ND contributes $173,000 to tsunami relief

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

Various organizations sponsor charity events

EILEEN DUFFY /
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Whether by bidding on a Sri Lankan craft, buying a cookie or dropping some money into a collection box, many Notre Dame students and faculty have responded to the tsunami relief efforts — a $173,000 response, to be exact.

In the past two weeks, the Notre Dame community has acted on its Catholic creed of charity by donating money on behalf of those affected in the Dec. 26 disaster, especially students. The performance will be a silent auction and fundraiser in the Coleman-Morse Center to support relief efforts for victims of the tsunami in southeast Asia.

The Asian International Society coordinated a silent auction and fundraiser in the Coleman-Morse Center to support relief efforts for victims of the tsunami in southeast Asia.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members debate programming endowment

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

The Council of Representatives met Monday night to discuss the possible creation of an endowment to bring high-profile speakers and performers to campus.

Chief executive assistant Dave Baron said a fund would allow the University to attract big-name concerts and speakers.

"What we would do is create a fund of $1 million, so that every year we're making $50,000 to be used for concerts and speakers," Baron said.

According to Baron, an endowment fund of $1 million would be created for better programming on campus. The $50,000 it would generate annually would be used to help pay for major concerts or famous speakers.

The idea stems from last year's student body president Jeremy Liu's Board of Trustees report in May. Liu requested trustee support for a $1 million fund that would generate $50,000 per year. The endowment fund would begin with a $100,000 donation from student government. The money would be taken out of the "carry-over fund," which has served as a buffer fund for student government, in the event an office exceeds its budget. Because of accumulation from previous years of leftover funds, the account now includes $160,000.

Student body president Adam Malloy said in a statement.

Saint Mary's closes Haggar Center snack bar

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Assistant News Editor

The Haggar Snack Bar, a popular destination for hungry Saint Mary's students and staff, closed during winter break in anticipation of a cyber café set to open at the new student center in March.

The closure temporarily reduced the number of eateries on campus from four to three — the Noble Family Dining Hall, Dalloway's Clubhouse and the Cafe a la Carte in Madeleva Hall.

Dining Hall Manager Barry Bowles said he and other food service workers have made adjustments to accommodate students' appetites and schedules.

"Dalloway's has expanded its hours to cover all the hours Haggar would have covered," said Bowles.

The news operating hours at Dalloway's are Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. to midnight and Saturday and Sunday from noon to midnight.

Bowles also preserved the most popular item at the Haggar Snack Bar, the double-cheese burger. Students can now request the burger in the grill section of the dining hall.

While Dalloway's is located much further from any of the residence halls than Haggar, Bowles said he has received positive feedback from students.

The College recently closed the Haggar snack bar. A cyber café will open in March at the new student center.
The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, reserve the right to make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us as soon as possible so we can correct the error.

INSIDE COLUMN

B.A. B.S.
M.R.S.?

What is the first thing that a Saint Mary's girl does when she wakes up in the morning? Put her pants on and walks back to campus. What does a Saint Mary's girl have that a Notre Dame girl doesn't? A rejection letter. What a riot. These jokes came as quite a surprise to me. Before moving into Saint Mary's, I did not know anyone who had ever attended. I did, however, know a few Notre Dame alums. In all of my discussions with them, Notre Dame's distaste for Saint Mary's girl never came up.

They seemed just as proud as I was that I had chosen to attend a school like Saint Mary's. In case you haven't heard, Saint Mary's is number one in its category. This means that we have a reputation for being a great school as well. My college search ended when I visited Saint Mary's. No, I did not apply to Notre Dame and get rejected, therefore settling for Saint Mary's. I choose this school without any consideration for Notre Dame. All of us did not settle.

I am confident that my education will prepare me in the best way possible to impact the world. Saint Mary's has a number of great programs in which many Notre Dame students take part. Considering how wonderful Saint Mary's is on its own, I needed no extra persuasion. Therefore, Notre Dame had no bearing on my decision to come to South Bend. This means that I am not looking for a husband, and my goal in life is not to get my M.R.S. degree.

I am not spending my time securing Notre Dame for boys — I don't want to steal them from you. It is also not my fault that we have a reputation, so please, when you hear I am from Saint Mary's, keep your smirks to yourself, and girls, keep your dirty looks as well. I am just looking to get a great education from a superb women's college and have a good night every once in a while. I am not out to take anything from you.

Although you may not be fond of me, I have respect for Notre Dame, its students and its traditions. I am thankful that I have the opportunity to take part in all that your campus has to offer, including The Observer and I love taking pictures so that everyone can see what is happening on my little campus across the street.

I know many wonderful Notre Dame students, and I hoped you knew many more. So please, the next time my friends and I catch the "slutle," open your minds and give us a chance. We are no different than you.

Contact Kelly Higgins at khiggin61@stmarys.edu.
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

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BOG members talk about a student presidential election petition and debate election procedures at Monday's meeting.

**Tsunami continued from page 1**

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME WASHINGTON PROGRAM**

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**Saint Mary’s Board of Governance met Monday to discuss the petition from the student presidential ticket not allowed to run.**

Because only two months remained in the current BOG’s term, the board voted to send all of the signatures to one organization, the Salesian Fathers, who have institutions in several areas in India that were affected by the tsunami and focus their efforts on helping to raise and educate children.

In other BOG news:

- Senior Megan Scallen, a public relations intern for the College Football Hall of Fame, spoke to the BOG about working to promote activities the Hall of Fame will sponsor.
- Student Activities Board will sponsor “Write the Troops,” Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Dalloways and will continue to sponsor the event every month for the rest of the academic year.

Contact Kelly Bale at Bale01@saintmarys.edu

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Tickets
continued from page 1
reverted," Barkes said. "The Philharmonic wanted some seats — they didn't know how many people would be coming." Freshman Francisco Castillo said organizers seriously underestimated student demand and he was not hopeful about receiving a ticket. "I'm quite concerned. It's unfair. The University should try to just do more than one performance," Barkes said. Students and other individuals picked in the lottery would be e-mailed about their status during the next couple days. During winter break, the PAC sent an e-mail explaining the lottery process in which each student chosen would be able to purchase a single ticket. Students in the lottery had mixed reactions to the lottery system. "At least we're getting a fair chance," said graduate student Belinda Byrne. "I would've preferred it if there had been two tickets [per winning lottery number]." Because this was one of the first high-profile events of its kind at the PAC, Barkes said it was difficult to anticipate student interest exactly but organizers expected it to be high. "I'm certainly pleased with the numbers of students that responded," he said. This performance marks the first time the PAC has used a lottery for student tickets. Barkes said: "With the exception of very few events, students have been able to get into everything they've wanted to get into," he said. Although not particularly concerned about the lottery process, sophomore Margaret Auer said she intended to wait for the results and hoped to be chosen. "It's something I personally was really interested in," she said.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

COR
continued from page 1
Istvan said the excess money in the carry-over fund would comfortably cover the cost of student government's initial investment in the endowment. "We will never run a $160,000 debt," Istvan said. "We could easily take $100,000 and still have more than enough protection." Council members debated how to raise the remaining $900,000 for the endowment. Siegfried senator James Leito endorsed the idea but emphasized the need for research before further action is taken. "The problem is that a lot of work still needs to be done before we can write a charter for this. Who will manage it?" Leito asked. "What groups will be able to withdraw from it and how much will they be allowed to collect?" Leito told representatives that he met with Father Mark O'Meara, vice president for student affairs, to discuss the matter but it was not received well. "From his perspective, we have just recently come up with the idea," Leito said. "He doesn't think we've done enough research, and he said it will not be part of his tenure plan." Council members also expressed concern over whether the endowment would draw speakers or musical guests to campus. Student Union Board Manager Jimmy Flaherty noted a $1 million endowment providing $50,000 a year would not necessarily be adequate enough to bring large concerts to campus. "To be honest, if we're talking about bringing in Dave Matthews, it's not enough money," Flaherty said. "To put on a show the way it should be for him would cost between $250,000 and $500,000." Flaherty said choosing to allocate the fund to speakers instead of musicians would be more beneficial and practical. "It is going to be harder to commit to donate money for a big U2 concert," he said. Leito agreed, but said that if the endowment fund could be increased, then the likelihood of bringing big-name musicians would increase. "This is a 100-percent academic campus and speakers will serve an academic purpose. But I don't think we should completely avoid concerts," Leito said. "If we are going to get the big names, then we need to shoot for the moon." Cavanaugh senator Jordán Bonfigliani reminded representatives of the need to pursue the interests of the students on campus. Since the initial donation made by student government is ultimately from the students themselves. "Where the money came from is going to influence where it is going," she said. "The money is from students and for students, so they need to be considered in where it's going." Student body vice president Karla Bell assigned various members of COR a committee that will research the possibilities of an endowment fund being used to purchase new computers, which each student chosen would be able to withdraw from in the future. "I'm certainly pleased with the numbers of students that responded," he said. This performance marks the first time the PAC has used a lottery for student tickets. Barkes said: "With the exception of very few events, students have been able to get into everything they've wanted to get into," he said. Although not particularly concerned about the lottery process, sophomore Margaret Auer said she intended to wait for the results and hoped to be chosen. "It's something I personally was really interested in," she said.

