Off-campus projects add ‘vibrancy,’ help to tighten link between University and South Bend residents

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Editor’s note: This is the second installment of a three-part series examining the development projects occurring near Notre Dame’s campus.

The University’s collaboration with South Bend to develop the neighborhoods near campus will bring a vibrancy to the community that can potentially reap benefits for students and faculty, according to Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves.

Affleck-Graves said the success of the Notre Dame community is dependent on a strong community outside the University.

The three projects Notre Dame is investing in — the Eddy Street Commons, Innovation Park and the Bend to develop the neighborhoods near campus — attempt to better the community, which in turn will benefit the University, he said.

“All three are important projects for us because they will tighten the link between the University and the community,” Affleck-Graves said. “For the University to really succeed, we need to be in a vibrant community.”

Greg Hakanen, director of asset management and real estate development, said the construction of the Eddy Street Commons is a step in the right direction toward revitalizing the neighborhood around campus.

The Commons presents faculty with a living option close to campus, and students will be able to enjoy a variety of restaurants and shops, he said.

“Notre Dame has never really had a commercial district, that some would call it a college town, with an easy walking distance to campus, so that was kind of a vacuum,” Hakanen said.

Eddy Street Commons has apartments, cone, see PROJECTS/page 6

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Eddy Street Commons has apartments, cone, see PROJECTS/page 6

The home pictured above was remodeled with a ‘traditional look’ as part of The Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Project.

Panel examines effect of Obama campaign

Group focuses on diversity and increased civic engagement in 2008 election season

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

A panel of students, faculty, and staff discussed the impacts that President Barack Obama’s campaign had on unifying the diverse American population Wednesday evening in the Coleman-Morse Center Lounge.

Members of the Notre Dame community gathered to eat dinner and listen to the discussion, which was titled “Obama’s Impact on Diversity, Inclusion and Civic Engagement: Now and Beyond.” see OBAMA/page 6

The panel consisted of six members of the Notre Dame community ranging in ethnicities, ages, and religious affiliations.

Members included Carmen Orozco-Acosta, a political science graduate student, Cecilia Lucre, the assistant director of undergraduate research, Jasmin Simmons, a sophomore majoring in Spanish and African Studies Department, Jasmine S. Sherman, a sophomore majoring in philosophy, and Johannes J. Friedewald, a senior in the philosophy major.

“The figure, Wash said, will continue the work and the study is representative of the entire undergraduate population at Notre Dame.

see HEALTH/page 3

Shades of Ebony, the Africana Studies Department, and the Black Alumni of Notre Dame hosted the discussion, which lasted approximately an hour.

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Course researches college-aged health

By JENN METZ
News Editor

At yesterday’s Health and Wellness Fair, students tried out “drunk goggles,” entered in raffles and helped a class of 25 students begin a new clinical trial.

The clinical research course — ‘Test for Better Health’ — is the first of its kind at Notre Dame. The students, under the guidance of semi-retired cardiologist Dr. Vince Friedewald, are conducting a study on college-aged blood pressure.

Senior Erin Wash, a biochemistry major who plans on attending medical school after Notre Dame, has had experience doing research in the past. After hearing of Friedewald’s plans for the study, she helped plan the course with him in the fall to launch in the spring.

“Together we put the skeleton of the study together,” she said.

Designed with an emphasis on increasing undergraduate research, the study’s goal is to measure the blood pressures of between 500 and 1,000 undergraduate students by the end of the spring semester.

The figure, Wash said, will continue the work and the study is representative of the entire undergraduate population at Notre Dame.

see HEALTH/page 3

Senior Allison Hickey, left, practices taking junior Amy Leisnenfelt’s blood pressure in class last week.

HEI hotel workers ask for support

Employees fight for right to unionize

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Three hotel workers and a union organizer urged Notre Dame students to support the rights of HEI Hotels and Resorts workers to unionize at an event hosted by the Coalition for Economic Justice in the Dooley Room of LaFortune Wednesday.

Maria Vivasco, 24, an organizer with Unite Here Local 2, a San Francisco chapter of the union, urged students to campaign for better working conditions for hotel employees.

"You guys are among the privileged that have that college education, so we really want you to use your degree and your education as a tool to make change," she said.

The Coalition, a division of the Progressive Student Alliance, first hosted workers from HEI’s Le Meridien Hotel in San Francisco last November.

One of the workers who spoke, Michael Archeta, was fired from his position as a cook after a Nov. 11 Observer article about the event was discovered by the hotel management, Vivasco said.

The workers came to Notre Dame to speak Wednesday and last November because the University is one of several colleges that invests

see HEI/page 4
I got excited about the Academy Awards. Possibly not the most macho admission, but it's the truth. And this year's awards contain a number of interesting nominees that will make the ceremony fascinating, never mind the fact that Hugh Jackman is hosting.

**Sports Editor**

Where'd that come from?

Used to be funny people would run the show, the better to entertain the masses: Steve Martin, Billy Crystal, Chris Rock, Jon Stewart, Ellen DeGeneres. Where'd Hugh Jackman come from? But we can't judge before we see.

He may upstage and upcharge, and connect with the audience better than all of the above. At the very least, his physique in a tux and hint of an Australian accent will entertain the females.

Here's what has me excited this year:

**Up for Best Picture, we have** "Shumdog Millionaire," a movie with no well-known actors (at least in America) that still captivates the audience. Half of the movie follows young Indian kids who don't speak English, yet the cinematography and Indian music (two songs are up for Best Song) move the film along at a rapid pace.

We also have "Titanic's" Jack and Kate 11 years down the road when the relationship forged in the heat for cold of the tragedy starts to fade, in "Revolutionary Road." Jack gets upwitty with Kate, Kate's not having it — whatever the case may be.

All good things I heard about Mickey Rooney in "The Wrestler" couldn't describe his performance. I judge movies by how they affect me after I see them. "The Wrestler" stack around in my head. A movie about a washed-up wrestler in New Jersey, and I couldn't get rid of it.

Since it's Academy Awards season, we all play a stripper in the movie, still looks real good at age 44.

My biggest beef with the Oscars is usually that they omit comedy movies and focus on serious, ponderous movies I don't want to see. Not this year, because Robert Downey Jr. got a nomination for his role as Kirk Lazarus/Lincoln Osiris in "Tropic Thunder." Bout time. He reminded me of a cross between Danny DeVito and Stiller; unbelievably funny.

It's a season, though, where he has no chance of winning, because he's up against Heath Ledger and the Joker. The Joker was the first villain in a movie I believed. Every other villain wears tailored suits and has billions of dollars for world domination while his minions protect him from every possible harm. Ledger's portrayal of the character made me believe that someone out there could actually do the things he did. And despite the fact that he carved people's faces with knives and thoughtlessly slaughtered innocent people, at times I felt like I was rooting for him.

If he doesn't win Sunday, the Academy and I are gonna have problems.

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

Contact: Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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**Correction**

A caption on the front page of the Wed. Feb. 18 edition of The Observer misquoted the name of a student studying in the CSLC. The student pictured is Grady Moul.

The Observer regrets this error.
Lecture explores gender in pop culture

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

The Men Against Violence club sponsored a lecture enti

tiled "That's What IIE Said: Images of Modern Masculinity" in the Hesburgh Library's
Carey Auditorium on

Wednesday at 8 p.m.

The event, which featured a viewing of an episode of the popular television show "The Office," as well as a panel dis
cussion, explored the topic of how masculinity is portrayed in popular culture.

The first panelist, Dr. Augustin Fuentes, a professor of Anthropology at Notre Dame, discussed gender roles

within "The Office."

He said that the sitcom worked well because the male
demographic present within the episodes is so

embedded in society's under

standing of gender.

However, in real life, gender roles are much more subtle,

Fuentes said. There is overlap in how people

act, and no one can be placed solely into one gender catego

Dr. Eileen Hunt Bottig, the director for the Gender Studies

Program, spoke about the

metaphors for unsuccessful romantic relationships present

on the show.

She mentioned a plot line where a character tried to live her relationship with another character by a

contract. Bottig said this is not the way that a

true, loving relationship works, and that the sto

dyline showed the errors involved with this way of life.

"It forces us to con

Template what's wrong about the relationships present on the show," Bottig said.

Dr. Mark Gusty, a Notre Dame sociology professor, said how relatable the show's characters are.

However, Gusty said all of the characters are caricatures of various arche

types of people.

"These are caricatures, and there is some truth in the types, but the representations of whole per

sons in almost uniformly missing," Gusty said.

Gusty said that even though viewers of "The Office" can relate to various aspects of each character, they are two

dimensional. People in real life are much more complex than any character in "The Office."

Dr. Cathleen Kaveny, a John P. Murphy professor of law,

spoke about the boisterous behavior present in "The Office."

She said that Michael Scott, one of the main characters, often engages in behavior that is

like a child.

"What does it mean to be a grown-up?" Kaveny said.

She listed five characteristics

necessary for successful adulthood: Self-control, aware

ness of other people's boundaries, sense of one's own

boundaries, understanding of what is appropriate in a given

situation, and ability to relate to other people's needs.

Dr. John Cavadini, the chair of the Theology department, said "The Office" presents a
great sense of irony and also reveals the flaws in the traditional structure of masculinity.

"The Office" is a place where the women are just as likely to be your boss as they are to be damsels in distress," Cavadini said.

Cavadini also discussed the illusion of manliness present in the show, citing examples of how each character's mas

culinity is undermined in some way.

Contact Irena Zajickova at

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Health

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The blood pressure measurements collected, along with the answers to questionnaires, will be analyzed and published.

In order to ensure the study is well received in the professional medical research community, Wash said the group has made

sure its research is sound.

"Everything about your study, down to the type of equipment to how we take the blood pressure, is very precise," she said.

The NDash study is considering a number of health conditions related to high blood pressure in the study.

"We're definitely interested in hypertension," Wash said. "This age group is really absent in the literature, so the research is lack

ing in blood pressure in young adults." All 25 students — mostly juniors and seniors interested in pursuing a career in clinical

research—one had to give their input about the study before it launched at the fair, Wash said.

Wash said there had been a lot of
done on the rise in childhood obesity and diabetes in older adults, but the middle age group—college students—had been neglected in the research.

