Forum finds role for unions in economy
Participants discuss importance of collective bargaining for rights of labor, democracy

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Unions and management often don't agree at the bargaining table, but Monday night, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council President Bob Warnock, Jr. and AM General Vice President of Human Resources Gary Wuslich agreed that unions are essential for the health of both workers and the corporation at "Unions Forum: The Role of Unions in Today's Economy," a Higgins Labor Studies Program.

"I believe there is a value to organized labor," Wuslich, of AM General, the company that manufactures Hummers and HMMWVs, said.

Wuslich described the efforts to organize labor as one of the "two great social movements of the 20th Century," with the other being the civil rights movement.

However, he said that new generations do not understand the importance of unions. "Very few people have had exposure to unions and they do not understand what it took to get where we are today," he added.

By BRENDAN ORRELL
News Writer

Circle K affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SMAACS) discussed the importance of unions with the coordinators of the Web site agenda.n.d.edu to discuss making it simpler and more appealing.

Schmidt pulled the Web site up on an overhead to show how he thought the Web site could be improved. "It's extremely updated and it's very well kept. The problem with it is it's not very appealing," Schmidt said. "It's just really, really confusing, in my opinion and in our task force's opinion."

Schmidt demonstrated how the Web site was confusing to him by clicking on the Athletics tab, and showing that Junior Parents Weekend, which is not an athletic event, was listed.

Schmidt also reported that his task force is working on creating more space for studying.

"We are also going to meet with the Office Registrar to discuss the possibility of using some of the rooms in DeBartolo for study space at night," he said.

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Members of the Campus Life Council discussed technology and the Medical Amnesty Policy, which would protect students who have been drinking from getting in trouble while trying to help an intoxicated friend if they are hurt or sick, at their meeting Monday night.

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt reported on the task force on technology and student space in dorms. Schmidt said he and Fr. Pete McCormick, Kenough Hall's rector, plan to meet with the coordinators of the Web site agenda.n.d.edu to discuss making it simpler and more appealing.

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**INSIDE COLUMN**

My 25 things

... or 15

In lieu of the fact that is sweeping Facebook, I have decided to create my own list of 25 Things About Myself (Well, more like 15.)

1. When it's October here, I think, "God, this is the most beautiful place on earth. How come I got so lucky as to end up here?"

2. It's January here, I think, "What idiot human decided to settle here? Who on earth hated themselves so much they decided to spend every moment they were outside wishing they could rip their face off because it's so cold it's going numb?"

3. My roommates and I absolutely adore the dining hall's sweet potato fries. Whenever they gloriously appear, we have a mass texting circle that coordinates how we will systematically lift as many as possible from the Dill to our room.

4. When I work out I put my laptop on the elliptical trainer console and watch an episode of whichever TV show I am currently obsessed with. Dangerous? Yes. Enough to get me out of bed at 7a.m.? You betcha.

5. I get sick, twisted pleasure out of ordering on the table in the dining hall and love "Pitches At?"

6. I have crushes on old guys. Hugh Laurie, Nathan Fillion, Hugh Jackman, Sting. The young ones, eh. They do nothing for me.

7. There is a video of me on Youtube that has 22,409 views. I don't know if that makes me proud or frightened.

8. I have written 41 articles for The Observer.

9. My roommates have somehow gotten it in their heads that they can convince me to do anything, no matter how ridiculous. It's usually true. I draw the line, though, at standing on the table in the dining hall and belting out "And I Will Walk With Youuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuu." Maybe senior year.

10. In my film class, two class periods in a row I have gotten up to go to the bathroom. I'm starting to worry people in that class will only recognize me as the "Bathroom Girl.""}

11. I have had full conversations with people in a squirrel. They are very attentive.

12. I have joined the "Fight for Feodings" boycott. I only get 6-inch's, but if I figure the fooling price goes down to $5, the board will have to cost less than $4.19.

13. I am addicted to the Web site Who's Dating Who? (Well. more like 15.)


15. My 25 percent off receipt at the bookstore did not count for the $20 pack of 50 CDs, and I was sorely disappointed.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdprez@nd.edu

**CORRECTIONS**

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives 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.
Can't decide what to do this summer? Can't decide on just one study abroad location?

STUDY ABROAD THIS SUMMER THROUGH NOTRE DAME!

Notre Dame will offer faculty-led programs in:
- Cape Town, South Africa
- Dublin, Ireland
- Paris, France
- Toledo, Spain
- Vienna, Austria
- Vienna, Austria

Special to The Observer

Susan D. Blum, associate professor of anthropology at Notre Dame, is the author of a new book titled "My Word! Plagiarism and College Culture," which explores the prevalence of plagiarism among American college students and why it exists. Blum is a cultural and linguistic anthropologist who has been researching deception, truth, lying and cheating for several years, mostly in the context of China but also cross-culturally. In "My Word!" she examines in greater depth the specific area of plagiarism, in which those same accusations are made.

"My goal simply is understanding," Blum said. "The book examines the complexity of student behavior using standard anthropological tools for holistic approach to a problem. I see my role as a translator of students' culture to students through analysis of the perspectives of faculty, administrators and students. I neither excuse nor blame students for the behavior we lump together as 'plagiarism.' Rather than complaining about how 'lazy' or 'distracted' they are, I decided to investigate all the claims on their time, and I offer suggestions to help faculty and administrators better communicate with them." Blum, who served for five years as director of Notre Dame's Center for Asian Studies, also is the author of "Lies That Bind: Chinese Truth, Other Truths," which explores the ideology of truth and deception in China and elsewhere, as well as "Making Sense of Language: Readings in Culture and Communication," and "Portraits of 'Primitives': Ordering Human Kinds in the Chinese Nation. She is co-editor of "China Off Center: Mapping the Margins of the Middle Kingdom."

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 2000, Blum was graduated from Stanford University. She earned master's degrees in anthropology and Chinese language and literature and her doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of Michigan.

THE NOTRE DAME COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS PRESNTS

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Professor's book looks at plagiarism

Hip Hop

continued from page 1

These incorrect representations have continued into the hip-hop genre, he said.

Music throughout the decades has changed drastically according to Rogers. In the 1970s, African American music included the Sugar Hill Gang. In the 1990s, gangster rap began becoming popular. Now, African American music is "no holds barred," Rogers said.

He related this idea to the use of the "N" word in our society. Rogers commented on the use of the word all over the world, and how its use in music can be more influential than people realize.

"Depending on where your head is, that word can cause death just like anything else. People say, 'Well music doesn't have that much power.' Look, can't you catch the Holy Spirit by listening to music in church?" Rogers said.

He showed examples of the word, not only in hip hop, but on television as well. It is also used on stores fronts in foreign countries to sell the hip hop style, Rogers said.

Another important fact about African American representation in the media, Rogers said, is that very few of the outlets in radio or television are owned by African Americans. Channels like Black Entertainment Television (BET) or MTV, which air black music and entertainment, use low quality music and lack diversity, Rogers said.

"There is something going on with our stations and the music getting to us, and the mainstream stations and the music getting to them," Rogers said.

Rogers also explored the statistics in African American society. Twice as many black women graduate from college as men, he said. He also discussed the increase divorce and single parents in this country for all races, and how that has negatively affected the black middle class. African American children raised in middle-class households "end up near poor," he said.

To conclude the presentation, Rogers showed a slide that illustrated the African American struggle from slavery, to the Civil Rights movement, to today's portrayal of black culture in the media. Pictures of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X went across the screen as music from the hip hop genre played in the background.

One of his closing slides had a quote from Dr. Maushing Ni reading, "We are the physical and spiritual fusion of ancestors whose genes we carry. Knowing our history is a starting point in the pursuit of knowing yourself."

Contact Ashley Charney at acharm01@saintmarys.edu
Unions

Continued from page 1

"They take it for granted the sacrifices their forefathers made," Wuslich said. "We actually have too many people, too many monologues, and that is a bad problem to have," she said.

Sophomore Parent's Weekend, which took place this past weekend, was the perfect time, according to sophomore class president Meg Griffin. Despite several last minute phone calls, everyone had a great time, she said.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer1@nd.edu

Unions

Continued from page 1

"We have a right to harness the influence, power, structure, management of organized labor to achieve a common goal, you achieve far more successes," Gary Wuslich, AM General Vice President of Human Resources, said.

Gary Wuslich

AM General Vice President of Human Resources

"If you are able to harness the influence, power, structure, management of organized labor to achieve a common goal, you achieve far more successes."
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Submarines crash in Atlantic Ocean

LONDON— Nuclear submarines from Britain and France collided deep in the Atlantic Ocean off the Azores, officials said Monday in the first acknowledgment of a highly unusual accident that one expert called the gravest in nearly a decade.

Officials said the low-speed crash did not destroy the vessels but did trigger alarms as part of the risks posed by submarines prowling the oceans powered by radioactive material and bristling with nuclear weapons.

The first public indication of a mishap came after the 28-nation European Union, which noticed Feb. 6 that a state of one of its submarines had struck a submerged object—perhaps a shipping container. But confirmation of the accident only came after British media reported it.

