

# THE OBSERVER

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## Duncan wins construction award

By JOHN TIERNEY  
News Writer

Duncan Hall was honored with an award of merit in Midwest Construction's "Best of 2008" competition in the residential/hospitality category, the University announced Friday.

Midwest Construction is a monthly magazine focused on the construction industry in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Eastern Missouri. It is one of 10 regional magazines published by McGraw-Hill Construction.

The University did not submit Duncan Hall for consideration for the award, according to University Vice President of Business Operations Jim Lyphout.

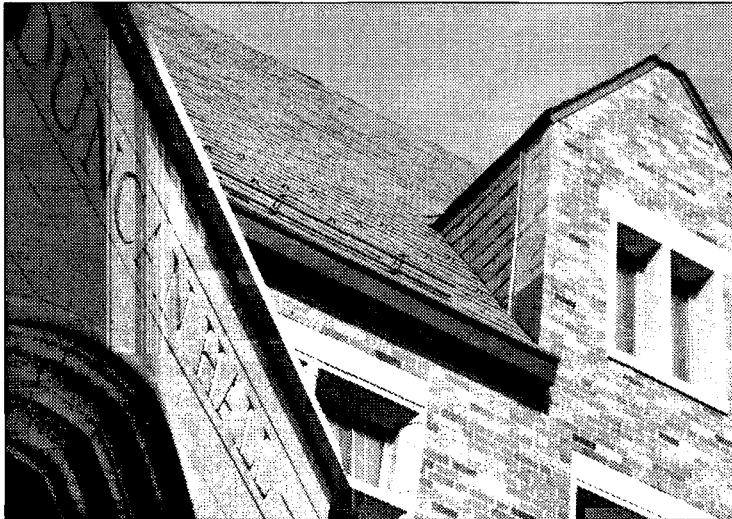
"I and the University Architect [Doug Marsh] were pleasantly surprised to learn of the award," Lyphout said in an e-mail to The Observer Monday.

"We are extremely pleased with Duncan Hall," Lyphout said.

Duncan Hall shares the award of merit honor from Midwest Construction with Dana Hotel and Spa, which is located in Chicago. The project of the year distinction in the residential/hospitality category was awarded to One Museum Park East, the tallest residential structure in Chicago.

An independent jury of experts judged the 128 considered projects on criteria including quality, project management, team work, and

see DUNCAN/page 4



NICK SIMONSON/The Observer

The University's newest dormitory, Duncan Hall, received the Midwest Construction "Best of 2008" award Friday.

## CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL Group talks modifying Transfer-O

By AARON STEINER  
News Writer

The Campus Life Council (CLC) discussed their ideas and suggestions for modifying the Transfer-O Program at Notre Dame during their meeting Monday, with a task force chair stating the orientation needs to give more attention to student life, in addition to academic life.

Meg MacCaughey, SUB representative and chair of the Task Force on New Student Introduction to Notre Dame, said her group has met with Catherine Linn, an admissions counselor who works with Transfer-O.

Currently, the Office of Admissions runs Transfer-O, and the program reflects an academic focus.

"Admissions really accentuates the academic transition, and it doesn't give that much attention to student life," MacCaughey said. While Frosh-O emphasizes the transition to dorm life and introduces students to clubs and events on campus, Transfer-O, under the umbrella of admissions, lacks that perspective.

In addition, MacCaughey said the committee of students that organizes Transfer-O is composed only of students who have transferred to the University in the past.

"There are no dorm represen-

see CLC/page 4

## Freshman Class Council holds election

Phelan, Kenney chosen by peers to serve as president, vice president for academic year

By SARAH MERVOSH  
News Writer

Notre Dame's Freshman Class Council (FCC) elected its officers last Thursday and is already working on its plans for the coming year. Malcolm Phelan, who was voted president, said the Council's main goals are to represent the Class of 2012 and to build a sense of community within the class.

"As we go forward we want us to be the class that people talk about years later, the class that just clicked," said Phelan. "We want to build that sense of family that keeps people coming back for years... to build the incredibly

sense of community that is so characteristic to Notre Dame

He said the FCC was responsible for the Halloween dance last month and has plans to sell t-shirts and make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for homeless shelters in the area. There is also talk of a possible dance in the spring and giving out free hot chocolate on the quad, said Phelan.

Phelan was elected FCC president. Jay Kenney was voted vice



Phelan

president, Shannon Crotty treasurer and Michael Ryan secretary.

The election took place later than in past years because it took longer than usual to get representatives from each dorm, Sophomore Class Council vice president and advisor to FCC Kate Clitheroe said.

Student government received special permission to extend the deadline of the election for this reason, she said.

The officers were elected by their fellow FCC members, which consist of one representative from each dorm, Kenney said. Each candidate gave a short speech, and following the speeches, those running left the room and those not running voted, he said.

While there were many people running for each position, Clitheroe said that this election

was not as competitive as last year's contest.

"The freshmen are really more enthusiastic than competitive. They really weren't cut-

throat about it. They're all pretty good friends by now," Clitheroe said.

"I've never seen such gung-ho



Kenney

see FCC/page 4

## Students support hotel workers

Coalition for Economic Justice hosts HEI employees at LaFortune



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

The Coalition for Economic Justice invited HEI Hotels employees to campus to show its support for the Hotel Workers Rising movement.

By JOSEPH McMAHON  
Assistant News Editor

Socially-conscious students concerned about where the University's endowment is being invested gathered in LaFortune Monday to support the Hotel Workers Rising movement, which is attempting to form a union for workers in HEI Hotels.

"Rising in the sense that there's a poverty level and we're trying to bring all the hotel workers up," Coalition for Economic Justice member Thanh Le said.

HEI Hotels is a large chain that receives much of

see HOTELS/page 4

## College notified of Sisters' passings

By MANDI STIRONE  
Assistant News Editor

Saint Mary's students were sent an e-mail Thursday, informing them that a Sister of the Holy Cross, who had been residing in the on-campus Convent, had passed away on Nov. 4.

The e-mail, sent by Michelle Vasquez, secretary to Sister Rose Anne Schultz, vice president for Missions, invited students to attend the funeral Mass and burial on Friday and included a link to a biography of Sister Margaret Mary Duggan available on the Mission Web site.

The Mission section of the

Saint Mary's Web site has a list of biographies of deceased Sisters of the Holy Cross beginning with Sister Agnes Eileen Walshe who passed away on Jan. 7, 2007.

The list, entitled "In Memoriam," began in 2007, but the department of Missions has been keeping these records long before then, Sister Schultz said.

The Department began mass e-mailing students as a result of several people coming to Sister Schultz and asking why they weren't being informed of the Sisters' deaths, she said.

The information can go on

see SISTERS/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

# Don't knock YouTube

Are you guys fans of viral video? Are you seasoned YouTube aficionados? Seekers of the next big thing in that popular genre known as "the ridiculous video of the week that everyone and their mom are watching?"

As the Scene Editor of this fine paper, I like to engage with you, fellow fans of Internet phenomena, with our quasi-weekly YouTube features that we post in the Scene spread. We'll put together an amalgamation of quirky, ridiculous or punny videos for your benefit (and, to be honest, ours). The content can vary depending on which member of my staff is editing that night. Some of my favorites have been "Biz's Beat of the Day," a clip from the kids' show "Yo Gabba Gabba" in which Biz Markie instructs your children on the fine art of beat boxing; "Snorlax Owns," a curse-laden discussion of the merits of various Pokemon, particularly of the chubby and sleepy variety; and the well-known and oft-quoted "My New Haircut."

Sometimes the YouTube features are influenced by working in the Observer Office itself. For example, if I'm working with our lovely Managing Editor, Jay Fitzpatrick, my video choices tend to lean towards the more absurd side of life. You can thank Mr. Fitzpatrick for our inclusion of "Barack Roll," by the way. For those unfortunate souls who still haven't seen this little gem, "Barack Roll" is an exercise in video splicing taken to the point of I-don't-know-what. Clips of Barack Obama's speeches are cut to precisely fit the lyrics of Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up," effectively allowing the president-elect to Rick-Roll the nation via Youtube. Note: There's also a response video in which Senator McCain, speaking at the Republican National Convention and cueing a video, gets Barack Rolled by the actual "Barack Roll" video.

Intelligent stuff, I know. But, to all you intellectual snobs out there, those who think Youtube video viewing is a pedestrian past time — don't knock it till you've tried it.

It's easy to think that someone like me or you, young, college-going people who enjoy a façade of intellectualism, would spend their time with high art and museums. And granted, I like those things, as I'm sure you do, too. (Don't worry, I won't tell anyone about the hours you spend watching "Rock of Love: Charm School" on Vh1. Oh, wait. Oops.)

But when it comes to easy entertainment, I'm loving the democratization of video that you find on the internet. Where else can that Star Wars Kid from Canada find instant fame? Or what could amount to marathon viewings of that "Charlie bit me!" video with those British kids? Classic.

Sure, there's a danger in spending all of your time on a laptop, instead of engaging with the outside world. But if staying inside one more time means I get to watch a clip of Joel McHale's version of Britney Spears' "Womanizer" on repeat, I'm on it.

*The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu*

**Analise Lipari**

*Scene Editor*

## QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT MUSICAL ARTIST WOULD YOU BE HAPPY TO NEVER HEAR FROM AGAIN?



**Casey Martin**

*junior  
Stanford*

*"Celine Dion, I hate everything she has ever done in life."*



**Daniel Nolan**

*senior  
off-campus*

*"Jessica Simpson, because she's an expert at destroying music (but an acceptable country singer)."*



**Leora Wallace**

*senior  
McGlenn*

*"Akon, because he has a whiny high-pitched voice."*



**Jay Wade**

*junior  
off-campus*

*"Nickleback, because they are all that's wrong with music. And they're Canadian."*



**Chris Godla**

*senior  
off-campus*

*"Rihanna, 'cause somebody's got to stop the music."*



**Kara Coyle**

*junior  
P.W.*

*"Aaron Carter, because I have doubts that he actually beat Shaq."*



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Senior Joe Berndt dives to keep the ball from senior Robbie Bernardin in the opening night of the co-rec broomball season.

## IN BRIEF

The Tri-Military Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) will hold their annual Veteran's Day Ceremony today at 5 p.m. at the Clarke Memorial Fountain. President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. will be the guest speaker. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held in the Hesburgh Library.

St. Edward's Hall is hosting "ND's Got Talent!" today at 8 p.m. in Washington Hall. There are going to be first, second and third place prizes and it's to support Holy Cross schools in Uganda. Any questions can contact Michael Eardley a meardley@nd.edu.

Student Government is hosting the first installment in the Last Lecture Series Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Lounge. Professor of Anthropology James McKenna will deliver the lecture.

