Construction workers install storm sewers on the south side of Le Mans Hall, east of the Moreau Center for the Arts, struck a low-pressure gas line, allowing a small amount of gas to seep from the ground onto Saint Mary's campus at approximately 6:30 p.m. Monday.

Timm Ringer, the College's maintenance working supervisor, said there is no danger to students, but said he did not know how long it would take to turn the gas off.

"We brought in the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), we're waiting from the word from them to be able to shut this down to see what it's going to affect on the buildings," Ringer said.

Bill Hambling, director of the facilities department, said in a statement to The Observer that NIPSCO was on campus within 10 minutes of the gas leak.

"NIPSCO quickly capped the line and determined there was no use for an evacuation of either building," Hambling said in the statement, released by Gwen Brien, director of media relations.

Construction workers tend to a gas leak near Le Mans Hall Monday. NIPSCO authorities reported the leak was harmless.

**Construction cause of SMC gas leak**

Authorities respond to line breach near Le Mans Hall; report it is harmless and contained

By LIZ HARTER and MANDI STRONDE Nov. 1, 2007

Student Activities holds first-ever basketball shootout; championship party awarded to winners

By ELIZABETH KUHN Nov. 1, 2007

St. Patrick's Day kicks off March Madness

Student Activities holds first-ever basketball shootout; championship party awarded to winners

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ND installs new alert system

Second trial proves more successful; OIT improves e-mail delivery

By MADELINE BUCKLEY Nov. 1, 2007

Alumnae discusses leadership roles

By NIKKI TAYLOR Nov. 1, 2007

College chooses new RAs

44 students selected to oversee dorm life

By LIZ HARTER Nov. 1, 2007

**College chooses new RAs**

44 students selected to oversee dorm life

By LIZ HARTER Nov. 1, 2007

Shortly before spring break, the Saint Mary's Office of Residence Life informed 44 students that they would be hired as resident assistants (RAs) for the 2007-2008 academic year. The group includes 31 students who are new to the position.

Life as a Saint Mary's RA involves dorm living, the full-time workload of a college student and the significant responsibilities of creating unique living situation for students who decide to take on the job.

Sophomore Melissa Croft said she was very excited after being informed that she will be the RA of 5 South in McCandless Hall, but is also "very nervous, but the good kind of nervous."

"We just wanted to offer the students a way to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, as well as the men's and women's basketball teams, who have done so well this year," said Erin Sekerek, the Student Activities Coordinator at the Student Activities Office. "We thought this would be a perfect way, especially since the women's selection show is tonight."

The shoot out, which was organized by the Student Activities Programming team, began at 4 p.m., with participants attempting five shots from the free throw line and three shots from the 3-point line. The real challenge began at 8 p.m. with an intense game of knockout for all students who had qualified by making 10 out of the possible 14 points. The winner of this game would then take home the grand prize of the private NCAA Championship party with 25 of their friends.

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

Luncheon Monday.

ND instals new alert system

Second trial proves more successful; OIT improves e-mail delivery

By MADELINE BUCKLEY Nov. 1, 2007

More than 20,000 text messages, voice-mails, and e-mails were successfully sent to students, faculty, and staff Friday afternoon as part of the University's effort to set up a system of communication for an emergency.

The ND alert test was a response to problems that occurred in the previous text of the system, which took place in November. Chief Information Officer Gordon Wishon said.

"We specifically ran this test to see if the refinements we made had been effective," Wishon said. "We don't have all the results in yet, but the preliminary results look very good."

After the first system test, OIT noted a delayed delivery of a number of the emergency e-mails, and students and faculty reported "garbled voice messages," Wishon said. In the past months, OIT looked closely at these failures, and made the necessary changes.

To improve the delayed e-mails, OIT has worked with the system administrators and made some changes in the way campus e-mail is delivered," Wishon said.

"Our text messaging system keeps exceeding our expectations," Wishon said.

**Alumnae discusses leadership roles**

By NIKKI TAYLOR Nov. 1, 2007

Saint Mary's alumnae and Board of Trustees member Paula Dawning spoke about her life and the opportunities it gave her, including the chance to spend her sophomore year in Angers, France. While in France, Dawning had her first real experience with being different, as she was one of the only African-Americans in the city.

"I learned how to go in and be different, and be unique. That served me well in corporate America," Dawning said. After graduation Dawning
The year's best holiday

As I sit here and think about the cold, the snow, and the mountain of homework that is piling up on my desk, I find myself not being able to wipe a giant smile off of my face. Why? It's because my favorite holiday of the entire year is the first and second weekends of the NCAA Tournament. A four-day basketball extravaganza that is unlike any other sporting event anywhere.

I know I am not alone. America is coming down with a case of March Madness along with me, whether it is for good or for bad. Online business magazine Slate.com estimates that $3.8 billion are given moment. Since you have probably seen the scrappy underdog challenge and over again in our lives. We love to see the underdog win, and it is the reason we have seen over millions of classes skipped by high school and college students to catch the games.

But there is a reason for it. More than any other sporting event, the NCAA tournament allows for fan participation by filling out a bracket (and likely wagering a few dollars in a pool). It is the only event where you get to pick the winner of such a vast amount of games, sliding each team as much or as little as you decide. Don't like a team? Pick them to lose and root vehemently against them. Or, go ahead and do as I did and put the Fighting Irish in the Final Four. You are ultimately in charge of your bracket, and the power is intoxicating.

And because everyone has a bracket, each of the 63 games has a meaning. You, personally, have picked a winner for all of the games that are on at any given moment. Since you have probably paid down some cash, or are just playing for bragging rights with your friends (or both), you will be glued to the UNLV-Kent State game on Thursday afternoon.

The only things we love more than our brackets are upsets. It is an American institution, something we have seen over and over again in our lives. We love to see the underdog underdog challenge and beat the talented favorite who might not be given much credit. It is the reason why America fell in love with George MASON, a No. 11 seed who stayed basketball giants North Carolina and Connecticut on its way to the Final Four in 2006. And even though these underdogs are not as talented, and have almost no realistic chance to win the tournament, it is a once a year treat to see them play with the intensity and passion that they do.

So go ahead, skip class, do work and become a couch potato for the weekend. Use this column as an excuse note if you need to. The best holiday of the year starts Thursday at 12:20 p.m. and I for one, am not going to miss a minute.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccarelli@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

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Inside Column

The year's best holiday

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ND aids Nat’l Park Service

Three undergraduates conduct research related to cutting costs

Joan Brennecke
chemical engineering professor

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to put their training into practice in a real-world setting that encompasses project management, teamwork and leadership opportunities," she said. "It also promotes discussion on a realistic and responsible use of resources."

As part of the project, students will be required to track and quantify the cost savings—and project payback in terms of resources, such as energy use reduction and lowered greenhouse gas emissions—relating to their recommendations. Participants in the 10-week project are Tom Furlong, a junior studying aerospace and mechanical engineering; Brian Klein, a senior political science major; and Jackie Miranda Mullin, a sophomore pursuing degrees in German and history.

Among the projects the students are scheduled to complete during the summer program are energy audits of one-third of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore buildings, designs for a geothermal heat pump system for the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education, and a comprehensive audit of Building 110 at the park headquarters, and the creation of educational materials for park guests that describe the proposed improvements and energy savings.

UNPEPP is a nationwide program that links universities with national parks to address energy issues within the parks. Through these partnerships, parks gain assistance with energy-related issues, while students obtain problem-solving experience in the energy field. Since its inception in 1997, UNPEPP has funded numerous partnerships between universities and national parks. Funding typically ranges from $15,000 to $20,000 per project and is used to support students, and faculty who teach related coursework.

The Notre Dame Energy Center works to develop new technologies to meet the global energy challenge. Housed in the Golisano Engineering Center, the center focuses on five areas of expertise: energy efficiency, safe nuclear waste storage, clean coal utilization, carbon dioxide separation, and storage and renewable resources. The center, which was established in 2005, is also committed to playing key roles in energy education and development of energy policy and the exploration of the ethical implications associated with energy use reduction.

Tom Furlong, a sophomore in mechanical engineering; Mira Miranda, a sophomore in aerospace and mechanical engineering; and Jackie Miranda Mullin, a sophomore pursuing degrees in German and history, are participating in the project.

The city will launch a safety sweep of the cranes in use around the city, Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster said Monday, although officials have no reason to believe the accident was indicative of a larger problem.

Six construction workers and a woman in town for St. Patrick’s Day were killed Saturday when the crane broke away from an apartment tower under construction and toppled like a tree onto buildings as far as a block away. The last three bodies were found Monday. The crane was being lengthened with a new section—process known as “jumping”—when it tumbled to the street. A 6-ton steel collar used to secure the crane to the building came loose, the buildings department said.

