but the United States plans to go ahead, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said following two days of talks with President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials.

The Russians promised to look over written U.S. offers for cooperation, a sign perhaps that they are resigned to eventually accepting the U.S. plan. "Since the U.S. is going to carry this out, those proposals that we are expecting to receive on paper today seemed to us, as I said, important and useful for the minimization of our concerns," Lavrov said.

During a brief greeting witnessed by reporters Monday, Putin did not mention U.S. plans for the missile shield, a marked contrast from his vehement opposition when he met in October with Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who returned to explore whether U.S. concessions have softened Putin's stance.

"I would say they listened very carefully," Gates told reporters Tuesday. "President Putin took extensive notes last night and there was a lot done during the day today. That said, the full range of what we are now prepared to offer to discuss with the Russians is really just now after the day's talks being put down on paper."

There is no deadline, but Gates said he expected an answer "reasonably quickly."

Gates said the U.S. side spelled out more clearly some details of the proposals it made in the fall, which the Russians initially viewed as not addressing their main concerns. "There was a lot done during the day's talks being put down on paper," Gates told reporters Tuesday.

No more old school housing.

Larger than an apartment, these townhomes also include a full, private bath in each bedroom. Each townhome features:
- 42" flat panel TV in furnished family room
- Security/alarms system on front and garage entrance doors
- Furnished bedrooms with built-in desk, full-size bed, dresser, closet and full bath
- Free Internet & Cable
- Separate laundry room with washer & dryer included
- Fully-equipped kitchen with separate pantry
- Large deck
- Two-car attached garage, plus three additional parking spaces

All this for $650/month per bedroom. Strict covenants enforced.

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

Call Diane at 574-261-3338 or email us at diane@hcrssings.com.

Severe floods hit Midwest

At least 2 killed, homes evacuated after heavy rains cause damage

Associated Press

Piedmont, Mo. — Torrential rain chased hundreds of people from their flooded homes and delayed roads in the nation's midsection Tuesday, killing at least two people.

The storm system also grounded hundreds of flights in Texas. One control tower at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was briefly evacuated when a funnel cloud was spotted.

The National Weather Service posted flood and flash flood warnings from Texas to Ohio, with tornado watches in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Heavy rain began falling Monday and just kept coming. Forecasters said some parts of Missouri could get 10 inches of rain or more before the storms finally stop Wednesday.

Gov. Matt Blunt activated the Missouri National Guard as high water closed hundreds of roads.

An estimated 200 businesses and households were flooded in Piedmont, a town of 2,000 residents. McKenzie Creek rose well above its banks before receding, said Eric Fuchs, Wayne County Emergency Management director.

Up to 30 homes were evacuated in Winona, and some residents of Cape Girardeau were trapped in their homes, the State Emergency Management Agency said. In the town of Ellington, as many as 50 homes and half the businesses were evacuated, officials said.

The body of an 81-year-old man was found in the water at Ellington, about 120 miles southwest of St. Louis, said Missouri State Patrol Lt. Nicholas Humphrey. A 21-year-old state Department of Transportation worker was killed near Springfield when his dump truck was hit by a tractor-trailer rig as he helped out in a flooded area, state officials said.

Firefighters and police were sent to pull motorists out of flooded roads in and around Springfield, said Greene County Emergency Management Director Ryan Nicholls.

"It's absolutely abhorrent to have this much rain and more on the way today and tonight," Nicholls said.

Scott and Marilyn Peterson and their 25-year-old son, Scott Jr., scurried out of their mobile home in rural Piedmont after watching the water rise to 2 feet in five minutes. The family had just enough time to grab some essentials, a few clothes and the family dog.

"You didn't have time to worry," Scott Peterson Sr. said. "You just grab what you can and go and you're glad the people are OK."

In Arkansas, authorities searched for a West Fork man whose truck was believed to have been swept away from a low-water bridge. Authorities found only the vehicle.

In northeast Arkansas, the Spring River was rising at 6 inches per hour, carrying debris that included full-grown trees.

In Oklahoma, Muskogee firefighters rescued a mother and her four children from their minivan stranded in flood waters.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in Texas, American Airlines canceled about 700 departures and arrivals because of wind near 70 mph and heavy rain, and more than 100 of the carrier's flights beamed to that airport were diverted, said airline spokesman Tim Wagner.

Federal Aviation Administration officials evacuated the airport's west tower for about 15 minutes after seeing a funnel cloud. Another was spotted over Lake Lewisville, just north of the airport.

"This is one of the most vicious thunderstorms DFW has seen in quite some time, especially its ongoing intensitiy," said airport spokesman Ken Capps. "Add in two snow storms in the past two weeks and this has been one of the most unusual early spring weather patterns in years."

At Dallas Love Field, some 20 Southwest flights were can­celled, 20 others were diverted and many other flights were delayed, said airline spokes­woman Ashley Rogers.

Brand new, furnished townhomes for this Fall Semester, 2008

2 blocks east of the Notre Dame athletic fields, off Willis Street

A limited number of new Irish Crossings three and four bedroom townhomes, specifically geared for today's college student, are now available for lease for this fall semester.

Now leasing.
**Fed slashes federal funds rate**

Aggressive Federal Reserve action prompts Wall Street’s biggest gain in five years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve slashed a key interest rate by three-quarters of a point Tuesday, capping the most aggressive two months of action in a quarter-century in a battle to halt a spreading credit crisis. Wall Street loved it, bursting to its biggest gain in five years.

The strong Fed action silenced investors, at least for now, that the central bank will do whatever it can to keep the country out of a steep recession. The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day up 420.41 points at 12,392.66.

The latest Fed move brought the federal funds rate, the interest rates banks charge each other — down to 2.25 percent, the lowest since late 2004. That’s important far beyond bank boardrooms. The reduction triggered announcements from commercial banks that they were cutting their prime lending rate to 2.25 percent from 6 percent. This rate is the benchmark for millions of business and consumer loans.

The Fed action was designed to lower borrowing costs and boost spending by consumers and businesses and thus increase economic activity. Economic growth slowed to a near standstill in the first three months of last year. The recovery was hit by a series of blows including the collapse of two huge real estate-related companies, long-hued housing slump, rising unemployment and surging energy prices.

“Ever since the Fed has had the Fed action was the biggest change.”

The Federal Reserve has now cut its rate by three-quarters of a percentage point twice this year. The first occurred at an emergency meeting on Jan. 22 and was followed by a half-point cut at a regular meeting on Jan. 30. The three rate cuts over the course of two months represent the most aggressive Fed credit easing since mid-1982 when the Paul Volcker-led Fed was working to get the country out of a deep recession.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues have now cut the funds rate six times since last September, with the reductions becoming more aggressive since January as the central bank has faced growing turmoil in global financial markets.

The Fed also announced Tuesday that it was reducing its discount rate for banks by a similar three-quarters of a point, pushing it down to 2.5 percent. That cut, which followed a quarter-point reduction on Sunday, was seen as a clear signal that the Fed is ready to supply significant amounts of credit in direct loans to banks and other institutions through its discount window in an effort to stabilize financial markets rolled by the collapse over the weekend of Bear Stearns, the nation’s fifth largest investment bank.