The NDash study, named for the Dash Diet, a program designed to help lower blood pressure, aims to find what fac

tors lead to a risk for hyperten

sion in college-aged young adults and what lifestyle changes can be made to help lower blood pressure.

The study is being conducted on a purely volunteer basis, Wash said. Currently, students are asking for the blood pressures once per participant, "but if any

one wants a follow up we'll take the blood pressure a second or third time," she said.

Over the next six weeks, NDash will be setting up in the communal spaces in all 28 residence halls, making it very convenient for all students to partici

pate," Wash said.

"It takes less than 10 minutes to participate," she said.

The study's questionnaire is confidential and anonymous and asks the participant's age, height, weight, habits, and family and personal medical histories. The answers will help the students running the study analyze their data.

"We'll look at the group of stu

dents who have a parent with diabetes and see if there's a significant difference in their blood pressures (compared to other students)," Wash said.

From the outset of the study, participants are given a number that cannot be tied back to their identity, as for all analysis pur

poses the students will not use any identifiable information, Wash said.

Wash estimated about 50 stu

dents participated at the NDash booth at the Health and Wellness Fair, which was held in the Rolfs

Community Center.

The course's Web site —
https://sites.google.com/site/ndash
spring2009/Home — lists the dates the students will be at each residence hall to take measurements as well as contact infor

mation and other links related to the study.

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Where God Left His Shoes (2008) Directed by Salvatore Stabile

NR, 100 minutes

Where God Left His Shoes is the story of Frank (John Leguizamo), Angela (Leonor Varela), and their two children. When they are evicted from

their New York City apartment, they have no choice but to move into a homeless shelter. After a few difficult months, good news comes their way on Christmas Eve: a nearby housing project has an apartment available immediately—but Frank needs a job on the books in order
to qualify. While the rest of the city prepares for Christmas, Frank and his ten-year-old stepson, Justin, roam the cold streets of New York
trying to find a job by day's end. Where God Left His Shoes is the story of a family that refuses to break apart during the darkest time of their

lives and discovers that they will survive as long as they have each other.

Where God Left His Shoes is being shown on the

University of Notre Dame's campus on

Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

TICKETS: $5 FACULTY/STAFF AND $3 ALL STUDENTS • TICKET OFFICE: 611.2800 • PERFORMINGARTS.ND.EDU

Rest World View Event: Divided We Fall • March 19 • DeBartolo Great Room and Vortex East will be open

CAMPUS NEWS

Office of the President

DR. MARK GUSTY
Professor of Sociology

"These are caricatures, and there is some truth in the types, but the representations of whole persons is almost uniformly missing."

Contact Irena Zajickova at

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HEI

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HEI is a student organization for students who are interested in food services and related fields. The group was established to provide a platform for student voices to be heard in the decision-making process of food services at the University. The group meets regularly to discuss issues related to food services, with a focus on improving the student experience and making the University more sustainable.

The group has been successful in advocating for changes in the food service menu, such as the introduction of more vegetarian and vegan options. They have also worked to improve the social engagement opportunities available to students, such as the creation of a student-run coffee shop on campus.

The group's members are committed to making the University a more inclusive and accessible place for all students, and they are always eager to hear feedback and suggestions from their peers. They encourage anyone interested in food services to join them in their efforts to make the University a better place for all.

Student Senate

Group ponders Fighting for Footlongs

By MADALINE BUCKLEY

The bulk of Wednesday's Student Senate meeting was dedicated to a discussion of whether Notre Dame student government should get involved in a fight for $5 footlongs at the Subway restaurant on campus.

A Facebook group dedicated to getting students to show solidarity in the Huddle has amassed over 1,500 members and inspired student organizers to add this cause to its agenda.

Student body president Bob Reish said Grant Schmidt, student body vice president, met with the creator of the "Fighting for Footlongs" Facebook group and has scheduled meetings with Jim Nelligan, the general manager of the Huddle and Dave Prekker, the director of Notre Dame Food Services. Schmidt was not present at the meeting, but Reish invited the senators to voice concerns Schmidt brought up in these meetings happening later in the week.

O'Neill Hall senator Kevin Kimberly said this issue is a priority for students because Subway is the most popular food venue in the Huddle.

"I feel like there is such a focus on Subway because the other options are unappealing, like subway and Burger King," he said. "There's always a constant line at them.

However, Walsh Hall senator Julie Zorl said many of the girls dorm says they are not interested in $5 footlongs. "Girls in Walsh say they don't care because they ordered that large of a sandwich," she said. Reish also added that he heard people complain that students care too much about sandwich prices.

Reish then asked if senators if they think this is an issue student government should discuss. He questioned whether it is too minor of an issue for student government, but he said he thought the Facebook group and the social movement it indicates is an important concern to the student body.

SAC Concerns Committee chair Michelle Byrne said she is disappointed students rely in large numbers to support $5 footlongs, while more significant issues — like the revised sexual assault policy that was recently passed by student government — go unnoticed.

"I would like to call us all to a higher standard," she said.

Sarah Redus, Student Outreach Committee chair, said student government should listen to the concerns of students, even if they are about Subway sandwiches, but she said she hopes attention will also be paid to more important issues.

"I ask that just as much attention he paid to things like the sexual assault policy," she said.

Despite these concerns, Campus Technology Committee chair Devin Fee said arguing against working for $5 footlongs because of a lack of attention paid to sexual assault is not logical.

"It's important for student government to promote social responsibility, but you guys were elected as senators to represent the students in your hall," he said. "This is what you're elected to do — take student concerns to a higher level."

Fee said many students have an unfavorable perception of student government because they believe it does not accomplish anything.

He said adding the fight for footlongs would improve this perception.

"We need as much good press as we can get," he said.

In other Senate news:

Student Senate unanimously passed an amendment to continue the Campus Technology Committee. This year, the committee helped obtain printers for every residence hall, put a printer in Jordan Hall and worked on the switch from Webmail to Gmail as the University's official e-mail domain, according to Campus Technology Committee chair Devin Fee.

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U.S. economy will worsen in 2009

Federal officials estimate a bleaker future than predicted in November 2008

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve warned Wednesday that the nation's crippled economy will worsen even more than predicted in the last 12 months, saying the economic downturn will stretch throughout 2009, with no sign that the housing market will stabilize.

The Fed's bleak estimates indicated that unemployment could climb as high as 8.8 percent this year and that the economy would contract for a full calendar year for the first time since 1982. The central bank's latest projections came hours after a separate report showed that new home construction and applications for future projects had fallen to record lows last month.

Still, some economists saw a silver lining in the otherwise dismal housing report: Scanty business during July may have been a sign the nation had passed the peak of the downturn.

The Fed's latest forecast says the unemployment rate will climb to between 8.5 and 8.8 percent this year. The old prediction, issued in mid-November, estimated that the jobless rate would range between 7.1 and 7.6 percent.

Many private economists believe the unemployment rate will hit at least 9 percent next year even with the $787 billion economic stimulus package signed into law Tuesday by President Obama.

The Fed also believes the economy will contract this year by between 1.5 and 2.2 percent. The old forecast, issued in mid-November, estimated a 1.8 percent drop.

The last time the economy registered a contraction for a full year was in 1982, by 0.2 percent. The Fed's new projections prove correct, it would mark the weakest showing since a 1.9 percent drop in 1982, when the country had suffered through a severe recession.

The grim outlook represents the growing toll of the worst housing, credit and financial crises since the 1930s. All of those negative forces have plunged the nation into a recession, now in its second year.

"Given the strength of the forces currently weighing on the economy," Fed officials "generally expected that the recovery would be unusually gradual and prolonged," according to documents on the Fed's updated economic outlook.

Nonprofits see increase in volunteers

Associated Press

BOSTON — Meghan McCloskey heard the call to service when she was in college, applying to the Peace Corps during her sophomore year. That call only got louder as she realized her shrinking job options in the faltering economy.

"Just having some sort of security for two years was not going to make the job application process every two months and internships until some one wants to pay you is good," said McCloskey, 23, an administrative assistant who completed the Peace Corps application process and is awaiting her country placement. "It's a good way to gain a lot of experience in a short amount of time and after the job I have no idea if I could find another job in the econo my.

Volunteer organizations such as the Peace Corps and Teach for America say the lingering economy and President Barack Obama's call for service have led to a major increase in applications.

For teach America received a record 14,000 applications by November, an almost 50 percent increase over the previous year. And Peace corps applications rose 28 percent from fiscal year 2007 to 2008, with a big spike registered around the time of Obama's inauguration.

As a former community organizer, Obama advocated public service throughout his campaign and encouraged Americans to spend Martin Luther King Jr. Day volunteering. Obama's administration also has several initiatives promoting service, including expanding the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps.

When applying to Peace Corps, most college graduates speak first about their desire to serve. But they also learn a foreign language and gain valuable international experience that can further their future careers, organization spokeswoman Laura Lartigue said.

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Associated Press

WEDNESDAY on whether she gave the animal to punish companies hiring illegal workers.

Stanford Banks refuse depositors

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua — Panicky depositors of Hartford's largest bank have frozen pending an investigation by Antiguan banking regulators.

The sprawl of townhouses and white stucco villas that edged the beach of Antigua was quiet and peaceful Wednesday morning — and still is.

Stanford Banks refuse depositors

In another sign of the trouble in the world economy, production at Volatile economies, production at Ford's U.S. auto plants sank in its second year.

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psychology, Spencer Howard, a senior political science major and president of the College Democrats, Naumil Singh, a political science professor, and Lois Jackson, a former student and assistant VP & counsel and concurrent assistant pro-

fessor at the Law School.

Erdina Francell, president of Shades of Ebony, who moder-

ated the discussion, began the panel by expressing the reason for the event being held.

“We are here today because Black History Month isn’t an event for only African Americans to celebrate,” she said. “It should be a time to celebrate diversity and come together as a country.”

She then addressed the pan-
elists for the first time, asking why they became involved in the campaign with Obama.

Lucero said she was previ-

ously hesitant to join in any political activity, but said this election was more personal than any other in her lifetime.

“This election really hit home. I wanted my family to know where my views stood,” Lucero said.