"Faith, Democracy and Values: The Challenge of Moral Formation in Families, Schools and Societies" is part of the Association for Moral Education's (AME) 34th annual conference. The conference aims to examine moral education and the ways it informs and, in turn is informed by, faith and political perspectives in a diverse and complex global community. The event is to be held all day Thursday in McKenna Hall and is sponsored by the Center for Ethical Education (CEE).

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

## OFFBEAT

### Big purse stops bullet from hitting student

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Don't knock those trendy, oversized purses — they could save your life, as one college student found out. Police say the contents in an oversized purse saved Elizabeth Pittenger, a 22-year-old Middle Tennessee State University student, by stopping a bullet during an attempted robbery.

Pittenger was walking to her car on campus Thursday evening when a man confronted her and demanded her purse, cell phone and laptop, universi-

ty Police Chief Buddy Peaster said. She fought the man off, but he fired a gunshot before fleeing.

The bullet was found inside the purse, along with a calculator, umbrella and small case that had been punctured. Pittenger was not injured.

### Councilman tells teens to hoist saggy pants

DALLAS — Dallas Councilman Dwaine Caraway is on a mission: He wants those wearing low-hanging, baggy pants to pull them up.

As part of his ongoing campaign against saggy,

underwear-exposing pants, the mayor pro tem held a summit Saturday. More than 100 adults, children, students, ministers, law enforcement officers and representatives from local organizations attended the hours-long derriere affair.

Local youth counselor Calvin Glover even brought a contingent of saggy bottom teens. The group piled into two elevators and made its way to the council chamber. Saggy britches, big belt buckles and untucked T-shirts were in abundance.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 47 LOW 32	HIGH 42 LOW 32	HIGH 47 LOW 35	HIGH 53 LOW 37	HIGH 47 LOW 32	HIGH 40 LOW 28

Atlanta 52 / 33 Boston 51 / 37 Chicago 45 / 26 Denver 52 / 26 Houston 81 / 68 Los Angeles 68 / 53 Minneapolis 45 / 21 New York 51 / 38 Philadelphia 52 / 37 Phoenix 75 / 53 Seattle 54 / 44 St. Louis 47 / 37 Tampa 79 / 54 Washington 54 / 36

## CORRECTIONS

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

# Saint Mary's to commemorate Kristallnacht anniversary

Event organizers seek to remember the Holocaust and speak out against human rights abuses in Darfur, Burma, and the Congo

By MEGAN LONEY  
News Writer

This week, Saint Mary's chapter of the White Rose Society is commemorating the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, when over 20,000 men were sent to concentration camps. Kristallnacht, or the Night of Broken Glass, is known as the event that marked the beginning of the Holocaust.

The Saint Mary's White Rose Society is the second chapter of this group in the United States — the first is at the University of Texas-Austin. Senior Sarah Testa, president of the White Rose Society chapter at Saint Mary's, discovered the group in a class her junior year.

"I took a class on the Second World War where the White Rose was briefly mentioned in conjunction with other resistance groups," Testa said. "The name struck me so I looked it up and I found out there was an incredible story few knew about."

After learning that the University of Texas-Austin had a student-run White Rose Society, Testa contacted them to receive information about the group. Although Testa worked on the idea her junior year, the chapter was

not formally recognized until the beginning of this school year, said Testa.

"Currently, there are 60 official members in the chapter," Testa said, "but people are always expressing interest in joining. There are a lot of first years and sophomores involved in the chapter, which means that it can continue on past this year."

The modern White Rose Society has applied the ideas of the original White Rose Society, but integrated them with issues that are prevalent today.

"The Saint Mary's White Rose Society seeks to honor to actions of the original White Rose, remember the Holocaust and speak out against current human rights abuses," Testa said. "Right now we have a marriage of Holocaust remembrance and activism for Darfur, Burma and the Congo."

Testa worked closely faculty members involved in the planning of last year's Kristallnacht Commemoration. She said she feels it is important to mark the anniversary of the start of the Holocaust and to make sure that the memory of the Holocaust does not die.

"It's easy to say that the world will not forget the Holocaust," Testa said, "but it's actually more of an issue than many realize. In our lifetimes, those personally affected by the Holocaust will perish. In addition, people are actually denying that

the Holocaust ever existed. These things are such dangers to Holocaust remembrance that now, more than ever before, we need to commemorate and remember."

Events to mark the anniversary of the start of the Holocaust began Sunday with a viewing of "Sophie Scholl: The Final Days," a documentary about one of the original members of the White Rose Society, college

student Sophie Scholl. Scholl stood up to the Nazis and was executed for her involvement with the Society along with two other members.

The commemoration continued Monday with showing of Testa's personal interview with Holocaust survivor Jacob Hennenberg, shown during lunch at the Student Lounge. She said she first met Hennenberg when she was 13.

"When I was 13, I wanted a Holocaust survivor to come speak at my grade school," she said. "I contacted a synagogue and met Jacob Hennenberg. Mr. Hennenberg came to speak, and we remained in contact with one another throughout my high school career."

This past summer, Hennenberg agreed to preserve his personal story on tape for the White Rose Society. This personal interview will also be shown Tuesday, same place and time.

Monday evening in Vander Vennet Theater, David Stefancic, an associate professor of history, introduced "Cabaret," a film set in

Berlin in 1931. After showing the movie, Stefancic led a discussion about the subjects presented in the film.

The Kristallnacht commemoration ends Tuesday night with a viewing of "Hotel Rwanda" at

7p.m. in Vander Vennet Theater. Edith Miguda, assistant professor of history, will introduce the movie and lead a discussion after the viewing.

For the commemoration, the White Rose Society will be giving away white roses to remind people of the importance of the anniversary. Allied Cut Flowers, a company in Cleveland, donated the 500 roses that will be given away.

Contact Megan Loney at  
mloney01@saintmarys.edu

## A Special Information Session for Mendoza College of Business Students

(Others are welcome to attend)

*The London Summer Programme*

Leave May 13<sup>th</sup> 2009

Return June 14<sup>th</sup> 2009

- ✓ All returning ND & St. Mary's undergraduates eligible
- ✓ Four and one-half week study in London
- ✓ Mid session study/travel to Paris, Normandy, Belfast, Spain, or Amsterdam
- ✓ Earn 6 credit hours
- ✓ Still have 2 months of summer left when you return!

Information Session for 2009 & 2010 Programmes

Wednesday 12<sup>TH</sup> November 2008

5:00 pm to 6:00

JORDAN AUDITORIUM

Applications are available at 305 Brownson Hall or on-line at [www.nd.edu/~sumlon](http://www.nd.edu/~sumlon)





JESSICA LEE/The Observer  
Duncan Hall, the recipient of the "Best of 2008" award from Midwest Construction, houses 232 male undergraduates.

## Duncan

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service, according to a Midwest Construction press release.

Lucas Oil Stadium, the new stadium built for the Indianapolis Colts, was designated as the Overall Project of the Year.

The 128 submitted projects were divided into categories to allow the juries to better judge the merits of comparable projects, according to Midwest Construction.

Duncan Hall currently houses

232 male undergraduates and opened in August 2008. The residence hall features single, double, triple and quad rooms, in addition to some doubles and quads that offer private bathrooms.

The dorm also features a second-floor chapel with a vaulted ceiling.

The hall was named after 1952 alumnus and donor Raymond Duncan.

Residents recently decided upon the "Highlanders" as the West Quad dorm's official mascot.

Contact John Tierney at [jtierne1@nd.edu](mailto:jtierne1@nd.edu)

## CLC

continued from page 1

tatives, or any kind of general Notre Dame students who came in as freshmen," she said.

MacCaughey said that her task force would be looking into ways of adapting the Transfer-O format and possibly involving the Office of Student Affairs to increase emphasis on student life at Notre Dame. She said that involving rectors and commissioners from each dorm would be beneficial.

"We really feel we can make this happen ... and give [transfers] a better sense of what Notre Dame is," she said.

Fr. Jim Lewis, rector of Carroll Hall, said that the work of CLC would be to help "enhance what already exists." "We're not looking to usurp anything from admissions or the Provost's Office," Lewis said.

### In other CLC news:

◆ Nicole O'Connor, student government Parliamentarian and chair of the Task Force on Student Safety said her task force has developed plans to launch a Web site for student living off campus.

The Web site will feature

information taken from student government's guide to living off campus, and the task force is in the process of gathering content related to attractions, retailers, activities and other information about life in the community.

O'Connor said the planned launch date is in March, 2009, so that students moving off campus at that time can utilize the information.

◆ Student body vice president Grant Schmidt, chair of the Task Force on Technology and Study Spaces in Dorms, said his group is continuing discussions about the use of Google calendars on campus, and recently discussed their use with the Hall Presidents Council. Schmidt said that the Hall Presidents Council will continue to consider using Google calendars.

◆ Schmidt also detailed a resolution his task force is completing. The resolution deals with installing Pharos printers in all dorms, and Schmidt said while the printers may not be seen as a need, they are always convenient.

"I think we've come up with enough issues" to get the resolution passed, Schmidt said.

Contact Aaron Steiner at [asteiner@nd.edu](mailto:asteiner@nd.edu)

## FCC

continued from page 1

people," she said of the members of the FCC.

Phelan agreed and described his fellow FCC members as "incredible and full of ambitions and ideas and energy."

Phelan told The Observer that the FCC's advisor called their ideas "ambitious," which he thinks is an accurate description of what this year's class council will be.

"It may be ambitious but I think with the group that we have, we actually can get stuff done," said Phelan.

He said the FCC plans to send surveys out to the freshman class to get input from students and that dorm representatives are going to make themselves available to their fellow freshmen.

"We're going to need [the students] help in doing this. We can do nothing without the support of the freshman class. It is our job, not to lead them, but to support them," Phelan said.

He told The Observer the members of the FCC want "to do our absolute best to make ... what the kids would like do ... a reality."

Contact Sarah Mervosh at [smervosh@nd.edu](mailto:smervosh@nd.edu)

## Hotels

continued from page 1

its contributed capital from university endowments, from schools such as Harvard, Brown, Michigan and Notre Dame. HEI touts Notre Dame as one of its top investors.

The Coalition for Economic Justice had previously raised concerns over Notre Dame's stake in HEI when they delivered a personal letter to University President Fr. John Jenkins.

"I think the big thing, and this is how we said it when we sent the letter to Fr. Jenkins, is that we want Notre Dame to be a stellar university that makes a stand on the issue of labor rights," Coalition for Economic Justice member Michael Angulo said. "That is what the Catholic Church has done, that's what people of good conscience in this country have always done."

In his response, Jenkins praised the University's social investment policy and suggested the students begin meeting with Notre Dame's Chief Investment Officer Scott Malpass.