Taliban commander killed in attack

A senior Taliban commander was killed in an air strike by a 28-nation coalition killed a regional Taliban commander and eight other militants in the village of Darya-ye-Morghab, near the Turkmenistan border, the U.S. military said in a statement. Dastagir oversaw all of western Badghis province for the Taliban. He was responsible for the surge in violence in the province in recent months, including a November attack on an Afghan army convoy that killed 13 soldiers, the statement said.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

Winter storm strikes Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — A winter storm that earlier this month brought some of the largest of the season is bringing heavy rain and mountain snow to Southern California.

The National Weather Service says the rain should last much of the day, and wind with gusts of up to 45 miles per hour is causing dangerous surf conditions off the coast.

The California Highway Patrol says heavy snow has closed a section of Interstate 5 in the mountains north of Los Angeles.

Economy taking toll on dairy farms

TURLOCK, Calif. — Hundreds of thousands of America's dairy cows are being turned into hamburger because milk prices have dropped so low that farmers can no longer afford to feed the animals.

Dairy farmers say they have little choice but to sell part of their herds for slaughter because they face a perfect storm of destructive economic forces. At home, feed prices are rising and cash-strapped consumers are eating out less often. Abroad, the global recession has cut into demand for butter and cheese exported from the U.S.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Vote on unemployment bill delayed

INDIANAPOLIS — A vote on an unemployment bill designed to help workers who lost their jobs because of the economic downturn is being delayed.

The council said that the French government condemned the deportees or their families.

France recognizes role in the Holocaust

PARIS — France's top judicial body on Monday formally recognized the nation's role in deporting Jews to Nazi death camps during World War II and awarded a war hero the nation's highest military decoration.

The French government has long resisted demands for more recognition of the role that France played in the Holocaust.

The council said that the French government had been too lenient in its treatment of the deportees, who were shipped to Nazi concentration camps during the war. Fewer than 3,000 returned alive.

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DETROIT — With a government-imposed deadline for its restructuring plan just a day away, General Motors Corp. was making progress Monday in concession talks with debtholders and its main union, but deals may not come until after the deadline passes, according to people briefed on the situation.

Talks at GM and Chrysler LLC, both of which are living off billions in government loans, continued Monday with few details emerging. Both companies must submit plans to the Treasury Department by Tuesday to show how they will repay the loans and become viable again.

Two people briefed on the GM plan reported progress toward a deal with the United Auto Workers. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are private.

But UAW Legislative Director Alan Reuther said Monday he does not expect labor agreements in time for Tuesday’s deadline.

One of the people briefed on GM’s plan said some parts, such as bondholder and labor agreements, probably won’t be complete by the time the plan is submitted to the Treasury Department late Tuesday. GM executives have said the company only has to show substantial progress by Tuesday, with the whole plan finalized by March 31.

Reuther, who heads the UAW’s Washington office, said he had not been updated on the talks since Sunday night but he doesn’t expect agreements before Tuesday. He said the Obama administration’s appointment Sunday night of a task force to oversee the automakers’ restructuring could get things moving.

“I think this is an ongoing process, and having the Obama administration finally putting this task force in operation, hopefully it will be able to facilitate discussions going forward,” Reuther said. At GM, UAW bargainers walked out of talks Friday night in a spat over the company’s contributions to a union-run trust fund that will take on retiree health care expenses starting next year. Although talks resumed Sunday, Reuther said the union’s concerns had not been resolved.

GM has received $9.4 billion in government loans and is to get another $4 billion if its plan is approved by the government. Chrysler received $4 billion and could get $3 billion more if its plan is approved. The plans must include concessions from debtholders and unions as well as substantial restructuring.

GM is likely to seek more money, at least up to the $18 billion that it requested from Congress in December under its worst-case scenario projections. That scenario has arrived with U.S. sales at a 26-year low and auto sales dropping in other parts of the world, a person briefed on GM’s plan said.

The plan will stick with GM’s public strategy of trying to remain viable and avoiding Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan has not been finalized.

GM’s plan will discuss cost savings from labor concessions and additional plant closures, but the locations of those plants will not be revealed, another person briefed on the plan said Monday. The number of factories to be closed wasn’t available.

GM’s board met Monday by teleconference to go over the plan, but details could not be obtained.

The people briefed on the plan said it will include more information about how GM will cut some of its eight brands, although nothing will be finalized. The company already has said Saab and Hummer are up for sale and Saturn is under review, leaving GM to focus on Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC and Buick, with models reduced to one or two models.

Even local union officials said negotiations had been slowed by the Obama administration’s delay in appointing a “car czar.” But Sunday night, the White House announced a task force to oversee the company’s restructuring.

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www.sorinsnd.com

Obama to decide troop levels in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama’s chief bargainers said Monday that he will make a decision “within days, not weeks,” on how many additional troops to send to Afghanistan, and when.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs made the observation in a chat with reporters Monday aboard Air Force One as Obama and his family flew back to the Washington area after a long weekend in his hometown of Chicago.

The president, his wife and daughters arrived at the military base just outside Washington at midday Monday. His family had left for Chicago on Friday aboard Air Force One. Among items topping Obama’s agenda this week is signing into law the $787 billion economic stimulus plan that Congress passed last Friday.

Obama has been widely believed to prefer sending fresh forces to the Afghan battle even as a wide review of U.S. strategy and goals there gets fully under way.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates had told a Pentagon news conference last week that Obama “will have several options in front of him.” Gates suggested, as have other officials, that the ground commander in Afghanistan would eventually get all the forces he has asked for, but no more.

Lt. Gen. David McKiernan wants more fighting forces and support troops such as helicopter crews to push back against the Taliban in Afghanistan’s increasingly dangerous south and eastern regions.

An opponent of the “surge” of U.S. forces that is now credited with turning around the Iraq war, Obama has taken a cautious approach to the addition of forces in Afghanistan. He is expected to initially approve only part of a military request for as many as 30,000 forces this year, while military and civilian advisers revamp U.S. war goals.

While in Chicago, the first family did not have a public schedule. The president played basketball with his wife and their personal chef, visited the gym and got a haircut. Barack and Michelle Obama celebrated Valentine’s Day with a dinner at Oprah Winfrey’s personal chef’s restaurant on Saturday.

It was Obama’s first significant break since taking office on Jan. 20. Obama won’t be in Washington long, he heads to Denver, Colo., Arizona and Nevada this week and he plans to sign the stimulus legislation in Denver.

Associated Press

The Observer • NATIONAL NEWS Tuesday, February 17, 2009
**MARKET Recap**

**Dow Jones** 7,850.41 0.00

**Up** 1,537 117 2,179 2,082,646.687

**AMEX** 1,401.12 0.00

**NASDAQ** 2,544.36 0.00

**NYSE** 5,206.76 0.00

**S&P 500** 826.84 0.00

**NIKKEI (Tokyo)** 7,750.17 0.00

**FTSE 100 (London)** 4,134.75 54.84

**Commodities**

- **PUT CRUDE ($/bbl.)** 67.94 0.00
- **GOLD ($/Troy oz.)** 942.20 0.00
- **BRITISH POUND** 1.2791 0.00
- **DOLLAR** 1.2791 0.00
- **EURO** 1.2791 0.00
- **YEN** 79.96 0.00
- **GOLD** $1,544.60 0.00
- **NYSE** 5,206.76 0.00
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**In Brief**

Clinton weighs in on economic crisis

WASHINGTON — Former President Bill Clinton said Monday he thinks the country will surmount the current economic crisis, but sees the threat of terrorism and global instability as a long-term problem.

Clinton also gave President Barack Obama high marks for his leadership and said he believes the economic stimulus bill that Obama will sign into law as early as Tuesday.

"He's in the right lane," Clinton said. "I think he's got a good road."

Clinton also released the massive bill, which combines spending and tax cuts, will be his "bridge over troubled waters."

He confirmed he has talked to Obama about the job, although Clinton said he didn't want to be too specific.

He said he talked to the new president several times about "nuts and bolts" issues of the presidency and how to keep things from "falling through the cracks."

**Job losses coupled with home losses**

The 32-year-old lost his job as a corporate executive, losing your job can mean losing your home as well.

As major companies cut their work forces in the economic downturn, many Japanese workers are finding themselves out on the streets because they have to move out of company-run dormitories.

Sadanori Suzuki was one of them. The 26-year-old lost his job at a car factory in December, and by mid-January he was kicked out of the dorm run by his employer. He moved from that dorm to a residence which offers private rooms and double as flophouses — to "capsule" hotels, in which coffee-like individual compartments just for sleeping. But within two weeks he was nearly broke and out on the street.

He then moved to his Way to a job at a shrine in Kawage, a Tokyo suburb, where he planned to take temporary refuge. But the worship hall was locked. Exasperated, Suzuki set fire on the shrine, then called police from a nearby pay phone and turned himself in. When he was arrested, last week, he had only 10 yen (11 cents).

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He said he talked to the new president several times about "nuts and bolts" issues of the presidency and how to keep things from "falling through the cracks."

**Job losses coupled with home losses**

The 32-year-old lost his job as a corporate executive, losing your job can mean losing your home as well.

As major companies cut their work forces in the economic downturn, many Japanese workers are finding themselves out on the streets because they have to move out of company-run dormitories.

