Students interested in Iowa caucuses

Primaries hold national focus; ND groups eventually will support presidential candidates

By KATIE PERALTA and JENN METZ

When Notre Dame sophomores Lindsey Hough and Matthew Callanan return to their homes in Iowa for winter break, they will be focused right into the center of heated political races, as Democrats and Republicans battle in the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3.

The caucuses, the first primary competition in the country for the 2008 presidential candidates, have drawn a lot of national attention for weeks. Caucuses are different from other primary elections in their form. Most primaries are decided by secret-ballot votes, but Iowa has a system that requires voters to assemble at an assigned location, listen to speeches by supporters of different candidates and publicly express support and be counted for one person, running.

Sen. Barack Obama, a Democrat from Illinois, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican, currently lead their respective parties in the state, according to a recent Des Moines Register poll. Hough, of Shelby County, Iowa, said she plans to participate in the caucus in Des Moines. 

"Both parties have their own set of caucuses in Iowa, and most of the top-tier candidates will travel around to different locations to speak," Hough said. She said she plans to observe candidates before deciding whom she will support.

"I think I want to get a better feel for things, talk to a few people there [in Des Moines], before making up my mind," she said.

Callanan, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, also plans to participate in the caucuses.

"It is going to depend on my work schedule and everything, but I have not had that much time to focus on the candidates," Callanan said. He said it was important to be informed about a candidate before he voted.

"You should know where a candidate stands," Callanan said.

The Notre Dame College Republicans and College Democrats have been spreading messages about Republican and Democratic themes to the University community.

Each group works to elect members of their own parties to political office by gathering support on campus.

200-plus graduate in January

Students from '07, '08 classes receive degrees

By THERESA CIVANTOS

Although most Notre Dame seniors will complete their degrees in May, 224 University students will graduate in January.

The number, however, includes graduate students as well as undergraduates, as associate registrar Chuck Hurley said.

About half of these students are part of the class of 2008 graduating early, and the other half are class of 2007 students graduating a little late," he said.

January 6, 2008, is the official date of January graduation. There is no graduation ceremony, but January graduates can join in the May commencement ceremonies with the rest of their class.

Students usually walk with their class, Hurley said, which means some January graduates walked in the ceremony last May while others will walk this May. August graduates also have the option of walking in the May ceremony.

Hurley said there are many reasons students graduate in January.

"There are so many special circumstances — everything from financial reasons to someone whose parent had cancer during their senior year so they took off a semester and came back to graduate," he said. "It's about what best fits that student."

see GRADS/page 6

Team wins, Bookstore discounts

By KATIE KOHLER

A new partnership between the Shaheen Bookstore and the Saint Mary's athletic department means that when the Belles' basketball team wins, the campus benefits.

The Bookstore has teamed up with Saint Mary's athletic department for Monday Madness, a new fundraiser that discounts Bookstore merchandise the Monday after each home victory for the Belles.

Mike Hicks, director of campus stores, described the event as a "challenge" to cheer on athletic teams.

"There is a lot of spirit here at Saint Mary's," he said. "We want to show our support for the Saint Mary's students purchase items at the Shaheen Bookstore Monday. The store puts merchandise on sale when SMC basketball wins.

see DISCOUNTS/page 4

NDSP warns of break burglaries

By JOSEPH MCMAHON

Local landlords and the Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) are encouraging students to safeguard their valuables as they leave for winter break.

Burglaries and petty crimes on and off campus often increase just as breaks begin, NDSP said in an e-mail sent to the student body on Dec. 6.

"We often experience an increase in thefts just before breaks, especially from Library study areas and the dining halls," the e-mail said. "Maintain extra vigilance on your laptops, book bags, purses, etc.

For students who live off campus, NDSP is providing a Christmas storage option. Off-campus students can bring their valuables to the NDSP Investigation Section on the second floor of the Hammes Mowbray Hall on Wednesday or Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. to 3:30.

Many landlords, meanwhile, have begun hiring their own security teams to patrol their properties and protect students' valuables.

Mark Kramer, who manages more than 120 properties, said there was an attempted break-in on his properties last year during Christmas break.

LaFleur to leave Sports Info Dept.

Women's Soccer SID spent 11 years at ND

By CHRIS KHOREY

After 11 years in the Notre Dame Sports Information Department, Pete LaFleur is moving on.

LaFleur, a 1990 graduate of the University, will take a job as the public relations director for Geneva Glen summer camp in Evergreen, Colo.

During his time at the Sports Information Department, LaFleur worked with the hockey, golf, fencing, baseball and women's soccer teams and — like the rest of the sports information staff — worked at every home football game. He is known among reporters and co-workers for his in-depth research and extensive historical knowledge and the little-known statistics that were hallmarks of his notes packages.

LaFleur said that his glean in life has always been to go the "extra mile."

"That's kind of been my approach," he said. "I hope I don't ever seem like I'm over doing it, but I try to give stuff that it deserves, whether it's writing some.
Cover my car

I'm from Michigan. I downgraded in snow when I traveled south to come here for school.

While most of campus freaks out about "South Bend winter," I wonder why we only have one measly foot of the white stuff and why whiteout conditions aren't a nightly occurrence.

But there is one part of South Bend winter that I can't stand—wiping snow off my car.

Sure, I wiped snow off my car in high school. Every morning, I grabbed the brush from the back seat and knocked off whatever had accumulated.

But at Notre Dame, there's a huge difference. I don't drive every day. So when I go to collect my car from D2, I discover not only the snow from the night before, but the blizzard from last Thursday, the ice storm from two weeks ago, a layer of fossilized hail and the remnants of the tiny snowfall from before Thanksgiving that didn't even stick to the ground but managed to stay on my car.

And that's just on top of the car. Underneath and behind it is a layer of light brown sludge that the snow plow has packed in so hard I'm afraid it will dent my bumper if I try to drive through it.

Unlike the simple daily brush off, removing all of this snow is a solid half-hour job that requires both the brush and scraper ends of my handy snow-removal tool.

Sometimes it also requires a shovel. And it's not just the hassle of cleaning off a car covered with a week's worth of snow. That much cold water surround a car is absolutely awful for it. Every car since D1, D2, D6 or the C-lot over has accumulated.

I have no recourse for this. All of campus parking is wide open to the elements. But it doesn't have to be this way. New dorms are planned. They will mean certainly 1)2 and 1)6 and its long-term parking (by which I mean certainly not those of The Observer.

Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Khoery at chkoery@nd.edu

IN BRIEF

The last day of classes at Notre Dame is today.

There will be an Advent Penance Service today at 7 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The service will include prayer, music, reflection and Confession.

The ND Celebration Choir, Voices from Campus and Instrumentalists will perform at a benedict concert for Christmas at the first floor lounge, Coleman Morse Center, today at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free with a donation. All proceeds benefit the Holy Cross Literacy School and Boys Home, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The last day of classes at Saint Mary's will be Wednesday.

A Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Reading days at Notre Dame are tomorrow, Thursday and Sunday. Reading days at Saint Mary's are Thursday and Sunday.

Exams at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's will take place on Friday, Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Father Jenkins, Father Hesburgh and other Holy Cross Priests will be signing a book compiled by two seminarians Friday in the Hammers Notre Dame Bookstore from 1-4 p.m.

The book is "The Cross, Our Only Hope, Daily Reflections in the Holy Cross Tradition." To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to news@nd.edu.

OFFBEAT

Woman allegedly shoots men over decorations

RATON ROUGE, La. — Authorities say a Springfield woman was booked on attempted murder counts for allegedly shooting two men whose dog damaged Christmas decorations at her home.

Ethel Shannon McKinney, 28, was booked on two counts of attempted second-degree murder and illegal use of a weapon, Jason Ard, a spokesman for the Livingston Parish Sheriff’s Department, said.

McKinney and her boyfriend got into an argument with the men over the damaged decorations, and McKinney allegedly fired at the men. Ard said.

The man was hit in the upper torso and arm; the other, in an arm. Ard said none of the injuries were life threatening.

The incident happened around 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

Turkey crashes through window in home

TRaverse city, Mich. — The noise that Chuck Ritter heard while sitting in his living room was a turkey that crashed through a third-story bedroom window.

Ritter, 83, was relaxing Saturday when the unexpected visitor arrived.

Ritter called Joe Battaglia, the on-call maintenance workers at his Traverse City apartment, and they tried to corral the 25-pound bird as it flapped around on the carpet amidst blood and shards of glass.

After about 30 minutes of trying to ease the turkey toward the window with a broomstick and a fishing pole, Ritter cornered the bird, grabbed it by the neck and threw it out the window.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 10 edition of The Observer, the New section featured a picture which was cited at Silkk the Shocker. The rapper in the picture was actually Masta Killa. The Observer regrets the error.

