WASHINGTON — The millions of those who poured in from across the country, braved the cold and waited in hours of disorganized lines to witness history, rejoiced in celebration shortly after noon on Tuesday as Barack H. Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States.

His inaugural address, delivered before a crowd perhaps unlike any other, was an American flags, listened almost in reverence to the words of the first black president of the United States, who expressed his humility at being able to go down in the history books as the 44th man to take the oath of office.

"I stand here today humbled by the task before us," he said, "grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors." Obama, just after taking the oath of office on the same Bible Abraham Lincoln used in his 1861 inauguration, spoke for almost 20 minutes, assuring his fellow Americans that he's black, but the fact that he did not, as lines for the largest ticketed area, the silver zone, stretched on for over a mile.

"Let us," he said, "embrace the new era and stand together and watch the peaceful transition of power, as President of the United States, President Barack Obama is inaugurated."
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**Challenge me**

I love challenges in football. Referees getting calls wrong isn’t ‘part of the game’ like in baseball, where balls and strikes or safe-out calls are subject to umpires’ discretion. But I’m sick of the common-sense surrounding challenging calls, both from the commentators and other people in the room.

There’s nothing worse than hearing Mike Tirico babble on about how many feet you need in bounds for a catch while you Andrew Adams drag his feet on the sideline for the sixth time. It’s the same principle with John Madden and the on-screen pen. I see that it’s third-and-seven. Don’t circle the graphic on the screen that displays down and distance.

The commentators treat challenges like a magic eye — if you look at it enough times, eventually it will get clearer and clearer. How else can you explain seeing the replays over and over? Once you’ve seen all the different views once or twice, what can we glean from repeated viewings?

The worst doesn’t come until you’re watching a game with nine other people. You get nine versions of the NFL rulebook as you’re watching the replays. I also feel like I’m watching in the radio booth. You hear nine people narrate what you can clearly see in front of you: “His knee’s down there...” (I can see that) “...and the ball comes out there.”

Enough. Stop treating me like I’m four. At this point, most people watching football have seen enough challenges — and the subsequent analyses that go with them — to understand how they work. So here’s what I propose: show all the angles of the replay, then have a football trivia game. If Donovan McNabb doesn’t know the overtime rules, how much do you think the average fan knows about obscure rules of the game?

For example, a question about challenges, since that’s the topic of the column. If a coach wins all of his challenges, how many does he get? Three. And did you know that if you put in your third-string quarterback before the fourth quarter, the first and second string QBs cannot re-enter the game? I’d rather do this than hear an endless loop of readily apparent information spat at me until “the ground can’t cause a fumble” gets stuck in my head like “Single Ladies.”

Another alternative give me a microphone inside the referee’s huddle after a controversial play, and a camera under the hood where the referee watches the replay. Give me a transparent view of how they make their decisions. Anything to break the monotonous recital of replays and analysis.

Final thought: American Idol–ize the challenge procedure. Allow viewers at home to text their votes to the refs; most votes win. After watching Antonio Holmes’ touchdown get taken away by a challenge in the AFC Championship game, I wouldn’t mind if that was more fool-proof than the current system.

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

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY: How do you plan to celebrate the 2009 presidential inauguration?**

- Anna Jones: senior Walsh  
  
  "Watching CNN, spending time with friends and family, and having the occasional celebratory toast."

- Mike Healy: senior off-campus  
  
  "I’m having a pleasant, duck and molasses sweet potatoes for lunch."

- Jay Datar: senior off-campus  
  
  "I’m spending it by waiting for change."

- Serene Bethune: senior McGlinn  
  
  "By talking to my 97-year-old grand-daddy about this movement in history and ‘toastiny’ too."

- Megan Savage: senior off-campus  
  
  "Living vicariously through my sisters who live in Washington, D.C."

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**OFFBEAT**

Fishermen spent a month floating in an ice box

CANNBERRA — Two Myanmar fishermen have survived for almost a month in shark-infested waters by floating in a large ice box after their boat sank, rescue officials said.

The men, both aged in their 20s, were on a 12-meter Thai fishing boat with 18 others when it sank in heavy seas off Australia’s north coast on December 23, said Australian Maritime Safety Authority spokeswoman Tracy Jiggins.

"They had no safety equipment, no beacons, no means of communication and they’d been drifting for 25 days," Jiggins told Reuters Tuesday, describing the ice box as "desk sized."

"For them to have even been spotted in a huge body of water is amazing," she said.

New shelter houses dogs of homeless owners

BRUSSELS — A shelter in the Belgian city of Liege has opened its doors to dogs this winter to persuade their homeless owners to come in from the freezing cold.

The city’s social welfare agency has agreed to house about eight homeless people with their pets at a local soccer club when it is freezing outside.

Michael Fawzy, secretary-general of the agency, said the programme started because many homeless people refused to come inside without their dogs, no matter how cold it got.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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**BRIEF**

**Author and Senior Astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Margo Livio, will give a Public Lecture entitled, “Is God a Mathematician?” Today at 7:00 p.m. in the Hesketh Library Auditorium. A book-signing will precede and follow the talk.**

Jim Robbins will be giving a lecture called “Theater as Community” at 7 p.m. Today in Leighton Concert Hall in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased online through the ticket office for $5.

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**CORRECTIONS**

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and access for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.
Vatican officials discuss immigration challenges

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

Speaking about the plight of migrant workers, war refugees, and religious pilgrims, Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, a Vatican official on immigration, said the issue has become "an event that affects the fabric of our society and comprises a problem that is a social, cultural, political, and not least, pastoral reality." Marchetto, who gave a lecture entitled "Immigration: Global Perspective," discussed the Church's role in helping migrants adapt to new cultures and environments.

As an aspect of pastoral care, this effort seeks to create a "culture of welcome," he said, which is the "economic hardship and civil war.

Refugees fleeing countries torn by civil war face many challenges, Marchetto said. "Civil war migration is a phenomenon that brings a lot of suffering," he said. "You do not know the customs, the language. You are emerging in a world that is not yours, but you must find work."

Marchetto said the bishop of the region that has an influx of migrants is responsible for their pastoral care to ensure that their language, culture and popular devotion are respected while they adapt to new surroundings. "It is important that there is a dialogue between the church of origin and the church of arrival, so that the integration of the migrants is going on smoothly," Marchetto said.

As people migrate, they often leave family members behind. The church must work to alleviate the hardship caused when a family's caretaker or provider is separated, Marchetto said. "One of the biggest problems of the migrants is the question of the family. In many cases, there is rupture. More or less, 30 percent of the migrants are women."

Sometimes, especially in countries suffering from civil war, tension develops when family members are forced to fight on separate sides. Marchetto said that the Church is working to peacefully reunite families — notably in Uganda, where children have been kidnapped and trained to kill their parents.

"In Africa, the Catholic Church is playing a role to reconcile children back to their families," Marchetto said.

Marchetto also touched on the poverty in the developing world that is causing many migrants to move to more affluent countries. He called for a world in which "goods are more equally distributed" and voiced optimism that President Obama would help the economies of impoverished nations.

"This was raised by the new president today, and I hope that it is something that is really in his conscience," Marchetto said.

As the global economic downturn has affected many migrants from wealthy nations to find employment, Marchetto said anti-immigrant sentiment is rising and will pose challenges in the future.

"If there are less jobs, and the local people have to fight to have the jobs, and they find in their way other people who are not from their country, it is easy for them to have animosity," he said. "So, this is really a point of difficulty in the future."

For Marchetto expressed optimism about the possibility of an integrated world in which people from different cultures interact peacefully. "Sometimes there is a fear to be surrounded by migrants, but I think it is a splendid opportunity to meet people who have the same suffering and the same problems and that we are one family," he said.

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu
Holy Cross fathers share stories of priesthood

By MADALINE BUCKLEY

University president Father John Jenkins said that as an undergraduate at Notre Dame, if someone had told him he would some day become president of the University, he would have had them commit suicide.

“I couldn’t imagine anything less likely,” he said. “Life takes funny turns.”

In a shared experience as a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross as part of the celebration of the Feast of the Eucharist, Father John Jenkins, president of the University, said that he perceived in the document that was the basis for the council’s conclusions.

Byung Kwan Cho

The Church, in its role as custodian of the Gospel, is called to present the Word of God in a new way.

Father John Jenkins University president

What led me to take priesthood seriously was not so much a sense of the role of being a priest, although that is important, it was sense that whatever I did in my life should be meaningful,” he said. “I think that desire has been fulfilled in tremendous ways.”

Jenkins said his vocation has been “satisfying work” from his first job as a parish priest to teaching at Notre Dame.

“I loved teaching. I feel that the vocation of a teacher is close to that of a priest,” he said. “You engage [students] at a deep level, and it is just a great privilege to teach people to raise questions in their life.”

As a priest, Jenkins said he has been privileged to preside over weddings, work with people who have dedication to loving and serving to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

“The thought of what people think Confession is a challenge in the priesthood, Jenkins said. “Sometimes people are not at their worse, but at their best.”

“The Sacrament of Confession is particularly powerful,” he said. “You really see the working of God's grace in people's lives, and to be a witness to that is a privilege.”

However, priesthood does have its challenges, Jenkins said. If a layperson and loses his or her temper, they are considered to be a jerk, he said. But if a priest and loses his temper, people wonder if his calling as a priest could do that.

“To stand for something more than yourself is a daily challenge,” he said.

A friend of his was living in his residence. He loved the Church, and the Church loved him, he said. “But if I were me, I wouldn’t think about it.”

Bill Lies Executive director of the University’s Holy Cross Consultors, Robert Dowd, assistant professor of political science and Peter McCormick, director of Keough Hall also shared stories at the event.

As a priest, Lies said he attended Catholic school and grew up in a religious family, surrounded by relatives who were priests and nuns.

“I was from the start,” he said.

His mother taught him very early on in life that what was important was to be meaningful.

“Men that taught me what it means to be a priest, who will?” he said.