Sadanori Suzuki was one of them. The 26-year-old lost his job at a car factory in December, and by mid-January he was kicked out of the dorm run by his employer. He moved from that dorm to a residence which offers private rooms and double as flophouses — to "capsule" hotels, in which coffee-like individual compartments just for sleeping. But within two weeks he was nearly broke and out on the street.

He then moved to his Way to a job at a shrine in Kawage, a Tokyo suburb, where he planned to take temporary refuge. But the worship hall was locked. Exasperated, Suzuki set fire on the shrine, then called police from a nearby pay phone and turned himself in. When he was arrested, last week, he had only 10 yen (11 cents).

**Oil prices stable as demand decreases**

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Oil prices stayed almost $1 a barrel Monday in Asia as OPEC members talked up more production cuts over the weekend amid weakening global demand for crude.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell 6 cents to $37.45 a barrel by 2 p.m. EDT on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 63 cents on Friday to settle at $37.51.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has implemented most of the 4.2 million barrels a day of output reductions announced since September, but the cuts have been overwhelmed by a collapse in crude demand and the global slowdown.

On Sunday, Mohammed Saleh al-Sada, Qatar's minister of state for energy and industry affairs, said OPEC is ready to cut output further when it meets next month. Al-Sada said a reasonable price for oil would be $70 a barrel.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said Saturday his country would support new production cuts in the face of rising crude inventories.

"It's probably 20 to 30 that they'll cut again in March," said Claren Chen, a trader at market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "The budgets of a lot of those countries run on oil so they need the price higher."

Even within OPEC, however, there is skepticism over whether reducing supply will spur higher prices.

Meussa Marafi, a high-ranking Kuwaiti oil official, told Annahar newspaper in comments published Sunday that crude prices are unlikely to rise above $40 per barrel, even if OPEC decides to cut as much as 2 million barrels per day next month.

Oil prices are being pressured by surging U.S. crude inventories and a lack of compliance to quotas by some OPEC members, he said.

"Until demand picks up, oil won't have a significant rally," Chu said. Another big OPEC cut could add $5 to the price, but it's not going to send it to $70."

U.S. markets are closed Monday for Presidents Day.

Investors have already priced in the passage of a $787 billion stimulus package that President Barack Obama plans to sign on Tuesday and will be looking for its impact on consumer and industrial demand in the coming months.

When a plan is terminated, the PBGC takes over and pays benefits to the retired workers. But they might not get the full amount that their employer promised.

The maximum guaranteed amount currently is $54,000 a year for a person retiring at age 65.

Some pension experts shrug their shoulders at the PBGC's $11 billion deficit, noting that the 35-year-old corporation has been operating at a deficit for most of its existence.

They say the PBGC has many years to recoup its losses and fulfill its obligations to pensioners.
Ex-inmates hope for reconciliation after incarceration

Congress-approved Second Chance Act could help non-violent offenders find jobs, housing and counseling

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Ex-convict Vikki Hankins had the misfortune of being freed from prison during the worst recession since the Great Depression. While serving an 18-year sentence for a nonviolent federal drug conviction, she was assured of taxpayer-funded food and shelter.

Now on the outside after her first offense, she lives in a motel room and struggles to find work.

Like thousands leaving prison amid the economic slump, Hankins could be helped by the Second Chance Act, a program approved by Congress to help nonviolent offenders get a new start on life.

Signed by then-president George W. Bush in April, the Second Chance Act is designed to help ex-convicts get jobs, housing and counseling. But congressional backers worry the money are being shunted to the nonviolent offenders get a new start on life. But congressional backers worry the money are being shunted to

"Second Chance would support programs already in place or fund new ones that help keep in thousands of ex-offenders from going back to overcrowded prisons — saving taxpayer money in the long run. In this economy, many of these individuals are going to be left out, left behind," said Davis, who sponsored the Second Chance Act. "At the end of the day, they will be just as unemployed as before."

Backers say the Second Chance Act is needed now more than ever because money for state or community-funded programs is tight.

"We have to work really hard to make this happen," said Jessica Nickel of the Washington, D.C.-based Justice Center of the Council of State Governments. "These people are coming home to our community, and having a job and a place to live are critical if you want them to be upstanding, taxpaying citizens."

Kembra Smith, 37, of Washington, D.C., is a former inmate who, like Hankins, received a long sentence for a first-time drug offender.

"Having a record, especially a drug conviction, does limit one's ability to move forward. How long should someone's past follow them?" said Smith, whose sentence was commuted by a 2001 presidential pardon.

Upon her release, Smith was hired as an administrative assistant by a law firm that was skeptical about her story. She has since become a motivation speaker, a teacher, and a Hollywood producer has offered her optioned her story.

"Even though my past kind of haunts me, my motivation when I got out was to keep pushing forward regardless of what doors close in my face," she said.

But the chief of the federal probation office in Tampa, Elaine Terenzi, says not all ex-offenders have Smith's drive.

Terenzi hopes the Second Chance Act funds will flow to ex-convicts who face enormous obstacles after prison.

"People who have served 10-15-year terms, many of their expectations are no longer feasible," Terenzi said. "Everything is so different."

Even those who served short sentences are discovering their criminal record is an employment barrier. Donald Carter of Cincinnati thought he'd have no problem getting a job after three months' behind bars on a felony child support charge.

The 57-year-old had worked for years helping the mentally disabled, but spent months searching for jobs in and out of the social work field after his June release.

"I was so discouraged," he said. "That felony, it stigmatizes you; it makes employers put you in another category."

A tough economy didn't help either. So Carter enrolled in a Cincinnati program that is already trying some of the concepts of the Second Chance Act and could qualify for funding under the law. Program leaders taught Carter interviewing skills, job-hunting tactics and wrote letters for to a judge who wondered why Carter hadn't found employment.

The program worked. Carter landed a job in December with a defense contractor.

"I want to establish a life for myself. But where is my home going to be? What am I going to do for the rest of my life?"

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COLUMBIA, S.C. — Now that Michael Phelps won’t face drug charges, he can try to distance himself from a photo that showed the Olympian smoking a marijuana pipe.

A South Carolina sheriff decided Monday after a highly publicized investigation that he simply didn’t have enough physical evidence to charge the 14-time gold medalist.

“We had a photo and we had him saying sorry for his inappropriate behavior. That behavior could’ve been going to put the whole thing in perspective,” Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said.

“He never said, ‘I smoked marijuana.’ He never confessed that,” the sheriff said.

Phelps, who lost a major endorsement and faces a three-month competition suspension in the fallout from the photo, said he was ready to put the ordeal behind him.

“For me, it’s all about recognizing that I used bad judgment and it’s a mistake I won’t make again,” the swimmer said in a statement. “For young people, especially — be careful about the decisions you make. One had decisions really hurt you and the people you care about. I really appreciate the support my family and fans have shown me.”

The photo showed Phelps smoking from a marijuana pipe at a party in November when he visited the University of South Carolina.

Lott said authorities seized the marijuana and known in the county for wearing stylish suits like the drug agents on “Miami Vice” and driving a Porsche seized from a drug dealer.

The sheriff said the investigation involved two narcotics officers who logged 25 hours over about a week. He said the house where the November party took place and another suburban home near Columbia had previously been investigated for drugs.

His investigation was criticized in newspaper editorials, on talk shows and by defense attorneys who questioned whether the sheriff was being overzealous because of Phelps’ celebrity status.

Even if the sheriff had the evidence he desired, he acknowledged Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott holds a press conference on Feb. 16 in Columbia, S.C., to announce that Michael Phelps would not be charged as a result of the photograph that was published, which pictured him smoking from a bong during a November party.

“If we didn’t have enough physical evidence, he acknowledged the photo would not mean Phelps would face any charge, eight people were arrested during the investigation when a small amount of marijuana was found in raids on two homes. The bong was found in a car.

Seven people have been charged with simple possession of marijuana, which carries a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail or a $575 fine. Another person was arrested for driving under suspension.

The sheriff, known for his tough stance on drug crimes, said ignoring the photo would send a message of tolerance.

“Phelps’ ‘bad decision and the highly published photo placed me and the Richland County Sheriff’s Department in a no-win situation. Ignore it and be criticized or address it and be criticized,” said Lott, a Democrat who was first elected in 1996.

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Dial-up still viable due to economy

Associated Press

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Even before he was elected, Barack Obama has attempted to model his rise to power and subsequent presidency on that of his hero, Abraham Lincoln. From the announcement of his candidacy at the Old State Capitol in Springfield, where Lincoln gave his “House Divided” speech, to his arrival by train to Washington, D.C., on Inauguration Day, to being sworn in with his hand on the very Bible Lincoln used, to dining upon Lincoln-inspired foods at the inaugural luncheon, Obama shows no qualms about comparing himself to the man who often sits atop historians’ lists of greatest presidents in our nation’s history.

The mainstream media, throwing all semblance of objectivity aside in an orgy of adulation for their beloved Chosen One, have seized upon the President’s own blatan­tly deliberate attempts to draw paral­lels between himself and Lincoln with immense enthusiasm.

They eagerly point out that the two men were both lawyers of humble origins, both began their political careers in Illinois, and both served in that state’s legislature. They compare Obama’s eloquence to Lincoln’s profound gift of rhetoric. They have even gone as far as observing their similarities in height and statue to prove their point. And instead of honoring the real man of the hour, they transformed the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln’s birth into yet another chance to tout Obama’s Lincolnesque qualities. In their eyes, the current president might well do as well as a stovepipe hat, grow a beard, and have his visage carved into the side of Mount Rushmore.

