Archbishop speaks on religious trends

Vatican official discusses the secularization of Europe, the Church's shifting role

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

The influence of the Catholic Church in Europe is declining as a result of secularization, said Archbishop Angelo Amato in a lecture Monday night.

Amato, who was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI last July to oversee the canonization of Catholic saints, delivered Notre Dame's annual Terrence M. Keeley Vatican lecture sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

Secularization is a trend in which people feel "emancipated from religious bonds," he said. Secularism, a worldwide problem because it does not accept religion as an important reality, is especially apparent in Central and Western Europe, he said.

With secularization, Amato said that economics, politics, and humanism in Modern Europe became detached from religion and morality.

"In this panorama, the influence of Christianity on social life is greatly weakened," he said.

While some people argue that Modern Europe does not need to rely on its Christian roots, Amato disagrees. He said the Church has always contributed to European civilization.

"Europe cannot be understood without Christianity," he said. "It loses its originality and identity."

Amato said he hopes Europe will blend tradition with its modern views so that it will find a greater respect for democracy, freedom, and the dignity of the human being in the future.

Christianity is therefore not only a link to Europe's roots, but it is also a solution for the future, he said.

"Christianity is the basis of modern thought and morality," he said. "Europe must profess itself to be Christian."

Amato said hope for the future is "growing," but he said it will be a difficult process.

"In this period of change, it is important to have options," he said.

Archbishop Angelo Amato delivered Notre Dame's annual Terrence M. Keeley Vatican lecture Monday night.

Archbishop delivers lecture on religious trends

"Archbishop Amato's lecture was really engaging. He made a strong case for the importance of spirituality in modern society," said student Kate Doyle.

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's will be hosting this year's Indiana Residence Hall Organization Conference (IRHOC) Maura Clougherty, president of the Residence Hall Association, said at Monday night's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting.

"The event, entitled "Will You Be My Leader?" will bring almost 100 students from all over the state of Indiana to campus on Feb. 6, 7, and 8. The weekend will include leadership programs, and awards will be handed out to participants.

"This IRHOC conference is one of the biggest conferences we have had in a long time, so we are very excited," Clougherty said.

This week the Student Academic Council (SAC) is holding Religious Studies week on campus, student body vice president and head of SAC Sarah Falvey said. There will be a Thomas Aquinas Symposium on Wednesday night in the Residential Center Lounge at 7 p.m. she said.

University President Father John Jenkins will be speaking at the event about Aquinas' influence at Notre Dame.

"It's really great. Especially having just celebrated our Saint Mary's heritage, our heritage is very much shaped by Aquinas," Falvey said.

ECDC seeking student volunteers

Center needs help with program for children ages 2 to kindergartenn

By CASEY KENNY
News Writer

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) at Notre Dame's Hesburgh Library behind the library and directly across from Fisher O'Hara-Grade Student Housing, is looking for student volunteers for the Spring semester, according to Terri Kosik, the executive director of ECDC.

Kosik said the center offers a "dynamic, recreational-based program for children from age 2 to kindergartners and utilizes a developmentally appropriate curriculum.

The 80-90 student volunteers with the program work alongside teachers and assist the children with various activities, she said.

"Students volunteer 2 hours per week and spend time with the children in various capacities [from working on the curriculum with teachers, reading stories to children, teaching them to ride bicycles, painting with them and] pushing them in swings," she said.

Students work the same schedule each week and, therefore, really get to know the children they are working with, Kosik said.

"There is a wide range of children in the program from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic groups," she said. "The volunteers can choose the age group with whom they feel most comfortable."

Kosik said that while volunteer.

see ECDC/page 4

SMC to test security alert system this afternoon

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's students, faculty and staff will be receiving an e-mail, text message or phone call at 4 p.m. today as the College's Emergency Notification System is tested, according to an e-mail sent to the student body last week.

Students received the e-mail one week prior to the test date to inform them when the test would be occurring and to explain what students could expect from the test.

"We try to test at least once per academic year. We do this to make sure the system works properly," vice president of student affairs Karen Johnson said.

The test works by sending a message through the service the College contracts with. The message is sent to students cell phones and their e-mails addresses.
Inside Column

If I were a superhero...

Like any other young college student, sometimes (okay often) I sit back and wonder what I would do if I were a superhero. Like any other young college student, I decide in an ideal (necessarily unrealistic) world, I would be a superhero.

Being a superhero is the best of all worlds. You get to use really cool powers, do good by fighting against societally bad characters, and gain adoration and respect from society while being loved and adored by all. In addition, you'd get to chill with fascinating and heroic (and sometimes) characters, who would automatically have to be your friend just because you're a superhero. It's kind of like dorm life at Notre Dame. Sororities and Fraternities life, half the 'clickiness,' twice the fun.

Clearly, hanging out with Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, A-men, the Hulk and the Fantastic Four would undoubtedly be a mind blowing experience, no explanation needed here. I'd even let in the Cullen Family and the cast of Harry Potter, who all fight evil and use some remarkable powers doing it.

Not to be exclusive, but there are some people who would be left out of the Superhero world. Batman for one. Let the huffing and puffing commence, but yes, you read correctly, I did indeed just kick Batman out of the real superheroes' club. To answer your next question yes, I did see the "Dark Knight." And no, being rich, affording an infinite amount of effective gadgetry, training for combat in Asia, sounding dumb when speaking through a voice synthesizer and having the capacity to float a slightly overrated box-office whale does not qualify you to be a superhero.

Maybe he does some pretty good things for mankind. He goes above and beyond, extra heroic. But clearly the etymology of hero is not necessarily those of The Observer.

Then, during the day I'd assume the晾冠 shell. I'd wake up in the morning, and after kicking Batman out of the club. the obvious next step would be, picking a power.

I could pick only one supernatural power. It would have to be flying. Preferably flying at night, walkathrough walls, shooting laser beams out of my eyes, being really strong on a regular basis and appearance is pretty sweet. But flying is a classic. And I'm all about innovation, it lends a sense of history and hero.

After kicking Batman out of the club, the obvious next step would be, picking a power. If I could pick only one supernatural power, it would have to be flying.

Palm fan unknowingly buys effigy with noose

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — The maker of a Sarah Palin mannequin says a would-be buyer backed out when he discovered its past — as a effigy hung by a noose in a West Hollywood home's Halloween display.

Professional window dresser Chad Michael Morrisette said the winner of the eBay auction thought he was buying a pro-Palin item until he heard a radio report about it.

Morrisette created the look-alike mannequin of the Republican vice presidential candidate and hung it from his home's roof for Halloween. He removed it early out of safety concerns after the display prompted protests.

The Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Honorary Fraternity is sponsoring a blood drive Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in room 217 of DeBartolo Hall.

The film "Baghdad High" will be screened Friday at 9:30 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. This is a free but ticketed event. Call the Ticket Office at 574-613-2800 in reserve tickets.

OFFBEAT

Palm fan unknowingly buys effigy with noose

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Epic snowball fight flares out of history

MADISON, Wis. — When a whistle blew Saturday afternoon, two teams of University of Wisconsin Madison students pelted each other with snowballs, but the 45-minute battle won't be going down in history.

Freshman organizer Mike Basak had hoped the epic snowball fight would break a 2006 record set by 3,700 students at Michigan Technological University, which was earlier this season at his school was epic snowball fight would break a 2006 record set by 3,700 students at Michigan Technological University, but acknowledged Saturday that the turnout at his school was disappointing.

Basak guessed that 2,000 or more students showed up, but other observers put the total at hundreds of students, not thousands.

"It was definitely huge and it was a great event," he said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Awards
continued from page 1

work with fisheries, seafood companies, scientists, conservation groups and the public. By becoming chain-of-custody certified, Notre Dame can now ensure that the fish present in the dining halls came from a fishery that meets MSC's environmental standards. The University has already received 2,000 pounds of MSC-certified Alaska salmon and pollock.