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Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone30@nd.edu

Closing
continued from page 1
bus from students and staff has increased, said Bowles. "Traffic has been increas­ ing steadily to the point where it is almost as good as what was at Haggar," said Bowles. "The bigger concern for me is the stu­ dents. [The wait time at Dalloway's] should be getting shorter because the students over there are getting trained." Some of the cooking appliances in Haggar will be moved and used in the new cyber café, said Bowles, but most of it will be sold and replaced with new ones. No decision has been made on future use of the space the snack bar previ­ ously occupied. Employers who had for­ merly worked in Haggar were re-assigned to other positions on campus, said Bowles. Some moved to Dalloway's while others now work in the dining hall of catering services. "The opportunity was given to students as well that if they wanted they could pick up hours at the dining hall," said Bowles. Contact Megan O'Neil at oneo907@ndmails.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Palestinian militants hurl attacks
Gaza City, Gaza Strip — Militant groups have agreed to temporarily halt attacks on Israel, a trial period before a formal truce agreement, to give Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas time to appeal to Israel to stop targeting militants, Palestinian officials said Monday.

The movement toward a cease-fire, coupled with efforts by Palestinian police to stop militants from firing rockets from Gaza into Israel, has raised hopes that a deal can be reached to end four years of bloody conflict between the two sides.

In the only serious incident Monday, soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian, who was in a rocket near the Karmi crossing between Gaza and Israel apparently planning to plant a bomb. Army Radio and the military said. On Jan. 13, Palestinian attackers killed five Israelis at the crossing.

Saddam's lawyer receives threats
AMMAN, Jordan — An Iraqi lawyer on Saddam Hussein’s defense team has received several death threats in the last three weeks and has gone into hiding, the chief defense attorney for the deposed Iraqi leader said Monday.

Khalil al-Duleimi, one of 25 attorneys representing Saddam, told other lawyers on the team that the threats followed his Dec. 16 meeting with the ousted Iraqi leader, according to chief defense attorney Ziad al-Qusawawi.

Saddam was arraigned in a Baghdad court in July 2004 on charges of war crimes and genocide. He is awaiting trial.

Al-Duleimi claimed that several messages were received on the cell phone of the suicide cell had been formed specifically to intimidate him so that he would set an example to all other attorneys who have volunteered to defend Saddam.

NATIONAL NEWS

March held to protest Roe v. Wade
WASHINGTON — Abortion protesters marched Thursday along chilly Washington on Monday embracing the.Tag as "local" could place taxpayer dollars at risk, the Government Accountability Office said Monday.

The government has long counseled schools as eligible lenders under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, giving students another place to turn for financial aid. Yet over the last decade, colleges have embraced the program as a way to make money — revenue often used to help lower costs for students, but also in fix up campuses or to recruit new students.

Local loan programs need improvement
WASHINGTON — Local government programs that lack oversight of a rapidly growing program that lets colleges lend money and turn a profit at the expense, congressional auditors say.

Without improvement, the Federal Student Aid office “may be unaware of practices that could place taxpayer dollars at risk,” the Government Accountability Office said Monday.

The government has long counseled schools as eligible lenders under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, giving students another place to turn for financial aid. Yet over the last decade, colleges have embraced the program as a way to make money — revenue often used to help lower costs for students, but also in fix up campuses or to recruit new students.

WASHINGTON — Twenty-three terror suspects tried to hang or strangle themselves during a week-long protest orchestrated in 2003 to disrupt operations and undermine the military base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the U.S. military said Monday.

Officials had previously reported the incidents, which are military called "self-injurious behavior" aimed at getting attention rather than serious suicide attempts.

The coordinated attempts were among 150 "self-harm" incidents that year, including 120 so-called "hanging gestures," at the secretive prison that opened after the Sept. 11 attacks, according to Lt. Col. Leon Sumpter, a spokesman for the detention mission.

In the Aug. 18-26, 2003, protest, nearly two dozen prisoners tried to hang or strangle themselves to get attention, the U.S. Southern Command in Miami said in a statement. Ten detainees made a mass attempt on Aug. 22 alone.

Last year, there were 110 self-harm incidents, Sumpter said.

The 23 prisoners were in steel mesh cells and can talk to neighbors. It would not be possible to pass notes, and they are allowed to exercise only one at a time.

Only two of the 23 were considered suicide attempts — requiring hospitalization and psychiatric treatment. Officials said they did not distinguish between a suicide attempt in which a detainee could have died without intervention, and a "gesture" aimed at getting attention.

Sixteen of the 23 remain at Guantanamo; seven have been transferred to other countries.

The military has reported 34 suicide attempts since the camp opened in January 2002, including one prisoner who went into a coma and sustained memory loss from brain damage.

The 2003 protests came as the camp suffered a rash of suicide attempts after Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller took command with a mandate to get more information from prisoners accused of links to al-Qaida or Afghanistan’s ousted Taliban regime, which had sheltered Osama bin Laden.

Critics linked the two and criticized the delay in reporting the incidents.

"When you have suicide attempts or so-called self-harm incidents, it shows the type of impact indefensible detention policy can have, but it also points to the extreme measures the Pentagon is taking to cover up things that have happened in Guantánamo," said Alastair Hodgett, a spokesman for Amnesty International in Washington, D.C.

"What we've seen is that it wasn't simply a rotation of forces (guards) but an attempt to toughen up the interrogation techniques and processes," he added.

Dr. Daryl Matthews, a forensic psychiatrist at the University of Hawaii, said he believed he was misled during a visit to Guantanamo in June 2003 to investigate and make recommendations about detainees’ mental health care. At the request of the Army surgeon general.

"There were many things I wanted to see that I was precluded from seeing, particularly with the interrogations," Matthews told The Associated Press in a telephonic interview. "In no way did I get honest or accurate information. I feel like I was being systematically misled."

He criticized some practices, and said it was "appalling" that medical professionals shared detainees’ medical records with interrogators.

Some 558 prisoners are at Guantánamo Bay, many held for more than three years without charge or access to attorneys.

LOCAL NEWS

Hoosier soldier killed in Iraq
TERRE HAUTE — A soldier from Terre Haute has been killed while serving in Iraq, his family said.

Army Sgt. Kyle William Childress, 29, died on Friday while serving with the 1st Cavalary Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, his family said. The 1st Cavalary Division is currently deployed in Iraq.

Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division are among the 35,000 troops in a task force working in the Baghdad area on security and other missions in Iraq.

Mass suicide attempt at Gitmo

23 terror suspects tried to hang or strangle themselves during 2003 protest


Forces capture 'lethal' al-Qaida leader


Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Regulators rejected 36 complaints of indecency Monday against popular TV shows including "Friends" and "The Simpsons." The objections had been filed with the Federal Communications Commission by the Parents Television Council, a watchdog group that frequently complains about sex and violence on television.

"In context, none of the segments were patently offensive under contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, and thus not indecent," the agency said in a statement. The FCC also ruled "the material was not profane, in context.

Three members of the five-member FCC approved the orders. Chairman Michael Powell and Kathleen Abernathy, both Republicans, and Democrat Jonathan Adelstein. The two other commissioners, Democrat Michael Copps and Republican Kevin Martin, dissented on points of the rulings.

Copps said in a statement that the agency should have performed a more thorough investigation. "I believe that some of these broadcasts present a much more close call," he said.

Powell announced last week he was leaving the FCC in March. Martin, who has been rumored to be among candidates to replace him as chairman, did not comment Monday but said he would issue a statement at a later date.

An FCC official said the 36 complaints were grouped together because they all dealt with the Parents Television Council, but the official did not comment about why complaints filed by other groups over other shows were not included.

Lara Mahaney, a spokeswoman for the council, said her group has complaints about dozens of other shows pending.

"In what community in America are graphic terms for genitalia decent?" she asked.

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled Monday to step in and keep a severely brain-damaged woman hooked to a feeding tube. All but ending a long-running right-to-die battle pitting her husband against her parents.

It was the second time the Supreme Court dodged the politically charged case from Florida, where Republican Gov. Jeb Bush successfully lobbied the Legislature to pass a law to keep 41-year-old Terri Schiavo on life support.

The decision was criticized as 'judicial homicide' by Mrs. Schiavo's father, Robert Schindler, but applauded by her husband, Michael Schiavo, who contends his wife never wanted to be kept alive artificially.

The court's action is very narrow, affecting only Schiavo.

More broadly, sometime after returning from their winter break, the justices will consider the Bush administration's request to block the nation's only law allowing doctors to help terminally ill patients die more quickly. Oregon voters passed that law in 1994, and more states could follow if justices find that the federal government cannot punish doctors who prescribed lethal doses of federally controlled drugs.