Obama has understood that it is perfectly reasonable for presidents to draw inspiration from their predecessors, and Obama has every right to express gratitude to Lincoln for setting the stage that enabled him to become the first African-American president. But when the needless barrage of analogies begins to distort the truth, we must take a step back to reevaluate the accuracy of our oversimplified characteriza­tions.

Indeed, there exist substantial differ­ences between the two men that go far beyond the superficial level of origin, career—and appearance.

For instance, Obama’s admirers and critics alike praise him as a gifted speak­er, just as generations of Americans con­tinue to exalt Lincoln’s powerful speeches. The difference, though, is that while Lincoln’s rhetoric is steeped in substance and profound wisdom, Obama’s words lose their luster when read from a tran­script. The phrase, “you can’t ever have been an effective campaigning tool, but in terms of content, it holds nothing to nothing.

Upon closer inspection of their ideolo­gies, it becomes apparent that Obama’s vision for America dramatically diverges from the path Lincoln carved as presi­dent. When Lincoln assumed office in the midst of Southern secession, he knew that the nation would have to fight a war in order to remain united. Unlike his Secretary of State, William Seward, who attempted to reach an agreement with the South that would convince them to remain in the Union, Lincoln refused to budge on his opposition to the spread of slavery, even though he knew this would provoke Southern aggression. Somehow I can’t see Obama, the champion of diplo­macy and reaching out to hostile nations, taking a similar stance.

Obviously Lincoln was not very popular among Southerners, but many people today are unaware of the fact that some Northern critics convinced the president claiming that he was bent on destroying civil liberties and had become a tyrant. Rather than present a Union, these Northern Democrats were willing to call for a new Civil War, even if it meant granting Southerners their inde­pendence as a slave-holding nation.

Obama and Democrats today, like their forebears in the North, would rather see that terrorists are granted the right to habeas corpus and pull our troops out of Iraq than ensure American security there.

But the most prominent difference between Lincoln and Obama stems from Lincoln’s steadfast devotion to individual liberty. Although modern historians trace the expansive growth of the federal gov­ernment to Lincoln’s assumption of broad presidential power during wartime, the President never intended for his actions to establish a precedent upon which his suc­cessors could claim increased authority.

Writing in response to accusations of tyranny, Lincoln declared: “I can no more be persuaded that the Government can constitutionally take no strong measures in time of rebellion, because it can be shown that the same could not lawfully be taken in time of peace, than I can be persuaded that a particular drug is not good medicine for a sick man, because it can be shown not to be good for a well man.”

Here, Lincoln demonstrates his recogni­tion that his actions were authorized by extraordinary circumstances, but would not be justified during any other time. Furthermore, the arguments that Lincoln’s support for a strong federal government as opposed to states’ rights would have made him a liberal in today’s world because back then there was disagreement over whether or not the states had the legal ability to withdraw from Constitutional rule. Today, the states’ rights debate deals with opposition to the federal government’s encroachment upon the states’ sphere of authority as delegat­ed by the Constitution in the Tenth Amendment. Obama and his party are seeking to expand the federal government to new levels of vastness; Lincoln, with his heightened understanding of the Constitution, would balk at the suggestion.

Christie Pesavento is a junior and can be reached at cpesaven@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
I bet when you turned 18 you were excited to finally be able to legally buy a lottery ticket, tobacco products, and even maybe some pornography, but I bet you overlooked a critical freedom that became available when you crossed that milestone. In most states of the union, at age 18 you are able to purchase a long gun, which includes shotguns and many types of rifles, as long as you are an American citizen, are not a criminal, and have no record of unstable mental health. At 21, you are able to purchase a handgun in most states. That's good to know, but why would anyone need to think about buying one? Aren't guns outdated tools that are only useful in movies filled with zombies?

There are many arguments as to why or why not the second amendment should be heeded. One is hunting, and yes, there are still people who mostly survive off of what they shoot. I think this right should be secure as long as they hunt within the law, but I have to admit that is a small percentage of the population. Opponents argue that guns cause crime, which I again am able to admit that guns make crimes much easier to commit. They argue that the police have guns and it's their job to stop the "bad guys." Now we come to the crucial juncture. We have institutionalized personal protection and outsourced it to others who are not our person. In the process we have surrendered our right to defend ourselves and instead have to pray for the help of those who are tasked by law to help us. But what if no one comes? We have seen in episodes like Hurricane Katrina, you can't depend on the government to save you (doesn't matter who is in the White House). Now the majority democrats and liberals in the federal government will actively seek to limit your gun ownership rights even further. When this happens, you will be even more dependent on others to save you when chaos breaks out or as I like to say, when the fickle market hits the propeller.

Buying a gun is not a complicated matter. At a certified dealer, you select a firearm that matches your needs. Like anything, you should shop around and find the real price. You may expect to fill out a mountain of paperwork to secure ownership in this country but in fact is only one or two sheets of paper with questions certifying that you are eligible to own a firearm. The dealer will then call in to the Department of Justice to verify that you check out, and the whole process takes about half an hour, give or take. It is important to handle guns safely and before purchasing firearm, one should research gun safety tips or consult a professional. Gun ownership is a hefty responsibility. Any crimes committed with your firearm will be traced back to you, and any fatal mistakes you make while handling a gun will live with you forever. It is illegal to conceal your weapon in public without a concealed carry license, which can be acquired through a certification class.

Shooting guns can be a lot of fun, and there are many places that cater to gun enthusiasts. Often there will be gun clubs or local ranges in your area, where you can practice against targets. These places are good areas to interact with other gun owners and pick up tips and tricks to improve your accuracy and gun handling.

Thomas Jefferson wrote specifically in the Declaration of Independence that "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." Without guns, the revolutionaries would not have been able to break away from the tyranny of English monarchy. And so, it is a sacred right of Americans to also bear arms in the event our government is perverted by evil men, so that we as a people may restore a republic of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Guns are an insurance policy for survival when the law no longer applies. Whether it's in the back alley with a gangster or the collapse of civilization, the ones who are prepared will be the ones who have a better chance to survive.

Mark Easley is a freshman computer engineering major. He can be contacted at manesley@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
If you're a slasher movie fan, your taste for blood has probably been wanting at the cinema lately. Who wants to watch some girl get haunted by her dead evil twin or, worse yet, see anemic vampires talk about their feelings? Never fear because one of horror's favorite sons, Jason Voorhees, the machete-wielding killing machine in a hockey mask, is back at Camp Crystal Lake to start some mayhem for any sexy teens who happen by in the remake of 1980's "Friday the 13th".

In the tradition of other recent horror remakes like 2003's "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" with Jessica Biel and Rob Zombie's 2007 "Halloween," this "Friday the 13th" has a much more polished and stylized look to it than the low-budget original. It is also a lot more gruesome with some of the most needlessly elaborate on-screen deaths in years.

The plot is really inconsequential but here it is anyway. Jason Voorhees has hidden himself away at the abandoned Camp Crystal Lake and, in order to avenge his long-dead (and equally insane) mother, kills whoever happens to intrude. This spells trouble for a group of rich co-eds (played by mostly unknowns, including one-hit-wonder Willa Ford) coming to the lake to party as well as a guy named Clay ("Supernatural" Jared Padalecki) who's come to the lake looking for his sister Whitney ("The OC" Amanda Righetti) who disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

What transpires over the next hour and a half is pretty much an old-school slasher movie bloodbath, and there are plenty of needlessly elaborate, cringe-worthy demises to suit anyone's tastes. Without giving spoilers, some of the best macabre moments involve a mishap with an iPod, a decorative wall furnishing and a sleeping bag being put in a precarious position.

The film does try and inject some black humor throughout with moderate success, but basically you are just waiting for the next person to get axed. One certainly never ends up caring for any of the over-sexed, perpetually wasted teenagers that get slaughtered in what ends up being a pretty predictable, check-list fashion. Although all the effects and gore are very (technically) well-done, it really isn't anything a horror fan hasn't seen or heard before a million times.

Jason Voorhees has always kind of been second-in-command to the likes of big horror movie buddies like Michael Myers and Freddy Krueger. This is pretty unfortunate because Jason has just as much history and on-screen presence as those icons, he's just a little different. That being said, Jason certainly deserved a high-quality Hollywood reboot like this, but it would have been a lot more effective if he had gotten a more original script to work with and something more to do than just brood and stab.

Contact Jim McGuire at jmcguire@nd.edu

Director: Marcus Nispel
Starring: Jared Padalecki, Danielle Panabaker, Amanda Righetti, Willa Ford

In the tradition of other recent horror remakes like 2003's "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" with Jessica Biel and Rob Zombie's "Halloween," this "Friday the 13th" has a much more polished and stylized look to it than the low-budget original.
"It’s Not Me" ready for the dance floor, if not the rally

By MAJA GUSTIN
Scene Writer

Last week, British songstress Lily Allen followed up her acclaimed album "Alright, Still" with "It’s Not Me, It’s You." Allen still sounds like the same quirky pop-punk girl she was in "Alright, Still," but has stepped away a little from her formula with this new release.