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NYC investigates crane safety after accident

NEW YORK — They are part of New York’s skyline: hundreds of spindly construction cranes like the one that toppled over the weekend, pulverizing parts of a city block below and killing seven people. As the machines work furiously amid a supercharged building boom, experts say it’s always a risk.

Operating cranes in a city of 8.2 million people where apartments and offices are stacked so closely and on top of one another is especially tricky.

“Because of the tightness of a construction site in New York City, there’s always the problem of having less space, and also there’s the problem that if anything does go wrong, there are a lot of people at risk,” said Gene Corley, a structural engineer.

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Is it secure?

Shred to be sure!

Look for the shredding bin in your ND Residence Hall

Documents you should shred include:

- Documents with Social Security numbers
- Credit card statements and offers
- Bank statements and offers
- Checks or copies of checks
- Credit and debit card numbers
- Driver’s license numbers
- NetID and other passwords
- Passport and/or visa information
- Medical information
- Grades, old tests, class notes and papers
- Other personal and confidential information

When in doubt, shred it!
Residence
continued from page 1
ward to leading students in what is traditionally a fresh- 
man hallway, and hopes that she will bring them together through section events that she is already planning. "I don’t even know if this is feasible but I would really like to have residence.

Mario Kart tournament was a section event, she said. "I want it to have events that allow the girls to get to know each other and the campus community." Craft said she would try to strike a balance between sticking to the rules and disregarding her residents have fun.

"I don’t want to be known as the stickler for the rules," Craft said. "Girls are scared to approach or be around this person that helps to be the 'joke' RA who lets you get away with anything, and the girls will try to manipulate." she said. "I hope it goes well.

Current junior and RA Deanna Matloff said RAs are put in the dorms to create a strong sense of unity within their sections, among other sections and between the different halls. She decided to reapply for the position because she feels that it has helped her grow as a student and as a person. "I want to continue to help the Saint Mary’s community in a way that best fits my tal- 
ents," Matloff said. "The staff provides a great support system that helps me not only be a RA advisor, but also as a student." She hopes to create a neighborly atmosphere in her section of Regina Hall next year and continue the events that she and the staff in that hall have created throughout the past year.

"I would love to continue the all hall events that Regina Hall hosted this year such as Royal Indulgence and Don’t Be Dopey as well as organize programs that help to make the women of Saint Mary’s feel comfortable interacting with the people on-campus and in the South Bend community," Matloff said. "Community was an important theme this year and I definitely want to continue that theme throughout the upcoming year as well."

To ensure the safety and between the different halls, there are certain criteria that RAs must meet to be considered for the position. Candidates must not have any outstanding debts to the College or be on disciplinary probation. The Residence Life Web site said. Applicants must also be at least a 2.5 grade point aver-

"When hiring RAs, we are looking for women who are passionate about making a positive impact at Saint Mary’s in this leadership role," Kathleen O’Leary, assistant director of the Office of Residence Life said. "We are looking for students who will be able to balance their academic workload with the demands of the RA position and have fun doing it." RA’s residential placement depends entirely upon where Residence Life feels the can-
didates’ strengths would best fit the needs of the residents. Craft said being an RA is a full time job, but thinks she will be able to handle having to set aside large amounts of time to be on call and meeting with the residents and members of her hall. Craft feels that it has helped her grow as a person.

"I didn’t know about the smoke alarm, but I didn’t think anything of it. I went up on the doors," junior Liz Pike said. "I didn’t even know about the gas leak. The hand made signs were put on the doors by the leak, the air was not dangerous, the air was not dangerous," he said. "We were packed the first half hour, and people have been tricking in since then," Sekerek said. The contestants ranged in skill and commitment, with some showing up at the last minute for their first time ever and others singing songs with no problem at all.

Junior Liz Pike and a friend tried their best to gain the applause of the crowd despite their lack of experience. "It’s cold to be out here, but definitely worth it," she said. Other players took the game much more seri-
ously, showing off skills that had perfected in hours of practice. Celebrating after dropping his tenth point, B r a m o n B r a y e n and Bryan Hayes looked toward the future. "I just want to show out there that I’m for real," he said. S A O interns Camille Gabriel and Kyle Chamberlain, who have worked on the project since its initial proposal, agreed. "It’s entertaining, to say the least.

Contact Elizabeth Kuhn at ekuhn@nd.edu

Leak
continued from page 1
lions for Saint Mary’s. Ringer said none of the buildings on campus should be negatively affected by the leak because the dorms use gas.

"There’s no gas whatsoever in LeMans (Hall), except for gas dryers," Ringer said. "I’m the student cen-

ter, the dining hall kitchen equipment will be affected, we’re aware of that.

Many students found out about the gas leak as they walked from their sections, among other things. "I smelt it in around 7 p.m., before signs went up on the doors," junior Krista Durski said. "It smells like dead fish, but I live near the river and it always smells like that when it rains so I didn’t think anything of it. I didn’t even know about the leak until the signs were put up," Ringer said.

Ringer also said Opus Ill, the senior on-campus apartments, may be affected, though he is not sure in what way. He said maintenance men are working in the beautiful and the LeMans Hall, and that there are no problems.

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"Before we turn the gas [back] on we’ll do walk-throughs of all the buildings and make sure that each and every device is working.

Tim Ringer maintenance supervisor

"Before we turn the gas [back] on we’ll do walk-throughs of all the buildings and make sure that each and every device is working.

"We have secured the air handler so that the gases can’t get into its (that building).

Ringer said when NIPSCO says it is safe, male RA and women will turn off the gas main to repair the break. Maintenance and take extra precautions before doing so.

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Suicide bomber leaves at least 43 dead

BEIJING — A suicide bomber struck Shi’ite worshippers in the holy city of Karbala on Monday, an official and a witness said, killing at least 43 people and leaving pools of blood on the street leading to one of Iraq’s most revered Shiite shrines.

The blast was the deadliest in a series of attacks that left at least 72 Iraqis dead, including six youths killed when mortar rounds slammed into a soccer field in southern Baghdad.

Two U.S. soldiers were also killed Monday in a roadside bombing north of Baghdad, bringing the American death toll in Iraq this week to 10, U.S.-led war enters its sixth year. At least 3,990 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the war in Iraq in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Ireland encourages alcohol control

DUBLIN, Ireland — Irish politicians and police urged the nation Monday to have fun during St. Patrick’s Day festivities — but not too much.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern called on celebra­tionists to drink moderately "and not get behind the wheel after doing it."

"There’s no reason (why) people can’t enjoy themselves and be part of the celebrations without going over the top," Ahern said in Waterford, where he was presenting President Bush with a ceremonial bowl of shamrocks.

Police vowed to crack down harder than in previous years on rowdiness and drunken driv­ing, which typically follows the parades in Dublin.

Paterson sworn in following scandal

New York’s first black governor succeeds Eliot Spitzer, eager to move past predecessor’s collapse

New York Gov. David Paterson speaks to a joint session of the legislature after being sworn in at the Capitol in Albany Monday.

Associated Press

Construction worker found in rubble

NEW YORK — The last of seven bodies was pulled from the rubble Monday at the site of a crane collapse that obliterated a town house and severely damaged other buildings.

Seven workers, including a woman in town for St. Patrick’s Day were killed Saturday when the crane broke away from an apartment tower under construction and toppled like a tree onto buildings as far as a block away. The last three bodies were found Monday.

A preliminary city investigation found that the crane toppled after a steel collar used to tie it to the side of the building fell as workers attempted to limit its movement. The crane, which rose 19 stories, came crashing down on a Manhattan neighborhood a few blocks from the United Nations on the city’s east side.

McCartney reaches divorce settlement

LONDON — Money may not buy her love, but Paul McCartney’s ex sure has a lot more of it. One of Britain’s bitterest divorces reached a settlement Monday when Heather Mills was awarded $48.6 million — an enormous sum, but a fraction of what the former Beatle’s $800 million fortune.

Mills declared herself “very, very, very pleased” with a payout that amounted to about $34,000 for each day of her four-year marriage. But some legal experts were surprised the former model, who has been widely portrayed in the British media as a gold-digger, did not get more.

Paterson takes oath of office from Chief Judge Judith Kaye, who ascended to the pinnacle of the state’s highest court in 1993 after former Chief Judge Sol Wachtler was caught threatening and harassing an ex­lover.

