Gas leak causes seven evacuations

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

Students, faculty and staff were evacuated from seven buildings Monday afternoon as the smell of gas filtered through the air from a leak near the Hesburgh Library.

The gas leak occurred at 1:40 p.m. on St. Joseph's Drive near the Library when a crew on the road repairing a broken water line struck a 4-inch gas line with a backhoe. The gas moved in a south-western direction and at approximately 2 p.m., Stepan Chemistry Hall, O'Shaughnessy Hall, Newland Science Hall, the Radiation Laboratory, Malloy Hall, the Riley Hall of Arts and Design and Dectis Hall were all evacuated.

The water line break was discovered Monday morning, said Director of Utilities Paul Kempf. After lunchtime, a crew arrived to fix the break and while they were attempting to fix it, a gas line was punctured, University officials immediately called the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) to make room for the gas to escape.

The gas main was not where it was purported to be,” Kempf said, according to the preparatory evaluation the crew made of the area. When the gas line was punctured, University officials immediately called the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) to make room for the gas to escape.

With what she described as two strong platforms, Brown said she was not surprised by the results.

"I think Marie and I were expecting a run-off," she said. "We had some pretty strong tickets." A total of 3,492 votes were cast Monday, which was not quite up to Kozlow's expectations.

"I think we were hoping (voting turnout) would be a little bit higher," she said. Allowing students to vote online and at various voting stations around campus, however, was an effective way to encourage participation, she said.

"We tried hard to encourage voting," Kozlow said. "We had some great results.”

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"We tried hard to encourage voting," Kozlow said. "We had some great results.”

Workers stand near a gas leak that occurred Monday near the Hesburgh Library. Seven nearby buildings were evacuated.

Election results in run-off for two tickets

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

The student body election results were revealed Monday night, but with no ticket obtaining a majority of the votes, frontrunners Brown-Braun and Smith-Weiss will proceed to a run-off election on Thursday.

Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow announced that Liz Brown and Maris Braun received 45.8 percent of student votes and Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss received 38.3 percent. Since candidates need to obtain a 50 percent plus one majority, the top two tickets will compete in a run-off for the position on Thursday, Kozlow said.

"It was appropriate for a center focused on the American presidency and public policy issues— and that its interest in intercollegiate athletics, though seemingly unrelated to the center’s mission, is actually warranted. It’s appropriate for a center focused on the American presidency and public policy issues— and that its interest in intercollegiate athletics, though seemingly unrelated to the center’s mission, is actually warranted."

"It was appropriate for a center focused on the American presidency and public policy issues— and that its interest in intercollegiate athletics, though seemingly unrelated to the center’s mission, is actually warranted."

Athletics topic for Malloy

Former president appears on Web cast

By MARCELA BERRIOS
Assistant News Editor

University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy flew to the University of Virginia Friday to participate in a forum on college athletics, drawing from his experiences at Notre Dame to discuss racial integration in recent decades, the academic integrity of student athletes and the roles of the news media and the federal government in shaping the future of athletic programs.

The "Intercollegiate Athletics: Their Role, their Status, their Future" discussion, hosted by the Miller Center of Public Affairs, was cyberscast live and might be aired by the PBS affiliates that regularly teleview the centers' trademark forums.

Malloy said in an interview with The Observer Monday that the Miller Center studies American presidencies and public policy issues—and that its interest in intercollegiate athletics, though seemingly unrelated to the center's mission, is actually warranted. "It’s appropriate for a center focused on the American presidency and public policy issues— and that its interest in intercollegiate athletics, though seemingly unrelated to the center’s mission, is actually warranted."

Move not welcomed by Club

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Notre Dame unveiled plans last week for a $69.4 million engineering building to be built on land occupied by the University Club, so for manager Debbie Colley — along with more than 40 employees, members and a board of directors — the news means preparing to say goodbye.

University officials notified the privately owned Club and its board of directors in a Jan. 9 letter they would need to vacate the building by Aug. 31 to make room for the new Stinson-Remick Engineering Hall. The demolition will be a loss to Notre Dame and the
INSIDE COLUMN

Keep it simple, lovers

This Valentine's Day, KISS. Hold it, hungry same-side-sitters at South Dining Hall. I didn't write that in all caps to encourage you locking lips over your spicy sea nuggets. KISS happens to be an acronym for Keep It Simple. Staglin — an adage my high school English teacher pounded into us long- winded essay writers. Hold it up again to same-side-sitters: don't zoom right over in the Question of the Day. This isn't a column about spitting. It's a column for lovers. URL QUIT.

Yes, yes, how. Did you smile a little bit? Now imagine that simple message stamped onto a tiny, chalky, heart-shaped candy. Even sweeter.

Necco's candy conversation hearts are the archetype of simplicity, a sort of KISS. Shangri-La, if you will. I should admit here that "if you will" is the ultimate up-KISS, however. What does that phrase mean, anyway? And why do professors use it, and that other pseudo-expression, "as it were," every three sentences? "As it were," you say, "as what was? Where, and when?" Please, professors, immure your Valentine's Day, KISS.)

Adorned with sweet nothings from BE MINE to TRUE LOVE to the latest addition E-MAIL ME (nap, those folks over at Necco sure are hip to the technology groove), the 28 square inch gems pack a romantic punch.

For example, back in third grade, each student was required to give a valentine to every student in the class. He was giving them at all. Or wait... was this just true of my overly sensitive, feelings-obsessed Catholic grammar school? That may be the case, as this was the only instantiation that required us to wear index cards on yam around our necks for three months proclaiming: I AM LOVING AND CARING. Now, I'm all for wear index cards on yam around our necks was the same institution that required us to punch.

Some narcotics investigators said the "strange looking," "sloth-like" animal emerged from its hiding place in the Lakeland Village home on Saturday. It was eventually identified as a coastundum, usually found in the forests of Central and South America. Possessing a coastundum is illegal in California without a game license. In the meantime, the animal was taken to an undisclosed animal sanctuary.

Dog gets lost at airport

The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble will perform tonight at 7:30 in the Leighton Concert Hall as the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $36 for the general public, $30 for faculty/staff/seniors and $15 for students.

Dale Becinella, a Notre Dame graduate, will speak Wednesday at 7 p.m. in room e 103 of the Hesburgh Chapel about his career as a lay chaplain to prisoners on death row.

The student body presidential election run-off debate will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Main Lounge of LaFortune.

The Ballroom Dance Club is hosting a Valentine's Day ball Wednesday from 8 p.m. -10:30 in the LaFortune ball room. The cost is $4 for the night.

The student body president run-off election will take place Thursday. Students can vote online between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Judicial Council Web site or by clicking on a link in an e-mail from the Council.

The men's basketball team will play Providence College Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

Junior Parent's Weekend will commence Friday with the Opening Gala and will end Sunday with the Closing Brunch.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.

IN BRIEF
By LIZ HARTER
New Writer

Saint Mary’s senior Chelsea Gulling visited the Board of Governance (BOG) to discuss the living wage campaign and how it pertains to Saint Mary’s hourly wage workers Monday night.

The issue of increasing the hourly wage at Saint Mary’s will be discussed at the February Board of Trustees meeting. Gulling wanted to present her research to BOG so it could endorse the increase.

