Students travel to D.C. to witness inauguration

Professor organizes bus to nation's capital

By KATLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

WASHINGTON — Millions are converging on the nation's capital to watch Barack Obama take the presidential oath of office today, and hotels, spare bedrooms and couches are being filled throughout the metropolitan area. But few people have a closer site to crash than Saint Mary's sophomore Colleen Lowry.

Transportation routes will be packed with crowds in the early hours this morning, as millions make their way to the Capitol and the National Mall to watch the swearing-in and the inauguration speech at noon. Lowry won't have to brave crowds on the roads, bridges and Metro, since Monday night she stayed in Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan's office in the Longworth House Congressional Building, mere seconds away from the Capitol, where Obama will be sworn in.

"We walk out the door and we are on Capitol Hill," Lowry said. On Sunday night, Lowry stayed with her brother in the suburbs, but she and her parents moved to Ryan's office Monday so they could avoid the traffic into the city. "We have air mattresses and there are couches and stuff here," she said. "Eight of us are staying here, including the congressman."

Lowry left her home in Ohio that morning and that night went to the Ohio Gala Ball at a hotel in the city. The President-elect Barack Obama acknowledges the crowd at an event Monday night. He will be sworn in as the 44th president at noon today.

see BUS/Page 4

Campuses celebrate Martin Luther King's legacy

Jenkins reflects on activist during ND prayer service

By LIZ LEEVRE
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame family gathered yesterday to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. and his vision of community with a prayer service honoring his legacy in the rotunda of the Main Building.

The service opened with the singing of "We Shall Overcome" by age 19, and continued with Hugh Page, dean of first year studies, reading an excerpt of King's speech from the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.

Students traveled to D.C. to witness inauguration

By JENN METZ
News Editor

WASHINGTON — Sitting in his new Washington, D.C. apartment on the eve of Inauguration Day, Notre Dame alum Shawn Finlen relaxed with friends.

Working first on president-elect Barack Obama's campaign in the fall and the Presidential Inauguration Committee for the past two weeks, he has clocked hundreds of busy hours, managing volunteers and organizing events.

"Day-to-day is grueling, working 16-hour days," he said. "It's amazing to be part of not just another political campaign — we thought of it as more of a movement."

Finlen, class of '08, majored in Political Science at Notre Dame, and joined the Obama team last September.

An Illinois native, Finlen first met Obama in 2004 while working for a House of Representatives campaign and had the opportunity to meet him several more times over the past few months, including Monday, the National Day of Service.

Finlen worked at an event at a D.C. high school, making blankets for Walter Reed Army Medical Center and writing inspiring messages for the crowd.

see OBAMA/Page 4

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM
Carpe Obama

Did you hear the news? There’s a small event going on in Washington, D.C. today. It may or may not concern the politics of the free world. It might involve one of the greatest new political minds of our century. And it could, just maybe, pertaining to your D.C. single American citizen sitting in the dining hall.

If you have been anywhere near a television, newspaper, radio, or even that one kid down the block who has been reading passages from “The Audacity of Hope” to you since freshman year, you’re probably heard the news. Today, my friends, is Inauguration Day. By the time you’re reading this paper, Barack Hussein Obama will have officially been inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States of America.

Winning the presidency, we might gather from the length and expense of this past race, is no small feat. You need both your plans and your execution to work in tandem without missing a beat of the national pulse. You need to build lasting connections with politicians and ordinary citizens across this country, a massive task even in its geographic scope. You need to research, to investigate, to understand and to grapple. You practically need an army. Heck, if you manage to get the job, you will need an army.

On January 20, 2009, we’ve offered Barack Obama the chance to take that job.

In a time of economic collapse and international tension, our democratic process, however long and toiling that process may be, has chosen this man to take his seat in the Oval Office. Maybe it was a feeling of trust, or confidence, or belief in his beliefs and his vision. Or maybe it was all three. But as matters stood, he was offered a seat. And with his grace and our prayers, he came to grab hold of history with our own two hands. Don’t let this time pass you by.

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

Contact Analise Lipari at allpar@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself of a professional publication and stands for the highest standards of journalism at all times.

We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have noticed a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

INSIDE COLUMN

QUESTION OF THE DAY: DO YOU HAVE SPECIAL PLANS FOR THE INAUGURATION?

Chris Massad
Natalie Fang
Robin Brown
Ying Liu

“Join the Secret Service.”
“I’m missing class to watch it.”
“Does watching history in the making count?”
“Take my shirt off in celebration.”

Members of the Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team perform a human jump rope routine during halftime of the women’s basketball game against St. John’s Saturday.

OFFBEAT

Web site with “world’s best job” crashes

SYDNEY — The chance to be the caretaker of a tiny tropical island in Australia has sparked so much interest around the world that a rush of applications and telephone threats kept the organization up in arms.

Busty Virgin Mary’s spark outrage

SANTIAGO — A prominent fashion designer has sparked outrage in Chile by dressing up models like the Virgin Mary — in some cases with ample, nacked breasts.

The Roman Catholic Church condemned Ricardo Oyarzun’s plans for a show featuring the models, and a conservative group tried unsuccessfully to block it in court.

Oyarzun said he had received telephone threats and had even received his name smeared on his doorstep.

“There is no pornography here, there’s no sex, there are no virgins masturbating or feeling each other,” Oyarzun said ahead of the catwalk show set to be held at a Santiago nightclub later on Thursday. “This is artistic expression.”

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Mass will be held in honor of Blessed Basil Moreau today at 1:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The service is open to the public.

Health and Recreation will be having a Dance Kick-Off today at 6:15 p.m. at RSRC AR 2. Registration can be done via Registration. The class is open to students, faculty, and staff.

Campus Ministry is holding a panel discussion titled “Men in Black: Inspirations and Reflections” today at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. The panel will be made up of priests talking about their life experiences in the priesthood.

Tim Robbins will be giving a lecture called “Teater as Community” at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Leighton Concert Hall in Debartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased online or through the ticket office for $5.

Professor Mario Livio of Johns Hopkins University will be giving a lecture called “The Greatest Scientific Achievements of the Bubble Space Telescope” Wednesday at 4 p.m. in 118 Nieuwland Science Hall.

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival will be kick off Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Browning Cinema. Tickets for students are $3 and can be purchased online or at the ticket office.

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

By SARAH MERVOSH
New Writer

Student body president Bob Reish announced that Fr. Mark Poorman said in a letter to Reish approving the resolution.

"It wasn't necessarily a need but it was a significant convenience," said student body president Mark Schmidt, citing those who do not have easy access to LaFortune or DeBartolo halls who are present at those locations.

The resolution has been passed with the condition that additional printers will not lead to a significant increase in the paper being used.

"The resolution will not increase ... would be counterproductive for the many efforts currently on campus to reduce environmental impact," wrote Reish.

The second resolution calls for reducing printer usage for the creation of a task force that will review the orientation process for transfer students, chaired by Brian Coughlin, the assistant vice president for student activities.

The transfer student orientation process is "a tremendous focus on academics. But was there a gap with the rest of the Notre Dame community and the transfers," said Meg MacCaughhey, chair of the task force on new student introduction to Notre Dame. "We've been working to get a more cohesive Notre Dame community.