"This is an area that Notre Dame Food Services has been a leader in, and the MSC certification provides direct recognition of their efforts, as well as the opportunity to explore ways to advance in this area," Jim Mazurek, the director of the Office of Sustainability said. For more information on Notre Dame's current environmental initiatives and to learn how to make Notre Dame a sustainable campus, please visit the Office of Sustainability's Web site at green.nd.edu.

Contact Liz Lefebvre at clefeberv@nd.edu.

Vatican
continued from page 1

future is present in the Catholic Church and the Gospel message. "The attitude of the Church toward contemporary Europe reflects the Gospel teaching of love," he said. "The source of hope for all of Europe is Christ." Amato said the Church must proclaim the Gospel and make it present in areas of society such as politics and mass media.

He said that he is also optimistic about the future due to the strong faith of European youth who embrace Christian mentality more than the preceding generation. "The solution is that Gospel, to the Christian, be a strong identity," he said.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu.

Prof. says Catholic schools in decline

Enrollment has steadily dropped from its peak 40 years ago

Special to The Observer

As national Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 25 to 31) approaches, the state of America's parochial schools is in the spotlight, and the news is somewhat discouraging.

An article this week in the New York Times refers to the proposed closing of 14 elementary schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., as "not the deepest but only the latest of a thousand cuts suffered ... as enrollment in the nation's Catholic schools has steadily dropped by more than half from its peak of five million 40 years ago."


Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., professor of political science and director of Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI), led the task force study and says the decline in enrollment in Catholic schools is largely due to finances. "The principle cause is financial," Father Scully said. "First of all, a century of change has been a huge transition in the faculty and staff who support the work of this wonderful apostolate. [There has been] a complete turnover in terms of the kind of leadership and staffing that we have in Catholic schools from 90-some percent in the 1960s religious — who by their gift to the church subsidized Catholic schools at the time — to 95 percent today lay, who also subsidize by the gift of their salaries, which are lower than the public sector, but extraordinarily higher than the religious who subsidized and made those schools possible, built those schools.

'I'm afraid to say that I think our values have changed a bit in the Catholic community. I think that despite our increasing resource base, we have other expectations for our lifestyle and we have other priorities for our incomes.'

"Study after study of philanthropy demonstrates a sad reality that the Catholic community is actually quite stingy when it comes to supporting church causes, and that's not unusual when it comes to Catholic schools. I have to add an important caveat, and that is those parents who make the sacrifice are making a huge sacrifice."

Turning the tide will require a universal effort, according to Father Scully. "The fundamental shift that has to occur in the Church in order for our Catholic schools to recover the importance that they have always held is that we as a Catholic community have to commit ourselves to the work of this apostolate," he said. "The work of Catholic education is the responsibility of all Catholics. It's not just the responsibility of parents who have children. It's the future of our Church.

Father Scully directs the work of the IEI and is the founder of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE). Notre Dame's signature program that sustains and strengthens under-resourced Catholic schools through leadership formation, research and professional service.

Founded in 1994, ACE places nearly 200 enthusiastic and faith-filled young men and women as full-time teachers in underserved Catholic schools throughout the country. ACE participants earn master's degrees in education from Notre Dame during the course of their two-year teaching commitment. ACE also established a principal preparation program, the ACE Leadership Program, in 2001 to form the next generation of lay Catholic school principals, and more recently, the English as New Language (ENL) program in order to train and support Catholic school teachers who work with ENL students.

Both the ACE Service Through Teaching and Leadership Programs prepare more Catholic school teachers and principals respectively than any other institution in the nation.

Subsequent to the Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Education, ACE has augmented its efforts to train and support Catholic school teachers and principals respectively in any other institution in the nation.

This Symposium is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hawk Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology.

Write news. E-mail Jenn at jmetz@nd.edu.
Big Opportunities... Business Management!

Consult the materials on Students year or

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the University will support students interested in foreign

Research and foreign study in Italy. Grants

Alberttynity

Recommended programs for foreign study include:

3) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;

4) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;

5) a budget indicating the costs involved;

6) two letters of recommendation;

7) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed;

8) a list of other sources of funding (if being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e., Office of International Studies, Nasovic Institute, etc.).

Application Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2009

Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Programs in Italian Studies

University of Notre Dame

ECDC

continued from page 1

Peer mentoring at ECDC looks great on the resume, it also a fun way to

Volunteer at ECDC to attend this session to learn

about the responsibilities and on an average day?

Refreshments will be served!

Applications are due to submit a letter which should include:

1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their experience;

2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;

3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;

4) a budget indicating the costs involved;

5) two letters of recommendation;

6) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed;

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Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Programs in Italian Studies

University of Notre Dame

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Information Session Presented by Allstate Insurance Company

Thursday January 29, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Flanner Hall, Room 114

Strong math, computer, analytical, and communication skills are valuable assets for students pursuing an Actuarial Career, but what does an actuary do on an average day? All majors are welcome to attend this session to learn about the responsibilities and types of analysis involved in the Actuarial Career.

Refreshments will be served!

"[It was] really fun and the kids were always laughing," he said. "I got to know the kids really well, as well as lots of other volunteers."

Students interested in volunteering can visit the ECDC Web site at http://www.nd.edu/edcnd/ Summer job and part-time paid positions are also available to students.

Contact Casey Kenny at ckenny@nd.edu

Contact Alicia Smith at asmile01@saintmarys.edu

Contact BOG

continued from page 1

In other BOG news:

Elections for the new student body president and vice president will be held Feb. 10-20, elections commissioner Francesca Johnson said. The following week there will be campaigning for BHA and SDB presidents and vice presidents.

The Center for Spirituality is hosting a Catholic Common Ground Conversation on evolution Jan. 29 in Stapleton Lounge from 4-5 p.m., with a discussion about the science of evolution and spiritual understanding of our existence.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) will be hosting Little Si's weekend Feb. 27 and 28, Dougherty said.

Student Activities Board (SAB) president Michele Peterson announced that SAB will be showing "Twilight" in Vander Vennet Theater in the basement of the Student Center Feb. 21. The group has scheduled five definite showings with a possible sixth viewing if necessary. Times will be announced at a later date, but the group will be distributing "pre-sale" tickets for free to help monitor attendance.

About the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

The Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship is available to students interested in foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages. The course work will involve the study of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian, will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture, and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include:

1. New York University in Florence, Siena University in Padua, and the University of Venice, Columbia University in Scandinavia. Students interested in foreign study in Italy are invited to study. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian, will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture, and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

2. A personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;

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Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Programs in Italian Studies

University of Notre Dame

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The Observer ♦ CAMPUS NEWS

Tuesday, January 27, 2009
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Political troubles disrupt Iceland

REYKJAVIK — Iceland’s coalition government collapsed on Monday after an unprecedented wave of public dissent, plunging the island nation into political turmoil as it seeks to rebuild an economy shattered by the global financial crisis.

Prime Minister Geir Haarde resigned and disbanded the government he’s led since 2006. Haarde was unwilling to meet the demands of his coalition partner, the Social Democratic Alliance, which insisted on choosing a new prime minister in exchange for keeping the coalition intact.

“I really regret that we could not continue with this coalition, I believe that that would have been the best result,” Haarde told reporters.

Muslims banned from yoga

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Muslims in Indonesia followed similar edicts in Malaysia and Egypt as the ancient Indian exercise gained popularity worldwide in recent years.

Clere Ma’ruf Amin said the Ulema Council issued its ruling over the weekend after investigators visited gyms and private yoga classes across the sprawling nation. Amir said those performing yoga purely for health or sport reasons will not be affected.

LOCAL NEWS

Security tighten for Super Bowl

TAMPA — At least 20 federal agencies will help local police secure Raymond James Stadium for Sunday’s Super Bowl, with duties ranging from protecting air space and the port to arresting peddlers of counterfeit souvenirs, officials said Monday.

