Memorial held for Aher, McGrath
University community fills Basilica to remember students; Jenkins presides over Mass

By CHRIS HINE
News Writer

University President Father John Jenkins called Sunday, the day he learned Timothy Aher and Connor McGrath died, his "worst day as president of Notre Dame." Jenkins presided over a Mass Tuesday at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart held in memorial of Aher, a 25-year-old Law School student, and McGrath, a 20-year-old sophomore who died in unrelated incidents over the weekend.

Students and faculty nearly filled the Basilica and shared laughter and tears listening to stories of Aher and McGrath delivered by law professor Father John Coughlin and law School rector Father Peter Cormack.

Aher, who was from Brookfield, Conn., and received a Bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Chicago, died Sunday in the town of Ilford, a suburb of London. He was studying in the Law School's London Program.

McGrath, from Oklahoma City, died Sunday in Dillon, McGaughy a resident of Singfried Hall this semester but lived in Dillon his freshman year and had passed in an unrelated incident.

People gather in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart before a memorial service began for Connor McGrath and Timothy Aher Tuesday.

JESS LEE/The Observer

Hollywood writer discusses strikes
Stepakoff, who worked on 'Wonder Years,' 'Dawson's Creek,' shares opinions on industry

By KARA COYLE
News Writer

Jeffrey Stepakoff spoke about the rise, fall and rebirth of scripted entertainment in a speech in Browning Cinema Tuesday:

Stepakoff, who for 18 years wrote for television programs including "The Wonder Years" and "Dawson's Creek," as well as developed two animated films for Disney, said his career did not begin with success.

When he moved to Los Angeles in the late 1980s, Stepakoff's debut as a Hollywood writer coincided with the 1988 Writer's Guild strike.

This strike, Stepakoff said, resulted in $500 million worth of damage to the Los Angeles economy and a nine percent decrease in viewers.

"The strike was the beginning of audience erosion," he said.

Despite the efforts of the strikers, Stepakoff said people thought the strike itself was unsuccessful.

"The gains that were made for the writers were not really that far from what was on the table before the strike," he said.

Stepakoff took a different stance on the success of the most recent writer's strike, which lasted several months and ended last week.

"I propose that this event was different not just because of the financial gains but because the writers stuck together," said Stepakoff, contrasting it to the 1988 strike that ended due to internal struggles.

Stepakoff said he isn't sure whether the most recent strike was worth the loss of revenue for Hollywood.

"Think we could not have gotten the renewed strength without hav-

see HOLLYWOOD/page 4

Professors weigh Democrats' obstacles to winning

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

AT&T's two new cell antennas atop the Morris Inn have reduced the number of complaints from students on South Quad about dropped calls, Chief Technology Officer Dewitt Latimer said.

The antennas, Latimer said, have been operational since the middle of January and have improved service.

"We have noticed a lack of complaints with AT&T customers," Latimer said.

The towers, Latimer said, were specifically directed at South Quad residents.

"AT&T just bought their 17th antenna on campus particularly to address some coverage concerns over at the Alumni and Dillon area," Latimer said. "The customers in that area were complaining about dropped calls. Students in the area of Alumni and Dillon Hills who use AT&T should notice a significant improvement in signal reach and strength."

The initiative to improve cell phone coverage on campus began two years ago with the removal of landlines from the dorm rooms, Latimer said. The movement from landlines to cell phones, he said, presented a problem for the University.

"We know how much stu-
dents rely on cell phones," Latimer said. "We also know that over the years there has

see CELL/page 4

Cell towers increase reception

OIT receives fewer AT&T complaints

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

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see CELL/page 4

Professors weigh Democrats' obstacles to winning

By LINDSAY SENA
News Writer

In a Democratic presidential race that will most likely produce either a black or a woman nominee, Notre Dame political science professors are debating which is more electable.

Professor Darren Davis said while America is not completely ready for either, conditions in the country make it possible.

"America is not ready for just any woman or any black person," said Davis, who specializes in public opinion and political psychology. "You can't run just any woman and think they would do as well as (Hillary) Clinton."

"There are unique features about Clinton and (Barack) Obama that make both of them extremely appealing, but I think it would be a mistake to think that just because they're both doing well in the primaries that America is ready for a black president."

Still, the current political climate gives the two candidates a chance, Davis said.

"We're at war, the economy and the particular features of Clinton and Obama makes it right," he said.

Despite the factors working in Clinton and Obama's favor, Christina Wolbrecht, who specializes in American politics and political parties, said she thinks the two candidates need to pay attention to how they market themselves to the public.

"I think both candidates are walking a fine line where you want to appeal to people of all races or genders," Wolbrecht said. "You need to be a president who is going to represent and serve the entire population."

Dianne Pinderhughes, whose teaching focuses on racial and ethnic politics in the U.S., as well as voting rights policy and American urban politics, said that may be the case, but the candidates

see DEMOCRATS/page 6
INSIDE COLUMN

Who we fight for

Every weekday afternoon since the second day back at Notre Dame from fall break, I have made the long trek from Sunset Boulevard to the JACC for Bengal Bouts practice. Going into training for the Bouts, I had absolutely no boxing experience. Currently, just days before I fight in the preliminary round next Monday night, I’ve been in the ring six times. Needless to say, I’m not Muhammad Ali. However, I will say that Bengal Bouts has been one of the best experiences in my two years at Notre Dame. It’s taught me a lot about myself and it’s given me a really good way to let loose some aggression.

It’s also gotten me in pretty good shape, especially compared to last winter’s lazy plan to stay in shape by going to the Rock. Ever since the first practices, the Bengal Bouts captains have insisted that the Bouts are about more than getting in shape. Instead, we fight for something bigger than ourselves, something bigger than any of the approximately 230 individuals put together, and even bigger than Notre Dame.

Bengal Bouts are about raising money and awareness for the Holy Cross Mission in Bangladesh. The Holy Cross missionaries work with the poorest of the poor in a country in which 45 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, according to the CIA World Factbook.

The missionaries have established medical and educational resources for the people of Bangladesh over the years, with substantial help from the Bengal Bouts program. The Bouts are the largest single supporter of the missions on a yearly basis.

Every year is a rough one for Bangladesh, but 2007 was rough even by Bangladesh standards. Cyclone Sidr made landfall in Bangladesh on Nov. 15, 2007 as a category 4 storm, stronger than Hurricane Katrina when it devastated New Orleans. The cyclone was responsible for the deaths of at least 3,113 people. According to UNICEF, 3.2 million people were affected by Sidr, which also destroyed approximately 750,000 homes in Bangladesh. More than ever, the people of Bangladesh need the support of the Notre Dame family. In Bangladesh, the money of supporters from Notre Dame can go a long way. $40 can pay one month’s salary for a teacher. $200 is enough money to build a school for that teacher.

This year, and throughout your time at Notre Dame, make sure to support the Bengal Bouts. Just as importantly, make a donation, even small ones of a couple of dollars. Those small donations add up.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT’S THE BEST EXCUSE YOU’VE USED WHEN YOU’VE FORGOTTEN YOUR HOMEWORK?

Trey Mohr - junior Alumni
Carlos Padilla - senior off campus
Ashley Cunningham - senior off campus
Michael Bruns - freshman Stanford
Stacey Gill - sophomore Farley

"Reckers food gave me food poisoning." 
"I couldn’t find it in the Charlie Pad."
"It froze and shattered on the ground."
"I spilled chemical acid on it, but had no base to neutralize it."
"I was too busy saving the world."

In Brief

As part of the fireside chat series, "Telling HERstory," theologian and professor Catherine Hilker will speak today at noon in the Coleman-Morse Center lounge.

Eucharistic Exposition will take place tonight at 9:30 in Holy Spirit Chapel at LeMans Hall at Saint Mary’s. Exposition takes place every Wednesday night and Friday at 12:30 p.m. in Regina Chapel.

"The Call of the Entrepreneur" will be shown on Thursday at 7:45 in the Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business.

The men’s basketball team will play against No. 22 Pittsburgh Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

As part of the Ten Years lecture series, professor Karen Hunt Ahmed from the department of Business at DePaul University will speak at 10:40 a.m. Friday in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

There will be Stations of the Cross Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The 50th Annual Collegiate Jazz Festival will begin Friday at 7 p.m. with a concert featuring at least four different bands. The festival will conclude Saturday with an afternoon concert at 1 p.m. and an evening concert at 7 p.m. All events will be in Washington Hall.

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

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY CUTS NU IN ICE COLD

Notre Dame freshman Justin Schneider is featured in this ad from popular clothing store Abercrombie & Fitch. His ads will be seen around the nation and online throughout the spring season.

OFFBEAT

DVD in firefighter's coat blocks bullet

WALTERBORO, S.C. — A South Carolina man is thankful for a DVD that ended up taking a bullet for him. Colleton County Fire and Rescue Director Barry McRoy says he was leaving a Waffle House restaurant in Walterboro on Saturday morning when two men ran in fighting over a gun. Police say a bullet hit one of the struggling men, shattered a window and then hit McRoy. The bullet hit a DVD McRoy was carrying in his pocket. He suffered a bruise but didn’t realize he had been shot. As he told a police officer what happened he noticed a bullet hole in his jacket, the shattered DVD case and a piece of the bullet.

"I was saved by a DVD," McRoy says. "How lucky can you get?"

The DVD was nicked. It was a gift from an employee who had recorded a TV show about fire extinguishers.

Church urges hungky pankey among members

YBOR CITY, Fla. — A southwest Florida church issued a challenge for its unmarried members: Hangy pankey every day. Relevant Church head pastor Paul Wirth issued the 30-day sex challenge to take on high divorce rates. "And that’s no different for people who attend church," Wirth said Sunday. "Sometimes life gets in the way. Our jobs get in the way.

The challenge doesn’t extend to saved congregants, however.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.
BOG

Group targets body image

Representatives schedule forum, hope to unite residence halls

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Student body president Kim Hodges speaks during the Board of Governance Meeting Tuesday.