LOCAL WEATHER

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Students have lunch with reformer

**Revolutionary addresses SMC community at College’s fifth Leadership Luncheon**

By KRISTEN EDELEN
News Writer

Libusa Radkova, a reformer in her native country of Slovakia, sat down for lunch Monday with Saint Mary’s students, faculty and staff during the Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership’s (CWIL) fifth Leadership Luncheon of the semester. Her visit came after a long journey from eastern Europe.

Radkova decided to travel to Saint Mary’s to learn about the CWIL-implemented Bridges Out of Poverty program. She intends to spend time at local nonprofit organizations, such as the Hope Rescue Mission, and witness Bridges Out of Poverty in action — so she can bring ideas from the program back to Slovakia.

“IT is very useful to see social problems from outside, from a point of different culture,” she said.

Radkova spoke to 25 to 30 people, the largest audience at a CWIL luncheon yet. Students have lunch with reformer Libusa Radkova, a Slovak social worker and reformer, gestures as she speaks to a Saint Mary’s audience Monday.

Men of Strength

“For when I am WEAK, then I am STRONG” 2 Cor 12:10

COMING SOON...

write for news
631-5323

Sponsored by the Gender Relations Center
"I've been working really hard to get ahead so I can just hand it off."

Pete LaFleur
sports information
director

Legends continued from page 1
thing, or researching it or just putting it in the right historical perspective."

LaFleur also takes pictures for the athletic department's Web site, und.com, during sporting events. But weekly, he said he is "out in my job description," but which, he said, he enjoys that "deserve.

"If you have the time and creativity to put something in that's going to make a difference to people's memories and their enjoyment, that's something that's always important to me," he said.

On occasion, LaFleur includes statistics and notes that are comically obscure - to the point they are even noted by posters on Internet message boards.

One poster on NDNation.com gives out a new LaFleur Award, "erotic number of the week," after Senior Associate Athletics Director John Heiser, which is given to the strangest or most humorous stat included in that week's football game notes.

But a few jokers haven't stopped LaFleur from looking deep into the annals of Notre Dame athletics history to find tidbits to compare to today, as he did during the 2006 women's soccer season.

Then-supophomore forward Kerrie Hanks scored 22 goals and 22 assists that season, both making her first in the nation. People knew that leading the nation in both categories was extremely rare, but they didn't know how rare until LaFleur looked it up — and found out that the only other college player to ever lead the nation in both categories was future U.S. national team star Mia Hamm.

LaFleur, who is considered by some to be the nation's best women's soccer sports information director, said because of the historical records for women's soccer were not well kept until recently, it was hard work tracing the statistics back through the years.

"No one knew that," he said of the Hank's statistic. "I had to research and turn over a lot of rocks to figure it all out. It really legitimized it and [Hanks] did that for the season. People were like, "Wow, she did something only the great Mia Hamm had done.""

Because of LaFleur's research skills, he is often chosen to write historical features for und.com. He has written several obscure stats for the Web site, including those for former football stars Angela Bertelli, Keon Hart, and Harry Oliver.

Most recently, LaFleur wrote the obituary for Ryan Shay, the former Notre Dame track star who died during an Olympic marathon trial in New York on Nov. 3. Upon seeing the story on the Web site, Shay's mother contacted LaFleur to thank him.

"That makes him a happy while, when the family says it was something to them," he said.

His hard work has not gone unnoticed. LaFleur has earned several honors for his thorough media guides, including having the 2006 baseball media guide ranked No. 1 in the country by the College Sports Information Directors Association, commonly known as CoSIDA.

But all that hard work has gone unnoticed. LaFleur has said when his friends come back from campus for football games, he rarely gets to spend much time with them.

"A lot of my friends will come back and I get to see them for like 10 minutes because I've got a soccer game on Friday, then the football game on Saturday and a soccer game on Sunday," he said.

LaFleur, who is unmarried and wants the time needed to start a family, said the rigor of his job limits how often he sees his relatives.

"I've got to miss a lot of weddings," he said. "For my nieces and nephews, I've missed a lot of baptisms and confirmations."

And because of that, LaFleur is returning to his roots. He attended Geneva Glen in his youth and worked as a counselor there the summers in the early 1990s, just after graduating from Notre Dame.

In his new position, LaFleur will work closely with Geneva Glen with their ambitious new marketing program, which includes targeting undergraduates to their Web site and brochures.

"It's a NCAA job that I haven't had before," he said.

But LaFleur won't completely leave sports behind. He plans to do freelance work, including possibly television and radio broadcasting. He is also considering starting a college fencing web site.

Both LaFleur's uncle and father graduated from Notre Dame, so did both of his sisters and three of his cousins. He lived in Holy Cross Hall during his time at Notre Dame. He was the last one to live in it.

In addition to working for The Observer and the Sports Information Department, at school, LaFleur was also elected president of Holy Cross Hall.

LaFleur's first job after college was at the University of San Francisco. For his services, he was paid $5,000 a year to do stats for all of their athletic teams. The job only ran during the school year, so he returned to Geneva Glen to work during the summers.

In 1995, LaFleur took a job with the Bell Choir and only stayed there for a year before finding out about a job opening at Notre Dame. As he gets ready to leave, LaFleur said he is trying to get as much work done as possible for the fencing team so as not to leave his workers out to dry.

"I've been working really hard to get ahead so I can just hand it off," he said. "I know what it's like when people leave and you have to pick up the slack. It's kind of been wearing me out a little bit."

Contact Chris Khoery at ckhoery@nd.edu

Discounts continued from page 1

The discount program is in a pilot stage, but Hicks expects the program to continue for the whole basketball season, Hicks said.

Hicks hopes the program will encourage more students and faculty members to attend these Belles athletic events.

"I feel that cheering on your team to victory is very rewarding," he said. "We hope that this program will encourage others to share in that reward."

Since the amount of discounts the Bookstore will give on Mondays is dependant on the basketball team's success, Hicks couldn't determine in advance the profit margin or loss from the program.

"We have been working on this idea for some time. It is just a coincidence that we ironed out all the issues prior to the basketball season," he said. "We wanted that there would not be any problems with the athletic department if we offered a program like this."

In the Dooley Room
Table Book Buyback
LaForte Student Center
In the Dooley Room
Tuesday, December 11, 2007
Midnight until 3 a.m.
Discounts apply to all clothing, contingent on the margin of the basketball team's win. A no­ point victory warrants 20 percent off; four points, 40 percent. If the team wins by 10 or more, merchandise will be 50 percent off. No discounts will be given if the margin is 50 percent.

Students will only be eligible to receive the discounts the Monday following the game. They must bring a stamped program showing proof of attendance.

"We don't have any worries about losing money if the team does well. We hope and want the basketball team, as well as all of our SMC teams, to do well. We support Saint Mary's athletics."

The Belles' next home game is on Jan. 19 against Tri-State at 3 p.m.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler01@saintmarys.edu

Textbook Buyback
LaForte Student Center
In the Dooley Room
Discounts at the Observer
Discounts continued from page 1

We don't have any worries about losing money if the team does well.

Mike Hicks
director
campus stores

Mike Hicks
director
campus stores

Please recycle
The Observer.
Gore accepts Nobel Peace Prize

Former VP tells big polluters to stand accountable, lead charge to reduce greenhouse gases

Associated Press

OSLO — Saying it's "time to make the 21st century a planetary emergency," Al Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Monday, in a call for humanity to rise up against a looming climate crisis and stop waging war on the environment.

The United States and China — the world's leading emitters of greenhouse gases — will be accountable before history if they don't take the lead in that global challenge, the former vice president said.

"Without realizing it, we have begun to wage war on the Earth itself," Gore said in his acceptance speech. "Now, we and the Earth's climate are locked in a relationship familiar to war planners: Mutually assured destruction. It is time to make peace with the planet.

"Gore awarded the prize for sounding the alarm over global warming and spreading awareness on how to counteract it. His co-winner, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, was represented by its panel's leader, Rajendra Pachauri.

They received their Nobel gold medals and diplomas at a gala ceremony at Oslo's city hall, where the Nobel prizes were presented in a separate ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

Gore urged government officials at a U.N. climate conference in Bali, Indonesia, to prepare for the round of negotiations that could nail down an international treaty to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

"Gore and Pachauri will leave us an outstanding gift," President Bush said Wednesday. "I will urge the delegates in Bali to sign up bold mandates for a treaty," Gore said.

In a speech that quoted Churchill, Gandhi and the Bible, Gore said the world's biggest producers of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases — the United States and China — must stop blaming each other for the stalemate over warming. Instead, they should take the lead in solving a problem for which they bear a large responsibility, he said, or be "accountable before history for their failure to act.