Schiavo was 26 when she suffered brain damage in 1990 after her heart temporarily stopped beating because of an eating disorder. The national ruling ended a long battle in federal court over whether she should be kept alive.

"If judicial homicide. They want to murder her." said Robert Schindler.

The Florida Supreme Court ruled that the law was an unconstitutional effort to override federal court rulings. The nation's highest court refused without comment to disturb that decision.

"It is judicial homicide. They want to murder her," Robert Schindler said. "I have no idea what the next step will be. We're going to fight for her as much as we can fight for her. She deserves a more thorough investigation.

George Felos, the attorney for Michael Schiavo, said his client will have his wife's feeding tube removed as soon as pending appeals are over and a stay is lifted.

"You get to look at it from his perspective — he's a citizen living in Clearwater (Fla.) and up against the weight of the governor and Legislature of the state of Florida — a governor whose brother is president of the United States. That was a very, very difficult and long fight. We were very relieved that the rule of law prevailed," Felos said.

Mrs. Schiavo, who has lived in nursing homes, can breathe on her own but depends on a feeding tube to stay alive because she cannot swallow on her own. She left no written directive. Her parents contend their son-in-law is trying to rush her death so he can inherit her estate and be free to marry again. The Schindlers lost an emergency Supreme Court appeal in 2001.

The case now goes back to state Judge George Greer, who already has ruled the feeding tube can be removed.

"While there are still legal options available in Florida, the Supreme Court's refusal to take the case makes it more difficult for those legal options to prevail," said Jay Sekulow, the American Center for Law and Justice chief counsel who represented the Schindlers at the Supreme Court.

The Schindlers were in Florida on Monday, participating in a right-to-life march organized as part of the 32nd anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion.

Ken Connor, one of the lawyers who represented Bush at the high court, said: "The reality is that in Florida, convicted capital felons receive more due process protection than Terri Schiavo has received in this case."
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A jury was selected Monday for Richard Scrushy's corruption trial as the fired HealthSouth CEO asked the judge to bar testimony about investor losses in an accounting scandal at the rehabilitation chain.

The trial of 12 and six alternates was chosen in a courtroom closed to the public, with news media observing on closed-circuit television. The panel's composition was not known.

U.S. District Judge Karen Bobbitt told the jurors to return Tuesday for opening statements.

In a filing late Sunday, attorneys for Scrushy said he is not contesting the existence of a scheme to inflate earnings "but, rather, that he was unaware of it and was not a knowing participant."

The Scrushy defense said that since he is not contesting that others at HealthSouth falsified financial reports, jurors do not need to hear anything about its impact on investors. Prosecutors have said earnings were inflated by $2.6 billion from 1996 to 2002.

Scrushy, 52, has pleaded not guilty to a 58-count indictment that includes charges of fraud, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, perjury, money laundering and false corporate reports in the first test of the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Anne Kennedy removes snow from her car in Boston on Monday. The recent winter storm will likely increase demands for heating oil and minimize gas consumption.

In BJEF

Stocks slumped on Iraqi election

NEW YORK — Stocks slumped in listless trading Monday amid concerns about the upcoming Iraqi election and rising oil prices. The major indexes closed at their lowest levels of the year.

Market watchers were growing increasingly concerned that a stalling slide in stocks, which some analysts blamed on Wall Street's strong fourth quarter performance, a car bomb attack in Baghdad, targeting the prime minister's party headquarters, did little to ease the anxiety of investors ahead of Friday's Jan. 30 election. Oil prices declined early in the day, but settled up 28 cents at $48.81 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"In general, the market is waiting for the elections in Iraq," said Barry Berman, head trader for Robert W. Baird & Co. in Milwaukee. "And oil prices have been on the move up for the past week."

"Presumably, some of this fear premium in the market will come out, providing nothing astronautical happens," he said.

While Iraq has been plagued with many local terrorist strikes this month, none have had global ramifications. Even so, it is too soon to tell what will happen during the next six days.

In Nigeria, oil unions pushed back Monday's plan to strike until Tuesday in order to meet with the Nigerian government's labor ministry officials. The strike, which seeks tooust two oil indus-

try executives from the company, could cut off more than 500,000 barrels a day of oil production.

In other trading, silver futures at the Nymex settled up after fund and dealer buyers were drawn into the market by the initially firm industrial metals arena and early weakness in the U.S. dollar against other currencies.

The most active March contract settled 4.8 cents higher in New York on finishing up 10 cents at $426.60 an ounce. April gold finished up 10 cents to $429.30 an ounce.

Spot gold in New York finished up 10 cents at $426.60 an ounce. April palladium gained $2.90 to $872.20 an ounce, while March palladium rose $5 cents to $192.90 an ounce.

Supply concerns combining with Northeast winter storm lift crude-oil futures

Temperatures fall, oil prices rise

NEW YORK — Crude-oil futures settled slightly higher in New York on Monday, as supply concerns mixed with freezing temperatures in the Northeast United States to lift prices. In other markets, commodity trading, silver futures seasonally were close so far in 2005.

Upperman in oil traders' minds was named to the co-chief post this month under which it will acquire six of A TA ' s carrier, which reached a $117 million deal last March for $80 million to restructure its debt as it prepares to emerge from bankruptcy.

Gilbert Viets, a former Arthur Andersen executive, stepped aside. Scrushy said he is not contesting the existence of a scheme to inflate earnings "but, rather, that he was unaware of it and was not a knowing participant."

The judge had no comment on the latest Scrushy defense request. The filing by Scrushy's lawyers said the government is expected to show that a huge fraud took place, including testimony from all five former chief financial officers of the company that they had "direct conversations" with Scrushy about the scheme. Since Scrushy is not challenging the existence of fraud at HealthSouth, there is no need for victims to testify about the financial harm they suffered, the defense said.

The only real issue for the jury to decide is whether or not Richard Scrushy was a knowing participant in the scheme to defraud," the defense said.

In the New York Mercantile Exchange, which some analysts blamed on Wall Street's strong fourth quarter performance, a car bomb attack in Baghdad, targeting the prime minister's party headquarters, did little to ease the anxiety of investors ahead of Friday's Jan. 30 election.
Reflection on the Inauguration

Despite long delays and Friday's blizzard, our small group managed to make it out to Washington for last week's Inauguration. It was great to be back in Washington to see the spectacle of thousands of Texans getting in the way of native Washingtonians on the Metro, as well as the glare of some liberal cliques clinging to their "Kerry Edwards" buttons in some form of therapy.

From my experiences of the city in our Washington Program, I could easily pick out the D.C. natives against the throngs of tourists. Sometimes I could not help but get mad myself as large groups of various fellow red state voters choked up the escalators and violated many parts of what I learned to be the unwritten rules of east coast etiquette. As I began to notice some trends in the behavior of the two groups, I began my own version of an informal social science study through observation.

Despite all this, the throngs of red states had some very surprising and redeeming qualities that I didn't see in their D.C. counterparts. At many random times on the Metro, some would say hello and start a conversation. This felt very comfortable dressing in some of the tackiest souvenir sweatshirts and hats I have ever seen. All of these traits were very stereotypically American, and in our grand traditions of being the ever annoying optimists, I began to notice some redeeming qualities that I didn't see in my experiences of America.

Collectively, they share in the pain of those who have unfortunately lost the war in Iraq. At many of the Inaugural Balls, Veterans were honored for their service and given free invitations. Debuting yet another myth of Republicans, we did not celebrate this inauguration alonе to the sacrifices that brave heroes have made.

At the Indiana Ball, the so-called "evil corporations" sponsoring this event paid for veterans and their families to attend for free. The Toyota Corporation has even started a program under which employees called to Iraq for service will keep their full pay and benefits for the duration of their tour of duty. Although expensive, these parties were not the obscure elitist playgrounds liberals wish to depict them as, but places where service and volunteerism were celebrated.

The efforts of the left to simplify our party to radical Christians and heartless slaves to corporate interests are just not true. Republicans celebrating in Washington last week all shared somehow in the service of their country. Indeed, there was some of the wealthy minority in attendance who could best help the party through generous donations. Aside from that, many of the attendance put many of their evening hours in on campaigns, worked phone banks and walked door to door to push for an agenda we believed in.

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Johnny Carson, the famed NBC “Tonight Show” host of almost 30 years, died last weekend after an extended
story of news broadcasts for most, if not all, of Sunday
afternoon. The day before his retirement (many of us were still
in elementary school), some may argue how much his death actually
affects this generation.

“More than you think,” we respond. It is likely a study of any, of
us know Carson’s work personally; even then, how many this youth-
ful college crowd could recall a “favorite” moment they saw on Carson’s show?