Body image — and two forums on the subject — was the main focus of Tuesday's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting. Residence Hall Association (RHA) president Cassie Quaglia said. "One of the goals of Tuesday's Board of Government (BOG) meeting at 7 p.m. in Holy Cross Parlor. Professor Terri Russ will be holding a body image forum, "Get it Girl," sponsored by the RHA today at 7 p.m. in Holy Cross Parker.

"Body image at an all-women's college is definitely a big issue," Quaglia said. "One of the goals of RHA is uniting the residence halls, and this will help do that."

The forum will have door prizes and food will be provided.

Two representatives from Notre Dame's Health and Body Image Conference, Brenna Doyle and Patrick Tighe, came to present the program. "Live as You Are," will be held on campus beginning Thursday evening at the Belles' home basketball game, student body president Kim Hodges said. The game is in Angela Athletic Facility at 7:30 p.m.

Hodges also announced that the new director for the Center for Robinson Enterprises, the entrepreneurship and business promotion initiative, "In funding this innovative venture," said Jay Caponigro, director of the RCLC, "Robinson Enterprises will enable the University and community to work together to cultivate entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency."

A $282,000 appropriations request for Notre Dame's Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) by Rep. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., and Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., has been funded in a bill that recently became law.

Donnelly will present a ceremonial check at a celebration to mark the seventh anniversary of the RCLC at 5:30 p.m. Friday (Feb. 22) at the center. University President Father John Jenkins also will be in attendance at the event, which will feature an awards ceremony and musical entertainment.

The RCLC will receive the funding to support and develop Robinson Enterprises, a comprehensive training, entrepreneurship and business promotion initiative. The program will specifically promote business success for at-risk youths and young adults (ages 16 to 24) through training, mentorship and start-up incubation for the launch of for-profit enterprises.

"We are grateful to Congressmen Donnelly and Sen. Bayh for their leadership in funding this innovative venture," said Jay Caponigro, director of the RCLC. "Robinson Enterprises will enable the University and community to work together to cultivate entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency."

"I was happy to learn that the Robinson Community Learning Center will receive the funding it deserves to continue and expand its operations," Donnelly said. "The outstanding work done at the center contributes to area revitalization and provides employment opportunities for South Bend-area residents."

Founded by Notre Dame in 2001, the RCLC is a community-driven education center. In addition to Robinson Enterprises, the center sponsors a number of programs and activities and hosts others led by local agencies and organizations.

These include violence prevention initiatives, health education and screenings, GED and English-as-a-second-language classes, children's programming, youth tutoring, and after-school programs.

It also features a Computer Teaching and Learning Center, which is equipped with 20 computers and provides instruction and Internet and e-mail access.

Some 500 residents and volunteers participate each week in on-site RCLC programming, and as many as 250 Notre Dame students, faculty and staff volunteer with center programs. Some 35 University departments and residence halls are involved in RCLC partnerships.

Looking for solid business and accounting experience to put on your resume?

The Observer is accepting applications for a 2008-09 Business Manager and Controller. Responsibilities include preparing a yearly budget and handling payroll for a 200-person staff.

Since the Controller will take over as the 2009-10 Business Manager, Controller applicants should be sophomores, or juniors staying for a fifth year.

Both positions are salaried, about six to 10 hours a week.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu or Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.
Mass
continued from page 1
attended the University of Central Oklahoma this fall.

The University has not released information about the causes of either death, but police investigators said Monday that diabetes may have played a role in McGrath's death.

McGormick, who lived next to McGrath last year when he was an assistant rector in Dillon Hall, said he got to know him well when the two "shared a wall."

"After living in such close proximity to him, I certainly have plenty of stories to tell about Connor," McGormick said. "But only some that would be

Cell
continued from page 1
been a general disincentive for having cell towers on or near campus."

OIT installed antennas on various buildings on campus that were painted to blend in, Latimer said. Since then, he said, OIT has worked in conjunction with the service providers to offer the best coverage possible.

The service providers, and not the University, are largely responsible for the quality of coverage on campus, Latimer said. OIT has the job of negotiating contracts with the providers, he said, but it

Not only did he enjoy learning to speak a language, Coughlin said, "but he also immersed himself in the study of the culture and society in which the language was spoken."

Aber also had a deep appreciation for music. Coughlin said, "Aber served as station manager at WHPK-FM, a student-run radio station at the University of Chicago, and wrote reviews of popular music groups."

"Although I have to acknowledge that I have little appreciation of this repertoire," Coughlin said, "I enjoyed reading Tim's well-written and clearly expert reviews."

After graduating from the University of Chicago in 2002, Aber worked for two years at the Bank of America Securities with various buildings on campus to maintain the service providers' "commitment to getting the best possible system at the lowest cost,"

Contact Kara Coyle at kcoyle@nd.edu

CAMPUS NEWS
Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Dining With The Stars

Get your friends together and bid on a dinner with campus celebrities including:

Anre Venter
The Undertones
Chuck Lennon
ND Men's Swim Team
ND Leprechauns
Nd Cheerleaders
The Sharpley Brothers
Geoff Price

Charlie Weis
Fr. Hesburgh
Mike Brey
Monk Malloy
Fr. Poorman
Dean Woo
Professor Hums
Brett Perkins

February 20
8:00-10:00 pm
Lafortune,
BK Lounge
(near Burger King)

All proceeds go to Meals on Wheels

Bidding is per plate
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bush calls for action to stop violence

KIGALI, Rwanda — On ground haunted by one of the worst atrocities of modern times, President Bush will address leaders of Rwanda and neighboring countries Tuesday for decisive action to stop grimly ethnic violence now plaguing other African nations like Kenya and Ethiopia.

"There is evil in the world and evil must be confronted," said Bush, by his side Belgium's Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who ran out of time in a meeting that was supposed to last an hour.

Bush, who once wrote "not on my watch" in the margin of a report on the Rwandan massacre, has twice been rebuffed by leaders of the two nations that have raged in the western part of the region in just three years.

The attempted shootdown, already approved by President Bush, is expected to outrage those who want to see a military resolution. But that plan is on hold until the government in Kigali agrees to take action against the Hutu militias.

Opposition parties win Pakistan election

ISLAMABAD — A top opposition leader called Tuesday on President Pervez Musharraf to step aside after his ruling party conceded defeat in parliamentary elections.

The vote was also a slap at Islamist parties, which lost control of a province where al-Qaida and Taliban fighters have sought refuge.

Bush signed onto the petition later if they chose.

In a matter of weeks; Navy officials say the crippled satelliteicher to let more people open businesses, own homes and even own a school amid rule of leaders in their 30s and 40s, such as foreign Minister Faisal Pervez Rquo, whose Communist fervor earned him the collective nickname of "Young Taliban."

While no less loyal to the elder Castro, Lage was the architect of reforms that saved the island from economic collapse in the early 1990s. His moves allowed foreign investment in state enterprises, a measure of self-employment, and legal use of the U.S. dollar.

New missile to be shot at crippled satellite

WASHINGTON — An attempt to blast a crippled U.S. spy satellite out of the sky using a naval rocket was still on track Tuesday night.

President Bush is likely to order the attempt Wednesday night, officials said.

But that plan is on hold until the government in Kigali agrees to take action against the Hutu militias.

Castro retires after half century of rule

Dicator's younger brother Raul to take over after serving as acting president since July 2006

Havana — Now that Fidel Castro has retired, many Cubans are eager for his brother to let more people open businesses, own homes and even own a school amid rule of leaders in their 30s and 40s, such as foreign Minister Faisal Pervez Rquo, whose Communist fervor earned him the collective nickname of "Young Taliban."

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LOCAL NEWS

Lawmakers sign antigay marriage petition

The Associated Press

Washington — The majority of state lawmakers in the Indiana House have signed a petition showing their support for a constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage — legislation that was first introduced in the state's 1980s.

The government has refused to turn over information about the closely guarded wiretapping program.

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court turns down a wiretapping appeal.

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Associated Press

COTTONWOOD, Minn. — A school bus and several other vehicles crashed in southwestern Minnesota Tuesday, killing four students and forcing the first-arriving motorists to rush some of the injured to nearby hospitals.

The bus was hit by a van around 3:25 p.m. on a highway north of Cottonwood. The bus then hit a pickup and tumbled on its side, state Patrol Lt. Mark Peterson said. At least 14 people were hurt.

Rescue squads and ambulances from many nearby cities arrived at the crash site. The Marshall Independent reported that the first motorists on the scene were asked to take some children to the hospital.

"I packed my car and called 911, and ran to the school bus and the driver was handing kids out the door as fast as I could take them," Karen Mahlim told the newspaper.

Other motorists also stopped and took kids from the driver. "You just wanted to make sure it was safe," she said. "They were screaming and screaming on the bus. There were so many kids."

Pictures from the scene showed the school bus lying on its side on the hood and cab of a pickup truck.

The bus was on its regular route, carrying children from kindergarden through 12th grade.

Initial reports said the bus was carrying 28 students and a driver, Minnesota Public-Safety spokeswoman Christine Krueger said.

Parents were asked to gather at the Lakeway School to be kept on word on their children.

Of the 11 victims taken to Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center, two were in critical condition while one had already been treated and released, spokeswoman Deann Holland said.

Others were being treated for back and neck injuries, lacerations, bumps and bruises, she said.

Two of the victims were taken by ambulance to Granite Falls Hospital, which is about 15 miles north of the accident scene. Hospital CEO George Gerlach said one was 11 years old and the other 14.

Neither had life-threatening injuries, but had fractures that required a higher level of care than could be provided in Granite Falls, he said.

They were being taken, one by helicopter and the other by ambulance, to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D., to undergo orthopedic surgery, Gerlach said.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty issued a statement calling it "a sad night for Minnesota."

"It is especially heartbreaking when young lives are lost," he said. "In terms of how [gender] hurts her, men tend not to support her strongly. It's almost as if they're judging that it's not appropriate to have a woman as a president."

Wolbrecht agreed, noting the stereotypes associated with the female gender.

