College of A&L sells own course packets

Professors seek alternatives to limit costs for course materials using electronic reserves

By CLAIRE REISING

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Inside Column

Thank you, trailblazers

When I was a kid, I had a paper route. Like most paper boys, I quickly learned that I could deliver papers more efficiently if I didn’t walk back to the sidewalk and just went straight from door to door through people’s yards. This worked great for eight months out of the year. Except for the house with the stupid waist-high brick wall that I either had to walk all the way around or vault over with a sack full of newspapers on my back. But I digress. At any rate, eight months out of the year. I had pretty few reign across the front yards of the neighborhood. But when Michigan winters hit, my path was suddenly blocked with snow. Not for long. For the first couple days after the snow fell, I would put on my snow pants and trudge through the route. I made absolutely sure to walk over to the same route every day.

After a few repetitions, the snow was packed down so much that I didn’t need snow pants any more. Even when it snowed again, there was still a trench that I could walk through, leading from door to door with minimal snow coverage. A couple times, I watched the mail man follow my “paper boy trail.” I’m sure I wasn’t the only kid that ever did this. So why does this merit an inside column?

Because I want to thank everyone that does it at Notre Dame. Last Friday, I walked from DeBartolo to the Pasquerilla Center. I cut across Littlejohn Quad at an angle without walking on a sidewalk — and without getting my feet wet. I made absolutely sure to walk over the same route every day.

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of truth and accuracy. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at obsnews@nd.edu so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:
If you could go anywhere in the world, where would it be?

Sarah Patton
senior
McCandless

"Wherever they’ll give me a job."

Andrew Deck
senior
Stanford

"Kelley’s Island, Ohio, just because."

Jay Samilo
senior
Stanford

"Groom Lake, Nevada, because the truth is out there."

Katie Szweka
senior
Opus

"Europe, before the ice caps melt and it’s underwater."

John Gorski
senior
Stanford

"Hawaii — but not the part’s inside the volcano."

Offbeat

Cops: Drunk took mower to store in snowstorm

ADRIAN, Mich. — A man was charged with drunken driving after going through two bottles of wine, cutting through a snowstorm on his lawn mower and riding down the center of the street to reach a liquor store, authorities said.

Police found Frank Kozumplik, 49, homemade on a John Deere tractor Saturday night, totting four bottles of wine in a paper bag, officials said. He told officers that his wife had taken their car to work and that the mower was the only way he could reach the store, two miles from home.

His blood alcohol level was 2 1/2 times Michigan’s legal driving limit of 0.08 percent. Police told WLEN-PM. They arrested him and confiscated the mower.

Kozumplik declined to comment Monday night.

W.Va. mayor uses magazine to prove ID

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Charleston Mayor Danny Jones had a problem as he tried to get through the security gate at a California airport. He had misplaced his driver’s license, and the expired one in his wallet wouldn’t do.

The guards at John Wayne Airport in Orange County searched his bag, he told the Charleston Daily Mail for a story published Monday. Then he remembered picking up a copy of Charleston Magazine. Inside was a photograph of him standing in downtown Charleston and an article Jones had written as mayor welcoming visitors to the state capital. Only then was he allowed to board his flight home.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

In Brief

Four police officers were called to a type of Wild West standoff in a house in an area near the University of Chicago. An 11-year-old boy and a 12-year-old girl were arrested after the officers entered the house and found the two with a gun and a knife.

The film "In July" will be shown at 7 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. Thursday in the Bronco Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets will cost $3 for students, $5 for faculty and staff, and $6 for general admission.

Women’s basketball will play Providence on Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center arena.

Men’s hockey will play the U.S. Under-18 Team Friday at 7:35 p.m. at the Joyce Center ice rink in an exhibition.

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

Corrections

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Symposium applies Aquinas to Iraq war

By SARAH MAYER
News Writer
At the 11th-annual Saint Mary’s symposium on Saint Thomas Aquinas on Monday, Timothy Renick, a theologian from Georgia State University, spoke about lessons Aquinas might teach about the current war in Iraq.

The College holds a symposium each year on Jan. 28, the feast day of Aquinas, to honor his 13th-century Dominican, was a scholar who taught theology and wrote the famous work Summa Theologica.

Renick opened by speaking about the current situation in Iraq.

"On May 1, 2003, President George W. Bush walked off the stage of history and facts to believe that the war as of last week. He concluded that Aquinas only to be entered as last resort.

Renick said Aquinas would only approve of a war with cold hard evidence, that it is just and necessary. "According to George W. Bush, the United States had enough history and facts to believe that [Saddam Hussein posed a great danger to the United States]," Renick said. "He continued to say that Bush insisted Hussein was harboring chemical war fare and keeping him on the loose was a risk for the United States just could not take.

But, Renick said, Aquinas would take issue with this as a justification for war.

"According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, just speculation that would take issue with this as a justification for war. "If Aquinas has not left a historical teaching on Christian versus Christian war with any evidence of opposing it, then we can conclude that there was sufficient evidence for the fighting," he said.

He concluded that Aquinas would only approve of warfare in the "rarest of circumstances" and would still find it risky.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@ saintmarys.edu

Revue tickets snapped up

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer
All free tickets for this year’s Keenan Revue were distributed in 20 minutes, said Revue director John Siegel.

"There were a bunch of people (in line) to get tickets early. It was really good to see that people were so interested in the show based on past year’s shows," Siegel said.

The Keenan Revue, now in its 32nd year, is a long-standing hall event that has notoriously poked fun at various aspects of campus life. It will run this Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

"When our producer Peter Vignali and I talked about what we wanted for the show, we realized that we are more like caretakers for the Revue than we are making our own show," Siegel said. "The Revue is a big tradition for our dorm, and so it’s the job of the producer and the director to organize everything and get it off the ground."

Free tickets for the annual comedy show were distributed at the Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center starting at 4 p.m. last Thursday. Students eager to get tickets started lining up around 2 p.m., Siegel said. Sales also took place at Saint Mary’s beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday.

"We were glad that we sold out of tickets and that we didn’t have to turn anyone away," he said.

In addition to tickets given out last Thursday, Keenan residents also receive four tickets they can distribute to their own discretion. Additional tickets are reserved for faculty members.

This year’s Keenan Revue, titled "The Night of the Living Menace," takes its inspiration from horror films. "Our choreographer, Mark Weber, has gotten very adventurous with the numbers this year," Siegel said. "A couple of them are more complex numbers than usual. And the skits are really strong. This could be one of our best Revues ever."

Keenan residents are preparing for the show for the next three days at Saint Mary’s to get the acts ready for Thursday night.

"Our choreographer, Mark Weber, has gotten very adventurous with the numbers this year," Siegel said. "A couple of them are more complex numbers than usual. And the skits are really strong. This could be one of our best Revues ever."

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

The Observer is accepting applications for the 2008-09 term for the following positions:

Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editor, News Editor, Sports Editor, Viewpoint Editor, Scene Editor, Saint Mary’s Editor, Photo Editor, Graphics Editor, Advertising Manager, Ad Design Manager, Web Administrator, Systems Manager, Business Manager and Controller

Applicants for Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor should demonstrate strong journalistic and management skills. An in-depth understanding of newspaper production, including skills in Microsoft Word, Quark XPress and Photoshop, is required. Experience with Macintosh computers is helpful.

Applications for Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor should be 12 pages long and should explain the applicant’s qualifications and goals.

Applications for other editorial positions should be at least five pages.

All applications should be submitted this week to Chris Hine in The Observer office, located in the South Dining Hall basement.

Please direct questions about these positions to Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu or Maddie Hanna at mhnaii@nd.edu

I would say this is the 'Empire Strikes Back' of Keenan Revues."

John Siegel
Revue director

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Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu
Building continued from page 1

InterCultural Leadership. The new building offers state of the art classroom, laboratory and office space. There are also a number of common areas where faculty and students can gather, such as a cafe, reflection room and patios. The features of Spes Unica will facilitate its role as a place to integrate various aspects of College life, Mooney said. “One of the hallmarks of a Saint Mary’s education is that students and faculty work and learn together,” Mooney said. “Collaborative work requires the kind of spaces that will be found in this new building. This first-rate facility will match the quality of our faculty and reflect the value that we place on them and on the learning environment for our students.”

