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Debate covers safety, community ties

Three student government tickets discuss issues from food services to non-discrimination clause

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

The three student government tickets competing for student body president and vice president debated food services, student safety and tree houses Wednesday evening in LaFortune Student Center.

Juniors Eras Noel and Julian Corona, sophomores Catherine Soler and Andrew Bell, and freshmen Peter Ledet and Gabe Alvare faced off in front of a full crowd in the first student government debate moderated by Judicial Council vice president Marcelo Perez.

Perez allowed the candidates an opening and closing statement and the chance to answer questions posed by himself as well as the audience.

The Zahm ticket took the floor first in pink onesies and sport coats, asserting that the two are "super serial" candidates running for emperor and vice emperor.

Soler then said her ticket's first focus will be instating a rental textbook program in the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

"This is a tangible idea that affects every student, every semester," Soler said.

Noel said his primary campaign goal is creating a system in which students would be able to use Flex Points in Eddy Street Commons. The duo said they have been discussing the issue with managers at Five Guys



Candidates for student body president and vice president sit during Wednesday night's debate in LaFortune. The general election will be held Monday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Burgers and Fries.

"They are excited to work with us," Noel said.

In response to a question from the audience about the Flex Points plan, Bell said his ticket has also researched the issue and found it is not feasible.

"The past two administrations have tried to do this and failed," Bell said. "But we have some alternatives because off-campus eating is important."

Soler said the two have discussed systematizing and publicizing existing off-campus discounts offered to students who show their ID cards and an off-campus meal plan option.

On the issue of improving student food services, Noel said his ticket wants to revamp Grab-and-Go options by creating a to-go box that students would be allowed to take into the dining hall to get hot food.

Ledet said his ticket also has plans to improve food options at Notre Dame, but his platform includes an all-male tree house where Keenan Hall currently stands, which will have an endless supply of Lunchables and juice boxes.

"It will be nachos and pizza all day long," Ledet said.

After a question from Perez

see DEBATE/page 8

ND career fair brings employers to campus

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Scores of students clad in business attire ventured to the Joyce Center Wednesday evening to attend the 2010 Winter Career and Internship Fair.

Over 120 companies — slightly less than years past — were on hand to talk to students about post-graduation jobs and summer internships. The industries represented at the fair ran the gamut and included big-name firms such as Lockheed Martin, General Electric and Procter & Gamble.

Freshman Andrew Romero, a prospective marketing major, said he wanted to attend the career fair to get a general feeling for what the event is like. He said it was informative.

"It was pretty cool how it was arranged with all the companies tables set up inside," he said. "It didn't seem that intimidating."

Romero said he spoke with the Raytheon Corporation

see CAREER/page 8

Four businesses start at Innovation Park

By LAURA KNAUF
News Writer

Four promising new businesses have recently been established at Innovation Park, the facility just south of Notre Dame's campus, David Brenner, the park's president and CEO, said.

Current Notre Dame faculty and students helped found two of these businesses — Emu Solutions and Unlimited Juice, LLC.

Jay Brockman, associate dean of engineering and co-founder of Emu Solutions, said he and co-founders Peter Kogge and Ed Upchurch settled at Notre Dame because being part of the University's research efforts was important to their business plan.

"Being so close to campus enables us to consider projects that take our core designs and

extend them into new application areas, where the expertise of other university faculty can be beneficial," Kogge, a computer science and engineering professor, said.

Emu, which stands for Enhanced Memory Utilization, is a company that develops computer technology to help "bridge the gap between memory and logic capabilities in computer systems," according to a Jan. 26 press release.

Brockman said Emu Solutions benefits from skilled students, faculty and alumni from Notre Dame, who aid in their research and marketing endeavors.

"Aside from the three founders, we've hired a number of consultants, of which more than half have Notre Dame connections," Brockman said.

see PARK/page 8

Concert raises funds for Sisters

By CAROLYNN SMITH
News Writer

A charity concert — "Singing for the Sisters" — was held in the Little Theater, Wednesday night on Saint Mary's campus. It was organized by the Student Activities Board (SAB) in order to support Belles for Africa and their work with the Sisters of the Holy Cross in Uganda.

"Belles for Africa is a program started by the Student Athletics Advisory Committee (SAAC) to raise funds for Uganda," Student Activities Board (SAB) president Michele Peterson said. "100 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Belles for Africa program on behalf of the student body." This event brought together a cappella groups from Saint

see CONCERT/page 8

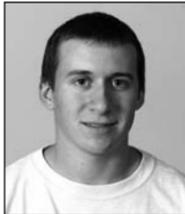


Senior Lauren Theiss leads Bellacappella as they sing at 'Singing for the Sisters' in Little Theater at Saint Mary's.

INSIDE COLUMN

Like Christmas

For many college football fans, National Signing Day is like Christmas. However, instead of young children jumping out of bed in the morning to find out what Santa Claus brought them, on Signing Day throngs of middle aged men run to their computer to hit the refresh button all day while anxiously awaiting this year's recruiting haul.



Andrew Owens

There is a fine line between a healthy interest in who will be playing for your school the next four years and a creepy obsession with 18-year-old kids making a choice that will affect them the rest of their lives. Unfortunately, it seems as if that line is crossed more often every year.

Sports Wire Editor

An example of this trend involves high school senior Chris Martin. The five star defensive lineman out of Aurora, Colo., originally committed to Notre Dame while Charlie Weis was still at the helm. Martin, like many other prospects, wanted to keep his options open and opted to visit other schools while still holding a verbal pledge to Notre Dame. During this process, alumni from several schools took it upon themselves to "friend" or send a message to Martin on Facebook to plead their case as to why he should attend their favorite school. Martin had to delete many messages, as he sometimes received hundreds in a given day. He eventually committed to California last month, ending a hectic year-long process in deciding which school to attend.

While these "fans" believe they are helping their school land elite prospects by stalking them, such interference can only affect that school negatively. It is an NCAA violation for fans to contact a recruit. And even if it was not a violation, a recruit would never say, "Wow! 500 Notre Dame fans sent me a message on Facebook today. That must be the place for me." If anything, the recruit may be annoyed by that fan-base and become less likely to enroll there.

This is not to diminish the importance of recruiting. There is a reason (among several others) why certain schools find themselves at the top of the polls at the end of virtually every season: recruiting. Each of the last five national title winners have had multiple top-five recruiting classes in the four years leading up to their championship. In order to compete at a high level in college football this day in age, you must be able to recruit the top athletes.

So for anyone thinking of adding a football recruit as a Facebook friend, ask yourself a simple question first: "Does this person know who I am?" If not, then chances are you are more of a stalker than you are a fan.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB?



Charles Kaiser
freshman
Keenan

"To be the head coach of a Notre Dame National Championship team."



Katie Finley
sophomore
Pasquerilla West

"A motorcycle stunt driver."



Hanna Yang
sophomore
Ryan

"A food taster, like on the Food Network ... without getting fat."



Kelsey Brennan
Sophomore
Badin

"A cabana girl in Hawaii."



Elizabeth Flood
sophomore
Lewis

"I want to be a cabana girl too. Thanks Fogel."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Students visited a variety of businesses Wednesday during the 2010 Winter Career and Internship fair held in the Joyce Center. Over 120 companies were available to talk to students about internships and post-graduation jobs.

IN BRIEF

A blood drive will be held at 11 a.m. today in the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center. To register, call 574-631-6100.

Daily Mass will be held at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart today at 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

A seminar titled "Bridging Majors" will be held today at 6:30 p.m. The seminar will be held in 135 Spes Unica Hall at Saint Mary's College.

The Richard Alston Dance Company will be performing at 7 p.m. today. The performance will take place in the Decio Mainstage Theatre in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. For tickets, call 574-631-2800.

"The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo" will be presented in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. today. For tickets, call 574-631-2800.

The film "La Graine et le mulet" ("The Secret of the Grain") will be shown as part of the French Film Festival today at 7 p.m. The film will be shown in the Student Center at Saint Mary's College.

A panel titled "Black Collar Workers; A Forum of Labor, Race and the Recession" will begin at 7 p.m. today in Andrews Auditorium in Geddes Hall.

"Men who Stare at Goats" will be presented by the Student Union Board at 10 p.m. today in 101 DeBartolo Hall. Admission is \$3.

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

OFFBEAT

Deputy arrested for drunk driving locked in K-9 cage

BLOUNTVILLE, Tenn. — A Tennessee sheriff's deputy arrested on a drunken driving charge wound up in a dog house before he was taken to the big house. The Kingsport Times-News reported the details of a Tennessee Highway Patrol arrest report, which said 47-year-old Samuel Monroe Bledsoe was kicking the windows of a trooper's cruiser on his way to a hospital for a blood test. The report said Bledsoe was then locked inside the cruiser's K-9 cage for his

safety. Trooper David Osborne said in the report that Bledsoe performed poorly during a field sobriety test — even after it was explained to Bledsoe 18 times.

Cantaloupe intercepted by jail officers contained drugs

WENATCHEE, Wash. — The donated cantaloupe that arrived at the Chelan County Regional Justice Center looked more like a pumpkin. Jail Administrator Phil Stanley said there was a noticeable cut around the top. And jail officers who intercepted the melon Monday before it reached

inmates found tobacco and a baggie full of oxycodone pills stuffed inside.

Stanley said the jail routinely uses surplus food from local grocery stores and contraband has come in with food in the past. In this case, a surveillance camera at the Plaza Super Jet had showed two young women dropping off a shopping bag containing the melon. It was placed with surplus food that was later picked up by jail staffers. Plaza Super Jet workers called and alerted the jail after they looked at the video.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

| | TODAY | TONIGHT | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| LOCAL WEATHER | | | | | | |
| | HIGH 33 LOW 23 | HIGH 27 LOW 22 | HIGH 33 LOW 22 | HIGH 30 LOW 15 | HIGH 25 LOW 12 | HIGH 23 LOW 10 |

Atlanta 50 / 36 Boston 39 / 21 Chicago 42 / 25 Denver 44 / 19 Houston 51 / 45 Los Angeles 58 / 51 Minneapolis 32 / 17 New York 41 / 26 Philadelphia 41 / 26 Phoenix 67 / 50 Seattle 51 / 39 St. Louis 44 / 29 Tampa 76 / 54 Washington 42 / 29

Class of 2010 picks legacy gift

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Last year, students and alumni signed a petition asking for renovations and improvements to the Hesburgh Library. Next year, their cause will get some added help in the form of the Class of 2010's Senior Legacy fund, which will go towards purchasing new books for the library.

Every year, the Student Development Committee (SDC) chooses the beneficiary of the Senior Legacy fund. The 20-member committee asks for suggestions from the senior class, then narrows these down to the three choices they believe would have the most impact on the university.

This year, the three choices were a fund for the library, a fund to assist seniors in traveling to job or graduate school interviews and a study abroad fund to help low-income students that want to study in a foreign country but cannot afford it. Students voted, and the library fund won out.

Senior Emily Everett, SDC co-chair, said the best part of the library fund is that it will benefit every student at Notre Dame since the library is such a widely used and versatile resource.

"I think it's a gift that benefits every student," Everett said. "Every student goes to the library at some point during their career so I think it's a gift that will benefit everyone at

Notre Dame."

This year's senior class is the first one to choose to donate their Senior Legacy funds to the library. Senior Ian Secviar, SDC co-chair, said the recent petition was likely a key reason why seniors chose the library fund over one of the other two choices.

"Part of it was the publicity about the library renovation in addition to the petition that was circulated about library collections falling behind some of our peer institutions, so I think that kept it in a lot of people's minds," Secviar said.

Fundraising will start in March. Every senior will get a letter and a call from Notre Dame's Call Center asking for a donation. The Web site supporting.nd.edu/seniorlegacy can be used to donate to the Senior Legacy.

Additionally, the Class of 2010 is expected to continue to give to the library fund each year so the library can improve even more.

An added incentive to help the library through the Senior Legacy fund is that only students who do so can be entered in the 2011 football ticket lottery. They will have to give a gift by Dec. 31, 2010 to make it into the lottery.

An additional goal of the SDC with regards to this year's Senior Legacy is to reach a 100 percent giving rate, where every member of the Class of

2010 makes a donation.

Secviar said even though Notre Dame ranks high in alumni giving, they do not fare quite so well in the area of senior giving.

"Ideally, we'd like to be up with the Ivy Leagues in terms of senior giving," Secviar said.

The SDC is trying very hard to achieve this 100 percent giving rate, and Secviar said if

"Every student goes to the library at some point during their career so I think it's a gift that will benefit everyone at Notre Dame."

Emily Everett
co-chair
Student Development
Committee

every senior participated, it would send a positive message to the Notre Dame community.

"It'd just be a great statement to make, to say that 100 percent of seniors felt compelled enough to give back to something as important as our University Library,"

Secviar said.

Even if the Class of 2010 falls short of full participation, the Senior Legacy is still a great way to make an impact on the University, according to Secviar.

"The cool thing about senior legacy is it's a way to leave a mark before you ever leave campus," Secviar said.

Everett emphasized the importance of helping the University grow, especially since the University has helped seniors so much throughout their time here.

"The school has given us so much and now it's our turn to give back to them," Everett said.

Contact Irena Zajickova at
izajicko@nd.edu

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

GPA requirements raised for elections

Standards increase for candidates running for officer positions in student government

By MEGHAN PRICE
News Writer

Board members discussed the upcoming elections for student boards at last night's meeting of the Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA).

Jenny Hoffman, student body president, said elections will be held the weeks before and after spring break. Students will be voting for the SGA various offices including student body officers and class officers.

In preparation for the elections, the board reviewed the bylaws for running for office. In the past the policy had been that students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 to run for office.

"The average GPA at Saint Mary is significantly higher," Hoffman said. "It is as if this policy is saying that it is okay for our officers and representatives to be below average."

Hoffman also said it was a requirement that the candidate has never been on academic probation. Emily Skittish, the SGA executive secretary, had requested the information from the college and found the average GPA in most departments was a 3.3.

After discussing the issue, the SGA board passed a motion to raise the requirement. The board voted unanimously to raise the minimum GPA to 3.0.

"This is important because these positions takes up a lot of an elected student's time," Megan Griffin, student body vice president said. "It is very common that after being elected, their GPA will drop a little, so they should have a higher beginning point so they won't fall under academic probation."

Whether or not this higher standard affects the number of students who will be running cannot be known before the pre-election meetings start. Allison Meeks, the elections commissioner, is organizing informational meetings about running for office, which will take place within the next two weeks.

Meeks said there would be flyers around campus next week, giving dates and times to interested students. At these meetings, students will be informed of election policies and what the process will entail.

Contact Meghan Price at
mprice02@saintmarys.edu

MASS OF HEALING AND HOPE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH
10PM IN KEOUGH CHAPEL
FR. MARK POORMAN, CSC

JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR LOVED ONES WHO ARE SERIOUSLY ILL.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

CM

Shakespeare honored in Sonnet Fest 2010

Special to The Observer

All of William Shakespeare's 154 sonnets will be read aloud by University of Notre Dame administrators, faculty and students during "Sonnet Fest 2010," a public event that will take place Feb. 10 (Wednesday) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of O'Shaughnessy Hall on the Notre Dame campus.

"We want people to hear the beauty and power of Shakespeare's verse," said Peter Holland, McMeel Family Professor in Shakespeare Studies, "stopping as they pass by to enjoy the sound of such wonderful language."

Sponsored by Shakespeare

at Notre Dame and the Department of English, the event will feature readings by Notre Dame President Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., Provost Thomas Burish and John McGreevy, I.A.

O'Shaughnessy Dean of the College of Arts and Letters.

Shakespeare at Notre Dame is comprised of the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival, Notre Dame's professional theater in residence; the McMeel Family Chair in Shakespeare Studies; and Actors From The London Stage, a

professional touring residency experience. The mission of Shakespeare at Notre Dame is to establish the University nationally and internationally as a center for the study of Shakespeare in performance.

"We want people to hear the beauty and power of Shakespeare's verse."

Peter Holland
McMeel Family
Professor
Shakespeare Studies

Please recycle.

MSA a 'well received' club at Notre Dame

President says club has never had problems with events, activities despite being a minority



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Students involved in the Muslim Student Association participate in prayer as other students observe on Jan. 26.

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Although Notre Dame is a predominantly Catholic university, students of other religions are active in forming groups and communities to worship and share their experiences. One such group is Notre Dame's Muslim Student Association (MSA).

According to Akmal Niyazmatov, the club's current president, of the approximately 40 Muslim students attending Notre Dame, about 25 are active club members.

The MSA serves as mentors to local Muslim youth and gathers to celebrate religious and cultural holidays. MSA club members are also active at a local mosque, the Islamic Society of Michiana (ISM) mosque, and are currently planning a book drive that will benefit the ISM mosque's new library. They hope to collect at least 50 books.

Niyazmatov, a law student at Notre Dame, said the MSA has never experienced problems with running the club or staging activities, despite their status as a religious minority on campus.

"I can't think of any occasion where the MSA had difficulty functioning as a Muslim student club at Notre Dame," Niyazmatov said. "On the contrary, we're very well received and accommodated here."

Niyazmatov said arrangements have been made on campus to accommodate Muslim students' religious practices,

such as the enhancement of the prayer room in the Coleman-Morse Center. It now better suits Muslim needs and includes a special section where Muslim students can take ablutions before they pray.

He also said Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, University president emeritus, often attends MSA events and has told the club

they are welcome and appreciated on campus.

