Student government briefs trustees

Brown, Braun, Plamoottil detail state of the Student Union, plans for remainder of term

By MARCELA BERRIOS
Associate News Editor

Student body president Liz Brown's administration told mem­bers of the University's Board of Trustees Thursday that most of its work this year has been determined by unforeseen and pressing events rather than pre-established goals. But these unexpected issues "did not debilitate our capacity to fulfill campaign promises," stu­dent body president Liz Brown said during her administration's second briefing this year to the Board's Student Affairs Committee. She cited the South Bend Common Council's proposed party permit ordi­nance as an example of an unantic­ipated situa­tion that required attention. But because her October briefing was devoted to a discussion of the diversity and community relation­ships, Brown focused Thursday on the other pressing events. These included the increase in prices for course packets, a surge of student interest in environ­mental issues and the need for a modi­fied follow-up to the Notre Dame Forum on immigration in the fall.

The increase in course packet prices, which started last issue, her administration had to deal with after many students and fac­ulty members started complain­ing.

Student body vice president Marie Braun said that on average, prices increased by more than 35 percent over the first year. 

She said during her administration's second briefing this year to the Board's Student Affairs Committee surveyed more than 1,000 students to learn more about the popular opinion regard­ing the issue.

Siegfried holds Day of Man for homeless

Dorm residents don shorts, sandals in second annual campus benefit for South Bend charity

By MAGGIE HAGAN
News Writer

While most students battle the frigid South Bend winters with snow boots, fleece hats, gloves and parkas, 133 men from Siegfried Hall stripped down to their summer clothes for the second annual "Day of Man." an event to raise money for the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

More than half of Siegfried's residents wore the day walking around campus in red T-shirts, shorts and flip flops. The idea was to show their sol­iarity with the homeless, who often have minimal garments to protect themselves from the snow.

By BRITTANY BURGESO N/The Observer

Residents of Siegfried Hall show off their T-Shirts during Thursday's Day of Man, benefitting South Bend homeless.

GRC launches new gender group

Men of Strength seek to examine masculinity, sexuality at Notre Dame

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

In accordance with its recent efforts to examine sexuality and faith of the Notre Dame student commu­nity, the Gender Relations Center (GRC) is sponsoring a men's support group, set to have its first meeting Feb. 7.

It will meet every Wednesday through April 30. The group, called Men of Strength (MOS), is the brain­child of second-year Masters of Divinity graduate student Brian Vassel, who is also a GRC intern.

Vassel, who minored in theology and English during his undergraduate years at Notre Dame, came up with the idea for MOS last spring.

Masters of Divinity stu­dents are required to com­plete three years of field education after graduation, Vassel said. His first year credit came from his tenure in Carroll Hall as an assis­tant rector, his second year credit will come from creat­ing MOS.

Vassel said he thought of the support group after con­sidering his undergraduate experience at Notre Dame. 

"Sexuality and spirituality came up a lot," he said. "In this group, men can come to integrate their faith and sexuality."

The name of the group comes from the passage in 2 Corinthians 12:10, which reads: "For when I am weak, then I am strong," said Heather Rakoczy, director of the GRC and supervisor of Vassel's initiative since August.

The two researched if Vassel's group would interest Notre Dame students would be interested by interviewing undergraduate men.

"We wanted to get the pulse of the Notre Dame cul­ture," Rakoczy said.

After receiving enough pos­i­tive feedback, the pair planned the implementation of the group early last fall.

"There are three main thrusts of the group," Vassel said, "Share, pray and sup­port." While the group is rooted strongly in its Catholic tradi­tion, it's open to men of all

Heather Rakoczy, director of the GRC and supervisor of Vassel's initiative since August.

College celebrates Chinese New Year

By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

Thursday marked the first day of the first lunar month — the most important holiday in China. Saint Mary's commemorated the event with Chinese-themed food and entertainment.

"I hope to show people in America more about Chinese culture and celebrate the New Year," Guan said.

Saint Mary's vice president and dean of faculty, Patricia Fleming, introduced the evening and recognized the col­lege's future partnership with

Jinggui Guan, a first year international student and min­ister of ceremonies, performed a peacock dance and "Phoenix Flash" with the "Fire Dragon Floating in the Sunset" with a bawu, a customary Chinese instrument.

"I hope to show people in America more about Chinese culture and celebrate the New Year," Guan said.

Sophomore Wenjun Bui also "danced under the Moonlight" with a guzheng, a gui­tar-like instrument.

Saint Mary's vice president and dean of faculty, Patricia Fleming, introduced the evening and recognized the college's future partnership with

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see MOS/page 6

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's
Hail to the Chief

Like the Saint Mary's executive student body president and vice-president, Chris recently ran unopposed in and won the election for Editor in Chief for The Observer's 2009-2010 term. Maybe he
was unopposed because he intimidated the competition. Maybe it was because no one else wanted to run. Or maybe it was because he was endorsed by the likes of Oprah, Chuck Norris, and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

I can say now that I feel more than honored to be writing this ... and no, Chris is no longer standing over my shoulder.

I was first introduced to this fine individual back in December, when I was informed that he would be my date to The Observer's annual holiday office party.

"Hey, are you Chris?" I asked the strapping fellow sitting behind me one night at work.

"Yes, you must be Katie. Guess what? I am missing a knuckle on my left hand," replied Chris, holding up a left hand with the fourth finger about the same length as the pinky finger.

"Wow, are you serious?" He was. Serious as the ulcer 8Mac gives Kyle Cassilly.

This was my first impression of our new Master and Commander. Since his inception as leader of the finest newsprint side of the Mississippi (sorry Karen, I am editorializing), Chris has thus far implemented several of his promised initiatives for his minions down in the basement of South Dining Hall.

Chris recently installed hot tubs for the general use of Observer staffers, which is why you may have noticed many of us are spending far more hours down here in the Swamp. This makes those long 12-hour shifts far more bearable — desirable even.

Chris has also made major improvements on the entertainment that many staffers wanted, particularly those who were fed up with South Park and SportsCenter. He recently installed twenty brand new Xbox 360s on which subordinates, particularly those who were fed up with South Park and SportsCenter, can work. And you get paid by the win.

Additionally, Chris has erected a 360 video game station in the Culture of Latin American Theology in the Hesburgh Center.

Seemingly immaculate Komodos hatched

WICHITA, Kan. — Two Komodo dragons have hatched at the Sedgwick County Zoo, apparently without the fertilization of a male. The dragons, both males, are believed to be the first in North America known to have hatched by parthenogenesis, which occurs naturally in some species, including invertebrates and lower plants. It happens more rarely in some vertebrates.

Two other known cases in which Komodo dragons hatched by parthenogenesis were at the London and Zurich zoos in England in 2006.

The zoo in Wichita is having DNA testing done to document the mother's and the babies' genetic structure because of the remote chance that a male's sperm was stored on the female's body.

Komodo dragons are one of the few species capable of storing sperm.

School pulls spiked hot chocolate recipe

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — Officials at a junior high school spiked an edition of the student newspaper because it contained a recipe for hot chocolate that included peppermint schnapps.

The January edition of Stillwell Junior High School's quarterly Tiger Tracks was pulled off the racks when the boozy recipe was discovered, Principal Tim Miller said. A student at the West Des Moines school submitted the recipe, which slipped through the editing process, Miller said.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.
Chinese educational facilities. "China is a part of our students' future," Fleming said.

During the event, Marcia Rickard, Saint Mary's art historian, discussed the new Chinese summer program at Creighton University.

"This is the beginning of a long collaboration," Rickard said.

Many local organizations contributed to the New Year celebrations, including the South Bend Chinese Language School and the Graunger Chinese Dance Company, who performed traditional ribbon and lion dances.

The Notre Dame Chinese band, Crystal Clear, also presented renditions of "Hey Jude" and "Hotel California."

The band changed their self-entitled song "ND Girl" to "SMC Girl" to reflect the audience.

Other Saint Mary's faculty members delivered poetry readings, including the South Bend Multicultural Affairs Committee, said past students felt that they were not learning anything about their Native American heritage. The committee created a survey, which was randomly distributed to 900 students as a way to get further feedback about the potential minor.

The survey, which had four parts, contained one section for those interested in the possibility of a Native American Studies minor. Wan said that her committee would like to present the results of the survey to Student Senate by the middle of February.

She said that the committee was unsure about the exact parts, but it would be for the Native American students, but it would be for the Notre Dame population in general.

Co-president of the Native American Studies Association of Notre Dame (NASAND) Anthony Holt agreed with Wan. "I think it's a great idea," Holt said. "I think there are a lot of Native Americans who would be very interested in programs and classes that would be offered at the University."

Being involved with NASAND has given Holt the opportunity to interact with a variety of people from different tribes and backgrounds, he said, but there are few Native American resources or classes offered at the University besides the group.

Contact Amber Travis at atravis@nd.edu

By AMBER TRAVIS

News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame Multicultural Affairs Committee have been working on a proposal for the creation of a Native American Studies minor at the University.

Lai-Nin Wan, chairwoman of the Multicultural Affairs Committee, said past students felt that they were not learning anything about their Native American heritage. The committee created a survey, which was randomly distributed to 900 students as a way to get further feedback about the potential minor.

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Donations
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Through December, former Democratic candidate John Edwards, who withdrew from the race before Super Tuesday, led in donations from Notre Dame. Edwards had raised $1,400 from four University employees and students. Democratic Sen. Barack Obama raised $943 from four such individuals, and Congressman Ron Paul, R-Texas, was third with $540 from three people.

Rachel Getman, a graduate assistant in chemical and bio-molecular engineering, is one of Paul’s doners. “When I finally heard he was running for president, that really excited me,” Getman said. “I’d donate to any campaign that I believe will better the political and economic conditions of the country.”

Paul, however, has not yet won a state in the Republican primaries and caucuses. But even if Paul fails to win the Republican nomination, Getman believes her donation could make a significant impact in getting out Paul’s libertarian message — thus helping future candidates of a similar belief set.

While the goal ultimately is to get a ‘Ron Paul’ elected, it will take some time to transition from electing the bureaucratic politician,” Getman said.

In past elections, donation totals lack a fully accurate indicator of a candidate’s chances success. But this election cycle has proven the correlation to not be definite.

The top two donors on the Republican side, Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani, combined to raise more than $150 million by the end of 2007. But with Romney’s withdrawal Thursday, Sen. John McCain, who has raised a relatively small total of $42 million, invaded the Republican front-runner. On the Democratic side, however, the vote totals have clearly reflected the money battle.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who analysts long pegged as the front-runner for the Democratic nomination, is now fighting O b a m a’s momentum. According to the data released this week by the Federal Election Commission, Clinton had raised more than $118 million to Obama’s nearly $104 million.

Professor Catherine Perry, who is a fellow of the Nanosov Institute for European Studies and the Institute for International Peace, was the only person at Notre Dame that co-opted Paul.

Perry said she donated both time and money to Howard Dean’s campaign in 2003 and 2004, but doesn’t have the time now to be personally involved with the Clinton campaign. She said that when she hears a candidate asking for money, she takes it seriously because of the American involvement in a nationwide campaign.

Though Perry typically doesn’t discuss her support for Clinton among other faculty members, she feels strongly that “after the last seven years, we really need a change. But why donate? “It’s a measure of how committed we are for change,” Perry said. “I do feel personally responsible to support a candidate.”

Brian Duffy, a junior from Iowa, had similar thoughts about why he donated to the Paul campaign.

“He’s definitely the candidate who I most agreed with on principles of freedom and liberty in government,” Duffy said of Paul. “I thought he was a genuine candidate.”