Because of the massive security effort, the stadium “is one of the safest locations you can possibly be on Super Bowl Sunday in the United States of America,” said Milton E. Ahlerich, the NFL’s vice president for security.

NEWSPAPER COURTESY

Tourists banned from licking fish

TOKYO — Tourists are known for anything from kissing a tuna to licking the tuna. Overwhelmed by a growing number of misbehaving tourists, Tokyo fishmongers for the first time from one of the city’s most popular tourist destinations — the pre-dawn tuna auctions at the Tsukiji fish market.

The ban, imposed during the peak seafood buying season, was front-page news before it was lifted last week. Now, the tourists are back, but the debate goes on: Can tourists be trusted around the tuna?

“We understand that the sight of hundreds of frozen tuna looks unique and interesting for foreign tourists,” said Yoshiaki Takagi, deputy director of the market. “But they have to understand the Tsukiji market is a professional place, not an amusement park.”

One of the more notorious recent cases was that of a tipsy British tourist — caught on tape by a Japanese TV crew who licked the head of a frozen tuna and patted its gill. The ban was lifted on Jan. 5, a premium day for the market, but the market has since lifted the ban.

So, when on Jan. 5, a premium bluefin tuna fetched 9.63 million yen ($119,000), the highest price in nearly a decade — no tourists were anywhere in sight. The restrictions were lifted on Jan. 19, despite some grumbling from the fishmongers.

The sprawling market dates back to the 16th century, when the military rulers who had just moved Japan’s capital to Tokyo — then called Edo — wanted to ensure they had a steady supply of fish.
4-month delay to digital TV approved by Senate

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday voted unanimously to postpone the upcoming transition from analog to digital television broadcasting by four months to June 12 — setting the stage for Congress to pass the proposal before it adjourns.

The legislation, which passed by a vote of 99-0, would delay the transition of television stations to digital signals from June 17 until Oct. 18.

Senators have expressed concerns that the transition could cause confusion for viewers, particularly in rural areas where there are fewer digital TV signals available.

The legislation was introduced bySen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., andSen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn.

The bill now goes to the House, where it is expected to pass easily.


Gaza receives UN aid

GAZA STRIP — Crouching against piled mattresses in a room crammed with refugees, Bissan Abu al-Eish surrounded herself on her homework, blocking out the relentless shrieks of dozens of toddlers and the relentless, soul-rending wailing of so many leaders have been too long used to hearing.

"I want to tell the whole world what is happening here," she said, her voice rising in the pitch of despair.

The observer newspaper, which has been covering the conflict on both sides of the border, has learned that at least 100,000 people have been displaced from their homes in recent days.

The United Nations has estimated that up to 500,000 people are in need of emergency shelter, food, and medical assistance.

The international community continues to call for an immediate end to the violence and for a comprehensive peace agreement that takes into account the legitimate aspirations of all parties.


All You Can Eat Pasta Bowl includes a specialty salad Sun - Thur

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Student & Faculty Special
**AUTOMAKERS TO MAKE GREENER CARS**

**President Obama asks the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the auto emission standards in thirteen states.**

**Monday, President Obama asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the auto emission standards in thirteen states.**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama wants automakers to make greener cars at a time when General Motors and Chrysler are hanging by the thread of a massive government loan to auto sales that have plummeted to their lowest levels in more than two decades.

Obama’s plans could bring smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles to showrooms, but car shoppers will probably pay more upfront because the new rules are expected to cost the humongous industry billions of dollars.

“The consumer needs to understand that they will see significant increases in the cost of vehicles,” said Rebecca Lindland, an auto analyst for the consulting firm IHS Global Insight. Her firm estimated the upgrades could add $2,000 to $10,000 to the price of a vehicle.

Obama on Monday directed the Environmental Protection Agency to review whether California and more than a dozen states should be allowed to impose tougher auto emission standards on carmakers to fight greenhouse gas emissions. The new administration had blocked the efforts by the states, which account for about half of the nation’s auto sales.

The new president also said his administration would issue new fuel-efficiency requirements to cover most of the nation’s vehicles. The rules would be based on the stricter 2007 energy law that requires the auto industry to boost fuel efficiency by an average of about 35 percent to at least 35 miles per gallon by 2020.

Obama set in motion a new regulatory process at a time when the nation is coping with an economic recession and auto sales have fallen to their lowest levels since 1982. Undercutting the hard­ships, GM said Monday it would slash 2,000 jobs at plants in Michigan and Ohio.

In December, the Bush administration signed off on $17.4 billion in loans to General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC to help the companies afloat. The automakers are under­taking intense efforts to restructure this spring or face potential bankruptcy.

“Even with the decline in gas prices from last sum­mer’s $4 per gallon, Hwang said, the regulato­ry programs would "push in a way that’s achievable in the industry."

Environmental organi­zations said Obama’s approach would help the companies in the long term, forcing them to pro­duce fuel-efficient cars coveted by more con­sumers. Roland Hwang, a senior policy analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council, estimat­ed that a more efficient car would save its driver $1,000 to $2,000 in fuel costs over its lifetime, off­setting some of the upfront cost.

Big name companies cut more jobs

**Hwang said, the regulato­ry programs would "push in a direction that’s going to make them more competitive, not less.***
On the way to choosing not to make theater my main career path, I've had a number of experiences over the years with Very Serious Auditions. Those who've been there too know that Very Serious Auditions are at least as traumatic as magnum opus events. And while they don't feel, they don't love ... they don't fully for the same destination. The audience was already there, while we made our way through the subway crowd was already there when we arrived. It was chilly and pattering rain; it wasn't long after New Year's. Still, despite the reasons to go somewhere else and stay inside, there must have been hundreds of people there. And of all kinds, too. As we passed by a wall, two high school boys standing atop it each reached down to help up a female companion. We finally found a place to stand ourselves, next to a family that might have been speaking Polish. There were small kids there, but just as many if not more equally excited adults. As Americans, my brother and I were in the minority. Once the show began, the camera flashed from the crowd was almost as spectacular as the Fountain itself.

Nothing more than light, color, and sound. But hundreds of people were drawn together and made happy. They enjoyed the Magic Fountain. To apply Modus Tollens, because they did, and exhibited their inner and outer senses in doing so, they were— not made of plastic.

So we can bring a column back around full circle and draw conclusions, in.

And while our having fun at the Magic Fountain may not prove conclusively that there's anything wrong with being made of plastic, it does prove that there's something very right about not being.

And this conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, loyal daughters and sons, and especially veteran and aspiring theater geeks sike, is just one of the reasons why we can never really have too many experiences with Very Serious Auditions.

Katherine Khorey is a junior studying English and Russian abroad at Trinity College, Dublin. She was in fact only signing up to be in the stage crew for Alice, and is still a little miffed that creating nonsense worthy of Lewis Carroll was a prerequisite for lugging sets (especially since Carroll's non-sense really isn't). You may contact her at khk@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to refuse letters or other content for any reason.

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More not always better

Why did you decide to go to college? Sure, you may claim it was to expand your horizons, to make lifelong friends, to learn to live on your own and so on. But beyond these surface reasons, I think most students - and practically all parents - will agree that the main motivation is to be able to get a solid job somewhere down the line.

As much as we're all tired of hearing the phrase "in this economy," there is no denying the fact that the ideal job isn't simply going to be waiting for you on the other side of that graduation stage. But that doesn't mean that the answer necessarily lies with more education.

Let me preface this by saying that I myself am planning on enrolling in law school next year. Last semester, at a law school fair, I wandered around the Smith Center with hoards of other aspiring attorneys. How was it possible that all of us were going to get into law school, much less find jobs three years from now?

