

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

South Bend earns Municipal Excellence award

National League of Cities recognizes involvement in partnerships with Notre Dame, other local community groups

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

The City of South Bend received the Gold Award for Municipal Excellence from the National League of Cities Friday, specifically because of its involvement in several partnerships to revitalize the area of South Bend around Notre Dame's campus, according to a University press release.

Tim Sexton, associate vice president of Student Affairs and president of the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization (NNRO), said the award recognizes more than 10

years of work by South Bend and Notre Dame.

"It's an affirmation of a lot of hard work by a lot of good people," Sexton said. "It's also a great recognition for the neighbors [in the Northeast Neighborhood]. It shows clearly we are going down the right track."

South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke received the award in Denver at the annual Congress of Cities and Exposition put on by the League, according to the press release. Marguerite Taylor, who works for Robinson Community Learning Center and lives in the Northeast Neighborhood, represented the

University and the Northeast Neighborhood Council.

"We are very happy that Notre Dame's hometown has been so deservedly recognized with this award, and we're pleased, as well, to have played a role in bringing these initiatives to reality for the well-being of our region as a whole," University spokesman Dennis Brown said.

The award recognized specific efforts between the city and its partners, including the NNRO, Innovation Park, the development and expansion of the Indiana University School of Medicine at South Bend, and

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GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Pedestrians walk past a mural on South Michigan Street that depicts life in downtown South Bend on Monday.

CIF early grade incentive continues

By MELISSA FLANAGAN
News Writer

After the University increased its response rate for Course Instructor Feedback (CIF) by offering an incentive during the 2009-2010 academic year, students who complete CIFs can once again see their grades a week earlier this year.

Students who complete CIFs will be able to view their semester grades Dec. 21, while others will not have access to their grades until Dec. 27.

In the fall of 2009, the first semester this incentive was offered, the response rate for online CIFs climbed from 63 to 87 percent, according to

Dennis Jacobs, vice president and associate provost.

Not only was that higher than the previous two semesters, but it was also higher than response rates for the paper Teacher/Course Evaluations (TCE) used before 2008.

"We would get response rates in the mid-70 range, about three-fourths of students [with TCEs]," Jacobs said. "A lot of students weren't in class, a lot of students just left."

The University instituted the incentive last fall because the response rate dropped after switching from paper TCEs to online CIFs, Jacobs said.

see CIF/page 5

Professor researches historic St. Nick

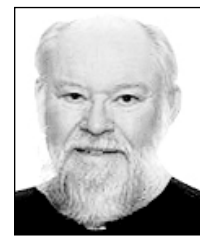
By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

During the Christmas season, Fr. Nicholas Ayo's expertise on Saint Nicholas, the man from whom the legend of Santa Claus originated, is especially relevant.

Ayo, professor emeritus in the Program of Liberal Studies, published a book in 2006 titled "Saint Nicholas in America: Christmas Holy Day and Holiday."

"I got invested after I was fully grown — age 30," Ayo said of his interest in the saint. "I started collecting stories and pictures. There's a lot of lore out there."

That lore appears to be matched by a similar amount of devotion. According to Ayo, Saint



Ayo

see ST. NICK/page 5

OIT to provide more Google apps for students

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

The Office of Information Technologies (OIT) will flip the switch Dec. 21 to increase the number of Google applications at the fingertips of Notre Dame students.

Katie Rose, an OIT infrastructure specialist, said there have been many requests from students and faculty to increase the number of Google services linked with their University accounts. The top three requests were for Google's Blogger, Picasa and Reader.

According to the Google Apps

website, Picasa is a service for uploading and sharing photos, Blogger allows students to create their own blogs, and Google Reader offers users a faster way to access blogs and news feeds.

"Students will now be able to access services like Picasa and Blogger automatically with their ND accounts. I know Blogger has been requested a bit since a lot of classes use it for collaborative work," she said. "And Picasa is popular in the arts and even some of the sciences because of the types of graphic work they do."

Rose said students will benefit from the easy access they will have to these services once the change is made. In the past, stu-

dents have had to sign up for separate accounts to work with these applications.

"There was just a core set of services originally. It had Gmail, which was the most popular, but we also had Google Calendars, Google Docs and Google Sites when we initiated it," she said. "Unfortunately, we weren't able to add many of the other services before because that wasn't part of what Google was offering initially."

Google offers 60 services overall as part of its suite. With a commercial account, any user may access them. For Notre Dame and other academic institutions, however, Google offers a smaller set of

services. Rose said requests for more Google services from these universities are common.

"A lot of other schools get similar requests and that gets sent back to Google from the Customer Advisory Board and other various online mechanisms," Rose said.

Google has taken these requests and analyzed account management, she said. With the upcoming change, they hope to offer more services in the most effective manner.

"They are making an infrastructure change that will allow them to do all of these other services in one fell swoop," Rose said. "That's

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THE OBSERVER

P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Matt Gamber

MANAGING EDITOR

Madeline Buckley

BUSINESS MANAGER

Patrick Sala

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Laura Myers

NEWS EDITORS: Sarah Mervosh
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ADVERTISING MANAGER: Lillian Civantos

AD DESIGN MANAGER: Jane Obringer

CONTROLLER: Jeff Liptak

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Joseph Choi

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

(574) 631-4542 mgamber@nd.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 mbuckley@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS

(574) 631-4324 swerner@nd.edu, lmyers2@nd.edu

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.nd@gmail.com

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 obsviewpoint@gmail.com

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 observersports@gmail.com

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 jgamble@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

acharn01@saintmarys.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@gmail.com

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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www.ndsmcobserver.com

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber

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TODAY'S STAFF

News

Laura McCrystal

Kristen Durbin

Emily Schrank

Graphics

Brandon Keelean

Photo

Pat Coveney

Sports

Chris Masoud

Matthew Robison

Joe Wirth

Scene

Marissa Frobes

Viewpoint

Madeline Roe

QUESTION OF THE DAY: DEATH BY SNOW OR DEATH BY FIRE?



Elizabeth Nuter

*freshman
McGlinn*

*"Let's make it
fire, since I'm
already dying
of snow."*



Patrick Gill

*junior
Alumni*

*"Fire. I'm a
California boy."*



Nick Brandt

*junior
Stanford*

*"Death by
Malcolm
Phelan."*



Kirsten Adam

*junior
Welsh Family*

*"Let's go with
fire. The colors
are prettier."*



Elizabeth Davis

*junior
Lyons*

*"Snow. For
sure."*

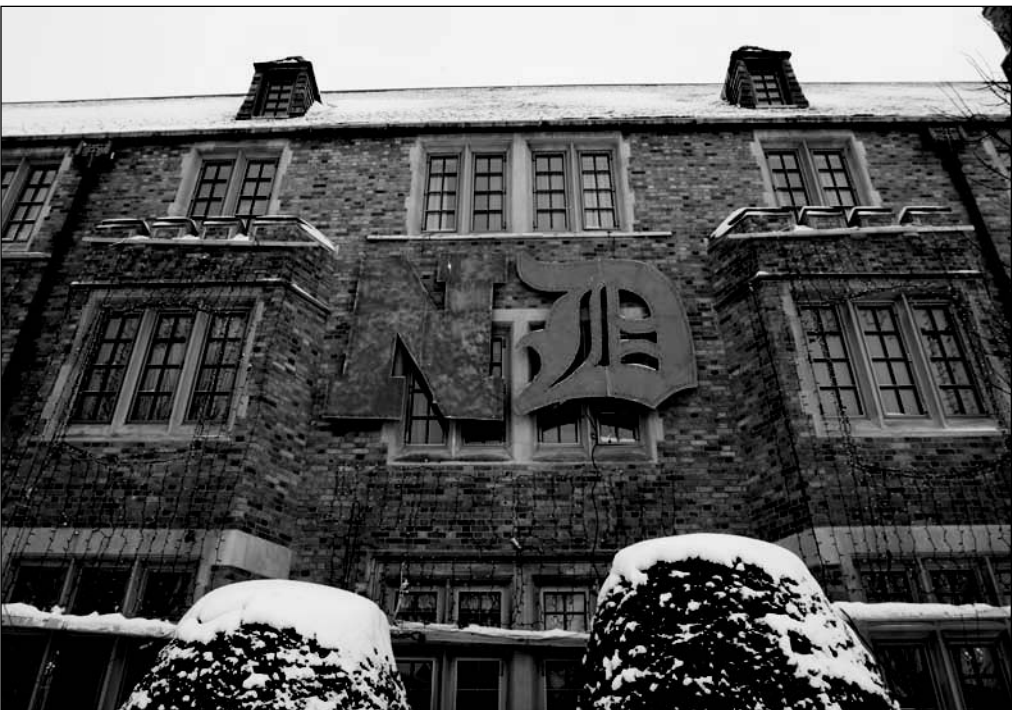


Katie Corr

*senior
off campus*

*"Trick question.
I prefer to live."*

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



GRANT TOBIN/The Observer

Dillon Hall displays its winter decorations outside of the dorm on South Quad. The annual Dillon Hall Lightshow will be completed and displayed later this week.

OFFBEAT

Man goes from Smith to Awesome

EUGENE, Ore. — An Oregon man has had an Awesome name change.

Douglas Allen Smith Jr. says he changed his name to Captain Awesome last month because he was inspired by the nickname of a character on the NBC television show "Chuck" — Dr. Devon "Captain Awesome" Woodcomb.

The unemployed Eugene cabinet installer says he found it funny Woodcomb's father gave him that nickname because a "poor nickname builds good character."

The former Mr. Smith says he faced a Lane County judge who ques-

tioned his seriousness. The judge that granted the request made him swear he wasn't changing his name for fraudulent reasons.

Awsome says that judge also allowed him to sign his name as a right arrow, a smiley face and a left arrow.

Utah lottery winners keep ticket in safe

BOISE, Idaho — A family holding an Idaho Lottery ticket worth \$1 million wasn't taking any chances while traveling from their home in Brigham City, Utah, to claim their winnings in Boise.

Sisters Cindy Flint and Carol Olsen, along with their mother Donna Flint, made

the nearly 300-mile trip to Idaho with their ticket locked in a fireproof safe.

Cindy Flint says she went a step further, and slept with the safe in her hotel bed.

The women claimed their prize Monday.

Lottery spokesman David Workman says other winners have taken precautions, but the Flint family may be the first to arrive in lobby of the Idaho Lottery headquarters with a safe in tow.

The women bought their ticket at a store in Franklin, Idaho, near the state border with Utah.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The seminar "Surge, Waves, and Damage during Hurricane Ike" will take place today at 11 a.m. in Fitzpatrick Hall Room 258. Andrew Kennedy, assistant professor of civil engineering and geological sciences, will present this installment of the Environmental Fluid Dynamics Seminar Series.

Keough Hall will sponsor a blood drive today from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

The lecture "Democracy without Accountability: Party Powersharing and Executive Domineering in Indonesia" will take place today at 12:30 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. It is free and open to the public.

The seminar "Blood-material Interactions of Polyurethanes" will take place today at 3:30 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall Room 138. Stuart Cooper, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at The Ohio State University, will speak.