Duffy said he was upset that Paul’s libertarian message had not changed the debate among the other Republican candidates, but Duffy was happy that his money was used to “raise the consciousness” of the public to Paul’s ideas.

Duffy donated to Paul’s campaign in September, before the candidate’s popularity surged and campaign contributions followed suit. Duffy said he probably would not have donated had Paul already raised the $28 million he has now, but donating before the handwagons picked up members is like finding a “little-known band.”

“It’s like, ‘Hey, I was one of the first ones there,’” Duffy said, “and then it kind of turned into a big thing.”

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Archbishop calls for limited Shariah

LONDON — The archbishop of Canterbury on Thursday called for a limited application of Islamic law in Britain. The move is intended to help improve Britain’s relationships with the Arab world and to establish a dialogue between the two worlds.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s spokesman immediately rejected Williams’ proposal.

Leading Shiite cleric reduces workload

Baghdad — Grand Ayatollah Ali-Sistani, has sharply reduced his workload in recent months, raising doubts about whether it’s current set of problems can be solved.

The move comes as the Iraqi leader and the prospect of a dangerous power struggle in the oil-rich Shiite heartlands of southern Iraq.

National News

CIA head defends waterboarding

WASHINGTON — Debate over waterboarding flared Thursday on Capitol Hill, with the CIA director raising doubts about whether it’s current set of problems can be solved.

If convicted, he could face up to $250,000.

Ron Paul remained in what was barely alive last summer, out of cash and losing support.

“Romney is our party’s standard-bearer. It was a contested convention, I would forestall and our country.”

Said Romney, “I must now think that we have standing aside, for our party.”

Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney announced he was dropping out of the race at the Conservative Political Action Conference Thursday.

Romney has 294 and McCain 370, with 270 needed for the nomination.

More significant, the officials said, was dropping out of the race. Romney’s fate had been virtually sealed earlier this week when he failed to stop McCain’s coast-to-coast Super Tuesday rout in presidential primaries, McCain and Romney spoke by phone Thursday but no endorsement was sought.

With weekend contests in Louisiana and Kansas up next, McCain has secured 707 delegates, more than halfway to the 1,191 needed to win the nomination. Romney has 294 and McCain 195. Paul, the libertarian-leaning Texas congresswoman, had only 14 — and no chance to catch McCain.

But that doesn’t appear to be happening. If McCain’s reception at the Conservative Political Action Conference was any indication, activists there seemed resigned — if not pleased — at the prospect of McCain’s nomination.

The other Republican candidates said the fight was effectively over, and that Huckabee appeared to be angling more for a vice presidential role than the top of the ticket.

Associated Press

Ronald Reagan would not as if we’re bringing in an alien and rival system, so it’s not as if we’re creating a new religion, and it’s not as if we have a religion, but the government rejected it.

The unusual suggestion from Britain’s highest ranking Christian leader would, if adopted, allow British Muslims to choose to resolve marital and financial disputes under Islamic law, known as Shariah, rather than through British courts.

Archbishop Brown said in a radio interview with British Broadcasting Corp. that incorporating Islamic law could help improve Britain’s reputation around the world.

“In certain provisions of Shariah are already recognized in our society and under our law, so it’s not as if we’re creating a new religion.”

Cheney told the Conservative Political Action Conference Thursday called for a limited application of Islamic law in Britain. Muslims praised the proposal but the government rejected it.

“I think that we have to stop and think about the consequences for both Iraq and the United States, which consider the Iranian-bred cleric as perhaps the most powerful figure in Iraq and a vital stabilizing force in the Middle East.”

A reporter asked what Brown would say to detainees at Guantanamo Bay who were on hunger strike. “I think that we have to stop and think about the consequences for both Iraq and the United States.”

Diplomats say Iran has advanced centrifuge

VIENNA, Austria — Iran’s nuclear project has developed its own version of advanced centrifuge to churn out enriched uranium much faster than its previous machines, diplomats and a European official said Thursday.

They said that five of the IR-3 centrifuges were operating and that testing appeared to be in an early phase but that the move has left concerns rotating without processing any uranium gas.

More significant, the officials said, is the fact that Iran appears to have used know-how and equipment bought on the nuclear black market in combination with domestic ingenuity to overcome daunting technical difficulties and create highly advanced centrifuges.

Iran’s uranium enrichment work has raised concerns in Washington and other Western capitals because it can produce the radioactive material needed for nuclear bombs. Tehran says it is only pursuing lower-level enrichment to fuel make for atomic reactors that will generate electricity.

Iran is under two sets of U.N. Security Council sanctions for refusing to suspend uranium enrichment, which it started developing during nearly two decades of covert nuclear activity built on illicit purchases and revealed only five years ago.

That secrecy heightened suspicions about Iran’s intent, but Iranian leaders argued the country has a right to run a peaceful enrichment program and dismissed the U.N. demands, saying they planned to expand the project rather than freeze it.

Until recent weeks, Iran had publicly focused on working with P1 centrifuges — outdated machines that it acquired on the black market in the 1980s. Workers set up more than 3,000 of the machines in the large underground hall near Natanz, a city about 300 miles south of Tehran.
Man stabs wife inside school
Suspect chooses into fifth-grade class, wounds woman in front of kids

Associated Press
PORTSMOUTH, Ohio — A man charged into a school where his estranged wife was a teacher Thursday morning, firing a gun before stabbing her as her fifth-grade class watched, police said. Later, he was found dead in his home after apparently shooting himself during a standoff with police.

The teacher, Christi Layne, was in critical condition at a hospital in nearby Huntington, W.Va., a hospital spokeswoman said.

"Both of us are still laying there and she was in critical condition," said Mike Shawker of the hospital in nearby Huntington.

Minutes before the teacher was stabbed, police say her husband stabbed and wounded a different woman in an alley about five blocks from the school.

The suspect, Charles Michael Bennett, 22, knew the teacher. Bennett had filed for a restraining order against his estranged wife, police said.

Police originally said William Michael Bennett had apparently shot himself in the head with a shotgun, Coroner Terry Johnson said. He was found in the garage behind his house near the school, Horner said.

Freeland, 37, who often talked with the suspect, said that the couple had separated last summer and that Layne had been acting strangely for several months.

"At nighttime, he was out digging up his yard at 1, 2 in the morning," he said.

Parents, many with cell phones clutched to their ears, congregated across the street from the school, police eventually broke through the windows of the school and began leaving with their children around 10:30 a.m., said Kathy Hall, the office manager at the Cornerstone United Methodist Church, which also is across the street.

"I wasn't afraid for my own safety, I was afraid for the children, because these turn out so terrible," you know," Hall said.

The scene was chaotic, with police cars and few ambulances on the road. Student Emmaly Baker said she hid in the classroom's bookstore. "I wasn't afraid for my own safety, I was afraid for the children, because these turn out so terrible," you know," Hall said.

The school and another Catholic school nearby were locked down, said Deacon Tom Berg, vice chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Columbus. "It was sending a crisis team. Local public schools also were locked down, said Superintendent Jan Broughton, who oversees the community's public schools.

Police originally said the man was in his yard. Neighbors saw officers shooting at the house at one point, and police said those shots were with low-caliber bullets used to disable a surveillance camera. Layne had installed it in his yard.

Neighbor Jack Freeland said police eventually broke through the door with a battering ram and went in a robot.

Police had been involved in a domestic dispute between the Laynes about two weeks ago, Horner said, but he did not give details.

The 56-year-old suspect, known as Mike, was a retired assistant director at the city's camera surveillance strip. He apparently shot himself in the head with a shotgun, Coroner Terry Johnson said. He was found in the garage behind his house near the school, Horner said.

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MOS
continued from page 1
faith backgrounds, Vassel said.

"All men struggle with various things," Rakoczy said. "Issues such as masturbation and pornography. "Issues surface in faith and church group like MOS." Rakoczy said she has been overseeing the organization of the group.

"It is going to be a kind of ritualized layout," she said. "It includes an opening prayer, disclosure of personal stories, discussion and a closing prayer."

"Men of Strength will work to redefine and examine what kind of strengths define a man," Rakoczy said.

"We want to leave some kind of legacy so that the group is not solely dependent on me," Vassel said.

Vassel said the MOS is not the first group that the GRC has sponsored for men. The Center sponsored the group Men Against Violence, which brought the anti-sexism activist Jackson Katz to campus in November.

"We have to redefine the group and make sure it's not the first meeting yet, but it has advertised through posters and dining hall announcements. MOS is unique in that it's a completely private organization."

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ARMY ROTC. START STRONG.
**In Brief**

Wall Street posts modest gains

NEW YORK — Wall Street finished moderately higher in fitful trading Thursday as investors, still nervous about the economy, decided to buy back into a stock market pummeled by three straight days of selling.

With the market having largely priced in the possibility of a recession, many believe there are plenty of attractive stocks at cheap prices. Thursday, the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen this week by 543 points, or 4.26 percent, giving up all of last week's sharp gains.

Though the market ended up rising Thursday, traders were extremely fickle due to a lack of strong news and a glum data that included declining January sales at major retailers, a drop in December sales of pending homes, and a disappointing outlook from Internet networking supplier Cisco Systems Inc.

The major indexes moved throughout the day. "We're kind of trying to create a silk purse out of a sow's ear here," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer of John Lintner Advisors. "The earnings are lousy."

The Dow rose 46.90, or 0.38 percent, to 12,247.00 after trading down about 50 points and up about 120. The index now stands more than 13 percent below its record close on Oct. 9, 2007 of 14,163.45.

Unemployment falls slightly

WASHINGTON — The number of newly laid off workers filing applications for unemployment benefits dropped last week, but not enough to indicate that strains on the labor market are easing.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that 356,000 workers applied for jobless benefits for the first time last week, a decline only enough to avert a third consecutive jump of 72,000 in claims of the previous week. The four-week average for jobless claims rose to 335,000, which was higher than in December.

A severe slowdown in economic growth that has raised concerns about a possible recession has begun to affect the labor market. The government reported last week that the economy shed 17,000 jobs in January, the first monthly job loss in more than four years.

MARKET Recap

**Treasuries**

| 10-YEAR NOTE | $1,091.60 | $1,082.76 | $8.84 |
| 30-YEAR BOND | $1,378.10 | $1,370.21 | $7.89 |

**Commodities**

- LIGHT CRUDE (NYMEX) $59.77 BBL
- GOLD (per oz) $1,090.10
- PORK BELLY (cents/lb.) $1.83 97.00
- CANADIAN DOLLAR 0.74 48.00
- EURO 0.69 08
- BRITISH POUND 0.51 48

**Exchange Rates**

- YEN 107.5000
- EURO 0.6908
- CANADIAN DOLLAR 1.0966
- BRITISH POUND 0.5148

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed an economic rescue plan Thursday that would speed $600 to $1,200 in rebates to most taxpayers and $300 checks to low-income people, including disabled veterans and the elderly.

The 81-16 vote came more than a week of politicking that ended with a compromise after Democrats dropped their demand that the proposal offer巴拉德援助 for the poor and tax breaks for open indiees.

GOP senators blocked those ideas, but agreed to add the rebates for older people and disabled veterans to a $161 billion measure the House passed last month.

House leaders said they would act as early as Thursday to send the measure to President Bush. Bush indicated he would sign the measure and said the Senate made changes "in ways I can support."

"This plan is robust, broad-based, timely, and it will be effective," Bush said in a statement. The compromise, he said, was an example of bipartisan cooperation at a time when the American people must expect it.

The Senate plan would pull $600 for individuals, $1,200 for couples — to most taxpayers and cut business taxes in hopes of reviving the economy. Individuals would get to $75,000 a year and couples to $150,000 would get rebates.