Howard, unlike Lucero, has been highly active in politics for many years. He said he wanted to get involved in order to break the stereotype that young people are not politically active.

“We started a PAC [Political Action Committee] called the Northern Indiana College Democrats, which apparently was the first student-run cam-

paign office in the country,” Howard said.

Francell then posed the ques-
tion of why there were differ-
ent types of people involved during this campaign, and how inclusion and civic engage-

ment affected this involve-

ment.

Addressing the diversity of the president’s family tree, Singh offered the explanation that Obama is a universal can-
didate who fills all the backgrounds in a number of different ways.

Howard said Obama has a way of transcending bound-

aries and a way of showing all that he respects their views.

When asked how the cam-
paign caused them to think differently about inclusion and civic engagement, the pan-
elists responded that while the country has a long way to go in conquering the issue of racism, large strides were made.

Simmons said progress was made but the country is not yet perfect.

“It has taken a long time to get this far,” she said. “But we still have a long way to go.”

Many of the members of the panel had campaigned door-
to-door for Obama, and when asked if people said anything abhorring or offensive at the doorsteps, all agreed that while there were a few extreme cases, overall, people were inviting and polite.

“There was a large number of people that were able to talk about the issue of diversity and the election,” Orozco-Acosta said.

Orozco-Acosta also said the groups that were created during the campaign must compre-
hensive meeting and creating and attaining new goals to help the success of the presidency.

Francell asked the panel how the newly-elected president will change the country, and what still needs to be done to bridge the racial gap.

“This election comes at a great time because it is not so much black and white, there are people of all races and col-

ors that are starving right now,” Simmons said. “People don’t feel the need to affiliate with their race because we all want the same things at the end of the day.”

The panel also discussed what needs to be done to pro-
mote diversity on campus.

Jackson said that it is impor-
tant to encourage dialogue.

“No one is naive enough to think that America’s problem with diversity are over now that we have elected an African-American president,” she said. “Students need to be proactive and push their agen-
da by deciding what actions they want to take.”

Disagreements

Some members of the panel had differing opinions on the success of the Obama administration. Jackson and Lucero felt this election would be a turning point in the war on terrorism.

Howard disagreed, saying that while there was progress on terrorism, the war is still not over.

“I believe that this election will give the country a chance to be better,” Jackson said. “But we didn’t ever say that this election will end the war on terrorism.”

Lucero felt this election would give the country a chance to change on many issues.

“Polarization is no longer an issue,” Lucero said.

Howard felt that this election was symbolic. He said the real work is yet to come.

The discussion concluded with questions from the audi-

ence.

One subject talked about was the diversity sessions that are included in all contempo-

rary topics classes that are mandatory for first-year stu-

dents.

Members of the audience and the panel voiced their con-

cern that students in atten-

dance at those sessions were not engaged enough. They also said that they hoped to find a way to increase interest and participation in those discus-

sions.

Contact Liu O’Donnell at
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Projects

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dos and houses, but Hakanen stressed that it is geared toward families and professionals in the area, not students.

“It is absolutely not targeted towards student housing,” he said.

Orozco-Acosta told the audience they were trying to address was when four, five or six students live in a rental house next to a family. That often doesn’t work out so well.

While students generally will not be renting apartments in Hilly Street Commons, they will finally have stores and eateries within walking distance of campus, Hakanen said.

Hakanen said there will be two upscale restaurants, an Irish pub and an oyster house, and several fast, casual eateries. The casual cafes will provide quick food without waiters, but they are a step above fast food restaurants, he said.

There will also be several retail stores, an electronic store and an extension of the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

The names of the specific stores and eateries will be released when the contracts are finalized, he said.

Alfleck-Graves said the Luddy Street Commons will create “more of an urban living environment,” which can potentially draw people to the University.

The Commons are also a walking distance of the northeast neighbor-

hood, where the University owns many lots it uses to construct trad-

ional-looking houses for University faculty, Alfleck-Graves said.

Alfleck-Graves said the University, in conjunction with the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Group (NNRG), the social housing organization, builds low-cost houses and does a lot to help the community who are not affiliated with the University.

“People see that it’s nice to live in a neighborhood where the homes have a very traditional look,” he said. “We control the design of the home so they look like they’ve been there a long time.”

The project allows the University to give professors housing options close to campus in a nice neighbor-

hood, Alfleck-Graves said.

“A lot of faculty want to live close to the University, and it’s nice we can offer them something,” he said.

While Luddy Street Commons and the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Project offer students and faculty dining, entertainment and living options, Innovation Park will benefit them in another way.

Although Innovation Park is inde-

pendent from Notre Dame, President and CEO David Brenner said the park will have many intern-

ship opportunities for students inter-
aested in research, and University fac-

ulty will be able to extend their aca-
demic research into the business world.

“People see that it’s nice to live in people who are not affiliated with Notre Dame,” Brenner said. “That is a much stronger sense of what is expected in the marketplace for their ideas.”

Brenner said students with intern-

ships would be able to walk to the Park after class and work, with start-

up businesses as large as estab-

lished companies.

The third part of this series will look at how these projects affect the South Bend community and its role in the projects’ development.

Contact Madeline Buckley at
mbuckley@nd.edu

Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising

The Joyce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Student and faculty nominations are sought to identify faculty or professional staff members whose involvement with undergraduates inspires students to reach their

 área in the hopes of establishing a traditional neighborhood for both Notre Dame faculty and members of the community who are not affiliated with the University.

Submit online nominations at provostawards.nd.edu.

Student, faculty and staff nominations are sought to identify faculty or professional staff members whose involvement with undergraduates inspires students to reach their

Nominations are due Tuesday, March 3. Nineteen recipients will be selected.

• Create environments that stimulate significant student learning

• Elevate students to a new level of intellectual engagement

• Foster students’ ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline

Nominations are due Tuesday, March 3. Three faculty or staff will be chosen.

• Facilitate learning outside the classroom

• Serve as mentors or role models

• Encourage student participation in fellowships, internships, undergraduate research and post-graduate opportunities

• Cultivate relationships with organizations that recruit Notre Dame graduates

Nominations are due Tuesday, March 3. Nineteen recipients will be selected.

• Create environments that stimulate significant student learning

• Elevate students to a new level of intellectual engagement

• Foster students’ ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline

Nominations are due Tuesday, March 3. Three faculty or staff will be chosen.

The Observatory ◆ CAMPUS NEWS

Thursday, February 19, 2009

Recognize Excellence

Nominations are sought for two awards, the Recognize Excellence in teaching and advising.

Nominations are due Tuesday, March 3. Nineteen recipients will be selected.

Submit online nominations at provostawards.nd.edu.

Office of the Provost

The University of Notre Dame
L.A. regulates billboard advertising

Public outcry prompts city officials to reevaluate 'supergraphics' regulations

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — David Allan had been suggesting, literally. The six-story building where the chiropractor works is draped in it. “It’s just ridiculous,” said he of the massive vinyl banner promoting TV shrink Dr. Phil McGraw that obscures his view of the scenic Santa Monica Mountains.

Such supergraphics and digital signs are among the new generation of public ads inflicting critical eyes across the country who say the “billboard blight” distracts drivers, hurts the look of streets and could hinder access by rescue crews.

Kevin Fey, president of the Washington-based anti-billboard group Scene America, said Los Angeles is at the center of the ever-worsening U.S. recession.

The proliferation has prompted officials to impose moratoriums on new ads as the city considers new regulations aimed at reducing the number of billboards, limiting their size and increasing penalties against those who flout the rules. Past efforts largely collapsed after court challenges by the billboard industry.

The new regulations would also ban digital billboards in most parts of the city. The Planning Commission is scheduled to consider the rules on Thursday.

Meanwhile, mismanaged charges have been thrown at the Planning Department for suspected of violating the city’s moratorium on digital supergraphics and digital billboards.

“The billboard industry in the city is clearly out of control,” said Planning Commission member Mike Woo, who teaches urban planning at the University of Southern California.

“Junk mail or junk phone calls, except this is changing the public environment in very visible ways,” he said.

Advertisers counter that new billboard technologies help businesses reach consumers in an age when TV users can skip through commercials and newspaper ads are reaching fewer readers.

They insist that safety fears are exaggerated and stress that courts have repeatedly sided with their right to advertise.

“As far as any kind of health and safety issues are concerned, that’s a baseless city by the city,” said Barry Rush, managing partner of World Wide Rush LLC, the firm behind the Dr. Phil sign.

“The last thing I’d ever want to do is endanger somebody,” he said.

Advertisers can pay more than $8,000 for a standard billboard on a busy Los Angeles thoroughfare, compared to $110,000 for a prominent supergraphic, said Megan Weis, a strategist with The Phelps Group marketing agency.

The spread of billboard ads has also sparked increasingly vocal opposition in cities such as Cleveland, San Antonio and Omaha, Neb.

Community groups in New York also are objecting as outdoor ads spread deeper into Manhattan from Times Square.

In Los Angeles, opponents point to a four-story office building in Century City with an ad for the film “Watchmen” and a provocative series of ads for American Apparel in residential Echo Park as some of the most disruptive billboards.

They note that enforcement has traditionally been lax and attitudes toward ads have been permissive in the city where the Hollywood sign was erected decades ago as a way to promote a housing tract.

The most recent round of billboard opposition crystallized two years ago when major outdoor advertising companies reached a series of court settlements with the city that activists viewed as a giveaway to the billboard industry.

Stimulus is affecting financial aid

Johnny’s middle-class student who wanted to go to college and to have his own money, dangling financial aid to attract students who will improve the college’s ranking and reputation.

But sometimes that means well-off students get both a free ride and a new ride (when their parents reward a scholarship by using the college fund to buy them a car).

The federal stimulus package President Obama signed into law Tuesday, however, was notably focused on helping the poor; families through college, with the largest increase ever to the Pell Grant program, which mostly supports students from families earning under $30,000 a year.