Paterson, 53, rose from the lieutenant governor’s office after Spitzer resigned last week amid allegations that he hired a call girl from a high-priced escort service. He was an dramatic fall for Spitzer, who was elected with an overwhelming share of the vote and who had vowed to root out corruption at the Capitol.

"This transition today is a historic message to the world: That we live by the same values that we profess, and we are a government of laws, not individuals,” Paterson said.

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China vows to hold onto to Tibet amid unrest

Beijing — China vowed Monday to defend its sovereignty in Tibet as Chinese police set up checkpoints and mobilized to quell an uprising. A dead­line for protestors in the Tibetan capital to turn themselves in passed without any apparent surrenders or arrests.

In the state government’s first comment on the anti-China protests in Tibet, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Monday that Lhasa had quieted down and many people were returning to work. Chinese military police reportedly set up many checkpoints to control movement.

"All across the city today there are checkpoints where you can only enter if you have a permit," said Marian Begerer, an intern for a French fashion design company who has lived in Lhasa for four months.

She said foreigners have been moved to the outskirts of the city, where the situation was less tense. Police were doing "door-to-door searches and just going in and ripping apart and looking for insurgents," as of Sunday, said Susan Wettmore, a Canadian who arrived by plane Monday in Chengdu in neighboring Sichuan province.

She said there were at least 10 checkpoints between the heart of the city and the airport about 55 miles away.

In Beijing, Liu accused the Dalai Lama’s supporters of being "behind sometimes violent demonstrations at Chinese embassies and consulates in the U.S., Europe and Asia."

German police detained 25 Tibetans on Monday after demonstrators tried to force their way into the Chinese consulate in Munich and spray-painted "Save Tibet" and "Stop Killing" on the building.
Kosovo

UN, NATO troops clash with Serbs
Repossession of courthouse causes protests; 63 wounded in attacks

Associated Press

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA, Kosovo — Serb demonstrators and Kosovar nationalist peacekeepers threw rocks, grenades and Molotov cocktails Monday, sending scores of police and civilians to hospitals. Demonstrations in Kosovo have become a source of violence in the province since it declared independence from Serbia last month.

The Serb-dominated town of Mitrovica was hit by a wave of violence when some 150 demonstrators gathered on the main street demanding that Kosovars be removed from the town. The demonstration was called to protest the registration of Kosovo’s independence.

The clashes are the latest in a series of violent incidents that have erupted in Kosovo since it declared independence from Serbia last month. The violence has raised concerns about the stability of the new state.

A Kosovar policeman was killed and several others were wounded in the clashes, which started when around 150 protesters confronted police who had cordoned off the area.

A Kosovo Serb activist, who spoke to the protesters, said they were angry about the police action.

"We are fighting to get our rights back," the activist said.

The clashes are part of a larger wave of violence that has swept through Kosovo since it declared independence from Serbia last month.

"We are fighting to protect our homes and our rights," the activist said.

The clashes have continued for several days, with protesters calling for the withdrawal of international peacekeepers.

"We want to be independent," the activist said.

The violence has raised concerns about the stability of the new state.

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## Market Recap

### Stocks

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<tr>
<th>Dow Jones</th>
<th>11,951.09</th>
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| FTSE 100 (London) | 5,631.70 | -60.70 |

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### Treasury Rates

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</table>

### Wall Street Claws Back from Sharp Losses

Wall Street recovered as investors snapped up bargain stocks following JPMorgan Chase & Co.‘s bailout of Bear Stearns.

### In Brief

Paulson praised for economic tactics

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, the consummate Wall Street baron who amassed a fortune as an investment giant Goldman Sachs, is applying his insider knowledge to help manage a credit-market meltdown.

Known as “Hank the Hammer” when he led Goldman Sachs, Paulson is winning praise for forcing hard-nosed money-lending tactics to strike deals seen as critical to coping with the worst credit crisis in financial markets since the savings and loan crisis of the early 1990s.

He leads the President’s Working Group on Capital Markets, which briefed President Bush at the White House on Monday. He said the president was “quite pleased” with the results of the marathon negotiations over the weekend that resulted in a deal for the sale of troubled investment house Bear Stearns Cos. to JPMorgan Chase & Co.

### Industrial Production Falls to Record Low

WASHINGTON — Industrial output fell in February by the biggest amount in four months, providing yet another gloomy assessment of the economy’s health.

The Federal Reserve said Monday that output at the nation’s factories, mines and utilities dropped by 0.5 percent in February, the biggest decline since the 0.6 percent fall last October.

It was a far weaker reading than the slight increase of 0.1 percent that many analysts had been expecting. It served to underscore the severity of the current economic slowdown.

Daniel Meckstroth, chief economist for the Manufacturers Alliance/MPI, said he believed that the manufacturing sector fell into a recession in October and that the overall economy followed in December.

“The economic shock of a housing collapse, credit crunch, including financial sector turmoil, and sky-high oil prices have squeezed consumers’ budgets to the point where there is no growth left,” he said.

### Conseco Inc., hires Morgan Stanley

Conseco Inc., a troubled insurer, hired Morgan Stanley & Co. late last week asked Conseco to nominate its two principal shareholders Leonard Lichtenstein and his partner Jack Howard, to the Conseco board, saying the company’s stock price did not reflect its true value.

In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Steel Partners said it owned 14.9 million shares of Conseco, an 8 percent stake.

In its statement Monday saying it was declining the partnership’s request for board seats, Conseco referred to Steel Partners’ intention to hire an investment banker to look at options to increase the value of the company stock.

“We share with Steel Partners, as well as our other shareholders, a common interest in taking actions that will increase the value of the company for shareholders,” the company said in a statement attributed to Conseco CEO Jim Prieur.

In that regard, we have been working with a major investment bank for several months regarding strategic alternatives and plans to maximize shareholder value for Conseco. We believe, and hope Steel Partners would concur, that we already are exploring courses of action suggested by them,” said Prieur, who took over as CEO 18 months ago.

Steel Partners had no immediate comment on Conseco’s rebuff. A request for comment was left with a spokesman for the partnership.

Conseco spokesman Tom Zehnder said the company had no comment on its strategic options beyond its written statement, but one expert said the insurer probably was shopping itself around.

“That’s the most likely scenario,” said Tod Perry, a corporate finance and governance expert at Indiana University’s Kelley School of Business.

Alternatively, Conseco also might try to find a so-called “white knight” equity investor that would allow the company’s current management to remain in place.

Separately, Conseco reported its fourth quarter financial results and said again that it plans to restate results for fiscal years 2003, 2006 and the first three quarters of 2007. As a result, its net income may swing by $15 million in any given period.
Officials survey tornado damage

Twister knocks Atlanta's hotel rooms out of use

Associated Press
ATLANTA — Workers struggled to get hotels through debris and anestir traffic days after a tornado struck downtown, drawing term effects on the city's lucrative convention and tourist industry were anticipated.

The twister knocked hundreds of hotel rooms out of commission and significantly damaged the city's largest convention venue, the Georgia World Congress Center, said Spurgeon Richardson, president and CEO of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"We are open for business," Richardson told reporters.

A volleyball tournament next weekend was still on and is expected to bring 38,000 people to Atlanta, though it will likely be scattered around venues throughout the metro area instead of concentrated at the World Congress Center as planned, officials said.

"We've always fostered an independent streak up here," said Tom Overman, director of the Chamber of Commerce in Yreka (pronounced yee-KEE-ah), about 270 miles north of San Francisco.

More than six decades later, many residents of the mountainous region along the California-Oregon border continue to complain that their concerns are overlooked and undervalued by decision makers in more populated areas.

The State of Jefferson began as part public stunt, part political gesture. Even today, the movement is made up of tourist-friendly subways intertwined with more serious themes of discontent.

In the Palace Barber Shop on Yreka's main drag hangs an animal skull decorated with the XX brand adopted by the Jeffersonians of 1941 to signify their region's edge over registered Democrats, he chafes at the feeling that outside forces are calling the shots.

"We would like to be able to take care of our resources and be able to manage them properly, and we can do that if we're just allowed to," Overman said.

The idea of forming a separate state out of the counties in far Northern California and southern Oregon has come up several times in the past.

It's also recalled in the name "State of Jefferson." The 1941 movement got national attention. San Francisco Chronicle reporter Stanton Delaplane won the Pulitzer in 1942 for his articles about the rebellious movement.

But with the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, the movement was shelved.

Today, the brief chapter is memorialized on a Web site, jeffersonstate.com, and a barn south of Yreka painted with the name "State of Jefferson." It's also recalled in the name Jefferson Public Radio, based in Ashland, Ore.

"It's really a very, very old historical tradition in America that people sort of removed from the center of power resist the center of power," said Jay Mullen, professor of history at Southern Oregon University.