People who paid no income taxes but earned at least $3,000 — including through Social Security or veterans' disability benefits — would get a $300 rebate.

If the House follows suit as expected and Bush shortly signs the measure, costing $168 billion over two years, to Bush. "It's our responsibility to pass the strongest bill that we can, and so I think it's tremendous what we'll be able to accomplish," said Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "We had to find this quickly."

The rebate came after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sided with Republicans, including Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Pelosi, D-Calif., urged the Senate to stop its infighting and pass the bill.

"There's no reason for any more delay on this," Pelosi said.

Thirty-three Republicans joined 46 Democrats and the Senate's two independents to pass the measure. Sixteen Republicans voted against the plan.

Reid defended his decision to try to pressure Republicans on the larger proposal by offering it as a take-it-or-leave-it proposition along with the rebates for older people and veterans. "I feel very strongly that we did the right thing," Reid said.

**Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill Thursday after the Senate reached an agreement on an economic stimulus package.**

**Gift cards redeemed for basic items**

NEW YORK — Here's a sign of how shaky the economy has become: Wal-Mart says its shoppers are redeeming their holiday gift cards largely for necessities — pasta sauce, diapers, laundry detergent — instead of iPods or DVDs.

"It shows you the level of worry," said P. Flickinger III, managing director of the New York-based retail consulting firm Strategic Resource Group.

Analysts think it's happening in other stores, too. Instead, they agreed to speed up the bipartisan measure, costing $168 billion over two years, to Bush. "It's our responsibility to pass the strongest bill that we can, and so I think it's tremendous what we'll be able to accomplish," said Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "We had to find this quickly."

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The assessment by Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, that gift card redemptions were below expectations and people were buying only necessities shook up industry observers. Retailers record gift-card revenue only as cards are redeemed.

"It shows you the level of worry. Even with free money in your hand, (consumers) aren't willing to spend on anything more than necessities," said Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at International Council of Shopping Centers.

Niemi said January's retail sales performance was the weakest for that month since at least 1970, when comparable records started.

Shoppers appear to be looking at gift cards not as "free money" but rather as their "own personal cash," said C. Britt Beemer, chair of America's Research Group, citing his recent surveys with consumers.
The University of Notre Dame Honors Our Patroness
On the Occasion of the 150th Anniversary
Of the Appearance of the Blessed Virgin
at Lourdes

THREE DAYS OF PRAYER
IN ANTICIPATION OF
THE FEAST DAY ON
FEBRUARY 11

BASILICA OF THE
SACRED HEART
6:15-6:45 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7 - WE PRAY FOR OUR SICK
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - WE HONOR THE PATRONESS OF NOTRE DAME
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - WE HONOR THE PATRONESS OF OUR COUNTRY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 5:15 PM

SPECIAL MASS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SESQUICENTENNIAL
OF THE APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY AT LOURDES

FATHER PETER D. ROCCA, C.S.C., PRESIDER
FATHER THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C., HOMILIST

“And our hearts forever, love thee Notre Dame”
Shuttle Atlantis leaps into orbit
Europe's gift to international space station flies despite fuel problems

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After two months of delay, shut­tle Atlantis blasted into orbit Thursday with Europe's gift to the international space station, a $2 billion science lab named Columbus that spent years waiting to set sail.

Atlantis and its seven-man crew safely soared away from their seaside launch pad at 2:40 p.m., overcoming fuel gauge problems that thwarted back­to-back launches earlier this month.

The same cold front that spawned killer tornadoes across the South earlier in the week stayed far enough away and, in the end, cut NASA a break. All week, bad weather had threatened to delay the flight, making liftoff all the sweeter for the shuttle team. The skies were sunny by launch time, but rain and thunderstorms remained off to the west.

"Three, two, one, zero, and liftoff!" said an emotional Alan "Spike" T. Thompson, Atlantis' commander. Thompson popped open bottles of juice and thunderstorm s remained a backdrop.

"It's not very European," he said, referring to Europe's gift to the international space station, "but I'm excited as heck." he said. Thompson and his crew were among four shuttle flights that have been delayed since May 2004 because of faulty fuel gauges in Atlantis' external fuel tank.

The Atlantis crew won't be the last to fly with Europe's gift to the international space station, Columbus. The crew plan on using Columbus to change the attitude of the international space station from "parked" to "orbiting" and testing Columbus working. Tani will become the first European to walk in space this year. The Columbus lab is expected to be ready to receive the first crew in 2007.

"Twenty-three years in the making, Columbus is the European Space Agency's primary contribution to the space station. The lab has endured space station redesigns and slowdowns, as well as a number of shuttle postponements and two shuttle accidents," said an emotional Alan Thompson, Europe's space station program manager. "I've lost about 500 grams (about 1 pound) so far, and that's just from being on the program." Columbus will join the U.S. lab, Destiny, which was launched aboard Atlantis exactly seven years ago. The much bigger Japanese Kibo lab, also hope for a January launch, will join Columbus and begin installing Columbus the very next day. Three space­walks are planned during the flight, scheduled to last 11 or more, like 12 days. "Certainly, no launch can be any more momentous than the launch of Columbus, which brings to the space station truly international capability and participation," said NASA Administrator Michael Griffin.

Besides Columbus, Atlantis will drop off a new space sta­tion resident, French Air Force Gen. Leopold Eychards, who will swap places with NASA astron­aut Daniel Tani and get Columbus working. Tani will return to Earth aboard the shuttle, ending a mission of nearly four months.

To NASA’s relief, all four fuel gauges in Atlantis’ external fuel tank worked properly during the final stage of the count­down. The gauges failed back in December because of a faulty connector, and NASA redesigned the part to fix the problem, which had been plaguing the shuttles for three years.

"Certainly, no launch can be any more momentous than the launch of Columbus, which brings to the space station truly international capability and participation." Michael Griffin

NASA administrator

ND theater buff dies at 96 at HCH

"Perhaps more than any other person, Father Arthur Harvey is considered the father of theater at Notre Dame," said Mark C. Pilkington, professor of film, television and theater. "Trained as an accountant but blessed with an abiding interest in the theater, Harvey worked diligently to achieve both artistic merit and academic integrity. He was a member of the theater department in his early years as Phil Donohue, Reg Rain and Jane Gorki, and supported by a faculty that included Fred Sybug, he displayed a remarkable period of serious and good theater at Notre Dame.

"During his tenure, Father Arthur Harvey was responsible for the finest production of "Death of a Salesman" in the entire midwest, and his efforts brought the New York stage to the Notre Dame campus. His many productions of "South Pacific," "The Crucible," and "The Crucible," and his work ethic that con­sistently produced work of high quality, to his loved theater more. All of us who worked with Father Art will be forever grateful." - Father Arthur S. Harvey

The Notre Dame Alumni Association honored Father Harvey in 2000 to be given annually to a gradu­ate for outstanding contribu­tions to the performing arts. The first recipient of the award was Harvey.

Mary at Lourdes
Mass to be held

Notre Dame Federal Credit Union

For a limited time, IRA stands for Increase Rate by Age. Stop in today, and receive a rate increase (based on your age) on IRA Certificates.

For instance, if you are 51 years old, we'll increase your APY by 0.51%.

Show us your age, and take advantage of this fantastic offer.

We promise we won't tell a soul how much of a rate increase you've received.

OFFER VALID ON IRA CERTIFICATES OF DAY, IRA CERTIFICATES ON IRAs with a minimum balance after tax, IRA CERTIFICATES OF ONLY $5,000. Minimum opening deposit/transfer amount allowed to earn the increased APY is $5,000. Offer ends April 1, 2008. Independently of the University.
Thinking about grad school?

One of the "Indicators of Excellence" on the Notre Dame website (which advertises its ranking as a top 25 school and a "New Ivy") is the fact that Notre Dame is "first among U.S. Catholic colleges and universities in the number of undergraduates who have gone on to earn a doctorate since 1920." In spite of its historical success, Notre Dame isn't producing future scholars at the same rate it once did. In September, Father Jenkins reported to the faculty that less than five percent of Notre Dame graduates have gone on to Ph.D. and other research-based doctoral programs between 1995 and 2004, the lowest rate among any of the top 25 schools. Statistically quibbling aside — the number excludes those who take time off before postgraduate study, but so do the figures for other schools — the point is that Notre Dame's graduates are less likely than those of our peer institutions to become the next generation of researchers, teachers, and intellectual leaders.

After Father Jenkins's speech, other administrators suggested that graduate students could become an "additional mentoring resource" for those students considering Ph.D. However, the graduate students do have regular contact with undergraduates, TAs, are not in the best position to be the kind of resource that the administration envisions. In the classroom, undergraduates are under the aegis of the academic authority of the TA, and because the relationship is by nature subordinate rather than supportive, few people are going to look to their TA for informal career advice.

Because TAs have to maintain a strictly professional relationship with their students, and because they have to be impartial judges of students' academic performance, students have a vastly different relationship with their TA than they would with, say, a guidance counselor or academic advisor. Not surprisingly, there is little informal interaction between TAs and their students.

For example, TAs get five free dining hall meals so that they can meet in a casual setting with their students, but very few students take advantage of this opportunity even if they know about it. It's the academic equivalent of having lunch with your boss; you probably aren't going to have a completely free conversation or exchange of ideas with the person who decides your final grades. The combination of authority and professional distance makes TAs poorly suited to give out career guidance.

And yet there are almost no other opportunities for graduate students and undergraduates to interact, except for the 54 assistant rectors in residence halls — many of whom come from the professional schools, which already attract plenty of undergraduates.

Basicly, grad students are a part of Notre Dame's classroom life exclusively, and otherwise invisible in its residential or social life (occasional appearances in the Observer notwithstanding). As a result, most undergrads probably think that grad students really are all the stereotypical hopelessly shut-ins who are incapable of talking about anything non-academic.

There are plenty of graduate students who would be happy to have the opportunity to simply talk to anyone thinking about pursuing graduate work, myself included. But if the University wishes graduate students to be this kind of "additional mentoring resource," it will need to set up a way for undergraduates and graduate students to have this kind of dialog to happen in a setting that isn't regimented and hierarchical, only in such an environment can the discussion honestly address the pros and cons of graduate school, and allow prospective graduate to make a sufficiently informed choice.

Until undergraduates can look to grad students not just as graders and discussion leaders, but as sources of advice, they will remain mentors in short, until grad students become a part of student life outside of just the classroom — they will never become the resource that the University wants. An 800-word column is barely enough space to outline the problem, but let me suggest some potential solutions anyway.

Getting more Ph.D.s to serve as TAs seems like an obvious solution, but one that might be constrained by lack of space or interest. What about having graduate students affiliated with each hall as a sort of non-resident advisor, with whom students could discuss their coursework, academic progress, skills related to their discipline, or even future plans for grad school, with someone from their department? Having grad students within each department could hold occasional "office hours" for the same sort of interaction?

There is, of course, no single reason why so few newly-minted graduates go on to graduate school, and likewise there is no guarantee that having this sort of advising, or any other scheme, will result in more undergraduates going on to graduate school. But at the very least, it will give people thinking about postgraduate study an additional resource for information and advice, and it will not just the classroom-they will never become the resource that the University wants. An 800-word column is barely enough space to outline the problem, but let me suggest some potential solutions anyway.

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Fear over climate change justified

In his letter entitled "Stop the Climate Change Propaganda," (Feb. 7) Matt Gore throws a bunch of stats and studies at us in an attempt to undermine the "fear mongering" techniques of a professor who was rightly spreading the word about the importance of environmental issues. Even if the statistics that Gore references are valid, he is failing to see the big picture.