"Our position regarding these types of issues is well known and unambiguous: A situation in which we find that the legally protected rights of workers are infringed upon is unacceptable," Jenkins said in his letter.

Angulo said he has met with Malpass and felt that his concerns were taken seriously.

"He's very open, has done a lot of good research, and has been very supportive," Angulo said.

However, the University remains invested in HEI, prompting the Coalition for Economic Justice to invite the

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Quan, a former hotel worker who is now a union organizer,

*"They shared their stories of how the workload has increased under HEI and how they've cut back on the staff working there, basically increasing the work for everyone else."*

Tatiana Estrada  
Coalition member

said he spent years toiling for HEI Hotels.

"I was a rank and file for many years, meaning I was a worker myself in the hotel industry," he said.

Ancheta said it was important for students support the workers because without that support, the movement would likely fail.

"We came to talk to you guys so basically we can work together," he said. "We just want to let you guys know their help is greatly appreciated because their support is definitely significant in our campaign. The workers can't do it alone."

Ancheta said he agreed with the Coalition's call for divestment from HEI Hotels until they enact fair labor practices.

"I don't think that this

school would want to be known as a hotel that treats its workers unjustly," he said.

Estrada said one of the workers major demands was for card check neutrality agreement in all negotiations.

"A card check neutrality agreement is an agreement where the workers ask the company to sign a statement saying there will be a fair process so that everything will be neutral," she said. "There won't be any intimidation tactics,

and instead of going through the secret ballot election process, workers can just sign onto cards and [when there's enough signatures] the union is established."

Le said the problems actually run much deeper, including major violations of privacy.

"They actually clock the time for how long they spend at the restrooms," he said. "There are serious privacy issues."

Le also told The Observer that HEI hires an outside company to hold captive audience meetings, where workers are forced to listen to anti-union rhetoric.

"The main reason the rights are being violated is, just like freedom of speech, we have the right to not listen to what you say," he said.

Sophomore David Rivera, who attended the event, said he supported the Hotel Workers Rising movement, adding Notre Dame has a responsibility as a Catholic university to avoid unethical businesses.

"I had heard about the HEI campaign that had already been going on, and for a school that has a \$7 billion endowment that has a lot of major influence, especially a Catholic university, I believe there is a major obligation to do something about this," Rivera said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at [jmcmah06@nd.edu](mailto:jmcmah06@nd.edu)



**The Sari Soldiers** Directed by Julie Bridgman 90 min. NR

Director/Producer Julie Bridgman will introduce her film and will discuss THE SARI SOLDIERS following the first screening.

Filmed over three years during the most historic and pivotal time in Nepal's modern history, THE SARI SOLDIERS is an extraordinary story of six women's courageous efforts to shape Nepal's future in the midst of an escalating civil war against Maoist insurgents, and the King's crackdown on civil liberties.

When Devi, mother of a 15-year-old girl, witnesses her niece being tortured and murdered by the Royal Nepal Army, she speaks publicly about the atrocity. The army abducts her daughter in retaliation, and Devi embarks on a struggle to uncover her daughter's fate and see justice done. The film follows her and five other brave women, including Maoist Commander Kranti; Royal Nepal Army Officer Rajani; Krishna, a monarchist from a rural community who leads a rebellion against the Maoists; Mandira, a human rights lawyer; and Ram Kumari, a young student activist shaping the protests to reclaim democracy.

Friday, November 14, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.  
Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Tickets: \$3 for students, \$5 for faculty and staff • TICKET OFFICE: 631.2800 • PERFORMINGARTS.ND.EDU



know no  
boundaries

World View is an initiative from the Office of the President to promote constructive dialogue about issues of race, class, ethnicity, religion, and gender through the arts.



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Iraq suffers deadliest attack in weeks

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber Monday struck a crowd rushing to help schoolgirls trapped in a bus by an earlier bombing. The Interior Ministry said at least 31 people were killed — the deadliest in a string of blasts that raise doubts about Iraqi security forces as the U.S. prepares to reduce troops.

The ministry said another 71 people were wounded in the twin blasts, the deadliest attack in Baghdad in six weeks. A third bomb exploded about 130 yards (meters) from the scene in the mostly Shiite Kasrah section of north Baghdad but caused no casualties, police said.

No group claimed responsibility for the attacks during the morning rush hour. But suspicion fell on al-Qaida in Iraq, which has made suicide bombings against Shiite civilians its signature attack.

In recent weeks, there has been an uptick in small-scale bombings in Baghdad. An Associated Press tally showed at least 19 bombings in the city this month as of Sunday, compared with 28 for all of October and 22 in September.

### 2,000 year old ring found in Israel

JERUSALEM — A luxurious gold, pearl and emerald earring provides a new visual clue about the life of the elite in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago.

And its discovery was a true eureka moment for excavators.

The piece was found beneath a parking lot next to the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. It dates to the Roman period just after the time of Jesus, said Doron Ben-Ami, who directed the dig.

The earring was uncovered in a destroyed Byzantine structure built centuries after the piece was made, showing it was likely passed down through generations, he said.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Inauguration tickets not to be scalped

WASHINGTON — The senator overseeing Barack Obama's swearing-in ceremony said Monday she's writing to Internet sites like eBay asking them not to sell scalped inauguration tickets.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., also said she's crafting a bill that would make a federal crime of selling tickets to the historic event Jan. 20.

Feinstein, who chairs the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, said she foresees overwhelming demand for the 240,000 available tickets and has heard reports they may be sold for as much as \$40,000 online.

The tickets are supposed to be free to the public and distributed through congressional offices.

### Priest agrees to pay sex-abuse victims

SPOKANE, Wash. — A former priest accused in many of the child sex-abuse claims that bankrupted the Spokane, Wash., Catholic diocese has agreed to pay \$5 million to victims, who'll likely never be paid.

Even though Patrick O'Donnell doesn't have the money he agreed to pay, a lawyer for some two dozen victims says getting the former priest to own up to his actions will help them put the abuse behind them.

"I think we achieved our goal, which was to get a judgment and hopefully we can deprive him of as many assets as we can," the victims' lawyer, Timothy Kosnoff, said Monday.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Boy left in Nebraska returned

INDIANAPOLIS — The South Bend Tribune reports an 8-year-old Wabash County boy left at an Omaha hospital under Nebraska's safe haven law has been returned to authorities in Indiana.

A court hearing is scheduled for Friday in Wabash County to determine what happens to the boy next.

Officials with Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services Division of Children and Family Services said the boy was left by his mother Thursday morning at Bergan Mercy Hospital.

## ELECTION 2008

# Obama visits Bush in White House

*Obama, Bush and their wives take part in traditional tour, begin transfer of power*

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — All smiles and compliments, President-elect Obama and his wife, Michelle, called on President Bush and first lady Laura Bush Monday in a White House visit that was part political ritual, part practical introduction and a striking symbol of the historic transfer of power to come.

The president and Obama talked war and financial crisis. Laura Bush and Michelle Obama talked about raising daughters in the nation's most famous house.

Then Obama flew back to Chicago to work on setting up the new administration that will take over on Jan. 20.

Mrs. Obama went out hunting a new school for the kids, visiting two of the capital city's best-known private schools.

If first impressions matter, Obama and his wife displayed one similarity to the super-punctual Bushes, pulling up to the White House's South Portico 11 minutes early. The couples traded warm and easy greetings in the crisp autumn sunshine, with the wives exchanging pleasantries about the fall hues each wore — Mrs. Bush in a brown dress and Mrs. Obama in a red one.

While Obama and Bush, in business suits, proceeded waving and smiling down the White House Colonnade for nearly two hours of private talks, Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Bush had their own agenda: talk of raising children in most unusual circumstances. Mrs. Bush conducted a tour of the living quarters of the historic mansion and made introductions to the army of residence staff who look after first families.

Michelle Obama had toured the White House before with daughters Malia, who is 10, and Sasha, who is 7. But the two women had never met.

The 43rd president and the man who will be the 44th — and first black — commander in chief met alone in the Oval



President Bush walks into the White House with President-elect Obama for a private meeting Monday. The historical meeting stood as a symbol of the transfer of power.

Office, with no handlers or staff. It was Obama's first time in the storied workspace, even though he had been to the White House previously for events.

Neither the Bushes nor the Obamas spoke to reporters, and details about their meetings were few.

The president and president-elect talked about an automotive industry now in deep crisis, mortgages and the prospect of a second economic stimulus package, according to two officials familiar with their conversation. The officials wanted anonymity so they could speak candidly about a private conversation.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said that Bush described the meeting as "constructive, relaxed and friendly," covering problems at home and abroad, and that he personally pledged a smooth transition. Bush gave Obama a sneak peek at White House highlights, such as the Lincoln Bedroom and the president's office in the residence, after their hour-plus in the Oval Office.

Obama transition spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said the president-elect thanked Bush for both his hospitality and transition help. "They had a broad discussion about the importance of working together throughout the tran-

sition of government in light of the nation's many critical economic and security challenges," she said.

Such White House meetings have a history going back decades. They are discussions that can range wherever the two men choose, whether focused on specific issues, how best to make decisions, the extraordinary resources that accompany any American president, the special weight of the office or even the secrets about the building that few people are privy to. It's also a chance to establish personal rapport between near-strangers, though that is by no means guaranteed.

## ELECTION 2008

# Obama plans to close Guantanamo

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Obama's advisers are crafting plans to close the Guantanamo Bay prison and prosecute terrorism suspects in the U.S., a plan the Bush administration said Monday was easier said than done.

Under the plan being crafted inside Obama's camp, some detainees would be released and others would be charged in U.S. courts, where they would receive constitutional rights and open trials. But, underscoring the difficult decisions Obama must make to ful-

fill his pledge of shutting down Guantanamo, the plan could require the creation of a new legal system to handle the classified information inherent in some of the most sensitive cases.

Many of the about 250 Guantanamo detainees are cleared for release, but the Bush administration has not been able to find a country willing to take them.

Advisers participating directly in the planning spoke on condition of anonymity because the plans aren't final.