"In 2006, Saint Joseph’s County did a survey of wages and figured out where people fall in the continuum," Gulling said. "Hourly wage workers are in the lowest twenty percent. If the Board of Trustees were to vote to implement a plan to raise wages over a three-year period, it would put Saint Mary’s workers in the forty percent and employees who have worked at Saint Mary’s for 25 years would be in a higher percentile."

Gulling did not know details of Saint Mary’s wage plan, or the specifics of the Board of Trustees vote.

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu

BOG also voted to award a $500 co-sponsorship to the Saint Mary’s theater department to help finance its upcoming trip to New York City.

In Other BOG News:

♦ Little Siblings weekend is Feb. 24-25. Registration has ended and over 350 siblings are attending — 50 more than last year.

♦ The Diverse Student Leadership Conference will take place March 1-3.

Registration forms are on the Student Diversity Board Website.

♦ Student Academic Council is requesting nominations for the Women Honoring Women banquet. Students are asked to nominate female faculty and staff members by typing one paragraph describing why they are good leaders. Nominations can be sent to SACC@saintmarys.edu

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu

Saint Mary’s Study Abroad Fair
Thursday, February 15th, 2007
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Saint Mary’s Student Center

All Saint Mary’s, Notre Dame, and Holy Cross Students Are Welcome!

Semester Programs

- Rome, Italy
- Dijon, France
- Maynooth, Ireland
- Semester Around the World
- Seville, Spain
- Innsbruck, Austria
- Fremantle, Australia
- Women’s Studies in Europe
- Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Summer Programs

- Environments of Ecuador
- Honduras Service Learning
- Internship in the European Union
- European Study Program
- Greece Study Tour
- Korean Culture Study

Spring Break Programs

- Poland to Prague
- Business in Mexico City

Saint Mary’s Semester Programs

Debortolo Hall
Saint Mary’s Semester Programs

Debortolo Room

Rome, Italy
204
Maynooth, Ireland
205
Semester Around the World
120
Seville, Spain
225
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa
223
Dijon, France
224
Women’s Studies in Europe
240

Semester Programs:
Deadline for Applications — March 1st

If you are unable to attend an information session please contact the Center for Women’s InterCultural Leadership at SMC, cwil@saintmarys.edu

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Gas leak continued from page 1

SCO to repair it. The gas distribution system on cam­
bus belongs to NIPSCO, he said.

For about two hours, gas streamed up into the air in
large amounts from a small area between Stepan
Chemistry Hall, the Radiation Laboratory and the
Hesburgh Library.

People inside were told to leave the buildings and then
shortly afterward told to walk away. Students in class
and professors in their offices streamed out of the
buildings and then walked away from the area that
was soon blocked off with caution tape.

The build­
ings were evacuated as a precautionary measure,
Kempf said. "It's not because the gas doesn't mean there is a great con­
centration of it, he said. "If we can smell the gas, we will typically evacuate people.

Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) blocked off entry to the space between O'Shaughnessy, Malloy and Deasy Halls and between the Radiation building and Stepan Chemistry Hall. They blocked off this area to keep people out of spaces where the concentration of the gas may be higher, Kempf said.

In circumstances like this, said Associate Director Phil
Johnson, NDSP evaluates the particular circumstances and then chooses a course of action.

"In an emergency response we take the measures that we think are necessary to protect the public safety," Johnson said.

While the buildings were being evacuated, NIPSCO could not find the valves to turn the gas off, so instead they exposed undamaged sections of the line and squeezed the gas line togeth­er to shut it off. It takes time to do either method, so the amount of time it took NIPSCO to repair the leak was not un­usual, Kempf said.

At 3:25 p.m. NIPSCO was able to put a clamp on the pipe and the leak was "dissipated substantially at that time," said Dennis Brown, assistant vice presi­dent for News and Information.

There were no injuries as a result of the incident. Notre Dame Associate Vice President for News and Information Don Weyll said the gas was "not harmful" to anyone, but people were being evacuated from nearby buildings as a precautionary measure.

"This is natural gas, you would use in your home. Outside, there are no harm­ful effects from breathing it, as long as we keep a safe distance away from the rupt­ure. There have been no complaints of ill effects as of yet," he said.

Fire alarms were turned on to evacuate people from the buildings, including Stepan Chemistry Hall, where graduate student Brian Wilson was at the time of the leak.

"People went outside, but when the alarms stopped, we went back in," Wilson said.

"Then we smelled the gas, and left the building again,"

Faculty, staff and students who were in the buildings when they were evacuated were allowed to re-enter later in the afternoon to obtain items they had left behind. As of approximately 5 p.m., the seven buildings were available for use.

The buildings are expected to be fully re-open today. There should be no odor of gas remaining in the build­ings, Kempf said. When the gas leak was occurring, the fans in the building were on, and the building would not circulate inside air would not circulate in.

"The gas is not harmful," Brown, assistant vice presi­dent for News and Information said.

Only Stepan Chemistry Hall had to empty out low gas traces at the time.

Phil Johnson
Associate Director
NDSP

An "in emergency response we take the measures that we think are necessary to protect the public safety." - Phil Johnson, NDSP

Malloy continued from page 1

because periodically Congress, and in rare cases the White House have intervened to insti­
tute reforms when things aren't going in the right direction," he said.

He offered the 1906 creation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at the urging of President Theodore Roosevelt as an illus­tration of the role the federal government has played in intercollegiate athletics in the past.

"Then we smelted the gas, and left the building again." - Phil Johnson, NDSP

Roosevelt was concerned by the levels of violence, serious injuries and deaths related to football in a given year and threatened to ban the sport if regulations and supervision were not immediately estab­lished, Malloy said.

"If things in intercollegiate athletics don't go well, presi­dents and people in Congress get interested." - Phil Johnson, NDSP

He also noted throughout his lifetime the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics in light of the gradual integration of women's programs and racial minorities over the last decades.

A former Notre Dame basket­ball player, Malloy recalled that African American athletes were "one African American player in the team during his years as an under­graduate student, and no African American coach­es in any school.

"This is a huge change in the reality of intercollegiate athletics because when student athletes and coaches read about you read all these materials, you know so much about them and their lives," Malloy said.

Or when an athlete gets into trouble, it's in the newspapers around the country. That just never exist­ed before."

When asked for his opinion regarding the proper discipli­nary measures given to student athletes in the spotlight, Malloy only said that athletes should be subjected to the same rules and yardsticks as the general student body.

He declined to comment on the recent controversy sur­rounding the situation with Notre Dame guard Kyle McAlarney, saying he spoke at the forum about "intercollegiate athletics and not just college basketball general and didn't address specific Notre Dame issues.

McAlarney's suspension following his arrest in December for possession of marijuana was considered excessive by some critics — a reaction, he said, that was directly related to the basketball player's celebrity.

However, disciplinary issues are not the only ones where student athletes are expected to receive special considerations — to the advancement or deter­ment of the athlete's career.

During the forum, Malloy also raised the question of academic integrity for student athletes — a case supported by NCAA President Myles Brand.