Spes Unica also utilizes “green” or environmentally-friendly materials. There are solar panels to help heat the hot water system, furniture and carpeting made from recycled materials, large areas of glass for extra lighting and operable windows to increase airflow. The building was designed by Ballinger Architects of Philadelphia and Architecture Design Group of South Bend. With the opening of the new building, the current main academic building, Madeleva Hall, will get a minor facelift but will remain in use as an important classroom facility.

“The Madeleva Interior Renovation Committee, consisting of faculty, students and administrators, is working with architects to assess needs and plan the interior renovation of the Madeleva building,” Rodriguez said.

Contact Nikki Taylor at
Ntaylor01@saintmarys.edu

Packets continued from page 1

more logistical sense to create one point for the students to come to,” Bacht said. Last semester, DCL Services produced course packets and sold them through the Bookstore to make shopping more convenient, he said.

“The rationale for switching to the Bookstore was that so the students could purchase the text books and course packets all at the same time and so they could purchase the course packets through their student accounts,” Bacht said. “It was a cooperative venture through the entire campus.” For some students, however, the disadvantage of higher prices for course packets at the Bookstore outweighed any additional convenience. In a survey conducted by the Student Senate last October, more than 67 percent of students said they were “very dissatisfied” with the course packet cost last semester.

According to Faculty Senate and DCL Services, the College of Arts and Letters was receptive to student and faculty concerns with course packet prices.

“Within (the College) of Arts & Letters, they took it very seriously and encouraged DCL services to stop selling in the Bookstore,” Bacht said.

This semester, while DCL Services has stopped selling though the Bookstore, faculty still have the option to produce their course packets through Tichener Custom Publishing and sell through the Bookstore in Madeleva Hall.

Students may find, however, that Bookstore prices are not as high as they were last semester.

Sandra Fuehrmeyer, director of Administrative Services for the University, said the Bookstore changed its policy of pricing course packets in order to make them more affordable for students while the industry normally marks up copyright costs and production fees. The Bookstore has agreed to stop marking up course packets.

“The Bookstore has been very willing to work with the College of Arts & Letters,” Fuehrmeyer said. “Students should have seen a price reduction because of that.”

New professors have allowed students to avoid buying course packets through the use of the Bookstore’s electronic reserves (e-reserves) or Concours.

Anthropology professor Susan Blum said she uses e-reserves because she believes course packets are more expensive and too expensive. “I’m not willing to use course packets anymore because it’s expensive,” Blum said. “They’ve become too expensive for students.”

Some professors have decided to save students’ money and are environmentally-friendly professors, professors should decide which method best works for them.

“I think it depends on the class,” she said. “I think it’s up to the professor to decide.”

Bacht said the choice to use e-reserves or a printed course packet is a “pedagogical decision” and the faculty will be able to choose which one to do.

“Our primary business is to support the faculty and the College,” he said. “If that requires us to help support them, then we will support them.”

Bacht said that Bookstore prices are still available but “not on the shelf anymore.”

Contact Claire Reising at creising2@nd.edu

Honey continued from page 1

Honey was euthanized because her age put her in a lot of pain. “She couldn’t stand or walk,” Gaughan said. Freshman Minh Nguyen said he sometimes accompanied Gaughan as he took Honey on walks. “Honey’s almost like a part of the family,” Nguyen said. “It’s hard to explain.” Father Tom said that “every day brought an enjoyable experience with Honey.” “I’d be out walking and I’d let her hunt,” he said. “Everyone on the main quad would stop and laugh at her intensity,” he said.

Freshman Colin McNamara was deeply saddened to hear the news. “Sure, my eyes welled up,” he said. “I loved that dog.” Freshman Franco Zarama doesn’t have a dog at home. “There’s a cost to me for everything I do myself,” Fuehrmeyer said. “What’s the cost of my time? What benefits you better use the time that goes to copying and printing... PowerPoint presentations!”

Graduate student Joe McKenna, who is in Fuehrmeyer’s course, said having a printed course packet made it more convenient for him to finish his work. “It was just so much easier to buy it and have it right in front of you,” he said.

However, 52 percent of the students that the Senate surveyed said they would support using e-reserves as a “primary means of access to course material,” and 18 percent were neutral about the issue. Bacht said that he feels saving money is more important than the convenience of having a printed course packet.

“Although it might be inconvenient for some, it’s more inconvenient for people to $50 to $100 to buy a course packet that you could find online,” he said.

Instructor Christin DePouw, who uses e-reserves in her Education, Schooling and Society classes, said that although e-reserves can save money and are environmentally-friendly, professors should decide which method works best for them.

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The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Tuesday, January 29, 2008
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Post-election violence rises in Kenya

KISUMU, Kenya — Thousands of marcher-like youths wielding sticks, bottles and rocks have forced down more than half of President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe Monday in western Kenya's Luville, torching homes and buses, clotning with police, and blocking roads until burning them.

Witnesses described seeing two people pulled from cars and stoned to death, while another was burned alive in a minibus — the latest victims of a month of escalating violence triggered by a disputed presidential election. The death toll has soared over 500.

Kibaki has said he is open to direct talks with opposition leader Raila Odinga, who is from the Luo tribe, but that his position as president is not negotiable. Odinga says Kibaki must step down and only new elections will bring peace.

Gunmen end five-hour standoff

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Gunmen held dozens of students hostage for five hours at a school in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, authorities allowed the captives to flee, the tribal negotiator said.

None of the hostages were hurt. But the standoff underscored the government's fragile grip on Pakistan's borders near Afghanistan, where crime is rife and security forces are struggling to contain rising Islamic militancy.

Kidnapping for ransom is common in Pakistan, particularly in the northwest, and police said the gunmen were criminals seeking profit rather than militancy.

The mounting violence has contributed to the growing unpopularity of President Pervez Musharraf, who was on his last stop Monday of a European tour.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Inmate freed, served over 20 years

A 63-year-old woman walked into the Vigo County Courthouse Monday but chains were required, according to a judge.

A 69-year-old woman walked into the Vigo County Courthouse Monday, to resist any temptation to enlarge the economic recession plans that he and House leaders agreed on last week. "At kitchen tables across our country, there is concern about our economic future," the president said. "In the long run, Americans can be confident about our economic growth."

Excerpts of his prepared text were released in advance by the White House.

On two issues that were central to his State of the Union address last week — Social Security and immigration — Bush passed the buck back to Congress, which had ignored the president's earlier proposals. Contending that entitlement spending is "growing faster than we can afford," he said, "I ask members of Congress to offer their proposals and come up with a bipartisan solution to save these vital programs for our children and grandchildren." A major challenge for Bush in his address to Congress was simply being heard when many Americans already are looking beyond him to the next president.

His speech came hours before Florida's presidential primary election and just eight days before Super Tuesday when voters in more than 20 states go to the polls on the biggest day of the primary campaign. Republicans running for president rarely mention Bush, preferring to focus on conservative hero Ronald Reagan instead. Bush will turn from Monday's speech and plunge into politics, raising money for Republicans from Wednesday through Friday at events in California, Nevada, Colorado and Missouri, sandwiched around other appearances to tout themes from his speech.

As for the Democrats, presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "Today is a red-letter night in American history. It is the last time George Bush will get the State of the Union. Next year it will be a Democratic president giving it." Bush, calling for bipartisan cooperation in Congress, said, "Let us show them that Republicans and Democrats can compete for votes and cooperate for results at the same time."

In Iraq, he said, U.S. adver-saries have been hit hard, though "they are not yet defeated and we can still expect tough fighting ahead."

The address came one year after Bush, defying the wish-es of Congress and raising anti-war sentiment in the country, ordered a major troop buildup in Iraq. The increase has helped quell vio-lence, but there is no end in sight to the U.S. troop com-mitment, which Bush says will extend beyond his presi-dency. There are 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, a number that is expected to drop to 135,000 by July. There are 25,000 in Afghanistan, the highest number of the war, which began there in October 2001. The Iraq war began in March 2003.