"When people look at candidates and they see a woman they make certain assumptions, consciously or unconsciously, whether negative or positive," Wolbrecht said.

Women may seem less corrupt or more experienced in health care and education, Wolbrecht said, but less qualified in areas like economies.

Davis said while Clinton's gender could help her, Obama's race could hurt him.

"Race is never an advantage to begin with," Davis said. "There were the stereotypes and stablized in our ER," Gerlach said.

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Toshiba ready to abandon HD DVD

Travellers Casualty Property Company did not cover damage from floods, even those insurers to go forward.

as soon as Tuesday, where a decision is likely.

appeared ready to ditch its ID DVD business.

The cases are Xavier University of Louisiana v. Travellers Casualty Property Company of Amherst, Mass.

The justices rejected appeals from Xavier that Castro's decision to step down on his own terms leaves little hope for real democratic transition in communist Cuba during Bush's final year in office, although it may open options for his brothers to catch up with the aging Cuban leader who was a persistent thorn in the U.S. government's side.

Bush has no plans to lift Cuban embargo

"I can't imagine that happening any time soon," said Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte.
The ailing Castro, 81, who has called for free and fair elections — and I mean fair — not these fraudulent ones who were put in prison because of their friendship with the people of Cuba, they hoped "the actuarial tables" would give in investors another hedge, against crude prices falling, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the greenback is falling.

For the moment, investors appear to have put aside concerns about the economy that have sent oil prices down into the mid-$80 range twice since crude peaked above $100 last month. Traders are instead focused on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which will meet early next month to map out production plans, and Venezuela, where President Hugo Chavez made conflicting statements this weekend about the country's legal dispute with Exxon Mobil Corp.

The observer in investors appear to have caught up with the aging Cuban leader who was a persistent thorn in the U.S. government's side.

Led by President Bush, a chorus of officials expressed hope that Castro's departure would bring about fundamental changes for the Cuban people. But they also said they doubted that would happen under Raul Castro and said there was little chance the nearly 50-year-old U.S. embargo on Cuba would be lifted. They're the ones who suffered under Fidel Castro," Bush told a news confer- ence in Bonn. "They're the ones who were put in prison because of their beliefs. They're the ones who have been denied their right to live in a free society. So I view this as a period of transition and it's also the begin- ning of the democratic transition in Cuba.

"Eventually, this transition ought to lead to free and fair elections — and I mean free, and I mean fair — not those kind of staged elections that the Castro brothers try to foist off as true democ- racy," Bush said. "The United States will help the people of Cuba realize the blessings of liberty.

Even as U.S. lawmakers suggested Castro's retirement should set off a review of U.S. policy, senior State Department officials in Washington said there would be no lifting of the embargo, which has been the centerpiece of American policy toward Cuba since it was first imposed in 1960 and strengthened in 1992.

Associated Press

NEW YORK Oil futures shot higher Tuesday, closing above $100 for the first time as investors believed crude prices will keep climbing despite evidence of plentiful supplies and falling demand. At the pump, gas prices rose further above $3 a gallon.

There was no single driver behind oil's sharp price jump; investors seized on an explosion at a 67,000-barrel per day refinery in Texas, the falling dollar, the possibility that OPEC may cut production next month and continuing tensions between the U.S. and Venezuela.

Gasoline and heating oil prices appeared to be leading the advance, rising faster in percentage terms than oil due to the explosion Monday at Alon USA's Big Spring, Texas, refinery, which could be shuttered for two months.

"The refinery fire in Texas is making people a little concerned," said Michael Lynch, president of Strat Energy & Economic Research Inc. in Amherst, Mass.

Light crude for March delivery rose $4.51 to settle at a record $100.01 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after early gains were cut to $91.10, a new trading record. It was the first time since January that oil had been above $100.

March gasoline jumped 10.93 cents to settle at $2.6145 a gallon on Tuesday. March heating oil rose 11.45 cents to $2.7614 a gallon, also a record.

Oil prices are still within the range of inflation-adjusted highs set in early 1980. Depending on how the adjustment is calculated, $38 a barrel then would be worth $96 to $130 or more today. The dollar fell Tuesday, giving investors another reason to buy oil. Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the greenback is falling.

For the moment, investors appear to have put aside concerns about the economy that have sent oil prices down into the mid-$80 range twice since crude peaked above $100 last month. Traders are instead focused on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which will meet early next month to map out production plans, and Venezuela, where President Hugo Chavez made conflicting statements this weekend about the country's legal dispute with Exxon Mobil. The world's largest oil company is fighting Venezuela's nationalization of an oil project, and recently convinced several courts to freeze $12 billion in Venezuelan oil assets.

Fire burns after an explosion at an Alon USA oil refinery in Big Springs, Texas, on Monday. The explosion could close the refinery for two months and is one factor in Tuesday's rise in oil prices.

OPEC could move to cut production in the second quarter, typifying a period of low demand, though many analysts feel that's unlikely. In Venezuela, Chavez said he was not serious about an earlier threat to cut oil sales to the U.S., but also threatened to sue Exxon Mobil. The world's largest oil company is fighting Venezuela's nationalization of an oil project, and recently convinced several courts to freeze $12 billion in Venezuelan oil assets.
In the wake of one of the worst natural and humanitarian disasters ever to visit American shores, nearly 600 African Americans were airlifted to the almost entirely white state of Utah without knowing where they were going. Desert Bayou seeks to examine whether two cultures can come together in a time of utter chaos, or whether their differences prove too great a challenge to overcome. In their own words, evacuees of Hurricane Katrina tell how they survived the storm-of-the-century and out of the rubble ended up at a military installation in the desert of Utah.

With interviews from recording artist Master P, celebrity Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, evacuees, political and military leaders, and community and social figures, the questions of race, politics, and religion hurtle toward each other in this truly American story: a story of loss and reunion, sorrow and rebirth, anger and rejoicing, but most of all, a story of hope.

Director Alex LeMay will discuss his film and answer questions from the audience following the first screening. LeMay is an award-winning feature film and broadcast director. Over his 14-year career, he has directed a number of acclaimed feature films, as well as provided commercial media for some of the world’s top-tier companies.

Friday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

TICKETS: $3 FOR STUDENTS AND $5 FOR FACULTY/STAFF  •  TICKET OFFICE: 631.2800  •  PERFORMINGARTS.ND.EDU

Upcoming World View Events

The Kite Runner  March 14
Blood Diamond  April 3  Co-sponsored with Center for Social Concerns
Kosovo

Serbs protest independence

Militants set off small bombs, torch U.N. border checkpoints

Associated Press

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA — Thousands of Serbs chanting "Kosovo is Serbia" marched Tuesday to a bridge dividing them from ethnic Albanians while others torched U.N. border checkpoints and cars to protest Kosovo's declaration of independence.

NATO troops later closed down the roads leading to the checkpoints, cutting off the only link between northern Kosovo and Serbia, said Besim Hoti, a U.N. spokesman. The move appeared to be due to fears that the reduction of U.N. control of the border could allow Serbian militants to return to fight in Kosovo, a land Serb nationalists consider the cradle of their state and religion.

The attack on U.N. border crossings showed the protesters' willingness to use violence to hold onto Kosovo — and could clear the way for Serbian militants to return to fight in Kosovo, a land Serb nationalists consider the cradle of their state and religion.

In Belgrade, the Serbian government minister for Kosovo, Slobodan Samardzic, hailed the attacks, saying "today's action is in accordance with the general (Serbian) government policies."

"Belgrade has the intention to take over the customs in northern Kosovo," Samardzic told private B92 television.

"The customs points were intended to become part of Kosovo's state border and we are not going to let that happen," Samardzic said.

Kosovo has not been under Belgrade's control since 1999, when NATO launched airstrikes to halt a Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists. A U.N. mission since has governed Kosovo, with more than 16,000 NATO troops and a multinational police force policing the province.

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SWITZERLAND

Two stolen paintings found in backseat of car

Associated Press

ZURICH — A frantic search for two stolen Impressionist paintings led to a most unlikely place: the back seat of a mental hospital just a few hundred yards from the scene of the crime.

In the back seat of an unlocked car, a painting by Claude Monet and another by Vincent van Gogh were stolen Monday in perfect condition, authorities said Tuesday.

The paintings, worth $64 million combined, were still under the display glass used by the private museum from which they were stolen in a Feb. 10 armed robbery, museum director Lukas Gloor said.

"I am incredibly relieved that two paintings have returned," Gloor said. "We're very happy that both the paintings are in absolutely impeccable shape."

The other two paintings taken — "Ludovic Lepici's "Boy in the Red Waistcoat" — they passed over the second-most valuable picture, another Gogh.

Gloor said he suspected the robbers abandoned the two paintings, which were the largest of the four, because their size complicated transporting them.

They were discovered Monday on the back seat of a white sedan in a parking lot in front of the University Psychiatric Clinic. It was not known how long the car had been there, police said.

An employee of the clinic making a routine check of the lot noted the car because it was unlocked. Police immediately sealed off the area, examined the car and hauled it away.

Police had said initially that a white vehicle might have been used by the three robbers when they made their escape. The clinic is about 500 yards from the museum.

The recovered paintings — Monet's "Poppy field at Vetheuil" and van Gogh's "Blooming Chestnut Branches" — will be returned to the museum in coming days, Gloor said.

"But we must not forget," he added, "that two more paintings of our collection are still missing, including our collection's landmark "Boy in the Red Waistcoat."

That painting alone is worth $91 million. The other missing painting is Degas' "Ludovic Lele" and his Daughter," worth $9 million.

The most valuable one and the least valuable one are still missing," said Gloor.

Zurich police spokesman Marco Cortesi said the clinic employee who found the paintings would get a part of a $50,000 reward. He said the exact amount has yet to be determined.

Asked whether a ransom had been paid for the paintings, Cortesi said, "It is unknown whether a sum of money has moved." Gloor, standing next to him, said, "I can't give any information on that."