The 2010 Schmitt Lecture: "Abuses of the Public by Psychiatry" will take place today at 4 p.m. in the McKenna Hall Auditorium. Dr. Paul McHugh of Johns Hopkins University will speak. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The seminar "The Ethics of Spying: How Far Are We Willing to Go?" will take place today at 5 p.m. in the Geddes Hall auditorium. CIA officer James Olson will speak. The seminar is free and open to the public.

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

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 6 issue of The Observer, the Notre Dame women's soccer team's College Cup semifinal opponent was misidentified in the article "'Not an upset.'" Notre Dame defeated Ohio State, 1-0, on Friday to advance to the national championship game. The Observer regrets this error.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 24	HIGH 21	HIGH 24	HIGH 30	HIGH 33	HIGH 32
	LOW 17	LOW 19	LOW 15	LOW 28	LOW 17	LOW 23

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Group discusses alcoholic energy drinks

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

At Monday's Campus Life Council (CLC) meeting, members discussed a memo presented by Brian Coughlin, assistant vice president for student activities and head of the recently-assembled Alcohol Energy Drink (AED) Working Group. The memo discussed the progress of the group in responding to issues related to student use of caffeinated alcoholic beverages.

The memo stated that, while the FDA and other governmental agencies have already taken steps to limit or ban the popular Four Loko and Joose drinks, AEDs are still a concern because "some students may still have 'original' formula AEDs and/or some students may attempt to make their own should the pre-packaged products no longer be available."

The memo went on to say the group has not yet decided upon a recommendation to give Fr. Tom Doyle, vice president for student affairs. It has considered three options: banning AEDs across campus, leaving the issue to the discretion of individual rectors, and establishing no formal poli-

cy.

The group did, however, indicate it would make continued efforts to increase awareness about the effects of AEDs to students, an idea that Knott Hall senator Alex Kasparie thought would be more effective than a ban.

"I think the biggest thing is the education. I hate to say it, but usually I take a ban as a challenge," he said. "No ban is going to change the attitude."

CLC member Ben Noe, a sophomore, suggested emphasizing the fact that AEDs are extremely high in calories as a way to deter students from consuming them.

"We thought it would be pertinent to Notre Dame students who seem to be particularly health conscious," he said. "Not only that these drinks are dangerous, but also that they are unhealthy for you calorie-wise."

Christopher Haug, assistant director for residence life and housing, thought raising this point with students could lead to other unhealthy behavior.

"Unfortunately, one of the things we found out across the country is that people do know that, so sometimes they won't eat dinner and will drink the Four Loko,"

he said. "Then they'll have nothing to metabolize the alcohol with."

Noe went on to say that the availability and consumption of non-alcoholic energy drinks on campus is a concern within itself. Julia Sutton, SUB director, said the University could only go so far in managing students' decisions.

"Can't anything be harmful if overused?" she said. "I think the University can't go that far. You can't take energy drinks out of The Huddle unless you take Burger King out."

Student body vice president Andrew Bell highlighted the aspects of alcohol education that his culture shift task force, which is examining drinking at Notre Dame, plans to address specifically.

"One of the things is the continuous education, that it's not just overload during your first months at school," he said.

Bell said educating students about Indiana-specific alcohol laws, increasing student-led alcohol education, and informing students how to help a friend in a dangerous situation will be emphasized in the future.

Contact John Cameron at
jcameron2@nd.edu

Saint Mary's to host blood drive

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

By donating about an hour of time and a pint of blood, students, faculty and staff of Saint Mary's College can help those in need, Olivia Barzyldo Critchlow, assistant director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) said.

The College will hold an American Red Cross blood drive Wednesday from 12 to 6 p.m. in the Earley Conference Rooms in the Student Center basement.

"Blood drives are a very important way for individuals to give back to their community," Critchlow said. "There is always a need for blood, and what better way could you think of giving to someone during the holiday season than to donate blood to possibly save a life?"

Critchlow said the College holds four blood drives each academic year.

"As [blood] cannot be manufactured, the only place to get it for those in need is from healthy donors. I believe that if someone is able to donate blood they should definitely consider doing it as it truly does save lives," she said.

Critchlow said the entire donating process takes about an hour. Donors must answer screening questions before they

donate. They will then have their blood pressure, temperature, pulse and iron levels tested.

According to Critchlow, the actual donation time is around 10 minutes. Donors are asked to stay for around 10 to 15 minutes to rest and eat snacks after donation.

Critchlow encouraged students to try giving blood even if they are afraid.

"Give it a try, even if it's just once," she said. "It's definitely not as bad as you may think, and the staff from the Red Cross is excellent at working with those who are donating for the first time."

If students do not wish to donate blood but still wish to volunteer, Critchlow said there are other ways to help with the blood drive.

"Volunteers are needed to help staff the check-in table as well as the refreshments table," she said.

According to an e-mail sent to the Saint Mary's community, students, faculty and staff can sign up for a donation appointment by visiting givelife.org with the sponsor code of smcnd.

"Blood is always needed," Critchlow said. "Please consider giving something incredibly special to those in need during this holiday season."

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu



BE INVOLVED



WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE THIS SUMMER?

The Nanovic Institute offers funding for undergraduates who have arranged summer internships or volunteer opportunities in Europe. The grant will help cover transportation and living costs while working abroad.

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Questions?

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631-8326 or jfulton@nd.edu

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FOR APPLICATION GUIDELINES.



Hall raises funds for homeless center

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

McCandless Hall is using some Christmas cheer and a little competition to help raise funds for Hope Ministries, a homeless center in South Bend.

For members of McCandless to participate, they can go to the hall's front desk and place their donations into boxes.

"At the front desk there is another table decorated for Christmas and it contains four wrapped Christmas presents," said junior Caitlin Ascherl, a resident advisor in the dorm. "The presents are numbered for each floor in McCandless."

According to Ascherl, the floor in McCandless that manages to collect the most funds gets a special treat.

"The floor that raises the most money for Hope Ministries gets to 'pie' their resident advisor [in the face] at the Hall Christmas Party this week," she said.

Ascherl said she came up with the idea because she wanted residents to work together and support Hope Ministries.

"I came up with the idea while trying to think of ways to get the first-years involved and excited about the Hall," Ascherl said.

Each dormitory at Saint

Mary's is assigned a service organization, and Hope Ministries was given to McCandless. Ascherl said each semester the dorm needs to hold an event for the place it represents, and she said this seemed like a good way to bring the hall together.

"[The Hall is] required to do one event for or with our service organization per semester," Ascherl said. "What better way to create section unity then to come together against the RAs."

They do not know how much money they have raised so far, but Ascherl said it will be counted Wednesday. If the entire dorm raises over \$100, there is extra incentive for the residents.

"We find out Wednesday when a neutral party counts the money," she said. "If it is over \$100, the Hall Director gets [a pie in the face] as well."

According to Ascherl, the fundraiser has gotten competitive between the RAs on different floors. Currently, she said it "has become a war between the RAs."

Ascherl did say it seems like her floor is not doing as well.

"Right now it doesn't look good for the 2nd and 4th floors," she said. "Sadly, I am on the 2nd floor."

Contact Ashley Charnley at
acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Award

continued from page 1

plans for a new St. Joseph's High School, according to the press release.

"Each of the projects cited in the award is beneficial in its own right — supporting economic development, retail and entertainment options, health care, housing and education — and are indicative of the University's ongoing commitment to being a positive force within our community," Brown said. "When the public and private sectors work together for the common good, great things can and do happen."

Sexton said the cities are categorized by population size, and the winning of such an award is a significant event.

"It's a national award," Sexton said. "Any time you are recognized nationally, you feel the prestige."

Sexton said he thinks South Bend won the award because it has strong partnerships, which includes its work with Notre Dame.

"[The city won because of]

focus and collaboration," he said. "The different funding partners, the residents all coming together. It's partnership."

Sexton said efforts to improve the Northeast Neighborhood area will continue at least into the next several years, if not beyond. Sixty homes are currently planned for construction near the Robinson Community Learning Center, as well as some rerouting on State Route 23 and plans to continue Eddy Street revitalization south.

"There will be a flurry of activity over the next five years," Sexton said.

Brown said University partnership with South Bend is not something new with Innovation Park and the Eddy Street revitalizations.

"There is a long history of Notre Dame and South Bend working together — the Center for the Homeless and the Robinson Community Learning Center are two well-known examples — and we certainly have every intention of continuing to collaborate in the future," he said.

Contact Amanda Gray at
agray3@nd.edu

Google

continued from page 1

why it's essentially happening all in one day here at Notre Dame."

Rose said the change would most affect students who have signed up for commercial Google accounts using their Notre Dame G-mail address.

"There are approximately 3,600 that have conflict accounts. That means they made a commercial Google account with an 'nd.edu,'" she said. "They need to take some

steps to prevent problems. They won't lose data, but they need to tie it with a different account."

Rose said students who received an e-mail on their conflict account follow the directions provided to ensure a smooth transition.


OIT will adjust the system Dec. 21 to include the new services. Rose said they planned to make the change at this time to avoid conflicts with finals and the new semester in January.

Contact Nicole Toczauer at
ntoczau@nd.edu

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SUMMER PROGRAMS

INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR OIS SUMMER PROGRAMS

CHINA BUSINESS & CULTURE:
127 Hayes-Healy Dec. 7 at 6 PM

DUBLIN: 127 Hayes-Healy on Dec. 6 at 6 PM

LONDON: 127 Hayes-Healy Dec. 1 at 5:30 PM

PARIS: 204 DeBartolo on Dec. 7 at 7 PM

TAIPEI: 127 Hayes-Healy Dec. 7 at 6 PM

TOLEDO: 125 Hayes-Healy on Dec. 6 at 5:30PM

Please recycle The Observer.

STUDY BREAK LUNCH AT THE COMO



The Core Council invites GLBT & Questioning members of the Notre Dame community, their friends, and allies, to a **Study Break Luncheon** at the CoMo.

Everyone is Welcome and Confidentiality is Assured

Lunch & Conversation will be served!



8th Annual Christmas at the CoMo Concert

Wednesday, December 8th 7:30pm

First floor lounge
Coleman Morse Center

Traditional and International Carols from
the Notre Dame Celebration Choir

Free will offering for Holy
Cross Missions in Uganda

Reception following
for more info, call 631.9326



Write News. E-mail Laura at
lmccryst@nd.edu

CIF

continued from page 1

He said that decline was alarming for the University because a high percentage of students must complete the CIF to accurately reflect students' opinions.

"We talked to the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Senate, we had focus groups with the students to find out what incentives would be of the greatest influence on whether they took the time to fill out the CIF," Jacobs said.

Students who complete their CIFs are able to access an additional feature of InsideND's class search, the registrar's Web-based application that allows students to see classes.

"Five questions of the CIF were designed by students, and the data that comes from those is then shared with students through class search," Jacobs said.

Considering the current CIF response rate and the legitimacy of the site, Jacobs said the class search is much more accurate than other websites students use to learn about professors, such as ndtoday.com or ratemyprofessor.com.