While no less upbeat than "Alright, Still," "It’s Not Me" shows Allen trying to deal with serious topics like love, sex, materialism, drugs and politics. You’d never know it, though since her songs are still perfectly tailored to the dance floor. Allen may not always succeed at making a political statement, but she does always succeed at making people want to dance.

Lily Allen’s particular brand of pop may not suit the tastes of every listener, but it is infectious. Each song on "It’s Not Me, It’s You" could be a hit single. In some ways, this makes Allen’s album less cohesive, but that’s not really her goal. Each song is just meant to be a great song.

The album starts off with "Everyone’s At It," which is total old-school Lily Allen follow up to her acclaimed album "Alright, Still." The song is so catchy that it’s easy to forget that it’s about drug- and sex- ridden society. As a message about drugs, it’s not totally effective. At inducing head bobbing, it succeeds.

"It’s Not Me, It’s You" is often raunchy, crass and explicit, but Lily Allen hides it well. Her songs often have the drug-like ability of distracting from the lyrics. The lyrics specifically are very hit-or-miss, but with Allen’s sound, that doesn’t really matter. Her songs are great pieces of pop that can revel in irrelevancy.

As a whole, the album is solid, but each song stands out in its own right. Lily Allen never fails at making fun music. Some of her songs are insightful political and social commentaries, while others just try to be, but she has created a great work of pop that deserves a listen. Lily Allen will be playing in Chicago on April 12 at the Vic Theatre, which will undoubtedly be a great venue for Allen’s danceable pure pop. This show is definitely worth a look.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

Lily Allen
Label: Capitol
Recommended Tracks: "Chinese," "Alright, Still," "F*** You," "Everyone’s At It," "Never Gonna Happen"

Next on the album is "The Fear," a sequel of sorts to "Not Big" from "Alright, Still." It’s a hilarious number about less-than-stellar boyfriends actually set to the sound of Western-inspired banjos. Enough said. "Never Gonna Happen" is one of the best songs on the album. It features the best use of accordions in a pop song in a while, if not ever.

"F*** You" is the first single off the album, and it starts off sounding like a sitcom from the 70s. In reality, it’s actually an anti-Bush song, and gives some insight into European perspective. It makes for an interesting context, but the song itself is just a great pop number. "Who’d Have Known" and "Chinese," two classic pop ballads, prove that Lily Allen does actually have some vocal ability, and that she’s not just an eccentric oddball.

"It’s Not Me, It’s You" is often raunchy, crass and explicit, but Lily Allen hides it well. Her songs often have the drug-like ability of distracting from the lyrics. The lyrics specifically are very hit-or-miss, but with Allen’s sound, that doesn’t really matter. Her songs are great pieces of pop that can revel in irrelevancy.

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**Olympics**

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Now that Michael Phelps won't face drug charges, he can try to distance himself from a photo that showed the Olympic swimmer smoking a marijuana pipe.

A South Carolina sheriff decided Monday after a highly publicized investigation that he didn't have enough physical evidence to charge the 14-time medalist.

"We had a photo and we had him saying he was sorry for his inappropriate behavior. That behavior could've been going to a party," Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said.

"He never said, 'I smoked marijuana.' He never confessed that," the sheriff said.

Phelps, who lost a major endorsement and faces a three-month competition suspension in the fallout from the photo, said he was just put the ordeal behind him. But he was all about重新 in the digital and he's careful about the decisions you make. One bad decision can really hurt you and the people you care about. I really appreciate the support my family and fans have showed me.

Sunday to tell him of the decision.

"I hired Terry because I believed in him. He's got a ton of integrity, dignity and class, and he's got a great work ethic," Kerr said. "I hired him because I believed in him. He was the best man for the job." But Kerr said he probably underestimated the difficulty of the transition from D'Antoni's unorthodox style.

"In the last month, it became apparent to me that, look, this is not working," Kerr said. "The worst thing you can say is that we're trying is not working.

"I think we still can make this a very successful season. This was a decision we had to make in order to give our team the best chance for success."

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For more information, visit NICHD Assistance for Pregnant Students/Office of Student Affairs website at: nas.nd.edu/health-safety/guidelines/ for program students.
**NCAA Men's AP Top 25 Rankings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma (4)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dayton</td>
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**NCAA Men's Basketball USA Today Top 25**

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Record</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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**Big East Men's Basketball Standings**

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<td>Louisville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John's</td>
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<td>DePaul</td>
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<td>Georgetown</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. John's</td>
<td>1-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>DePaul</td>
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**Jags release veteran back Taylor**

Fred Taylor runs the football during the 2008 season. Taylor was released by the Jacksonville Jaguars on Monday after playing with the team for 11 seasons. Taylor is 16th on the all-time rushing yards leaders list.

**Associated Press**

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Running back Fred Taylor wanted to end his career in Jacksonville, hoping to join the small list of standout players who spent an entire career with the same team. He won't get the chance. The Jaguars released Taylor on Monday, parting ways with their all-time leading rusher after 11 seasons and continuing the team's offseason makeover.**

Coach Jack Del Rio flew to Fort Lauderdale earlier Monday to meet with Taylor and deliver the news. Del Rio made it clear the team has no plans to re-sign Taylor, who turned 33 last month and was scheduled to make $6 million next season. "We felt like the best thing for this football team is what it has to be about," Del Rio said. "We feel good about the talented group of backs that we have ... and as you work through it, it's difficult to come up with a role that's going to be acceptable for everybody. It makes it awkward. It makes it difficult. We came to an agreement on what the best course of action was on a football team." And that was to move on without Taylor, who ranks 16th in the NFL's career rushing list with 11,271 yards, 81 behind John Riggins.

Taylor said he would like to retire after passing Jim Brown (12,312) on the career list. Brown, Chicago's Walter Payton (16,726), Detroit's Barry Sanders (11,269) and San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson (11,740) are the only running backs ahead of Taylor who spent their entire careers with the same team. Taylor was not available for comment Monday.

Releasing Taylor was no surprise since he had clearly become the second option behind Maurice Jones-Drew. But deciding to not even try to bring back the longtime team captain was somewhat shocking, especially since the Jaguars endured chemistry issues last season after letting go of some veterans and bringing in high-priced free agents Jerry Porter and Dayron Florence.

The Jaguars released Porter and Florence last week. They also parted ways with longtime personnel chief James "Shack" Harris, defensive coordinator Greg Williams, defensive backs coach Donnie Henderson and a few other assistants.

Taylor was next in line. Del Rio said it was time to turn the offense over to Jones-Drew, a 5-foot-7 dynamo who has scored 40 touchdowns in three years.

**In Brief**

**Ortiz in favor of year-long bans for steroids**

FOUNTAIN, Fla. — David Ortiz wants players who test positive for steroids to be suspended from baseball for a year instead of the current 50-game period.

Taking players to court, though, for cases involving use of the substances before players were subject to penalty is "I had broke something because it was really something after," the slugger said.

And if a player tests positive for steroids? "Blue veins for the whole year," the slugger said.

The current penalties are a 50-game suspension for a player who tests positive once, 100 games for a second positive test for the same player, and a lifetime ban for a third positive test, though a player can seek to return after two years.

Richardson arrested for reckless driving with child

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns have suspended Jason Richardson for one game without pay as punishment for his arrest on allegations he was driving 55 mph above the limit with his 3-year-old son in the car.

Richardson said he had taken his son to the park before players were subject to penalty is "I couldn't bear to watch the replay of Richardson driving 67 mph in a 40 mph zone Sunday night and followed him, police said Monday. That's when the officer clocked him at 90 mph in a 35 mph zone and pulled him over.

Police said Richardson admitted to speeding and identified himself as a Suns player. The officer saw Richardson's son in the back seat of the car and that he was not in a child seat.

Richardson said he had taken his son to dinner and was on his way home.

Curry foresees return this week from injury

DAVIDSON, N. C. — Turned out Stephen Curry didn't just have a lighting-quick release. He's a fast healer, too.

Davidson's star guard was walking with a slight limp Monday, two days after what appeared to be a gruesome injury to his left ankle.

The Wildcats host No. 21 Butler on Saturday in an important matchup for Davidson's NCAA tournament resume.

Curry was held out of practice Monday but was confident he could return this week — even if he couldn't hear back to watch the replay of him turning his foot so badly his ankle scraped the floor.

"I saw it once and I turned it off," Curry said. "A few of my friends who saw it on TV were asking me if I had broke something because it looked pretty bad. I keep telling them that it looks worse on TV than it really was."
Leipheimer takes second

Armstrong involved in early crash in second stage of Tour of California

**Cycling**

**Associated Press**

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Lance Armstrong took a spill when he got tangled with a motorcycle and still moved up a spot in the overall standings Monday at the Tour of California after a rainy and crash-filled second stage.

Two-time defending champion Levi Leipheimer of Santa Rosa, Calif., became the third different race leader. He emerged from a chasing group on the final climb with about 17 miles left before finishing a close second to stage winner Thomas Peterson of North Bend, Wash.

Peterson was victorious in the 115.9-mile Sausalito to Santa Cruz road race in 5 hours, 6 minutes and 20 seconds.