No matter what, Carson passed off the “Tonight Show” laugh-masters duties to current host Jay Leno in the spring of 1992. To put things in perspective, at the time, Leno was nearing the end of third season, air-
ing the now well-known phrase “The PEZ Dispenser.” (Many fans were still well the episode, but probably because of the show’s now widespread syndication.) We might not be able to recall any personal memories of Carson’s stint, but his effect on late-night can still be felt to this day. As for Carson the man: we were not alone in our oblique
in activity, few people knew Carson well. He was known as a good man who led a private life—Joan Rivers, who often filled in for Carson on CNN, once said, “Nobody
got to know him... He was very private.”

Rivers, much like Jerry Seinfeld and others, got her career break off Carson during his run on “Tonight.” Many others, including Leno, Ball State alumni and
CBS “Late Night” host David Letterman, Robin Williams and George Carlin, got their big breaks while Carson was at the helm, according to history.

Had it not been for his treasured wave over the
guest coach, many actors whom this generation has grown to love would not exist in the entity they do today. Carson has always had modern late-
night television and comedy’s debt and gratitude; he deserved
it.

And for that, we bid him a “very heartfelt farewell.”

This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Daily Iowan, the daily publication at Ball State University.

Why are students liberal?

What makes college students liberal? The liberal answer is they want to make the world better. Then, again, just about everyone in this country feels that for one in one way or
another. The polarized answer is most college
students are young, spoiled and a bit sheltered. Whether or not that’s true, it is hard to explain away because of, or not, motivational. The complete answer to why many students are liberal requires an examination of external rewards, because no one is free from her or his selfish human drives.

Status: Young people strive for status by associating themselves with people who have status and the values honored by those people. Most people have status on the basis of who their parents are, but many also associate or identify with those with political status, politicians and entertainers. By commis-
ting themselves to liberal values, youth seek to acquire value. This is understandable, because without status, one doesn’t have any agency, and without agency, life has little meaning.

Stability: Liberalism offers the young, oftentimes emotionally shifty group (the Iraq war, for example), a sturdy, simple frame-
work for understanding the philosophical, social and even physical order of things.

Self-esteem: What young adult doesn’t like being told “good job” by approving authority figures? When those authority figures are overwhelmingly liberal, the clearest route to positive reinforcement involves developing and expressing sensibilities that professors are flattered with, as opposed to challenged by.

Security: Being frivolously accused of everything from racism to xenophobia by activist students is no way to spend four years of college (especially when fellow students and assistants feel powerless about discouraging disruptive behavior). Disassociating from unpopular conservative philosophy will shelter most students from this type of degrading treatment by their peers.

Legitimacy: Many students get their first taste of the adult world of politics through college courses and activism, no matter how small a difference they make, or even if they negatively affect America, participating in both). Liberals, never one to fail an echo chamber, are quick to claim that the American political philosophy society has deemed “progressive” politics a strong force that is one contributing to the social good.

Undiagnosis: In the past, defin-
ingen grievances in liberal terms, no matter how exaggerated they were, allowed students a forum to exercise their most destructive drives with minimal repercussions. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, groups such as the Students for Democratic Society harassed professors and other student burned books and took over buildings, fearing nothing more than an occasional expul-
sion from conflict-phobic administrators (as for National Guard troops, that’s another story). Liberals know this, which is why they romanticize the Vietnam War era. Even today, liberal acting out is often rewarded in the long run. Liberals know that Michael Moore is a liar and a propagandist, but they echo his arguments and buy his movies anyway.

Empathy: Liberalism offers a form of love contingent on the acceptor’s self as a victim of a callous American society. Because it’s necessary to at least maintain the appearance of victimhood, liberalism encourages the focus of liberal kindness, liberalism encourages grievance-collecting or worse.

In case you haven’t heard, Harvard University President Larry Summers suggested
during a conference discrimination may not be keeping women from earning top posi-
tions in the sciences at top universities. He listed other possible reasons for under-
representation could be innate biological dif-
fences between men and women and that they perhaps haven’t been willing to sacri-
ifice family for career as readily as men have. One alleged professional, biologist Nancy
Henderson, walked out of the conference, explaining afterward she “...could have either blacked out or thrown up” had she stayed. Liberals could have let her know it’s a little pathetic to claim being offended can make one black out or throw up. Instead, liberals accepted Hopkins’s hypocrisy and legitimized her pettiness, as well as the presumption that Summers couldn’t have said the things he did in good faith.

Blatant patronization may be low, but it still feels good to be on the receiving end of it.

In contrast, universities that offer disso-
dervatives the distinction of not being part of the dripping melange of liberal hypocrisy.

No wonder students are liberal.

This column originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Daily Iowan, the daily publication at the University of Iowa.

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

Staff Editorial

Ball State
University
Daily News

Northern Illinois University
Northern Star

Northern Illinois
University

U-WIRE

Late-night loses a star

Johnny Carson, the famed NBC “Tonight Show” host of almost 30 years, died last weekend after an extended story of news broadcasts for most, if not all, of Sunday afternoon. The day before his retirement (many of us were still in elementary school), some may argue how much his death actually affects this generation.

“More than you think,” we respond. It is likely a study of any, of us know Carson’s work personally; even then, how many this youthful college crowd could recall a “favorite” moment they saw on Carson’s show?

No matter what, Carson passed off the “Tonight Show” laugh-masters duties to current host Jay Leno in the spring of 1992. To put things in perspective, at the time, Leno was nearing the end of third season, airing the now well-known phrase “The PEZ Dispenser.” (Many fans were still well the episode, but probably because of the show’s now widespread syndication.)

We might not be able to recall any personal memories of Carson’s stint, but his effect on late-night can still be felt to this day. As for Carson the man: we were not alone in our oblique in activity, few people knew Carson well. He was known as a good man who led a private life—Joan Rivers, who often filled in for Carson on CNN, once said, “Nobody got to know him... He was very private.”

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Had it not been for his treasured wave over the guest coach, many actors whom this generation has grown to love would not exist in the entity they do today. Carson has always had modern late-night television and comedy’s debt and gratitude; he deserved it.

And for that, we bid him a “very heartfelt farewell.”

This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Daily News, the daily publication at Ball State University.

P.E. needed in schools now more than ever

A weak body is a poor home for a strong mind. Schools across the country should remember this before cutting physical education programs.

In the face of tight budgets and increased demands for "results" — good test scores — some schools have cut or decreased P.E. programs in elementary and secondary schools. Illinois is the only state that requires daily physical education for students through senior year. Other states should take note.

In Tennessee, for example, only 18 percent of high school seniors take part in a P.E. class, according to CNN.com.

About 30 percent of young people are deemed overweight or obese, according to a Dec. 27 article in the Washington Times. Extra pounds can lead to greater risks for a number of ailments, including diabetes, hypertension, cancer, heart disease and depression.

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies has called for increased “opportunities for frequent, more intensive and engaging physical activity during and after school” to improve students’ health.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has even declared obesity an epidemic.

With this in mind, physical education is more important than ever. Keeping students active helps head off obesity and lets them work off energy so they can better focus on homework. P.E. also teaches students kinetic skills and builds teamwork. It can provide students with a foundation for health, upon which they can build the rest of their lives.

Critics of physical education say classes are often poorly run, with teachers facing little accountability. While these may be legitimate complaints, addressing them directly would be more productive than reducing or cutting programs altogether.

Physical education is still just that — education.

This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Northern Illinois University’s daily publication at Northern Illinois University.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
‘Closer’ seduces with dark outlook on relationships

By MARY SQUILLACE
Scene Critic

Trust. Honesty. Forgiveness. While these traits are generally closely associated, they have no place in director Mike Nichols’ (“The Graduate,” “Angels in America”) examination of relationships. In his film “Closer,” love is not blind. It’s naked and complicated and often wielded deviously. The film is an adaptation of Patrick Marber’s hit play. Following its 1997 debut in London, the play received rave reviews and continued to garner awards when it opened in the United States.

The cast consists of only four characters, and does not feature one central protagonist. Instead, the emphasis is placed on the characters’ interactions with each other. Jude Law plays Dan, an obituary writer and aspiring novelist. At the start of the film, Dan falls for Alice (Natalie Portman) who immediately charms him with her youthful spirit and subtle seductiveness. However, when Dan meets Anna (Julia Roberts), a photographer, his relationship with Alice becomes severely complicated.

The flirtation between Anna and Dan quickly evolves into a full-blown affair, and Larry (Clive Owen) and Alice, their respective lovers, turn to each other as they simultaneously combat this infidelity. While their affair lasts, they thrive, falter and ultimately fail in their relationship only with its beginning or ending. In this way, he presents just enough that is vastly different from his recent roles in “I Heart the Huckabees” and “Cold Mountain.” Portman, a rising star in Hollywood, proves herself worthy of her recent Golden Globe with a focused and convincing performance.