"I would hope students consider the class search tool to be a more reliable source of information than third-party websites," Jacobs said.

CIFs are especially important for graduate students and faculty. Monique Gregg, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology, said she will rely on CIFs from this semester to further her career.

"Students don't typically understand the importance of CIFs, especially to grad students," Gregg said. "We have to use them to apply for jobs."

It's important that students take the process extremely seriously."

Gregg, who will be using her CIFs to apply not only for jobs but also for teaching awards at Notre Dame, said professors take the CIFs seriously.

"It's important to know whether or not the course was challenging, what the professor did right, where the professor can improve," Gregg said.

Jacobs, who teaches in the College of Science, agreed with Gregg.

"If I tried a different approach I want to hear from students whether that was effective," Jacobs said. "Should I continue that approach, should I improve upon it, should I discard it?"

The CIF forms also influence tenure and promotion, Jacobs said. Although factors such as a professor's research and scholarship are considered, teaching is looked at very seriously.

"We need to establish whether they are in fact an effective teacher," Jacobs said. "There are standards of excellence that the department tries to apply to the professor."

Although the CIFs for some courses open at different times, most are currently available online. Adam Pierson, the University's strategic planning program director, said alerting students to the availability of the CIFs is important.

"We try our best, we send out e-mails, although we don't know how many students actually read them," Pierson said. "This year we worked with student government to coordinate table tents."

Pierson said the CIFs for most courses will close Thursday at 11:59 p.m.

Contact Melissa Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu

St. Nick

continued from page 1

Nicholas is second only to the Virgin Mary as the most popular namesake for churches worldwide, and is an especially popular patron in Eastern Europe and Russia.

Saint Nicholas lived as a bishop in Myra, which is present-day Southern Turkey, during the fourth century, Ayo said. Ruins of a church for Saint Nicholas have been found in this area, as well as several early churches in Constantinople.

Ayo said the tradition of referring to Saint Nicholas as Santa Claus began in New York. Dutch Protestants in New York referred to Saint Nicholas as "Sinter Klaas," which became "Santa Claus" over the years.

Clement Clarke Moore, the son of an Episcopalian bishop in New York City, wrote the poem "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" on an envelope for his children, Ayo said. A guest staying in their home found the poem and submitted it to a newspaper in Troy, N.Y. Ayo said the poem immortalized the iconic American image of Santa Claus as a jolly old man dressed in red and bearing a sack of gifts.

The idea of Santa Claus coming only to those people who are good does not fit with Saint Nicholas' own spirit of giving, Ayo said.

"Saint Nicholas' generosity

was meant to serve as a reminder that your family loves you, the Church loves you, no matter who you are or what you have done," he said.

There are many legends about Saint Nicholas' generous spirit, but Ayo said his favorite involves a father who could not afford dowries for his three daughters. Each night for three nights, a bag of gold was thrown down his chimney. On the third night, the father went outside to find the giver and found Saint Nicholas, who was bishop at the time. Wanting his good works to remain anonymous, Saint Nicholas made the father promise to tell no one it had been him.

These stories circulated in oral tradition for centuries before they were recorded, Ayo said. For this reason, they maintain imaginative tones.

"These are wonderful legends, almost fairy tales nobody knows," Ayo said.

Because of these stories, Ayo said researching Saint Nicholas is enjoyable.

"Legends tell you what the human heart wants," Ayo said. "Santa Claus tells you what children and families want, and that is gratuitous giving. The story of Saint Nicholas tells you the way humans' hearts are made, and what their needs are. For that reason, I hope we never lose it."

Contact Nora Kenney at hkenney@nd.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Jimmy Wales: Will stare at you for food

In case no one has noticed yet, for the past few weeks, Wikipedia has been flooded by dramatic life-size banner ads featuring founder Jimmy Wales' terrifyingly temple-veined yet endearingly squinty face and personal plea for donations.

Because Wikipedia is entirely free to users, free of advertisements and free of sponsorships, the site needs donations to keep running. Wikimedia, the charity that runs the non-profit site, is dependent on donations to help with the \$10 million per year cost of running Wikipedia. In lieu of running ads from the plethora of multi-national organizations that would love to be seen showing their support for Wikipedia, Wikimedia has been running a Christmas time appeal for donations every year for the past six years. This year, the charity hopes to raise \$7.5 million.

As for the effectiveness of Wikimedia's various fundraising campaigns, the Jimmy Wales personal appeal is the most successful yet, most likely because the gigantic ad is so in-your-face (no pun intended). The appeal rakes in more than \$47,000 a day, 15 times as many donations as the next most effective fundraiser, a campaign that read, "Admit it — without Wikipedia you could never have finished that report!" and reeled in a mere \$3,000 a day. The "Thanks for the brain massage" donation ad resulted in only 19 total donations.

Even "Please read: A personal appeal from Wikipedia Founder Jimmy Wales" tests significantly better in terms of click-through rates and daily donations than "A personal appeal from Wikipedia Founder Jimmy Wales" without the "Please read." The "Please read" makes Wales' call for money seem both more polite and urgent than it actually is.

Here are just a few of the reasons you should donate money to Wikipedia, also known as Jimmy Wales and friends.

- ◆ Jimmy Wales will not stop staring at you through your computer screen until Wikimedia raises the expected \$7.5 million.

- ◆ The "Phone a Friend" option on "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" will not maintain the same respect and recognition once the caller's friend loses the resource for looking up trivial information.

- ◆ Why would you want to donate to a legitimate charity, like St. Jude's or Partners in Health, when you could send your funds Jimmy Wales' way this Christmas?

- ◆ Someone needs to give Jimmy Wales some money and soon so that he can afford to eat three full meals a day and shave on a regular basis.

- ◆ Jimmy Wales also needs the money to spend on more headshots.

So there you have it. If you have any doubt in your mind as to whether you should donate to Wikipedia, just take another look at Jimmy Wales' banner ad and you'll want to donate immediately.

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

Contact Alex Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu



Alex Kilpatrick

Assistant
Scene Editor



Dan Sportiello

Bound
Variables

The economic and social framework of the modern state — valorized as the very condition of human freedom — renders inescapable certain forms of manipulation: The free laborer, no longer a serf, can now give of himself without his lord having any obligation to ensure his welfare; the criminal, no longer tortured, is now imprisoned until he demonstrates his eagerness to serve the society that has chained him. One tends to think of these economic and social reforms as gestures of humanity, not manipulation — and yet it is not coincidental that the free laborer is one who can work in whichever task the capitalist most needs him, that the reformed prisoner is one who can return to the capitalist the resources that were spent on his rehabilitation. Wage slavery is far more profitable than chattel slavery, rehabilitation far more profitable than retribution.

These are not, in themselves, new points: Marx and Foucault spoke of them long ago. There is the perennial danger, however, that they will be either overstated or understated. It would be overstatement to suppose that these reforms were entirely negative changes — for freedom is better than serfdom, rehabilitation better than retribution. Civilization ought not go back, even if this was somehow possible. And it would be a gross overstatement to suppose that these reforms were motivated entirely by the avarice of the wealthy and powerful — and not, as they claimed during their Enlightenment, by their humanism, their compassion: The greatest figures of the Enlightenment — individuals like Locke and Kant — were not only brilliant but also impossibly noble. Our criticism of them is worthless if it is not born of awe.

It would be an understatement, on the other hand, to suppose that the economic and social framework of the modern state has had a great impact upon our lives: Though few are eager to admit it, late modern capitalism has instrumentalized all things by giving them prices in the

market — and we ourselves are no exception, as the statistical character of state economic, military and public health calculation makes clear. Though few are eager to admit it, schools, hospitals, factories, offices and militaries have followed the model of the prison, tightly regimenting the lives of all citizens — building what Foucault calls the "panoptic" civil society that, through constant vigilance, forces its members into compliance with the practices that, directly or indirectly, serve the survival of the state. And, indeed, it is not coincidental that in the centuries after the Enlightenment, Western societies came to dominate utterly their non-Western rivals — economically, scientifically and eventually militarily. This domination has eroded, it seems, only to the extent that those non-Western societies have adopted the Western model — that is, the economic and social framework of the modern state.

The contrast between the economic and social reforms — between absolute freedom in the economic sphere and absolute discipline in the moral sphere — is the paradox at the heart of modern state: The tremendous productivity of free-market capitalism presupposes an absolute respect for property and contracts that must be indoctrinated by the panoptic civil society, while the tremendous resources required for said indoctrination, which requires public schools, prisons and so on, can only be supplied, in the long run, by the tremendous productivity of free-market capitalism. Limitless desire is directed down the narrowest of channels that are theoretically infinite; in practice, however, it was only a matter of time before said desire burst its banks and the mill of economic progress ground to a halt. This, one among the several "cultural contradictions of capitalism," is not a new point either. Hölderlin spoke of it in the wake of our current stagnation.

This is not, of course, the only paradox at the heart of the modern state. But it is certainly the most obvious. Equally obvious is the dilemma that it presents: it is unclear how it is to be rectified, or even whether it can be rectified. Williams compares the modern state, based on free labor, to the ancient state, based on slavery — for both are ultimately forms of manipulation: "Most people were no doubt disposed to think that [slavery] was 'natural' just in the sense that the best

development of social life required it, but few thought that it was natural ... with regard to the ways in which the role was allocated." Just as there were systematic evils in the ancient state — for no one deserves to be a slave, obviously — so are there systematic evils in its modern counterpart — for we must navigate, somehow, a merciless economic order even as the panoptic civil society chains us in a way almost beyond endurance. It is not coincidental that Foucault calls our society "carceral." But just as the ancients saw no way to eliminate their brand of systematic injustice — and indeed, before the industrial revolution, it seems that there was none — we moderns see no way to eliminate ours. The only apparent alternative, communism, proved worse than farcical, eviscerating its own body politic before hemorrhaging to death. Capitalism is our only live option.

What is different between the ancient state and the modern state, however, is that the modern feels compelled to find and to mitigate, insofar as it can, systematic injustice within itself. While necessity and luck, as Williams reminds us, will forever serve to render unequal those who are otherwise equal, "liberalism demands — more realistically speaking, it hopes — that those concepts, necessity and luck, should not take the place of considerations of justice. If an individual's place in society is to be determined by forces of economic and cultural necessity and by that individual's luck, and if, in particular, those elements are going to determine the extent to which he or she is to be (effectively, if not by overt coercion) in the power of others, then the hope is that all this should happen within the framework of institutions that guarantee the justice of these processes and of their outcome." In the darkness of the night, far from Enlightenment and its noble intentions, the prospects for this task look grim indeed. Whether this view is that of honesty or despair remains, as always, unclear.

Daniel John Sportiello is in his third year in the philosophy Ph.D. program. Listen to his radio show on Thursdays at 2 p.m. on WVFI. He can be reached at dsportie@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"An artist's only concern is to shoot for some kind of perfection, and on his own terms, not anyone else's."

J.D. Salinger
U.S. novelist & short story author

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The test of a first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas in the mind at the same time, and still retain the ability to function."

