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SMC senior holds personal protest
Brady gathers signatures to support a reversal of federal ban on partial-birth abortions
By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

One Saint Mary’s senior spent four hours sitting on the library green Wednesday, gathering signatures to support a reversal of the federal ban on partial-birth abortions as part of a personal protest. Erin Brady, a student in Professor Amanda Littauer’s women’s studies course, spent the afternoon “cold and alone” to show her solidarity for women who feel that their only choice is to have a child due to federal bans on partial-birth abortions.

“There are thousands of women who feel as though they have no choice other than to have an abortion due to financial reasons, or lack of resources,” Brady said. “Eighty percent of communities in the United States do not have abortion facilities.”

While the signature gathering is part of her “activism in action” assignment for Littauer’s course, Brady said it is also a “personal protest.”

“Obviously Saint Mary’s is Catholic,” Brady said. “There are 1,500 students on campus, like its display of white crosses on the library green each fall during Respect Life Week to support women’s reproductive rights on the library green Wednesday.”

Santa’s library green each fall during Respect Life Week to support women’s reproductive rights on the library green Wednesday.

see PROTEST/page 4

ND students study, intern in D.C.
15 Notre Dame students getting real-world career experience in nation’s capital this fall
By DAVID RHORER Jr.
News Writer

The Notre Dame Washington Program offers students real-world opportunities in the nation’s capital with its internship opportunities, said Liz LaFortune, the on-campus coordinator for the Program. “Students are signing up for more than just classes,” she said. “The hallmark of the Washington Program is the internship.”

Every student in the program is required to intern, in addition to having a regular course workload. LaFortune said: “Fifteen Notre Dame students are currently studying and interning — in Washington, and 21 are planning to participate next semester.”

Former Washington Program interns said their experiences helped prepare them for their future careers.

“The major advantage to being in D.C. is getting a jumpstart on your career,” said Julie Opet, a senior who studied in Washington and interned for the Hudson Institute last year. Senior Mike Laskey said, “I have the field is really wide open.”

He said, “Students meet with me to determine the internship.”

see INTERNs/page 6

STUDENT SENATE
Resolution passes, but with error
Incorrect information on dorm workout facilities slips by senators
By KATLYN RILEY
Associate News Editor

The Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution Wednesday recommending the University increase the amount of funding allocated to dorms to improve their workout facilities; however, the resolution contained an inaccuracy that no one in the Senate caught.

Senate Residence Life committee chair Mariana Montes presented the resolution, the product of research conducted through a survey of the condition of the workout equipment in each of the dorms.

see SENATE/page 4

Cancer survivor tackles 515K race
SMC prof raises funds, awareness for research
By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary’s chemistry professor Toni Barstis, a triathlete for seven years, did not view her cancer diagnosis as a death sentence. For her, it was motivation to keep training.

Barstis was one of 35 athletes invited to participate in this year’s Ultraman World Championships during Thanksgiving weekend in Hawaii.

She hopes her efforts will encourage other cancer survivors to continue training and competing.

“If Lance (Armstrong) isn’t a great motivator, I can be a motivator for middle-aged women,” Barstis said. “Don’t take no for an answer. I hope to show the importance of staying fit and reaching for something unattainable.”

The two-day event, which covered a total distance of 515 kilometers, was on the Big Island of Hawaii. The first day of competition included a 10-kilometer ocean swim, a 145-kilometer bike race through Volcanoes National Park on day one. On day two, participants completed an additional 276-mile run.
**A little bit of Gossip**

It's Wednesday, 9 p.m. And for all you fellow "Gossip Girl" addicts out there, this can only mean one thing—a whole new hour of juicy drama and scandalous happenings to help get you through the week.

Sure, the show's not any good. The characters are over-the-top, the plotlines aren't original and each episode boils down to a bunch of melodrama teenagers exchanging bad lines.

Yet while my dignity and better judgment try to dissuade me, I can't help but find myself glued to the television awaiting the latest updates on the lives of these Upper East siders.

So here I am, curled up in my classy sweat pants and dorm apparel watching a new episode around in a pair of designer boots that probably cost more than my rent. I know I should be employing my time doing something worthwhile, like finishing off that quart that's due tomorrow or watching the spin-off of "Grey's.

But how can I risk missing Blair and Serena's weekly catfight or Rufus, Lily and Allison's geriatric love triangle? Seriously though, Allison needs to get out of the way so Rufus and Lily can get together already.

Maybe it's the glitz and glamour of living a high-profile life in New York City that draws me in. Or perhaps it's the promise of cheesy teenage romance that comes with every new episode. Whatever it is, it's got me shamefully hooked to a TV show with ratings as bad as my sophomore grade in trig.

The show probably won't last past another season, or at least, two. Which is good, considering the amount of time I'll save once it's off the air.

But for now, I'll enjoy the short escape the show provides from my parents and homework never seems to get in the way of weekday parties. If you haven't seen the show, don't watch it. After all the dirt's been blown on the episode's over and it's 10:05 p.m., I find myself seriously regretting the loss of an hour of my dignity and better judgment (as well as the fact that I have to get back to watching the occasional parents and homework never seems to get in the way of weekday parties).

But if, you're hooked and can't seem to escape your craving for this guilty pleasure, well, you have company.

Maybe with finals week fast approaching I'll be able to nick this unhealthy addiction for good and "Gossip Girl" can become just another bad memory along with the likes of "Dawson's Creek." Maybe then I can get back to watching the occasional, and less embarrassing rerun of "Friends" or "The Daily Show." Anyway, it's the promise of cheesy teenage romance that comes with every new episode. Whatever it is, it's got me shamefully hooked to a TV show with ratings as bad as my sophomore grade in trig.

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**IN BRIEF**

The Rosary will be said at at the Grotto at 6:45 p.m. today. The Rosary is said daily.

Campus Ministry is hosting a celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Prayer services held to obtain special graces are being held at St. Edward's Hall Chapel at 9 p.m. each night through Sunday. The celebration is co-sponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies, La Alianza and OLA.

The Take Ten program will sponsor local children at the Robinson Community Learning Center in a book-mark recognition ceremony at 6 p.m. today. Local school children who participated in the Take Ten program will make bookmarks. The Robinson Center is located at 921 North Eddy Street.

The annual football banquet will be held Friday at 5:45 p.m. in the Joyce Center Monogram Room. The featured speaker will be 1993 graduate Aaron Taylor, a two-year All-American Offensive Tackle and Lombardi Award winner. Tickets can be purchased through the Notre Dame Ticket Office at 574-631-7356.

The Glee Club will hold its annual Christmas Concert Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The concert will benefit the Center for the Homeless in South Bend.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observer@nd.edu.
‘The Shirt’ meets sales goals

By AMBER TRAVIS

The Shirt sales reported this year by the Flammes Notre Dame Bookstore were consistent with previous seasons, despite the football team’s losing record.

"We were very happy with the sales. We had set a goal for ourselves of 120,000 shirts, and, obviously, we met that goal."

Jason Gott
'The Shirt' president

The Shir t project’s success is a result of the football season even starting, because that’s a good way to build momentum," Gott said. "The more people that you have wearing The Shirt at the first football game, the more other people are going to want to buy it."

"We’re always trying to increase The Shirt’s appeal and get the students and the alumni more engaged with it."

Jason Gott
'The Shirt' president

The Shir t’s project organization team is currently working on the 19th shirt for next year’s football season, but plans are still in the early stages, Gott said. The team hopes to sell between 120,000 to 130,000 units of next year’s The Shirt.

"Because of the consistency in sales over the last few years, I think it’s really something that we need to expect of ourselves to reach the same kind of success," he said.

Gott hopes to see more people wearing The Shirt during home games next season, and he wants to see more people attend the unveiling of The Shirt at the Bookstore on the weekend of the Blue-Gold football game.

"We’re always trying to increase The Shirt’s appeal and get the students and the alumni more engaged with it."

"The Shirt" started to build a reputation, Gott said. "That’s something that really ties people to campus, and a lot of people like the fact that you can only get it on campus," he said. "It’s something that you can take with you."

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The Shirt’s appeal and get the students and the alumni more engaged with it, he said. "I think that the bar has been set to the minimum of what the Notre Dame community expects from The Shirt Project, and it’s going to be the goal, from now on, to raise that bar."