He said Brand's steps to guarantee every member insti­tution in the NCAA protects the impartiality of its athletes' aca­demics. The NCAA is a "show case of every student athlete's own decision to demand from every student — athletes and non-athletes alike — the same academic perform­ance." - Phil Johnson, NDSP

Former NCAA president and Notre Dame athletic coordina­tor General Emeritus M. John-Paul Witt contributed to this report.

Contact Kasey and Church @ kasey@nd.edu

Write News. Call Kate. 574-631-5323

During Junior Parent Weekend Experience elegant dining on the Notre Dame Campus

The perfect setting for Junior Parent Weekend is Sorin's. Our thoughtfully prepared meals, served by a professionally trained staff, ensure the ultimate Notre Dame experience.

Reservations recommended 574 631-2020 www.sorinsnd.com
INTERNATIONAL NEWS
China fails to meet environmental goals
Beijing — China's environmental watchdog admitted Monday the country had failed to reach pollution reduction commitments for 2006 and had fallen further behind as the economy picked up speed.
The State Environmental Protection Agency said faster-than-expected economic growth meant that sulfur dioxide emissions increased by nearly 1.8 percent, or 463,000 tons, over the previous year, according to a report on its Web site.
Chemical oxygen demand, a water pollution index, rose by 1.2 percent, the report said.
A lack of new production of major pollutants by 10 percent by 2010, with the country's largest producer and consumer of coal, depending heavily on coal-fired plants for electricity.

Explosions occur near U.S. base
Tokyo — Japanese police were investigating a suspected extremist attack on the U.S. Army after two small explosions occurred outside a military base south of Tokyo, police said Tuesday.
There were no reports of injury or damage at Camp Zama or from nearby residents, Kanagawa prefectural police spokesman Hiroshi Hara said.
Investigators found a pair of metal tubes planted in the ground at a nearby park. They were believed to be used as rocket launchers and pointed toward the base, he said.
He said investigators suspect an attack by leftist extremists, but cannot rule out a possibility of a terrorist attack.

NATIONAL NEWS
Veterans' information missing
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Department of Veterans Affairs began notifying 1.8 million Chinese tails to meet environmental goals
China had set a goal of cutting the emission economy picked up speed.
They were believed to be used as rocket
from about 535,000 individuals and billing information on 1.3 million doctors nationwide.
An employee at the VA medical center in Birmingham reported the external hard drive was stolen Jan. 22. The drive was used to back up information on the employee's office computer. It may have contained data from research projects, the department said.

Bush honors Black History Month
WASHINGTON — In honor black history, President Bush on Monday focused on people trying to downsize factories, he said.

LOCAL NEWS
State braces for heavy snow storm
INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana readied more than 300 snow plows to hit the highways and cancel classes after a winter storm battered the state, leaving hundreds of inches of snow on the ground. The storm swept into the state from the southwest.

A Chrysler worker inspects a jeep at the company's Daimler Chrysler Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio on Aug. 28, 2006. Restructuring could cut 10,000 employees.

Layoffs at Chrysler imminent
Employees fear company's restructuring effort to cut 10,000 workers

Associated Press
DETROIT — Chrysler workers have taken to calling it the "Valentine's Day massacre." They are referring to Wednesday's restructuring announcement.
From Chrysler, one that some analysts believe was affected.

China)

North Korea closer to disarmament

Associated Press
BEIJING — Six countries reached a tentative agreement Tuesday on initial steps toward North Korea's nuclear disarmament that could usher in the first dialogue since 2003.
Working groups will be set up, hopefully in a month, laying out a framework for dealing with regional tensions, he said.
He declined to give further details of the draft.

The agreement could herald the first steps toward disarmament since the talks began in 2003. The process reached its lowest point in October when North Korea conducted its first nuclear test explosion, alarming the world and triggering U.N. sanctions.

In the last few days, the talks had appeared to be on the verge of foundering and envoy made clear that their frustration was increasing and their patience growing thin. The current round was to conclude on Monday but as they progressed toward a deal, negotiators extended it late into the night and then into the early hours of Tuesday.

But most vulnerable are plants that make the mid-sized SUVs, which have fallen out of favor with buyers, said Catherine Madden, an auto analyst at the consulting company IHS Inc. in Grand Rapids, said a 2,330-worker plant near St. Louis in Fenton, Mo., that makes Ram pickups also is on his list because Chrysler has 15 percent too much manufacturing capacity.

"I don't think we're the problem," he said.
Paige continued from page 1

superintendent of the Houston Independent School District. Paige said his mission was to improve public schools because doing so would "strengthen the social and economic fabric of the city." In late 2000, Paige was asked by U.S. President George W. Bush to be the Secretary of Education in his administration. Bush was sworn in on a Saturday, and by Tuesday, Paige said he was already addressing the Senate on "No Child Left Behind." "While Paige firmly stated that the No Child Left Behind Act is "not perfect," he said it has made huge advancements in holding schools accountable. He also said that children are at the appropriate grade level and are not failing classes.

Paige defended the standardized testing by citing that these exams help to assess students' progress and help at that school, parents have a way to measure up their child to another public school.

He also spoke about the importance of choice in schools and how it benefits children. Behind. If a given public school does not meet the required standards after two years of testing, the child is not receiving fair treatment and help at that school, Parents have a way of measuring their child to another public school.

LaFortune. The debate will have the same format as the one held last Wednesday, but the focus may shift to "more specific topics" in addition to a re-evaluation of each ticket's platform. Paige said the run-off election is Thursday, with the same technological access as Monday's elections.

Like many other candidates, the candidates seem to be sticking to the status quo when it comes to running-off strategy. "I think we're just keeping doing what we're doing," Brown said. "We have a lot of support out there, and we're happy to see that."
**NEW ORLEANS** A homeowner who claims Allstate Indemnity Co. failed to properly or promptly pay his damage claim after Hurricane Katrina took the witness stand in federal court Monday, kicking off testimony in the first trial for one of the several thousand such Louisiana lawsuits.

Lawrence Tomlinson and his wife Elizabeth, accuse the Northbrook, Ill.-based company of bad faith and say the company underpaid them for wind damage that tore holes in their roof and let water rain into their home in the New Orleans suburb of Marrero.

The Tomlinsons also say Allstate didn’t start adjusting the claim until after the Aug. 29, 2005, storm until Nov. 28 — more than 30 days after it was filed.

“The whole house was a mess,” Tomlinson said, describing how water had pooled inside the home.

“There was a lot of damage to everything.”

Allstate disputes the extent of the wind damage to the Tomlinsons’ home and accuses the couple of misrepresenting parts of their claim.

Jury selection was completed quickly Monday morning, despite U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman’s early fears that there could be potential jurors

Tomlinson's lawyer, Christy Howley, who said the Tomlinsons’ paid three premiums in a timely manner but didn’t get paid for their insurance claim after they sued in January 2006.

“And the one time they needed Allstate to step up to the plate, it didn’t happen,” Howley said.

Howley said Allstate ignored evidence of widespread damage to the Tomlinson home. She denied Allstate allegations that the couple tried to bill Allstate for renovation work not related to the storm.

Allstate attorney Judy Barrasso said Allstate already has paid $151,133 to the couple.