Merrill-based aid, meanwhile, has taken a hit in several states. New Jersey recently imposed tougher standards and cut back on its Student Tuition Assistance Reward Scholarship. Michigan may have to reduce its Promise scholarship. Nevada has already moved money out of a program that gave as much as $10,000 to top high school graduates.
Sergeant major under the color of their skin
Geronimo's skull sue Skull and Bones over remains

Associated Press

HARTFORD — Geronimo's descendants have sued the elite Skull and Bones secret society at Yale University, claiming that its members stole the remains of the legendary Apache leader decades ago and have kept them ever since.

The federal lawsuit filed in Washington on Tuesday — the 100th anniversary of Geronimo's death — also names Yale University and the federal government.

Geronimo's great-grandson Harley Geronimo said his family believes Yale and the government — along with other universities — stole the remains of the Apache leader during a raid in 1918 from a burial plot in Fort Sill in Oklahoma.

"I want them to understand we mean business," said Harley Geronimo, who lives in New Mexico. "We're very serious. We're tired of waiting and we're coming after them.

Neither members of Skull and Bones, who closely guard their membership and secrecy, nor Yale officials were available for comment on the lawsuit.

The debate over the raid centers on the secrecy about the group and its initiation rites such as confessional and ignition rites on its campus.

The raid took place after the 1982 death of Larry Fobes, a Yale law professor and Skull and Bones member who was found dead in his campus home.

Space in immigration proceedings, said
to standing on the detainee's legs

Held in the Ivy League school. Only 15

"To assure that all existing remains of Geronimo and funerary objects are recovered by Geronimo's linear descendants, the Order of Skull and Bones and Yale University, for any such article that has been in their possession, or on their property, and persons with knowledge must provide any facts known to them concerning the claims," the descendants' lawsuit says.

Soldier pleads guilty to assault

Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL — An Army staff sergeant who was facing a murder charge in the death of an Iraqi detainee pleaded guilty to assault on Wednesday and received more than a year's confinement.

Staff Sgt. Hal M. Warner was sentenced to 17 months confinement, had his rank reduced to private and was given a bad conduct discharge. He pleaded guilty to charges of assault, maltreatment of a subordinate and making a false statement.

"Our current enforcement of the immigration policy based on quotas to the lead to the separation of families and rights such as confinement," Fobes added. "The debate over the raid centers on the secrecy about the group and its initiation rites such as confessional and ignition rites on its campus.

The debate over the raid centers on the secrecy about the group and its initiation rites such as confessional and ignition rites on its campus.

The debate over the raid centers on the secrecy about the group and its initiation rites such as confessional and ignition rites on its campus.
Man shoots self while in church

Associated Press

GARDEN GROVE — A man shot and killed himself in front of a cross inside the evangelical Robert H. Schuller's Crystal Cathedral on Wednesday as a nearby volunteer told a group of visitors about the church's suicide prevention program, police and church officials said.

The man handed a note and his driver's license to two ushers, walked to the cross and then shot himself in the head as he appeared to be praying. Senior Pastor Juan Carlos Ortiz said the Orange County coroner's office identified the man as Steve Smick, 48. Church spokesman Mike Nason said there was no record of Smick being a member at the cathedral.

Betty Spicer, a volunteer usher at the famous sanctuary, said she greeted Smick when he entered. She said he handed her a folded note with two cards inside as the man told her: "You may want this." Spicer said he then walked to the foot of the cross. She and Yvette Manson, another volunteer, said they thought Smick was praying when they heard a pop.

The man used a semiautomatic handgun, police Lt. Dennis Ellsworth said. The man shot himself.

"I didn't realize it. I thought he was praying," Spicer said.

Manson said she "had just finished telling them about our intervention hotline that we have — suicide prevention on the fifth floor — and all of a sudden I heard this pop, a loud pop, it almost sounded like a firecracker," she said.

Spicer said one of Smick's cards was a driver's license, and that the note mentioned a pickup truck in the parking lot.

Cathedral spokesman John Charles said none of the tourists was injured.

The glass-walled, 10,000-member megachurch in Orange County is home to the "Hour of Power" broadcast, an evangelism staple aired internationally for more than three decades. Thousands visit the cathedral to see where the broadcast is filmed before a live congregation.

It was not immediately clear where Schuller was at the time of the shooting.

Afterward, police could be seen through the cathedral's glass doors investigating the scene and taking photographs before the body was removed. They also searched his pickup truck. Ellsworth said.

There have been two other shootings at the church in recent years.

In December 2004, Crystal Cathedral Orchestra conductor Johanie Carl, 57, killed himself at the complex after a standoff that began when he opened fire in offices before a Christmas pageant. He had been hospitalized for severe depression.

Facebook backtracks after protests

Web site rethinks new terms of service, seeks to reassure users

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In an about-face following a torrent of online protests, Facebook is backing off a change in its user policies while it figures how best to resolve questions like who controls the information shared on the social networking site.

The site, which boasts 175 million users from around the world, had quietly updated its terms of use — its governing document — a couple of weeks ago. The changes sparked an uproar after popular consumer rights advocacy blog Consumerist.com pointed them out Sunday, in a post titled "Facebook's New Terms Of Service: We Can Do Anything We Want With Your Content. Forever."

Facebook has since sought to reassure its users — tens of thousands of whom had joined protest groups on the site — that this is not the case.

"We need a license in order to help you share information with your friends, but we don't claim to own your information," Facebook users were greeted by a message saying that the site is reverting to its previous terms of use policies while it resolves the issues raised.

"We never intended to claim ownership over people's content even though that's what it seems like to many people," Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said in a blog post Monday that "on Facebook, people own their information and control who they share it with."

Zuckerberg, who started Facebook while still in college, also acknowledged that a "lot of the language in our terms is overly formal and protective of the rights we need to provide this service to you."

But this wasn't enough to quell user protests, and the site also created a blog called "Facebook Bill of Rights and Responsibilities," designed to let users give input on Facebook's terms of use. It also apologized for what it called "the confusion around these issues."

"We never intended to claim ownership over people's content even though that's what it seems like to many people," read a post from Facebook on the bill of rights page.

The latest controversy was not the first between the rapidly growing site and its users over its five-year history.

In late 2007, a tracking tool called "Beacon" caught users off-guard by broadcasting information about their shopping habits and activities at other Web sites. After initially defending the practice, Facebook ultimately allowed users to turn Beacon off. A redesign of the site last year also prompted thousands to protest, but in that case Facebook kept its new look.

Palo Alto, Calif.-based Facebook is privately held. Microsoft Corp. bought a 1.6 percent stake in the company in 2007 for $240 million as part of a broader advertising partnership.
PHELPS SCANDAL IS REEFER MADNESS

In 2004, Michael Phelps was arrested for drinking and driving. He plea a guilty bargain, served 18 months probation, and was able to move on with minimal damage to his athletic career. Phelps bounced back from the controversy in the most impressive manner imaginable, winning a record eight gold medals in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and returning home as a national hero. A few weeks ago, however, the star swimmer once again found himself under scrutiny after a photograph surfaced showing him using a bong at a party in South Carolina. This time, Phelps did not escape unscathed.

USA Swimming suspended him for three-month suspension, the Kellogg Company dropped him as a spokesperson, and the Richland County, South Carolina, Sheriff’s Department arrested eight individuals who were at the party with Phelps, though the swimmer himself will not face charges.

Some commentators have been quick to denounce Phelps’ behavior, but it’s worth taking a step back to consider the situation. Every year, well over 10,000 Americans are killed in alcohol-related accidents, yet Phelps escaped his drunk driving conviction with a measly $250 fine, not even a year’s probation, and the public’s social tolerance.

Marijuana, in contrast, is relatively harmless, but Phelps has faced widespread scorn for his use of the drug. There is clearly a sort of peculiar logic at work here. Phelps’ actions are being judged not on the basis of any objective moral criteria, but rather on an arbitrary standard set by the federal government. Rather than castigate one of our country’s greatest athletes for engaging in an activity tried by Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Al Gore, Sarah Palin, Chelsea Thomas, and roughly 70 million other Americans, we should ask ourselves why we continue to harass people for using a drug that keeps violent criminals in business.

The so-called “war on drugs” is one of the most misguided and pernicious endeavors ever undertaken by the federal government. For decades, the U.S. has devoted billions of dollars to a futile and destructive effort to eliminate the production, sale, and use of a variety of substances which it deems inadmissible.

While failing to fulfill its stated objectives, the war on drugs has brought about the deaths of innocent Americans, drained the U.S. treasury, eroded Constitutional protections on the federal government’s powers, blocked patients’ access to valuable medical treatments, catalyzed the militarization of domestic police forces, and created a black market that keeps violent criminals in business.

Serious discussion of our nation’s drug laws remains all too rare, but in recent years, notable thinkers from across the political spectrum have begun to acknowledge the failure of the drug war. The late conservative icon William J. Buckley and his magazine, National Review, were consistent supporters of drug legalization, and even President Obama has indicated that he supports some reform of drug laws, though he has yet to end the federal government’s unconstitutional raids on medical marijuana dispensaries authorized by state laws.

The notion that drug use is a major source of crime and social decay in the United States has been thoroughly discredited. A candid review of the history of drug use in this country and the public’s social tolerance for even so-called “hard drugs” were once legal and produced few ill social effects. Marijuana, in particular, is not addictive and has not been shown to cause any serious health problems. The federal prohibition has created a black market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market, resulting in the emergence of the drug market.

In their efforts to combat drug use and distribution, local police have adopted increasingly deadly equipment and tactics, all too frequently leading to the deaths of innocent Americans, emptying access to valuable medical treatments, catalyzing the militarization of domestic police forces, and creating a black market that keeps violent criminals in business.

The federal war on drugs blantly violates the Constitution, which grants the federal government no authority to prosecute the use and intrastate sale of drugs. The Department of Justice has gone so far as to attempt to wholly ride state laws, refusing to allow states to legalize the use of marijuana for medical purposes. As Justice Clarence Thomas warned in his dissenting opinion in Gonzales v. Raich, the federal government’s prosecution of the war on drugs threatens to dissolve the Constitution’s most basic checks on federal power.