Well, it turns out that for the 2007-2008 school year, 49,082 first-year law students enrolled while 43,518 students received law degrees, according to the American Bar Association. That is a lot of lawyers.

This would all be well and good - someone has to fuel those lawyer jokes or even a job, for that matter. What it does guarantee is a life on your own and so on. But beyond these surface reasons, I think most students - and practically all parents - will agree that the main motivation is to be able to get a solid job somewhere down the line.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 26 edition of The GW Hatchet, the daily newspaper of George Washington University.

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

Editorial Cartoon

Seriously?

Submit a Letter to the Editor!

E-mail your letter to viewpoint@nd.edu

What have you read?

Ninety-nine percent of Americans over the age of 15 can read, but despite our widespread ability to recognize words on paper, we are at a literary crossroads. The age of print is on its deathbed, and it's not just the end for print journalism but print anything. Barring the "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" series and the books you are forced to muddle through for classes, what have you read recently that has been printed and bound?

If the answer to that question is absolutely nothing, you are in the majority. A recent report by the National Endowment for the Arts found that 53 percent of Americans surveyed hadn't read a book in the past year.

Incongruously, 100,000 more books were published in 2007 than in 2006, according to a study conducted by The New York Times. So it's not just a reluctance to read that's plaguing the industry but an oversaturation of the market. No one wants to read someone else's story, but everyone wants to tell their own.

Just ask Barbara Bush's dog. This problem isn't just relegated to books. Newspaper subscriptions are down and continuing to fall. Media giants like Tribune Co., which filed for bankruptcy this winter, are faltering. Also, according to The Times, magazine sales fell 6.3 percent last year.

This has led to desperate attempts by print media to find demand for their supply, but the market for literature is hard to grasp. We read the fun books and award the good ones, but rarely do we endeavor to take the time to analyze what we're reading and why.

As scholar and writer Dana Gioia said, "If you are sure that you want to devote yourself to a field, then get the training necessary to enter that field, and don't waste time misreading, as I have, perhaps 100,000 books that have been printed and bound."

Another cause for this literary crisis is a change in American culture. As scholar and writer Dana Gioia said, "American culture, conditioned by electronic media and a celebrity culture based on personalities, has given birth to a new kind of author: the amplified bard."

This dependence on technology affects everyone. I've always loved to read, but I'm finding it harder and harder to read something if it isn't on screen. Even when I do sit down with a book, by the time I reach page 25, I'm considering opening a new Google tab to check my e-mail instead.

As long as these "amplified bards" keep clogging America's brainwaves with terrible blogs, movies like "Prom Night" and the comics in this paper, people will continue to look to them as the quick and easy entertainment solution.

Hopefully, people will soon realize that this never-ending flow of shallow news and ghostwritten biographies is filling their heads with garbage, not knowledge. They need to rediscover classic literature and credible news media that will broaden their minds, not dull them.

The only answer I have is both quaint and simple, but it encompasses writers everywhere: Write what you know and write it well. If you don't know anything or cannot write, please don't.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 23 edition of the Daily Texan, the daily newspaper of the University of Texas.

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

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Strong performances bring story of MILK to life

MILK, directed by Gus Van Sant and written by Lance Black, is an inspirational story of Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected politician in San Francisco. The film brings Harvey's life to life and presents an atmosphere that celebrates the charisma, life and humanity that he brought to his public persona.

The performances are outstanding with Sean Penn, James Franco, and Josh Brolin all receiving recognition. Penn's portrayal of Milk is outstanding and he earned an Oscar nomination for his role. Franco portrays Milk's lover, Scott Smith, with great verve. Josh Brolin is outstanding as Dan White, the man responsible for Milk's death.

Gus Van Sant's camera work, especially in the opening scene, is part of what elevates this film. The performances, especially Penn's, are amazing and bring Harvey Milk to life in a way that is both poignant and heartwarming.

The film is a bittersweet testament to the people who fight for change and is a tribute to Harvey Milk himself. It is a poignant but true portrait of a great man whose story has been forgotten by the masses.

The relatively young and unknown screenwriter Lance Black gives Van Sant great material and seemingly sticks to the truth of Harvey Milk's life. Neither has tried to avoid Milk's faults nor build up his assets, and consequently, they have created an image of a normal but hopeful man struggling with greatness.

Where "Milk" succeeds the most, aside from some incredibly strong performances, is the atmosphere Gus Van Sant created in his film. The cinematography feels as though it could be documentary footage. Van Sant and crew successfully place the audience in the midst of an historic time, granting them a unique and wholly realistic perspective.

An excellent cast of actors who truly bring their characters to life only furthers this feel. Sean Penn deservedly won a Screen Actors Guild award for his role this past Sunday. While Harvey Milk's life was admittedly a sad one, Penn plays his public persona as a jubilation of the man and all the messages he stood for.

He literally transcends the role of aoror and becomes a mirror to this man's life. The strides Penn makes for the gay community feel like a universal triumph, and he is simply inspired.

James Franco, who plays Milk's lover Scott Smith, demonstrates serious acting chops. He has been unfortunately overshadowed by Josh Brolin's portrayal of the villainous Dan White, the man responsible for Milk's death.

The rest of the supporting cast, headed by Emile Hirsch, mostly portray Milk's friends and advisors and are perfectly understated. They neither stand in Penn's shadow nor overplay their roles.

The cast as a whole is very deserving of their award for Best Acting Ensemble at the Critics' Choice Awards. "Milk" has been overshadowed this film-season by many of its competitors. However, it is rightly deserving of its numerous nominations and, in any other year, would surely be a massive winner.

But its eight Academy Award nominations speak to its excellence. The film is a bittersweet testament to the people who fight for change and is a tribute to Harvey Milk himself.

"Milk" demonstrates the harm bigotry can produce, to any group of people, and is a glimpse into the recent American past.

It should be seen, regardless of personal politics.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

MADELINE NESI / Observer Graphics
ANALISE LIPARI  
Staff Writer

Sometimes, when two big stars come together, there’s instant movie magic. The inexact science of film chemistry is hard to find but easy to recognize — it takes a duo like Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, for example, to turn a film about AOL users into “You’ve Got Mail.”

Hollywood legends are often born of the best star duos: Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, or Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland are a few.

But sometimes, despite the star power of the two actors involved, a pair falls a little flat. Claire Forlani and Brad Pitt are both strong actors, but “Meet Joe Black” was a depressing deus. Debra Messing is a solid comedienne, but she and Jerry Stiller (“My Best Friend’s Wedding”) couldn’t spark a compelling romance in “The Wedding Date.”

The stars of “Last Chance Harvey,” Emma Thompson and Dustin Hoffman, shouldn’t have this problem. Thompson is almost criminally underused in the film as Kate Walker, a lonely survey is almost criminally underused in the film as Kate Walker, and her post London wedding. When he skips Susan’s reception to fly home and nail a critical business deal, he misses the plane and subsequently loses his job.

It’s a tough situation for what Hoffman makes not to be a sympathetic charac­
ter. Quiet but direct, sometimes smooth but painfully awkward, Harvey barely fits into the new life his daughter and ex-wife are living without him. It’s inter­ resting to watch Hoffman play with both sides of American masculinity, calling to mind both his performance in “Death of a salesman” and his iconic role in “The Graduate,” as though Harvey were an older Ben Braddock with something of a Willy Loman com­plex.

Simultaneously, writer-director Joel Hopkins gives us Kate, a woman whose friends set her up on blind dates with younger men, and whose mother’s incessant phone calls inevitably ruin whatever semblance of a dating life she has left. Thompson is a smart, funny actress, and it’s odd to watch her play an uncomfortable Trumpeter. She handles the role with her usual ease, and her presence really makes the film.

The setting of “Last Chance Harvey,” ironically enough, is the character who deserves better material the most. The city of London is Hopkins’s deus, that allegedly takes place there. While the film’s advertising would lead a viewer to believe that Britain’s capital plays its own part, the reality is more disap­pointing — even though Paddington Bear makes a cameo.