“We have been on the brink of the biggest financial meltdown,”

Bush hints at more aid for consumers

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — President Bush, eager to reassure a rattled country, said Tuesday that administrative action is ready to intervene again to stabilize the economy.

The president was further action, we’ll take it, in a way that does not damage the long-term financial health of our economy,” Bush said along the docks of this port city.

Bush said the second signal in two days from Bush about the possibility of more aggressive action to help hurting consumers and a shaken financial market. Much of his agenda these days is focused now on how to fix the economy but still confident in it.

Bush was specific about other steps he might take.

For now, he has championed the upcoming tax rebates for millions of people and tax breaks for businesses.

And he has embraced action by the Federal Reserve, which keeps slashing interest rates and has helped finance the bailout of a collapsing financial giant.

The president has rejected other ideas from the Democratic Congress. Those include extending unemployment benefits, and food stamp benefits, and spiraling homeowners from foreclosure by allowing bankruptcy judges to adjust loan rates.

The president was further action to help hurting consumers and a shaken financial market. Much of his agenda these days is focused now on how to fix the economy but still confident in it.

Bush was specific about other steps he might take.

For now, he has championed the upcoming tax rebates for millions of people and tax breaks for businesses.
The biggest "corporate power"

Elections inevitably bring out the worst in those running for office. Rather than engage in reasoned debate, they make baseless claims cloaked in lofty rhetoric in an effort to appeal to their potential voters. One such example is the recent ladar delusion frequently cited by politicians in that businesses are somehow inherently evil. This view sees the interests of the worker and of the business as diametrically opposed and irrevocable.

Businesses wield an unacceptable amount of power: they can refuse to provide health care, they can lay off employees at their discretion, and they can exploit their employees by underpaying them. They can do virtually anything. In short, "corporate power" is eating America's sustainability.

Such an argument misses the voluntary nature of the free market. Businesses have no "power" to force anyone to do anything. I may not like Big Mac, but Donald McDonald cannot stop speed my bowel movements unless I choose to buy his product. I might hate Windows Vista in the same way everyone hates herpes, but I can choose to buy a Dell laptop that means that he personally valued the laptop more than he valued the cash or the trade would not have occurred. On the other side, the firm must have valued his cash more than the laptop or the trade for the same reason.

The same is true for employees and employers. The employee would not agree to work at a firm in exchange for compensation unless he valued his cash or the trade would not have occurred. The employer could choose to end the business relationship if the relationship ceases to be mutually beneficial.

The relationship between consumer and firm or employee and firm is not inherently conflicted, but mutually beneficial. No consumer is forced to buy a Dell laptop; rather, the consumer chooses to do so. The act of choosing to exchange his cash for the laptop means that he personally valued the laptop more than he valued his cash or the trade would not have occurred. On the other side, the firm must have valued his cash more than the laptop or the trade for the same reason.

Which is more dangerous: an entity that can arbitrarily restrict employee movement or one that can arbitrarily terminate an employment relationship?

The same is true for consumers. Businesses can choose whom they want to work for. Businesses are voluntary contracts between two parties. The employee can choose to end the relationship if the relationship ceases to be mutually beneficial. Similarly, a business deals with its employees and those of The Observer.

The relationship between the individual and the government is another matter entirely. Businesses can exploit their employees, the federal government as the cure rather than a countervailing power. "Power" somewhere see the federal government as the cure rather than a disease. Whereas businesses get their "power" through voluntary interaction with consumers and employees, the federal government gets its power from employing him than cash (unless it steals from the employer). The employee would not accept an offer of less cash than the trade. The employee can choose to end the business relationship if the relationship ceases to be mutually beneficial.

"Power" is a zero sum game. It is amusing that those who rally against the exists of "corporate power" somehow see the federal government as the cure rather than a disease. Whereas businesses get their "power" through voluntary interaction with consumers and employees, the federal government gets its power from employing him than cash (unless it steals from the employer). The employee would not accept an offer of less cash than the trade. The employee can choose to end the business relationship if the relationship ceases to be mutually beneficial.

The relationship between consumer and firm or employee and firm is not inherently conflicted, but mutually beneficial. No consumer is forced to buy a Dell laptop; rather, the consumer chooses to do so. The act of choosing to exchange his cash for the laptop means that he personally valued the laptop more than he valued his cash or the trade would not have occurred. On the other side, the firm must have valued his cash more than the laptop or the trade for the same reason.

Which is more dangerous: an entity that can arbitrarily restrict employee movement or one that can arbitrarily terminate an employment relationship?

The same is true for consumers. Businesses can choose whom they want to work for. Businesses are voluntary contracts between two parties. The employee can choose to end the relationship if the relationship ceases to be mutually beneficial. Similarly, a business deals with its employees and those of The Observer. 
Two years ago, I was stunned and disturbed by Fr. Jenkins' decision to continue the "Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus, especially considering it seemed to be a complete turnaround from his earlier statements of concern. I believed then (as now) that its continued performance on campus was scandalous to the University, and by extension the Catholic Church.

I see no point in listing the reasons for my concerns, as the points for both sides of the debate have been discussed at length. Suffice it to say, I find the arguments for supporting this play's presence on campus grudgingly unconvincing. This year, we have another statement by Fr. Jenkins and another set of performances. Although still disturbed, I am not distressed since my expectations of the University are much lower. (The University appears much more predictable to me now than the one I once naively envisioned).

I imagined that this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins. As a priest, I would expect that he sees the play as potentially harmful, and as a result, believes that those who perform it, as well as those who attend the performance. Of course, he undoubtedly knows that people are watching what Notre Dame decides more than other Catholic institutions, and so knows the decision can be scandalous.

At the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which can be in conflict with his role as a priest. I strongly believe that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the university, and instead the reasons why others may feel different. Perhaps he thought that after having made their point and won the day two years ago, the "academic freedom" proponents would graciously avoid the Obama scandalizing of a significant segment of the Notre Dame community by sponsoring performances. Instead, the reasons why others may feel different are what I am about to discuss. I imagine this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins, as it is always difficult to be in conflict with his role as a priest.

Surely, chief executives of other organizations, including other universities, do not spend much time thinking about the spiritual well-being of individuals or their organizations. Perhaps then, it is time to consider that the office of the president of the University no longer be occupied by a Holy Cross priest, and that Notre Dame move to be independent alongside Catholic universities. Unbowed by concerns about the spiritual well-being of students as a priest in a lay profession, could simply concentrate on making their point and win the day two years ago.

If a distorted view of academic freedom triumphs Catholic character and academic freedom. He or she could simply concentrate on making their point and win the day two years ago. Personally, I think it is a great waste of time and money to fight the "best" for the University (which presumably means higher US News and World Report Rankings, and the esteem of so-called "prestigious" universities).

At the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which can be in conflict with his role as a priest. I strongly believe that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the university, and instead the reasons why others may feel different are what I am about to discuss. I imagine this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins, as it is always difficult to be in conflict with his role as a priest.