The most basic problem with drug prohibition, though, is that it represents an attempt to suppress peaceful, harmless behavior through the coercive apparatus of the state. Government exists to protect our individual rights, not to protect us from ourselves or to tell us how to live. You may find marijuana use distasteful, but you have no right to dictate to your neighbor what he may do within the confines of his home. Alcohol use frequently leads to deadly traffic accidents, addiction, serious health problems, and broken families, yet the state still recognizes our fundamental right to consume alcohol in a responsible manner, provided that we do not harm others as a result. Why, then, should marijuana, a far less dangerous drug, be illegal? Michael Phelps’ public_typo serves as a potent reminder of the destructive consequences of our nation’s senseless drug policies.

We don’t have to sit silently and watch the drug war continue to devastate the lives of innocent citizens. We should hold President Obama accountable to his promise to end federal raids on medical marijuana dispensaries and ask Congress to begin reforming federal drug laws. And the next time you feel like a bowl of Corn Flakes, remember that the Kellogg Company decided to fire Michael Phelps’ name through the mud rather than take a stand against unjust laws. Cherokees might suddenly sound a bit more appetizing.

Ben Linsky, a sophomore majoring in political science and philosophy, is co-president of the College Libertarians. The most powerful drug he ever used is caffeine. He can be reached at blinksy@nd.edu.

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

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
“Although that has no friendship for its base, is like a mansion built upon sand.”
Ella Wheeler Wilcox, author

EDITORIAL CARTOON


The Observer Poll
Will the men’s basketball team make the NCAA tournament? Yes No

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

V E W P O I N T
Thursday, February 19, 2009

Phelps scandal is reeeper madness
Let's begin by acknowledging that in the next five days many people will be taking their pre-Lent preparations quite seriously. Maybe you'll eat up any lingering Valentine's candy that might still be available; you might indulge in a few extra desserts or snacks or whatever you plan to give up for Lent; perhaps you'll set the TiVo so you can at least go to church a little later than that, or “Fat Tuesday,” probably originated out of practical purposes. Christians could not possibly have time to give up the Mardi Gras traditions and celebrations that fell during Lent, marking the coming of spring in the vernal equinox, so they substituted a pre-Lenten celebration. Furthermore, the list of food items one could not eat during Lent was extensive, and in a world that did not yet include detailed knowledge of food storage or safety, much less controlled refrigeration, it just didn’t make sense to let perishables hang around for six weeks when you couldn’t eat them.

Even the Church participates in this kind of “get out of your system” Feast before Lent begins. This last Sunday before Lent, often called “Alleluia Sunday,” gives the alleluia the Mardi Gras clean-out-your-cupboard-treatment, fitting in extra alleluia whenever possible throughout the Mass. Since the alleluia then becomes off-limits in liturgies from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Vigil, when it will return with the pomp and celebration of a celebrity on the red carpet. Each year, Lent’s time has become a way we take a deep breath before we submit to the austerity and solemnity of Lent. Much like dipping your toe in the cold water before taking the actual plunge in the water, we’ve learned to “get ready, get set, go!” moment before Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of the season.

Why? Well, on the one hand, Lent can feel like it lasts forever. If, right from the beginning of Lent, we’re wishing for it to be over so we can get back to our chocolate or our Starbucks, we’ve certainly not made the point. When we abstain from certain foods, or “give something up,” we’re connected to an ancient and venerable custom dating back as many as 1700 years, but the purpose behind the sacrifice has never been to give something up just to prove that we can manage it for forty short days. It’s not 40 days in nothing, really. In the grand scheme of things, even over the scope of your life, or of 2009, 40 days is the blink of an eye, at it in a new way, as a moment to begin? To just enough time to get something started? In the earliest centuries of the Church, only adults who wanted to become Christian participated in the season of Lent as their final preparation for baptism at the Easter Vigil. Later, already-baptized Christians joined in, year after year, as a sign of recognition that the path towards a new life is a “Get ready, get set, go!” moment before Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of the season.

Brad Duffy claims that “there is nothing ‘anti-gay’ about Notre Dame.” Really? Last spring approximately 3000 students, faculty, and staff signed a petition to include sexual orientation in Notre Dame’s Non-Discrimination clause.

Apparantly this outpouring of support from almost half the student body did not merit an official response. Year after year Notre Dame rejects the Gay-Straight Alliance’s application for club recognition, further isolating gay and lesbian students from the Notre Dame community. The active elimination of the Film Festival is just one of the many indications of the university’s attitude toward members of its own community.

Notre Dame’s treatment of gay and lesbian students is embarrassing for a university that prides itself on its Catholic character and family atmosphere. We urge that Brad Duffy, the president of our alma mater, rethinks his views and understands the nature of Catholic teachings on homosexuality.

The Catholic Church does not condemn gays. Catholic teaching characterizes homosexual acts as “disordered,” just as it condemns all sexual acts outside of marriage. Regarding treatment of gays, the Catholic Church (as does every other major religious group) tells us that they “must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity,” and that "every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided." (2358)

Brad Duffy states that “Notre Dame cannot allow its mission to be shaped to those determined to desmoralize it.” We don’t want to desmoralize Notre Dame’s wonderful students. We want to ensure that it lives up to its mission of being a university that espouses Catholic beliefs, which include the acceptance and respect of gay and lesbian students.

This university is our home too, and it saddens us that it continually alienates part of its community that only asks for respect and support. Therefore, while you might consider our views "radical," we do not. Neither do 3000 students who recognize that they have been wronged. Notre Dame needs to be improved. It is time for Notre Dame to live up to the Catholic teachings so central to our University’s identity.

Bridget Flores sophmore
Welch Family Hall
Mary Dewey freshman
Pangborn Hall
Jackie Emmanuel senior
Walsh Hall
Feb. 18

That’s bologna

Dear John Traub, We’d like to thank you for bringing awareness to the tragic injustice that’s occurring on Notre Dame’s campus. We appreciate your wit­ nesses to take a stand for $5 footlongs.

The speed at which you organized 1,549 students to support your cause is truly an accomplishment. Students haven’t been shamed from their apathy like this since Reckers stopped making cheese fries.

As front page Observer news, this can finally act as the spotlight away from trivial issues like recycling and sexual assault and focus it where it belongs: the price of a $1.29 footlong subs. Thanks for encouraging patrons to get to keep the $1.99 in their pockets if it’s rightfully theirs. With the total savings, you could pay the workers who made your sandwich a living wage.

We wish you success in rescuing Mr. Hinklely from the dreaded dinner hall -

that certainly deserves more efforts than rescuing South Bend’s homeless shelters from closing due to the economic crisis. We understand; ND’s lemon caper chicken can be as bitter as the South Bend winter. Sustainability, discrimination based on sexual orientation, and big issues in the Congo — save those issues for the vegans who wear ‘tacy-dye, because you, Mr. Traub, are the problem we issue with the burger-eating, madras-wearing, consolidated millionaires of Notre Dame students finally feel passion­ately about an issue. But the fact that the thing is on the menu should be the sandwich’s (not bologna’s) Get it?

Michelle Byrne
Lauren Cummings
senior
off campus
Feb. 17
On Saturday, standup comedian Christian Finnegan will be performing at Legends at 10 p.m. A regular on VH1's "Best Week Ever" and the "I Love the..." series, Finnegan is most famous for being "Chad," the Caucasian renegade on the Real World sketch on "Chappelle's Show." He is also a regular on Comedy Central's standup comedian shows like "Premium Blend" and he has had his own half-hour special on Comedy Central Presents.

Comedy Central also sponsored Finnegan's national college tour in the first half of 2007. The "Two for Flitching Tony" was done to support his 2006 comedy CD of the same name. Even at the age of 35, Finnegan is still viewed as an up-and-comer in the comedy world and definitely a name to watch in the future.

Finnegan's material is relatively clean for a comedian these days (not overtly sexual or graphic, but not PG-13 either) and it relies mostly on observational humor, a.k.a. girlfriend jokes, quirks of certain areas, childhood memories, etc. His CD is very entertaining — a welcome relief from the Dane Cook imitator albums that have been flooding the market — and he excels as a live performer. His delivery does not pretend to be anything special, but his facial expressions and onstage demeanor can enhance the punch lines to his less funny material.

The best way to describe Finnegan is that he's just likeable and his endearing manner makes him an audience favorite, which helps even his weaker jokes to still go over well. Admission to Finnegan's performance is free with a Notre Dame or Saint Mary's student ID.

By DECLAN SULLIVAN

The city of Mazatlan, Mexico lies 1,700 miles southwest of Notre Dame. Much closer is Mazatlan Authentic Mexican Restaurant, located just past Bethel College — an easy four-mile, 10-minute drive on McKinley. Along with La Esperanza, the local Hacienda chain and the Colorado-based chain Chipotle, Mazatlan is one of the few Mexican restaurants around South Bend, and it makes a stand as one of the area's finest.

Mazatlan's menu is astonishingly simple to comprehend, even to the staunchest Hispanophobe. A glossary of terms in the menu simply explains foods like enchiladas and burritos. And with Philly Cheese Steak-inspired dishes, almost anyone is sure to find something that appeals to them.

The fresh warm chips and homemade red salsa are brought to the table immediately. This excellent combination is a good start as an appetizer, but the quick eater might be surprised at how spicy the salsa is. That being said, diners with a taste for twang will enjoy the unlimited tequila.

Something barely mentioned on the menu yet completely worth trying is the horchata. This sweetened rice-based beverage has the appearance of milk and has the slightly creamy, cooling qualities of milk, especially after the salsa. But the similarities end there. Mazatlan's horchata, ordered by the pitcher, has a taste of hazelnut and cinnamon that will surely be unique to most American-bred palates. Mazatlan also offers drink specials on well-priced margaritas and tequilas.

Almost all appetizers are miniature versions of entrees, but this can help diners get a broader experience out of their visit. The quesadillas are almost big enough for a light meal. Although they make marvelous leftovers, it would be hard not to finish these juicy chicken numbers. Pairing these with the red salsa can add a kick to the tender cheesy flavor of the quesadillas.

When the entrees come, most diners will be ready to try something a bit new. The enchiladas are done well, but their blandness is somewhat of a let down after the spiciness of the chips and salsa and the savoriness of the chicken quesadillas. The pork carnitas, paired excellently with rice, are surprisingly tender — enough to shred with a fork — and have a remarkable hint of smoked flavor. For those not willing to change it up, the quesadillas, especially the cheesy 12-inch Larisse's Quesadilla, are solid choices. All meals are generously portioned, and one of the best parts of Mazatlan is the leftovers.