Blessed Basil Holy Cross fathers share stories of priesthood

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“Gaudium Et Spes is reflective of that period of the early 1960s,” Nixon said. “Here in America, we had the Civil Rights Movement, the beginnings of Vietnam, and the threat of nuclear war. In other parts of the world intense decolonization struggles were taking place.”

When the time was ripe, those struggles, the Council used the document to try and help develop the full caliber of human dignity, he said.

“The whole essence of human dignity is to participate in life,” Nixon said. “The solidarity aspect of the document is that it makes distinct efforts to help make the modern world a better place in where ideas can be spread, no matter what some of those ideas came from.”

Another aspect of Gaudium Et Spes is an extension of acceptance of others, he said.

“Gaudium Et Spes condones openness with others,” he said.

Richard A. Stroik

Stroik said that some of those marking hold signs, some of which have statistics, or promote adoption and saving lives.

The March begins at 4th Street and ends at the Supreme Court building, said Stroik. The March will pass the Capitol building on the way.

“That is something I did in my life should be meaningful,” he said. “I think that desire has been fulfilled in tremendous ways.”

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Russia restarts gas flow to Europe**

MOSCOW — Russia's Gazprom monopoly says it has restarted gas shipments through Ukrainian pipelines to Europe after halting them nearly two weeks ago amid a pricing dispute. Gazprom spokesman Boris Sapozhnikov says EU-led monitors will track the flow of the gas being pumped into Ukraine. He says the gas was restarted around 1030 Moscow time (0730 GMT) Tuesday. Officials say it could take 36 hours for gas to reach consumers in Europe.

Russia halted gas shipments to Europe on Oct. 7, a move strongly opposed by Ukraine and Western countries. The move came after Moscow reduced deliveries to Ukraine by more than 40% last week, to about 800 million cubic meters per day, to keep more gas for domestic use as the winter season approaches.

**China appeals to U.S. for cooperation**

BEIJING — China made a rare appeal for cooperation between its normally secretive military and Washington on Tuesday but said U.S. arms sales to Taiwan remain a "serious harm to Sino-U.S. relations." The statement came as China issued a major policy paper on national defense that said blocking formal Taiwanese independence "remains the chief concern for one of the world's fastest-growing armed forces.

A Chinese military spokesman presenting the paper said an apparent reference to the Pentagon should remove for better relations with China.

**National News**

**Blagojevich misses second deadline**

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich Tuesday missed his second deadline for filing formal papers in the historic trial on Monday, said Toby Cullerton, spokesman for Senate President John Cullerton.

Blagojevich has until 4 p.m. to file a request to dismiss the charge and kill the Senate proceeding. Had he done that, with the bill still in the Senate, the trial would have voted on whether to grant the request.

As a result of his inaction, the Senate will be pursued the governor's plea in court and mounted a hearing on the historic trial Monday, said Toby Cullerton, spokesman for Senate President John Cullerton.

**485 now affected by salmonella**

ATLANTA — Health officials say the number of people sickened in a national salmonella outbreak involving peanut butter has grown to 485 cases.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday the number has been inching up as lab tests confirm that new cases have the same genetic fingerprint as the outbreak strain. The illnesses have been reported in 43 states and Canada, and may have contributed to the deaths of six people.

**Local News**

**Man donates eyelashes to charity**

BLOOMFIELD, Ind. — A 72-year-old man with eyelash loss due to chemotherapy for breast cancer has been raising $3,600 for charity from people who paid to take turns trimming his out-of-control brow.

Seeking the help of a friend who could afford the $15 cost of laser surgery, Burgher's shaky eyebrows measured more than three inches long because the former jeweler's brows had never been trimmed.

Burgher's eyelashes were so long he used to brush them before leaving the house. But he agreed to have the overgrown brows trimmed last week by members of the Bloomfield Rotary Club to raise money for a polo eradication campaign.

**Gaza Strip**

Hamas claims victory in Gaza

Despite celebratory rallies, terrorist group offers no plans to rebuild devastated Gaza

Associated Press

Hamas leader, declared: "Hamas today is more powerful. Nearly, militants held up a huge banner proclaiming in Hebrew: "Hamas is victorious. Israel is defeated." A few hundred yards away, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon toured the local U.N. headquarters, inspecting damage from an Israeli shell attack last week. It hit three warehouses, where flour, oil and other food rations for Gaza's needy were stored.

A Palestinian boy holds the hand of his father as they arrive to inspect their destroyed house in the southern part of Gaza City Tuesday.

**Boats scout river for plane engine**

NEW YORK — Authorities using sonar in the search for the missing flight from US Airways Flight 1549 could not detect anything about the size of the massive aircraft part deep in the frigid, murky Hudson River on Tuesday, but divers ran out of daylight before they could scour the river for the object.

Crews will resume their search Wednesday. Police have already located several pieces of debris from the flight, including 35 flotation seat cushions, 12 life jackets, 15 pieces of luggage, two briefcases, 11 purses, 15 suit jackets and shirts, four shoes, and two bats, according to NYPD spokesman Paul Browne.

The missing left engine, however, is the most coveted prize. Investigators will examine it along with the plane's attached right engine to better understand how the jet conked out Thursday after hitting a flock of birds.

All 153 people survived the miracle crash landing on the river, and US Airways said Tuesday that not even a pet perished.

New York Police Department harbor officers working with a sonar expert from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration got a reading on an object 16 feet long and 8 feet wide in about 60 feet of water north of the Intrepid Sea Air and Space Museum, near where the plane made its emergency landing. The engine is about the same size as the one picked up by sonar.

Swift currents made it impossible to drop a robotic device with a video camera to confirm whether it is the engine, and evening fell before divers could find anything.

Since the crash landing, the National Transportation Safety Board has recovered more than 40 pieces of the aircraft, including four window exits and an access panel door. All the debris and passengers' belongings are being turned over to the National Transportation Safety Board for its investigation into the crash landing.
Older blacks celebrate change
Citizens who suffered through Jim Crow see hope in Obama

Associated Press

ATLANTA — As she watched Barack Obama design the stage of yesterday's inauguration, she said she was moved to tears by the spectacle. "I feel a sense of history," said Dr. Bessie Jackson, a 77-year-old African American who is the daughter of former Georgia governor Howard Crawford. Jackson, who fought against segregation in the 1960s, said she was moved by the sight of President Obama, the first African American to hold the office of president.

Jackson said she was moved by the sight of President Obama, the first African American to hold the office of president.

Obama has been a symbol of hope for many African Americans, who have faced discrimination and segregation for generations. "He's a symbol of hope," said Jackson. "He's a symbol of what we can achieve as a people."
**Market Recap**

**Dow Jones 7949.09 -332.13**

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**Treasury**

- 10-YEAR NOTE: +1.78 +0.041 2.34%
- 15-WEEK BILL: -0.04 -0.015 2.15%
- 10-YEAR BOND: +1.82 +0.033 2.94%
- 5-YEAR NOTE: -0.21 -0.003 1.45%

**Commodities**

- LIGHT CRUDE (futures): $2.23 38.74
- GOLD (futures): +15.30 $855.20
- PORK BELLY (contract): +2.65 $81.60

**Exchange Rates**

- YEN: 89.8200
- EURO: 1.2609
- CANADIAN DOLLAR: 1.2686
- BRITISH POUND: 1.9274

**USPS struggles with mail hoarders**

DETOIT — Some of those who are supposed to endure snow, rain and gloom of night to deliver the mail have resorted to hiding tons of it in garages, a self-storage unit and the dark of their basements.

Carriers from North Dakota to North Carolina have been hounded in recent years for hoarding mail. Though the U.S. Postal Service says the offense is rare, it smacks at the agency’s image.

“I heard a couple of people come in and say, ‘Can I pick up my mail? — or is it in storage?”’ said Annette Koss, the postmaster in Howell, 50 miles northwest of Detroit. “So a former employee there, Jill Hull, pleaded guilty Tuesday to deserting the mail, a misdemeanor.

The 76-year-old financier fill-in keeper had kept thou­

hundredstofunopeneemail,including988first-classletters,ina self-storage unit that man­

ager said in September after she failed to pay her bill. Some of the mail has postmarks from 2005.

“We just didn’t understand it,” Koss said. “He said it’s a stupid thing to do.”

During a brief hearing in federal court in Detroit, Hull simply said, “I was unable to deliver all the mail.” A postal investigator said in a court filling that Hull had intended to catch up with late payments and apparently keep the mail under lock and key until she died.

**In Brief**

Maddoff investors will get low return

NEW YORK — Investing a dollar and getting 10 cents back in return is a bad deal even in today’s market. But recovering 10 cents on the dollar might be optimistic for investors who gave their cash to Bernard Madoff.

Many are facing a yearlong process to get any money back as investigators search for Madoff’s assets. Dozens of lawsuits and criminal investigations have been filed since news broke Dec. 11 that the fund manager who owed investors a $50 billion payout told his wife in a note the day after he disappeared.

“Jill said, ‘It’s a Ponzi scheme,”’ said Chuck Lesaltato, president of Capital Financial Advisory Services. “It’s a pretty dangerous situation to be in.”

The shrinking value of bank stocks means the financial industry accounts for less than 10 percent of the Standard & Poor’s 500 index for the first time since 1992. At the end of 2006, banks made up 22 percent of the stock market bench­

mark.

And the market’s retreat Tuesday means Wall Street has eaten through most of the advance it made from Nov. 20 through Jan. 6. The S&P 500, which had been up as much as 24 percent, is now up only 7 percent from its November low.

Fears about banking eclipsed the shift in Washington. Royal Bank of Scotland’s forecast for what would be the biggest loss ever for a British corpora­tion left investors fearful that government’s would have to nationalize banks to keep them from collapsing.

The British government injected more money into the struggling bank Monday and announced another round of bailouts for the country’s banks.

State Street and Regions Financial Corp., a bank with branches primarily in the Southeast, both reported big earnings drops Tuesday.

Acknowledging the global economy’s woes, Obama suggested Wall Street would see greater oversight:

“Without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control,” he said in his address outside the Capitol.