The film succeeds at capturing each day’s waning light — a sub­tle play on the film’s themes of life’s pas­sage and late opportunities.

It’s fitting, then, that the film ends on an optimistic underdog note with Harvey and Kate walking by the River Thames.

But with a script that only occasionally reaches real height — wait for Harvey’s speech at the wedding rec­
ception — audiences are left wondering where a better film might have taken these two actors.

Contact Analise Lipari at aliparti@nd.edu

Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson walk along the Thames in “Last Chance Harvey.” The pair play lovable losers who find an unexpected romance.

SARA FELSENSTEIN  
Features Editor

The Actors from the London Stage, seen here in “The Taming of the Shrew,” return to Notre Dame this weekend with “Much Ado About Nothing.”

The performance will feature actors Peter Banks, Thussila Gunawardena, Stephen Flashbrook, Jeannah Tinney and Charlie Walker-Wise.

The performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Washington Hall. Tickets are $20, $18 faculty/staff, $12 students.


Tickets: $20, $18 faculty/staff, $12 students.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsen@nd.edu

The Actors from the London Stage, seen here in "The Taming of the Shrew," return to Notre Dame this weekend with "Much Ado About Nothing."
Jefferson, Timberwolves beat up on injury plagued Bucks; Knicks edge Yao-less Rockets behind Chandler's 18 points during the spurt.

Rockets went on a 12-2 run to tie the game. Chandler's 3-pointer with more than two minutes left gave the Bucks the lead for good at 97-96, with 1:33 left in the first half. But the fourth quarter belonged to the Suns. Phoenix went on an 11-4 run to start the quarter, which included a 3-pointer from Jefferson in a first half that ended tied at 51.

Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal dunks the ball during their 103-87 victory over the Washington Wizards Monday night.

Jefferson, who roamed the paint replacing Redd, scored 23 points and 15 rebounds in the Suns' 13-2 rebounding advantage helped overcome their 17 turnovers. Caron Butler scored 28 points, and Antawn Jamison had 27 for the Wizards, but they didn't get much help as Washington lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

The rest of the team scored 32 points on 17-for-41 shooting. Phoenix had a double-digit lead until the fourth quarter, when O'Neal's layups against double teams accounted for the first and last baskets in a 13-2 charge that gave the Suns an 83-79 lead with 5 minutes to play.

O'Neal literally threw his weight around in the game's first half when he scored a layup and a foul on his first shot and a layup on his second. O'Neal hit a layup from the left block.

The Suns took a 10-5 lead in the first quarter. With 1:53 left, O'Neal threw down a one-handed slam dunk that gave the Suns a 13-point lead.

Blatche said his knee "buckled and came back in place" and that X-rays were negative. "It's real sore," Blatche said. "I thought it was something serious. It should be fine. All I know is he hit me, and I went flying.""}

Porter said before the game that the Wizards had plenty of players "to fight the mentality of being on the plane already trying to get home," but with half of his starting lineup out, Washington was in a "shutout" mode. "This is the second game in a row that we've been outscored," Wizards coach Ed Tapscott was worried about the "going home syndrome" after Washington's just-concluded West Coast trip.

A result, neither team had the get-up-and-go to pull away in a first half that ended tied at 51. Jamison and Butler combined for 39 of Washington's points before the break, while Nash had an uncharacteristic four turnovers in the two periods.

O'Neal's adventures included being fouled for hanging on the rim after a first-half dunk, and a kiss on the head for Butler after trying to climb on the Wizards forward on a drive to the basket.

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The Wizards were in their first game since Michael Redd's season-ending knee injury.

The Timberwolves, winners of 10 of their last 12, snapped a four-game losing streak in Milwaukee by relying on Jefferson, who roamed the paint replacing Redd, scored 23 points and 15 rebounds in the Suns' 13-2 rebounding advantage helped overcome their 17 turnovers. Caron Butler scored 28 points, and Antawn Jamison had 27 for the Wizards, but they didn't get much help as Washington lost for the 10th time in 12 games.

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Division I Men's Basketball
AP Top 25

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Division I Men's ESPN/USA Today Poll

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MIAA Women's Basketball

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### Around the Dial

### NCAA Men's Basketball

**Kentucky at Mississippi**
7:00 p.m., ESPN

**Purdue at Wisconsin**
9:00 p.m., ESPN

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### Around the Dial

**Steelers land in Tampa**

Ward can't imagine it, and sometimes takes weeks and weeks to heal. He's not running pass patterns or sprinting with his teammate.

**Grand Slam**

A statement released by Johnson on Monday said the injury occurred above the knuckle and happened while Hendrick Motorsports driver was attempting to cut a small hole in his fire suit in order to feed a tube from a cooling shirt through a pocket.

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### In Brief

The Associated Press’ college basketball poll Monday, a place the Blue Devils have been very familiar with in recent years. The Blue Devils (18-1) moved up one spot to No. 1, their first appearance since the final poll of 2002-06. They were ranked on top for at least one week in every season from 1997-98 to 2003-04 and only UCLA's 134 wins at No. 1 beats Duke's 111 in the 59-year history of the poll.

"When you have a chance to be voted No. 1 at any time it is an honor you don't take lightly," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday. "It is not something you try to keep winning but you try to keep improving. I think it goes with the territory we've been in for awhile."
Gottfried out at Alabama

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Mark Gottfried resigned as Alabama's basketball coach Monday, leaving in the middle of his 11th season amid criticism both of his team's play and the departure of a star player.

The school said Gottfried will immediately be replaced by assistant coach Philip Ford. Alabama's next game is at Arkansas on Thursday.

Gottfried, who played at Alabama, said he quit during a meeting with athletic director Mal Moore.

"It's been a wonderful decade for me and my family, and I love the University of Alabama, but I feel this is the best interests of everyone involved," Gottfried said in a statement released by the university.

The Crimson Tide's record this year is 12-7, 2-3 in the Southeastern Conference.

Gottfried's teams have reached the NCAA tournament three times in the past 11 years, and the coach was criticized over the recent departure of point guard Ronald Steele, a pre-season first-team AP All-American who left two years ago, who later was hit by injuries. The school blamed Steele's departure on a recent injury, but Steele said there was more to his decision than that.

Gottfried signed a six-year contract with Alabama in 2005 that made him the school's first $1 million basketball coach and gave him a larger salary than that of football coach Mike Shula. The contract ran through 2011 but included a buyout if he fired himself. Gottfried said financial terms tied to his resignation were not released.

Moore said the school would begin bringing in a new coach immediately.

"Out of respect for our players and coaches, I will not comment on the progress of our search until it has concluded," Moore said in a statement.

The 45-year-old Gottfried took over at Alabama in 1997, replacing Randy Wittman. He began a streak of five straight appearances in the NCAA tournament in 2002, reaching the round of eight in 2004 in the program's deepest tournament run, including a victory over top-ranked Stanford.

Gottfried hasn't been able to beat state rival Auburn lately. The Tide have won four of the last five meetings, including an 85-71 victory in Jan. 17.

His current team was left short-handed with the departure of Steele following Richard Hendrix's early exit against Arkansas during the NCAA tournament round of 16 all three seasons.

Pearson, who lettered at Alabama in 1993, became an assistant coach with Gottfried at Murray State in 1997 and joined Gottfried's staff when he took over at Alabama.

Andy Pettitte signs salary cut to remain with Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andy Pettitte's only thought was to stay with the New York Yankees. He had no interest in returning to the Houston Astros.

Still, the 36-year-old left-hander was bothered when the Yankees decided to offer him a one-year, $1 million deal in December after agreeing to a two-year, $18 million contract with first baseman Mark Teixeira, a deal that was combined with a dispute for pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett.