Contact Amber Travis at atravis@nd.edu

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Sociology paper wins second place award

Special to the Observer

A paper written by Notre Dame sociologist Jackie Smith and post-doctoral fellow Dawn Wiest has received the second-place award in an international competition held by the Zurich-based World Society Foundation, a major funder of social science research on the causes and social impact of global change.

The paper, entitled ‘Explaining Participation in Regional Transnational Social Movement Organizations,’ was published this year in International Journal of Comparative Sociology and examines the trend toward greater regionalism in transnational social movement organizing.

Looking at data from 1980 to 2000, Smith and Wiest found that the European Union, the African Union and other regional institutions encouraged social movement groups to organize within regions, rather than across geographic divides.

The researchers wanted to know whether that meant global society was becoming more polarized along regional lines or whether it reflected a more complex phenomenon of closer ties among local and global processes.

The study’s findings suggest that organizers are responding to regionally defined opportunities rather than becoming polarized along geographic lines.

"Regional organizations are becoming the ‘connective tissue’ between local and global political arenas," Smith said. "This will allow for greater participation from people and groups with less access to the sites of global policymaking."

Smith is on the faculty of Notre Dame’s Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. She is the author of Social Movements for Global Democracy and co-author of ‘Global Democracy and the World Social Forums.’

Wiest is assistant professor of sociology at Memphis State University. In 2006-07, she was a post-doctoral fellow at the Kroc Institute and in Notre Dame’s sociology department.

Write for News
Call 631-5523

SMITH

Top Safety Pick includes the 2008 Tribeca. Government frontal and side crash tests are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) New Car Assessment Program. See safercar.gov for more detail.
Writer continued from page 1

American smokers. FOCA is being advertised as "A Smoke-Free Future Promoting Healthy Choices." "I was really be pleased with that message while they're here," said Christopher Sallak, marketing manager at the College. "There will be a booth at the Student Center raising awareness about smoking also." Saint Mary's "This concept is technically external, but has several internal elements since it is partnered with an office at the College of Arts and Sciences." Internal events include plays, seasonal concerts, recitals and choir performances by Saint Mary's students and faculty.

Protest continued from page 1

"For three years [during my time here], there have been the little, baby crosses and pro-life protests with no voice from the other side," said Brady. "It's important to represent the other side, adequate defense of this debate." Brady gathered signatures for the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) from professors and students during her time on the green.

FOCA is an act that "will secure the right to choose by establishing a federal law that will protect the reproductive freedom for future generations of American women," according to fliers. Brady passed out to students. "I'm not really trying to reverse the ban on partial-birth abortions. I've had mixed criticism," Brady said of her protest spot in a high traffic area on campus. "It's been a divided audience. While one openly criticized her display, she said that she noticed some student groups coming negatively to their friends as they passed. But many students, Brady said, seemed to either disregard her totally or to support her. "I've gotten lots of positive feedback," Brady said. "I had some girls bring me heat lamp. I ate because I looked so cold." Brady began to take off her protest around 5 p.m. when student "I'm a little bit tared off. But she said she may organize something else to support reproductive rights in the future." "Students should be aware that it does all the time and how they may have joined," she said. "This was a personal protest, but the next time it will be more organized and will have more people because it's an issue that affects women directly."

Contact Liz Harper at char01@stmarys.edu

Senate continued from page 1

The University Web site claims that adequate workout facilities are provided in the residence halls. Mones said the resolution would have to be corrected before it was sent to the Campus Life Council for approval.

In the survey Mones' committee conducted, questions about workout facilities were sent to every resident of each residence hall. The survey asked whether the dorm had adequate workout facilities, and if so, how many people use them and how frequently. The survey also asked about the condition of the machines and how the facility can be improved.

The survey lacked responses from McGinn, Soren, Lyons, Cavanaugh and Lewis halls. Many of the residence halls that have adequate workout facilities had their equipment old or broken.

The resolution states that "If/For Sports Recreation Center and Rockefeller Memorial Workout Facility are full at multiple times during the day, and that "adequate workout facilities are essential to the mental and physical well-being and other success of students." Montes said the resolution is intentionally vague about how much funding should be given to dorm workout facilities, because, she said, it will allow her to work with ORH to determine the funding.

"This is just a suggestion for improvement," she said.

The Senate agenda also listed a resolution presented last week by Senate Oversight Committee chair Sean Secviar, but Secviar decided, and the Senate affirmed with a vote, to table the resolution, because three senators were absent from the meeting.

"I'm not sure if I could be useful to talk about it again until everyone is here," Secviar said.

"I was thinking, in the interest of such important to procedure, it really wouldn't be nice to talk about it again until everyone is here," Secviar said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran claims victory in nuclear fight

TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday confirmed a dramatic turnaround in a new intelligence review a victory for Iran's nuclear program, suggesting it shows the success of his hard-line stance rejecting compromise.

But his more moderate opponents at home are hoping the assessment's conclusion that Tehran shelved its effort to develop atomic weapons would at least ease diplomatic relations between Washington and Tehran.

The political rivalry in Tehran could have important implications for what a possible opening to Iran's nuclear program, now that the report has been released, means for Washington to enhance its leverage over Iran — more U.N. sanctions and the possibility of military action.

Iran's Ahmadinejad has faced a rising challenge from a more moderate camp centered around his top rival, former president Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Court opens investigations of Sudan

UNITED NATIONS — The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court announced Wednesday that he was opening an investigation against Sudanese government officials for what he called systematic attacks on refugee camps in Darfur.

Luis Moreno Ocampo said his office would also investigate violence against humanitarian workers and peacekeepers in Darfur, including an Oct. 29 attack on a U.N.-Danish military base, which African Union soldiers dead and 1 missing.

Teen birth rate sees slight increase

WASHINGTON — At a busy department store Wednesday, a man opened fire with a rifle at a busy department store Wednesday, killing eight people before taking his own life in an attack that made holiday shoppers running screaming through a mall and barricade themselves in dressing rooms.

Five more were wounded, two critically.

The gunman left a suicide note that was found at his home by his mother, said a law enforcement official who spoke on condition not to be named because the investigation is ongoing.

The official identified the gunman as 20-year-old Darus Thompson.

Witnesses said the gunman fired down on shoppers from a third-floor balcony of the Von Maur store. One witness told a TV station he shot up a teddy bear as he sprayed fire on shoppers.

Teen birth rate sees slight increase

WASHINGTON — In a troubling reversal, the teen birth rate had been dropping since its peak in 1991, although the decline had slowed in recent years. On Wednesday, government statisticians said it rose 3 percent.

The birth rate had been dropping since its peak in 1991, although the decline had slowed in recent years. In the past year, however, the number of births has continued to rise, with the birth rate increasing 3 percent.

The reason for the increase is not clear, and federal health officials said it might be a one-year statistical blip, not the beginning of a new upward trend.

LOCAL NEWS

Schools may install wind turbines

MISHAWAKA — School officials are working with a Michigan company to assess the feasibility of erecting wind turbines to help reduce the amount of energy their school buildings use.

Michigan-based Alternate Energy Solutions Inc. has been gathering a year's worth of wind data at the South Bend City School of Mishawaka's property, said Randy Squadrioni, the district's business manager.

The district — which spent $10,000 on the tower and installing fees — could erect up to five turbines in one location, preferably on the outskirts of Mishawaka, he said.

"We wouldn't do it unless it paid for itself with raising taxes," Squadrioni said.

Global warming bill approved by committee

WASHINGTON — Democrats turned back Republican efforts by Republican senators to soften the environmental impact of a landmark bill to reduce greenhouse gases.

The bill, approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, would reduce greenhouse gases by 7 percent by 2050 from electric power plants, manufacturing and transportation.

It would create a "cap-and-trade" system whereby companies would have pollution allowances that they could sell if they went below the emission limits, or buy if they found they could not meet the requirements.

The trading is aimed at reducing the economic impact of putting limits on carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels, the leading greenhouse gas.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., the committee's chairwoman, called the legislation "historic.

But the bill's prospects are uncertain. It is not expected to come up for action until next year, and many Republicans have vowed to seek significant changes.
Gypsy clans struggle for dominance in Southern California

Court dispute over fortunetelling trade in Orange County provides rare glimpse into insular community

Associated Press

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — A dispute between two Gypsy clans over control of the fortune-telling trade in this Southern California city has spilled into court, offering a rare glimpse of an insular culture that has long settled scores according to its own Old World rules of honor.