The Jefferson Public Radio movement got started when Gilbert Gabler, mayor of Port Orford, Ore., announced that a number of Oregon counties should join with California neighbors to form a new state. His idea was to draw attention to the region's rotten roads.

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Associated Press

Conservative discontent may hurt Ahmadinejad's electoral prospects

Iran

President vulnerable for re-election

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Associated Press

TEHRA – President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad may be vulnerable when he stands for re-election next year, after Iranian parliamentary elections showed discontent among fellow conservatives.

The president does have a major advantage: support from Iran's supreme leader. A key question will be whether Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's backing lasts until presidential elections expected in the summer of 2009.

Conservatives maintained their hold on the parliament in Friday's election, but their camp is split over Ahmadinejad. His conservative opponents won a solid bloc that will likely clash with the president over the next year.

Reformists also managed to preserve their presence even though most of their candidates were barred from the race. "If the government continues the policies that have been controversial, the majority of the parliament will be against it," said Amir Ali Amiri, spokesman of the Inclusive Coalition of Principlists, an election slate of conservatives who have broken with the hard-line president.

Amiri said the coalition might put forward a candidate for the presidency, but said "we must wait" until presidential elections are held at the semi-official ISNA news agency.

Two men are seen as top possibilities to challenge Ahmadinejad: Tehran Mayor Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and former nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani, who won a parliament seat in the election.

The strength of Ahmadinejad's conservative opponents likely won't mean changes in Iran's tough line toward the United States.

They support pushing ahead with Iran's nuclear program despite U.N. sanctions. But they also oppose Ahmadinejad inflammatory rhetoric, which they say has provoked the West. Some see greater pragmatism in dealing with the outside world.

The economy has been Ahmadinejad's weakest point. Jumps in inflation have been so high, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency, that at least doubling prices for some foods over the past year, and unemployment is believed by some economists to be around 15 percent. And the public has been angered by gas rationing and heating oil shortages during the unusually cold winter.

Ahmadinejad's critics say his economic policies have been haphazard and only made the situation worse.

Amiri said his camp would seek to elect Larijani as parliament speaker — a post now held by an Ahmadinejad ally — and oppose the current deputy speaker, who is widely seen as the brain behind the president's rise to power.

Still, Khamenei has become more overt in his backing for Ahmadinejad, despite rumblings in the conservative camp. The supreme leader, as head of Iran's clerical leadership, has final word in all state matters.

Khamenei tries to stay above factional disputes in public, but took the unusual step before the election of expressing strong support for the president, calling on voters to choose candidates allied to the government.

One reason may be the nuclear issue. Khamenei has praised Ahmadinejad's handling of the matter, and the clerical powers may see him as best able to stand up to the West.

Contact: Liz Reagan 305 Brownson Hall 631-0622 reagan.9@nd.edu
Obama and the end of time

Ever since I got this column, I’ve wanted to write about Barack Obama. At first, I wanted to praise him for being so positive and staying above the harsh rhetoric common to ambitious politicians. As a conservative (well, mostly), I wanted to express my gratitude for the fact that, from what I could tell, didn’t hate me. It was so nice to see such a prominent Democrat refrain from constantly accusing Republicans of hating poor people/proletariat/little people/Mexicans/Muslims/pawns/women/children/polar bears/waste. I found his warmth and charm a pleasant contrast to his main rival, who I bet would like to bite my face off and eat my brain. Even his name’s cool. So duper was I that I nurtured the hope that his ultraliberal voting record was just a means to get the nomination, and that once elected he’d govern as a moderate. By the time I’d submitted articles I considered higher-priority, though, the “Look — this guy’s not a shrill partisan jerk!” story was old news. Even important conservatives had written glowingly about Illinois junior senator, or at least as glowingly as they could about his father, and not just because they enjoyed seeing someone getting the Clintons’ problems.

My next Obama idea was more about his supporters. Friends who follow politics carefully told me about the more ridiculous aspects of his campaign — people actually fainting at his rallies, describing their “coming to Obama conversions,” making creepily propagandist YouTube videos, etc. By then, I’d realized his campaign was just a bunch of hot air, and that his movement was mainly a pop-culture phenomenon, a shallow fad. I found it especially amusing that most of his support, aside from black voters, was coming from the highly-educated — the less group you’d expect to fall for smooth empty oratory (unless you’re cynical about contemporary higher education, like me). I thought of Santino’s question to Michael, whether he’d gone to college to get stupid. Once again, though, I was the last lion to the kill. Poking fun at the over-the-topness of Obama hype had become a common theme, as had criticism of his message as various. So I’d decided to forget about him, and was thinking of writing an advice piece for seniors about how to enter the white-collar world (item: if the office go-to girl comes to your cubicle seeking a donation for an AIDS charity, don’t ask whether she’d contracted it). Then I saw the latest issue of Rolling Stone. At first I thought it was a parody. It’s gotta be, right? Then I realized it wasn’t, and I was reminded of a book by the great Russian Orthodox mystic/theologian, Vladimir Soloviev. In it, the leaders of the Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant faiths go to meet a mysterious, popular world leader, who’s promised to usher in a new order of peace and universal brotherhood and all that good stuff. All his words are spirit and light, and there’s even hushed speculation in some quarters about whether he could be Our Lord come back to earth, or maybe a man who’d prepare for His return, like a second St. John the Baptist. I think it was the Protestant who, in the first meeting with the great man, realized with horror that he was none other than the Antichrist.

Before you think I’m totally nuts, wait. I don’t believe Barack Obama is the Antichrist. Even if biotech developments — human cloning’s inevitability, recent creation of embryonic human-animal hybrids, etc. — make me believe time’s near its end, there’s still much that must happen before the man of sin appears. Besides, there’s a godlessness about Obama and his policies that won’t be found with the Antichrist. But there’s a point — and I think we’ve reached it with Obama — where grossly unmerited adulation and admiration stops being funny, and starts being sinister. And there’s a point too where a man can no longer deny responsibility for the cult-like following he’s gained. Even though I’m deeply cynical, rarely surprised at man’s capacity for self-love and little shocked by any suggestion that most people end up dumber, I still think normal people would be at least a bit bemused by the veneration Obama’s received. Remember Monty Python’s Brian? I’m convinced myself, and I was sickened by my own surprise and gratification party. But Obama seems perfectly comfortable being treated like a god. And I believe it takes a special, especially evil, man to accept such worship.

With the ongoing Du-Eagle’s-Wings/irrulition of the Church, many Catholics consider the idea of the Antichrist an embarrassing anachronism. That’s one reason he’ll manage to gain power. Those who do still look for his entry into history are likely to expect a bloodthirsty savage riding a chariot of human skulls. That’s another reason he’ll feel so many, for he’ll be more fun than Lenin.

Don’t get me wrong — there’s plenty of Obama’s politics I consider profoundly evil. For instance, his opposition to laws protecting babies born in botched abortions (amazing how the little suckers resist being chopped up). Indeed, the odiousness of his positions is one reason he keeps his speeches away from pesky specifics and policy.

But it’s his ability to inspire religious fanaticism toward himself, and his delight in it, which I find most disturbing, even chilling. And it’s these features of his candidacy that I think will be of most lasting significance.

Greg Yatauro is a 1999 alumnus. His address is greggym@hotmail.com. He wishes you would drop the charade and just give the Laetare to Ted Kennedy.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Crime Victims for Alternatives to the Death Penalty - Herron describes her initial reaction to her brother's death as one of vengeful vigilantism. She says she wanted to pick up a gun and roam the streets in pursuit of her brother's killer. But given time to reflect and heal, Herron explained to the panel, she reached an insightful position on the death penalty that does not forget the real rage and desperation felt by victims.

"I understand that this sense of revenge is a very legitimate emotion, but it is not a legitimate basis for public policy. I think we denigrate our own noble ideals when we use revenge and we use the public fisc for the purpose of killing our fellow human beings."

Bad Welch, who spoke at Notre Dame in early November 2007, lost his daughter in the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995. Like Herron, Welch initially reacted with anger, only later to arrive at his stance against the death penalty. Speaking in the Montgomery Theatre of LaFontune on Nov. 7, Welch said to a group of Notre Dame students: "The very idea that this revenge of killing another person is going to somehow help you to heal ... it's impossible. I was trying to go through the healing process while I was living with this revenge, and you can't do it."

Another speaker who visited Notre Dame this fall, Dr. Michael Baddelet of the University of Colorado-Boulder, argues against the death penalty and for the families of murder victims in another way. He is involved in fighting for a reallocation of funds from maintaining Colorado's capital punishment system to paying for re-investigations of cold cases.