Obama warned the eco­

omic recovery would be difficult and that the nation must choose ‘hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord’ to overcome the worst eco­

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Investors are expecting Washington will be a cen­

tral part of the economic recovery. But the first hours of the new administration did little to ease their con­

cerns.

“At this stage, markets in general and bank investors specifically are really looking to government as the way out,” said Jack Ahlbin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank.

“Certainly, of just about all of inaugurations that I can recall today’s event proba­

bly has not the only the symbolic importance but really tangible importance to the stock market.”

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 332.13, or 4.01 percent, to 7,794.09. Its lowest close since Nov. 29, when the blue chips ended at 7,552.29 — their lowest point in more than five years. It was also the blue chips’ biggest drop since Dec. 1.

**FBI: Broker planned disappearance**

TAMPA, Fla. — A missing hedge fund manager who owed investors a $50 million payout told his wife in a note he felt guilty about mismanaging investments, more than threatened to kill himself, according to a sheriff’s report released Tuesday.

However, the Pasco County Sheriff’s Office said it believes Arthur G. Springer, president of his investment firm, and that it was ending its search for him.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to investi­

gate complaints from investors who were expecting Nadel to deliver the $50 million redemption on Jan. 15, the day after he disappeared.

The Florida financier’s car was found at a Sarasota airport, and Sheriff’s Lt. Chuck Jesaitis said they believe Nadel left on his own volition.

“His driver’s license there. Jill Hull, pleaded guilty Tuesday to deserting the mail, a misdemeanor.

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**The Observer Business**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2009**

**Stocks fall on Inauguration Day**

Obama suggests Wall Street will be subject to greater oversight by new administration

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The dawn of the Obama presidency could not shake the stock market from its dejection over the50-year deterioration of the nation’s banking industry.

‘‘Financial firms’’ of them falling by double digit percentages, led a huge drop on Wall Street Tuesday that left the major indexes down more than 4 percent and the Dow Jones industrials down 332 points.

Trading on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange paused to watch the inauguration ceremony and Obama’s remarks, the transition of power didn’t erase investors’ intensifying con­

cerns about a struggling banking industry and their impact on the overall economy.

The market’s angst, which began with multimil­

lion dollar losses reported last week by Bank of America Corp. Citigroup Inc., intensified after the Royal Bank of Scotland’s forecast that its losses for 2008 could top $41.3 billion.

‘‘The collapse in bank stocks was swift: State Street’s plunged 19 percent, Citigroup dropped 20 percent and Bank of America lost 29 percent. Royal Bank of Scotland fell 69 percent in New York trading.’’

‘‘The reason we’re having a panic drop is the fact that Europe is catching our cold, and we could have deeper and longer problems that could require more and more money. And eventually the government is going to have to step spending,’’ said Robert Kuttner, a chief investment officer at Capital Financial Advisory Services. ‘‘It’s a pretty dangerous situation to be in.’’

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“At this stage, markets in general and bank investors specifically are really looking to government as the way out,” said Jack Ahlbin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank.

“Certainly, of just about all of inaugurations that I can recall today’s event proba­

bly has not the only the symbolic importance but really tangible importance to the stock market.”

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 332.13, or 4.01 percent, to 7,794.09. Its lowest close since Nov. 29, when the blue chips ended at 7,552.29 — their lowest point in more than five years. It was also the blue chips’ biggest drop since Dec. 1.
Travel
continued from page 1

George W. Bush became the forty-third president, but Obama did not become America's first black president.

On the Mall and along the parade route, Notre Dame students, professors and alumni witnessed the historic event. Approximately 50 members of the African Club and members of the College Democrats of Notre Dame arrived in Washington Tuesday morning on separate buses.

Juniors Chris Luken, Matt Howard and Case McGivney, all members of the Washington Program, had tickets to the viewing area on the Mall. They left their apartments in north Washington at 7:30 a.m. to make it to the ceremony.

"A lot of people in the program didn't support Obama," Howard said. "But everyone came together to celebrate.

Louis Pignatelli, a graduate student at Notre Dame, has been a supporter of Obama since his entrance into Illinois politics. When he met Obama in 2004, he said he thought he was bound for bigger things.

"The response from the crowd at several events during Obama's speech was like nothing I've ever seen - clapping, some cheering loudly and others still weeping from happiness," Obama, who arrived at the Capitol Mall on Tuesday morning with President George W. Bush, repudiated some of theículo politics put in place by his predecessor, calling for change where change is needed.

"I'm sure that the day is coming when she will be able to do anything she wants to do," Obama said. "And with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace, she knows that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations."

Contact Jean Mertz at jmer@nd.edu

Speech
continued from page 1

the problems that face our nation will eventually be overcome.

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real, they are serious and they are many," he said. "They will not be the vassal of the short span of time. But know this America: They will be met.

Among these challenges: A faltering economy, that is too big or too small, but whether it works, whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified," he said.

"Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end."

Caitlin Conway senior

"Our generation, it's the first inauguration of a new president that we can remember really well. It's inspiring to see someone who knows going to change we need."

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Campus
continued from page 1

Conway said.

Conway noted that the inauguration was particularly exciting for the current generation of college students.

"Our generation, it's the first inauguration of a new president that we can remember really well," Conway said. "It's inspiring to see someone who knows going to change we need.

"She said she is confident Obama can handle the challenges of the presidency.

"I thought [Obama] dialed a good job of integrating the issue of the economy and things that are most pressing, with things that are pushed to the way­side, like healthcare, education and envi­ronmental sustainabili­ty," Conway said. "He gave me hope that he's going to try to solve a lot of problems instead of handling things for the short term."

Senior Lorna Bath said she was impressed with the new president and the way he handled the inaugural.
Over one million people crowded the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Tuesday morning for President Obama's inauguration, most traveling from long distances from around the country. Obama delivered his inaugural address shortly after noon on Tuesday to a captive audience. Those in attendance braved cold weather, long lines and chaotic crowds to catch a glimpse of the country's 44th president.
As I work through my last semester, I reflect on the many things I have learned in my tenure here. The only topic on which I have reached any sort of conclusive thought is, I now realize, friendship. And so, I grace you with my seemingly disjointed yet eventually fitting tract on the nature and application of friendship (in 900 words).

Who can be considered friends? Is there a distinction between a friend and an acquaintance? How can this distinction be practically realized? I will begin my discussion with the creation of a scenario to which I will return throughout: Fred, Gary and Chris are three people who went to the same high school. They are all seniors in college now. Fred and Gary attend Blank University. They have been in close contact since the summer before their sophomore year of high school and still keep in touch regularly. Fred, Gary and Chris are not inherent friends. Working under the given scenario, they are merely people who have spent ample time together over the past seven (plus) years. But you might think that the sheer amount of time spent together would make them friends. The fault in this argument can be found in the following: I have known my uncle for his whole life (more than 10 years) and remain in close contact with him due to the fact that he lives within 10 miles of my parents. Yet I would not call or define my uncle as a friend because he is my family, my blood. So though time seems a compelling factor, there must be a condition underlying this span of time which will determine for us whether Fred, Gary and Chris are in fact friends.

The question that Fred, Gary and Chris share several interests which we will define as: taste in music, sense of humor and similar approaches to larger issues (somewhat nebulous, but let us proceed regardless). This connection through basic personality also does not make Fred, Gary and Chris friends. For example, in a discussion in a class of mine I found a classmate who shared my taste in music, understood my jokes and thought like me. But neither of us was compelled to spend any more time together than our brief contact in class. Therefore personality does not inherently induce people to forge long-lasting connections with similarly minded people. Again, our heroes have been granted another factor explaining their relationship but no essential element determining it or defining it as friendship. A seemingly endless list of related factors could be given further illustrating the interactions of Fred, Gary and Chris. Their parents' homes are in close proximity, they played sports together, they registered for similar classes, they spent time with the same group of people, etc. Over and over, these items can be tested to show that nothing on this level would make Fred, Gary and Chris friends. Nothing that can be rationally discerned or logically argued can bestow upon these three people the honor of friendship.

So what does? As I have come to understand it, a friend is someone upon whom you grant your trust, your respect and your potential for vulnerability. Without trust, similar likes and dislikes or a copious amount of time spent in the same circle will never allow two people to build an independent and synergistic understanding. Without respect any of the above factors are rendered meaningless. Without becoming vulnerable in the presence of the other person, or persons, an individual will never be able to build a level of trust or respect necessary for the friendship to commence. Without all three factors working in unison, a friendship is malformed and incomplete. Such a degraded friendship and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Regarding Prof. Rice's editorial in Monday's Observer ("Catholic Identity," Jan. 19), I generally enjoy the articles by Prof. Rice, as he brings a good Catholic point of view to the editorial pages. However, as a practicing Catholic and a grad student, I must disagree with his opinion that increasing Notre Dame's research initiatives and academic stature will only decrease its Catholic identity.

When Prof. Rice claimed that Notre Dame and other schools have funded research mainly through increases in undergraduate tuition and fees, I had an awful vision of myself—a mosquito of a grad student, fattening myself on the blood of unfortunate undergraduates and their parents! I must protest at this portrayal. Graduates of my discipline (mechanical engineering) generally receive a tuition waiver and a stipend. I could not find exact percentages, but I know that much of this money comes from "elite research universities"—such as Rice, as he brings a good vision of myself—a mosquito of a grad student, fattening myself on the blood of unfortunate undergraduates and their parents! I must protest at this portrayal.

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From external grants. According to an article in the Daily Pennsylvania, 37 percent of professors at Notre Dame's Catholic identity is not doomed by its goal to become a great research university. I was most saddened by the way that good scholarship and service are portrayed as inherently conflicting. Prof. Rice bemoans the lack of Catholic professors at Notre Dame. I have found that most of these professors don't exactly grow on trees. I don't appreciate Notre Dame's Catholic identity, especially since academics often seem like the sole province of committed skeptics. According to a July 2007 article in Harvard Magazine, 37 percent of professors have one thing in common—they are atheist or agnostic. I don't think that a math Ph.D. to figure that of the remaining 63 percent, there are probably a small minority who are Catholics, and an even smaller minority who are actually practicing their Catholic faith. This gives Notre Dame a faculty of candidates to choose from. However, I think Notre Dame is in a unique position to help remedy this situation.