The turf war in well-to-do Orange County has unfolded like a gangster movie, with allegations of death threats, a gravy-seat office, and nicknames like "White Bob" and "Black Bob," details revealed in a police report and requests for restraining orders.

"The older Gypsies are pulling out their hair, not wanting the competition," said Tom Merino, who runs a fortune-telling business in Los Angeles. "They blame us because they've found out too much about us." 

More than a century ago when Edward Merino and his son, Sylvia, opened for business in a run-down section of Newport Beach, not far from where the Stevens men did business.

Members of the Stevens clan promptly broke in, stole a credit card machine and threatened to kill the Merinos if they didn't shut the places down, the Merinos claim in court papers. Since then, the Stevens and Merinos have spent their entire lives feuding.

The Stevens are "very territorial," Merino attorney Tom Quinn said. "This is crazy stuff.

At the root of the conflict lies a delicate system of intermarriage and family customs that has defused tensions among the women. But it only has gotten worse.

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In Brief

OPEC keeps production levels steady

AUBAIH — OPEC hedged its bets Wednesday, opting to keep production steady but setting a new meeting for Feb. 1 to raise output if prices skyrocket.

Benchmark crude prices rose on word of the decision, but the prospect of a review early next year — and its potential to raise production cut­tings if warranted — checked the upward trend.

After spiking by about $2 on news that present levels would be maintained, light sweet crude for January delivery reversed course and was down 55 cents at $87.77 in afternoon trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Price levels were more than 10 percent off the recent high and were seen as a barrier that most producers would not be tempted to breach, given the choice by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries would not roll markets back at least in the short term.

A final communique from OPEC's oil ministers' conference Thursday afternoon included the matter said the group would hold a joint news conference Thursday afternoon and the Treasury also announced it was providing a technical break is not given to real estate speculators.

The plan is aimed at homeowners who are mak­ing payments on time at lower introductory mort­gage rates but cannot afford a higher adjusted rate.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson held a joint news conference Thursday afternoon with mortgage industry off­icials.

Treasury also announced there would be a technical briefing to explain more of the proposal's details.

Paulson, who has been out of the action on Wall Street for over a year, said the program would apply to borrowers with loans made at the start of 2008 through July 30 of this year with rates that are scheduled to rise between Jan. 1, 2008, and July 31, 2010.

The administration said President Bush will speak on the agreement at the White House on Thursday and the Treasury and the White House said the program would only be available for owner-occu­pied homes bought from 2005 through this July.

The proposal's details will be announced as the program would only be available for owner-occupied homes bought from 2005 through this July.

New orders for durable goods, a bellwether for future economic activity, rose 0.7 percent in November, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

Orders for products that typically last more than three years rose 1.6 percent, helped by sturdy gains in orders for aircraft, household appliances and non-defense capital goods except aircraft.

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**Basilica of the Sacred Heart**

**solemnity of the immaculate conception of the blessed virgin mary**

**Holy Day of Obligation**

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Patroness of the United States of America, is especially honored each year on December 8, a Holy Day of Obligation in the Catholic Church. The University of Notre Dame will celebrate this special feast of the Church at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart with a Solemn Mass of Anticipation on Friday, December 7, at 5:15 pm. Music will be provided by the Women's Liturgical Choir. Various residence halls will also celebrate Mass for the Immaculate Conception Holy Day, according to the following schedule, and all are welcome:

**Friday, December 7**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00 pm</td>
<td>Zahm Hall Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:30 pm</td>
<td>Morrissey Manor Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Hall Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Badin Hall Chapel</td>
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<td>Keenan Hall / Stanford Hall Chapel</td>
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<td>McGlinn Hall Chapel</td>
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<td>Pasquerilla West Hall Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Siegfried Hall Chapel</td>
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**5:15 pm**

**Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

University Mass with the Holy Cross Community

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:15 pm</td>
<td>Sorin Hall Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 pm</td>
<td>Lyons Hall Chapel</td>
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**Saturday, December 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:45 am</td>
<td>Sacred Heart Parish Crypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Alumni Hall Chapel sponsored by Children of Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Coleman-Morse Center Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Carroll Hall Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fischer-O’Hara-Grace Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Keough Hall Chapel sponsored by Keough &amp; Welsh Family Halls</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Fisher Hall Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lewis Hall Chapel sponsored by BP, Cavanaugh, Farley, &amp; Lewis Halls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Pangborn Hall Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Dillon Hall Chapel</td>
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*Due to a full schedule of weddings at the Basilica on Saturday, December 8, this will be the only Basilica Mass to observe this Holy Day. The Basilica’s Saturday 5:00 pm Vigil Mass will be an anticipated Mass for Sunday (per the normal Basilica schedule) and not a Mass in observance of the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception.
THAILAND

Nation unites to celebrate monarch's 80th birthday

U.S.-born king, recently hospitalized with stroke symptoms, honored with festivities, prayer services before tens of thousands

Associated Press

BANGKOK — This celebrated its revered king's 80th birthday Wednesday, honoring the world's longest-reigning monarch with festivities and prayers amid concerns about his declining health and potentially divisive elections.

The unity of the nation has become Bhumibol's recurring theme in recent speeches. "I am glad that everyone has come together in unison to give me birthday wishes," he told a crowd of well-wishers, seated on a golden throne and dressed in a gold brocade robe.

Bhumibol was born Dec. 5, 1927, in Cambridge, Mass., where his father, Prince Mahidol, was studying at Harvard University. At age 19, he became the ninth king of Thailand's Chakri dynasty on June 9, 1946, after his older brother, Prince Mahidol, died of a mysterious illness at the age of 17.

Bhumibol has never publicly commented on the issue that weighs heavily on Thai stability — his health. His annual televised birthday speech Tuesday evening, Bhumibol likened the nation's situation to difficulties he has been facing after his recent illness. He now moves about with a walker.

I am glad that everyone has come together in unison to give me birthday wishes.

Bhumibol Adulyadej

King of Thailand

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The king saw as the national unifier, and his birthday has become the most high profile of the past two years of political turmoil.

Although he is a constitutional monarch with no formal political role, he is regarded as the force that holds the country together. Bhumibol has stiffled bloody uprisings, weathered military coups and has reigned through scores of governments, democratic and dictatorial.

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. The Observer reserves the right to refuse advertisements based on content. The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper of the University of Notre Dame, published in print and online by the students of the University. The Observer reserves the right to refuse to publish the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily The Observer.
Imagine standing beneath the Golden Dome, basking in the glory of earning a diploma from the University of Notre Dame. While doing so, your mind also wonders to the future. What will you be doing? Where will your friends be? Will you be part of something you’re proud of? Will your future steps have an impact on society as a whole?

These questions raced through my mind last spring during my first year at Notre Dame. While walking up the hallowed steps of Main Building, I stood hand-in-hand with three girls I’d spent the last four years with as we each grew into the women we are today. We all took a different journey — not good not bad, just different. From that day on, we entered our future with as much curiosity and excitement as we each grew into the students that were ready to fight for change.

These students: educational inequity in student achievement. I walked through the doors of Esridge High School in north St. Louis on Aug. 20 and soon stood face to face with the achievement gap. What a humbling experience! The burden of educating 120 students, freshmen through seniors, in the subjects of personal finance, geography, economics and American History soon appeared overwhelming. When I gave a reading and math diagnostic test to my students, they scored on average at a sixth-grade reading level and a seventh-grade math level.

For me, this was the achievement gap: a senior reading at a second-grade reading level, "high performing" students scoring 14 on the ACT, having to teach the seven continents in geography, acknowledging that I must teach my students how to write a paragraph. These students were not a statistic thrown at me; they were my responsibility.

Looking back, I now realize how little I understood the growing epidemic sweeping our country’s schools: educational inequity in student achievement. I walked through the doors of Esridge High School in north St. Louis on Aug. 20 and soon stood face to face with the achievement gap. What a humbling experience! The burden of educating 120 students, freshmen through seniors, in the subjects of personal finance, geography, economics and American History soon appeared overwhelming. When I gave a reading and math diagnostic test to my students, they scored on average at a sixth-grade reading level and a seventh-grade math level.

