

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

University officials return from Utah trip

Observer Staff Report

A private jet carrying two, possibly three, University officials, including athletic director Kevin White and University President-elect Father John Jenkins, landed just before 2 a.m. Friday at Corporate Wings, an executive aircraft service company at South Bend Airport.

The Associated Press reported Thursday that White and Jenkins were in Salt Lake City talking with Utah head football coach Urban Meyer for several

hours about the Notre Dame football coaching vacancy. Notre Dame fired Tyrone Willingham Tuesday after three seasons as head football coach. White said Tuesday the search for a new head coach had not begun, but that it would begin immediately.

The plane, N42ND, landed at 1:53 a.m. The jet, which had an "ND" logo high on the tail, was en route from Salt Lake City. Once the plane landed, the officials got into two vehicles - a black BMW SUV and a sedan.

Both were waiting with drivers when the plane landed. The vehicles left through the main entrance escorted by security and University officials did not stop to talk to reporters.

One official left in the sedan, followed by the other two officials who left in the BMW.

The first signs of the Notre Dame head coaching search were evident Thursday evening, when, according to the Associated Press, the jet arrived

see MEYER/page 8



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

An unidentified man gets into a car after a jet carrying athletic director Kevin White and University President-elect Father John Jenkins landed in South Bend early Friday morning.

Merchants expect strong holiday sales

Early consumer stats promising

By KATIE PERRY
News Writer

While a new football coach had topped the Christmas wish-lists of many Domers this season, Tuesday's announcement may have caused Notre Dame students to lean toward more materialistic gift-giving endeavors and — in concert with the rest of the nation — increase their holiday spending.

Contrary to October's consumer surveys, which indicated an overall decrease in consumer confidence, recent economic studies demonstrate a more optimistic prediction of the 2004 holiday shopping season.

A poll by the National Retail Federation found that the average U.S. consumer will spend over \$700 this season, a 4.5 percent increase from last year.

The effects of increased con-

sumer confidence were felt in Mishawaka this past weekend as local retailers experienced a flurry of holiday shoppers.

"Last weekend was very busy locally and we have every reason to believe that a 4 to 5 percent increase over last year is achievable," president and CEO of the St. Joseph County Chamber of Commerce Mark Eagan said.

South Bend and its surrounding areas form a regional shopping destination that garners customers from a 50-mile radius. It is the second largest retail concentration in the state outside of Indianapolis, said Eagan.

One of the major shopping destinations in this region that experienced an increase in sales this weekend was the University Park Mall. According to mall manager Sara Zappia, heightened con-

see SHOPPING/page 4



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Christmas shoppers browse the Notre Dame bookstore's offerings amid festive decorations.

Donors react to Ty firing

Callers log mixed alumni responses

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

In the immediate wake of head football coach Tyrone Willingham's firing on Tuesday, reaction among alumni regarding donations to the University appeared to be mixed, according to students making solicitation phone calls Tuesday and Wednesday evening.

Some alumni said they would increase contributions as a result of the firing, while others criticized the action and said they intended to

see DONORS/page 8

Cable cut causes Internet outage

OIT uses secondary connection for service

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

Problems with Notre Dame's Internet service provider caused a complete outage of the University's connection to the Internet from 8 to approximately 11 a.m. Thursday morning.

Dewitt Latimer, chief technology officer, said the ISP, Global Access Points, accidentally cut cables in Chicago that included part of Notre Dame's Internet connection.

"They mistakenly disconnected our fiber," Latimer said. Notre Dame alerted the company to the outage,

which then began work repairing the cable connection.

Latimer said the Global Access Points service actually did not resume until about 12:30 p.m. but the University chose to implement its secondary Internet connection for the first time Monday.

"We had already been doing work to provide us with a backup ISP," he said. "We decided that this morning was a good time to accelerate that. ... We can no longer suffer complete outages."

During the outage, on-campus users could access Webmail, Webfile and other Web pages hosted off main Notre Dame's homepage but

could not view outside sites.

Latimer said Thursday's problem was unrelated to another Global Access Points Internet service outage that began around 2 a.m. Tuesday and lasted for about an hour.

"That was routine maintenance. ... They gave us about an hour notice," he said.

The University does not anticipate further problems with the Internet connection and intends to retain Global Access Points as its primary ISP, according to Latimer. The company has provided Notre Dame's connection for about one year.

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Madrigal Dinners ring in holidays at SMC

By DANIELLE LERNER
News Writer

The trumpets are sounding in Renaissance fashion as the Saint Mary's music department presents the annual Madrigal Dinners tonight at 7 p.m. through Sunday in Regina Hall. Now in its 32nd year, the event has become one of the College's signature events, offering both food and live entertainment to ring in the holiday season.

Richard Baxter, director of special events at Saint Mary's, says turnout for the event is always high, especially among members of surrounding communities. He said ticket sales continue to increase as the event approaches.

"People really look to it as the

beginning of the Advent season," Baxter said. "It is a beautiful way to begin Christmas."

The Madrigal Dinners offer guests a holiday feast, served by costumed waiters accompanied by colorfully attired singers from the Saint Mary's Women's Choir. Guests will also enjoy live music, jugglers and a jester, with interludes of comedic skits.

Saint Mary's junior Ashley Peltier is looking forward to her second year of performance at the Madrigal Dinners.

"Each show is different," Peltier said. "We depend on the audience's reaction to us and it is very unique compared to other theatre."

see DINNERS/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Tune in Thursday

I love watching TV on Thursdays; it has become quite a routine. If possible I start at 7:30 p.m., watching "That 70s Show" on Fox, just waiting for "The O.C." to begin. At eight o'clock it feels as if the entire campus is simultaneously watching the "it" show of the moment, and I am one more of those O.C. fans.

Sofia Ballon
photographer

The warm California weather, the infinity pool at the Cohen home, and the coffee bar at Harbor high are just some of the things that make Newport Beach so attractive. Of course there also are the day-to-day ordeals all the characters go through.

So many things have changed from last season, it's unbelievable. Just to comment on last night's show, why why why did Marissa get back with DJ the garden guy? All the former couples seem to be getting mixed up with new characters, and I can only approve of Summer and Zack. And don't even get me started on how much I can't stand Julie Cooper!

One can only take so much of high school drama though, so after "The O.C." is over, I quickly switch to NBC and tune into "The Apprentice."

This show really has me sitting at the edge of my seat! I always think, "What I would do if I were there, you know, competing with all these other very qualified people?" Of reality TV, "The Apprentice" is the only show I can stand.

I acknowledge that the participants are selected according to their personality in order to cause some conflict between them — that will obviously provide for good ratings — but the fact they are competing in the business world gives it a sort of professional spin.

Plus, as a college student one can learn from The Apprentice how to take risks in future ventures and how to avoid being fired.

After "The Apprentice" it is a good time to get ready to go out, since weekends can always start early.

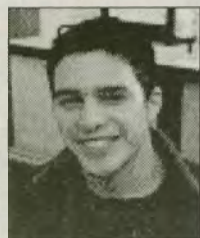
However, for those who'd rather lay low the rest of Thursday night the TV shows keep looking up. There's "E.R." and the excitement of a Chicago hospital, plus the subplots of the relationships between the characters.

Leno and Conan always seem to have great guests on Thursday nights. Yesterday there was Robert Downey, Jr., Jason Biggs and Alec Baldwin.

By now after all this TV, you should probably go to bed, I mean if you decided to stay in it means you probably had something to do this Friday morning.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Sofia Ballon at sballon@nd.edu.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM JOB?



Bill Lopez
senior
Siegfried

"I would like to be consulted for profit."



Jenalle Slosar
sophomore
Welsh Family

"Professor Cao's translator."



Katie Chenoweth
senior
off-campus

"A professional rower."



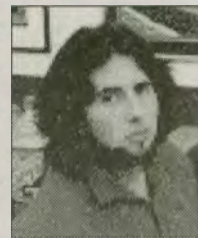
Katie McGuckin
sophomore
Lewis

"I would like to be a nonprofit consultant."



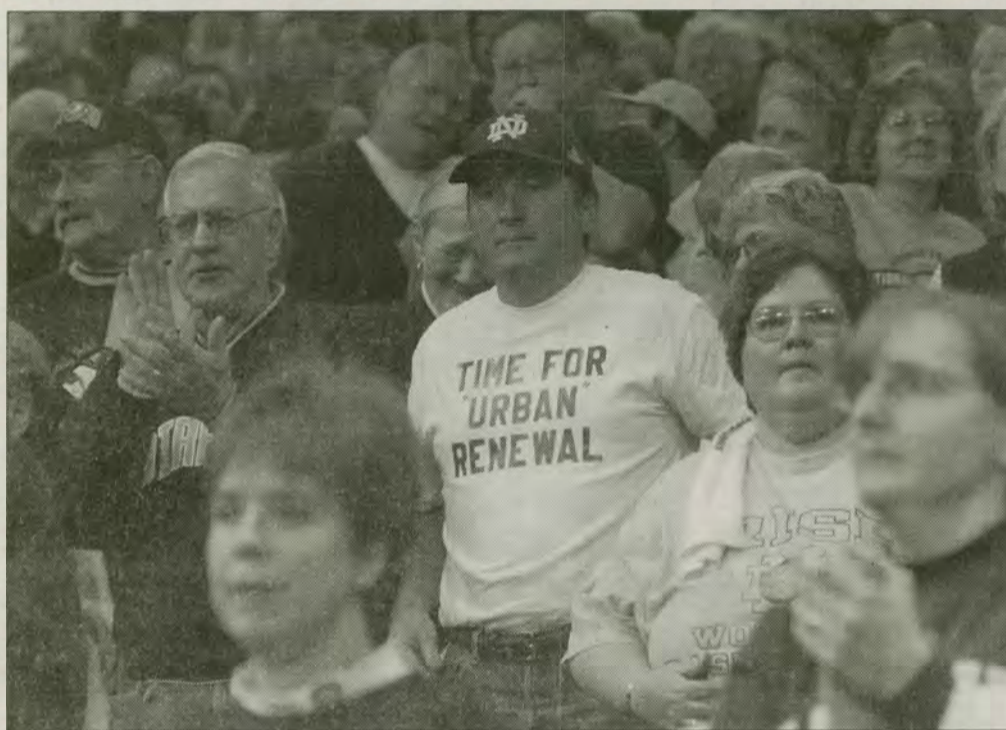
Pablo Ortega
freshman
Siegfried

"President of The Observer!"



Sergio Bohrt
freshman
Keenan

"Bolivar's head coach."



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Kevin McGrath of Benton Harbor, Mich., literally wears his opinion of the Notre Dame football coaching controversy on his sleeve in the crowd at Thursday's Irish women's basketball game. McGrath's grandfather, Mugsey McGrath, played football for head coach Knute Rockne.

OFFBEAT

Tight jeans get man arrested

BELLE VERNON, Pa. — A man accused of pointing a loaded handgun at a police officer says he's guilty only of wearing tight jeans.

Sean Eldon Duvall, 36, was arrested Tuesday on charges including aggravated assault and reckless endangerment for the June 18 incident.

Southwest Regional Police Detective Sgt. James Rega said in court papers that Duvall left his car with the .38-caliber revolver hidden under papers and aimed it at

him when he stopped to see if Duvall needed help.

Duvall told The Associated Press that he didn't need help; he said he was just stepping out of his car to go to a friend's house to play chess.

Sorry, Santa: North Carolina bans deer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Poor Rudolph won't join in any reindeer games in North Carolina this holiday season.

State wildlife officials worried about chronic-wasting disease — the deer-family equivalent of

mad cow disease — have banned the transportation of deer, elk, caribou and reindeer within the state. They have also blocked the import of the animals from other states in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease to the wild deer population.

That keeps deer farmers from moving the animals to Christmas parties, hayrides and other holiday events and is costing some of them thousands of dollars.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's "Messiah" tonight at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The 32nd annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner will take place tonight, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Regina North Lounge at Saint Mary's College.

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company presents "As You Like It" tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

"Napoleon Dynamite" will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The Student Union Board presents "Collateral", starring Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx, tonight and Saturday at 8 and 10:30 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo. Tickets are \$3.

Stand-up comedian Maria Borgio, finalist in the 2004 Laugh Across America Contest, will perform tonight at 10 p.m. at Legends. The show is free for ND, SMC and HCC students.

Notre Dame's Benjamin D. Foulois Squadron of the Arnold Air Society sponsors Children's Field Day 2004 Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The day features games, food and a festive holiday atmosphere for underprivileged children of South Bend.

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

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 1 edition of The Observer, the following statement should have been attributed to ESPN.com:

"Irish athletic director Kevin White and Ferentz are longtime friends going back to when White hired Ferentz for a coaching position at Maine in 1990." The Observer regrets the error.

In the Dec. 2 edition of The Observer, due to a reporting error, it was published that a resolution creating a new hall commissioner position was passed by the Senate. This is incorrect, as the debate was postponed until the next meeting. The Observer regrets the error.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 38 LOW 25	HIGH 29 LOW 21	HIGH 41 LOW 30	HIGH 44 LOW 35	HIGH 43 LOW 28	HIGH 35 LOW 20

Atlanta 56 / 38 Boston 39 / 28 Chicago 38 / 30 Denver 44 / 22 Houston 60 / 42 Los Angeles 67 / 45 Minneapolis 36 / 26 New York 46 / 36 Philadelphia 48 / 34 Phoenix 64 / 42 Seattle 50 / 44 St. Louis 50 / 35 Tampa 72 / 54 Washington 50 / 34

Peace activists Thanos, Schneider share experiences

By APRIL THOMAS
News Writer

In just one hour Thursday afternoon, activists Terri Thanos and Kathy Schneider attempted to explain their profound individual experiences working with peace and faith in South America.

Speaking first, Thanos expressed a specific interest in peaceful global relations.

"There are more than 40 wars going on as I speak. It is a time of conflict and despair," Thanos said.

Thanos' daughter's involvement inspired her to support the Witness for Peace organization, specifically in Colombia. The group works toward untangling the complicated, dangerous conflicts around Colombia's cultivation of the coca plant, used in cocaine production. Originally fearing for her daughter's safety, the terrified Thanos eventually joined the group as well.

"I knew the only way to get rid of [that fear] was to go down there myself," Thanos said.

Her firsthand experience shed light on Colombia's challenging situation.

"In a population of 40 million people, 50 to 60 percent live in poverty," Thanos said. Healthcare is sparse, and one minister informed her that "if we get sick, we die." The country also faces land displacement, bomb-

ings and petty crime, narcotic trafficking of coca for a predominantly United States-based clientele and governmental corruption, she said.

"Last year, \$2 billion in public funds were 'lost,'" Thanos said.

This calamity has yielded three specific opposition factions, all violence-centered, including paramilitaries, who are gunmen hired to guard land and terrorize small towns; guerrillas, formed of peasants to protect farmland and employing tactics like kidnapping and force to make money; and police/army forces trained — often in U.S. institutions — to terrorize.

The United States introduced "Plan Colombia" in 2000 to address the cocaine problem, but unevenly distributed its resources, said Thanos.

"80 percent of funding supported the fumigation of the coca crops; only 20 percent was used to find alternate food crops for these farmers to raise, and develop plans for peace," Thanos said.

Without coca, most Colombian farmers are left with no means of sustenance and self-sufficiency.

Since its introduction, "Plan Colombia" has not reduced the availability of cocaine.

"The amount and purity of cocaine import is the same," Thanos said. "As long as there is a demand, lots of money to be

made and impoverished families, it will continue to grow."

Her experiences taught Thanos that to truly be a catalyst for peaceful change, she must look inward.

"I have to find peace within before I bring peace to others," Thanos said. "I have to be peace myself."

Kathy Schneider, a Notre Dame graduate and former Holy Cross sister volunteer in Brazil, applies her past experiences to her director position at St. Margaret's House in South Bend.