“You’re going to see that Allstate has paid them more than enough, but they want more,” Barrasso said. She said the Tomlinsons misrepresented parts of their claim and that Allstate paid them more than $35,000 for additional living expenses after they moved to office property that they already owned.

Tomlinson said they notified the company when they moved into his office building and misrepresented nothing.

Cross-examination of Tomlinson was scheduled to resume Tuesday morning and was expected to last several days.

Tulane Law School professor Ed Sherman said a victory for the Tomlinsons could embolden other homeowners to sue their insurers, but he downplayed the potential legal implications for the roughly 4,000 other Katrina lawsuits awaiting trials here in federal court.

“These are very personal, individual issues,” he said.

The Tomlinsons are challenging the manner in which Allstate adjusted and paid their claim, but not how the company interpreted its policy terms.

In Mississippi, meanwhile, hundreds of homeowners have filed similar lawsuits challenging insurance companies’ refusal to pay for damage from Katrina’s storm surge.

The companies say their policies cover damage from a hurricane’s wind but not rising water, including wind-driven surge. This wind versus water debate is a central issue for many of the roughly 350 federal lawsuits still pending in Mississippi — isn’t a factor in the Tomlinsons’ case because their home didn’t flood.
For anyone who has been in a relationship, the words "we need to talk" bring with them the possibility of arguments, insults, honest conversations and sometimes, a reconciliation that can sustain the relationship well into the future. Uttering those dreaded four words is unpleasant, but it has to be done in order to move forward.

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's have enjoyed a special and often close relationship over the years. After all, Notre Dame was only 1.3 when Saint Mary's showed up across the street, and their young love strengthened as each school educated one half of a growing community. Many of us have parents from both schools, and we have all heard the legendary stories about students from both schools sneaking through the tunnels to get home after pairaitals. Notre Dame provided men with a Holy Cross education and Saint Mary's provided women with the same, and the relationship was one of mutual benefit, respect and affection.

By the late 1960s, many of Notre Dame's all-male peer universities began to go co-ed or merge with associated all-female universities. Notre Dame began to see the benefits of combining with Saint Mary's, and in May 1971, University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh proposed a merger. A few departments began the merger process and a number of Saint Mary's students enrolled at Notre Dame and graduated with Notre Dame degrees. However, in a 2002 Observer article, Hesburgh said, "I said to the sisters, 'You know, sisters, we're using all the metaphors of marriage, and I get the impression you're in favor of the marriage, but two things are missing. Number one, you don't want to take our name, and number two, you don't want to live with us. That's not marriage.'"

In 1971, frustrated with a lack of progress, Notre Dame broke off the merger. In 1972, Notre Dame went co-educational unilaterally and the historic first class of women enrolled at the University.

It has been more than 30 years since Notre Dame and Saint Mary's broke off their ephemeral engagement. Though the phrase was not in use at the time, the best term to describe the current relationship is "friends with benefits." Unfortunately for the Notre Dame community, the vast majority of those benefits go to Saint Mary's. Saint Mary's students receive the ability to take classes at a top-20 undergraduate institution, access to job recruiters who come to Notre Dame. Notre Dame student section football tickets (which are often better than those of actual Notre Dame students) and participation in nearly all of Notre Dame's larger and more organized student organizations, including the University of Notre Dame Marching Band, student managers and the cheerleading squad. In exchange, Notre Dame students get to excel in education classes, occasionally use O'Laughlin Auditorium and go on the Saint Mary's Annual Reunion.

In October 2005, Saint Mary's student body president Kelly Mirov wrote a letter to The Observer entitled "Separate and Proud," extolling the continued independence of Saint Mary's. The theme was continued with this year's campaign for Saint Mary's student body president, as the David Kennedy ticket "recognized [the need] to maintain the College's deeply rooted tradition in the sometimes-uncertain future of Saint Mary's identity," according to the Observer endorsement.

I'm happy that Saint Mary's students are proud of their school. But in reality they aren't separate at all. Nothing exemplifies this fact to me more than a quote from Saint Mary's student Lauran Sheldon in an Observer article after the Army game last fall. "At my first Notre Dame game before I was a student, I would watch them in fascination. Then when I got to be a part of that, it was amazing. I'll always remember when the leprechaun threw a Rio-Krispie treat at me and when we gave James Aldridge push-ups last year when he was in the recruiting section." This sentiment is not a fluke. In a 2005 Letter to the Editor, Saint Mary's student Christine Herdman wrote, "That's what I love about those boys that make up our Notre Dame Football team." Students from a school whose leaders constantly assert their independence and separate identity also enthusiastically take part in Notre Dame activities that define our identity, and even claim that identity as their own. If that is not hypocrisy, it is at least problematic.

If Saint Mary's wants to be part of Notre Dame, it should merge with the University. It has equal standards for admission and tuition and contribute its fair share. If Saint Mary's say it is independent and proud of it, it shouldn't turn around and take advantage of Notre Dame's greater resources. Saint Mary's effective rejection of Notre Dame's offer ruined its "engagement" with Notre Dame 30 years ago and the College continues to display its independ­ent self in words and deeds. Notre Dame now fulfills the mission of providing a Holy Cross edu­cation to both men and women, and Saint Mary's should choose whether it wants to be "separate and proud" or a part of Notre Dame. Unfortunately, it didn't do that in 1971 and it won't now. Why should they buy the cow when they can get the milk for free?

Jonathan Klingler is a senior man­agement consultant majoring in legal studies and economics. He currently resides in Keenan Hall and enjoys talking about Notre Dame. He can be contacted via e-mail at jklingle@nd.edu.

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

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**Observer Poll**

What was the most important factor in your vote for student body president?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

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**Editorial Cartoon**

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**Quote of the Day**

"To wear your heart on your sleeve isn't a very good plan, you should wear it inside, where it functions best."

Margaret Thatcher former prime minister
U-Wire

Alternative Valentine’s plans worthwhile

To the Notre Dame community, on behalf of the Notre Dame hockey team, I would like to thank you for your help in energizing Irish hockey this season. Your support, combined with the hard work of our players, has helped us earn a first round bye in the CCHA playoffs, a goal we set at the beginning of the year. Our fans have a lot to do with our success this season. The atmosphere that you have created in the Joyce Center has carried us to a 9-0-2 league record at home. The Notre Dame hockey band has been phenomenal and the cheering of you've only liked them “as a friend” or vice versa, but they probably deserve a try. Find that girl or guy who has always been there for you, because there certainly is one, and take them out. Maybe you've always wanted to date this person, and things just never worked out, or maybe you've only liked them “as a friend” or vice versa, but they probably deserve a nice night out. It's the least you can do after dragging your sorry rear end to the bar to pass out next to, the one you like more. You may not find about as interesting as a cement block.

Yet, in spite of the fact that I suspect many people share my feelings, people still go to the ends of the earth to please someone with their ID as long as seats are available. As always, I'm sure there will be some great prizes and I can assure you there will be some great hockey.

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Notre Dame hockey head coach
Feb. 12

Chris Mueller
Daily Collegian

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Pacific Theater Takes Its Turn At Dominance

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

The European Theater tends to dominate cinema, but there are a handful of films that explore the Pacific Theater as well. Here are a few of the most memorable and most recent to grace the screen.