F. Scott Fitzgerald
U.S. novelist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kudos to the
Glee Club

Dear Notre Dame Glee Club,

You'll never know how much your performance last Wednesday evening at Dujarie House meant to the folks of Holy Cross Village, many of whom would not be able to get out to witness a Glee Club performance. What a treat it was for the residents of Dujarie and Schubert Villa to be serenaded by this group of talented and enthusiastic young men. Your willingness to share your time and talent is truly representative of the Notre Dame spirit and the spirit of Christmas. Thank you for giving of yourselves and for getting the holiday season off to a great start for the many folks who came to hear you sing.

Gratefully,

Holy Cross Life Enrichment Staff
Holy Cross Village Retirement Home
Dec. 4

UWIRE

It's not complicated.
Tax or cut.
Pick one.

When did spend and tax become just spend? Somewhere between Social Security and health care reform, Congressional leaders, fearing public backlash, continued to pass legislation in the name of social welfare, failing to account for appropriate funds.

Editorial Board

The Daily Forty-Niner

A little debt is OK — even the most responsible among us carry a credit card — but the thought of more American debt just sounds ludicrous. As of Sept. 30, the U.S. is \$13.56 trillion in debt. That's six percent less than what our country produces yearly in goods and services. Not cool. In fact, the Government Accountability Office, an auxiliary of U.S. Congress, estimates that somewhere between 2030 and 2040 mandatory spending will exceed government revenue.

So why are we talking about all this? The Bush Tax cuts. No, we're not against them. The Daily 49er published an editorial supporting cuts for the middle class earlier this semester. What we are against is fiscal irresponsibility: the mismanagement of funds that will lead to steeper recessions in the future.

According to the Wall Street Journal, there are rumblings in Congress about passing legislation that would both raise our country's debt ceiling and extend the tax cuts. Apparently, Obama administration officials and congressional Democrats and Republicans feel this may be a viable way to extend the Bush tax cuts.

The issue with this is not so much fiscal as it is philosophical. The tax cuts will be extended — the American middle class cannot afford a tax increase and Republicans will not extend the cuts unless they are extended for the wealthy as a well. Our country's debt ceiling is raised seemingly every year — so this is

nothing new. It's just the idea of packaging a debt increase with a tax cut that irks us. After all, this package would really capture the spirit of Congress, wouldn't it?

If Congressional leaders feel the will of the people is to spend, let them spend, but they should tax appropriately. If Congressional leaders feel the will of the people is to cut taxes, let them cut taxes, but they should spend appropriately.

Taxing and spending is a two-way street whether you are a Republican or a Democrat.

Unaware of this two-way relationship, congressmen might ask how else to extend the tax cuts? Cut spending, we would respond, now aware of congressional irresponsibility.

Some may argue for complexity citing anyone from John Keynes to Adam Smith, and they are right; the complexity of economics can't be argued in a 500-word editorial, but when it comes to prosperity, no one would rightly disagree with fiscal responsibility.

A balanced budget is nowhere near as important to anyone in this country as it is to a college student. Long after Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama, this country's college students will be around facing the consequences of their economic decisions. If anyone should be worried about 2040, it's us.

Cutting programs or raising taxes is hard, but in the harsh reality of this world one or the other has to be done. Otherwise, the buck is just being passed. And trust us, we say college students are in enough debt.

This column first appeared in the Dec. 6 edition of the The Daily Forty-Niner, the publication serving the California State University.

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

I survived the
snowball fight

Oh what a beautiful sight it was. White snow flying about, people being hit, snowballs being thrown — what more could you ask for? I had gathered my snow and moved to the front lines, and I threw my fair share of snowballs. My friend got nailed in the face and went back to the dorm, but I continued to fight on.

Then it happened. I got hit in the face for the fifth and final time. I staggered back to Dillon and was proceeded to be asked if I were high because of how red my eyes were. For some reason, instead of forming two sides (the side closer to God Quad and the side closer to Alumni Hall), there was a third side. These people stood on Alumni's turf and were throwing snowballs at the people in the middle of South Quad where I stood. In effect, I was caught in the crossfire.

However, I am not angry. The thrill of a snowball fight is seeing a man go down from a low blow or seeing him crouch over in pain from a shot to the face. Rather, I am thrilled that I survived. After all, it's just for fun.

Sean Fitzgerald
freshman
Dillon Hall
Dec. 6

Saint Mary's
library hours

This letter is being written at 4:50 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4. I was sitting in the library diligently working on a research paper only to be interrupted by an announcement saying that the library is closing in 10 minutes. I feel that 5 p.m. is unreasonably early to close on a Saturday. Yes, the weekend is a time to go out with friends, but before I do so, I would still like to get work done for the coming week.

Because I am in the Notre Dame marching band, this is one of the only free Saturdays that I am given during the semester. And I currently feel penalized for sleeping in, having to go to a close friend's grandmother's funeral today and not getting to the library until 3 p.m. I'm not asking for the library to stay open 24 hours a day or even until midnight. I'm just asking for you to have reasonable hours on the weekends that extend beyond 5 p.m. that will allow me to get work done.

Rachael Givens
junior
LeMans Hall
Dec. 6

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Want to release some stress?
Write a Letter to the Editor.



By MAIJA GUSTIN
Assistant Scene Editor

After a 2009 that was dominated by successful blockbusters —“Avatar,” “Star Trek” and “Transformers 2” to name a few — 2010 fell a little flat. For every “Inception,” there was a “Last Airbender,” and for every “Harry Potter,” there was a “Percy Jackson.”

There were, however, also a string of movies that perhaps didn’t get as much hype as they deserved. Leonardo DiCaprio messed with our minds before “Inception,” in early 2010 with “Shutter Island,” overall a pretty good movie that didn’t seem to impress audiences enough. “Robin Hood” and “Prince of Persia” weren’t particularly great movies, but they were perfect summer, popcorn-and-escapism fun. “Scott Pilgrim vs. The World,” though disliked by many, was loved by many more, but didn’t prove its popularity at the box office.

2010 saw a wave of sequels, remakes and adaptations, and while a few were great, most were sub-par to their originals. Though Robert Downey, Jr. will probably always be great as Tony Stark, “Iron Man 2” was missing the formula that made the orig-

inal such a fantastic movie. “Sex and the City” wasn’t a great movie, but it was enjoyable and pleased many of the HBO series’ fans. “Sex and the City 2,” however, should never have been made, which was even more evident after seeing the actual movie. “

Eclipse” was the best “Twilight” movie yet, but what does that really say about it? “Wall Street 2” proved that the box office loves Shia LeBeouf, but also that even he can’t save a movie. “The Lovely Bones” tried to turn a beautiful book into a beautiful movie, but failed due to the weight of its own ambitions.

No one actually saw the comic book adaptation “Jonah Hex,” but many fans were satisfied with the hilarious-but-violent adaptation of “Kick-Ass.” “The Karate Kid” proved that the charismatic progeny of Will Smith are box office gold.

If 2010 thrived anywhere, it was in animation. “How to Train Your Dragon” was a magical, mythical ride from Dreamworks, and “Shrek Forever After” closed out a popular franchise. “Despicable Me” was the second-most popular animated film this summer, falling only behind the tremendous “Toy Story 3.” This threequel had big shoes to fill and Pixar totally delivered. It’s a shoe-in for the Best Animated Oscar. And “Tangled” just beat “Harry Potter” at the box office, proving to be popular amongst young and old alike.

Notre Dame hasn’t seen this much love from Hollywood since “Rudy.” In 2010, two movies were released, both based on the experiences of Notre Dame alumni. Check out Scene’s past coverage of “Extraordinary Measures” and “Love and Other Drugs” for the stories behind these films.

Some of 2010’s worst films came in the form of coming-of-age movies and romantic comedies. Despite starring a stellar cast, “Valentine’s Day” just couldn’t pull off the romantic holiday “Love, Actually”-style. Miley Cryus’ “The Last Song” also proved an unsurprising letdown. Julia Roberts is always fantastic, but “Eat Pray Love” was only good for its beautiful scenery. And the usually wonderful Amanda Seyfried turned in two mediocre rom-coms, “Letters to Juliet” and “Dear John.” Rising star Emma Stone, though, proved that the teen genre still has some bite to it in “Easy A.”

Though the winter is usually the season of Oscar fodder movies, several front-runners for the movie awards have already been released. David Fincher’s

“The Social Network” was one of the most buzzed about, and most critically acclaimed, movies of the year and is sure to be up for more than a handful of major prizes come awards season. “The King’s Speech,” a British film starring Colin Firth and Helena Bonham Carter, is still only in limited release but looks to earn Firth a long-overdue Academy Award. “The Kids Are All Right,” released over the summer, also has Annette Bening and Julianne Moore looking to vie for some much-deserved hardware. Ben Affleck surprised everyone with his directorial debut, “The Town,” which looks to send him back to the Oscars as a nominee. Oscar co-host James Franco will also be well represented at the ceremonies by his Danny Boyle-directed film “127 Hours.” The recently released “Black Swan” is also already a contender for the big awards.

It’s only been out for a few weeks, but “Harry Potter” has already earned more than \$600 million worldwide, further catapulting the film series into the realm of Most Successful Franchise Ever.

But 2010 isn’t over yet. And as the holiday movie season gets into full swing, there is a lot to look forward to. If bored this winter break, consider getting out of the cold and heading to the multiplex, where you can check out the third “Narnia” film, “Voyage of the Dawn Treader.” You can also see Helen Mirren take on a traditionally male Shakespearean character in “The Tempest.” “Tron: Legacy” looks like 3D with a purpose and the Coen Brothers’ “True Grit” is a guaranteed Oscar-contender.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

2010 IN RE

By MAC HENDRICKSON
Scene Writer

‘My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy’ Kanye West
Released on Roc-A-Fella, Def Jam

To be honest, no one really expected this album to be bad. With West’s impeccable record as an album maker, rumors of a Pete Rock collaboration and early previews of the material, the worst sort of expectation was the sort Ice Cube could only dream of. But no one expected it to be this good. Engineered to perfection, “Fantasy” danced the fine line between innovation and mastery. And with innumerable rave reviews,

“Fantasy” defined “critical darling” for the new decade. With his VMA performance, countless public appearances and the GOOD Friday release series, “Fantasy” felt more like a three-month event than a one-day release. Destined to be a classic, “Fantasy” leaves critics wondering if anyone will match it before the decade draws to a close.

‘Halcyon Digest’ Deerhunter
Released on 4AD

Indie bands rarely make albums like “Halcyon Digest.” There is no external caveat. No prior knowledge needed. The magnificence is self-contained. If one hasn’t heard any of Deerhunter’s material, “Halcyon Digest” is a great place to begin. The songs move from one to another like dreams in a night of tossing and turning. Bradford Cox’s lyrics are little memories and details of his life, devoid of anything too thematically crippling or distracting. Cox has certainly mastered the art of capturing a peculiar feeling, and this album is a perfect demonstration.