"Too many of the world's leaders are still best described in the words Winston Churchill applied to those who ignored Adolf Hitler's threat. They go on in a strange paradox, decided only to be undecided, resolved to be irresolute, adamantly for drift, solid for fluidity, all powerful to be impotent," Gore said.

"Neglect in protecting our heritage of natural resources could prove extremely harmful for the human race and for all species that share common space on Planet Earth," Pachauri said in his acceptance speech. "It is within the reach of human society to meet these threats.

Before presenting the award to Gore and Pachauri, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel awards committee, Ole Danbolt Mjose, praised them for moving climate to the top of the world agenda.

"We thank you for what you have done for Mother Earth," Mjose said.

Gore's wife, Tipper, in the audience with their four children, smiled broadly when he accepted the award, which includes a $1.6 million stipend to be shared equally for a research project and a gold medal. The medals, weighing 6 pounds, are locked away.

"We're all going to have to work hard, and I promise you we will," Gore said.

Winter storm causes havoc across Midwest

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A wintry storm raked the center of the nation with a thick layer of ice Monday, blanking more than 100,000 homes and businesses, and more icy weather was on the way. At least 15 deaths in Oklahoma and Missouri were blamed on the conditions, with 13 of them killed in high-speed highway wrecks.

A state of emergency was declared for all of Oklahoma, where the sound of branches snapping under the weight of the ice echoed through Oklahoma City.

"You can hear them falling everywhere," Lonnie Compton said Monday as he shoveled ice off his driveway.

The National Weather Service posted ice and winter storm warnings Tuesday for parts of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. Missouri declared an emergency on Sunday and put the National Guard on alert.

Oklahoma utilities said a half-million customers were blacked out as power lines snapped under the weight of ice and falling tree branches, the biggest power outage in state history, and utilities in Missouri said more than 100,000 homes and business had no power there.

"If you do the math, probably one out of three Oklahomans has no electricity at this point," said Gil Byrdies, a spokesman for Oklahoma Gas & Electric, the state's largest utility.

 Roughly 11,090 customers were blacked out in southern Illinois and more than 5,000 had no electric heat or lights in Kansas, where Gov. Kathleen Sebelius declared a statewide state of emergency.

At O'Hare International Airport, about 100 flights were canceled by Monday afternoon, with delays of about 45 minutes, said Chicago Department of Aviation spokeswoman Karen Pride. No flights were canceled at Midway Airport, but a handful of flights were delayed about an hour, she said.

Ice was as much as an inch thick on tree limbs and power lines in parts of the region.
The biggest reason, Hurley said, is that students are trying to save on tuition. Some students come out of high school with credit, he said, so they can graduate early.

Senior Nicole Crnich, a double major in film, television and theatre and Japanese, will graduate in January. Crnich has applied to the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, and if she is accepted, she will move to Japan to teach English. Crnich wants to spend time with her family before her possible move.

"I love Notre Dame, but I'm really excited to graduate early," she said.

She said deciding to graduate a semester ahead of her classmates was a hard process.

"I made this big chart of pros and cons," Crnich said.

"There were so many pros," she said, which helped her tip the balance toward early graduation.

"The money I'm saving is definitely a big issue.

"The biggest con for me was being so far away from my friends — because I'll be living in Chicago next semester — instead of five minutes away," Crnich said.

"All of my closest friends are going to be here next semester. But Crnich said she is ready to graduate.

"I've been studying so hard for so long," she said. "I don't know if I could mentally handle another semester of working as hard as I have been.

Crimch still plans to walk at graduation in May.

"I'm very, very happy with my decision," she said. "I'm really satisfied with the time I've spent here at Notre Dame, and it's been enough for me."

Senior Angela Spisak, a political science major, has also decided to graduate in January. It helped when she didn't get an RA position, but I didn't have to be here all year," she said.

Spisak also intends to walk in the May ceremony.

Alex Renfro, a philosophy and Japanese major, will graduate in January, but he admits there are a lot of negatives in missing spring semester of senior year.

"You leave everyone — all your friends — behind," Renfro said. "You're on a totally different schedule. The things you're worrying about are totally different from the things they're worrying about.

"You feel like you have to tell everybody you're graduating early because you're like a 'special case,'" he joked. "When you tell people you're leaving early, they're like, 'Why would you want to do that?'"

Despite these drawbacks, "I'm kind of ready to get out there, out of the bubble," Renfro quipped.

He said money was the biggest factor in his decision to graduate early.

"It's been a crunch. I felt really rushed this semester," Renfro said of finishing his last semester at Notre Dame.

"I'm kind of ready to move on," he said.

Contact Theresa Civanto at tcvanto@nd.edu

Security

Kramer decided he needed to increase the security around his properties this year when tenants experienced car break-ins.

"We take every precaution that we possibly can, and that includes hiring a private security company," Kramer said.

The Majestic Security Company patrols all of Kramer's properties from the evening until the early morning. Kramer Properties sent tenants an e-mail encouraging them to contact local police departments or to request daytime house patrols during winter break.

"Plus the maintenance staff and myself always keep an eye on it," he said. After each student leaves for Christmas break, Kramer said either he or a member of his staff will go to the property to ensure that the doors and windows are locked and the alarm is activated.

"That itself probably prevents 99 percent of crime," Kramer said.

Kramer is not the only landlord to use a private security force. Judy Logan, the property manager for Castle Point Apartments, regularly has three night watchmen on duty. In addition, a local police officer patrols each neighborhood section of the large complex.

"We don't have a lot of crime," Logan said. "But we don't want to become vulnerable, so we take every precaution.

Although both landlords have faith in their security systems, they agree that ultimately it is the students that can best protect themselves by taking simple precautions. For example, Kramer encourages students to place all their valuables, such as a television, in a bedroom and then deadbolt the door shut.

Logan said the best thing students can do is to avoid becoming vulnerable.
Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Nervous public blamed for sluggish car sales; workers forced to cope with changes

In Brief

Ecuador threatens to drill in reserve

The government is seeking a minimum of $350 million a year from the international community for 10 years not to drill in the Ishpingo-Tiputini-Bornas Reserve, the oil minister said Monday.

UBS loses $10 billion from subprimes

UBS said it would post a loss for the fourth quarter of $10 billion, while an unidentified strategic investor in the Middle East is contributing $2 billion in capital to the Swiss bank.

Newspaper mogul Black gets 78 months

Former newspaper mogul Conrad Black was sentenced Monday to 6 1/2 years in prison, for less than sought by prosecutors, for swindling shareholders in his Hollinger empire out of some $6 million.

CHICAGO — Former newspaper mogul Conrad Black was sentenced Monday to 6 1/2 years in prison, for less than sought by prosecutors, for swindling shareholders in his Hollinger empire out of some $6 million.

"Mr. Black, you have violated your duty to Hollinger International shareholders," U.S. District Judge Amy J. St. Eve told Black. "You committed an act of theft and are not above the law," said the judge.

UBS, in jail. That's a serious amount of time.

"You don't want to take on an additional payment because you don't know where you are going to be six months from now," she said. "We're still doing OK, but we're smart enough to look at everyone else around us.

UBS loses $10 billion from subprimes

UBS, Switzerland's biggest bank, said the Swiss bank won't pay out a $10 billion charge from problems with the American subprime mortgage market.

"For the international community to recognize its responsibility for preserving Yasuni as a national park, the Yaqui and Mayan communities must receive 30% of the royalties generated over 10 years from the exploration," said Rafael Correa.

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UBS, Switzerland's biggest bank, said the Swiss bank won't pay out a $10 billion charge from problems with the American subprime mortgage market.

UBS, in jail. That's a serious amount of time.

"You don't want to take on an additional payment because you don't know where you are going to be six months from now," she said. "We're still doing OK, but we're smart enough to look at everyone else around us.
Court says judges have leeway in cocaine cases

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, weighing in on an issue with racial undertones, ruled Monday that federal judges have broad leeway to impose shorter prison terms for crack cocaine in a case that bolsters the argument for reducing the difference in sentences for crack and powder cocaine.

The court, by 7-2 votes in the crack case and one other involving drugs, upheld sentences imposed by judges who rejected federal sentencing guidelines as too harsh.

The decision was announced ahead of a vote scheduled for Tuesday by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, which sets the guidelines, that could cut prison time for as many as 19,500 federal inmates convicted of crack crimes.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, writing for the majority in the crack case, said a 15-year sentence given to Derrick Kimbrough by U.S. District Judge Robert Pratt of Des Moines, Iowa, determined that Gail had voluntarily quit selling drugs several years before he was implicated, stopped drinking, graduated from college and built a successful business. The guidelines said Gail should have been sent to prison for 30 to 37 months.