"Fr. Hesburgh is a frequent guest at many MSA activities," Niyazmatov said. "He always emphasizes that Notre Dame welcomes us and is ready to work with us to accommodate us in the best possible manner."

The MSA also has high hopes for dialogue and interaction between Muslim and non-Muslim students, particularly

with regards to coming together to find solutions to today's major issues.

"I think we can learn a lot of things from each other," Niyazmatov said. "We shouldn't focus on differences between us. There are countless common grounds

that bring us all together that can serve as a valuable point of convergence to start working on pressing global problems."

The MSA has several events coming up, including speaking engagements at Culver Academy, a private school approximately an hour away from South Bend, and an Islam Awareness Day that is still in the planning stages.

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

Shades of Beauty: BeaUtiful

Interrace Forum:
A Workshop on the Importance of Positive Self Perception in African American Women
with presentations by Dawn Oroko and Patrice Yursik

Wednesday, February 10
5:30—8:00 PM
Geddes Hall

Please RSVP by February 8 at mmps@nd.edu or (574) 631-6841



Dawn Okoro is an artist who lives and works in New York City. Her work incorporates photography, collage, and ideas from popular culture. Through her visit to the University of Notre Dame, Okoro hopes to open a dialogue about popular media's affect on black women's self image and discuss strategies to tell a different story.

Patrice Yursik, creator of Afrobella, currently resides in Chicago. Afrobella is listed as one of the Top 50 Beauty Blogs by Konector.com, and is one of Signature9.com's 99 Most Influential Style Blogs. In addition to being the creator of Afrobella, is currently writing a book meant to empower her fellow afrobellas around the world, dedicated to celebrating women of all shades of beautiful.



Sponsored by Multicultural Student Programs & Services, Shades of Ebony, Office of the President, Office of Arts & Letters, and the Robinson Community Learning Center

Unplanned Pregnancy?

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If you or someone you love needs help or information, please call. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you.

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- Ann Firth, Student Affairs, 631-2685
- Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich, Counseling Ctr., 631-4365
- Ann E. Kleva, Health Services, 631-8286

South Bend Community Resources:

- Women's Care Center: 234-0363
- Catholic Charities: 234-3111

Visit our website at:
<http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu>

Please recycle The Observer today.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mexico starts planting GM corn

MEXICO CITY — Capping a decade-long battle, private companies in Mexico have begun the first legal plantings of genetically modified corn, the Agriculture Department said Wednesday.

Environmentalists and farm groups announced they have filed an appeal with the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, arguing the government has been unwilling or unable to halt the illicit spread of GM crops in Mexico, the birthplace of corn.

They say the government shouldn't authorize legal plantings until it investigates contamination from past, illicit biotech planting.

Sculpture sells for record \$104m in UK

LONDON — A life-size bronze sculpture of a man by Alberto Giacometti was sold Wednesday at a London auction for 65 million pounds (\$104.3 million) — a world record for the most expensive work of art ever sold at auction, Sotheby's auction house said.

It took just eight minutes of furious bidding for more than ten bidders to reach the hammer price for "L'Homme Qui Marche I" (Walking Man I), which opened at 12 million pounds, Sotheby's said.

The sculpture by the 20th century Swiss artist, considered an iconic Giacometti work as well as one of the most recognizable images of modern art, was sold to an anonymous bidder by telephone, the auction house said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Dallas-Seattle flight diverted to OKC

OKLAHOMA CITY — An American Airlines flight from Dallas to Seattle was diverted to Oklahoma City and landed without trouble Wednesday after passengers and crew heard "kind of a bang" and the plane lost cabin pressure, officials and passengers said.

Flight 621 had just reached its 30,000 foot cruising altitude and was about 70 miles north of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport when the incident began, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Lynn Lunsford in Fort Worth, Texas. The plane landed at Will Rogers World Airport shortly after 11:30 a.m.

No injuries were reported. The plane suffered a mechanical issue and the incident was not terrorism-related, according to an administration official in Washington, D.C., who spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not authorized to speak publicly.

NM gov. wants vote on domestic partners

SANTA FE, — New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is pushing for a vote by all state senators on a proposal to allow domestic partnerships.

Richardson said Wednesday he doesn't want the bill to get bottled up in a Senate committee this session. The bill has cleared one committee but needs to get through two more to reach the Senate floor.

Richardson said at a news conference that all senators should have a chance to vote because domestic partnerships represent an important civil rights issue. The Senate rejected the measure last year.

LOCAL NEWS

IU med. school to reduce enrollment

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana University School of Medicine plans to reduce the number of new students it admits next year in response to state funding cuts, a move that could make the state's doctor shortage worse.

The cut would follow years of growing medical classes.

With 1,256 students enrolled last year, IU was the nation's second-largest medical school behind the University of Illinois. The school in downtown Indianapolis has historically accepted 280 new students each year, but that was gradually increased to 322 in response to expected physician shortages, The Indianapolis Star reported Wednesday.

Glitches, delays plague border fence

Washington orders reassessment, looks to cut \$189 million in funding from project

Associated Press

PHOENIX — An ambitious, \$6.7 billion government project to secure nearly the entire Mexican border with a "virtual fence" of cameras, ground sensors and radar is in jeopardy after a string of technical glitches and delays.

Having spent \$672 million so far with little to show for it, Washington has ordered a reassessment of the whole idea. The outlook became gloomier this week when President Barack Obama proposed cutting \$189 million from the venture.

Ultimately, the project could be scaled back dramatically, with the government installing virtual fences along a few segments of the nation's 2,000-mile southern boundary but dropping plans for any further expansion, officials said.

"The worst that happens is that we have a system which gives us some value but we conclude that it's not worth buying any more of it," said Mark Borkowski, the government's director of the project at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The first permanent segment of virtual fence — a 23-mile stretch near Sasabe, Ariz. — was supposed to be turned over to the Border Patrol by the main contractor, Boeing Co., for testing in January, but the handover has been delayed by problems involving the video recording equipment.

The Bush administration launched the project in 2005 to help secure the border against illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and other intruders. It was conceived as another layer of protection, in addition to thousands of Border Patrol agents and 650 miles of real fences.

The system was supposed to let a small number of dispatchers watch the border on a computer monitor, zoom in with cameras to



This undated picture provided by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection shows a prototype of a tower for a virtual fence along the U.S.-Mexico border at a test facility in Playas, N.M.

see people crossing, and decide whether to send Border Patrol agents to the scene. Although there are sensors, cameras and radar at many points along the border, they are not connected to cover large expanses.

Originally, the virtual fence was supposed to be completed by 2011; that date has slipped to 2014, largely because of technical problems.

Among other things, the radar system had trouble distinguishing between vegetation and people when it was windy. Also, the satellite communication system took too long to relay information in the field to a command center. By the time an operator moved a camera to take a closer look at a spot,

whatever had raised suspicion was gone.

The Homeland Security Department and Boeing said the early problems were fixed, but other glitches keep popping up. The latest: a software bug that causes video recording devices to lock on to the wrong cameras, hindering agents trying to collect evidence against illegal border-crossers.

The government is trying to negotiate a deal with Boeing to let the Border Patrol begin using the first permanent stretch of virtual fence at night while the contractor is still working on it. Otherwise, the Border Patrol might have to wait until late summer or early fall to take control of the section.

In ordering a reassessment of the project on Jan. 8, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that the delays were unacceptable and that the government needs to consider more efficient and economical options. She did not elaborate.

"Americans need border security now — not 10 years down the road," Napolitano said.

As for the possibility of the project being scaled back by government officials, Tim Peters, a Boeing vice president, said: "They really need to come up with the right calculus, and we'll support that answer and look to be their preferred contractor to build whatever portion of what that calculus is."

AUSTRALIA

Minister blocks suspicious shipments to Iran

Associated Press

SYDNEY — Australia recently blocked several export shipments to Iran because of concern the cargo may have been destined for Tehran's nuclear weapons programs, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said Thursday.

The bans were ordered by the defense minister under laws aimed at preventing the proliferation of material that could be used in weapons of mass destruction.

"In the case of Iran, the defense minister has on a number of occasions — I'm advised three — exercised his power under the act and

has done so entirely appropriately," Rudd told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Rudd declined to say what the material in the shipments was, or give details about when they were blocked.

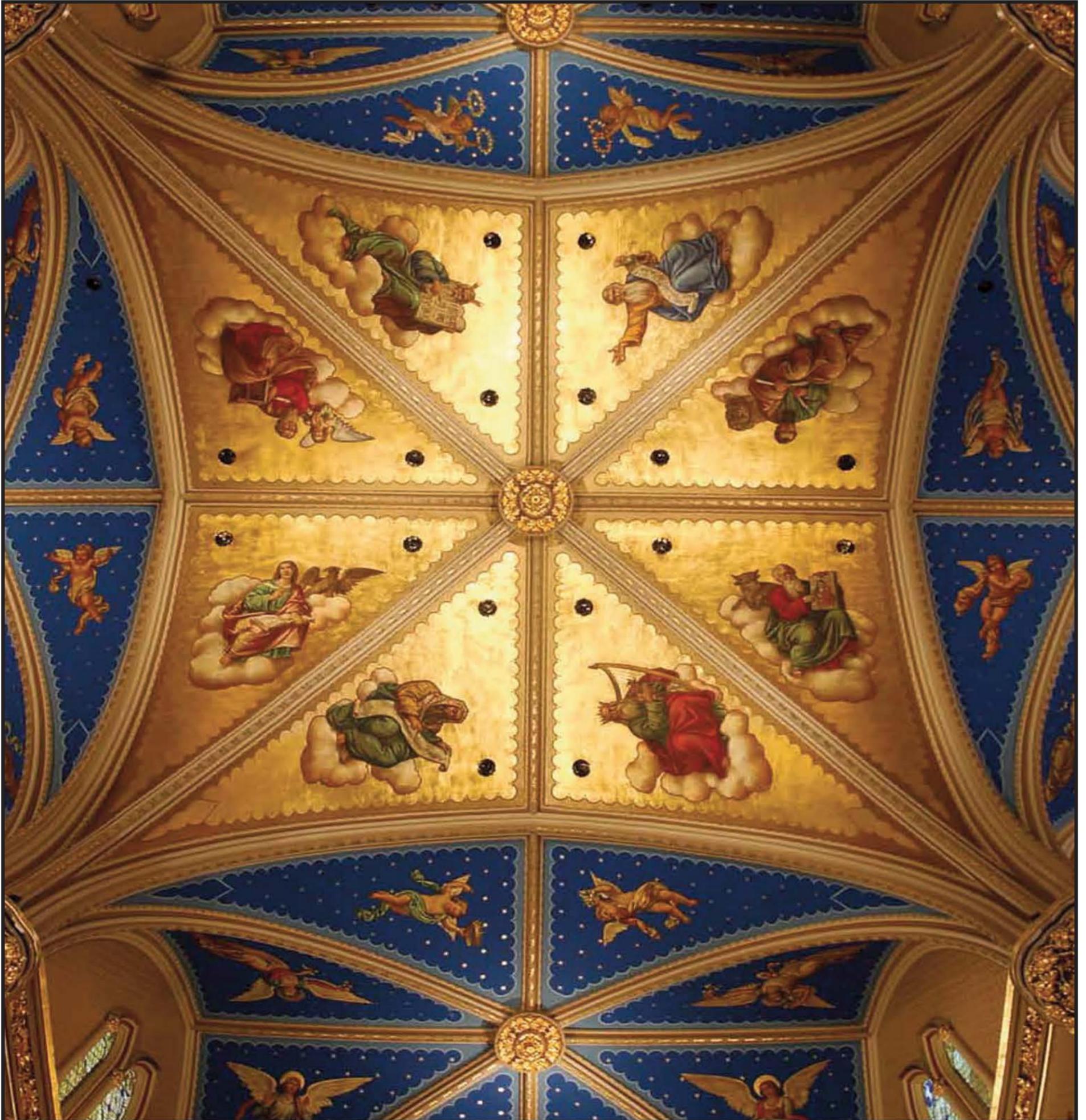
The Australian newspaper first reported the blocked shipments and said one of them was understood to include pumps that could have been used to cool nuclear power plants. The report said there were up to three other shipments — one more than Rudd mentioned — but that no details were known about them.

Australia has imposed various trade sanctions on Iran as part of

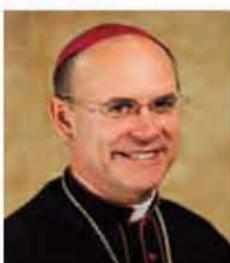
U.N. efforts to persuade the Middle East country to end its nuclear programs.

Rudd said that Iran's nuclear ambitions posed a threat to global peace and international pressure must continue to convince Tehran to abandon them.

"If you look at the status of Iran's nuclear weapons program and their consistent thumbing of the nose to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the international community more broadly and the continuation of their nuclear weapons program despite international condemnation, there are no alternatives other than to maintain a hard line," he said.



Mass of Thanksgiving



TO HONOR THE ARRIVAL OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES
 TO THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE/SOUTH BEND
 Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 5:15 p.m. ✠ Basilica of the Sacred Heart
 Music to be provided by the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir



All are invited to a reception following the Mass
 in the Rotunda of the Main Building.



MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 10,270.55 -26.30

Up: 1,768 Same: 152 Down: 1,537 Composite Volume: 643,883,536

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|
| AMEX | 1,820.32 | -16.60 |
| NASDAQ | 2,190.91 | +0.85 |
| NYSE | 7,042.62 | -58.82 |
| S&P 500 | 1,097.28 | -6.04 |
| NIKKEI (Tokyo) | 10,371.07 | -34.26 |
| FTSE 100 (London) | 5,253.15 | -30.16 |

| COMPANY | %CHANGE | \$GAIN | PRICE |
|------------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| CITIGROUP (C) | -1.17 | -0.04 | 3.37 |
| S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY) | -0.50 | -0.55 | 109.83 |
| BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC) | -0.45 | -0.07 | 15.53 |
| PFIZER INC (PFE) | -2.31 | -0.44 | 18.62 |

Treasuries

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|-------|------|
| 10-YEAR NOTE | +1.87 | +0.68 | 3.70 |
| 13-WEEK BILL | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.09 |
| 30-YEAR BOND | +1.80 | +0.82 | 4.63 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | +1.91 | +0.45 | 2.40 |

Commodities

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---------|
| LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.) | -0.15 | 76.83 |
| GOLD (\$/Troy oz.) | -5.60 | 1,112.4 |
| PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.) | +1.30 | 82.10 |

Exchange Rates

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| YEN | 90.9650 |
| EURO | 1.3880 |
| CANADIAN DOLLAR | 1.0617 |
| BRITISH POUND | 1.5894 |

IN BRIEF

Yahoo sells HotJobs for \$225m

SAN FRANCISCO — Yahoo Inc. crossed off another chore on its housecleaning list Wednesday with the proposed sale of online help-wanted site HotJobs to rival Monster Worldwide Inc. for \$225 million.

The all-cash deal marks another step in Yahoo CEO Carol Bartz's effort to jettison services that have been struggling or don't fit with the Internet company's efforts to focus more on its news, entertainment and communications features.

Yahoo already has closed several unprofitable services and last month agreed to sell e-mail provider Zimbra to VMWare Inc. for an undisclosed amount.

HotJobs' sale price reflects how far it has fallen since Yahoo bought it for \$439 million in cash and stock nearly eight years ago. In an ironic twist, Yahoo had to outbid Monster.com's holding company to buy HotJobs.

As often happens in acquisitions, HotJobs' culture quickly clashed with Yahoo's, said Marc Cendella, a former HotJobs executive who now runs another online recruitment service, TheLadders.com. He said nine of HotJobs' top 11 executives left within six months of Yahoo's takeover.

Delta closing Cincinnati crew base

ATLANTA — Delta Air Lines is expected to move more aircraft to the Pacific Northwest to handle service to Asia as it continues to shuffle the departure points for its international flying to adjust its network to demand.

The world's biggest airline told pilots last week that its Boeing 767ER crew base at the Cincinnati airport will likely close sometime in 2010, barring a change in network strategy.

A company memo and a memo from union representatives to members does not make clear how that might affect Delta's service from that airport to Paris, the only international destination outside of North America that Delta currently serves nonstop from Cincinnati.

A spokeswoman said the Paris service from Cincinnati will continue, possibly by bringing crews from other bases to fly the route.

Delta also offers nonstop flights from Cincinnati to points in Mexico and Canada.

A crew-base closure in Cincinnati would affect 225 pilots.

Boeing tests inside of new 787

Company hopes changes will add up to strong passenger demand for new planes

Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. — Boeing Co. designers and marketers are betting that a lot of subtle changes in the interior of their new 787 jetliner will add up to strong passenger demand to fly on the plane.

Boeing Commercial Airplanes on Wednesday showed off the first 787 with a passenger cabin installed. The plane, the third 787 to be built, is among six that Boeing is using in its flight test program this year.

While the other aircraft will test flight characteristics and aircraft strength, this plane, scheduled to fly later this month, is dedicated to cabin features and safety — the “passenger experience” as Boeing describes it. Everything on board, from the ventilation system to the coffee pots, must be certified by the Federal Aviation Administration before 787s can go into passenger service.

Bigger windows that are dimmed electronically, mood lighting, more spacious lavatories and other features all were carefully chosen to please passengers, said Tom Galantowicz, the company's director of 787 interiors. Among the “very simple things,” he said, are more convenient latches on the larger overhead baggage bins.