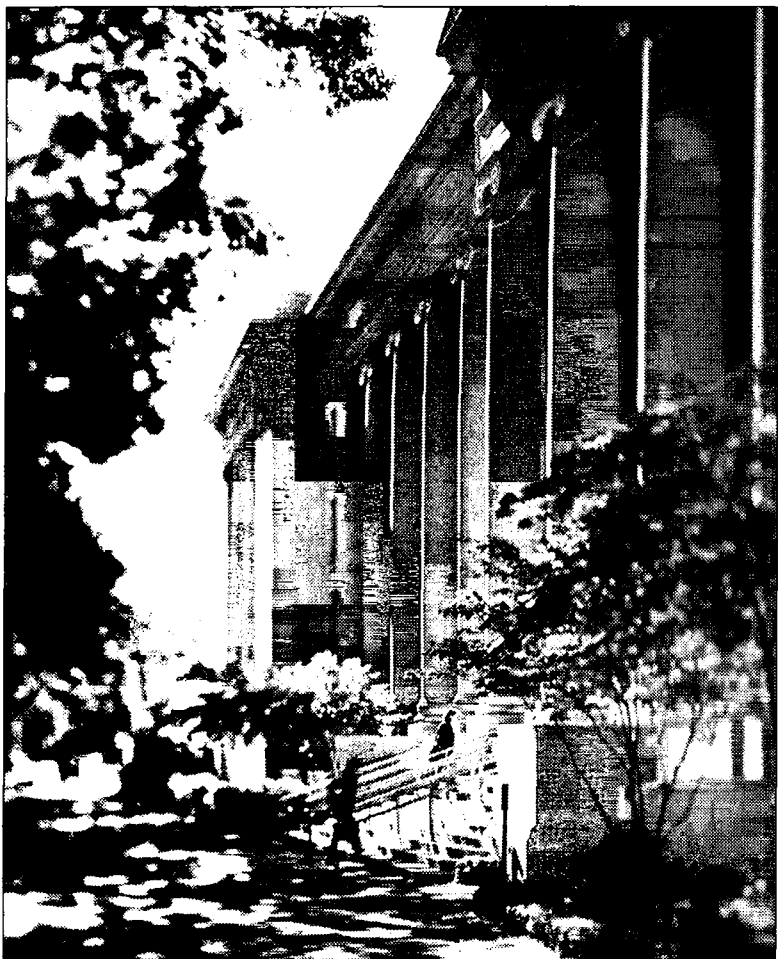
The plan being developed by Obama's

team has been championed by legal scholars from both political parties. But as details surfaced Monday, it drew criticism from Democrats who oppose creating a new legal system and from Republicans who oppose bringing terrorism suspects to the U.S. mainland.

Obama foreign policy adviser Denis McDonough said the president-elect wants Guantanamo closed, but no decision has been made "about how and where to try the detainees, and there is no process in place to make that decision until his national security and legal teams are assembled."

# Harvard considering cutting spending

Economy hurting University's endowment



This photo shows Langdell Hall at Harvard University, where the economic downturn is causing reduced revenue from the endowment.

Associated Press

BOSTON — Harvard University is considering spending cuts because the economic slowdown may reduce federal grants and the school's substantial endowment, President Drew Faust said Monday.

Harvard's endowment posted an 8.6 percent return and grew to \$36.9 billion in the fiscal year that ended June 30. The school, however, lost 12.7 percent on its U.S. stock portfolio and 12.1 percent on its foreign equity portfolio during that time. Faust's spokesman on Monday declined to say much the endowment has lost during the current economic turmoil.

Still, Faust warned in an e-mail to faculty, staff and students that "we must recognize that Harvard is not invulnerable to the seismic financial shocks in the larger world. Our own economic landscape has been significantly altered."

"We need to be prepared to absorb unprecedented endowment losses and plan for a period of greater financial restraint," she said.

Harvard is the nation's largest university endowment and provides about a third of the annual operating budget. Faust said the school is looking at ways to cut spending and will review compensation costs, which account for nearly half of the budget.

Harvard also is reviewing its ambitious expansion program, including plans announced early last year to expand across the Charles River from its Cambridge campus into Allston, she said.

"We will need to plan and act in ways that reflect that reality, to assure that we continue to advance our priorities for teaching, research and service," she said.

The school intends to implement initiatives to make education affordable to students from low- and middle-income families, and will ensure that those with income below \$60,000 will pay nothing to send children to Harvard College. Those earning up to \$180,000 can expect to pay no more than about 10 percent of their income, she said.

Graduate and professional schools will keep financial aid budgets at current levels.

Harvard's efforts to address the economic downturn mirror what is happening elsewhere in the country, including other Ivy League schools. While wealthy schools can fare better in a downturn, they are also seen as vulnerable to prolonged market slumps because they tend to fund a greater portion of their budget from their endowment.

Dartmouth College has announced that it will cut spending after its endowment, which also makes up about a third of its budget, lost \$220 million. That school's trustees blamed the loss on poor returns on stocks and bonds because of the Wall Street meltdown.

Last week, Brown University announced a hiring freeze through January, and said it would review its capital budget to determine which projects could be delayed. Cornell University also recently announced a 90-day halt of construction projects and a pause on hiring staff members from outside the university through the end of March.

"Virtually every college and university, their budgets are under strain, stress, for a variety of reasons," said Matthew Hamill, a vice president of the National Association of College and Business University Officers.

## Sisters

continued from page 1

the Web site, but if students don't know it's there, they would have no way of finding out about this, she said.

It's "just communicating," Sister Schultz said. "Students don't have to open the e-mails if they don't want to," she said.

The idea is to keep students involved with their founders, Sister Schultz said.

"Here's the group who are our sponsoring body, they've served through out the world," and they deserve to be remembered, she said.

The on-campus Convent, which happens to be the "Motherhouse of the congregation," according to Sister Schultz, is a vital part of the Saint Mary's community. Keeping students informed and involved with the Sisters is important, she said.

"Because Saint Mary's is so closely [tied to the Sisters], this has more meaning for students here," she said.

Helped with building student relationships with the Sisters is the Friends With Sisters program, organized by Sister Louisita Welsh. Many stu-

dents who were involved with the program and had their friend pass away have been involved in the funerals and attended their wakes, Sister Schultz said.

One student involved in the program, junior Brooke Druktenis developed a friendship with Sister Margery Mitternacht, who passed away on Sept. 16, she said.

"I had been visiting Sister Margery for 12 months (even over the summer since I was working here in South Bend). She was bed-bound, so it was easy to

find time in her schedule for me to come visit, which is not always true since the Sisters of the Holy Cross are so active for the most part," Druktenis said in an e-mail.

She was informed of her friends' death and was in attendance at the funeral, she said.

"Sister Margery's funeral was the first funeral I had ever been to so it was tough for me since she was the first person I have ever had to grieve and celebrate the life of. The Sisters of the Holy Cross' funerals are truly a celebration of life and I was surprised at how upbeat the funeral was," she said.

Sophomore Liz Brown had a similar experience with her friendship with Sister Marie Bernadette Rogers, who passed away on Oct. 15.

"I went once a week every week all last year," she said, "and then this year I kept meaning to get over there and then she passed away before I could see her."

She was sent a personal e-mail from Sister Welsh before the rest of the school was informed, she said.

"I went to the Mass and I processed to the gravesite and was there for the burial and had lunch with the Sisters afterwards," she said.

"The Sisters were amazing," in helping her feel better, she said.

"She had gotten to the point where she was not remembering people," and which Brown said helped her assuage some of her guilt for not being able to see her before she passed away.

Brown says that she still goes to visit Sister Rogers' grave once a week.

"It still kind of gets me now and then, the fact that I can't physically see her," she said.

Brown said she approves of the new e-mails that inform students of the passing of Sisters, because it lets students be more involved as a community with the Sisters.

"Without the Sisters we wouldn't exist," she said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at [astiro01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:astiro01@saintmarys.edu)

*"Without the Sisters, we wouldn't exist."*

Liz Brown  
SMC sophomore

Visit The Observer's Web site at  
[ndsmcobserver.com](http://ndsmcobserver.com)

### WHY CHOOSE A MINOR OR A SUPPLEMENTARY MAJOR IN LATINO STUDIES AT ND?

**Changes in American demography make it imperative for professionals and leaders, in all fields, to understand the politics, economics, and cultures of the US Latino/Hispanic community. Health professionals, for example, are already implementing programs tailored to the needs of US Latinos/Hispanics; the private sector is recognizing their growing purchasing power; and policymakers and political leaders have come to realize that Latinos/Hispanics may play a decisive role in the US electoral vote.**

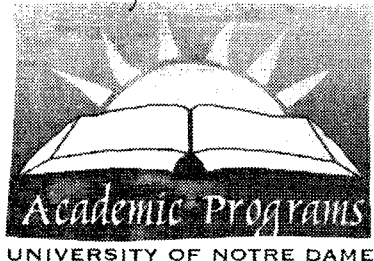
**The minor or the supplementary major in Latino studies will deepen students' knowledge of the cultures, art, history, literature, religious life, political expression, and public policy issues of nearly 40 million Latinos/Hispanics in the United States.**

**The programs encourage research into new issues such as changing immigration patterns, remittances, emerging transnational communities, and cultural flows between Latinos/Hispanics in the United States and their families' countries of origin.**

**While the emphasis is on domestic communities, consideration of globalization, immigration, and border issues introduces an international dimension.**

**For more information contact Yolanda Lizardi Marino, Director of Academic Affairs, Institute for Latino Studies, 230 McKenna Hall; (574) 631-0940; or at [ymarino@nd.edu](mailto:ymarino@nd.edu).**

Institute for Latino Studies



INSTITUTE for





## MARKET RECAP

### Stocks

**Dow Jones** 8,870.54 -73.27

Up: 1,155 Same: 81 Down: 2,372 Composite Volume: 375,835,819

AMEX	1,428.08	+2.34
NASDAQ	1,616.74	-30.66
NYSE	5,802.05	-69.93
S&P 500	919.21	-11.78
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,821.23	-260.20
FTSE 100 (London)	4,403.92	+38.96

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-1.31	-1.23	92.63
AMER INTL GROUP INC (AIG)	+8.06	+0.17	2.28
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-1.35	-0.42	30.77
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-2.95	-0.42	13.80

### Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-0.53	-0.020	3.760
13-WEEK BILL	-31.03	-0.090	0.200
30-YEAR BOND	-1.10	-0.047	4.214
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.11	-0.054	2.504

### Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.37	62.41
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+12.30	476.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.90	84.20

### Exchange Rates

YEN	97.8050
EURO	0.7871
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.1988
BRITISH POUND	0.6413

## IN BRIEF

### DHL cuts 9,500 American jobs

ATLANTA — Delivery company DHL, hit by heavy losses and fierce competition, is significantly reducing its air and ground operations in the U.S. and cutting 9,500 American jobs, leaving rivals like FedEx, UPS and the U.S. Postal Service to fight over the customers it will stop serving.

The decision announced Monday could lead to higher shipping prices and greatly scale back a possible venture between UPS and DHL, the fourth-largest shipper of packages in the U.S.

Deutsche Post AG, the German parent of DHL, said it will no longer offer U.S. domestic-only air and ground services as of Jan. 30, though it said international shipping to and from the U.S. would continue.

DHL has tried to be a major player in the U.S. since it bought Airborne Inc.'s ground delivery network for \$1.05 billion in 2003, but it has lagged in the air and ground markets combined, analysts said.