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I acknowledge that I cannot undo the past for my students, but I possess the ability to change their futures. I lack the power to change the entire system, but I can change the future of 120 students. I can use the leadership skills I acquired as a student of Our Lady’s University to guide my students in their pursuit of academic excellence. I can invest and motivate my students in their education, so they become advocates for their future academic careers. I can empower my students to value their education, thus refusing to accept mediocrity in the classroom.

Through these actions I will help close America’s achievement gap. The University of Notre Dame prides itself on service to the poor and underprivileged. I urge each of you to consider joining Teach for America’s movement to end educational equality. Consider the injustice of being given options in life based on your zip code.

Where would you be without your education? Utilize your education for the benefit of our nation’s greatest commodity, our children, to empower them to achieve academic excellence and pursue their dreams. All children can learn, but it is our responsibility to teach them.

Kenya Fuemmeler is 2007 softball alumnus and former PW Purple Weasel. Any questions or comments may be directed towards kfuemmeler@gmail.com.

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

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

University workers must stand together

Regarding the Letter to the Editor by Donna Bromeling entitled “Custodial staff deserves fair treatment” (Dec. 4), I fully support the call for working together with the Campus Labor Action Project (CLAP) here at Notre Dame. At a recent prayer service with students and workers, members of CLAP, we listened to stories of suffering and discrimination and faced it head on. We have people who are working with us to make change at this university. But we need to understand that nothing can change with a mentality that nothing will change.

At another recent meeting with members of the Campus Labor Action Project, I was disappointed with the number of students who were ready to fight for change. We are all full of ideas, but it is evident that not everyone is ready to fight for change. The students were my responsibility.

Looking back, I now realize how little I understood the growing epidemic sweeping our country’s schools: educational inequity in student achievement. I walked through the doors of Esridge High School in north St. Louis on Aug. 20 and soon stood face to face with the achievement gap. What a humbling experience! The burden of educating 120 students, freshmen through seniors, in the subjects of personal finance, geography, economics and American History soon appeared overwhelming. When I gave a reading and math diagnostic test to my students, they scored on average at a sixth-grade reading level and a seventh-grade math level.

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**EDITORIAL CARTOON**
At a time when Iraq war policy continues to make national headlines and the body count continues to rise, Christopher Shinn’s play “Dying City” concentrates on the impact the war has on individuals.

“I focused the play on the personal effects of the war for those who have family and loved ones fighting in Iraq,” director Meghan Hartmann said.

The St. Edward’s Hall Players present “Dying City” tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. The show will run through Saturday night.

Hartmann decided to put the play on a thrust stage, which means the stage is extended into the audience and surrounded by it on three sides. She said she made the decision in order to create a “greater intimacy” between the audience and the actors.

“It works well for a play focused on personal stories,” she said. “‘Dying City’ is a personal play — the show features just a few people. It works well for a play focused on the personal stories, the body count continues to rise — it has to always be there. The relationships between Kelly and the two brothers is the foundation of the play and it doesn’t allow for a lot of clutter in other ways on the stage, so it becomes a lot more intimate for the onlookers, too.”

Velazquez plays both roles of Peter and Craig — a challenge considering the two are twin brothers.

The playwright did a very good job of making certain that the two characters would be distinct,” Velazquez said. “From my side of the work, I had to ensure that Craig and Peter were different physically and vocally, as well as emotionally. I relied on what the playwright mentions in the dialogue in order to extract the varying circumstances of Craig and Peter in the setting of the play.”

Hartmann believes that Shinn’s writing intends for the audience to believe that the gay Peter and the dead veteran soldier Craig are opposites, but she said that the two characters are more similar in their “manipulation” than most suspect.

“They just go about it in different ways,” she said. “For me, Shinn is commenting that the silent killer is just as deadly as the explosion.”

In addition to Velazquez’s challenge in taking on the dual roles, the production also faced the challenge of differentiating between scenes featuring Kelly and Craig, which take place in 2004, and those between Kelly and Peter, which take place a year later. Shinn’s script leaves no explicit directions on how to distinguish between the two, so Hartmann made the decision to stage the Craig and Kelly scenes as flashbacks. To this end, she used lighting and music to help make the distinction.

Hartmann also cited the quality of her acting talent as an added positive. Referring to Velazquez and Vale, she said, “It takes a lot of focus on stage to jump back and forth between the characters and they do a fantastic job.”

London Vale said she took a personal approach in preparing for her role.

“Since ‘Dying City’ focuses so much on the relationships between Kelly and the two men — Craig and Peter — I tried to focus on the interactions I have had with men in my life and parts of my life during which I felt the things Kelly might feel in those situations,” she said. “A lot of Kelly’s relationships with the two men had to be close to home, so it was a process of looking back and remembering how I felt, how I reacted, and then evaluating how Kelly would react and applying it to each situation.”

Hartmann went on to say that Christopher Shinn wrote “Dying City” as a play designed to hit home despite the distance between the war zone and the home front.

“So many people are affected by events that happen thousands of miles away,” she said. “Many times it’s easy to look at the war in Iraq objectively, citing its impact on the economy or foreign policy. But we forget that each person sent to fight in Iraq is a brother, sister, son, daughter, husband, wife, lover and friend — and the ones left behind are the ones left behind all of these personal experiences saying ‘goodbye’ to those they love.”

Contact Tae Andrews at tande@stet.edu
If you have ever watched a television show before, then you have probably identified with some character in some way. Maybe you’ve never had one of us but … “Oh my, we’re the same person” moments, but you probably know what it feels like to be a fish out of water like Jennifer Saarey on “Ugly Betty”, or you’re just looking for love and someone to control like New York on “I Love New York.” And if you watch as much television as I do, it’s scary how much you see your own experiences television has provided for us.

1. Ross & Rachel, “Friends”
2. Jim & Pam, “The Office”
3. Carrie & Mr. Big, “Sex and the City”
4. Seth & Summer, “The O.C.”
5. Angel & Buffy, “Buffy the Vampire Slayer”
7. Zack Morris & Kelly Kapowski, “Saved by the Bell”
8. Doug Funnie & Patti Mayonnaise, “Doug”
9. Homer & Marge, “The Simpsons”
12. Kim Possible & Ron Stoppable, “Kim Possible”
13. Eric & Donna, “That ’70s Show”
14. Kevin Arnold & Winnie Cooper, “The Wonder Years”
15. Fred & Daphne, “Scooby Doo!”
17. Nathan Scott & Haley James, “One Tree Hill”
20. Coach Taylor & Mrs. Taylor, “Friday Night Lights”

Characters are just like us sometimes
NBA

Pierce, Garnett help Celtics coast past Sixers

Butler’s 27 points send Cavs to fifth straight loss; Bulls overcome third-quarter deficit against Bobcats

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Boston Celtics hung on against a gritty Philadelphia team thanks to their Big Three — and a couple of big 3s, too — as the Sixers had no answer to their scoring threat.

Butler played all 48 minutes, scoring a game-high 27 points and grabbing 12 rebounds as the Sixers rallied to stop the Celtics down the stretch.

Washington coach Eddie Jordan contemplated playing Michael Jordan with the Sixers’ bench for the first time since his surgery.

Butler had 17 points and 12 rebounds for Washington. Brendan Haywood added 17 points and 10 boards as the Wizards outscored the Sixers 45-29.

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NCAA Football

University of Colorado president Hank Brown, right, stands Wednesday with Lisa Simpson, who will receive $2.5 million from the university in a sexual assault lawsuit settlement.

After 6 years, assault victim receives settlement

DENVER The University of Colorado has agreed to pay two women $2.85 million to settle a lawsuit alleging they were sexually assaulted by football players and recruits, school officials said Wednesday.

The allegations sparked a football recruiting scandal at the school, prompted broad university reforms and led to a shake-up of its top leaders. University spokesman Ken McConnellogue said the school also agreed to hire an adviser to monitor compliance with federal laws governing equal treatment of women and add a position in the university Office of Victim Assistance.

The agreement came two months after an appellate court reversed the lawsuit. University President Hank Brown said agreeing to the settlement was "a difficult decision, painful in some ways, but it's my sense that it was in the interest of the university."

He said the school faced years of litigation over the case, and fees for outside attorneys had already reached $7 million.

One of the women, Lisa Simpson, will receive $2.5 million. McConnellogue said the other woman, who did not wish to be identified publicly, will receive $350,000. The school did not admit fault or liability.

The Associated Press does not identify the victims of alleged sexual assault, but Simpson has agreed to be identified in media reports.