The bins, which swing up and away, also allow more headroom. Lavatories have imitation tile floors and toilet seats that close electronically — no need to touch should the previous occupant thoughtlessly leave it up.

The initial 787-8 model will carry 210 to 250 passengers on routes of up to 9,400 miles, such as New York to Hong Kong. Aircraft comfort becomes important on such long flights.

Airlines especially want to attract higher-paying



Kent Craver, Boeing Co.'s regional director for passenger satisfaction and revenue, shows off the passenger cabin of the first Boeing 787 with the interior installed in Everett, Wash., Wednesday.

business-class passengers for those flights, said Kent Craver, Boeing's regional director for passenger satisfaction and revenue.

“Business passengers tend to chase the aircraft equipment they like and they will actively seek out those aircraft types,” he said.

Boeing undertook an unprecedented global study of airline passengers to see what they liked, said Blake Emery, Boeing's director of differentiation strategy.

“We were looking for the deep psychological needs that people have when they're inside an airplane,” he said.

The research, Emery said, found that people making their first flight

were fascinated, while experienced, economy-class passengers said they wanted “no one in the seat next to them, and they slept all the way.”

The 787, with its higher ceilings and more space just inside the doors, presents “an architectural welcome” for passengers who have just endured a cramped, crowded jetway, Emery said.

The cabin's LED lights have a full range of colors, with airlines able to pick different lighting schemes during the flight, including a sky blue while boarding and “warm lighting” to make the food look better. Cabin pressure is lower than in earlier aircraft, which should make people feel better during and

after a flight, designers said.

Boeing officials say many of these features could be adopted in their other models, including the 737.

The test plane is spartan, with only economy-class seats and its midsection filled with nine racks of electronics and workstations for engineers. Orange test wires run throughout the cabin and several windows have been replaced with test instruments.

Besides making sure all the passenger comforts work, the jet will test cabin safety systems, including oxygen masks, evacuation slides and methods of fighting onboard fires, said Derek Muncy, a flight test engineer.

Senate close to deal on credit for new hires

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Key Democrats and Republicans neared agreement Wednesday on plans to give businesses a tax break for hiring unemployed workers, a rare glimmer of bipartisanship in Congress that could hand President Barack Obama a badly needed political victory.

The measure is an alternative to Obama's proposed tax cut of up to \$5,000 for each new worker that employers hire. Obama's plan ran into opposition from some House Democrats skeptical whether employers will hire because of a tax break.

The Senate alternative would exempt companies from paying the

employer's share of Social Security payroll taxes for new workers hired this year, as long as those people had been unemployed at least 60 days. It could pass the Senate as early as next week.

Both measures are aimed at providing private businesses an incentive to hire some of the 7 million Americans who have lost their jobs in the recession.

Senate leaders plan to unveil their jobs bill Thursday and vote on it as early as next week. Even though their plan differs from Obama's, passage would be a boost to the president as he tries to renew his administration's efforts to reduce unemployment in the run-up to congressional elections in November.

Senate passage would be a breakthrough for bipartisanship in a chamber that has been split sharply along party lines on many important votes. It would also put House Democrats on the spot to help Obama. Some House Democrats have been wary of the jobs tax credit because they doubt it would be effective and they question whether it would be open to fraud.

The Senate plan is modeled after a proposal by Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah. It would save companies 6.2 percent of the new workers' salaries that are subject to Social Security taxes, and would cost about \$11 billion over 10 years, according to updated estimates.

Concert

continued from page 1

Mary's and Notre Dame, including Bellacappella, The Undertones and Harmonia.

"We wanted an event that students could enjoy, so we decided on asking some of the a cappella groups to perform," Peterson said.

The night began with Harmonia, Notre Dame's only all-female a cappella group. The ladies performed many songs including "Galileo" and a mash-up of Black-Eyed Peas, "I Got a Feeling" and Kelly Clarkson's "My Life Would Suck Without You."

Bellacappella took the stage next. They were wearing black dresses with red and yellow accessories.

They are the colors of Uganda and we wanted to show our support for this cause and for the children of Uganda," Bellacappella member Krystina Harcourt said.

Bellacappella member senior Lauren Theiss had the opportunity to travel to Uganda and to witness the conditions in the country and how the children are living. She was energetic about this great concert and how it will benefit the children in Uganda.

"This concert means a lot to us. Thank you for opening your hearts and giving back to these children," Theiss said.

To close, The Undertones not only brought some laughs during their set; they also performed a new song for the group, "Come on Get Higher" by Matt Nathanson.

After a night of music and entertainment from all three a cappella groups, with the help of the students, SAB was able to raise approximately \$300 to help the children in Uganda.

Contact Carolyn Smith at csmith02@saintmarys.edu

Debate

continued from page 1

about the South Bend community, each ticket touched on safety and community relations.

"We want to start with a block party in Eddy Street Commons," Soler said. "We want to get neighbors, students and local merchants involved."

She said her ticket also wants to work with the city's Chamber of Commerce to have a South Bend street fair for students and residents of the city.

Noel and Corona said they hope to have benefit concerts that include the University and the community, and they plan to host dinners for community members with athletes and the administration.

Noel also said student safety will be a priority for the ticket.

"During the night there have been many assaults recently in dark areas. We want to try to improve this," Corona said.

Soler said her ticket has plans to address campus safety as well, and plans to continue the weekend Transpo bus route established this year by student body president Grant Schmidt and vice president Cynthia Weber. She said her ticket would also like to work with the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education to find a solution to help students deal with dangerous situations involving alcohol.

"We feel this is an important issue because it happens every weekend," Bell said.

Ledet and Alvare said alcohol awareness is a focus of their ticket as well, which is why they are pushing for a University-sponsored alcohol assessment.

"First weekend, they University is going to provide us with alcohol in a contained environment where everyone can have alcohol screening as they test their limits," Alvare said. "It will make things a lot safer."

An audience member asked the candidates how they plan to approach the issue of adding sexual orientation to the University's non-discrimination clause. The Soler-Bell ticket and Noel-Corona ticket each said the addition of the clause would be a focus during their time in office.

"We can't discriminate against anyone for who they are," Noel said.

Bell said his ticket will take "tangible steps" to see the addition to the clause continues to be pursued in student government.

"We see it as a major problem that students don't feel welcome here," Bell said. "We want a task force formed just for that issue, similar to the task force that formed the [Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention]."

An audience question also asked the candidates to address how they would improve pep rallies.

As a former football player, Noel said he felt disconnected from the student body at pep rallies when the team was separated from the students.

"We want to have those pep rallies where the students are all close together," he said. "Those have intensity."

Soler said her ticket also hopes to return to more student-oriented pep rallies.

"Our first order of business would be to sit down and talk with Game Day Operations, who runs the pep rallies and voice the dissatisfaction of student body," Bell said. "The pep rallies at Irish Green just aren't student friendly. We want to put the focus back on students."

Elections for student body president and vice president will be held Monday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. If necessary, a run-off debate is scheduled for Feb. 10 and run-off elections, Feb. 11.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu



PAT COVENEY/The Observer
Student body president and vice president candidates Eras Noel and Julian Corona (top), Andrew Bell and Catherine Soler (middle) and Peter Ledet and Gabe Alvare (bottom) debate on campus issues at LaFortune Wednesday.

Park

continued from page 1

Unlimited Juice is an upstart business also based in Innovation Park.

"When choosing an MBA program, it was essential that I find a place conducive to the launch and continued growth of my business," Landon Spitalnik, founder and MBA candidate at Notre Dame, said. "The resources offered through Innovation Park at Notre Dame afford me just such an opportunity."

Unlimited Juice, which is housed in the greenhouse space at Innovation Park, develops technology that will use environmentally friendly methods to extend the battery life of consumer electronic devices.

"The easy version is to imagine a case for your iPhone that is solar powered," Spitalnik said, referring to the first product that he hopes to market.

Innovation Park assists Spitalnik and its other clients with the steps of forming a successful business — from manufacturing to warehousing, from customer service to back-office operations, said Spitalnik.

"As we launch the business, I hope to serve as an example of how a successful partnership with Innovation Park can help commercialize a new product and develop a new business," he said.

"What the community wants to hear is what is going to be the job impact," said Brockman.

Both Spitalnik and Brockman said they hope their ventures will



Observer File Photo
Current Notre Dame faculty and students helped found two of the businesses established at Innovation Park. The building's lobby is shown here.

someday enrich the South Bend community by providing jobs.

"I truly envision a number of ways small and large that our products and our company can engender positive change in the community and the world," Spitalnik said.

The purpose and mission of the 55,000 square-foot Innovation Park, which opened late last fall, is "to facilitate the transformation of innovations into viable marketplace ventures."

"The Park is designed to serve a variety of businesses in various stages of development," Brenner said. "This includes ventures with expected commercial applications from core Notre Dame research areas as well as ventures that can benefit from access to expertise and resources available through the Park."

In addition to the many networking benefits provided by the Park's proximity to Notre Dame, it also

offers "an environment conducive to innovative thinking, collaboration and business growth," Brenner said.

Brenner also said the Park's commercial setting will be an advantage for University students and faculty.

"Innovation Park is designed to support real-world, commercial entities that want to focus on solving real problems, not textbook issues," he said.

Students will also be able to participate in research and business with Innovation Park's clients.

"We expect that students will be a vital resource for client companies here in the Park," Brenner said. "Our hope is that the companies located in the Park will consider engaging students as interns during the school year and summer whenever possible."

Contact Laura Knauf at lknauf@nd.edu

Career

continued from page 1

about possible internships, but was hoping to find one closer to his home in southern California.

"My parents work for Raytheon," he said. "I would like to try to find a way in to the company possibly."

While many undergrads that attended the Fair were focused on finding internships, other attendees at the Fair were more focused on finding jobs for after graduation. Senior KeriAnn Hopkins, a senior Economics and English double major said she went to the Fair to speak with a specific company she knew was at the Fair about a job opportunity.

"I wanted to drop a résumé off with one company," she said. "I don't have any major expectations, but it was nice to have the chance to attend this event."

Graduate students and MBA students also went to the Fair in hopes of finding career placement.

2010 MBA candidate Adrian Love said he spoke with six different companies at the event.

"I am looking for more full time opportunities that are available for MBAs," he said.

In addition to looking for full time employment and summer internships, some students went to the Fair to

reconnect with contacts they made at prior events.

Senior political science major Jamie Schulte said she went to the Fair to speak with a representative from a specific service organization.

"I met a representative at the Post Graduation Service Fair in the fall from the Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago," she said.

Schulte said she had not yet applied for the program but she was meeting with the representative to check back in with her and ask some questions about the opportunity.

In order to prepare for the Fair, many students worked closely with the Career Center to refine their resumes and interviewing skills.

Hopkins said she attended a networking event prior to attending the Fair.

"I went to the Economics Club Meet and Greet this morning to make contacts before I went to the Fair," she said.

Love also utilized the Career Center's resources.

"I spoke with a career advisor prior to attending the Fair," he said.

The 2010 Winter Career and Internship Fair was the second employment fair Notre Dame hosted during the school year. The first took place in the fall, which was also well attended.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at edonne1@nd.edu

Rodeo canceled due to budget cuts

Associated Press

McALESTER, Okla.— Cowboys are the latest victims of Oklahoma's budget woes.

For the first time in nearly 70 years, Oklahoma's annual prison rodeo has been canceled — hurting business owners, disappointing tourists and stealing the rodeo-riding dreams from penitentiary-bound participants.

Gone is the financial bonanza generated from motel stays, ticket sales and souvenirs.

"It's a tremendous loss," lamented Terry Crenshaw, a warden's assistant who grew up four blocks from the prison and used to ride to the rodeos on his horse to obtain free admission.

Without looking at a calendar, the 18,000 residents here know when it's rodeo time at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary: Motels are booked solid, restaurants bustle and traffic along downtown's main drag slows to a crawl.

Up to 15,000 visitors typically pour in — they came from 15 states last year — and foreign documentary film crews and freelance photographers are commonplace as inmates test their skills with amateurs and professionals from beyond the walls.

Inmates grow equally excited, and are eager to strut their stuff in front of their sweethearts, some who traveled hundreds of miles to see them. Out of the 1,000 inmates at McAlester, only about 100



The state penitentiary in McAlester, Okla., offers an annual inmate rodeo in this arena. This year, the rodeo will not be offered due to budget cuts.

make the show ring.

Even though the rodeo can bring hundreds of thousands of dollars to McAlester businesses, the \$120,000 or so needed to stage the games was deemed a luxury as Oklahoma struggles with an expected 20 percent drop in revenue. Already the state has cut social programs and a handful of agencies are using furloughs to trim their spending plans.

At the prison, rodeo overtime alone cost \$30,000 last year, and preparing the arena on the expansive prison grounds took at least \$25,000.

On Wednesday, Crenshaw showed off the haggard rodeo arena. The field was a soggy

mess, the blue paint on the bleachers flaking. The lack of maintenance was evident.

Inmate Nicholas Hand, a skinny 28-year-old with tattoos on one arm and a buzz haircut, is in for selling marijuana, and credits the four seconds he spent on a bucking bull with changing his life.

"I used to sell weed and do tattoos, and now I'm looking forward to jumping on a bull and hanging on," said Hand, two weeks away from parole and maybe a new career on the professional riding circuit.

Some small businesses along the main drag in town had yet to find out that this August's rodeo was off.

Do you know there's a great yarn shop just minutes from campus? That they carry top brands like Debbie Bliss, Tahki, Plymouth and more as well as books, patterns, needles and accessories? And that they offer classes, many with evening hours?

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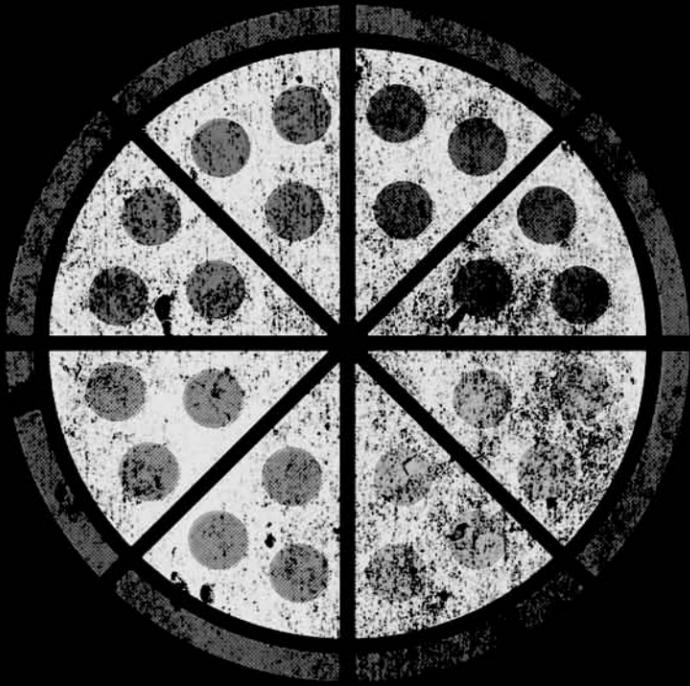
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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

(574) 631-4542 jmetz@nd.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 wbrink@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324 asteiner@nd.edu

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 jshaffe1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

acharn01@saintmarys.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 igavlick@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Jenn Metz.

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I cannot stand the cold.

Whenever I announce this — in a furious, despondent tone, typically — I am reminded by my friends that I am the son of a northern climate — that I came of age, like most of us, hoping each morning for the glory of a snow day. Trust me: this is irrelevant.

It is a daily outrage to walk outside and feel the cold wind against my face, fighting my every step, working its way inside my coat and clothes and even my very joints. The long walk from Joyce Lot to Malloy Hall is, each and every morning, an argument to stay in bed.

I do not say this to complain. But the truth is that the cold has become, to me, more than itself. It has come to symbolize — no, embody — the whole force of winter, its darkness and duration and lack of college football. More, the cold has come to embody my frustrations, my regrets: in the whistling of the winter wind is every hour I have ever wasted, every opportunity I have ever missed, every excuse I have ever made. The wind carries on its breath the reminder of sullen compromises — of mediocre term papers, of overbearing bosses, of betrayed friends and lovers. It is the echo of struggle and failure, the chorus of all the girls who got away. It is everything malevolent in my life, all rolled into one.

I do not say this to complain: I have, to a certain degree, come to embrace the cold — to welcome it as a challenge, to see in it the opportunity to

Dan Sportiello

*Bound
Variables*

Winter

prove myself against all those failures that haunt my dreams. Every morning, when I wake and walk outside and feel the cold wind against my face, it is as though I have been given a second chance — to write that paper the way it should have been written, to embrace what that city had to offer, to tell that girl how I really felt about her. To get on that flight across the ocean. To be the son, friend, and lover that I should have been in the first place. Every morning, the cold wind whispers the promise that I can change it, that I can change all of it — that I can remake myself, if only I am strong enough to brave the South Bend winter.

I have said that the cold has come to embody everything malevolent in my life. This is a metaphor, but only barely: there are times when, walking through the frozen night, I have almost convinced myself that this redemptive possibility is more than delusion born of a nostalgic personality and Vitamin D deficiency — that, in looking winter in the eye, I really can make that qualifying time, really can write that novel, really can find the confidence to show kindness to those people back when it still mattered. That I can change all of these things, even though they are a decade past and more.

Obviously, this is absurd.