### Club for ultra-rich files bankruptcy

BILLINGS, Mont. — The Yellowstone Club, an exclusive mountain retreat for the ultra-rich, said it filed for bankruptcy Monday after failing to secure new financing — underscoring that even the elite can't escape the country's current economic troubles.

Spokesman Bill Keegan said the club filed for Chapter 11 protection in federal bankruptcy court in Montana. The move came just two months after the club announced an ambitious expansion plan through a partnership with the Arizona-based Discovery Land Company.

The gated, millionaires-only club on 13,400 acres in Montana's Gallatin Mountains boasts a private ski hill and golf course. Opened in 1999, it counts former Vice President Dan Quayle and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates among its 340 members.

In a statement to The Associated Press, the club said it had been unable to secure financing arrangements with its creditors and bondholders. It plans to reorganize its finances and emerge from bankruptcy "as soon as possible," the statement said.

## Feds' bailout for AIG grows to \$150B

### Insurance company loan reaches record high for private company

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When the government offered an emergency loan to insurer American International Group in September, eyebrows shot up at the \$85 billion price tag. Now it looks like pocket change.

The size of the AIG lifeline swelled to more than \$150 billion on Monday, a record for a private company. But the head of the broader financial rescue package was cool to other companies reaching for a piece of the bailout pie.

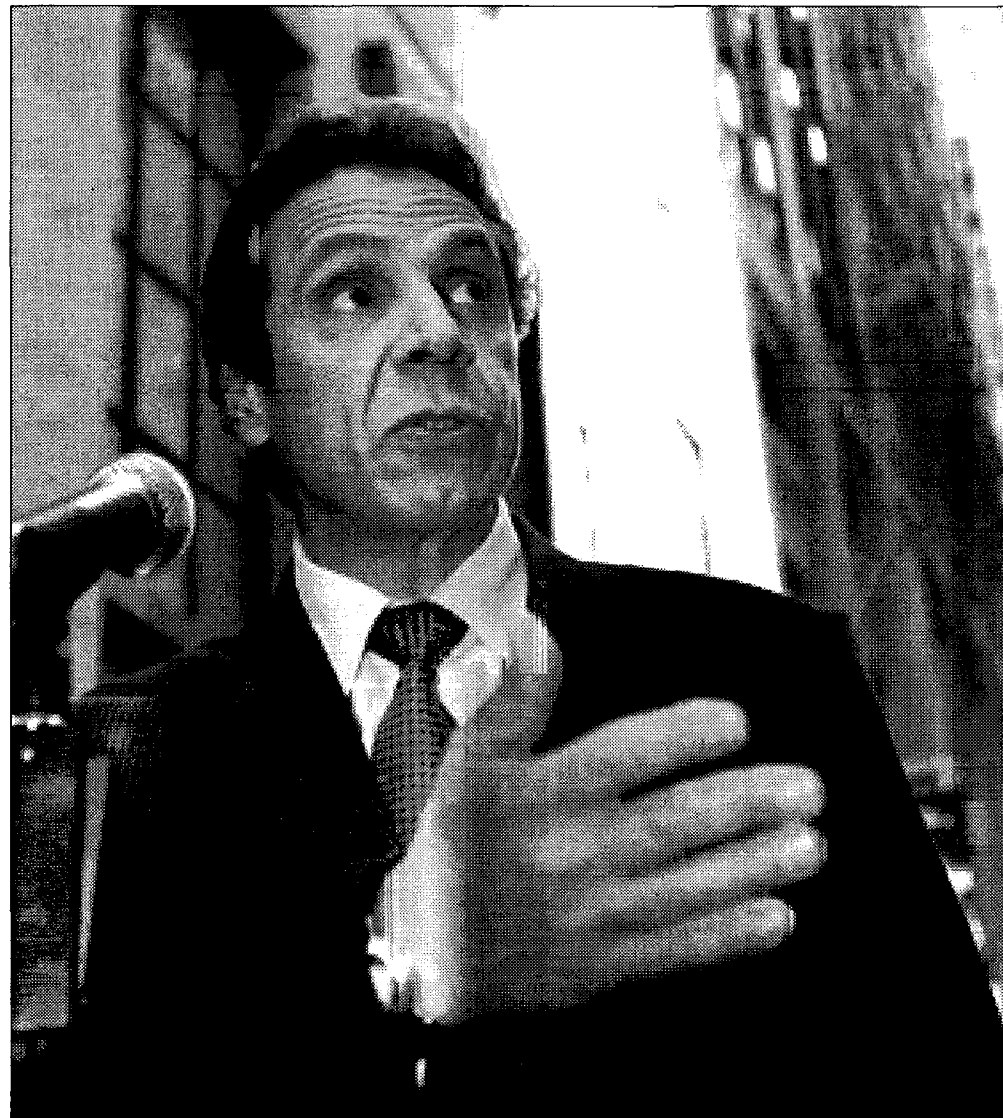
The new AIG package includes a \$40 billion chunk of the \$700 billion financial bailout. It's the first time money from the big rescue bill has gone to any company other than a bank.

General Motors, Ford and Chrysler, burning through cash and bleeding jobs, are prodding the government for more help. The leaders of the House and Senate have urged Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson to get some of the \$700 billion to the Big Three.

The automakers, covering all their options, are also pushing to get help as part of a new, multibillion-dollar stimulus package for the economy if Democrats push it through Congress when a lame-duck session convenes next week.

President-elect Barack Obama has said his transition team would explore options to provide relief to the auto industry, and President Bush's press secretary said Monday the White House would "listen to" Congress if they try to help automakers.

Any money would be on top of the \$25 billion in loans that Congress passed in September to



New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo spoke to Wall Street in October, telling AIG to do away with unnecessary expenses.

help retool auto plants to build more fuel-efficient vehicles.

Neel Kashkari, the interim head of the \$700 billion bailout program, was cool to the idea of funneling the money to companies beyond banks and AIG.

"This morning's action with AIG was a one-off event necessary for financial stability. It is not the establishment of a new program," he said at a financial conference in New York.

In a separate development late Monday, the Fed granted the request

of credit card company American Express Co. to become a bank holding company.

Although the new status will subject the company to greater regulatory scrutiny, American Express will also gain access to the Fed's emergency lending program. The company, which last month announced plans to slash its global work force, has been hard hit by the credit crisis as even the more affluent consumers the company caters to struggle to pay off their debts.

The original Fed loan

to AIG was \$85 billion, and the Fed added a \$38 billion loan in October. But that has not been enough to firm up the company, which is so big and interconnected to other firms that its failure would devastate the economy.

Under the new plan, the Fed will provide \$60 billion in loans. The Treasury will provide \$40 billion to buy up preferred stock. And the government will spend close to \$53 billion to buy up mortgage-backed assets and other AIG contracts on debt.

## Circuit City files for bankruptcy

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Facing pressure from vendors and consumers who aren't spending, Circuit City Stores Inc. filed for bankruptcy protection Monday as it heads into the busy holiday season with hopes that the move will help it survive.

Under Chapter 11 protection, the nation's second-biggest electronics retailer can keep operating while it develops a reorganization plan. Its Canadian operations also filed for similar protection.

The company also said it cut 700 more jobs at its Richmond, Va., headquarters, after announcing a week ago that it would close 20 percent of its stores and lay off thousands of workers.

In court documents, Chief

Financial Officer Bruce H. Besanko cited three factors: erosion of vendor confidence, decreased liquidity and the global economic crisis.

"Without immediate relief, the company is concerned that it will not receive goods for Black Friday and the upcoming holiday season, which could cause irreparable harm to the company and its stakeholders," Besanko said in the filing.

Its shares fell 14 cents, or about 56 percent, to 11 cents on Monday before being halted.

Circuit City, which has had only one profitable quarter in the past year, has faced significant declines in traffic and heightened competition from rival Best Buy Co. and others. The company laid off about 3,400 retail employees last year

and replaced them with lower-paid workers, a move analysts said could backfire, hurting morale and driving away customers.

While the retail industry overall is facing what's expected to be the weakest holiday season in decades, Circuit City's struggles have intensified as nervous consumers spend less and credit has become tighter.

At a hearing in Richmond, U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin Huennekens granted Circuit City interim approval to secure \$1.1 billion in debtor-in-possession loans while it is in bankruptcy protection. Those funds, needed to stock merchandise and pay employees, replace a \$1.3 billion asset-backed loan the company had been using.

# THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Tuesday, November 11, 2008

## THE OBSERVER

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Chris Hine.

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With hyper-liberal Senator Barack Obama ascending to the presidency, in conjunction with a near filibuster-proof majority in the Senate and a clear majority in the House, Democrats can now relish in a victory that affirms the principles they hold most dear: bigger government, spineless foreign policy, and increased spending on ineffective social programs.

In the deeply profound words of Bob the Builder, "Yes we can!"

Or can they?

In the back of their collective mind, there

remains the stubborn fact that Obama managed to clinch the election on November 4th largely by riding a wave of personal popularity and widespread resentment toward the previous administration. He campaigned, not as a Democrat, but as a symbol of a new, bipartisan era that transcends the petty political bickering of the past. And although his electoral and popular vote victories were decisive, the question of what his election means for the direction of his presidency has yet to be answered.

If we attempt to look to Obama's campaign for some clues, we are left just as mystified. His call to arms can be summed up in a single word: change. But let's face it, when vying for the presidency when the approval rating of the outgoing incumbent from the opposite party has flat-lined around 28 percent, the campaign script was practically written for him. All any Democratic nominee had to do was avoid any fatal missteps and the election would be gift-wrapped and delivered directly into his or her hands.

Add a touch of inspirational narrative, a pinch of promises to transcend partisan bickering, and a dash of moving rhetoric about hope, and you've got a recipe for a messianic leader, complete with a loyal



Christie  
Pesavento

Guest  
Columnist

following of hero-worshippers and a press that caters to his every whim.

But the term "change" does not imply any concrete policy initiatives or solutions to the problems our nation now faces. When Obama declares, "the change we need is coming," what he has in mind may not coincide with what many in this country believe should be done. His campaign was built upon a message that resonated with voters precisely because it was so vague.

The truth remains that the majority of Americans are not on the same page as Obama when it comes to governing philosophy. This fact becomes evident when one looks back to some of his own campaign rhetoric, which seems at times to embrace much of the traditional Republican Party platform. For example, instead of standing behind his preferred Marxist aspirations of "spreading the wealth around," he chose to market his income redistribution program as a "tax cut." Don't believe me? Then try explaining how he plans to cut taxes for 95% of working families when a third of them don't pay income taxes, yet will receive a government check if his plan is implemented.