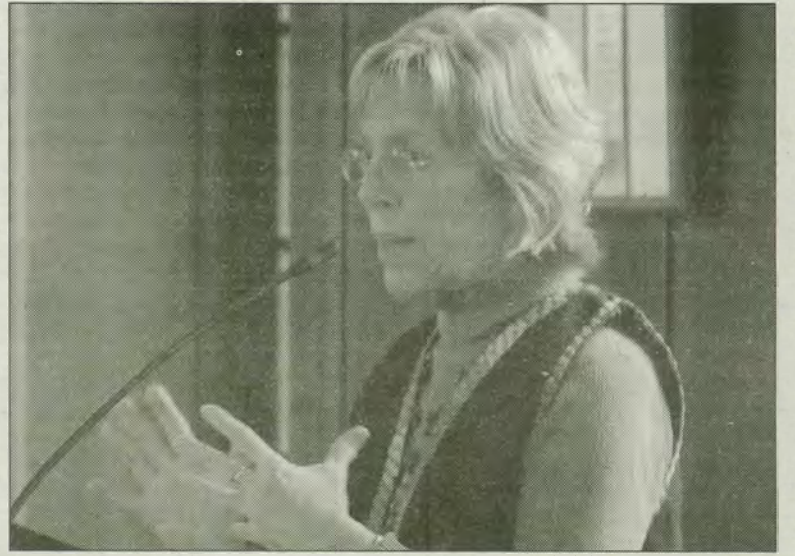
Schneider focused on liberation theology in Brazil post-Vatican II. The Holy Cross sisters' goal was to educate and encourage leadership and community-building.

"We really believed that by forming a Christian community we were empowering them; to be a church leader there was to be a community leader," Schneider said.

Through her work, Schneider, stationed as a missionary, began losing faith in God as she watched so many children dying of hunger, and tragic accidents taking the lives of the Brazilians around her.

"I didn't want to believe in a God that would let this happen," Schneider said.

Redemption came during her Lenten journey, as she discussed the Stations of the Cross with Brazilian community members



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Terri Thanos gestures during a joint lecture at Saint Mary's. She focused her talk on the importance of peaceful global relations.

through a translator. Through dialogue, Schneider was touched by these women's life stories of hardship, heartbreak and death.

"My outlook shifted from a 'Precious Moments' God, to 'my God died on the cross,'" Schneider said.

The community's acceptance awed Schneider. In Brazil, she learned the significance of sharing meals as signs of God's presence. She also recognized the importance of personal relationships and vitality of community, values she encourages at St. Margaret's House.

"All we do is create a space for the women to help each other. When we eat together, we break down barriers, letting in the spirit of God," Schneider said.

Her overall experience contra-

dicts the common belief that people in poverty will merely exude neediness and despair.

"When you go where people are suffering, you don't just find brokenness, you find goodness," Schneider said. "I went to Brazil to teach religion and they taught me faith."

Senior Kate Weiss attended the lecture to extend her fall break experience of the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership-organized Catalyst Trip.

"What Kathy said really rings true," Weiss said. "It's not how much power you have—it's how you use it."

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College is awarded \$1M grant

By ANGELA SAOUD
Saint Mary's Editor

Lilly Endowment Inc. has awarded Saint Mary's a \$1 million grant for a new Faculty Scholars Program to bring top faculty scholars to campus beginning in 2005, the College announced Monday.

A press release outlined the new program as an effort to "attract extraordinary candidates for tenure-track positions at the College by offering incentives such as course load reductions and research and professional development grants."

The incentives will provide financial resources and additional time for these new faculty members to enhance their teaching ability while engaging with the Saint Mary's community. In addition, the grant will also supply financial support for these professors to travel and present papers.

"The New Faculty Scholars Program will help us draw new talent to an already vibrant intellectual community where gifted and creative professors challenge bright students to reach new levels of achievement," vice president and dean of faculty Patrick White said. "This is just going to help with new professors' reduction load."

White said he hopes the program will help bring top faculty to the College, just as other Lilly Endowment grants are supporting top students at Saint Mary's.

"We have the Brain Drain grant which is attempting to help students, but this particular grant can help us attract the next generation of intellectual leaders in faculty members to our state," he said in reference to the College's \$750,000 Lilly Endowment INC program grant, which aims to keep students in Indiana after graduation.

During an initial three-year start up phase, part of the grant will be used for operating costs, and the remainder will help establish an endowment to support the program in the future.

College president Carol Mooney, vice president for college relations Shari Rodriguez, White and others worked on the grant application, which was submitted earlier this fall.

The program will begin in the 2005-06 academic year when Saint Mary's will offer these incentives to three new faculty members slated to start teaching at the College. After the first year, these incentives will be offered to up to two new hires yearly.

In the past, Saint Mary's has received other large grants from the Lilly Endowment including the INC program grant and \$12 million for the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership.

And although White said he was excited about the new prospects this could bring to campus, he stressed the grant was just another way to help new professors adjust to Saint Mary's.

"This is just going to help with the reduction load," he said. "Saint Mary's already has excellent faculty, but the market for faculty is going to become increasingly competitive as baby boomers retire. Schools realize the importance of teaching undergraduates and want to have intelligent, well-rounded faculty to do that."

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Shopping

continued from page 1

sumer confidence was evident.

"Based on just the first several days of the season, traffic is definitely up," Zappia said.

Although Zappia and other local retailers are optimistic about the recent trends, experience has taught them not to jump to a hasty conclusion and label the entire season a success.

"[The 4.5-percent increase] is probably a good estimate for the season," Zappia said. "However, it is really difficult to gauge after just one weekend."

James Sullivan, an assistant professor of economics and a specialist in labor economics and public finance at Notre Dame, agrees it is hard to make broad estimates on the success of the holiday shopping season when these predictions are based solely on preliminary sales and consumer spending surveys.

"Sales figures for Black Friday show a 10.8 percent increase over last year while the country's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, reported that November sales failed to meet the company's expectations," Sullivan said. "Given the mixed reviews, retailers are being very cautious in their optimism."

Recent polls indicating an increase in consumer spending are based on the current financial atmosphere and the way in which Americans perceive the economy. According to the Shopping in America survey conducted for The Macerich Company, 82 percent of the over 6,000 shoppers surveyed felt the economy this season is just as strong as if not stronger than last year.

Economists have attributed the general public's faith in the economy to a strengthened job market, a recovering economy and a heightened sense of national stability after November's uncontroversial presidential election results.

"The fact that we have elected a president without a prolonged legal battle has bolstered consumer optimism," Sullivan said. "Consumer confidence seems to be very sensitive to uncertainty."

Grace Gallaway, the online blogger and holiday shopping expert known as the "Gift Guru," has dubbed this season as the "Techno Retro Year." According to Gallaway, classic items with high-tech twists will be prevalent under trees across the nation this Christmas. Toys such as a super-up Easy Bake Oven and electronic Etch-a-Sketch are destined for popularity, said Gallaway.

Overall, however, the Shopping in America Survey found clothing to be the most popular holiday gift category — a statistic that points to a successful holiday season for Hammes Notre Dame bookstore.

The bookstore, which boasts one of the largest collections of collegiate apparel and merchandise in the nation, is bracing for a lucrative holiday shopping year. In addition to gift favorites — like Irish apparel for family and friends — the bookstore has also introduced many holiday-inspired items to their inventory.

On the bookstore's Web site, online shoppers can peruse through a section of merchandise devoted entirely to holiday-themed items such as Notre Dame Advent calendars, ornaments, decorations and greeting cards.

The Web site itself is evidence of the bookstore's desire to keep up with another recent trend in consumer spending — the increase in the popularity of online shopping.

A November Forrest Research Report found U.S. consumers will spend 20 percent more buying gifts online this season than they did at the same time last year. Sullivan is not surprised by this trend, however.

"It is reasonable to expect a rise in Internet sales as the Internet becomes more accessible and consumers become more comfortable shopping online," Sullivan said. "While the projected growth for 2004 is high, it falls well below 2003's 31-percent increase."

Contact Katie Perry at
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"The fact that we have elected a president without a prolonged legal battle has bolstered consumer optimism."

James Sullivan
assistant professor
economics

"Sales figures for Black Friday show a 10.8 percent increase over last year while the country's largest retailer, Wal-Mart, reported that November sales failed to meet the company's expectations."

James Sullivan
assistant professor
economics

Dinners

continued from page 1

New additions to the behind-the-scenes technical team are looking forward to updating the event.

"The new tech team will have the opportunity to bring in new practices this year," Baxter said. "They can bring in a new look and approach it with a fresh face."

Different from previous shows, this year's performances feature only Saint Mary's students. Sophomore Lauren Knisley said anticipation is high among students.

"This is my second year and everyone seems very excited about it," Knisley said. "It is a really fun event overall and the festivities and costumes are really different than other events."

Overall, the Madrigal Dinners are sure to bring fun, food and festivities to guests of all ages and the College as a whole.

"It is a good family atmosphere," Peltier said. "We offer live entertainment and good, clean comedy that brings families out together."

Baxter agreed and thinks Saint Mary's is the perfect place for such an event.

"It is everything Saint Mary's College is about," Baxter said. "It offers great art, great food, and a great setting as a prelude to a great season."

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ambassador appeals to Taliban

KABUL, Afghanistan — The top U.S. official in Afghanistan called on the Taliban to give up their three-year insurgency, pledging Thursday that most who surrender will be left in peace if they acknowledge the authority of President-elect Hamid Karzai.

An estimated 100-150 Taliban leaders, including former head Mullah Omar, commanders of the insurgency and those associated with al-Qaida are ineligible for the offer.

U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said he was working with Karzai's government on a reconciliation plan that could be expanded to include Afghans exiled by earlier conflicts.

Young Afghans, in particular, should surrender to village elders or U.S. troops as an "interim step" toward reintegration, he said.

"There's no need to fight, to stay in the mountains. Afghanistan has entered a new stage," Khalilzad told reporters in the capital, Kabul. "It's time for this to end."

Iranians willing to suicide bomb

TEHRAN, Iran — Some 200 masked young men and women gathered at a Tehran cemetery Thursday to pledge their willingness to carry out suicide bomb attacks against Americans in Iraq and Israel.

The ceremony was organized by the Headquarters for Commemorating Martyrs of the Global Islamic Movement, a shadowy group that has since June been seeking volunteers for attacks in Iraq and Israel.

A spokesman, Ali Mohammadi, described the group meeting Thursday as the "first suicide commando unit," though another official has claimed members already have carried out attacks in Israel.

NATIONAL NEWS

Peterson described as friendly

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — In testimony occasionally marked by tears from the defendant and his family, Scott Peterson's sister-in-law and friends described him as friendly, thoughtful and sincere Thursday as his attorneys tried to persuade jurors to spare his life.

Peterson appeared to weep softly at the defense table as his sister-in-law Janey Peterson testified, including when she told jurors about the first time she met his wife, Laci, whom Scott Peterson was convicted of murdering Nov. 12.

"She took my breath away. She was just bubbly and fun and energetic and beautiful," she testified, while Scott Peterson's mother and sister also sobbed in the gallery.

Great Lakes task force to meet

CHICAGO — Dozens of government officials plan to meet in Chicago on Friday to pledge to work together to protect, improve and restore the Great Lakes.

In May, President Bush named a 10-member Cabinet-level task force, chaired by Environmental Protection Agency chief Mike Leavitt, to coordinate Great Lakes cleanup efforts among states, federal agencies and Canada.

The General Accounting Office found last year that 33 federal and 17 state programs have spent more than \$1.7 billion on the environmental restoration of the Great Lakes.

LOCAL NEWS

Woman celebrates 111th birthday

MUNCIE — A woman celebrating her 111th birthday said she credited her long life to good genes and growing up on a farm.

Bertha Fry, whose birthday was Wednesday, said several relatives have lived past 90.

Fry did plenty of work on the farm starting at a young age after her birth in 1893.

"I believe that it started when I was very small," she told the Star Press. "My dad owned just a small farm, and there were no boys. The animals were my playthings and the articles he made for us."

Bush rejects proposed delay

Despite turmoil, president insists that Iraqi elections occur in January as planned

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush rejected calls for a delay in next month's Iraqi elections, insisting Thursday that the vote was too important to put off even though violence and chaos still grip much of the country.

"It's time for the Iraqi citizens to go to the polls," Bush said.

Bush predicted Iraq's elections would leave the world "amazed that a society has been transformed so quickly," but he did not explain why he was so adamant that balloting go forward as scheduled Jan. 30.

A number of Iraqi political parties have urged delay.

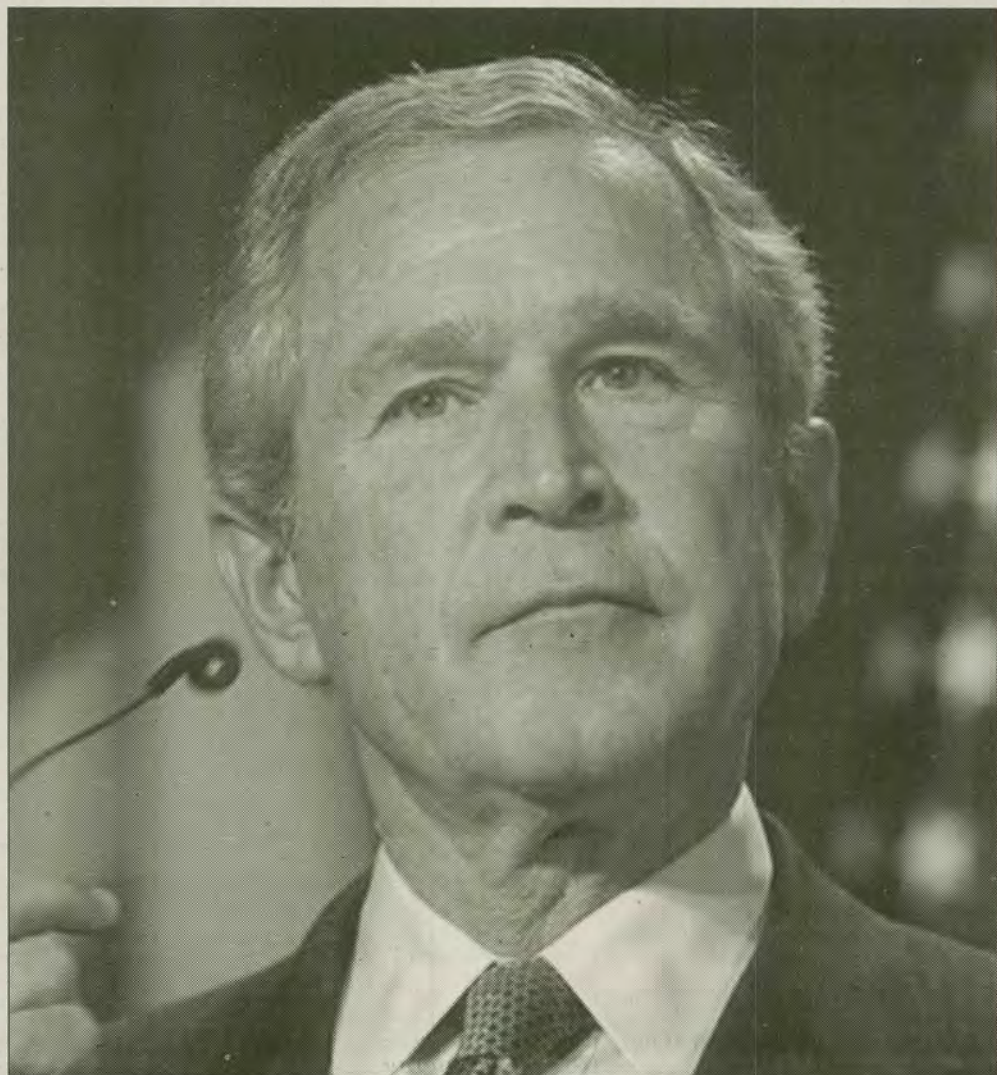
The president also weighed in on Ukraine's election crisis, saying more forcefully than before that other countries must not meddle as Ukraine sorts through its disputed vote and contemplates a new one. A runoff election last month sparked massive protests that have paralyzed the government.

"I think any election, if there is one, ought to be free from any foreign influence," Bush said, raising the stakes in what has become a proxy battle between Washington and Moscow. Both governments see the outcome as vital to their influence in the region.

Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a similar warning earlier this week. He said Ukraine's crisis must be solved without foreign pressure, though Putin continued Thursday to play a high-profile role. In Moscow, Putin hosted Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, an ally of the declared winner, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

Putin sharply criticized the Ukrainian opposition's proposal to hold a repeat election, telling Kuchma that a new vote "would yield nothing."

"We're watching very carefully what is taking place," Bush said. "But any



Ignoring the opinion of numerous Iraqi political parties, President Bush insisted Thursday that elections in Iraq were too important to be delayed any longer.

election in any country must reflect the will of the people and not that of any foreign government."