The hard truth is that the winter wind does not hold the promise of redemption. The regrets that haunt my dreams cannot be obviated by courage found after the fact, no matter how monumental. What is done is done — and what undone, undone. I am what I have made myself.

This is a hard lesson, and accepting it takes real courage. But there is a lesson yet harder: I am what I have made myself, but I have made myself what I am because of what I was. Regret is a deeply human thing — because regret is easy: how differently I would act, I tell the indifferent night, if only I had it all to do over again! But I know deep down that, if I really had it all to do over again — if I were really back there, burdened with the same naiveté and insecurities, the same hopes and fears — I would do it all exactly the same.

There are some philosophers who suggest that this realization makes regret easier to bear. I cannot for the life of me see how that could be. But it is, at any rate, the real lesson of winter.

It is easy to be happy in the summer — to run beneath the hot sun up the steps of the art museum, to reach the summit and pump both fists into the air. To race ahead of the past and its tireless regrets — to forget them, and live in the warm light of the present. But winter always comes again. To fight the cold on its own terms — to stare regret in the face, unblinking, and nonetheless to go on living — would be something like enlightenment. Winter offers it, if only I can find the strength to take it.

Daniel John Sportiello is in his second year of the Ph.D. program in philosophy. Listen to his radio show on WVFI every Sunday at 4 p.m. He can be reached at dsportie@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A shovel-ready project

Quoting Tim Ramer's letter to Voice of the People, on Sunday, Jan. 31: "Why is it that nothing is done to South Bend residents who refuse to shovel the sidewalks in front of their homes?"

At a recent meeting of the Community/Campus Advisory Coalition, on Jan. 27, I asked this same question why off-campus student housing rarely have sidewalks and driveways shoveled. In attendance were representatives from the colleges, City of South Bend, area landlords and northeast residents (who particularly are hard hit by this lack of snow removal). The response from the largest student landlord, Mark Kramer, was that he sent a newsletter out to his tenants to remind them of this requirement. The Notre Dame student body president, Grant Schmidt, has also urged off-campus students to follow the law, via the student newspaper, The Observer, and through off-campus student government representatives.

It was obvious to all in attendance that these students are not in town during the winter break. The South Bend Director of Code Enforcement, Cathy Toppel, stated that it is the property owner's responsibility for snow removal, and the property

owner of record could receive a 24-hour notice to abate the snow condition, when a violation is brought to an inspector's attention and after review. The procedure for fines is not in the law. The only way for the City to abate the condition (and generate a fine) is to send a crew out to remove the snow, and then process the work/fine as is done with lawn mowing, tree cutting, etc.

Mr. Kramer indicated that his student tenants are required under his leases to perform snow removal on sidewalks and drives. Mr. Kramer's tenants are not required to perform grass cutting or leaf raking; however, he requires them to remove snow when they are back at home during the holidays. Something is not right here. The City places this burden on the property owner. Currently, there is no procedure in place to timely remove snow on residential sidewalks and driveways unless an owner/occupant (or prearranged contractor) performs this service.

An idea came up at the meeting, though somewhat jokingly, that a snow removal contractor(s) be available to respond to snow removal complaints that are not addressed by the property owner within the 24-hour period the Code Enforcement citation directs. These contractors (with

proper liability and other required insurance/bonds, etc.) could perform this service and attach liens on the property owner for reimbursement. It was jokingly said Mr. Kramer could even be one of these contractors, essentially disavowing snow removal responsibility and reaping monetary reward by his own tenants' default.

This sounds silly and it is, but it would perform a necessary safety requirement and keep pedestrians off the streets and on the sidewalks. It could provide small business opportunities and employ a large amount of day laborers/unemployed people. It might also convince landlords, "weekend rental" owners, vacant property owners, and our residents/business owners, that they are responsible for snow removal, or they can pay someone else. Who knows, carried further, it could create a new business model for year round employment of large numbers in our community. No matter how we resolve this, Tim Ramer wants a solution.

Bill Stenz
alumnus
Class of 1978
Feb. 3

OBSERVER POLL

Signing day is Feb. 3. Which commit will have the best ND career?

Louis Nix (DT)
Andrew Hendrix (QB)
Tai-ler Jones (WR)
Cameron Roberson (RB)
Other

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The shoe that fits one person pinches another; there is no recipe for living that suits all cases."

Carl Jung
Swiss psychologist

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

Prepare to be amazed

During the lovely month of February in South Bend, those of us who don't have access to a condo in Florida and a way to get there can frequently find ourselves falling into a rut. Sleep, study, eat, repeat. Try to stay warm. Look for occasional sunlight sightings. Those of us who live off campus would add the following to this routine: Shovel. Hack at ice. Repeat.

Kate Barrett

Faith Point

I shouldn't whine about South Bend; it's too easy a target, and besides, you can grind along in a rut anywhere, regardless of the weather. In this Sunday's gospel, Simon Peter has perhaps fallen into a rut of his own – and he fished each day on the beautiful Lake of Gennesaret in the greenest, most temperate region in Galilee, even in all of Israel. He may not have even noticed how pretty it was anymore. Fish, clean nets, sleep, repeat. Then, of course, Jesus came along to shake things up a bit.

A colleague of mine with whom I worked years ago in Brooklyn, New York, played softball on one of the many very competitive teams organized into leagues throughout the boroughs of New York City. He played center field and would always,

always run in to try and catch a ball on the fly rather than hang back and play it on the bounce, even if he had to dive for it, even if his odds of actually catching it were small, even if it could end up careening over his head. When I asked if he found this strategy a little risky, he would always respond, "You gotta dare to be great." Today, you can find that motivational phrase, and variations of it, on coffee mugs, t-shirts, key chains and web sites: "Dare to be yourself." "Dare to do as many things as you dream of." "Never be afraid to dare." "Dare to err and to dream."

OK, so they sound extra-cheesy all lined up next to each other. How about this on a bumper sticker? "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." If it doesn't grab you, that's all right; it didn't do much for Simon Peter either. He protested as politely as he could, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." Simon's response, the first-century version of "whatever," indicates that he's not daring to be great; he's not experiencing the thrill of risk-taking; he's not ready to step out of his comfortable habits. He follows Jesus' request only because in all likelihood, something about Jesus intrigued Simon. He may have rolled his

eyes as he got back in the boat, but he did as he was told.

And suddenly, into those empty nets, into that routine that had become, well ... routine, came staggering amounts of fish. Imagine the nets tearing; frantic, frenzied fish writhing and jumping; experienced, veteran fishermen all but panicking; boats so filled with fish they nearly sank. Simon hadn't really made any radical changes to his life (though that will come next). He simply did what he had always done; he fished, but now newly attuned to Christ's presence in his life.

And then, ironically, after perhaps his best single day ever in the fishing business, Simon brought the boats to the shore, and he, James and John left everything and followed Jesus.

You may think you've got this Notre Dame thing down pat. You've been here just over one, three, five, seven (or more) semesters and you know how to approach everything from papers to parties, from early-morning classes to late-night studying. Simon had fished that lake a hundred times and thought he knew all he needed to know about it, yet with one short proposition Jesus opened his mind to see the same lake with brand new vision, and he was astonished.

Thomas Merton wrote that every moment and each event of our lives plants something in our souls, but that most of these tiny new seeds of life simply die because we, with our lack of awareness, cannot receive them.

When was the last time you "put out into deep water?"

We may not need to change a thing about our lives except our visions of them, or we may find that our new vision demands change. Either way, why would we want simply to toil away in familiar routines for no better reason than the fact that this time of year lends itself to a numbing of our senses? Christ speaks to us each day in the midst of the very routines of our lives, just as he spoke to Simon after a long night's work. If we, by our genuine desire for a greater awareness of God, allow each moment to plant a seed in our hearts, we ought to prepare to be astonished.

This week's Faithpoint column was written by Kate Barrett, Director of the Emmaus Program in Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reorientation

In response to Christopher Damian's argument ("Orientation and identity," Feb. 3):

I am a man, just as you are. I should say here that I am also an agnostic/atheist. I believe that what is "physically revealed through our body orientation and hormones" are eons of evolutionary pressure. But, in order to effectively engage the subjects of sexual orientation and discrimination, I will adjust my vantage point and grant that we are created by a God who desires that we should be chaste and who made us with this in mind.

Even still, much else is biologically "revealed." One of the most important characteristics of humanity, one non-discrimination clause supporters emphasize, is diversity. Those very chemicals and brain structures said to be God's handiwork are the source of a desire, in many, for sexual union with others of the same sex.

To admit this fact is not to define ourselves based on sexual attraction. As a matter of fact, the addition of sexual orientation to the non-discrimination clause would represent a repudiation of such a definition — the University would be explicitly refusing to allow sexual orientation to define its members. This has the same

effect that similar proclamations about race or gender do. Stating that we will not discriminate based on race is not to define ourselves based on the color of our skin, but to refuse to do so. The same respect should be afforded to those who are attracted to the same sex, or both sexes, in a way determined as biologically as skin color. While society often still judges people based on both these characteristics, neither has any affect on the ability of the person in question to "pursue the good, the true and the beautiful." If chastity is the aim, is this not equally possible for all, regardless of to whom one is attracted?

One goal of Christianity is to make this world as much like the heavenly Kingdom of God as humanly possible. If, in heaven, we will not be gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or straight, should we not endeavor to see those around us in this way here on earth?

Andrew Gray
 senior
 Siegfried Hall
 Feb. 3

The walk-on tradition

As a third generation legacy child, I was a Notre Dame fan from day one. My Grandpa and his four kids, including my mom, are all proud to call themselves alumni of Notre Dame. This University is one of the most prestigious in the world: a Catholic school that excels in every area. However, these days there are a number of prestigious universities out there. But what sets this school apart can't be measured in GPAs or trophies: it's the tradition. Tradition is why alums give so much back to the school, why the football stadium is sold out every home game (no matter how bad the season), why we join arms at the end of every game and chant the Alma Mater, and why my family and I love this University so much. It is a very powerful thing that permeates almost every inch of this beautiful campus and it's why my kids and grandkids will love this school years from now. That said, a very prominent tradition is about to be cast aside: football walk-ons.

Walk-ons have been a tradition of Notre Dame football since the time of that famous five foot nothin', 100 and nothin', defensive player with barely a speck of talent. This tradition has continued year after year, most notably with special teams walk-on Mike Anello. A few friends of mine were planning on trying out for next year's team this spring and called the football office to find out when tryouts were. What they eventually found out was that the new head coach Brian Kelly and his staff were not going to have walk-on tryouts this year. Furthermore, they found that some of the current walk-ons were being cut. If this is not

the case, I ask that the staff release some information to clarify and I will stand corrected. I understand that we are in a year of transition, and that there are an infinite number of things that keep coach Kelly and his staff more than busy, and that they are working incredibly hard.

I'm not going to lie, during coach Kelly's press conference when he announced he would be head coach here, I was really excited. He talked of how he would listen to the football games with the awe and wonder that so many fans do, how coaching here was his dream job, and how he left a team that he just took to the Sugar Bowl to coach our team with a 12 and 12 regular season record in the past two years. I thought to myself, "This guy was meant for this job. This guy gets what Notre Dame is about." However, it's like he said in that same speech, "There's a football coach, and then there's a football coach at Notre Dame. Because nobody ... nobody does it like Notre Dame." So to whom it may concern, please don't cut the walk-ons. Please hold tryouts in the spring. Please find the time like every coach before you has. I know it must be difficult for you and I might sound like an ignorant student. Nonetheless, if my pleas are unheard, I will still love this school, this team, and everything associated, because nobody does it like Notre Dame.

Nate Greenberg
 freshman
 Keough Hall
 Feb. 2

Orientation a gift

I found Mr. Damian's notes on "Orientation and Identity" (Feb. 3) logically inconsistent and dangerous. Mr. Damian's view that all humans have a "natural sexual orientation" to exist in monogamous heterosexual relationships is nothing more than his own normative prescription based on his views of the purpose of creation and, peculiarly, the hormone oxytocin. Mr. Damian proceeds to present having a homosexual orientation as an unnatural desire, and one that should be suppressed in order to lead a "natural" life.

A person's sexual orientation (heterosexual, homosexual, or any other) is not an unnatural desire, but instead part of their personality that was designed by God. As such, a person's sexual orientation should be seen as natural and celebrated as a gift from God. The right to live happy, fulfilled lives and have committed, meaningful relationships is not reserved for heterosexuals.

We now must add sexual orientation to our non-discrimination clause precisely because it is such an important part of a person's identity. We cannot claim to be an inclusive, respectful University while retaining the right to discriminate against someone for this part of their identity. Mr. Damian claims that this would be "degrading" as it defines us "by our desires, rather than who we are." Again, sexual orientation is more than just a "desire." We can no more change our sexual orientation than our race, sex or age. I sincerely doubt Mr. Damian would advocate the removal of any of these from our non-discrimination clause.

Until reading Mr. Damian's letter, I had never heard a member of the Notre Dame community celebrate our reputation as a place where "alternative lifestyles are not an alternative." This flies in the face of our commitments to inclusion and diversity. In fact, the Notre Dame mission statement declares the desire to cultivate a sensibility to the "injustice and oppression that burden the lives of so many," as well as to "create a sense of human solidarity" within the student body and community. To live up to these goals F. Jenkins and the Notre Dame community must push to add sexual orientation to our non-discrimination clause.

Patrick Mulligan
 senior
 off campus
 Feb. 3

Write us a Letter.

By **JORDAN GAMBLE**
Associate Scene Editor

The ghost of the Gipper is not alone in the depths of Washington Hall. He's got some company from the people churning out programming for NDtv, Notre Dame's student-run television channel.

For 24 hours a day on Channel 53, NDtv broadcasts original programming produced by Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students. As executive director, Notre Dame senior Nick Andert is in charge of a staff that includes writers, anchors, camera operators, producers and actors from a variety of majors.

The organization has come a long way since it started out in 2002.

"Our first show was on the local PBS station. It was called 'New Dimension Television' because we weren't allowed to say 'NDtv,'" Andert said.

"Lance Johnson was the guy who started it because he thought that Notre Dame should have TV, considering every other respectable college does. They petitioned to

become a club, the University said it was cool, we became Notre Dame Television," Andert explained.

After

In 2006, Andert's freshman year, NDtv got on campus cable and moved to new offices and a studio in the northeast corner of Washington Hall. But with a 24-hour channel, it

'The Final Cut.' We didn't have a whole lot of back episodes because we really only had two shows. So we aired a lot of repeats of the same stuff, which could get old after a while. But last semester we had 11 shows, which is unprecedented."

television."

Andert said NDtv has also benefited from its reclassification as an organization under SAO, which comes with a hard-line budget that allows the station more flexibility in choosing projects to develop.

"We tried to get it to a point where we're really stable. ...

We're getting more and more of what we need every year to be able to fuel the number of people who want to make stuff for NDtv," Andert said. He hopes the progress only continues.

"One of our main goals is to expand our programming and get people involved. ... We definitely are always trying to get more viewership. We try to market ourselves more, and we're always trying to push the quality of our stuff, too. It's always difficult when you're working with students who have classes and deadlines and other stuff to do, but people put in a lot of really hard work."

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu



that, the "station" graduated to its own room in the basement of South Dining Hall, where it filmed two programs, a news program and "The Michael Peterson Show," the precursor to what is now the talk show "Late Night ND." It was a modest one hour of new programming each week.

was difficult at first to fill up all that time.

"It was harder four years ago. When I was a freshman, we only had three shows running. We had 'News,' 'Late Night' and were just starting a movie-review show called

Andert said.

"We have hundreds of back episodes now. We actually have enough material to program a pretty diverse week of

By **JORDAN GAMBLE**
Associate Scene Editor

This semester, NDtv will be airing new weekly episodes of its debate show, "Unnecessary Roughness" and its news show, "The Tailgate," which NDtv executive director Nick Andert likened to a cross between "The Daily Show" and the Weekend Update segment from "Saturday Night Live." Other shows tend to have "seasons" of about five or six episodes spread out through the semester because they require filming outside of the studio.

In one case, that filming takes place half way around the world. Saint Mary's sophomore Stephanie Cherpak is currently filming season three of "NDtv Abroad" in Rome, Italy.

"This is our way of trying to share the experience with those who are not fortunate enough to travel abroad themselves," Cherpak said.

Cherpak said that while every season has differed depending on who is doing the filming, the general idea is to build up some documentary footage to air next fall.

"My approach is to film interesting and important things while here, review the footage when I return to the states, and then edit it based on topics — loca-



tion, residence, restaurants, monuments, travels," Cherpak wrote.

A little closer to

Lyons worked with NDtv's movie review show, "The Final Cut," his freshman year but came back after spending last summer cobbling together a test pilot for "Higher Education." The actual series stars Lyons and his three roommates, with the first episode's filming taking place over three days in late January.

"Then I buried myself in an editing room for 12 hours to get it done," he said.

Lyons said the show is in the same vein as

shows like "It's

Always Sunny in Philadelphia." Lyons plans on moving to Los Angeles after graduation to pursue a job as a staff writer for a television comedy series.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu



campus, Notre Dame senior Mark Lyons just finished editing together the first episode of the new half-hour sitcom, "Higher Education," which debuts Thursday at 11 p.m.