There is no involvement from student affairs in transfer orientation, which means no rec tor involvement and no organized ways to meet other students, said Reish.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Crushed winter weather causes pipe to burst

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Most eyes in the nation will be on President-elect Barack Obama as he is sworn in office at noon today, but those in Notre Dame are using the inauguration as a chance to reflect on the presidency of a man who will be former President George W. Bush by 1 p.m.

"Success and failure are political judgments," said "It all depends on what you attribute to the President."

"President Bush served his country with honor and integrity," said "While his decisions were not always popular, he served the country to the best of his ability and with princi-

Josh Kaplan, the associate director of undergraduate studies in political science, is also looking back on Bush's presidency said he saw potential in Bush that he didn’t fulfill.

"I’m still torn as to whether the war in Iraq was justified according to my understanding of a just war," he said.

Kaplan said he thinks Bush's form of politics can still be beneficial after he's gone.

"His vision of 'compassionate conservatism' was genuine and thoughtful," he said. "The party could still learn from it.

"We don’t know yet what he’ll be remembered for," said Wolcott. "Depends on what you focus on.

Kaplan said he believes that the Iraqi War might have an impact on how Bush's presidency is remembered.

"If Iraq becomes a more stable country in the near future, his decisions will be judged more favorably," Kaplan said. "If not, history may not treat him as kindly because he committed the United States to an open-ended involvement in Iraq with no end in sight.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray@nd.edu
Bus continued from page 1
Ohio State band played and the governor and the lieutenant governor were there as well as several congressmen.
This is not her first time witnessing the transition of power. Perry and her parents came to the inaugurations in 2001 and 2005.
"I think this one is definitely a lot more exciting, because I was actually in this election, so I had a say in it," she said. "And I campaigned for Barack Obama.
Lowry plans to wake up about 4 a.m., to walk over to her ticketed section.
I'm really excited to see all the people and to be able to be exposed to coming out for this, and to see bow packed the mall will be," she said. "Just to see the millions of ordinary Americans that will be there."
Notre Dame sophomore Jasmine Williams will not need a hotel room or couch during her time in Washington. Along with about 50 others from Notre Dame, many of them members of the Africana club, Williams left campus at about 4 p.m. to drive through the night to get to the inauguration.
Notre Dame president John Jenkins has said the university is sending 750 members of the Notre Dame community to see the inauguration. "Oddly enough, I'm looking forward to the crowd," he said.
About 50 people are on the same bus as Laurel coming from Notre Dame, most members of the Notre Dame chapter of the College Democrats, but also some who just got word of the bus trip and wanted to join her.

Obama continued from page 1
sages to send to the troops overseas.
Obama and his wife Michelle were among the 300 volunteers in attendance comprised of members of volunteer organizations and friends of the military, and teachers and students from the high school.
Finlen said the Obamas were very social with the other students and stayed for about an hour. Vice president-elect Joe Biden participated as well, and brought about 50 of his field organizers.
"I think his campaign really opened up our political system... so many people came out to vote, we recruited millions of first-time voters," Finlen said.

Notre Dame senior Mallory Laurel had a ticket to the inauguration but did not arrive in Washington in time to pick it up. On Monday, long lines formed outside the House and Senate office buildings with people waiting to pick up tickets. Laurel left Notre Dame on a bus organized by engineering professor Lee McWilliams shortly after 5 p.m. Monday, intending to arrive at 3 a.m. Tuesday, Laurel, who spoke to The Observer by phone, said she has yet decided whether she would try to stand in the non-ticketed area of the National Mall to hear Obama's inauguration speech, or whether she would try to stake out a position along the parade route.
Laurel decided to take the trip — spending two consecutive nights on a bus because she thinks the inauguration will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.
"It's going to be an experience. So many people are going who don't have tickets," she said. "The whole point is to show up and be there in community supporting the president-elect."
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Program continued from page 1

Obama was on the front of the menu. Everywhere — you can't go anywhere and there's not Obama,'" junior Monika Perry said.
The atmosphere has even shifted in the past days, Perry said. "When we got here it was fine, but now it's just out of control."
"I think his campaign really opened up our political system... so many people came out to vote, we recruited millions of first-time voters," Finlen said.

After seeing thousands of people flock to D.C. to witness the historic inauguration, Finlen said the Obama movement was successful because it was "able to "gain so much support, especially from the young and so many people were feeling disenfranchised."
"I think his campaign really opened up our political system... so many people came out to vote, we recruited millions of first-time voters," Finlen said.

After the Inauguration — the realization of hundreds of campaign employees and volunteers' months of hard work — Finlen plans to get a job in D.C. He's currently looking at jobs on Capitol Hill and with the Office of the Obama administration has available.
"I'm definitely going to stay engaged in politics," he said.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

"Just talking to people and hearing what they have to say, and from what we know, this level of excitement has not been this high for a long time," Patrick Brown, a sophomore said.
"A lot of people seem pretty excited in the past days, but then you can tell the D.C. folks — they're just annoyed at the people invading their city," Meehan said.

Regardless, everyone recognizes that Washington is the center of the action, bound to attract people by the millions. Brown said, suggesting otherwise is to be right now, all the celebrities, all the notable dignitaries they all want to be here right now," Brown said.
Brown and McDonnell said the inauguration did play a role in their decision to come to Washington this semester.
"I thought, 'Spring '09 is going to be the inauguration, it's going to be a new administration, whoever wins,'" and that at point we didn't even know who the nominees were, but I knew it was going to be an exciting time no matter who won," Brown said. McDonnell agreed.
"I know I wanted to do this program at some point and... it's an exciting time," he said.
Perry said that while she didn't even realize the inauguration would take place while she was in Washington, she fully recognizes now how historic the experience is.
"You know that your kids are going to ask you when they came back from 7th grade history or something," she said. "It's difficult not to get swept up into the events. Meehan said, and forget the importance of some events.
"There's just so much going on at once that you're not going to lose the historical sense," he said. "I think as time goes by, even this semester, we'll look back and realize how important this was."
Brown said he expects that even after the inauguration wraps up Washington will still be an exciting place.
"It's not going to go away because of the momentum he has, and what they're trying to do is inspire a lot of action and counter-action from both sides, there's not a better time to be in D.C. that I can think of than during a new administration, a new leadership," Brown said.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Top to bottom: The United States Capitol is illuminated Monday night. President-elect Barack Obama will be sworn into office at a ceremony on Capitol Hill Tuesday; Tickets to the presidential inauguration were issued by the House and Senate office building Monday. Those without tickets will be allowed to stand in the non-ticketed area of the National Mall or along the parade route.

"I think it's a very enthusiastic supporter not discouraged by the high gas prices at the end of the summer, but someone hired by the campaign, Finlen said.
A local politician "thought it was amazing," Finlen said and made him drive around for two more days bringing his billboard that read "Vote No!" with pictures of Obama and Biden to about eight more towns in the state.
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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Australian author sent to prison**

A South Australian author sent to prison for insulting the king when he visited Australia has opened a book "Verbatim," in which he has said seven copies.

**Tension heightened in South Korea**

South Korea's hardline will take a year, and the lessons learned from the recent controversy that ended in a shaky truce, have plummeted to consider life-threatening. The other worker, an Indianapolis hospital, but his burns are not.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Crash investigation to take a year**

Transportation crash investigation to take a year. The other worker, an Indianapolis hospital, but his burns are not.