By increasing research funding and recruiting Catholic graduate students, Notre Dame can create a pool of talented Catholic academics who could become the ND professors of the future. It might take some time, but Notre Dame could actually reverse the trend of fewer Catholic professors by increased research funding. I envision a cooperation with other Catholic universities to build up this talent pool of Catholics in academia. Idealistic, I know, but not impossible in my opinion. Research at Notre Dame is also beneficial to undergraduate students. In our research group we have a number of undergraduates doing their own research. This gives them hands-on exposure to science as well as major advantages in applying to graduate and professional schools. I'm impressed by their

I'm easily distracted. I have to have my background noise while studying, and during class there are plenty of things that can steal my attention away from the professor—Gchat, Digg and Perez Hilton, to name a few.

The majority of my distractions have one thing in common—they originate from a lovely little thing we call "the Internet," and are accessible on a portable device called the "laptop." It has had many advancements in communication and technology that the Web has allowed, it is a brick wall standing in between a pile of research and a student's term paper. Even worse, open web browsers are tempting eye-candy for those of us who go the old-fashioned route and Five-Star it. These are the reasons why students should use the Internet so heavily during class. Unless a professor asks everyone to navigate to a certain page, open laptops do nothing more than attract eyeballs that should be attending to lecture notes.

Bright, shiny monitors in front of a college student during lecture are evolved bugbears. During class there are plenty of eyes on your neighbor's open PennLink page. But last spring, the University of Chicago Law School took this step to cut out non-class related computer use. As Dean Saul Levmore said to the school's students and faculty, "we know that class time is not for shopping and e-mailing."

Still, that's what it has become in many lecture halls around campus. You can find a wide area of non-academic content popping up on every computer around. Perhaps, then, this problem will stay in hand.

To cut out distractions and get the most out of our tuition dollars, one drastic and evil option is to shut down wireless access in classrooms. And since we finally, sort of, have an AirPennNet system, I don't advocate this.

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To cut out distractions and get the most out of our tuition dollars, one drastic and evil option is to shut down wireless access in classrooms. And since we finally, sort of, have an AirPennNet system, I don't advocate this.
The fourth season of 'Lost' clearly marked a sharp transition in the viewers' motivation for watching the show. The audience was no longer waiting to see if the passengers after they safely leave the island (yes, they do get rescued from the island) and give hints as to who is included in the Dharma Initiative, a research project designed to conduct experiments on the island beginning in the 1970s. They do not want the island to be manipulated by external forces and essentially exploit it.

The Others: A group of people who have been living on the island for many years, long before the Oceanic Flight survivor Jack Shephard's arrival. The island has been a place where the Others have spent years, and they are anxiously awaiting the return of any surviving flight survivors, especially Jack Shephard.

Although undying love or hatred for a cultural phenomenon is easy to understand, indifference is somewhat harder to pin down. This Wednesday, while so many of my friends are anxiously awaiting the premiere of the sixth season of ABC's hit serial "Lost," I will probably be doing homework or rolling around cable looking for "Dirty Jobs." I have been judged and met with bewhiskered stares on this subject dozens of times. "You don't watch 'Lost'? But it's the best thing ever." The way I see it, a large segment of the American populace has drunk the Kool-Aid once more, and I'm just riding things out with water. Being the pop culture maverick that I am, I have always been aware of "Lost." I have a vague idea of who Kate, Jack, and Sawyer are, and I know that their shenanigans involve an island, a hatch, and one of the hobbits from "The Lord of the Rings," but it has never quite struck my fancy. There always seemed to be a lot going on: things blowing up, people pulling guns on each other, and I think there was even an abominable snowman one time. Maybe I just hit it on a bad day on those several dozen occasions I caught it.

Moreover, that begs the question: Is there something wrong with me? I like to think that I am an indestructible person with a lot of grit. Maybe it's just how I'm wired. I don't watch "American Idol" either (that's more of a Ryan Seacrest thing though) or "The Office." Perhaps I'm not meant to watch anything that is in the Top 20 in the Nielsen's. I like my old standards, my tried and true hits. Maybe it's because I have been burned by addictive television and actually know why the people I was drawn in by back then have turned to their prime dilation occurs, a phenomenon in which time begins moving slower when something is moving at the speed of light. He also helps Desmond, who becomes unstuck in time between the years 1996 and 2004 while traveling to the freighter. Linus uses a wheel underground to move the island in time and space, which causes it to apparently disappear.

Richard Alpert: Linus' advisor who seems to be ageless as he appears in several flashbacks at different times but never appears to change in physical appearance. Flashbacks show that he helps Linus to kill off the Dharma Initiative in 1992, recruits Juliet, a fertility doctor from Miami, to the Others as a scientist in 2001, and appears at Locke's birth in 1956. In the fourth season, he leaves the Others to "The Temple." Claire: The Others' highest authority, Linus receives orders from him and is the only person in regular contact with him. He lives in a cabin on the island that seemingly moves and is invisible to some people. Locke visits Jacob's cabin, but he can only hear Jacob, not see him.

Charles Widmore's team, also known as the "Kahana" crew, includes Michael Dawson, famous for yelling Wait every chance he gets, appears as a spy for Linus on Widmore's freighter under the alias Kevin Juler. He is the junior aboard the "Kahana" and, attempts to disarm a bomb on the freighter that fails and is killed along with another flight survivor. Others: The fourth season includes: the flash-forwards: Following with the canons of the third season, finale, the fourth season introduces significantly more flash-forwards than flashbacks. These flash-forwards show the lives of a few passengers after they safely leave the island (yes, they do get rescued from the island) and give hints as to who is included in the Dharma Initiative.

The Oceanic 6: The characters aboard Oceanic Flight 815 who eventually safely leave the island are revealed in the flash-forwards. This group includes Kate Austen: Sayid Jarrah; Sun Kwos; Charlie, Littleton's baby; Aaron: Hugo "Hurley" Reyes; and Jack.

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Along with many other fans I will sit down tonight in front of the television and watch “Lost” with ardent attention in hopes of gaining answers to the plethora of questions presented over the seasons. I have to know whether the Oceanic 6 return to the island and why. I have to know if and how Locke died. And I have to make sure Sawyer’s (Josh Holloway) shirtless body is okay back on the island.

I love the show because of the tagline yet unanswerable design of the “Lost” universe. The show is about more than the passengers of Oceanic Flight 815 crashing on a mysterious island. Yes, the nature of this show is a supernatural one, but it is predominantly about relationships. Each episode centers on one or two people, making the show a complex charater study.

And because of the show’s big cast, there is a character everyone can identify with or root for.

The man in my corner is the heroic yet tortured Dr. Jack Shepherd (Matthew Fox). Early on in the series Jack takes on the responsibility of everyone else’s lives, including signing his own blood out of his body in an effort to save a dying Boone’s life.

Regardless of who you root for, “Lost” fascinates the audience because every episode gives a glimpse into the character’s life, usually off the island. And just when I was used to learning about the characters through flash backs, the third season finale tricked us and was instead a flash forward reminding viewers to expect turns and twists at every corner.

“Lost” is certainly a complex mythology, and viewers have to be committed to every single episode, but the effort is worthwhile because the show is unfailingly inventive. No one is safe, and anyone can die at any time. A piece of the magic of “Lost” is that there can be beauty in even death on the show. For example, the first single of Charlie’s (Dominic Monaghan) band is the last song he hears before he dies. Every detail whether it be a city, name, song or even a book in the background has a reason for being there. It is amazing that millions of devoted fans spend hours reading and writing blogs trying to decipher these clues at to understand what is going on.

I love “Lost” because I care about the characters and their relationships. I am invested in Desmond and Penny’s love affair that transverses time. I will debate any Sawyer-Kate fan endlessly that Jack and Kate (Evangeline Lilly) belong together. I pray that Jim (Daniel Dae Kim) is not a fill-in so that he can be reunited with Sun (Yunjin Kim). The characters even have connections to each other that they don’t know about such as the fact that Claire (Emilie de Ravin) is Jack’s sister. It is impressive and intriguing how every story is interwoven somehow.

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

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Wednesday, January 21, 2009
NHL

Ducks quack over refs in loss to Rangers

Bell scores three of Senators’ three power-play goals with 1:22 remaining to give Ottawa win over Washington

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Henrik Lundqvist thought the New York Rangers’ winning goal was anything but a thing of beauty. The Anaheim Ducks were not really sure it should have even counted.

Despite the varying opinions, Scott Gomez’s shot from the side of the crease, and Lundqvist sharing the fate of “It didn’t look good,” Lundqvist said of his team’s power play, “as we somehow clicked twice. ‘We really struggled on the power play, but two goals went in. It felt like they were not really sharp, but that’s what happens sometime.’

Nikolai Zhednov passed the puck onto Markus Naslund’s stick in the crease and deftly slid it to Gomez at the right post for a jam shot that got past Hiller for the winner with 7:21 remaining.

“They made a play in the crease area and Naslund backed into our goalie and moved over to the other side with both feet in the crease, Ducks coach Randy Carlyle said. It was just almost behind the crease, I think,” Hiller said. “I should still be able to stop it.”

The Rangers, playing their first home game following their 3-1-1 trip, hopped back over the New Jersey Devils into first place in the Atlantic Division. New York is now off for a week for the NHL All-Star break.

“It’s a good little run of points here. It’s such a tight division. Every night is a big one, with Anaheim on a power play, while Blair Betts had the win with a short-handed, empty-net goal with 33.9 seconds to go. “Right now, we’re just shooting ourselves in the foot, a defenceman and a goalie,” Hiller said. “It’s not fun.”