Rather than seek the so-called highest form of revenge for only a few families, this movement asks that resources be used to work toward answers for all families impacted by the tragedy of murder. Herron, too, points to the financial irresponsibility of the death penalty in California, where 114 million dollars are spent each year to uphold the death penalty system: "It is a stunning irony, I think, that even as the governor [of California] is about to announce a deficit of fourteen billion dollars, we can still find funds to kill those who kill all the while..."

"It is a stunning irony, I think, that even as the governor [of California] is about to announce a deficit of fourteen billion dollars, we can still find funds to kill those who kill all the while..." 

New to Revenge, "is one such clip. With only 1,700 views, it doesn't even begin to play a role in the political process - evident with the abundance of videos and channels dedicated to covering the 2008 presidential primaries - videos that offer wisdom alone are largely ignored by the internet community.

"Victim to Panel: No to Death Penalty, No to Revenge," is one such clip. With only 1,700 views, it doesn't even begin to compete on YouTube's "most viewed" page, but the testimony offered in the video is perhaps the most insightful and comprehensive statement about the death penalty that I've encountered over several years on working on the issue.

Aundre Herron is a former prosecutor in California whose eldest brother was murdered in 1994. In this YouTube clip, filmed during hearings on the death penalty currently occurring in California and posted by the group California
By RYAN BAFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

Beat Pyramid, the debut album from England’s These New Puritans starts off predictably, given its name, with a big stomping drum-sample. 20 seconds later, the jangly guitar line cuts in, and it seems like the British Isles have produced another hip post-punk band, probably one hyped into oblivion. Listen intently to this first song, the unusually titled “Numerology AKA Numbers”, and you can hear more than just Blue Party version 2.0. In fact, These New Puritans are far from the normal crop of Gang of Four rip-offs, they are an entirely different breed. The group is nearly as avant-garde and experimental as post-punk can get.

The group relies heavily on drum samples, loops and other forms of electronic programming to form the backbone of their esoteric sound. Beats are central here, but not in the mainstream hip-hop sense of making the most watered down, accessible sound possible. No, These New Puritans are more focused on using percussive effects and loops as a weapon, using them to beat you into submission. Everything else is secondary — vocals, guitar, bass and keyboard all serving to back up and complement the percussion. On “Infinity Ytinifni”, there is no guitar or bass at all, just keyboard and huge, echoing drums, with singer Jack Barnett’s half-sung vocals floating over the song. The nearest sounding contenders to the band is the similarly beat-intensive Battles. There aren’t many post-punk outfits that sound like this or for that case, in all of music.

The band has pop chops as well, and they reveal them on the surprisingly catchy single “Elvis”. One line claims “what will happen next, we have no clue,” succinctly summing up what it’s like to listen to this album. Here, an ominous bassline leads into a verse with the paranoid exclamation that “we’re being watched by experts”. This then flows into a smoothly melodic chorus, with cryptic lyrics about God and waiting for something. It’s a wild song, where in less than three minutes, the group proves that eccentricity and accessibility are not mutually exclusive.

“MKK3” is a quiet, brooding track that updates Joy Division’s melancholy for today’s short attention span culture in less than two minutes. “Navigate-Colours” continues the Joy Division fixation before dissolving into looped vocals and beats that fade in and out. In fact, nearly all of the songs on Beat Pyramid offer something of interest, with its seeming tug of war battle between conventional and offbeat sound. You might not think that the idea of mixing late ’70s post-punk with modern day electronic programming could sustain a full length album, but These New Puritans pull it off surprisingly well. Perhaps that can be attributed to brevity, by not allowing anything to repeat for a long enough time to get boring.

The twelve songs on the record, not counting the four sub-30 second interludes, play for a mere 35 minutes. For the non-mathematically inclined, that works out to around three minutes per song. Songs zip by, making their point and ending. It’s a direct method of song writing that serves the group well.

These New Puritans have put forward an impressive effort with their debut album, challenging the listener and pushing post-punk in new directions. Not content to merely rip off their forebears, they borrow from other genres, melding everything together into one unique sound. There are moments where the bands that influence them shine through, but these are only for brief seconds. Each song is distinct, but overall the album has a cohesive sound, easily identifiable as the work of one group. If you’re looking for something a little different than your normal fare, this would be a great place to start.

Contact Ryan Baffin at rraffin@nd.edu
It all started on April 26, 1999. The greatest game of all time was released in America for the Nintendo 64. Or so we thought.

Super Smash Bros. revolutionized the way multiplayer games would be made and played. Sure, Goldeneye came out first, but no one had seen the likes of SSB before.

In this game, we could live out all our Nintendo fantasies. We could beat the crap out of that annoying plumber Mario, or that yellow rat Pikachu. One could control the pink ball of terror that is Kirby the way he was meant to be used: to dominate all comers. Life was good.

Just two years later, on Nintendo’s new console, Super Smash Bros. Melee was released on December 3rd, 2001. I admit, I bought a Gamecube just so I could play SSBM. Melee took what was perfect, and made it more perfect. If you had a computer, multiplayer wouldn’t have woken up to the likes of SSB before.

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On March 9th, 2008, the greatest day in the history of mankind, the pinnacle of human achievement was bestowed upon the waiting faithful. Like manna from the heavens, Super Smash Bros. Brawl descended upon the ready masses. And it was good.

A cast of 35 characters including the likes of Sonic the Hedgehog and Solid Snake return to brawl on new stages with new moves. Being a lifelong Sega fan, I know how much of a disconnect it is to be playing as Sonic on a Nintendo console, but at least I can use the spiky blue blur to destroy Mario all I want.

Nintendo has simplified the controls a little bit, allowing new players to jump in easily. But there still remains a depth of control that allows veteran players to show off their skills (and lack of social lives) whenever necessary. There is also the addition of Final Smashes, which are random items that give players the ability to perform a single powerful move.

There are 41 stages, some old, some new, and some redesigned from previous games. Unlike the previous two games, almost all of them are dynamic. Obstacles can be destroyed, and things change as night turns into day, or winter turns to spring. It’s amazing the amount of detail they have loaded into the stages, and I don’t see myself getting tired of any of the levels soon.

Besides that, they’ve added a richer single player game. While Melee attempted to have a single player adventure, it was weak and shallow. Brawl’s single player game has much more depth and fun, but still pales in comparison to the times when you can play with three of your friends. After all, this was meant to be a multiplayer game.

While I don’t have Wii myself, I can walk down the hall and into any room and find people playing the game. Much like I did with Melee, I can definitely see myself buying a Wii just for this game. And I bet I’m not the only one.

While admittedly fantastic multiplayer games like Halo, Rock Band, and Call of Duty 4 have stolen our hearts the past couple of years, we must remember to gather to praise and give thanks for the latest installment in the greatest multiplayer franchise that has ever existed. Let’s brawl.

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

Contact Mychal Stanley at wstanley@nd.edu
**NHL**

**Sharks' team-record 11-game winning streak ends**

Oilers top team in shoot-out; San Jose has earned 23 points in 12 games despite disappointing start to season

Associated Press

SAN JOSE — Just a month ago, Jeremy Roenick wasn’t totally sure this streak of success involving San Jose Sharks would make the NHL playoffs, even with all their talent, experience and depth.

After the longest winning streak in franchise history, Roenick’s only remaining question is whether the Sharks can ride this wave all the way into June.

San Jose’s club-record 11-game roll ended Sunday night, but the 2-1 shootout loss to Edmonton still produced the Sharks’ 23rd point in 12 games. Led by a rejuvenated captain, a new defenseman and a tireless goalie, San Jose has replied to the doubters who saw the progression斯坦利杯's favorites’ first 60 games as a disappointment — particularly the five before their winning run.

“We had that five-game losing streak, and when you’re in a playoff race and you get scared of actually missing the playoffs, it gets your attention,” Roenick, recalling a miserable trip from New Jersey to Philadelphia right before the streak began, said. “Everything started going right after that, and it just built on itself. It’s an energy, and everybody thrives off it. We feel really confident right now.”

With 93 points, the Sharks (42-21-3-6) have leaped three points ahead of Anaheim and four in front of Dallas in the tight Pacific Division after mostly trailing for 48 months. With the Western Conference postseason, while the Sharks in control of their division rivals, putting the Sharks in control of their history to avoid a rough final round playoff matchup. The Pacific winner will get the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference postseason, while the second and third-place teams are almost certain to play each other in the first round.