**NEWSTYLE OF CAMPAIGNING EMERGES**

Iraqi candidates answer a range of questions focused on grass-roots issues

Iraqi candidates have focused on discussing daily life issues rather than the heavy ones of religion and violence.

**SALMONELLA OUTBREAK CAUSES RECALL**

Kellogg has recalled two types of crackers and its products with peanut butter in them because of suspicion of contamination amid a salmonella outbreak that has killed at least six people and sickened more than 470 others in 43 states. At least 90 people have been hospitalized.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Boiler explosion injures 2 at University of Wisconsin at Madison, Lab worker injured two Maintenenace employees plaster overpasses, bridges and light poles as well as the miles of concrete blast barriers disecting the Iraqi capital and other cities. With less than two weeks to voting day, workers were out putting up more posters this weekend on whatever space remained.
ND student reports sexual assault

Observer Staff Report

NDSP is investigating a sexual assault reported by a Notre Dame student on Jan. 17. The assault occurred in a residence hall in the southwest corner of campus, Friday, Jan. 16 and was reported as committed by an acquaintance.

The student was talking about sexual assault prevention and resources for survivors of sexual assault. She was available to talk at Student Affairs of Notre Dame, 461 Jordan Hall, or at the Office of Student Development at 631-6940.

A senior Alyssa Zamora, who delivered a reading from Psalms during the prayer service, agreed.

"I think it is very important to remember Martin Luther King and his vision, especially this year with the inaugu­ration of a new president," she said. "M a r i n a, Putin has a big responsibility in the new generation felt in the govern­ment."

"We stand on the evening of a new era of hope. I hope you see with different eyes than I saw, hope you see closer and farther and with more hope."

Carol Ann Mooney
College President

"The idea was to try to keep some traditions that are going associated with his feast day each year," Cavadi said.

Milk

continued from page 1

from Nov. 17, 1957.

In the speech, King warned that civilization could be plunged into devastation if one had the sense to increase love in our world.

Page acknowledged King's message of the transformational power of love and peace and freedom. According to King, "Love is the matrix from which everything is born."

A focus of the service was the connection between President Obama and the king, said his message, which followed through on his words.

"Martin Luther King had special­ty that was grounded in the spirit of fundamental truths with lived impli­cations," he said.

University President Dr. John Jenkins concluded his remarks, "The reason why we remember Martin Luther King and are inspired by him is that his life was consistent with his words," Jenkins said.

"I didn't just live great spe­cifics, he lived the very words he called us to," Jenkins also noted the sig­nificance of honoring King on the eve of President Obama's inauguration.

He compared the two men's ability to deliver pow­erful oratory and said that it is especially fitting dur­ing this historic week to remember "calling to which King inspired peo­ple."

One more day and Milk's feast day allows for reflection on what would be a particularly Holy Cross approach. 

Panelsists will be "reflecting on the vocation to Holy Cross," he said.

During the event, audience members, agreed.

"People will get a sense that they are not just priests, but Cavadi said. "They are priests in a particular congregation of Holy Cross and they are not the sense of what that means to them".

Cavadi will also deliver the inaugural Blessed Basil Moreau lecture on Tuesday, March 20. "The audience will get a reading from 'The Black: Holy Cross Stories' will take place at 8 a.m. in the Washington Hall, according to a press release.

Different religious congrega­tions have their own spirituality and approach, Cavadi said, and Milk's feast day allows for reflection on what would be a particularly Holy Cross approach.

"The idea is not just to com­mune with the dead," Cavadi said, "but for people to understand how those ideals take root here now," Cavadi said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

March

continued from page 1

Marching. He reflected on how the concept of marching was something that the "Black generation of people had only read," he said.

He also noted that yester­day's march happened on one of America's most important days, the inaugu­ration of a new President - Barack Obama.

"One day we will not have to come together to march to take things right," he said.

Others who spoke before the march began included Jacquita Martin, LaQuay Brown, Shonisha Rodriguez, Krisile Hodes also led the group in singing, "Every Voice and Sing."

Marchers lit their candles outside the student cen­ter and then paraded along a large group singing "We Shall Overcome."

College President Carol Ann Mooney then pres­ented a reflection to students. She said that she was going to give a bit more of a personal reflection than she usually would give, discussing the importance of the moment and the distrust that her generation felt in the gov­ernment.

She said she had a "very vivid memory of the peo­ple's March on Washington."

"They had a dream of America," she said. "They had a dream that they would be freer than ever before."

"She said that she hopes the current generation will be free of the cynicism that plagued her own genera­tion.

"We stand on the evening of a new era of hope," she said, referring to the inaugu­ration of a new generation. I hope you see closer and farther and with more hope."
Russia, Ukraine restore gas supply

Europe to receive natural gas again after a two-week cutoff of shipments

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

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<th>Dow Jones</th>
<th>8,281.22</th>
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Federaf investigators are and possibly Russia and something though the British government said leading British shares, which was down 38.59.

The British government's latest move was a step toward full nationalization of one or more banks. Fears focused on the second rescue plan for the country's ailing banks on Monday, hoping to rekindle and have been instructed to resume lending for Europe that had been halted since Jan. 7 as Moscow and Kiev argued over 2009 gas prices and allegations that Ukraine was stealing gas destined for Europe. As a result of intensive and lengthy talks we reached agreement on all issues concerning natural gas supply to Ukraine and its transit to Europe," Putin said. He said Gazprom had been instructed to resume shipments bound for Europe that had been halted since Jan. 7 as Moscow and Kiev argued over 2009 gas prices and allegations that Ukraine was stealing gas destined for Europe. Tymoshenko said the gas would be pumped toward Europe as soon as it enters the Ukrainian pipelines. But neither official said exactly when the gas would begin flowing.

Officials said the restored gas shipments could take up to 36 hours, but he believed the bank would hold at 24 hours. The former prime minister said the restored gas shipments could take up to 36 hours, but he believed the bank would hold at 24 hours. The former prime minister said.

European stock markets plunge

LONDON — European stock markets fell Monday with banks in free fall as investors fretted over a second British government bailout of the sector in three months and some predicted that cash-strapped Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC would end up fully nationalized.

Europe's early gains were erased as the investors were scared by fears that the British government's latest move was a step toward full nationalization of one or more banks, and that other governments will have to step in to save some of the ailing financial institutions.

Germany's DAX closed down 50.14 points, or 0.87 percent, at 5,736.14, while France's CAC 40 fell 27.06 points, or 0.9 percent, at 2,989.69.

BT is the leading British shares, which was down 38.59 points, or 0.9 percent, at 4,108.47, even though the British government had instructed the bank to resume lending for Europe that had been halted since Jan. 7 as Moscow and Kiev argued over 2009 gas prices and allegations that Ukraine was stealing gas destined for Europe. Tymoshenko said the gas would be pumped toward Europe as soon as it enters the Ukrainian pipelines. But neither official said exactly when the gas would begin flowing.

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Rescue plan for British banks unveiled

Associated Press

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Announcing the new rescue package, Brown said the government would offer to insure banks against default on toxic loans in exchange for a fee and legally binding commitments to make credit more available to British businesses and home buyers. Brown's plan will also see 50 billion pounds ($74 billion) set aside to create a special fund for the Bank of England to buy high quality loans and other assets directly from banks. That plan is also aimed at bringing down borrowing costs.