A hele m answered with a late goal in each of the first two periods to forge ties. Soon after the Rangers failed on a power play, in which they were whistled shooting twice, Perry got the Ducks even at 2 with his 14th goal. Lundqvist had a quick left pad stop against George Parros on a shot in tight, but that only briefly protected New York’s lead.

Theodore was chosen No. 2 in the 2005 draft after Sidney Crosby went first to Pittsburgh, to become the fifth Danish-born player in the opening round of the 2

Senators 3, Capitals 2

OTTAWA — Brendan Bell scored Ottawa’s third power-play goal of the game with 1:22 remaining to lift the Senators to a win over the Washington Capitals on Tuesday night.

Bell put a shot from the right side past Jose Theodore 18:38 into the third period, with three saves remaining in a penalty to Washington’s Alexander Semin.

Dany Heatley scored a pair of power-play goals in the first to stake the Senators to a 2-0 lead.

Brian Elliott started his fifth in a row for Ottawa, which has seven points in four games (3-0-1), including a 5-4 shootout loss on Montreal on Saturday.

Sergei Fedorov scored a pair of goals and Alex Steen scored in the second to help the Senators erase a two-goal deficit and tie it at 2 with 3:41 left.

Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, right, blocks a shot by Ducks center Samuel Pahlsson during New York’s 4-2 win over Anaheim Tuesday.

Rangers to their first lead when he ripped a drive in over the stick with 7:13 remaining in the opening period. Naslund was set up perfectly after brothers Scott and Rob Niedermayer knocked the puck right to him while trying to clear the Anaheim zone, and scored his 15th goal to move into a tie with Drury for the team lead.

Ryan made it 1-1 with his 14th goal, which got him into 1-1 among NHL rookies at 13:45 of the first. Ryan, chosen No. 2 in the 2005 draft after Sidney Crosby went first to Pittsburgh, has played in only 30 games this season with the Ducks. He spent the first 18 games in the minors, but has come on recently with six goals in seven games — including a hat trick.

Semeniuk opened the scoring streak following a 2-1 road win in overtime over the New York Islanders. 

The Senators had won 16 of their previous 21. These were the Capitals' 12th straight loss in their previous 11 starts, made 31 in his fifth straight start.

Ottawa’s Peter Regl made his NHL debut. A 22-year-old chosen in the third round of the 2004 draft, Regl was called up from Binghamton of the AHL earlier in the day and became the fifth Danish-bom player in league history, centering a line with Mike Fisher and Nick Foligno.

Fedorov scored his fifth goal of the season 37 seconds into the second, moments after a lengthy video review determined that an earlier shot by Fedorov had not entered the net. The Russian veteran left no doubt on his next shot as he one-timed past him and drove a slap shot from the slot between Elliott’s pads to draw Washington within 2-1.

Snake tied it at 2 with his sixth goal at 5:58. Recently moved to the Senators’ second power-play unit, Heatley opened the scoring with his 20th goal of the season.

The two-time 50-goal scorer made it a two-goal lead at 15:54 with his second goal of the period, his team-leading 21st.
Players seek big bucks in arbitration

Associated Press

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Ryan Howard proposed a salary as prodigious as one of his home runs.

The Philadelphia Phillies first baseman asked for $18 million in arbitration Tuesday, the third-highest figure submitted since the process began in 1974. Philadelphia offered $14 million, while Howard is eligible for free agency only after they go through a regular evaluation period last week when college coaches are not allowed contact with prospects other than to exchange greetings.

Howard proposed a salary rather than Philadelphia’s $7 million offer. Houston pitcher Roger Clemens set the record for highest request in arbitration at $22 million in 2002.

Howard is not eligible for free agency until after the 2011 season. Howard had a major league-leading 48 homers and 146 RBIs last year, helping the Phillies win their first World Series title since 1980. Before the season, he was awarded $10 million in arbitration

Howard’s request, the third-highest of 111 players who exchanged figures Thursday, just 46 exchanged figures with their teams. That group included Baltimore right fielder Nick Markakis, who has a tentative agreement on a $66 million, six-year deal.

Howard’s $4 million gap was the largest among players who exchanged figures with their teams. Tampa Bay and third baseman Willy Aybar had the smallest margin at $150,000, with the player asking for $1.02 million and the club offering $900,000.

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Wake Forest yawns at top ranking

Associated Press

Wake Forest was riding the bus home after beating Clemson when a walk-on broke the news: Pittsburgh lost, clearing the way for the Demon Deacons to jump to No. 1.

The last remaining unbeaten team in Division I then greeted yawn. Just down the road, No. 7 Virginia, No. 8 N.C. State and No. 9 Iowa State were about to enjoy the view. Just down the road, No. 10 Wake Forest may have to go to the top of college basketball.

"They really can't enjoy it much, because your goal is to be No. 1 at the end of the year," guard Ishmael Smith said. "The funny thing is, you can be No. 1 today, and Wednesday night after the (Virginia Tech) game, you could drop down to 10 or 12 just as easy. ... When people recognize it, you say, 'Thank you,' but you've really just got to keep pushing and keep pressing."""

Through the years, it has been an annual struggle for tiny Wake Forest — the smallest school in the ACC, with an enrollment of about 4,500 undergraduates — to claw its way past instate rivals Duke, North Carolina and N.C. State and claim the spotlight. Each of those powerhouses has won multiple national championships while combining for nine NCAA tournament titles.

The Demon Deacons have produced plenty of household names — Tim Duncan, Josh Howard, Muggsy Bogues — but they reached the NCAA tournament only in 1962, when they were led by eventual TV analyst Billy Packer.

Their only previous appearance at No. 1 came four seasons ago when a late coach Skip Prosser and guard Chris Paul guided them to the top spot for two weeks in November.

"A lot of times, you do get overshadowed (in North Carolina)," said Paul, now a star with the New Orleans Hornets. "And that was part of my reason for going to Wake ... to try to build that school, to try to get recruits like we have there now."

While the Demon Deacons may have slipped under the national radar for the past few thin years, the recruiting experts certainly never lost track.

Big men Al Farouq Aminu and Tony Woods were their only two of a fresh- man class rated No. 3 nationally by Scout.com. They were among the high school stars being recruited in person by Prosser the week he died in July 2007 of an apparent heart attack. They honored their non-binding commitments to Wake Forest when the coach's long-time right-hand man, Dino Gaudio, was tabbed two weeks later to succeed him.

Teague and forward James Johnson also stuck with the Demon Deacons and showed flashes of potential as freshmen last season, leading them to an upset of then-No. 2 Duke that marked Gaudio's first big victory.

This season, the Demon Deacons have made a rapid climb from a preseason ranking of No. 21. They snapped BYU's 11-game winning streak with a 62-53 game home-court win on Saturday night, the beat the then-No. 3 Tar Heels and went on the road last week to knock Clemson from the ranks of the unbeaten.

Teague averages 21.4 points and is the ACC's second-leading scorer, trailing only defending national player of the year Tyler Hansbrough of North Carolina while leading a run-and-gun offense that averages 85 points.

Wake Forest makes more of its 3-point shots (51 percent) than any other team in the ACC. It is the best shot against anyone else in the conference, allowing its opponents to shoot just 36 percent.

Johnson and Aminu rank among the ACC's top rebounders. And 7-footer Chas McFarland is one of four players who stand 6-11 or taller — going the defense-minded coach plenty of options for stopping Hansbrough and other dominant post players.

"That's the good thing about this team — we're so talented, yet we still have so much more to work on to get better," Smith said. "I still think nobody has played well at the same time. ... We still have a whole lot to work on to get better."
Images of Fitzgerald a nightmare for Steelers

Prepping for Super Bowl, Pittsburgh players, coaches remember Arizona wide receiver's play at University of Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Larry Fitzgerald might be the most scrutinized player in Pittsburgh Steelers history. For two years, they needed only to look out their office windows to watch him.

Fitzgerald’s exceptional hands, his knack for making difficult catches while heavily covered and his high-jumper-like leaping ability might post possible obstacles to the Steelers beating the Arizona Cardinals in the Super Bowl.

As Steelers coach Mike Tomlin suggested Tuesday, scouting and a good game plan alone aren’t enough to slow Fitzgerald, whose 419 yards receiving are the most in a single NFL postseason, with one game remaining.

“If you put down the field one-on-one with him, he’s going to make a play,” Tomlin said. “He’s the best in the world at that bar none.”

Not that any one needs to reinforce that notion.

Displayed in their Heinz Field prep box, alongside pictures of four former and current Steelers players, is a large photo of Fitzgerald leaping above three Texans and making a touchdown catch while at Pitt in 2003. He couldn’t have been more covered, yet it made no difference. The football was there, and, in Fitzgerald’s mind, nobody else was going to get it.

Fitzgerald’s series of three, case-after-case touchdown catches in the NFC championship game Sunday presented an all-Pennsylvania Super Bowl.

NCAA Men’s Basketball

Cinderella George Mason preparing for dance again

Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. — George Mason coach Jim Larranaga always begins practice with a little cheers-and-laughter moment.

He didn’t have to think hard to come with one on Tuesday.

"Yes, we can!" he told his players as they gathered at midcourt at George Mason’s Kimmel Arena, where the Patriot Center, about a half-hour before Barack Obama was sworn in as president.

"Yes we can!"

Then laughter as the group singled out senior Chris Flood, the team’s sole Republican.

"Even one else voted for Barack," Larranaga said, “so they were happy that he got to be the president of the world.

Larranaga’s inspirational plays were well documented during George Mason’s upset of defending champion Duke in March 2006, and apparently he didn’t want his team to think too much of those. This year’s team didn’t get to the best start in school history, with a 12-2 record that includes an immaculate 7-0 in the Colonial Athletic Conference.

It also set up an improbable matchup between the Cardinals, an old franchise that could hardly be more successful, and the Steelers, an old franchise that could barely be more successful.

"Larry Fitzgerald, is quite simply, the best receiver in the gridiron game in recent times," Tomlin said. "If we’re going to be successful in Tampa, you need to limit the number of times we’re downfield with him. In fact, I’m coming down, I’ll be going up to go with the football. The (video) tape tells us that.