‘King of the Beach’ Wavves
Released on Fat Possum Records

If you don’t know who Wavves is or haven’t heard this album, don’t get any wild expectations. It’s exactly what you think it is: A Cali skater singing punk songs about summer. Nothing here defies gravity. But nobody ever said predictability was a negative. Nathan Williams sounds like a low-fi Blink-182 appealing to a much narrower audience. From the opening title track, “Beach” captures the California summer spirit with danceable three-chord anthems. He also addresses the elephant in the room: his stage stunt from 2009 that painted him as a brat. It’s personal, it’s punk and it sounds awesome.

‘The Suburbs’ Arcade Fire
Released on Merge Records

Arcade Fire isn’t always as interesting as the band is emotional. With Win Butler’s propensity for taking things too seriously, Arcade Fire’s third album had the potential to be a perfected and dynamic bore. Early listens and interviews about its “concept” kept the fear alive. Though the album dragged on far too long, the result was a cohesive glance at Springsteen-esque angst in the modern age. Each song had the drive and inspiration of “Keep the Car Running” with the emotional depth of “Rebellion (Lies).” Perhaps for their fourth album, Arcade Fire fans can relax now that Butler and Company have proven they know what they are doing.

‘Crazy for You’ Best Coast
Released on Mexican Summer

From the cover of her first album as Best Coast, it’s no surprise that Bethany Cosentino enjoys the beach aesthetic. So, the way the record sounded was anything but a surprise. But that success at capturing the Cali feel was just what made the record work so well. With little 2-minute ditties about something she did last week or some thought she had while sitting and watching game show re-runs, “Crazy For You” is the type of album girls like Cosentino were born to make. The melodies are catchy, and the stories are casually cinematic. Don’t be surprised if you find parallels to Nathan Williams’ music. They have been dating since last year.

Contact Mac Hendrickson at mhendri1@nd.edu



By BRANDY CERNE
Scene Writer

‘Jersey Shore’ Phenomenon

Try as you might, there is no denying the appeal of “Jersey Shore,” so you might as well just embrace it wholeheartedly. After its premiere last December, “Jersey Shore” exploded more than any other reality show in recent years. The somehow lovable cast has fist-pumped, “smushed” and “GTL”ed into the hearts of America, all while teaching us a new vocabulary full of grenades, T-shirt time and so much more. It must reveal something about American culture that this equal parts hilarious and horrifying peek into “Guido” life has become such a pop culture phenomenon.

The end of ‘Lost’

It was the end of an era. “Lost” may have, for lack of a better word, lost some of its viewers over the years. However, the diehard fans who stuck through to the end were left a finale that may not have had the mind-blowing moments we’ve come to expect over the years, but was certainly emotionally satisfying. No, not all the questions were answered, but how could they have been? And isn’t the mystery the fun of it sometimes? No one really knows what it all meant, but the characters “Lost” fans had come to know and love over its six seasons were together again, leaving a sweet conclusion. The parting shots with Jack that reversed the opening ones of the pilot were a beautiful way to end the densely mythological, compelling series that

changed television.

Late night drama

Never has late night television been as discussed as it was in 2010. After a short run, NBC announced it was moving Conan O’Brien and “The Tonight Show” back a half-hour and reinstating Jay Leno at the 11:35 time slot, reserved for “The Tonight Show” for most of its decades-long history. O’Brien didn’t take this news lying down and decided to leave his post. Fans rallied to join “Team Coco” in support. Thanks to his classy departure, hilarious Twitter postings and “The Legally Prohibited From Being Funny on Television Tour,” Conan is more popular than ever before. He won in the long run, now hosting his own late night show “Conan” on TBS.

‘Glee’ takes over

Love it or hate it, “Glee” has become one of the biggest hits on television. After its instant popularity last year, it has only grown in 2010 due to themed episodes like the standout “The Power of Madonna,” the letdown “Britney/Brittany,” and “The Rocky Horror Glee Show.” “Glee” is at its best when exploring its humorous side and making fun of itself, compared to the after-school special feel when it tries to take on sensitive topics like religion or bullying. Here’s hoping it continues to find the right balance and give more screen time to Brittany, Mike Chang and new addition Blaine (Darren Criss).

Cable sets the new standard

Cable television used to be a barren place full of repeats of old classics and movies, but there’s no denying it now produces the highest quality shows on television. AMC is the biggest success story, with its hat trick of critically loved “Mad Men,” “Breaking Bad” and the new zombie hit “The Walking Dead.” Even after a lackluster third season, HBO’s “True Blood” is still the most fun and somewhat disturbing supernatural show on TV. With the premieres of “Treme” and “Boardwalk Empire,” HBO has continued to prove it knows how



to produce hyped shows that never disappoint. And, after a huge twist at the end of its last season, Showtime’s “Dexter” still fascinates.

Fall schedule fails to produce hits

For TV lovers, fall doesn’t mean back to school, but rather an excitement of discovering addicting new shows. Unfortunately, this fall failed to produce any real standouts. “Lone Star” received the best reviews of the season, but was quickly canceled. Keri Russell and Will Arnett failed to bring humor to “Running Wilde.” The 20-something drama “My Generation” was a clichéd mess. None of the other shows that have managed to survive cancellation have garnered any real traction. Why was it such a weak season? There’s no real answer here. One can only hope that next year brings twice as many great shows to make up for this year.

Contact Brandy Cerne at bcerne1@nd.edu

10
VIEW

By ROSS FINNEY
Scene Writer

Double Rainbow

Posted by YouTube user Hungrybear back in January, this video remained relatively obscure after its posting until comedian Jimmy Kimmel came across it and tweeted it early in July. Within a day, it was picked up by the Huffington Post, and from there it truly went viral.

Hungry Bear is an ex-firefighter who purchased and lives on a farm near Yosemite National Park. One day he went out his front door and witnessed a double rainbow in the sky, and his shock and awe at the sight, including breaking down into tears, was outrageously funny. Very sincere, though not clearly sober, Hungry Bear and his double rainbow joy have inspired numerous parodies. Classic lines include “Oh my god ... it’s so bright and vivid!” and his thought-provoking question, “What does this mean?”

The Man Your Man Could Smell Like

In one of the most successful examples of viral marketing, Old Spice created internet gold. The commercial aired first during the Super Bowl and became wildly popular. It spawned even more commercials and a webpage to match the off-beat humor of the original.

Starring Isaiah Mustafa, a former NFL wide receiver, the video is a comical appeal to women to get their boyfriends to smell as good as the subject of the commercial. Delivered completely dead-

pan, Mustafa goes through hilarious random setting changes, and is constantly forcing a comparison to himself. The catch? Regardless of smell, not too many dudes can compare to the man with “two tickets to that thing you like,” with diamonds on a boat riding on a horse.

Bed Intruder

This hilarious video, taken from an actual Huntsville, Ala., newscast, popped up around the end of the summer, and spread like wildfire on the internet. The actual story was about a burglary and attempted assault that Antoine Dodson was able to stop. But that wasn’t the focus of those internet tastemakers, more known for their dark humor than their political correctness.

While the subject matter itself is certainly not funny, one can’t help but laugh at Dodson’s over-the-top reaction to it. Spawning catchphrases like “Hide yo’ wife, hide yo’ kids,” and “You are so dumb. You are really really dumb,” Dodson makes an unnecessary spectacle, on TV no less. Needless to say, the video became a quick classic. For even more laughs check out the auto-tuned song version of the video.

Pants on the Ground

One of the earliest viral videos of the year that you might have forgotten about, this clip from American Idol quickly took on a life of its own. The video features an Idol contestant who pretty clearly should never have made it on TV. Those are often obviously the most entertaining people on the show.

The contestant in question delivers a half spoken song criticizing those youth who wear their hats to the side, and walk around with their pants on the ground. It’s a riot. The judges couldn’t contain their own laughter watching him perform, and when he starts to break out the dance moves, it’s almost too much.

Watermelon Girl

This poor girl was a contestant on “Amazing Race.” That was probably her first problem. Early this school year a clip previewing the newest season of the series showcased a tragic misfortune. It took no time for this video to spread, and the lady in question even got airtime on national television to talk about the incident.

For whatever reason, this woman was operating a watermelon catapult/sling-shot device of some sort, trying to hit suits of armor. Things went terribly awry when the device failed to shoot the watermelon forward, and instead threw it back, into her face, at high speed. Watch it. It may not be for those who can’t find some humor in another’s misfortune, but for the rest of us, it’s pretty priceless.

Contact Ross Finney at rfinney@gmail.com



NFL

Amid controversy, Broncos fire head coach McDaniels

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — The Denver Broncos have fired coach Josh McDaniels, whose nearly two-year stint was marred by the Spygate II videotape scandal, a series of personnel blunders and the franchise's worst skid in four decades.

There was no immediate word on who will succeed McDaniels, 34, whose hiring by team owner Pat Bowlen in January 2009 is now viewed as a monumental mistake.

Team spokesman Patrick Smyth told The Associated Press: "We can confirm that coach Josh McDaniels has been relieved of his head coaching duties."

The Broncos planned news conferences for Tuesday. A message left with Broncos chief operating officer Joe Ellis wasn't returned.

Players didn't know of McDaniels' firing when they left team headquarters after a conditioning run ended at 3 p.m. Shortly after that, McDaniels met with Bowlen and was fired with two years left on his contract.

McDaniels then met with his assistants. He didn't return a message left by the AP seeking comment.

McDaniels had nearly \$7 million left on his contract, and Bowlen is still on the hook for millions more he owes Mike Shanahan, whom he fired last year. That means he'll be paying three head coaches next season.

After winning his first six games his rookie season, McDaniels, a disciple of New England coach Bill Belichick, lost 17 of his last 22 games with the Broncos in his first NFL head coaching job.

He had plenty of off-the-field issues, too, including the videotaping violation and linebacker D.J. Williams' drunken driving charge that caused him to get stripped of his captaincy.

Before he was fired Monday, McDaniels said he was reticent to turn to rookie Tim Tebow even though the Broncos (3-9) had been eliminated from contention with a 10-6 loss at Kansas City, their seventh loss in eight games.

"Well, I think Kyle Orton's had a good year," McDaniels said of his starter.

McDaniels made a series of personnel decisions that backfired, notably trading away Peyton Hillis, who has become a power running back in Cleveland, and he also was fined \$50,000 by the

NFL for failing to report a subordinate who violated league rules by videotaping a San Francisco 49ers practice in London on Oct. 30.

A week ago, Bowlen issued a statement that said McDaniels would be evaluated at season's end just an hour after telling AOL FanHouse, "I'm not interested in making a coaching change" despite the team's slide, and the embarrassing videotaping scandal that has rocked the once-proud franchise."

There were also reports that during a confidential staff meeting last week he had minimized the scope of the Broncos' videotaping scandal relative to New England's Spygate, where an NFL investigation found systemic videotaping of opponents and levied heavy penalties.

Last week, McDaniels said his staff meetings are supposed to be confidential but that he didn't think his coaching staff was splintered and he said he thought his assistants remained loyal.

Although the Broncos haven't been to the playoffs since 2006, Bowlen has never in his 27 years as owner had a team dealing with the double-whammy of front office



Josh McDaniels talks to the referees in Sunday's game against Kansas City. The Broncos fired McDaniels Monday afternoon.

and on-field issues like he does now.