Britain's Treasury said precise details of the asset purchase program would be finalized later this month. Both Treasury chief Alistair Darling and Brown acknowledged that October's pledge of $37 billion pounds (about $55 billion) to bail out Britain's banks hadn't done enough to encourage them to resume normal lending

5% of its total natural gas needs from Russia via Ukrainian pipelines, and the cutoff hit hard at some countries, such as Bulgaria and Slovakia, that rely almost entirely on Russia for gas. In the Balkans and other eastern European nations, the crisis has shut factories and left millions of people to shiver in unheated homes.

The confrontation has deeply shaken Europe's trust in both Russia and Ukraine as reliable energy suppliers — something each has repeatedly insisted in its, while blaming the other for the supply cutoff. More than 15 nations have been forced to scrounge for alternative sources of energy. The dispute was further complicated by geopolitical struggles over Ukraine's future and over lucrative export routes for the energy riches of the former Soviet Union. Before dawn Sunday, Tymoshenko and Putin negotiated a preliminary deal for Ukraine to get gas with a 20 percent discount from this year's average European price, which Russia says is $450 per 1,000 cubic meters. That would double the price

In Brief

Hedge fund manager missing

Sarasota, Fla. — Federal investigators are still trying to figure out what happened to the operator of a hedge fund that had been invested or how much of dollars managed by the missing man. Reported missing by family members Wednesday.

There seems to be some concern doing something getting in the way of our investment. Some are saying the fund may have as much as $350 million. Sarasota police have received at least seven complaints from investors. Some say they lost more than $700,000.

Most at parking lot.

It remains unclear exactly how much money had been invested or how much was missing, though the fund was said the fund may have as much as $350 million. Sarasota police have received at least seven complaints from investors. Some say they lost more than $700,000.

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Announcing the new rescue package, Brown said the government would offer to insure banks against default on toxic loans in exchange for a fee and legally binding commitments to make credit more available to British businesses and home buyers. Brown's plan will also see 50 billion pounds ($74 billion) set aside to create a special fund for the Bank of England to buy high quality loans and other assets directly from banks. That plan is also aimed at bringing down borrowing costs.

Britain's Treasury said precise details of the asset purchase program would be finalized later this month. Both Treasury chief Alistair Darling and Brown acknowledged that October's pledge of $37 billion pounds (about $55 billion) to bail out Britain's banks hadn't done enough to encourage them to resume normal lending
Last week I visited the National Archives in Washington, D.C., a building that houses the most treasured historical documents of the United States government, including the original copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Seeing these documents for the first time, after 21 years of living in the nation conceived in the ideals of their revered authors and born from the words carefully preserved in ink upon their surfaces, was a deeply moving experience for me, one that I will not soon forget.

When we take a look back through our nation’s history, however, it becomes evident that many Americans have forgotten the principles that are enshrined by these faded pages of parchment. Perhaps the most sacred among these principles is the preservation of individual liberty through limited government. What the Founders feared above all was a distant, powerful, centralized government, and they took great care to ensure that the institutions that replaced the British crown would not revert back to the tyranny exemplified by their predecessor. In fact, their first attempt at establishing a government through the Articles of Confederation, while upholding states’ rights and individual liberty, eventually proved too weak to enable the fledgling nation to survive. By writing the Constitution that endures today, the Founders managed to balance the need for more robust institutions with the desire to secure the freedom of its people.

Yet since the days of the Founding, the fear of government has been allowed, at times even encouraged, to grow exponentially while interfering in aspects of our daily lives that the Founders never intended. At the best of times, the expansion of government at the expense of liberty is so gradual, so craftily disguised, that its effects only become discernible with the clarity of hindsight. In times of crisis, however, mass hysteria and the desire for comfort enables the government, with the people’s blessing, to take unprecedented measures that forever broadens its realm of authority.

Thomas Jefferson warned of this possible development, stating, “the true liberty of our Constitution is surely the wisest and best ... [for] when all government ... shall be drawn to Washington as the centre of all power, it will render power less the checks provided of one government on another, and will become ... oppressive as the government from which we separated.” Indeed, we now have a government that more closely resembles the British monarchy, wielding its tremendous power from afar over the increasingly-weakened states and individuals, than the government of limited authority that the Founders envisioned.

As anyone who has studied American history can affirm, three of the most basic elements that the Founders wrote into the Constitution to oblige the limitation of government include the notions of the separation of powers, federalism, and the rule of law. If we fail in our mission of separation of powers, we have activist judges rewriting legislation to suit their own political beliefs, and legislators trying to conduct warfare based on popular sentiment. Instead of federalism, we have the national government reaching beyond its enumerated powers and interfering in affairs that, according to the Tenth Amendment, should be left to the individual states. And instead of checks and balances, we have a newly-inaugurated president whose party holds overwhelming majorities in both houses of Congress, making him more of a prime minister than the leader of an independent executive branch.

Furthermore, and perhaps most unsettling, is the fact that the Founders knew that all of the nation’s problems can be solved as long as people put their faith in government. Universal healthcare, “tax cuts” meant to redistribute wealth, opposition to the privatization of social security, spending billions on a green-energy plan, and the like are all examples of how people want to use government to solve the nation’s problems. And with its goals so murky, worthy, it is not. It is often looked at by the media and government officials in ways that make it seem palatable, even necessary, to those who claim to defend it. If we are to remain true to the principles of the Founding, it is imperative that we look beyond our immediate concerns and take great care in avoiding falling prey to the temptation of relying on government rather than, the people, to ensure national prosperity.

Christie Pesavento is a junior and can be reached at cpesavento@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CHRISTINE PESAVENTO
Right Wingin' It

Christie Pesavento
Obama's inauguration is a proud moment for all

For a couple of weeks now, friends and other people whom I unfortunately know, have joked around with me, asking how much I was looking forward to the upcoming inauguration. I am not going to lie — I have kind of been in a funk. All of the hype about it has gotten to me, and the multiple Facebook invites to speech-watching events and prayer services have not helped either. Even the red, white and blue coffee sleeves at Starbucks have contributed to my depression.

Politically, conservatives and me alike may be frustrated by the results of the election and what we have to look forward to for the next four years. It would be inexcusable, though, to let petty politics get in the way of one of our country's greatest achievements. Jan. 20 will be a historic day and perhaps the most important day America will see during our lifetimes. We will see our country's first black president take office.

Just think about it! Think about how far our country has come in the last 100 years. The path toward ridding our country of the regrettable prejudice and bigotry that has haunted it for so long has caused years of pain and frustration to go unnoticed. While we still have a long way to go, the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama will be perhaps the biggest step our country has taken.

Throughout his trip to Washington, D.C., Obama has taken lines from both Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr., symbolizing both the importance and the value of his inauguration. While the U.S. would never be where it is today without the guidance of these spectacular men, Obama has done something even greater. He did not achieve the presidency alone but with the help and support of Americans. This is not just Obama's achievement and not just the achievement of one race — this is an achievement for the American people.

This all may sound way too annoyingly idealistic, but there is really no other way to describe what will happen in Washington tomorrow. People will take their minds off of the economy, the war and even their worries about the future. Guantanamo Bay inmates will be there Wednesday (hopefully), pro-ilers will still have the Freedom of Choice Act to worry about and the tape about the coast can complain about the estimated $150 million price tag on Obama's inauguration gala for the rest of the week. Jan. 20 will be a sacred day, and we should all work to keep it that way.