So did their own eyes.

Although the Steelers and University of Pittsburgh never practice together on the four-field complex they share in the city’s South Side, more than few Steelers employees were temped to sneak a few peeks at Fitzgerald when he played for the Pitt Panthers in 2003 and 2004.

"Why wouldn’t they?" in his two college seasons about being recruited by former Pitt coach Walt Harris, a passing game specialist who watched Fitzgerald catch passes for 2,677 yards and 34 touchdowns, with at least one every week, in a record 18 consecutive games.

The Steelers’ last four opponents, having Fitzgerald as the target, have all lost.

Not long after the Cardinals drafted Fitzgerald No. 3 overall in 2004, when the Steelers selected Ben Roethlisberger right after Fitz, Fitzgerald said his goal wasn’t just to be the receiver who made the occasional highlight-film catch. Instead, he wanted to be as steady and reliable as the Steelers’ Hines Ward.

Now, Fitzgerald probably needs to be better than Ward if the Cardinals are to win their first NFL championship since 1947 — three cities and 61-plus years ago. Certainly, the then-Chicago Cardinals beat the Eagles to win that ’47 title, a week after Philadelphia beat them there in the showpiece players on Pittsburgh’s defense — Troy Polamalu, Defensive Player of the Year James Harrison and linebacker James Harrison — yet he allowed only two touchdowns, in coverage all day and is a Pro Bowl alternate.

If Fitzgerald reeled in All-Pro safety Polamalu, it might be when he goes over the middle rather than deep, as Polamalu often plays as much like a linebacker as he does a defensive back.
Ross won't let Big Tuna get reeled in elsewhere

After buying Dolphins, new majority owner says Parcells will remain in charge of football operations

MIAMI — New Miami Dolphins majority owner Stephen Ross won't mess with success: He says Bill Parcells will remain in charge of football operations.

Ross, a New York real estate billionaire, completed his purchase of 95 percent of the franchise for $1 billion Tuesday, with Wayne Huizenga retaining a 5 percent interest.

Ross then addressed speculation he and Parcells might not be hitting it off. The sale triggered a clause in Parcells' contract allowing him to leave and still receive the $9-12 million remaining on the four-year contract he signed a year ago.

"Parcells is in charge," Ross said in a conference call. "He's staying, and I think we're very fortunate to have someone like Bill Parcells, who I think people have come to recognize as probably the best football mind in America."

Thanks to Parcells, Ross takes over with the franchise's fortunes on the upswing. When the first phase of his purchase was completed last February, the Dolphins were coming off a 1-15 season, worst in team history this season and made the playoffs for the first time since 2000. Parcells broke his silence Tuesday on the subject of his status. Scouting players practicing for the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., he spoke briefly with several reporters and was asked if he planned to remain as the Dolphins' vice president of football operations.

"What does it look like I'm doing?" he said. "What do your eyes tell you?"

When asked why he wouldn't commit outright to staying, Parcells said experience taught him never to rule anything out. He said if something happened to change his mind, he'd "hate to be called a liar."

But Parcells said he likes Ross and is not seeking a new contract.

"It's not about money," Parcells said. "I've got more than I can spend."

Ross said he'll be at least 100 percent certain Parcells will stay for "another year or two." But Parcells was cool about it.

"I feel very, very comfortable with him, and I think he feels comfortable with me," Ross said. "I think we've developed a good rapport."

Parcells, 68, made his billions as a lawyer and developer and is chairman of Related Companies, an international real estate development company. He has homes in New York and Palm Beach, and he ranked 76th in 2008 on Forbes' list of richest Americans with a net worth of $4.5 billion.

Ross attended Miami Beach High School and the University of Florida, then earned degrees from Michigan and Wayne State law school. He began his career in Detroit as a tax attorney, and the Michigan business school bears his name.

Once a minority partner with the New York Islanders, Ross was part of a group in 1990 that tried to bring baseball to Miami before Huizenga became founding owner of the Florida Marlins. He also made an unsuccessful bid for the New York Jets in 1999.

"When I read the paper, the first section I go to is the sports section," Ross said. "Since I wasn't going to make it as a player, it was a dream to become an owner."

Last year Forbes Magazine valued the Dolphins at $1 billion, with a revenue stream of about $232 million.

"I feel very, very comfortable with him, and I think he feels comfortable with me."  

Stephen Ross  
Dolphins owner

"It's the most important thing, and the thing that drives me — creating and being part of a winning organization," Ross said. "There's nothing more important than that."

Ross said Bryan Wiedmeier will remain as team president, and negotiations regarding a position on the business side are ongoing with Arlen Kantarian, former U.S. Tennis Association CEO. Ross said he's talking to potential minority partners, but none has agreed to invest yet.

Huizenga bought 15 percent of the Dolphins and 50 percent of the stadium from founder Joe Robbie's family in 1990. Total cost of those purchases was $168 million.

The Dolphins never reached the Super Bowl under Huizenga's ownership.

"The sale represents a bitter-sweet moment for me, but the timing is right to complete it," he said in a statement. "I know under Steve's leadership the Dolphins are in outstanding hands. We are still a 5 percent partner in the franchise and the stadium. The Huizenga family and organization will do everything we can to support Steve and the team for the benefit of all of South Florida."

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Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rick DiPietro's season ended before the New York Islanders Franchise goalie really got a chance to get it going.

DiPietro's persistent swelling and soreness in his left knee forced the team to use goalie Garth Snow as the starter in the remaining games.

DiPietro had to change his mind when he scored a goal on the team's first game and led to Tuesday's decision to shut him down.

"Everyone's consensus is that Rick should rest the knee, allow the postoperative swelling to subsist in a relatively short timeframe to resolve, and get him ready for next season," said Dr. Elliott Hershman, an associate team orthopedist, who participated in the second operation.

"At this time, we're not advocating for further surgery but we're certainly following this knee to make sure there is no inflammation and that subsiding swelling does resolve on a more permanent basis so he is able to return fully," Hershman added.

DiPietro was the top pick in the 2007 NHL draft. His rookie season so far has been plagued by persistent swelling and soreness in his left knee, a blow to the Islanders' future. He also has a history of head injuries.

"It's a problem that is the lateral meniscus when it's damaged and has surgery on it twice, it can take quite a while to recover," Hershman said. "A lot of the stress of the knee in hockey goes through the lateral compartment.

"It doesn't do it to the hips, I think both his hips are doing quite well right now, I do think he is recovering."

DiPietro, an NHL All-Star starter last year, went 1-3-0 this season with a 3.52 goals against average and a .929 save percentage.

After becoming the first goalie chosen No. 1 overall when the Islanders took him in the 2000 draft, DiPietro has posted a mark of 117-112-8-24 with a 2.79 goals against average and a .901 save percentage in 273 NHL games.

He is expected to resume skating sometime during the summer.

"The most important thing is that at this point we give the knee some time to rest, free from on-ice activity, and see what the knee does," Hershman said. "When do

**NHL**

**Things keep getting worse for Islanders**

Hampered by persistent swelling and soreness in left knee, goalie DiPietro decides to shut it down for the season

**Associated Press**

PORTLAND, Ore. — Greg Oden challenged himself.

"I went 2-for-7 last night; a terrible game," the Trail Blazers' 7-foot center made a conscious decision to break out of his funk.

The result was Monday night, when he scored a career-high 24 points and had 12 rebounds in Portland's victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

"I just wanted to start stepping up my game," he said. "Being inconsistent, I've been saying that all year. It's time to change that."

Oden didn't just become more confident and aggressive, but he also snapped out of a funk that had largely clouded his rookie season so far.

He had scored only two points after the game then smiled and joked with reporters gathering around his locker.

"It feels good," he said. "I can't tell you how happy I am. I'm out there I play good, and when I'm not, I don't. This was one of those it showed."

Oden was the top pick in the 2007 NBA draft. His rookie year was delayed when he had microfracture surgery on his knee, a blow to Portland fans who saw him as the future of the franchise.

Despite his absence on the court last season, the former Ohio State Mr. Basketball and Lawrence North High School star was named the Blazers' opening-day starter and made known for his toothy grin on the bench, an affable and wanted even his humorous blog posts.

This season, however, the happy-go-lucky Oden vanished. He injured his foot in the opening game and missed six games. When he did come back, his play was disjointed, and at times he seemed stumped.

"Our体系 and jokes were rare."

"I though Oden was going through a typical first-year growing pains, there was tremendous pressure from fans and the media. Even rappin' Lil' Wayne proclaimed himself the No. 1 Oden bust in a commentary for CBSSports.com.

The Trail Blazers, for their part, stood steadfast in their faith in Oden progress at his own pace.

"I think I put just as much pressure as anybody else would on a job they love to do, to go out and do good at it," he said.

His numbers are not bad for a rookie center. He is averaging 8.3 points, seven rebounds and 1.94 blocked shots. But he has struggled with fouls, as well as maintaining his energy level throughout games.

In Portland's 102-85 victory over the Bucks, Oden had just two fouls.

The Bucks were without top scorer Andrew Bogut, who missed his third straight game because of back pains. Bogut is averaging 10.4 boards a game.

Bogut's absence helped Oden, and the Bucks were forced to go with a smaller lineup when they play twice tonight to foul trouble.

It was Oden's team-high 12th double-double.

"It's hard because the seas- seen so long as you're going to have ups and downs, especially as a rookie," Blazers guard Brandon Roy said. "But I think the good thing about it is that he's definitely staying involved with trying to loosen up. It's not like he's going to sit on the bench some morning and be totally loose. He's going to have to continue to work on it."

Now the question is whether Oden can keep it up. The Trail Blazers host LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night."

"I'm not going to say I'm all the way disappointed with myself or down on myself," he said. "I'd just say I need to step up my game."