Just in case the players for...
around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL
Mt. Saint Mary’s vs. Coppin State
7:30 p.m., ESPN

NBA BASKETBALL
Nets at Bulls
8:30 p.m., CSN

Celtics at Rockets
9:30 p.m., TNT

New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte delivers a pitch Monday during the Yankees’ 8-4 win over the Boston Red Sox.

The Yankees will play a spring training game today against the Virginia Tech Hokies.

IN BRIEF
Harmon to coach US men’s tennis team in Beijing
First Andy Roddick, now Patrick McEnroe.

The United States men’s tennis team at the Beijing Olympics will be missing the top player and the captain from the squad that ended the country’s 12-year championship drought in the Davis Cup.

McEnroe told the U.S. Tennis Association he did not want to return as Olympic tennis coach, a job he held at the 2004 Athens Games. Instead, Rodney Harmon will lead the American men in Beijing; pending U.S. Olympic Committee approval.

"I just felt like, I’ve been there, I was lucky enough to have the experience," McEnroe said Monday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I’ve been the captain for eight years, it seemed like a good opportunity for someone else to have that experience."

Study questions results of growth hormone use
"NEW YORK — Athletes who take human growth hormone may not be getting the boost they expected. While growth hormone adds some muscle, it doesn’t appear to improve strength or exercise capacity, according to a review of studies that tested the hormone in mostly athletic young men.

"It just looks like it helps and there’s a hint of evidence it may worsen athletic performance," said Dr. Hau Liu, of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, Calif., who was lead author of the review.

Growth hormone, or HGH, is among the performance enhancers baseball stars Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte were accused of taking in the blackbush Mitchell Report. Clemens denies using the hormone, while Pettitte admits using it.

The Yankees have their own history with massive tragedy, playing in the same city where the attacks on the World Trade Towers claimed thousands of lives on Sept. 11, 2001.

"I really had a new appreciation for life after that," Jeter said. "I think it brings attention to how precious life is. You realize it’s going to be a special trip and you can’t take anything for granted.

This really puts things in perspective."

Yankees to play game at Virginia Tech

Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Like most major leaguers, the New York Yankees don’t get too excited about Grapefruit League games, especially when a bus trip is involved.

Tuesday’s spring training road trip will be different.

Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and the Yankees will board a bus at their Tampa, Fla., training complex to catch a flight to Virginia, then a bus to Blacksburg for an exhibition game they all want to play. The Bronx Bombers vs. the Virginia Tech Hokies.

"All the players are looking forward to it," Jeter said Monday. "The players that can’t go want to. I’m sure it will be emotional, especially for the student body.

It was 11 months ago this college town became the focus of a horrified nation after a gunman killed 32 people on campus, and then himself.

People around the world rallied behind Virginia Tech and the community, and the Yankees were among the organizations that offered overwhelming support, donating $1 million to the Hokie Spirit Memorial Fund and asking if they could come play a game.

They’ll do it Tuesday afternoon in a stadium packed with 3,000 students who won a lottery for tickets, 1,000 faculty and staff, and victims of last April 16th.

Virginia Tech coach Peter Hughes still gets choked up when he thinks about that day, and the one coming.

"Everywhere in life we’ve got guys that talk and guys that do things," the second-year Hokies coach said. "And when the Yankees call and say, ‘Hey, we want to help out.

We’ve got to do something. Here’s our idea: we want to come play and here’s a million dollars. How proactive is that? It blows you away, their generosity.

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Indiana forms committee to search for new head coach
BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — While Indiana prepares for its first-round game in the NCAA tournament, the school said Monday that a former 10-member committee will lead a 10-member committee to search for a replacement for disgraced coach Kelvin Sampson.

The head job became vacant last month when Sampson resigned amid allegations of NCAA violations. Dan Dakich, an assistant under Sampson and a former Indiana player and assistant under Bob Knight, took over as interim coach for the rest of the season.

Harry Gonso, a former Indian quar- terback and attorney, will lead the search committee, which includes athletic director Rick Greenspan and former Hoosier player Wayne Budd.

No timetable for the selection was announced, and Gonso said committee members would not comment publicly on progress until a decision is made.

In Brief

around the dial

AP Top 25
Women’s Basketball Final Poll
rank | team | record | points
---|---|---|---
1 | Connecticut (49) | 30-1 | 1,249
2 | North Carolina (1) | 30-2 | 1,183
3 | Tennessee | 30-2 | 1,153
4 | Stanford | 30-3 | 1,091
5 | Maryland | 30-3 | 1,087
6 | LSU | 27-5 | 814
7 | Rutgers | 24-6 | 705
8 | Texas A&M | 24-7 | 649
9 | Duke | 23-9 | 617
10 | California | 23-9 | 597
11 | Old Dominion | 23-9 | 579
12 | Baylor | 24-5 | 552
13 | Oklahoma St. | 22-7 | 493
14 | Notre Dame | 22-7 | 477
15 | NOTRE DAME | 22-7 | 461
16 | Kansas St. | 22-7 | 436
17 | Kansas | 22-7 | 434
18 | Utah | 22-7 | 426
19 | West Virginia | 22-7 | 418
20 | Purdue | 22-7 | 401
21 | Davidson | 22-7 | 393
22 | Clemson | 22-7 | 364
23 | Davidson | 22-7 | 353
24 | Gonzaga | 22-7 | 342
25 | Marquette | 22-7 | 332

AP Top 25
Men’s Basketball Final Poll
rank | team | record | points
---|---|---|---
1 | North Carolina (63) | 32-2 | 1,729
2 | Memphis (13) | 31-1 | 1,710
3 | USA (13) | 31-1 | 1,674
4 | Kansas (1) | 31-1 | 1,596
5 | Tennessee | 29-4 | 1,449
6 | Wisconsin | 29-4 | 1,449
7 | Texas | 28-5 | 1,399
8 | Georgetown | 28-5 | 1,371
9 | Duke | 27-5 | 1,320
10 | Stanford | 26-7 | 1,192
11 | Butler | 26-7 | 1,184
12 | Xavier | 26-7 | 1,163
13 | Louisville | 25-8 | 854
14 | Drake | 23-8 | 792
15 | NOTRE DAME | 23-8 | 774
16 | Connecticut | 23-8 | 766
17 | Pittsburgh | 23-8 | 507
18 | Michigan State | 23-8 | 503
19 | Vanderbilt | 23-8 | 493
20 | Pepperdine | 23-8 | 489
21 | Washington State | 23-8 | 479
22 | Clemson | 24-7 | 364
23 | Providence | 24-7 | 259
24 | Gonzaga | 24-7 | 232
25 | Marquette | 24-7 | 174

The dial

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Are you in for a difference?

If you've thought of offering your talent; if you dream of helping create a better way of living for those in need; if you want to challenge yourself, learn, travel, and give; then, we need to talk...

Come join us at the Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns. We are receiving applications for ten volunteering positions in Puerto Rico. The interviews will be held in March 25, 26 and 27 at the CSC.

To download the application and gather information, visit www.prcsc.org.

The PRSC is a non-profit organization committed to improve the quality of life in communities with limited economic resources. By matching volunteer interest and skills with the needs of the community, the PRSC promotes the well being of the residents while providing enriching experiences of volunteer work.
Tennessee earns top seed in the women's NCAA tourney

Connecticut, Maryland and North Carolina fill out top four spots; rival Lady Vols and Huskies could meet in finals

Associated Press

Tennessee, Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina.

Those No. 1 seeds — all familiar powerhouses to college basketball fans and all previous winners — anchored the NCAA women's tournament bracket, with the Lady Vols opening defense of their championship at the Oklahoma City Regional.

Connecticut and Tennessee didn't meet this season for the first time in 13 years. That could change April 8 in Tampa with the national championship on the line.

"It's Tennessee and Connecticut, I think there's always a lot of hype," said Tennessee coach Pat Summitt, whose team led by All-American Candace Parker opens up Sunday against Oral Roberts. "My mind is not on anything else but getting our team better." Before the two could meet, Connecticut must get through new rival Rutgers. The Huskies are the top seed in Greensboro, and the Scarlet Knights are No. 2. Rutgers handed Connecticut its only loss this season.

"With so many teams to choose from it's kind of ironic." Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said. "I guess Rutgers is the No. 8 seed in the country, they are. If I were them, I'd be questioning a little bit what's going on."

Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer stared at the television in disbelief when the announcement was made that the Scarlet Knights would have to face Connecticut to advance to the Final Four.

"I didn't think there was any way on God's earth that this would happen," Stringer said. "I am just stunned and shocked. This is a mindblower.

I just assumed that they would ask us to go through North Carolina, they have a very similar style to our play and we didn't see them this year. If I were a betting woman, I would have lost all my money today.