"I wanted to stay with the Yankees' spending spree to $423.5 million for three years," Pettitte said.

Pettitte met in Texas and got general manager Brian Cashman on Dec. 11 and played a day and a half to acquire Pettitte, who lettered at Texas with a 14-14 record in 1995-2003, helping him win four World Series titles, then spent three years in Seattle where he was 1-0.

He returned to the Yankees in 2007 and was 14-14 with a 4.54 ERA last season, his highest ERA since 1999.

"It's better with a sore shoulder, he was 2-7 with a 6.23 ERA in his final 11 starts last season, which was 4.54 EPA ERA last season, his highest ERA since 1999.

"He's going to be someone a lot of these guys on the block can lean on," Cashman said.

The deal raised the Yankees' projected opening-day payroll to $180 million, or $1.5 million for three players. That doesn't include outfielder Brian Bruney, who is in arbitration and will make between $1.1 million and $1.5 million.

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MLB

Royals, Greinke agree to new deal

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Royals agreed Friday to sign Zack Greinke. Now, Greinke is standing by them. "They could've easily pushed me aside, or helped me get back and then dump me off as soon as they could get something for me." Zack Greinke Royals pitcher

"They could've easily pushed me aside, or helped me get back and then dump me off as soon as they could get something for me." Zack Greinke Royals pitcher

"I didn't realize there was a cure for what I had, where I just hated being around people," he said. "I was going to get a job where I didn't have to be around people all the time. Mainly, just mowing grass was my goal." Now his priorities are entirely different.

"It's just been, like seriously, three years of just thinking every day I want to get as good as I can get and help the Royals as much as I can," he said.

When Moore replaced Baird, he maintained the same hands-on care of Greinke that his predecessor had shown.

"Yeah, he had some setbacks along the way, which are self-proclaimed by him," Moore said. "A lot of people, and a lot of his teammates helped out, too. It's been a process that everyone's been involved with. But ultimately, Zack's the one who's earned this opportunity."

After earning $1,475,000 last season, Greinke asked for $4.4 million in arbitration when he exchanged proposed salaries with the Royals last week. The team offered $3.4 million.

He gets $2.75 million this year, $7.25 million in 2010 and $13.5 million in each of the final two seasons of the deal.

"Gratitude was not the only reason he wanted to stay with the long-worthful Royals, who have improved their victory total each of the past three seasons.

"Each year we've improved and it looks like we're going to continue to," he said. "And that's pretty exciting for me because like I said, three or four years ago I didn't see it coming. It's just taken a good turn for the better.

Three years ago I was in the minor leagues, two years ago I was in the bullpen not capable of getting hitters out as a starter. Just coming from being so behind in those situations to being, after one good year, a really good deal and the chance to stay with Kansas City for four more years. It's just really neat to look back at it."

Kansas City has three players remaining in arbitration: outfielder-infelder Mark Teahen, first baseman Mike Jacobs and right-hander Brian Bannister.
Huskies remain unbeaten

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Maya Moore had 27 points and 11 rebounds, freshman Tiffany Hayes added a career-high 23 points, and top-ranked Connecticut routed No. 6 Louisville 93-65 on Monday night to remain unbeaten.

UConn (20-0, 6-0 Big East) has opened with 20 straight wins for the second consecutive season and sixth time since 1994-95. The Huskies have run over their competition this season, winning by an average of 34 points. They beat then-No. 4 Oklahoma in November, dismantled then-No. 2 North Carolina last Monday, and now blowed out Louisville.

led by All-American Angel

McGoughtry, the Cardinals (19-2, 6-1) were supposed to give the Huskies a challenge in the Big East. She did all she could with 24 points and 13 rebounds, but it wasn't nearly enough as the Cardinals saw their 14-game winning streak come to an end. Louisville was off to its best start in school history.

Louisville tried to slow down Connecticut's offense by employing a triangle-and-two defense that focused on shutting down Moore and Renee Montgomery and during the other UConn players to beat them.

It seemed to work early on as the other Huskies were tentative to shoot, but then Hayes stepped up and hit six 3-pointers. All Louisville coach Jeff Walz could do was smile as Hayes made shot after shot.

Candice Bingham's layup with 4:59 left in the first half gave the Cardinals a 32-31 lead. It would be the last points they'd score before the break as UConn closed the period with a 15-0 run to take a 45-32 lead at the half.

Louisville had the first four points of the second half to cut the deficit to nine, but then UConn scored 16 straight points to take a 61-36 lead and put the game away.

Moore, who was given a ball before the game to commemorate her scoring 1,000 points faster than anyone in school history, had eight points during the burst.

The Cardinals would get no closer than 20 the rest of the way.

The win was UConn's 27th straight in the regular seasons and 36th consecutive victory at home.

Tina Charles added 18 points and 10 rebounds, Kalana Greene had 12 and Montgomery 11 as Connecticut put up five players in double figures for the ninth time this season. The Huskies only did it seven times all last season.

Connecticut improved to 6-1 against Louisville with the loss coming in the opening round of the NCAA tournament in 1993. The Huskies routed the Cardinals in the second round and 14 of the Huskies' 15 points in the Big East tournament championship game.

Clemson rally falls short in final minutes

Associated Press

CLEMS, S.C. — Lyndra Littles scored 15 of her 22 points in the second half and No. 19 Virginia held off a late rally to win its sixth straight over Clemson, 75-67 on Monday night.

The Cavaliers (16-4, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 53-38 after Aisha Mohammed's basket with 14:29 to play and looked ready to cruise. But the Tigers (12-9, 2-5) rallied behind the long-distance shooting of Kristyn Wright.

It seemed to work early on as the other Huskies were tentative to shoot, but then Hayes stepped up and hit six 3-pointers. All Anderson's basket with 2:27 left tied the game at 67-67.

That's when Virginia's two 20-point-a-game scorers — Littles and Monica Wright — took over. Littles had a pair of foul shots as did Wright, the ACC's top scorer at more than 32 points a game.

Littles added two more buckets and Wright a put-back to extend the lead to 67-58. Clemson got no closer than 6 points.

Wright finished with 19 points, Aisha Mohammed had 17, Pierre Pierce 13 and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Lele Hardy led Clemson with 17 points.

Women's NCAA Basketball

Women's NCAA Basketball

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Clemson coach Gary Williams had been 8-2 against Virginia in the ACC before Monday night, but the Cavaliers did not give the Tigers the same winning percentage, allowing a 24-6 run to take control.

Mohammed hit an inside bucket to start things off. Wright hit a 3-pointer moments later to put Virginia ahead 13-10. She added 6 more points in the charge, including the a basket with 4:40 remaining that gave the Cavaliers a 30-16 lead.

Wright had 13 points in the opening period. She was also active on defense with a three of Virginia's four first-half steals.

The game was the first for both teams since the death of former North Carolina State coach Kay Yow and tributes her great were everywhere at Littlejohn Coliseum.

Clemson gave out pink cancer awareness ribbons to fans, along with a pink placard with the words, "In Loving Memory of Kay Yow."
No. 1 continued from page 20

Nolp, senior foil Adrienne Noti, sophomore foil Hayley Reese and junior sabre Eileen Hassett all come off All-America seasons.

The men’s team returns six All-Americans. Senior epeeist Karol Kostka, senior foil Mark Kubiak, sophomore foil Steve Kubik, Mark’s younger brother, and Zach Schiritz, senior sabre Bill Thanhouwer, and sophomore sabre Barron Nydam have all earned the distinction.

Newcomers Gerek Meinhardt and Hurley have already made a splash in the world of fencing. Hurley won the 2006 Cadet World Championship in Korea, while Meinhardt joined Kelley Hurley to represent the U.S. in last summer’s Olympics. Meinhardt was the youngest fencer to compete for the U.S. in Beijing.