Strong wind and heavy rain hampered the field throughout most of the stage, which crossed the Golden Gate Bridge shortly after the start.

Armstrong, the seven-time Tour de France winner making a comeback after a 3 1/2-year retirement, had his mishap about 80 miles into the stage.

"A motorcycle for the photographer from the race crashed right in front of me," Armstrong said. "Unfortunately, but it could have been worse. I don't feel too bad, hip is a little banged up but overall a great day. Levi proved he is the best guy in the race hands down."

Armstrong quickly received a spare bike from a team car and returned to the field with the assistance of teammate Jose Luis Rubiera of Spain.

Armstrong, who began the day in fifth place, is now fourth, 30 seconds behind. He finished 13th in the stage.

Floyd Landis, the former 2006 Tour de France champion competing for the first time following a two-year doping suspension, was 29th overall, 1 minute 8 seconds behind.

In addition to Armstrong's crash, a group of 15 riders also crashed during the stage.

Andy Jacques-Maynes of Capitola, Calif., was also fell into a parked car and left the race in an ambulance. He suffered head and ankle injuries, not considered serious, said race director Mike Neves. "I feel great, let's go. I couldn't wait any longer. I had to go."

Peterson, who missed his starting time Saturday in the prologue and finished last, rode behind Leipheimer in the final miles after being part of an earlier lead group.

"I just stayed on his (Leipheimer's) wheel," Peterson said. "It was pretty easy."

Leipheimer, who earned his fifth Tour of California career stage win, rode among teammates, including Armstrong, throughout much of the stage.

Leipheimer launched off the front of a group chasing Carlos Barredo of Spain, who pedaled in a solo lead until he began to lag on the final climb.

Mancheo, who rode to a long solo victory in the opening stage, was never a factor.

"Even though I had a rough rider today, I can still compete for the (leader's) jersey as well as the other jerseys," said Mancheo, who finished 27th in the stage and dropped to 16th place, trailing by 56 seconds.

NCAA Football

**Associated Press**

FORT WORTH, Texas — No second thoughts for Sam Bradford.

At a time when top NFL prospects are getting ready for the draft, Bradford was on Monday night was recognized with the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top quarterback — and looking ahead to another chance to lead Oklahoma to a national championship.

The NFL will have to wait another year — maybe two — for the O'Brien and Heisman Trophy winner.

The 24-14 loss to Florida in last month's BCS national championship is what occupies his thoughts, not the decision he made to bypass the pros for now for another season with the Sooners.

"It's great to be in the game, but probably a lot more frustrating to actually be in the game and lose than if you weren't in the game at all," Bradford said. "I've thought about it probably every day since the game, just different things that could have gone different. ... I'm using it as motivation right now, work hard than I've ever worked to get back in that game."

Bradford has thrown for 7,841 yards and a school-record 86 touchdowns in his two seasons at Oklahoma, including 50 this past season as a sophomore.

Though he would have been a high draft pick, Bradford decided last month to stay with the Sooners.

Before I made that decision, I knew whichever direction I was going to go, I had to be fully committed, and it had to just look ahead and not look in the past," Bradford said. "I felt like I made the right decision."

Two months after being named the O'Brien winner, the magnitude of the award hit him as he starred at the list of previous winners while sitting in his hotel room before the banquet.

"It was really humbling. It almost took my breath away."

"I was hard for me to comprehend that I joined a list of football players that I idolized growing up."

Among the former O'Brien winners are Florida's Tim Tebow, who as a sophomore last year also won the Heisman and is also returning to the Gators, Troy Aikman, Steve Young, Peyton Manning and Jim McMahon, the initial recipient in 1981.

Bradford shared the podium with Super Bowl-winning and former Notre Dame quarterback Joe Theismann, who was presented the O'Brien Legends award. Theismann spoke with the Oklahoma quarterback about the specialness of the O'Brien trophy.
Tribe enjoying new Arizona spring training facilities

Associated Press
GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Fresh from a morning run on an underwater treadmill in the 1,200-square-foot hydrotherapy room across the hall, designate
ed hitter Travis Hafner sat at his locker while a few team
mates watched highlights of the 1997 World Series on one of four plasma TVs hanging from the ceiling.

His back to the giant screens, Hafner sifted through a box stuffed with fan mail. Some of the envelopes had been for
warded.

The Cleveland Indians have a new address. Unpacked but not completely moved in, they are settling into their new spring home.

After training from 1993 to 2008 in Winter Haven Fla., the Indians have returned to Arizona where they already are enjoying the amenities of the 200-square-foot training facility and adjacent 10,000-seat ballpark they'll share with the Cincinnati Reds, who will follow them West next spring.

Cleveland's new desert digs, nestled in the shadows of the Estrella Mountains, are a world away from the antiquated condi
tions (Bex left) behind in Central Florida.

It's such an upgrade from Winter Haven, it's unbelievable," Hafner said, looking around the spacious clubhouse. "It's got everything: training rooms, weight rooms, hot tubs, batting tunnels. Anything we need is right here. In some ways, this is even nicer than Progressive Field.

On arid land first developed by Akron-based Goodyear Tire, the Indians' 42,000-square-foot training complex and ballpark have sprouted like a cactus flower in this fast-growing com
munity west of Phoenix. Unable to work out a deal to remain in Winter Haven, the team is a year-round training home for players throughout the organization.

"We look for opportunities at different junctures to have a competitive advantage," said assistant general manager Chris Antonetti. To have a state-of-the-art facility and development complex, this pro
vides us with those opportuni
ties. It creates a better environ
ment to work and to get work done."

Upon entering the training complex, visitors walk down a long hallway adorned with framed pictures of Indians greats Bob Feller, Satchell Paige, Sandy Alomar and Omar Viruel. To the right is the club's minor-league clubhouse, well as cavernous weight and training rooms.

On the left is the lavish club
house, which was designed in an oval shape so players can see everyone in the room to promote more interaction.

"It brings everyone together," Amato said. "It's the selling point of the facility."

The Indians' offices at the end of the hallway are the six prac
tice diamonds, which have iden
tical dimensions to Progressive Field, down to the 19-foot-high wall in left field. Fitting cages, two infield, an agility area for conditioning and a six-mound outdoor bullpen where Cy Young winner Cliff Lee and Fausto Carmona threw side-by
side on Monday.

Indians manager Eric Wedge, who will hold his first full-squad workout on Tuesday, said the club has already benefited from the facility's uniformity.

"It's just more efficient and the facility allows us to have our day-to-day work, that delivers. That's real," he said. "That's time. That's work and it's cleaner. It's been great here in the early going. I feel better after we get through the next few days and make sure everybody is going the right direction."

One cannot get lost on the way to the new ballpark, which is about a 10-minute walk from the complex. On Monday, trac
tors, cement mixers and deliv
ery trucks all crisscrossed in the parking lot as workers readied the stadium for the Feb. 25 opener against the San Francisco Giants. The line at the box office was 12 deep at lunchtime and fans were already streaming into the team shop for souvenirs.

Walking around the perime
ter, Jim and Nancy Marek of Middletown, Ohio, could only wish they could get inside for a closer look.

"We love it," Jim Marek said as he checked the last image on his camera. "It's got everything. But it looks like they put a lot of work to do in a short period of time."

There was still concrete being poured around a shad
o structure inside the ballpark, where the lower-bowl seating will bring fans even closer to the Indians, and safety netting was being hung on the third-base dugout. Otherwise, the ball
park, designed by renowned architectural firm HOK, looks ready for a game.

After giving a brief tour of the second-level press box, ballpark manager Nathan Torres proudly promised to have everything set for the first pitch next week.

"Our goal was to build a facil
ity like no other," he said. "I think we've delivered on that concept."
The Observer  ●  SPORTS
Tuesday, February 17, 2009

NCAA BASKETBALL

Blair grabs 23 rebounds as No. 4 Pitt beats No. 1 UConn

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — DeJuan Blair had 22 points and 23 rebounds and Levance Fields scored all 10 of his points in the final 3:09 as No. 4 Pittsburgh beat No. 1 Connecticut 76-68 on Monday night, the Panthers’ first win ever over a top-ranked team.

Fields missed his first seven shots from the field but the senior guard gave the Panthers (24-2, 11-2 Big East) the lead for good with a 3-pointer with 3:09 left that made it 64-61. He added another 3 with 2:21 left to make it 67-61, and he added four free throws in the final minute.

A.J. Price had 18 points for the Huskies (24-2, 12-2), who started their third week at No. 1 earlier Monday and had their 13-game winning streak ended.

Sam Young had 25 points for Pittsburgh, which lost all 13 games it had played against No. 1 teams, the last three against Connecticut over the last 11 years.

The game was expected to be physical down low and it was with the 6-foot-7 Blair flipping the 7-3 Hasheem Thabeet over his back in the first half, sending him to the bench for about 4 minutes. Blair got a dose back in the second half when he had to leave the game for almost 3 minutes after taking an elbow to the face.

The minutes leading up to Fields’ big shots was as intense as college basketball gets. The lead changed hands four times and there was a tie in the 2 1/2 minutes leading up to those shots.

Pittsburgh finished with a 48-31 rebound advantage, the first time the Huskies were outrebounded this season.