Iwo Jima
1. "Flags of Our Fathers/Letters From Iwo Jima" (2006): Like "Tora! Tora! Tora!", Eastwood's pair of films explore both sides of the conflict, with the American perspective in "Fathers" and the Japanese perspective in "Letters." "Letters" is considered the stronger picture, despite its "art-film" sensibilities, and has been nominated for the Best Picture Academy Award.

Midway
3. "Midway" (1976): A star-studded cast led by Henry Fonda and Charlton Heston highlights this film about the Battle of Midway. Produced in the vein of "Tora! Tora! Tora!" it heavily features both sides of the conflict, though the soap opera dramatics tended to diffuse some of its impact.

Guadalcanal
4. "The Thin Red Line" (1998): Terrence Malick's ethereal meditation on war and nature is set against the backdrop of the Allied invasion of Guadalcanal. It received a mixed critical and commercial reception, partially due to the overwhelming popularity of Steven Spielberg's "Saving Private Ryan," which was released around the same time.

Saipan
5. "Windtalkers" (2002): Directed by John Woo and starring Nicholas Cage, "Windtalkers" follows Navajo soldiers whose native language became a code used by the Allies. Less realistic than other modern war films, it was also considered less effective.

Hawaii
6. "From Here to Eternity" (1954)/"Tora! Tora! Tora!" (1970)/"Pearl Harbor" (2001): All three of these films explore the attack on Pearl Harbor in different ways, with varying emphasis on the battle itself. "From Here to Eternity" is a classic, with strong performances, especially from Montgomery Clift and Frank Sinatra. "Tora! Tora! Tora!" was a joint project between American and Japanese studios, which produced a complex, but inconsistent film.

Japan
7. "Grave of the Fireflies" (1988): A tragic look at the civilian side of the war, this moving anime, directed by Isao Takahata, follows two children struggling to survive alone in Japan during the waning days of World War II. Despite being animated, it is considered a classic, with mature approaches to adult themes.

Shanghai
8. "Empire of the Sun" (1987): Steven Spielberg's coming-of-age story is about a spoiled British boy (Christian Bale) living in Shanghai, who eventually becomes separated from his parents and winds up as a prisoner in a Japanese camp. Not a Spielberg classic, it is still a very good film, anchored by a surprisingly mature performance from a young Bale.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader1@nd.edu
Eastwood's latest effort is an Academy favorite

Clint Eastwood's latest directorial effort, "Letters from Iwo Jima," is one of a few films that are considered favorites to win the "Best Picture" award.

Several scenes directly correlate with each other; and seeing one film deepens the level of understanding that comes from those scenes when the perspectives of both sides are taken into account. They also bring to light different aspects of war, and by focusing on the same battle these issues are brought to greater clarity. "Flags of our Fathers" questions the motives of propaganda and perception and the consequences of those actions, while "Letters from Iwo Jima" concentrates on decisions that are made in the situation of battle.

Both films serve to question the greater motivations behind war, as well as individual belief systems. In both films the characters make difficult decisions where they must choose to follow what they believe is important, regardless of what their government or others are saying. Even outside of the context of war, these are increasingly valuable questions to ask and are not only timeless, but timely with the current state of affairs in our world.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

Trashy tabloid would be a welcome addition

Britain's The Sun is a daily newspaper with the world's highest circulation and more than three million copies sold a day. This is for good reason, given its focus on sex, celebrities, sports, sex, politics and sensational crime. People in Britain are unabashed in their reading of the daily tabloid newspapers in fact so much so that people read them while they eat breakfast. All of the top papers in the country are what Americans would consider just a notch above the National Enquirer.

Reading The Sun every morning over my healthy full English breakfast of eggs, bacon, sausage, toast and Guinness, I've come to the conclusion that we need a table in Notre Dame. Please — Scholastic's "The Gipper" is anonymous, usually obscure and lacking photos.

I know. I know. A tabloid would never enter our Notre Dame. That's what Facebook is for, right? But since Dimers seem to love trashy celebrity photos and are willing to spend thousands of dollars to get a picture of a celebrity, I thought they'd enjoy reading a scandalous newspaper at the dining hall. After all, it's thank week and you're not supposed to fry as much as any Brit.

Compared to American tabloids, we're not all that different. For example, we've seen many students browse the latest on Britney and Paris Hilton on the Melrose Place set. Conversations rarely focus on class — much more on the previous Friday and Saturday nights. I love The Observer, but no one is really that interested in what happened at the latest Student Senate meeting anyway.

We want the juicy stuff: who is hooking up with who at TC, detailed coverage of squad snowball fights, tips for using Wikipedia papers and the latest exploits of a certain football player.

Forget AP stories as well — we'll have columns on Anna Nicole Smith, JT and Scarlett, and whether University President Father John Jenkins is preparing to adopt a baby with Madonna and the Pits after his recent trip to Uganda.

Forget seeing racy photos of the trash troika starring Lindsay Lohan, Paris Hilton and Britney Spears jumping out of cars in LA in next to nothing.

Under the Dome, we could feature not only the triumvirate of Jenkins and former University Presidents Father Ted Hesburgh and Father Edward Malloy shanking into Rocco's for a quiet dinner. Just imagine the banner headline — "Popped Collars: JJ, Ted and Monk spotted at spaghetti Yalta!" It would almost be too much for the paparazzi photos of Charlie Weis at Rocco's for a quiet dinner. Just imagine the banner headline — "Popped Collars: JJ, Ted and Monk spotted at spaghetti Yalta!" It would almost be too much for the tabloids.

The Notre Dame Enquirer could cover Jimmy Clausen the way The Sun covers the English Press. The hot race would be to see what girl the Heisman winner would date.

The initial time someone spotted Jim Cazievil of the Passion of the Christ in the boys over in Corby. He was wearing the Rudy jacket. The headline? Students: Why is Jesus still here?

Let's also please leave out paparazzi photos of Charlie Weis at the beach. I think we'd all agree some things are better left unpublished.

"For revenue, we could have the Bookstore advertise its fair and honest prices. Nothing prepared me better for the horrible British exchange rate than shopping at our Bookstore.

In Britain, every day a nice girl who lost her clothes is featured on Page 3 of The Sun. With our tab, we could have a new girl every day modeling the staple of every girl's wardrobe — her favorite North Face fleece. Nothing too sexy, of course. It is Notre Dame. As you can tell by now, Notre Dame really is need of a tabloid to truly encompass our sometimes crazy student life beyond placid Student Activities stories and banal coverage of "that diplomat guy who spoke to your class. Something that is funny, inane and trashy. Wait, we have the Irish Rover. Never mind.

Contact Bob Costa at costa@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Pistons top Clippers, claim seventh straight win

NBA

Carmelo Anthony hurts thigh as Denver bests Golden State

Associated Press


"We reminded our guys of all that this morning, before the game, during the game and after the game," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "We've been in that situation too — it isn't easy to be at the end of a trip like that, especially without Elton." Saunders even got the weather he wanted — a chilly, snowy day with a winter storm about to roll in.

"The teams from the East go out west early in the season, and we literally get our heads beat in," Saunders said. "But it is even harder for the Western teams, because they come through here around the All-Star break, and they go from 75 degrees to 10-below, and all they want to do is sit in their hotel rooms all day. That's just how we like it."