“The sentence imposed by the experienced district judge in this case was reasonable,” Justice John Paul Stevens said in his majority opinion.

Stevens cautioned federal appeals courts to step in only when judges abuse their discretion.

Appeals courts in both cases tossed out the lesser sentences imposed by the judges. The Bush administration urged the Supreme Court to follow suit and order tougher sentences.

Monday’s rulings could embolden trial judges to vary their sentences from the guidelines more frequently and diminish the chances that appeals courts will overturn those sentences, said Douglas Berman, a sentencing expert at the Ohio State University law school.

Kimbrough’s case, though, did not present the justices with the ultimate question of the fairness of the disparity in crack and powder cocaine sentences.

Kimbrough was acceptable, said Clinton. “She laughed and said, ‘First I love you and, second, I’m not going to run for anything. I’m too hardboiled.’”

Hillary Rodham Clinton is running now, and husband Bill was stumping for her in the 2008 campaign’s leadoff caucus state — two days after rival Democrat Barack Obama got a full weekend’s worth of attention by bringing in talk show queen Oprah Winfrey to campaign for him. 

The former president opened a two-day swing through Iowa on behalf of his wife, packing nearly 500 people into a theater on the campus of Iowa State University. “She has spent a lifetime as a change agent when she had the option to do other things,” he said.

“I thought she was the most gifted person of our generation,” said Clinton, who said he told her, “You know, you really should dump me and go back home to Chicago or go to New York and take one of those offers you’ve got and run for office.”

Now that she’s a New York senator and in a tight Democratic contest — with Illinois Sen. Obama and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards — the former president said he wanted to persuade voters that she has “the best combination of mind and heart.”

He offered a self-deprecating view of the couple’s early life in Arkansas.

“She came down there and we got married, I was a defeated candidate for Congress with a $26,000 salary and a $42,000 campaign debt,” said Clinton. “If she were half as calculating as someone said, that’s a really great way to run for president.”
The gunman's relatives said they were grief-stricken and baffled by the family's stance. 'I can no longer accept the magnitude of our grief for the victims and families of this tragedy. On behalf of our family, and our son, we ask for forgiveness. We cannot understand why this has happened,' they said in a statement read by the gunman's uncle, Phil Abeyta, who fought back tears.

In a statement, the training center said health problems kept Murray from finishing the program. It did not elaborate. Murray did not complete the lecture phase or a field assignment as part of a 12-week program. Youth With A Mission said, "The program directors felt that his health made it inappropriate for him to finish," it said.

Police gave no immediate details on the hate mail. And the training center said that Murray left in 2002—five years ago, not three—and that no one there can recall any visits or other communication from him since then. Earlier Monday, a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity said he may have died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. "Through both investigations it has been determined that most likely the suspect in both shootings are one in the same," police said in court papers.

Colorado Springs police said the "confession" and other evidence, "to both locations" was Youth With A Mission. The training center maintains an office at the 10,000-member church. "It appears that the suspect had been kicked out of the program directly before the Sunday service was letting out. He was upset about the suspicion. White House employees have been directed by the council's office to preserve all documents and e-mails related to the matter," Perino said. Attorney's for deniers say the destruction of the tapes may violate a court order and have asked a federal judge to hold a hearing. In a court filing, attorneys for Yemeni national Mahmoud Abdah point to a June 10, 2005, court order telling the government to "preserve and maintain all evidence and information regarding the torture, mistreatment, and abuse of detainees."
This past weekend saw the theatrical debut of another children's fantasy book adaptation. "The Golden Compass," based on the first volume in Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy, the movie has garnered a healthy share of media attention recently due to obloquy by various Christian organizations. The groups point to the blatantly anti-Christian, even anti-religious, tone of the book and movie. Some of these critiques make the mistake of trying to connect art rather than letting it speak for itself, good or bad, a mistake we can all appreciate here on campus. Their concerns certainly hold merit, Pullman has described his books as being "about killing God" with the express purpose of undermining the basis of Christian belief. The trilogy is a modern reversal of "Paradise Lost" in which the characters celebrate rather than mourn their independence from the divine, a riff on the plot of Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound." Pullman is an outspoken, bellicose atheist who sees evil in all organized religions and regularly speaks out against ecclesiastical hierarchy. The funny thing is, "The Golden Compass" and its sequels actually do a better job of analyzing the case for humanism or atheism than they do attacking religious institutions — which would seem the easier target. The book promotes free human action and virtue without any divine restraint and makes serious, urgent moral arguments for atheism, its attacks against the Church, however, are laughable. Pullman uses priests in the book as cookie-cutter villains who pursue and harass the protagonists, but he demonizes them so unequivocally that his noble characterizations of their institution cannot be taken seriously. The Church clergy who make up the film version's evil antagonists — here referred to as the Magisterium — are even more laughable as a mass-produced pastiche. They sit in their tower plotting how to capture children and suppress the world's freedom. Sinister music masterminds a few brief scenes and Christopher Lee, legendary cinema villain, makes a short appearance as the token plotting mastermind. In case you're wondering, the movie is an average flick overall. Director Christof Weisz has watered down the anti-religious message considerably. The film moves quickly from one goal-oriented action scene to another without giving the characters much time to develop any of the book's philosophical themes, played down in this version. In short, the books are better.

Given the staid virility of "His Dark Materials," one can see why the Catholic League, an American anti-defamation organization, finds the movie upsetting. They say the film may bait viewers into buying the books for their children. Valid point. But their strategy for countering the book and film's message calls for a boycott of the movie. Unfortunately, the League does not understand that calling this boycott only brightens the spotlight on the film. Perhaps "any news is good news" goes too far, but calling for a boycott on a film or book is like asking for a boost of media attention. The Catholic League hopes the film's box office tally will disappoint because of their efforts. Instead, you can bet all the attention they give it will only spike profits, no matter their relation to projections. The trilogy is profoundly anti-Catholic and anti-religious, even woefully so. Nevertheless, there are elements in the books that make for a good story and a good tale — and many even make a good moral message. The plot is well paced and Pullman turns the book's universal themes into beautiful writing, particularly towards the trilogy's end. The Catholic League fails to recognize this redeeming content, but other groups do not.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Comics offensively unfunny

Throughout this semester, the Observer comics have continually offended me — all of them. Is it their topics? Their style? Certainly not. Any style or subject can be made into something funny. Wait, that's it! They're just not funny — not. Any style or subject can be between. I attribute this to the often hard to recall any Observer comic that's it! They're just not funny — not. Any style or subject can be inducing some sort of laugh from me. Perhaps a short gaffaw from "Black Dog" or a chokel from "Tastes Like Failure." Certainly nothing from the embarrassingly awful "Deuces Mann." But even those reactions are few and far between. I attribute this to the often weak punch lines from the first two, and the relative absence of one in the last. I know that comedy is purely subjective, but am I really alone with my criticism? For instance, I don't recall a single person among friends, classmates, and coworkers who has given me a positive response about the Observer comics. The best I have heard is "mediocre" or "Hey, they try." Maybe I should just ask more people; perhaps a random poll around campus would prove me wrong. But this late in the semester, that seems pointless. Instead, I hope that The Observer prepares a clean slate for next semester and takes out every comic from its syndication to give others a chance. I think the best approach for this is to hold a one week tryout for new comics and let the readers decide. (Please, no voting by e-mail. I'm sure someone on the Observer staff can ask around during meal times.) I know that I am taking these comics rather seriously, but previous Viewpoint letters prove I'm not the only one. " Offensive" material doesn't bother me, but bad material does. Newspaper comics give Notre Dame students, both artists and writers, a chance to practice their creative skills and present them publicly. Instead, these comics seem to be in The Observer just so there are comics in The Observer. There are Notre Dame students who would work hard to create quality comedic material for The Observer, and we owe it these people to give them a decent chance.
The comic to the right was drawn by the author of this letter.

Ryan Simmons
junior
Keough Hall
Dec. 9

Look at quality first

While I agree with Pat McHugh that "Pie is an overlooked dessert option" ("Dining hall menu needs adjusting," Dec. 7), I must comment that the pie offered at the South Food Market is subpar, mediocre at best. McHugh would like to rectify this perceived "lack of pie" with more of the same. This is simply not the correct path to take. Rather, South Food Market should seek out new vendors in an aggressive campaign to improve the quality of pie offered. Only then should we begin to ask, "What is up with the Oriental line?"

"Tastes Like Failure." Certainly the best I have heard is "mediocre" or "Hey, they try." Scott Vitter
senior
Alumni Hall
Dec. 9

U-WIRE

Putting the 'can' back in 'candidate'

By the time classes resume for the spring semester, voting in the 2008 election will have already gotten underway. With the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary in the very near future (Jan. 3 and 8, respectively) the Daily would like to take this last opportunity to offer some parting reflections.

