Archbishop speaks on religious trends

Vatican official discusses the secularization of Europe, the Church's shifting role

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By CASEY KENNY

SMC to test security alert system this afternoon

By ALICIA SMITH

## Archbishop speaks on religious trends

**Vatican official discusses the secularization of Europe, the Church's shifting role**

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL

The influence of the Catholic Church in Europe is declining as a result of secularization, said Archbishop Angelo Amato in a lecture Monday night.

Amato, who was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI last July to oversee the canonization of Catholic saints, delivered Notre Dame's annual Terrence M. Keeley Vatican lecture sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies. Secularization is a trend in which people feel "emancipated from religious bonds," he said. Secularism, a worldwide problem because it does not accept religion as an important reality, is especially apparent in Central and Western Europe, he said.

With secularization, Amato said that economics, politics, and bio-technology in Modern Europe become detached from religion and morality.

"In this panorama, the influence of Christianity on social life is greatly weakened," he said.

While some people argue that Modern Europe does not need to rely on its Christian roots, Amato disagrees. He said the Church has always contributed to European civilization.

"Europe cannot be understood without Christianity," he said. "It loses its originality and identity." Amato said he hopes Europe will blend tradition with its modern views so that it will find a greater respect for democracy, freedom, and the dignity of the human being in the future.

Christianity is therefore not only a link to Europe's roots, but it is also a solution for the future, he said.

"Christianity is the basis of modern thought and morality," he said. "Europe must profess itself to be Christian." Amato said hope for the future.

**Notre Dame awarded for sustainability efforts**

By LIZ LEEFVRI

Notre Dame has recently received two honors that highlight the University's commitment to increasing sustainability on campus from Carbonrally.com and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

The University won $10,000 from a competition held in conjunction with Syracuse University in November as part of NBC's Green Week. In addition to making the Notre Dame-Syracuse football game carbon neutral and increasing recycling on game day, the University also participated in a sustainability commitment pledge drive to see which school could gain more pledges.

The drive, sponsored by Carbonrally.com, encouraged students, faculty, staff and alumni to reduce their carbon emissions.

Notre Dame's pledge count of 1,932 beat out Syracuse's 1,446 commitments. The winning pledges have committed to reducing carbon emissions by nearly 48 tons.

Contact Marie Kobeski, who worked with GreenND to register student groups during Green Week, cited GreenND as a crucial part of the competition's success.

"GreenND members' dedication to getting people signed up gave us the edge over Syracuse," he said. "A lot of people committed to Carbonally allowed us to win the competition, and in the same way, a lot of people committed to reducing their carbon footprints will help us to control climate change."

Kobeski also noted the importance of this event to increasing Notre Dame's sustainability especially in light of the $10,000 prize.

"Winning the NBC Carbonally Challenge will help the Office of Sustainability to make even greater environmental changes across the university," Kobeski said.

Students can take an active role in helping to make these changes, as the Office of Sustainability will accept student proposals for ways to use the prize money that will increase Notre Dame's sustainability.

To download a proposal form, please visit www.green.nd.edu. All proposals must be submitted by February 2.

Notre Dame received a second honor when it became the first major university to be awarded a chain-of-custody certification from the MSC in order to guarantee sustainable seafood in the dining halls.

MSC is a global nonprofit organization committed to promoting the best environmental choices in seafood through its

**ECDC seeking student volunteers**

Center needs help with program for children ages 2 to kindergartners

By CASEY KENNY

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) at Notre Dame, on Boileau Road behind the library and directly across from Fisher O'Hara-Grace Graduate Student Housing, is looking for student volunteers for the Spring semester, according to Terri Kosik, the executive director of ECDC.

Kosik said the center offers a "dynamic, recreational-based program for children from age 2 to kindergartners and utilizes a developmentally appropriate curriculum."

The 80-90 student volunteers with the program work alongside teachers and assist the children with various activities, she said.

"Students volunteer 2 hours per week and spend time with the children in various capacities [from] working on the curriculum with teachers, reading stories to children, teaching them to ride bicycles, painting with them [and] pushing them in swings," she said.

"Students work the same schedule each week and, therefore, really get to know the children they are working with," Kosik said.

"There is a wide range of children in the program from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic groups," she said. "The volunteers can choose the age group with whom they feel most comfortable."

Kosik said that while volunteer

**SMC to test security alert system this afternoon**

By ALICIA SMITH

Saint Mary's students, faculty and staff will be receiving an e-mail, text message or phone call at 4 p.m. today as the College's Emergency Notification System is tested, according to an e-mail sent to the student body last week.

Students received the e-mail one week prior to the test date to inform them when the test would be occurring and to explain what students could expect from the test.

"We try to test at least once per academic year. We do this to make sure the system works properly," vice president of student affairs Karen Johnson said.

The test works by sending a message through the service the College contracts with. The message is sent to students cell phones and their e-mails addresses.
If I were a superhero...

Like any other young college student, sometimes (okay often) I sit back and wonder what I should do with my life. I would prefer something exciting, fulfilling and useful to humanity. A subsequent comp through fantasy land obviously follows this type of life planning. And I’ve decided, in an ideal (sumptuous unrealistic) world, I would be a superhero.

Being a superhero is the best of all worlds. You get to use really cool powers, do good by fighting bad, be useful to society while being loved and adored by all. In addition, you get to chill with fascinating and dynamic (and fictitious) characters, who would automatically have to be your friend just because you’re a superhero too. It’s kind of like dorm life at Notre Dame. Sororities and Fraternities like; Half the friend just because you’re a superhero too.

In addition, you’d get to chill with fascinating and dynamic (and fictitious) characters, who would automatically have to be your friend just because you’re a superhero too.

To answer your next question yes, I did see the movie “Fanboys” and I’ve decided, in an ideal (sumptuous unrealistic) world, I would be a superhero.

Clearly, hanging out with Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, X-men, the Hulk and the Fantastic Four would undoubtedly be a mind blowing experience, no explanation needed here. I’d even let in the Cullen Family and the cast of Harry Potter, who all fight evil and use some remarkable powers doing it.

Not to be exclusive, but there are some people that would be left out of the Superhero club. Batman for one. Let the huffing and puffering commence, but you read correctly, I did indeed just kick Batman out of the real superheroes’ club.

To answer your next question yes, I did see the movie “Fanboys” and I’ve decided, in an ideal (sumptuous unrealistic) world, I would be a superhero.

May he do some pretty good things for mankind. He goes above and beyond, and therefore is a super hero, as he is extra heroic. But clearly the mythology of a superhero is a combination of supernatural and hero. So ultimately, ordinary crime fighting does not make him a superhero because he lacks any supernatural heroic capabilities, a.k.a. powers.

After kicking Batman out of the club, the obvious next step would be, picking a side. If I could pick only one supernatural power, it would have to be flying. Preferably fast flying. Yeah, intuitively, walking through walls, shooting laser beams out of my eyes, being really strong or really fast, these powers are all pretty sweet. But flying is a classic. And I’m all about tradition, it lends a sense of history to innovation.