AXA Art Insurance AG, which insures museums, said this robbery and the theft of two Picasso paintings a few days before underscored an increasing threat to museums and they should take steps to improve security.

Successful robberies are usually characterized by easy access to objects and quick escape routes," the Cologne, Germany-based insurer said.

Authorities have yet to solve the smaller theft of the two Picassos from nearby Pfaffikon.
Reason depends on faith

"What is most embarrassing to the world today," said Georgetown professor James Schall, S.J., "is that the most intelligent voice it confronts, or deliberately refuses to confront, is that coming from the gapay."

Fr. Schall has a point. He was speaking about Benedict XVI’s second encyclical, “Spe Salvi,” which drew its title from the opening words, “SPE SALVI factum sum—in hope we were saved.” The message is simple: “A world without God is a world without hope.” No. 44.

Benedict admits that we need the “hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope which... can only be... the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety.” No. 31. A secularist culture, he insists, can offer no hope for anything after death. In contrast, their “encounter with Christ”, gives Christians the “distinguishing mark” which is “the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details... but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain, can a person’s mortality do it possible to live the present as well.” No. 31.

A point of interest to a university community is the relation between the lack of hope and what Benedict had described at Regensburg in 2006 as “the self-imposed limitation of reason to the empirically verifiable” so that “questions of religion and ethics no longer concern it.” When reason is thus limited, affirmations of God and objective morality are dismissed as non-rational. No one can know anything about God. And “justice becomes”, in the words of Hans Kelsen, the foremost legal positivist of the last century, “impossible unless reason can offer answers on moral right and wrong.”

Benedict affirms the achievements and potential of science, but he cautions that “just as progress in ethical formation... is not progress at all, but a threat for man and the world.” No. 22. The problem is that ethical formation is impossible unless reason can offer answers on moral right and wrong. But reason cannot do that if it is limited to the empirical, without the integration through... openness... to the differentiation between good and evil... [Because] becomes human only if it is capable of directing the will along the right path and it is capable of this only if it looks beyond itself... Let us put it very simply: God truly enters into human affairs only when, rather than being present merely in our thinking, he himself comes towards us and speaks to us... Reason... and faith need one another in order to fulfill their truth, nature and their missions.” No. 23.

Because of protests, Benedict XVI cancelled an address last month at a Sapiniensis University in Rome. In the address he had prepared, he said, “the danger for the western world... is that because of the greatness of his knowledge and power, man will fall to face up to the question of truth.”

That comment is pertinent to the United States, where the Supreme Court has misinterpreted the First Amendment to impose an impossible neutrality between “religion and irreligion.” The irony, that “neutrality” furnishes any public official to affirm that the Declaration of Independence is in fact true when it identifies God as the author of rights. Similarly, public education is founded on a non-theistic religious proposition, that rational questions can— and must in the public sphere— be decided without reference to any controlling role of God and His law. Indeed, each person creates his own moral truth. He is his own god. The result is not neutrality but an established agnosticism devoid of ultimate hope.

"Spe Salvi" is part of Benedict’s ongoing project to rescue reason by integrating it with faith, which he believes is the only way to save the world today,” said Georgetown professor Fr. Schall described Benedict XVI as "presumptuous in his proposal to rescue reason by integrating it with faith and objective morality, but it is not an error if it is directed towards the true end of reason: the discovery and vindication of reason’s potential in the service of the searching for the common good.”

"It is no accident,” he said, “that this idea has led to the greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice... A world which has to create its own justice is a world without hope.” No. 42. Justice will be whatever man decrees. Thus Kelsen said that Auschwitz and other Nazi exterminations were “valid law.” In accord with his “philosophical relativism,” he could not reasonably criticize them as unjust.

"Spe Salvi" traces “the foundations of the modern age” to Francis Bacon and others who thought that “man would be redeemed through science.” Nos. 16, 25. “If up to that time, the recovery of what man had lost through the expulsion from Paradise was expected from faith in Jesus Christ... Now, this ‘redemption,’ the restoration of the lost Paradise is no longer expected from faith, but from the newly discovered link between science and praxis (practice, action or conduct). It is not that faith is simply denied; it is rather that it is displaced onto another level — that of purely private and other-worldly affairs — and... it becomes irrelevant for the world... This... vision... shapes the present-day crisis of faith which... is a crisis of Christian hope. Thus hope too... acquires a new form. Now it is called: faith in progress...." The interplay of science and praxis... a totally new world will emerge, the kingdom of man.” No. 22.

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Rethinking unnecessary consumption

Refrain yourself: wipe your hands on your jeans.

"The thy soul in self-control —" America the Beautiful, 2nd verse.

Does anyone ever sing the second verse of that song? anyways? Maybe we should start.

How is it that, in our morals that derived so directly from Puritanism, we overlook the virtue of self-restraint when it comes to the economy, to our material lives?

From Puritanism, we have long cherished the idea that there are a few things that are necessary, just like anything on this earth, this makes sense. But consider the rub, as Bill Shakespeare would say, lies in the word indispensable.

First, the condition or quality of being necessary, in order to uphold our values, our morals that we hold dear.

2. Necessary. Definition No. 6 included the word indulgence, which takes a negative connotation in our country. Such that provides prudence and self-restraint.

Hmm, America. Negative view on self-indulgence, yet positive view of luxury. How to mitigate this conflict of values? I decided to turn to my too-often forgotten arsenal of SAT word vocabulary: Synonym for luxury... luxury... Lux? No, those are cars ads speaking through me. Ah, amenity, that’s close. Definition of amenity from my reliable source:

1. An agreeable or way manner, courteous, civil, the graceful amenities of society. No, that’s not what I was looking for, second.

2. Any feature that provides comfort, convenience, or pleasure: The house has a swimming pool, two fireplaces, and other amenities. More like it. The definition of amenity from the dictionary.com was, of course, my first.”

No, it is not a matter of our Ame­rican society that emphasizes prudence and self-restraint. But this glosses over two key factors: First, the adminis­tration stresses that religious affiliation is one of the criteria along with other am­enities. More like it. The definition of amenity from the dictionary.com was, of course, my first. Second, and crucially, this other factors’ evaluation is done by the faculty. As Bill Shakespeare would say, lies in the word indispensable.

First, the administration stresses that prefer­ential treatment for Catholics would only factor in at the end of a selection process: that, after literally dozens of applications have been sorted through, if there are two or three equally qualified candidates and one is Catholic, the religious affiliation of a student should be taken into con­sideration.

Second, and crucially, this ‘other factors’ approach is already a standard practice university-wide: we already grant prefer­ential treatment to former students and their families, or the students themselves.

The faculty as a whole does indeed believe decisions should be made “solely” on aca­demically merit, then it ought to be up in arms against them. They claim it is mis­understood, I should add that I personally believe that prefer­ential treatment ought to be considered. We are mis­ing an opportunity for diversity and de­­sign. It is reasonable to argue that this decision is doing no more than seeking to ensure that the best minds are en­rolled in order to contribute to the religious mission of Notre Dame.

But all such caveats aside, in the long run, it’s not hard to make a case for the meaning­ful adherence of a university to its reli­gious founding depends upon the adher­ence of its faculty to said denom­i­nation.

In recognizing this and taking measures to promote Catholic hiring, the adminis­tration is doing no more than seeking to ensure that the best minds are enrolled in order to contribute to the religious mission of Notre Dame.

Notwithstanding this, it would be helpful if the university could find a way to balance the need for religious adherence with the value of diversity and the benefits of a well-rounded education.

Kim Stoddard (“Letters to the Editor,” Feb. 19) would like to ask us to reconsider our view of the Vagina Monologues,“ a play that deals with the sexuality and empowerment of women.

Monologues" combat this degrad­ing of women, and enable and empower us to find our voices, which have been historically silenced because we were raised to be lady-like and by some, still are seen as the "lesser sex."

"Monologues" are meant to point out that society has made women into one body part that can be covered through things like rape and sexual assault.

The “Monologues’ combat this degradation of women, and enable and empower us to find our voices, which have been historically silenced because we were raised to be lady-like and by some, still are seen as the "lesser sex."

Furthermore, the "Monologues” are not about sexual assault, but about women’s right to chose what is right for them, not the majority who control the lives of women.

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"Have you heard of the Lemon Law?" If not then "Suit up!" because you’re missing "How I Met Your Mother."

"How I Met Your Mother" has been running for three years, but until last month I knew nothing about it. Described by a friend as "Seinfeld" with younger people who frequent a bar instead of a diner, it piqued my interest, but not enough to start watching the CBS show. However, my friend finally convinced me to sacrifice 20 minutes, and I gave the pilot episode a shot. I have to admit, the first time I heard Neil Patrick Harris’ character, Barney, left his friend Ted to meet him at the bar and "Suit up!" I was hooked.

"How I Met Your Mother" is a compelling comedy that I have been watching for the last two years. The show focuses on the lives Ted and his four friends, Marshall, Lily, Barney and Robin, living in New York City back in 2005. Ted and Marshall (Simon Sear) live together and although she has her own place, Marshall’s fiancé, Lily (Alyson Hannigan), lives with them too. Marshall and Lily make a humorous couple if for no other reason than their extreme height difference, which turns into hilarity when Lily meets Marshall’s family.

Together the three frequently go out to bars, where in the pilot episode Ted meets Robin Scherbatsky (Cobie Smulders), a news reporter who Ted becomes convinced is his future wife. As we find out at the end of the episode, she isn’t. In fact, as future-Ted tells his children, she’s actually their aunt.

I almost forgot about Barney. Always in a suit and tie, Neil Patrick Harris’ character bumps into Ted one day in the bathroom and decides that they are going to be best friends. This doesn’t bode well for Ted.

Barney’s favorite game to play at the bars is "Have you met Ted?" In this game, he taps the shoulder of the nearest girl, says the tagline, "Have you met Ted?" before scampering off, leaving Ted in an awkward lurch with the girl.