The Broncos have usually been competitive into December even in their down years.

The franchise was busted for salary cap violations during its Super Bowl years in the late 1990s, but while there was some outrage around the league, there were no calls for Shanahan's ouster or fans voicing their discontent by bolting the stadium early or leaving seats empty altogether.

With thousands of empty seats at their last home game, the Broncos didn't announce actual attendance but only paid attendance, which at 72,736 was the lowest since Invesco Field opened a decade ago. By the time the Broncos' fourth-quarter rally fell one drive short in their 36-33 loss to St. Louis, most of the seats were empty.

MLB

Red Sox acquire all-star Gonzalez from Padres

Associated Press

BOSTON — Adrian Gonzalez put on a Red Sox jersey for the first time and immediately said what the Fenway faithful wanted to hear.

"I'm very excited to be in Boston and ready to beat the Yanks," he pronounced Monday.

The Red Sox completed their deal for the All-Star first baseman, acquiring the slugger from the San Diego Padres for three prospects and a player to be named.

"We're thrilled to be able to make this trade," Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said.

Boston sent minor league right-hander Casey Kelly, first baseman Anthony Rizzo and outfielder Reymond Fuentes to San Diego.

"It makes them a great team. He's a heck of a hitter. That's a huge addition for Boston,"

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "They just obviously improved themselves in a significant way. He's one of the premier players in that position in the game."

Gonzalez is entering the last year of his contract in 2011 and is due \$6.3 million next year. Although the trade does not include a contract extension, Epstein said he's "confident" a contract will be worked out.

"We're going to try to get something so he will be here for a very long time," said John Boggs, Gonzalez's agent.

The absence of an announced extension could prompt calls to the commissioner's office — maybe from the New York Yankees — for an investigation. If an extension isn't formalized until after opening day, it wouldn't count against the Red Sox for the 2011 luxury tax.

In five seasons with San

Diego, Gonzalez has 161 homers and 501 RBIs. Including parts of two seasons with Texas, he has 168 homers and 525 RBIs. He hit .298 with 31 homers and 101 RBIs last season.

Gonzalez's lefty swings put up big numbers despite him playing at pitcher-oriented Petco Park.

"I think he's going to be a monster in Fenway Park," Padres general manager Jed Hoyer said at baseball's winter meetings in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Epstein, too, predicts Gonzalez will quickly take aim at the Green Monster in left field.

"We think he is going to wear the wall out," Epstein said.

The Red Sox made a run at Gonzalez before the 2009 trading deadline and again last season, Epstein said. Gonzalez has been an All-Star the last three years and is two-time Gold

Glover.

Hoyer, who previously worked for the Red Sox under Epstein, said the Padres were sure they wouldn't have been able to sign Gonzalez after next year. Rather than risk waiting for a deal next summer, Hoyer said San Diego decided to make a move now.

"There's plenty of examples of trades at the deadline where a team didn't get nearly what they thought they'd get simply because the market didn't develop or because of injuries," Hoyer said. "With that in mind, I felt like this was the right time to do it."

Hoyer said at least three teams were showing serious interest in getting Gonzalez. He said Epstein, his pal, had been "calling me more often than usual."

For the Red Sox, the trade allows them to play a little catch up with the Yankees. A couple of

years ago, Boston was in the mix to sign star first baseman Mark Teixeira, who wound up going to New York.

Gonzalez had surgery to clean up the labrum in his non-throwing right shoulder on Oct. 20, but he said Monday he's ahead of schedule and expects to be ready for opening day.

"I'm very excited to start this new phase and look forward to a lot of world championships," he said.

Gonzalez, donning a Boston jersey without a number, said the Red Sox have always been his favorite American League team, in part because of Boston icon and Hall of Famer Ted Williams — like Gonzalez, Williams was a left-hander and San Diego native.

Epstein said the Red Sox had admired Gonzalez since his days as an up-and-coming player for the Texas Rangers.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Michael: "It was on company property with company property. So double jeopardy, we're fine."
Ryan: "I don't think you understand how double jeopardy works."
Michael: "Oh, I'm sorry. What is 'we're fine?'"
Ace Ventura: "Well, I'm not really ready for a relationship, Lois, but thank you for asking. Hey, maybe I'll give you a call sometime. Your number's still 911? All righty then."

Harry: "Yeah I called her up, she gave me a bunch of crap about me not listening to her, or something, I don't know, I wasn't really paying attention."
Kramer: "Do you have any conceivable reason for even getting up in the morning?"
George: "I like to get the Daily News."
Jerry: "Did you know that the original title for War and Peace was War, What Is It Good For?"

Kramer: "They don't have a decent piece of fruit at the supermarket. The apples are mealy, the oranges are dry... I don't know what's going on with the papayas!"
Jerry: "You know the message you're sending out to the world with these sweatpants? You're telling the world, 'I give up. I can't compete in normal society. I'm miserable, so I might as well be comfortable.'"
Jerry: "Sometimes the road less traveled is less traveled for a reason."

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NBA

NBA to buy Hornets, keep team in Big Easy



New Orleans coach Monty Williams reacts during a 109-84 loss to San Antonio on Dec. 5. The Hornets will be sold to the NBA.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The NBA's decision to buy the New Orleans Hornets gives Louisiana the best opportunity to hold onto the franchise that moved there in 2002, league commissioner David Stern said Monday.

Stern confirmed that the league is proceeding with a plan to buy the club from majority owner George Shinn and minority partner Gary Chouest, making the Hornets the first NBA-owned team.

Shinn has been trying since last spring to sell the team to Chouest, but those negotiations had stalled, and Stern said Shinn's urgency to sell his shares was increasing because he was accumulating debt at a rate he could not sustain.

If the NBA had done nothing, Stern said, Shinn may have been inclined to take the next good offer he got, even if it came from a buyer that planned to move the team.

The NBA has "the luxury of time to make these decisions," Stern said. "So frankly, that was one of the best reasons for us to step forward, so that the luxury of time was on our side, that there didn't have to be made a long-term decision on a very short framework with certain pressures. And we think we've eliminated the pressure."

However, Stern also made it clear that Louisiana politicians should be prepared to revisit the Hornets' lease of the state-owned New Orleans Arena and the level of taxpayer-funded inducements the club may receive in the future.

Stern made an oblique reference to the NFL's New Orleans Saints, who since 2001 have negotiated inducements worth hundreds of millions of dollars. A recent deal even involved Saints owner Tom Benson buying a downtown high-rise with a guarantee that state agencies would lease office space at an above-market rate.

"Whether you call it a lease or some additional arrangements that I think the state is probably familiar with in the context of a sport whose ball is shaped differently than ours, I think that the state will be a party along with the team and possibly the city to a broader deal," Stern said. "It's a fair issue, and the governor knows we're coming."

Louisiana, like many states, is dealing with enormous budget cuts during the current economic recession. Gov. Bobby Jindal pledged to work with the NBA, but only within the state's limits.

"We have been talking to the team, the NBA, and potential buyers for some time now about keeping the Hornets in New Orleans," said Jindal spokesman Kyle Plotkin. "We think the Hornets are a strong fit for New Orleans and we have discussed various creative ideas to keep them in Louisiana. At the same time, we realize the state is facing budget challenges and we are not going to do anything that jeopardizes funding for higher education and health care."

The Hornets' current lease, which already channels most arena advertising, parking and concession revenues to the team and leaves the state little more than what it needs for operating expenses, runs through 2014.

However, the lease also includes an attendance clause that allows the Hornets to break the lease early if average attendance falls below 14,735 during a two-year period.

Through 10 home games, average attendance this season has been 13,865, raising the possibility that next two-year attendance benchmark could be missed by late January.

If that happened, the club would have to notify the state of its intent to end the lease by March 31, 2011, but Stern stressed the NBA would not rush to get out of its lease.

NHL

Pens extend win streak to 10

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby scored a goal and set up another, and the Pittsburgh Penguins matched the second-longest winning streak in franchise history, winning their 10th in a row by beating the New Jersey Devils 2-1 on Monday night.

Marc-Andre Fleury, 11-0-1 in his last 12 starts, made 27 saves as the Penguins matched a 10-game winning streak from Jan. 28-Feb. 15, 1999. Their only longer streak was an NHL-record, 17-game run from March 9-April 10, 1993, the season they failed to win a third consecutive Stanley Cup title.

Crosby leads the NHL with 24 goals and 24 assists for 48 points. He failed to get a hat trick for the third consecutive home game, but has nine goals in five games and six in three games.

Crosby's 16-game scoring streak (18 goals, 15 assists) is the league's longest this season and ties for the second longest of his career. He had a 19-game streak from Oct. 6-Nov. 17, 2007, but he already has three more points during this run.

The Penguins won their sixth in a row at home despite going 0 for 6 on the power play, including a two-man advantage that lasted 34 seconds early in the third period.

New Jersey (8-17-2) lost its fourth in five games despite Johan Hedberg's 32 saves. The Devils won the Atlantic Division three of the last four seasons.

Crosby broke a 1-all tie in the second period, following up shots from the points by Alex Goligoski and Chris Kunitz. Goligoski's shot deflected to Crosby at the right side of the net, and his shot banked off defenseman Colin White's stick and past Hedberg.

Crosby missed a good chance for a second goal when his wrist shot struck the right post 7:30 into the third period. Crosby took a hooking penalty three minutes later, but New Jersey didn't score and finished 1 for 4 on the power play.

Crosby set up Pittsburgh's first goal, sailing a pass from along the left-wing boards to Chris Kunitz for a one-timer from the edge of the right circle at 15:41 of the first. Kunitz also assisted on Crosby's goal.

New Jersey, winless in six consecutive road games, had taken a 1-0 lead 1:21 before that on Brian Rolston's first goal in 10 games.

With Pittsburgh's Pascal Dupuis off for hooking, Patrik Elias' shot from the right point deflected off Rolston's left wrist and fell to his feet, and Rolston lifted the puck inside the near post. Rolston clutched at his wrist as he celebrated his second goal.