So there is my fantasy, superhero life in a nutshell. I’d wake up in the morning, and fly myself to France for a crepe and coffee. Then, during the day I’d assume the identity of a typical Notre Dame student, who occasionally writes Inside Columns for The Observer. After some speedy homework, I’d fly around, saving the world. In my spare time, I’d relax with my close friends, Spiderman and Wonder Woman, maybe play a game of super intense Apples to Apples. Finally you might ask, who’s my super special main squeeze? That one’s easy. The Human Torch aka Johnny Storm, obviously. He’s hot.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jsshafef@nd.edu

Bridget Meade
freshman
LeMans

"Ordering Chinese food and looking up Chinese swear words."

David Schaller
senior
Alumni

"Buy an American car."

Jeremy Way
senior
Dillon

"I’m going to burn incense to my ancestors."

Krystl Holtcamp
freshman
McCollness

"Watch ‘Mulan’ and kiss a Chinese man."

Samantha Tulliausk
freshman
LeMans

"I would totally dance with a dragon."

IN BRIEF

The Winter Career and Internship Fair will be held Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The event is free and open to students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross.

Student government and the Office of Campus Ministry are hosting an information session Wednesday on alcohol, partying and the law from 8-9:15 p.m. in room 101 of DeBartolo Hall. The event is free.

University President John Jenkins will be the guest lecturer at Saint Mary’s annual Thomas Aquinas Symposium Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Lounge. The event is sponsored by the Center for Academic Innovation.

The Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Honorary Fraternity is sponsoring a blood drive Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in room 217 of Goshen Hall.

The film “Baghdad High” will be screened Friday at 9:30 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. This is a free but ticketed event. Call the Ticket Office at 574-615-2360 in reserve tickets.

BeeSports and the Department of Athletics will host Late Night Olympics XXIII Saturday from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday. Events will be held in the Joyce Center (through Gate 3) and Rolfs Aquatic Center. Money raised will go to St. Joe County Special Olympics.

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

A Keough resident signs postcards to his legislators as part of a national campaign against the proposed Freedom of Choice Act.

OFFBEAT

Palin fan unknowingly buys effigy with noose

WEATHER

TODAY: HIGH 20 LOW 12
TOMORROW: HIGH 25 LOW 18
WEDNESDAY: HIGH 25 LOW 18
THURSDAY: HIGH 25 LOW 17
FRIDAY: HIGH 30 LOW 20
SATURDAY: HIGH 30 LOW 22

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Contact Jess Shaffer at jsshafef@nd.edu

Due to a reporting error, the article titled “Vikings pull off upset” in Monday’s issue of The Observer was incor-

necessarily stated that Notre Dame’s previous low point total was 62. The low point total was 59 against West Virginia and Michigan. The Observer regrets this error.
Awards
continued from page 1
work with fisheries, seafood companies, scientists, conservation groups and the public. By becoming chain-of-custody certified, Notre Dame can now assure that the fish present in the dining halls came from a fishery that meets MSC’s environmental standards. The University has already received 2,000 pounds of MSC-certified Alaska salmon and pollock.

“This is an area that Notre Dame Food Services has been a leader in, and the MSC certification provides direct recognition of their efforts, as well as the opportunity to explore ways to advance in this area,” Jim Mazurek, the director of the Office of Sustainability said. For more information on Notre Dame’s current, environmental initiatives and to learn how to make Notre Dame a sustainable campus, please visit the Office of Sustainability’s Web site at green.nd.edu.

Contact Liz Lefebvre at elefebvre@nd.edu

Prof. says Catholic schools in decline
Enrollment has steadily dropped from its peak 40 years ago

Special to The Observer

As national Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 25 to 31) approaches, the state of America’s parochial schools is in the spotlight, and the news is somewhat discouraging.

An article this week in the New York Times refers to the proposed closing of 14 elementary schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., as “not the deepest but only the latest of a thousand cuts suffered ... as enrollment in the nation’s Catholic schools has steadily dropped by more than half from its peak of five million 40 years ago.”


Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., professor of political science and director of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI), led the task force study and says the decline in enrollment in Catholic schools is largely due to finances.

“The principle cause is financial,” Father Scully said. “First of all, of course, there has been a huge transition in the faculty and staff who support the work of this wonderful apostolate. There has been a complete turnover in terms of the kind of leadership and staffing that we have in Catholic schools from 90-some percent in the 1960s religious — who by their gift to the church subsidized Catholic schools at the time — to 95 percent today, who also subsidize by the gift of their salaries, which are lower than the public sector, but extraordinarily higher than the religious who subsidized and made those schools possible, built those schools.”

“I’m afraid to say that I think our values have changed a bit in the Catholic community. I think that despite our increasing resource base, we have other expectations for our lifestyle and we have other priorities for our incomes.”

“Study after study of philanthropy demonstrates a sad reality that the Catholic community is actually quite stingy when it comes to supporting church causes, and that’s not untrue when it comes to Catholic schools. I have to add an important caveat, and that is those parents who make the sacrifices are making a huge sacrifice.”

Turning the tide will require a universal effort, according to Father Scully.

“The fundamental shift that has to occur in the Church in order for our Catholic schools to recover the importance that they have always held is that we as a Catholic community have to commit ourselves to the work of this apostolate,” he said. “The work of Catholic education is the responsibility of all Catholics. It’s not just the responsibility of parents who have children. It’s the future of our Church.”

Father Scully directs the work of the IEI and is the founder of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), Notre Dame’s signature program that sustains and strengthens under-resourced Catholic schools through leadership formation, research and professional services.

Founded in 1994, ACE places nearly 200 enthusiastic and faith-filled young men and women annually as full-time teachers in underresourced Catholic schools throughout the country. ACE participants earn master’s degrees in education from Notre Dame during the course of their two-year teaching commitment. ACE also established a principal preparation program, the ACE Leadership Program, in 2001 to form the next generation of lay school principal candidates, and more recently, the English as New Language (ENL) program in order to train and support Catholic school teachers who work with ENL students.

Both the ACE Service Through Teaching and Leadership Programs prepare more Catholic school teachers and principals respectively than any other institution in the nation.

Subsequent to the Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Education, ACE has augmented its efforts, creating a program that sustains and strengthens under-resourced Catholic schools through the areas of research and professional service to Catholic schools through its ACE Consulting and Notre Dame Magnificat Schools initiatives.

Write news, E-mail
Jenn at jmetz@nd.edu.

12TH ANNUAL
SYMPOSIUM ON

St. Thomas Aquinas
Faith, Inquiry & Community

• President and Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame

• Author of Knowledge and Faith in Thomas Aquinas

Saint Mary's College • Notre Dame, Indiana
College Student Center Lounge
Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m.
Free and open to the public

This Symposium is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hawk Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology.
Announcing the Year 2009 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 2009 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not exceeding $1,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Research must have as one part an exploration of Italian language. The course work will usually, 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: University of Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandinavia. Interested students are encouraged to contact the materials for Italian foreign study to the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

E-mail: kindra.wray@genmills.com

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharnley@stmarys.edu
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Political troubles disrupt Iceland

**REYKJAVIK** — Iceland’s coalition government collapsed on Monday after an unprecedented wave of public discontent, plunging the island nation into political turmoil as it seeks to rebuild an economy shattered by the global financial crisis.