Statistics and studies can be slanted to support any argument, but the fact that humans are putting an unnatural strain on the environment is undisputable. The level of foreign chemicals and man-made pollutants in the environment has been increasing at an alarming rate for quite some time now, obviously changing the dynamics of our environment. Animal and plant life, not to mention entire ecosystems, will not be able to adapt quickly enough to keep up with the current rate of environmental degradation.

Change is needed now, and maybe "fear mongering" is exactly what we need. The average person is surprisingly complacent and uncaring when it comes to the impact we are having on the future of our planet. If we continue along our current path, our actions will compromise not only the futures of a couple exotic species off in some forest somewhere, but the well-being of future generations and quite likely our current generation will also be at stake.

Look around you. The writing is on the wall. It is becoming pretty clear that the time for fear is now. In the end of Gore's letter, he claims to support conservation and the use of alternative energy sources based on potential short-term and long-term benefits. If that is so, then why did he even write his letter? The only part that anyone will read is the headline "Stop the climate change propaganda," which, on a base level, contradicts this point. It seems to me that his article was an unneeded attack against a sentiment of "fear" that is definitely warranted when it comes to the future of our planet. I know I'm scared, and maybe he should be too...

Daniel Collins
sophomore
Athens Hall
Feb. 7

Grass famine

The following letter was forwarded to us to forward to you -Ed. Board

Dear President Nixon,

For several years now I have been smoking grass (marijuana to you I suppose) with my happy collection of oft-stoned friends. We dutifully followed your warnings and fearfully resisted those evil characters who tried to push us down the long road towards dirty-tempered heroin death. Now, great father, what are we to do? Our grass has run out and there's a dark man with a black shirt and white tie sitting near me in the huddle. Oh well, no one cares for me.

Signed,
Phil Welchman


Submit a Letter to the Editor.

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 350 words in length and submitted by 3 p.m. to be considered for publication the next day.

www.ndsmcobserver.com
Sullivan relishes the ‘blonde role’

By TAE ANDREWS

Carolyn Sullivan seems to think blondes have more fun, even if she isn’t a natural one. To prepare for her twin roles as Lois/Bianca in "Kiss Me Kate," Sullivan watched what she calls "dumb blonde" roles—performances from actresses in other musicals, including Lorelei Lee in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" and the character Lilly from "Annie." During her time at Notre Dame, Sullivan has enjoyed an acting career that has seen her go from bit parts to starring roles. She performed in PEMCo’s production of "Ragtime" last fall as the Irish housemaid Bridget.

"I had a grand total of three lines," she recalls. Sullivan also had roles as a servant in last spring’s "La Locandiera," an Italian play, and as Denise Savage this past fall in "Savage in Limbo."

Since making the transition from smaller roles to the status of a leading lady, it would go beyond that blonde head of hers. Sullivan said she is trying to be a celebrity who has made her reluc- tant to divulge intimate details to the media, but she maintained that she has made good friends on the set.

"Being a big star and all, I don’t really like sharing my personal life with the general public," she said. "Let’s just say [co-star] Kelly [Acuna] and I have gotten particularly close over the past few months." Sullivan said she is quite fond of her. Sullivan, who also goes by the nickname "Sully," said her favorite number from the musical is "Tom, Dick, or Harry."

"Not only do I get to sing it," she said, "but it’s an up-tempo tune with a four part harmony and a swinging beat. I love "Kiss Me Kate" composer and song-writer Cole Porter knows what’s up."

After "Tom, Dick, or Harry," Sullivan said her second favorite song is "Too Darn Hot."

"It’s got great music," she said. "Our choreographers really nailed it, and I love watching the cast dance. They just have a blast with that number, and I think it’s a showstopper."

Upon being asked to describe "Kiss Me Kate" in three words or less, Sullivan replied, "Odd's bodkins."

Getting into character no problem for versatile Rice

By TAE ANDREWS

Kelly Rice doesn’t have a lot of difficulty getting into character. "I really just try to think about everything that is going on in Lilly’s [Kiss Me Kate] life at each moment during the show," she said. "She is very difficult to play because she is always very consistent, but I like being able to take a step back and see the big picture. I get to sit in the audience on opening night and watch my entire cast and crew work off a wonderful way. It’s a great feeling, knowing that I helped get them up on that stage giving great performances, and to me is actually more fulfilling than being in the show myself."

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrewl@nd.edu

Sullivan joined PEMCo her freshman year. "The company has become very dear to me," she said. Sullivan originally got her start in business as a performer. After performing since grade school, Sullivan joined PEMCo her freshman year as an actres. Ever since, "the company has become very dear to me," she said. Sullivan also said that she has found purpose in producing for the good of the company that has helped her grow. "I see producing as a way to really work for the best interest of the company, to be able to influence its path more. There was a time when I was a member," she said. "Musical theatre is definitely an adrenaline rush, and I love being in the shows, but I’ve found producing almost more fulfilling. PEMCo producers are often in the cast my - co-producer is this year. "It's really fun to be angry with the public, arranging ticket sales, determining the budget, making up programs and working with Student Activities. Despite her current involvement in the scenes department, Sullivan said that she has found purpose in producing for the good of the company that has helped her grow. "I see producing as a way to really work for the best interest of the company, to be able to influence its path more. There was a time when I was a member," she said. "Musical theatre is definitely an adrenaline rush, and I love being in the shows, but I’ve found producing almost more fulfilling. PEMCo producers are often in the cast my - co-producer is this year. "It's really fun to be angry with the audience on opening night and watch my entire cast and crew work off a wonderful way. It’s a great feeling, knowing that I helped get them up on that stage giving great performances, and to me is actually more fulfilling than being in the show myself."

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrewl@nd.edu
Connor Nowalk Makes Directorial Debut

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

A job description for the position of director of "Kiss Me Kate" might read something like this: Must have an eye for talent, flexible creativity and the vision to put it all together. As the man running the show behind the scenes, Connor Nowalk has all that and more.

"Casting is an interesting thing, because for any given role there are several people who could play it well," Nowalk said.

Given the sheer amount of talent on display during the auditions, he said that the casting process amounted to matching various talents to roles.

"Joe [Jurasko] excelled in all three areas of performance: singing, dancing and acting," he said. "We knew we wanted to utilize his talents, but we weren't quite sure how.

"Nowalk also found himself playing matchmaker in order to pair off actors to ensure that they had on-screen chemistry. Carolyn Sullivan's smooth jazz voice and commanding stage presence made her a perfect fit for the part of Lois.

"When we put the two of them together in a scene during callbacks, the chemistry was there, and we knew we had our pair," he said.

Nowalk also paired Kyle Carter and Kelly Rice as the characters Fred and Lilli.

"Kelly showed us power, control and sweetness in her voice, which works perfectly for the incredible vocal demands of the role," he said. "Kyle showed us the charisma and magnetism required of Fred, with the voice to match. As with those qualities weren't enough, the two looked great and acted well together."

For the uninhibited, "Kiss Me, Kate" features a play within a play, as the characters within the show put on a show of their own, a Broadway musical version of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

"A really interesting aspect of 'Kiss Me, Kate' is the way the two plays are intertwined," he said. "The characters' Costume is all very similar to the characters they portray in 'The Shrew.'"

Add to that a couple of mistaken identities, misunderstandings, and hurt feelings, and characters start jumping in and out of character, blurring the line between what is 'supposed to be happening' and what is just happening and encouraging the audience to get lost in the mayhem.

We made some decisions, both in terms of set and otherwise, to develop that ambiguity."

As such, the action moves around quite a bit. Keeping everything in perspective required some innovation and creativity from the crew.

"What is neat about the set for this show is that it all occurs in one building," Nowalk said. "During the scenes from 'The Taming of the Shrew,' the action takes place on the stage itself. All the other action occurs behind the scenes in the backstage corridor or dressing rooms. At least conceptually speaking, instead of moving the set, we wanted to 'move the audience.'"

To accomplish this, the production has a mobile set which takes the audience back and forth with the the rest of the characters within the show. As such, set pieces are "set" in name only — the production has a lot of moving parts to create the backstage corridors and dressing rooms of the old production of 'The Taming of the Shrew,'" Nowalk said.

"By taking the audience on this trip to see exactly where they are going, we hope that people will know exactly where they are in the production of 'The Taming of the Shrew.'"

After holding auditions in mid-October, Nowalk and co. got into the swing of things with rehearsals starting after Fall Break. Excluding breaks and finals, the production has had about 10 weeks of rehearsals.

In a production featuring so many parts, Nowalk said he hasn't further muddled things up by trying to put his own take on the material in the show.

"Kiss Me, Kate is not really the kind of show that lends itself to 'directorial interpretation,'" he said. "Sure, you can taste a little bit of 'Connor Nowalk in it, especially in the humor, but for the most part, I wanted to let the show speak for itself."

Nowalk, who did his first musical in fifth grade, has been unable to keep himself out of theater ever since.

"Singing was what got me interested in the first place, but the more shows I was in, the more I started to love all aspects of theater," he said.

Starting primarily as a performer, Nowalk made his directorial debut as a freshman at the Cleveland Institute of Music. After transferring here to Notre Dame, Nowalk knew that he wanted to direct a show here before graduating.

"I am glad that my first opportunity was with a group I love," he said. "Though I will never direct a PEMCo show again, I am sure that this will not be the last show I direct."

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

The cast of "Kiss Me, Kate" strike a group pose. The PEMCo production opens tonight at 7:30 in Washington Hall.

BY JESS SHAFFER
Scene Writer

Need to warm up from your February chill? Escape pre-Midterm stress? Low on cash? Once again Legs and Lull brings some much needed relief.

This time it's on Saturday, The Ben Lee duo takes the stage at 10 p.m. on campus at Legend's Nightclub. With melodic tunes and a relaxed vibe that will not dissapoint, this is a must see show. Lee promises to be another ND concert success.

Lee is best known for his single "Catch My Disease," which hit the airwaves in the spring and summer of 2007. You may know him from his contributions to soundtracks for "Grey's Anatomy" and "John Tucker Must Die."

But he is not a novice to the industry. The Australian's discography includes six albums, including the most recent release, "Prime." Lee was only in his teens, living in his hometown of Sydney, when he first signed with an independent label. Slowly garnering success internationally he now shares the limelight with John Alangu, with greats like Dave Matthews and John Mayer.

Ben Lee has been compared to Bob Dylan with his laid-back, honest nature and his ability to make a song that has something for everyone. But Lee is best known for his catchy love songs. Evading a cliche musical staple. Now in his late 20s, Lee maintains an age-appropriate perspective that appeals to fans, especially college audiences.

Using playful lyrics and quirkish musical instrument Lee's songs cover the full spectrum of love. From crush to lust to flirting to adoration, Lee explores the passions the heart. With refreshing honesty, his music taps into the reality of human affection with lightheartedness.

Ben Lee is all about having fun music that doesn't bog down his talent with fluff or fuss. He toured with other popular "Bens," including Ben Folds Five and Ben Kweller. "Prime" is testament to his experience in the industry.

Other artists are more than willing to contribute to his new work. Mandy Moore, with her newly revamped indie image, Benji Madden, from Good Charlotte, and members of Rooney all make appearances on the album. On Saturday, Notre Dame gets a first-hand glimpse as to why.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffer1@nd.edu
NHL

Canucks rally in close one over Thrashers

Ducks continue goal-scoring 'streak' against Rangers; Stars salvage late win on the road over wobbling Wild

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Atlanta's Eric Perrin delivered an unintentional assist on Alex Burrows' game-winning goal against the Thrashers Friday night as the Vancouver, and Thrashers goalie Kari Lehtonen was left with a painful mark on his chest as evidence.

Burrows' goal midway through the third period completed a rare three-period rally for Vancouver and the Canucks ended a frustrating four-game road trip by beating Atlanta 2-1 on Thursday night.