Connecticut fell to 40-8 as a No. 1 team and the loss kept them from the best start in school history. The Huskies remain tied with the 1995-96 team at 24-1.

The teams meet again on March 7 and there could be another matchup in the Big East tournament.

Pitt took a 36-33 halftime lead behind Blair’s 13 points and 13 rebounds and Young’s 12 points.

Connecticut, which leads the Big East in scoring defense (60.5) and field goal percentage defense (37.3) held Pittsburgh to 7-of-25 shooting until Fields suddenly got going.

Both his 3-pointers were wide-open shots when Connecticut couldn’t switch fast enough on screens, and they seemed to take the wind out of the Huskies, who came up empty on both possessions around the 3s.

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Thabeet, who came into the game off a 25-point, 20-rebound, nine-block effort against Seton Hall, finished with five points on 1-for-5 shooting and had four rebounds and two blocks.

Connecticut’s Stanley Robinson attempts to block a shot by Pittsburgh’s DeJuan Blair during the first half of the Panthers’ 76-68 win Monday.

Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising

Student, faculty and staff nominations are sought to identify faculty or professional staff members whose involvement with undergraduates inspires students to reach their academic and career goals. Nominees may be members of the academic advising and career counseling staffs or members of the faculty and staff who:

• Facilitate learning outside the classroom
• Serve as mentors or role models
• Encourage student participation in fellowships, internships, undergraduate research and post-graduate opportunities
• Cultivate relationships with organizations that recruit Notre Dame graduates

Nominations due Tuesday, March 3. Three faculty or staff will be chosen.

Submit online nominations at provostawards.nd.edu.

The Joyce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Student and faculty nominations are sought to identify faculty who:

• Create environments that stimulate significant student learning
• Elevate students to a new level of intellectual engagement
• Foster students’ ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline

Nominations due by Tuesday, March 3. Nineteen recipients will be selected.
Rangers, Penguins suffer tough losses

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The New York Rangers have lost eight of nine while scoring two or fewer goals in all the losses, and the strain seems to be getting to Henrik Lundqvist.

After giving up the go-ahead goal on a rebound to B.J. Crombeen with 5:14 to play in Monday’s 2-1 loss to the St. Louis Blues, Lundqvist said the confidence of the players is fragile.

“Your see when you score a goal, we totally lose our composure and start running around,” Lundqvist said. “It takes a lot for us to bounce back from a goal because everybody gets so tight.”

Laurel Korpikoski had the lone goal for the Rangers, who are 0-6-1 in their last seven on the road. This time they had a franchise whose rebuilding job is led by team president John Davidson, a longtime Rangers broadcaster and former goalie.

“He’s one of the best,” Rangers forward Scott Gomez said. “Once I came into the league, he’s treated me like gold.”

Chris Mason made 19 saves and Carlo Colaiacovo also scored for the Blues, 4-1-2 in their last seven games while trying to inch into playoff contention, which they’ve been in last place in the Western Conference much of the season, but were tied for 13th and six points out of the postseason.

“It doesn’t take much to figure out it’s going to be a tough road,” said Gomez, who has 15 goals this season. “We’re going to have to be intelligent shots, so what we’re doing right now is trying to rebuild our foundation if you will.”

Islanders 3, Penguins 2

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — If Dan Bylsma can’t turn around the Pittsburgh Penguins in their final 24 games, the defending Eastern Conference champions will be in the same sorry state as the lowly New York Islanders — out of the playoffs.

Bylsma stepped behind the Penguins bench on Monday for the first time as an NHL head coach, less than 24 hours after taking over for the fired Michel Therrien. The result was not much better than what they were under the old regime as Pittsburgh was beaten by the Islanders in a shootout.

Frans Nielsen and Jeff Tambellini scored shootout goals, and Joey MacDonald turned aside Penguins stars Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby in the tiebreaker to snap the Islanders’ 0-4-1 skid.

“It was a little bit surprised, but the team is struggling, so things can happen,” captain Crosby said of the change.

“The first time we met him was at a team meeting this morning, and then we went through our normal pregame routine.”

Bylsma got the call that he would replace Therrien on Sunday, just before he was set to coach his Wilkes Barre-Scranton club in an AHL game.

The decision to dismiss Therrien, who led the Penguins to the Stanley Cup finals last season, was made by general manager Ray Shero after Pittsburgh blew a 2-0 lead at Toronto and gave up five goals in the third period of a 1-5 loss.

“When I talked to Ray Shero (Sunday), there were some nerves,” Bylsma said. “But this was an opportunity we work for and if you are granted it, you do the best you can. I think with the little time we’ve had together, as the game went on, we got more in tune with the way we should be playing.”

Bylsma is faced with the task of implementing a new fast, attacking style that can make the most of the Penguins’ talented forwards. It produced a season-high 37 shots Monday, but only one point in the standings.

Malkin and Ryan Whitney scored tying goals, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves through overtime for the Penguins, 17-7-2 on the road in 2009. Pittsburgh (27-25-6) is tied with the Eastern Conference, two places and four points below the playoff cutoff.

“We want two points every game, especially right now,” forward Jordan Staal said. “The guys in the dressing room know what we’re capable of. We know what we can do out there. It’s a matter of getting it done.”

Chris Campoli and Frans Nielsen scored for New York, which owns the NHL’s worst record (17-33-6).

Bylsma paced behind the Penguins bench, keeping his hands folded for most of the game, and taking occasional drinks from a water bottle. He leaned over several times to talk to his new players. Only two Penguins in the lineup played under Bylsma in the AHL.

“He was right in the mix,” Staal said. “In the third we really started to show what we could do in that system. Obviously we didn’t get the job done.”

The Penguins erased a pair of one-goal deficits with 20 shots through two periods and then turned it on.

“We have to play that way for 60 minutes,” Bylsma said. “If you do, you tip the scales in your favor.”

A pretty passing play produced Whitney’s second goal of the season and tied it at 2 with 2:53 left in the middle frame.
Bulls
continued from page 24

game," McGraw said. "I want them to come out ready, to come out with a lot of intensity, and to really get after them defensively and rebound and do the things we can control. That always makes us feel a little bit better about our offense.

The Irish needed to stay focused against the Bulls to maintain their position as the No. 6 seed in the Big East. Currently, South Florida (15-16, 8-7) sits one game behind the Irish (17-6, 6-5) in the conference standings. McGraw said, however, that she has not emphasized that factor to her players, who already know this is an important game.

"I don't really stress that too much with the team. We don't talk about the standings; they know what's at stake," she said. "They know how important the game is. It's important to both teams. This is going to be a huge game."

That time the Irish took the court, they hung with one of the best teams in the country—No. 8 Louisville—for most of the game, but still be a major threat in the lar, but [senior guard Janae Stokes] launched the ball a little bit better, we want to defend a little bit better. We want to do a little bit better at everything," McGraw said.

"We want to take better care of the ball, and we want to rebound better, I think those are the things that we were doing earlier in the year. We're playing better; I think we just need to get everybody playing better."

One Irish player that is already playing at that level is forward Becca Bruszewski. The 6-foot-2 senior guard launched 9.9 points per game, but scored 18 against Louisville on Feb. 14 against DePaul on Feb. 8 and 14 against Pittsburgh on Feb. 9.

"She's really playing well, and I think she's comfortable. I think she's loose. She's just going out and playing, she's not worried about things," McGraw said of Bruszewski. "She's doing the things that she's good at. She's shooting the ball well from the 3-point line and she'll run the floor and scoring inside. She's really showing versatility with what she's good at."

McGraw also said that Bruszewski's looseness is something she would like to spread to the rest of the team.

"I think that's what we need. I think the seniors feel like it's up to them and it's their responsibility to lead us and to play well. That makes you feel a little bit more pressure. That would be good if we could all just relax. At the same time play hard, but I think you need to be a little more relaxed." Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 7 p.m. from the Sun Dome in Tampa, Fla.

Coaches continued from page 24

Brown runs the sidelines if they decide to explore that option.

"I can honestly tell you it's not a no. It's something that is still under consideration," Weis said.

Brown will be Weis' second in command and Tenuta will help to pick up any slack by taking over the defensive play calling responsibilities.

"Last year, game planning was a collaborative effort and that won't change. The only thing that will be different is that Jon will call the plays on Saturday," Brown said.

Tenuta and Brown will both have added support along the defensive line this season because of the addition of Bryant Young. Young graduated from Notre Dame in 1994 then went on to play in four NFL Pro Bowls before retiring two years ago.

"Young said he spent a year travelling the country while weighing his options for the future as a defensive line coach, but Weis said promoting Young to that position is not very likely."

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy@nd.edu
**Write Sports for The Observer, Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu**

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### That's What He Said?

**Images of Modern Masculinity**

**Featuring the Episode**

**"Cocktails"**

**Where:**
Carnegie Auditorium
Hastings Library

**When:**
Wednesday, February 18 at 8pm

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### The Office and Roles of Men and Women: What Does It Mean to Be a Man?

**Featuring:**

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- Dr. Agustín Fuentes, Professor of Anthropology
- Dr. M. Kathleen Kaveney, John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law
- Dr. John O. Cavadini, Chair of Theology Department
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**Rink continued from page 24**

Fact that, despite the presence of funds donated specifically for a rink renovation project, several other Irish athletic programs (deserving in their own right, of course) received major facility upgrades.