Two years ago, I was stunned and disturbed by Fr. Jenkins' decision to continue the "Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus, especially considering it seemed to be a complete turnaround from his earlier statements of concern. I believed then (as now) that its continued performance on campus was scandalous to the University, and by extension the Catholic Church.

I see no point in listing the reasons for my concerns, as the points for both sides of the debate have been discussed at length. Suffice it to say, I find the arguments for supporting this play's presence on campus grudgingly unconvincing. This year, we have another statement by Fr. Jenkins and another set of performances. Although still disturbed, I am not distressed since my expectations of the University are much lower. (The University appears much more predictable to me now than the one I once naively envisioned).

I imagined that this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins. As a priest, I would expect that he sees the play as potentially harmful, and as a result, believes that those who perform it, as well as those who attend the performance. Of course, he undoubtedly knows that people are watching what Notre Dame decides more than other Catholic institutions, and so knows the decision can be scandalous.

At the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which can be in conflict with his role as a priest. I strongly believe that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the university, and instead the reasons why others may feel different are what I am about to discuss. I imagine this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins, as it is always difficult to be in conflict with his role as a priest.

Two years ago, I was stunned and disturbed by Fr. Jenkins' decision to continue the "Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus, especially considering it seemed to be a complete turnaround from his earlier statements of concern. I believed then (as now) that its continued performance on campus was scandalous to the University, and by extension the Catholic Church.

I see no point in listing the reasons for my concerns, as the points for both sides of the debate have been discussed at length. Suffice it to say, I find the arguments for supporting this play's presence on campus grudgingly unconvincing. This year, we have another statement by Fr. Jenkins and another set of performances. Although still disturbed, I am not distressed since my expectations of the University are much lower. (The University appears much more predictable to me now than the one I once naively envisioned).

I imagined that this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins. As a priest, I would expect that he sees the play as potentially harmful, and as a result, believes that those who perform it, as well as those who attend the performance. Of course, he undoubtedly knows that people are watching what Notre Dame decides more than other Catholic institutions, and so knows the decision can be scandalous.

At the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which can be in conflict with his role as a priest. I strongly believe that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the university, and instead the reasons why others may feel different are what I am about to discuss. I imagine this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins, as it is always difficult to be in conflict with his role as a priest.

Two years ago, I was stunned and disturbed by Fr. Jenkins' decision to continue the "Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus, especially considering it seemed to be a complete turnaround from his earlier statements of concern. I believed then (as now) that its continued performance on campus was scandalous to the University, and by extension the Catholic Church.

I see no point in listing the reasons for my concerns, as the points for both sides of the debate have been discussed at length. Suffice it to say, I find the arguments for supporting this play's presence on campus grudgingly unconvincing. This year, we have another statement by Fr. Jenkins and another set of performances. Although still disturbed, I am not distressed since my expectations of the University are much lower. (The University appears much more predictable to me now than the one I once naively envisioned).

I imagined that this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins. As a priest, I would expect that he sees the play as potentially harmful, and as a result, believes that those who perform it, as well as those who attend the performance. Of course, he undoubtedly knows that people are watching what Notre Dame decides more than other Catholic institutions, and so knows the decision can be scandalous.

At the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which can be in conflict with his role as a priest. I strongly believe that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the university, and instead the reasons why others may feel different are what I am about to discuss. I imagine this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins, as it is always difficult to be in conflict with his role as a priest.

Two years ago, I was stunned and disturbed by Fr. Jenkins' decision to continue the "Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus, especially considering it seemed to be a complete turnaround from his earlier statements of concern. I believed then (as now) that its continued performance on campus was scandalous to the University, and by extension the Catholic Church.

I see no point in listing the reasons for my concerns, as the points for both sides of the debate have been discussed at length. Suffice it to say, I find the arguments for supporting this play's presence on campus grudgingly unconvincing. This year, we have another statement by Fr. Jenkins and another set of performances. Although still disturbed, I am not distressed since my expectations of the University are much lower. (The University appears much more predictable to me now than the one I once naively envisioned).

I imagined that this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins. As a priest, I would expect that he sees the play as potentially harmful, and as a result, believes that those who perform it, as well as those who attend the performance. Of course, he undoubtedly knows that people are watching what Notre Dame decides more than other Catholic institutions, and so knows the decision can be scandalous.

At the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which can be in conflict with his role as a priest. I strongly believe that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the university, and instead the reasons why others may feel different are what I am about to discuss. I imagine this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins, as it is always difficult to be in conflict with his role as a priest.
After disappointing adaptations of "The Cat in the Hat" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Dr. Seuss properly comes to life in "Horton Hears a Who!" From Blue Sky Studios ("Ice Age"). With breathtaking animation and a heartwarming, well-crafted story, "Horton" suggests that Dr. Seuss has found his home away from live-action and in the world of feature animation.

The story of "Horton" begins with a simple action — a speck of dust is dislodged from a daisy. But what makes this event extraordinary is that the speck of dust houses the tiny world of the Whos, and now that they are precariously floating through the air, their world is in danger. Horton the elephant (voiced by Jim Carrey) hears the Whos' screams and makes it his mission to find a safe place for the tiny world as he carries it on a clover.

Meanwhile, in Whoville, Mayor Mayor O'Malley (Steve Carell) is struggling to keep the peace while figuring out what is causing the strange weather conditions and earthquakes in his fair city. After making contact with Horton, Ned discovers that Who-ville is a speck of dust in danger of extinction. Ned must rely on Horton to carry the Whos to safety as the trusty elephant goes up against Kangaroo (Vlad), who believes that Horton is dangerously encouraging children to use their imaginations, and a vulture named Vlad (Will Arnett), who Kangaroo hires to dispose of the speck of dust. Few animals in the Jungle of Nool believe Horton's tale, but he never gives up protecting the Whos because he firmly believes that "a person's a person, no matter how small."

Although "Horton" is clearly a children's movie, its humor and animation can appeal to adults as well. The comedy is smart and goes beyond visual gags and potty humor. "Horton" takes after the Disney-Pixar films in its ability to captivate audiences of all ages. It doesn't hurt that comedians like Carrey, Carell, Arnett, Amy Poehler, Seth Rogen and Jonah Hill lend their voices to the animated characters. Fans of these actors' live-action work will appreciate their animated work as well. Rogen may have to check the foul language at the door, but his sarcasm is just as present in Horton's buddy Horton as it is in any one of his comedies.

The movie becomes difficult to watch as the animals of the Jungle of Nool try to imprison Horton and destroy the speck of dust, but it is only difficult because we fear for the futures of Horton and the Whos and because the political undertones of Dr. Seuss' work become eerily apparent when his short book is drawn out to 88 minutes. After all, "Horton Hears a Who!" was written during the peak of the McCarthy hearings in the 1950s and many critics have drawn parallels between Dr. Seuss' work and the McCarthy saga. But even children's movies can be a little bit scary.

Not everything is perfect in the world of Dr. Seuss all the time, but that's what happy endings are for. We're even treated to a musical number that seems to come straight out of "The 46-Year-Old Virgin."