**WORLD & NATION**

Bush delivers State of the Union

President addresses economic concerns, urges bipartisan cooperation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush, focusing on growing recession fears as went before Congress with his final State of the Union address Monday that Americans are troubled about their economic future and lawmakers should urgently approve a $350 billion rescue package.

On Iraq, always a main topic of his annual addresses to Congress, Bush said last year's U.S. troop buildup is succeeding after five years of a long and costly war that has claimed the lives of 3,949 members of the military. "Al-Qaida is on the run in Iraq and this enemy will be defeated," Bush said.

With his approval rating near his all-time low and less than a year remaining in his presidency, Bush lacked the political clout to push big ideas before a hostile, Democratic-led Congress. Offering modest plans, Bush proposed a $300 million "grants for kids" program that helps poor children in struggling public schools pay for the cost of attending a private school or a better public school outside their district.

The White House urged lawmakers, particularly in the Senate, to resist any temptation to enlarge the economic recession plans that he and House leaders agreed on last week. "At kitchen tables across our country, there is concern about our economic future," the president said. "In the long run, Americans can be confident about our economic growth."

Excerpts of his prepared text were released in advance by the White House.

On two issues that were central to his State of the Union address last week — Social Security and immigration — Bush passed the buck back to Congress, which had ignored the president's earlier proposals. Contending that entitlement spending is "growing faster than we can afford," he said, "I ask members of Congress to offer their proposals and come up with a bipartisan solution to save these vital programs for our children and grandchildren." A major challenge for Bush in his address to Congress was simply being heard when many Americans already are looking beyond him to the next president.

His speech came hours before Florida's presidential primary election and just eight days before Super Tuesday when voters in more than 20 states go to the polls on the biggest day of the primary campaign. Republicans running for president rarely mention Bush, preferring to focus on conservative hero Ronald Reagan instead. Bush will turn from Monday's speech and plunge into politics, raising money for Republicans from Wednesday through Friday at events in California, Nevada, Colorado and Missouri, sandwiched around other appearances to tout themes from his speech.

As for the Democrats, presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said, "Today is a red-letter night in American history. It is the last time George Bush will get the State of the Union. Next year it will be a Democratic president giving it." Bush, calling for bipartisan cooperation in Congress, said, "Let us show them that Republicans and Democrats can compete for votes and cooperate for results at the same time."

In Iraq, he said, U.S. adver-saries have been hit hard, though "they are not yet defeated and we can still expect tough fighting ahead."

The address came one year after Bush, defying the wish-es of Congress and raising anti-war sentiment in the country, ordered a major troop buildup in Iraq. The increase has helped quell vio-lence, but there is no end in sight to the U.S. troop com-mitment, which Bush says will extend beyond his presi-dency. There are 138,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, a number that is expected to drop to 135,000 by July. There are 25,000 in Afghanistan, the highest number of the war, which began there in October 2001. The Iraq war began in March 2003.

Sen. Ted Kennedy backs Obama in race

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Summoning memories of his brother the slain president, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy led two generations of the Kennedy family to the floor of the Senate Monday in endorsing Barack Obama, saying in his formal House speech, "I feel change is in the air.

Obama is a man of rare "grit and grace," Kennedy said in remarks that evoked the admiration of the Illinois senator's chief rival for the presidential nomination, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well as her husband, the former president.

Obama beamed as first Rhode Island Rep. Patrick Kennedy, then Caroline Kennedy and finally the president's Late-in-life foe, Al Gore, took their turn. Obama declared, "I feel change is in the air."

Kennedy's endorsement was ardently sought by all three of the remaining Democratic presidential contenders, and he delivered it at a pivotal time in the race. A broad-jump in his fifth decade in the Senate, the Massachusetts senator is in a position to help Obama court voting groups who so far have tilt-ed Clinton's way. These include Hispanics, rank-and-file union workers and lower-income, older voters.

Kennedy is expected to campaign actively for Obama beginning later this week, beginning in Arizona, New Mexico and California. Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of John Kennedy, who was assassinstion- ed in 1963, will also make cam-paign appearances, officials said.
The Choir continued from page 1

Campus Ministry intern Joe Nava, Notre Dame graduate, is now in his sixth year as a member of the choir.

Father Dan Parrish, former rector of Zahm Hall accompanied the choir.

The purpose of the abbey is to allow living without distraction, Nava said. The Folk Choir briefly expressed a love life at the cloistered monastery, where the monks pray out loud seven times a day.

"It was fascinating to observe a collection of life," said Nava.

McLaughlin particularly enjoyed walking the local trails in the abbey, said Nava, who kept silent on the abbey grounds.

"Gothemans is beautiful, quiet, and peaceful," McLaughlin said.

"And it is nice to be with God, nature, and friends."

The retreat was a profoundly religious event for some attendants, Nava said.

"Finding God in the silence is the gift of Gethsemani to the students," Nava said.

Prentkowski said the costs have increased by as much as 20 percent per year due to the cost of replacing lost items.

"Unfortunately these costs must be covered somehow so they get absorbed into dining hall costs which ultimately end up keeping us from using these funds for improvements or other enhancements to the dining program," Prentkowski said. Many residence halls put out a collection bin at the end of each academic year to collect dining hall items students might have taken.

"The impact of these returns, however, is not significantly high," he said.

Cast member Subieralski does unusual-ly notice students taking items out of dining halls, she said. During her 18 years monitoring the doors at South Dining Hall, she has seen students taking items as large as chairs and even tables.

She once came into work to find a table in front of South Dining Hall with a note reading, "Thanks for the table."

"I have seen a kind of thing in a long time," she said.

Contact Katie Perlata at kperlata@nd.edu

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY

Thousands of believers were in mourning Monday following the death of Gordon B. Hinckley, the humble head of the Mormon church who added millions of new members and labored long to burnish the faith's image as a world religion. An announcement of his successor was not expected for days.

Hinckley, the 15th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died Sunday of complications arising from old age, church spokesman Mike Otterson said. He was 97.

In a statement, President Bush praised Hinckley as a "deeply patriotic man."

"While serving for over seven decades in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Gordon demonstrated the heart of a servant and the vision of a leader," he said. Hinckley was a "tireless worker and a talented communicator who was respected in his community and beloved by his congregation," Bush said.

The church presidency is a lifetime position. Before Hinckley, the oldest church president was David O. McKay who was 96 when he died in 1970.

Hinckley, a grandson of Mormon pioneers, was president for nearly 13 years. He took over as president for David O. McKay on March 12, 1995, and overshadowed one of the greatest periods of expansion in church history.

He overseeing the worldwide church membership grew from about 9 million to about 13 million.

Dozens of mourners gathered Sunday night outside Mormon Temple building headquarters in Salt Lake City.

"It was a complete optimist," Hinckley became by far his church's most traveled leader in history. And the number of Mormons outside the United States surpassed that of American Mormons for the first time since the church, the most successful faith born in the United States, was founded in 1830.

Hinckley worked to show his faith was far removed from its peculiar and polygamous roots. Still, during his tenure, the Roman Catholic Church, Southern Baptist Convention and United Methodist Church -- the three largest U.S. denominations -- each declared that Mormon doctrines depart from mainstream Christianity.

"The more people come to know us, the better they will understand us," Hinckley said in an interview with The Associated Press in late 2005. "We're a little different. We don't do things in a little different way. That's not, dishonestly. I believe that's to our credit."

Brigham Young University students mourn the death of Mormon Church president, Gordon B. Hinckley, Monday on campus.

Mormon leader dies at 97

Believers mourn the death of Church of Latter-day Saints's president

[Image 0x0 to 813x1223]
In Brief

Iran's gasoline black market thrives

WASHINGTON — New home sales plunged in July by the largest amount on record while home prices tumbled more sharply in December. Analysts forecast more trouble in 2008 as housing tries to emerge from its worst slump in more than two decades.

The Commerce Department reported Monday that sales of new homes dropped by 26.4 percent last year to 774,000 homes. That marked the biggest decline on record, surpassing the old mark of a 23.2 percent plunge in 1980.

The government reported that the median price of a new home barely budged last year, rising only a slippage of about 0.2 percent to $246,900, the poorest showing since prices fell by 5 percent during the 1991 housing downturn.