Later in the first season Barney comes up with a new, revolutionary idea, that he calls the "Lemon Law." Having nothing to do with lemons, the law simply states that in the first five minutes of a first date, if you decide you’re not into your partner, you can evict the "Lemon Law" and ditch them. The law appeals the others, but Barney claims it will catch on, saying "It’s gonna be a thing!" And it does catch on. Before the end of the episode one of Barney’s dates uses the law on him. My favorite aspect to the show is that every time Barney and Ted decide to go out, Barney instructs his friend to "Suit up!" Of course, Ted never does and this drives Barney mad.

"How I Met Your Mother" has grown on me in the little time I’ve been watching, and it’s even beginning to influence my ways. During Junior Parent’s Weekend, my friends and I decided to hit up the bars after dinner on Saturday and, oh yes, we suited up.

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@ind.edu

The cast of CBS’ sitcom series "How I Met Your Mother," including Alyson Hannigan, second from right, and Neil Patrick Harris, center.

The story may be complex, but it is paced in a methodical manner, like a good action movie. It’s hard not to become attached to the magnificently-written characters as they grow and mature in the hardships they come to face. It’s about human beings coming face-to-face with the impossible, and how they react to the pressure.

Beyond all the breathtaking twists is a beautifully reserved ending in the aftermath of a complete resolution. It makes the wacky science explanation bearable.

All in all, it’s not about bad things happening, but how human beings keep going anyhow.

Contact Mychal Stanley at stanleyf@ind.edu

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

Adult comics have made a huge comeback in America. I don’t know how many people on campus give any attention to comic books and their "adult" counterpart, graphic novels, but comic books are no longer the stuff of adolescent boys.

While Japan has never forgotten the appeal comic books have on people of all ages, Americans have delegated comic books to mere "kids’ stuff." If you are one of these people, you should be ashamed of what you are missing. I know it’s easy to be caught up in the hip and socially current comics like Marjane Satrapi’s "Persepolis," but comics dealing in the realm of fantasy still have some great stories to tell.

Series like Alan Moore’s "Watchmen" deal with superheroes would be viewed in the real world. Imagine the scenario from "The Incredibles" in which superheroes are outlawed, but the topic is dealt with in a darker tone that is more political, serious and adult. Not only that, but Watchmen was published a full 20 years ago.

Neil Gaiman’s "Sandman" series deal with an extended and beautifully-complex mythology following the personalizations of Dream, Death and others, and how they operate in the world we know.

But if these two aren’t enough for you, I recommend you give "Y: The Last Man" a try.

Written by Brian K. Vaughan, it finished its 66-issue run last month, and now would be the perfect time to pick up the graphic novel collections if for nothing else than the unbeatable premise. One day, every mammal with a Y-chromosome is killed simultaneously except for an immature young escape artist named Yorick and his pet monkey.

What happens from there defies all predictions and becomes a new and exciting path in generic storytelling. What could have easily devolved into meaningless gender pandering becomes an intelligent conjecture on what the world would be like if run by women. And it’s done fairly, provocatively and entertainingly.

In the first few issues, it deals with the rebuilding of the American government, a fanatical feminist group called the Daughters of the Amazon who seek to destroy every last reminder of men (including sperm banks) and an Israeli general seeking to preserve Israel at any cost.

Meanwhile Yorick finds a world-renowned geologist who seeks to understand Yorick and his monkey survived. They are escorted by a government agent from Washington D.C. to the doctor’s lab in San Francisco, all while being chased by Yorick’s sister — a member of the Daughters of the Amazon.

The story may be complex, but it is paced in a methodical manner, like a good action movie. It’s hard not to become attached to the magnificently-written characters as they grow and mature in the hardships they come to face. It’s about human beings coming face-to-face with the impossible, and how they react to the pressure.

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The Magnetic Fields
release the perfect winter album

By MYCHAL STANLEY
Scene Writer

Stephen Merritt, the frontman for The Magnetic Fields, has an incredible talent in writing pop tunes. It's strange, then, that he writes some of the most melancholy, self-deprecating pop songs out there. Nothing has changed in his new release, "Distortion," where Merritt and co-vocalist Claudia Gonson sing about being rejected, lonely or drunk.

But if this all sounds too much like a Notre Dame winter, a lot of the subject matter is handled with some humor. In "Too Drunk to Dream," Merritt sings the benefits of being drunk as opposed to being sober (Sober / nobody wants you / S**tfaced / they're all undressing), concluding that he needs to get too drunk to dream about a absent lover.

Gonson sings in "The Nun's Litany" as a nun thinking about missed opportunities, paths she could've went down and what it would be like to be a "dominatrix / which isn't like me / but I can dream," among other things.

In the best song on the album, Merritt laments spending Christmas alone in the form of a hate letter to that dread plant, mistletoe itself. "Mr. Mistletoe" is probably the best song about an emotion a lot of people feel on Christmas, and it's done with a brooding humor that you'd be hard-pressed to find anywhere else.

Distortion
The Magnetic Fields

Label: Nonesuch Records
Recommended Tracks: "Too Drunk to Dream," "The Nun's Litany"

This album, however, is much more than just the great song-writing that is typical of The Magnetic Fields. The name of the record is very literal, and every song is accompanied by swirling torrents of guitar distortion and noise. It's not enough to be distracting, instead providing a luxurious soundscape to disappear into when you put on your headphones.

Other than the layer of distortion, The Magnetic Fields' usual sound has not changed. Merritt is obsessed with pop song structure, especially from the 1960s. He specializes in breaking down the formula to its most basic and catchy components.

Underneath the noise, minimalist piano plunking, basic guitar chords and Merritt's deep bass or Gonson's sweet childlike voice don't revolutionize or advance the sound of the band. The distortion may add a new sheen, but really, the band is just doing what it has been doing for years. And that's not a bad thing at all.

The Magnetic Fields provide some of their catchiest tunes on this record, and you will find it difficult not to get swept away by some of their indelible hooks. Merritt has perfected the structure of a good pop song, and he knows how to lay down great tunes and words around them in tidy three-minute portions.

If you've never heard of The Magnetic Fields, you're in for a treat because "Distortion" perfectly accompanies these gloomy winter days. The swirling distortion is the perfect soundtrack to the swirling rain and snow.

The distant instruments feel exactly how sound is muffled in the winter air. The Magnetic Fields have put out an album that could very easily become the soundtrack of your life, especially during these sad, cold, lonely days of winter.

Contact Mychal Stanley at wstanley@ud.edu

Where else can you hear a deep-voiced man dejectedly opine, "Mr. Mistletoe / wither and die / you useless weed / for no one have I." It's this unique kind of pop song-writing mentality that sustains and has maintained The Magnetic Fields' relevance.

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NBA

LeBron's triple-double falls short to Houston

Rockets win ninth in a row behind balanced scoring; Magic rout Pistons, snapping Detroit's 10-game winning streak

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Shane Battier chuckled before revealing Houston's defensive game plan to stop LeBron James.

"We, well he hoped he had a good time in New Orleans," Battier said.

It was the Rockets, though, who won the headline. Rafer Alston scored 22 points, Yao Ming added 19 points and 14 rebounds, and Houston tied a team record Tuesday night with its 14th straight road win. LeBron James 93-85 over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who wasted a triple-double from James.

The Rockets entered the NBA's unofficial midseason interruption as the Western Conference's hottest team and they didn't cool off; winning their ninth in a row to improve to 18-3 since Jan. 4.

"We don't want to get tired of winning," said Tracy McGrady, who added 17 points on just six-of-21 shooting. "A lot of people probably thought the break would be good for us because we had so much momentum, so much swagger. But everybody came back and we said, 'Let's start it off right.'"

And so they did by digging in on defense, holding the league's top scorer a big basket, the Rockets, Alston in particular, answered.

"I missed too many easy shots that I usually make," James said.

Zendras fagashaus and Leford Hugh had 16 points apiece for the Cavs, who never got untracked offensively and shot just 39 percent as the Rockets swarmed them from the start.

"What we're developing on this team is a team like the Rockets," McGrady said. "Great defensive team, going there and together and not relying on one or two people to score the rock.

"We really care about playing great defense and playing together, it showed.

Magic 103, Pistons 85

A blowout at the Palace of Auburn Hills is nothing new. The surprise Tuesday night was that it was the Pistons getting blown out by the Orlando Magic by as many as 26 points and its 10-point winning streak was snapped with ease.

"I certainly didn't foresee that happening," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "A lot has to go right for us to beat the Pistons like that, especially on a night when Dwight Howard scores eight points and Hedo Turkoglu goes 4-for-11.

Detroit extended its win streak to double digits with a subdued victory over Indiana on Feb. 13, but knew it would be tough to keep its intensity through the All-Star break.

"You battle a winning team when you are on a winning streak, because it messes with your momentum," said Chauncey Billups. "That's not an excuse, because we feel like we should have come in here and played better than that. No one likes losing like this.

The Pistons looked fine early in the game. On the first possessions, Rasheed Wallace blocked a dunk attempt by Howard, his All-Star teammate and the new dunk champion.

Howard, though, couldn't stop Orlando's outside game. The Magic shot 65 percent on 3-pointers in the game, hitting 13-20.

"We started the game saying we didn't want to let Dwight Howard go, but you can't take away dunks and 3-pointers," Billups said. "You've got to give up something. They got hot and stayed hot.

The Magic outscored Detroit 63-37 over the second and third periods, shooting 56 percent and holding the Pistons to 24 percent.

"We played a good second quarter and a great third quarter," Van Gundy said. "We knocked down a lot of shots, but it was our defense that stepped up."

Howard didn't have a great statistical night, but Van Gundy felt he was the difference in the game, especially in Detroit's 17-point third quarter.

"Dwight had eight points and eight rebounds, and there's been other nights when he's gone 20-20, but this might have been his best game of the season," he said. "In the third quarter, he made it virtually impossible for Detroit to get any offense going inside. He changed every shot.

Howard said that his 2-0-9 shooting night, starting with Wallace's blocked dunk in the first 20 seconds, spurred him to a better night defensively.