NDtv New Episode Schedule

Sunday at 11:00PM - The Tailgate (*fake news*)

Sunday at 11:30PM - NDtv News

Monday at 11:00PM - Late Night ND (*talk show*)

Monday at 11:30PM - (*remaining finale episodes of On Campus and Spot On*)

Tuesday at 10:00PM - Unnecessary Roughness (*campus debate program*)

Tuesday at 11:00PM - Sassafras and Shattered Glass

Tuesday at 11:30PM - HA (*airings of performances by the Humor Artists of Notre Dame*)

Wednesday at 11:00PM - NDtv Abroad (*documentary-style show*)

Wednesday at 11:30PM - Office Hours (*interview with famous visitors to campus*)

Thursday at 11:00PM - Higher Education (*half-hour sitcom*)

Thursday at 11:30PM - Dining In (*campus cooking show*)



Weekend Events Calendar

thursday

friday

saturday

sunday



'The Men Who Stare at Goats' @ DeBartolo 101, 10 p.m.

"The Men Who Stare at Goats" chronicles the journey of one reporter in search of the truth about the Iraq War. After being left by his wife, Bob Wilton (Ewan McGregor) travels to Iraq in an attempt to distract himself from the failings of his personal life. Once there, he stumbles upon Special Forces operator Lyn Cassady (George Clooney), and the unbelievable story Cassady has to tell: Cassady, as part of a Special Forces group, has been training to use psychic abilities as weapons of warfare. "Goats" will be playing on Thursday night at 10 p.m., and Friday and Saturday nights at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3.

Dueling Pianos @ Legends, 10 p.m.

Dueling Pianos is a national sensation and a campus favorite. It involves two talented piano players who, on their baby grand pianos, take requests and entertain the audience in a high-energy performance. Audience members can expect a mix of top-40 hits, oldies, dance music and novelty songs. Extra points to anyone who can stump these piano wizards: they each claim to know thousands of songs! Dueling Pianos returns to Legends on Friday night at 10 p.m. and as usual, there is no cover charge. Also don't forget to stick around afterward for the Black Light Party with free glow sticks included.

Laura Izibor @ Legends, 10 p.m.

Legends is excited to present Laura Izibor at 10 p.m. on Saturday night. An Irish R&B singer, Izibor has made it onto the R&B scene with her single "Shine," featured on the soundtrack of the "Nanny Diaries." Raised in Dublin, Ireland, Izibor discovered her love of music at an early age. At 17, she signed her first record deal and has been making music ever since. Influenced by James Brown, Aretha Franklin, and Carol King, Izibor has a smooth R&B style. She has opened for such acts as Estelle and John Legend on tour. Her first album, "Let the Truth Be Told," was released in May of 2009.

'Simon Boccanegra' @ DPAC, 1 p.m.

Starring Placido Domingo in the title role, the Browning Cinema presents the Verdi's gripping opera "Simon Boccanegra" as performed by the Metropolitan Opera. It tells the story of Boccanegra, an aspiring Genoese politician. Having fallen in love with the daughter of Genoese noble man, Boccanegra agrees to run for office, hoping that upon winning he will be permitted to marry his love, with whom he already has a daughter, Maria. Boccanegra begs for permission to marry her, but is forced to surrender Maria to her grandfather in payment. It is then that Boccanegra realizes that Maria has gone missing. What follows is a twisted tale of political cunning and deception. Tickets are \$15 for students.

Contact Genna McCabe at gmcabec@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By STEPHANIE WALZ
Scene Writer

The pink and red posters on the bulletin boards around campus indicate that it's that time of year again for the dancers of Notre Dame to come together for the largest dance show on campus.

DanceFest, sponsored by Welsh Family Hall, features dancers that represent each of the dance performing groups on campus in one all-encompassing ensemble.

The performers have been preparing since last semester for the program, titled "Bad Romance," which will take place this Friday and Saturday, February 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. From elegant ballet folklorico to toe-tapping swing dancing to percussive stepping, the show offers something for everyone and gives viewers a taste of many different genres of dance.

Performers from nearly ten different groups give new meaning to community serv-

ice as they will dance for a cause on the Washington Hall main stage to raise money for a local charity. Money made from ticket sales (tickets will be sold at the door for \$5) will go directly to the Robinson

routines from the Notre Dame Dance Company, Notre Dame Pom Squad, Ballet Folklorico, Troop ND, Irish Dance Team, Ballroom Dance Club, ND Swing Club, First Class Steppers and the DanceFest Dancers. Each of

spot in a variety of student-choreographed routines, including ballet, tap, hip-hop, lyrical, modern and jazz. These dancers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College trekked through harsh weather con-

of the school year not only because they enjoy being on stage to show off their talents, but because it brings out a different side of their personalities.

Sophomore Kathleen Riojas, one of the featured DanceFest Dancers said the event gives her a chance to express herself.

"I do this because it's a different side of me. It's like an alter ego: normal student by day, dancer by night," she said. "I enjoy working with other people that strive to be the best dancer possible simply because it's a passion. You can really see that when we get on stage."

DanceFest gives student dancers a chance to show off their talents, and is expected to be an entertaining show for all involved. No matter what type of dance tickles your fancy, DanceFest has something for everyone — good music and energetic moves.

Contact Stephanie Walz at swalz@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic



Community Learning Center, which fosters relationship building and education among South Bend's youth. The dance festival supports the community center's arts program by donating money to the RCLC's Shakespeare Company, which allows students to study Shakespeare's famous works.

"Bad Romance" features

the groups has been preparing since last semester for this two-night extravaganza of artistic movement.

Students who are not members of one of Notre Dame's many dance groups still have a chance to perform in this show as one of the DanceFest Dancers. These girls auditioned early in the fall semester for a

ditions to attend rehearsals at least once a week for each of their routines, and have been putting in extra hours this week to give their audience a fantastic show. After the long hours and tiring rehearsals, their hard work is sure to show when they step onstage this weekend.

The dancers look forward to DanceFest from the start

NFL

Archie says rooting for son is an 'easy' call

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The town he calls home and the team he took a beating for over the course of a decade finally made it to the Super Bowl. The quarterback on the other side is his middle son. Archie Manning will not mince words. He can find room in his heart for only one of them.

"It's easy," Manning replied Wednesday, when asked to choose between the New Orleans Saints and son Peyton's Indianapolis Colts. "Very easy, anyway, when you've got a boy in the game."

But not quite as easy as he makes it sound.

Manning was the glamour boy quarterback at Ole Miss who married the homecoming queen, then moved to New Orleans and learned firsthand how the other half lives. He got clobbered nearly every day of his professional life, first to last, 10 full seasons in all without a winning one.

He was there when fans began showing up at the Superdome with paper bags over their heads, too loyal to abandon their beloved "Aints,"

yet wanting to remain anonymous lest the neighbors who stayed home questioned their sanity.

"The worst year was 1980 and that was the year we thought we'd do pretty good," Manning said, chuckling softly. "Things just fell apart."

"We had lost the first 11 or 12 games and (oldest son) Cooper and Peyton were going to the games. They were 4 and 6 at the time, old enough to go, and they were enjoying it. Olivia is pregnant with Eli and I'm having one of those games."

"So 'round about the fourth quarter," Archie paused, "Cooper turned to Olivia and asked could he and Peyton boo also."

All the losing, bumps and bruises don't hurt quite as much now. Manning put down roots in New Orleans' historic Uptown neighborhood and raised his three boys there.

Today, they're the Super Bowl's first family. Peyton was MVP when the Colts won in 2007, and Eli did the same with the Giants the next year. That means for the third time in four years, one or the other has brought Archie to a place he

didn't dare dream about during his own playing days. And he will admit that maybe "there's some justice in that," given how bad the Saints were for nearly all 43 years of the franchise's existence.

Archie swears the boys learned more from their coaches and each other than they inherited from him.

"I wasn't in his category," he said about Peyton. "I could outrun him — Eli, too — but that's about all I could do."

Yet their father's professionalism, even in the face of all that adversity, rubbed off. So did the affection and respect Archie showed everyone in the Saints organization from top to bottom.

Manning often brought the two older boys to Saturday afternoon practices. They were allowed the run of the locker room after the games on Sundays, and Saints equipment managers Dan "Chief" Simmons and Silky Powell were deputized to keep an eye on them. Come this Sunday, Peyton will look across the sideline and be reminded again of his attachment to a town and its team.

"Cooper and I used to run

those guys wild," Peyton recalled, laughing. "We used to be a pain in those guys' rears, I can guarantee you. They were always great to us, kind of looking out for us, taking care of the quarterback's kids. It's special to be in this Super Bowl, but to have those guys in the game as well."

Peyton understands that just like his father, most of New Orleans will not have trouble dividing its loyalty. Yet that won't be as easy as he makes it sound, either.

"My dad would always come out and get us on the field and take a little time to be with us," Peyton said. "He'd always sign autographs for all the fans after the games, most of these times after tough losses. But I couldn't tell at the time. I didn't really know if they won or lost. I was 3, 4, 5 years old. He was always the same. So that always had a positive influence on me."

Archie is signing still, just as active in the community as he was during his playing days. He later worked for the Saints as a broadcaster, and his involvement with a number of charities grew even stronger in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"I'm just proud, very proud of what they've accomplished, and especially what this group of players have done in the community," Manning said. "They don't just put their names on things."

"We need that," he continued. "We still got a ways to go, but the Saints just jump-started everyone's attitude. And we really needed that during the recovery."

Still, the old quarterback reminds himself that blood is always thicker than water, even when the current that sweeps him along has such a strong emotional pull. He remembers how his own parents and Olivia's never got to see either of their grandsons win football's biggest game, let alone a Super Bowl appearance by the team they cheered their entire adult lives.

"I had to come up with 30 tickets, but if there was anyone I would have wanted along, it would have been them," he said. "Of course, if I'd ever told them the Saints would get to the Super Bowl one day, but they'd be playing against one of theirs, none of them would have believed it."

NFL

NFL teams struggling financially; lockout a possibility

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Baltimore Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti said Wednesday that several NFL owners are facing a financial shortfall that could create "long-term problems for the league" and ultimately result in a lockout.

As the Ravens prepare for a 2010 season without a salary cap, Bisciotti hinted the NFL could shut down in March 2011 if concessions aren't made by the players union in negotiations for a new collective bargaining agreement.

Speaking at a news conference in which team officials looked back at last season and ahead to 2010, Bisciotti insisted many of the 32 NFL teams are struggling to finish in the black.

"I've got partners out there right now whose teams are making less money than their linebackers. I think we've got an acute problem here with the general profitability of the teams," Bisciotti said. "We always knew this was not a

big cash-flow business, but when you've got guys like Jacksonville tarping up 10,000 seats to stop blackouts, when you've got teams that are voluntarily staying at the minimum of what they have to spend on the salary cap in order to not go upside down financially, then we already have a structural problem."

Three years ago, the owners and players union signed a CBA that Bisciotti labeled "a bad deal" for the owners.

"That puts us in the unenviable position of this thing ending in a lockout as opposed to a strike," he said. "There's no cash flow. If we don't get this thing back to the point that teams have enough cash flow ... then there's long-term problem for

the league. We're going to have to address that."

Ravens president Dick Cass said the club is "doing well compared to other teams around the league. But just because we're still doing well in revenues, that doesn't mean we're generating a lot of profit."

Although there's a good chance there will not be a salary cap in place in 2010, that doesn't mean a team will be allowed to spend at will. And even by spending the maximum, that won't guarantee a spot in the playoffs.

Using baseball's New York Yankees as an example, Bisciotti wondered aloud about the payoff on an unbridled spending spree.

"It certainly doesn't show

up in the standings," he said. "If I'm a Yankees fan, I'm upset we're not winning 130 games with the roster that they have and the money that they pay out. I think it's a disgrace they only beat the average team by 10 games in the standings with three times the money. I'd fire that GM. You don't need a GM. All you have to do is buy the last Cy Young Award winner every year."

Bisciotti, 49, has been the Ravens' owner for 10 years, during which the team has regularly sold out its home games. Despite that he still has concern about the future of the league.

"We want to be at a point where teams are not selling off their star players in their fourth year because they can't afford to sign them to that second contract," Bisciotti said.

As the Ravens enter an off-season with an uncertain financial environment and no salary cap, general manager Ozzie Newsome is eager to work within the system to

enhance their wide receivers and fortify their pass rush.

"The restrictions put on the Baltimore Ravens are put on 31 other ballclubs, too," Newsome said. "We've got to be better than the other 31 clubs in order to make our football team under these circumstances. I look at it as a challenge. It puts the pressure on us to dig down deep to improve our football team."

The Ravens went 9-7 this season and reached the second round of the playoffs before being eliminated by Indianapolis. Bisciotti said the improvement of second-year quarterback Joe Flacco will be the key to success in 2011.

Flacco's ability to excel could be helped by new quarterbacks coach Jim Zorn — and the addition of a few new targets.

"Do we want to improve at the wide receiver position? Yes, because that will further enhance our running game," Newsome said. "Having a playmaker on the outside will make Joe Flacco become a better quarterback."

"I've got partners out there right now whose teams are making less money than their linebackers. I think we've got an acute problem here with the general profitability of the teams."

Steve Bisciotti
Ravens owner

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9000 computer. Now that you are in Jupiter's space and the entire crew is revived it can be told to you. Eighteen months ago the first evidence of intelligent life off the Earth was discovered. It was buried 40 feet below the lunar surface near the crater Tycho. Except for a single very powerful radio emission aimed at Jupiter the four-million year old black monolith has remained completely inert. Its origin and purpose are still a total mystery.

I'm afraid. I'm afraid, Dave. Dave, my mind is going. I can feel it. I can feel it. My mind is going. There is no question about it. I can feel it. I can feel it. I can feel it. I'm a... afraid. Good afternoon, gentlemen. I am a HAL 9000 computer. I became operational at the H.A.L. plant in Urbana, Illinois on the 12th of January 1992. My instructor was Mr. Langley, and he taught me to sing a song. If you'd like to hear it I can sing it for you.

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

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NCAA Division I Men's Basketball RPI

| team | previous |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1 Kansas | 2 |
| 2 Syracuse | 1 |
| 3 Georgetown | 6 |
| 4 Villanova | 4 |
| 5 Duke | 3 |
| 6 Kentucky | 7 |
| 7 West Virginia | 5 |
| 8 Kansas State | 8 |
| 9 Purdue | 12 |
| 10 Michigan State | 14 |
| 11 Rhode Island | 18 |
| 12 New Mexico | 19 |
| 13 Wisconsin | 10 |
| 14 Vanderbilt | 27 |
| 15 Temple | 11 |
| 16 UNI | 20 |
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| 18 Butler | 24 |
| 19 Texas | 9 |
| 20 Pittsburgh | 17 |
| 21 Tennessee | 15 |
| 22 Xavier | 13 |
| 23 Wake Forest | 21 |
| 24 California | 26 |
| 25 Georgia Tech | 29 |

CSCAA Women's Swimming Rankings

| team | previous |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1 Georgia | 1 |
| 2 Arizona | 2 |
| 3 Texas | 4 |
| 4 Stanford | 3 |
| 5 California | 6 |
| 6 Texas A&M | 6 |
| 7 Florida | 7 |
| 8 Auburn | 8 |
| 9 Southern California | 9 |
| 10 Minnesota | 10 |
| 11 Virginia | 11 |
| 12 Tennessee | 13 |
| 13 Louisville | 14 |
| 14 Indiana | 12 |
| 15 North Carolina | 15 |
| 16 Michigan | 16 |
| 17 Wisconsin | 17 |
| 18 SMU | 19 |
| 19 Arkansas | 18 |
| 20 Virginia Tech | 20 |
| 21 Missouri | 24 |
| 22 Purdue | 22 |
| 23 Northwestern | 23 |
| 24 LSU | 21 |
| 25 Florida State | 25 |

USCHO/CBS Men's Hockey Division I Rankings

| team | points |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1 Miami (Ohio) | 993 |
| 2 Denver | 950 |
| 3 Wisconsin | 895 |
| 4 St. Cloud State | 817 |
| 5 Cornell | 718 |
| 6 Minnesota Duluth | 690 |
| 7 Bemidji State | 635 |
| 8 Yale | 603 |
| 9 North Dakota | 581 |
| 10 Colorado Col. | 548 |

NFL



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning throws a pass during the AFC Championship game against the New York Jets. The Colts are now preparing for the Super Bowl against the New Orleans Saints Sun., Feb. 7.

Super Bowl expected to have plenty of passing

Associated Press

MIAMI — In the 1973 Super Bowl, Bob Griese threw a grand total of 11 passes to help the Miami Dolphins complete the NFL's only perfect season.

The sport was more wide open a generation later, when winning quarterback Troy Aikman tossed 23 passes in the 1996 championship game for the Dallas Cowboys. The Baltimore Ravens allowed Trent Dilfer to throw a whopping 25 times when they won the league title in 2001.

Peyton Manning and Drew Brees may surpass those numbers before half-time in Sunday's Super Bowl between the

Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints, because passing wins like never before.

Every 12-year-old fan can recite the NFL's common coaching mantra: Run the ball, control the clock and play good defense. But that longtime model for winning championships may be headed the way of leather helmets.

"The game has changed," former Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher says. "It's catered to throwing."

Manning and Brees do it better than anyone else, which is a big reason their teams are in the title game.

Brees set an NFL record with his completion per-

centage of 70.6, and Manning ranked second at 68.8.

Brees led the league with 34 touchdown passes, and Manning tied Brett Favre for second at 33. Brees ranked first in passing efficiency, and Manning was on pace for an NFL-high 4,800 yards before resting for the playoffs late in the regular season.