However, in spite of being the least recognizable of the cast, the film’s other Golden Globe recipient, Owen (who originally played Dan in the London stage production) arguably delivers the film’s best performance. At times his character teeters on the brink of self-destruction, and Owen aptly embodies the complexity of the character. The collective work of the cast lends itself to a powerful finished product.

With “Closer,” Nichols creates a seductive darkness that tempts the viewer to fully engage him or herself, by making assumptions, evaluations and judgments. The nature of this tale is one that undoubtedly lingers long after the screening, as it presents a disorienting yet gripping commentary on relationships.

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‘Noise’ fails in hackneyed attempt at success

By MARK REMENDER
Scene Critic

In many instances, Hollywood is a lot like a math course. For instance, Hollywood directors and into their theorize, test and debate with their films. “White Noise,” is one such example, and writer Niall Johnson show they have a firm grasp on hackneyed formulas.

“White Noise,” under the combined might of Sax and Johnson, is another uninspired, formulaic piece of Hollywood designed to capitalize on the success of “The Ring,” “The Sixth Sense” and most recently, “The Grudge.” And while it succeeds on some levels, it falls miserably on others.

The plot revolves around a recent widower, Jonathan Rivers, who is able to communicate to his deceased wife in “White Noise.” In other scenes, he changes his roles in “I Heart the Huckabees” and “Cold Mountain.” Portman, a rising star in Hollywood, proves herself worthy of her recent Golden Globe with a focused and convincing performance.

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Contact Mark Bemenderfer
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Unoriginality keeps sequel from ‘Parents’ greatness

By CHRIS KEPNER
Scene Critic

Ah, the sequel. Hollywood’s favorite dirty little trick. Take a good film (or at least the standards on this vary to include some real stinkers), sign on as many of the original actors as possible, extend the original plot, add a few twists and presto! (You’ve probably) got yourself another blockbuster!

Meet the Parents’ was a good film. It explored a comedic situation that hadn’t been overly explored in previous films of the same genre, like war epics. And though it wasn’t the most original film of all time, “Meet the Parents” had a very fresh vibe to it that couldn’t help but suck you in.

Now for some reason the excitement over “Meet the Fockers” was uncommonly high given the circumstances. There was a sequel enjoying a very situational position where the public wanted it more than the studio wanted to shoot it down our throats. That makes it no wonder to the hype.

“Meet the Fockers” meet expectations? Well, first you have to decide what your expectations are. If you expect a sequel with recycled jokes and a strikingly unoriginal and tooth-gnashing predictable plot continuation, then the answer is yes. If you expect an adequately entertaining film with a healthy amount of laughs, then the answer is also yes.

So maybe it’s not original. So maybe it isn’t significantly funnier than “Meet the Parents.” So what? In short, if you lower your expectations you will probably enjoy “Meet the Fockers.”

Hoffman really is hilarious. If for no other reason, he makes this film worth seeing. He plays Mr. Focker as an outgoing, physically affecionate man that shares his wife’s forwardness about all things sexual. Could you see the opposite role to Robert De Niro’s Jack Byrnes in any other way? Hoffman and De Niro, two brilliant actors with previous experience playing together, are a special pair to watch in these two roles.

But it comes at the cost of plot and character development, her character, their characters—lack thereof, is the driving force of “Meet the Fockers.”

Barbra Streisand probably will surprise moviegoers with her portrayal of Mrs. Focker. For an actor without a whole lot of experience in comedic roles, Streisand performs as if she’s done nothing else in her career. But the writing is another matter. You’ve got Stiller, De Niro, Hoffman, Streisand and a brilliant supporting cast. Why does the audience have to listen to the film’s unnatural, sophomoric dialogue?

And was there really an urgency you had to outdo the most over-the-top hit in “Meet the Parents”? You know, the one with the cat peeing on the ashes of Jack’s mother? And if you absolutely had to do so, was dropping Greg’s shriveled foreskin from the scrapbook into the fondue the best that you could come up with? It’s title, sloppy and lazy.

Meet the Fockers

Director: Jay Roach
Writers: John Hamburg and James Herzfeld
Starring: Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Barbara Streisand, Blythe Danner and Owen Wilson

The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

By BRIAN DOXTATER
Scene Critic

Alfred Hitchcock called them “macguffins”—objects being pursued in a film whose function was to set in motion the masl storyline. In “The Life Aquatic,” the macguffin itself was less important than its purpose: to motivate the characters and drive the story.

The title character of “The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou” spends most of the film half-heartedly hunting the Leopard Shark which ate his friend and mentor. When he finds the shark, he is unexpectedly transcendent and deftly, a scene which seems to work, but for all the wrong reasons. Such is the staff of director Wes Anderson’s new film, which revolves back toward insular filmmaking after the critical success of “The Royal Tenenbaums.”

Even more idiosyncratic than his previous work, “The Life Aquatic” is a cinematic odyssey almost to the point of nonsense. Yet the film has enough charm in its quaintness to make a film that is still consistently entertaining and sporadically excellent, especially since he has a perfect secret weapon in star Bill Murray. Murray’s charisma and screen presence overrides the director’s smirking filmic attitude and proves once again both the aging actor’s comedic and dramatic mettle.

The plot involves aging Guinness-esque aquatic explorer and filmmaker Steve Zissou (Bill Murray), whose nature documentaries are starting to have diminishing returns. On his last voyage out, his best friend is eaten by a new species of shark and Zissou vows revenge. He sets out on his boat, “The Belafonte,” with his rag-tag, grossly unpaid interns. Matters are complicated by the appearance of Ned (Owen Wilson), who may or may not be Zissou’s son, and Jane (Cate Blanchett), a pregnant reporter trying to write a cover story on the washed-out seafarer.

The biggest problem with “The Life Aquatic” is plot, or lack thereof. The film never has an assured drive and instead touches on everything under the sun. It crosses genres uncomfortably with mixed results. Depending on when you walk in, the film is a revenge story, a sea-faring adventure, a complicated meditation on paternity, a romantic comedy or an action film. Instead of being a thoroughly engaging and grand, the scope of the film serves to make it seem cluttered and unfocused.

The film’s performances are equally quirky, but uniformly excellent. Murray is one of the few actors who could pull off a role like Steve Zissou, perfectly winking at the audience with a perfectly straight face. He even manages to evoke sympathy in what should be a mostly unsympathetic role. Wilson, who co-wrote the film, is likable and convincing in a fully-realized character. Blanchett proves herself to be one of the most versatile contemporary actresses. One of the funniest turns comes from Owen Wilson, who demonstrates a welcome comedic knack as a reserved German scientist.

Thankfully, neither the actors nor the director “dumb down” any of the characters for comic effect. All of the characters are intelligent and most have a surprising degree of self-awareness, which helps keep the film from completely sucking under its own pretensions.

“The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou” is one of Anderson’s more esoteric outings. It’s impossible not to get the sense he is making exactly the film he wants to make, but it comes at the cost of plot and momentum. The worst part about the film is that it so startlingly close it comes to being a great film. There are genuine and wondrous moments throughout.

Contact Brian Doxtater at bdoxtater@nd.edu
Syracuse escapes Rutgers with strong finish

No. 4 Orange rally from 18-point deficit to beat Scarlet Knights

Associated Press

PISCATAYAW, N.J. — Victory No. 096 for Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim was one of many things on the minds of the Orange on Monday night. 

"It was a great finish, a great comeback, one of the best I have been a part of," Boeheim said. "There is no doubt at that time this was the biggest 25-point game the wrong way." 

Terrence Roberts' three-point play with 2.7 seconds on the clock capped the comeback, but the win wasn't secure until Quincy Douby's 3-point shot with just over a second left spun around and the ball slowly rolled in the net. 

"It was the 13th consecutive win for Syracuse (20-1, 7-0 Big East), which is the first Division I team to reach 20 victories this season.

"We could have very discouraging and very down but we weren't. We were mad," Boeheim said.

"We didn't feel the pressure, we all did not mess up and communicate the message well," Boeheim added.

"Syracuse's previous win gave him 20 victories for the 47th time in his 29 seasons as a head coach and Boeheim moved into a tie with Texas Tech's Tubby Smith for second place among coaches with 20-win seasons, three behind former North Carolina coach Dean Smith.

None of that mattered after the Orange started the second half badly, giving up the first 19 points for Oklahoma, was held to 10 on 3-for-21 shooting and Roberts put in the rebound and layup to make it 19-2, he already had 11 points and a pair of two-handed jams. Gray was 5-for-5 to start the game, and Bookout couldn't miss either.

The Cowboys eventually figured out the plan and were able to keep the ball from Oklahoma's two big men. McFarlin out the deficit to 27-18 with a fastbreak layup after Gray tried to force a pass inside to Bookout and it was stolen by a pair of Cowboys.

Oklahoma State defeated Oklahoma to the glass early in the second half to cut into the Sooners' lead. Daniel Robick's long offensive rebound led to a 3-point play, and McFarlin's putback brought the Cowboys within six.