“We have a very strong team,” Bednarski said. “There are so many factors we can control on such a young team. But anything can happen. We are ready to compete now with the best collegiate teams in the nation.”

The poll was released before the weekend’s duals in which the Notre Dame men posted five wins against top-10 teams and three for the women.

This week’s USFCA poll is the first of three. The final poll will be released in March, after the NCAA Regional Qualifiers. Notre Dame will return to the strip on Saturday against Northwestern in Evanston, Ill.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

Hockey continued from page 20

draw those kinds of fans just to watch a practice.”

The event marked the second straight year the Irish held an outdoor practice—though the circumstances surrounding the two differed greatly.

This Notre Dame team currently boasts a school-best 20-game unbeaten streak that dates back in Halloween. Last year’s squad was in the midst of a four-game wireless streak when Irish coach Jeff Jackson decided to hold an outdoor practice before a series with Bowling Green—which Notre Dame promptly swept, outscoring the Falcons 10-2 in a pair of blowout victories.

“Our guys loved it last year even though we were in kind of a tough spell,” Jackson said. “I thought with the week off (with no games last weekend) it was a good chance to break up the monotony of a normal day.”

So doing so can be crucial to a team’s psyche, especially considering that the hockey season is the longest of any college sport. Notre Dame’s season, for example, could last exactly six months—the Irish opened play on Oct. 11 and the national championship game is set for April 11.

“When you get to the end of January and early February, it gets to be the dog days of the season,” Jackson said. “We’d get the guys excited to come to the rink, to put a smile on their face and get them to practice hard, it’s good to change up the routine once in a while.”

Jeff Jackson Irish coach

“To keep the guys excited to come to the rink, to put a smile on their face and get them to practice hard, it’s good to change up the routine once in a while.”

Senior center Christian Hudson added: “When you get to this time of the year, you get to the rink and by the time you leave you don’t see any sunlight. It gets to be depressing and can kind of weigh on guys.... To break it up a little bit and have some fun is big.”

The Irish goaltenders—senior starter Jordan Pearce and junior backup Tom O’Brien—picked teams for a casually competitive scrimmage. Pearce’s gold squad topped O’Brien’s blue in all three contests.

“I went for all offense and it kind of back-fired,” O’Brien said with a laugh. “It wasn’t a good show, but it’s alright. It was a fun way any.”

And not just for the players and the fans. Associate coach Andy Slaggett, a 1989 Notre Dame graduate and two-time monogram winner for the Irish, laced up his skates and played a few shifts with the players—several of whom said the “practice on the pond” represented a return to their hockey roots.

“Going out there is just a chance to go play hockey how we played it growing up,” White said. “Just messing around, having fun, maybe trying a few things that you normally wouldn’t get to do—it’s a big thing, definitely, for our mental edge.”

That might especially hold true heading into a huge home-and-home series with No. 7 Michigan this weekend. The Irish host the Wolverines (18-8-0, 12-6-0 CCHA) at 8 p.m. Friday before heading to Ann Arbor, Mich. Saturday for a game in the always-hostile Yost Ice Arena.

“If we would have had just two straight weeks of every day coming to the rink, preparing for Michigan, I think you would have gotten to the middle of this week and guys would have been kind of burned out,” Hanson said. “I think the coaches did a great job of mixing it up.”

Contact Matt Gambier at mgambier@nd.edu

Baghdad High (2008) Directed by Ivan O’Mahoney and Laura Winter

NR, 88 minutes Arabic and Kurdish languages with English subtitles

Baghdad High views the current war in Iraq through the eyes of four Iraqi teens as they enter their senior year of high school. Filmed by the boys themselves, the documentary follows their friendships during the entire academic year and offers unique insight into ordinary adolescent Iraqi lives.

Collectively, the teens recorded more than 300 hours of tape, which were woven into the final project by the supervising producers. A mix of religious and ethnic backgrounds, the young men featured in Baghdad High include Heydan, who yearns to be a singer-songwriter; Ammar, who thinks he is a stud with girls and plays soccer like David Beckham; Ali, who dreams of being an architect; and his best friend, Mohammed, who doesn’t yet know what he wants to be and is content being the joker of the bunch. They could be teens in any city around the world, but their lives are actually very different: Every day, they are surrounded by suicide bombings, mortar attacks, kidnappings, and citywide curfews.

Director Laura Winter will be present to introduce the film. She will discuss the film after the first screening.

Friday, January 30, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

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McNeal continued from page 20
to take..." McNeal said. "And those are shots that I live and die by, and I wouldn't want anybody else taking it but me."

Notre Dame tried to control the tempo of the game. The Irish slowed the pace of the game, but Marquette scored two baskets while Notre Dame failed to corront.

"Getting over the hump, possessively, was a good place to start, and being a little more poised, I'm disappointed in that down the stretch," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "Because I love how we fought to give ourselves a chance to win both of those games, but decisions made in that possession, gain chance to take the lead...we've got to keep on shooting them."

The junior forward provided another player of the year-type effort — 29 points on 12-for-22 shooting to go with 17 rebounds — but the rest of the Irish were 12-for-41 (29 percent).

"He can't do it by himself. It shows," said junior guard Torry Jackson, who finished with 10 points. "We need help from everybody and we let him down today..."

Notre Dame will have a hard time beating anybody as long as his go-to sharpshooters, McAlarney and Ayers, continue their cold streaks. McAlarney was 3-for-12 while Ayers was 0-for-7 against the Golden Eagles. Combined, Ayers and McAlarney are 7-for-44 (16 percent) in their last two games. Whereas McAlarney missed multiple open looks against Connecticut, Marquette's Dominic James and Maurice Acker just defended him well, he said.

I was working so hard tonight," McAlarney said. "They did a good job defensively, staying with me the whole time. I must've gone back door hundred times of lines. Acker and James, really, hate it off to them. It's hard when you get a look and after working so hard, I was tired handed there at one point. It's hard to knock them down...

Brey added: "I feel for Ryan Ayers, his tough stretch. He's got to make shots for us and has his rough moments, defense doesn't, and Maurice Acker just defended him well, he said.

"If you just give ourselves a chance, these last two games," Brey said. "It's key decisions and a little more shot making fairly quickly..."

The offensive woes prevented the Irish from taking a sizable lead throughout the game, not just in the waning minutes.

Haranagody, though, continued to shoot more and more..."

"That trend continued in the second half, when Haranagody went to the fade-away multiple times to try and bail out his teammates. Even when Notre Dame did get a spark, in the form of two second-half 3-pointers from junior guard Jonathan Peoples, and got the crowd on its feet, the Golden Eagles responded. Notre Dame never scored more than five consecutive points in the entire second half.

Contrary to Haranagody, McNeal had help. James finished with 15 points (and nine rebounds). Lazar Hayward had 13 and Wesley Matthews had 16. Tory Jackson was the only other Notre Dame player in double figures (10 points).

Notre Dame is now scoring a 3-6 Big East record in the face, as it travels to 6-1 Pittsburgh on Saturday.

Note: Brey shook off the starting lineup Monday, as he replaced Ayers and the struggling Zach Hillesland with Peoples and Luke Zeller. Zeller contributed eight points and eight rebounds. Hillesland played only 11 minutes, due in part to a sprained ankle. Brey said, Tyrone Nash also saw his first significant minutes in Big East play. He played eight minutes, and grabbed two rebounds.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

K-Mac continued from page 20
man season picking up a first-team All-Big East award along the way, imagine what Ryan Ayers and Zach Hillesland must be going through.

For Ayers, the basket must look pretty small right now. The senior sharpshooter, who's still above 40 percent for 3-point field goals on the season, has hit one of his last 17 shots. He's not missing. A lot of those looks are a quarter-inch too far or to the right, but they're enough to leave Ayers wondering what he has to do to make a basket.

As for Hillesland, it must seem like ages since he made something positive happen around the basket. You can't fault his aggression. Against Connecticut, he nearly brought the house down in the first half, but his put-back slam rattled out.