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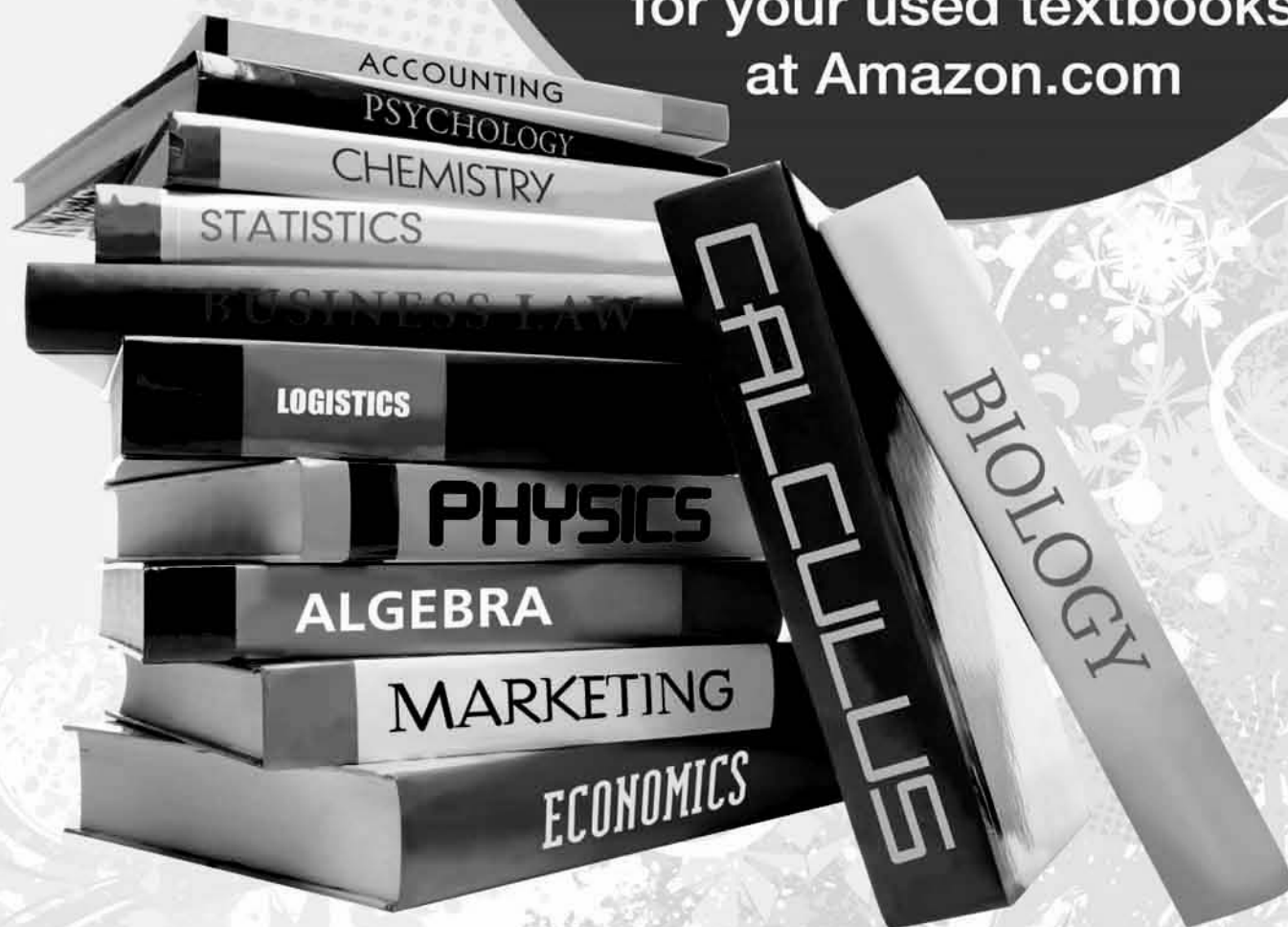
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Hawkeye

continued from page 16

was beneficial just to get a feel for what other times are out there beyond the Big East,” freshman Frank Dyer said.

The team hoped to put up its fastest times of the year to close out the fall season before transitioning into a mid-season break and a very competitive 2011 season.

“Coming into this meet we expected to have it be our fastest weekend of the year,” senior Peter Koppel said. “I think a lot of people still, though, exceeded their expectations.”

The Irish began the weekend on Friday by finishing third in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Dyer led the day’s competition, posting a meet record of 4:24.04 and earning first in the 500 free. Senior Mike Sullivan put up his best time of the year in the 200 individual medley with a mark of 1:50.85, good enough for second place.

The Irish also had success in

the three-meter dive, with senior Nathan Geary finishing third. Senior Eric Lex finished just behind Geary in fourth, and senior Wesley Villaflor and sophomore Ryan Koter earned fifth and sixth, respectively.

“The divers did a great job,” Welsh said. “We count on our divers. I thought their performance was very strong throughout.”

Lex earned a second medal on Saturday, earning third in the one-meter dive. Villaflor earned fifth, while Koter finished seventh.

Sullivan and Dyer continued their successful weekend on Saturday. Sullivan took home another second-place in the 400 individual medley, while Dyer earned second place in the 200 freestyle.

On Sunday, the Irish cemented their second-place finish. Dyer earned fourth in the 100 freestyle and joined junior Marshall Sherman, sophomore John McGinley and senior Thomas Van Volkenburg for a fourth-place finish in the 400 freestyle relay. Freshman Joshua Choi finished sixth in

the 200 breaststroke.

The winning combination for Notre Dame stemmed from the experience of its seasoned swimmers and the enthusiasm of the freshmen.

“The same combination of age and experience, youth and exuberance that we’ve been enjoying all year was here,” Welsh said. “The senior class was excellent, and there was the flat-out joy of the freshman class.”

Given the many races over the course of the weekend, a number of Irish swimmers and divers had the opportunity to compete and all rose to the high level of the competition.

“We had people step up into performance levels that they haven’t done before, that we haven’t seen before,” Welsh said. “The team feeds on that.”

With a second-place finish under their belts, Notre Dame heads into a mid-season break before spending 10 days training in San Juan, Puerto Rico, after Christmas.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

Stauder

continued from page 16

in the C-final of the 100 breaststroke, Casey earned ninth in the B-final of the 100-yard fly and Holden grabbed a fifth-place finish in the C-final of the 100-yard fly.

Stauder had another solid effort on Sunday, earning a first-place finish in the C-final of the 200-yard breaststroke.

Casey said that the team’s strong showing at Nationals puts the team in position for success at the NCAA Championships.

“Finishing third overall for women’s collegiate teams sets us up well for NCAA competition,” she said. “This gives us great momentum and positive attitudes going into conference which will ultimately lead to great swims to qualify us to NCAAs.”

On the second day at the Hawkeye Invitational, Notre Dame earned two top-10 finishes in diving. In the 1-meter event, senior Heidi Grossman earned fifth with a score of 271.95, and sophomore Jenny Chiang (266.10) placed sixth.

Next on the schedule for the Irish is a trip to Hawaii toward the tail end of the holiday break

in order to train for the spring season.

“We have two full weeks in Hawaii, so we will have time to get great training in as well as some fun,” Casey said. “Training in a warm and sunny environment allows us to be happy while we are having really hard practices. [The] training trip also gives us time to bond as a team in the pool and on the beach.”

Notre Dame’s next competition will come during that trip, when the Irish face off against Hawaii in a dual meet Jan. 4.

Contact Michael Todisco at mtodisco@nd.edu

NHL

Couture scores two in Sharks win

Associated Press

DETROIT — Logan Couture scored twice, including the go-ahead goal 8 seconds after Niclas Wallin’s goal, to lift the San Jose Sharks to a 5-2 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Monday night.

Tomas Holmstrom and Johan Franzen each had go-ahead goals in the first period, but the Western Conference-leading Red Wings couldn’t hold either lead. Joe Thornton made it 1-all late in the frame and Dany Heatley gave San Jose a two-goal lead late in the second.

Couture sealed the victory in the third with his second goal.

San Jose’s Antti Niemi made 25 saves. Jimmy Howard had 30 for Detroit, which fell to 10-2-2 at home.

San Jose improved to 6-5-2 on the road and moved out of last place in Pacific Division.

The Sharks, who jumped over Anaheim, have alternated winning and losing for eight games.

Detroit lost its previous game in overtime after winning four straight and nine of 11.

The Red Wings’ only other loss in regulation at home was



Red Wings defensemen Ruslan Selal, right, tries to clear the puck as he fights off Sharks center Logan Couture in a 5-2 Detroit win.

Oct. 28 against the Phoenix Coyotes.

It looked as though they might roll to another win when Holmstrom was perched in front of the net and redirected Nicklas Lidstrom’s shot into the net during a power play 7:48 into the game.

Thornton had scored only once in 15 games and had been held to one shot in three

of four games before he put in a short-handed goal during on an odd-man rush with 4:01 left in the first. He was set up by a cross-ice pass from Heatley.

Franzen finished a play in which each of Detroit’s five skaters touched the puck. The power-play goal put Detroit ahead 2-1 with 85 seconds remaining in the second.

Belles

continued from page 16

in a championship final. She claimed sixth place in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:29.91. Dalrymple also took part in the A-team’s 200 medley relay, which, along with sophomores Katie Griffin and Genevieve Spittler and junior Katie Donovan, finished in 13th place with a time of 1:59.27.

The relay B-team of freshmen Katie Roddy, Theresa Bajorek and Sarah Thompson and sophomore Liz Litke finished next in 2:00.43.

The 500 freestyle also featured back-to-back finishes for the Belles, with junior Megan Price taking 13th with a time of 5:24.04 and sophomore Ellie Watson finishing 14th in 5:24.80.

The Belles now look forward to some time off before heading to Florida for a week of training from Jan. 7 to 14. The unique opportunity allows the team to train and focus entirely on getting in shape for the MIAA season.

The next competition for Saint Mary’s comes Jan. 15 at Rolfs Aquatic Center against conference foe Olivet. Races begin at 1 p.m.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

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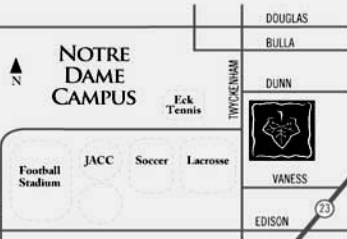
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Toy gun shot

4 Machine that was often cloned

9 Molecular matter

13 "Don't Bring Me Down" band, for short

14 It may be "golden" in mathematics

15 Kind of shark

16 Where a cowpuncher may work

18 Sweat spot

19 School attended by James Bond ... and Ian Fleming

20 Big bears

22 Drink made with vodka, coffee liqueur and cream

26 Equipment for Olympian Lindsey Vonn

27 Aunts, in Arles

30 "Exodus" hero

33 Grades in the mid-70s
- 35 "Arrivederci"

36 "Sorry if that rude word offended you"

40 Double-reed woodwind

41 Prefix with -morphism

42 "What a pleasant surprise!"