The women said they were raped by football players and recruits at an off-campus party on Dec. 7, 2001. Their lawsuit alleged the university violated federal law by fostering an environment that allowed sexual assaults to occur.

Simpson's attorney, Bainerip, said Simpson and her parents had met with Brown to discuss non-monetary provisions of a settlement but final negotiations were handled last month between attorneys and a mediator. Simpson met with Brown at his office Wednesday but was not made available for comment.

In a statement released through the school, Simpson said she was pleased with steps the school has taken.

"I encourage other institutions of higher education throughout the nation to take similar steps," she said.

Simpson fought hard to make the school change, said Janine D'Anniballe, director of Boulder's rape crisis center.

"She wanted change in the university. I think that's what she got. Even more important than money is change," D'Anniballe said.

Brown in Brief

Schilling, McCain go to town hall-style meeting

MANCHESTER, N.H. Good times never seemed so good for Republican John McCain. The presidential hopeful showed up at a town hall-style meeting Wednesday with Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling, who tried his best to avoid the subject that brought them together: politics.

"I'm way outside my element here," the World Series champ said. "I'm not going to lie. I'm a latecomer to the political thing. I'm not proud of that. But it is what it is."

One voter tried to draw him out nonetheless, asking Schilling whether he would challenge Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. Another called him "Senator Schilling."

"I'm going to stick it winning one more World Series," he said to cheers in Red Sox-supporting New Hampshire.

Riske signs three-year deal with Milwaukee

NASHVILLE Free agent reliever David Riske agreed to a $13 million, three-year contract with Milwaukee on Wednesday, moving to the Brewers after an effective season with Kansas City.

The Brewers made a deal with Riske after recently losing five other relievers. Francisco Cordero to Cincinnati and Scott Linebrink to the Chicago White Sox. Cordero posted 44 saves for Milwaukee; no one else on the team had more than one.

"His durability and consistency will be a great asset to our ballclub," Milwaukee general manager Doug Melvin said.

The 31-year-old was 1-4 with four saves and a 2.45 ERA in 65 relief appearances last season. The righty had a rough start with a 6.97 ERA in April, then had a 1.67 ERA the rest of the way. Overall, his ERA was 1.16 among AL relievers who pitched at least 50 innings.

Scottish lawmakers aid Trump's golf resort

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Scottish lawmakers on Wednesday backed government efforts to save Donald Trump's proposed $2.1 billion golf resort that would be built on an unspoiled beach near Aberdeen.

The Scottish government took the unusual step of agreeing to review Trump's application after a local council rejected it. The project is now before the Scottish Parliament's economy, energy and tourism committee and a final decision on the project is still likely months away.

"The committee felt the decision has given a worrying message to the rest of the world that Scotland is closed for business," Tavish Scott, the head of the committee, said after the meeting.
WASHINGTON retained as Washington head coach

Despite three consecutive losing seasons, former Notre Dame boss will be back in Seattle next year

Associated Press

SEATTLE — There is no official announcement from Washington president Mark Emmert, but there might as well be — Tyrone Willingham must win in 2008.

Despite just 11 wins in three years, and becoming the first Washington coach to have three consecutive losing seasons, Willingham will return to Washington. The university confirmed on Wednesday that the coach who was fired after just three seasons at Notre Dame would get a fourth season with the Huskies.

The announcement came in conjunction with Willingham’s end-of-year news conference, which had a setting more akin to a hiring than the wrap-up of a disappointing 4-9 season. Many athletic department staff were in attendance and broke out in applause when Willingham finished with his remarks.

The briefing was delayed amid speculation Emmert was considering whether to fire Willingham. The delay perhaps only added to the heavy burden Willingham now faces for the 2008 season.

Entering year four of a five-year contract, Willingham will likely need a bowl appearance to avoid the firing many fans and boosters wanted to see happen now.

“My message to them would be please hold on,” Willingham said about the faction hoping a change would be made. “We’ve had what I would call rough and turbulent waters to navigate when I arrived. Hopefully we are in the process of getting through those difficult waters and are now ready to punch our way through and be the football team I think we can be.”

Willingham does have a point. When he arrived for the 2005 season, Washington was coming off the worst season in school history, a 1-10 record that bot-tomed out the once proud program.

But the instant gratification faction hoping a change would be made. Washington improved from 2-9 in Willingham’s first year to 5-7 in 2007.

Fans sought has not transpired.

“The body of work I’ve observed and the university’s leadership has observed over the past three years gives clear evidence to me that that record will change in the very near future,” Turner said. “We’ve committed to that and feel strongly that coach Willingham has provided the kind of leadership that provides us the base to make this happen.”

Clarifying Willingham’s status was important because this weekend is key for recruiting. All of Washington’s major prospects are due on campus for official visits.

Willingham made note that getting a resolution was vital in solidifying what is developing into a strong recruiting class.

“We have to secure those guys that we’ve already gotten commitments from and continue the process of adding to them so we can have the team that will be better in the future,” said Willingham, one of five black coaches in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

With Willingham’s status confirmed, the question now turns to his staff, namely on the defensive side.

In his statement, Emmert indicated that changes could be forthcoming; but Willingham would not elaborate, saying that the evaluation process is continuing.

Washington had the worst defense statistically in school history, giving up 446.4 yards per game, and allowed record-setting performances in Oregon (rushing) and Arizona (passing) in consecutive weeks. That could mean the end of Kent Base’s tenure as defensive coordinator. He has been on Willingham’s staffs for the past 13 years.

New Congression Session!

Washington coach Tyrone Willingham instructs his team at a Huskies practice Nov. 13.

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Willingham instructed his team at a Huskies practice Nov. 13.

Washington coach Tyrone Willingham instructs his team at a Huskies practice Nov. 13.

WILLIAMSON INJURED

Washington running back Louis Rankin will miss the game against Arizona.

Washington faces a brutal schedule this season featuring six ranked opponents and nine teams that will play in bowls.

The Huskies have eight receptions to 341 yards in nine of 13 games, and fourth-quarter meltdowns against Arizona, Washington State and Hawaii.

Everyone connected to Husky football, from the coaches and players to the students, alumni and fans, are disappointed with this season’s record,” Emmert said in a statement. “No one is more disappointed than coach Willingham himself.”

Emmert, Willingham and athletic director Todd Turner held meetings the last two days to discuss the program and direction Willingham declined to talk with reporters after a Tuesday night team meeting; but never wavered from the belief he would return for his fourth season.

“I believed I would be the coach,” he said.

Willingham has two years remaining on the five-year contract he signed in 2004. His contract pays him $1.4 million a year.

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Willingham has two years remaining on the five-year contract he signed in 2004. His contract pays him $1.4 million a year.
Pitt holds off Duquesne despite late-game rally

Summers scores 18 as Georgetown runs away from Alabama; Purdue tops Ball State; Clemson beats ECU

PITTSBURGH — Levance Fields scored four consecutive points in the final minute and No. 12 Pittsburgh held off a frantic rally by city rival Duquesne, winning 75-68 Wednesday night to remain unbeaten.

Sam Young had 23 points and five rebounds to counter Shaw James’ 20 points, nine rebounds and five blocks for Duquesne (6-2), which never led but closed to within one point several times after falling behind 14-0 in the opening 3:17.

Mike Cook added 12 points andFields and DeJuan Blair had 10 each for Pitt, which is 8-0 for the fourth consecutive season and has never lost to Duquesne in eight games as a ranked team.

Pitt won its seventh in a row in the rivalry known as the City Game and ninth in 11 games against Duquesne, which hasn’t beaten a ranked team since 1997.

This one didn’t come easy for Pitt despite the Panthers’ dominating start. Kieron Achara’s follow-up for Duquesne made it 66-64 with 1:18 remaining, but Fields scored four consecutive points, including a 3-pointer to lead by 14-0 in the opening 3:17.

Everhart also modified the two-unit rotation he used while the ducts went 6-0 for the first time in 28 years, substituting conventionally to keep the 6-foot-10 tandem of James and Achara on the court together as much as possible to defend against Pitt’s inside strength.

Duquesne, facing a Panthers with a winning record for the first time in 14 years, shot only 38.5 percent (25-of-65) and was outrebounded 44-36 despite James’ big game. James, among five Duquesne players with a year ago follow-up, faced Pitt for the first time after transferring from Northeastern.