"Horton" really has it all — comedy, adventure, suspense, good guys and bad guys that turn good so that everyone can be happy. While watching Horton float down a river or Ned run around Who­­ville, you have to wonder if the fantastical images on screen are what Dr. Seuss imagined as he dreamed up the Jungle of Nool and the world inside the tiny speck of dust.

They must be pretty darn close.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu
You probably won't enjoy Doomsday. The movie lacks any real rhythm or flow; in fact it's really just a 104 minute long action sequence, filled with non-stop, blood-splattering action. But if you're familiar with Snake Pliskin, Mad Max or any of the old George Romero zombie flicks, you might appreciate this film.

"A virus doesn't hate or care, it just happens," Or so the opening narration claims at the beginning of director Neil Marshall's latest film. The full-blown apocalyptic thriller begins with the killer "Reaper" virus breaking out in the city of Glasgow. It spreads so rapidly the government decides to just wall off the northern half of the island of Great Britain, leaving everyone living within the regions—sick or not—to die.

Three decades later, skyrocketing levels of overpopulation, unemployment and sheer filth lead to another outbreak of the virus in London. Rather than evacuate or quarantine all of England, two corrupt, high ranking government officials John Hatcher (Alexander Siddig) and Michael Canaris (David O'Hara) send an elite team, led by the one-eyed Major Eden Sinclair (Rhona Mitra), over the wall into what's left of Scotland. Hatcher instructs Sinclair to find the cure and return within 48 hours—before the virus overruns London. Sinclair coolly asks what she should do if she doesn't find the cure, Hatcher responds: "Then you shouldn't bother coming back." His comment is sort of ironic, if you stay until the end.

Leading a team of soldiers and a pair of scientists, Sinclair sets out for Glasgow in search of Dr. Kane (Malcolm McDowell), the leading researcher on the Reaper Virus 30 years ago, who was trapped inside the city. They don't find Kane, but what they do looks straight out of John Carpenter's "Escape from New York." The streets are empty, the buildings overrun by vegetation and everything appears void of human life. But an empty city is no fun. Before they know it the place is crawling with club-swinging, Mohawk wearing, tattooed, punk rocking cannibals. Sinclair and her men mow down about a hundred of the freaks before the savage punk rockers manage to overrun her crew. They take her prisoner and she meets their leader, Sol (Craig Conway). The man is about as psycho as you would expect any human being surviving under such circumstances to be. A testament to his insanity, Sol puts on a dance show to the music of Fine Young Cannibals before the cannibals feast on one of Sinclair's members.

From there things only get more ridiculous. Sinclair manages to escape and finds Kane, who happens to be at war with Sol, who, it turns out, is Kane's son. Unlike Sol's sweatband and Mohawk totting followers, Kane's men ride horses wearing suits of armor. The whole scenario is absurd, but it's redeemed by the interchange Sinclair shares with Kane. Unlike Sol's son, Kane's men are completely composed, and unlike Sol's followers, their leader has a certain sanity. Sol's followers are a little too crazy, "Same [expletive], different era."

Marshall, who won a string of awards for his low-budget independent films "Dog Soldiers" and "The Descent," jumped on to a much larger stage with "Doomsday." The film is his homage to the gritty, apocalyptic thrillers of the 80s. "The whole idea was that I was making a film for an audience that wasn't there when "Mad Max" came out. I wanted to give them a sense of what we experienced," he said in an interview on the Web site chud.com.

When you feel the jolt of the stunt-filled car chase at the end of the film, a scene that took three-and-a-half weeks to film, you might get a sense of what he is trying to accomplish, and overall it's almost enough to call "Doomsday" a good film.

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu
Good pay. Available now as if they needed, bluegoldrentals.com central station monitored security 574-273-3835. walking distance to college. Laundromat next door, ceilings, August. Residential. Enjoy our web-

Mountaineers guard Chris Vann, center, celebrates after Mount St. Mary's beat Coppin State, earn first Tourney win in school history

Mountaineers guard Jeremy Goode

they went five minutes without scoring, allowing Mount St. Mary's to break it open. Sensing the enormity of the moment, they missed eight straight shots and a pair of free throws. Several times, the ball started to roll in, then agonizingly spun out.

"We had a lot of opportunities," said Tywan McKee, who had a team-high 15 points. "We just couldn't put them in.

Goode, a 5-foot-9 sophomore who knows a little about Carolina blue because he grew up in Charlotte, was the spark for Mount St. Mary's up-tempo offense. He did it all, driving to the basket and hitting jumpers over much taller players. He also supplied the final touches, hitting four free throws in the last 27 seconds.

Perhaps no other opening-game winner enjoyed it so much and complained so little. Unlike previous years, there was no gnawing about having to start the tournament in Dayton. Not from Mount St. Mary's, the Northeast Conference champ that had a losing record before it got on that late run. The only complaint was from some folks who didn't even think the Mountaineers deserved to be in the tournament at all, given their RPI of 159.

"Me and Chris (Vann) were in the hotel watching ESPN and a guy says this game shouldn't even be played," Goode said. "He said neither team deserved to be in the tournament. That kind of got us ready to play. Coppin State complain? No way."

Marooned at 4-19 in early February, the Eagles sneaked into the tournament for the first time since 1997 by winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic title.

"This was a great opportunity," said Antwan Harrison, who scored 14 points. "What we came through to get to the NCAA tournament, you can't take that far. So we appreciate the opportunity to be here."

No one could grouse about the game, either. For the most part, they didn't play like teams with a combined 33 losses. Coppin State used its quickness, going inside for dunks and layups. Mount St. Mary's trio of dangerous guards did most of the damage.

Coppin State was ahead the entire first half, leading by as many as nine. The Mountaineers' guards changed the tone after halftime, when Vann's three-point play put Mount St. Mary's up 39-34. It went back-and-forth until Coppin State went cold at the end.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 275 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 25 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without征求ing refunds.
## NCAA Baseball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Overall Record</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
<td>21-1-1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>12-2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>14-5-3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>13-2-2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Long Beach State</td>
<td>12-3-3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>UC Irvine</td>
<td>14-1-1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Vanderbilt</td>
<td>12-4-2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>13-2-2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mississippi State</td>
<td>13-5-3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>19-0-1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>11-5-6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>13-4-9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>12-5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>12-6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Utah State</td>
<td>13-6-2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>15-4-2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Texas Tech</td>
<td>14-4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>14-4</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>15-5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Coastal Carolina</td>
<td>19-2-1</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>California</td>
<td>13-2-6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Georgia Tech</td>
<td>13-6</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>14-2-4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Car St. Fullerton</td>
<td>9-7-7</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## NCAA Softball

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Overall Record</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arizona State</td>
<td>21-1-1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>12-2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>19-1-1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>10-1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>12-4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>11-9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mississippi State</td>
<td>13-4-9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>20-2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>19-2-3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>17-4-0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>13-4-9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Baylor</td>
<td>13-2</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>14-2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>13-4-9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cal Poly</td>
<td>11-9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>11-7</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Louisiana-Lafayette</td>
<td>18-3-0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Mississippi State</td>
<td>18-3-0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>13-4-9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>San Diego State</td>
<td>16-5-1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>10-6-2</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Fresno State</td>
<td>13-3-4</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
<td>12-6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>12-7</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## MIAA Women's Tennis Conference Standings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>League Record</th>
<th>Overall Record</th>
<th>Last Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Albion</td>
<td>3-0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>1-0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alma</td>
<td>0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Calvin</td>
<td>0-0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>0-0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Saint Mary's</td>
<td>0-0-0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tri-State</td>
<td>0-0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Adrian</td>
<td>0-1-0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Olivet</td>
<td>0-1-0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## OLYMPICS

A woman holds a poster against the Olympic Games in Beijing outside the Chinese Embassy in Paris during a protest against the Chinese authority's crackdown on demonstrations in Tibet.