Burrows' goal 11:14 into the third period came after contact between teammate Ryan Kesler and Perrin in front of the net. Perrin's stick hit Lehtonen below his right collarbone, knocking the goalie off his feet. Lehtonen was sitting on his backside in front of the net and was unable to defend Burrows' shot.

After the game, Lehtonen showed a six-inch red streak on his upper chest.

"The Thrashers hit me right here," Lehtonen said, pointing to the mark. "That's why I went on the ice. I didn't get up to Thursday's visit to Madison Square Garden, but only had one win to show for it since the Ducks dropped a 1-0 shootout loss in St. Louis.

Seven goals in two games is a tall order for the team that came in averaging only 2.37 per night — second-lowest in the NHL.

"It's easier to win when you don't have a ton of goals," said Giguere. "It's never fun not to score. I'm sure the guys are having a lot more fun now."

Corey Perry and Chris Kunitz scored 1:27 apart to break the scoreless tie in the second period.

Matthieu Schneider staked the Ducks to a lead in the first before Ryan Callahan tied it for the Rangers, who dropped their second straight home game to teams from Southern California.

Los Angeles toppled New York 4-2 on Saturday, and the Rangers are wireless against the Western Conference this season.

"When they don't have the talent and they believe," said Hagman. "You get them, " Hagman said. "We need to get as many games in which we win.

"I was complaining a lot on the bench," said Luongo of Kovalchuk: "Our number one priority was to shut him down and try to get under his skin," Burrows said. "... I think just going at him is part of my game..

"said Luongo of Kovalchuk.

Hagman scored early in the third period, Mike Smith stopped 25 shots and the Dallas Stars beat the Minnesota Wild Thursday.

Dallas has won five straight and is 1-2-2 in its last five home games.

Hagman scored his second goal in three games when he took a pass in the left circle from Loui Eriksson, fought off a check from Martin Skoula, cut across the crease and put a backhand past Niklas Backstrom at 3:11 of the final period. It was his seventh game-winning goal, one after Alexander Ovechkin's league-leading eight.

"It seemed like a game where one goal was going to decide it," Dallas coach Dave Tippett said. "Both teams were playing hard and we were fortunate to get it."

Hagman's previous career best was 17 goals last season with the Stars.

"I've been able to play a little bit more offensively, and get the chance to play on the power play," Hagman said. "Of course, scoring 20 is nice. But the whole year overall I've been pretty happy with the way that things have gone, and the way the team is playing right now has helped a lot."

"I don't do the splits too often, but it was a moment that called for it," Smith said.

It was the second shutout of the year for Smith, who started all 41 games, did not accompany the team on the trip after injuring his neck where he collided with teammate Jeff Halpern in Tuesday's win over Vancouver.

The Observer scope classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 724 South Dennis Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without inquiring.
USA Today/ESPN Top 25
Men’s Basketball Poll

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NCAA Women's Basketball Big East Standings

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Rockets begin lobbying on the Hill

In Brief

Angry bar owner decided not to open fire at Super Bowl

PHOENIX — A would-be bar owner angry at being denied a liquor license threatened to shoot people at the Super Bowl and drove to within sight of the stadium with a rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition before changing his mind, federal authorities said.

Kurt William Havelock, who ultimately turned himself in, had vowed to "shred the blood of the innocent" in a manifesto mailed Sunday to media outlets, according to court documents. "No one destroys my dream," he wrote.

The documents say he was armed with an AR-15 assault-style rifle Sunday when he reached a parking lot near University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, where pre-game activities were happening.

"He waited about a minute and decided he couldn't do this," FBI agent Phillip Thorlin testified.

Bullet ripped through both of Taylor's legs, autopsy says

MIAMI — The bullet that killed Washington Redskins safety Sean Taylor ripped first through his right leg and then the left, and possibly came from a 9mm handgun, an autopsy released Thursday said.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press through a public records request filed after Taylor's Nov. 27 death, notes a bullet perforated the soft tissues and muscles of the right groin and the right femoral artery, a crucial pathway for blood.

The bullet tore through muscles of Taylor's upper right thigh, according to the report from the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner, then exited the leg and entered the athlete's left thigh.

A Miami-Dade police report to the medical examiner identified the weapon as a handgun, possibly a 9mm.

U.S. ready to defend its title in Davis Cup

VIENNA, Austria — Andy Roddick will face Jurgen Melzer on Friday in the opening match when the United States defends its Davis Cup title against Austria on indoor clay.

James Blake and Stefan Koubek will play in the second match of the best-of-five series. The pairings were announced Thursday.

"I don't see it as an advantage nor a disadvantage to start," said Roddick, who is 6-0 against Melzer and hasn't dropped a set against the Austrian.

Still, Melzer is glad to get out on the court first.

"I am pretty happy to be out there first as it gives me some more time to recover for the doubles on Saturday," said Melzer, who expects a loud home crowd of about 6,500 boisterous fans. "But the spectators alone won't win matches—we have to be at our best."
Willingham makes last stand at Washington

Former Notre Dame coach remains stoic despite pressure; encouraged by high-ranked recruiting class

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Tyrone Willingham has had better months.

The coach who has already been dumped abruptly by Notre Dame after just three years knows adversity. But even this has been unique.

"This year has had a lot of special hurdles to it," Willingham said with a wry smile while he made good on the promise for the Washington Huskies recently.

This lightning rod from South Bend, Ind., to Seattle was seated inside the University of Washington's Founder's Club, a corner-schoolhouse on the island, donors use for pregame hob­nobbing.

And all of them wanted him fired months ago.

"Now it'll kill you. It makes you stronger. And I think this has made our program stronger. And Washington, a Huskies program that currently has more negativity surrounding it than maybe any program in the country."

In an interview with The Associated Press, the stoic Willingham brushed off the tur­moil surrounding his floundering program; "I've been faced with controversy all my life, in a situation in which winning is more negativity surrounding the program; "I've been faced with controversy all my life, in a situation in which winning is everything," he said.

He quoted pioneering news­man David Brinkley. He referred to public duty with Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, the provost at Stanford when he was the coach there, and with President George W. Bush, when he headed Notre Dame.

Willingham, whose demeanor is as even as his 76-26-1 record in 11 seasons as a college coach, said he might have been an ele­mentary-school teacher instead, because those kids need male role models. He said he and his family love Seattle enough to make Washington the last stop on a recruiting trip that began as a walk-on athlete at Michigan State in the early 1970s.

He has graduated his players. Most have stayed out of trouble at UW. He just hasn't won enough games.

Wednesday brought rare vic­tories. 26 of them, recruits that included five of the consensus top seven prospects in Washington and some from Southern California. Many experts rank Washington's incoming class among the nation's top 25.

That's a measure of Willingham's resolve and ram­rodded persona. It also fuels his belief he will get Washington back to the perennial Rose Bowl days of Don James.

"I tell my football team — I use this quote from David Brinkley: 'A successful man is one who can lay a firm founda­tion with the bricks others have thrown at him.'" Willingham said.

"And that's what I want our young men to understand. The people who stop us from being successful, that will be our­selves. Not any outside forces."

These forces have been work­ing overtime recently.

In December, Willingham became the first Huskies coach to finish three consecutive losing seasons as UW went 4-9. Washington lost to Washington State for the third time in four years — the last time that had happened was 1982-85. It then blew a lead at undefeated Hawaii in the finale, missing a huge upset that would have pro­vided some positive momentum head­ing into the offseason.

Willingham is 11-15 at Washing­ton. He was 21-15 in the same span at Notre Dame, and the Irish fired him.

Many Huskies fans want the same for the hard-to-crack man they derisively call "Paint Dry Turner," instead.

"I'm expecting myself to step up and still produce a win­ning program," Willingham said with a wry smile.

"And I think it's impossible for a football coach to be at any place and the Irish fired him.

"Well, the truth of the matter is, I think I have a lot of top sup­porters, OK," Willingham said.

"And I think it's impossible for a football coach to be at any place and say, 'Our backs are against the wall.' That was also around the time the school proposed using $150 million in public money to renu­vate 88-year-old Husky Stadium. The plan is getting criticized and drawing little interest in a tight financial times. Willingham testified inside the state Capitol in Olympia, Wash., on Tuesday to try to jump-start interest.

Amid all this, he found time to celebrate his 54th birthday. He was also elected as the presi­dent of the American Football Coaches Association. The cruel joke among Seattle is that it's the only job Willingham will have beyond the coming season.

"We're in ourselves ... (that) we will have a great pro­gram, that we will win champi­onships," he said, his voice low and steady as always.

"Maybe at some point we col­lect all this information and gather it together and throw it on a table in front of the players and say, 'It's us against the world.'"

Willingham made last stand at Washington

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ND Women's Golf

Irish golfers tee off season in sunny Fla.

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

No. 20 Notre Dame looks to refocus as it kicks off the season this weekend at the annual Florida Fling Alumni Golf Tournament.

"The Irish enter the Fling after a three-month break during which Holt inked a solid recruiting class — recruits Katie Allare (Xavier Prep, Ariz.) and Becca Huffer (Littleton High School, Colo.). Huffer is ranked 17th nationally in the 2008 class, according to GolfWeek and was named the 2006 Colorado Player of the Year.

"Both (Allare and Huffer) are great players," Holt said. "They're both going to make an immediate impact and continue the trend we're on right now, which is good, we're getting better."

Neither the third-month break nor the miserable South Bend weather has slowed Notre Dame's recruiting efforts, Holt says. "We're still able to get solid practice schedule, and Holt looks optimistically at Notre Dame's spring season.

"We're able to work on our short game indoors at our practice facility and work on our driving outdoors," Holt said. "We're still able to get solid practice in spite of the weather. We're keeping focused on each tournament as it approaches. We're trying to get better every day. We were successful in the fall and we're trying to keep doing what we're doing."

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

NBA

Shaq aims to silence critics

O'Neal hopes to bring Phoenix first title in team's 40-year history

By FRAN CAYCE
Sports Writer

PHOENIX — Shaquille O'Neal flashed that wide smile, and took on the critics who say he's too old and too slow to fit in with the sleek, speedy Phoenix Suns.

"I look forward to making people eat their words," he said at a news conference Thursday. "I really do." Wearing a Suns' purple shirt and tie with his immaculate dark suit, O'Neal met the media for the first time since the stunning deal Wednesday that sent the 14-time All-Star from the Miami Heat to Phoenix in exchange for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

He charmed the jam-packed room at US Airways Center.

Someone asked if he knew he looked good in purple.

"I already know that," O'Neal said. "But thank you very much.

He acknowledged a new motivation after going from a team with the worst record in the NBA to one with the best record in the Western Conference. Widespread criticism of the deal has not gone unnoticed.

"I'm very upset," he said. "You just don't really want to get me upset. When I'm upset, I'm known to do certain things — like win championships. Phoenix is within a title in the team's 40-year history.

The Suns have had the most entertaining team in basketball since Steve Nash arrived three-plus seasons ago to orchestrate coach Mike D'Antoni's ultra-fast style. But they have never made it to the finals, and the trade confirmed the belief that this version of the Suns, despite its record, wasn't going to be able to do it, either.

"I think with the addition of me it gives the guys the extra motivation after going from a team with the worst record in the NBA to one with the best record in the Western Conference. Widespread criticism of the deal has not gone unnoticed.

"I'm very upset," he said. "You just don't really want to get me upset. When I'm upset, I'm known to do certain things — like win championships.

The presence of a 7-foot-1, 325-pound man in the middle should go a long way toward erasing Phoenix's image as a "soft" team. His four championship rings give him extra credibility, and his personality should, as he put it, "amp up" what has been a joyless Suns team this season.