The Clippers, who haven't played a home game yet in February, went 2-5 on the marathon trip, and one of the victories came against the struggling Boston Celtics. Los Angeles hosts Atlanta on Wednesday.

"This is the longest trip of the year, and we wanted it to turn out better than it did," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said. "There were a couple games on the trip that we played against teams that we felt we could beat, but we didn't get the job done."

Pistons guard Chauncey Billups, right, drives past Clippers guard Cuttino Mobley during Detroit's 92-74 win Monday at Detroit.

"There was a period where Chris was just attacking the basket and making great plays," Tayshaun Prince said. "But it is we literally get our heads beat with a winter storm about to roll in." Saunders indicated the starting lineup.

"There were a couple games on there," Nelson said. "We won't do anything until after the surgery is to clean out some debris in his left knee. We won't know the length of time he'll be out until they go in there," Nelson said. "We won't make a roster move. We won't do anything until after the surgery."

The absences of Jackson and Davis didn't prevent the Warriors from running their high-octane offense in the first half, when they shot 59 percent only to trail 65-59 at the break when Smith and DerMarr Johnson hit back-to-back 3s in the closing seconds.

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Associated Press

**Men's Basketball**

**Associated Press Top 25**

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**Men's Basketball**

**Best East Standings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Big East record</th>
<th>Overall record</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florida (72)</td>
<td>19-2</td>
<td>22-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>22-3</td>
<td>25-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>22-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>22-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>21-3</td>
<td>23-5</td>
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<td>Kansas</td>
<td>21-4</td>
<td>22-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>18-6</td>
<td>20-8</td>
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<td>Indiana</td>
<td>17-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma State</td>
<td>19-5</td>
<td>21-11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston College</td>
<td>18-4</td>
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<td>Arizona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia Tech</td>
<td>17-7</td>
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</tbody>
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**In Brief**

Time Warner reaches deal to sell Braves to Liberty Media

NEW YORK — Time Warner Inc. reached a deal to sell the Atlanta Braves to Liberty Media Corp. after more than a year of negotiations, The Wall Street Journal reported Monday. The agreement, which must still be approved by Major League Baseball owners, would involve Time Warner transferring the Braves, a group of craft magazines and $1 billion in cash to Liberty in exchange for about 60 million shares of Time Warner, the Journal reported, citing an unidentified person familiar with the deal.

Based on the closing price of Time Warner's stock Monday, the market value of those shares would be about $1.27 billion.

Liberty Media spokesman John Orr and Time Warner spokesman Ed Adler declined to comment on the report, which the Journal posted on its Web site Monday.

Man convicted of hitting Warriors' Jackson with car

INDIANAPOLIS — A man who hit former Indiana Pacers guard Stephen Jackson with a car during a fight outside a strip club last fall was convicted Monday in a ruling by a judge.

Deon Willard waived his right to a jury trial, allowing Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford to render a verdict. She found the 23-year-old man guilty of felony battery and failure to stop at an accident, a misdemeanor.

He will be sentenced Feb. 28. He faces two to eight years in prison for the felony and up to a year for the misdemeanor.

Jackson, who now plays for Golden State, left the courtroom to catch a flight to Denver, where the Warriors play Monday night.

"I leave everything in God's hands and continue to work on playing basketball," he said.
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NCAA Men's Basketball

Duke unranked after recent skid

Associated Press

Duke's Top 25 streak is over. Saddled by its first four-game losing streak in 11 years, Duke fell out of The Associated Press poll Monday for the first time since the end of the 1995-96 season. The Blue Devils had been in the media poll for 200 straight weeks with the longest streak behind UCLA. The Bruins' run lasted 221 weeks, from the 1966-67 preseason poll to Jan. 8, 1980. No. 1 North Carolina is third all-time with 172 straight weeks from the 1990-91 preseason poll to Jan. 17, 2000.

"If you do it for a long period of time, it means you've been good that long," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of his team's streak that began in the 1996-97 preseason poll. "We never bring it up. It's a nice stat thing."

UCLA and Memphis are now tied for the longest active streak at 34 straight weeks in the Top 25.

Duke was No. 8 two weeks ago before losing in the final seconds to Virginia and Florida State. The Blue Devils lost to then-No. 5 North Carolina 79-73 on Wednesday and fell 72-60 at then-No. 5 North Carolina 79-73 on Wednesday and fell 72-60 at Virginia and Florida State.

"We travel a narrow road between winning and losing," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of his team's streak that began in the 1996-97 preseason poll. "It's a nice stat thing, but there's nothing to write home about."

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski argues a call during Duke's 72-60 loss to Maryland Sunday. The Blue Devils will try to end their slide Wednesday against the Cavaliers.

"We travel a narrow road between winning and losing," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of his team's streak that began in the 1996-97 preseason poll. "It's a nice stat thing, but there's nothing to write home about."

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski argues a call during Duke's 72-60 loss to Maryland Sunday. The Blue Devils will try to end their slide Wednesday against the Cavaliers.

Andy Reid leaves Eagles for Eagles

Coach takes time to address sons' problems

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Andy Reid is facing a crisis tougher than a quarterback controversy or a disruptive player.

The Philadelphia Eagles coach will leave the team for a month to deal with developments that have rocked his family the past two weeks: one son tested positive for heroin, another was arrested on drug and weapons charges.

The team said the leave will last until mid-March.

"He's not going to come into the office," Reid said. "He'll be here for a period of time.

"That's why that's a little bit hazy, but he will be returning in and around that time frame."

Reid has led the Eagles to the playoffs in each of the past two seasons from the 2004 postseason and a series of key injuries in 2005 to losing five-time Pro Bowl game and star defensive end Jevon Kearse.

"People deal with circumstances in life of all different kinds, some more serious, some more serious, some more fortunate, some less so, and are still able to carry on with their careers and their professions," Reid said. "I think that's the kind of guy that Andy is, he'll hold on to his responsibilities in the right place, do what he needs to do, do the right thing, and also be able to return as the head coach and do the same quality job he's always done."
Pound denounces IOC's reprimand

**WADA head says he's not responsible to group for comments**

Associated Press

LONDON — The head of the World Anti-Doping Agency said Monday the International Olympic Committee was wrong to reprimand him for criticizing Lance Armstrong last year.

"This has nothing to do with either the IOC ethics commission or the IOC board," Dick Pound told The Associated Press by telephone from Montreal. "Anything I do or say in relation to doping is done in my capacity with WADA."

"I'm responsible to WADA, not the IOC," he added.

"Everything I've done has been in accordance with instructions or approval from WADA."

The IOC's reaction, he said, was "a wasted week for comments about the seven-time Tour de France winner, suggesting he should be "a bit careful" with his words.

A frequent critic of cycling's doping agency, Pound criticized a Dutch report last year that cleared Armstrong of "reprehensible and indefensible" conduct. Armstrong asked that Pound be allowed to take care regarding his declarations. He should be a bit careful concerning his declarations," IOC spokeswoman Emmanuelle Moreau said.