The slump in sales and prices appeared to be worsening at year's end. December sales fell by 4.7 percent, a bigger-than-expected drop, while the median price of a home fell by 10.4 percent last month, when compared to December 2006, the biggest 12-month decline in 37 years.

"It hit the floor out of the housing market in December," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. He said the current slump is already comparable to the one that preceded the largest drop since 1980.

Zandi predicted that sales of new and existing homes will likely hit bottom this spring and that construction will level off by this summer. But he said prices were likely to keep falling for the entire year as weak demand forces sellers to cut asking prices even further in move homes.

Housing is raising concerns that the weakness could be severe enough to push the country into a full-blown recession. In an effort to stave off against that threat, the Federal Reserve cut a key interest rate last week by the largest amount in more than two decades with a further rate cut expected on Wednesday when the Fed completes a two-day meeting.

The bad news on housing actually gave a lift to Wall Street with investors believing it raised the chances the Fed will cut rates again this week. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 176.72 points Monday to close at 12,382.89.

President Bush and Home leaders reached agreement on a $150 billion economic stimulus package last week which included items to boost housing by increasing the size of the mortgages that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration can handle. But critics said the continued plunge in housing showed that more dramatic action is needed.

French trader causes billions in losses

PARIS — Societe Generale said Sunday that a trader who "washed all its controls to net $73.5 billion — more than the French bank's market value — in losses.

The suspicion on Kerviel, did not appear to have profited from the transactions and triggered occasional alarms at Societe Generale — France's second-largest bank — with its trading, but not to a degree that led managers to investigate further.

"Our controls basically identified from time to time problems with this trader's portfolio," Mustier said.

But Kerviel explained away the red flags as trading mistakes, Mustier added.

"The trade was canceled, there was no specific follow-up to do," he said. "From our understanding today, the number of mistakes was not higher than (for) any other trader, so from our understanding that was not a reason to ring a bell."

Kerviel's lawyer said the accusations of wrongdoing against his client were being used to hide bad investments by the bank related to subprime mortgages in the United States.

"He didn't steal anything, take anything, he didn't take any profit for himself," the lawyer, Christian Charriere-Bourraud, said The Associated Press by telephone. "The suspicion on Kerviel allows the considerable losses that the bank made to be attributed to his own actions."

Officials said Kerviel was cooperating with police, who held him for a second day of questioning Sunday, seeking answers to what, if confirmed, would be the biggest-ever trading fraud by a single person.

The questioning was "going very well and the investigation led by the special prosecutor of the financial police is extremely fruitful," said Jean-Michel Alberdey, head of the financial section of the Paris prosecutor's office.

Kerviel was giving "very interesting" explanations, Alberdey added. "From what he told me, he was fine psychologically," he refused to say whether Kerviel might face preliminary charges.

Kerviel, 31, has not been seen in public since the bank's bombshell revelation Thursday that his unauthorized trades resulted in 4.9 billion euros ($7.1 billion in losses. Even before his massive alleged fraud came to light, Kerviel had apparently triggered occasional alarms at Societe Generale — France's second-largest bank — with his trading, but not to a degree that led managers to investigate further.

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Years ago, use of racial preferences was justified mainly as social justice — blacks and Hispanics tend to be disadvantaged relative to whites, and thus should get a hand in admissions or hiring. Fair enough. As someone who grew up without car or phone, I strongly agree with that lower-class applicants, whatever their color, should get a break. But not all blacks and Hispanics are disadvantaged. In fact, when they marry and form stable families, they move into the middle class as well as everyone else. Moreover, not all whites are privileged. For instance, in giving preferential treatment to blacks and Hispanics, it often happens that schools or employers discriminate in favor of someone who’s enjoyed more advantages, and against someone who’s had fewer.

The simple, obvious solution would be to favor those applicants who can actually show some degree of hardship in their backgrounds, instead of trying to infer it from their races. Too sensible? In any case, the justification today for racial preferences seems to be the nebulous concept of “diversity.” Schools in particular, the argument goes, have an interest in creating a student body with the broadest possible variety of students.

I’m not denying that schools may have such an interest, though I think that interest isn’t nearly so critical as many people today argue. But then, I think the main purpose of a university is to broaden the horizons of its students, and the greatest benefit of diversity may be the human potential of ever-increasing part of the educational establishment considers it to be the social, even sociological. Sure, college can be a place where students learn to deal with people unlike themselves — if they spent their first eighteen years in solitary confinement.

But what is real diversity, as it relates to an institution like Notre Dame? Is it merely seeing a wide range of melanin levels? Consider a silly analogy. One basket holds red grapes, green grapes, purple grapes and yellow grapes. The other contains red meat, red wine, kidney beans and beets. Which basket is more “diverse”?

Or a more timely example — the two political parties’ fields of presidential candidates. One party has a half-Kenyan, a half-Mexican and a half­-woman, but from what I can tell, they all agree on pretty much everything. The Republican field is all white men, but they’re all over the spectrum on many issues. So which is really more diverse?

When I enrolled in the graduate program at St. John’s College, one of the few things that struck me about the place was how weird the undergraduates were. Sometimes it seemed every day was Halloween. Though St. John’s is just a fraction of the size of Notre Dame, it’s got a much wider variety of characters.

There are pothead stoners, wannabe jocks, foofighters prepogies, no-kidding Marxists, adorables, nerds, godlike, S&M-ers, an unlikely clutch of devout Catholics, another of Eastern Orthodox, some Nietzscheans, Ayk Rand-ophiles, neo-pagans/Wiccans, eco-radical vegans, Zen/Buddhist poopers, etc. But apart from a few kids of East or South Asian descent, the place is lily-white.

I’m not saying Notre Dame, or any place, should strive to be racially mono­-tone. What I’m saying is that diversity is about more than skin color — it’s even about that at all. Yeah, I too got kind of tired of meeting the same type of person over and over at Notre Dame, though with me it was mainly because that type of person wasn’t one I liked.

If you’re someone who looks around your classes and bemoans how few pig­­ments are on display, I suggest you swich to other courses, like differential geometry, where you’ll have few things to worry about, like what the hell is that strange man writing on the board.

I would also like to know, though, while you’re wondering why there are so few black people around you, do you ever wonder how come there are no red­-necks? Or fundamentalists/van­­gels? Or hipster geeks, poor white trash, or Jews? Wouldn’t people like these make Notre Dame diverse too?

Assuming students bring a different perspective simply because they’re black or Hispanic is as foolish as assuming they’re poor. What would happen if a guy were admitted because he was black, but he turned out to be from a middle-class family, hated rap, and was Republican? Would he get expelled for not being really black?

And what about Hispanics who are blond? Likewise, assuming someone is just like everyone else and brings no diversity to the place, simply because he’s white, is extremely offensive. Ignorant, too.

If Notre Dame wants real diversity, I suggest that, instead of asking applicants racial backgrounds, admissions should ask: How many of your relatives have done time? How much pot have you smoked? Have you ever worn clothes from Goodwill, not as a joke? Smoking weed, em, or em? Naturally, not all diversity is good.

People, al Qaeda sympathizers, and skinheads would all make Notre Dame more diverse; that doesn’t mean they should be tolerated. I, myself, wish the whole school were pro-life, but we’re lucky if the whole S.C. is. Good or bad, though, “diversity” is no excuse to discriminate by skin color. Notre Dame should stop doing so.

Greg Yatarola is a 1999 alumnus. The psychiatrist he works out with tells him he’s a very diverse person. His address is gregpy@hotmail.com

The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An insult to muffindom

Brothers and sisters, we have all noticed a dramatic drop in Letters to the Editor this semester. There are many suspicions — the tameness of the comics, a lack of humorous misogynistic remarks, a remarkable increase in the writing prowess of Ohio State University students (seriously guys?) — but I am here to give a voice to the silent majority that can no longer muster the energy to write this letter — those who have been shocked into a comatose state by the miniaturization of South Dining Hall muffins.