Bush spoke in the Oval Office at the start of a meeting with Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo.

As for the Iraqi election, Bush last week said he hoped the Jan. 30 balloting would not be postponed, even though 17 political parties in Iraq have urged the interim government to put it off for at least six months. Those groups want security at polling places to be ensured. On Thursday, a Sunni political party official said his organization would push forward with that demand.

But Bush was firmer than ever.

"The elections should not be postponed," he said. "It's time for the Iraqi citizens to go to the polls and that's why we are very firm on the Jan. 30 date."

Bush's spokesman, Scott McClellan, said elections are essential "to bringing about a stable and peaceful and democratic Iraq."

"This will be an important milestone as they move away from their past of tyranny and oppression and brutality," McClellan said.

On another subject, Bush steered gingerly around allegations of corruption in the United Nations' oil-for-food program in Iraq, allegations that first surfaced in January. Those charges have escalated: Two weeks ago, a congressional investigation

uncovered evidence that Saddam Hussein's government raised more than \$21.3 billion in illegal revenue by subverting U.N. sanctions against Iraq, including the oil-for-food program.

Bush did not answer two questions about whether U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan should resign, as Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn., has urged. But he said a thorough investigation was necessary to ensure taxpayers can "feel comfortable" as the U.S. government pays U.N. dues. American dues to the United Nations this year are \$362 million, not including payments to separate agencies such as the IAEA, the U.N. nuclear agency based in Austria.

Jury convicts, defrocks minister

Associated Press

PUGHTOWN, Pa. — A lesbian minister in the United Methodist Church who lives with her partner was found guilty Thursday of violating a church ban on actively gay clergy and defrocked.

A 13-member jury made up of Methodist clergy convicted the Rev. Irene Elizabeth Stroud on the second day of her church trial. Methodist law bars "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals" from ministry. Nine votes were necessary for a conviction and the jury voted 12-1 to find Stroud guilty.

It then voted 7-6 to defrock Stroud, the bare majority necessary in the penalty phase of the trial, though her supportive congregation in Philadelphia has said Stroud can continue performing most of her duties.

"I did not go into this trial expecting to win," Stroud said. "I went into it knowing it would be a painful moment in the life of the United Methodist Church."

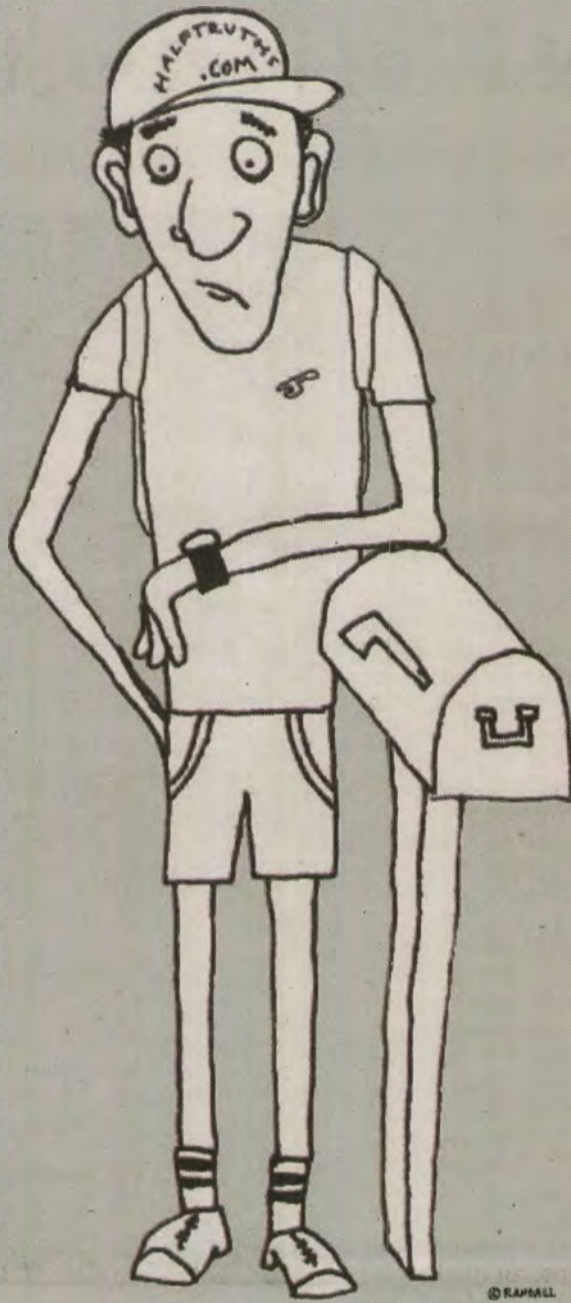
Stroud has 30 days to decide whether to appeal the verdict.

The last time the 8.3 million-member denomination convicted an openly gay cleric was in 1987, when a New Hampshire church court defrocked the Rev. Rose Mary

Denman.

Last March, a Methodist court in Washington state acquitted the Rev. Karen Dammann, who lives with a same-sex partner, citing an ambiguity in church law that the Methodist supreme court has since eliminated.

The Methodists are just one of several mainline Protestant denominations in the United States — including the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches — which are undergoing turmoil over the role of gays and lesbians in the church, particularly gay clergy. The Stroud case could easily likely make the debate over the issue among Methodists that much more intense.



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MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	10,585.12	-5.10
Up: 1,259	Same: 151	Down: 2,086
Composite Volume:		1,772,512,000

AMEX	1,402.85	-10.96
NASDAQ	2,143.57	+5.34
NYSE	7,074.82	-22.50
S&P 500	1,190.33	-1.04
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,090.03	+116.96
FTSE 100(London)	4,735.70	+32.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SIRIUS SAT RADI (SIRI)	+4.01	+0.28	7.26
NASDAQ 100 (QQQQ)	+0.38	+0.15	40.07
INTEL CORP (INTC)	-1.69	-0.39	22.71
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.59	-0.16	27.09
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-1.28	-0.07	5.39

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.42	+0.21	50.48
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.50	+0.22	43.97
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.75	+0.28	37.40
3-MONTH BILL	0.00	0.00	21.72

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-2.24	45.49
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-3.60	453.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.68	100.10

Exchange Rates	
YEN	103.4000
EURO	0.7531
POUND	0.52

IN BRIEF

Judge signs Jiffy Lube settlement

TULSA, Okla. — An Oklahoma judge approved a settlement Wednesday between Jiffy Lube International Inc. and millions of plaintiffs who sued over small fees the company charged on its oil changes.

The agreement signed by District Judge Mike Norman settles at least nine similar lawsuits from California to New Jersey over environmental surcharges Jiffy Lube charged oil change clients.

A similar agreement has been reached in New York over the fees, which ranged from 80 cents to \$1.25 at 400 company-owned stores and were as much as \$2 at some stores owned by franchise holders.

Under the deal, Jiffy Lube will provide more than 7 million customers of its company-owned stores with a coupon good for \$5 off an oil change. The company also agreed not to charge the fees anymore.

Also, Houston-based Jiffy Lube, a division of Royal Dutch/Shell Group, will tell owners of its franchises to notify customers in advance of the surcharge. Customers of franchise-owned stores do not get coupons. Not all the stores owned by franchise holders charged the fees.

Dollar rallies after hitting record low

NEW YORK — The dollar rallied after dropping to a record low Thursday against the euro amid uncertainty about whether officials would intervene to curb the currency's slide.

The euro fell back to \$1.3270 in high-volume trading late in New York after rising to \$1.3383 in European trading. The previous record of \$1.3335 was set Tuesday.

The dollar also hit its lowest point in nearly five years against the Japanese yen, falling briefly in Tokyo to 101.83 yen — the U.S. currency's lowest level since Jan. 8, 2000, when it was at 101.46 yen in Tokyo. It rebounded in late New York trading to 103.19 yen.

Traders attributed the dollar's rally to profit-taking, and to positioning ahead of Friday's release of U.S. employment data.

"We've seen a lot of the dollar bulls coming into the market today," said Nas Nijjar, a foreign exchange trader with CMC Group in New York, noting that movement ahead of the Christmas holiday tends to be slightly exaggerated.

Retailers report sluggish sales

Holiday season begins with disappointment as anticipated surge never arrives

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The nation's retailers had a disappointing start to the holiday season, reporting sluggish November sales as a much-hoped-for surge in Thanksgiving weekend business failed to materialize.

As merchants released their first solid results for the season on Thursday, retailers issuing downbeat reports included Wal-Mart, Limited Brands and Federated. Even high-end stores like Nordstrom, which have enjoyed a sales surge over the past year, had modest gains.

Among the exceptions were J.C. Penney and Sears, Roebuck, which surpassed Wall Street forecasts. Business was boosted by strong sales over the Thanksgiving weekend, as these stores successfully wooed customers with big discounts and earlier store openings.

But overall, the industry struggled through the month.

"This can't bode well for the holiday season," said Ken Perkins, an analyst at RetailMetrics Inc., a research firm based in Swampscott, Mass.

Consumers, particularly low- and middle-income Americans, have been forced to cut spending on clothing and other non-necessities as gasoline prices and grocery bills rise. They're also nervous about jobs — on Tuesday, the Conference Board reported that consumer confidence was down in November for a fourth consecutive month.

The International Council of Shopping Centers-UBS sales preliminary tally of 66 retailers increased 1.7 percent for November, lower than the reduced forecast of 2.5 percent to 3 percent range.



Women sort through the handbag selections at Macy's in San Francisco on Friday. The traditional start of holiday shopping failed to meet retailer expectations.

The tally is based on what the industry calls same-store sales, or sales at stores opened at least a year. They are considered the best indicator of a retailer's performance.

Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, reported a meager 0.7 percent increase in same-store sales. Its total sales increased 8.7 percent.

Wal-Mart's results met Wall Street's forecasts that were reduced earlier this week, after the discounter warned that its business the day after Thanksgiving was disappointing.

Costco reported same-store sales rose 5 percent.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call expected 5.8 percent gain. Total sales rose 7 percent.

Limited Brands had a 5 percent decline in same-store sales, far worse than the 4.8 percent increase Wall Street expected. Total sales declined 2.9 percent.

Federated reported that same-store sales were down 1.4 percent, well below the 1.2 percent gain analysts had forecast. Total sales declined 1.6 percent.

Nordstrom had a 3.1 percent gain in same-store sales in November, lower than the 5 percent forecast. Total sales rose 6.2

percent. But Sears and Penney had results that pleased Wall Street.

Sears, which has been languishing in a sales slump and is merging with Kmart Holdings Corp., posted a 2.8 percent gain in its domestic business, much better than the 0.3 percent decline Wall Street expected. Total sales increased 1.9 percent.

Penney had a 12 percent increase in same-store sales for the month, slightly beating Wall Street projections for a 11 percent increase. Total sales increased 9.2 percent.

Dialysis chain settles fraud case

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The nation's third-largest operator of kidney-dialysis clinics agreed Thursday to pay the government \$350 million to settle allegations it defrauded Medicare.

The settlement with Gambro Healthcare was one of the biggest in Justice Department history. The investigation followed a 2001 lawsuit brought by whistleblower Dr. Steven Bander, a former Gambro medical officer.

U.S. Attorney James Martin said that Gambro paid kickbacks to doctors for referrals to the company's clinics, submitted inflated bills to Medicare and charged for unnecessary tests and services.

As part of the settlement, the company will pay a \$310.5 million civil penalty and \$15 million to resolve potential liability in 44 states. Also, a Gambro division, Gambro Supply Co., pleaded guilty Thursday to federal fraud-related charges, agreed to pay a \$25 million fine and will be permanently barred from the Medicare program. The ban does not apply to Gambro Healthcare itself.

Martin said he does not know how much money overall Gambro allegedly bilked from Medicare. He declined to say whether individual doctors could face prosecution.

Four years ago, the company and two subsidiaries paid more than \$53 million to settle similar fraud allegations.

In a statement, Gambro said that

despite the allegations, the quality of care the company provided its patients "was never in question."

"We cooperated fully with the government to settle this matter and put behind us issues that arose during a period of rapid and complex industry consolidation in the 1990s," Gambro president and chief executive Larry Buckelew said.

For his part in the case, Bander will receive "a very significant payout" of the settlement money being paid by Gambro, Martin said.

Gambro is a unit of Sweden-based Gambro AB, with American headquarters in Denver and Nashville, Tenn. It provides about 6.5 million dialysis treatments a year to more than 40,000 kidney patients in 550 clinics nationwide.

Meyer

continued from page 1

in Salt Lake City at about 7 p.m. EST. The Associated Press reported that when White and Jenkins arrived, they did not talk to reporters as they traveled to and from the airport in an SUV with tinted windows.

The University of Florida could have an interest in

Meyer as well.

The Palm Beach Post, Deseret Morning News and The Salt Lake Tribune reported that Florida sent representatives to meet with Meyer. The Gators are looking to replace head coach Ron Zook, fired in October.

A corporate jet registered to Gainesville Aircraft Sales, Inc. left at 9 p.m. EST from Gainesville, Fla. to fly to Colorado Springs, Co. That plane, tailwing number 9575

EW, then left Colorado Springs and landed in Salt Lake City at 3:27 a.m. EST Friday.

Meyer is 21-2 in his two seasons at Utah. This year, the Utes are 11-0 and may land a BCS Bowl berth. Meyer is a former assistant coach at Notre Dame, where he coached wide receivers from 1996 to 2000.

Matt Bramanti contributed to this report.

SENEGAL

Bloody past haunts Rwanda

Country seeks revenge on nearby Congo

Associated Press

DAKAR — Smaller but mightier than its neighbors, Rwanda's greatest clout may come from its nightmare past: a widespread sense around the world that the country was largely abandoned in 1994 to face Hutu extremists who slaughtered more than a half-million people.

Concluding that only action can safeguard its people, Rwanda is now threatening to invade neighboring Congo for a third time — if it hasn't already — in pursuit of the last remaining culprits from that genocide.

As of Thursday, the world response has been muted. Some believe guilt over the inaction in 1994 likewise stifled international objections when Rwanda invaded Congo in 1996 and 1998 — the latter sparking a devastating six-nation war.

In 1998, Rwandan and Ugandan forces seized and held much of north and east Congo on the grounds that rebel groups there threatened regional security. Zimbabwe, Angola and

Namibia sent forces on behalf of Congo's government.

The war stalemated, with all sides plundering Congo's mineral wealth, until international pressure forced out the foreign armies in 2002.

On Thursday, U.N. officials cited growing suspicions that Rwandan forces may have reentered Congo. U.N. ground and air patrols photographed recently occupied encampments and unidentified, well-equipped troops. U.N. observers said they encountered what they believed to be 100 Rwandan troops at a town inside Congo — before the suspected troops retreated to Rwanda.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Security Council urged Rwanda Thursday to refrain from any military action in Congo. The comments came after the council held a closed-door briefing on the situation.

Rwanda on Thursday denied any incursions, but reserved the right to pursue the estimated 8,000-10,000 Rwandan Hutu rebels still sheltering in east Congo. And Rwandan President Paul Kagame, in a letter made

public this week, wrote U.N. and African leaders on Nov. 25 that he hoped to have any new operation in Congo end within 14 days.

A key issue: Congo's lawless east contains not only numerous armed groups — but also fortunes in diamonds, gold, cobalt, copper and timber.

If Rwanda doesn't act, its leaders say, it risks nothing less than renewed genocidal attacks.

Congo fears a renewed Rwandan occupation of its east, where most of the country's estimated 3.2 million war victims died, most civilians claimed by disease and famine.

The key question is how much of a genuine threat the Rwandan Hutu rebels hiding in east Congo's forested, volcanic hills still pose to Rwanda and its military — widely respected as tough and, by African standards, well-disciplined and well-equipped.

Donors

continued from page 1

limit donations or write letters to the University, student workers said.

"There have been some people who were excited," Phone Center student employee Danielle Palkert said. "There were also people who weren't happy that it had been done because of how well Ty conducts himself. ... I would say of the people I talked to it was probably 50-50."

Palkert said at least one alumnus she talked with intended to write a letter of complaint to the University.

"I was definitely surprised that it was so mixed," she said.

Student caller Diana Duran said while alumni generally seemed positive about the firing, others criticized the University's judgment.

"For the most part people were excited. Other callers had complaints," she said.

Of the alumni who expressed concern, some said they would take action as a result, according to Duran.