### Leaders may boycott ceremonies

Associated Press

PARIS — Moves to punish China over its handling of violence in Tibet gained momentum Tuesday, with a novel suggestion for a mini-boycott of the Beijing Olympics by VIPs at the opening ceremony.

Such a protest by world leaders would be a huge slap in the face for China's Communist leadership.

France's outspoken foreign minister, former humanitarian campaigner Bernard Kouchner, said the idea "is interesting."

Kouchner said he wants to discuss it with other foreign ministers from the 27-nation European Union next week. His comments opened a crack in what until now had been solid opposition to a full boycott, a stance that Kouchner said remains the official government position.

The idea of skipping the Aug. 8 opening ceremony "is less negative than a general boycott," Kouchner said. "We are considering it."

Asked about Kouchner's statement, China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya said: "Certainly I think what he said is not shared by most of the people in the world."

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said last month that he expects many heads of state — including President Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy — to attend the opening ceremony.

Such an opening ceremony boycott presumably would not include the athletes, who under Olympic rules are forbidden from making any kind of protest at events or venues — including the opening ceremony.

U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Darryl Seibel said there are no rules forcing athletes to attend opening ceremonies.

"We strongly encourage our athletes to participate in opening ceremonies," Seibel said. "It is a tremendous honor to walk into the Olympic Stadium behind the flag of your nation, and to do so in a ceremony honoring and celebrating athletes from around the world."

The violent protests in Tibet, the most serious challenge in almost two decades to China's rule in the region, are forcing governments and human rights campaigners to re-examine their approach to the Aug. 8-24 games.

## In Brief

Central Florida walk-on dies after conditioning

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Central Florida wide receiver died Tuesday after voluntary strength and conditioning drills, the day before spring practice was set to begin.

Police said there was no foul play or obvious cause for red-shirt freshman Erica Planche's late morning collapse. UCF athletic director Keith Tribble said the player had been lifting weights, then ran for about 10 minutes.

After the workout, the team huddled for a quick chat. As everyone was leaving, Planche, of Naples, took a knee in obvious distress, Tribble said. UCF trainers on site immediately provided CPR and the red-shirt freshman was taken by ambulance to the hospital. He was pronounced dead just before noon.

76ers talking about Al coming back to town

PHILADELPHIA — The 76ers are talking about Allen Iverson once more.

Here he comes, 15 months after he was kicked out of Philadelphia over irreconcilable differences, A.I. The Answer, the MVP, the hip-hop hoops icon — call him what you want — is back in the city he once owned like a product of which I am a big fan," said Sen. Barack Obama.

The one's who know the fans best believe Iverson will get an ovation that will rattle the roof of the Spectrum.

"I believe Iverson will get an ovation," Morris Levin, a supporter of Barack Obama's presidential campaign, told the Associated Press. "I did not make any profit on this, and I think that Major League Baseball has a fantastic product of which I am a big consumer."
Garnett’s old boss says star forward ‘tanked it’

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett has heard plenty of criticism in his 13 years in the NBA. He doesn’t like the big shot in the fourth quarter. He only got the Minnesota Timberwolves out of the first round of the playoffs one time.

His contract limited the team’s ability to surround him with talent.

Through it all, no one ever questioned his intensity, effort or determination.

Until now, and from an unlikely source — Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor, a staunch supporter and friend of Garnett’s during their 12 seasons together in Minnesota.

Taylor took exception to a local newspaper columnist who suggested Garnett missed the last five games of last season over an injury.

“Why are we winning? We’re winning for (that player), but the other thing is I think we’re winning for the fans,” he said. “I think we have to show the fans that, what I call it, there is a plan. That we’re going to improve next year. And you can see where we were and this is where we’re going and next year we’re going to be a better team.”

With a young core including Al Jefferson, Ryan Gomes and Randy Foye, there is some optimism that better days lie ahead.

**THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE**

Please join us for cocktails & hors d’oeuvres to introduce the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Faculty and Staff to the fastest selling community in Michiana

March 20th and 27th 2008
5:00pm to 8:00 pm
Beer & Wine will be served
Hors d’oeuvres provided by Langley Grill

RSVP appreciated
RSVP by March 12 to be entered in the drawing for a $50 Gift Card
jim@90re.com or 574-247-0770
stonebridgecondos.net

**LET’S PLAY ITALIAN THIS SUMMER**

**LEARN ITALIAN AT NOTRE DAME THIS SUMMER**

ROIT 10115 - INTENSIVE BEGINNING ITALIAN

is a 6 week, 6 credit course

meeting from June 17th until July 31st

MTWRF 8:30-10:30/11:00-12:00

It is like a double shot of espresso in the morning!!!

Please remember to recycle The Observer.
NHL

Nittiymaki, Flyers clinging to last playoff spot

Goalie nearly flawless in Philadelphia victory; Blues win in shootout; Blue Jackets' Norrena shuts out Flames

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Antero Nittiymaki made a perfect save in the final seconds to remain unbeaten against Atlanta.

Nittiymaki smothered Ilya Kovalchuk's last-second attempt at a game-tying goal, dropping the Thrashers for their second straight loss and preserving Philadelphia's sorely-needed victory.

Mike Richards, Jeff Carter and Vaclav Prospal scored goals and the Flyers kept their hold on the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference in a 3-2 win over the Thrashers on Tuesday night.

"Anything at this point of the year, a big goal, a big save, we definitely can feed off of," Carter said.

No stop came bigger than the one Nittiymaki made in the final ticks of the clock. Kovalchuk scored his 50th goal of the season with 30 seconds left, leaving the Flyers with a sense of dread about blowing yet another game in the waning moments.

Kovalchuk nearly made it happen with a wrist shot from the high slot, but Nittiymaki made the tough save. Kovalchuk fell to his knees, then sprawled his body on the ice as the Flyers mobbed each other around him in celebration.

"Most of the time I score those kind of goals," Kovalchuk said.

Carter and Richards were among the Flyers who called it the save of the year. Nittiymaki, who made 17 saves, said it was simply another stop and that he "just reacted."

"As soon as he wound up and the puck made it through to him I had already jumped celeb and started dancing," Thrashers forward Chris Thorburn said. "Maybe I jinxed him, but he's done it so many times for us."