Gaudy passing statistics haven't historically translated into winning. Instead, 300-yard games were for losers.

But this year, eight of the league's top 10 teams in passing yardage made the playoffs. Teams reaching the postseason threw more than the league average.

The Colts will play for the title despite ranking a distant 32nd and last in rushing. The Arizona Cardinals also ranked last a year ago when they reached the Super Bowl. No team had previously achieved that dubious feat, according to STATS LLC.

So what happened to the notion of keeping the ball on the ground to win?

"That day has gone," says NFL draft consultant Gil Brandt, who has worked in the league since the 1960s. "If you get 10 carries as a running back now, that's good. And whatever amount teams passed this year, there will be more passing next year."

IN BRIEF

Columbus Blue Jackets fire coach Ken Hitchcock

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Columbus Blue Jackets fired defensive-minded coach Ken Hitchcock on Wednesday, less than a year after the club made the postseason for the first time.

Assistant coach Claude Noel was chosen to lead the team on an interim basis.

General manager Scott Howson announced the firing a day after the struggling Blue Jackets blew a 1-0 lead in a listless 5-1 loss at Colorado. Columbus stands 14th of the 15 teams in the Western Conference with a 22-27-9 record and 53 points.

"It wasn't working," Howson said. "The team wasn't responding to the message."

The Blue Jackets play their next game at home against Dallas on Thursday night.

"You're going to see some changes," Noel said. "But I'm not going to reinvent the game."

Knee surgery keeps New Orleans guard out of game

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans point guard Chris Paul will have knee surgery and miss the All-Star game.

Hornets coach Jeff Bower said Paul will have surgery Thursday to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee. Although Paul is likely to be sidelined for up to a month, Bower wouldn't give a timetable for his return.

"We are anticipating a very successful process," Bower said Wednesday. "We look forward to his return to action at some point later on. The time frame will be determined after the surgery. I won't speculate on that."

The NBA announced Paul was replaced on the Western Conference roster by Denver's Chauncey Billups for the All-Star game on Feb. 14 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Pavin announces new assistants for Ryder Cup

LOS ANGELES — U.S. captain Corey Pavin announced four assistants for the Ryder Cup on Wednesday, including two players who have never competed in the matches against Europe.

Pavin said he had selected Tom Lehman, Davis Love III, Jeff Sluman and Paul Goydos.

About the only assistant not considered a surprise was Lehman, one of Pavin's closest friends. Lehman was the Ryder Cup captain in Ireland in 2006 and chose Pavin as one of his assistants.

The big surprise was Goydos, although the announcement brought a thumbs-up from Phil Mickelson.

"That'll be cool," Mickelson said. Goydos said his only Ryder Cup experience has been watching on TV. Even so, he is among the most popular PGA Tour players in the locker room because of his dry wit and honest opinions.

around the dial

Men's NCAA Basketball

Purdue at Indiana
7 p.m., ESPN

NBA

Miami at Cleveland
8 p.m., TNT

NFL

NFL castoffs look to make mark in Miami

Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The overlooked, the underrated and the outright rejected have somehow landed in this Super Bowl — some with starring roles, too.

The New Orleans Saints wouldn't be competitive, let alone NFC champions and in their first Super Bowl, without a number of players who fit those categories. The list starts with quarterback Drew Brees and includes Darren Sharper, Jonathan Vilma, Jeremy Shockey, Pierre Thomas and Marques Colston.

Same for the Colts. Indianapolis defensive starters Gary Brackett and Melvin Bullitt weren't drafted. Neither was Jeff Saturday, the three-time All-Pro who snaps the ball to Peyton Manning. Two other starters, guard Ryan Lilja and defensive tackle Dan Muir, were picked up on waivers. DE Raheem Brock was selected in the seventh round by the Eagles in 2002, cut and signed by Indy. Pierre Garcon, the rapidly developing wide receiver, was a sixth-round draft pick.

"You've got to take advantage of your opportunities. Nothing's given to you. You've got to take it and don't let it go," said Antoine Bethea, the Colts' starting free safety and a sixth-round pick in 2006. "Myself, Melvin Bullitt, Jacob Lacey, Jerrold Powers — I think we've all done that. And that's just the secondary, not even mentioning the guys on the front end. So whatever it is, whatever you need to do, you can't relinquish the opportunity that you're given."

Brees was all but dumped by San Diego, then shunned by the Dolphins in 2006. Sharper, set adrift by Minnesota last year, signed a one-year deal at the veteran's minimum with New Orleans. Vilma and Shockey were unwanted in New York despite some Pro Bowl seasons. Thomas wasn't drafted at all, while Colston was — 252nd overall, in the final moments of the last round in '06.

"Here we are trying to come back and find ourselves," said Brees, who lost his starting job with the Chargers to Philip Rivers in great part because he injured his right shoulder in the 2005 season finale — his last game before entering free agency. Miami showed interest in him, then backed off on medical advice. The Saints had no such reservations.

"Sean Payton gets hired. I get brought in as a free agent with Scott Fujita," Brees said. "Reggie Bush and Marques Colston get drafted. We bring in guys like Mark Simoneau and Scott Shanle. The list goes on of the guys we brought in that year as free agents."

"In a way, all of us were cast-aways, guys who were obvious-

ly free agents because there were plenty of teams out there that didn't want us. Yet, the New Orleans Saints wanted us and they wanted to give us an opportunity. We all used that as a rallying point to come together and accomplish something special and we did."

It's not all superstars and super stats in this Super Bowl.

The Saints' top two rushers, Thomas and Mike Bell, went undrafted. The Colts' top receiver in these playoffs, Garcon, was taken with the 205th overall pick.

"You've got to give credit to (Payton) for keeping an undrafted guy over a fourth-round pick," linebacker Shanle said, referring to how the Saints stayed with Thomas over Antonio Pittman. "Even though he was better, a lot of teams don't do that."

These teams do. They also will trade for players who have worn out their welcome or don't fit elsewhere. Shockey and Vilma are examples.

Shockey caught 371 passes and lots of flak with the Giants for his individualism, willingness to speak out, and penchant for committing penalties. When the Giants discovered in 2007 they could win with Kevin Boss after Shockey broke his leg — sidelining him for the playoff run and Super Bowl upset of New England — they shopped the moody (some say disruptive) tight end.

Payton was buying, offering a second- and fifth-round selection.

"He's a guy that last night was floating around the meeting rooms and half the team is out for dinner," Payton said, referring to Shockey. "He's looking at tape and getting ice. So I think a little bit of that is mythical. It's fun to write about."

Vilma was the 2004 defensive rookie of the year. When the Jets switched coaches in 2006 from Herm Edwards to Eric Mangini, they also installed a 3-4 defense, which limited Vilma, whose strength is his pursuit from sideline to sideline.

It was clear from early in his tenure in New York that Mangini wanted a different kind of middle linebacker, and Vilma became available in 2008 after missing nine games with a knee injury.

Again, Payton was buying, offering a fourth-rounder and a conditional pick. Mangini, perhaps believing Vilma was damaged goods, was so eager to send the player elsewhere that he accepted the trade.

"It's funny, we had similar situations," Vilma said, referring to Shockey, who was his teammate at the University of Miami. "He got hurt, I got hurt. He got traded, I got traded, and we've just been making the most of it since."

PGA

Lefty bends on wedge use

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Phil Mickelson won't be using the Ping Eye2 wedge that led a fellow player to accuse him of "cheating," even though he hopes others will use the controversial club to keep attention on what he calls a ridiculous rule.

"I won't be playing that wedge. My point has been made," Mickelson said Wednesday on the eve of his two-time title defense at Riviera. "But if these governing bodies cannot get together to fix this loophole, if players stop using this wedge — which would stop the pressure of the issue — then I will relook at it and put the wedge back in play."

The Ping wedge has grooves that no longer conform under a new USGA regulation, adopted by the PGA Tour. However, any Ping wedge made before April 1, 1990, is approved for play under a legal settlement from two decades ago.

Mickelson is among five players who have used the Ping wedge in competition this year.

Several players believe using the club goes against the spirit of the new grooves regulation, although Scott McCarron fueled the debate when he said of Mickelson and others, "It's cheating."

Mickelson hinted at legal action after saying he was "publicly slandered." He said McCarron offered him a sincere apology on Tuesday night, which he accepted.

"We all make mistakes,

and we all say things we wish we could take back," Mickelson said. "I've done it a bunch in my career. And the fact that it's also not easy to come up and face that person, look them in the eye and apologize ... I appreciate him being a big enough man to do that."

Instead, Mickelson vented his anger at the USGA and its lack of transparency in developing the new rules for grooves. He has complained that his submitted wedges that fit the guidelines, only for the USGA to reject the club for violating the intent of the new rule.

"I've very upset with the way the rule came about, the way one man essentially can approve or not approve a golf club based on his own personal decision, regardless of what the rule says," Mickelson said. "This has got to change."

The next step remains murky.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem met with players on Tuesday night and conceded that tour officials did not realize a Ping wedge from 20 years ago would become such a big issue.

Finchem said the Ping Eye2 wedge produces spin at about 60 percent of the rate from last year's wedges, but about 10 percent more than wedges approved for competition this year.

"The assumption was made last year that very few, if any, players would use that club because they're 20 years old," Finchem said. "I think we underestimated

that a little bit."

He said the tour could either do nothing and monitor how many players used wedges, an option that seemed unlikely because Finchem said it still raised issues over fairness in competition. Some players are going to eBay to find the clubs, as Ping stopped making them and now only can confirm through serial numbers when the wedges were made.

The other option is to work out an agreement with Ping chairman and CEO John Solheim. He said Solheim was to meet with the USGA over the next few weeks, and "I can only hope progress is made in that regard."

Ping plays the biggest role in any solution because of its lawsuits against the USGA and PGA Tour over square grooves.

Finchem said the third option involved a complicated process in which the tour's independent committee on equipment tries to establish a local rule. He called that a "cumbersome process."

Any solution could be weeks, if not months, away.

In the meantime, Mickelson said he would not use the wedge at the Northern Trust Open, even though he's hopeful others will.

"If there's no pressure among these organizations to make changes, I will immediately put the club back in play," Mickelson said.



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OLYMPICS

Babcock ready to win gold for Team Canada

Associated Press

DETROIT — Mike Babcock relishes the chance to coach Team Canada.

Pressure?

Please.

Babcock's every move from behind the bench at the Vancouver Olympics will be dissected and debated in the hockey-crazed country. If the Canadians win gold in front of their fans, he'll enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

If not, he'll never be able to forget it.

Babcock said it was "absolutely devastating" when Anaheim lost Game 7 of the 2003 Stanley Cup finals — in his first season as an NHL head coach — but that disappointment would likely be trumped by falling short at the end of the month.

Babcock's piercing eyes don't blink and sharp tongue isn't stunted, though, when pressed about his emotions as he approaches what might be the defining moment of his stellar career.

"It's the biggest honor anyone coaching hockey could have. It's the ultimate," Babcock said. "I'm sure Ron Wilson coaching the U.S. feels the same way about it, but hockey is a religion in Canada and it's THE sport. That's what makes it so exciting.

"Being the best hockey nation in the world means a lot to Canada."

Babcock seems about as prepared and qualified as possible for the job.

He helped the Detroit Red Wings hoist the Stanley Cup in 2008 and was a win away from repeating last year. He won more games in the playoffs (58) and

regular season (282) than any other NHL coach in his first six seasons. Scotty Bowman, Glen Sather, Fred Shero and Babcock are the only coaches in the expansion era that started four decades ago to coach in three or more Stanley Cup finals in their first six seasons.

The Red Wings hired him after away from the Ducks after he climbed the coaching ladder with Cincinnati in the AHL, Spokane and Moose Jaw in the WHL, the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns and Red Deer College.

Babcock also paid his dues for Hockey Canada, becoming the country's first coach to win a world championship (2004) and world junior championship (1997).

"He has a great track record as a proven winner," said Hockey Canada executive director Steve Yzerman, who picked Babcock to coach the team he assembled.

Babcock's duties in Vancouver will include being the face and voice for his team. The 46-year-old Babcock can handle a sea of reporters and TV cameras with ease by delivering stern messages in one breath and regaling the media with stories the next.

"He'll be perfectly comfortable on and off the ice because he enjoys coaching and everything about it," Yzerman said. "He's a strong leader."

Very strong.

During a relatively casual orientation camp last August in Calgary, Babcock's style came across as clear as a Canadian lake.

Several of Babcock's players were asked a couple weeks before the Vancouver Games begin for their impressions of him



Canada head coach Mike Babcock instructs players during the Olympic hockey orientation camp in Calgary, Alberta. AP

and almost all of them said "intense" within the first few words.

"He's very intense, very serious obviously," San Jose Sharks forward Dany Heatley said. "He expects a lot out of you. I had him before in a world championship in '04. I know him a little bit from there. He's very organized and knows what he wants you to do and expects a lot out of you."

Babcock makes no bones about being brash at times.

"Do I handle everything right?

No. Am I too harsh sometimes? Maybe," Babcock once said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But players will always know where they stand with me and what pleases me because I'll let them know, and I don't play games."

Babcock will have only one day to run a practice with his team before it plays Norway on Feb. 16 in the preliminary round. If the Canadians aren't skating hard or don't look focused — even if it's a morning skate — they'll hear

about it.

"He's very vocal," Dallas stars forward Brenden Morrow said.

Morrow played against Babcock when he was coaching Spokane, was one of his players at the world championships and is on his 23-man roster in Vancouver.

"He's a great motivator," Morrow said. "He wants a lot of tempo and energy. For a quick tournament like that, trying to get guys together, he's the right guy for the job."

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FORMULA ONE

Schumacher lukewarm on Mercedes F1 chassis

Associated Press

VALENCIA, Spain — Michael Schumacher expects the Mercedes GP car to be "competitive" this season but isn't sure if the team can win the Formula One championship.

Schumacher will be aiming for an eighth Formula One title.

Schumacher was pleased with his first full day of driving a competitive F1 car on Wednesday, saying it was "running very smoothly, very nice, I'm looking very positive into the season."

But he didn't sound bowled over in his return after a three-year retirement.

"We will be competitive, but whether it's right away a winning car or not that's another story," Schumacher said. "I wouldn't expect to be winning right from the beginning, it wasn't something I was aiming for and expecting to be the case. But we need to be strong enough in the development."

The 41-year-old German drove 82 laps to close the pre-season's first testing session before a hydraulic leak forced him off with the third-fastest lap time. It was nearly one

second slower than pace-setter Fernando Alonso of Ferrari.

Schumacher said improvements are needed because he considers his former Ferrari team a potential front-runner.

"We need to be there, we need to take good points at the beginning," Schumacher said.

Schumacher and most of the F1 teams will head to the next test session from Feb. 10-13 in Jerez, Spain.

"The main focus now is to look at the reliability, to do as many laps as you can and not worry too much for the lap times," Schumacher said. "Yes, you look at (the lap times) but you need to pinpoint and focus on main, important (things)."

He did find it easier than expected to return as he pairs again with team principal Ross Brawn, who was instrumental in each of his seven previous championships. Brawn GP won both drivers and constructors' titles last season before being bought by Mercedes.

"Much easier than I expected it," Schumacher said of adapting to an F1 car. "I thought it needed more time, but it went pretty quickly."

NFL

Big Easy preparing for Super Bowl Sunday

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Mardi Gras falls on a Sunday this year.

The city of the Saints is filling up with ex-New Orleanians and others ahead of the Super Bowl, many looking to cast off a legacy of football futility and natural disaster — others just looking to party down in one of the world's greatest party towns.

"We're gearing up for Sunday just like Mardi Gras day," said Earl Bernhardt, a bar owner in the French Quarter. "We're staffing just like we do for Mardi Gras, and if the Saints win, we won't close at all. We'll stay open as long as people are standing."

After 43 years in existence, the Saints will make their Super Bowl debut in Miami on Sunday, facing the favored Indianapolis Colts.

Fans from most cities would be headed to South Florida about now. But for ex-pat New Orleanians, the game is triggering a pilgrimage home. And for everybody back in town, the party's already started.

A few are taking the week off in the countdown to game day. Others are punching the clock,

but not getting much done. Saints jerseys, "Who Dat?" T-shirts and black and gold beads are the uniform everywhere you go.

The French Quarter's narrow streets also are awash in the team colors. As revelers cruise down its streets, strangers give each other high-fives.

"It's been all Saints all the time," said Steve Sabrier, an oil field worker who marched from the Superdome to the French Quarter after the NFC championship. "I pity anybody who needs something done in New Orleans these days. We can't concentrate on anything but the game."

"I pity anybody who needs something done in New Orleans these days. We can't concentrate on anything but the game."

Steve Sabrier
New Orleans resident

Sister Mary Rose, a Dominican nun

who attends every Saints game and teaches at a Catholic school in the Quarter, said the feeling of sheer excitement in the city is almost tangible. "I think 'exuberant joy' is the word," the nun said. "And it has brought such a unity to us, such a bond between all the people here it's just amazing."

Meanwhile, in Atlanta, New Orleans transplant Belinda Hernandez vowed to be in Miami if the Saints made the big

game.

"But seeing the fever pitch in New Orleans and knowing how we party, I changed my mind," Hernandez said.

"Who wants to be on Miami Beach when they can be in the French Quarter with the Who Dats for the game?"

So Hernandez turned down some friends in South Florida, who offered to get her tickets.