At Oklahoma State, was held to 12 straight since losing at Arizona on Dec. 11. The other pair of two-handed jams. Gray was 5-for-5 to start the game, and Bookout couldn't miss either.

The win was a 3-for-10 on 3s, missing three in the final 2 minutes.

"It was an unucky roll. I thought it was going to go in," Douby said. "I had my follow through, it just wasn't enough.

Waterstradt, who made the pass to Douby, had a good look but couldn't get it off.

No. 13 Oklahoma 67, No. 7 Syracuse 62

Kevin Bookout scored 23 points and Anatolier Gray added 22 as No. 13 Oklahoma exploited a weakness up front with its talented tandem and beat ninth-ranked Oklahoma State.

The Sooners (16-2, 5-0 Big 12) moved to an early 17-point lead before taking over again in the second half and giving coach Kelvin Sampson his 250th win at Oklahoma.

Gray and Bookout scored the first 19 points for Oklahoma, and the big men were there with the game on the line, too.

By the time Gray finished off Lavater's alley-oop to make it 19-2, he already had 11 points and a pair of two-handed jams. Gray was 5-for-5 to start the game, and Bookout couldn't miss either.

The Cowboys eventually figured out the plan and were able to keep the ball from Oklahoma's two big men. McFarlin out the deficit to 27-18 with a fastbreak layup after Gray tried to force a pass inside to Bookout and it was stolen by a pair of Cowboys.

Oklahoma State defeated Oklahoma to the glass early in the second half to cut into the Sooners' lead. Daniel Robick's long offensive rebound led to a 3-point play, and McFarlin's putback brought the Cowboys within six.

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Imagination at work
No. 12 Tar Heels upset top-ranked Blue Devils

After 12 straight losses to nemesis in ACC, UNC triumphs 56-51

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — For a change, North Carolina made Duke look rattle and, not even a spectacular individual effort by Monique Currie was enough to save the top-ranked Blue Devils.

Leilani Mitchell had a pair of clutch baskets and Ivory Latta sealed it with two free throws in the final seconds, helping the 12th-ranked Tar Heels end nearly five years of misery in this Tobacco Road rivalry with a 56-51 victory Monday night.

North Carolina (15-3, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), seeded No. 21 Florida State to hang on for a 56-51 upset of the top-ranked Lady Blue Devils. The win took place at the Tar Heels’ Dean Smith Center.

Ivory Latta of North Carolina drives on Duke’s Allison Bales in the second half of the 56-51 upset of the top-ranked Lady Blue Devils. The win took place at the Tar Heels’ Dean Smith Center.

The loss ended the nation’s longest active losing streak in games, and it was the first win for the Tar Heels in 20 tries against a top-ranked team.

“Their pressure really bothered us, their traps,” Duke coach Gail Goestenkors said. “We didn’t do a good job adjusting. The tougher team won, and they played tough. They were the aggressor for the most part.”

Latta led North Carolina with 24 in a 5 1/2-minute span down the stretch. She made two free throws and a jumper before Metcalf’s first big basket, a 3-pointer, made it 46-38.

“Me, being a small guard, it’s Duke?” Bell said. “It’s a great, great player.”

Duke started.

“We knew they were going to go to Currie down the stretch. She’s a great, great player.”

Sylvia Hatchell Duke coach

“Me, being a small guard, it’s Duke?” Bell said. “It’s a great, great player.”

Duke coach

“We knew they were going to go to Currie down the stretch.”

Aja Parham added 12 points for the Tar Heels in 20 tries against a top-ranked team.

Florida State 81, Virginia Tech 78

Gladden scored 24 points and converted a three-point play with 2:18 remaining in the second overtime, allowing No. 21 Florida State to hang on for a 56-51 upset of the top-ranked Lady Blue Devils. The win took place at the Tar Heels’ Dean Smith Center.

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This semester the studies will concentrate on the text of St. Matthew’s Gospel. All are welcome. The Come!
Illinois' No. 1 for eighth consecutive week

Associated Press

ILLINOIS — Illinois No. 1 in The Associated Press college basketball poll for an eighth consecutive week, earning all but one first-place vote. That ballot was cast for the new No. 2 team: Duke.

The Blue Devils have reached No. 1 seven straight seasons. Should Duke unseat Illinois and extend that streak to eight, it would still be four behind UCLA's record that started in 1963. Duke received 1,704 points, 95 behind Illinois and 130 more than North Carolina, which jumped from sixth to third.

Illinois, which beat Iowa at home in overtime in its only game last week, will play at No. 18 Wisconsin on Tuesday night. The Badgers (13-3-4-9) have the nation's longest home winning streak at 38 games. That is one of six games involving two ranked teams this week.

Syracuse moved from seventh to fourth, one spot in front of Wake Forest, which fell two places following its overtime loss at Florida State.

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In Brief

NHL players' association continue lockout discussions

NEW YORK — The NHL and the players' association will resume talks this week in a bid to save the season — and they'll meet yet again without commissioner Gary Bettman or union head Bob Goodenow.

"The league contacted our office to arrange for continued small-group discussions. We agreed to this request," players' association senior director Ted Saskin said Monday.

The sides met twice last week without Bettman and Goodenow. Those meetings, over two days in Chicago, were the first in over two weeks.

The Blue Devils (15-0) moved up two spots to second, replacing Kansas (13-4-1), which dropped to fourth following its 83-62 loss at Villanova on Saturday. The Jayhawks fell below No. 2 for the first time this season.

The Illini (19-0) received all but one of the 72 first-place votes from the national media panel Monday. The last unanimous No. 1 was Duke, which did nine times in a 10-week span in 2001-02.

The Blue Devils have reached No. 1 for seven straight seasons. Should Duke unseat Illinois and extend that streak to eight, it would still be four behind UCLA's record that started in 1963. Duke received 1,704 points, 95 behind Illinois and 130 more than North Carolina, which jumped from sixth to third.

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Kansas was No. 1 in the preseason poll and the first Top 25 of the regular season, then was No. 2 for nine straight weeks.

Kentucky was seventh, while Boston College (16-0-6), the only other unbeaten in Division I besides Illinois and Duke, was eighth, up one place from last week.

Oklahoma State, which lost at Texas early last week, dropped four spots to No. 9. Washington was 10th for the second straight week, the Huskies' first appearances in the Top 10 since December 1984.

Arizona led the second 10 and was followed by Louisville, Oklahoma, Alabama, Michigan State, Texas, Gonzaga, Wisconsin, Connecticut and Pittsburgh.

The last five ranked teams were Cincinnati, Georgia Tech, Iowa, Mississippi State and Utah.

around the dial

Men's College Basketball
Kentucky at Tennessee 7 p.m., ESPN
Georgia at Florida 7 p.m., ESPNU
Illinois at Wisconsin 9 p.m., ESPN

Women's College Basketball
AP Top 25

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Women's College Basketball

MIAA Women's Basketball

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<td>Adrian</td>
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NCAA Women's Basketball Conference Standings

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College Basketball

Illinois' Luther Head drives past a Hawkeye opponent in a 73-68 overtime victory for the Illini last weekend. The team received all but one first-place vote in this week's poll.

KANSAS CITY — There were no last-minute heroics Saturday night as the Volunteers held off several different late rally attempts by the Wildcats.

"Having a guy like Ron in practice helps raises the level of practice in terms of intensity because he's one of the real warrior-type players we have in this league," Carlisle said. Commissioner David Stern sus­ pended the All-Star for the remain­ der of the season after he bolted into the stands at The Palace on Nov. 19 and exchanged punches with Pistons fans, who shouted Artest and the rest of the Pacers with debris.

Pacers' Artest returns to practice court

INDIANAPOLIS — Ron Artest prac­ ticed with the Indiana Pacers on Monday for the first time in over two months since he was suspended for fighting with Detroit fans.

"The league contacted our office to arrange for continued small-group discussions. We agreed to this request," players' association senior director Ted Saskin said Monday.

"The sides met twice last week with­ out Bettman and Goodenow. Those meetings, over two days in Chicago and Toronto, were initiated by Vancouver Canucks center Trevor Linden, the NHLPA president.

Linden, Saskin and outside counsel John McCambridge represented the players. NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly, Calgary Flames part-owner Harley Hutchins, and outside coun­ sel Bob Batinier took part for the league.

That ballot was cast for the new No. 2 team: Duke.

The Blue Devils have reached No. 1 for seven straight seasons. Should
LaVere

continued from page 20

for nine points on 4-for-8 shooting and pulled down five rebounds in 25 minutes. She credits her improved perform­
ances to extra time in the gym.

"I needed to get more in the rhythm," LaVere said. "I wasn’t practicing that much when I was coming back to the games, but once I practiced more, I knew the rhythm of the game and the flow. Once I got out there it’s more natural to

way to losing 16-11. The loss ended a 41-match win streak for the Irish, who couldn’t gain back the ground lost on the epee. During the match, freshman Olympic Gold Medalist Mariel Zagunis lost her first match as a collegiate, falling to Olympic teammate Emily Jacobson.