Clearly they are the gem of the pastry aisle — when there are still dozens of glazed donuts and an entire mountain of cheese Danishes, the muffin bin always runs dry by 12:15. I know I'm not the only one who grab-and-goes six muffins and a juice box. It's the best calorie/bag ratio available. However, the current shrinking of the muffin threatens to destroy one of God's finest creations — the sanctity of the muffin. I have one relic from ancient times — a true mammoth muffin measuring in at a towering 8.7 cm. The insult to muffindom I snagged at lunch today tips the scales at a puny 6.3 cm.

Notre Dame: we can do better. The silent majority must remain silent no longer — rise up, and protest the desecration of the beloved institution that is the South Dining Hall muffin. The issue boils down to one simple question: would you rather have more or less muffin in your muffin?

John Greil
Freshman
Keough Hall
Jan. 28

Response to racist letters

When one receives a letter with no return label merely addressed to "occupant," one should be suspicious. However, the letters my dorm received didn't contain any conventional dangers, rather, they contained something more sinister: Hate.

While I agree that this letter deserves none of our respect, I must disagree with Rector Colonna in his proposition of tossing the letter outright. To throw out this letter would be ignoring a major problem that still exists in our nation. We may like to think that racism is gone, but as this letter indicates, there are still those out there clinging to these views. I propose reading the letter.

The man from North Dakota wants attention and change. Let's give the problem some attention. Let's make some change in the direction of equality.

David Crisostomo
Sophomore
Knott Hall
Jan. 28

Truth, lies and politicians

I was impressed to see that Andrew Nesi could muster up some righteous indignation over the fact that politicians lie. Of course, his brilliant expose on the matter simply shocked me. Politicians are not entirely truthful! Can I still believe that Bill Clinton did not have sex with that woman? That W is a uniter, not a divider? That Richard Nixon is not a crook? That George Bush the Elder would not raise taxes? That Thomas Jefferson would not expand governmental powers? What a shame that, given the impressive record of truthfulness in American presidents, today's candidates refuse to uphold this tradition.

Unfortunately, I believe that Mr. Nesi forgot two examples of political dishonesty in this year's campaign from his preferred candidates. In an act that I am sure was completely accidental, Mr. Nesi forgot to mention that Barack Obama's claims of bi-partisanship don't stand up to the light of his voting record.

He also forgot that John McCain has lied about never receiving pork for his state. In truth, every single one of the candidates has lied at least once. It's a part of the process, and it will continue to be so until Americans learn to appreciate disappointing truths.

Perhaps, instead of focusing on campaign promises, we should focus on a candidate's voting record or gubernatorial achievements. It would be wise to base any presumptions on what a candidate would do in office off his or Hillary's deeds instead of their words.

Candidates lie. It's the way they all play the game. Don't vote for the candidate who can delude you the most into thinking they are an honest and upright individual. Vote for the person that has best acted out your own beliefs on government in their political careers, whether that individual is named Clinton, Obama, Romney, McCain, Huckabee or O.J. Simpson.

Will Guappone
Sophomore
Fisher Hall
Jan. 28

EDITORIAL CARTOON

MY FELLOW AMERICANS, THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL...

©MATSON/ROLLCALL
By DAMON JASON
Scene Writer

In the events of "One More Day," Marvel made the decision to end the 20-year marriage between Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson. Through various machinations, Peter and MJ struck a deal with the demonic character Mephisto to have their marriage erased from history in order to save the life of Peter's dying Aunt May.

While fans met the decision to end the marriage with almost universal disgust, the poorly conceived story and its ill-timed angered fans even more. Nevertheless, sales of the popular wallcrawler’s series have never been higher.

"Brand New Day" is the name of the first story arc following the demise of Peter and MJ's marriage. Longtime fans will notice many changes to the continuity that had been constructed over the last 20 years. Peter is back to living with his Aunt May, web shooters make their return, Harry Osborn (one of the various Green Goblins) is back from the dead and Peter has not revealed his secret identity to the world.

How these developments affect Spider-Man's cross-continuity with other characters in the Marvel Universe has not been revealed at this time; however, "Brand New Day" strives to build upon the Spider-Man legacy in a story that feels like many of the classic Spider-Man stories from the 1960s and 70s.

Brand New Day follows a Peter Parker who has given up his role of Spider-Man. He has resorted to borrowing money from his pal Harry Osborn to get by. Only when Peter's financial burdens become too much does he don the popular red and blue spandex.

In classic Spider-Man tradition, Parker attempts to confront various criminals, photographing himself as Spider-Man stopping them in the act, and then selling these photos to the Daily Bugle. Along the way, Spidey encounters a new crime boss, Mr. Negative, and unravels his plot to take control of New York's most powerful crime families. While a serviceable story, I can’t help but feel like I have read it before.

And herein lies the problem with the changes to Spider-Man's status quo. On its own two legs, "Brand New Day" is not a bad story. It is written by Dan Slott, one of today's best writers, and is accompanied with beautiful artwork by Steve McNiven. However, longtime fans of the series will undoubtedly feel like they have read this story before. It is almost as if Marvel is saying the last 20 years of plot development simply did not happen. The decision to basically reset the comic's continuity leads to a more simplified story, which has undoubtedly attracted many new readers.

However, Marvel must be careful not to isolate long-time fans of the series, because the surge in sales is atypical and simply will not continue unless Marvel strives to put out top quality story-telling. To be completely honest, I was expecting much more from "Brand New Day," considering all the media hype it received. The story itself was functional, but was hampered by the fact that it felt so familiar as compared to the previous installments of the classic comic.

The decision to ship the title three times a month helped "Brand New Day" because there simply was not enough going on if it stayed a monthly title. I will reserve final judgment of this new status quo to see if writers can continue to deliver solid story-telling of everyone's favorite wallcrawler.

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Damon Jason at djason@nd.edu

Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) and Mary Jane (Kirsten Dunst) "hang around" in the film adaptation of Spider-man. The couple's recent split has fans up in arms.
By BOB COSTA
Scene Writer

Tuesday, January 29, 2008

The Whigs...sound on songs like "Production City" and "Sleep Sunshine." "Mission Control" was produced by Rob Schnapf, best known for his work...Pounding drums, bringing to mind....that The Whigs could be buddies of acoustic surfer-...heard wearing black leather pants and a white shirt, picking up the...2005. The band quickly gained many fans who found The Whigs' early-Nineties rock vibe refreshing in the current rock scene. The Whigs look...guitar-heavy, jam-band groups such as Gov't Mule and The Band.

Mission Control
The Whigs

Released by: Ato Records / Red
Recommended Tracks: "A Thousand Wives," "Like a Vibration" and "I Got Ideas"

"The Shepherd's Dog"
Iron and Wine

By JAMES COSTA
Scene Writer

In a marked change from its first few albums, Sam Beam's band Iron and Wine has moved away from the hushed-folksy song concept to a far more developed sound. In their latest, "The Shepherd's Dog," the band utilizes a strong percussion element to augment intricate arrangements of vocals and instruments. Iron and Wine began as a one-man affair. Beam, who recorded bedtime songs for his son. Since then, Beam has added members and instruments to the band, with the progression seen clearly on the EP "Woman King" and 2005's full band record "In the Weeds," which was a collaboration with Califax.

The band received some recognition in 2004 after the film "Garden State" came out in theaters. The film, starring Natalie Portman, featured the song "Such Great Heights," a cover of the Postal Service song by the same name.

Ever conscious of the band's simple origins, Beam began this album in a similar fashion. In "Pagan Angel and a Borrowed Car," the recording is rough until the arrangement kicks in and a full instrumental sound takes over. Rattling along, the song pulls in the sounds of the acoustic slide guitar, the stand guitar and the...al journey into the swelling emotions and ideas of the singer, which takes a bit of time to appreciate in its entirety. The final track, "Flightless Bird, American Mouth," delivers a restrained end to a record that feels held in uncomfortable suspension for the preceding eleven tracks.

With a chilling use of Beam's emotive voice, the song moves toward its final verse, asking "Have I found you? / Flightless bird, brown hair bleeding / Or lost you? / American mouth / Big bill, stuck going down." In a tragically uplifting tone, the vocals bleed to silence as the music fades slowly behind, letting the record resolve itself into a quiet, if slightly wounded finish.

There isn't a bad song on the disc, with each one offering a unique perspective into the mind of Beam and his talented collaborators as they bring us deep into the heart of the shepherd's dog.