Besides being Super Bowl weekend, this is the start of carnival season that ends Feb. 16 on the real Mardi Gras. There are four parades scheduled in New Orleans on Saturday and two on Sunday — but they're rolling early to avoid conflicting with the game.

All eyes on the game, starting Sunday at 5:25 p.m. local time.

Mary Beth Romig of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau says there's no question the Saints have created something special — this time for the city's tourist trade.

"This is turning into a very big weekend for the hotels in downtown New Orleans and the French Quarter," said Romig. "We did a survey and hotels are running about 90 percent full late in the week, and that jumps to 95 percent on Sunday. People are definitely coming to New Orleans for Super Bowl."

Sorry, Colts fans, but it's a different story up north.

Kimberly Harms, a spokes-

woman for the Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association, said there was no noticeable jump in hotel occupancy there for the weekend. She noted, however that one hotel had set aside 44 rooms at the special rate of \$144 in honor of the 44th Super Bowl. If Indianapolis wins, she said, the rooms will be free for those staying in them.

At New Orleans' Roosevelt Hotel, an upscale hotel where suites start at \$259 a night and go up, marketing director Mark Wilson said they are seeing a "huge surge" of people who want to celebrate the Super Bowl in New Orleans.

"Let's face it, not everybody can get a ticket to the game," Wilson said. "And a lot of people seem to think being in New Orleans is a good alternative."

The Roosevelt is about 80 percent booked, which is 10 percent to 15 percent more than normal for a weekend with no convention in town, Wilson said. The big seller is the hotel suites, with much of the business coming from Texas, Mississippi and Alabama.

"People are booking the enter-

tainment suites, which are great for parties of 25, 35 people," he said.

"Some are probably just people looking for a party. But a lot are former residents, I think. People in New Orleans have looked for this day a long time and now they want to be here for it."

Police will increase their coverage in the French Quarter this weekend, adding approximately 600 officers,

"Where would you rather be if the Saints win, the French Quarter or Miami? Even if they lose you want to be in New Orleans."

Rick Watson
New Orleans resident

police spokesman Bob Young said. That's about the number the city would deploy if New Orleans were hosting the game.

Rick Watson, and his wife, Katherine, are among the natives coming back.

Now residents of North Carolina, 35-year-old Watson said it took them a long time to believe the Saints had really made the big game, but not much time to decide where to watch it.

"When something big happens, you go home, and this is big," Watson said. "Besides, where would you rather be if the Saints win, the French Quarter or Miami? Even if they lose you want to be in New Orleans."

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NFL

Haitian Garcon wears his heart on his bandanna

Associated Press

MIAMI — Pierre Garcon keeps finding new ways to spread his message about Haiti.

First, it was through his charitable foundation. Then it was celebrating with the national flag after the Colts' two playoff victories. On Tuesday, the Indianapolis receiver used his head, literally.

He took advantage of football's biggest stage, the Super Bowl, by donning a bandanna that resembled the Haitian flag and put the relief effort in the earthquake-ravaged nation squarely in the spotlight.

"I'm trying to give them a little hope and trying to help as much as I can and do something positive for them," Garcon said during media day. "So far, I'm very pleased with what we have done with a lot of help and support. I know we couldn't do it by ourselves. I've been in touch with Haiti and I'm very pleased with what we have done."

The second-year player from Mount Union, a Division III school in Ohio, has spent the past month enduring sleepless nights, countless hours watching the cable news channels and trying to cope with the angst and anxiety in a country where he has dozens of relatives and friends.

Garcon's mother, who migrated from Haiti to the U.S., picked vegetables on a farm and now lives near Miami, kept trying to reach people close to the family. Most, they know, survived. Others have been more difficult to reach.

Yet Garcon figured his job, playing football, gave him an opportunity to make a difference and he took full advantage of that megaphone during the playoffs.

Rarely does an interview go by in which Garcon doesn't make a plea for Haiti. He's used his Twitter account to solicit contributions for the relief effort and he's teamed up with the Northwest Haiti Christian Missionary Group to help raise money for the country.

In some ways, football provided a needed respite for Garcon and gave Haitians an opportunity to revel in Garcon's success.

He made the potentially game-changing play against Baltimore by forcing Ed Reed to fumble after he intercepted Peyton Manning. The Colts recovered, snuffing out a Ravens scoring chance. The next week, against the Jets, Garcon had 11 receptions for 151 yards, both career highs, and scored the go-ahead touchdown in the AFC championship game.

In other ways, it has put football in perspective.

"I'm not certain you can ever say any tragedy like that helps," coach Jim Caldwell said. "I'm certain he'd rather be free of those worries. But I do think that he's shown some unusual resolve. I think he's used some of that, maybe to push him forward. I think I heard him mention that if he could do something and do it well, it may bring a ray of sunshine to one or two of his family members who is OK."

Garcon's mission may still be in the early stages, but the message is getting through loud and clear. Colts and Jets players, he said, have routinely asked him how to help.

Two Saints players with Haitian ties also have offered assistance.

Linebacker Stanley Arnoux, who, has a half brother and half sister in Haiti, wants to lend his hand after the season ends Sunday. Jonathan Vilma, another linebacker, is selling T-shirts with the phrase "Department of Domeland Defense" and also hopes to make a more significant presence in the relief effort. Vilma, like Garcon, also has family and friends in Haiti.

"Everything about the shirt was something that I felt like we needed, and it really helped with everything going to the Haiti relief effort," Vilma



Colts receiver Pierre Garcon holds up the Haitian flag after the Colts' 30-17 win over the Jets in the AFC Championship.

said. "That really was a huge plus for me, because I can't really do anything else besides that at the moment."

In addition, the labor unions in the NFL, NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball have formed an alliance called "One Team 4 Haiti," a group that will partner with the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund.

Garcon isn't waiting.

He'd rather use his fame and the Super Bowl stage to make his pitch now, when time and money are of the essence to one of the world's poorest nations.

"Life in Haiti is tough," Garcon said. "It is just like

New York City with people working and going about their business and doing the things they have to so that they can survive."

And if Indy wins Sunday, Garcon wants to end the post-season the same way he started it — with a celebration of his adopted country.

"Hopefully, we will win and I will have it (the Haitian flag) out there with me," he said. "There are a lot of bad aspects with being Haitian so I'm just trying to do something positive and let people and especially kids know we can make it (in America) and be anybody we want to be."

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NBA

Rondo leads Pierce-less Celtics past Wade, Heat

Johnson and Crawford combine for 56 points to lead Hawks in comeback to top Clippers, team improves to 20-5 in Atlanta

Associated Press

Even without Paul Pierce, the Boston Celtics had too much for Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat.

Rajon Rondo had 22 points and 14 assists, Kevin Garnett had a season-high nine assists, and Tony Allen made a key steal in the final minute to help the Celtics beat the Heat 107-102 on Wednesday night.

Pierce watched from the bench in street clothes after spraining his left foot Monday night. Garnett played in just his seventh game after missing 10 because of a knee injury. And backup guard Marquis Daniels missed his 27th straight game with a thumb injury that required surgery.

"It plays with the rhythm of your team," Garnett said. "For the most part, we haven't even been at full strength."

Allen started in place of Pierce, Boston's leading scorer, and stripped the ball from Wade near the Miami free-throw line with 37 seconds left. He was fouled and made both shots for a 99-94 lead. That forced the Heat to foul and the Celtics scored their last eight points on free throws, five by Ray Allen, to improve to 31-16, best in the Atlantic Division.

"I just reached my left hand out there and got the steal, hit the two free throws, and that was the game," Tony Allen said.

Wade led the Heat with 30 points and 13 assists but committed six turnovers.

"We went through a stretch where we didn't hit enough shots," he said. "We fought back, but we gave up too wide of a gap."

Rondo was the main reason the Celtics held off the Heat.

He hit a 3-pointer at the 24-second buzzer to make it 60-58 early in the third quarter and the Celtics never trailed after that, although Miami stayed close.

Boston won its second straight game after losing three in a row, while Miami lost for the fifth time in six games.

Allen scored 23 points, and Garnett added 14. Rafer Alston and Udonis Haslem each scored 15 for Miami.

The Celtics continually found the open man, getting 29 assists on 37 field goals.

"It was contagious," Rondo

said. "We shared the ball tonight and played very unselfishly."

The last time the teams met, the Celtics won 112-106 on Jan. 6 after Rondo's layup on a pass from Pierce a split-second before the fourth-quarter buzzer sent the game into overtime.

Rondo finished that game with 25 points.

Pierce missed the rematch after being hurt in a 99-88 win at Washington and is expected to sit out at least one more game.

Wade gave the Heat one last chance when his 3-pointer cut Boston's lead to 105-102 with 7 seconds left, but Ray Allen secured the win with two free throws with 4.9 seconds to go.

Miami dropped below .500 at 24-25 after the opener of a stretch of eight road games and just one home game. Wade wasn't thinking about the losing record.

"This is a tough road trip we are on. We have to focus game to game," said Wade, whose right knee was wrapped in ice afterward.

Jermaine O'Neal returned after missing the previous game with back spasms.

"We have several guys in there who are wounded warriors," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said, but "We're not unique."

With the score tied at 74 entering the fourth quarter, the Celtics scored the first five points.

They led 82-78 after Wade hit a free throw, then scored the next six points on a short jumper by Rasheed Wallace followed by a dunk and a layup by Kendrick Perkins

that gave them the biggest lead of the game, 88-78 with 6:36 to go.

With 2.3 seconds left in the first half, Michael Beasley tied it at 51 with a 3-pointer. Then Daequan Cook fouled Rondo near midcourt with 0.3 seconds left and the point guard hit two of three shots for a 53-51 halftime lead.

Hawks 103, Clippers 97

ATLANTA — Al Horford loves it when Joe Johnson takes over in the fourth quarter.

"It's ridiculous how much he was scoring," Horford said. "He just goes about it like a business."

Johnson scored 34 points, Jamal Crawford added 22, and the Atlanta Hawks overcame a nine-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night.

The Hawks, coming off consecutive road losses at Orlando and Oklahoma City, improved to 20-5 at home.

Johnson began the second half going 7 for 8 from the field and finished 11 for 21, with three 3-pointers.

"We picked up our energy," Johnson said. "I'm just glad we came through."

Chris Kaman and Eric Gordon each scored 17 points for Los Angeles. The Clippers finished an eight-game trip with just two wins and have dropped 13 of 15 away games.

Marcus Camby, the NBA's third-leading rebounder, had 20 rebounds for Los Angeles, but a miscommunication with Baron Davis caused the point guard to call the Clippers' final timeout with 2:16

remaining.

Camby apparently didn't break free soon enough to help Davis move the ball away from two defenders that had him pinned near the mid-court sideline.

Because he feared committing a 5-second turnover, Davis called timeout. He complained to Camby, who nodded his head in agreement, as the two teammates walked to Los Angeles' bench.

The possession ended as Davis badly missed a layup from the right side.

"I think they were the more aggressive team in the second half,"

Davis said. "They started making shots, which helped them get confidence. A good team like this is hard to contain when they start knocking down shots."

Camby was disappointed to end the road trip with another loss.

"It's definitely frustrating," Camby said. "We felt we let this one get away. They cut the lead to 3 going into the fourth. Going down the stretch they got to the line a lot and made a lot of free-throws."

Atlanta never trailed after Crawford's two free throws

made it 90-88 with 3:35 left.

The Clippers were up 70-57 after Rasual Butler's fast-break layup at the 2:16 mark of the third quarter. Their defense, however, relaxed enough to let Atlanta go on a 13-0 run that ended with Crawford's free throw.

"We just got up and them put them on a carousel," Hawks forward Josh Smith said. "We limited them to one shot, rebounded and had a couple of fast-break points. That is what this team has to do."

Smith, Horford and Marvin Williams each had 10 rebounds.

Horford finished with 16 points, and Smith had 15.

Though the Hawks were outrebounded by nine and outscored by 16 in the paint, Horford believes his team fought harder for loose balls.

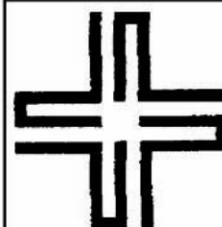
"It's very important," Horford said. "Josh is so aggressive out there, and we all need to do that as a unit in order to be effective on the boards."

Horford and Johnson combined for 24 points and hit 10 of 11 free-throw attempts in the fourth quarter.

"We can't afford to have a letdown," Johnson said.

"It's ridiculous how much [Joe Johnson] was scoring. He just goes about it like a business."

Al Horford
Hawks forward



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Bearcats

continued from page 24

ior forward Tyrone Nash said coming home will help.

"I think we play a little better at home," Nash said. "It will help us re-establish how we play and really help us get back on track."

Cincinnati has not won a Big East road game since Jan. 2, when it beat Rutgers 65-58 in Piscataway, N.J.

Harangody said the team came in Sunday after its loss to Rutgers to work out, and has also worked out early in the morning.

"It's kind of a wake-up call for some guys who might need that," he said.

But it might take more than that, and it might not be pretty. Harangody said he and fellow senior captain Tory Jackson may need to light a fire under some of the players to impress upon them the need to work harder.

"I think you challenge them the next couple days," he said. "I think you got to get into

each other a little bit. Maybe me and Tory need to get together and get the guys together and have a heart-to-heart talk with the team."

Whatever they say, the team knows firsthand how tough Cincinnati plays. The Bearcats out-rebounded the Irish 50-31 the last time they met.

"We need to concentrate on boxing out," Nash said. "We [need to] make sure we have a body on everyone."

Sophomore forward Yancy Gates, at 6-foot-9 and 260 pounds, leads the Bearcats in rebounding with 6.7 per game.

He also averages 10.5 points per game. Freshman forward Lance Stephenson leads the team in scoring, averaging 12.2 points per game.

Notre Dame is 3-1 in Purcell Pavilion in conference play, the only loss coming against a Syracuse team now ranked No. 3 in the country. Harangody continues to lead

the Big East in scoring with 24.2 points per game.

Considering the outcome of the last game against Cincinnati, the players say they're looking forward to the game, physicality and all.

"We know we have to get tougher," Harangody said. "Cincinnati banged us around a little bit down there. I'm really looking forward to this game Thursday."

Nash said the physicality, while extreme due to the athleticism of the Bearcats, was nothing new, and he wanted revenge against them.

"We're going to come in here Thursday and try to beat Cincinnati because we kind of owe them from losing down there at Cincinnati," he said. "We let that one slip away kind of and it left a sour taste in our mouth."

"They're tough," Nash said. "It's going to be gritty. It's going to be a little war out there. That's the Big East, that's what we signed up for."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

"It's going to be gritty. It's going to be a little war out there."

Tyrone Nash
Irish junior

"We know we have to get tougher."

Luke Harangody
Irish senior

Tar Heels

continued from page 24

an opportunity to reach their full potential for the rest of the year.

"There is a lot of room for improvement, but we still know what we need to work on in practice," Mathews said. "We want to peak for NCAAs."

The match against North Carolina was as motivating as

it was hard fought. But instead of dwelling on the loss, the team is trying to grow from it. The girls know they have to focus in on a couple of specific things to improve.

"As a whole, we'll be working on doubles," Mathews said. "Each person has individual things they're going to focus on."

In the end, the girls may be thanking the Tar Heels for giving them a wake-up call for

the rest of the season.

"I definitely think that if we get a chance to play them later in the season we could get a different result," Mathews said.

In the meantime, Notre Dame will focus its attention on the matches this weekend as the team travels to Kansas with a new focus and intensity.

Contact John Helms at jhelms2@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Brian Kelly speaks to the media upon his introduction on Dec. 11. Kelly signed 23 recruits on National Signing Day, Wednesday.

Kelly

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Irish didn't?

Fans who complain about holes in Kelly's class clearly have a short memory of the Charlie Weis era.

Realize there is only one returning scholarship quarterback on campus right now — Kelly signed three Wednesday to correct it. There is an obvious lack of quality depth along both lines — Kelly began to remedy that by signing three bigs on each side of the ball, including enticing last-minute, Signing Day commitments from offensive lineman Matt James and defensive end Kona Schwenke.

Say what you will about the players the Irish couldn't quite sign, but you have to acknowledge that Kelly saw holes on his roster and plugged them with guys that, in some cases, were never on Weis' radar. And in the case of Schwenke and athlete Danny Spond, to cite two examples, these weren't low-rated recruits nobody else wanted, but rather guys Kelly went after aggressively and sold on Notre Dame in an incredibly short amount of time.

It remains to be seen how Kelly recruits in a full year, but after this abbreviated cycle, I can say I have much more confidence in Kelly than I did in Weis.

Weis drew some studs to Notre Dame, no doubt about it, and some of those guys will be assets

to Kelly's team next year. He also missed on a lot of others, but all coaches do. That's recruiting, and it happens when you go after the biggest fish on a national scale.

Weis' problem was he didn't have backup plans when he missed, and when he missed consistently on offensive and defensive linemen, there were glaring holes in the roster.

Kelly has shown that he can not only land the studs (like James), but he can also land talented athletes when the likes of Seantrel Henderson, J.R. Ferguson and Christian Jones choose to go elsewhere (like Schwenke and Spond, among others).

Notre Dame hasn't had enough of these types of player over the last five years. Make no mistake — these guys aren't consolation prizes. The Irish added some incredible athletes, many of whom have the frame and ability to play multiple positions on either side of the ball. And, in my opinion, Notre Dame also has the coaching staff to utilize these abilities.