"I had another guy tell me he sent a check and then cancelled it. ... We also had people say 'we're not donating anymore,'" she said.

The average two-hour shift includes about 20 to 25 phone conversations with alumni, according to Duran.

In contrast, one alumnus told student caller Janet Claseman he planned to begin donating again after a two-year hiatus.

"It was kind of a mixed feeling," she said. "[But] a lot of people were happy."

Junior Gretchen Byars said the alumni she spoke with didn't tend to express strong sentiments either way about the Willingham

firing.

"Most of the mentions weren't of concern," she said. "They were sort of joking — there weren't really calls expressing concerns."

However, at least one alumna said Willingham's firing would cause her to seriously reevaluate her contributions to the University.

"I think it showed a gross lack of integrity," said 1979 alumna Jean Matich.

If she hadn't already mailed a check to the University this year, Matich said she wouldn't send one, and her and husband, also a Notre Dame graduate, might consider withholding future donations.

"I don't know — it may or it may not," she said about whether the firing would cause her to curtail donations. "I'm really anxious to see how the University handles this."

"For the most part people were excited. Other callers had complaints."

Diana Duran
student caller



Mike Brach, a senior director for development at the University, said news of the firing did not appear to generate significantly altered responses from alumni to phone solicitations. He said student callers keep logs of their contacts with alumni and they did not show a strong shift.

"We've not received any more [comments]. If you were to say how many references the football program received in their calls compared to last week it probably would've been about the same," he said.

But Brach said he could not speculate further on the impact of Willingham's firing for alumni donations.

Because of deadlines for inclusion in the alumni ticket lottery and tax returns, Brach said December was one of the busiest times of the year for contributions.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

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Ty made Notre Dame a better place

Class is a dwindling commodity in the college football universe. At many schools, coaches and administrators turn a blind eye to players and recruiters who scoff at NCAA regulations, bending the rules in pursuit of dollars and fame.

Not so at Notre Dame. The University spent decades cultivating the reputation of a football program that exemplified integrity at every level — from the helmet-sprayers to the walk-ons to the starters to the head coach.

This reputation took a hit with the George O'Leary hiring, then firing fiasco in December 2001, and sank further in March 2002 when four Irish football players were charged with offenses ranging from rape to conspiracy to commit rape. The class that had been Notre Dame's trademark was beginning to fade.

Enter Tyrone Willingham.

As the program's new figurehead, the coach knew it fell to him to return the Irish to respectability off the field as well as on it. He knew that image problems are not acceptable at Notre Dame. So he eliminated them — by example.

His players quickly learned that he expected their conduct to be as impeccable as his own, their dedication to be as steadfast. Their respect for their coach was evident, and many tried to imitate his professionalism.

This mission was not just confined to the locker room. Willingham's goal was not just to produce classy football players — it was to produce classy young men. He also succeeded on that front, as the team's overall GPA rose admirably during his three years at the University, and his recruits seem to fit the Notre Dame mold of true student-

athletes.

It also didn't hurt that the program's visible strides took place under a visible coach. Willingham was Notre Dame's first black head coach in any sport, a heartening move by a University with a vastly white student population. And while white students certainly embraced him — from the "1812 Overture" salute to "I heart TY" T-shirts — many ethnic minority students felt a special bond with the coach. Willingham's hiring also inspired black faculty and administrators at the University, as well as Irish fans across the country who turned on NBC on Saturdays and saw a face like their own.

But unfortunately, Saturdays were also the problem because at Notre Dame, you need to do both. As athletic director Kevin White put it in his Tuesday press conference, "We just were not meeting those programmatic or competitive expectations on Saturday. But I think I need to say, as I was thinking about it this morning, from Sunday through Friday, our football program has exceeded all expectations in every way."

At a University known for its integrity and class, the coach brought back up to speed a football program that was lagging in both. At a University with demanding academic standards, he motivated his team to embrace and meet them. At a University with a distinctive character, his own never wavered.

The Notre Dame family knows that it was better off with him as one of its members.

That's why — even though Willingham the coach stumbled on Saturdays — Willingham the man will be sorely missed at Notre Dame.

The
Observer
Editorial

Reserve judgement for future

Notre Dame flourishes because it is a family that is supported by and demands integrity, loyalty, faith, love, character and leadership.

Notre Dame football flourishes when its family is equally obliged to develop quality, value-driven young men.

The football program is an integral component of this University, and as such, it should be committed to the University's core values.

However, regardless of how strong the bonds are within the football family and how committed players are to meeting the expectations of their coaches both on and off the field, Notre Dame demands a union of winning and strong character. When one of these two components suffers, a change needs to occur.

The Notre Dame leadership was at a crossroads Monday evening and Tuesday morning — likely weighing what Notre Dame is about and what its football program stands for — and it appears that the seven decision makers did not ponder this situation lightly.

Notre Dame history shows that coaches who do not meet expectations within three years do not reach those expectations later in their Notre Dame careers. It has been 16 years since the last national championship. It has been 11 years since Notre Dame legitimately was a member of the college football elite on the field. And it has been eight years since this program had a coach who proved he could bring the team to the glory its storied tradition demands.

The factors that drive the college football machine do not necessarily match the pillars that uphold this institution. Notre Dame values both academics and sports, and thus has been unique in the way its program has functioned within the machine. However, Notre Dame football cannot sacrifice one of its two supports for the other. It demands excellence in both.

Tyrone Willingham learned that the hard way.

Did the former Irish head coach develop the moral character of his players, command the respect of his players, guide this team towards two winning regular seasons, earn the right to play in two bowl games and coach his players to defeat two top-10 teams this year? Yes.

Did Willingham coach a team that lost to rival Southern California three times by 31 points, suffered five losses by

at least a 30-point margin, saw the all-time college football winning percentage slip away? Yes.

Did Willingham fail to consistently attract top talent to Notre Dame and compile a squad that won just 11 of 18 home games during his tenure? Yes.

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White acknowledged these factors Tuesday. "From Sunday through Friday, our football program has exceeded all expectations, in every way ... Tyrone has done some wonderful things," White said. "But on Saturday we've struggled."

Willingham himself said, "I understand that I didn't meet the expectations or standards that I set for myself in this program."

Notre Dame football is not a program that rests easily with failed expectations.

It is trapped by a web that pulls it in all directions — with pressure coming from the fervent Irish football nation, the "victory is necessary" benefactors, the impatient students and the Holy Cross brass.

Faced with the dilemma of putting faith in a coach who has a history of inconsistency — for example, at Stanford — on Saturdays or pursuing an appealing coach from a field of prospectives, Notre Dame had to make a quick decision. The opportunities were ripe for Notre Dame to pick at this time and the University took the gamble that Tyrone Willingham could put this program back on the map of the football elite.

Whether Notre Dame, the football program is diverging from Notre Dame the institution remains to be seen. The unpopularity of this decision should not have been unexpected, but judgment should be reserved to see how the situation develops and what happens next to Notre Dame football.

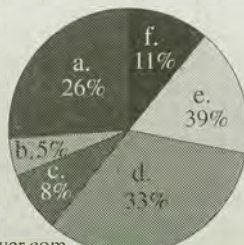
Can Notre Dame football remain Notre Dame football when its strings are manipulated by "just win" pressure instead of its established tradition and loyalty? That question may be premature. The Willingham decision could be a unique situation, and it is unfair to predict now if Notre Dame will become a coaching carousel or a football factory. One thing is clear now — the coach hired next must embrace and further the values of both Notre Dame, the institution and Notre Dame, the football program.

The
Observer
Editorial

OBSERVER POLL

Should Notre Dame have accepted the Insight Bowl bid?

- a. Yes, since it is a bowl game
- b. Yes, Notre Dame still gets money
- c. No, Notre Dame is better than this bowl
- d. No, Notre Dame doesn't deserve a bowl
- e. Both yes's
- f. Both no's



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 1,235 responses.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The man who regards life ... as meaningless is not merely unfortunate but almost disqualified for life."

Albert Einstein
physicist

Caring for our common home

The Columbia River winds for 1,200 miles from British Columbia, through Washington and Oregon and into the Pacific Ocean. It irrigates desert regions of Eastern Washington, producing many of the apples found in markets nationwide.

John Infranca

Dissident Poetry

Its water turns the turbines of mighty dams, producing electricity for homes and factories throughout the region. The river provides ample opportunities for recreation, from boating to fishing to boardsailing.

Yet these benefits come with a price. For decades salmon populations in the region have been decimated, leading many species onto the endangered list. Industry and agriculture have released over 1 million tons of carcinogens directly into the river each year, making it one of the most contaminated in the nation with regards to cancer-causing agents. The Hanford Nuclear Site, which utilizes river water as a coolant, has leaked substantial levels of radioactive materials into the river.

As this occurs, farmers, fisherman, Native Americans, loggers and others labor to provide for their families in ways that are often in seemingly unavoidable conflict. In 2001 the Catholic Bishops of the Pacific Northwest reflected on this fragile landscape with the pastoral letter, "The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good." The letter considers the ecological and economic concerns of the region and seeks to bring these realities into conversation with Catholic Social Teaching. It calls for "a thorough, humble, and introspective evaluation that seeks to eliminate both economic greed that fails to respect the environment, and ecological elitism that lacks a proper

regard for the legitimate rights and property of others."

The letter follows in a rather recent tradition of Catholic teaching on the environment. In 1990 Pope John Paul II wrote "The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility," in which he spoke of the threat to world peace caused by a lack of due respect for nature. He presented the ecological crisis as a moral problem and stressed the need for a heightened emphasis on "simplicity, moderation and discipline, as well as the spirit of sacrifice" all of which "must become a part of everyday life." Unlike many other "moral issues," environmental concern challenges those who claim it to reject the excess of our dominant societal living patterns and make needed sacrifices.

In the following year the U.S. Catholic Bishops wrote their own letter on the environment. "Renewing the Earth" stressed that mistreatment of the natural world diminishes our own dignity and sacredness and contradicts what it means to be human. Our past behavior demands we realize opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation by recognizing our failures and sins.

To speak of our past treatment of the environment as sinful is a rather strong choice of words, but it points to the

unique perspective Catholicism and Christianity more broadly can offer to discussions regarding the environments. As stewards of creation humans have much to seek forgiveness for, having wrecked tremendous havoc on the natural environment. Our ecological footprint grows constantly larger, causing

dwindling resources and exacerbating environmental blights. Churches offer an important avenue for challenging religious and other individuals to take seriously the limits of our common resources and the need to share our fragile planet with other life forms. We live in a web of life of which we remain but a part.

Religions also offer a way to move our ethical considerations forward into the future, showing concern for the unborn generations who must inhabit the world we will leave behind. The Iroquois Confederacy lived by the credo that "In our every deliberation we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations." Christians and other people of faith must recognize our urgent responsibilities to the creator who gave us the world and the generations who will inherit it from us. Catholic social teaching offers a framework through which to begin this thought process and invite others into it. This voice is needed more than ever



today. This Tuesday the Bush administration announced a proposal to dramatically decrease protections for salmon and steelhead trout throughout the West Coast, potentially reducing protected habitat by 80 percent to 90 percent. Earlier this year the administration offered a proposal to count millions of fish raised in hatcheries and released into the wild as wild fish. Doing so would reduce the need to keep truly wild fish on the endangered species list. Incidentally, the term "wild" is defined as "grown or produced without human aid." It is worth noting that all known fish hatcheries are currently operated by humans.

On Tuesday the Bush administration also ruled out the possibility of removing federal dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. While there is debate over whether the current situation demands immediate removal of these dams, most agree the dams do cause major damage to fish populations and their removal must remain an option.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops and the Vatican offer an approach to the environment that calls for respectful dialogue among diverse parties and rejects "unilateral answers" that unfairly benefit particular parties and stifle dialogue. This approach challenges individuals to make the sacrifices necessary to show respect for creation and its Creator. It demands that faithful citizens and members of the global community consider "moral issues" that will profoundly affect countless future generations.

John Infranca is a theology graduate student. His column appears every other Friday. He can be reached at jinfranc1@nd.edu.

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

Intellectual diversity benefits every student

Recent studies on higher education have lent empirical evidence to the familiar notion that university professors tend to be overwhelmingly liberal. One survey of 1,000 professors in the humanities and social sciences found a seven-

Bill Rinner

A Voice of Reason

to-one ratio of Democrats to Republicans, which is twice the ratio as a similar survey indicated nearly thirty years ago. A more specific study of University of California-Berkeley and Stanford University found a 9:1 ratio, and junior faculty (assistant and associate professors) numbers discovered a whopping 183 Democrats and six Republicans, indicating the trend is self-perpetuating. Granted, party affiliation serves merely as a proxy for ideology, but it is a relatively accurate one nonetheless.

The leftward tilt of academia is about as certain as death and taxes, but this column can only begin to address the underlying causes behind the phenomenon. Experienced academics have offered more detailed explanations underlying the trend, ranging from Allan Bloom's firsthand historical account to snide claims about the intellectual inferiority of conservatives. Duke University's philosophy department chair Robert Brandon gained notoriety when he claimed conservatives are scarce in academia because stupid people are more likely to be conservative.

While this claim may seem plausible for those who wish to reaffirm their political stance with intellectual snobbery, it hardly scrapes the surface of the root cause. The most likely factor is that the choice between academia and the

private sector leads to self-selecting distribution along ideological lines. When brilliant young college graduates decide between entering a market that will likely yield high monetary awards and trudging through five more years of graduate school with limited financial incentives on the horizon, conservatives are likely to follow the former route and liberals the latter. Exceptions certainly exist, as many liberals seek to reap the benefits of capitalism and many conservatives pursue careers as professors, but psychological trends certainly explain part of the distribution.

A more ominous explanation floated by activists bemoaning liberal gridlock is that the academy has developed an institutionalized bias that systematically discourages conservatives from entering their ranks in more than token numbers. Empirical studies will likely never yield conclusive proof that hiring or tenure committees routinely discriminate based on politics, but intolerance of conservative viewpoints or attempts at indoctrination do occur when Ivory Tower insulation creates an unbridgeable gap between students and teachers. When professors are comfortable enough to inject political rants into the classroom that hardly pertain to the course material, one can

scarcely imagine what occurs behind closed doors.

Notre Dame is a small-time offender at worst, in my experience. By and large, professors respect viewpoints that conflict with their own and invite healthy disagreement inside and outside the classroom. I can scarcely claim that

internal bias persists at the graduate and tenure-track levels due to my own inexperience, but most professors seem to accept the reality that conservative students are not an ignorable minority on campus. As my undergraduate career winds down, I realize that I have expanded my own mind by seeking challenges to my political views. I can read Hayek, Friedman, and National Review in my spare time, but taking nearly two semesters of Rawlsian philosophy forces me to reconcile my opinions with robust opposition.

Many conservative students lament taking classes from professors whose politics squarely diverge from their own, but they do not realize that understanding conflicting ideas gives them an upper hand in intellectual debates.

The strongest argument that professors should balance course materials between conservative and liberal analyses is that every student deserves to read and discuss works that directly

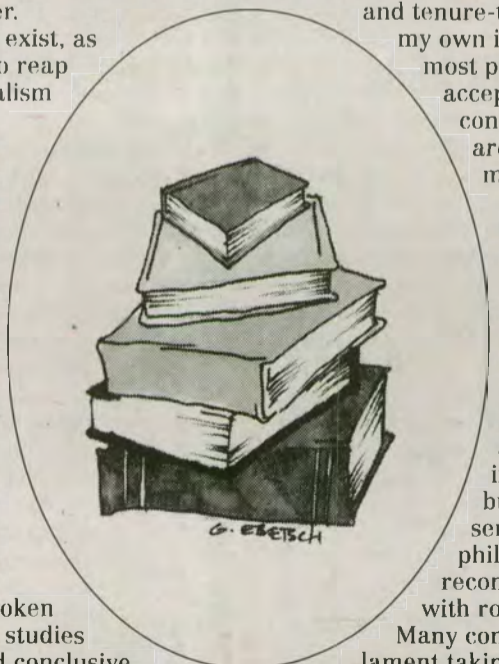
conflict with their worldviews. If a student arrives at Notre Dame already revering Howard Zinn as a brilliant and accurate historian, then he or she could benefit from a class that teaches Edmund Burke and Alexis de Tocqueville. Put simply, if liberal academics hope for the success of students who share their politics, they should not merely spoon-feed familiar arguments but diversify their syllabus.