Prime Minister Geir Haarde resigned and distanced himself from the government he’s led since 2006. Haarde was unwilling to meet the demands of his coalition partner, the Social Democratic Alliance, or consider stepping down in order to allow a new prime minister in exchange for keeping the coalition intact.

“I really regret that we could not continue with this coalition, I believe that that would have been the best result,” Haarde told reporters.

Muslims banned from yoga

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** — Muslims in Indonesia’s capital, Jakarta, are being banned from practicing yoga classes across the sprawling nation because ignoring a fatwa, or religious decree, is considered a sin.

Though not legally binding, most devout Muslims will likely adhere to the ruling because ignoring a fatwa, or religious decree, is considered a sin.

The decision in the world’s most populous Muslim state follows similar edicts in Malaysia and Egypt as the ancient Indian exercise gained popularity worldwide in recent years.

Gonzalez Jr. sat in jail, refusing to say anything about the weekend after investigators visited him and private yoga classes across the sprawling nation.

The account baffled prosecutors, police and the account’s legal representatives all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer — all of whom have said Gonzalez’s lawyer.

**LOCAL NEWS**

Minister pleads not guilty to charges

**UNCLE** — A minister charged with sexually abusing three teenage boys in his church pleads not guilty.

Defense attorney Steven Bruce says the Rev. Matthew A. Kidd “clearly denies the allegations.” About a dozen of Kidd’s parishioners protested outside the church yesterday to support Kidd.

Kidd, pastor of Freedom Point Apostolic Church in Muncie, made no comment to reporters after the hearing.

Tourists banned from licking fish

**TOKYO** — Tourists are known for asking for souvenirs, and licking the tuna?

Overwhelmed by a growing number of misbehaving tourists, Tokyo fishmongers are considering moving some of the city’s most popular tourist destinations — the pre-dawn tuna auctions at the world’s largest seafood market.

The ban, imposed during the peak New Year buying season, was front-page news before it was lifted last week.

Now, the tourists are back, but the debate goes on: Can tourists be trusted around the tuna?

“We understand that the sight of hundreds of frozen tuna looks unique and interesting for foreign tourists,” said Yoshihiko Takagi, deputy director of the market. “But they have to understand the Tsukiji market is a professional place, not an amusement park.”

The seating was lifted on Jan. 19, despite some grumbling from the fishmongers. The sprawling market dates back to the 17th century, when the military rulers who had just moved Japan’s capital to Tokyo — then called Edo — wanted to ensure they had a steady supply of fish.

**Tourists banned from licking fish**

Associated Press

**Blagojevich skips first day of trial**

Illinois governorRob Blagojevich is interviewed by Barbara Walters Monday on The View. Blagojevich skipped the first day of his impeachment trial.

**SPRINGFIELD**, Ill. — Gov. Rod Blagojevich’s impeachment trial opened Monday on a vacant Senate seat and a White House appointment, charges that 2006. Haarde was unwilling to meet the demands of his coalition partner, the Social Democratic Alliance, or consider stepping down in order to allow a new prime minister in exchange for keeping the coalition intact.

“I really regret that we could not continue with this coalition, I believe that that would have been the best result.” Haarde told reporters.

**WASHINGTON** — At least 20 federal agencies helped local police secure Raymond James Stadium for Sunday’s Super Bowl, with duties ranging from protecting air space and the port to arresting peddlers of counterfeit souvenirs, officials said Monday.

Because of the massive security effort, the stadium “is one of the safest locations you can possibly be on Super Bowl Sunday in the United States of America,” said Milton E. Ahlerich, the NFL’s vice president for security.

Security tightened for Super Bowl

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**Fed up, the market decided to impose the ban**

So, when on Jan. 5, a premium bluefin tuna fetched 9.6/1 million yen (more than $107,000), the highest price in nearly a decade — no tourists were anywhere in sight. The restriction was lifted on Jan. 19, despite some grumbling from the fishmongers. The sprawling market dates back to the 16th century, when the military rulers who had just moved Japan’s capital to Tokyo — then called Edo — wanted to ensure they had a steady supply of fish.

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Senate confirms Geithner as treasury secretary

Despite personal tax issues, Obama's pick wins confirmation by a vote of 60-34

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — New York Federal Reserve Bank President Timothy Geithner won confirmation Monday as President Barack Obama's Treasury secretary despite personal tax lapses that turned more than a third of the Senate against him.

Tim's work and the work of the entire Treasury Department must begin at once. We cannot lose a day, because every day the economic picture is darkening, here and across the globe," Obama told the audience before Geithner was sworn into office by Vice President Joe Biden.

The Senate voted 60-34 to put Geithner in charge of the administration's economic team as it races to halt the worst financial slide in generations.

The swearing-in followed less than an hour later, the administration seeking to emphasize that it was wasting no time in trying to address the financial crisis.

Obama said there had been a "devastating loss of trust and confidence" and that the financial system was in "serious need for confidence" and that the financial crisis.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York Federal Reserve Bank President Timothy Geithner has been sworn in as Treasury secretary despite personal tax lapses that turned more than a third of the Senate against him.

"We are at a point of maximum challenge for our economy and our country," Geithner said to a standing-room only audience in his Treasury Department's ornate Cash Room. On hand were Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, now director of Obama's National Economic Council.

Referring to Geithner's tax problems, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Geithner had made amends — he has paid the taxes and penalties — and possessed the talent needed to steer the nation out of the crisis.

Geithner, 47, served as undersecretary of the treasury for international affairs during the Clinton administration. As president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, he's been a key player in the government's response to collapsing financial institutions and the housing and credit markets since last summer.

The ambivalence dogging lawmakers was reflected in the fact that a third of the chamber received from the International Monetary Fund in 2001 and in three subsequent years.

Ten Republicans overlooking that more than a third of the Senate against him

"Two-thirds of the Senate was in "serious need for confidence" and that the financial crisis.

"People make mistakes and commit oversights," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, who opposed Geithner's nomination. "They were described by the nominee himself as "careless mistakes," Collins said in prepared remarks. "It has become clear to me that this is not merely a matter of complexity leading to mistakes, but of inexcusable negligence."

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., agreed and noted that his is one of the few voices of dissent.

"No one is so powerful that they do not oversee tax reporting and collection have been forced to withdraw their nomination for more minor offenses. They have been ridden out of town on a verbal rail," Enz said.

"They were not supposed to be a group of very men." It wasn't. Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa lined up against the nominee, asking how someone of Geithner's "financial sophistication" could innocently not pay the taxes that "he had to turn the head up the agency that oversees the IRS."

"How can Mr. Geithner speak with any credibility or authority," Harkin said.