He will energize the locker room, he said, "just by being me." O'Neal, out for two weeks with a hip injury, said his new teammate Grant Hill, who has a long history of injuries, told him how good the Suns' training staff is.

"I've given a full commitment to the medical staff that I will be there every day before and after practice, doing whatever it takes to keep me going for the next 10 years," he said. "And I look forward to my next $200 million contract."
Irish to run in Meyo event

Top freshman working hard to get back to full health for ND

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

It is not often that teams lean on freshman to make a major impact, but that is what the Irish track team is experiencing this season with freshman distance runner Marissa Treece. Treece will be in action today and Saturday at the Meyo Mile, and the Notre Dame community should be very proud of her.

Treece, a native of Angola, Indiana, was a late bloomer and a late decision to run track for the Fighting Irish. "She is healthy now and working hard to get back to full health," said coach Joe Plane. "It will be a big step up in competition, so our kids will really have to be confident and compete at their best if they expect to be competitive in such a strong field," Plane said.

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

MEN’S TRACK

Squad to pay tribute to Shay with race at meet

By PAT STYNES
Sports Writer

The annual Meyo Invitational will be more than just a track meet this year. The event will honor former Notre Dame standout Ryan Shay with the first Ryan Shay 3,000-meter run. Shay died on Nov. 3 during U.S. Olympic marathon trials in New York City's Central Park.

The Irish will host the 21st annual Meyo Invitational this weekend. The event will run over the course of two days, with the competition beginning at 5 tonight and the second half beginning Saturday morning at 9:30.

This event will be the toughest competition Notre Dame has seen yet, with teams such as Purdue, Iowa, Wisconsin and Alabama in the field. "It will be a big step up in competition, so our kids will really have to be confident and compete at their best if they expect to be competitive in such a strong field," Plane said.

Contact Pat Stynes at pstynes@nd.edu

GOLD GAME

Meyo Invitational Track and Field
Prelims: Fri Evening/Sat Morning
Meyo Mile: Sat @ 2:30PM, Finals to follow

This Week in IRISH SPORTS

# 8 Hockey vs. Ferris State
Friday @ 7:30pm Saturday @ 7:00pm

# 21 Men’s Basketball vs. Marquette
Sat, Feb. 9th @ 12PM

Write for Scene. E-mail Tae at tandrew1@nd.edu
Redskins continue search for coach

Giants 'D' coordinator to stay with New York

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the rising star from the Super Bowl out of the running, the Washington Redskins spent Thursday planning their next move.

Will their new coach be Jim Fassel? Ron Meeks? Steve Mariucci?

Or how about another mystery candidate? After all, owner Dan Snyder has kept the process well wrapped since Joe Gibbs resigned Jan. 8.

At least two contenders, Fassel and Pete Carroll, weren't known to be on Snyder's list until more than a week after their initial interviews.

And, of course, it was a mystery candidate who got the job four years ago, when Gibbs emerged out of nowhere after Snyder had higher-profile talks with other prospects.

One certainty is that the next Redskins coach will not be New York Giants defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo, who withdrew his name from consideration Thursday, citing his desire to remain with the Super Bowl champions.

"His heart is in New York City," Spagnuolo's agent, Bob LaMonte, told The Associated Press. "He loves the ownership. He loves the players. He feels he has to stay there." "

The Giants promptly rewarded Spagnuolo with a three-year, $6 million contract, making the defensive coordinator one of the highest-paid assistants in the league.

Meanwhile, Snyder spent the day conferring with advisers to consider his options following a month's worth of interviews, a person familiar with the selection process told AP. A decision could be imminent, or the owner might instead arrange follow-up interviews with one or more candidates, the person said. The owner has said he hopes to have a coach in place by the end of the week.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the club has preferred to keep details of its search private.

Spagnuolo became a hot coaching commodity during the Giants' championship run, culminating when his defense stifled the New England Patriots in a 17-14 victory in Sunday's Super Bowl. The 48-year-old coordinator left the Washington Redskins last week night after two days of interviews lasting some 16 hours at Snyder's house, then called Snyder on Thursday morning to withdraw.

"I was happy to have the opportunity to explore that situation," Spagnuolo said in a statement released by the Giants. "But I am equally happy to be staying in New York and look forward to continued success with the Giants." Spagnuolo has been a coordinator for only one season, and the Giants want to keep him.

Also, he wouldn't have had his choice of top assistants with the Redskins because the team already has assembled nearly an entire coaching staff. Fassel, a former Giants coach, and Meeks, the Indianapolis Colts defensive coordinator, voiced approval of Snyder's decision to hire Jim Zorn to run the offense and promote Greg Blache to take charge of the defense.

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SCMC BASKETBALL

Team narrowly falls to Alma

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s came close to pulling away with a win over Alma, but the Scots claimed some key final free throws to seal a 68-64 win. After falling behind 7-2 early, the Belles battled back to take the lead for 14 minutes in the first half. Despite the long stretch in front, they were unable to pull away as the Scots always seemed to make a shot when they needed one. Saint Mary’s never managed to jump ahead of the Scots by more than seven points. Late in the first half, Alma made a quick run to take a two-point lead with 1:35 left. But then, on a buzzer-beating 3-pointer by junior guard Katie Rashid (112 points, eight assists), the Belles headed into the locker room with a 31-30 lead. The second half, though, was a much different story. The Scots (8-10, 5-6 MIAA) went on a tear, jumping out to a quick five-point lead three minutes into the half. From there, they slowly but surely built up to an eleven-point lead with 11:53 left in the game. The Belles failed to catch Alma — the Scots led by 12 at one point after a triple by sophomore guard Lacey Best-Rowden. With 7:12 left in the game, Saint Mary’s was down 60-48 and in dire need of a run.

The Belles’ starting five tried to answer the call. After Best-Rowden’s triple, Saint Mary’s went on a 12-3 run over 4:31, culminating in a pair of free-throws by Rashid to make the score 65-63 with 2:41 left. A minute and a half later, Alma’s lead fell to one when Belles senior guard Allison Kessler scored two of her team-high 18 on free throws with 1:07 left. The Scots secured the 68-64 win with a few key free throws, dropping Saint Mary’s to a 5-7 record in the MIAA and 9-11 overall mark.

The Belles now look ahead to Saturday, when they will take on Kalamazoo at home.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

SCOTs hold off late rally, top Belles

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

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Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

FENCING

Notre Dame ready to host first home duals

Irish must compete without top epeists

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hosts the best of the Midwest this weekend — with an important pair of exceptions. Wayne State, Northwestern, Detroit Mercy and Cleveland State are among the competitors for the two-day Notre Dame Duals, but Penn State and rival Ohio State are taking the weekend off from action.

Notre Dame, ranked No. 1 on the women’s side and No. 3 among men’s teams, is coming off a strong performance at the Northwestern Duals last week. The Irish women went 11-0, while the men finished 8-2 at the event.

Though the Notre Dame women probably won’t compete against No. 6 Northwestern — they will only host if the event moves fast enough to get in an extra round of duals — things might be a little bit tougher on the Irish this week.

Top epeists Kelley Hurley and Ewa Nelip will be competing in Europe to gain qualifying points for the U.S. Olympic squad. “Others have to step in and show that without these two fencers, we still are strong,” Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. “And I believe that this will happen. ... I believe that they will have enough courage and enough skill.”

In fact, one of Bednarski’s biggest concerns is that the young team might be overconfident after its performance at Northwestern. He said he has been telling the fencers to stay focused all weekend, especially against teams they have not yet faced.

“We have a lot of freshmen, so they have to learn that the best idea to have ... is that it’s a big danger to be overconfident,” he said.

Bednarski considers the Notre Dame Duals the team’s last truly regular-season event. Fencers will compete individually next week at the Junior Olympics, and the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships from Feb. 23-24 determines qualifiers for the NCAA Midwest Regional competition.

Women will compete Saturday in the Joyce Center, and the men’s competition will be on Sunday.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call Chris at 631-4543.

THIS WEEK IN IRISH SPORTS

#12 Men’s Tennis

Sat, Feb. 9th vs. Wisconsin @ 2PM

Free Glasses to Early Arriving Fans! LEGENDS FOOD SAMPLING!
Defending champion Phil Mickelson was on the verge of shooting himself out of the tournament until a birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie burst helped him to recover with a 71. Greg Norman, playing on the PGA Tour for the first time in 18 months, was holding steady until a four-putt on the 13th hole for a double bogey. He finished with a 76. His former, tennis-obsessed Greg Ever, flew in from Florida and didn't make it out to the golf course until Norman was on the 16th. Evert has no plans to take up golf, saying it was too time-consuming with three boys — "It's like four boys with Greg," she said — and a tennis academy to run. "Tennis only takes one hour," she said, laughing. These rounds take close to six hours with two pros and two amateurs in every group, and it was a slow, steady grind. Norman struggled with that and the bumpy greens, but he had no complaints about how he hit the ball. "It's a long day of concentration, which I'm not used to," Norman said. "You get just four hours, you really have to stay locked in." Jones, a 41-year-old from New Mexico who has yet to finish in the top 100 on the money list, has been around long enough to realize that one round is too early to get excited, especially in a format that uses three courses, and in a tournament where the leaderboard doesn't begin to sort itself out until Sunday. "I think I just satisfied that I played well and putted well," Jones said. "When everyone is playing different golf courses, being in the lead isn't every important. But it's nice to be playing well, obviously." J.B. Holmes, coming off a play-off victory over Mickelson last week in Phoenix, is at 68-68. Royce Parbhu defeated Alex Skrypko in a tiebreaker 7-6 (7-1), 7-6 (7-5). Now senior Sheva Parbhu defeated Alex Skrypko in a tiebreaker 7-6 (7-1), 7-6 (7-5). Notre Dame's next opponent is close to a "lion" and compli- ments Montoya well on court. assistant coach Ryan Succari noted that Davis competes like a "lion" and compli- ments Montoya well on court. Winning the doubles point, and competing well will be key for the Irish in both matches this weekend. The first serve is set for noon Saturday against Wisconsin at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.
junior guard Shavonte Zellous.

The Panthers play a suffocating defense that clings the slot for the opposition, a system that Michigan State employs to a large amount of success.

"It's a matter of our patience and execution of getting through the neutral zone," Jackson said. "We have to show patience and be smart when we do get an opportunity in and around the net. Those are the things that we work on all the time."

Junior goalie Jordan Pearce will start in net for the Irish on Friday. Pearce didn't play last weekend as freshman Brad Phillips got the start and sophomore Tim O'Brien played for a period against the Under-18s.

**Spotlight on Hanson**

Hanson, the junior center from the Pittsburgh area with a propensity for shootouts, has become something of a media fixture his father sported in "Slap Shot." The younger Hanson wasn't able to take the picture while smashing Ogie Oglethorpe into the boards, however.

"Christian is starting to come into his own as a player, so it's good for him to get a bit more exposure," said Jackson, who also said he likes the bonus attention the program is getting through it.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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**Challenge**

continued from page 24

Freshman forward Chelsea Cole scored 17 points in the game and averages 4.8 points and 5.4 rebounds per game.

Walker also missed Pittsburgh's 64-60 loss to No. 4 Rutgers on Feb. 2, and it is unclear whether Walker will play Sunday. She averages a double-double, scoring 14.1 per game and grabbing 10.1 rebounds.

After losing to Penn State early in the season, Pittsburgh's only losses have come against No. 3 Maryland, No. 15 Duke and Rutgers. Before losing to the Scarlet Knights, the Panthers accumulated 11 straight wins.

In seven of those 11 victories, junior guard Shavonte Zellous led Pittsburgh in scoring. Zellous averages 20.1 points per game this season and shoots 45 percent from the field.