"I wasn't able to get anything going offensively, so I knew I needed to pick it up on the other end," he said. "I guess it worked."

The Magic had been the last team to beat Detroit, winning 102-100 at home on Jan. 21. The Pistons avenged the loss four days later, but couldn't do it again.

"We should have played harder for this," said Detroit coach Flip Saunders. "We didn't need to come out and lay egg like that in the second half"

Even though they are the only team to beat Detroit in the last month, and they've now done it twice, Van Gundy doesn't think the Magic will have any advantage in a possible postseason matchup.

"This is big for our guys, because we know how good that team is," he said. "But this is only the regular season. Detroit has been through the wars, and we'll have to play at a much higher level than this to beat them in the playoffs.

Former Pistons Mauric Evans added 16 points for the Magic, including eight in a 14-3 run that helped Orlando put the game away in the third quarter. Orlando finished with six players in double figures.
**NHL**

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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**Basketball**

Former MVP Tejada remains silent concerning steroids

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Houston Astros pitcher Woody Williams walked into the clubhouse and saw a swarm of reporters gathered around Miguel Tejada. "Leave the guy alone," Williams said with a smile.

No chance.

Tejada arrived at spring training with a new team and a lot of questions about the Mitchell Report and an FBI investigation looking into his alleged link to performance-enhancing drugs.

Tejada refused to answer any of them, preferring to discuss baseball and his fresh start with the Astros. "I can't really talk about that situation," he said. "Right now, I just want to talk about baseball, because that's really my focus." 

The Astros acquired the four-time All-Star shortstop from Baltimore on Dec. 12, the day before the Mitchell Report was released.

Aaron says baseball can survive the steroids era

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — He's no longer the home run king, but he's still the Hammer.

"I think baseball is trying to clean up its game," Aaron said. "I think baseball can survive the steroids era." 

And the right guy.

Kid wasn't the answer in Dallas a decade ago, and he was shipped to Phoenix after 2 seasons. Five years later he was traded to the Nets, who went back-to-back NBA finals in 2002-03.

New Jersey hasn't made a long playoff run since, and Kidd started talking trade a year ago, when he almost went to the Los Angeles Lakers. He went public with his latest trade demand last month.

"He's a once-in-a-lifetime type of guy to play with and coach," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "He had an unbelievable impact on everyone in this organization and we wish him nothing but the best."
NBA

Shaq ready for Suns debut against former team

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Shaquille O’Neal says he is ready to run with the Phoenix Suns, really.

"I'm going to be looking to get out like Randy Moss and Terrell Owens," he said Tuesday after going through his final workout before making his debut with the Suns on Wednesday night against his old team, the Los Angeles Lakers.

The prospect of the 7-foot-1, 325-pound O’Neal, at age 35, fitting in with the high-octane Suns has been ridiculed across much of the NBA.

The Lakers' Phil Jackson, O’Neal's former coach, said Shaq's role would be "taking the ball out of bounds and waiting for the other team to get back." "He's a jokester, and that's funny, very funny," Shaq said without smiling. "Ha-ha, Very funny."

Suns coach Mike D’Antoni said people will be surprised about how well a motivated O’Neal can move, and playmaker Steve Nash was elated with the trade that brought O’Neal from Miami for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

"We're going to have to adjust slightly to his strengths," Nash said. "but you know where he's strong we've been weak, and that's having a big presence in the paint, taking up space and guarding the rim."

O’Neal says he has no desire to be a star with his new team. "Those roles belong to Nash and Amar'e Stoudemire, he said. "I'm more like a senior adviser so I don't like to come in here and try to take over," O’Neal said. "Just like your basic karate movie where the young guys come to the old guys with beards who have them do weird stuff to get to the other side. That's who I am, the old guy with a long beard."

Long pause.
"You like that analogy?" he said, obviously pleased with himself. "That was pretty good!"

Nash was a willing sidekick.
"I think this is his 73rd Asian martial arts film," he said. "We're excited to learn from the great master."

O’Neal's charisma and humor have energized the Suns franchise since last week's trade, with the anticipation building toward Wednesday night's showdown with Jackson, Kobe Bryant, newcomers Pau Gasol and the rest of the Lakers.

O’Neal insisted there is nothing special about the opponent being the Lakers, other than the fact that it's a tough Pacific Division foe.

"We had more great times than bad times together, but they've moved on, I've moved on," O’Neal said. "I have a new team now and I have a new focus."

Still, Jacko's comments have not been brushed aside.
"I don't take anything personally," O’Neal said. "I just have a certain file in my head, so Earnings must be careful with what they say."

O’Neal is part of a recent migration of talent to the already-tough Western Conference, with Gasol going to the Lakers from Memphis and, in a trade finalized on Tuesday, Jason Kidd to the Dallas Mavericks from New Jersey.

There will be no time for O’Neal to ease into his new role. After the Lakers, the Suns are home to Boston on Friday night and Detroit on Sunday.

"We don't have three cupcakes to start, but that's all right," Nash said. "We're going to learn a lot about ourselves and where we're going, and maybe that will give us a steeper learning curve to play against terrible teams."
**SMC BASKETBALL**

**Team looks to improve MIAA mark at home**

Belles counting on Newsom against Adrian

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

The Belles picked up an important victory Saturday afternoon over an MIAA opponent, sparked by a revamped defense anchored by junior captain Erin Newsom.

The 71-39 win over Kalamazoo Saturday gave Saint Mary's the boost it needed to move up in MIAA standings. With a conference record of 6-8, Saint Mary's moved into a tie for fourth place with Adrian, Alma and Olivet.

The Belles play tonight against Adrian at 7:30 in Angela Athletic Center.

"At the Kalamazoo game we committed and worked well together as a team on defense, and it enabled us to pick up easy steals, which led to a stronger offense," Newsom said.

On Saturday, the Belles knocked down 44.8 percent of their field goals and 57.1 percent of their free throws, while grabbing 46 rebounds.

The Belles' chief focus this season has been improving their inconsistent defense and low rebounding numbers.

"Newsom, the Belles captain, is critical to their effort on the boards. Newsom not only leads the team with 186 rebounds this season, but also is second in scoring with 242 points.

"Belles coach Jenn Henley said Newsom has also improved on defense. "We have really been working with Erin on her post defense this season and she has seen great improvements in this area," Henley said. "I think she presents some defensive problems for opponents because of her shooting range and how well she runs the floor."

Belles junior guard Katie Rashid credits Newsom with being reliable under the basket.

"Erin has always been one of the leading rebounders for us," Rashid said. "It is nice to know that if we take a shot from the perimeter we will have somebody inside fighting for the rebound."

This season isn't the first in which Newsom has been a key contributor for Saint Mary's. In her freshman season, she grabbed 161 rebounds and scored 240 points. She proved herself again last season when she ended the year with 212 rebounds and 281 points.

Newsom was named to the MIAA second team last season.

"I don't know how I have improved this season, if I even have at all, but I do know that with each new season I have to learn and adapt to a new team, just like any other player does," Newsom said. "So I don't know if I am a better player each year, but my role has changed depending on what our team needs each new season."

This season, Newsom has had the opportunity to play with her sister, freshman forward Becky Newsom.

"Coming in as a freshman and having Erin here has made it a much easier transition to college, both with basketball and school," Becky Newsom said. "As teammates we push each other to do better in practice. She is a great leader for our team. She knows when to be serious and when to have fun."

To take down Adrian, Saint Mary's will need Erin Newsom's rebounding and newly polished defensive presence.

"Our focus is still on team defense and rebounds," Henley said. "Both Adrian and Olivet are solid teams that present a challenge for us. The last time we played Adrian, we did not have a great performance in the first half."

Rashid agreed that the Belles must concentrate on defense to beat Adrian.

"At times we have played great team defense and other times we have struggled," Rashid said. "We have been working on our communication on defense in order to improve as a team. I think our game on Saturday was a good indication of how well we are capable of playing on defense if we communicate with each other."

But Newsom is not satisfied, saying the squad still needs to improve at getting stops.

"Everything we do on offense is for the defense," Becky Newsom said. "I don't doubt that our team is capable of beating any team we come up against. We have the players to do it, we just need to really focus on our team defense and have the same intensity as we did Saturday versus Kalamazoo."

The conference showdown against the Bulldogs tonight is the Belles' penultimate MIAA matchup.

"I hope that we build off of Saturday's win and use it to win our last two conference games this week," Newsom said. "These next two games against Adrian and Olivet are crucial to the conference rankings, and we'd really like to host the first round on our home court."

Katie Rashid
Belles guard

**Note:** Alison Kessler is 12 points away from tying the school record for most career points. Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu
The Phoenix Suns and Denver Nuggets will play the first outdoor game in more than 35 years during the 2008-09 preseason. The exhibition game on Oct. 11 at the 16,000-seat Indian Wells Tennis Garden will be televised by TNT.

"What will happen here will be historic," Rick Welts, the Suns' president and chief operating officer, said Tuesday. "More importantly, I think this will be a lot of fun. Most of us learned how to play basketball outdoors. This had the perfect circumstances to do it in the NBA."

It won't be the first NBA game to be played outdoors. The Suns defeated the Milwaukee Bucks in a preseason game on Sept. 24, 1972, at a baseball stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Welts said the ideal weather in October and the facility made it possible to hold the event. The tennis stadium is home to the Pacific Life Open, one of the major events on the men's and women's pro tours.

Because the seating is built around the parameters of a tennis court, rather than a hockey rink like most NBA arenas, Welts said the game will offer a more intimate setting. "It's an NBA-quality facility with no roof on it," Welts said.

Nuggets center Marcus Camby said he may have to work on his jumper to make it more wind resistant. "I have a high release — it's probably not too good outdoors," Camby said. "It will be fun. I've seen hockey have a couple of outdoor games, so it will definitely be interesting. I hope the weather's nice."

In the unlikely event the game is rained out, Welts said it would be played the next day.

Denver coach George Karl liked the concept of an outdoor game. "I grew up playing outdoors and loved it," he said.