Tomorrow, those who are caught up in the hope and change the Obama presidency will bring about and those who are unsure about the next four years should join together in wonder and amazement of what this country has just achieved. We have many changes to look forward to (or to dread), and there are still many problems yet to be revealed. Let's try to forget about those tomorrow and just soak in the day's historic importance.

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Take time to remember King's legacy

I assume everyone realizes why Martin Luther King Jr. had a day dedicated to his memory, but I know for certain this weekend will spark more shouts of, "Sunday fun day!" than of the more appropriate, "Where the hell would we be without that guy?"

I'm a white kid, I'm not religious and I grew up in the 1990s, not the 1960s. I don't know much about Ken Rosey and "Furthur," the only Magic School Bus I know about was driven by a cartoon rendition of Kathy Griffin named Ms. Frizzle.

I know about Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Kosovo. All I know about Vietnam I learned from history class and Forrest Gump.

Overlooking a life lost 30 years ago is more convenient than suddenly remembering the deeds of a national hero two generations removed. Convenience cannot lead to forgetfulness.

Where would the United States be today if King had not brazenly stuck his neck out for the good of his people?

It's a question no one can answer, but thankfully, no one has to. At some point this weekend, dedicate a fraction of your time to recognizing the triumphs of a movement led by the will and the virtue of one man.

King was a black man who campaigned for the civil rights of all people, not just people of his race. Civil rights apply to everyone, regardless of skin color. King wanted all people to do the right thing, not just whites.

He favored civil disobedience over the take-by-force mentality of Malcolm X. King's words-over-weapons approach allowed him to gain the favor of white Americans—stamping his signature on the civil rights movement. His impassioned speeches and peaceful policies gained him the national attention necessary to create enough awareness to reinforce his cause.

Consciousness snowballed into an avalanche of furious discontent that overtook the nation. The nation's reaction ignited a glorious change in government and American society. Such change garnered by King's efforts (not to discredit the thousands of other faces of the 1960s civil rights movement) was something Americans could believe in.

In familiar?

There shouldn't be a person on the UF campus who is able to conscientiously ignore the power of King's voice and the effects of his policies.

President-elect Barack Obama has become the face of American politics in the past two years. Would his rise have been possible without the work of King and the rest of the civil rights movement? If not for King's leadership back then, would we even be able to envision a black president now?

Fortunately, our generation doesn't have to consider these possibilities. Instead, we have been blessed with the opportunity to witness the fruits of King's labor. Where would the United States be today if King had not be remembered as a national hero two generations removed? What would the United States be today if King had not been remembered as a national hero two generations removed? What would the United States be today if King had not been remembered as a national hero two generations removed?

This column first appeared in the Jan. 15 edition of the Independent Florida Alligator, the daily paper of the University of Florida. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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Grey space is boring. Fix it!

E-mail a Letter to the Editor to viewpoint@ufl.edu
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Directed by: David Fincher
Starring: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Jason Flemyng, and Tilda Swinton

Pitt shines in ‘Curious Case’

SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

Writer Eric Roth’s loose adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s wildly imaginative short story, “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button”, is a grand epic that sees its star, Brad Pitt, give the hands-down best performance of his career.

Director David Fincher’s keen directing not only captures but expands on the wonder of Fitzgerald’s story. Yet the true success here is the life both Fincher and Pitt breathe into the film’s title character, the backwards-aging Benjamin Button.

Told from a hospital room where Benjamin’s old love interest, Daisy (Cate Blanchett), is dying, Benjamin’s sweeping story begins with a tale about a once-famous clockmaker whose grand creation turns out to be a clock that is only capable of working backwards. He explains that his son was killed in WWI, and that the clock is an expression of his desire that time may run backwards so that his boy would come back to him. This opening introduces the film’s obsession with time running backwards and the true success here is that the movie pushes his condition to the backseat and instead focuses on the curiosities that are life, death, and love.

Although many obstacles separate the two star-crossed lovers, such as Benjamin’s service in WWII, his affair with an English spy’s wife (Tilda Swinton), and Daisy’s pursuit of a career in ballet, Benjamin and Daisy inevitably find each other in the middle of their respective lives. But just as time unites them, so it undoes them. Yet the love remains, even until the very end, when Daisy, old but still able, takes care of an infant-looking Benjamin, until his eyes simply close, and his journey has ended.

Benjamin, as portrayed in old age by the film’s talented CGI team, and by Pitt throughout the rest of the film, is a beautifully poignant character who stands as a hymn to life’s many angles, all of which are as much mysterious as they are grand.

Although it’s a tad too long, at 166-minutes, “The Curious Case of Benjamin Button” is a roaring crowd-pleaser. Fincher and Roth somehow manage to adapt this imaginative piece and expand on it by shooting it through romance-infused veins. Whereas Fitzgerald’s story is driven by the premise of a child born under curious circumstances, the true success here is that the movie pushes his condition to the backseat and instead focuses on the curiosities that are life, death, and love.

Contact Shane Steinberg at steinb2@nd.edu.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

He is mentioned in the Shania Twain song, “That Don’t Impress Me Much.”

Ironically, he tore his Achilles tendon while in the role of Achilles in “Troy.”

Was the first man to be twice named “Sexiest Man Alive” by “People Magazine,” in 1994 and 2000.

Pitt fun facts

Pitt is banned from entering China because of his role in “Seven Years in Tibet.”

In the short scene in “Fight Club” when Brad Pitt and Edward Norton are drunkenly hitting golf balls, both actors are actually drunk and hitting balls at the catering truck.

Brad’s Smith character in “Mr. & Mrs. Smith” was an Art History major at Notre Dame.

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Until he left college two credits short of graduating, Pitt was a journalism major at the University of Missouri.
The Wrestler: A Knockout Film

By SHANE STEINBERG

Once in a blue moon, a film comes around that is so profound, so beautiful — yet also so tragic and so close to the heart — that, during the end credits, you sit motionless, entranced, gazing at the dark screen while the rest of the audience shuffles out of the theater. "The Wrestler" is one such film.

Acclaimed director Darren Aronofsky's depictions the arresting story about an over-the-hill wrestler who is trying to mount a comeback both out and inside the ring — the only place he's ever truly been alive. The film operates in a weirdly poetic way, becoming a sort of beautiful requiem.

Mickey Rourke plays Randy "The Ram" Robinson, a wrestler who was once on top of the sport. At one time headlining events across the country's biggest stages, he now remembers those days as nothing more than a distant life.

The film begins with Randy panting in the corner of an elementary school classroom after having just fought a match in front of a handful of spectators in the school's gymnasium. Brilliantly placed right after successes, the film's first few scenes show just how far Randy has fallen from the top. But his struggle isn't one of an ex-star who had it all, lost it all, and now wants it back. Instead, it's the struggle of a human being with a dream. He's a man who once seemingly had it all, a man who had always lived in the ring. He's without the sort of love and compassion that transcends the cheers of fans and temporary fame. He's a man who, loved by society while he was on top, is cast aside once his fifteen minutes were up. Ultimately, he was left numb and unable to experience life outside of the ring.