The No. 1 seeded Huskies (32-1) will open against No. 16 Cornell on Sunday in Bridgeport, Conn. UConn, ranked atop the AP poll for 12 of the final 13 weeks, is hoping to get to the Final Four for the first time since 2004. The Huskies lost to LSU in the regional final last season. Connecticut's four seniors have added motivation: If they don't make it to Tampa, they would become the first Huskies' class in 20 to have never made it to the Final Four.

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Julie Schroeder-Biek
Belles coach"
EU, Australia oppose boycott of Beijing Games over Tibet

Associated Press

BRUSSELS - PRI KIANIU, Slovenia — Amid escalating violence in and around Tibet, the message from around the world was clear: "Let the games begin."

European nations and Olympic committees said Monday they opposed a boycott of the Beijing Games over China's handling of the unrest in Tibet. And while everyone else who spoke out, from Russia to the United States to Australia, echoed that approach.

"Under no circumstance will we support the boycott. We are 100 percent unanimous," Patrick Hickey, the head of the European Olympic Committees, told The Associated Press.

The EU, sports ministers and Olympic committees said sports should not be linked to such a political issue and that previous Olympic boycotts had limited impact.

"Not one world leader has come out with the suggestion of a boycott and no less a person than the Dalai Lama is against it," Hickey said. "A boycott is only a punishment of the athletes."

Slovene Sports Minister Milan Zver, who is chairing a meeting of top EU sports officials from the 27 member states and Olympic committees, said it was no different on the government side. "I am against a boycott of the Olympic Games in China," Zver said.

Christiane Hofmann, a spokeswoman for the EU executive commission, said "such a boycott would not be the appropriate or proportionate" to voice concerns of human rights or rights of those in Tibet.

"Our countries are doing business there," Bayatli said. "Everybody is going there."

Economic relations between the 27-nation EU and China are moving closer. Bilateral trade doubled between 2006-05 and reached $370 billion in 2006. Europe is China's largest export market and China is Europe's prime source of imports.

Zver has argued that political pressure through sports doesn't work, saying the boycott of the 1980 Moscow Games was largely ineffective at a political level. At the same time, it badly hurt the Olympic movement.

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Howard leads Magic past Cavaliers with 23

Jefferson has double-double in Timberwolves win; Grizzlies snap four-game skid; Bibby drops 23 on Wizards

The Observer • SPORTS

Brand new, furnished townhomes for this Fall Semester, 2008

2 blocks east of the Notre Dame athletic fields, off Willis Street

A limited number of new Irish Crossings three and four-bedroom townhomes, specifically geared for today’s college student, are now available for lease for this fall semester.

No more old school housing.

Large than an apartment; these townhomes also include a full, private bath in each bedroom. Each townhome features:

- 42" flat panel HDTV in fully-furnished family room
- Security/alarm system on front and garage entrance doors
- Furnished bedrooms with built-in desk, full-size bed, dresser, closet and full bath
- Free Internet & Cable
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- Fully-equipped kitchen with separate pantry
- Large deck
- Two-car attached garage, plus three additional parking spaces

All this for $650/month per bedroom.

Lease today and move into your brand new townhome for fall semester 2008.

Call Diane at 574-261-3338 or email us at diane@ishcrossings.com.
The Observer • SPORTS
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

NCAA
continued from page 24

"Our fans should be able to go to the game."
Charel Allen
Irish guard

"I really don't know anything except they beat UTEP in the finals and came in third in their conference," McGraw said.

Allen made the team, McGraw said, was excited about the chance to play, 14 days after their last game.

"I think we are definitely anxious to play," she said. "We had some referees come in the other day just to stay in that game shape."

Allen said the team had been running to keep in shape. "We're really looking forward to playing again," Allen said.

Allen expressed cautious confidence in her team's abilities to play deep into the tournament.

"We could go on a little six-game winning streak and you would never know we lost two straight games," she said.

If the Irish win, they will face the winner of No. 4 seed Oklahoma and No. 13 seed Illinois State, but Allen said the team isn't thinking about the second round.

"Right now we are just focused on SMU, so we will look ahead after we play them," she said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

WMU
continued from page 24

The location, Gumpf said the team still has work to do on defense. She credited the defensive problems to the fact that the team has only been able to practice outside at Notre Dame twice this season. The weather has kept the team inside where they have spent most of their practice time focusing on hitting. "We're doing the best we can to get in reps," Gumpf said. "But once we get on dirt every single day I think we'll get a lot better."

One strong spot when the Irish are on the field has been the pitching of junior Deanna Gumpf.

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Irish coach

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The team, McGraw said, was excited about the chance to play, 14 days after their last game.

"I think we are definitely anxious to play," she said. "We had some referees come in the other day just to stay in that game shape."

Allen said the team had been running to keep in shape. "We're really looking forward to playing again," Allen said.

Allen expressed cautious confidence in her team's abilities to play deep into the tournament.

"We could go on a little six-game winning streak and you would never know we lost two straight games," she said.

If the Irish win, they will face the winner of No. 4 seed Oklahoma and No. 13 seed Illinois State, but Allen said the team isn't thinking about the second round.

"Right now we are just focused on SMU, so we will look ahead after we play them," she said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

NCAA
continued from page 24

57, in the Conference USA championship game. They had previously lost their last two games as well, one against UTEP, before winning three straight in the conference tournament. Janielle Dodd leads the Mustangs in scoring with 15 points per game, followed closely by Delshea Willis with 12.3. Jillian Samuels shoots 38.2 percent from 3-point range for SMU. The Mustangs had an eight-game winning streak in the beginning of the season and a seven-game streak near the end.

The Irish have faced them twice, with each team winning once. The last game was in the 1983-84 season.

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Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Design is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism. Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may have been written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available in the Art Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 4:00 PM, Tuesday, March 25th to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.

Write sports.
Contact Chris Hine
at 631-4543

Brittney Bargar. Bargar has posted an 11-5 record so far this season along with a miniscule 0.89 ERA.

"She's getting smarter," Gumpf said of Bargar. "She has a very confident air about her."

Gumpf described the Broncos as "scrappy." She pointed to Western Michigan's speed and ability to hit the long ball as two aspects her team would have to shut down in order to be successful.

"Playing them at home isn't easy," Gumpf said. "Their strength this year is their offense and our pitchers will have to do a good job."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu
Nadal, Blake claim victory

Davenport, Ivanovic dominate women's Pacific Life Open play

**Tennis**

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — Defending champion Rafael Nadal defeated Donald Young in their first meeting, and James Blake evened his record against familiar foe Carlos Moya in third-round matches Monday at the Pacific Life Open.

Nadal beat his 18-year-old American opponent 6-1, 6-3. Blake took a methodical 6-3, 6-4 victory over Moya.

Two-time women's title winner Lindsay Davenport bounced back from a second-set loss to defeat Chan Yung-Jan 6-4, 5-7, 6-2. Ana Ivanovic, ranked No. 2 and the top seed since Justine Henin is skipping the tournament, advanced with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Tatiana Garbin.

The 21-year-old Nadal, second in the rankings to Roger Federer, benefited from Young's inconsistency. Although he was able to match Nadal stroke-for-stroke in some rallies and also hit several hard winners that brought roars from the crowd, Young's inexperience was evident at other times.

After hitting a routine forehand out to end a long rally in the second set, Young slammed his racket to the ground in frustration.

Soon after, he banged an overhead volley into the net, shaking his head at missing the easy shot.

Young won just seven of 17 points when he went to the net and Nadal was 6-0-7. Young made 38 unforced errors, 13 more than his Spanish opponent. Although just some three years older than Young, three-time French Open champion Nadal obviously has a huge edge in experience.

"Well, I think he's young," Nadal said, describing how the match went. "I think he started very nervous. So I tried to score in the beginning, and he had some mistakes.

"Obviously I was really nervous," he said. "It's not the first time I played in front of a lot of people, but it's the first time I played No. 2 in the world."

 Asked if his nerves had calmed down by the second set, Young said, "Yeah, losing 6-1, I think they go away. But overall, it was pretty decent.

Young had scored the biggest victory of his career two days earlier at Indian Wells, beating No. 32 Feliciano Lopez in three sets.

The 28-year-old Blake, at No. 9 the highest-ranking U.S. player remaining in the tournament since No. 6 Andy Roddick was eliminated a day earlier, won for the sixth time in 12 career meetings against Moya, the former No. 1 now ranked 19th.

"We know each other's games really well," Blake said. "I've had a lot of tough matches with him. So I was really happy with getting through it in two sets, and either way, just getting the win was something I was proud of."

Moya, a 31-year-old from Spain, had been the oldest player left in the men's side of the tournament.