Contact James Costa at jcostal@nd.edu

Iron and Wine
"The Shepherd's Dog"

By JAMES COSTA
Scene Writer

Released by: Sub Pop Records
Recommended Tracks: "House by the Sea" and "White Tooth Man"
NBA

Paul dishes out 10 assists in Hornets’ win

Williams tallies double-double in Utah’s fifth-straight victory; Mavericks begin tough road trip by beating Memphis

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Chris Paul emerged from a scrum under the basket, nimly dribbling out to the perimeter to reroute another Hornets possession.

A jubilant crowd rose to its feet, clapping. "M-V-P! M-V-P!"

Perhaps local fans are figuring out they don’t need visas from players like Allen Iverson to bring them out to the games. They have a star of their own, not to mention one of the best teams in the NBA right now.

Paul had 23 points, 17 assists and nine rebounds, and the New Orleans Hornets ran away with their ninth straight win, 117-93 over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night.

Down the stretch, the crowd repeatedly chanted in recognition of a masterful performance by the Hornets’ third-year guard, who is New Orleans’ best hope for a representative in the All-Star game when coaches elect the reserves this week.

Other candidates include center Tyson Chandler and forward David West, as Paul was quick to mention when asked what he thought of the MVP chants.

"I am not ready to jump on their bandwagons, but they’re pretty good and I’m not sure what weakness they have," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "Chris Paul is a great point guard. He can go anywhere he wants to go. They have size, they have shooters, they play as a team, they have a good bench."

One can argue that has an All-Star player at four positions.

Monday’s matchup also featured a pair of centers vying for a reserve spot in the All-Star game in Chandler and Denver’s Marcus Camby.

In this game, there was no comparison. Chandler finished with 10 points and 16 rebounds. Camby was a non-factor for the Nuggets in the first three quarters. He didn’t score until he made a free throw with 1:52 to go in the third period. He finished with three points and five rebounds.

"I definitely feel like I should be in the All-Star game," Chandler said. "I’ve worked my team on basketball games and I really feel like that’s what All-Star is all about. You should be rewarded for good basketball and winning and hopefully the coaches see it in my favor."

The second-best center in the game was Hornes reserve Melanie Ely, who had 16 points and nine rebounds in 22 minutes.

Peja Stojakovic hit four 3-pointers and finished with 19 points. Recently elected All-Star Carmelo Anthony missed his fourth straight game with a sprained left ankle, and the undermanned Nuggets struggled to keep pace.

New Orleans built a 20-point lead in the first half and maintained that margin through most of the second half.

Iverson’s driving layups on consecutive possessions gave Denver a glimmer of hope, cutting New Orleans’ lead 26 early in the fourth quarter.

But with Paul running the offense, the Nuggets quickly sealed it with a 12-0 run that started when Paul set up Ely for a score inside and finished with three pointers and finished with 19 points. Recently elected All-Star Carmelo Anthony missed his fourth straight game with a sprained left ankle, and the undermanned Nuggets struggled to keep pace.

New Orleans ended up shooting 51 percent for the game and outrebounded Denver 52-33.

Jazz 97, Spurs 91

The Utah Jazz were ready to push back this time against the San Antonio Spurs.

The Jazz, who were dominated by the Spurs in the Western Conference quarterfinals last spring, never trailed Monday night and held off the defending NBA champions. The game was full of collisions, hard fouls and some heated exchanges as the Jazz countered everything the Spurs could throw at them.

Deron Williams had 11 points and 14 assists and Carlos Boozer and Andrei Kirilenko scored 23 points each for Utah, which won its fifth straight and improved to 10-2 in January.

The Spurs committed 20 turnovers and were just 13-for-38 from the field in the second half.

"I think our team is playing well because that’s what happens when you play better defensively," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "It’s a lot of work to play defense."

Tim Duncan had 26 points and 11 rebounds, but was the only San Antonio starter to score more than five points. Tim Duncan is a surprise, but we’ve got a lot more to go."

The Spurs finished with 11 assists, three fewer than Williams. Boozer had seven assists and Kirilenko added four steals for the Jazz, who played a much rougher game than they did in the one-sided playoff series.

Mavericks 103, Grizzlies 83

The Dallas Mavericks starred one of their toughest road trips of the season with an easy victory.

With three games looming against Eastern Conference division leaders, Josh Howard hit his first eight shots on the way to 26 points and Dallas shot 54 percent in a victory over the lowly Memphis Grizzlies on Monday night.

"Every team is a great team, especially on its home court," Terry said.

Williams, who was 10-of-17 from the floor. "We had to take (the Grizzlies) seriously. It’s a big game, but we’ve got a lot more to go."  "We were better," said Manu Ginobili, who led the Spurs with 29 points. "We turned the ball over too much. Twenty times against the Jazz is really hard to overcome."

"Josh was great," Terry said. "He was great from three-point range."

The Mavericks, who were without starting guard Devin Harris and forward Jerry Stackhouse, one of their top reserves, who sat out with injuries.

"We pride ourselves whenever we have a man down, banning together and really putting together some great efforts," Terry said.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 239 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $1.50 per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring fees.
**Clemens’ agent refutes Mitchell Report**

**New York**—Roger Clemens’ former trainer, Brian McNamee, says he never injected the pitcher with performance-enhancing drugs. According to the Mitchell Report, created by Randy Johnson, Curt Schilling and other baseball players, McNamee has admitted to using drugs to enhance his own career. However, Clemens’ agent released an 18,000-word statistical report Monday to rebut allegations that the pitcher used steroids and banned substances. The report, created by Randy Hendricks and two associates at his firm, shows Clemens’ ERA was lower than the league average in all 26 major league seasons. The report also compares variations in Clemens’ career with those of Randy Johnson, Gari Schilling and Nolan Ryan, and maintains slumps often can be correlated with injury.

**IN BRIEF**

Ryan to return as Ravens defensive coordinator

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Bes Ryan would have preferred to be a head coach. Instead, he got the second-best thing: His old job, a new title and more responsibility.

Ryan was hired as the assistant head coach/defensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens on Monday. The hire was made by new head coach John Harbaugh, who prevailed over Ryan in the team’s quest to find a replacement for Brian Billick.

The 45-year-old Ryan and the rest of the coaching staff were fired with Billick after the season. Ryan was one of six people to be interviewed for the head coaching vacancy in Baltimore, and he interviewed with the Atlanta Falcons and Miami Dolphins.

No one offered him a job, so Ryan returned for a 10th season with the Ravens, the fourth as defensive coordinator.

Mariners may trade prospect for Bedard

SEATTLE— The Seattle Mariners have asked top prospect Adam Jones to leave his Venezuelan Winter League team and return to the U.S., amid reports he’s headed to Baltimore as part of a trade for pitcher Erik Bedard.

Mariners spokesman Thom Hevly confirmed Sunday night the team had requested the return of Jones, who was expected to be one of Seattle’s starting outfielders when the season begins.

“We did ask Adam to come back from Venezuela,” Hevly said, declining to give a reason for the request. “That confirmation followed Sunday’s Seattle Times report that Mariners general manager Bill Bavasi was making Jones the centerpiece of a deal for Bedard. The Times, citing comments obtained from a Venezuelan newspaper, quoted Bavasi as saying the deal with Bavasi and was going to Baltimore on Monday for a physical.

Tour de France champion donates bikes to N.M. kids

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.—Johan Bruyneel and some members of his cycling team Astana gave bicycles to 25 New Mexico children.

Bruyneel and his team, including Tour de France champion Alberto Contador and USA national road champion Levi Leipheimer, are in Albuquerque for two weeks of high-altitude training. It’s the first time Astana has held a training camp in the United States.

Bruyneel spent part of the afternoon shaking hands and giving out Trek bikes of all colors and sizes as part of a new program with Bernalillo County dubbed “Johan’s Kids.”

Charles Ovis, a local training camp representative, said Bruyneel wanted to get involved with the community and the bike giveaway was a perfect way to encourage local children to start pedaling.
Knoblauch agrees to meet Congress

Former Yankees second baseman Chuck Knoblauch watched his game-tying home run in Game 3 of the 1999 World Series.