It's the relationships that shape this film; those between Randy, his love interest, an outcast stripper (Marissa Tomei); his daughter (Evan Rachel Wood), who he abandoned to pursue a wrestling career; and his dear friend who follow him into exile. Additionally, the stability that eludes Randy defines the film. Aronofsky's directing and the cast's performances, all of which are nomination-worthy, elevate Randy's story into something worthy of cheers and tears.

Mickey Rourke and the role of Randy were made for each other. Make no mistake: this is the resurrection of a gifted actor. Rourke's performance is not only award-worthy, but so immaculate, that it is worthy of being placed alongside the great screen performances of all-time. Credit, is also due to Aronofsky, who has the gumption to put his career on the line to give Hourke the chance to shine once again.

That isn't his only success though. Aronofsky is praise-worthy in his own right for his brilliantly transparent directing. It is difficult to edit a writer or producer's vision, but a great deal more difficult for a director, much less one of Aronofsky's silk, to edit himself. Yet he resists his usual impulse for flair directing and camera trickery, and instead trusts his actors enough to let them anchor the film, which ultimately pays off. By leaving the film to unfold on its own, Aronofsky is put into the position of being a minimalist director at the helm of an equally minimalist, but immensely powerful film.

It could be said that "The Wrestler" is one of those rare films that will at once seem too easy and soothe you, making you glow with delight for the film's underdog one second, only to cry the very next as the film treks down its inevitably tragic path. It could be called a life-affirming story that's so piercing and meaningful, it's nothing less than a beautifully mediated hymn to life. Or one could simply call it a masterpiece of the highest order, and be done with it. But no way of putting this film into words can ever do it justice.

"The Wrestler" can only be described by the feeling you get when the screen cuts to black and Bruce Springsteen's original song, "The Wrestler," begins to play in the background. It's an indelible feeling that what you've just witnessed is more than the triumphant comeback of a fine actor, more than the year's best picture, and a great deal more than a film.

Contact Shane Steinberg at steinsh2@nd.edu.

The Wrestler

Directed by: Darren Aronofsky

Starring: Mickey Rourke, Marissa Tomei, Evan Rachel Wood

7 p.m. Wednesday.
Thursday and Friday.
2 p.m.
7:30 p.m. Saturday.

7 p.m.
Wednesday.

7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Declan Sullivan at sullivan9@nd.edu.
PHILADELPHIA — Dirk Nowitzki came through when it mattered.

Despite missing 13 of his first 14 shots and 16 of 23 overall, the seven-foot forward hit a turnaround 17-foot jumper over Reggie Evans at the buzzer to give the Dallas Mavericks a 95-93 victory against Philadelphia, snapping the 76ers’ season-high seven-game winning streak.

"I’m a shooter," Nowitzki said. "I always think the next one is going in."

Nowitzki received the inbounds pass with 4.3 seconds left and spun around the 6-foot-8 Evans to deliver the game-winning shot.

"It’s easy to get it to him because he’s seven feet," Kidd said of Nowitzki. "He’s done it all year. He’s an All-Star and an MVP and he enjoys these moments."

Nowitzki finished with 24 points, Jason Kidd had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Jason Terry added 20 for the Mavericks (24-17).

"They’re definitely on the downswing," Nowitzki said. "It’s going to make our ball movement a lot better because they’re going to have to guard three or four people."

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I smell the rain,

And I’ve been this way ten years to the day.

The autumn moon lights my way.

Ah, sometimes the leaves are golden,

And with it pain,

The time has come to be.

And tho our health we drank a toast.

And with it pain,

A warm drink,

And now the time, the time is now

To sing my song.

The autumn moon lights my way.

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Women's Basketball
AP Top 25

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MIAA Basketball Conference Standings

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Jets hire Rex Ryan as head coach

NEW YORK — Baltimore defensive coordinator Rex Ryan was hired as the coach of the New York Jets on Monday, a day after the Ravens lost in the AFC championship.

Ravens defensive coordinator under the deal told The Associated Press. The person said on condition of anonymity earlier Monday because the deal had not been announced. Ryan, the son of former NFL coach Buddy Ryan, will be formally introduced at a news conference Wednesday at the Jets’ facility in Florham Park, N.J.

"It’s been a dream of mine to become a head coach in the NFL," Ryan said in a statement. "Coming here to the New York Jets, where my father once coached and was part of the Super Bowl III staff, is fantastic. I look around at the facilities and the people they have in place and see a first-class organization. I’m just proud to be part of it."

The deal was finalized Monday afternoon after Jets owner Woody Johnson and general manager Mike Tannenbaum flew to Baltimore in the morning to iron out the details, team spokesman Bruce Speight said.

"We got the right man for the job," Johnson said in a statement. The Ravens’ defensive coordinator the last four seasons is the twin brother of Cleveland defensive coordinator Rob Ryan. His Baltimore defense helped the Ravens to the AFC championship game and has been ranked in the top six in total yardage allowed the last four seasons, including second overall this season while leading the NFL with 34 takeaways.

"It think it’s a gain for them and a loss for us, but it’s well-deserved," Ravens linebacker Bart Scott said. "It was a long time coming."

This will be the first head coaching job for Ryan, who is said to be well liked among his players because of his straightforward, no-nonsense style.

In Brief

Markakis, Orioles agree on 6-year, $86 million deal
BALTIMORE — Right fielder Nick Markakis and the Baltimore Orioles reached a preliminary agreement Monday on a $66 million, six-year contract, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The contract is pending a physical, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal has not yet been signed.

The deal, the second-richest in team history, covers three years Markakis would have been eligible for arbitration and the first three after he would have been eligible for free agency. The agreement was first reported by The Sun.

Markakis hit a career-high 306 with 29 home runs and 87 RBIs for the Orioles last season, his third in the majors. He played in 157 games, drove 99 walks and led AL outfielders with 17 assists.

The only higher deal for the Orioles was the $72 million, six-year contract shortstop Miguel Tejada signed before the 2003 season.

Giants appoint Sheridan defensive coordinator

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Less than two days after Steve Spagnuolo left to become coach of the St. Louis Rams, Tom Coughlin promoted linebackers coach Bill Sheridan to replace him as the New York Giants’ defensive coordinator.

Coughlin interviewed Sheridan and secondary coach Peter Giunta for the coordinator’s job Sunday. Giunta was the Rams’ defensive coordinator when they won the 2000 Super Bowl.

Sheridan has spent four seasons with the Giants, with his biggest challenge coming in 2007 when he helped Mathias Kiwanuka make the move from defensive end to linebacker.

Before coming to the NFL, Sheridan spent two decades as a college assistant, coaching all the positions on defense in that span.

The Giants played an aggressive blitz defense in Spagnuolo’s two years as defensive coordinator, and Sheridan said that he will keep the system, although he will make some modifications.

Ravens defensive coordinator Ryan talks with head coach Jim Harbaugh during Baltimore’s practice on Jan. 14. Ryan has reached an agreement with the New York Jets to replace Eric Mangini as their next head coach.

Associated Press

McGahee released from hospital, returns home

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Willis McGahee joined his teammates Monday at Baltimore’s training complex after doctors told him he would make a full recovery from a fierce helmet-to-helmet hit in the AFC championship game that had him carted off the field.

The play occurred in the fourth quarter of Pittsburgh’s 23-14 victory. McGahee had just caught a pass and taken two steps before being met by safety Ryan Clark, who drove his helmet into McGahee’s facemask. McGahee’s head snapped back, and he lost the ball as he dropped to the ground.