"They knew each other very well," Bednarski said of the Team USA teammates.

Bedsaraski was very pleased in Zagunis, who won her other 10 matches, for how she performed with and without her saler in hand.

"Not only greatness makes something useful in a team interaction with friends [and teammates] made her first time with the team so positive," she said. "She was able to keep group together by showing exam­ple for others despite being a freshman.

Zagunis certainly performed well in the highlight match of the duals, when the Irish faced the No. 1 Buckeyes, sweeping her

three bouts. Senior All-American foilist Aliesa Krzecz and Andrea Ament had strong showings, each winning their first two bouts against Ohio State and going 11­-1 and 10-2 overall, respectively. The Irish were in a good posi­
tion to get back in the match, needing to win only one of the last three bouts to win. However, Metta Thomsen beat Ament her twin, Hanna, defeated Krzecz before Keneda Brendler beat senior epeeist Kerry Walden in the final bout.

After their success the rest of the day, the men were beaten quickly by Ohio State. The Buckeyes got the match-embling 14th point while the Irish had only 3 points before happening to the final 16-11 victory. The epeeists again were impressive, posting a 6-3 mark including a 5­-bout sweep by Adjemian, but the sabers and foilists both struggled to 2-7 finishes in the match.

While the leaders of his team performed well, Bednarski was disappointed with the results of

some of the down the bench fencers.

"Our backup fencers were too nervous to control the situation," he said.

After the duals, Bedsaraski sees his teams’ high ranking as both a strong starting point as well as something to improve on.

Irish sophomore Aaron Adjemian fences last season. The men’s team went 3-1 during the weekend, losing only to Ohio State.

"We should oscillate up rather than down," he said. "It’s [a] pretty top position to be fourth, but the dream of each athlete and the dream of each coach is to be first."

Contact Eric Retter at cretter@nd.edu

CLUB SPORTS

Bowling, squash

teams compete

Special to The Observer

Despite a winter blizzard that forced 16 teams to cancel their trip to South Bend, Beacon Bowl hosted the 8th annual tournament. So is LaVere 100 percent yet?

"In the 90s," LaVere said.

"It’s an adjustment, but Crystal’s doing a great job out there," LaVere said. "I’m trying my way back into the line­up, and I’m going to do every­thing in practice that I can to show I’m ready." So is LaVere still 100 percent yet?

"In the 90s," LaVere said.

"But I’m getting there.

And with her recent perfor­mances, the Irish are glad to have her back.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvahogan@nd.edu

Irish junior Crystal Wood was coming back into the lineup. She was a disappointment 6-3 loss to the Wildcats’ Peter Kamm, 9-5, 9-6. Galinas took their

earlier in the day. Zhang and

Melody again took their
game point, before coming through nine. Moss trailed 8-0 at game point, before coming back for a 10-9 win.

In the second round, the Irish fell to 25th ranked Northwestern, 9-0. It was without a struggle however, as best evidenced in freshman Gallius’ loss at No. 2 in the doubles. Kemeny 4-9, 4-9, 6-9, 6-9, 10-9, 10-6, 10-6.

In the third round of the match, Kemeny 4-9, 4-9, 6-9, 6-9, 10-9, 10-6, 10-6.

The match is tentatively scheduled for the Rockne courts.

and Tom Talamo stepped in.

Kim LaVigne paced the women’s squad, with Allison Klein and Marcy Buik also posting top scores for the Irish.

Sophomore foils Alicia Krczalo and Andrea Ament also posted top scores for the Irish.

Junior All-American fencer Katie Hunt, Denise Trgovich and Danielle Lafrançois rounded out the top five for the weekend. The young squad finished last in the field, with Wichita State’s Yoram Shalman, Western Illinois’ McKendree, and Lindenwood taking the top five spots.

Squash

Notre Dame’s squash club competed in the CSA Big 10 championships this weekend at Illinois. The Irish won their opening round against the host Illini, 8-1. The win reversed a 9-0 loss one year ago in which the Irish dropped a singles game. James Zhang and Mike Gallius swept to pair of 3-0 wins at the top two spots to pace the Irish. Mike McConnell dropped his match at No. 3 in the lineup, while the rest of the Irish lineup won — Matt Moss, Alfonso Ilosoh, Joses Palomo, Eric Sabbelhaus, Randy Rainesick and Gabriel Leonato — were victorious from fourth through nine. Moss trailed 8-0 in his opening game before rallying to tie the score. His opponent called set two, and Moss again fell behind double game point, before coming back for a 10-9 win.

Irish head coach Jack McCann called the club, with strong showings by Jim Zagunis, Marcus Radley, and Nick Mainieri. Jill Berumen
**Commits**

continued from page 20

the place for me,” McCarthy said. “I made the best ver­

committment in the 2005 Irish recruit­ing class, bringing the total to 14 players. He is the lone cornerstone commit so far.

At Cardinal Mooney High School, the 6-foot-1, 190-

pound McCarthy played both quarterback and defensive back. In his senior season, 1,100 rushing and 78 receiv­ing, while lead­ing

the state champi­

ship.

Then at 4:4

seconds in the 40-yard dash, he used that speed to return two interceptions and three punts for touchdowns.

“Name is shooting at

McCarthy as a corner­

back but I expect him to really make an impact as a special teams,” Mike Frank of

Irisheyes.com said. “He is a similar player (current Irish free safety) Tom Zbikowski in that he likes to hit.”

**Banquet**

continued from page 20

Astronaut Brad Lidge at the Feb. 10 event in the Joyce Center.

“We’re very fortunate to have two people of the stature of

Brad Lidge and Roger Clemens come to Notre Dame and help us kick off this season,” Maimaiti said.

The dinner will feature classic ballpark foods, such as hot dogs and nachos, to complement guest speakers and player introduc­
tions. This year’s banquet is sold out, with over 1,700 tickets going in just two weeks.

The event sold out in six weeks last year.

At the 2004 dinner, best-sell­
ing author and baseball fan John Grisham gave a speech to the audience.

Former Los Angeles Dodgers man­
ger Tommy Lasorda spoke in 2002 and Chicago Cubs general manager Jim Hendry did the same a year prior.

Lidge was the 1998 Big East Player of the Year before being selected 17th overall by the Atlanta Braves in the draft. He made his Major League debut in 2002, but only pitched in six games that summer. His 2003 was impressive, going 6-3 with 3.60 ERA, and he became one of the top relief pitchers in base­

ball midway through the 2004 season. In August, Lidge—then closer Ovato Delo to the Oakland Athletics—ultimately made the move to closer. He did not disappoint, saving 29 games in a season of 1.90 ERA. Lidge also broke the National League record for most saves in a season with 54.

In the playoffs, Lidge com­

dpletely dominated the oppo­sition and was a major part of

Houston’s ride into the National League Championship Series against the St. Louis Cardinals. In 12 2/3 innings, Lidge allowed just one run and struck out 20 while walking only three.

“I think, in his right, would have been a good headline for us to get a great win, and have a great evening. But to bring Roger Clemens is in something that’s going to make the evening extra special,” Maimaiti said.

Clemens, who recently signed a one-year, $18 million contract with Houston, is considered one of the top pitchers ever to play the game. In his career, he has accumulated a remarkable number of awards and accolades. Clemens has 325 wins, a career ERA of just 1.86, 2,990 strikeouts and has pitched nearly 4,500 innings during his 20-

year career. At the age of 42 last season, Clemens went 14-4 with a 2.98 ERA and was named the league’s best pitcher. He has pitched for the Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays, New York Yankees and now the Astros. Maimaiti asked Lidge to return to Notre Dame, where the pitch­
er didn’t think twice about speaking at the dinner, and the pitcher quickly accepted.

“You’ve read about him,” Maimaiti said. “We’re going to send a message of what you can expect to see from Brad. He didn’t disappoint, saving 29 games in a season of 1.90 ERA. Lidge also broke the National League record for most saves in a season with 54.

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“I think, in his right, would have been a good headline for us to get a great win, and have a great evening. But to bring Roger Clemens is in something that’s going to make the evening extra special,” Maimaiti said.

Clemens, who recently signed a one-year, $18 million contract with Houston, is considered one of the top pitchers ever to play the game. In his career, he has accumulated a remarkable number of awards and accolades. Clemens has 325 wins, a career ERA of just 1.86, 2,990 strikeouts and has pitched nearly 4,500 innings during his 20-

year career. At the age of 42 last season, Clemens went 14-4 with a 2.98 ERA and was named the league’s best pitcher. He has pitched for the Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays, New York Yankees and now the Astros. Maimaiti asked Lidge to return to Notre Dame, where the pitch­
er didn’t think twice about speaking at the dinner, and the pitcher quickly accepted.