So yes, this is the best recruiting class of Kelly's career. But his real test is to make us say the same thing about next year's haul, and to develop these players to plug in around some of the talent already on campus.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles hold off Bulldogs to break losing streak

By TIM SINGLER
Sports Writer

The Belles held on for a close win over conference rival Adrian 64-62 Wednesday night.

Sophomore Kelley Murphy helped Saint Mary's end a four-game losing streak by hitting one out of two free throws with just seconds to go to help the Belles (11-9, 6-6 MIAA) hold on to the lead en route to a conference win.

Throughout much of the game the score remained close. Neither team could maintain a lead of five points throughout the game. Every time the Bulldogs (9-10, 5-6 MIAA) came close to a large lead, Saint Mary's managed to remain within striking distance. This allowed them to retain their confidence level and continue to compete down the stretch.

Sophomore Jessica Centa had a surprising game for the Belles, contributing 18 points and 10 rebounds for her first double-

double. She set other career highs in the game.

No single player dominated the game, but rather a group effort led the way for the Belles. Sophomores Patsy Mahoney and Kelley Murphy added 17 points and 14 points, respectively, to add to the team's offensive firepower.

One of the keys in the game was Saint Mary's dominance in the paint. The Belles outscored the Bulldogs 36-26 in the paint. They took advantage of their size and controlled the paint for much of the game.

Saint Mary's also benefited from Adrian's mistakes. Adrian turned the ball over 30 times which resulted in 28 points for St. Mary's.

Saint Mary's will host Kalamazoo Saturday at 3 p.m. in another MIAA conference showdown.

Contact Tim Singler at tsingler@nd.edu

Offense

continued from page 24

Very smart, very disciplined," Kelly said. "He's going to be really big. He's going to be a strong player. He's got great feet, outstanding basketball player."

QB Tommy Rees, 6-3, 192, Lake Forest H.S., Lake Forest, Ill.

An early enrollee, Rees has a great opportunity to develop in the spring as the only healthy scholarship quarterback on the Irish roster.

"He's going to get an opportunity to play a lot this spring," Kelly said. "What a great opportunity for Tommy to get out and play in the spring game and get spring practice and develop and get stronger."

While Lake Forest struggled in Rees' senior season, the quarterback threw for 2,650 yards and 24 touchdowns, completing over 75 percent of his passes.

RB Cameron Roberson, 6-1, 220, Newbury Park H.S., Newbury, Calif.

A running back with both size and quickness, Roberson will be the lone running back in Kelly's first class. His senior season Roberson rushed for 1,100 yards and 20 touchdowns, and added another two touchdowns on receptions.

"He really impressed us. I got to tell you. There was so much talk about another running back," Kelly said. "We had our sights set on Cameron Roberson. You know, this is the guy that we felt as a staff that he fit precisely what we wanted to do in our offense."

Roberson will join a stable of talented running backs includ-

ing seniors Armando Allen and Robert Hughes.

WR Bennett Jackson, 6-1, 170, Raritan H.S., Hazlet, N.J.

A versatile wide receiver prospect, Jackson should be used in a number of ways in Kelly's offense. As a senior, Jackson lined up both at wide receiver and in the backfield, scoring nine touchdowns off passes and five on the ground.

"The thing that kept bringing us back to Bennett was his ability to have yards after the catch," Kelly said. "His ability not only to catch the football, but catch it in traffic and find his way and sift his way through to make plays."

Jackson possesses good speed at 6-foot-1 and 175 pounds, and should add another playmaker to the new Notre Dame spread offense.

WR Daniel Smith, 6-4, 215, South Bend Clay H.S., South Bend, Ind.

One of the first verbal commitments to the Class of 2010, Smith is a local prospect with great size. Smith should provide a great red-zone threat and possession receiver.

"Obviously you can see his size. He uses it to his advantage in going up and getting the football," Kelly said. "Lot of opportunities and possibilities for Daniel."

While Clay struggled this season, Smith was a rare bright spot, catching 60 balls for 1,000 yards and nine touchdowns.

WR Tai-ler Jones, 6-0, 183, Gainesville H.S., Gainesville, Ga.

Another early enrollee already on campus, Jones was an Under Armour All-American his senior season. Jones has great speed and route-running

ability as well as soft hands, and should be able to contribute early.

In his final season Jones caught 75 passes for 1,394 yards and 18 touchdowns.

"As you know, Tai-ler Jones, father Andre Jones was a defensive end at Notre Dame from '87 to '91. And played on the 1988 Notre Dame National Championship team. And his godfather is former Notre Dame flanker, Rocket Ismail," Kelly said. "With the ball in his hands, he's as explosive a player as there is in the country."

WR Austin Collinsworth, 6-1, 195, Highlands H.S., Fort Thomas, Ky.

A U.S. Army All-American, Collinsworth played safety, wide receiver and running back in high school, and also made appearances as a punt and kick returner. He was Kelly's first commitment when Kelly took the job at Notre Dame.

"[Collinsworth] loves to play the game. [He] will be a young man that I think physically is going to be able to compete immediately," Kelly said. "He's got just a great love for the game."

Collinsworth's father, Cris Collinsworth, was a NFL receiver and now is an announcer for Sunday Night Football on NBC.

In 2009, Collinsworth had 1,502 yards on 171 carries and 23 touchdowns.

TE Alex Welch, 6-5, 225, Elder H.S., Cincinnati, Ohio

Another commitment from the Cincinnati area, Welch comes from the same program as rising junior Kyle Rudolph. Welch is a productive all-around tight end, and recorded six touchdowns and 420 yards his senior season.

"He's tough, a great competitor. Really excited about having Alex in the program," Kelly said. "You know, we look at the finish. That's what we look for. It's not necessarily the first, but how you finish it off. He does a great job here finishing the block off."

Welch has a great frame and should become a powerful blocker at the collegiate level.

OT Matt James, 6-6, 291, St. Xavier H.S., Cincinnati, Ohio

The biggest Signing Day commitment for Kelly and Notre Dame, James is rated as the No. 14 offensive tackle in this class. A teammate of quarterback Luke Massa, James has incredible size at 6-foot-7, 280 pounds.

"At the end of the day he felt the opportunity here at Notre Dame, the academic opportunities that it gave him, the opportunity to play for a National Championship and knowing that there was going to be a clear opportunity for him to play here earlier," Kelly said.

With his footwork, athleticism and massive frame, James should be able to make an early impact on the Irish offensive line.

OT Tate Nichols, 6-7, 291, Ryle H.S., Union, Ky.

After a late offer from Kelly, Nichols quickly switched his commitment from Stanford to Notre Dame. Nichols is another lineman with great size at 6-foot-7 and 278 pounds. The tackle prospect paved the way for his Ryle High School team to go 9-4 his senior season.

"When I recruited him, he was [6-foot-6], 242 pounds. We had him on the scale on his official visit at 6-foot-7, 292 [pounds]. He is one big guy," Kelly said.

Nichols played some tight

end in high school, but Kelly said those days should be over.

"His wide receiver skills, um, he's tall. That's about it. So these memories of him will be etched in his mind because they've got no more of them," Kelly said.

OG Christian Lombard, 6-5, 293, Fremd H.S., Palatine, Ill.

The first commitment of this Notre Dame class, Lombard gave his verbal to the Irish over a year ago. An Army All-American, Lombard was also named a USA Today first team All-American.

"If you're looking at national recruits, both Lombard and James fill the bill for that, and on the offensive line, that's why we've got some short term successes and both of these guys are going to help us short term and in the future as we develop our football program," Kelly said.

ATH Derek Roback, 6-3, 225, Waverly H.S., Waverly, Ohio

A high school quarterback that had been committed to Toledo, Roback joined Kelly's offense as a talented athlete that will be used in a number of ways. Roback threw for 1,300 yards and 15 touchdowns in his senior season, but has the size to be used as an h-back in Kelly's offense.

"Wherever they needed a play, he returns punts, sweeps out the stadium after the game. He just is a guy that, you know, does a little bit of everything for his football team. Very athletic kid," Kelly said. "We think he can play probably as many as three or four positions. Great student, great kid. He's going to help our football team."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Defense

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which is absolutely crucial in the cornerback position," Kelly said.

DB Lo Wood, 5-11, 176, Apopka H.S., Apopka, Fla.

Wood had one interception and eight pass deflections as a senior as well as 58 tackles and five blocked kicks. His defense allowed only 86 points through the first 11 games of the season.

"What we liked about Lo again is a very physical player, good size, and he will compete with every ball thrown," Kelly said.

LB Kendall Moore, 6-3, 235, Southeast Raleigh H.S., Cary, N.C.

Moore was an All-American and first-team all-state linebacker his senior season at Southeast Raleigh, when he had 120 tackles and 10 sacks. The Charlotte Observer named him the eighth-best player in the state.

"[He's] a guy who will complement our defensive structure," Kelly said. "Loves to play the game, great family and someone that I really enjoyed spending time with."

LB Justin Utupo, 6-3, 250, Lakewood H.S., Lakewood, Calif.

"He arrives at the ball with a bad attitude," Kelly said. "He plays with a great passion."

Utupo was named Lineman of the Year by the Los Angeles Times and was a first-team all-state lineman on the Times' all-star team. He also played tight end.

"He tells coach [defensive coord-

inator Bob] Diaco that he's still angry after his loss, the last game of the year," Kelly said. "Somebody that will breathe a lot of energy and passion into the defense."

LB Prince Shembo, 6-2, 232, Ardrey Kell H.S., Charlotte, N.C.

"He can come off the ball," Kelly said. "I really like the way he explodes."

Shembo was an All-America team selection and rated as the 11th-best linebacker nationally by SuperPrep.

An injured ankle kept him out of all but five games as a senior. As a junior, he made 86 tackles and had nine sacks and two interceptions.

"Prince was another young man that we had to re-recruit and spend a lot of time with him," Kelly said. "[He's] another guy that can play a few different positions for us."

DL Louis Nix, 6-3, 315, Raines H.S., Jacksonville, Fla.

Nix, an All-American, played in the Under Armour All-America game. He ranked No. 59 on The Sporting News top-100 list of recruits and was ESPN's sixth-best defensive tackle. He had 50 tackles and 10 sacks in his senior year at Raines.

"Great character kid. I think he'll be a real asset, somebody that can come in and compete right away," Kelly said. "Like his explosiveness."

DL Kona Schwenke, 6-4, 227, Kahuku H.S., Hauula, Hawaii

Schwenke waited to sign with the Irish until Wednesday. Notre Dame recruiters were in the state looking at other players when they noticed him, Kelly said.

"He's a young man who came

on us late. We will say that we were out in Hawaii looking at another young man and well, it's one of those things," he said. "Your attention now is focused on somebody else. We had such a need ... for that outside guy who can come off the edge."

Schwenke was a first-team all-state selection and helped Kahuku to the state championship game in his senior season. Rivals.com rated him as the fourth-best defensive player in Hawaii.

DL Bruce Heggie, 6-6, 240, Mount Dora H.S., Sorrento, Fla.

Heggie played tight end as well as defensive line and caught 16 passes for 160 yards and three touchdowns in his senior season. He had four sacks as a defensive end and ranked 10th in his class academically with a 4.2 GPA. His dad, Bruce Sr., played at Florida State.

"He's someone we had our eye on at Cincinnati and when it worked out that the numbers were in our favor on the defensive line we felt like he could do a number of things for us," Kelly said.

ATH Daniel Spond, 6-3, 232, Columbine H.S., Littleton, Colo.

Spond was a first-team all-state selection and played different positions for Columbine. He played quarterback, cornerback, kicker and punter. The Denver Post tabbed him as the "best athlete" in the state.

"He's a guy that again has shown the ability to do a lot of jobs for us at the University of Notre Dame," Kelly said. "Big kid, can play safety, outside backer."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu



FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Class of 2014

Three QBs, OT James lead offensive recruits

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

Four-star offensive tackle Matt James highlights the class of 13 offensive players in Brian Kelly's first class with Notre Dame. The veteran coach will look to add these new weapons into his spread offensive system and replace the output of departed stars Jimmy Clausen and Golden Tate.

QB Andrew Hendrix, 6-2, 215, Moeller H.S., Cincinnati, Ohio

One of three quarterbacks signed in Brian Kelly's first class at Notre Dame, Hendrix was ranked as the No. 11 quarterback in the Class of 2010. Hendrix has prototypical size for a quarterback and a cannon arm.

"He's got a very strong arm. I think what stands out about Andrew is that he's only been a starter for a year and a half," Kelly said. "He has not played a lot of football. His best football is clearly in front of him."

He led Moeller to a 9-2 record in his senior season, throwing for 1,242 yards and recording 14 total touchdowns.

QB Luke Massa, 6-5, 205, St. Xavier H.S., Cincinnati, Ohio

A one-time commit to Kelly at Cincinnati, Massa followed the coach to Notre Dame. Massa led football powerhouse St. Xavier to a 9-3 record and passed for 1,800 yards and 16 touchdowns.

"He led a very, very good football team for three years as the starter. The offense changed on three occasions.

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY 2010
by the numbers

23 PLAYERS SIGNED LETTERS OF INTENT
12 offense, 9 defense, 2 athletes

3 U.S. ARMY ALL-AMERICANS

2 UNDER ARMOUR ALL-AMERICANS

3 OFFENSE-DEFENSE BOWL PARTICIPANTS

2 USA TODAY FIRST-TEAM ALL-AMERICANS

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

Defensive recruits will get chances early, often

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

And the defensive help has arrived.

Notre Dame brought in 11 defensive recruits Wednesday, some highly rated and others lightly recruited. But each one, Irish coach Brian Kelly said, fills a role on the team.

"Again, they fit what we're looking for here at the University of Notre Dame," Kelly said. "They're going to be able to come in and represent us in the manner that we want them to do that."

Here's hoping they can tackle.

DB Chris Badger, 6-1, 192, Timpview H.S., Provo, Utah

Badger enrolled early to Notre Dame and is already on campus working out. He was a first-team all-state defensive back and led his team to four straight state titles. He made 77 tackles and had three interceptions in his senior season.

"I love his contact skills," Kelly said.

Kelly said he likes how he can play off the hash mark and attack the ball in the air.

DB Spencer Boyd, 5-10, 175, Cape Coral H.S., Cape Coral, Fla.

Boyd also enrolled early. He played running back as well as defensive back in high school and rushed for 516 yards and five touchdowns his senior season. He was an all-district cornerback in 2009, when Cape Coral won the state title, but he missed the playoff games due to injury.

"What we liked again about the ability to tackle in the open field

see DEFENSE/page 22

First class shows Kelly's potential

This is the best recruiting class of Brian Kelly's 19-year head coaching career.

Of course, it should have been. He'd never had the opportunity to deliver the Notre Dame pitch until the past few weeks, and despite the team's recent struggles, the University and the program still have an incredible



Matt Gamber

Sports Editor

package to offer high school football stars.

There are many ways to judge the merits of this group of 23 recruits. Some will consider the circumstances of the coaching transition that certainly played a role in this recruiting cycle. Others will bemoan the two late de-commitments and the near misses of blue-chippers who signed elsewhere Wednesday.

It's hard enough to judge a class based on its individual players, considering these guys are 18-year-olds who have yet to strap on the pads at the college level. But that is the only way to judge Kelly's class today.

Seven months from now, the recruiting circumstances, the de-commitments and the near misses won't have any impact on Notre Dame's opening week game plan against Purdue. In truth, most of these 23 committed players won't either, but they'll be on the roster and in the conversation.

The point I'm making is that it is meaningless to judge this class by anything other than the players who compose it. It's hard enough to break down the guys Notre Dame signed, so why waste time evaluating and complaining about those the

see KELLY/page 21

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Physical play awaits Notre Dame

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

All Big East teams play tough and physical. But the Notre Dame players say Cincinnati may be the most physical in the conference.

"They might be one of the most physical teams in the Big East right now so it's nothing out of the ordinary," senior forward Luke Harangody said of the Bearcats, who face the Irish at the Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center tonight.

The Bearcats (14-7, 5-4 Big East) are trending up right as the Irish are struggling. They have won three of their last four games, while Notre Dame (15-7, 4-5) has lost four of its last five. In the Big East, that's hard to snap out of, but jun-

see BEARCATS/page 21



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior forward Tim Abromatis puts up a shot against Syracuse on Jan. 18. Abromatis will lead the Irish against Cincinnati tonight.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Home defeat helps Irish regain focus

By JOHN HELMS
Sports Writer

Coming into last weekend's ITA Kickoff, Irish coach Jay Louderback said Irish would get their first glimpse of where they really stood among the nation's best teams. After Notre Dame fell to No. 17 North Carolina Sunday, it found it still had some work to do to live up to its top-10 national ranking.

For the Irish, it was their first real test of the year. The team came into the match ranked No. 6 in the nation and undefeated. A week before the girls had easily defeated Iowa and Wisconsin, and a day before the defeat girls had handled Big East rival No. 46

DePaul. But North Carolina brought a new set of challenges.

"[The Tar Heels] were very intense, we gave them credit, and they came here with confidence," sophomore Shannon Mathews said. "They came out and were ready to play."

North Carolina won four of six singles points and earned the doubles point by taking two and three doubles. The two bright spots for Notre Dame were players Kristi Frilling and Kali Krisik, winning both at their singles positions and as a doubles pairing. Frilling is currently ranked 30th in the nation.

The rest of the girls are using this match as motivation and

see TAR HEELS/page 21