The Panthers offense thrives in conference play. In their nine games against Big East opponents, all five starters have averaged at least 10 points.

Sophomore guard Tania Simpson is the only true 3-point threat for the Panthers. Simpson has made 43.8 percent of her 3-point attempts.

In their last meeting, Pittsburgh beat Notre Dame 71-62 at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh on Jan. 31. 2007. Zellous scored 17 points, and Walker had 16.

The Panthers as a team shoot 45 percent from the field and average 75 points a game. They also average 43.4 rebounds per game, 9.1 more than their opponents.

After a great start to the season, the Irish have struggled lately, losing four of their last five games. Notre Dame won its last two games by large margins, 85-54 over Providence at home on Jan. 30, and 73-41 over Cincinnati on the road on Feb. 2. The Irish shot just 36 percent in the first half and went into the break tied at 26, but they hit all 17 free throw attempts in the second period en route to the win.

All four Irish losses in the last nine games, however, came against ranked opponents—which doesn't bode well against the ranked Panthers.

The Irish have three players who average over 10 points per game. Senior guard Charel Allen leads the team with 14.2 points per game, followed by sophomore guard Ashley Barlow, who scores 12.9 per game.

Freshman forward Devereaux Peters averages 8.9 points per game and, despite the fact that Notre Dame lost to Connecticut and DePaul, led the Irish in rebounding in both games. She averages 5.6 per game.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw's weekly Big East conference call with reporters was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts, and The Observer was unable to contact the coach.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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**Notre Dame Baseball**

2008 Opening Night Dinner

February 12th @ 7pm

Joyce Center Fieldhouse

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**Greg Lopez**

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Join us for a “Ballpark Style” dinner to welcome Bud Selig and Greg Lopez as they share their thoughts on baseball, Notre Dame, and the upcoming year!

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THE OBSERVER

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THE O R B ER

THE OBSERVER◆TODAY

Friday, February 8, 2008

HOROSCOPE

Fridays with Fran Tolon

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Scrapp and scrap hard. The weeds will be here soon.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Get your Jelly Belly at the Smelly dell.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Ask yourself this simple query: Why must everyone see my hams as well as those hams’ strings?

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Pooch and Boo are in a tight spot...Can Kang help them? Text your vote to (231) 838-6046. Your vote will be confidential.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Step up your mountain-climbing game. Then, when you’re finished, step up your sweater game.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) If you wish to find out the status of the White Ranger, call (773) 909-9349. But speak in code. Ask, “Where’s Tommy?”

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) If you can express your love of pineapple in 3 words or fewer, you damn sure love pineapple.

Aries (March 21-Apr. 19) If you want to sound more sophisticated when you’re making restaurant reservations for Valentine’s Day, just add the suffix -igan to your last name. For instance, if your name is Smith, make it Smithigan. If you’re a Johnson, be a Johnsonigan for the week.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20) Tom Brady’s goals for the week:

1) Recover from Super Bowl loss. 2) Recover from Gisele leaving him. 3) Recover from the pain he feels as he reads this horoscope.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Call Roll’s “Rolly’s.” Isn’t that better? Now it doesn’t sound like a dancer from ‘Happy Days’ or something?

Cancer (June 21-July 22) If you go to Notre Dame, tell a Saint Mary’s girl that yours are smarter than hers. Clarify that if you mean your school’s boys are smarter than the boys at her school.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Ask yourself if Leo’s horoscope made a lick of sense. If it did, then find yourself a Cancer and wife/husband it up.
Hockey

Notre Dame takes on Ferris State in late-season home series

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

College hockey doesn’t get better than this weekend. Too bad it’s happening over in Ohio.

While No. 1 Miami and No. 2 Michigan claw it out in the RedHawks’ gorgeous new rink in Oxford, Notre Dame and Ferris State will play a two-game set in the Joyce Center. The fact that the nation’s top two teams are meeting in a two-game series in February speaks to the power the CCHA has in college hockey this season. — and the difficult schedule the No. 8 Irish have had this season.

Ferris State, last year’s national champions, are also ranked sixth nationally.

The Irish (20-9-1, 13-6-1 CCHA) will face the Bulldogs (18-4, 8-1 Big East) will be two teams are meeting in a two-game series in February game set in the Joyce Center.

ND Women’s Tennis

Irish fall to Georgia in ITA Championship

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Imagine putting forth your best effort all season — and losing.

That’s how No. 19 Notre Dame felt after dropping its first-round match 4-2 to No. 6 Georgia at the ITA National Women’s Team Indoor Championship in Madison, Wis., Thursday night.

“That’s the best we’ve played as a team all season,” Irish coach Jay Louderback said. “We played hard with a lot of emotion. It was a really hard fought battle. We were right there the whole time with the sixth-ranked team in the nation.”

Notre Dame won the first game of the doubles portion as the national No. 3 duo, consisting of senior Brook Buck and junior Keely Tefft, took care of No. 36 Kelly Hyndman and Monika Damek 6-4, 6-3.

The Bulldogs fought back to win the doubles point, outlasting in identical 8-5 results the Irish doubles teams.

The doubles was very contested, and all of the unfinished matches ended in a tiebreaker. Bayliss said, “It was good that we won.”

Wisconsin is led by German sophomore Moritz Baumann. The Badgers strength rests in their experience, with three seniors and just two freshmen.

“Baumann is a lefty, and a great all court player,” Bayliss said. “They are more experienced than we are.”

The Irish and Southern meet again on Saturday with the winner receiving a chance to face the ITA National No. 2 and 3 teams.

ND Men’s Tennis

Young squad returns home

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

After taking down No. 15 Duke 4-3 on the road last Sunday, the No. 9 Irish return home to host No. 28 Wisconsin Southern Methodist this weekend.

“It is tremendously empowering to know you can beat a good team,” Irish coach Bobby Cramer said. “It’s early and we are young, hopefully later we can ease our dialogue with the Gerber Company.”

Last year the Irish beat the Badgers 4-0 in the Round of 32 of the 2007 NCAA Tournament held at Notre Dame.

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The Irish and Southern

ND Women’s Basketball

Panthers challenge winning streak

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

After the Irish knocked two straight change-ups out of the park, the Panthers will bring some chin music.

No. 16 Notre Dame will face No. 15 Pittsburgh Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Joyce Center, a tough game for the Irish after two easy wins. The Panthers (18-4, 5-1 Big East) will be Notre Dame’s biggest challenge since it lost to No. 1 Connecticut at home on Jan. 27.

In the Panthers’ most recent game, they defeated Seton Hall 64-44 at home. Senior center Kelsey Harris did not play because of a sprained ankle.

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The Irish and Southern
STAYING LUKE

On the court, LUKE HARANGODY is a rising star. Off the court, he hasn't changed a bit.
Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney sets up to play defense in Notre Dame’s 81-74 win over Providence Jan. 31. You get the idea. The Irish can beat top-flight teams but only if their starting shooting guard brings his A-game. The flow of Notre Dame’s win over Providence last Thursday illustrates the team’s need for production from the New York native. McAlarney nailed two 3-pointers in the first six minutes of play as the Irish jumped out to a 21-9 lead. But he barely touched the ball for the remainder of the first half, and the Friars took the lead for much of the period.

It wasn’t until the Irish scored baskets on their final two possessions of the half that they regained the lead. Harangody drilled a jumper and Tory Jackson made a layup as the Irish took a 32-31 margin into the locker room. Guess who had his first two assists of the game on that pair of buckets? That’s right: McAlarney.

And while the Irish went on to beat Providence in overtime with a limited contribution from McAlarney, Providence is not Marquette or Georgetown. In order for Notre Dame to beat the best teams in the Big East, the junior needs to step up and play at his top, elite level.

Call it the Allen Iverson Corollary. Carmelo Anthony will give the Denver Nuggets 20 points almost every game. But if Iverson shoots 6-of-22 from the field, the Nuggets are hard-pressed to beat any of the best squads in the NBA. The same is true of Notre Dame, they need both Harangody and McAlarney to shine. Harangody is likely to come up big much more often than not. But the real question for the Irish is whether McAlarney can consistently outplay top defenders. His next test will arrive Saturday when McNeal and his teammates come to town.

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

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu.
Irish forward Luke Harangody's sensational season has garnered national acclaim

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Every week, Notre Dame comes together to study film — and to laugh at the antics of Luke Harangody.

In between critiques of their play and studying the patterns of their opponents, the Irish can't help but crack up at Harangody, who always manages to get the room laughing.

"One time, he was just running and it looked like someone yanked the carpet out from under him and he hit the deck," junior forward Zach Hilleslend said. "We usually have one or two plays every week that we just die laughing about."

But the laughs don't end there.

"He tried to dramatically draw a foul and threw his hands up," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "[He did] the 'Look ref I fouled me!' and threw his hands up in the air, and our guys were like, 'Get out of here, come on, the guy was like 170-pounds that hit you.'

Harangody's teammates may be laughing at him, but the rest of the Big East certainly isn't.

Harangody averaged 11.2 points and 6.2 rebounds per game in his freshman campaign. This season, the sophomore trimmed down and overcame a torn ligament in his right thumb in October to lead the Big East in scoring with 20.4 points per game. He is second in rebounding in the Big East with 10.4 per game. His play this season earned him a spot in the top-30 for both the Naismith and Bob Cousy awards, two honors given to the best player of the year nationally.

"I'm really grateful to the coaches, like Providence's Tim Welsh, saying he's the Big East player of the year," Harangody said.

How did Harangody elevate his play? By playing with high intensity (Harangody can be seen yelling and seeking out the paint every time he has the potential for a foul), and by playing a little "crazy."

"When I step on the court, it's a different feeling," Harangody said. "I feel like you have to be a little off to play in this league. You have to lose it out there."

With the added attention comes extra ribbing from his teammates, who said they love to poke fun at the "sensitive" Harangody.

"The guys on the team keep me focused," Harangody said. "They joke around with me. Zach, Ryan [Ayers], and Kyle [McAlarney] make fun of it all. So that just keeps me grounded and I try to stay humble. I have really good guys around me."

But for all the fun they have at Harangody's expense, the Irish certainly don't take for granted how Harangody has helped them to a 7-2 record in the Big East this season.

"He's never too cocky. The thing with him is, he's always about the team," Hilleslend said. "He puts up big numbers, but it's in the context and the framework of what we want to do. We want to go down and help him because it helps everybody else for us offensively. He's never too cocky, but we do a good job of bringing him down to earth even if he doesn't need the reality check. We need him to perform like that because he's having a great year and if he keeps it up we have great things ahead of us."

Last season, Harangody made an impact immediately, something he didn't expect to happen.

"When I got here as a freshman, I didn't see myself playing any minutes at all," Harangody said. "I didn't even know if I could play in this league so to do that was the hardest hump to get over confidence wise. I think right when we started practice, I started off with a couple of good practices and that gave me a lot of confidence and let me know I could play."

With his role increased and teammates, specifically senior forward Rob Kurz and former guard Colin Falls, Harangody learned to cope with the difficulty of the college game and developed into a consistent threat in the paint.

"I don't think a lot of people understand how much you learn, how much you play, you get as you play more and more," Harangody said. "And it's the same thing this season.

It was an easy transition because I learned how to do the little things.

After entering Notre Dame a year and a half ago, not knowing when or how much he would play, Harangody and his coach are now talking about ways to improve his game so he can play in the NBA.

"I think he's going to be a prospect one day," Brey said. "He's really crazy that I talk about him. But the realty of the business we're in and there's no question he has a very bright future after college. But he's the first one to raise his hand and say, 'There's a lot of things I need to learn and do better.'"