**McGraw continued from page 24**

playing instate where South Benders can reasonably support their team in person.

When they first heard the bracket pairs on ESPN's selection show, Irish coach Muffet McGraw and her players unanimously said they were glad to be close to home because of the support their fans can give.

"Our fans are great at the home games and I feel they will make the trip to Purdue and that will be so helpful for us," Irish guard Charel Allen said.

Many Irish players are also from the Midwest, meaning that their families will be able to see them play. Sophomore guard Ashley Barlow, and Indianapolis native, said she received three or four text messages only minutes after the pairing was announced.

"I've already gotten a couple phone calls from my family... It's about a 45 minute drive so they will all be there — all of them," she said.

Irish forward Becca Bruszewski, who is from Valparaiso, said she received five or six texts in the first 10 minutes after the Irish game was announced.

"Well we won our last game there, so we're one in a row," McGraw Irish coach

"But it's a new season, so we'll see how it goes," McGraw Irish coach

McGraw also said that her team's youth helps slightly because of its inexperience in Mackey Arena since they have not lost to Mackey.

"I think that gives us a little more confidence going back. Plus most our players have only played there once, so freshmen and sophomores are unafraid at Mackey Arena," she said.

Irish guard Charel Allen, who lost at Purdue her sophomore year during the NCAA Tournament and during the regular season (65-54 on Dec. 7, 2005), said she feels more confident winning there than before.

"That's what I was just discussing with [senior guard] Tulyah [Gaines], I was like 'At least we won there so that feels good.' But it's a new season, so we'll see how it goes," she said.

Even though the Irish have not had a great deal of success at Mackey Arena, it still presents a clear advantage for the Irish.

They have a very winnable first two games (against No. 12 Southern Methodist and possibly No. 4 Oklahoma) before a likely showdown with Tennessee — the top-seed in the region.

And the location seems ideal. Instead of being shuttled off to Des Moines, Iowa, or Albuquerque, N.M. — two places known as bastions of Notre Dame women's basketball fans — the Irish are

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Freshman Conway leads team at tourney

ND Women's Golf

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Freshman Kate Conway led the Irish in scoring on the day, finishing up with a 5-over par 77, tied for 11th overall.

A strong field of 17 competed this week at the par 72, 6,344-yard course at The University of Texas Golf Club in Austin, Tex. Close behind New Mexico, No. 5 Florida over par 77, tied for 11th overall.

Coming off her second win of the season at the Rio Verde Invitational, Irish standout So-Hyun Park closely trails the leaders and Notre Dame. Back when Notre Dame head coach Dave Schrage spoke at the seventh-annual Opening Night Dinner in February, he spoke of Monday's Opening Day game again, as if it had been a day that would hopefully be filled with golf, sun, green grass and most important for Irish fans — baseball.

Unfortunately for those all in attendance, there was only one of those things present at Frank Eck Stadium for the St. Patrick's Day opener — and even that was in short supply. Due to inclement and wintry weather, action was suspended in the middle of the sixth inning, so the Chippewas up 2-3 and the bases loaded and two out, with the second round concluding today.

Several make-up scenarios are on the table. Either the action will be called a 2-2 tie or the game could be postponed to be completed at the point of the last full inning (taking that as 2-2 after 11:25 p.m.)

The Irish have set their sights on the opening game when they join forces to build off of a successful weekend against Central Michigan as a 2-2 tie or the game could be postponed to be completed at the point of the last full inning (taking that as 2-2 after 11:25 p.m.)

Junior captain Lisa Maunu finished with a 10-over par 82, and sophomore Kristin Wexel shot a 13-over par 85 to round out the Irish squad.

A make-up date of May 12 has been announced, but both squadrons are still away for the procedure of the restart of the season.

Several make-up scenarios are on the table. Either the action will be called a 2-2 tie or the game could be postponed to be completed at the point of the last full inning (taking that as 2-2 after 11:25 p.m.)

The Irish have had the upper hand in the contest and give freshman starting pitcher Brian Dupre the early run support necessary to pull off a victory when senior Brett Lilley ripped a double past the Chippewa first baseman. Sophomore David Mills then followed with a sacrifice bunt that pushed Lilley to third base. A.J. Pollock then singled up the middle to score Lilley and put Notre Dame up 1-0.

Junior first baseman Evan Sharpless' fielder's choice moved Pollock into scoring position, allowing classmate Jeremy Baroos to bring home Pollock, giving the Irish a two-run advantage.

Central Michigan would not go away quietly, and followed with a pair of runs of its own in the next inning, nullifying the lead. In a frustrating series of events for Notre Dame, Central Michigan used infield singles to chip away at Notre Dame's lead. With two runners aboard, Chippewa senior Noah Lankford's one-out, two-run double ended the game at two. Dupre promptly retired the next two batters, leaving Lankford stranded.

Dupre ran into some trouble, but managed to escape without any earned runs until the sixth frame, when he hit senior Jeff Phelps with a pitch with the bases juiced up. In the ominous clouds began to break up, allowing the umpires to suspend the game.

The Irish will return to the diamond tomorrow when they face Xavier at the Frank Eck Stadium at 5:30 p.m. Freshman Ryan Sharpless will take the mound against the Musketeers in search of his first win of the season.

Today the Irish were trying to build off of a successful weekend where they won 2 of 3 games. Notre Dame was poised to sweep its three games in the Irish Classical in San Antonio this weekend before squandering a seven-run lead against Texas-Pan American Saturday. The Irish beat Buffalo 13-1 Friday andPan American Sunday. The Irish used infield singles to chip away at Notre Dame's edge to 7-6. The Irish improved to 7-7 on the season.

Junior right-hander David Phelps surrendered just one run on four hits in seven innings of work to pick up his second win of the season against Buffalo. The Irish offense gave Phelps plenty of breathing room, record-
Things to say after your roommate discovers your door is locked and you're the only one inside.

Sorry bro, I was "taking a nap".
Oh my bad dude, I just took a shower and must have "forgotten to unlock something." Yeah man, I think the door lock is "busted or something."

**Black Dog**

Michael Mikuska

**Lollerskates**

Didier Lewis

**Another Unfunny Comic**

Liz Murphy & Sarah Muscarella

**Crossword**

Will Shortz

**Horoscope**

Eugenia Lulis

Happy Birthday! Peace into unknown worlds and learn something new. The more you have to add to your resume or your life experience, the cooler is your head is for your way. Children or younger friends will make it difficult to become a hero today. Enjoy the day. (♊/♊Ⅱ)

**Jumble**

Henri Arnold Mike Argrignon

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each: 50, 83, 67, 78 to form four ordinary words.

**The Observer**

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ND Women's Basketball

**Lucky 13**

McGraw sends team to NCAA tourney again

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will hit the dance floor for the 13th consecutive year.

The Irish (23-8) earned a No. 5 seed and will play Southern Methodist University Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in West Lafayette, Ind.

Last season, the Irish received a No. 9 seed and lost in the second round, 60-51 to No. 1 seed North Carolina after beating No. 8 seed California 62-59.

Notre Dame is 23-13 all-time in the tournament and won the national championship in 2001.

The end of the season was not kind to the Irish. They dropped their last two games, including their first-round Big East tournament game -- a 64-53 loss to Pittsburgh. Notre Dame raced to a 14-2 lead, but went 8-for-27 in the half and was up only one at the break. Pittsburgh rebounded from shooting 25 percent in the first half to hit 14 of their 32 second-half shots, including three 3-pointers to put it ahead for good.

"We want to get away from that [two game losing streak] and start a new streak and get busy at practice," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

The Belles (24-8) amassed the most wins in program history this season. They beat Texas-El Paso Sunday, 73-62, and start a new streak and get busy at practice," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said.

Sophomore guard Melissa Lechlitner drives to the hoop during Notre Dame's 70-55 win over Seton Hall on March 1.

**Irish head to Kalamazoo**

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

After competing in tournaments in Arizona, Florida, California, and South Carolina over the past month, Notre Dame will head to Kalamazoo, Mich., to take on Western Michigan University.

Irish coach Deanna Gumpf hopes that the switch to a colder climate will do nothing to cool off her team's red hot hitting. The Irish scored 46 runs in five games at last weekend's Lovelace Invitational in Charleston, S.C., including a 16-2 thrashing of Charleston Southern.

"We've gotten better offensively and that showed this past weekend," Gumpf said. "We hit the ball much better."

While she was satisfied with the offense's improve-

**ND Women's Softball**

Junior pitcher Brittnay Bargar pitches during Notre Dame's 3-0 win against Ball State April 18, 2007.