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Chuck Knoblauch is heading to Capitol Hill.

Knoblauch, a four-time All-Star who played with Roger Clemens on the New York Yankees, agreed Monday to speak to a House committee investigating drug use in baseball after initially failing to respond to an invitation to testify.

His silence prompted the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee to issue a subpoena last week, but federal marshals were not able to track him down. Knoblauch right away. The 1991 All-Rookie of the Year eventually did make contact, and his twice-postponed meeting with committee staff for a deposition or transcribed interview will be Friday.

That session is preparation for the panel's hearing Feb. 13, when Knoblauch is among five scheduled witnesses, including Clemens and his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee.

Also scheduled to testify are Andy Pettitte, a former teammate and workout partner of Clemens, and ex-Yankees star Jorge Posada.

"We are pleased that Mr. Knoblauch agrees," said Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., the committee chairman. "We will hear his testimony as a matter of fact and as a matter of law."

"We bring in our dogs because they are, quite frankly, the best in the federal government according to ATF Special Agent Tom Mangan said.

Pettitte also has installed security cameras throughout the stadium area. Overall, U.S. Customs and Border Protection aircraft will circle the sky and give authorities a bird's-eye view of what's going on.

"U.S. Customs will intercept any threat from the air with Blackhawk helicopters and Citation jets based at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, about 100 miles to the south in Tucson," said Ken Huffer, the Secret Service special agent in charge in Phoenix.

Huffer said federal authorities will enforce a 30-mile no-fly zone around the stadium. Security officers will be on patrol throughout the region.

"We are pleased that Mr. Knoblauch agrees," said Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., the committee chairman. "We will hear his testimony as a matter of fact and as a matter of law."

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Inge disgruntled at Tigers' acquisition of Cabrera

Third baseman asked for trade, now 'thought it was time to talk' after two months without being accommodated

Associated Press

DETROIT — Brandon Inge is angry the Detroit Tigers acquired Miguel Cabrera to replace him at third base. Inge asked the Tigers to trade him after they made the deal at the winter meetings nearly two months ago, but Detroit hasn’t accommodated him.

"They're still trying to trade me, but I need to get ready for the possibility that I'm going to spring training with the Tigers," Inge said Monday, speaking for the first time since the trade. "People have said or written, 'Take your $6 million and be happy sitting on the bench.' But money doesn't make me happy — playing baseball does."

Inge agreed to a $34 million, four-year contract last winter. After talking to team president Dave Dombrowski on Monday, Inge said he is ready to move on and begrudgingly accept his role as a utility player.

"The only reason I’m bitter, mad and frustrated is that I’m probably not going to play as much as I have in the past," he said.

Inge played 469 games at third base the past three seasons. The 30-year-old Inge plans to work out with Detroit's pitchers and catchers beginning Feb. 15 in Lakeland, Fla., where he will get reacquainted with catching, a position he played for 104 games during the 2003 season.

Inge has a shot to be Ivan Rodriguez's primary backup because Vance Wilson has not recovered from elbow surgery that kept him off the field all of last year.

The versatile Inge also has major league experience at all three outfield positions. He played shortstop and pitched in college at Virginia Commonwealth.

"I'll play Inge everywhere but as a pitcher."

Jim Leyland
Tigers manager

"But money doesn't make me happy — playing baseball does."

Brandon Inge
Tigers third baseman

plays on defense. Cabrera's batting average last season in Florida was .320 and he hit 34 homers with 119 RBIs. In five seasons with the Marlins, the four-time All-Star batted .295 with 138 home runs and 523 RBIs.

Detroit traded for Cabrera and starting pitcher Dontrelle Willis in early December, dealing six players, including two highly rated prospects: left-hander Andrew Miller and outfielder Cameron Maybin.

Inge, one of the most accessible athletes in Detroit, kept his thoughts to himself for weeks and recently was criticized for it. "I owe everything to my fans, but it wouldn't have done me or the Tigers any good to say, 'I don't know what's going to happen,' or for me to bash anybody about losing my job," Inge said.

Tigers third baseman Brandon Inge secures a high bouncer during a Sept. 14, 2007 game in Minneapolis.
NFL
Crennel agrees to extension
Browns reward league's oldest coach after surprising 10-6 season

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Coach Romeo Crennel has agreed to terms on a two-year contract extension with the Cleveland Browns, his agent said Monday night.

The agreement comes as the Browns' season comes to a close after going 10-6-1. The Browns finished second in the AFC North.

Crennel, 60, is the Browns' third coach in two seasons. He replaced coach Rob Chudzinski, who was fired after a 10-6 mark — their best since 1999 — and the club just missed making the AFC playoffs.

The extension is not a surprise. Last month, general manager Phil Savage said the Browns needed to reward Crennel for turning the team around after years of disarray.

"It's been a very good extension," rookie tackles Joe Thomas said. "He did a great job this year, especially with what his plan is kind of taking hold, what his vision is when he first got hired.

"It will be nice for him to finally feel the heat from everybody.

Players near new labor deal

WNBA

Players near new labor deal

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The WNBA players union and the league announced a verbal agreement on a new labor deal Saturday that includes a six-year contract for the women's basketball league, a WNBA official said.

"We're extremely pleased to have reached agreement with the players' union on a six-year contract but that it has not yet been signed," WNBA commissioner David Stern said.

The deals will be announced in writing after the league's board of governors approves them.

The agreement includes a $34,500 annual salary increase for the WNBA players, who averaged $77,000 in 2007.

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"It will be nice for him to finally feel the heat from everybody.
Volleyball defeats MSU in five games

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame won its first match of the season at the House of Noise against Michigan State on Saturday. Fueled by high-powered hits from the likes of Lauren Goldberg, the Irish offense was on fire in the first game, cruising to a 25-17 victory.

Due to a verbal lashing by their coach, the Spartans came out firing in the second game, going on all cylinders in the opening set. Their coach, the Spartans came off to a strong start and took the second set, 21-25.

Early in the third set, the Spartans generated the momentum they needed in the previous game, but the Irish did not go down without a fight. The two teams traded points throughout the set until theIrish took the third set with a 25-21 victory.

The fourth set was a back and forth battle. The Irish were able to keep their momentum as Michigan State proceeded to score three straight points, but the Irish reeled back in and tied the set at 14-14. The two teams exchanged points throughout the set, tying the game at 24-24, facing a Spartan game point.

With a trick play signaled before posting a 142 average and 178 high game and 136 average, and C. Sage of the top 20 ranked teams, including No. 1 Wichita State, No. 2 Lindenwood, No. 3 Saginaw Valley State, No. 5 Elmhurst, No. 8 Calumet and No. 11 Florida State. Ten of the top-20 women's teams in the country ventured to South Bend, including No. 2 Lindenwood, No. 3 Wichita State, No. 5 McKendree, No. 6 Fontbonne, No. 7 Penn State, No. 10 Robert Morris and No. 11 Martin Methodist.

The tournament switched venues this year, moving to the Chippewa Bowl.

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Notre Dame continued from page 20


ing freshman when she made it to the finals in the ITA Midwest Regionals. "She beat a series of very good players to get to the finals," said Goldberg, "She's been a pre-med and anthropology major and just works hard at everything. She always seems to gain in early to get in extra hits. One thing she can really do is manage her time between academics and athleticism.

This year, Ciobanu is 12-5 overall and 1-1 in dual match play and continues to exhibit consistently solid technique in both her singles and doubles matches.

Not only is Ciobanu a budding talent, but a great team­mate. "Our three sophomore girls are very close," said Goldberg. "Cosmina, Colleen (Hedley) and Kali (Krnik) all help each other with their game. We have good depth, and they just all feed off each other in practices and games."

However, Ciobanu and her teammates didn't arrive where they are today without the help of their coach, Kely Teff. Kely Teff has been one of the upperclassmen who aided the rising talents transition into both university life and tennis. "Kely gets along with all of them real well," Louderback said. "She's been able to help them with anything they need, be it in tennis or in life. One aspect that impressed excellent players and leaders from the pack is the ability to put aside selfish interests and assist in their improve­ment."