We're excited about the upcoming election for several reasons. Eight years of an administration that refused to face realities, both in the Middle East and at home, subverted the Constitution and never admitted its failings, was eight years too many. A new face in the White House does not hurt. What's most bothersome about Bush is his persistent lack of intellectual curiosity, manifested in the fact that he doesn't read daily papers and didn't seem interested in succeeding in higher education. A candidate who promises to be just like the rest of us isn't a leader at all, and being in tune with the needs of Americans does not equate to taking up the same entertainment and lifestyle choices of the rest of the country.

We hope that the coming months will feature rich debates that go beyond the clothing and lifestyle choices of the rest of the country. We aren't looking for a president with whom we can sit down and drink a beer. We don't want an Average Joe ascending to one of the most powerful positions in the Western World; we want to see a leader who jumps at intellectual and political challenges and who can relate to the population without reaching to the lowest common denominator. We want an Average Joe ascending to one of the most powerful positions in the Western World; we want to see a leader who jumps at intellectual and political challenges and who can relate to the population without reaching to the lowest common denominator.

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This article originally appeared in the Dec. 10 issue of the Tufts Daily, the daily publication of Tufts University. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Ryan Simmons
junior
Keough Hall
Dec. 9

Please recycle The Observer.
The Notre Dame Celebration Choir puts on its "Christmas at the CoMo" concert tonight at 7:30 in the Main Lounge of Coleman-Morse Center. This show is very similar to our previous shows in format," said alto Christine Gage, who has also sung as a tenor in past shows. The choir will perform a variety of Christmas music, including both a few of our favorites and less common cards, some of the tried-and-true tunes include "O Holy Night" and "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing," while a new example of a new song is "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

"Whenever we perform, we include a few pieces that stretch us as a choir," Gage said. The group will perform a movement from Handel's "Messiah" ("Adeste Fideles" and "Gloria in Excelsis Deo") in addition to Gesu Bambino and the Candlelight Carol.

"These are our more technically complicated pieces," Gage said, "there is no need to say that all pieces have their difficulties."

The group also performs as a voluntary collection to assist a Holy Cross presentation on the mission. International students will also speak briefly on Christmas traditions in other countries.

Of the choir ensemble's 40 members, singers and instrumentalists alike agreed that the Handel piece posed the greatest challenge from a performance standpoint. "The most difficult piece in our repertoire for the concert would probably be 'And The Glory Of The Lord' from Handel's 'Messiah,'" Celebration Choir president Chris Perkins said. Perkins is one of six tenors in the group.

The choir members will perform songs that challenge their limits as simply presenting performers. "The most difficult piece for us has been an excerpt from Handel's "Messiah,"" list Brian Camus said. "This is the first time we have ever sung anything from this piece, so not only is it new but it is also quite challenging.

The choir added extra rehearsals due to the limited time between its last Stepan Mass performance and the "Christmas at the CoMo" concert. "The Handel piece has a bunch of odd rhythms and entrances that took us awhile to get down," soprano Carolyn Shivers said. Shivers also said the Choir was able to select more difficult compositions to perform because it had more people than it has had in the past. "It's nice to have enough altos and sopranos to sing the divisi," she said. The divisi parts feature two or more notes, written for each vocal part.

Even with the new music, the choir expects a show similar to yours past. "The concert will be fairly reminiscent of past Christmas concerts," Perkins said. "We'll have plenty of traditional carols along with several unusual pieces which should provide our audience with a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas season."

Contact Tar Andrews at tandrew@nd.edu

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### Choir to perform concert

By TAE ANDREW

Scene Editor

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Contact Tar Andrews at tandrew@nd.edu
The Best Album Lists of 2007

This year in top album lists there seems to be a disparity between actually quality records and what the industry thinks they need to acknowledge to keep their music cred flowing. Abysmal lists from several print magazines (Filler, Harp Uncut) as well as trusted music blogs (My Old Kentucky Blog, seem to signal a need for reinvention).

The year is coming to an end and the top 10 most talked about singles and albums are set to wrap up the year and see what new developments have occurred (or not) in music. The WVII Music Committee offer you our favorites to read while taking a break from bio-chemistry chapters and crunching accounting problems.

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Sixers continue surge with win over Rockets

Smith’s monster game leads Hawks to third straight win while directing Magic first losing streak of season

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Andre Iguodala and the suddenly successful Philadelphia 76ers gave one of the largest crowds of the season their money’s worth for once.

The Sixers’ only worry this week has been learning how to play with a huge lead instead of trying to rally against one.

“We’ve got to keep this up. We can’t lay down,” Iguodala said. Tracy Murray, who scored 12 points for the Rockets before leaving the game in the second half with a sprained right ankle, scored 24 points, Luther Head had 18 and Yao Ming 12. The Rockets played without Rafer Alston, out with a groin injury.

“They were quicker in every phase,” Rockets coach Rick Adelman said. “They didn’t have any energy. We’ll look at it and evaluate it. Everybody has to evaluate how they can do better.”

Iguodala coach Maurice Cheeks said he planned to stick with his new game plan of expanding beyond an eight-man rotation, an idea that blossomed shortly after Stefanski was hired and almost everyone played at least 10 minutes.

Yes, the score was one reason. But Iguodala took an early double-digit lead that was never really threatened.

The Hawks defeated the fourth quarter on a 15-2 run that was about two quarters too late. They cut the deficit to 10 points with 1.5 left, but it really didn’t matter and just focused on the point to the Hawks.

“We have to learn how to play with that type of lead,” Cheeks said. “I hope we have a lot of them.”

Samuel Dalembert, who grabbed 13 rebounds, set the tone early with his stiff rejection of a shot by McGrady that Iguodala quickly converted into a thunderous dunk on the other end. The Sixers had another one for highlight reel when Young surprised Vas and stripped him of the ball and ended up belting the ball out to Miller who hit for an open 3. That capped a 19-2 run and helped the Sixers take a 56-42 lead into halftime.

Miller swiped the ball midway through the third and dished to Iguodala on the court for the breakaway, one-handed pump slam that stirred a rare hometown eruption.

“I feel like we’re playing with more energy and our defense has been there,” Korver said.

“We’re finally scoring some points and it’s not like we’re able to do that and still play solid defense, we’re going to be OK.”

Hawks 98, Magic 87

Josh Smith’s monster game leads Hawks to third straight win while dealing Magic first losing streak of season

Hawks forward Josh Smith, left, grabs a rebound in front of Magic forward Maurice Evans during Atlanta’s 98-87 win Monday over Orlando.

Iguodala and the suddenly successful Philadelphia 76ers gave one of the largest crowds of the season their money’s worth for once, as many as 31 points in a 100-88 victory over the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

“I don’t think about being up by 30, I think about playing good basketball,” Iguodala said.

Not even Ed Stefanski, hired last week as team president and general manager, could have predicted a turnaround quite like this. The Sixers are on a three-game winning streak for the first time this season and used all sorts of new and unique lineups to throw off the Rockets.

Willie Green scored 20 points for the Sixers and Kyle Korver had 17.

“Nobody seems to be in a funk right now,” Iguodala said.
Cameron faces questions after 0-13 record

Vick sentenced on charges of dogfighting, lying

NCAA Women's Basketball

AP Poll

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — When Cam Cameron began his first training camp as an NFL head coach in late July, he said he was unfazed by the many challenges facing the Miami Dolphins.

"I'm not a worrier," he said. "I don't go down that road."

Maybe that's why Cameron appeared remarkably relaxed Monday. He even cracked a hint of a smile a couple of times.

Most coaches would be ready to explode or implode. An 0-13 record tends to have that effect. But Cameron calmly repeated the pledge to perseverance that has become his mantra.

"We've said it all along. We're not in the position we want to be in," he said. "But we have to face it. We need to deal with it. We need to attack it."

The clock is running. Cameron has been on the job nearly 11 months and still seeks his first victory, which raises a question: How much longer does he have with the Dolphins?

His job may be in jeopardy. But Cameron calmly said: "We're not in the position of severance that has become his mantra."

"We're not in the position of the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft for first time."

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"We're not in the position of severance that has become his mantra."

Arlington, Texas — Tim stone was sentenced to prison Monday for running a dogfighting operation and about killing pit bulls.

"Vick said he accepted responsibility for his actions, but U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson said he was "not so sure."

The disgraced NFL star received a harsher sentence than the others in the federal conspiracy case because of "less than truthful" statements about killing pit bulls.