Nittiymaki allowed Thrushburn's goal 58 seconds into the game, but was near flawless in helping the Flyers to their 10th straight series win against the Thrashers. The Flyers haven't lost to Atlanta since November 2005 and Nittiymaki improved to 9-0 against the Thrashers.

"We had a simple game plan, got puck deep, drew the pucks to the net and I really thought it paid off," coach John Stevens said.

The slumping Flyers desperately needed this win to stay in the playoff chase with only eight games left in the season. They took a season-high 47 shots, including a 7-1 defeat at Pittsburgh on Sunday, that caused general manager Paul Holmgren to blast his effort and team chairman Ed Snider expressed concern over their collapse.

Several even ordered the equipment manager to change all the player's stalls and locker room practice facility to shake everything up.

For one game at least, the criticisms must have inspired the Flyers.

They got off to yet another slow start, though, when Thorburn slid the puck past for Nittiymaki for an easy goal and a 1-0 lead. One of the knocks Holmgren leveled against Stevens was the Flyers sometimes are not prepared for big games and this was the latest example.

Unlike their thrashing at Pittsburgh, the Flyers rallied in this one.

The Flyers attacked Kari Lehtonen with a flurry of shots and Richards finally got the puck through for his 25th goal and tied the game 7 minutes into the first period.

The Flyers caught a break with 3 seconds left in the period when Kimmo Timonen's slapper just inside the blue line freed off Carter's skate and shot through Lehtonen's legs to make it 2-1. Carter's power-play goal was his 28th of the season.

Prospal scored his 31st goal off a give-and-go from Danny Briere in the third, which turned out to be a huge goal.

The Flyers, who blew a 3-0 lead to Toronto last week in the third period, had another scare when Kovalchuk made it 3-2 with 30 seconds remaining. The rowdy crowd was instantly hushed, but Philly hung on for the dramatic win thanks to one more fantastic save.

"We had some trouble winning games a couple of times this year, but we got the job done tonight," Nittiymaki said.

**Blues 4, Canadiens 3 (shootout)**

Brad Boyes scored his 38th goal of the season and was the only player to score in the shootout and the Blues ended a 10-game road losing streak with a win over the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday night.

Manny Legace stopped Saku Koivu, Andrei Kostitsyn and Alex Kovalev in the shootout as St. Louis got its first road win in more than a month.

Boyces, who scored his team-high 38th goal in the second period, put a backhand past Jaroslav Halak on St. Louis' second attempt.

Keith Tkachuk scored on a two-man advantage in the first period for St. Louis, which got its first win seven games into a season-high nine-game road trip (1-5-1).

Andy McDonald also scored for the Blues, who had gone 0-7-3 on the road since a 4-1 win in Colorado on Feb. 14 to match the longest road losing streak in franchise history.

**Blue Jackets 3, Flames 0**

Backup goalie Fredrick Norrena helped preserve Columbus' slim playoff hopes.

Norrena made 18 saves for his first shutout of the season and was the only player to score in the shootout and the Blue Jackets beat the Calgary Flames 3-0 Tuesday night for their second straight win.

"It was really sound," Columbus coach Ken Hitchcock said. "The thing that was impressive for me was the no rebounds."

Norrena -- who had a career-high 43 saves in a 4-3 win against Detroit on Sunday -- started his second straight game for Pascal Leclaire, out with a concussion suffered in warmups before the Blue Jackets' game on Saturday.

"Today, the posts helped me and the team helped me," Norrena said. "This was a different game than the last game against Detroit. Tonight we controlled the game and deserved to win."

Manny Malhotra scored two goals for the second straight game and Nick Nash had a goal and two assists for Columbus, seven points out of the eighth playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Dan Fritiche added two assists for the Blue Jackets, who have won three of four.

"We got back to the team game we need to play to win," Hitchcock said. "We did a lot of things we were doing earlier this season when we were dominant in this build-in."

The Flames could have been 3-0 even with a four-game road trip and three wins in seven games.

---

Anlan Properties, LLC

Off-Campus Student Rentals

NOW LEASING FOR THE 08/09 and 09/10 ACADEMIC YEARS

Only two houses left for next year

Help us lease one and receive a $300 cash referral bonus!

www.anlanproperties.com

574.514.1585

---

**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR SUMMER AT NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**

- Choose from more than 350 courses
- Earn transfer credit
- Explore a new interest
- Immerses yourself in an intensive language or science sequence

www.northeastern.edu/summer
**NBA**

**Celtics end Rockets’ unlikely 22-game win streak**

Associated Press

HOUSTON — It took the NBA's longest streak in more than a month for the Houston Rockets' 22-game winning streak, which had many evaluators of the NBA proclaiming it the rubendar run in emphatic fashion, to come to an end. Houston, led by forward Shane Battier and guard Ray Allen, dropped its first loss since a 97-93 defeat to Utah on Jan. 27. The Rockets then put together the NBA's longest winning streak, which ended 11 victories shy of the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who won 33 in a row.

"Our names will be remembered through the Hall of Fame people," said Houston point guard Rafer Alston. "We have something to tell our kids."

It was only Houston's second loss in 28 games and its fourth since a 97-93 loss in Boston on Jan. 2, a game Tracy McGrady sat out with a knee injury. The Rockets also lost for the first time in 11 games since Yao Ming went out with a season-ending foot injury on Feb. 26.

The Rockets were finally doomed by poor shooting and mistakes that they overcame during their streak with hustle and solid defense.

"I'm too close to the situation right now to really appreciate," Rockets forward Shane Battier said. "When I'm old and gray and can't dribble this basketball any more, I think I'll appreciate it. Right now, we're still in a playoff run and have got some dogs barking at our heels."

Houston blanketed McGrady all night, holding Houston's remaining All-Star to eight points on 4-for-11 shooting. Other Rockets had routinely picked up the slack during the seven-week run when ever McGrady was struggling, but the Rockets never let that happen.

The Rockets scored a season-low 19 points in the second half on 11-for-33 shooting.

"It's not disappointing," McGrady said. "It's a hell of a team over there. They outplayed us. I've never seen a defense like that. I mean, if they play defense like that, night in and night out, the NBA is in trouble."

Luis Scola scored 15 for Houston, which had a 13-game home streak snapped. Only the 1985-86 Rockets, who won 20 straight at The Summit, had a longer home-court streak in franchise history.

Reserve Leon Powe added 21 points for the Celtics, who've won 13 of their last 14 games, the last three without All-Star guard Ray Allen, who's out with a sore left ankle.

Boston beat San Antonio 93-91 on Monday night and Garnett said the Celtics were all business in their approach to Tuesday's game.

"There wasn't really a lot of talking on the bus last night after the win," Garnett said. "We got on the plane, it was real subtle. There wasn't a lot of talking and I know when we're like that, we're for sure ready.

The Rockets still have one more streak to protect — they'll go for their 13th straight road win in New Orleans on Wednesday night. The end of the big streak hadn't quite sunk in moments after the loss.