Pitt has been 8-0 in every season under fifth-year coach Jamie Dixon, but won’t play its first game as a ranked team.

Young and Ronald Ramon hit 3-pointers and Blair, a freshman, had six points and seven rebounds in the first nine minutes before getting into foul trouble.

Duquesne, down 25-8 just before Blair went out, went on a 9-0 run keyed by James and Aaron Jackson to get to within 27-22.

The Hoyas (6-0) went on a 14-1 run after the Crimson Tide (4-1) briefly took the lead in the opening seconds of the second half.

Riley hit three 3-pointers in a five-minute span. His third gave the Tide a 57-56 lead with 4:01 left, Alabama’s first edge since the opening seconds of the second half. He had scored all nine points in overtime and made a key 3 in the final seconds of regulation in Saturday night’s win over Southeastern Louisiana, but couldn’t fuel another last minute.

Georgetown took over from there.

Summers and Sapp hit 3-pointers to start the 14-1 run for the Hoyas, who hadn’t led by more than four points in the first 37 minutes.

George Town 70, Alabama 60

DaJuan Summers had 18 points and nine rebounds and No. 5 Georgetown dominated down the stretch to beat Alabama in the first game of the SEC/Big East Invitational on Wednesday night.

The Hoyas (6-0) went on a 14-1 run after the Crimson Tide (4-3) briefly took the lead in the final minutes, giving up only a free throw before allowing a fast-second to Pitt in the final four minutes.

Pittsburgh turned up the defensive heat against an Alabama team relying heavily on freshmen, forcing bad passes and tough shots.

Roy Hibbert added 14 points, nine boards and four blocked shots for the Hoyas. He was 8-of-12 from the free-throw line as the smaller Tide mostly denied the 7-foot-3 center in the paint or fouled him when he got around the basket.

Jesse Sapp added 12 points and Alabama native Jonathan Wallace scored 11 for the Tide.

Georgetown, which trailed at the half for the first time that season, at 35-33, is off to a 6-0 start for the first time since winning its opening 10 games of the 2003-04 season. This one didn’t come as easily as most of the others, though, despite a command ing 45-29 rebounding advantage.

Richard Hendrix, the nation’s No. 3 rebounder, led Alabama with 17 points and nine boards. But unlike the others, Hendrix also modified the two-unit rotation he used while the Ducks went 6-0 for the first time in 28 years, substituting conventionally to keep the 6-foot-10 tandem of James and Achara on the court together as much as possible to defend against Pitt’s inside strength.

Summers scores 18 as Georgetown runs away from Alabama; Purdue tops Ball State; Clemson beats ECU

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Sophomore forward Sam Young blocks a shot by Duquesne’s Shawn James in the Panthers’ 73-68 win over the Hoyas Wednesday.

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Purdue led 36-31 at halftime, but Stoval started the second half with a four-point play to trim it to 36-35. The Boilermakers took their first lead of the game, 40-39, on a 3-pointer by Brandon Lamey with 17:43 to play.

Ball State led 44-42 before the Boilermakers went on a 4-0 run that included two 3-pointers and a mid-range jumper by Martin to take a 59-48 lead with 6:32 left. Purdue’s largest lead was 67-49 with just over 4 minutes left.

The score was tied at 17 in the first half before Purdue went on a 13-0 run that included five points by Crump and four by Julian Johnson. The Boilermakers held the Cardinals scoreless for more than six minutes during that stretch.

Alabama recovered from a 13-4 run, including seven points by Stoval, to cut Purdue’s lead to 34-30 with 1.24 left in the first half.

Clemson 82, East Carolina 67

Freshman Terrence Oglesby hit six 3-pointers and scored a season-high 22 points Wednesday night to help No. 18 Clemson beat East Carolina.

Oglesby, who had nine points and 13 assists and five points by Crump and a team-high 13 for the Cardinals (6-1), who shot only 38.5 percent (25-of-65) and was outrebounded 44-36 despite James’ big game. James, among five Duquesne players with a year ago follow-up, faced Pitt for the first time after transferring from Northeastern.

Pittsburgh forward Sam Young blocks a shot by Duquesne’s Shawn James in the Panthers’ 73-68 win over the Hoyas Wednesday.

The rest of the team combined for five field goals by Crump and a team-high 13 for the Cardinals (6-1), who shot only 38.5 percent (25-of-65) and was outrebounded 44-36 despite James’ big game. James, among five Duquesne players with a year ago follow-up, faced Pitt for the first time after transferring from Northeastern.

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MLB
Tigers, Marlins finalize huge eight-player deal

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Dontrelle Willis was on vacation in Mexico when the blockbuster deal was completed, and Miguel Cabrera was home in Venezuela.

Their next stop is Detroit, where the busy Tigers are building an awfully powerful team.

The Tigers finalized their big trade with the Marlins on Wednesday, an eight-player swap that sent both coveted All-Stars from cash-strapped Florida to go-for-broke Detroit.

"I was caught off-guard," Willis said on a conference call. "When I heard where I was going, I was eager and excited."

The Marlins received a package of six players, including two highly rated prospects: left-hander Andrew Miller and right-handers Burke Badenhop, Eulogio De la Cruz and Dallas Trahern to go for Cameron Maybin. (The Associated Press)

NORTH DAKOTA

Tigers, Marlins finalize huge eight-player deal

Associated Press

Tigers closer Todd Jones was over the top," he wrote in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The clubs touched base a little bit Monday night, then Florida approached Detroit on Tuesday morning. The Marlins told the Tigers they could have both stars for those six players, then Detroit called back later in the day and agreed.

"We made this trade to win more emphatically," Dombrowski said.

"Now I'm coach Thomas," he said with a grin.

"It's nice to see Zach hasn't lost his sense of humor," teammate Jason Taylor said.

If any team could use a laugh, it's the Miami Dolphins. The downward spiral in their winless season accelerated with a blowout loss Sunday against the woeful New York Jets, and postgame grumbling suggested cracks in team unity, which would be understandable considering Miami's 0-12 record.

Thomas' coaching getup gave the Dolphins reason to grin. The seven-time Pro Bowl linebacker was placed on injured reserve Tuesday because of recurring migraines, ending his season, but he wants to do what he can to boost spirits.

"True colors come out when things are going bad," Thomas said. "That's when you find out the character of guys."

A frustrated Miami fan highlights the team's struggles with a holiday-themed sign. The Dolphins are 0-12 this season.

"People can sense that, because it was a different game than the other games," Thomas said. "It was an ugly game. Everything fell apart."

"But everybody is bouncing back. The leadership on this team does a great job with that."

The leadership starts with in-laws Thomas and Taylor, the only players who have been Dolphins since the 1990s. But they're too candid to pretend everything is rosy.

NLF
Miami copes with losses

Associated Press

MIAMI — Zach Thomas walked onto the practice field Wednesday with a whistle around his neck, the bill of his cap tugged down low and his tight shorts yanked up high, a list of plays tucked in the waistband.

"Now I'm coach Thomas," he said with a grin.

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Associated Press
WASHINGTON — LeBron James sat out his fourth game in a row Wednesday night because of a sprained left index finger, making this the longest injury absence of the Cleveland star's career.

James, who did not speak to reporters before the game, was sitting on the sideline in street clothes when the game against the Washington Wizards began.

The Cavaliers entered the day 0-3 without James and losers of four consecutive games to fall to 9-10.

The reigning Eastern Conference champions also have been playing without injured players Larry Hughes and Donny Marshall. Plus, Anderson Varejao has been away during a contract stalemate that ended Wednesday, when Cleveland matched a $17 million, three-year offer sheet he signed with Charlotte.

"By no way, shape or form do we want to play games minus LeBron, minus Larry, minus Andy, minus Donny," coach Mike Brown said before Wednesday's game. "But stuff happens in the NBA. There are a lot of teams missing multiple guys."

The Cavaliers were embarrassed by New Jersey 100-79 Tuesday night, and Brown criticized his players afterward for a lack of intensity.

"We didn't have the intensity we've had in previous games," Brown said. "I don't think we competed for an extended period of time, and that was part of the reason we got our behinds kicked."

James was hurt a week ago at Detroit when Nazz Mohammadi accidentally hit him in the hand as James attempted to shoot. James, in his fifth season, sat out four times last season because of a variety of injuries but didn't miss consecutive games.