"Vick said he accepted responsibility for his actions, but U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson said he was "not so sure."

Tibet barred from forming own Olympic team

NEW YORK — The players' association filed a grievance Monday to overturn the 15-day suspension given to Kansas City Royals outfielder Jose Guillen for violating baseball's drug program.

Guillen and Baltimore's Jay Gibbons were suspended last Thursday by commission er Bud Selig following media reports that they received human growth hormone after January 2005, when it was banned by baseball.

Guillen has not been charged by the government with a crime, and he is not known to have failed a drug test.

The Dolphins are last and least in the league by such a wide margin they're already virtually assured of the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft for first time.

Union in steroids case

Arbitrator Shyam Das will decide his fate.

"The IOC is not in a position to make a 'great job' keeping the team together and the atmosphere positive despite an 0-7 start. But Huizenga must be alarmed by the direction of a franchise that has become a national punch line."

"Of course, it hasn't gotten easier," Cameron said. "The Dolphins are last and least in the league by such a wide margin they're already virtually assured of the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft for first time."

Owner Wayne Huizenga last spoke to the media in October, when he said Cameron had done a "great job" keeping the team together and the atmosphere positive despite an 0-7 start. But Huizenga must be alarmed by the direction of a franchise that has become a national punch line.
**NFL**

**Tampa Bay's QB expected to return**

Associated Press  
Tampa, Fla. — For the first time in three weeks, there's a definite word on Jeff Garcia's sore back.

Garcia, injured Nov. 25 on the back, is expected to return to the lineup this week after missing two games and most of a third with a lower back bruise that has kept opposing teams guessing about his availability.

Coach Jon Gruden said Monday that despite vague statements he made about Garcia's status leading up to games against New Orleans and Houston, he never planned to play him against the Saints or Texans.

"I just don't think the opponent needs to know exactly who to prepare for."

Jon Gruden  
Buccaneers coach

McCown threw for 266 yards and no interceptions, but was sacked four times and lost a fumble that set up a touchdown in a 28-14 loss that stopped the Bucs 18-31 from clinching the NFC South.

While Gruden is looking forward to getting his regular starter back on the field, he said he saw enough from McCown in the past two weeks to feel better about the team's backup situation.

"Bruce Gradkowski replaced Garcia against the Redskins, but was so ineffective after Tampa Bay took an early lead that Gruden sent Garcia back into the game in the fourth quarter. McCown had a big day passing and led a last-minute TD drive to beat the Saints two weeks ago, but was not nearly as sharp against the Texans.

"Clearly there were seven or eight plays in the game that weren't as good as the others, but I'm really pleased with what he's done," Gruden said. "There's still plenty of room to grow, but I think what we all see is a big, athletic guy that has promise and potential to be outstanding."

Garcia may be back, but receiver Ike Hilliard's status is less certain. He left Sunday's game with what Gruden described as an upper back injury that trainers were still evaluating on Monday.

Without the sure-handed Hilliard, who has a team-leading 58 catches for 663 yards and is the Bucs' most effective receiver on third downs, the Bucs converted just 3-of-13 third-down plays.

"I just don't think the opponent needs to know exactly who to prepare for."

Gruden said, emphasizing he's confident the 37-year-old now has had adequate time to recover from the injury and will play Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals.

"I don't believe I should apologize too much. I don't feel like we have to divulge everything or let everyone know exactly where it is in terms of the timetable for Jeff. We felt it was a two-week injury. ... We feel we did the right thing, the only thing that makes sense to me."

Garcia, injured Nov. 25 on the first play of a victory over武汉市, practiced last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, fueling speculation he might be ready to play against Houston. Gruden waited until just before kickoff to reveal that backup Luke McCown would start.

The coach said Garcia probably could have played, but declaring him the third quarterback was "what we felt was the best interest of Jeff Garcia and his health."

"A lot of guys can play hurt. Jeff clearly could have played," Gruden said. "It was our decision as an organization to hold him for two games."

McCown, who threw for 226 yards and two touchdowns, said he saw enough from McCown in the past two weeks to feel better about the team's backup situation.

"Bruce replaced Garcia against the Redskins, but was so ineffective after Tampa Bay took an early lead that Gruden sent Garcia back into the game in the fourth quarter. McCown had a big day passing and led a last-minute TD drive to beat the Saints two weeks ago, but was not nearly as sharp against the Texans."

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**NCAA FOOTBALL**

**FSU coach will stay another season**

Associated Press  
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Jimbo Fisher will succeed Bobby Bowden as Florida State's next football coach someday.

President T.K. Wetherell designated offensive coordinator Fisher as "head coach-in-waiting," but skipped out of a somewhat unusual news conference Monday without answering questions about the contracts that are not yet finalized.

Bowden, major college football's winningest coach, agreed to return for a 33rd season with options to stay longer.

"Every year I'll just re-sign it and tell 'em if I want to coach another year," Bowden said. "I couldn't ask for anything better than that."

Bowden, Fisher and interim athletic director Bill Proctor all skirted questions about what Proctor described as "agreement(s) in principle" that give "stability in our program."

Bowden, 78, said he supported the plan brought to him last week by the president and Proctor, who have both known the coach since the early 1960s.

"I think it's a great plan," Bowden said. "Hey, you get 78 years of age, it's hard to say how you're going out, but we've got a plan. It kind of all started with my contract."

Bowden, whose present five-year deal with the school expires in three weeks, made just over $2 million in 2006, state records show.

"My position hasn't changed. As long as I'm healthy, he said, "[and] if I can win enough games."

"I'm not the fallen in wins in recent years that has increased focus on Bowden's age."

"I do have an obligation to the university to win enough ball games," said Bowden, who is 14-13 the past two seasons heading into a Dec. 31 Music City Bowl game against Kentucky.

Fisher, a disciple of the Bowden coaching family who played and coached for Terry Bowden, spent much of his time praising the family patriarch and avoiding details on what exactly he agreed to.

"This gives me some peace," said Fisher, who has not been a head coach before. "I'm content to wait for it."

Terry Bowden, who has been out of coaching for a decade since being fired at Auburn, helped persuade Fisher to take the offensive coordinator's job earlier this year.

The job opened when younger brother Jeff Bowden was brought out by dissatisfied boosters late in the 2006 season.

A West Virginia native, Fisher was paid roughly $420,000 as offensive coordinator this year.

**Florida State coach Bobby Bowden speaks at a news conference Monday. Bowden will coach again in 2008.**

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**The Notre Dame Football Annual Walk-On Tryouts**

**The Notre Dame Football Program will be holding walk-on tryouts at the beginning of the spring semester.**

**If you are interested:**

Pick-up/Fill-out & Return:

Information Form & Medical Forms

Forms to be filled out are at the Reception Desk at the Football Office in the Guglielmino Complex.

You must have the forms filled out and returned by January 18, 2007.

Following our receipt of all information & medical forms, we will have an informational meeting and a series of tryouts/workouts.
Chargers star linebacker sprains left knee ligament

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — "Lights Out" is going to be on the shelf for at least one game, maybe longer.

Star outside linebacker Shawne Merriman will miss San Diego's home game against Detroit because of a sprained ligament in his left knee that knocked him out of Sunday's game in Tennessee, which the Chargers won in overtime.

Quarterback Philip Rivers is in a little better shape, saying he expects to be back in time.

Philip Rivers is in better shape, saying he expects to be back in time.

"I'll be back to dominating in no time," Merriman said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Monday. "I'll be back to dominating in no time."

"I'm not going to speculate, but it could be a couple of weeks," Turner said.

Shawne Merriman
Chargers linebacker

The Associated Press

Both Merriman and Rivers were hurt in the second quarter of San Diego's 23-17 overtime win at Tennessee, a hard-hitting game in which several players were hurt.

"I don't try to get caught up in all the scientific words that are used," Rivers said. "I don't try to get caught up in all the scientific words that are used."

The team refused to give more details about the injuries. Rivers either didn't want to be specific about his injury or was told not to discuss it with the media.

"I'll leave that up to the coach and the trainer as far as giving you the information," he said. "I don't try to get caught up in all the scientific words that are used."

Rivers handed the ball to Tomlinson, rolled out and was clipped to the ground. He tried to walk off the field, nearly falling on his way to the sideline.

Rivers headed to the locker room, and was replaced by Billy Volek. But he was back for San Diego's opening series of the third quarter.

"It was as physical of a game I've been involved with," Rivers said. "It was as physical of a game I've been involved with."

Chargers linebacker Shawne Merriman sacks Titans quarterback Kerry Collins in San Diego's 23-17 win Sunday.

Rivers handed the ball to Tomlinson, rolled out and was clipped to the ground. He tried to walk off the field, nearly falling on his way to the sideline.