"I feel worse for the fans than I do for us," Battier said. "We'll be all right. We've got a game in 20 hours. We'll be out there trying to win another game. For the fans, they really were captivated by this streak and we hope they still get behind us and cheer us on."

Houston beat the Lakers on Sunday to take over sole possession of first place in the Western Conference and set up Tuesday's showdown between conference leaders.

**Lakers 102, Mavericks 100**

Kobe Bryant took a pass in the lane and spun toward a defender, flicking the ball over his head once his back was toward the basket. The ball hit the glass, caromed off the rim and fell into the net.

Just like that, the Los Angeles Lakers were up by 25 points mid-way through the third quarter. And the momentum the Dallas Mavericks thought they'd built with five lopsided wins over lousy teams seemed silly.

Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavs ended up making things interesting all the way to the final buzzer, but it wasn't enough to change the outcome. The Lakers won Tuesday night, ending a streak of three losses in four games and putting them back into a tie with Houston for the best record in the Western Conference.

"It's a big win for us," Bryant said.

"We had to stop the bleeding. We got a big lead, but it wasn't the way we wanted to close out the game. But we got the win," Bryant said.

The Lakers scored 22 points and Paul Pierce added 24 as Boston handed Houston its first loss since a 97-93 defeat to Utah on Jan. 27. The Rockets then put together the NBA's longest winning streak, which ended 11 victories shy of the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who won 33 in a row.

"Our names will be remembered through the Hall of Fame people," said Houston point guard Rafer Alston. "We have something to tell our kids."

It was only Houston's second loss in 28 games and its fourth since a 97-93 loss in Boston on Jan. 2, a game Tracy McGrady sat out with a knee injury. The Rockets also lost for the first time in 11 games since Yao Ming went out with a season-ending foot injury on Feb. 26.

The Rockets were finally doomed by poor shooting and mistakes that they overcame during their streak with hustle and solid defense.

"I'm too close to the situation right now to really appreciate," Rockets forward Shane Battier said. "When I'm old and gray and can't dribble this basketball any more, I think I'll appreciate it. Right now, we're still in a playoff run and have got some dogs barking at our heels."

Houston blanketed McGrady all night, holding Houston's remaining All-Star to eight points on 4-for-11 shooting. Other Rockets had routinely picked up the slack during the seven-week run when ever McGrady was struggling, but the Rockets never let that happen.

The Rockets scored a season-low 19 points in the second half on 11-for-33 shooting.

"It's not disappointing," McGrady said. "It's a hell of a team over there. They outplayed us. I've never seen a defense like that. I mean, if they play defense like that, night in and night out, the NBA is in trouble."

Luis Scola scored 15 for Houston, which had a 13-game home streak snapped. Only the 1985-86 Rockets, who won 20 straight at The Summit, had a longer home-court streak in franchise history.

Reserve Leon Powe added 21 points for the Celtics, who've won 13 of their last 14 games, the last three without All-Star guard Ray Allen, who's out with a sore left ankle.

Boston beat San Antonio 93-91 on Monday night and Garnett said the Celtics were all business in their approach to Tuesday's game.

"There wasn't really a lot of talking on the bus last night after the win," Garnett said. "We got on the plane, it was real subtle. There wasn't a lot of talking and I know when we're like that, we're for sure ready.

The Rockets still have one more streak to protect — they'll go for their 13th straight road win in New Orleans on Wednesday night. The end of the big streak hadn't quite sunk in moments after the loss.

"I feel worse for the fans than I do for us," Battier said. "We'll be all right. We've got a game in 20 hours. We'll be out there trying to win another game. For the fans, they really were captivated by this streak and we hope they still get behind us and cheer us on."

Houston beat the Lakers on Sunday to take over sole possession of first place in the Western Conference and set up Tuesday's showdown between conference leaders.

**Bulls 112, Nets 96**

This time there was no fourth-quarter luge for the Chicago Bulls. Their 24-point cushion sliced to nine by the New Jersey Nets early in the final period Tuesday night, the Bulls responded, even if they were a little worried it was about to happen again.

"Somewhat," Chicago guard Larry Hughes said after a 112-96 victory.

"But instead of letting that stretch go on for three or four minutes, we cut it down. Instead of letting it go on like in previous games, we were able to refocus and get things going back in the right direction."

In their two previous losses, the Bulls blew an 18-point fourth-quarter lead against the 76ers and then let a nine-point lead get away in the final period Monday night in New Orleans.

With the lead slipping this time, Ben Gordon hit a jumper and Kirk Hinrich sank a 3-pointer from the corner to start an 15-2 run that gave Chicago a 94-72 lead.

Gordon scored 10 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and Hughes added 16 in Chicago's balanced attack. Luol Deng scored 20 points, and Drew Gooden had 19 points and 11 rebounds for Cleveland.

"We didn't want that to become a habit," Deng said of losing late leads. "We were talking to each other that we got to put a stop to it and we can't become known for that."

New Jersey played the second half without starting point guard Devin Harris, who sprained his right ankle and limped off the court with 1:56 to go in the second quarter.

Harris' ankle was swollen after the game, but X-rays were nega tive and he will be evaluated daily.

Vince Carter led the Nets with 22 points.

---

**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!**

secure.nd.edu
The combined 25-3 doubles record of the No. 1 and 3 teams took the No. 2 group's recent progress out of the limelight. Sophomore Jillian Hurley managed to get one of the Belles’ two victories on the singles side by defeating Brion's Kali Krisik and freshman Kristen Rafaela have only played together the past few matches and display a 5-5 record, but have won their past two. There is only one thing according to Bayliss, pointing out consistency. "Our No. 2 pair is more explosive," he said. "Kristen hits the ball really well, but sometimes makes a few errors. Kali is kind of the same. The one thing they kind of need to find is consistency, because when they are good, they’re really good, but when they’re not, they struggle. But when they’re on, they’re really dangerous." If the Knights can find what their coach wants of them, one thing is certain — Irish opponents better be prepared.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

Albion continued from page 20

At No. 1 singles, Albion freshman Michaela Gebert cruised in a dominating 6-2, 6-2, 7-5 win over Brion's Vic Seiter. Albion’s Mary Renda and Emily Leonard continued the Briton’s singles domination by defeating freshman Jessica Kosinski 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 and sophomore Lisa Rubino 6-3, 6-1, 6-2.

The Belles finally came through on their goal to improve on the doubles side. Saint Mary's No. 1 doubles pair of Gebert and Hurley took down Albion's top doubles pair of Mulder and Zambri, 8-4. Gebert and Hurley moved their record to 4-4 as a pair while Mulder and Zambri are 5-2. Rubino and Reed kept up their momentum as a duo, defeating Saint Mary's Briana Stovall and Benedicka Rendina 6-5-4. Saint Mary's No. 3 doubles pair of Gillian Averch and Anna Nevels 6-4, 6-2, 8-6 and Kosinski 6-1 to Albion's Anna and Emily Gunderson.