Shannon Brown scored a career-high 29 points starting in James' place Tuesday. Brown leads the NBA in scoring average with 30.7 points. He's also averaging 7.6 rebounds and ...

"It's tough. The coach is struggling because he's trying to find new combinations. When LeBron is on the floor, it's a different team. When Mo is on the floor, it's a different team. It's a different look. That's what we're trying to find, and that's why we're good," center Zydrunas Ilgauskas said.

"But when you're missing that big part, all of a sudden you have to find your own offense somewhere else. And sometimes I think we try to do too much individually."

Associated Press
EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings defensive end Ray Edwards has been suspended four games for violating the NFL's policy on steroid use.

Edwards has been a starter for most of the season, but was replaced by Erasmus James for last Sunday's game against Detroit. Coach Brad Childress said that decision had nothing to do with Edwards' violations, which the coach learned of on Wednesday morning.

Childress said he was disappointed in Edwards and could not comment further because of the confidentiality surrounding the policy.

"It's disappointing, but there are policies in place and our players have to adhere to those policies," Childress said. "Every team goes through challenges as you go through the year. We've been through some of our own. It's an opportunity to have others step up."

The Associated Press left a message with Edwards' agent, Doug Hendrickson, seeking comment.

The Vikings (6-6) will turn to James, rookie Brian Robison and Jayme Mitchell to fill in during Edwards' absence. The Vikings have won three games in a row to rebound from a 2-5 start and play at San Francisco (3-9) on Sunday.

"I guess we're taking it about as good as a team can," Robison said. "We knew things happen, and you just have to make sure that when things do happen, you just have to push through it and come together as a team and make sure we keep playing the way we're playing." Edwards is in his second year out of Purdue. The fourth-round draft pick has been one of the Vikings' most consistent performers at defensive end.

He started the day second on the team in sacks, but jumped to the lead when the Elias Sports Bureau made a scoring change from the Lions game. Edwards hit quarterback Jon Kitna on the shoulder, forcing the ball to flutter into defensive end Kenesee Udeze's hands during a play that was initially ruled a fumble.

Edwards also has 41 tackles, including five tackles for loss, 22 quarterback hurries and a touchdown on a 9-yard fumble return in Week 2 against Detroit.

NBA Finger injury still bothering LeBron

NFL Minnesota's Edwards suspended for steroids
Eagles quarterback back from ankle sprain

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb has his mobility back, and along with it, his starting spot.

About the reception he'll receive Sunday from fickle Philadelphia Eagles fans, with whom he's had a career-long on-again, off-again relationship, the five-time Pro Bowl quarterback is unsure and even a bit indifferent.

McNabb returned to practice Wednesday for his first full workout since spraining his right ankle and jamming his thumb in a victory over Miami two weeks ago.

"I do feel like I'm ready to play," McNabb said before heading off to practice, which was moved indoors because of a light snowfall.

As a team coming off a pair of disappointing losses with A.J. Feeley directing the offense, one would expect McNabb to receive almost a hero's welcome. That's no sure thing, however, because some fans were calling for McNabb's ouster when the Eagles struggled early on.

Asked whether he thought he would be more appreciated when the Eagles take on NFC East rival New York on Sunday, McNabb jokingly replied, "Probably not."

Later, his tone got more serious, saying his past success speaks for itself and winning games is his goal.

"It's really none of my concern," McNabb said of crowd reaction. "I can't waste my energy worrying about how people feel about me."

"I don't have anything to prove. I've proven a lot through my career... There is nothing I can possibly do, at this particular point, besides win ball games, for me to make people feel some type of way or to feel better about me being in there. I don't get caught up in it, put that way."

Regardless of fan reaction, McNabb's return comes at a crucial time for a team smarting from loss to New England and notching record six sacks the last time the teams met.

Feeley handled the quarterback duties in McNabb's absence, with mixed results — without a victory. His season's severe knee injury before getting injured, has regained enough mobility to satisfy coach Andy Reid.

"I think that's the most important thing, that he can get out of the way when he needs to, and he's able to do that," Reid said.

That is a huge advantage for the Giants, who racked up 12 sacks in the teams' first meeting this season.

New York ranks second in the NFC in total defense and has veteran defensive end Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora, who had team-record six sacks the last time the teams met.

Feeley handled the quarterback duties in McNabb's absence, with mixed results — without a victory. His strong showing in the team's 31-28 loss to New England overshadowed his three interceptions.

Against Seattle, Feeley struggled, throwing four interceptions, including a pick down the stretch for the second straight week that cost the Eagles a chance at a victory.

Watching those losses r a i n e d McNabb as much as his injuries.

"You want to contribute," he said. "It was frustrating to see us lose like that. You want to do whatever you can do to help, but there is nothing I could have possibly done."

"What I wanted to do last week, I can do this week, and that's help us win this game."
Florida's Tebow hopes to be first sophomore quarterback winner in 65 years

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, trying to become the first sophomore to win the Heisman Trophy, andArkansas running back Darren McFadden, the runner-up for last year's award, were among the four finalists selected Wednesday.

Missouri quarterback Chase Daniel and Hawaii quarterback Colt Brennan were the other finalists. They will all be in New York on Saturday night when the award is given to the top player in college football.

"I think it's a good race," Brennan said at a news conference. "I think anybody can win it. It's up to the voters. It will be interesting to see how it plays out."

The Heisman race took a wide open until the last month when Tebow, McFadden and Daniel emerged as front-runners.

Since the first Heisman was given to Chicago's Jay Berwanger in 1935, all 70 players who have won college football's most prestigious award have been juniors or seniors.

Tebow could break that trend. The ultimate dual-threat quarterback, the 235-pound Tebow ran for 838 yards and an Southeastern Conference-record 22 touchdowns.

He's also the nation's second-leading passer, having completed 68 percent of his throws for 3,132 yards, with 29 touchdowns and just six interceptions in his first season as a starter. Tebow's already had a historic season, becoming the first major college player to run for 20 touchdowns and throw 20 TD passes in the same season.

"He has done things that no one else in college football has been able to do and I hope people realize the magnitude of his accomplishments," Florida coach Urban Meyer said in a statement.

McFadden was one of the preseason favorites after finishing with 22 fights over five months will culminate at 6 tonight. Unlike Bengal Bouts, which is organized as a tournament, each girl will only get one fight to showcase her abilities. "Maybe sometime if we have the numbers and we can organize a tournament that'd be great," Endsley said.

Also, while the men have strict weight classes, the Baraka Bout fights are paired only by relative size and boxing ability, as decided by the organizers.

"We've got some novices fighting senior captains and some novices fighting novices," Endsley said. "We should have some really good fights."

Of the 44 girls fighting, 21 are sophomores or freshmen. The high amount of underclassmen has Endsley optimistic about the future of the organization.

"Hopefully the freshmen and sophomores can continue carrying on the club and keep it growing," she said. "The numbers have gone up every year, which is really encouraging."

For now, though, the girls are concentrating on tonight and the end of this season.

"Our novices look great. They're going to really grow and tomorrow they can showcase their skills in front of a crowd," Endsley said. "Hopefully we can raise a lot of money to send to East Africa, and have a lot of fun."
onto a two-point lead. Acher quickly regained the two points to tie the game, but then Allen responded with more dramatic...  

Earlier in overtime, Allen looked for an open foul-suffered Tulaah Gaines beyond the arc and nailed her first 3-point basket of the game. Acher fouled Gaines on two free throws. Allen helped the Belles maintain a 74-69 lead with only 1:04 remaining.

"They were playing zone. We got to her in the post. She was trying to get things going and she got some really good looks," McGraw said of Schrader. "Sarah is a really big player in there to keep the offense flowing and she did a great job on the boards."

Schrader finished with 17 points and 13 rebounds. Allen’s only double-double.

Mega- Falcons guard Sarah Clapper went backcourt, for Futas guard Sarah Clapper and two finals on Irish guard Ashley Barlow gave Bowling Green back three points, tying the score with 17 seconds remaining.

Notre Dame played for the last shot and gave the ball to Allen with the game on the line, but Falcons center Tara Brekko/ gave Bowling Green back three points, tying the score with 17 seconds remaining.

Notre Dame.Bell, fourth 10-point lead in both halves but was never able to put the Falcons away. Allen said one part of the reason for this is that the

Calvin continued from page 24

the floor is just terrible," Kannrath said. "I don't want at home...It's just a lot of frustration nothing fell. You have to keep shouting regard- but just nothing fell."