He also insists that he will go through the federal budget "line by line" and eliminate every ineffective program to cut spending (considering the fact that appropriations bills contain tens of thousands of pages, this would be an enormous feat in and of itself). Balanced budgets have traditionally been associated with fiscal conservatism, a philosophy that Obama, who sponsored or cosponsored 144 bills that would have increased federal spending by \$75 billion annually and proposed \$292.954 billion in new spending during the campaign, hardly favors. Unless he deems national defense, the only policy area in which Obama seems to support spending cuts, an ineffective program that should be abolished, he is going to have a very difficult time achieving the "net spending cuts" he promised to achieve during the third debate.

Now I understand that Obama is no conservative; in fact, according to the

National Journal's 27th annual vote ratings, Obama was hands-down the most liberal member of the Senate in 2007. But the language he has used to pander to voters indicates the necessity of appealing to their center-right tendencies.

Perhaps in addition to acquiring more votes, Obama was hoping to gain favor with conservatives so that they will go along with his leftist agenda as president. He has already begun to set the bipartisan tone for his administration during his victory speech by insisting that we "resist the temptation to fall back on the same partisanship and pettiness and immaturity that has poisoned our politics for so long." Just days later, he appointed Rahm Emanuel; former Clinton advisor, Freddie Mac board member from 2000 to 2001, and notoriously foul-mouthed partisan hack; to the position of chief of staff.

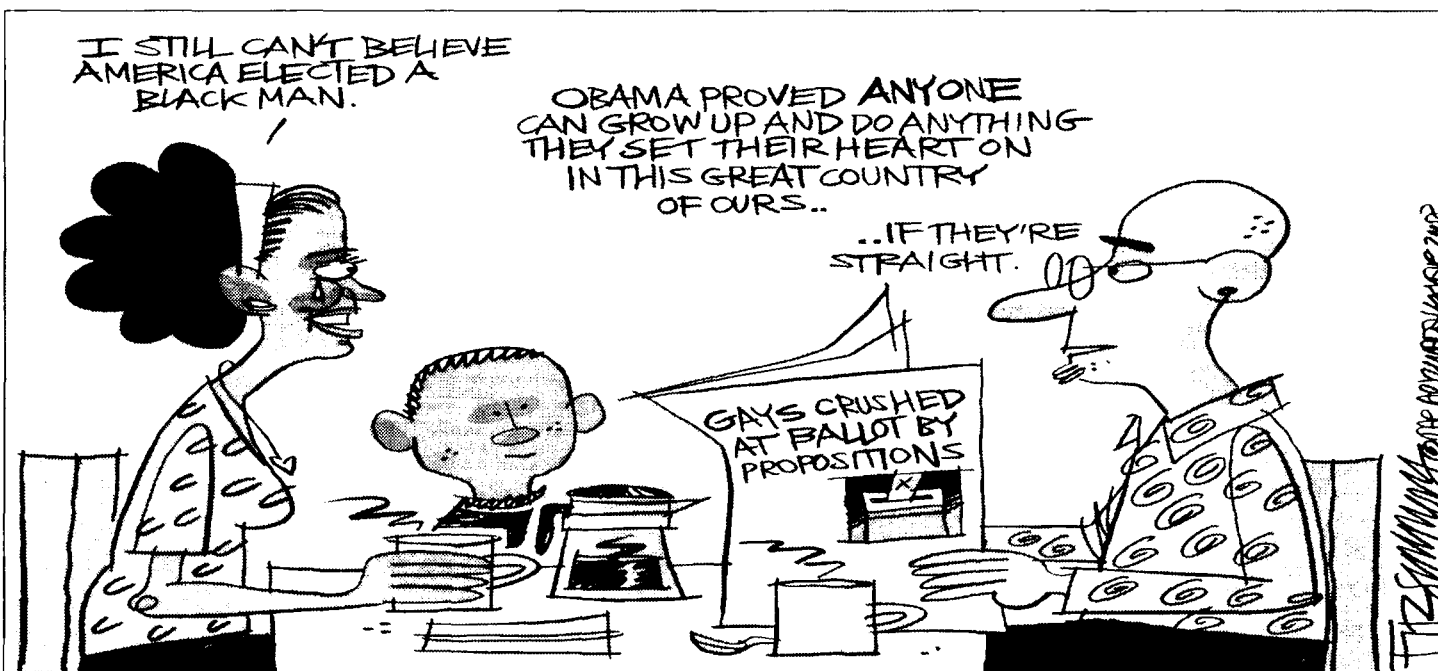
A wide gap exists between Obama's claims to champion bipartisanship and his actions. Unfortunately, he has convinced most Americans that he will lead in a manner that transcends the partisan divide, which does not give him the authority to implement the radical agenda he managed to de-emphasize during the campaign. It seems that his definition of bipartisan involves building support for liberal policies among moderates instead of trying to compromise with the opposing party by presenting his plans with a deceptive twist.

History has not been kind to presidents who overstep their authority. If Obama interprets his win as an overwhelming mandate for liberalism and aggressively attempts to reconstruct the government in this manner, he risks losing much of his popular support, along with any chance to make the change he promised a reality.

Christie Pesavento is a Political Science major, and can be reached at [cpesaven@nd.edu](mailto:cpesaven@nd.edu).

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

### EDITORIAL CARTOON



### OBSERVER POLL

When did you stop watching the game?

Interception return for touchdown  
Halftime  
Fumbled punt  
Watched the whole thing

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Submit a Letter  
to the Editor at  
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### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My home is not a place, it is people."

Lois McMaster Bujold  
author



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tropic Thunder: not so funny

The summer before my freshman year here at Notre Dame, I volunteered at the Special Olympics Games. I helped in the skills division of tennis. One particular athlete, Ben, was very excited to go first. He came out on the court, and I asked him if he needed any practice rounds. Ben confidently replied, "No, I'm ready!" Ben completed his challenges and was pretty good at all of them. I complimented him on his skill and he proudly responded, "I know I'm good, I'm PERFECT!" Truer words have never been spoken. Ben had Down syndrome.

This past week SUB movies hosted the film, Tropic Thunder. This film repeatedly degrades those with disabilities. Men and women with disabilities are the greatest gift God has given to our world. They are full of pure, unconditional, perfect love. My sister, Marita, has physical and mental handicaps. While some students here at Notre Dame struggle with trying to make the division one sports team, Marita struggles with walking. While students here struggle with Aristotle's philosophy, Marita struggles with learning how to read. While students here struggle with relationships and learning how to love one another—well Marita's got that one covered. Marita never gives up—not only can she walk, but she can run and play sports too. Not only can she read, but she writes her own stories and spells a whole lot better than I do. Not only does she love, but she loves unconditionally, unselfishly, and unreservedly. She sees people for who they are, not for what they look like or what they wear or how smart or athletic they are. She simply loves the person. Marita never makes fun of anyone—but each day when I walk around campus, I hear people using the word "retarded" with a negative connotation.

I see our beloved Notre Dame sponsoring a film, Tropic Thunder, that openly degrades those with disabilities. If a movie openly made fun of Jewish people or black people or women we wouldn't show it—it would be deemed as offensive. So why, when a movie openly makes fun of those with disabilities, is it deemed as funny? It's not funny—it's hurtful. It's degrading a group of people who should be praised and commended by society—not made fun of. This is a Catholic university named after our Blessed Mother—and right now, I'm pretty sure she is ashamed of us.

Mary Forr  
sophomore  
Pasquerilla West  
Nov. 9

### Drunken revelry justified by 'Change and Hope'

Last week seemed to be the pinnacle of my existence as an American when I learned from thousands of miles away that Barack Obama was to become my future president. I became overwhelmed and on the verge of tears while observing the millions of people cheering for our nation's soon to be first African-American president. Although I was watching from a computer all the way from Yanji, a small Chinese city conveniently sandwiched between Russia and North Korea, and had only two other Americans to share this historical occasion with, my overwhelming happiness could not escape me for several days.

Unfortunately, my elation came to a screeching halt upon learning of the viewpoint article titled "Drunken Revelry Inappropriate." Does this student realize what had just happen in our beloved nation last Tuesday? A smart, intelligent man who happens to be black was able to obtain arguably the most powerful position in the world only several decades after African-Americans were not even allowed to vote. Amidst this, all Mr. Miller can do is worry about his studies?!

Yes it is unfortunate that people's bikes were thrown on trees just as they are throughout the school year, and that the election celebration distracted the handful of focused students just as dorm parties distract the dozens of students who choose to sleep or study on a Friday or Saturday night. I am sure every football weekend, students "run amuck and shout banter" at the top of their lungs in a "drunken frenzy" throughout campus when our football team claims victory. Furthermore, it is tradition for ND male students to gallivant their nude bodies around

campus before finals in anticipation of the end of the semester which I am sure causes small riots here and there amongst excited young ladies.

Thus, may I remind Mr. Miller that a presidential election happens only every four years and never before has a person of color in our country accomplished such a feat. I have to admit that I once was an uptight premed student who would occasionally get annoyed at the random distractions and outbursts that would echo the walls of the CoMo lounge. But I knew when to soften up and allow chaos to disrupt my studies such as when the first huge snowfall of the school year occurs or during March Madness when the huge big screen TVs cause havoc among the hardcore college basketball fans amidst the clueless, studious students.

Maybe Mr. Miller was a stringent McCain supporter, or maybe a hardcore conservative, wealthy Republican, or simply does not know how to have fun and loosen up when necessary. Maybe he should have gone back to his home off-campus to focus on his studies which seems to be way more important than this historic election. Although, I am sure the people of South Bend took to the streets as well, like the rest of the world did. Who knows? But in the words of Obama, I can only HOPE that his uptight ways CHANGE in order for him to realize the joy of being a college student and a proud American under the future guidance of Barack Obama.

Eric Sales  
alum  
class of '08  
Nov. 9

### Take a step back

We all know that Thanksgiving is just around the corner. I love this day. What are the first thoughts that this holiday brings to mind? Food, obviously. Gathering with family, playing football with the cousins, cooking classic dishes, and discussing religion and politics are just a few of the day's activities. At some point, however, I do sit back and thank God for all He has given me (and I should be doing this more often). Family, friends, faith, freedom; education, health, and the list goes on and on. But there is one especially prized gift that God has given my family: two incredible people with special needs.

My brother Patrick has Asberger's Syndrome, a high functioning form of Autism. My sister Meg has Acondroplasia, a form of dwarfism. These two people may be the greatest blessings in my life. And that's why it hurts so much when I hear daily the words "retarded" and "midget" thrown around. It hurts because I have lived through the suffering they have endured from this reckless or malicious use of language. I suspect that we all react similarly when someone mocks or demeans one of our siblings—for any reason. I think that most, if not all, of us immediately become defensive and want to support our siblings. At least that's how I respond every time I hear those words used in disparaging or negative contexts.