Ciobanu, Louderback said there is no exception to the rule. "She's an excellent role model as an athlete and student," said Goldberg. "Kely gets along with all of them real well," Louderback said. "She's been able to help them with anything they need, be it in tennis or in life. One aspect that impressed excellent players and leaders from the pack is the ability to put aside selfish interests and assist in their improve­ment."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

Fighting patterns continue from page 20

Clubs threaten over-zealous booting

As the rain and mud continued to fall on the spectators, the Fighting Patterns continued on page 17

END OF STORY ---

November 29, 2008

The Observer
Shooting
continued from page 20
against UConn was enough to inspire despair in anyone. It wasn’t that Notre Dame fell hopelessly behind the top-ranked team in the nation; its defense played well and the offense showed signs of life. The Irish managed 64 points against a team that entered Sunday’s game allowing only 46 points per game. But they made too many mistakes, and the end result was a loss.

Bulfin continued from page 20
Bulfin’s great shot selection. "I think we settled for too many jumpers," Brey said. "If you’re one of the [Big East] coaches, we should have our heads checked for our sanity because this thing is hard to predict.”

Mike Brey
Irish coach

Zone
continued from page 20
ward Lake Harroway touch-

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Mike Brey
Irish coach

Zone
continu
Tuesday, January 29, 2008

**THE OBSERVER • TODAY**

**BLACK DOG**

**MICHAEL MIKUSKA**

...I was Chuck Norris THAT REMEMBER WHEN THE 100% CHECKABLE, FULLY LIVE, EMBOSSED HEART WITH NO INDEPENDENT TRADERS FOR A FUTURE YESTERDAY.

**TASTES LIKE FAILURE**

**RICH PROTIVA & ANDY SPANGLER**

TASTES LIKE FAILURE TAKES YOU ON A BRIEF JOURNEY THROUGH...

**JUMBLE**

**HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION**

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Novi Arnold and Mike Argirion

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the clue phrase.

**CROSSWORD**

WILL SHORTZ

Across
11 Comment not to be taken seriously
5 Marley’s ghost in “A Christmas Carol”
10 Con game
14 Unwanted spells
15 Band together
16 Poisn source
17 Response to a knock
19 23,025 ft. for Mt. Everest
20 Have a ball
21 Designer label letter
22 Hang kuks on
24 “For instance”
25 Empathize with
26 The important thing
27 A Chaplin
28 Sluggers’ stats
29 “I have an idea”
30 “I have an idea”
31 Doctor’s query

Down
41 Scattered about
42 “Entire”
43 Metropolitan
45 “Never”
46 Some
47 Scattered about
48 “Entire”
49 “Entire”
50 “Entire”
51 One and only
52 Apartment window sign
53 Kudrow of friends
55 Mediterranean fruit
56 Rotten tomatoes
57 “Entire”
58 “Entire”
59 “Entire”
60 One and only
61 “Entire”
62 “Entire”
63 “Entire”
64 “Entire”
65 “Entire”
66 “Entire”
67 Classic computer game
51 Uno + due
52 Apartment window sign
53 Kudrow of friends
55 Mediterranean fruit
56 rotten tomatoes
57 “Entire”
58 “Entire”
59 “Entire”
60 One and only
61 “Entire”
62 “Entire”
63 “Entire”
64 “Entire”
65 “Entire”
66 “Entire”
67 Classic computer game

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

Puzzle by Mike Arthur

Answer: "When the little Indians got lost, the cornfield"

Jumbles: CHIME DIZZY EMBALM MANAGE

**HOROSCOPE**

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY
LeAnn Rimes, 25; Jason Priestley, 38;
Sarah Jessica Parker, 45; David Letterman, 67.
Happy Birthday! Don’t let your friends hold you back when you have so much going for you this year. Think of all the times when you were doing so much to get through the days. What a surprise and more fun ahead, as well. Have a great day.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) You need to get away from it all. A place you can relax and tune out what you want to do but not like it. Don’t be fooled by changes going on around you at work. It is just on the surface. 3 stars

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Someone may be telling you wrong. Don’t give in to that. You know what you need and want. 3 stars

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Your partner, especially when working with colleagues and family. Everyone will be seeing high. Try to keep it to yourself. 2 stars

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You’ve got so much going for you, so don’t waste it. You are due for a change in your life. 5 stars

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) You should be concentrating on financial matters, curing debt and finding your wallet. You are due for a change in your life. 3 stars

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Things may be up in the air today, especially when it comes to personal matters. Play it safe. Things are not as straightforward as they seem. 2 stars

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Take a bold stance, stick to your plans and present your thoughts to yourself. 2 stars

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Take a bold stance, stick to your plans and present your thoughts to yourself. 5 stars

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be thinking about spending time with a friend. It is a good idea to talk to a friend. You may be better off talking about your friend and keeping your thoughts to yourself. 3 stars

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Things are moving around for you. The dials that appear to be moving fast are not currently going to slow down, allowing you to move on. 5 stars

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Be very careful how you use things. Someone may try to mug you or want money. 5 stars

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Emotions will be hard to control. Don’t let them control what you have to do or professionally or otherwise. A partner or someone you like may expect you to do his or her bidding to make their life easier, which will influence you. 3 stars

**EUGENIA’S WEB SITES:** astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential mention. You are adventurous and tend to live on the edge. You have spunk and determination. You are due for a change.

**THE OBSERVER**

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**Men’s Basketball**

**1-2-2 punch**

Defensive switch helped Notre Dame beat ‘Nova

By CHRIS HINE

Sports Writer

With a week to prepare for Villanova after struggling to put points on the board against Georgetown, coach Mike Brey decided something needed to change if Notre Dame was going to be successful on the road.

“When you have a week to work on things after a tough loss, and I’ve been in this a while, and you want to maybe adjust some things, but then you’re careful that you don’t over-coach and change too many things and screw your team up,” Brey said. “But I thought we needed some kind of change before we went on the road again.”

In looking at how his Irish matched up with the Wildcats, Brey decided the change he needed to make was on the defensive end of the floor, leaving Notre Dame’s offensive game mostly intact.

For most of its 90-80 win Saturday, Notre Dame played a 1-2-2 zone, a departure from the 2-3 zone and man-to-man the Irish normally play. Offensively, the Irish were able to take advantage of Villanova’s lack of height and play their inside-out game, getting sophomore forward Devereaux Peters in the paint.

Irish guards Kyle McAlarney, right, and Tory Jackson, center, double team Wildcats guard Scottie Reynolds during the second half of Notre Dame’s 90-80 win over Villanova on Saturday.

**ND Women’s Basketball Commentary**

Irish need to be more selective

Muffet McGraw must have some of the toughest toes in the business.

On every game night, she squeezes them into tight-pointed shoes, all with three-inch-plus heels. Oddly enough, McGraw is most comfortable when she assumes this position when her team’s play pleases her, or the Irish are in a good game.

She stands for timeouts, to call out plays or assignments — and when she’s angry. Against Connecticut Sunday, she stood nearly the entire game.

McGraw crouched once, at the beginning of the second half — for 43 seconds. When freshman forward Devereaux Peters committed her third foul under a minute into the half, she popped back to her feet.

She didn’t crouch again until the final two minutes, when the game was out of hand.

“I don’t blame her for her frustration, she’s coaching the Irish.”

**Men’s Swimming**

Diver makes a splash in team record books

Bulfin won four state titles in high school

By ELLYN MICHALAK

Sports Writer

Junior diver Michael Bulfin is a natural-born diver, but he didn’t begin exercising his talent until the age of 13.

“I got into diving through a friend who was on the local club team. I visited the coach and then jumped off some platforms and decided I could get used to it,” Bulfin said.

Shortly after learning of his innate ability to dive, Bulfin attended St. Aquinas High School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The team won four state championships with Bulfin on the roster.

Bulfin has made the most of his opportunities at Notre Dame by setting and then again breaking the school record in the 3-meter dive (393.97) in consecutive weeks, a record which was previously held by Irish diver Andy Maggie, who graduated in 2002.

Bulfin’s family was there to see the diver achieve success.

“It was great breaking those records,” Bulfin said. “My parents were at the meet the