"I told the IOC misrepresented his role. "I don't do anything in relation to doping for the IOC," he said. "All I've ever said is: 'Lance, if the analysis was right, there may be a case to answer to.'"

Pound also said he will discuss the matter with the IOC.

"I'll tell them with the greatest of respect, 'I think you've got it wrong.' Pound said. "People are going to wonder if the IOC is serious or not."

Armstrong said he appreciated some of Pound's efforts to clean up sports, but he thought the IOC had also sent an important message.

"It's been a long process," Armstrong said. "Considering the IOC rarely does something like this, it's a significant gesture and I appreciate it. I hope he learns his lesson."

The French sports newspaper L'Equipe reported in August 2004 that six of Armstrong's urine samples from the 1999 Tour de France tested positive for EPO. Pound said the report was prepared by a lawyer with no expertise in doping control and that WADA was considering legal action against him.

Armstrong then sent an eight-page letter to IOC president Jacques Rogge and the executive board last June 9 accusing Pound — a senior IOC member from Canada — of "reprehensible and indefensible" conduct. Armstrong asked that Pound be forced to step down as chairman of the doping unit.

The IOC said it reviewed the report filed by Armstrong's lawyer.

"The executive board approved a recommendation of the ethics committee to remind Dick Pound to take care regarding his public declarations. He should be a bit careful concerning his declarations," IOC spokeswoman Emmanuelle Moreau said.

Pound said he felt the IOC misunderstood his role.

"I don't do anything in relation to doping for the IOC," he said. "All I've ever said is: 'Lance, if the analysis was right... there may be a case to answer to.'"

Dick Pound

World Anti-Doping Agency

"All I've ever said is: 'Lance, if the analysis was right... there may be a case to answer to.'"

Dick Pound

World Anti-Doping Agency

"I didn't recognize that team."
Giants slugger Barry Bonds, seen reacting to a call, was one of 10 players originally investigated by federal prosecutors in 2003.

If the December decision survives, the players who tested positive could be called before a grand jury and asked how they obtained their steroids.

Federal investigators originally demanded to see the 2003 results for Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield, who was recently traded by the New York Yankees to the Detroit Tigers, and the Yankees’ Jason Giambi and seven other players. When they raided the testing labs for those 10 results, investigators also seized computer files containing the test results of nearly 100 other players not named in the government’s subpoena and warrants.

Reese, who last month replaced the retired Ernie Accorsi, served notice that he will not stand pat with a team that won the NFC East in 2005 but was humiliated in a first-round playoff loss to Carolina, then squibbed into the playoffs last season with an 8-8 record and again lost in the first round.

"These are difficult decisions," Giants head coach Tom Coughlin said. "But as Jerry and I looked at the roster, they are decisions we felt we had to make as we start to compose our team for the upcoming season."

Combined with the retirement of running back Tiki Barber, the Giants now have additional salary-cap space to pursue free agents this offseason. Emmons had two years remaining on a five-year contract worth $16.2 million and was to make $7 million this year, and Pettigout had two years left on his contract and was due $3 million for 2007.

Arrington, whose contract was filled with incentives, was scheduled to make $960,000 next season.

Pettigout started 106 games at tackle and guard over eight seasons for the Giants, but broke his leg against Chicago on Nov. 12 and missed the Giants’ final seven games. He became expendable when guard David Diehl switched to left tackle and played well in his absence.

Appeals court to decide whether to stand, it will create circuit law giving the government carte blanche to use a warrant for some piece of data on a computer as the pretext for seizing the entire computer."

MLBPA

The 2-1 decision in December by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned three lower court decisions and could help authorities pinpoint the source of steroids in baseball.

Investigators seized computer files containing the test results in 2004, during raids of labs involved in MLB’s testing program. The samples were collected at baseball’s direction the previous year as part of a survey to gauge the prevalence of steroid use. Players and owners agreed in their labor contract that the results would be confidential, and each player was assigned a code number to be matched with his name.

Associated Press

"I am surprised by the recent legal developments," Martinez said. "We are reviewing these developments and considering our options."
next few games. They’re going to be tough games.”

The Irish also have trips to conference bottom-feeders Cincinnati (10-14, 1-9) Sunday and Rutgers (10-15, 3-9) March 3, both of whom would fall into the “bad loss” category if Notre Dame were to drop a game to either one. However, both games are on the road, where the Irish are just 3-6 this year.

Carter said that hard work will help the Irish win away from the Joyce Center, which will be important at neutral sites of the Big East and N.C.A.A Tournament. “There’s always room for improvement,” he said. “We need to improve as a team and as individuals to achieve our goals from the beginning of the season.”

As for the teams competing with the Irish for the fourth first-round bye, the Orange have four games left before the conference tournament. They play at South Florida Wednesday, then host Connecticut Saturday. They have a week off, then a trip to Providence, and finish with second place Georgetown.

The Mountaineers have only three games left. They also have a road game with the Friars, but they get to host Seton Hall, who is only 3-7 in conference. West Virginia finishes its season against first-place Pittsburgh, who may have clinched the Big East title or at least a bye in the tournament by the time that game is played.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Banquet

Monday afternoon before the banquet.

“I was telling them that ‘they’re good players but I want them to develop a confident swagger,”’ he said.

Counsell, who captained the Irish to within a game of the College World Series in 1992, told the audience that he was honored to be back at his alma mater. He applauded the state of the school’s baseball program, saying that it had definitely progressed in the past several years.

“What I remember about being here is how hard we worked and how we wanted Notre Dame baseball to matter,” Counsell said. “The program is obviously in great shape.”

Shrage has adopted the motto “Tradition Never Graduates” for this year’s team. He repeatedly stressed his high expectations for his players, including his first Irish recruiting class.

“There’s a sense of responsibility that comes with putting on a baseball jersey at Notre Dame,” he said. “These players have it.”

Contact Fran Tolan at ftilan@nd.edu

(Photos by Mark Gelson)

Irish pitcher Brett Gruffy delivers to the plate last season. In 2006, the right-hander threw 26.2 innings while giving up 11 earned runs.
DePaul continued from page 20

conference. The Wildcats dropped their last game against Seton Hall 56-51 in the final seconds, and they are just 3-7 on their home court. But they lost those last five games by an average of just 7.6 points, and five games were decided by 10 points or less.

"Villanova's always a tough game for us to play," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Sunday after Notre Dame's win over DePaul.

The last six regular-season meetings between the teams have been decided by an average of 2.8 points per game. Notre Dame leads the overall series 13-8, but Villanova has won five of the last seven games.

McGraw was pleased with the Irish play against DePaul, but felt improvement was needed.

"I think we got to continue to work on our defense," she said. "We gave up 70 points tonight, and I don't know how many they scored in the last two minutes but it was way too many.

"Recently, the Irish have greatly improved other facets of their game. Notre Dame out rebounded its opponents 41 to 29 in the last three games, and it held Louisville, the top rebounding team in the Big East, to a season-low 29 boards.

"We're doing a much better job on the boards and we're doing a good job executing the offense," McGraw said.

Notre Dame's offense underwent a slight shift against DePaul, featuring a higher dose of freshmen guard Ashley Barlow in place of center Melissa D'Amico to offset the Blue Demons' smaller lineup.