4-month delay to digital TV approved by Senate

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday voted unanimously to postpone the upcoming transition from analog to digital television broadcasting by four months to June 12 — setting the stage for Congress to pass the proposed bill as an amendment.

Obama's Senate vote is a big victory for the Obama administration and Democrats in Congress, who have been working for a delay amid growing concerns that too many Americans won't be ready for the currently scheduled Feb. 17 conversion.

The Nielsen Co. estimates that more than 6.5 million U.S. households that rely on analog television sets to pick up over-the-air broadcast signals could see their TV sets go dark next month if the transition is not postponed.

"Delaying the upcoming DTV switch is the right thing to do," said Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., author of the bill to push back the deadline. "I firmly believe that our nation is not yet ready to make this transition at this time."

The issue now goes to the House, where Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., has vowed to work with House leaders to bring Rockefeller's bill up for a floor vote on Tuesday.

President Barack Obama earlier this month called for the transition date to be postponed after the Commerce Department hit a $1.34 billion fund limit for government-issued TV converter boxes, which generally cost between $40 and $80 each. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the arm of the Commerce Department administering the program, is now sending out new coupons only as older, redeemed ones expire and free up more money. The NTIA said it had "millions" of coupons left to send out and will announce a new round of applications in the days ahead.

4-month delay to digital TV approved by Senate

The Observer ◆ NEWS

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Student & Faculty Special

All You Can Eat Pasta Bowl includes a specialty salad Sun. Thur.
95¢

Paris Bistro
Italian Cuisine with an Irish View
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www.ParisisRestaurant.com

Gaza receives UN aid

Associated Press
GAZA CITY - Crippled by its ongoing conflict with Hamas, the Gaza Strip's education ministry has been unable to compensate teachers for their work.

"They are not paid their salaries," said the ministry's spokesman.

The ministry's education department has been unable to pay salaries to teachers due to the ongoing conflict with Hamas, which has been controlling the Gaza Strip since the 2008-2009 war.

Teacher salaries have been frozen since the beginning of the conflict, and teachers have been working without pay for the past two years. The ministry has also been unable to pay for the maintenance of schools, which have been damaged and destroyed in the conflict.

The Hamas government has been unable to pay salaries to teachers or for the maintenance of schools, according to the ministry's spokesman.

The ministry has been unable to pay teachers their salaries due to the ongoing conflict with Hamas. The ministry has also been unable to pay for the maintenance of schools, which have been damaged and destroyed in the conflict.
Big name companies cut more jobs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The recession is killing jobs at an alarming pace, with tens of thousands of new layoffs announced Monday by some of the biggest names in American business — Pfizer, Caterpillar and Home Depot.

More and more, pay freezes and other hits are expected to smash profit margins ahead as companies desperately look for ways to survive.

"You've got to beat the iceberg — the big firms," said Robert Reich, economist at John Hancock Financial Services.

"There's certainly other firms beneath them that will lay off workers as quickly or even quicker.

Looking ahead, economists predicted a net loss of at least 2 million jobs — possibly more — this year even if President Barack Obama's $825 billion package of increased government spending and tax cuts is enacted. Last year, the economy lost a net 2.6 million jobs, the most since 1945, though the labor force has grown significantly since then.

The unemployment rate, now at a 3-year high of 7.2 percent, could hit 10 percent or higher later this year or early next year, under some analysts' projections.

Obama called on Congress Monday to speedily enact his recovery plan, warning that the nation can't afford "distractions" or "delays.

With the recession expected to drag on through much of this year, more damage will be inflicted on both companies and workers. The mounting toll was visible Monday as roughly 40,000 more U.S. workers got the grim news.

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc., which is buying rival drugmaker Wyeth in a $68 billion deal, and Sprint Nextel Corp., the country's third-largest wireless provider, said they each will slash 8,000 jobs.

Home Depot Inc., the biggest home improvement retailer in the U.S., will get rid of 7,000 jobs, and General Motors Corp. said it will cut 2,900 jobs at plants in Michigan and Ohio because of slow sales.

"We are seeing no improvement in labor market conditions," said Sal Guastelli, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets Economics. "This year could be as bad as last year in terms of layoffs."
The Observer

The joys of the flesh

On the way to choosing not to make theater my main career path, I've had a number of experiences over the years with Very Serious Auditions. Those who've been there too know that Very Serious Auditions are defined as dramatic try outs heavily influenced by the director's vision for the play, such as that one for "Alice in Wonderland" in high school where we had to prove our suitability for the part by producing a paragraph on nonsense on our audition sheets! I often prove, regardless, that I'm easy to cast, to be personally enriching and beneficial. Having to act like a tormented soul in hell, for instance, turned out to be an incredible stress reliever.

Anyway, I recently went to a Very Serious Audition that involved giving one's own take on the director's core thesis (a director having such a thesis being of course the key trait of a Very Serious Play). The director in this case was a fellow student, and the play his reworking of a nilhilistic "underground" classic. The audition monologue told the story of a sad little boy whose family, friends, and whole world had shifted gears and moved to plastic. The set, it was explained, was envisioned as a jungle of plastic mannequins.

When I'd finished auditioning, the director asked what I'd thought the story was about.

"Well, one person is isolated. "I struggled for something more clever. "He can't connect. He's surrounded by people made of plastic, and —"

VS Student Director: "What's wrong with people being made of plastic?"

Me: "Uh...they're not alive."

VS Student Director: "They mean, they're cold. They don't move. They don't breathe, they don't feel, they don't love..."

I think I ended there, but given time I could've gone on. It's actually fun to keep considering how many other things plastic people can't do. They can't act, they can't read, they can't cure cancer, they can't write self-deprecating meta-columns, they can't listen to enough music to declassify metal, they can't drink Guinness and dance on tables, and, most importantly, they can't enjoy the Magic Fountain in Barcelona.

And they can't shift gears and change direction in the middle of a column. Like this.

Katherine Khorey
Both Sides Now

On the way to choosing not to make theater my main career path, I've had a number of experiences over the years with Very Serious Auditions. Those who've been there too know that Very Serious Auditions are defined as dramatic try outs heavily influenced by the director's vision for the play, such as that one for "Alice in Wonderland" in high school where we had to prove our suitability for the part by producing a paragraph on nonsense on our audition sheets! I often prove, regardless, that I'm easy to cast, to be personally enriching and beneficial. Having to act like a tormented soul in hell, for instance, turned out to be an incredible stress reliever.

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More not always better

Why did you decide to go to college? Sure, you may claim it was to expand your horizons, to make lifelong friends, to learn to live on your own and so on. But beyond these surface reasons, I think most students — and practically all parents — will agree that the main motivation is to be able to get a solid job somewhere down the line.

As much as we’re all tired of hearing the phrase “in this econo­my,” there is no denying the fact that the ideal job isn’t simply going to be waiting for you on the other side of that graduation stage. But that doesn’t mean that the answer necessarily lies with more edu­cation.