“I didn’t even see him coming,” McGahee said.

Clark also collapsed, though it was immediately apparent that his injury wasn’t serious. Players from both teams gathered around McGahee, who lay motionless before being taken away.

McGahee released from hospital, returns home
NHL

Sharks recall 43-year-old Lemieux from AHL

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Nearly six years after Claude Lemieux retired, he's back to pestle the NHL again.

The San Jose Sharks recalled the 43-year-old forward from their AHL affiliate on Monday, adding a four-time Stanley Cup winner to a team already tied for the overall league lead.

Lemieux probably will be in San Jose's lineup Tuesday night against Vancouver. He spent the past eight weeks riding the bus and playing against the next generation in Worcester, Mass. While he was sure his physical skills still matched his desire to complete a comeback that's been on his mind since shortly after he retired in 2003.

"The more I was told this was impossible, the more I wanted it," Lemieux said after his first practice with the Sharks. "I still feel that way. This is just the first step to life back in the NHL. I got into this with my eyes wide open, knowing that most folks out there would think that I'm out of my mind to attempt to do something like this."

Lemieux once was hockey's archetypal agitating forward, beloved by his teammates and despised by everybody else during parts of 20 seasons with five NHL clubs. He also was among the best playoff performers of his generation, with 80 postseason goals that are still ninth-most in league history.


Sharks coach Todd McLellan, who's over two years younger than Lemieux, is expected to have Lemieux in uniform against the Canucks in San Jose's final game before the All-Star break — nearly 24 years after his NHL debut in 1985.

"The excitement is probably best about the same," Lemieux said, recalling that first game with the Canadiens. "The only difference is I know what to expect, and back then I didn't know what to expect. I've done this before, and it's just going to help me through the process. I worked very hard to get to where I'm at today. It's what I wanted, a chance to live this dream again, and it's great to be here."

Lemieux's career petered out after 32 games and seven playoff appearances with the Dallas Stars in 2003. He lived in Phoenix after his retirement, dabbling in real estate investment, appearing on a reality show and briefly serving as president of the ECHL's Phoenix Roadrunners.

But a comeback already was on his mind when he played briefly in Switzerland in 2004 before the league's lockout season. After nearly starting a return in 2007, he got his wife's approval to try it last fall.

"With the lockout, I thought I'd missed my opportunity, but I missed being out there," Lemieux said. "I missed the camaraderie and the chance to do something you love. To know that you've got to get up in the morning and be some place, and you've got a job to do ... it's just the best life. I'm very thankful that I can do this again."

Sharks general manager Doug Wilson is no stranger to reclamation projects after adding Jeremy Roenick and Sandis Ozolins to his club last season. He also provided a chance to Lemieux, who's over two years younger than Lemieux in late November and signed a two-way contract in late December.

With Wilson monitoring every shift on television, Lemieux had three goals and eight assists in 23 games with Worcester, racking up 24 penalty minutes and a plus-2 rating.

"Historically, people that can come back and play later in their careers usually have similar attributes," Wilson said. "A love for the game, a high level of intelligence, and ... being genetically gifted. He's gifted, and he's gone and put the work and time and energy. It's not been given anything by us. If anything, we've given him a couple of (reasons) to say it's not been worth it."

Lemieux won't be the oldest player in the NHL, not with Detroit defenceman Chris Chelios turning 47 later this month. But his comeback is even more remarkable because of his lengthy absence from the game.

Montreal coach Guy Carbonneau played with Lemieux during parts of six seasons with the Canadiens in the 1980s.

"I'm very surprised, even shocked," Carbonneau said after the Canadiens' practice Monday. "Chris Chelios is 46 years old, but the fact that Claude stopped playing three or four years ago, it shows the kind of character he has. I'm happy for him. When I first heard about it, I didn't think it would be possible, but it just goes to show that nothing is impossible."

Although the Sharks led the overall NHL standings with 71 points entering Monday's games, their fourth line hasn't been impressive or productive since Roenick was sidelined last month with a shoulder injury. If Lemieux sticks and Roenick returns soon, the Sharks could match Roenick and Lemieux with forward Jody Shelley on a line that would be among the NHL's most entertaining, if no longer its most talented.

Lemieux replaces young forwards Brad Staubitz and Tom Cavanagh, who were sent back to Worcester so they can play through the All-Star break.

"Claude deserved it, he earned it, and I really can't stress it enough that the guys down in Worcester are happy for him," Wilson said. "They know he put in the work. He's happy to be here, it's that simple."
Pavel retires because of injury, gives Murray win

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Murray's first win at Rod Laver Arena was a little low key.

The 21-year-old Scot, carrying the hopes of a British public looking for its first male Grand Slam champion since 1936, was leading Andrei Pavel 6-2, 3-1, 15-0 in the Australian Open when the Romanian retired with a back injury.

The fourth-seeded Murray, who lost last year's U.S. Open final to Roger Federer, didn't mind getting off the court as the midday temperatures topped 99 degrees on Tuesday, day two of the first major of the year.

"It's the first time I've ever won a match on here," he said. "You don't want to win a match like that. Andrei's been having trouble with his back for a year."

Murray was installed as the favorite or joint favorite for the tournament by British bookmakers after beating Federer three times since losing the U.S. Open final — his best run at a major to date.

"I'm aiming to go one better here and I need all the support I can get," he said, noting the number of Scottish flags unfurled around the stadium. "It's nice. Hopefully they'll keep coming throughout the tournament."

Murray defended his Qatar Open title before coming to Melbourne but said it was still difficult getting used to the Australian summer.

The relentless sun had players seeking shelter in whatever shade they could find between points.

Murray, who worked hard in an offseason conditioning program that has added seven pounds of muscle to his lean frame, was sharp from the start, exerting pressure with virtually every shot.

Pavel managed to keep pace for the first four games before his feet betrayed him at the same time that his back was letting him down. He was twice called for foot-faults as Murray broke him for a 3-2 lead while running off the last five games of the first set.

Pavel had a quick massage on his lower back during the changeover, held serve, and lost 13 of the next 14 points.

Federer commenced his quest for a 14th major to equal Pete Sampras' record with a 6-1, 7-6 41, 7-5 first-round win over 35th-ranked Andrea Seppi of Italy that finished after midnight. It was a difficult opener, considering Seppi is only just outside the top 32 players who are seeded for the tourney.

Federer had mononucleosis this time last year and that dogged him for months.

"I wasn't fit, I had hardly played any matches, had any practice," he said. "This year I had much more preparation and I feel I know where my game's at."

Second-seeded Serena Williams, the reigning U.S. Open champion and winner each odd year at Melbourne Park since 2003, faces Yuan Meng of China on Tuesday.

Sixth-seeded Venus Williams, who won her fifth Wimbledon title and finished off 2006 by winning the season-ending tour championship, goes against Angelique Kerber of Germany.

Fourth-seeded Elena Dementieva, unbeaten in 10 matches this year and winner of the Beijing Olympic gold medal, plays Kristina Barrois. Rafael Nadal starts his second consecutive major as the top seed in a night match against Christophe Rochus of Belgium, about the same time No. 9 James Blake is due to play Canada's Frank Dancevic.