"This a group that we can play with at times during the season, up from four the previous year.

"Traditionally, the Irish play strong in February. The team is 68-17 in the month since joining the Big East in 1995.

With an Irish win and losses from both South Florida and Pittsburgh, Notre Dame could move into a tie for third place. It is currently tied for fifth in the Big East standings with five games to go before the tournament.

"Now we've got to win some games on the road," McGraw said. "It's always a tough stretch for us.

Contact Bill Brink at bbrink@nd.edu

Surge continued from page 20

and South Florida at 7-4. But in the top-heavy conference, the Irish sit only a game behind the Cardinals, Marquette and Rutgers, all of which are in a three-way tie for second.

"That's why every game is so important to keep our standing," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "And to be picked to finish eleventh and still have a chance at finishing second this late in the year I think talks about the resilience of this team.

After its toughest stretch of the season Jan. 23-31 — when it played three ranked teams and got steamrolled by all of them — Notre Dame has a relatively easy schedule to finish out its regular season.

The Irish begin this stretch tonight against Big East-bottom feeder Villanova. The Wildcats are 1-10 in the conference and have not won a game since beating the Mountaineers 70-64 Jan. 6. Villanova has lost its last nine games by an average of 7.5 points to stay cement their place in the Big East basement.

After the Wildcats, the Irish will travel to Providence Saturday for a game against the ninth-place Friars. Providence ended its own seven-game losing streak Saturday with a 93-77 win at St. John's for only its third Big East win this season.

Notre Dame will be playing some of the worst teams in the conference, but McGraw is not looking past either opponent.

"Now we've got to win some games on the road and it's going to be a tough stretch for us," McGraw said. "Villanova is always a tough game to play and is playing everybody close.

Even with a strong season so far, the Irish still have some work to do to ensure a good seeding in the NCAA Tournament.

The most pressing issue for the Irish is to win their three remaining road games against Villanova, Providence and DePaul Feb. 26. Notre Dame is only 3-7 on the road, and none of its road wins are against a ranked team. The Irish will have to prove they can win away from the Joyce Center to impress the selection committee.

Notre Dame will also have to beat No. 23 Rutgers at home Feb. 24 to round out its home schedule. The Irish have seen success in the Joyce Center, including wins over Louisville, No. 18 Bowling Green and No. 16 Purdue, and their only loss came to Indiana Dec. 3.

But another big win over a ranked opponent would do nothing but help the Irish cause.

"It's important to take care of your home court when the NCAA selection committee starts looking at where they're going to seed us," McGraw said.

"It's important to know that we've been able to do the job at home.

With seven conference wins and a relatively easy remaining schedule in the Big East, the Irish are almost a lock to make the NCAA Tournament. But, if it can round out its schedule with three to five wins and a win over another ranked team. Notre Dame could be seeded as high as seventh come March.

Not bad for a team originally projected to barely make the Big East tournament.

But before the Irish can realize any pipe dreams about the Tournament, they have to stay focused on the game at hand and take care of business tonight in Philadelphia.

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

Contact Jay Fitzgerald at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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ICE DANCING

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

The Observer • SPORTS

Irish center Kevin Deeth prances around Nebraska-Omaha defender Dan Charleston during Notre Dame's 4-2 win Feb. 9.
HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Ricci, 27; Arsenio Hall, 52; Joanna Kerns, 54, Judy Blume, 69

Happy Birthday! It's what you do to help others that will get you ahead this year. Your action will improve even your most critical observer. This year it is easy to make drastic changes but it is one to stabilize your current position, to solidify important relationships and to form good connections with people who can assist you when you need help. Your numbers are 11, 15, 21, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You could use a vacation or a change of scenery. If you can't afford to take one, just switch your routine a bit. Talking to people with whom you are not too friendly, having a vacation, or an old friend can turn sour if either one of you is trying to take advantage. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): In a friendly manner, and with a smile, you can please some but you can't please everyone. Don't trust someone to do a job for you. If you put in extra effort and go it alone, you will be the one to advance. A romantic opportunity is present but don't get involved with this person if it will affect your financial future. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can please some but you can't please everyone. Don't trust someone to do a job for you. If you put in extra effort and go it alone, you will be the one to advance. A romantic opportunity is present but don't get involved with this person if it will affect your financial future. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't trust someone to do a job for you. If you put in extra effort and go it alone, you will be the one to advance. A romantic opportunity is present but don't get involved with this person if it will affect your financial future. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be fooled by someone who wants you to invest in his or her future. You can do far better looking out for your own interests. Networking and associating with people who value the same path will give you some great ideas. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take things one step at a time. Someone may try to mess up your plans. If you want an honest answer, ask previous questions. Your own answer is what counts. Avoid someone who is wishy-washy. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should be able to make things happen if you aren't busy trying to get others to do things for you. Put an all-out effort. A meeting with someone you consider to be knowledgeable will give you some new financial ideas. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have the discipline to pull off a deal that you've been waiting to launch for some time now. Don't let someone stand in your way. Emotional matters must not be allowed to interfere in your progress. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be ready to move your mentors and put about your business with integrity. Being understood will only come back to haunt you. A love connection is likely to cause you upset. Don't imagine. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Nothing will be out in the open. Don't get taken in by a person painting a good self-portrait. Do some research and make sure what you're getting into. You can please some but you can't please everyone. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): For you, a change of position; new places, new people and new ideas are on the menu. Make a firm decision and look for an agreement with you. Listen to what this person has to say — it may be valid.***

PIECES (Feb. 19-March 20): Busy, calm and don't let emotional issues cloud what you know you must do. A problem with overindulgence will lead to arguments or, even worse, breakups. Look at things realistically. It can always be the other person's fault. **

Birthday Advice: You are insightful and ready, willing and able to act fast. You are proud, worldly and a humanitarian. You are emotional, outgoing and totally unpredictable.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

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Clawing back

Notre Dame looks to halt road troubles in Philadelphia tonight

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

The Irish recovered from a three-game losing streak on the road by winning their last three home games, including Sunday's victory over DePaul. They will try to put an end to their swing-game troubles tonight at Villanova.

Notre Dame's offense will be led by guard Charel Allen, who this week was named Big East Player of the Week for her play against Louisville and DePaul. Allen averaged 23 points and 10 rebounds per game in those two games while shooting 51.5 percent from field-goal range. Allen grabbed 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the team's 78-70 win.

Villanova (7-17, 1-10 Big East) has squatted of late, losing a school-record nine straight games to fall to last place in the conference.

Irish guard Ashley Barlow drives around Louisville's Kala Faulkner during Notre Dame's 64-55 win over the Cardinals Feb. 7. Notre Dame will try to extend its winning streak to four tonight against last-place Villanova.

Three game winning streak has Irish poised for postseason

On Jan. 31, the Irish season was on the verge of collapse. The team had lost three straight games to ranked opponents and was set to face a surging West Virginia team in the Joyce Center Feb. 4 in a game it had to win.

Notre Dame rose to the occasion. The Irish won that game, and won again against No. 17/16 Louisville three days later. Those wins, coupled with another home win against DePaul Sunday night, have Notre Dame's season back on track.

The Irish are tied for fifth in the Big East with Pittsburgh...