**NBA**

**Oden responds to self-challenge with breakout game**

Portland rookie center sees 24 point 15 rebound effort against Milwaukee as evidence of his potential
Wednesday, January 21, 2009

Big East
continued from page 24
Cardinals was an 85-82 upset at the hands of Nevada-Reno on Nov. 29. The Cardinals still have the brunt of their conference schedule left, including trips to UConn, Notre Dame, Marquette and a rematch at the Bearcats all still to come.

UConn (18-0, 4-0)
The best team in the country isn’t the best in the conference standings, but only as a result of scheduling. The Huskies have played fewer conference games than Louisville, in part because they played in one of the biggest out-of-conference matchups of the season: a 1-vs-2 game last weekend. Notre Dame has a chance to make a statement in the league in the coming week with a matchup with No. 21 Rutgers at the Joyce Center.

Pittsburgh (13-4, 3-2)
The Panthers jumped up to the fourth spot in the conference after the Cincinnati loss, despite the loss of all Big East center Marcedes Walker, who graduated last May. Guard Shevonte Zelous has picked up the scoring for Pitt so far this season, averaging 24.1 points and 5.4 rebounds per game. The Panthers showed how good they could be in their last game out, when they crushed Seton Hall 76-40 on the road. (Just for the record, the Irish only beat the Pirates 66-60 on that same court.)

Notre Dame (16-2, 4-1)
The Irish remain alone in third place in the league after Cincinnati’s loss Wednesday night, but could be worse off if not for clutch play against St. John’s this weekend. Notre Dame has won both close games and had blowouts in the conference season, but still have to travel to Pittsburgh and Storrs. Notre Dame has a chance to make a statement in the league in the coming week with a matchup with No. 21 Rutgers at the Joyce Center.

Cincinnati (13-5, 3-2)
Cincinnati has only two losses so far, but has avoided playing most of the big dogs in the league. The Bearcats have beaten up on Seton Hall, West Virginia and Villanova in their wins, but lost to Louisville and last year’s surprise of the season, Syracuse. Cincy avoids the Huskies thanks to scheduling, but has a three-game road trip later this season where it have to travel to Pitt and Rutgers back-to-back. A solid performance in those games could help put the Bearcats over the top and get them the second bye game.

Rutgers (10-5, 3-2)
How the mighty have fallen. The national runner-up of a year ago and a No. 2 seed last season. The Scarlet Knights have already lost twice in conference, at Syracuse and at Louisville. Even though every coach in the conference will say it is tough to win on the road, C. Vivian Stringer should know that her team needs to win games like those if they want to remain among the elites. Rutgers has only one player in double figures – guard Epiphanny Prince with 20.8. They don’t score much, but the Scarlet Knights also have a stifling defense, allowing only 52.5 points per game.

George-town (12-5, 2-2)
The Hoyas have seen-sawed in their conference season so far this season, alternating wins with big losses. Georgetown has struggled against the two top tier teams it has played (Notre Dame and Louisville) and will likely fall quickly in the standings in the next few weeks. They play Marquette, Pitt and Syracuse for the next four games. Those three are all at home, but with how Syracuse and at Louisville, they will be lucky to go 1-2 in those games.

Marquette (11-7, 2-2)
The Golden Eagles are another team looking to find their way in the league. They started off by beating USF before falling on the road to Seton Hall. Marquette then snapped Notre Dame’s win streak with a 75-65 victory Jan. 13, but then lost to Rutgers by 23 five days later. Marquette is lucky to avoid any long road trips this season, and has the luxury of playing its road games against some of the other mid-tier teams in the conference.

Villanova (2-2, 10-7)
The Wildcats are just where they should be on paper, beating West Virginia and Providence and losing to Rutgers and Cincinnati. They have a chance to make a statement game against the Irish on Saturday to improve their league standing and postseason opportunities. Otherwise, Villanova has a chance to win out at home (Providence, St. John’s, DePaul, Louisville and USF) and get into the top half of the Big East bracket.

DePaul (14-5, 2-3)
The Blue Demons have had to replace their leading scorer from a year ago, forward Allie Quigley, and have done so with some ease. The team has three players averaging in double figures this season. Deirdre Naughton with 17.3 points per game, Natasha mildew with 15.4 and Keisha Hampton with 10.4. DePaul already has one big win on its NCAA resume, a 69-62 victory at Pittsburgh.

Syracuse (13-5, 2-3)
The Orange have one of the more prolific offenses in the country, averaging 71.1 points per game with four players in double figures. Sophomore guard Erica Morrow leads the way with 17.7 points per game. The Orange started their conference schedule strong with wins against Rutgers and Cincinnati before falling at home to Seton Hall and getting doubled up by UConn.

South Florida and Seton Hall have matching 2-4 conference records, and have gotten them in very similar fashions, beating only other teams in the bottom half of the bracket. With every team making the Big East tournament this season, there is less pressure on these teams to step up their games in February in order to make a postseason appearance, but seeding still helps as both will try to turn things around quickly.

St. John’s, Providence and West Virginia are the current league cellar dwellers, but that is not to say they are all bad teams. St. John’s played the Irish close until the final whistle, refusing to play dead, and the Mountaineers are, if at all possible, a good 0-5 team in the Big East. Four of their losses are against the top half of the league, and the final one was a two-point squeaker at Villanova. Top-to-bottom, the Big East is a solid league, where even the worst team in the league (WVU) boasts a winning record (11-7).

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfit pep@edu

Campus Ministry invites students returning to campus from study abroad to a special Welcome Back Mass

Thursday, January 22, 2009
5:15 p.m.

Basilica of the Sacred Heart
A dinner will follow in the
Hammes Lounge of the
Coleman Morse Center.
**NHL**

**Oilers win in final minute**

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Ales Hemsky put on a show and helped the Edmonton Oilers head into the All-Star break on a high note.

Hemsky scored his second goal with 34.9 seconds left to play, giving the Edmonton Oilers a 4-3 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Tuesday night.

Hemsky added two assists, and Lubomir Visnovsky and Denis Grebeshkov also scored for the Oilers (24-19-3) who have won five of their last six to move back into a playoff position in the Western Conference.

"That was unreal. I haven't seen anything like that in a while," said Oilers head coach Craig MacTavish of Hemsky's performance Tuesday. "Two goals and two assists. We've seen that before. But not where all four are world-class plays."

"It couldn't have come at a better time. He single-handedly willed the win for us. It was a great effort from Alex."

Jared Boll, Marc Methot and Jason Williams scored for the Blue Jackets who have lost two of their last three.

The Oilers tied the game at 3 with 4:42 to play, just as a penalty expired. Hemsky spotted a pinching Grebeshkov and he put everything he had into a shot that beat Steve Mason to tie the game 3-3.

Hemsky got the job done almost single-handedly at the end to give Edmonton the win as he came in on the right hand side and beat Mason up high.

"When you have four points or something like that you are always asked if it is the best game in your career," Hemsky said.

"For me every game we win is what I feel good about. I just want to go out there and do my part." Ales Hemsky

**Oilers wings**

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"When you have four points or something like that you are always asked if it is the best game in your career," Hemsky said.

"For me every game we win is what I feel good about. I just want to go out there and do my part. It felt great to win the game. It's a great feeling in this room right now." Edmonton got out to an early lead, scoring on the power play five minutes into the opening period when Visnovsky sent a cross-ice pass to Hemsky, then crept in from the point for the return feed and blasted the puck past Columbus starter Steve Mason.

The Blue Jackets tied it a minute and a half into the second, when Williams sent a shot into a crowd of players standing in the crease. The puck caromed to Boll and Roloson was unable to stop the tap-in.

Edmonton regained the lead in the middle of the second period as Hemsky sped past Fedor Tyutin and beat Mason on a backhand.

It didn't take long for the Jackets to knot the game again, just a minute and a half later. Methot blasted a shot past Roloson to make it 2-2.

Columbus took its first lead of the game with five minutes to play in the period, when Williams took a shot from in tight that Roloson waved at his glove.

The Blue Jackets came close to going up by two in the third as a puck sneaked behind Roloson before Ladislav Smid flipped it out. The play ended with Roloson throwing punches at Boll for crashing the crease.

"We pissed it away," Columbus coach Ken Hitchcock said.

"We turned it over twice in the neutral zone and we gave it away."

They had nothing going, we were completely controlling the hockey game. We gave it away. We had a turnover with 47 seconds left. You can't do that.

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NHL**

**Marleau's overtime goal gives Sharks win**

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Joe Thornton set up Devin Setoguchi's tying goal in regulation and Patrick Marleau's overtime winner, and the San Jose Sharks celebrated Claude Lemieux's return to the NHL after a 5½-year absence with a dramatic 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday night.

Lemieux played a regular shift on the fourth line in his first NHL game since 2003 for the Sharks, who gave one of the most illustrious and unlikely returns of the season until the last minute of regulation.

Evgeni Nabokov made 12 saves for San Jose, which will enter the All-Star break with at least a share of the overall league lead.

Roberto Luongo stopped 27 shots for the Canucks, who lost their sixth straight after surrendering Setoguchi's tying goal with 39.1 seconds left.

Nabokov pulled for an extra attacker. Thornton threaded a pass from behind the goal to Setoguchi, who found a slight opening.

After Daniel Sedin committed a hooking penalty midway through overtime, Thornton made a cross-ice pass to Marleau for his 50th career goal and Marleau's 25th goal. Marleau is expected to be added to the West All-Star Team on Thursday.

Thornton, defenseman Dan Boyle and coach Todd McLellan in Montreal.

A violent scrum erupted as the teams left the ice when Henrik Sedin ran into Nabokov and Ryan Clowe, who responded angrily. Both teams traded shoves, and Vancouver enforcer Shane O'Brien was injured in his attempt to confront Clowe.

Taylor Pyatt scored in the first period for the Canucks, who were few moments away from becoming just the second opponent to win a regular-season game in regulation at the Shark Tank since last Feb. 14.

A pronounced 18-year-old forward who won four Stanley Cups and a playoff MVP award during parts of two NHL seasons.