To the first-time diners, the horchata is a must. Mazatlan's many daily lunch and dinner offers offer enough variety for any level diner to try something at least a little bit new. With lunch specials under $5 and "combination dinners" under $7, Mazatlan won't stretch many wallets. Appealingly non-American, the restaurant is absolutely a good investment for those looking to branch out from dining hall taquitos and lobster- Ish quesadillas.

Mazatlan offers attractive Mexican food. As for the "authentic" in the title, they won't be fooling any Mexicans, but the food is certainly a good substitute for Michiana.

Mazatlan offers attractive Mexican food. As for the "authentic" in the title, they won't be fooling any Mexicans, but the food is certainly a good substitute for Michiana.

Contact J.J. Rees at jrees@nd.edu
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (2008), 6:30 p.m., Browning Cinema

As part of the "New Perspectives in Holocaust Films" theme for this weekend's movies in the Browning Cinema, "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" will be the tale of two young children who become best friends through the barred wire fence of a concentration camp. Bruno is the son of a wealthy German communist, while Shmuel is a Jewish child forced to work for the Nazi regime. Unknown to the children, Shmuel's home is the extermination camp Auschwitz. Though Bruno is forbidden from venturing to the "farm" behind his house, he secretly visits Shmuel's home. With a heartwarming tale of love and forgiveness, "One Day You Will Understand" takes us through the trials and tribulations of World War II and the human condition.

By MICHELLE FORDICE

Couscous Wrap

This wrap was inspired by one I had at a café. Using couscous as a filling puts a great twist on the wrap idea. I added black olives, spinach and feta cheese, but you can use the couscous base for just about anything. Just keep it fresh.

1. Fill a bowl with couscous. If there is no couscous base, brown rice makes a good substitute.
2. Add black olives, spinach and feta cheese.
3. Squirirt lemon onto the mix.
4. Pour onto a tortilla and wrap it up.
5. Grill in the panini maker until it is nice and brown.

Dessert Waffle

This is a take on a waffle is certainly indulgent and is probably best shared among a group of friends. Find some buddies and load it up with some sweet deliciousness. Thanks to Kristen Drabos for creating this dessert.

1. Make yourself a good waffle.
2. Move quickly (you want to keep the waffle a little warm) and top with every kind of ice cream available in the dining hall (or at least those you like). Don't forget to search both sides.
3. Add your favorite toppings: sprinkles, whipped cream, nuts and syrup.

Quick Tip

When you're going for quick, sometimes it's best to just go simple. And there is nothing wrong with breakfast for dinner. Make yourself some toast, but use a condiment you've ignored for awhile, whether it's cream cheese, apple butter, peanut butter or honey. Or, if you're tired of toast, go for a bagel or an English muffin. Have some fruit on the side (or even put it on top).

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.

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THE OBSERVER SCENE

WEEKEND EVENTS CALENDAR

THUR.

Karen Lykes, 7:30 p.m., Leighton Concert Hall

Not many people can claim they've performed in the United States, Europe, Japan and Central America, but one woman who is known for her occasional mezzo-soprano voice can attribute all those accomplishments to her name. Karen Lykes, the associate professor of voice at the University of Cincinnati, will make a visit to Notre Dame's campus this evening for a special performance lasting just under an hour and a half. Students of this notable professor and performer have been nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Performance and the Tony Award for Outstanding Actor and Actress in a Musical. Don't miss the opportunity to hear her voice and witness the talent that quickly turns tragic as the cruelty of the Nazi regime is revealed.

Comedy Hypnotist Daniel James, 9 p.m., Washington Hall

Having been a hypnotist for almost 30 years, Daniel James knows a thing or two about the business. He's performed at over 400 schools and universities, multiple nightclubs and on numerous cruise ships. His shows have been heralded as "hilarious" and "fun" and are sure to not only stun audiences, but also keep them entertained as they roar with laughter. Known for breaking activity attendance records at the schools he goes to, his show is sure to be a sellout. Make sure to pile in early before Washington Hall fills up and you miss this free chance to witness the extraordinary hypnotic talent of Daniel James.

FRIDAY

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas (2008), 6:30 p.m., Browning Cinema

As part of the "New Perspectives in Holocaust Films" theme for this weekend's movies in the Browning Cinema, "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" will be the tale of two young children who become best friends through the barred wire fence of a concentration camp. Bruno is the son of a wealthy German communist, while Shmuel is a Jewish child forced to work for the Nazi regime. Unknown to the children, Shmuel's home is the extermination camp Auschwitz. Though Bruno is forbidden from venturing to the "farm" behind his house, he secretly visits Shmuel's home. With a heartwarming tale of love and forgiveness, "One Day You Will Understand" takes us through the trials and tribulations of World War II and the human condition.

SAT.

SUN.

Dining Hall Dish

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Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.

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Thursday, February 19, 2009
Hornets rout Magic behind Paul's double-double

Kidd, Wright lead Mavericks to victory over Nets nearly a year after being traded from New Jersey to Dallas

Associated Press

New Orleans - Chris Paul had 36 points and 10 assists, and the New Orleans Hornets handed the Orlando Magic their worst loss of the season, 117-85 on Wednesday night.

Rasual Butler added 15 points, and David West had 14 for the Hornets, who've won their first two games following the All-Star break.

Richard Jefferson had 17 points, and J.J. Redick had 14 for the Nets, which shot poorly from the field and free-throw line. Dwyane Wade had 12 points and was a non-factor for most of the last three quarters, when he scored only two points.

New Orleans' previous worst loss was by 19 points to Boston on Dec. 1. Having won in overtime against Charlotte on Sunday night, the Magic looked flat in New Orleans, shooting 37 percent (26-of-70) and trailing by double digits most of the game.

New Orleans outscored Orlando 44-18 in the paint and outrebounded the Magic 46-35. Orlando was as close at 58-59 after Hedo Turkoglu's 3 early in the fourth quarter, but the Hornets looked fatigued. Minutes later, West's driving scoop ignited an 8-0 run that included six points from Paul, the last on a soft jumper set up by a weaving dribble across the lane. Butler added a pair of 3s later in the quarter and Paul another jumper as New Orleans built its lead back up to 86-62 heading into the final period. New Orleans' lead only grew from there as all 12 Hornets who dressed ended up with at least two points.

Reserves Melvin Ely and Devin Brown each finished with 11 points, Peja Stojakovic had 10 and the Hornets shot 58 percent (46-of-79). After Howard had 44 points, 19 rebounds and eight blocks a night earlier, the big worry for New Orleans was what Orlando's superstar center would do against Hilton Armstrong, Sean Marks and Fly, who'd been reserves before Tyson Chandler injured his left ankle in January. The 7-foot-1 Chandler, the Hornets' best interior defender and rebounder, was then traded to Oklahoma City on Tuesday in a deal that ended up rescinded Wednesday night because he failed a physical. Although Howard was solid early on, those worries began to fade when it became apparent that Paul's advantage over the likes of Anthony Johnson and Tyson Lue would more than compensate.

New Orleans raced to a 17-6 lead, with Paul scoring 12 of those points and assisting on Stojakovic's transition jumper. Late in the first quarter, Paul had 16 points, three assists and four rebounds, compared to 14 points, four assists and three rebounds for the entire Orlando team. At that point, New Orleans had made 13 of its first 17 shots and led 33-14.

Other than Howard, who had 10 points in the opening quarter — six on free throws — Orlando had trouble making shots. Late in the first quarter until several minutes into the second, Orlando was in a 1-4-17 shooting slump, dropping the Magic's FG% to 25 percent overall to that point.

New Orleans' lead got as big as 41-21 before the first of Redick's three 3s in the period. Orlando made five of six 3-point attempts in the latter half of the opening quarter, but couldn't erase its deficit because much of Paul's continued onslaught, which included a 3 of 3 on his own and a fast break layup that he started with a steal and ended with hesitation dribble as he drove to the hoop.

Paul ended up with 26 points and 10 rebounds, at which point New Orleans led 54-43.

Horns lead Chris Paul shoots from the half of New Orleans' 117-85 win over Orlando Wednesday night.

DALLAS 113, NEW JERSEY 98

Jared Dudley led four other Mavericks with 23 points as Dallas improved to 7-1 in its first eight games since trading for him early on, those worries began to fade when it became apparent that Paul's advantage over the likes of Anthony Johnson and Tyson Lue would more than compensate.

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Horns lead Paul shoots from the half of New Orleans' 117-85 win over Orlando Wednesday night.
Nike/Inside Lacrosse Men's Lacrosse Media Poll

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around the dial

NCAA Men's Basketball

No. 9 Duke at St. John's

7:00 p.m., ESPN

NBA

Houston Rockets guard Tracy McGrady, right, announced that he would have surgery on his knee, ending his chance of a return this season. McGrady has missed 85 games since joining Houston before the 2004-2005 season.

Rockets' McGrady out for season

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston Rockets star Tracy McGrady will have surgery on his left knee and miss the rest of the season.

The star forward said on his Web site Wednesday that the pain has been persistent and he will have microfracture surgery. He's confident he'll return next season.

McGrady is Houston's third-leading scorer. He had arthroscopic surgery in May of his knee injury this season, but McGrady said he'll return when he's ready.

"It's just been extremely frustrating dealing with this knee injury this season," McGrady said. "It's been tough on me both physically and mentally and while we've come to this conclusion after much deliberation, we truly feel this is best for both me and the Rockets in the long term."

Houston coach Rick Adelman said McGrady was out for the season when he read it in a newspaper in the morning.

"There should be a protocol, there should be a procedure where we have a chance to sit down and talk about the situation and not be announced in the press," Adelman said. "I don't know why that happened, why he did that. Certainly, that is not the way things should be handled." Some of the Rockets said they also found out through the media, but Ron Artest said the news came as no surprise.

"Everybody pretty much knew he was going through some tough times right now in his career," said Artest, who's started the last two games in McGrady's place.

"I know it was pretty severe for him not to be able to practice and play."

The Rockets have won their last two games without McGrady and 13 of 19 without him this season. Houston is 33-21 overall this season and in fifth place in the Western Conference.