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"I think it was one of those freak accidents, really," Rivers said. "It was as physical of a game I've been involved with." Rivers handed the ball to Tomlinson, rolled out and was clipped to the ground. He tried to walk off the field, nearly falling on his way to the sideline.

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"It was as physical of a game I've been involved with." Philip Rivers
Chargers quarterback

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THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

You are invited to a Hanukkah Celebration

7:00 Tuesday December 11
Welsh Family 24 Hour Lounge

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After scandal, Jets will play Patriots

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Bill Belichick didn’t mention Jets coach Eric Mangini, his former defensive coordinator, to blow the whistle on him after New England’s 38-14 season-opening win over New York — the first in a string of 13 wins that leaves the Patriots just three short of a perfect regular season.

In preparing for Sunday’s 34-13 win over Pittsburgh, Belichick studied tape of a game three weeks earlier when the Jets upset the Steelers 19-16 in overtime.

“The impression of them was in the Pittsburgh game they played very well. And they beat Pittsburgh,” he said Monday. “They have some outstanding players.”

Belichick didn’t mention Jets coach Eric Mangini, his former defensive coordinator, to blow the whistle on him after New England’s 38-14 season-opening win over New York — the first in a string of 13 wins that leaves the Patriots just three short of a perfect regular season.

In preparing for Sunday’s 34-13 win over Pittsburgh, Belichick studied tape of a game three weeks earlier when the Jets upset the Steelers 19-16 in overtime.

“We took it as a challenge. We were going to come out here and show them what we had,” said Jabar Gaffney, who burned Smith for a 3-yd touchdown reception.

“I expected to be in a bowl game,” junior linebacker Brit Miller said. “But to end up in the Rose Bowl was not expected at all. If someone would have told us we’d end up in the Rose Bowl in camp, we probably would have looked at them a little differently.”

Doing things differently is what Zook set out to do when he arrived three years ago, six years after winning the Illinois job.

“I expected to be in a bowl game,” junior linebacker Brit Miller said. “But to end up in the Rose Bowl was not expected at all. If someone would have told us we’d end up in the Rose Bowl in camp, we probably would have looked at them a little differently.”

“Just the way we’ve done all of our other games,” Belichick said.

Illini quarterback Juice Williams escapes Northwestern’s linebacker Adam Kadlec during Illinois’ 43-22 win on Nov. 17.

For men interested in learning about the process for applying to live in Duncan Hall

Information Meeting

Tuesday, December 11  ·  7:00 PM
Thursday, January 24  ·  7:00 PM
Montgomery Auditorium | LaFortune Student Center

Learn more about Notre Dame’s newest living option

Office of Residence Life and Housing

Phone: 574.631.5878 | E-Mail: orlh@nd.edu
Cavs welcome back
James and Varejão

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James' injured finger passed the required practice test. It's game time.

James, who has missed Cleveland's past five games — all losses — with a sprained left index finger, is expected to be back in the lineup on Tuesday night when the Cavaliers host the Indiana Pacers.

"We're going to leave it as a game-time decision," he said. "I've been through two contact practices OK. We'll see what happens.

James has been wearing a protective glove over his index finger, which was in Canada getting his work visa.

If the Brazilian gets back in the lineup, Cavs coach Mike Brown said he would likely play him for the Cavaliers, the defending Eastern Conference champions after missing time with a leg bruise, has renewed confidence who is playing. We had a couple games where we just didn't give effort," Brown said.

Along with James, the Cavaliers may welcome back forward Anderson Varejão, who ended a contract holdout by signing a three-year, $17 million deal last week, was in Canada getting his work visa.

"It's starting to feel good around here, especially the last couple days of practice." James, who had a shot in a loss after missing time with a leg bruise, has renewed confidence who is playing. We had a couple games where we just didn't give effort," James said.

"It's better than it was a week and half ago," James said. "The pain is going away little by little. It's not 100 percent at all right now and it probably won't be until the offseason, and I don't have an offseason until 2009.

He will play for the United States in the Beijing Olympics this summer.

James, the NBA's leading scorer who ended a couple days of contact, is going away this season and in Canada getting his work visa.

"I've been through two contact practices OK. We'll see what happens." Brown said.

LeBron James Cavaliers forward

"We're going to leave it as a game-time decision." Brown said.

LeBron James Cavaliers forward

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LeBron James Cavaliers forward

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LeBron James Cavaliers forward

"It's starting to feel good around here, especially the last couple days of practice." Brown said.
The Devils lost for the second consecutive night after winning nine straight. They earned one point Sunday during a 1-0 overtime loss to the New York Islanders.

The Devils took a 3-0 lead when John Madden scored at 2:56 of the first period. Boudreau joked about the sudden crowded press room.

Alex Ovechkin was quickly earning the respect of his Boston teammates.

The Devils forward Karel Rachunek checks Capitals' defenseman Matt Pettinger into the boards in Washington's 3-2 win over New Jersey Monday. The Devils had not lost since Nov. 16.
Athletes to train in Florida

By JARED JEDICK, CHRIS DOYEN and SAMANTHA LEONARD
Sports Writers

The most important part of the season is here for the men's and women's squads as the teams put in hard work that they hope will pay off down the road.

The women get a much-needed break and are permitted to return home for Christmas. Irish women's assistant coach Joel White said time the swimmers spend with their families is key for establishing the mental and physical endurance necessary for their difficult upcoming training schedule.

"The girls get to go home for seven days, the most ever," White said. "They need the rest to be ready for the remainder of a really long season that lasts until July and the Olympic trials.

The men will get to take a break from swimming until Dec. 28. Once training resumes, the squad's intensity level will pick up considerably.

"We'll want to recuperate from exams, and we want everyone to be with their families for Christmas, but once we get back, we have a few weeks where we'll be training with great intensity," men's head coach Tim Welsh said. "The schedule goes straight on through the Big East Championships in February."

Following the almost month-long break from competitive action, the men will head to Boca Raton, Fla. to begin training on Dec. 30. The athletes will then travel to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for their first-ever dual meet with Louisiana State on New Year's Day. The Irish will look to build on a solid showing at the Ohio State Invitational and hope to see improvements based on their rigorous training.

The men, who are 2-3 in dual meets, will face an LSU squad that has been dealt losses by national powers Stanford and conference foe Georgia. Most recently, the Tigers were runners-up to Florida State, finishing a convincing second at the Georgia Tech Invitational.

In recent CSCAA national rankings, the meet should be competitive. LSU is ranked 21st with 92 points, while Notre Dame is only two points behind in 23rd.

Following the holiday showdown with the Tigers, the Irish will stay in the Sunshine State and travel to Buca Baton for the Saint Andrew's Invitational on Jan. 5.

The women, meanwhile, will head to Miami to train as soon as their first break is over on Dec. 27.

The team will follow a rigorous schedule of training for a few days, then competing in a meet against LSU on Jan. 2. After that event comes several more days of training before the squad finishes up with a meet against the University of Miami.

"It's our last push," women's head coach Carrie Nixon said. "The girls are only able to get through it based on their great dedication and support for each other.

"The training is not easy, as the women will be put in days of intense physical conditioning: more than four hours of swimming practice every day in combination with dry-land circuits, weight training, cardio and yoga."

Field hockey assistant coach Joel White said that they hope will pay off down the road.

The team hopes this last push "is going to be critical" and will "set the stage for the upcoming Big East finale.

The women will return to competition in South Bend against Michigan, Indiana and Illinois on Jan. 13-14. The Irish hope to earn as many NCAA national championship automatic qualifications as they can.

Contact Jared Jedick at jedick@nd.edu, Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu and Samantha Leonard at sleon01@nd.edu

NCAA Men's Basketball

University of Pittsburgh looking for 500th career win by Henley said her squad has "to display better fundamentals in order to reach a more consistent level of play."

"We need to continue to improve on our team defense and shutting down the paint, and we also need to focus on limiting our turnovers and taking away second shot opportunities from opponents," the coach said.

Despite the Belles' early struggles, Henley is encouraged by her team's efforts.

"I am proud of them," junior guard Alison Keusler said. "It's our first conference win and has struggled with in-game consistency, especially during halftime of contexts."

The Belles have led at halftime in six of their seven games, outscoring opponents 248-178 in the opening period. But the team has been outscored 246-227 following intermission.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

BUSY

continued from page 24

the Otterbein 0 Club Tournament and games against Kenyon (3-5) on Dec. 28, and either Franklin (4-1) or host Otterbein (4-4) on Dec. 29.

The Belles will visit Alma (3-4, 1-0) on Jan. 5 and Alverno (1-1) on Jan. 9 before classes resume on Jan. 14.