Let me preface this by saying that I myself am planning on enrolling in law school next year. Last semester, at a law school fair, I wandered around the Smith Center with hoards of other aspiring attorneys. How was it possible that all of us were going to get into law school, much less find jobs three years from now? Well, it turns out that for the 2007-2008 school year, 49,082 first-year law students enrolled while 43,518 students received law degrees, according to the American Bar Association. That is a lot of lawyers.

This would all be well and good — someone has to fuel those law jocks — if only the legal job market were immune to the current economic situation. According to CNN.com, the legal job market is shrinking for the first time in history, all while more and more potential attorneys are crowding America’s 200 law schools. Anyone else see a problem here?

It’s not just prospective law students that need to step back and think about their next move. With the latest wave of hiring freezes at universities throughout the country, the demand for humanities Ph.D.s is looking downright dismal. The number of job postings for Ph.D.s is down 21 percent, and many recent Ph.D. recipients have spent months sending out dozens of applications to no avail. Some are considering taking jobs where a B.A. or even a GED would have sufficed in order to start paying off their loans.

So what to do?

At that same law school fair, when I stopped by the Boston College table, I asked the school’s representative what was most important to stress in my personal statement. Without even hesitating, she told me to simply explain why it is that I want to go to law school. If the answer is because I don’t know what else to do, or because it just seems like the next step, I should reconsider my plans. But if I could communicate why I feel strongly about the law as a career, it would be all the admissions office needs to hear.

That thought is perhaps the one thing keeping me from going into panic mode as I write this column about my future career’s bleak outlook. I have always wanted to go to law school, and I am positive that it is what I want to do with my life. I can accept that the competition will be intense and that maybe I won’t make as much money as I’d like at first, but I will be doing work I enjoy.

The current job market is about as welcoming as the Metro on Inauguration Day, and I am more than happy to take refuge in law school for the next few years while we all wait for the economy to turn around. But the fact of the matter is that more education no longer guarantees a higher salary — or even a job, for that matter. What it does guarantee is a mountain of loans, which will need to be paid back shortly after graduation, job or no job.

At least for now, graduate schools, law schools and business schools are no longer the assumed “next step.” If you are sure that you want to devote yourself to a field, then get ready to put up a good fight to make it. Otherwise, changing the current job market may just be your best bet.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 26 edition of The GW Hatchet, the daily paper of George Washington University. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

What have you read?

Ninety-nine percent of Americans over the age of 15 can read, but despite our widespread ability to recognize words on paper, we are at a literary crossroads. The age of print is on its deathbed, and it’s not just the end for print journalism but print anything. Barring the “Harry Potter” and “Twilight” series and the books you are forced to muddle through for classes, what have you read recently that has been printed and bound?

If the answer to that question is absolutely nothing, you are in the majority. A recent report by the National Endowment for the Arts found that 53 percent of Americans surveyed hadn’t read a book in the past year. Incongruously, 100,000 more books were published in 2007 than in 2006, according to a study conducted by The New York Times. So it’s not just a reluctance to read that’s plaguing the industry but an oversaturation of the market. No one wants to read someone else’s story, but everyone wants to tell their own. Just ask Barbara Bush’s dog.

This trouble isn’t just relegated to books. Newspaper subscriptions are down and continuing to fall. Media giants like Tribune Co., which filed for bankruptcy this winter, are faltering. Also, according to the Times, magazine sales fell 6.3 percent last year.

This has led to desperate attempts by print media to find demand for their supply, but the market for literature is hard to grasp. We read the fun books and award the good ones, but rarely do we endeavor to take a second look at the writing that’s plaguing the industry but an oversaturation of the market. No one wants to read someone else’s story, but everyone wants to tell their own. Just ask Barbara Bush’s dog.

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Strong performances bring story of MILK to life

While Harvey Milk’s life was admittedly a sad one, Penn plays his public persona as a jubilation of the man and all the messages he stood for.

He literally transcends the role of actor and becomes a mirror to this man’s life. The strides Penn makes for the gay community feel like a universal triumph, and he is simply inspired.

James Franco, who plays Milk’s lover Scott Smith, demonstrates serious acting chops. He has been unfortunatly overshadowed by Josh Brolin’s portrayal of the villainous Dan White, the man responsible for Milk’s death.

The rest of the supporting cast, headed by Emile Hirsch, mostly portray Milk’s friends and advisors and are perfectly understated. They neither stand in Penn’s shadow nor overplay their roles.

The cast as a whole is very deserving of their award for Best Acting Ensemble at the Critics’ Choice Awards.

“MILK” demonstrates the harm bigotry can produce to any group of people; and is a glimpse into the recent American past.

It should be seen, regardless of personal politics.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu
ANALISE LIPARI  Screen Writer

Sometimes, when two big stars come together, there's instant movie magic. The inexact science of film chemistry is hard to find but easy to recognize — it takes a duo like Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, for example, to turn a film about AOL users into "You've Got Mail." Hollywood legends are often born of the best star duos: Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, or Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland and are a few.

But sometimes, despite the star power of the two actors involved, a pair falls a little flat. Claire Forlani and Brad Pitt are both strong actors, but "Meet, Joe Black" was a depressing dud. Debra Messing is a solid comedienne, but she and Dermot Mulroney ("My Best Friend's Wedding") couldn't spark a compelling romance in "The Wedding Date."

The stars of "Last Chance Harvey," Emma Thompson and Dustin Hoffman, shouldn't have this problem. Thompson is almost criminally undersold in the film as Kate Walker, a lonely survey worker who spends her days at London's Heathrow Airport in a frumpy uniform, well-aged scruff and sad-eyed expression. Hoffman is perpetually uncomfortable as Harvey Shine, a lonely American who takes a chance on a serendipitous weekend in foggy old London's Heathrow Airport in a frumpy little flat. Claire Forlani and Brad Pitt are a few.


The Actors from the London Stage, one of the oldest established touring Shakespeare groups in the world, has been around for 33 years. The company is based in England but produced on campuses nationwide by Shakespeare at Notre Dame. There are no directors involved in their performances — instead, the group collaborates to determine the best way to portray Shakespeare's text. They tour universities twice a year and will perform at seven different campuses stretching from coast to coast.

The AFTLS are known for their mini-bare bones type of performance. Their stage is generally bare, their props to help distinguish between them. Since these five actors to portray a great number of characters, and very few props to help distinguish between them. Since these five actors to portray a great number of characters, and very few props to help discriminate one from the other. Their approach to theater, using only five actors to portray Shakespeare's text. They tour universities twice a year and will perform at seven different campuses stretching from coast to coast.

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Jefferson, Timberwolves beat up on injury-plagued Bucks; Knicks edge Yao-less Rockets behind Chandler's 18

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Shaquille O'Neal had no problem with his teammates having had the end of a road trip, scoring 29 points Monday night as the Phoenix Suns wrapped up a six-game East Coast swing with a 103-87 win over the Washington Wizards.

O'Neal went 10-for-14 from the floor and made five free-throw lines for a six-game career-high of 35 points, and he had 19 points and 11 rebounds in 39 minutes in a Sunday-night's 104-99 victory over Atlanta.