-- By ALEX WEST

**SMC BASKETBALL**

Saint Mary's travels to face winless Hornets

By ALEX WEST

Saint Mary's (8-7) looks to bounce back from its first MIAA loss of the year when it plays Kalamazoo (0-13) today.

The Belles will look to use their height advantage and speed in the transition game on offense against the Hornets, who rank last in the MIAA in scoring defense, regardless of our offense. We need to do a better job playing and doing our defense, regardless of our offense." Hemsky said.

The Belles lost 77-72 to Albion last Wednesday, dropping their conference record to 6-1. Kalamazoo's latest loss came against Albion last Saturday by a score of 68-38. Although the Hornets still remain winless, Henley said she doesn't believe her team will overlook them.

"In this league, you can't overlook anyone. Records and standings never truly indicate the strength of a team," she said.

"We need to do a better job on the defensive game and shutting down Kalamazoo's inside game," Jenn Henley said.

The Belles leading scorer Cris Newcom is coming off of an 18-point effort against Albion. She averaged almost 15 points and more than nine rebounds a game, so this season to lead the Belles in both categories.

Contact Alex West at awest@hcc-nd.edu

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**NHL**

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Jackson continued from page 24

Superior State.

When Notre Dame students have even heard of Lake Superior State?

But in a sense, that was the college hockey world's view of the Timbers when before Jackson took over in 2005, the previous year, Notre Dame had won just one game and had been all but dismissed from relevance.

Immediately, Jackson made an impact. The Irish went 13-19-1 the first year and nearly tripling their previous win total in the only losing season in the career of head-coaching career.

This year, with stud goaltender David Brown between the pipes, the Irish expect to see any action in seven straight weeks.

Clagett led the team in the nation's top faceoff specialists, ranking in the top 10 percent in the national polls for seven straight weeks.

And last year, with a new goalie (current netminder Jordan Pearce), who has since emerged as one of the CCHA's best for a school that class (which overachieved but hadn't seen)

At Associated Press

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**THE DOME PIECE**

**DEAR DAVE,**

My advice is don't let em get you. Take the next couple days to cut party like it's 1929.

-W.

**THE DOME PIECE**

**CROSSWORD**

Across

35 Order of the Arrow members
36 Low diet
38 Competitor of Spinners, e.g.
43 Emergency PC my
46 Makes something better in a big way
50 Kind of jacket
51 Tricky
52 Leatherworker's tool
53 Singer/songwriter of Airplane
54 Ducky
55 One of the Gandhis
61 Forest minstrel
62 "Two cents plan" drink
65 Staff members and what the circled letters in this puzzle represent
66 Celestial
67 Suflx with road andleared
68 Down

1 Electric gauge
2 Not staying in one's lane
3 Climbs
4 Natty
5 Adress Larman
6 Door-to-door delivery service?
7 Alternative to dial-up
8 15, Traffar (Handel)
9 Land o' leprechauns
11 Not enrolling of the laws
12 CRS logo
13 Telephone
14 Alternative to dial-up
15 

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

**JUMBLE**

**THERE SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

YAWLB

**EMAHHR**

**TREFER**

**PRAMCE**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above carbon.

**HOROSCOPE**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rob Basek, G.K. Chesterton, M. Stacey (Duh, 43; Bill Maher, 53).

**Happy Birthday:** Don't procrastinate, avoid or do your worst when what you should be doing is assessing your situation and making the necessary reforms, improvements or drastic changes to suit your needs. You are the one responsible for the outcome of your life. It is best to face your problems head-on. Your needs will be met if you believe in yourself and do the work you need to do to make your life better. Your numbers are 5, 17, 20, 26, 34, 41.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Be a hero and do for others. The opportunity to learn something about yourself and the people you hang out with will help you make an important decision that will influence your future. Don't get wrapped up in the emotional scenes you are trying to talk your way into a rocky financial kind. 2 stars

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You are far too coincidental to deal with professional matters sensibly. Step back and take a good look at everyone else doing things before you make a decision that may be difficult to reverse. Don't take unnecessary chances. 3 stars

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Don't expect the area you live in to accommodate you and your friends and colleagues. Added responsibilities may make your day a little more difficult. Good news will be a shining experiment that will help you on your future. 3 stars

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): A deal, settlement or legal matter can be done to make your life better. Expect a tempting offer from someone you love and respect. Added responsibilities are expected. You will have a shedding deals that will be well received. 3 stars

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Look on the bright side. You can honor positive things flowing freely. You can manipulate whatever situation you face. You will have a fulfilling relationship that will be well received. 3 stars

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's too hard to keep a stiff upper lip and ride out any storm you face. Until you clear the people who stand in the way of your dreams, you will not face anyone who is uncomplimentary discourage you from doing what you want. 3 stars

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You cannot go wrong if you organize or plan something that will enhance your chances of getting ahead. Avoid a situation with people you know will be unbalanced. A storm will lead to information and suggestions. 3 stars

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This isn't the time to come across long to conclusions. Put things in perspective and real life your hopes and fears. Nothing is a waste of time and every journey forward will continue to your future work. 3 stars

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have to push to do the things you enjoy. You can possibly work with the people who stand in the way of your dreams, you will not face anyone who is uncomplimentary discourage you from doing what you want. Be true to your dreams. 3 stars

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 20): Open up and be receptive to a cause. You may be surprised by the connections you make. A deal that enabled some changes in order to jump straight to conclusions. If you are willing to do what you want. 3 stars

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21-Feb. 19): Don't take anyone or anything too seriously, especially if emotions are high and tempers are hot. Be willing to bend a little to get along. A person who can't have it too will get to know your other. 2 stars

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): A fantastic look at your situation and how it's affecting others. You will get a better look at what will help you and what won't. You cannot assume anything is wrong to know people well. Most secret information may leak. 3 stars

**birthday Baby:** You are open, interesting and intelligent. You are forward-thinking, proactive and ahead of the game. This is the time to set new goals and to work on innovative things that will help you to move forward. You can face any situation with a smile. 3 stars


**THE OBSERVER**

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

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Tuesday, January 21, 2009

Michael M. Mikuska
Michael.Mikuska@observer.com

- Missing from your package? Call 1-888-7-ACROSS.
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- Today's puzzle and more than 50 puzzles: 1-888-7-ACROSS.
- Today's puzzle and more than 50 puzzles: 1-888-7-ACROSS.
ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Conference complications

Big East has five of its teams in the top 25

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Senior Women’s Basketball Analyst

The Big East is out to prove that it is the best conference in the NCAA, and it is doing it in force. Every team but Providence (7-11) is above .500 so far this season, and the conference boasts five teams ranked in the Associated Press top 25 — including top-ranked Connecticut. No Big East team is given, especially on the road, and each win is even more important this season as the top-four seeds get two bye games in the Big East tournament.

Louisville (19-1, 6-0)

By virtue of having played more games than Connecticut, the Cardinals are currently on top of the table in the Big East, having just beaten Cincinnati 66-50 Tuesday night. The lone blemish on the No. 7 team is from an eventual perennial power in the Big East.

Jackson?

Is there a better college hockey coach than Jeff Jackson?

Midway through his fourth year at Notre Dame, Jackson has already elevated the program from an occasional contender to a perennial power in the CHA, one of the nation’s top conferences. And after last year’s Frozen Four run, the Irish have proven they can be a force on the national scene as well.

Looking at Jackson’s résumé, that comes as no surprise. He’s coached — and won — at every level, from the Canadian junior league to the National Hockey League, where he was an assistant with the New York Islanders for two seasons. Jackson headed the U.S. National Team Developmental Program for five years, and as head coach won a silver medal at the World Junior Championships in 1997.

And in the early 1990s, Jackson won two national titles and 75 percent of his games in six seasons as the boss at Lake Superior State.

Garnham said, “Her answer was no. She said she wanted to be an All-American and that’s our goal.”

That’s hardly a stretch for the Lancaster, N.Y., native who is no stranger to performing at an elite level.

Saxer was the first high school female to clear the 14-foot mark, owns the national high school pole-vault record and, until recently, held the female American junior record as well as the female U-17 world record. She was named the National High School Indoor Athlete of the Year in 2005 and also received All-America honors from numerous associations including Nike and USA Today.

As if that wasn’t enough, she also claimed the national championship in the long jump at Nike’s Indoor Nationals in 2004.

Garnham said he believes her high school career has given her a great edge over most of the competitors at the collegiate level.

“Mary’s past experiences in the pole-vault set her apart from her competitors. She had a lot of success in the event in high school and I think having that experience really helps in different situations,” Garnham said. “Her maturity and her mental toughness are her strongest attributes.”

Saxer prefers, however, to

see SAXER/page 22

HOCKEY COLUMN

Just how good is Jackson?

Success speaks for itself

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Is there a better college hockey coach than Jeff Jackson?

Simply put, no.

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see JACKSON/page 22

ND WOMEN’S TRACK

Saxer eyes NCAAs, All-America status during senior season

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

A three-time all-Big East selection, participant in last year’s NCAA Midwest regional meet and holder of a number of school and meet records, senior pole-vaulter Mary Saxer has certainly enjoyed an illustrious career at Notre Dame. But she’s far from done.

“The year I have my eye set on is the NCAA Championships and placing so I can be All-American,” Saxer said. “I know that I have the ability to achieve this if I really put my mind to it.”

She won’t be alone on this journey. New pole-vaulting coach Jim Garnham will be at her side willing and able to assist her along the way.

“When I met with Mary this fall after taking this job, I asked her if she had accomplished everything that she wanted to accomplish athletically,” Garnham said. “Her answer was no. She said she wanted to be an All-American and that’s our goal.”

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see SAXER/page 22

MEN’S LACROSSE

Three grads taken in draft

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Three former Irish stars will take their games to the next level after being selected in the Major League Lacrosse Supplemental draft.

Midfielder Taylor Clagett, defenseman Ross Zimmerman and attack Alex Wharton were all selected in the draft held on Jan. 14.

Clagett was the first Irish graduate off the board in the draft, chosen by the Los Angeles Riptide in the first round. The former Notre

see CLAGETT/page 22