IN BRIEF

Patriots' Brady remains on schedule for knee rehab

BOSTON - New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady says his recovery from knee surgery remains on schedule and he doesn't see any reason he won't be ready for the 2009 opener.

But Brady stopped short of predicting when exactly he'll return to the field. "I'm feeling great. I'm feeling really good. Everything is progressing just as I expected," said Brady told reporters Wednesday at a charity event.

"It's just a matter of getting to that time," Brady said. "I wish it was right around the corner. I wish it was here now. It's not, but the competitor in me has to sit back and wait and continue to work and try to get stronger."

Brady spoke during a visit to the Boys and Girls Club in Allison to provide 1,000 laptop computers as part of his work with the Patriots Charitable Foundation and the One Laptop Per Child program.

Carolina's Peppers-eyed possible trade to Dallas

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Julius Peppers still wants out of Carolina, but he'll only agree to be traded to four teams, further complicating the Panthers' efforts to get compensation for the four-time Pro Bowl defensive end.

On the eve of the deadline to place the franchise tag on Peppers, a person close to the player said Wednesday that the impending free agent wants to play for Dallas or three other unnamed teams, two of them in the NFC.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because the list wasn't supposed to be made public, said Peppers wouldn't agree on a trade to any other team, which would limit the Panthers since Peppers would likely have to sign a new contract with that new team before a trade could be executed.

Red Sox owner renews call for MLB salary cap

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Boston Red Sox owner John Henry renewed his call for a salary cap on Wednesday after an offseason in which the New York Yankees added three free agents for $423.5 million.

"Or, as Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said, "the Yankees have spent like the U.S. Congress.""

And while Boston's chief rival opens a new $1.5 billion Yankee Stadium on April 3, Lucchino said Fenway Park, built in 1912, should be around for another 50 years.

More immediately, the Red Sox owners are troubled by the wide disparity in team payrolls that they say limits competitive balance in baseball — even though Boston had the second-highest payroll at the end of last season.

A salary cap, Lucchino said, is "as inevitable as tomorrow."
GOODIE & THE FEEL ALRIGHTS

CAMERATA

THURSDAY 10PM

ROCK BAND

TOURNAMENT

TAPES 'N TAPES
FRIDAY 10 PM

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Penn State gets ugly win at Illinois

Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Talor Battle made four free throws in the final 16 seconds to lead Penn State to an ugly 38-33 win over No. 18 Illinois on Wednesday night.

Battle finished with 11 points for the Nittany Lions (19-8, 6-6 Big Ten), who committed 13 turnovers and made just 28 percent of their shots.

The Illini (21-6, 9-5) were no better, shooting 30 percent (15-for-50) and committing 15 turnovers. Chester Frazier and Trent Meacham had seven points each to lead Illinois, which did not shoot any free throws — marking the first time a team didn’t have an attempt in a game at the 46-year-old Assembly Hall.

The teams combined for the lowest-scoring game NCAA Division I since Dec. 14, 2005, when Monmouth beat Princeton 41-21.

Neither team scored until Illinois forward Mike Davis’ jumper put it up 2-0 with 9:44 left in the first half.

About 10 minutes in, both teams were still in single digits while shooting a combined 3-for-26 from the field. Shots fell short, sailed long and found enough rim to roll and bounce harmlessly — away.

During one 20-minute stretch, Penn State made just three of its 26 shots. Ultimately, the Nittany Lions closed with a 14-2 run, erasing the 31-24 lead Illinois opened up with 6:17 left.

Battle, the only player the score in double figures, had six points during that run. Illinois used a 13-4 run that spanned 11 minutes around halftime to take a 19-17 lead about 3 minutes into the second half. The run was fueled, as much as anything, by Penn State’s eight turnovers during that stretch.

The Illini opened the gap to 29-20 with just over 10 minutes left.

Braves had fallen through. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to announce the deal.

The Braves are fifth on baseball’s career list with 611. The Braves appeared to be a near certain for the same reason the formal agreement is about 2000: geography. The Braves’ spring training camp is about a 20-minute drive from the Bakery family home in Sandy Springs, and that is about an hour away by plane.

Griffey asked for a trade from the Mariners in 1999 to be closer to home. He essentially got one just before the 2009 season in Arizona.

But after conflicting reports about where the aging star would settle, Griffey ultimately chose to follow through on his proclamation two years ago when he came to Seattle while playing with the Reds — that he would finish his career as a Mariner.

The Mariners have a job as designated hitter and perhaps in left field waiting for him for 2009. The Braves were offering a possible place in the outfield, a position that cherished proximity to home.

Seattle had been trying to add a power hitter, and specifically a designated hitter, for months. They were believed to be pursuing Bobby Abreu and Adam Dunn until last week, when Abreu signed with the Los Angeles Angels and Dunn agreed to a deal with the Washington Nationals.

Seattle also talked to the agent for free agent Garret Anderson.

The Mariners prefer a left-handed bat but the dimensions of gluchock-friend Safeco Field are shortest in right field.

The configuration fits the left-handed Griffey so well that Mariners general manager Jack Zduriencik said earlier this season that he would have framed a photo of their stadium before a Reds-Mariners game in 2007.

With the words “The House that Griffey Built” across the top, Griffey played just half a season in it before getting the trade he demanded to Cincinnati in 2000.

That was months after he rejected Seattle’s offer for $148 million over eight years.

Yet the fans in Seattle still love “Junior,” who would give an instant job to anyone who appears to be a long rebuilding season.

He made his first opening day start with the Mariners as a 19-year-old in 1989, retiring from baseball after 10 more years before the trade to Cincinnati. His career with the White Sox had been hampered by injuries since and had arthritis known to surgery following the 2008 season, the last half of which he spent with the White Sox.

He is the Mariners’ career leader in home runs (493), slugging percentage (.569) and trails only Edgar Martinez in team history in games played with 1,532.
Jeter backs A-Rod in steroid case

Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter, right, is congratulated by teammate Alex Rodriguez after hitting a solo home run in September 2008.

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Derek Jeter played it right down the middle with Alex Rodriguez. Didn’t like what he did, time to move on.

A day after Rodriguez tried to explain his use of performance-enhancing drugs, Jeter responded.

"We’re here to support him through it," the Yankees captain said Wednesday. "I don’t condone what he did. We don’t condone what he did. And Alex doesn’t condone what he did. And I think at this point now it’s our job to try to help him be as comfortable as he can on the field and try to move past this."

With all the focus on A-Rod, Jeter bristled at those who continue to group all players together.

"One thing that is irritating and it really upsets me a lot is when you hear everybody say, ‘It was the steroid era.’ Everybody was doing it. You know, that’s not true. Everybody was not doing it," he said.

"I think it sends the wrong message to fans, to baseball fans; I think it sends the wrong message to kids, saying that everybody was doing it, because that’s just not the truth," he said. "I understand there’s a lot of people who are big-name players that have come out and allegedly done this and done that, but everybody wasn’t doing it.”

Jeter’s plea to acknowledge the clean players came after an opening workout in which photographers and cameras waited behind Rodriguez for two hours at New York’s spring training complex. Manager Joe Girardi said A-Rod’s talent automatically makes him a focal point.

"It would be hard to say that to Michael Jordan when he walked into the stadium, ‘Don’t be the center of attention,’" Girardi said.

A-Rod was the last of 60-plus Yankees to take the field, sprinting from the right-field corner. Some of the 1,600 or so fans gathered under a near-cloudless sky at Steinbrenner Field cheered when they saw No. 13. A few yelled out encouraging words. Not a single boo or insult was heard.

Rodriguez reported for spring training on Tuesday and held a 32-minute news conference, his first since Sport Illustrated reported on its Web site Feb. 7 that he was on a list of 104 players who tested positive for steroids during baseball’s anonymous 2003 survey.

Rodriguez had admitted to ESPN on Feb. 9 that he used banned substances while playing for Texas from 2001-03, and he expanded on his story during his news conference. He claimed a cousin whom he would not identify repeatedly injected him during those years with a mysterious substance from the Dominican Republic called "bol." Catcher Jorge Posada, seated in the front row Tuesday along with Jeter, Andy Pettitte and Mariano Rivera, felt for Rodriguez when the star third baseman took a 37-second pause before thanking teammates.

"He just got emotional. I think everybody in that room knew what he was going through at that point. It’s tough to look at your teammates in the eye, and tell them, you know, ‘I’m sorry,’" Posada said.

Posada left midway through the news conference because he had to take his family to the airport. More than 20 players attended, and most stayed until the end.

"I think that he’ll be good," said Pettitte, who had a similar confessional news conference last year. "I think he’ll be able to put it behind him. I know we’re all hoping and pulling for it, that’s for sure.”
The Chicago Bulls acquired center Brad Miller and John Salmons from the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday for four players, including forwards Drew Gooden and Andres Nocioni.

Sacramento also dealt the Portland Trail Blazers for forward Kyle O'Quinn and cash. The Kings then waived Salmons, a versatile swingman and Sacramento's second-leading scorer with 18.3 points, who could be a promising contributor in Chicago. The disappointing Bulls apparently are still committed to chasing a playoff berth despite starting the day seven games below .500.

"You always hate to lose good guys and good players, and that's difficult, but we're adding two guys that we like a lot," Bulls coach Vinny Del Negro — who's averaging 11.9 points and 8.8 rebounds — showed flashes of his best game earlier in the season.

Salmons, a versatile swingman and Sacramento's second-leading scorer with 18.3 points, also could be a promising contributor in Chicago. The disappointing Bulls apparently are still committed to chasing a playoff berth despite starting the day seven games below .500.

"You always hate to lose good guys and good players, and that's difficult, but we're adding two guys that we like a lot," Bulls coach Vinny Del Negro said before the team's game at Milwaukee. "I think we're adding two really good pieces that we're excited about, and hopefully we can get them here soon and get them acclimated as soon as possible.

The trade clears more than $13 million in salary cap room next season for the Kings, the NBA's worst team. Among the four players acquired by the Kings, only Nocioni has a contract that stretches into next season.