Mark Bauerlein recently penned an article for the Chronicle of Higher Education entitled "Liberal Groupthink is Anti-Intellectual," helping to facilitate a look in the mirror amongst those willing to view the reflection. He explains that "some fields' very constitutions rest on progressive politics and make it clear from the start that conservative outlooks will not do." The institutional atmosphere of many departments almost precludes the inclusion of conservative or libertarian views, so legislative action to balance departments would be entirely counterproductive.

Instead, academics who are serious about increasing the plurality of intellectual and political stances should encourage their counterparts to diversify the curriculum. Not only will conservative students realize that academia welcomes their opinions, but every student will be able to grapple with challenges that allow them to rethink and reaffirm their existing views.

Bill Rinner is a senior economics major. His column appears every other Friday. He can be reached at hotline@aol.com.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Standing in favor of Willingham



Actions speak louder than words

I am writing to express dismay at the summary dismissal of Tyrone Willingham. Actions do speak louder than words, and in one ill-considered action we have erased much of the moral standing the University has worked so diligently to proclaim and embody. By not giving Willingham the customary five or six years to prove his effectiveness, we have sacrificed the principles of fairness and respect for persons to the most pernicious philosophy afloat in our society at this moment — “just win at all costs.” Is this really what we want to communicate to students and to the world at large?

Firing a faculty member who has been celebrated as a superb teacher and a sterling representative of

the University undermines the core values for which we stand. What is additionally dismaying about this particular unjust action is that in dismissing Willingham we also have removed from the faculty our most prominent black spokesperson. His presence on the faculty has been of immeasurable assistance in our ability to recruit diverse students, faculty and administrators to our campus. His removal will surely damage our efforts to realize one of our most oft-stated but elusive goals.

Stephen Fredman
 English department chair
 Dec. 2

Termination will hurt diversity

The Black Alumni of Notre Dame (BA of ND) is both shocked and disappointed with the University's decision to let Tyrone Willingham go three years prior to the end of his contract. The decision made by the administration is both premature and unprecedented. It disregards his outstanding first season, off-field success and increased integrity and academic strides among our football players.

The University's decision is about more than just football. In hiring Willingham, the University displayed an unspoken commitment to ethnic diversity and an open mind to hire the best regardless of color. In firing him before the end of his contract, the University sends another message entirely. This decision will affect the black community more than the University might anticipate in areas of recruiting,

student and faculty retention and Alumni participation and contributions in the future.

In just a few years, Willingham has captured our utmost respect as a coach to the football team and as a man to the entire Notre Dame community. Unfortunately, we have already witnessed some negative effects of the University's decision and expect these and more negative ramifications of the University's decision in the future. The BA of ND Board will be available to assist the University in repairing the damage resulting from this decision because of our commitment to Notre Dame.

Danielle D. Boucree
 Chairperson, Black Alumni of Notre Dame
 Dec. 2

Identity lost

I am appalled and ashamed that Notre Dame released Tyrone Willingham Tuesday, with two years remaining on his contract.

In a Washington Post article Thursday morning, athletic director Kevin White is quoted as lauding the integrity and academics of the program under Willingham. Yet it seems only winning on Saturdays count. Patience is not a virtue Notre Dame practices. We will not even meet our own contractual commitments to a 5-year period to allow Willingham to build a program.

I was once proud of my alma mater's football program and, win or lose, its emphasis on clean play and academic standards. When talking of sports and Notre Dame, I would often speak to friends and colleagues about that emphasis and how Notre Dame balanced athletics, academics and spirituality — each firmly entrenched in the University culture. Willingham personified that balance and showed great dedication to the young men who will go on in life without football, but with college degrees.

I am now appalled and ashamed that we have placed winning as our number-one priority and treated Willingham so badly. We have lost our identity and our hallowed place in athletics to join the ranks of other football factories.

Nicholas Matich
 alumnus
 class of 1981 and 1982
 Dec. 2

Alumni did not cause firing

Michael Wilbon's column “Notre Dame's True Colors” [in the Dec. 1 The Washington Post] spoke many truths flavored with some significant inaccuracies. No doubt “the powers that be” must have had Tyrone Willingham in their sights, or he would still be employed. But to claim the alumni and students just tolerated Willingham is an outright falsehood. A quick glance at Wednesday's edition of The Observer indicates the outrage of the students. As an alumnae who keeps in touch with many classmates, I can assure you the outrage is widespread among us as well. As luck would have it, I received a call from the University soliciting donations the day after Willingham was fired. When I told them I was so ashamed of their actions that if I hadn't already sent my check I wouldn't be sending one, the student making the call said he had been hearing the same thing all night. Sometimes even great institutions make mistakes. I am sorry to say I agree Notre Dame just made a colossal one, but it was not at the behest of the alums.

Jean M. Benedett Matich
 alumnae
 class of 1979
 Dec. 2

Do not justify mediocrity

I really hate how Tyrone Willingham's firing is being spun into a blight on the University's character. Somehow, by firing a coach, Notre Dame has abandoned class, abandoned honor, abandoned integrity and in fact abandoned any cares about our football program and players other than that they win? Winning and class are not mutually inconsistent. I'm sure we'll expect our next coach to have class, too.

But winning is a big part of the job, and that's exactly the way it should be. We shouldn't sacrifice classiness, dignity and honor. But why should we use those as a crutch, forcing us to accept mediocrity? If you lose a competition, it's good to be able to reflect on that loss and say “at least I lost with dignity.” It may even be good to think “better to lose with dignity than to win poorly.” But have we now reached the point where we would rather lose with dignity than win at all?

That is a defeatist attitude that accepts mediocrity and attempts to justify mediocrity as good. That attitude prevents a realistic assessment of problems and solutions. And I guarantee you, that attitude is not held by the people we revere, the people who accomplish their goals, the people who change the world. Instead, it is the attitude of the self-righteous loser who doesn't want to change.

Lou Holtz once told us not to lower our standard. I remember people who wore that shirt around campus, proudly bearing its message — we should set our goals high and never compromise them. Yet now, it seems that some people are not only eager to lower the standard, but they don't even want the standard anymore. That, more than any of the football team's losses this year, is a disgrace.



Mike Romano
 alumnus
 class of 2004
 Dec. 2

Majority misrepresented

When Tyrone Willingham was dismissed from his coaching responsibilities at Notre Dame, many people were shocked and upset, according to the press.

While I have the utmost respect for him, I was not one of these people. I, however, am shocked and upset by the way the media is handling this situation. For the most part, the media, including ESPN and even The Observer, has been misrepresenting the opinion of the majority. According to these news outlets, most people did not want Willingham to be fired and were very happy with Notre Dame's mediocrity in football. While I have not taken a poll of all the people who have an opinion on this subject, I feel very confident in saying the majority does not feel this way. Ask most alumni, read Notre Dame internet sites like NDNation, and you will see the majority actually was happy with this decision.

I may not be a professional journalist, but I do know a thing or two about journalism. One thing I do know is that the news is supposed to be objective not sided as it has been in this case. It seems as if they have been hunting and pecking to find the interviews that support the point they want to stress, that Willingham should not have been let go. I'm not asking The Observer, ESPN or any news outlet to just report on what the true majority feels, but on both sides. Instead of merely interviewing or printing letters from Notre Dame “fans” (and I use that term very loosely) that know little to nothing about college football or Notre Dame's football history and tradition, throw in a few that represent the other side, what I and most others feel is the true majority.

Ellen Fitzgerald
 alumnae
 class of 2003
 Dec. 2

The Not-So-Royal Shakespeare Company presents 'As You Like It'

One of Shakespeare's lesser-known comedies is performed by a student group

By MARIA SMITH
 Scene Editor

It would be unfair to say a Shakespearean play, which is performed less frequently than its companions, does not deserve more attention. The collection of Shakespearean works contains many fascinating stories and characters that are largely overlooked in performances and literature classes.



KC KENNEY/The Observer

"As You Like It" is a typical Shakespearean comedy of mistaken identities mixed in with the intertwined lives of all the characters.

Among the Shakespearean plays, "As You Like It" probably falls around the middle of the spectrum for how well it is known and how often it is performed. This is probably exactly where it should be. The play has some memorable pieces, but as an entire work, it is not as compelling as the more popular comedies.

The plot of the play is not as well known or as distinctive as some. When the usurper Duke Ferdinand banishes his niece Rosalind from his court, she flees to woods where her banished father, Duke Senior, also lives in hiding, disguised as a boy. She takes the name of Ganymede. Her cousin Celia, the Duke's daughter and Rosalind's close friend, flees with her and adopts the role of Ganymede's sister under the name of Aliena. The court jester, Touchstone, accompanies them to the woods. However, before fleeing to the woods, Rosalind had fallen in love with Orlando, the younger son of the recently deceased Sir Rowland de Bois, a close friend of Duke Senior. Orlando, whose older brother Oliver refuses to grant him his inheritance or birthright, has also retreated to the woods. He begins tacking poorly composed but utterly sincere love poetry to Rosalind on the forest trees, where his lover and her friend eventually encounter and read his verses. Rosalind, still in disguise, begins to act in the role of matchmaker for her love and the other people she encounters in the woods.

The scene in which Jaques utters the line, "All the world's a stage, and all



KC KENNEY/The Observer

As is the case with most comedies, the play ends happily, with love realized for most of the characters.

the men and women merely players" may be the one every audience member will recognize. The lord who is inclined to melancholy and unable to participate in

As You Like It



A comedy by William Shakespeare

Director: Meghann Tabor
Starring: Elizabeth Grams, Justin Smith, Sarah Loveland, Marty Schroeder, Jeff Eyeran, April Flores, Kevin McCarthy, Ian Novick and Tom Sutton
Stage Manager: AnaMarie Ortiz

the frolicking of the other men and women in the forest may not have achieved fame as a character, but is distinguished by the line which has perhaps come to characterize Shakespeare better than any other.

Rosalind is also remembered as one of Shakespeare's wittier and more graceful heroine. In the guise of Ganymede she instructs her lover and the other men and women around her in the ways of love. Unlike Jaques who can observe love but not participate, she falls for its folly in her own right and proves herself neither a hopeless fool nor a staunch critic.

"As You Like It" is not the best performance the company has ever put on, but does not lack its merits. The cast sometimes gets tripped up with the meaning of the language, and since the play is not one with which most students are familiar, it is more difficult to follow the development of the plot and figure out exactly who all the characters are. Several scenes seemed as though the cast had rushed



KC KENNEY/The Observer

The two central female friends, Rosalind, left, and her cousin Celia, help each other through the confusion of love and fighting family in "As You Like It."



KC KENNEY/The Observer

Much of "As You Like It" focuses on the trials of love that is not immediately returned, but eventually gained.

through them without really examining their deeper import, and the characters were not as distinct as they might have been. Several of the wittier dialogues of the play also seem rushed.

Rosalind is the saving grace of the play, which is perhaps as it was intended to be. Elizabeth Grams seems more constrained in the clothes of a woman than the guise of a man, emphasizing the freedom that seems to come with donning the clothes, not just of another person, but of another gender. Rosalind may charm Orlando in skirts, but she charms everyone, including the audience, in pants, hat and a jacket. Even Orlando seems to enjoy the process of learning to woo with the aid of the playful youth. Even the dialogue between Celia and Rosalind

seems to carry hints of a lovers' sentiment. Critics have raised the question of homoeroticism in a play where love and gender bending are so loosely mixed, and Graham's performance brings the theme out subtly but not imperceptibly.

If you are particularly fond of Shakespeare you might want to take advantage of this chance to add to the list of plays with which you are familiar. If you want to see Not So Royal in its true luster, it would be better to wait for another performance. Or you can disregard the opinions of a critic and watch the adventure of another set of Shakespearean characters yourself — just as you like it.

Contact Maria Smith at msmith@nd.edu



KC KENNEY/The Observer

With a large cast of characters, "As You Like It" stays interesting and involved throughout the play, keeping the stage engaged in action.

Christmas Cookies for the holidays

*Don't wait for Mom's Christmas cookies,
make some of your own*

By MAUREEN MALLOY
Scene Writer

In my opinion, one of the best holiday traditions is baking Christmas cookies. This activity leads to my absolute favorite activity — eating Christmas cookies. If you're anything like me and can't wait to get home to indulge in your Mom's gingerbread or snickerdoodles, organize a simple cookie exchange party. Invite your friends (preferably ones who aren't hopeless in the kitchen since you're going to be eating what they baked!) to each bring a batch of their favorite cookies and the recipe for swapping at the party. With some Christmas music playing the background, have each baker tell a little about their recipe before digging into the cookies. Also make sure to have plenty of hot cocoa, tea or coffee to wash down all treats. Try to resist from eating all the cookies, and that way each party attendee gets to take home a variety of holiday treats that will be something to hold on to during finals. If you don't have any Christmas cookie recipes, or are looking for a new favorite, try some of these yummy goodies.

Coconut Oatmeal Cookies

1 1/4 cups butter, softened
3/4 cup packed brown sugar
1/2 cup white sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 1/2 cups rolled oats
3/4 cup flaked coconut
1 cup white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). In a medium bowl, cream together butter, brown sugar and white sugar. Mix in the egg and vanilla. Combine flour and baking soda; blend into creamed mixture. Stir in the rolled oats, coconut and white chocolate chips. Drop dough by rounded tablespoons onto un-greased cookie sheets. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in preheated oven, or until lightly browned. Cool on wire racks.

Recipe courtesy of Claire Kalpakjian, Copyright © 2004; www.allrecipes.com. All Rights Reserved

Devil's Food Cookies

1 box (18 1/4 ounces) devil's food cake mix
2 eggs
1/4 cup hot coffee or hot water
1/2 cup vegetable oil
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 cup semisweet chocolate pieces
1 cup chopped pecans
3/4 cup bits of chocolate-toffee candy
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Combine cake mix, eggs, coffee, oil and flour in large bowl. Beat on low speed until all ingredients are moistened; then beat on high speed for 2 minutes.

Dough will be sticky. Fold in chocolate pieces, pecans and candy until evenly distributed. Using about half of the batter, drop by heaping tablespoonfuls onto un-greased baking sheet, spacing 2 inches apart. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes. Let the cookies cool on the baking sheet on a wire rack for 4 to 5 minutes or until firm. With a metal spatula, transfer the cookies to the wire rack to cool. Repeat with the remaining batter. Serve slightly warm or store in an airtight container for up to 2 weeks.

Recipe courtesy of Family Circle. Copyright © 2004 Television Food Network, G.P., All Rights Reserved

Peppermint Hot Chocolate

1 1/2 cups heavy cream
1 1/2 cups milk
1/4 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon salt
6 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
3 drops peppermint oil
Sweetened whipped cream, for garnish
Chocolate shavings, for garnish

In a saucepan, combine the cream, milk, sugar and salt. Heat over medium-low heat. When the cream mixture just begins to steam, add the chopped chocolate and stir until melted. Stir in the peppermint oil. Divide the hot chocolate among mugs and top with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

Recipe courtesy of Jackie Riley. Copyright © 2004 Television Food Network, G.P., All Rights Reserved

Contact Maureen Malloy at mmalloy1@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish look for fourth win against Michigan

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's Mike Brey and Michigan head coach Tommy Amaker are good friends, but they won't be on Saturday.

Both men coached as assistants under Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski. During the national signing day press conference Nov. 10, Brey mentioned Amaker more than once as a colleague he confers with often.

But Michigan (3-3) is caught in the middle of a three-game losing streak. The Wolverines welcome Notre Dame (3-0) into Crisler Arena at 12 p.m. Saturday, and Michigan's hunger for a win will be one of many factors that force Brey and Amaker to focus on only the game.

"Michigan-Notre Dame is a lot bigger than Brey-Amaker," Brey said. "So you've got to play the

game."

Notre Dame's first road game will appear on ESPN, the first of 13 nationally televised Notre Dame basketball games this season.

The Irish are 3-0 despite averaging just 64.3 points per game. Notre Dame struggled at points in its first three games but managed wins through its easiest stretch on the 2004-05 schedule, beating Harvard, Quincy and Charleston Southern.

But the strip of 'gimme' games is over.

"I don't know if you ever know [your team] until you play a Big Ten team on the road," Brey said. "We know they will be very cornered. It will be an unbelievable atmosphere. They'll come after us."

Michigan tests Notre Dame Saturday in the first of three critical games over seven days for the Irish. Notre Dame will travel to Bloomington, Ind.