I am so grateful for Pat and Meg in my life. I wish everyone could have the gift of someone with special needs in their family life. Those with special needs have a deep, genuine love of life. They may lack intellectual or physical capabilities, but their abilities to love and to forgive are admirable. They are much younger than I am, but I sincerely look up to each of them. So, I invite all of us to take a step back, thank God for all He has given us and reflect upon ways we may misuse words and submit to stereotypes that really do inflict great harm to those with special needs and to their Creator. Thanks Pat and Meg for being who you two are.

Mary Conroy  
senior  
Pasquerilla West  
Nov. 9

### The real American spirit

After living through an exhausting presidential campaign and all the good and the ugly connected with it, I just wanted to comment on a bright spot. As an "old grad" who loves Notre Dame and is interested in the current state of the union and opinions on campus, I must say that Nicole Burson's letter on "America the Beautiful" in the November 10 "The Observer Email Edition" re-affirms my hope and shows the real spirit of America shining through. This country was founded upon a deep faith in God and trust in His guidance and blessings. Congratulations, Nicole, as you have beautifully expressed the greatness of our democracy and the responsibility of all Americans to continue in a positive way to support our country, affirm the sacredness of human life, and pray for the well-being of this great nation.

Wyn Norris  
alum  
class of '65  
Nov. 10

**The Observer is accepting  
columnist applications for  
the Spring semester!**

**Are you excited yet?**

Email Kara at kking5@nd.edu for more information.

**Not enough work to do?  
Spend your free time writing a  
Letter to the Editor.**

**viewpoint.1@nd.edu**

# ROLE MODELS

SZYMON RYZNER

Scene Writer

The latest in a seemingly endless stream of R-rated comedies is "Role Models". Starring Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Plasse, "Role Models" provides viewers with an Apatowian humor and sentimentality hybrid that has been a box office success since 2005's "The 40-year-old Virgin".

It's the story of two co-workers who are forced to volunteer their time in a Big Brother Big Sister type agency to avoid jail time, after an energy-drink-filled accident on the job.

Danny (Rudd), a bitter cynic, and Wheeler (Scott), a careless party boy, are then stuck with two of the most difficult prospects the Sturdy Wings program has to offer. Augie (Mintz-Plasse), a teenager who is obsessed with live action role playing, and Ronnie (Bobb'e Thompson), a foul mouthed little boy who is obsessed with a certain characteristic of the female anatomy.

The interactions between these four characters are the core of the film: each characters humor relevant to their personality. Even the supporting cast is memorable. Jane Lynch plays an ex-cocaine addict who founded Sturdy Wings and gives the two leads a lot of trouble while reasserting her dominance through absurd dialogue. Elizabeth Banks, who has

so far this year played both the first lady and an aspiring porn star, plays Danny's frustrated girlfriend. The film's dialogue, particularly lines delivered by Rudd and Thompson, also gives the public many quotable moments such as the "whispering eye."

Though the story starts with the four characters at odds with each other, it culminates in a sentimental fashion where they gain mutual respect and resolve their problems successfully. The whole film, scattered with humor throughout, finally reaches it's pinnacle moment in a scene that can simply be described as epic. It's as though every moment in the film built up to this last scene and the payoff is grand pulling from the entire story to create a truly memorable finale.

This film is quite the stepping stone for all the actors involved. It was truly surprising to see Paul Rudd and Sean William Scott, usually accomplices in other films, carry the entirety of this story successfully.

It is hard to imagine any other actors finding so much success in these roles. Their winning performances in "Role Models" will perhaps lead to more films for them in leading roles.

Christopher Mintz-Plasse also excels in the role he was born to play. He is the perfect pale, scrawny kid with a lisp, and his acting is top notch. Ronnie (Thompson) no doubt has a future in comedy. His slapping and cursing at immature man-children would be delightful in a reprise of Ronnie in a future feature.

The film is neither directed nor produced by the comedy guru Judd Apatow, but it resembles his technique quite significantly. The casting reflects strongly on the direction of the film and each actor plays an all too familiar role but that's what makes "Role Models" work so well. The jokes are fresh, the references charming, and the payoff is grand. The actors may play the characters that they have always been known for, but they do it successfully and entertainingly. With a strong supporting cast and an even stronger chemistry between the four main characters the film works. It works, and it's funny, and the final payoff is legendary.

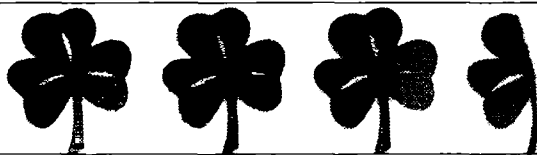
Contact Szymon Ryzner at sryzner@gmail.com.

PERFECT  
CAST  
— in —  
PERFECT  
ROLES

## Role Models

Director: David Wain

Starring: Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott, and Christopher Mintz-Plasse



## TIDBITS on CHRISTOPHER MINTZ-PLASSE

SZYMON RYZNER  
Scene Writer

His debut was in the extremely popular "Superbad," where he played the awkward nerdy friend of the two main characters. He attended an audition with his two high-school friends, where, despite the lack of a headshot and any true acting classes, he was cast. Though his characters name was Fogell, he will no doubt be forever known as the Hawaiian organ donor

His second film role is in the recently released "Role Models" where he plays a geeky youth that is obsessed with L.A.I.R.E., Live Action Interactive Roleplaying Explorers. He is fond of a roleplaying "goddess" but is too afraid to talk to her. Betrayed and kicked out of L.A.I.R.E. he makes a dramatic comeback in another memorable Mintz-Plasse role.

In 2009 he will be a supporting cast member of two potential blockbusters. "Year One," a Python-esque comedy taking place in biblical times, has Mintz-Plasse playing the role of Isaac alongside Michael Cera, Jack Black, Hank Azaria as Abraham, David Cross as Cain, and Paul Rudd as Abel.

The second film will be "Kick-Ass", a film version of a self-parodying comic book in which Mintz-Plasse will fill the role of Kick-Ass' nemesis The Red Mist.

He is doing voiceover work for "How to Train Your Dragon", an animated film based on the novel. Mintz-Plasse will be the voice of the character Fishlegs.

Contact Szymon Ryzner at sryzner@gmail.com





## Brilliance found in anberlin's NEW SURRENDER

KAITLYN CONWAY  
Scene Writer

Opening with the edgy, steady guitar rhythm of "The Resistance," alternative rock band Anberlin's newest album, "New Surrender" is a fresh affirmation of the band's talent. Anberlin has released five albums (if you include their CD of B-sides, demos, and acoustics, "Lost Songs," in the count) since their conception in 2002, and each one has offered something new to their sound. And each album has been touted as better than the last.

"New Surrender" is the first album by the band to be released with a major record company. But this did not concern fans. Anberlin has consistently stayed within their genre while noticeably altering their sound. The band is not afraid of experimenting, and does so with skill. In fact, each track on "New Surrender" displays a different aspect of their sound, while maintaining some of their classic touches. The end track, "Miserable Visu (Ex Malo Bonum)" is in the vein of their other ending tracks, like "(\*Fin)," which concluded their last CD, "Cities." As with the band's past final tracks, "Miserable Visu (Ex Malo Bonum)" is the longest track on the album and adds a nice sense of closure to the work as a whole. Additionally, the pop ballad "Breathe" is similar to their well-known track "Dismantle. Repair." However, the track has its own new sound as well.

While the CD opens with force with "The Resistance," Anberlin quickly displays their diversity with a ballad, "Breaking," which asserts that "You make breaking hearts look so easy," a repetitive line that you will find yourself humming as you walk down the hall. This is part of the beauty of Anberlin. No matter what their songs are about, they

are catchy and easy to follow. "Blame Me! Blame Me!" is a sad yet impossible to hate song on the album. Immediately after listening to it, it will be impossible not to chime in: "Blame me! Blame me!" Another song which is bound to hit the airwaves is "Haight Street," which fulfills the album's need for a song about leaving it all behind and doing something different and new.

The songs on the album aren't just your usual drivel of heart-break and freedom, though. The band has specifically written the songs about humanitarian efforts they have participated in, asserting the fact in "Burn Out Brighter (Northern Lights)" that "This life's not about me" and "I want to die for something." Anberlin is using their music to advocate for something larger than the little problems of life. There's more out there than the everyday problems, and "New Surrender" is Anberlin's way of telling that to the world.

Another notable track is "Feel Good Drag," a rewrite from their second CD "Never Take Friendship Personal" (released in 2005). The mellow rock song alternates in intensity, starting soft and intensifying in the chorus. Alone in this one song, Anberlin displays their array of talent, both in terms of vocals and musicianship.

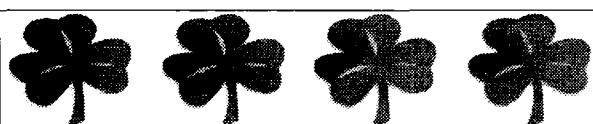
"New Surrender" can be called nothing but a success. Anberlin has once again created an amazing, diverse album that anyone can enjoy. This band is talented, and they're not afraid to show it. Stephen Christian has the vocals to carry the songs, and is backed up strongly instrumentally by band mates Deon Rexroat, Joseph Milligan, Nathan Young, and Christian McAlhaney. This band talent only continues to please fans in their most recent release.

Contact Kaitlyn Conway at [kconway2@nd.edu](mailto:kconway2@nd.edu).

### New Surrender

Released by: Universal Republic

Recommended Tracks: "Breathe," and "Breaking,"  
Blame Me! Blame Me!"



## Best of You Tube

### Penguin Slip



Help get yourself prepared for those unfortunate run-ins with icy patches. It's consolation to know that penguins fall too!

### Seven-Year-Old: Hood Rat Stuff with My Friends



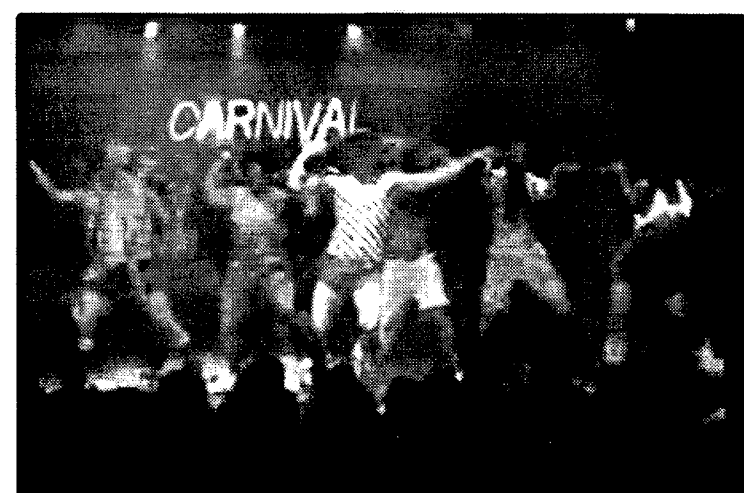
Fender-benders, angry grandmothers, cops, and a seven-year-old priming himself for a life of crime make a hilarious combination.