"We just need to limit his distractions, because it's happening fast for him," Brey said. "He's really level-headed and I have full confidence he can handle it, but I just want to make sure we're not overwhelming him and distracting him because we need him focused down the stretch."

Harangody is not your typical college basketball star. He's not one of the one-and-done freshmen who blanket ESPN, and he certainly isn't going for style points in and night out. But he's a consistent, hustling, and dominating presence in the paint.

"He's so focused and every objective, mission or goal assignment, he meets with what you see," Brey said.

"And if the success over goes to his head, he has his teammates, like Hilleslend, to keep him grounded."

"He's just a big bear. He's a big bear of a man on the court and he's a sensitive bear off the court. He even has bear hair," Hilleslend said. "He's just a really good kid and we're happy for all the success he's having."

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Bad blood runs deep between Irish and Eagles

Rivalry between Phelps, McGuire set stage for modern series

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

Last-second shots. Technical fouls. Crazy coaches. Packets of mustard. Notre Dame and Marquette have played 109 times, but they share 1,000 games worth of history.

The Irish have played the Golden Eagles more than any other opponent. The series between the two teams used to be an annual affair—often with an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament on the line for the two independents.

But since 1995, when Notre Dame joined the Big East and Marquette joined Conference USA, the teams have met on eight times. Reunited in the Big East, the Irish and Golden Eagles are back at each other’s throats. During Marquette’s 92-66 win at the Bradley Center on Jan. 12, Notre Dame sophomore forward Luke Harangody could feel the emotion emanating from the crowd.

“It’s definitely different,” he said. “We’re both Catholic schools, but we could definitely feel the rivalry.”

Mike Coffey
author
“Echoes on the Hardwood”

“Marquette was a more residential campus. It was a little more similar to Notre Dame.”

“The com­petition between Irish coach Digger Phelps, above, and Golden Eagle coach Mike Coffey, author of the book ‘Echoes on the Hardwood’ and above, has been fierce for years. The rivalry is back in the nation­al spotlight.


In 1995, the Irish and the newly-christened Golden Eagles joined separate conferences. Between that year and 2006, when Marquette joined the Big East, the teams played only four times. “They fell off the schedule entirely for a good part of the 90s,” Coffey said.

Back together Since joining the Big East, Marquette is 3-1 against Notre Dame. On Jan. 20, 2006, the first meeting of the two teams as conference members, Notre Dame ended Marquette’s 81-game home-court winning streak on a buzzer beater by guard Steve Novak.

Later that year, Marquette won again, this time by eight at the Joyce Center. Last season, Notre Dame got its revenge with an 82-73 win in the only meeting. Marquette’s win earlier this season was the widest margin of victory in series history, at 26 points. Saturday, with both teams ranked and the 33-game Irish home winning streak on the line, the stakes are back to the 1970s. What’s more, the game is being played during ESPN’s “Rivalry Week.”

Marquette and Notre Dame are back together again, and the forgotten rivalry is back in the nation­al spotlight.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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ELECTION 2008
Maris Braun    president    vice president George Chamberlain

Who They Are
Braun, student body vice president, is a junior in Breen-Phillips Hall majoring in finance and history. Chamberlain, Sorin senior, is a junior majoring in political science and psychology.

In Their Words
◆ Top Priority: Student-life issues. “The biggest things are those that affect students every day.”
◆ First Priority: Implementing book delivery from the bookstore to dorms.

In Our Words
◆ Best Idea: Easier access to caffeine in the library.
◆ Most Feasible Idea: Sustainability issues: reusable bags at Grab-n-Go and more game day recycling.
◆ Least Feasible Idea: Student-initiated clubs.
◆ Fun Fact: Braun is a “diehard” Bengals fan.

Experience taught me that it should seriously be addressed. Except that, maybe, excessive confidence.

Bottom Line
Veterans of the system, they throw around the student government catchphrases — pursuing the presidency as “a way to give back” and vowing “to make a tangible difference” — better than anyone. They know what goals are practical and what students resist to most strongly. But for Braun to claim “nothing about this is about resumes” only sounds hollow. The pair does have extensive experience, and it shows, when asked about a shuttle bus, Braun quickly recognized the University’s hesitation and suggested a bus that just covered the bars, implying that students using the shuttle would be of age. And the relationship Braun established this year with members of the South Bend Common Council would likely be valuable next fall, when the issue of student partying could once again rankle the sensibilities of neighborhood residents. But it’s unclear what they bring that Reich and Schmidt don’t — except, maybe, excessive confidence.

Bill Ehrlich    president    vice president Mike Roscitt

Who They Are
Ehrlich is an off-campus junior majoring in finance. Roscitt is a junior in Stanford Hall majoring in finance and economics.

In Their Words
◆ Top Priority: Making student government more laid back. “If it’s silly, I’m not going to do it.”
◆ First Priority: Erect tetherball poles on the quad.

In Our Words
◆ Best Idea: Convince the University to recognize a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning student club.
◆ Worst Idea: Turn the reflecting pool in front of the library into an ice skating rink.
◆ Fun Fact: Ehrlich had never fenced before when he walked onto the varsity fencing team.

◆ Notable Quote: “Rules are for people who don’t hold themselves to a higher standard.”

“Experience taught me that it should seriously be addressed. Except that it is, year after year, and the University continues to stonewall. It’s unclear what they would do to make it work.”

Roscitt was unable to meet with The Observer.

Cooper Howes    president    vice president Daniel Rimkus

Who They Are
Howes is a Zahm freshman. As is Rimkus.

Their Platform
◆ Installing the Temple Guards from the Nickelodeon show “Legends of the Hidden Temple.” Offenders maycling the Guards with a pendant of life, which they can acquire through a feat of strength performed in front of a head of ResLife — Omere the same beast.
◆ Constructing a nuclear power plant.
◆ Buy Club 23 with $700,000 worth of points.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS
Primary Election: Monday, February 11
Run-off Election: Thursday, February 28

NOTRE DAME’S President and Vice Friday, February 8, 2008

Rick Hollowood    president

Who They Are
Hollowood is a sophomore accounting major in Knott Hall. Tomala is a sophomore computer engineering major in Knott Hall.

In Their Words
◆ Top Priority: Improve the quality of toilet paper supplied on campus.
◆ First Priority: Improve the quality of toilet paper supplied on campus.

In Our Words
◆ Best Idea: Add The Wall Street Journal to the College Readership Program in place of USA Today.
◆ Worst Idea: Use student government funds to purchase toilet paper and muffins.

◆ Most Feasible Idea: Convincing Food Services to serve a greater number of muffins in the dining halls.
◆ Least Feasible Idea: Renovating the Rock.

◆ Fun Fact: In high school, Rick sold T-shirts with his name on it to almost everyone in his small, rural high school.

◆ Notable Quote: “We want students to decide whether they want double ply or triple ply.”

Bottom Line
If you’re going to be a joke ticket, at least be funny. The Brauns and Howes of the student government world display a polish and confidence that they are simply not ready to bring to the presidency.

Bottom Line
If you’re going to be a joke ticket, at least be funny. The Brauns and Howes of the student government world display a polish and
Peter Kelly  president
vice president Jon Poelhuis

Who They Are
Kelly is a junior living in St. Edward's Hall majoring in economics and mathematics.
Poelhuis is a junior living in St. Edward's Hall majoring in mathematics and Arabic.

In Their Words
- Top Priority: Instituting a free shuttle bus to take students from off campus locations to campus on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.
- First Priority: Pass a Senate resolution allowing them to work with the administration to bring the shuttle bus to campus.

In Our Words
- Best Idea: Pass a Senate resolution allowing them to work with the administration to bring the shuttle bus to campus.
- Worst Idea: Change Freshman Orientation to focus on events bringing just a few freshmen together. Sure, large group events can be awkward, but orientation is unavoidable so. Let the freshmen mix.
- Most Feasible Idea: Weekday SUB films would require little extra expenditure, and students would likely attend cheap flicks rather than study all night.
- Least Feasible Idea: The shuttle bus. It would be great, but the Board of Trustees is unlikely to change its veto from the last time student government tried this.
- Fun Facts: Ask Kelly to sing Mary Gray's "I Try." Just do it.
- Notable Quote: "There's no monopoly on good ideas."
   "We think safety's paramount to everything else."

Bottom Line
The pair calls its idea to institute a shuttle bus for students heading back to campus on late weekend nights "ambitious, but doable." If only. While Kelly and Poelhuis are perfectly sincere when they say they'd do it, they may be unaware of just how quickly a similar idea tanked in 2004. Kelly and Poelhuis' plan is even broader than the 2004 "SafeBus" proposal, which did not include the Thursday night service. Kelly and Poelhuis propose. Still, the Board of Trustees didn't go for the "drunk bus" then, and it's doubtful any of those liability issues have disappeared. That doesn't mean it's not a worthy idea, however, just not enough to base a platform on. Their lack of experience at the campus wide level of student government could also stand in their way, despite their emphasis on their strong communications skills.

Bob Reish  president
vice president Grant Schmidt

Who They Are
Reish, junior class president, is a finance major living in Sorin Hall. Schmidt, sophomore class president, is a psychology major living in Knott Hall.

In Their Words
- Top Priority: Organize a Midwest Intercollegiate Council of student government leaders from universities throughout the region.
- First Priority: Enact free DVD rentals through student government. And conduct in-depth surveys of student bodies to find out what students want.

In Our Words
- Best Idea: Off-campus discounts — low prices and prompting students to get off campus is a winning combination. Also, the Last Lecture series would allow students to get to know the great professors they can't have in class.
- Worst Idea: The senate student outreach committee is well-intentioned but unnecessary. Deepening the bureaucracy of student government is not the way of the future.
- Most Feasible Idea: Free DVD rentals. The DVDs are sitting unwatched in the student government offices.
- Fun Fact: Reish ate sticks of butter as a child.
- Notable Quote: "If we accomplish only two of these platform ideas, but students feel their voice was heard ... I think that's so much more successful."

Bottom Line
These guys take student government seriously — too seriously, some might argue. (Reish has been involved ever since he was student body president in high school, and Schmidt looked at student government opportunities on different campuses before choosing Notre Dame.) But that means they're taking this campaign seriously. The amount of research they've conducted is impressive, and they've already begun forming the administrative and intercollegiate contacts they'll need to get their often-ambitious ideas off the ground. Reish and Schmidt would bring perhaps the most comprehensive plan to office, complete with ideas for improving academic, athletic, community relations, social, student government and other areas of student life. They plan to conduct a survey to choose which initiatives to focus on. Look out for the Midwest Intercollegiate Council to boost Notre Dame's reputation.

Student Body president Candidates

In Their Words
- Top Power: "The administration will cave to our will."
- Most Passionate about things: "Only the strong break parietals."
- Top Priority: Enact free DVD rentals through student government.
- Notable Quote: "There's no monopoly on good ideas."
   "We think safety's paramount to everything else."

Bottom Line
These guys take student government seriously — too
The Observer endorses Ehrlich-Roscitt ticket

Student government can catch a lot of flack. When you take the most polished and ambitious of a fairly polished and ambitious stu- dent body and give them a limit- ed arena in which to apply their talents, the result can seem a bit fore- boding.

Bill Ehrlich would indeed bring a breath of fresh air to the stuffy, conventional nature of student government. His goal of pressuring the University to enact the negative impact student government has lightened a cam- paign against contestants who carry no force and impact noth- ing. Student government is not about improving life at Notre Dame, whether that be through trolleyball poles or recognition of a long-marginalized group.

We, the majority of The Observer Editorial Board, endorse Bill Ehrlich and Mike Roscitt for Notre Dame’s 2008 student body president and vice president.