Blake and Andy Roddick are leading the American charge. Mardy Fish also advanced, but six other Americans made first-round exits: Bobby Ginzer, John Isner, Robert Kendrick, Bobby Reynolds, Sam Querrey and Taylor Dent.

Dest, returning from three back operations for his first major since 2006, lost to fellow American Amer Delic in five sets.

Other men advancing were No. 8 Juan Martin del Potro and No. 19 David Nalbandian of Argentina, No. 11 David Ferrer, No. 15 Stanislas Wawrinka, 2005 champion Marat Safin, 2006 finalist Marcos Baghdatis and 16-year-old Australian Bernard Tomic.

Third-seeded Dinara Safina and No. 7 Vera Zvonareva of Russia, No. 11 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, No. 15 Alize Cornet of France, No. 16 Marion Bartoli and No. 19 Daniela Hantuchova were among the women advancing.

Interested in working for The Observer sports section? E-mail Bill or Dan at sports@nd.edu.
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Please recycle The Observer.
**BOSTON —** David Baces didn't swing and miss on his team's last chance. Backes was the tieing shot at the 13:43 mark of the third period and the St. Louis Blues went on to beat the Boston Bruins 5-4 in a shoot-out Thursday.

With the clock winding down and the Blues close to yet another road loss, Backes fired the puck pop up in front of him and in the right post, he batted it out of the air and into the net as the siren sounded.

After a lengthy replay review, the goal counted. The puck was slightly above the cross bar when Backes hit it, the video showed.

"I tried not to watch the replay too many times. But nothing I saw, I had a bias toward that one," Backes said. "I'm going to bias toward that one."

Positioned at the right side of the circle during a power play, Vinny the hockey player's worst nightmare came true.

"I'm going to have a bias toward that one and say it was a good goal," Down 2-1, the Blues started their comeback with David Perron's power-play goal with 5:06 left in the second period to beat the New Jersey Devils for the first time, the Blues reserve goaltender Mason stopped Blake Wheeler on the first of two penalty shots late in the second period for the first goal of his NHL career.

"We didn't give a heck of a chance against the Devils," said the Blues' general manager, Ken Holland.

Shanahan's 651st goal, which ranks 11th on the NHL list. It is his 1,341 points, 24th on the career chart. "It's a heck of a career," said Bock in Los Angeles. "It's a heck of a career."

"We're glad you're back," said Bock. "We're glad you're back."

**Tampa Bay right wing Martin St. Louis, who scored the game winner, had 23 assists and 19 points in his last 12 games.

Dallas, with the NHL's worst road power play, converted one of six man advantages for the period, the Beauts and Devils rookie Karri Ramo stopped 35 of 36 shots.

"It's a heck of a shot," said St. Louis. "It's a heck of a shot."

Bock was playing his 21st season when Jay Mcdonald one-timed a shot inside the left post 6:51 into the second. There was a smattering of boos as the Blues controlled play midway into the game. Neither team had a shot on goal until Boston lost it 1-0 on Chuck Kobasew's goal 4:06 into the game.

"We have a lot of work to do," said St. Louis. "We have a lot of work to do."

It was any hockey player's dream to score at least once when Steven Stamkos second consecutive goal with 11:15 to tie it 4-4.

Mason kept the Blues scoreless the rest of the way, allowing them to keep the edge.

"We have a lot of work to do," Mason said. "We have a lot of work to do."

Mason said he was feeling better after the puck slid between Tim Thomas' pads at 1:18 into the third period after the Beauts scored.

"They scored on a short-handed goal, which ranks 11th on the NHL list. It is his 1,341 points, 24th on the career chart. "It's a heck of a career," said Bock in Los Angeles. "It's a heck of a career."

"We were happy with the win," said St. Louis. "We were happy with the win."

**Saturday, March 29, when Ruck hosted their rival, the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Los Angeles Sol."

**Contact Doreen Kreands at dkreands@dolcdn.com**

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By Bill Lawrence

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Overview

continued from page 20

ence-opponent to Georgetown, the Hoyas returned home to really face any tough opponents. Up next, Connecticut plays Villanova before coming to home on Monday. The Hoyas are keen on the read again for games against Villanova and West Virginia before ending the season off for an afternoon matchup with Notre Dame on Jan. 31. Pittsburgh boasts possibly the best front line in the conference, with Sam March & DeJuan Blair leading the way.

No. 8 Syracuse (17-3, 5-2)

Syracuse struggled on the offensive end against South Florida and dropping games against Georgetown and Pittsburgh. All the Orange did to do was make a layup and the Bucknellers would win. Instead they're stuck in the middle of the pack but Dante Cunningham has emerged as more consistent threat for Villanova, offensively, averaging more than 3.0 points a game (17.4) than he did a year ago.

West Virginia (13-4, 2-2)

Bob Huggins has had to rely on graduation and a few bench players, but none of the postseason results have been about what was expected. So far, they haven't experienced the kind of success that might allow them to take on good teams at home, when the crowd helps turn things around. A big, physical defense. The Friars don't have a dominant defender, but they sure they'll be in the mix.

No. 19 Notre Dame (12-3, 5-1)

Notre Dame is in the middle of crucial days against Villanova, No. 9 Pitt, and Marquette. But none of the postseason results have been about what was expected. So far, they haven't experienced the kind of success that might allow them to take on good teams at home, when the crowd helps turn things around. A big, physical defense. The Friars don't have a dominant defender, but they sure they'll be in the mix.
**ND Women's Soccer**

**Irish stars join new pro league**

By DEIRDRE KRASULA

Sports Writer

With the economy biting rock bottom and the job market presenting a slim, amount of opportunities for graduating seniors, a few Irish players can rest easy — they'll have a job come April. Four graduating Irish players notched spots in the inaugural Women's Professional Soccer draft Friday.

Senior midfield/forward Brittany Bock was the first Notre Dame player selected. She was selected by the Los Angeles Sol in the first round as the 16th overall pick. Bock was a two-time All-America and a semifinalist for the Hermann Trophy. Despite being plagued by a knee injury early in the season, Bock ranks 12th in school history with 46 career goals and 121 points.

Hermann Trophy winner Kerri Hanks went directly after Bock to the St. Louis Athletica. Hanks is one of only four players to earn the Hermann twice in her collegiate career. Known for her aggressive style and perseverance, Hanks holds a combined 67 records for Notre Dame, the Big East and the NCAA. In addition, Hanks passed soccer icon Mia Hamm in career assists before this year's College Cup even started in Cary, N.C.

The backbone of the Irish defense and a large part of the reason Notre Dame made it all the way to the title game rested on senior defender Carrie Dew. Dew was selected as the 12th pick by the FC Gold Pride, a team based out of San Jose. Dew was intense," said Wills, who began swimming at the age of five. "He is quiet, talented, and smooth," coach Tim Welsh said. "The water likes him and he likes the water." Wills developed most as an athlete outside of the arena of high school sports.

"High school swimming in Baltimore wasn't serious, not like it is in the Midwest," Wills said. "On the east coast it's all about club swimming, so North Baltimore Aquatic Club was basically my high school team." When Wills was just 16 years old, he qualified for the Olympic trials at the junior nationals competition. He said he earned a spot mostly as a result of good coaching. "It was completely unexpected," Wills said. "I dropped four seconds in a two-hundred meter event, which is pretty unusual."