As coach Terry Porter put it before the game, it helped O'Neal didn't have to do "all the banging he'd have to do if it was Yao Ming." With natural power forward Andray Blatche and center Marcin Gortat, too, it was a wonderful opportunity to support the work of O'Neal and rookie JaVale McGee marking the paint for the powerful Wizards, there was no need to give them a night off that's been getting at times during back-to-back games.

Amare Stoudemire added 22 points and 15 rebounds, Leandro Barbosa scored 23 points, and Steve Nash had 14 points and 15 assists for the Suns, who finished 3-4. O'Neal had 19 points and 11 rebounds in 39 minutes in a Sunday-night's 104-99 victory over Atlanta.

"This is where it all begins," he said. "It's been a long time coming for us, and today was just another step in the right direction.

**Classifieds**

**WANTED**

VOLUNTEERS WANTED: The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) at the University of Notre Dame is looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please call 631-3344 or http://www.nd.edu/~educ

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10 of their last 12, snapped a four-game losing streak in Milwaukee by relying on center Yao Ming (sore right knee) for the second straight game. He had 17 points and 11 rebounds in 36 minutes for the Rockets.

The Rockets were out of sorts without center Yao Ming (sore right knee) for the second straight game. He had 17 points and 11 rebounds in 36 minutes for the Rockets.

The Knicks, who haven't played in the game's third quarter since they beat the Bucks 114-109 on April 19, 2007, had 19 points, 17 rebounds and 7 assists.

if you agree have a drink with me and raise your glasses for a toast.

And you'll never see me no more.

Gimme three steps

I've got two tickets to paradise, I've got two tickets in my pocket,

I've got two tickets in my pocket,

I've got two tickets to paradise,

I've got two tickets in my pocket, I'm gonna take you on a trip so far

I said, wait a minute, mister,

I don't even kiss her.

I said, wait a minute, mister,

I didn't even kiss her.

So if you agree have a drink with me and raise your glasses for a toast.

To a little bit of chicken food.

And its lumpy how is it the simple things in life, that mean the most.
**MLB**

Andy Murray returns a shot against Fernando Verdasco during his 2-6, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 loss in the fourth round of the Australian Open Monday.

**IN BRIEF**

**Steelers land in Tampa for Super Bowl XIII**

Mullen Ward isn't cutting or turning yet on an injury that sometimes takes weeks and weeks to heal. He's not running pass patterns or sprinting with much speed. Not playing in the Super Bowl? Ward can't imagine it, and neither can any of his Pittsburgh Steelers teammates.

The one question hanging over the AP champion Steelers as their practice week begins is whether the wide receiver who owns most of the franchise's career pass-catching records will play with a sprained right knee.

To Ward, there's no question at all.

"I don't have a brace on, I'm walking around fine," Ward said Monday, not long after arriving with his teammates. "I'm not going to be 100 percent, I'm not going to trick anybody.

**Duke AP No. 1 for first time since 2006**

Duke returned to the top of the Associated Press' college basketball poll Monday, a place the Blue Devils have been very familiar with in recent years.

The Blue Devils (14-1) moved up one spot to No. 1, their first appearance there since the final poll of 2005-06. They were ranked on top for at least one week in every season from 1997-98 to 2002-03 and only UCLA's 134 weeks at No. 1 beats Duke's 111 in the 50-year history of the poll.

"When you have a chance to be voted No. 1 at any time it is an honor you don't take lightly," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday. "It is not something you try to keep winning but you try to keep improving. I think it goes with the territory we've been in for awhile."

**NASCAR champion Johnson injures hand**

Three-time reigning NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Jimmie Johnson underwent surgery Monday to repair a tendon and nerve after cutting his left middle finger with a kitchen knife Sunday, while preparing to compete in the final segment of the Rolex 24 sports car race.

A statement released by Johnson on Monday said the injury occurred above the knuckle and happened while the Hendrick Motorsports driver was attempting to cut a small hole in his firesuit in order to feed a tube from a cooling shirt through a pocket.

Johnson, whose GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing Pontiac Riley finished seventh in the race, flew to Charlotte, N.C., for further evaluation and outpatient treatment with a hand specialist at Carolinas Medical Center.
Gottfried out at Alabama

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Mark Gottfried resigned as Alabama's basketball coach Monday, leaving in the middle of his 11th season amid criticism from both the team's players and the departure of a star player.

The school said Gottfried will immediately be replaced by assistant coach Philip Pearson. Alabama's next game is at Arkansas on Thursday.

Gottfried, who played at Alabama, said he quit during a meeting with athletic director Mal Moore.

"It has been a wonderful decade for me and my family, and I love the University of Alabama, but I feel that it is in the best interests of everyone involved," Gottfried said in a statement released by the university. The Crimson Tide's record this year is 12-7, 2-3 in the Southeastern Conference.

Gottfried's teams have missed the NCAA tournament the last two years, and the coach was criticized over the recent departure of point guard Ronald Steele, a pre-season first-team AP All-American two years ago, who later was hit by injuries. The school blamed Steele's departure on a recent injury, but Steele said there was more to his decision than that.

Gottfried signed a six-year contract with Alabama in 2005 that made him the school's first $1 million basketball coach and gave him a larger salary than that of football coach Mike Shula. The contract ran through 2010 and included a buyout if he was fired, but any financial terms tied to his resignation were not released.

Moore said the school would begin trying to find a new coach immediately.

"It is regret for our players and coaches, I will not comment on the progress of our search until it has concluded," Moore said in a statement.

The 45-year-old Gottfried took over at Alabama in 1998, replacing Richard Hendrix, who was hit by a car.

He began a streak of five straight appearances in the NCAA tournament in 2002, reaching the round of eight in 2004 in the program's deepest tournament run, including a victory over top-ranked Stanford.

Gottfried hasn't been able to beat state rival Auburn lately. The Tigers have won four of the last five meetings, including an 85-71 victory on Jan. 17.

His current team was left short-handed with the departure of Steele following Richard Hendrix's early exit to the NBA after last season. Including three seasons at Murray State, Gottfried has a career record of 278-165 for a winning percentage of .624 in 14 seasons.

"He started 98 straight games at Alabama as a player from 1985-1987," Cashman said. "He was known for his 3-point shooting, and the Tide made the NCAA tournament round of 32 each of his four years in college.

"He's going to be someone a lot of these guys on the block can lean on," Cashman said.

The deal raised the Yankees' projected opening-day payroll to $196.8 million for 17 players with agreements. That doesn't include reliever Brian Bruney, who is in arbitration and will make between $1.3 million and $1.55 million.

Petitte pitched for the Yankees from 1996-2003, helping them win four World Series titles, then spent three years with Houston. He returned to the Yankees in 2007 and was 14-14 with a 4.54 ERA last season, his highest ERA since 1999.

Petitte's salary is at $16 million, with $10 million guaranteed this year and $16 million guaranteed next year, making it the richest deal in free agency history. The contract also includes $2 million a year in deferred money.