“You’ve read about him,” Maimaiti said. “We’re going to send a message of what you can expect to see from Brad. He didn’t disappoint, saving 29 games in a season of 1.90 ERA. Lidge also broke the National League record for most saves in a season with 54.

In the playoffs, Lidge com­
dpletely dominated the oppo­sition and was a major part of
**ROSS WORD**

I think the Teacher is mad at you for not doing your homework.

Charles Schulz

**ROSS WORD**

She says she may have to resort to castigation.

Scott Adams

**ROSS WORD**

They can't do something to you if you don't know what it means.

Charles Schulz

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**CROSSWORD**

Friday, January 25, 2005

The Observer

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**ACROSS**

1. The “one” in a one-two
2. White Rabbit's word
3. Line again, as in Tupperware
4. Faun's position
5. "M*A*S*H" author
6. Doh! Down digs
7. With cunning
8. E.E.
10. And others
11. Accusation's response
13. Race of about 58
15. Race of about 58
16. Actress People
17. Actress: People
18. AA
19. Emcee Trebek
20. Kindergarten
21. N.B.A.'s Heat
22. Buzz's just hired
23. The Odd, e.g.
in "The Grapes of Wrath"
24. State capital
25. Since 1959
27. Romance
28. Sunday's performance
29. Duck's place
30. Home of the wond
31. Buzz's moonmate
32. Pulitzer
33. "Do your own
34. Share's word
35. Lives again, as in Tupperware
36. Fairway position
37. "M*A*S*H" author
38. Share's word
39. Use again, as in Tupperware
40. Cabinet dept.
41. Army N.C.O.
42. Fairway position
43. "Mila 18" author
44. "Mila 18" author
45. Accusation's response
46. "Mila 18" author
47. Fairway position
48. Cabinet dept.
49. Canadian tribe
50. World traveler
51. T.S.
52. Money
53. Money
54. Many a navel
55. Money
56. Money
57. A nodic topper
58. The Bruins' goalie
59. Moneymaker
60. Money
61. Race of about 58
62. Money
63. Money
64. Defunct, glandular org.
65. Money
66. Money
67. Money
68. Money
69. Money
70. Money
71. Just hired
72. They follow any form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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**WILL SHORTZ**

For answers, call 1-800-814-5555, $1.20 a minute, or with a credit card, 1-800-814-5555. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years, 1-800-7-ACROSS.

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords ($34.95 a year).


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**BIRTHDAYS TODAY**

19-March: POKED IN EPT LUNACY FIESTA

Answers tomorrow

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**HOROSCOPE**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mischa Barton, 19; Tatyana Ali, 26; Mary Lou Retton, 37; Neut Orange, 44

Happy Birthday: Move in the direction of the least resistance this year and you won't find things nearly as difficult as they have been the past couple of years. This time for change is now. This is a turning point in your life, and you must allow yourself the freedom to do that just. Embark on the year ahead with purpose, but do not stray from your usually conservative nature. Excels will continue to be by your side, so keep things on a small scale. Your numbers are 14, 15, 27, 31, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take things personally. You will excel if you are unemotional and do your best to pull your own weight. Take care of your own business. Getting angry will hold you back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give it your best shot and you will accomplish more than you had hoped for. Do not sound too strong today if you voice your opinion and follow through with your plan. Love is beautiful.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Light the fire, the focus should be on home, family and taking care of responsibilities. You should be able to resolve existing problems, but don't overextend yourself in the process.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a moment to consider how you feel about your personal life and the people in it. You may want to make some adjustments that will not go over well. However, the good news, the better.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Not everyone you are dealing with will be upbeat about what they think, and what they mean are, should be straightforward and you will give the competition the edge.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep a low profile about where you are and about whom you are to get you to the people you want to. Don't want to take the first step in a direction you know will not satisfy you personally and professionally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep an eye on the people closest to you. Someone is not giving you a fair deal. Stay on top of matters if you want to come out on top.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Traveling a short or a long distance will provide you with some valuable information about someone who means a lot to you. Love can be yours if you let something special happen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It will be up to you to pull them together and make everything perfect. Property or investment deals will pay off. Money is in the picture, so collect all your money now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is a lot to think about today. Someone may be looking to make a decision that you aren't ready to make. Consider why you aren't and you'll have your answer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dealing with officials may he unnerving, but don't overextend yourself in the process. Focus on what you want to do and how you are going to make more money. Take care of your health.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more you push yourself, the better you will do. Showing your dedication and loyalty will attract friends and lovers who have similar interests. Children may be a goal for you this year.

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**JUMBLE**

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

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

Jumbles: POKED IN EPT LUNACY FIESTA

Answers tomorrow

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**ND Women's Basketball**

**Slowly, but surely**

LaVere sheds brace, finds old form in last two Big East games

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN  
Sports Editor

After arthroscopic knee surgery in December, Courtney LaVere is finally getting back to her old form.

"I have a lot more confidence," LaVere said after No. 6 Notre Dame's 63-47 win over Rutgers Sunday evening. "I think it affected me more than I would ever know."

LaVere had her breakthrough game Wednesday night in a tough Big East road contest against Syracuse. When the Irish got off to a slow start, she came fast off the bench, scoring 11 first-half points on 6-for-7 shooting.

"I thought Courtney gave us a great lift off the bench," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said after that game. "She was really ready to play."

LaVere played without her brace for the first time from Wednesday since her Dec. 30 return to action. She finished with her second double-double of the season, tallying 13 points and 10 rebounds. Ironically, her first double-double came in the game when she hurt her knee, Nov. 17, against Duke.

"I played well at Syracuse, that gives me a lot more energy and playing without the knee brace really helps because I feel like I'm more and more physi- cal," LaVere said. Sunday against Rutgers, the 6-foot-3 junior was a key contributor off the bench as well. She was good to return to action. She finished the game with 6 points and 10 rebounds, scoring 11 first-half points on 6-for-7 shooting.

**FENCING**

**Men top Columbia, women fall to OSU**

By ERIC RETTER  
Sports Writer

Only one match into the new year, the Irish may already put their toughest regular-season opponent behind them.

In a move that may pay big dividends down the road, Notre Dame wasted no time before matching up against the best in the NCAA, squaring off against a tough field that included Columbia, ranked in the top-five in both the men's and women's polls, and No. 1 Ohio State.

In this early season, the Irish, whose men's and women's teams are ranked No. 2 and No. 4 in their respective polls, have already tasted defeat. The women lost to both Columbia and Ohio State en route to a 2-2 overall performance, while the men topped all but the No. 1 Buckeyes at the event for a 3-1 record.

Despite these early losses, Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski was not disappointed in his teams' performances.

"I expected this," he said, "The beginning of the season is always hard, and first matches will be bumpy."

While Bednarski anticipated a struggle to start the season, he did not predict everything about the way the teams would execute.

"I did not expect the men's team would do better than the women, who are stronger in an all-around team," Bednarski said.

The men defeated both host New York University and Stanford by respective margins of 17-10 and 19-8, but the highlight of the duals for the men was the 16-11 victory they took from Columbia. The charge was head- ed by the teams' epees, who won eight out of nine bouts against the Lions on their way to compiling a team-best 36-8 combined record during the course of the duals. Two-time All-American senior epeesist Michal Sobieraj led all Irish men with a 10-1 overall record at the event, while sophomore Aaron McCarthy decided which school he would be getting ready to have dinner with President Bush and wife, Laura Bush. But before the seven-time Cy Young award winner left to meet the Bush's, he made phone call.

Needless to say, Irish baseball coach Paul Mainieri was a bit surprised when arguably the greatest pitcher of all time dialed his cell phone number.

"I said to him, 'Where are you Roger, in Houston?' And Roger said 'I'm in Washington D.C., my wife and I are getting ready to have dinner with the President and his wife but I wanted to call you first...'" Mainieri recalled. "I said 'Well I'm glad you have your priorities straight.'"

Clemens called to confirm his appearance at Notre Dame's fourth annual baseball Opening Night Banquet. He is scheduled to speak with former Notre Dame baseball coach and current Houston

**BASEBALL**

Clemens, Lidge will speak at banquet

Major leaguers highlight Opening Night event

By JOE HETSER  
Baseball Writer

In the middle of December, Roger Clemens were getting ready to have dinner with President Bush and wife, Laura Bush. But before the seven-time Cy Young award winner left to meet the Bush's, he made phone call.

"I said to him, 'Where are you Roger, in Houston?' And Roger said 'I'm in Washington D.C., my wife and I are getting ready to have dinner with the President and his wife but I wanted to call you first...'" Mainieri recalled. "I said 'Well I'm glad you have your priorities straight.'"

Clemens called to confirm his appearance at Notre Dame's fourth annual baseball Opening Night Banquet. He is scheduled to speak with former Notre Dame baseball coach and current Houston Astros' pitcher, will speak at the Notre Dame baseball banquet Feb. 10.