Karl was asked if chain-link nets would be a natural fit for the outdoor game. "Or lopsided balls," Karl said with a laugh. "One of the biggest decisions was finding a ball that wasn't lopsided."

The Suns feature megastars Steve Nash, Amar'e Stoudemire and Shaquille O'Neal. The team picked the Nuggets because of their marquee players, Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony, and because there are direct flights from Denver to Palm Springs.
Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Kelvin Sampson couldn’t understand why he was still being asked if his problems over possible NCAA violations were a distraction for his team.

Eric Gordon scored 22 points to lead No. 15 Indiana to a 77-68 victory over No. 14 Purdue on Tuesday night in the Hoosiers’ last game before the completion of the school’s investigation into accusations Sampson committed major rules violations.

“I think the way our team is playing answers all the questions,” he said. “I think our play speaks for itself.”

IU’s White, who had 19 points and 15 rebounds despite playing on a sprained left knee, said the Hoosiers (22-4, 11-2 Big Ten) aren’t thinking about what Sampson’s future holds.

“When we’re on the court, that’s all we’re focused on,” he said. “Right now, we’re just trying to win games.”

The latest win snapped Purdue’s 11-game winning streak and brought Indiana within one-half game of the Boilermakers (21-6, 12-2) at the top of the conference standings.

Indiana’s fans seemed to move toward Sampson’s side after a giving him a lukewarm response during pregame introductions. Chants of “Kel-vin Samp-son” rang out in the game’s final minutes.

Sampson said he expects to be at the sideline Saturday at Northwestern. If Tuesday’s game was his last at Indiana, he has White to thank for it ending well.

“You learn not to take a kid like him for granted,” Sampson said. “He’s a horse.”

White said it would have taken a more serious injury to keep him out of the game.

“At the beginning, I was kind of timid,” he said. “It’s always in your head when you have an injury like that. I got more comfortable in the second half.”

Armon Bassett added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Hoosiers.

Robbie Hummel had 17 points for the Boilermakers, while Scott Martin added 12.

University president Michael McRobbie said last Friday that the school would conduct a new investigation into the NCAA’s accusations that Sampson committed five major rules violations.

A school investigation last year revealed Sampson and his assistants made more than 100 impermissible calls. That occurred while Sampson was on NCAA probation for making 577 improper phone calls between 2000 and 2004 while coaching Oklahoma.

Athletic director Rick Greenspan, university counsel Dorothy Frapwell and faculty representative Bruce Jaffee were asked to run the investigation and recommend by this Friday what steps the university should take.

The Hoosiers went 30-of-34 from the free throw line while Purdue was just 11-of-21.

Purdue coach Matt Painter said his team was aggressive in creating turnovers, but couldn’t turn it down enough to avoid committing fouls.

“We made careless mistakes, putting our hands on guys,” he said. “We had so many situations where if we got a stop, we could take the lead, and then we’d foul.”

The Hoosiers shot 47 percent from the floor and 75 percent from the line, including a 3-pointer and a layup by Hummel, that made it 53-48 and forced the Hoosiers to call a timeout. Martin’s 3-pointer with just under 7 minutes to go cut Indiana’s lead to 57-55 but the Hoosiers went 17-of-20 from the free throw line the rest of the way.

Indianapolis guard Eric Gordon tracks down a loose ball in front of Purdue guard Tarrance Crump in a 77-68 Hoosier win Tuesday. Gordon scored a game-high 22 points to lead the charge in the win.

Indiana guard Eric Gordon tracks down a loose ball in front of Purdue guard Tarrance Crump in a 77-68 Hoosier win Tuesday. Gordon scored a game-high 22 points to lead the charge in the win. Web. 

THA TO METANI OSSIS (Think it Over)

Thursday February 21

7:00 & 10:00 pm
Browning Cinema

HUMOR IN EUROPEAN FILM SERIES
presented by

The Nanovic Institute
for European Studies
The Observer  •  SPORTS  
Wednesday, February 20, 2008

League  
continued from page 24

Louisville enters the meet as the only Big East squad with a national ranking and boasts a team that has been steadily gathering momentum throughout the season. The Cardinals hold the top conference times in 10 events, including all five relays.

Pittsburgh is a 19-time conference champion, and the Panthers placed fourth in last year’s meet. The Panthers are likely to challenge Notre Dame for the top positions in the diving events. Junior Alex Vulvovitch holds the Big East’s top score in the 1-meter dive, while senior Jeremy Stultz boasts the highest 3-meter score.

Notre Dame freshman Michael Sullivan swam the fastest 200-yard backstroke in the conference, while Irish junior diver Michael Belfin holds the second- and third-best scores in the 3-meter and 1-meter boards, respectively.

“I think people are prepared, and I think they’re excited to swim their races,” Welsh said. “This is as wide open as the meet has been in several years, and places will go to the teams that swim the fastest. There is something very pure about that.”

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu

Rutgers  
continued from page 24

court we gave them a great game, but I thought we could have won. We missed some easy shots and we didn’t do a good job rebounding.”

Both Notre Dame and Rutgers struggled to perform in the paint in the first half, continually missing shots and combining for 19 turnovers.

The Scarlet Knights looked to turn things around 12 minutes into the game with a 9-0 run to cruise to a 22-14 lead with 6:21 left in the half. But that spurt ended Rutgers’ output in the opening period. The Irish rallied to score the next eight points, with the final two coming on a buzzer-beater by guard Charel Allen to tie the game at 22.

Notre Dame continued to play tough defense in the second half, holding Rutgers scoreless in the first few minutes after halftime.

The Scarlet Knights finally managed to put points on the board when junior center Kia Vaughn’s putback in the fourth minute brought Rutgers down only two. Vaughn’s basket sparked a 17-5 run over Notre Dame to give Rutgers a 41-33 lead. Vaughn’s basket sparked a 17-5 run over Notre Dame to give Rutgers a 41-33 lead. The Irish did not regain the lead and never managed to get closer than four points for the rest of the game.

McGraw was happy with Notre Dame’s ability to shut down Rutgers, but said she would have liked to see more from her offense.

“I thought we did a great job defensively to hold them to 57,” McGraw said. “That was our goal, we wanted to keep the game in the 50s and I felt we did a really good job of that, so I was really pleased with our defense. They’re an excellent defensive team as well, and we really just missed a lot of shots that we probably could have made.”

Sophomore guard Epiphanny Prince led the Scarlet Knights in scoring with 18 points and senior guard Matee Ajavon added 15. Allen matched Prince with 18 points for the Irish and guard Lindsay Schrader chipped in 10. Despite the production from Allen and Schrader, the Irish struggled to score in the paint.

“We missed shots, we just missed too many shots,” McGraw said. “We had a lot of opportunities to win the game, and we didn’t rebound and we missed shots, and that was the game.”

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

Irish sophomore center Erica Williamson, center, and senior guard Charel Allen, right, defend Rutgers guard Essence Carson during Notre Dame’s 57-51 loss to the Scarlet Knights Tuesday.

WE PUT THE “BURRITO” IN GOURMET.

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MAIN & DOUGLAS

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu

Irish sophomore center Erica Williamson, center, and senior guard Charel Allen, right, defend Rutgers guard Essence Carson during Notre Dame’s 57-51 loss to the Scarlet Knights Tuesday.

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**TIME PASSANTE:**
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Wednesday, February 20th
4:45 PM Hesburgh Center Auditorium

Presented by
David Lloyd
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**NCAA Men's Basketball**

**Williams responds to Coach K's words**

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski diagrams a play for two Blue Devils during the team's 86-73 loss to Wake Forest on Sunday.

*Associated Press*

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina coach Roy Williams apparently doesn't think too highly of Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski's views on injury reports.

In a small riff that has added the latest spiciness to college basketball's most intense rivalry, Williams took exception to a comment made by Krzyzewski on Sunday that the Blue Devils don't discuss injuries "unlike other schools."

While Krzyzewski never mentioned the third-ranked Tar Heels specifically, Williams felt the statement was a subtle jab at his team, which has had a much-publicized run of injuries and ailments in the past two weeks.

It was enough to have Williams, in a comment on his weekly radio show Monday, telling an unspecified person to "coach their own damn team."

On Tuesday, Williams found himself discussing the comments again instead of focusing on the Tar Heels' game at North Carolina State on Wednesday.

"It's not like I'm getting a diamond plane and flying it around to say, 'Roy fell against a wall and banged his nose' or anything," Williams said in a news conference. "We have to do these things [talk about injuries] and everybody's hurt. But there's different stages of being hurt."

"If you're hurt and missing games, that's not exactly like having a hangnail. And so we do have some people that are getting hurt and missing games. I don't think that somebody should say we're putting it in front of the public."

When a reporter attempted to ask a follow-up question, Williams said he didn't want to discuss the comments further and have "battles through the media." But when the news conference ended, Williams came back to the topic once more.

"I said before we played Duke it's impossible to have any more respect than I do for Mike," Williams said, "but I felt like that comment was aimed towards us."

Duke team spokesman Jon Jackson declined to comment Tuesday, one day before the Blue Devils (No. 4 ESPN/USA Today, No. 5 AP) travel to Miami.

Krzyzewski's comment came in a radio interview after Duke's loss at Wake Forest. While noting that freshman Nolan Smith had been playing through a knee injury for a few weeks, Krzyzewski added, "unlike other schools we don't release our injuries," according to the Web site for radio station WRBZ-AM in Raleigh.

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Professor John Roes, Political Science Department, 424 DeBartolo, 574-631-6746.

**PPE INFORMATION MEETING**
Wednesday February 20
204 DeBartolo 5:00-6:00
Streak continued from page 24

recruiting," White said. "We have a lot of talent and some great facilities that allow us to bring in some of the best swimmers out there."

But White said the most important reason for the squad's success is the development of swimmers that maximize their potential.

"It is really important to just make people faster," White said. "And that is a product of mental preparation, training, environment, coaching, support and first-rate facilities. And we have all of that here at Notre Dame."