Wednesday night to play Indiana. Then the Irish will return to host historical rival DePaul the following Saturday, Dec. 11.

"It's a key week for us," Brey said. "This challenge will be good for this group."

Saturday's game is just as crucial to Michigan as the next week is to Notre Dame.

The Wolverines fell to 3-3 after beginning the season with three straight wins over Binghamton (59-46), Colorado (69-60) and Sacramento State (70-49).

Michigan placed fourth in the Preseason NIT, losing to No. 18 Arizona in overtime (61-60), Providence (72-63) and No. 4 Georgia Tech (99-68), losing to the Yellow Jackets in blowout fashion.

Michigan is 3-0 at home so far and has a perfect chance to rebound with a win at home in front of what should be a sold-

out, 13,751-seat capacity crowd.

"They play pretty darn confidently in Crisler," Brey said.

Experienced guards Chris Quinn and Chris Thomas will be Notre Dame's main weapons to fight the crowd noise and the Wolverines.

Quinn leads all Notre Dame scorers, averaging 17.3 points per game. Thomas leads the team with 22 assists in three games as the primary point guard. Combined, the two guards score 31.3 points per game, with 26 assists and only four turnovers overall.

"Chris and Chris really have to set the tempo," Brey said.

Michigan's players have had up-and-down years so far.

Dion Harris leads the Wolverines in scoring with an average of 15.8 points per game. Four players average double-figure points, including Harris, Courtney Sims (11.3), Daniel Horton (11.2) and Lester

Abram (10.0).

Brey said Michigan also is formidable on the other side of the court.

"They really smother you defensively," he said. "They have the athletic ability and length to do that."

For all of the respect Michigan's defense commands, the Wolverines have turned the ball over 95 times to only 74 assists made. Horton, a 6-foot-3 guard, has made 29 assists and committed 29 turnovers. And Michigan has had more assists than turnovers in every game so far this season except its loss to Providence (19:9).

Michigan leads the all-time series with Notre Dame, 12-7. The Irish won the last game of the series, though, with a 75-65 victory in the first round of the 2000 NIT tournament.

Contact Pat Leonard at
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Spartans

continued from page 20

Erwin. She had just an outstanding game."

After a poor first half, Notre Dame came to play in the second half, giving up just 29 points and scoring 40.

"We made some adjustments in the second half," McGraw said. "I was pleased with the offense in the second half."

The Irish were up 62-56 with just under three minutes to play when Michigan State came back, cutting the score to 69-65 with 22 seconds left.

But Irish freshman Charel Allen fouled Lindsay Bowen when she was shooting a 3-pointer, and Bowen made all three free throws, to get the Spartans within two.

"I thought we should have won the game in regulation," McGraw said. "We were up six, and the foul call on the three-point shot, I thought turned the entire game around. That was the difference in the game."

With the Irish up 69-67, Megan Duffy hit one of two free throws to put the lead at three. But with 14 seconds to play, Bowen hit a 3-pointer from the corner to tie the game at 70. Preseason All-American Jacqueline Batteast

missed a turnaround jumper to win the game for the Irish.

McGraw said she was disappointed with the way the Irish played down the stretch.

"Unfortunately they executed better than we did," McGraw said. "They showed some poise down the stretch that we didn't. They're a great team, and they played a great game."

"It's all mental. I think you've got to be mentally tough. I think we definitely caved in mentally in the last couple minutes of the game."

Duffy finished with 19 points for the Irish to go along with five assists. She played all 45 minutes for Notre Dame. Batteast, howev-

er, shot 6-for-25 from the field, good for 16 points. She also had a team-high nine rebounds.

For Michigan State, Bowen finished with 23 points and five rebounds. Kristin Haynie was 6-for-10 for 17 points and 10 rebounds. Kelli Roehrig added 14 points and nine rebounds. McGraw said she was a big part of the Spartan win.

"She's huge," McGraw said. "We didn't have anybody who could guard her really. I thought Teresa [Borton] did a decent job for the most part, but she just takes up so much space, you can't get around her. I thought when she was out of the game, that was part of when we made our comeback."

For the Irish (7-1), the loss was disappointing after they had played so well in the first seven games of the season.

"We fought back in the second half and played pretty decent," Duffy said. "The end of the second half was completely our fault. We made too many mental mistakes."

Notes:

◆ Courtney LaVere did not play Thursday as she suffered a torn meniscus in her left knee during the Irish win over Duke. She had successful arthroscopic surgery Tuesday and is expected to be out four-to-six weeks.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at
hvanheog@nd.edu

Hurt

continued from page 20

this learning experience shouldn't have happened in the first place.

With 22 seconds left, Notre Dame freshman Charel Allen might have nicked Michigan State's Lindsay Bowen as the Spartan star fired a desperate 3-point attempt. Michigan State coach Joanne McCallie thought Allen committed a foul. Irish coach Muffet McGraw seemed to disagree. But the person who matters the most — the man in stripes — blew his whistle, signaling a foul.

The boo birds came calling from the home crowd as Bowen sank three straight free throws, cutting the Irish lead to 69-67.

Irish guard Megan Duffy was fouled before an inbound pass was made, and headed to the line to put her team up by four. But the usually reliable Duffy — who had missed just one free throw in 38 attempts this season heading into Thursday night — clanked the second of two with 22 seconds remaining, leaving the door open for Michigan State.

The Spartans took advantage.

Bowen drilled an incredible 3-point shot from the corner to tie the game at 70-70 and force overtime. That's when Michigan State took over.

Notre Dame has faced its share of adversity through this early part of the season. They found ways to beat top-10 Duke and Ohio State. They came from behind against Southern California to win on the road. And they held off a pesky Valparaiso team Tuesday.

But the Irish simply didn't have enough gas left to pull off a win in this roller coaster game.

With Courtney LaVere sidelined with a torn meniscus, the Irish were thin in the paint, especially after Crystal Erwin fouled out with 38 seconds to go.

It also didn't help that All-American Jacqueline Batteast had her worst shooting game of the season.

And when you add a critical foul, uncharacteristically poor free throw shooting and an amazing 3-pointer from Michigan State, you've got Notre Dame on Thursday night.

The only thing left for the Irish now is to look forward, not back. They had a chance to start 8-0. That's gone. They could have maintained or improved their No. 3 ranking. That's history. And they had the opportunity to put another game against a top-15 team in the 'W' column by the first weekend in December. That chance is now out the window as well.

It's more than disappointing to lose such a hard-fought game, but it shouldn't have long-term effects for Notre Dame. They've got a

much needed week off. They play several weaker teams in the next few weeks. And the loss was against a non-conference foe, in early December, in a game that won't affect NCAA seeding.

But don't tell that to the Irish players or coaches. They know this one slipped away.

"Unfortunately, they executed better than we did," McGraw said. "They showed some poise down the stretch that we didn't. ... You've got to be mentally tough. I think we definitely caved in mentally."

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Joe Hettler at

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I think Giambi should just start roiding again... now that the cat's out of the bag.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish to take on Valpo in NCAA's

By **MIKE GILLOON**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has won 15 of its last 18 matches. But this weekend they have a chance to win respect.

The Irish will compete in the first round of the NCAA volleyball tournament tonight at 5 p.m. in a match against Valparaiso in Madison, Wisc. Despite capturing both the Big East regular season and tournament titles, the Irish are not ranked in the USA Today/CSTV Top 25. A win over the Crusaders combined with a victory Saturday against the winner of the Loyola Chicago-Wisconsin match should propel the Irish into the national spotlight.

However, with a school record mark of 29-4, Valparaiso is a difficult first-round opponent for the Irish. The Crusaders, champions of the Mid-Continent conference, snapped an 18-match losing streak against Notre Dame on Sept. 7 with a five-game triumph in the Joyce Center. The Irish won the first and fourth games but fell 15-12 in the decisive fifth game.

Valparaiso is making its second straight NCAA tournament appearance and is led by MCC player of the year Lauren Moulton, who averaged 3.36 kills per game with a hitting percentage of .293. Setter Katie Bova averages nearly 13 assists per game and was

named first-team all-conference along with Moulton.

Notre Dame is on a roll after winning the Big East tournament title two weeks ago with victories over Boston College and Pittsburgh in the semi-finals and finals, respectively. Just last week, the Irish won the Baden Thanksgiving tournament in Long Beach, Calif. over NCAA qualifiers Long Beach St. and UC Irvine. Notre Dame swept UC Irvine and then needed five games to beat Long Beach State. Outside hitter Emily Loomis came up big for the Irish as she turned in a career-high 29 kills and hit .414. Long Beach State was up 14-12 in the fifth game and needed only one more point to win the match before Notre Dame rallied for four straight points and the first victory over the 49ers in program history.

One positive for the Irish this weekend will be the presence of Lauren Kelbley. The junior has been bothered lately with a foot injury but is expected to play against Valparaiso tonight.

This will be the 13th consecutive NCAA tournament appearance for Notre Dame, one of only eight programs in the country to have appeared so often. It is the second longest streak of its kind among all Irish varsity sports as only fencing has more.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

FENCING

Backups get chance in Culver

By **MATT PUGLISI**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's second stringers will have a chance to prove their value this weekend when the Irish travel to Culver, Ind. to compete in the Culver Cup Individuals Saturday at 8 a.m.

"This coming weekend is for junior-varsity fencers — it's for our walk-ons, for others," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "We wanted to give them the opportunity to compete in a sectional competition and give them an opportunity to progress. Our first squad will not go there, but all others who have the goal or ambition to be on the team should show the class, the progress."

With the six-day North American Cup Event slated to begin December 10, the Irish will hold back the cream of the

crop and continue training for the prestigious event instead of sending it to Culver this weekend.

"Generally, we are not sending our first team, because they will compete a week later at the North American Cup, which is kind of the trials for the national Olympic team," Bednarski said. "The best will go then. We have two weeks in which we will check all of the fencers."

Nevertheless, while the first squad might be staying at home this weekend, Bednarski does not believe the talent level at the Culver Cup Individuals will be diluted.

"It's not a national competition or collegiate, it's open to everybody," Bednarski said. "Sometimes such a competition is strong — non-collegiate fencers are strong, too, sometimes better than collegiate fencers. In some weapons it's a

very tough tournament."

In addition to the World Cup Event and the Penn State Max Garret Open in early November, the upcoming Culver Individuals and North American Cup Event provide Irish fencers with a chance to demonstrate their skills and boost their individuals rankings — a key to success come the NCAA championship.

"We give them individual opportunities to rise in the rankings," Bednarski said. "That's why we compete in the individual competitions—to give our fencers a higher rank. Later, we bring the ranks to the collegiate NCAA tournaments, and they are seeded according to how they are ranked. First job is to have a good ranking, and they will fight for a ranking according to their levels."

Contact Matt Puglisi at mpuglisi@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles to face Olivet Saturday

By **KEVIN BRENNAN**
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will look to return to its recent winning ways Saturday.

The Belles travel to Olivet, Michigan to take on the Olivet Comets at 3 p.m. at the Upton Center.

Saint Mary's will attempt to rebound from Wednesday's disappointing loss to Albion. In that game,

the Belles led at half, but watched the game slip away as Albion mounted a 23-4 second half run to secure the victory.

Before the loss, Saint Mary's had been hot, winning its three previous games. The Belles defeated Manchester College and won twice last weekend at the Knox College Classic. Saint Mary's was never really challenged in any of the three games.

Olivet, a rival member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, should pose a stiff challenge for the Belles. The Comets, under coach Deanna Richard, have started the year with a 4-1 record. Most recently, the team won the Comet Classic by defeating Division II opponent Northwood 64-49 on Sunday.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbrenna4@nd.edu

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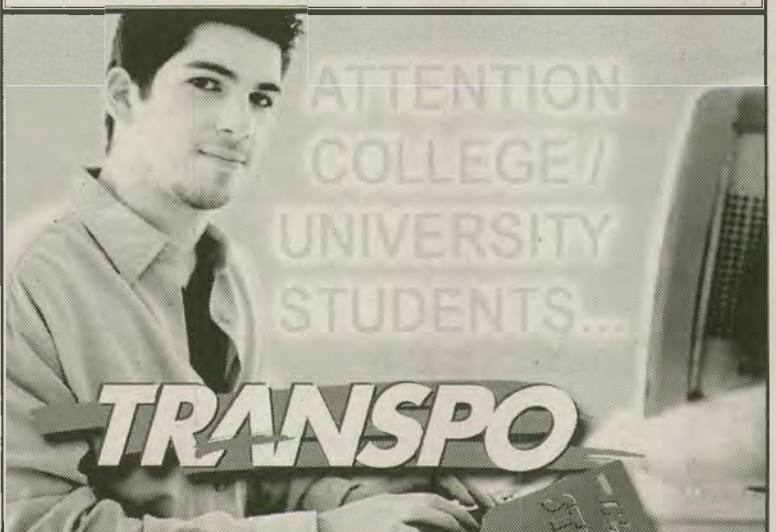
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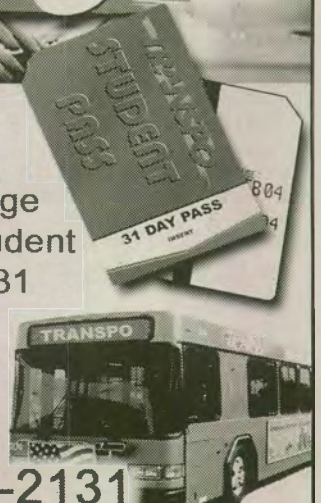
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AROUND THE NATION

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COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Friday, December 3, 2004

Men's Basketball

ESPN/USA Today Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Wake Forest (22)	5-0	755
2	Kansas (5)	2-0	732
3	Illinois (1)	4-0	664
4	Georgia Tech (1)	3-0	653
5	Syracuse	5-0	629
6	Connecticut	1-0	594
7	Oklahoma State (1)	3-0	580
8	Kentucky (1)	3-0	566
9	Michigan State	3-0	528
10	Duke	3-0	486
11	North Carolina	4-1	467
12	Maryland	3-0	434
13	N.C. State	4-0	339
14	Pittsburgh	3-0	337
15	Texas	3-1	308
16	Washington	4-0	291
17	Louisville	3-1	263
18	Florida	3-0	235
19	NOTRE DAME	3-0	195
20	Arizona	3-2	193
21	Mississippi St.	5-1	181
22	Alabama	4-1	160
23	Wisconsin	2-1	90
24	Cincinnati	3-0	83
25	Virginia	4-0	77

Men's Basketball

AP Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Wake Forest (40)	5-0	1,737
2	Kansas (18)	2-0	1,678
3	Syracuse (4)	5-0	1,582
4	Georgia Tech (7)	3-0	1,580
5	Illinois (1)	4-0	1,540
6	Oklahoma State (2)	3-0	1,420
7	Connecticut	1-0	1,329
8	Kentucky	3-0	1,284
9	North Carolina	4-1	1,134
10	Duke	3-0	1,129
11	Michigan State	3-0	1,073
12	Maryland	3-0	1,018
13	Pittsburgh	3-0	782
14	Washington	4-0	770
15	Mississippi St.	5-1	743
16	N.C. State	4-0	722
17	Louisville	3-1	584
18	Texas	3-1	507
19	Florida	3-0	447
20	NOTRE DAME	3-0	442
21	Arizona	3-2	413
22	Alabama	4-1	381
23	Iowa	3-1	367
24	Virginia	4-0	235
25	Wisconsin	2-1	114

Men's Central College Hockey Association

team	CCHA	overall
Ohio State	7-2-1	9-4-1
Michigan	7-1-0	9-3-1
Nebraska-Omaha	5-4-1	7-4-1
Alaska Fairbanks	5-3-0	6-4-0
Bowling Green	4-2-2	7-3-2
Lake Superior	4-5-1	4-7-1
Northern Michigan	4-3-1	6-4-2
Miami	3-6-1	5-8-1
NOTRE DAME	2-5-3	3-6-4
Western Michigan	3-6-1	7-6-1
Michigan State	3-5-0	6-7-1
Ferris State	1-6-1	4-9-1

NFL



Former Miami Dolphins running back Ricky Williams, right, slips away from New York Jets linebacker Sam Cowart as he picks up 21 yards on a pass play. Williams has rejected a bargain from the NFL and will not return.

Williams ends NFL career, opts for holistics

Associated Press

MIAMI — This could be it for Ricky Williams. He just doesn't want to play football.