"He's going to be someone a lot of these guys on the block can lean on," Cashman said.

"Do I think it's any hotter now than it was before? No. But do I feel the heat, I've never not felt the heat," Cashman said. "I do think it's any hotter now than it was before? No. But do I feel the heat, I've never not felt the heat," Cashman said.

He also doesn't think the increased spending creates more pressure on himself and manager Joe Girardi.

"I feel the heat. I've always felt the heat. I've never not felt the heat," Cashman said. "I do think it's any hotter now than it was before? No. But do I feel the heat, I've never not felt the heat," Cashman said.

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1 3 1 9 0 9 0 L A T E N I G H T O L Y M P I C S
Competing for the cause. Proceeds to benefit the St. Joseph County Special Olympics.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Royals agreed to a four-year contract with Zack Greinke Thursday to avoid arbitration.

"They could've easily pushed me aside, or helped me get back and then dump me off as soon as they could get something for me," Greinke said. "I can get and help the Royals as much as I can," he said.

When Moore replaced Baird, he maintained the same hands-on care of Greinke that his predecessor had shown.

Greinke, the No. 6 overall draft pick in 2002, was rushed to the majors because the Royals were desperate for talent. Often moody and uncommunicative, he suddenly bolted from spring training in 2006 and went home to Orlando, Fla., thinking he was probably through with baseball.

But the Royals talked him into seeking treatment for what was diagnosed as a social disorder. Former general manager Allard Baird and ex-manager Buddy Bell spent countless hours with their discouraged young pitcher who, in his own words, "just hated being around people."

Greinke admits it was a struggle. But by 2007, he was back in the big leagues to stay. With a lively, biting fastball and good command of three other pitches, he went 13-10 in 32 starts last year, setting career highs in strikeouts (183) and innings (202 1-3). His 3.47 ERA was the best by a full-time Royals starter in 11 years.

"It was awesome. They could've easily pushed me aside, or helped me get back and then dump me off as soon as they could get something for me," Greinke said. "But they did everything they could, bent over backwards to help me and that's pretty special."

The 25-year-old Greinke, just coming into his prime earning years, could have become a free agent after the 2010 season.

"He may have been the most sought-after free agent in the winter of 2010," general manager Dayton Moore said. "We went aggressive with Zack and fortunately we got the backing (from ownership) to be able to do this."

When he left spring training in 2006, Greinke wasn't even sure why he was so miserable.

"I didn't realize there was a cure for what I had, where I just hated being around people," he said. "I was going to get a job where I didn't have to be around people all the time. Mainly, I just mowing grass was my goal."

Now his priorities are entirely different.

"It's just been, like seriously, three years of just thinking every day I want to get as good as I can and get and help the Royals as much as I can," he said.

Rocks Omemorial. Get involved and help support your Late Night Olympic team!

Penny Wars are taking place now at the Rolf's Sports Recreation Center and Rockne Memorial. Get involved and help support your Late Night Olympic team!
Women's NCAA Basketball

Huskies remain unbeaten

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Maya Moore had 27 points and 11 rebounds, freshman Tiffany Hayes added a career-high 23 points, and top-ranked Connecticut routed No. 6 Louisville 93-65 on Monday night to remain unbeaten.

UConn (20-0, 6-0 Big East) has run over its competition this season, winning by an average of 34 points. They have done it seven times all last season.

The Huskies routed the Cardinals 32-31 lead. It would be the last points they’d score before the break as UConn closed the period with a 15-0 run to take a 45-32 lead at the half.

Louisville had the first four points of the second half to cut the deficit to nine, but then UConn scored 16 straight points of the second half to cut the deficit to nine, but then UConn scored 16 straight points to take a 61-36 lead and put the Cardinals a 32-31 lead. It would be the last points they’d score before the break as UConn closed the period with a 15-0 run to take a 45-32 lead at the half.

Louisville tried to slow down Connecticut’s offense by employing a triangle-and-two defense that focused on shutting down Moore and Renee Montgomery and the other UConn players to beat them. It seemed to work early on as the other Huskies were tentative and daring the other UConn players. Moore and Renee Montgomery weren’t nearly enough as the Huskies a challenge in the Big East.

She did all she could with 24 points and 13 rebounds, but it wasn’t nearly enough as the Cardinals saw their 14-game winning streak come to an end. Louisville was off to its best start in school history.

The sophomore, who hadn’t scored faster than anyone in school history, had 12 and Montgomery 11 as the other five in the starting lineup had 17 points or more.

The Cardinals would get no closer than 6 points.

Clemson rally falls short in final minutes

Associated Press

CLEMSOM, S.C. — Lyndra Littles scored 15 of her 22 points in the second half and No. 19 Virginia held off a late rally to win its sixth straight over Clemson, 75-67 on Monday night.

The Cavaliers (16-4, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 53-38 after Aisha Mohammed's basket with 14:29 to play and looked ready to cruise. But the Tigers (12-9, 2-5) rallied behind the long-distance shooting of Kirstyn Wright, the sophomore, who hadn’t made a 3-pointer in Clemson’s previous six games, hit three in a row to make it 57-52.

That’s when Virginia’s two 20-point-a-game scorers — Littles and Monica Wright — took over. Littles had a pair of foul shots as did Wright, the ACC’s top scorer at more than 30 points a game. Littles added two more buckets and Wright a putback to extend the lead to 67-58. Clemson got no closer than 6 points.

Wright finished with 19 points, Aisha Mohammed had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Lele Hardy led Clemson with 17 points.

Virginia came in off its second loss in the past three games and hoped to get going early. And with Wright controlling the outside and Mohammed unstoppable beneath the boards, that’s exactly what the Cavaliers did.

After Whitney Hood’s basket put Clemson up 10-6 with 14:41 to go, Virginia went on a 24-6 run to take control.

Mohammed hit an inside bucket to start things off. Wright hit a 3-pointer moments later to put Virginia ahead 13-10. She added 6 more points in the charge, including the a basket with 4:40 remaining that gave the Cavaliers a 30-16 lead.

Wright had 13 points in the opening period. She was also active on defense with a three of Virginia’s four first-half steals.

The game was the first for both teams since the death of former North Carolina State coach Kay Yow and she was everywhere at Littlejohn Coliseum.

Clemson gave out pink cancer awareness ribbons to fans, along with a pink placard with the words, “In Loving Memory of Kay Yow.”

Grants up to $4,500 ~ Applications due February 13th.

Language Training

Grants up to $4,500 ~ Applications due February 13th.
Hockey
continued from page 20

draw those kinds of fans just to watch a practice.”

The event marked the sec-
ond straight year the Irish
held an outdoor practice
— though the circumstances
surrounding the two differed
greatly.

This Notre Dame team cur-
cently boasts a school-best
20-game unbeaten streak that
dates back to Halloween. Last
year’s squad was in the midst of
a four-game winless streak when Irish
coach Jeff Jackson decided to hold an outdoor
practice. So far, it’s been a good
experience for everyone.