The Big East championship runs from today to Saturday at the Nassau County Aquatic Center. The preliminary heats of the individual rounds will be held Friday and in the morning with the finals and the relays taking place during designated times. The Irish will look to maximize their scores by only swimming in their best events, as each participant can compete in a limited amount of events.

"We hope to qualify for the [NCAA Championship] with as many girls as possible," White said. "The Irish have fared well thus far against Big East foes, taking a 2-1 conference record into the championship. Their only Big East dual-meet loss was to Pittsburgh in a 150-149 nail-biter. They dominated Louisville 188-111 and West Virginia 249-116 in dual-meet competition this season."

This event is the culmination of a season of hard work for many of the swimmers. All the training, eating, sleeping, swimming, dry workouts and the daily grind led up to the next four days of swimming.

"The secret to success is lasting far into the entire four days," White said. "It takes a lot of energy. The irreducible constant is just to have it one event at a time."

The wildcard for the Irish is the 23-day layoff since their last meet. But the Irish traditionally come out of the break very strong.

"The girls feel really good," White said. "I have never seen them looking so hot."

Recycling the Observer

Letdown continued from page 24

Notre Dame junior Lisa Maunu and the Irish in scoring for the third time this season, shooting a 12-over-par 228, tied for 15th overall. Her Monday afternoon round of 74 was the low round of the week for the Irish.

Freshman standout So-Ryuan Park trailed Maunu by one stroke, finishing up with a 13-over-par 230, tied for 16th overall. Fellow Irish freshman Kate Conway added a final round 78 to end the tournament with a 17-over-par 233, tied for 31st overall.

Sophomores Annie Brophy and Kristin Wetzel both shot 80s on Tuesday to finish up with 239 and 243, tied for 50th and 61st respectively.

Notre Dame next hits the links at the Rio Verde Collegiate Invitational, which will be held March 7-9 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

Sawgrass continued from page 24

of the top teams in the tournament. But the Gaizers shot their best score of the event, 288—a tournament-best for the day.

Meanwhile, no team could keep up with No. 4 Alabama, who won the tournament by four strokes over No. 2 UCLA. The two teams were the favorites coming into a highly competitive week end with 10 of the top 30 teams in the nation.

No. 5 Charlotte was the biggest disappointment of the tournament, finishing in fifth place, 16 strokes out of the lead. Host North Florida ended the final round at 13-over-par and took third place overall in Saturday's tournament.

The winner of the individual side of the tournament was Georgia State's Joel Sjoholm, who led his team to a ninth-place finish.

The tournament also featured some solid individual performances by the Irish. Sophomore Doug Fornter finished the tournament with a combined score of 224, which left him in a tie for 29th. Fornter's score was 8-over-par on the weekend, but he was still impressive considering only six players finished below par for the weekend.

Irish captain and No. 1 golfer, Josh Sandman finished in a tie with Fornter.

The par-72, 6,895-yard Sawgrass Country Club is considered one of the hardest courses on the college tour.

The tournament allowed the Irish to shake off some of the rust that has built up over the long break since the fall season. The team improved its score every day of the tournament.

The Irish will be in action again March 3-4 at the USC Collegiate Invitational in Westlake Village, Calif.

Contact Peter Reisenauer at prciena@nd.edu

Announcing the Year 2008 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2008 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed $3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship Program in Italian Studies 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall University of Notre Dame
BLACK DOG

Micheal Mikuska

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

RUFF!

WHAT IS IT? IT IS AN...

RUFF! RUFF!! RUFF!!!

WHAT? IT IS A...

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WHAT IS IT?

RUFF!!

STOP IT!!!

JOE HUFF

LOLLERSKATES

Didier Lewis

The ONLY people eligible to do the 'Go Irish, Suck It.' Cheer.

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Lina Paek

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Across
1 Vacation rental
4...Lama
5 Painted round
14 Box follower
15 "You know... it's um... like when...
16 Watchmaker...since 1949
17 Extension
18 Blindy
20 Possible cause of a swelling
22 Firefighter Gus Van
23 Have as a focus
32 Weekly founded
38 Club choice
39 Neighbor on the one corner
41 Some people
45 People of
49 All accounted for
51 Blackened
52 Baseball’s
59 Expose, with perhaps
63 Baseball’s
66 baseball’s
68 Pittsburgh-to-
69 Med. insurance
70 Boston five
71 What each set of circled letters

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1 Challenges for
dreadful motorcyclist
2 Blood lines
3 Actress Rebecca of "Ugly Betty"
4 Ignorant
5 Psalm of
6 Part of a relay
7 Relief reactions
8 Unbroken
9 "The America’s
cruel novel of Susan
10 “Brown. Others. in broad
11 Winner at the Second
Battle of Bull Run
12 Bronze
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14 Panzy Rebels of the N.O.A.A.
15 Squares and numbers, e.g.
16 "A Puff Taff"
(Fritz Freleng short)
17 Only of the Low Countries: Abb.
18 4 Language family
19 Love, war
20 Five of the California
21 squares and numbers, e.g.
22 Naturopath who
appears on the California
23 squares and numbers, e.g.
24 "A Puff Taff" (Fritz
Freleng short)
25 Lower Countries: Abb.
27 Naturopath who
appears on the California
28 Viole
29 1998 Sarah
McLachlan hit
30 Bid for a basket
31 Half a mio
32 Sueter Katana
37 July laugh
38 Sub in a tub

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

CUBE SIDE REPORT

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JUMBLE

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THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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Jumble word game

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Scarlet blood

Defense not enough in loss to Rutgers in N.J.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

It was a night about defense from an Irish team known more for its high-scoring offense.

No. 14 Notre Dame — averaging 80 points per game — was held below the 60-point mark for only the third time this season in its 57-51 loss to No. 5 Rutgers in Piscataway, N.J. Tuesday night.

But it wasn't just the Scarlet Knights defense that performed well. The Irish kept Rutgers scoreless for 11 minutes throughout the course of the game.

"I felt that we really improved since the last time we played a top-five team," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "And on their home court, that's not something you do very often.

"I had high hopes going into this game and I think we did a pretty good job of keeping them to 57 points. I think in the first half we had 27 points, which is not where we want to be. But the second half we played a whole lot better."

Still, the Irish struggled from the field, converting 10-of-37 shots. McGraw pointed to focus and discipline and that hurt us.

"They (Rutgers) played with a lot more focus and discipline. They have a great history of doing that. We played with a bit of the old Notre Dame that is in there, but we certainly weren't sharp enough to win the game," said McGraw.

"But the girls all know that they can only take care of what they have control over."

Rutgers scored 24 points in the paint, twice as many as Notre Dame, and sank 15 of 26 foul shots.

"I think we had a couple of offensive possessions where we had to make baskets and we just couldn't do it. We had a few early opportunities that we just didn't make," McGraw said.

Rutgers came into the game averaging 90.2 points per game, ranked third in the nation. The Irish finished with 57 points, 10th on the season.

No. 14 Notre Dame — averaging 80 points per game — was held to 57.

The Irish finished last in the Big East and the Big East Championships. The Knights finished second.

"I was disappointed with our defense tonight. It was not good enough for us here at home," said McGraw.

The Irish have had a wake-up call."

Host No. 23 Michigan State cruised to a comfortable 10-stroke victory, shooting 303 in the final round to lead the field with an overall 892.

No. 25 Texas A&M made a final-round push, shooting a 298, to climb to second overall with a 902. Only two strokes separated the rest of the top five, rounded out by No. 14 Kent State (912), No. 37 Ohio State (913), and No. 31 Texas (914).

Michigan State's Sara Brown took home top-golfer honors, finishing the tournament with a 286.

This was the seventh consecutive year that the Fighting Irish won the Shamrock Invitational.

"You can't help but think about a streak like that," Irish assistant coach Joel White said. "But the girls all know that they can only take care of what they have control over."

Irish sophomore Erica Williamson fights for a loose ball with several Rutgers players during Notre Dame's 57-51 loss Tuesday in Piscataway, N.J.

Irish sophomore center Doug Fortner follows through on a putt at the Central District Invitational in Parrish, Fla. No. 14 Notre Dame - averaging 80 points per game - was held below the 60-point mark for only the third time this season in its 57-51 loss to No. 5 Rutgers in Piscataway, N.J.

Irish finished strong, falls short

Team improves every day of tournament

By PETER REISENAUER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame got the score it was hoping for, but it was just not enough.

The Irish finished last in a field of 15 Tuesday at the John Hayt Invitational in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Going into Tuesday's action, Irish coach Jim Kubinski said he hoped the team might be able to put up some score in the 290s. The Irish met that goal, finishing the day with a score of 296, 8-over par. The final-round score was an improvement on the 301 they shot Monday.

Kubinski thought the score might give his team a chance to climb out of eighth place. The coach hoped to catch Florida, one

see SAWGRASS/page 22

Men's Golf

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see SAWGRASS/page 22

Women's Golf

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see SAWGRASS/page 22

Women's Swimming

Squad aims for Big East championship

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

After a 24-day layoff filled with physical and mental preparation, the Irish enter the pool in competitive action today when the Big East championships start at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in East Meadow, N.Y.

"It's been quite a long layoff," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "But the focus has been wonderful. I think as we've tried to get everything sharpened up, we've made a lot of progress. We're very optimistic.

The Irish will seek their third conference title in four years. At last year's meet, they were defeated by West Virginia — who won by only 4.5 points.

Notre Dame exacted some revenge on the Mountaineers in its final regular season meet, the Shamrock Invitational, when it defeated West Virginia 219-150. In that event, as well as a victory over Pittsburgh in November and a loss to Louisville in January, Notre Dame got a chance to see its top conference competition up close.

Those three schools, along with Notre Dame and Cincinnati — last year's fifth-place team — are expected to battle it out once in the 290s. Saturday, the final day of competition.

The defending champion Mountaineers will compete without many of last year's key performers, but seniors Nick Delle and Kevin Donohue have shown quality leadership this season under the direction of new head coach Vic Biggs.

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