The 2002 NFL rushing champion rejected a deal to serve a four-game drug suspension this season and return to the field next year. He'll stay retired instead, and his lawyer, David Cornwell, doesn't believe Williams will play again.

"Ricky indicated to me that he is no longer interested in resuming his career at this time," Cornwell said in a statement e-mailed to The

Associated Press on Thursday.

The 1998 Heisman Trophy winner needed to let the league know his decision by Thursday so he could be moved from the retired list to the suspended list by the deadline. He would have served the suspension for the Miami Dolphins' final four games, starting Dec. 12 at Denver.

"Ricky Williams has declined to accept the terms of his reinstatement," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Those terms included a promise Williams would play next season and re-enter the NFL drug pro-

gram immediately.

"The NFL sought assurances that Ricky is indeed committed to playing," said Cornwell, who would not disclose exactly why Williams decided against the deal.

Dolphins spokesman Harvey Greene wouldn't comment, saying the matter is between Williams and the NFL.

Williams, 27, stunned his team by retiring shortly before Miami opened training camp in July. The Dolphins filed a lawsuit in federal court against the running back, seeking the \$8.6 million an arbitrator ruled he owes the team for

breaching his contract. Williams is fighting the decision.

He gave up the \$5 million he would have earned this season, which would have been his sixth in the NFL, amid reports he faced suspension for substance abuse. He is now enrolled in a 17-month course at the California College of Ayurveda in Grass Valley, Calif., studying holistic medicine.

Williams has social-anxiety disorder and was a spokesman for an anti-depressant. He said marijuana helped him after he stopped using the anti-depressant.

IN BRIEF

Friday vote to approve Expos move to Washington

WASHINGTON — With or without an agreement with Peter Angelos, baseball appears ready to officially award the Montreal Expos to Washington.

Commissioner Bud Selig scheduled a conference call for Friday for a vote by the owners to approve major league baseball's first relocation in 33 years. The vote, originally set for Nov. 18, was delayed in part because Selig had hoped to work out a deal with the Baltimore Orioles owner to ensure a unanimous decision.

"I like 30-0 votes," Selig said Thursday after a speech to the Greater Washington Board of Trade. "But every so often I don't get 30-0 votes."

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, met with Angelos this week in an attempt to reach an agreement that would protect the value of the Orioles franchise, which Angelos says will be hurt by having a

team just 40 miles away. Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich said this week the matter could wind up in court.

Selig declined to discuss the negotiations with Angelos, other than to say there was no deal yet.

"We have had a close relationship and we still have a very close relationship," Selig said.

NHL union to resume negotiations after 3 months

NEW YORK — The NHL accepted an invitation from the players' association on Thursday to return to the negotiating table in an effort to end the lockout that began nearly three months ago.

In a letter sent to NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on Thursday, players' association executive director Bob Goodenow proposed that the sides meet next week in Toronto and said the union is working on a new proposal.

No official talks have occurred since Sept. 9, when the union made its last offer. The lockout reached its

78th day Thursday.

"We look forward to meeting with the NHL Players' Association next week," said Bill Daly, the league's chief legal officer. "We are hopeful that the NHLPA's offer will be a meaningful effort to address the league's economic problems. When we receive the proposal, we will evaluate it closely and respond appropriately."

The last offer by the NHLPA was a luxury tax-based deal that was rejected by the league, and the lockout began one week later. As of Thursday, 334 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star game, have been wiped out.

The offer to resume talks came just hours before the league's general managers prepared to get an update from Bettman during a dinner meeting in New York.

The players' association said its new proposal should provide the basis for a new collective bargaining agreement.

around the dial

NBA

Pistons at Spurs 8 p.m., ESPN

Pacers at Kings 10:30 p.m., ESPN

NCAA Women's Soccer

Santa Clara vs. NOTRE DAME 4:30 p.m., ESPN2

HOCKEY

No. 5 Michigan awaits the Irish arrival

Team will play at Ann Arbor tonight and home Saturday

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

While Irish students prepare to get ready for final exams, the Notre Dame hockey team is getting ready for a major test of its own.

Notre Dame (3-6-4, 2-5-3 in the CCHA) faces conference powerhouse No. 5 Michigan (9-4-1, 7-1-0) in a two-game home-and-home series this weekend. The Irish will travel to Ann Arbor for a game tonight before returning to the Joyce Center for the second game of the series on Saturday.

The Irish shocked Michigan near the end of last season, sweeping the Wolverines in a two-game series at the Joyce Center by scores of 4-1 and 5-2 in February. Notre Dame also won in its last trip to Michigan's Yost Arena — a 4-3 victory on Nov. 23, 2002.

Notre Dame comes into the game after a split on the road last weekend against Alaska Fairbanks. The Irish won the first game in that series by a score of 3-2 before falling in the second game by the same score.

The Wolverines, meanwhile, are in a bit of a slump, having lost their last two games. Both

defeats came at the hands of ranked teams, however, as Michigan lost 5-1 to No. 2 Minnesota and 3-1 to No. 3 Wisconsin at the College Hockey Showcase last weekend.

"I think you can couple [Michigan's thoughts of revenge over last year's sweep] with the fact that they lost two games this weekend," Irish coach Dave Poulin said. "But Michigan is always a good team, and it shouldn't take them long to get back where they need to be. I'd still say that last season is probably in the back of their minds, though."

Both losses came to non-conference teams, however, so the Wolverines have maintained their second-place position on the CCHA standings with 14 points, one point behind leader Ohio State. Notre Dame's nine points is currently tied for eighth in the conference with Miami of Ohio and Bowling Green.

Last season, the Irish were aided in their sweep of the Wolverines when star goalie Al Montoya was injured early in the first game of the weekend and did not play at all in the second game. Montoya, a junior who was picked sixth in this year's NHL entry draft by the New York Rangers, is healthy and is expected to be in net in this weekend's matchup.

He has had a bit of a slow start to this season, only collecting a .893 save percentage and



Junior Tim Wallace awaits a pass in a Nov. 5 game against Bowling Green. The Irish will take on Michigan this weekend, who is currently 9-4-1 on the season. JOANNA PAXTON/The Observer

a 2.69 goals against average, ranking him 10th in the league in both categories. Irish senior goalie Morgan Cey, by comparison, has a 2.44 GAA and a .929 save percentage.

"In the tapes that we saw there were a lot of rush goals [against Michigan] so that might have affected his numbers a bit," Poulin said. "He's still the real deal. Michigan has a unique way of only bringing in one

goalie every four years and having him start his whole career, with guys like Steve Shields and Marty Turco and now Montoya.

"They've maybe been a bit lucky that there haven't been any major injuries, but what they've been doing with their goalies has worked for many years."

Even without the expected performance from its star goalie, Michigan is still able to win games by virtue of its explosive offense. The Wolverines average 3.64 goals per game, third in the CCHA, compared to Notre Dame's last place 1.92 goals per game.

The Michigan offense is led by talented sophomore T.J. Hensick, the 2003-04 CCHA rookie of the year, and junior forward Jeff Tambellini, who have each scored 16 points so far this season (both have scored six goals and collected 10 assists).

The Wolverines also sport one of the league's most talented

offensive defenseman in senior Eric Wermer. Wermer's 11 points (three goals, eight assists) rank second in the league in scoring among defensemen.

"They're a very skilled team — I think they've got something like 14 draft picks and 10 are forwards," Poulin said. "But we've been working on our defense as well, daily. We simply have to work harder at getting the puck to the net and scoring some sloppy goals."

"Sometimes when you don't score you try to make things perfect, and we just need to get some ugly goals. They count just as much as pretty ones."

The Irish face Michigan at Yost Arena in Ann Arbor tonight with puck drop scheduled for 7:35 p.m. Notre Dame then returns home to face the Wolverines at the Joyce Center on Saturday with a scheduled 7:05 p.m. face-off.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

The South Bend office of Indiana Legal Services (ILS) seeks volunteers and unpaid interns to conduct initial interviews with low-income persons seeking legal assistance in select civil cases in Northern Indiana.

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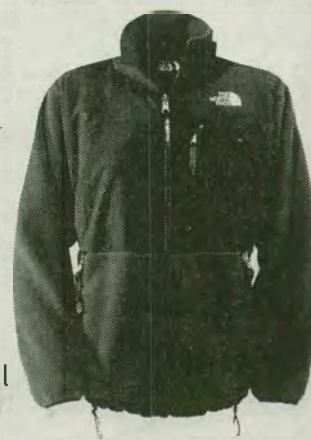
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Baer

continued from page 20

sonal issues more than anything else. I don't think anyone can really imagine what it's like."

Baer was selected by the players to serve as interim coach at the Insight Bowl, which will be either against Arizona State,

Oregon State or UCLA. He acknowledged that it might be difficult to get the team prepared in light of the recent events.

"I have loyalties to Tyrone Willingham. I've been with Tyrone for 10 years. He still certainly has loyalties to this team and this staff and Notre Dame, so that's the reason we're doing it," Baer said. "We want to do it as an entire group,

united as an entire group. We'll move forward and I think it's going to work out for the best."

As defensive coordinator under Willingham, Baer consistently put together a team that was capable of stopping the run and typically took advantage of opportunities to create turnovers and score. As of today, the Irish are ranked eighth in the season in rushing defense, having only allowed

94.4 yards per game.

Baer fueled reports that he is a top candidate for the Utah State head coaching position with his comments Thursday.

"It's difficult," Baer said of trying to coach a game and figuring out what will come next in his career. "There are a lot of things that are going on with the entire staff. Everybody's out of a job after, basically, the 28th. You certainly have to take

care of yourself and your families and move forward. So, you have to kind of balance all this.

"I've never gone through it quite like this before so I'm not quite sure how that balancing act will work, but we've just got to work through it and, hopefully, this will all work out."

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Recruits

continued from page 20

shocked," Wilson said. The ten remaining recruits are still committed to Notre Dame but expressed disappointment along with surprise at the decision.

"Three years is not enough," Marshall, Mich. quarterback Evan Sharpley said. "The guys that were playing for [Willingham] were not his recruits. So we didn't get to see what he could have done with the type of players that he wanted."

"I was really surprised," Highland Park, Ill. linebacker Scott Smith said. "It was just something that came up out of nowhere."

David Bruton was not so reserved. "Bulls--t," the defensive back from Miamisburg, Ohio said when asked how he felt about Willingham's firing. "I was comfortable with coach Willingham."

The 6'3", 180 lb. Bruton chose Notre Dame over Louisville, Ohio State and Wisconsin. His commitment still stands but he will have to wait and see who the new coach is going to be.

On the other hand Smith, who stands 6'5" and weighs 225 lbs, is set on coming to Notre Dame no matter who the new coach ends up being.

"I chose Notre Dame for the education and the football tradition," Smith said. "There are so many more things than the coaching staff. That's something that I think you've got to understand when you go through this process."

Urban Meyer is the most popular candidate among Irish fans, but the recruits opinions ranged from positive to neutral on the possibility of the current Utah coach taking over at Notre Dame.

"I hope if it's anybody it's Urban Meyer," Columbia, S.C.

wide receiver Martin Frierson said. Frierson was excited about possibly playing in Meyer's pass-oriented attack. "I want somebody who's going to throw the ball."

"[Meyer] used to be the receivers coach at Notre Dame so I could relate to him as a receiver," Bruton said.

Sharpley was a little less excited.

"I don't really know too much," Sharpley said. "I know he's done pretty well at Utah but that's about all I know about him."

Asaph Schwapp, a fullback from Hartford, Conn., was unsure if he would have a spot in the offense if Meyer came.

"I know he runs a spread offense," he said.

"I'd have to find out from him what my place would be and see if he would still want me to come."

A handful of recruits were supposed to visit campus this

weekend in conjunction with the football banquet. But with its cancellation, they will have to reschedule their visits, probably after the new coach is hired.

Student protests, both pro- and anti-Willingham, have either been planned or taken place on campus this week. But the recruits did not view the controversy as a negative.

"It just shows how much the students care about the football team," Smith said.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu


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Meyer

continued from page 20

Meyer has Utah at 11-0 and poised to play in a BCS bowl. The second-year Utes' coach formerly was the head coach at Bowling Green and a wide receivers coach at Notre Dame and Colorado State.

The Chicago Sun-Times reported Wednesday that Utah is doing everything it can to keep Meyer from returning to South Bend.

"We've had ... conversations, and we'll continue to do so," Utah athletics director Chris Hill told the Sun-Times. "All I can tell you is that Urban has done a great job at Utah."

"I realize people are going to be interested, and we'll do everything we can to keep him," Hill continued. "Right now, things are just out there as rumors and speculation. I don't want to comment on other jobs and speculate on that. We've got a great job here at the university."

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu



Utah coach Urban Meyer yells instructions to his players during the first half of Utah's game against Utah State Sept. 18.

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FOOTBALL

Going after their guy

Notre Dame officials fly west Thursday afternoon to begin search



Utah coach Urban Meyer yells directions to his team during the third quarter of Utah's victory over Brigham Young Nov. 20.

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Set a few more places at the Meyer dinner table. Utah's head coach has visitors.

On Thursday afternoon, local television station WNDU reported that a University plane left South Bend Regional Airport after 3 p.m. carrying athletic director Kevin White and University President-elect Father John Jenkins as passengers.

The plane was bound for Salt Lake City.

Local television station KUTV said after the plane landed, White and Jenkins got into a black sports utility vehicle without making any comment.

Meyer was targeted most likely as the top choice to fill the vacancy left by fired Notre Dame head football coach Tyrone Willingham.

The Utah student newspaper, The Daily Utah Chronicle, said Meyer met with White and Jenkins after

Thursday's Utah practice ended at 4 p.m.

The Chronicle also said Meyer told his players following practice what schools were pursuing him. Meyer would not go into specifics when approached by the media.

Before the WNDU reports surfaced, Notre Dame assistant athletic director John Heisler would not comment earlier Thursday afternoon on rumors of a meeting.

"As Kevin said on Tuesday, regardless of what you may see or what is reported, we don't get into the business of confirming or denying reports until we've hired a head coach," Heisler said. "We don't intend to contribute to the ongoing discussion because it doesn't serve the University's purposes."

The initial reports surfaced Thursday morning in the New York Times of the scheduled meeting between Notre Dame officials and Meyer.

see MEYER/page 18

Recruits respond to change

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Like the propellers on the plane flying University officials in their search for a new coach, the heads of Notre Dame's eleven verbal recruits were spinning after Tyrone Willingham was fired Tuesday.

"I was shocked," Akron, Ohio defensive lineman Lawrence Wilson said. "I couldn't believe it happened when I first heard about it."

Wilson, who was in class Tuesday afternoon when his father called with the news, has taken back his verbal commitment to play for the Irish next season. He is now considering Ohio State, Michigan and Pittsburgh along with the Irish.

"No [school is in the lead right now]. I'm still pretty

see RECRUITS/page 18

Baer discusses team's preparation for bowl

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Irish interim coach Kent Baer conducted an informal press conference Thursday from Tyrone Willingham's normal seat, a brown metal folding chair in the Football Auditorium of the Joyce Center. But Baer only sat there because he had to.

"[It's] real strange [to have a coach meeting without Willingham]," Baer said. "When we walked into that staff room today and somebody said, 'Sit up at the head of the table.' I'm not even going to approach that seat. I have talked to coach Willingham a handful of times and I'm going to continue to do that, but it's very, very strange. I mean, coach has been so good. He's been tremendous to work for."

Baer answered questions about the team's preparation for the Insight Bowl on Dec. 28 and discussed events surrounding the firing of

Willingham. The former defensive coordinator also confirmed reports that he was out looking for a job.

"I met with some people from Utah State but that's as far as it's gone," Baer said. "It was within this past week."

Baer, who served as Willingham's defensive coordinator, will coach the team at its upcoming bowl game in Tempe, Ariz.

After serving 10 seasons as a member of Willingham's staffs at Stanford and Notre Dame, Baer was noticeably shaken when fielding questions from the media about Willingham.

"I don't know how to describe it," Baer said. "This is sometimes a tough business and I don't know of people who really understand how many people's lives it affects and that's the thing you deal with the most."

"As a coach you've been through it before," he said. "But you still deal with per-

see BAER/page 18

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish fall to Michigan State

Squad suffers first home loss in last 25 games

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Home was no longer sweet Thursday night for the Irish.