The game is over and the
Irish are so comfortable with
the ball, we’re
so comfortable with her against
pressure handling things.

“We’d like her to shoot more —
it’s tough as the point guard.
We’re trying to get a little more
comfortable with the ball, we’re
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“I think she’s the most
improved player in the confer-
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Junior guard Melissa Lechlitner
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to take ... McNeal said. "And those are shots that I live and die by, and I wouldn't want anybody else taking it but me.

Notre Dame frantically tried to own two out of seven shots during that stretch and Marquette was able to pull away.

McNeal's three was symbolic of those final few minutes of the game, when Marquette nearly had key baskets, while Notre Dame failed to convert.

"Getting over the hump, possessions and finishing, and being a little more poised, I'm disappointed in myself," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "Because I love how we fought to give ourselves a chance to own both of those games, but decisions when it's a one possession game, chance to take the lead... we had empty possessions that have hurt us and against these teams you just can't have empty possessions."

For Notre Dame, the story was the same as it was in its loss Saturday to Connecticut in that Marquette needs help on the offensive end.

"I think these two games, we missed some great looks that we usually make, so you can't re-invent the wheel here," Brey said. "You hope the law of averages kick in, but you've got to keep shooting them."

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The junior forward provided another player of the year-type effort — 29 points on 12-for-22 shooting to go with 17 rebounds — but the rest of the Irish were 12-for-41 (29 percent).

"He can't do it by himself. It showed," said junior guard Tory Jackson, who finished with 10 points. "He needs help from everybody and we let him down today.

Notre Dame will have a hard time beating anybody as long as it is go-to stifflasers, McAlarney and Ayers, continue their cold streaks. McAlarney was 3-of-12 while Ayers was 1-of-7 against the Golden Eagles. Combined, Ayers and McAlarney are 7-for-44 (16 percent) during Notre Dame's last three games.

"They did a good job tonight of staying with me the whole time. I must've gone back 200 shots. Acker and Peoples and Luke Zeller. Zeller contributed eight points and eight rebounds. Zeller played only 11 minutes, due in part to a sprained ankle. Brey said. Terone Nash also saw his first significant minutes in Big East play. He played eight minutes, and grabbed two rebounds.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

continued from page 20
man season picking up a first-team All-Big East award along the way. Imagine what Ryan Ayers and Zach Hillesland must be going through. For Ayers, the basket must look pretty small right now. The senior sharpshooter, who's still above 40 percent for 3-point field goals on the season, has hit one of his last 17 shots. He's not missing badly. A lot of those looks are a quarter-inch too long or to the right, but he's enough to leave Ayers wondering what he has to do to make a basket.

As for Hillesland, it must seem like ages since he made something positive happen around the basket. You can't fault his effort, but his put-back slam ratted out.

Coming off the bench against Marquette, one of his first touches was a strong drive where two Marquette defenders nearly clothes-lined him as he elevated. No call. And nothing to feel good about for the senior who has scored exactly eight points during Notre Dame's four game losing streak.

So where does that leave the Irish? Luke Harangody put it best after Monday's game. "We're going to find out if our guys are men now.

"To translate, Notre Dame's next opponent isn't Pittsburgh. Before the Irish ever foot in the Petersen Events Center Saturday, they're going to have to battle themselves. McAlarney is going to have to relax putting extra pressure on himself to hit one of his few precious open looks. Ayers must resist the temptation to return to the passive offensive role he played during his first few seasons in South Bend. Hillesland needs to believe that the next time he attacks the basket will be the time he finishes strong or at least gets that seemingly elusive whistle.

And the Irish as a team need to do a collective mental check-up. After getting punched in the mouth four consecutive games, do they still believe they're on par with the upper-echelon of Big East teams? There was a lot of bewilderment in the players' voices following Monday's game.

Yet this is one area to feel confident about as an Irish fan. Notre Dame isn't the biggest team. They're not the fastest. And they're certainly not the most athletic. What the Irish do have, however, is team chemistry. Every major contributor in the Irish rotation has been in South Bend for at least two-plus seasons, and they genuinely like playing with each other.

That may not seem like it counts for much in the midst of a degrading four game losing streak, but it's just what the players used right now.

It's what will help Ayers' shooting return to form. And McAlarney's. It will help Hillesland remember what he can do on the inside. And it will help Notre Dame head to Pittsburgh this Saturday with a sense of opportunity instead of dread.

The Irish don't have much of a choice. Responding to this adversity in any other way will push this season, teetering right on the brink, right over the edge.

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

Contact Greg Arkaoglu at garbogas@nd.edu

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The Observer ▪ SPORTS

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Joyce Center Field House
Poor shooting kills Irish in two straight

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

For the past few years it's been Kyle McAlarney, Ryan Ayers or Luke Harangody that has delivered the crushing blow on the way to a victory in the Joyce Center. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it was Jerel McNeal's turn on Monday.

The Marquette guard scored 27 points, including a crucial 3-pointer to put the Golden Eagles (18-2, 7-0 Big East) up five en route to a 71-64 victory over Notre Dame (12-7, 3-5 Big East).

McNeal's 3-pointer came with 2:13 left as Harangody came out to try to alter the shot, but Harangody got there too late. The shot was right on line.

"These are shots you always want to make," said Jerel McNeal, a senior guard for Marquette.

The Irish had a better shooting percentage than Marquette, but it was not enough to overcome the cold shooting.

A loss gives Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said the players were disappointed about the loss.

"I wasn't happy with the defense, and now we're struggling to score a little bit," McGraw said.

The Irish are 15-3, 4-2 in the Big East. The Irish defense has to continue to improve if they want to have a chance in the Big East.

The Irish are in the national top five in defense, but they still need to improve their shooting.

The Irish will have to keep tabs on her defense because she focused on defense so much previously.

"I wasn't happy with the defense, and now we're struggling to score a little bit," McGraw said.

Despite McGraw's concerns, the Irish were still competitive in the game. They were in it until the final seconds, when McNeal hit the game-winning 3-pointer.

The Irish will have to continue to work on their defense if they want to have a chance in the Big East.

Prince and the Scarlet Knights face the Irish at the JACC

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

A loss gives Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw the itch to play again, and soon. But Sunday, her players felt it too.

When the coaches walked into practice Sunday afternoon, McGraw said the players were determined they were. They were just like, "Let's go, Let's get it there and let's go."

The No. 17 Irish will need that practice time before they welcome Rutgers to the Joyce Center tonight, three days after losing to Villanova on the road Saturday.

"I'm doing my best to try and get open," said Greg Athobag, a junior guard for Rutgers.

"I don't think it's a situation where we can let her get whatever she wants because she might get 40," McGraw said. "We don't want that. And the rest of their team, even though their numbers aren't as good, they're still capable."

Despite Prince's skill, McGraw said winning the rebounding battle will be crucial.

The Irish, who return 12 All-Americans, feature prodigious talent in both the women's and men's squads.

Women's fencing

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