43 Letter-writing prisoner, perhaps

46 Quatre + un

48 Play whence the phrase "the most unkindest cut of all"

53 Group for young people coping with parental substance abuse

55 "Othello" villain

56 Green fruit

57 What the last words in 16-, 22-, 36- and 48-Across are

61 ____ fixe

62 "Fiddler on the Roof" milkman

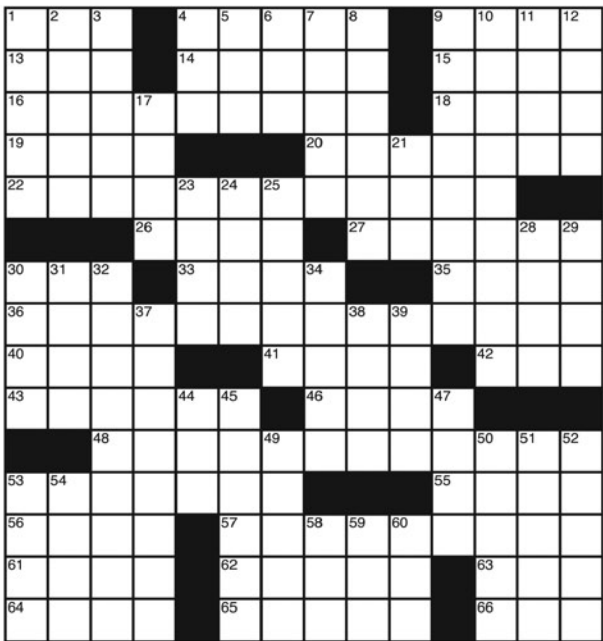
63 Game cube
- 64 Signs of approval

65 Pictures that may be difficult to focus on

66 Word repeated in a classic "When Harry Met Sally ..." scene

Down

- 1 Moisten, as grass
- 2 Animator Don
- 3 "Same here"
- 4 Like the verb "to be": Abbr.
- 5 Sheep's cry
- 6 Everest, e.g.: Abbr.
- 7 Selects
- 8 Any regular on "The View," e.g.
- 9 Atmosphere, as at a restaurant
- 10 Quentin who directed "Inglourious Basterds"
- 11 "I get it already!"
- 12 Does some lawn work
- 17 Sinusitis docs
- 21 1/7 of a Spanish week
- 23 Kitchen utensil brand name
- 24 Nothing, in Paris
- 25 1972 #2 hit for Bill Withers
- 28 Individually
- 29 Greenwich Village neighbor
- 30 Individually
- 31 "Streamers" playwright David
- 32 Exhibiting fierce determination
- 34 Matches, as two tapes



Puzzle by Brendan Emmett Quigley

- 37 Sheriffs' sidekicks
- 38 Bank guarantor, for short
- 39 "Five Women" author Jaffe
- 44 Word that can follow pale, brown or cask
- 45 Told fibs
- 47 British monarch beginning in '52
- 49 Overseas diplomat in N.Y.C., say
- 50 Little Orphan Annie's dog
- 51 Texas A&M athlete
- 52 Rock's Guns N' ____
- 53 Like, with "to"
- 54 Beach resort at the entrance to the Lagoon of Venice
- 58 Model Herzigova
- 59 Six-Day War land: Abbr.
- 60 Word with the longest entry in the O.E.D.

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Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional confusion stand in your way professionally. It's vital that you focus your energy on productivity and financial stabilization. Taking on too much or overdoing it will be your downfall. Once you get the hang of struggling and juggling, you'll make progress. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 23, 26, 30, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Fit as much into your day as possible but do so with as little traveling as possible. Delays and detours can be expected. A partnership will experience difficulty. Charm and diplomacy will be required. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your situation in perspective. Understanding what will make others happy will allow you to manipulate matters to work well for everyone involved. Don't be fooled by someone asking for a handout. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Taking a creative approach to professional projects will be necessary. Be aggressive and outspoken and know how much time and money will be needed to get your idea up and running. Summon people with the qualifications to contribute skillfully. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change in your vocation looks promising and you should be doing all you can to set yourself up for a position that interests you. Put a little time aside to relax and enjoy an evening with someone special. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Finish whatever you've been putting off. Challenges should be welcome and will allow you to show your skills and abilities. Don't let a love relationship cause you grief. Charm, diplomacy and refusing to let anyone upset you will maintain a good relationship. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Impulsive action will lead to anger, upset and problems with partners and the people you live with. Be sensitive to what's going on. Make sincere and doable promises and you will bypass complaints. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do what you are asked to do and don't make a fuss about it. Someone will be pushy if you try to get out of a promise you made. A problem at home will surface. You will do much better away from home today. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tell the people you care about how you feel and what your intentions are. Make sure everyone is on the same page as you. You have to leave the past behind you if you want to advance or work toward a goal. Don't settle for less. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should volunteer your help or give to an organization you believe in. Unexpected changes at home may leave you wondering what to do next. Ride out the storm and wait to see what transpires before making a final decision. Time is on your side. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Finish whatever needs doing so you don't have anything hanging over your head as the year comes to a close. You can negotiate a better deal. Your powerful presentation will pave the way for a better future and greater security. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your innovative ideas will help you to help others but you mustn't make promises you don't intend to keep. You can improve your reputation or hurt it, depending on what you say and do. Build a solid friendship and you'll benefit. ★★★★★

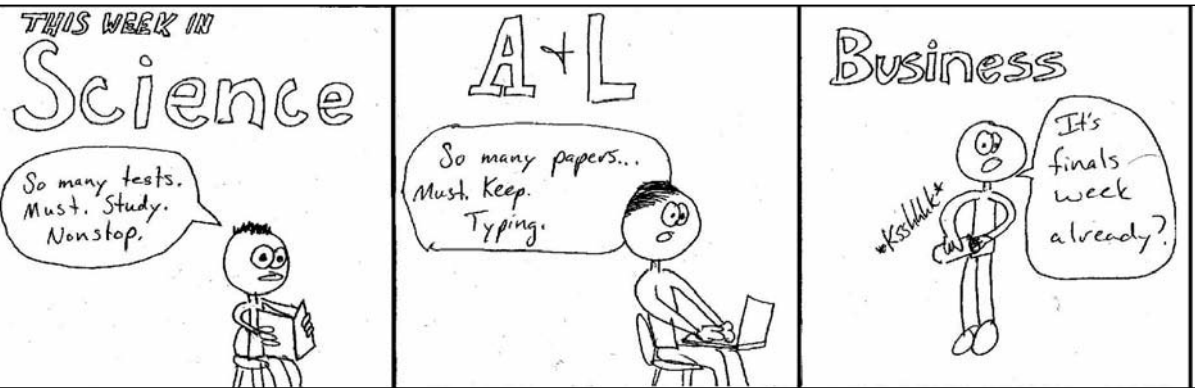
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do not let your emotions lead to a parting of the ways because you cannot get along. Look past the initial stage of anything you are trying to do and see the value in doing your best to make things work. Love is in the stars. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are impulsive, engaging and you love a challenge. You are responsive, passionate and welcome variety and change.

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

POSOW

GUBYL

TORBED

BALTIR

Answer here: A

Saturday's

Jumbles: GUISE FEVER EMPIRE INWARD

Answer: What happened when the astronauts began working — THEY WERE "FIRED"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

Broth with onion, that's all there is

WHAT THE FARM FAMILY ENDED UP WITH DURING THE DROUGHT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Making a splash

Irish finish second in Hawkeye Invitational, post meet and personal bests in outing

By MAIJA GUSTIN
Sports Writer

The Irish closed out the first half of their season with a strong finish at the Hawkeye Invitational, where Notre Dame finished second behind host Iowa. The three-day event saw the Irish rack up 822 points, as they were aided by strong performances from a number of competitors.

In their last meet of 2010, the Irish dominated the event across the board, posting several meet and personal records in the process.

"The depth of the team really resonated all weekend long," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "The meet was very strong for us."

The Invitational gave the Irish an opportunity to compete against non-conference opponents. Denver, Milwaukee, Green Bay, South Dakota and Ohio State were in attendance.

"Racing some different teams from other conferences

see HAWKEYE/page 14



COLEMAN COLLINS/The Observer

Senior Peter Koppel dives into the water during a Jan. 16 matchup with Louisville in the Rolfs Aquatic Center. Notre Dame finished second at the Hawkeye Invitational over the weekend.

SMC SWIMMING

Invitational wraps up for Belles

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

The Belles wrapped up the Calvin College Winter Invitational on Saturday, finishing in ninth place behind a competitive field of swimmers. The three-day event featured eight programs, each bringing an A, B and C team, with the exception of Saint Mary's and Valparaiso.

The competitors hailed from NCAA Divisions I, II and III, with Grand Valley State, the top-ranked women's swimming and diving team in Division II, easily claiming the victory. The Lakers earned 1,223 points, while second-place Calvin, an MIAA rival of the Belles, finished with 549 points.

Quickly becoming the most consistent performer for Belles coach Mark Benishek, junior Audrey Dalrymple was the lone Belle to earn a spot

see BELLES/page 14

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's looks to restore winning ways

Comets next on MIAA lineup for Belles

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will look to rebound from Saturday night's loss to MIAA rival Calvin when the Belles take on Olivet Tuesday night.

The contest against the Comets will be the Belles' second conference game and their first on the road. Although Olivet (3-6, 1-0 MIAA) has struggled early in the season, the squad won its conference opener against Adrian on Saturday.

The Comets also boast one of the best guard-forward combinations in the MIAA. Junior guard Debbie Nikodemski captains the offense out of the backcourt, and she leads the team with 11 points per game. She registered a season-high 16 points against Aquinas earlier this season.

The second half of the one-two punch is junior forward Alysia Cole, who nearly averages a double-double with 9.6 points per game and a team-high 10.1 rebounds per game. In a game earlier this year against Cornerstone, the talented post player grabbed a season-high 20 rebounds.

Searching for their first

conference win, the Belles (5-2, 0-1) will look to control the glass and prevent second-chance opportunities.

Saint Mary's comes into this game with a balanced scoring attack. With the combination of junior forwards Kelley Murphy and Jessica Centa down low and junior guards Patsy Mahoney and Maggie Ronan up top, the Belles feature four players averaging double-digit points per game.

Centa and Murphy will be tasked with keeping Cole off the boards as the leading rebounders on the team. Centa is averaging 5.5 rebounds per game, while Murphy leads the team with 9.3 boards per game.

The Belles won their first four matchups of the season over Wheaton, Aurora, North Central, and Anderson, winning the North Central Tournament. The Belles also participated in the Thomas More Tournament.

Saint Mary's has since dropped two of their last three, dropping contests to Wilmington and Calvin.

Tipoff between the Belles and Comets is Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Olivet, Mich.

Contact Joe Wirth at
jwirth@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish compete in Nationals



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Lauren Sylvester battles the Louisville competition Jan. 16 in the Rolfs Aquatics Center. Notre Dame finished third in the U.S. Nationals in Columbus, Ohio over the weekend.

By MICHAEL TODISCO
Sports Writer

After a three-week layoff, Notre Dame traveled to Columbus, Ohio, last weekend to compete in the U.S. Nationals. With 228 points, the Irish finished third out of 16 collegiate teams in the competition behind perennial powers California (556) and USC (495). The diving team competed at a separate event, earning a pair of top-10

finishes at the Hawkeye Invitational at Iowa.

The Irish had not competed since defeating Utah Nov. 12.

On the second day of Nationals, senior All-American Amywren Miller led the Irish with a victory in the B-final of the 50-yard freestyle. Miller finished with a personal-best time of 22.65.

On the final day in Columbus, senior All-American Samantha Maxwell finished in ninth place for the Irish in the A-final of the

100 breaststroke. With a time of 1:00.53, Maxwell posted her fastest time of the season. Maxwell also earned a sixth-place finish in the A-final of the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:11.06, the fourth-fastest time in program history.

Senior captain Katie Casey, freshman Lauren Stauder and sophomore Kim Holden also reached the finals in their events. Stauder finished seventh

see STAUDER/page 14