After opening the second half with a 17-2 run, No. 3 Notre Dame lost its momentum and lost its home winning streak at the end in an 82-73 loss to No. 15 Michigan State (5-1) in overtime. The loss was the first for the Irish at home in 25 games and their first of this season.

Crystal Erwin, who finished with a career-high 20 points and five rebounds, led the Irish.

Notre Dame made a comeback in the second half after falling behind 41-30 at the half. The Irish played poor defense in the first half and struggled on offense.

"I thought that we got



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Guard Megan Duffy brings the ball up the court.

down at halftime — we played really, really poorly in the first half," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought we were able to come back, and I think mostly thanks to Crystal

see SPARTANS/page 14

This one hurts.

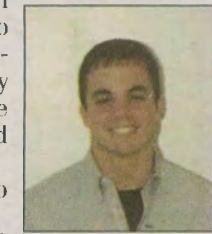
Up six points with 32 seconds remaining, Notre Dame seemingly had No. 15 Michigan State beaten despite the Irish playing their worst first half in who knows how long. All Notre Dame had to do to pull off the come-from-behind victory was not foul the Spartans shooters and make free throws.

They didn't do either.

The result? A 82-73 loss to Michigan State. The team's first loss of the season. The first defeat at home in 25 games. Needless to say, it's a tough pill to swallow.

"We made so many mistakes," Megan Duffy said.

True, the Irish can learn from this bitter experience. It can teach them that no lead is safe, and mistakes down the stretch will, in fact, cause you to lose games. But



Joe Hettler

Sports Writer

see HURT/page 14

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

HOCKEY

Notre Dame at Michigan
Friday, 7:05 p.m.

The Irish travel to Ann Arbor to challenge No. 5 Wolverines.

page 17

NFL

Running back Ricky Williams rejects a four-game drug suspension, choosing to remain retired.

page 16

FENCING

Culver Cup Individuals
Saturday, 8:00 a.m.

The walk-on Irish fencers ready to compete this weekend.

page 15

VOLLEYBALL

Notre Dame vs. Valparaiso
Friday, 5:00 p.m.

The Irish meet the Crusaders in the NCAA tournament first round.

page 15

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles at Comets
Saturday, 3:00 p.m.

Saint Mary's hopes to bounce back from loss to Albion Wednesday.

page 15

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame at Michigan
Saturday, noon

The No. 19 Irish set to lock horns with the Wolverines.

page 14

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, December 3, 2004

THE
OBSERVER



FRESHMAN SENSATION

Newcomer Amanda Cinalli has burst onto the scene this season helping the Irish reach the Final Four.

What could have been doesn't matter now

By any stretch of the imagination, it's difficult to find anything lacking from Notre Dame's seventh trip to the Final Four in program history.

However, for those who follow the sport (especially those of us who cover it), this is not the way the Final Four was supposed to shape up. Yes, the Irish were supposed to rebound from their loss in the Big East Championship and they were supposed to cruise into the national semifinals. But it wasn't supposed to be against Santa Clara.

This was supposed to be the marquee matchup, North Carolina against Notre Dame, the top two women's soccer programs in NCAA history. This was supposed to be a rematch

of the 2000 season in which the Irish would try and avenge their previous loss to the Tar Heels in the national semifinals. This was supposed to be the game that would decide what the polls couldn't, as the two teams exchanged the top-ranked position over the course of the regular season.

It just didn't work out the way we expected. Santa Clara beat the Irish to the punch and got to North Carolina first. The Irish have shut down every opponent they have faced to get to the Final Four but the Tar Heels couldn't hold up its end of the bargain.

But none of this takes anything away from what this team is accomplishing. Clearly, North Carolina didn't deserve to play the Irish; a place in the Final Four is a reward for consistently excellent play, for always finding a way to win.

"You want to play the best going through [the tournament], but the way I look at it is Santa Clara beat [North Carolina]," Irish coach Randy

Waldrum said. "I think we're playing the better team."

This team has bigger fish to fry than worrying about a matchup that makes for a better story. All season, the Irish have played like they have something to prove. They believed they were No. 1 all along and wanted a chance prove that they deserved the ranking. Now that chance is well within their grasp, only two wins away.

Should they win the national championship, they don't want anyone to be able to question they weren't the best or didn't play the best competition. They don't want any excuses. Should they lose, then so be it. Just don't question them if they win.

And they shouldn't be questioned. In some respects, playing as the highest remaining seed makes the going more difficult than as the underdog. Suddenly all eyes are on the Irish. Other teams will now be looking past their current opponents, anticipating a matchup against Notre Dame. The fire and motivation of being the underdog and not getting any respect must be replaced only by self-motivation. And don't forget the fear of failure that can slap a favored team into a state of paralysis.

However, don't suppose this will happen to the Irish. They have come too far for too long for Waldrum to let something like not getting to play North Carolina get in the way of his team's ultimate goal. Notre Dame knows that at the end of the day, it is not the losers but the winners of the national championships who are remembered. And they suppose it should be them.

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

Contact Matt Mooney at mmooney@nd.edu



Matt Mooney

Sports Writer



HILLARY THORNTON/The Observer

Midfielder Jill Krivacek heads the ball over a Providence defender in a conference game on Oct. 3.



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Candace Chapman eludes an aggressive Santa Clara defender on Sept. 5. The Irish face Santa Clara in the Final Four today.

	OFFENSE	MIDFIELD	DEFENSE	GOALKEEPING	COACHING	INTANGIBLES
NOTRE DAME	The offense is clicking at all the right times with clutch goals. Katie Thorlaxson can score or set up a score from just about anywhere, anytime.	In Jen Buczkowski and Jill Krivacek, the Irish have two tremendously versatile and talented midfielders who can have their way on the field against anyone.	Anchored by Melissa Tancredi and Gudrun Gunnarsdottir, the Irish are experienced and playing well to boot. They have only given up one goal in the NCAA tournament.	This is the only area of potential weakness on the Irish team. The defense gives up very few shots-on-goal so Bohn will need to work to stay sharp.	This is Randy Waldrum's third trip to the Final Four with in six years with Notre Dame. His one-game-at-a-time philosophy has worked all season, but he needs to help the Irish win the big one.	Notre Dame is on a hot streak right now, believing they could and should win every game. Waldrum will not let the Broncos sneak up on his team.
SANTA CLARA	Santa Clara does not have any quick-strike offensive threats. Megan Kakadelas scored the game-winner against North Carolina, but the Broncos have few consistent scorers.	The defensive minded Broncos will try and stop the Irish attack before it can get started. Leslie Osborne is the only real offensive threat.	The Broncos defense has been impenetrable of late, especially against quality opponents. Santa Clara has only given up two goals in its last 11 games.	Julie Ryder has been a brick wall in the second half of the season. She can play under pressure, too, as she kept No. 1-seeded North Carolina out of the net in the Broncos dramatic 1-0 overtime win	Jerry Smith knows how to win the big games. He took Santa Clara to the 2001 national championship and then to overtime of the finals in 2002. The Broncos will be ready to play.	Santa Clara proved they can knock off the big guns with a 1-0 overtime third-round win against top-seeded North Carolina. The Broncos also want to avenge a 5-2 loss to the Irish earlier this year.
ANALYSIS	The Irish have too much firepower up front, especially with the emergence of freshman Amanda Cinalli and a healthy Candace Chapman. If they can get the ball in deep, Notre Dame will dominate.	Both midfields play excellent defense, but offensively, the Irish have the advantage. Osborne is a goal-scoring threat, but Buczkowski has the ability to find people even when she doesn't have a shot	The Broncos defense has been impenetrable of late, especially against quality opponents. Santa Clara has only given up two goals in its last 11 games.	Bohn is a solid goalkeeper but has been subject to fluke goals all year long. Ryder has managed to keep even those out of the net lately and will be a formidable obstacle to the Irish offense	Smith gets the nod because he has what Waldrum doesn't, a national championship. However, this game will be Waldrum's chance to put his mark on this program.	With a trip to the finals on the line, both teams have a lot to play for. The two schools have very similar soccer-rich traditions and are no strangers to playoff pressure.

Finding her place

After scoring two goals to send the Irish to the Final Four, Amanda Cinalli is ready for the nation's best

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Scoring two key goals in the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament is not an easy task for any player — especially if you're a freshman.

Last weekend, Irish forward Amanda Cinalli scored two goals in the 3-1 win over fifth-seed Portland to send the Irish into the semifinals.

Not only did this win keep the team's hopes alive for claiming the national title, but it solidified Cinalli's freshman year of being nothing less than impressive.

"The expectation was always there for her to come in and contribute right away," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "But we don't look to our freshman to be scoring goals. We look for them to be solid and consistent from a week-to-week basis. But she has really exceeded that."

Cinalli began her remarkable season in the first regular season match against Baylor. She contributed two goals and one assist in the 7-2 win. This match was also a clear indication that the quicker and more aggressive style of college soccer would take little time for her to adjust to.

"She has carried our team in some respects," Waldrum said. "To come in and do that says a lot to how she adjusted to the college game because it is so much quicker and going against

more faster and physical defenders."

In addition to competing against tough opponents, Cinalli had to make a notable presence with the Irish so she could find playing time in a team deep with talent, including Hermann Player of the Year candidate Katie Thorlakson and senior Candace Chapman.

"It shows the heart she has on the field and she gives everything in practice and that is what we really liked about her,"

Waldrum said. "If they don't have that heart and competitiveness, it is hard to get it. But she is a warrior and the credit is all hers."

It is clear that Cinalli continued to battle throughout the regular season as she scored against Wisconsin Green Bay and made the game-winning shots against Connecticut and Villanova.

"It shows the quality of player she is," Waldrum said. "She has

only had to worry about competing to get playing time and the rest has been icing."

Waldrum also attributes her success this season to her unique style of play.

"She has a blend of what Candace does, finding a way to get her body in there and stick with the loose balls and stick it in the net," Waldrum said. "But she also has a little bit of Katie on how she can get the ball and turn quickly. She has a little bit of both and it gives you a whole new dimension up front. That's what makes it hard for the



HILLARY THORNTON/The Observer

Amanda Cinalli dribbles upfield in a home game against Eastern Illinois on Nov. 12 in the first round of the NCAA tournament, where she scored the first goal in a 4-0 victory.

opposition. She just gives you a third option that is completely different."

Playing like a veteran

But what's really set Cinalli apart this season have been her achievements in the post-season.

Not only did she score against Eastern Illinois in the opening round of the NCAA tournament, but her maturity on the field has also grown since her first game against Baylor.

"From Day 1, she has come in like a veteran and hasn't played

like a freshman. Where you can see her growth is how she has really started to develop a better mindset of going at people," Waldrum said. "Earlier she was trying to hold the ball before she could make a decision. And lately, the first thing she is looking to do is go to the goal."

Cinalli's aggressive play was last shown against Portland. Her two goals put her season total at 10, the third highest on the team behind Thorlakson and Chapman. Cinalli credits this feat to her growth since the beginning of the year.

"Towards the beginning of the season, I was a little hesitant to go for the goal," Cinalli said. "I learned that you can't have that fear and you just have to challenge yourself and take a chance. Our team is so talented. They are great role models and you learn a lot from them."

Cinalli also credits the team for her success.

"Throughout the season, the team has helped me with the confidence and we are like a family," Cinalli said. "[When scoring against Portland] there was so much joy and pride in our team. Everyday they are pushing me to be better and I credit the team a lot. They are an amazing group of girls and help me grow as a player."

One in particular player who

has influenced Cinalli this season has been Thorlakson, who is not only one of Notre Dame's best, but the country's best as well.

"Her skill on the ball and ability to hold it is amazing and I'm striving to be more like her in that way," Cinalli said.

"From Day 1, she has come in like a veteran and hasn't played like a freshman. Where you can see her growth is how she has really started to develop a better mindset of going at people."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

Waldrum is hoping that Cinalli will take advantage of the opportunity of playing with players such as Thorlakson and Chapman and continue to learn and grow from these experiences.

"She can be doing the same things for us that Katie is doing this year in the future. She has all the ability to be that

forward that leads the team for the next three years," Waldrum said. "Amanda has the ability to challenge being one of the best forwards Notre Dame has ever had."

One last characteristic Waldrum believes Cinalli highly adds to the team is her presence off the field.

"They [the team] love her. She has got one of the best, most outgoing personalities on the team. You won't find a better kid," Waldrum said. "She is just so appreciative of everything...and she has been such a great fit."

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CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Forward Amanda Cinalli lets loose with a shot against Eastern Illinois on Aug. 29. The Irish won that game 3-0, with Cinalli registering one assist.

Early-season matchup previewed Final Four



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Midfielder Jen Buzkowski heads a ball deep in Broncos territory for a goal against Santa Clara in a 5-2 Irish win on Sept. 5.

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

For fourth-seeded Notre Dame (23-1-1), the theme of this year's NCAA tournament run has been déjà vu all over again.

The Irish have already played against two teams (Eastern Illinois and Connecticut) that they met previously during the season.

Now, as the team advances to the Final Four of the Women's College Cup for the seventh time in program history, they will also face No. 16 seed Santa Clara for the second time this season. Friday's game in Cary, N.C. will be a rematch of the Adidas Classic Championship game at Alumni Field in which then-No. 2 Notre Dame ousted then-No. 4 Santa Clara by a 5-3 score.

The Broncos stayed close for much of the game until late in the second half when the Irish exploded for three goals in less than four minutes. Katie Thorlakson played a big part in the offensive outburst with a hat trick and two assists.

However, Irish coach Randy Waldrum feels that a lot has happened in the 12 weeks since that game.

"You could throw that game out the window," he said. "[Santa Clara coach Jerry Smith] has got some players playing different positions than he did when we played him. The same goes for us. After [Mary Boland] broke her leg we were going with Annie Schefter up front and we've now got [Candace

Chapman] back to where she's playing. Ashley Jones, Jill Krivacek, and some of those kids who are playing great now were just getting their feet wet at the beginning of the year."

This time, however, the Irish are catching a surging Bronco team riding the wave of an 11-game winning streak. Santa Clara's success has been due in large part to a stifling defense. During their streak, the Broncos have only allowed their opponents a miserly total of two goals.

This meeting may turn into a much more defensive battle than the first game as the Notre Dame defense has been almost equally suffocating. In their four NCAA tournament games, the Irish have allowed only six shots-on-goal and given up one goal.

For defender Gudrun Gunnarsdottir, successful defense requires a complete team effort.

"The whole team has been playing defense very well, even the forwards," she said. "It all starts up there."

Solid defensive efforts have left fourth-seeded Notre Dame as the highest seed remaining in the tournament. North Carolina, the No. 1 seed, was the only other top-four seed to make it into the third round and they lost 1-0 in overtime to the Broncos.

In recent years, high seeds have not fared well. This marks the third time in the last five years that only one of the top four seeds has successfully advanced to the Final Four.

Waldrum, however, refuses to let that distinction get in the way of the team's preparation.

"At the end of the day [the seed] doesn't mean anything," he said. "Santa Clara, they are the 16th seed and here they are in the Final Four. We're all smart enough and have been in it too long to let those kinds of numbers make a difference to us."

"At the end of the day [the seed] doesn't mean anything. Santa Clara, they are the 16th seed and here they are in the Final Four."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

"We're just gonna come out like we do for every game," Gunnarsdottir said. "We're not going to do anything different."

Thus, following last week's victory over fifth-seeded Portland, Waldrum was pleasantly surprised to see his players subdued in their celebration. He feels as though it is a sign that they are still taking nothing for granted.

"It's not over just because we got back [to the Final Four], and I was really happy to see them respond like that way," Waldrum said. "They're still ready to see if they can finish this thing out."

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Road to the Final Four

Santa Clara 2, California 1

Santa Clara 1, Stanford 0 (2 OT)

Santa Clara 1, No. 1 North Carolina 0

Santa Clara 2, Illinois 0

No. 16 SANTA CLARA

No. 4 NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame 3, No. 5 Portland 1

Notre Dame 2, Connecticut 0

Notre Dame 1, Wisconsin 0

Notre Dame 4, Eastern Illinois 0

Princeton 5, Central Connecticut State 0

Princeton 1, Villanova 0 (2 OT)

Princeton 2, Boston College 0

Princeton 3, No. 15 Washington 1

No. 7 PRINCETON

No. 14 UCLA

UCLA 1, No. 6 Ohio State 0

UCLA 2, Duke 0

UCLA 3, San Diego 0

UCLA 1, Pepperdine 0