After trailing 28-16 at the break, Jennifer Henley helped her squad out and led the comeback to the game planning of putting the ball down the top of the country. Calvin’s a good team. It’s just if our shots wouldn’t have fallen in the first half, maybe it’s a different story.

And, if the Belles have anything so say about it, we will be the two teams most consistent on Jan. 23 in Grand Rapids.

As for now, Saint Mary’s will turn to Saturday’s game against Tri-State, another conference opponent. "Welcome to the MIAA, that’s what it all about," Henley said. "You have to bring your ‘A game every night, and tonight we didn’t do that."" They made a lot of 3-pointers and 12 rebounds for the game's only double-double.

Schrader. "She made some points, but we couldn’t get her in the post. She was trying to get things going and she got some really good looks," McGraw said of Schrader. "Sarah is a really big player in there to keep the offense flowing and she did a great job on the boards."

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Horoscope

Celebrities born on this day:

- Frankie Muniz, 21, MargaretCho, 39; Morgan Freeman, 71; Little Richard, 75

Happy Birthday: You are as likable this year that it will be hard for others to deny you whatever you want. A period to follow through with your goals will be successful. Some changes may come as a surprise but you should be able to keep your hands on the wheel and do some things in a positive way. Your numbers are 6, 15, 29, 36, 47.

Aries (March 21-April 19): You can expand your interests, knowledge and plans. Traveling to new places may open up new things will help you see your current environment in ways you have not seen before. Expect the unexpected.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Opportunities will come to you through the most unexpected avenues. You will be a positive force, ready to make the right decisions, and very successful with someone you love. Be straight about the way you feel and what you want.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): People of every energy are going to need you. Calm and taking, you will be seen as a leader when people are waiting to see the real result. A unique approach to an old problem will probably save the day.

Cancer (June 21-July 20): Everything is going more slowly than you think, and there might be tension and delays in seeing things through to their conclusion.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Some people may find you entertaining and fun but someone else is close to be a little upset if you aren't attentive or don't do your share of the duties. You may be a party person today but don't let it run over on the job.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are better off concentrating on work and getting ahead. Someone may try to draw you down by bringing additional responsibilities into your lap. Prepare to cut off even if it means a cutting off of your relationship.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You may try to stay in your own way or take yourself out of something you don't want to be involved in. Make a deal back, do your back and take ownership. A fellow who or matter will help you out.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone may try to lead you to an easy exit or take a back seat. Don't back down and take ownership. A fellow who or matter will help you out. Now is not the time to be expertly.Focused. You can get ahead but only if you are willing to help others. Now is the time to give back. If you keep helping, someone will help you out or step on your tracks.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Some might be intimidated by you, and you may have to look out for yourself. Use the rules of your speciality to be successful. You should pay by law, the rules are laid in front of the word which changes from an adversarial individual.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may win business with patient. Stick to the rules of the game. Someone may try to lead you to an easy exit or take a back seat. Don't back down and take ownership. A fellow who or matter will help you out. Now is not the time to be expertly.Focused. You can get ahead but only if you are willing to help others. Now is the time to give back. If you keep helping, someone will help you out or step on your tracks.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't trust everyone. Keep a tight hold on your money and refuse to be anyone you see insisting on something you can't say yes to. At the same time, take a good plan that will lead to a better future.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): Put everything you get into something you believe in. Taking on a challenge will help to make yourself aware and there may be new tasks that can be done overall, however, the time complicated you make things, the better. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are creative, original and a troublemaker. You are straightforward and determined yet flexible and appreciative of others. You are a true friend and a passionate lover.

Engage Web site: mornlike.com for fun, augementing.com for confidential consultations

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Baraka Bouts

Showcasing their skills

Women's boxing will raise money for charity

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Tonight, 44 Notre Dame women will put on the gloves and fight in the annual Baraka Bouts women’s boxing competition.

“These girls have come a long way,” Baraka Bouts president and Whitney Endsley said. “They’re really excited to allow them to showcase their skills.”

While Bengal Bouts raises money for Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh, Baraka Bouts helps schools in eastern Africa. The organization fundsraise through merchandise sales, ticket sales and an event known as the “Power Hour.” During the Power Hour, which took place Nov. 1, the fighters competed to see how many push-ups, sit-ups or jumping jacks they can do in 60 minutes — and received donations for each repetition.

“They’re required to raise at least $100, but we’ve had some girls this year who’ve raised upwards of $500 or $600.” Endsley said.

In total, the organization hopes to raise $10,000 this year.

Baraka Bouts 2007

Sarah Layne vs. Laura Okonokhua
Anna Dwyer vs. Jackie Sheridan
Lauren Kopisky vs. Jenna Zigman
Sarah Burch vs. Keaton Van Beveran
Alyssa Hartsell vs. Maeve Maher
Sarah Angle vs. Sara Fossum
Whitney Endsley vs. Kyle Rocca
Catherine Crawford vs. Jen Leong
Ezinne Ndukwe vs. Jackie Spengler
Tarah Brown vs. Colleen McCormick
Carolyn Hersh vs. Maureen Setton
Kelly Davin vs. Meghan Slentz
Casey Carney vs. Dee Gulis
Kia Johnson vs. Emily Rickert
Emily Harig vs. Amy Libardi
Cara Norton vs. Emily Ratican
Lauren Cummings vs. Cigli Low
Megan Cimino vs. Maria Paula Elizondo
Kayla Bishop vs. Kristin Burke
Nicole Koors vs. Rebecca Neville
Sarah Davidson vs. Jen Malherek
Elyse Hoffman vs. Erin Mullee

Fights begin 6:00 in Joyce Center Gym 2

SMC Basketball

Saint Mary’s falls to Calvin in home opener

Belles fail to win despite center’s thirteen points and nine rebounds

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s sophomore center Anu Kammrath summed up Wednesday’s frustrating 67-52 home-opening loss to Calvin the only way she for any other it e l l i e could.

“It was just one of t h o s e n i g h t s ,” said Kammrath, who tallied 13 points and nine rebounds in the loss. With 9:24 remaining in the second half, Kammrath scored her 13th point, one of her 23-point attempts and almost 25 percent from the floor.

The performance wasn’t what Jennifer Hempel hoped for or expected from her talented squad, especially not for its first home game with a conference opponent.

“It wasn’t necessarily Calvin’s defense as much as us having an off night,” Hempel said of her team’s countless failed attempts to score from the field.

To the visiting Knights’ credit, their bench tramplad that of the Belles, outscoring it 25-4 and keeping the hosts from recovering from a horrendous first half 17-of-36 from the field, and the 21-5 rebounding margin and Timely defense, time-consuming ball movement and the dominating presence of forward Marcia Harris (23 points, 12-12 on free throws) helped Calvin build a 24-point lead midway through the second half.

“This was huge for us,” Ross said. This is a very difficult place to play and this is a very talent Saint Mary’s team. Defense was the whole key for us tonight. We try to stick to our principles, and we know that if we do that, we’ll be OK.

That they were, especially after a 13-0 run that spanned more than nine minutes and gave the Knights a 21-7 lead.

“You know, 29 percent from the floor, 6 for 24’s and nine rebounds were not enough to win the game,” Ross said.

"They did an outstanding job in the middle of the floor.”

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Allen leads Irish to victory

Guard nails 15-foot jump shot at buzzer during OT against Bowling Green

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Assistant Sports Editor

Charel Allen refused to lose.

With 0.8 seconds remaining in overtime, the Notre Dame guard nailed a 15-foot jumper to give the Irish an 86-84 win over Bowling Green Wednesday night.

“They tried to double team her, she just kept the ball and kept her pace. She watched the clock, watched it tick down and shot it pretty much right at the buzzer,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said in a phone interview after the game.

“I thought it was an outstanding effort at the end of the game.”

After the ensuing in-bounds play failed to give the Falcons a quality scoring chance, Notre Dame celebrated its second straight overtime win over Bowling Green. Last year’s match-up in the Joyce Center ended in an 82-81 Irish win.

Prior to the game-winning shot, Allen had fouled Falcons point guard Kate Achille with the Irish holding Irish guard Charel Allen drives through Michigan’s defense in Notre Dame’s 77-46 win over the Wolverines Sunday.