In the midst of a thorough franchise upheaval, the Kings didn't hesitate to part with Miller, their longest-tenured player and one of the fewinks left to Sacramento's run of eight straight playoff berths earlier in the decade. Miller's 10-year run was over.

An undeveloping power forward, Nocioni has a chance to contribute in a trade with the Bulls this season while recovering from a sprained left ankle and an Achilles' tendin injury. He offered the Kings some flexibility to acquire Miller, a versatile guard with outside shooting ability and some defensive size.

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"Absolutely not."

Mario Chalmers scored 12 points for Miami, including a 3-pointer with 2:28 left to give Miami a 99-97 lead. The Heat wouldn’t be on top again.

Randy Foye took a pass from Telfair and hit a 3 on the next Minnesota trip, Telfair added with another shot from beyond the arc 30 seconds later, and that essentially sealed it for the Timberwolves—who out-rebounded Miami by a staggering 49-24 margin.

"I don’t think we impacted them defensively the entire game," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They absolutely annihilated us on the backboard."

O’Neal only had one rebound, and wasn’t thrilled with himself about that.

"I don’t care if I’m on only one leg," he said. "I should never grab only one rebound."

Kevin Love had 16 points and nine rebounds for Minnesota. Foye had 14 points for the Timberwolves, who also got seven points, nine rebounds and nine assists from Mike Miller and 10 rebounds off the bench from Brian Cardinal.

Minnesota tried to throw the knockout blows—two of them—in the third quarter.

Associated Press

MIAMI — Sebastian Telfair’s career night wrecked Jermaine O’Neal’s first night.

Telfair had a career-high 30 points and eight assists, Ryan Gomes added 20 points, and the Minnesota Timberwolves spoiled O’Neal’s debut in Miami by hitting a season-high 14 3-pointers and beating the Heat 111-104 on Wednesday night.

Minnesota blew an 11-point lead with 10 minutes remaining, but recovered in time largely thanks to Telfair, who hit a 3-pointer with 1:26 left for a four-point lead—and the Timberwolves hold on to snap a five-game slide.

"I had everything going for me out there tonight," Telfair said. "Some nights are like that."

Dwyane Wade finished with 37 points and 12 assists for Miami. Udonis Haslem added 17 points for the Heat, and O’Neal—who sustained a right eye injury in the third quarter and missed 13 minutes before returning late—had 13 in his first game since being acquired from Toronto last week.

"I would not have scripted this for my first game," said O’Neal, who still had some blurred vision after the game.

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JUST DANCE

Date: Friday February 27
Time: 9 pm – 12
Where: Hagger Parlour
@ Saint Marys College
Day One continued from page 24

Notre Dame most recently downed previously-undefeated Michigan State, 6-1, Sunday in East Lansing, Mich., which Bayliss said had been a tough place for the Spartans' opponents of late.

One key for the Irish this season has been their doubles play.

"Our doubles has held up pretty well so far," Bayliss said. "For us to make a significant dent on the national scene, we need to lock down our lower positions because I thought our depth was going to be our strength.

Notre Dame has eight underclassmen — three freshmen and five sophomores — in its top nine lineup slots, which has led to some inconsistency.

"We knew that we were throwing them into the deep end, hoping that they would swim, and they have been pretty competitive," Bayliss said. "Maturity has been a key and the competitive spirit our younger guys have displayed has been remarkable at times. That having been said, we need to make some improvements in areas where the heat of battle has exposed a few things we need to do better if we expect to keep improving.

It appears the Irish have begun that improvement, as Notre Dame rides a four-game win streak heading into today's 4 p.m. match against North Carolina.

The Irish will hit the road Saturday for a 12 p.m. start at Chapel Hill, one of the nation's top teams.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabrao1@stmarys.edu

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Loss continued from page 24

them a little credit," Irish coach Kyle McAlarney said in a press conference after the game.

Irish senior shooting guard Kyle McAlarney scored seven points on 3-of-6 shooting in the first six minutes as Notre Dame built its 10-point edge. But West Virginia closed the gap quickly and cut the deficit to 16 at the 9:45 mark in the first half.

The Mountaineers ended the period with a 6-0 run to take a 42-40 halftime lead.

West Virginia never trailed after intermission. With 16:01 left, Irish junior Luke Harangody knocked down two free throws to cut the team's deficit to three, but Notre Dame was never closer than that.

Harangody finished with a game-high 26 points but McAlarney, who netted 12 points, was the only other Irish player to score in double figures.

"We kept digging, we gave ourselves a chance to come back," Brey said. "We had some great looks here in the second half. If I thought we'd score a little bit more in the second half the way we scored in the first half, but they're long and athletic and they're kind of hard to keep off the boards.

Mountaineers guard Alex Ruoff led West Virginia with 26 points, including four 3-pointers. Ruoff nailed a base­ line jumper with just over 12 minutes left to give the Mountaineers a 12-point lead.

"We've been playing well," McAlarney said. "We've been playing good as we did at home, and that kind of cost us.

The Mountaineers built a 17-point lead with 4:49 left, but Notre Dame was unable to cut the backboard as good as we did at home, and that kind of cost us.

Mike Brey Irish coach

"They hurt us on the backboard. That was the real issue, not being able to control the backboard as good as we did at home, and that kind of cost us."

"Today, we came out and took care of business."

Keely Tefft
Irish senior

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Standings
continued from page 24

has it a little tougher — it faces UConn in addition to the Cardinals.

Still in the hunt:
DePaul (20-7, 8-5),
No. 22 Notre Dame (18-6, 7-5)

The Blue Demons beat Syracuse, 87-79, Tuesday and have the week off to prepare for South Florida on Feb. 24.

After that, they face Marquette and Cincinnati, so they have a chance to win out and snag a top-four spot.

Notre Dame heads into the Huskies’ den this weekend, but after that the Irish face Syracuse, Providence and West Virginia, all winnable games. Should the two teams finish tied, Notre Dame holds the tiebreaker thanks to two wins over DePaul this season.

Right in the middle:
Rutgers (16-10, 7-6),
Marquette (16-11, 7-6),
Georgetown (6-7, 16-10),
South Florida (18-8, 5-7)

South Florida lost to the Irish Tuesday but played well enough to win in the first half. Junior guard Janae Stokes hit four 3-pointers in the half. The Bulls still have to travel to DePaul and Villanova on the road before the conference tournament.

Rutgers and Marquette both picked up wins Tuesday. Marquette over Cincinnati and Rutgers over Seton Hall. The Golden Eagles have easy games against St. John’s and Providence before finishing against DePaul and Louisville. The Scarlet Knights have three winnable games before ending the season against UConn.

Georgetown helped itself stay in contention by beating West Virginia in overtime Wednesday. It faces Syracuse and Villanova before finishing against Seton Hall.

The homogenous bottom grouping:
Syracuse (15-10, 4-8),
West Virginia (14-11, 3-9),
St. John’s (15-10, 3-9),
Providence (9-16, 3-9),
Cincinnati (13-13, 3-10),
Seton Hall (13-12, 3-11)

These teams are all around the same area. Syracuse has a shot at climbing into the top-eight and receiving a bye, but it would need to win out (against Georgetown, Notre Dame, West Virginia and Providence) to have a legitimate shot.

Since every team makes the tournament, these teams have a chance to put together a run once they get to Hartford. Syracuse, West Virginia and St. John’s have decent non-conference records, so a few wins and a win or two in the conference tournament could get them NCAA consideration.

Cincinnati, Providence, West Virginia and Seton Hall didn’t help their causes by losing Tuesday.

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

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu.

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The Observer  ♦  TODAY

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-THE OBSERVER-
**Men’s Basketball**

**Sliding down the mountain**

Notre Dame falls at West Virginia as NCAA hopes dwindle

By FRAN TOLAN
Associated Sports Editor

On Wednesday night at West Virginia, Notre Dame came out playing like it had in back-to-back wins over Louisville and South Florida. Unfortunately for the Irish, they couldn’t keep it up.

After Notre Dame (14-11, 5-8 Big East) jumped out to a 16-6 lead and forced West Virginia coach Bob Huggins to call two timeouts early in the first half, the Mountaineers (18-8, 7-6) stormed back and eventually secured a 79-68 win on their home floor.

"We couldn’t get into a rhythm, and I think their defense, you’ve got to give them credit," senior Kelcy Tefft said. "Usually there is a girl or two that doesn’t perform very well that day, or a girl or two on the other team who play very well that day."

The Irish put pressure on Purdue from the start, as freshmen Shannon Matthews and junior Colleen Rielly won 8-5 and junior Cosmina Ciobanu made nine aces and 10 kills while holding the Boilermakers to a .115 hitting percentage.

The men’s relay team set a school and conference record with a time of 6:27.19, and the women’s relay team did the same with a time of 7:13.51. With 127 points, the men lead Pittsburgh by four points, while the women, with 80 points, have a 12-point edge over Louisville headed into the second day of the four-day meet.

The Irish diver, led by senior captain Michael Baffin, claimed second through fifth place in the 1-meter diving event. The event came down to the final dive, but Pittsburgh’s Alex Volovetski, who won the event by a score of 373.15-367.60, narrowly edged out Baffin for first. Junior Caleb Dunnichay earned all-conference honors with his third-place finish, while sophomore Wes Villafor and Eric Lex rounded out the top five.

The men finished competition with a sixth-place finish in the 200 medley relay. The team of senior Jeff Wood, sophomore Joe Baycroft, junior Andrew Hoffman and sophomore Joshua Nosal finished with a time of 1:25.85.

This was a great session for us," men’s coach Tim Welsh said.

**Women’s Tennis**

Boilers no match for Irish

Squad sweeps Purdue after suffering first loss of season Sunday

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

No. 14 Notre Dame shut out Purdue Wednesday and improve to 7-1, erasing the memory of a tough defeat to top-ranked Northwestern Sunday.

"We were excited to get all the matches today, our first 7-0 this year," senior Kelsey Tefft said. "Usually there is a girl or two that doesn’t perform very well that day, or a girl or two on the other team who play very well that day."

The Irish put pressure on Purdue from the start, as freshmen Shannon Matthews and junior Colleen Rielly won 8-5 and junior Cosmina Ciobanu made nine aces and 10 kills while holding the Boilermakers to a .115 hitting percentage.