Climbing off the bench against Marquette, one of his first touches was a strong drive, where two Marquette defenders nearly clothes-lined him as he elevated. No call. And nothing to feel good about for the senior who has scored exactly eight points during Notre Dame's four-game losing streak. So where does that leave the Irish? Luke Haranagody put it best after Monday's game.

"We're going to find out if our guys are men right now," Brey said. To translate, Notre Dame's next opponent isn't Pittsburgh. Before the Irish ever set foot in the Petersen Events Center Saturday, they're going to have to battle themselves.

McAlarney is going to have to resist putting extra pressure on himself to hit every one of his few precious open looks. Ayers must resist the temptation to return to the passive offensive role he played during his first few seasons in South Bend. Hillesland needs to believe that the next time he attacks the basket will be the time he finishes strong or at least gets that seemingly elusive whistle.

And the Irish as a team need to do a collective mental check-up. After getting punched in the mouth four consecutive games, do they still believe they're on par with the upper-echelon of Big East teams? There was a lot of self-doubt in the players' voices following Monday's game.

Yet this is one area to feel confident about as an Irish fan. Notre Dame isn't the biggest team. They're not the fastest. And they're certainly not the most athletic. What the Irish do have, however, is team chemistry. Every major contributor in the Irish rotation has been in South Bend for at least two-plus seasons, and they genuinely like playing with each other.

That may not seem like it counts for much in the midst of a depressing four game losing streak, but it's just what the players need right now.

It's what will help Ayers' shooting return to form. And McAlarney's. It will help Hillesland remember what he can do on the inside. And it will help Notre Dame head to Pittsburgh this Saturday with a sense of opportunity instead of dread.

The Irish don't have much of a choice. Responding to this adversity in any other way will push this season, teetering right on the brink, right over the edge.

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

Contact Greg Arboagst at garboagst@nd.edu

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WILL SHORTZ

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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DATE: Kirk Franklin, 39, Wayne Gretzky, 46, Ethel DuCrets, 61, Eddie Van Halen, 54.

Happy Birthday: Be ready to take advantage of every opportunity because this year offers you so many. You will make new friends, discover new ideas and expand your mind as long as you recognize every avenue available to you. Don't let this also wash your face. By the end of the year, you should be far-reaching.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Getting angry will not get you what you want. You have too many other options, and to make it green, you just want to work. Your success will be more. Too much involvement from outsiders will not get you back 4 stars.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a different view. Don't allow the truth to be hidden. The truth is out there. You give away much too much. Keep your head high. 3 stars.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't get involved with your choice made by others. You don't need to be stumbled by confusion. Focus on your work, your position and the people who are important to you. So much so, you can make it all. 4 stars.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make some interesting changes at home that will improve your life and your mental. Be careful not to let someone into you spending money on things you don't really need. Keep it simple. 3 stars.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be talked into doing something that is far beyond your reach or that can lead to trouble later. Overextending toward someone you work with or trust could lead to the same for the next year in your life. 3 stars.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change in a partnership will be to your advantage, so don't fight the inevitable. Observe others' actions and follow your heart. To achieve the most. Don't be forced by a big decision or a changing order. 3 stars.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everyone is going to get it as it is you are trying to but don't allow anyone to do what you want. Arguments can wait - what's important is to accommodate. Composer. Continue to act and follow your path. You have something good on your side. 3 stars.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to be a little aggressive in order to bypass the obstacles in your way. Too many questions will leave you an awkward position.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's a change to be made and options to get into play. Be adventurous in choosing your path. You are eager to make reforms. You will be more careful. Be true to yourself. Nothing will satisfy you in the current situation. 3 stars.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): To spy any less ends before you decide to move on. You can make some interesting changes at home that will improve your life and your mental. Keep your head high. 3 stars.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have to be a little out of control emotionally, physically and mentally before you can move on to something new. You are eager to make reforms. You can get much more here. You are finding success. 3 stars.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): There is hope for a change in your life that will help you move forward with your plans. Your patience will bring you the answers and the approval you need. You have found your way. You are finding success. 4 stars.

The Observer

Robin Arnold Mike Arigron

JUMBLED SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arigron

THAT SCRABBLE GAME WORD FROM EUGENIA LAST AND MIKE ARIGRION

JUNKLE

Unscramble the four Jumbles, circle each letter to square them, form your own words.

KYMOS

RYMO

MOYGOL

TYLFO

NUDIST CAMP

You are out to do what? NO! The table in the wall, the cop said "HID." Check your spelling.

When he was told by John, "stop the table in the wall, the cop said "HID."

Answer: IT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KEYED, GUMM, ELYC, FINISH

Answer: .

What decision did you make when the doctor asked her out - "TO SEE HIM"

Flashy tips, myles.com/gameplay.

Crosswords for young toddlers: myles.com/gamesword

WWW.BLACKDOGCOMIC.COM

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PATRICK GARTLAND

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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Enclosed is $120 for one academic year

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Name
Address
City
State
Zip
Ice cold

Poor shooting kills Irish in two straight

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

For the past few years it's been Kyle McAlarney, Ryan Ayers or Luke Harangody that has delivered the crushing blow on the way to a victory in the Joyce Center. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it was Jerel McNeal's turn on Monday.

The Marquette guard scored 27 points, including a crucial 3-pointer to put the Golden Eagles (15-2, 7-0 Big East) up five on route to a 71-64 victory over Notre Dame (12-7, 3-5 Big East).

McNeal's 3-pointer came with 2:13 left as Harangody came out try to alter the shot. But Harangody got there too late. The shot was right on line.

"Those are shots you always want," McGraw said.

A loss gives Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw the itch to play again, and soon. But Sunday, her players felt it too.

When the coasters walked into practice Sunday afternoon, McGraw said the players were already out there practicing.

"They were out there doing drills," McGraw said. "It was real uplifting for us to see how determined they were. They were just like, let's go. Let's get out there and let's go."

The No. 17 Irish will need that practice time before they welcome Rutgers to the Joyce Center tonight, three days after losing to Villanova on the road Saturday.

McGraw said she worked on offense during Sunday's practice because she focused on defense so much previously.

"I wasn't happy with the defense, and now we're struggling to score a little bit," McGraw said.

The Irish are 15-3, 4-2 in the Big East conference, and have lost two of their last three games. Rutgers just dropped out of the top 25 after losing to DePaul 60-58 Saturday, a loss that broke its three-game win streak.

The Scarlet Knights are 11-6, 3-3 in the Big East.

The Irish defense has to contend with Scarlet Knights junior guard Epiphanny Prince, who is third in the conference in scoring average at 20.4 points per game. McGraw said Prince is versatile and that she's not sure the Irish can stop the Rutgers guards. They will have to keep tabs on her because she's the focal point of Rutgers' offense, McGraw said, but they can't forget the rest of the team.

"I don't think it's a situation where we can let her get whatever she wants because she might get 40," McGraw said. "We don't want that. And the rest of their team, even though their numbers aren't as good, they're still capable." Despite Prince's skill, McGraw said winning the rebounding battle will be key.

ND Women's Basketball

Prince and the Scarlet Knights face the Irish at the JACC

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

A loss gives Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw the itch to play again, and soon. But Sunday, her players felt it too.

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Hockey

Irish icers take it outside

Team practices at nearby park to spice up practices before UM

By MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sports Editor

The latest signs that the Notre Dame hockey program has arrived were literally on display last Friday, when a few hundred fans gathered to watch the No. 1 Irish practice outdoors atメリット Field Park in Mishawaka.

"Seeing people lining the rink with signs and kids coming up to you for autographs in between your shifts while you're drinking hot chocolate—it couldn't be any better," senior center Justin White said. "The support we get from the community is just unbelievable, and it feels really good that we were able to do so."