And I would have expressed my concern that, despite the program's remarkable progress in Jackson's first four years, Notre Dame could lose college hockey's best coach to another school that showed a greater financial commitment to its program's development.

**Hope continued from page 24**

that how the Irish performed in the Big East tournament would likely determine their NCAA fate. That type of opportunity is really all Notre Dame can ask for after losing seven games in a row.

Getting to that magical .500 record in the Big East won't be easy. Notre Dame can be realistically favored in only two of their next six games—home contests against Big East bottom-feeders St. John's and Rutgers.

Assuming the Irish don't pull out a miracle victory at Connecticut, that means Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament hopes likely rest on three games at West Virginia, at Providence and home against Villanova.

Win zero or one out of three and the Irish are looking at an NIT bid. Win two out of three and Mike Brey's men can play themselves into the Big Dance with a strong Big East showing. Win all three games and Notre Dame becomes one of the teams nobody wants to play come March.

That's Notre Dame's situation here. It's a look at how the rest of the Big East currently stacks up.

**A cut above: No. 1 Connecticut (24-2, 12-2), No. 4 Pittsburgh (24-2, 11-2)**

These two teams are not only the class of the Big East but among an elite group of teams with legitimate national title hopes. They're not battling for top-four Big East seeds as much as they're battling for No. 1 seeds come Selection Sunday.

**Top-four contenders:**

- **No. 7 Louisville (19-5, 10-2), No. 12 Villanova (20-5, 8-4)**
- **With the Big East Tournament switching to a 16-team format this year, a top-four seed assumes added importance, guaranteeing not one but two byes. Of these three teams, only two will likely secure that extended rest over spring break.**

Although it may seem like Louisville and Marquette have the spots locked up, take a look at the Golden Eagles' remaining schedule: Seton Hall at Georgetown, Connecticut at Providence, Villanova, and Villanova, the latter two will likely secure that extended rest over spring break.

**Notre Dame and its competition: Providence (16-9, 8-5), No. 24 Syracuse (15-7, 7-6), Cincinnati (17-9, 7-6), West Virginia (16-8, 6-6), Notre Dame (14-10, 5-7)**

If the Irish are to reach that .500 Big East mark, these are the teams they have to pass on their way to a top-eight seed. Although it currently holds the best record of the group, Providence may be the most vulnerable to an Irish comeback. The Friars have just one game remaining they should be favored in—at Rutgers—and a loss to the Irish would give Notre Dame the tiebreaker if the teams ended up with matching conference marks.

Notre Dame also partially controls its destiny with West Virginia, but the Irish would have to win in Morgantown this Wednesday. Only Pittsburgh and Connecticut have managed to do that thus far this year, and Villanova saw its six-game winning streak come to a grinding halt last weekend when the Wildcats lost by 21 points at West Virginia.

**Playing out the string:**

- **Seton Hall (14-10, 5-7)**
- **Georgetown (13-10, 4-8)**
- **USF (8-16, 3-9)**
- **St. John's (12-13, 3-10)**
- **Rutgers (10-15, 3-12)**
- **DePaul (8-18, 0-13)**

These teams are equivalent to a pre-pubescent middle school kid playing eighth-grade ball. They're struggling with their identity, trying to avoid the goose egg and the hits just keep coming. Take DePaul for example. The Blue Demons have a wireless conference record, and they're trying to win and try and avoid the goose egg in Big East play when they take on St. John's on Feb. 28.

**Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu**
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A C R O S S

36 Gore follower
37 Eponymous rink jump
39 Bring up
41 View from Long Is.
42 Ternynck women called "the Fair"
44 __________, one who wrote "The Crying Game"
45 _______ corner, who wrote "The Observer"
47 A writer may work on it
50 Long on screen
51 First name in architecture
54 One-hit of a skeleton Morse "O"
55 Child's art challenge
58 "Here, I can help you."

W I L L S H O R T Z

1 __________ of a line about "Henry's"
2 Not be honest about oneself
3 __________ in many slogs
4 __________ of a word
5 Down
6 __________ heading line
7 Thrill
8 1952 Doris Day hit that was an even bigger hit for the Lerttemeis in 1951
9 __________ (old name for hydrochloric acid)
10 Bbb ... young man in Dreiser's "Sister Carrie"
11 Web-based service
12 Be in charge of
13 Pointed extremely
14 __________ with a beta
15 First sitting president to visit the West Coast
16 In a minute; "..."
17 "Huh?"
18 It rises to a minute; "..."
19 It rains in the "Baltimore Sun"
20 Battle of the Philippine Islands
21 Mr. Wickfield's clerk, in literature
22 Narrow way
23 Efficacy, with "off"
24 One of the man waiting in "Waiting for Godot"
25 Passover month
26 Gentleman of the court
28 "Deal!"
29 __________ for, "waiting for Godot"
30 Troop group
31 Kind of dailey
32 Eternal:
33 __________, 1914
34 In the literature, "..."
35 Starting point
36 __________, with "off"
38 __________ of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-887-7-ACROSS.
39 Efface
40 __________, with "off"
41 __________ of the court
42 __________, with "off"
43 __________, with "off"
44 __________, with "off"
45 __________, with "off"
46 __________, with "off"
47 __________, with "off"
48 __________, with "off"
49 __________, with "off"
50 __________, with "off"
51 __________, with "off"
52 __________, with "off"
53 __________, with "off"
54 __________, with "off"
55 __________, with "off"
56 __________, with "off"
57 __________, with "off"
58 __________, with "off"
59 __________, with "off"
60 __________, with "off"
61 __________, with "off"

H O R O S C O P E


PATRICK GARTLAND

The Observer apologizes for the absence of The Forbidden Doughnut. It will return in Wednesday's newspaper.

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P A T R I C K G A R T L A N D

The Forbidden Doughnut

The Observer apologizes for the absence of The Forbidden Doughnut. It will return in Wednesday's newspaper.

THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

Bryant Young among new coaches brought in by Weis

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis held a press conference last Friday to hand out some new coaching titles.

Corwin Brown, Bob Ianello, Joe T egg and newcomer Frank Verducci were among those that received promotions. Weis also took the opportunity to formally introduce new running backs coach Tony Alford and new graduate assistant Bryant Young. Verducci, who was hired as an offensive line coach last month, was named the running game coordinator. Ianello and Tenuta are now the assistant head coaches of offense and defense, respectively, and Brown was promoted to associate head coach.

"We're trying to do everything we can to get this program to where it needs to be," Brown said. "Anything I can do to help our program get there, I'm going to do."

Weis said he's made the changes because he will take over as offensive coordinator now that Mike Haywood has moved on to the head-coaching job at Miami (Ohio).

Alford was hired to take over Haywood's role as running backs coach. He will be a big part of trying to turn around a running game that averaged just 3.3 yards per carry in 2008.

"I think we need to sit down as a staff, evaluate what we want to do and just get work," Alford said. Weis said he intends to concentrate on improving the running game as the new coordinator.

"I thought the best chance for us to win this year would be to make me the offensive coordinator," Weis said. "What that's done, though, is it's caused a trickle-down effect in configuration of our staff."

The promotions also make it possible for Weis to coach from the press box while seeing the action.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Running with the Bulls

ND will try to tame South Florida's potent 3-point game

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

With the regular season starting to wind down, each game becomes increasingly important — especially when you haven't been playing at your best.

The Irish have gone 3-5 over the last month, something Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she wants to change tonight at South Florida. But in order to do that, she said she is going to need to make sure her squad is focused on the task at hand.

"If we can just manage to make statements like the one we made to Michigan State on Nov. 29. The Irish will travel to Tampa to take on South Florida tonight.

See BULLS/page 20

ND Men's Basketball Analysis

Irish preserve NCAA hopes

Squad will probably have to win four of remaining six games

Hope is a wonderful thing. For Notre Dame and its fans, hope means being able to make statements like the following: If we can just manage to win four out of our last six games, we'll have a shot at a bye in the Big East Tournament and a slot in the NCAA Tournament.

Four wins would put the Irish at 18-12 overall and 9-9 in Big East play. That would put them on the bubble for both a top-eight Big East seed and an NCAA Tournament spot, meaning

see HOPE/page 21

Irish junior point guard Tory Jackson and his teammates are looking ahead to their final six regular-season games.

Hockey

Elite program deserves stellar free-standing rink

I never did get to write that angry column. All year it seems like my fellow beat writers and I have been alluding to the hockey program's desperate need for a facility upgrade, and we each promised — in prior columns — blog entries and casual conversations — to write a piece detailing the condition of the team's current rink and the status of a potential renovation.

But, as associate athletic director Tom Nevala said Thursday, "It's like that old proverb — good things come to those who wait."

Thursday's announcement that the University will begin construction on a free-standing ice arena next spring might be a few years overdue, but the important thing is the administration finally got it right. No college hockey program has won more games than Notre Dame since the start of the 2006-07 season, and the best deserve the best.

In that angry column, I would have explained how, despite the fact that "hockey has arrived at Notre Dame," as coach Jeff Jackson proclaimed Thursday, the Irish continue to play in the conference's — and potentially the nation's — worst facility. I would have bemoaned the