Saturday's 8-6 victory at Tri-State was Saint Mary's first conference win and marked the big and big transition games of eight straight games on the road for the Belles. The team has yet to see a competitive game and has struggled with in-game consistency, especially during halftime of contexts.

The Belles have had at halftime in six of their seven games, outscoring opponents 248-178 in the opening period.

"I see a lot of improvement," senior forward Erin Newcomb (11.6 points, MIAA high 9.7 rebounds, MIAA more forward Anna Kammrath (10.7 points, 8.1 rebounds).

At this point in the season, this is the best case scenario of six points and that our transition game is pretty good," Henley said.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Lunch and Conversation

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, December 13
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame (GLBS) invites you and a guest to lunch and conversation about gay issues.

The event is $5 and all proceeds will go to GLBS. Laiden's will be served.

"We are hoping to bring in a panel of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning students that will be available to answer questions and talk about their experiences," said senior psychology major Alex Allshouse.

The event will be held at the Main Dining Hall in the Garvin Student Union.

"It's open to everyone," said Allshouse.

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Irish guard Tulyah Gaines defends on the perimeter during Notre Dame's 93-47 win over Canisius Nov. 27 at the Joyce Center.

Valpo continued from page 24

your.

Valparaiso (3-5) presents a test of Notre Dame's low post play and also boasts a formidable perimeter game, McGraw said. "They have more speed in the post," McGraw said. "They have the ability to shoot the three. They're smart, they run good stuff on offense. It's a really tough matchup for us." But McGraw said freshman forward Devereaux Peters will give Valparaiso problems inside. "She plays well in the center position, she's a tough match-up for them," McGraw said. "She's a shot blocker, she can rebound, she can do a lot of things." Peters and fellow freshman forward Becca Bruszewski have settled into their roles for the Irish. Peters started strong, but McGraw said she has recently improved her ability to stay focused after getting in foul trouble. Peters had two fouls in the first 15 minutes against Purdue Saturday, but McGraw said she returned her composure in the second half. "I thought Saturday she did a great job in the second half," McGraw said. "Normally she gets really down on herself when she gets a couple of fouls but I thought she really came out in the second half and played great, maybe her best game of the season." Bruszewski, McGraw said, settled into a groove after some offensive adjustments. "She was still trying to find her place on the team in terms of her role and what was expected of her," McGraw said. Bruszewski made quicker progress on the defensive end of the floor, and McGraw said that enabled her to show coaches what she can do in game situations. "In the Maryland game I felt like we needed defense, so it was a good opportunity for her to come in, and she played really well," McGraw said. "So it was a confidence boost for her, but it also gave us a chance to see what she's capable of doing." McGraw said she talked with Bruszewski about her shooting habits and told her to look for different types of shots than those of centers Melissa D'Amico and Ferial Watson. "She started doing that in practice. She started getting different kinds of shots," McGraw said. "I think she just needed to feel comfortable." After facing Valparaiso, the Irish are off until Dec. 21, when they play IUPUI on the road. Playing over the break, McGraw said, can help forge a better atmosphere for the players. "I think it's a little easier because there's no school," McGraw said. "There's no studying, there's no tests, so it's all basketball. I think that's a little more fun. They get to bond really well, so the chemistry's always good.

Notre Dame will play the Volunteers at home before traveling to face Louisville and West Virginia. McGraw's philosophy is consistent no matter who the Irish face, she said. "We will then the same thing," McGraw said of her message to the team. "Not only does her style stay constant, but she said the team, in effect, polishes itself. "This is a team that's never satisfied when they come out of a game," McGraw said. "The Boston Green game, they were really disappointed with the way they played. It's not enough for them just to win. They know they have to play better in order to get better. They're pretty focused on one game."
**ND Women's Basketball**

**What break?**

Squad prepares for busy schedule after first semester ends

By BILL BRINK

Classes may be ending, but for Notre Dame, the work is not. Valparaiso will come to South Bend to face the No. 17 Irish on Wednesday in Notre Dame's final game before winter break. Notre Dame has six games over the holiday, including contests against Tennessee, Louisville and West Virginia after Christmas Day.

Notre Dame defeated Valparaiso by one point last season when then-senior guard Brenna Gray hit a free throw to give the Irish the win with one second remaining.

"We're definitely not taking them lightly," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said of the Crusaders. Valparaiso has won its last three games. In each, guard Agnieszka Kulaga has led the team in scoring with 21, 18 and 25 points. Her season scoring average is also a team-best at 13.8 points per game.

"(The Crusaders) are just going to keep getting better as they go," McGraw said. "Now they're playing much better than they were at the beginning of the season.

**Irish senior guard Charel Allen dribbles past a Western Kentucky defender during Notre Dame's 78-69 win on Nov. 13. The No. 17 Irish will play Valparaiso Wednesday at the Joyce Center.**

see VALPO/page 22

**Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles during Notre Dame's 108-62 win over Northern Illinois Saturday.**

By CHRIS KOOREY

Irish gear up for league play

By MATT CAMBER

**SMC Basketball**

Team set for busy few weeks

Saint Mary's (3-4, 1-1 MIAA) will have to keep focused during a break into a stretch that will see them play seven games between Dec 21 and Jan. 9. That break schedule includes a pair of tournaments and three conference matchups.

"We have a lot of basketball to play over the holiday break from classes, so maintaining our focus will be key," Belle coach Jennifer Henley said. "There are no bad teams in the MIAA, just bad records. You have to be prepared every night you step on the court to play, and you can never overlook an opponent."

The Belles will play Hope College (7-0, 1-0) to open the Hope Classic in Holland, Mich., on Dec. 21. That game will count toward the MIAA standings. Saint Mary's will face either North Park (0-6) or Hanover (4-2) in the second round of the tournament the next day.

Saint Mary's will then travel to Westerville, Ohio, for the Lightning Classic on Nov. 25 and 26.

**Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles during Notre Dame's 108-62 win over Northern Illinois Saturday.**

**Hockey**

Jackson will not play 'patsies' during break

By DAN MURPHY

As the college hockey world enters its annual three-week hibernation, No. 6 Notre Dame finds itself in a very familiar position.

At the onset of the break, the Irish (16-4) have a virtually identical record and ranking to last year's 16-3-1 team. After starting 4-3, coach Jeff Jackson has pulled together his young and talented squad to win 12 of its last 13 games against some of the country's top teams. Two of the team's four losses have come against top-five teams in pair of 3-1 losses to No. 2 Miami and No. 4 Denver.

"I think we started this year with a lot more questions than last year ... but once we got those answered we started to show we could be a pretty good team," Jackson said. "I think we are as far if not farther ahead than we were last year."

But the second half of the season will bring plenty of obstacles for Notre Dame. The Irish are slated for two-game series with both No. 1 Michigan and No. 5 Michigan State in January.

Irish senior guard Charel Allen dribbles past a Western Kentucky defender during Notre Dame's 78-69 win on Nov. 13. The No. 17 Irish will play Valparaiso Wednesday at the Joyce Center.

see BUSY/page 22

**Jackson will not play 'patsies' during break**

see LIGHTNING/page 22

**Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles during Notre Dame's 108-62 win over Northern Illinois Saturday.**

By BILL BRINK

Irish gear up for league play

He'd like to play every night. But right now, Notre Dame guard Kyle McAlarney has other things on his mind. It's finals week.

"I have a couple of papers and my exams started Monday," said McAlarney, who already took his first exam — for a half-semester course.

The Irish (7-2) don't play again until Dec. 22 against San Francisco and didn't hold full team practice Monday and will not practice today or Wednesday.

"We have to focus on academics," McAlarney said.

While the players study, coach Mike Brey is not recruiting. Brey left Sunday and will return Wednesday, and is focusing his sales pitches mainly on high school juniors.

"With a few weeks off, it puts me in a position to get on the road for about four days," Brey said. "It gives me a chance to get out and see some key kids."

Coaches cannot comment on specific recruits under NCAA rules. But even with Brey out of town, the players will still be in the gym, though not as a complete unit. They will work out every day, and, in position groups of three or four, they will work on individual skills with assistant coaches.

"We usually get in an hour or so per day," junior guard Ryan Ayers said. "We go in and lift and get some conditioning in.

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With two weeks of downtime before the next game, Ayers said the Irish will try to work on fundamentals.

"We want to use this as a chance to get better as a team," he said. "We'll be antsy, but it'll be a good time for us."

When Notre Dame does return to the court in its uniforms, the Irish will have three non-conference games and then begin their Big East slate.

Overall, the team has six games during Christmas break — five at the Joyce Center and one on the road for the tournament in Westerville, Ohio, for the Lightning Classic on Nov. 25 and 26.

see BIG EAST/page 21

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