"I think we are finally meshing well together," Gebert said. "She is a great player and partner. We have great chemistry, and I have confidence that we will do well in our conference together. We need to feel more comfortable at the net, but we have enough to back it up in the meantime." Saint Mary's continues conference play when it hosts Calvin on March 26 in its home opener. The Knights are currently 7-1 and have not started MIAA competition.

Contact Megan Veselik at mvsevel01@stmarys.edu

Write Sports.

http://www.chine@nd.edu
NCAA Football

Former BC quarterback Ryan throws for scouts

Associated Press

BOSTON — The NFL got its chance to see Matt Ryan throw on Tuesday, and the Boston College quarterback didn't do anything that would keep him from being picked early in the draft.

Perhaps even first overall.

Ryan worked out at BC's biggest Pro Day ever, throwing to former teammates for a mini-combine of 42 scouts and other personnel evaluators from 22 NFL teams. He completed 16 of 32 passes, six drops, one overthrow — from three-, five- and seven step drops, from the pocket and on the run, throwing to both sides of the field.

"I made every throw you need to make in the NFL," said Ryan, who skipped the Senior Bowl and ran but didn't throw at last month's NFL combine in Indianapolis. "I thought it went well. It was the first opportunity I've had to throw in front of the scouts live."

Pro Day is a traditional part of the calendar at football factories like Michigan and Southern California, but BC's had never attracted much media coverage before it joined the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2005.

After welcoming the press for the first time last year — about 20 reporters showed up in all — the school issued 72 credentials for Tuesday's workout, along with an unprecedented number of NFL scouts.

Kansas City coach Herm Edwards and general manager Carl Peterson were among those who watched more than three dozen players work out, including another potential first-rounder, Eagles defensive lineman Gudder Gherkias.

"They've got a few here, obvious-ly, that are good football players," Edwards told reporters. "They're more comfortable in this environment than they are in the combine. You're gathering information, and this is another check of the information. But, at the end, you've got to go to the tape."

Former BC running back William Green, a former first-round pick who played four years with the Cleveland Browns but was out of the league last year, hoped the tryout would jumpstart his comeback.

BC linebacker Jo-Lonn Dunbar and safety Janine Shaw also joined players from area schools including UMass, Harvard, Bentley, Northeastern, Holy Cross and St. Francis.

But the primary attraction was Ryan.

The BC quarterback was the ACC player of the year and the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award winner in 2007. "Just being at the Pro Day and going to play in our league, there's no doubt about that. He has all the train you need to play in our league," Edwards said. "The thing this guy has is his ability to win. And that's what you like in quarterback. Some guys can do a lot of things. But, in the end, can you win?"

"It's very believable. The players believe that if he has the ball in his hands at the end of the game, that you have a chance to win the game. He has that demeanor about himself. He's fiery, but he keeps himself under control."

---

Asian Summer Language Grant Program

Deadline is March 28, 2008.

The Center for Asian Studies is sponsoring a competition for undergraduates and graduate students who wish to study an Asian language not currently offered at Notre Dame. The program selected can be either in the U.S. or a foreign country.

It is expected that such study will contribute to the student's further education at Notre Dame. In most cases, language classes will be counted for academic credit at Notre Dame. The competition is not open to seniors or graduate students completing their degrees.

Applications at www.nd.edu/ndcas

Essay Prize in Asian Studies

Deadline is April 11, 2008.

Two prizes of $100 each will be awarded for the Best Undergraduate and Best Graduate Essay. Essays should focus on Asia or Asian American topics.

Undergraduate submissions should be no longer than 20 pages. Graduate submissions should be no longer than 30 pages.

Submit four copies (three without author information) to:

Center for Asian Studies
210 O'Shaughnessy Hall
1-0487

www.nd.edu/ndcas

Lafayette Square Townhomes

Now Leasing for 2008-2009

424 N. Frances Street
4 and 5 Bedroom Townhomes
6 Blocks from Campus
2 Bathrooms
Off-Street Parking
Washer and Dryer
Dishwasher
Central Air
Security System

These apartments rent quickly. Call us today at:
(574) 234-2436
To view all of our properties, visit www.kramerhouses.com

CKP

the campus kitchens project

welcome to the newest classroom on campus:
the kitchen.

Fight hunger in your community
Email: info@campuskitchens.org

www.campuskitchens.org
Dealing with the limelight

Big East player of the year learning to play with added attention

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

Part of the reason Notre Dame's Luke Harangody has had such a successful season is his reckless abandon on the court.

On Monday, Irish coach Mike Brey took steps to ensure the aggressiveness continues.

Brey talked with the sophomore, who was featured in Sports Illustrated last week, about not letting the pressure of stardom affect his game.

In Notre Dame's 89-79 loss to Marquette Thursday in the Big East quarterfinals, Harangody got in early foul trouble and was held to 13 points and 11.3 boards per Big East game.

Brey said he thought Harangody was tentative in that game, feeling the pressure of being the Big East player of the year, the national spotlight and the New York crowd.

He wanted to sit down with his star and make sure the forward was relaxed and ready to "have fun again," Brey said.

After Monday's conversation, however, Harangody said he is ready to be his old self again in the NCAA Tournament. He said he knows opponents will prepare specifically for him and will try to get him in foul trouble early like the Golden Eagles did.

"There's going to be a target on me because of the [Big East] player of the year award," Harangody said. "Coach talked to me about it. I just have to go out there and play the game I've been playing."

Sophomore point guard Tory Jackson said Harangody isn't the only player that needs to relax to be at his best on the court.

"We need to continue to have fun like we've been doing," he said.

Notre Dame will face George Mason Thursday in Denver at 9:40 p.m. Eastern time in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. If the Irish win, they will play Saturday, taking on the winner of Washington State and Winthrop - the team that handed the Irish a 74-64 loss and knocked them out of the field in the first round.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

ND Women's Tennis

Duo of Buck, Tefft lead recent improvement in doubles performances

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Through Notre Dame's most recent three game winning streak, there has been one constant — solid doubles play.

Ask Irish coach Jay Louderback, and it's easy to tell: it's no mistake his squad has won the ever-so-important doubles point in each of those three contests.

"It's been something we've always focused on in practice," Louderback said of doubles preparation. "It's always nice to start the match out with a one-point lead because then you only need three singles wins to take the match. It's really important because it helps set the tone for the rest of the match, and can create some momentum that the players feed off of."

Earlier in the dual match season, Notre Dame struggled, losing the doubles point in three straight matches in Feb. against George, William & Mary and Baylor. Although all three opponents were ranked in the top-15 at the time, Louderback realized the importance of establishing a winning standard in the doubles matches.

A great deal of the difficulties, Louderback said, were due to the process of finding the right combinations to put together the squad's three best doubles tandems.

"Early in the year we kind of struggled," he said. "We were just switching players around, trying to find the best combinations that we were most comfortable with."

Fortunately for the Irish, it worked.

Since the Baylor match on Feb. 11, Louderback's changes have resulted in Notre Dame securing the doubles point in nine of the past 10 dual matches.

The doubles team of senior Brook Buck, left, and junior Kelsey Tefft is now ranked No. 1 nationally and has helped lead the resurgence of Notre Dame's doubles performance.