### My Hardcore Three-Year-Old Brother



You think you're hardcore? Well, after checking out this pre-k pageant gone wrong, one little brother might just change your mind.

### Yes Dance



If you are dead after too much homework, the yes dance could bring you back to life. Just like Kiki.



## NBA

## Celtics edge Raptors on back of Pierce's strong finish

Wade has big fourth quarter to lift Heat over Nets; Roy leads Blazers past Magic; Ford has double-double

Associated Press

BOSTON — Paul Pierce scored 22 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Boston Celtics to a 94-87 comeback win over the Toronto Raptors on Monday night.

Kevin Garnett added 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Ray Allen had 19 points for the Celtics (7-1). Boston scored 58 points in the second half after getting just 36 in the opening 24 minutes.

Jermaine O'Neal recovered from a rough night in Sunday's win over Charlotte, leading the Raptors (4-3) with 23 points and 11 rebounds. Anthony Parker scored 15 and Jason Kapono 14 for Toronto.

With the score tied 84-all, Boston center Kendrick Perkins, who had trouble containing O'Neal most of the game, blocked a turnaround and Pierce hit a jumper on the other end, giving the Celtics an 86-84 lead with 1:38 left.

On the ensuing possession, O'Neal lost the ball out of bounds. Pierce then hit a 17-footer to give Boston a four-point edge before putting the game away with a spinning, driving scoop shot that made it 90-84 with 34.4 seconds left.

Boston, which trailed by 15 points early in the third quarter and by six entering the fourth, used a scrappy, trapping halfcourt defense to bottle up the Raptors' offense while going on a 9-2 run to close the score to 71-70 on Pierce's jumper with 8:19 to play.

The teams traded 3-pointers — with Pierce getting both for Boston — before Eddie House nailed a 3 from the right corner to give the Celtics their first lead since the game's opening minutes, 79-77, with 4:45 to go.

Toronto had opened a 57-42 edge on Jose Calderon's jumper 3 1/2 minutes into the third quarter before Boston started its comeback. Garnett scored six points and Pierce five during a 15-4 run as the Celtics closed the gap to three before Jason Kapono hit a 3-pointer to give the Raptors a 65-59 lead after three.

O'Neal, ineffective in a season-low 19 1/2 minutes of action with only five free throws in Sunday's 89-79 win against the Charlotte Bobcats, took control inside early in the game. He scored 10 of the Raptors' first 14 points as they opened a 23-18 edge after one.

Toronto, which outplayed Boston in the paint and held the Celtics to 32 percent shooting, led 48-36 at halftime. O'Neal had 19 points on 7-of-12 shooting in opening half.

The Raptors, who entered the night as the NBA's second best team shooting from beyond the 3-point line, seemed determined to get the ball inside as much as possible early against the Celtics.

The Raptors pushed their advantage to 16 points twice in the second quarter, the second when O'Neal eclipsed his previous season-high with two free throws to make it 46-30 late in the half.

## Miami 99, New Jersey 94

Dwyane Wade scored 19 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter, and the Miami Heat rallied from a 10-point deficit midway through the final quarter to beat the New Jersey Nets on Monday night.

Michael Beasley scored 19 points and Daequan Cook added 15 for the Heat, who are 3-0 at home for the first time since the 1999-2000 season — and had to dig deep to get there, after the Nets seemed to have the game completely under control for much of the second half.

Yi Jianlian made a career-best five 3-pointers and finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, who got 22 points from Vince Carter. New Jersey led by 10 after Carter connected on a 3-pointer — one of 13 by the Nets — with 5:48 left, but got outscored 26-11 the rest of the way.

Carter's layup with 32.5 seconds left drew New Jersey within one, but Wade calmly made a 15-footer from the right side 9 seconds later, and the Heat held on from there.

Down by three, New Jersey had one more chance, but Carter was called from traveling with 6.7 seconds left — the Nets' 19th turnover — and the outcome was sealed. Chris Quinn went 6-for-6 from the line in the final seconds for Miami.

Former Heat guard Keyon Dooling scored 18 points for New Jersey, which also got 12 from Jarvis Hayes and 11 from Bobby Simmons.

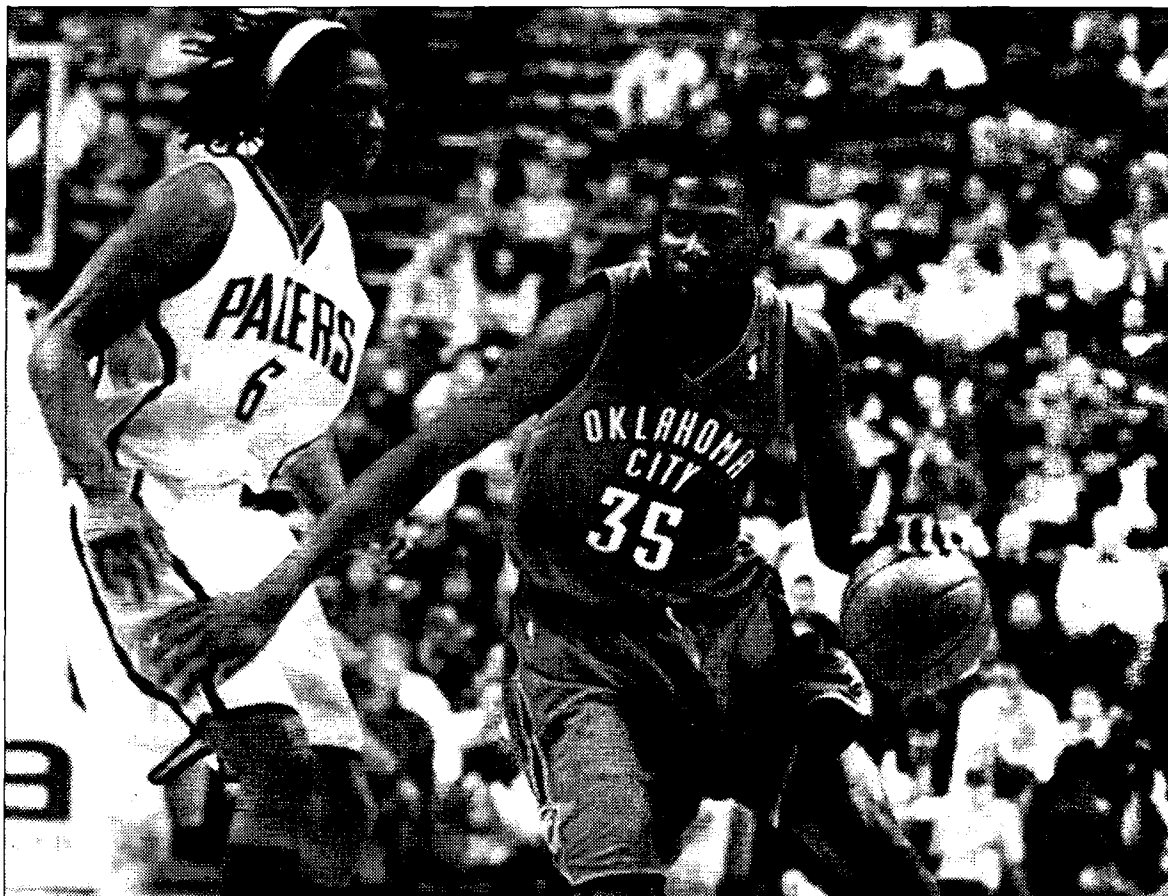
Yi's 3-point barrage had to have caught Miami by surprise. Entering Monday, in his first 71 NBA appearances, Yi had never made more than two 3-pointers in a game.

He then made three in a 31/2-minute span of the third quarter alone.

Yi's newly found long-range game fueled a quick 16-5 burst by the Nets, who saw a one-point lead transformed into a 64-52 advantage with 3:31 left in the period. And after Carter connected on — what else? — another 3-pointer over Wade's outstretched arm with 5:48 left, the Nets had what seemed like a perfectly comfortable 83-73 lead.

Someone forgot to tell Wade it was over.

He scored eight straight points in a 79-second span, starting with a 3-pointer that banked in off the glass and left him shaking his head in disbelief. A pair of free throws and another 3-pointer —



Oklahoma City guard Kevin Durant, right, drives the ball on Indiana guard Marquis Daniels in the first half of the Pacers' 107-99 win. Durant had 37 points and eight rebounds in the game.

this one swished — later, and the Heat were at 85-84 with 3:09 remaining.

After being on the other end of the Hack-a-Shaq for so long when Shaquille O'Neal was with Miami, the Heat went to the Hack-a-Boone and sent the Nets' notoriously bad foul-shooting Josh Boone to the line with 3:03 left, shortly after Boone airballed one from the stripe.

He made one of two, and when Cook drove the lane for a layup with 2:05 left, the game was tied at 86.

Wade made a pair of free throws with 1:07 left, giving Miami its first lead since the opening seconds of the second half, and the Heat never trailed again.

## Portland 106, Orlando 99

Brandon Roy scored 27 points to lead the Portland Trail Blazers to their first road win with a victory over the Orlando Magic on Monday night.

Dwight Howard had 29 points and a season-high 18 rebounds and Hedo Turkoglu added 35 points for the Magic, who finished their homestand 4-1.

Point guard Steve Blake and reserve Travis Outlaw had 20 apiece as Portland's bench outscored Orlando's 40-12. Portland has played six of its first seven games against teams that won at least 52 games last season and is 3-3 against them. Orlando has played only three 2007-08 playoff teams this season, and is

2-1.

Trailing 73-72 entering the final period, Portland scored the first 11 points of the fourth quarter, fueled by two 3-pointers by Rudy Fernandez. He finished with 16 points.

The Trail Blazers held a 91-79 lead with 3:55 left before Turkoglu did his best to keep Orlando close, scoring 11 of their next 13 points. His 3-pointer cut it to 98-92 with 50 seconds left, but the Blazers were 8-for-10 from the foul line after that to seal the victory.

Howard, who has struggled at the line this season shooting just 48 percent (15-for-33) was 9-for-12 in the first half before missing four of six tries in the fourth quarter as the Magic tried to cut into Portland's lead.

Greg Oden, the No. 1 pick who sat out all of last season after knee microfracture surgery, missed the game with a right foot injury sustained in the season-opener. Joel Pryzbilla, who's averaging 4.5 points and 9.7 rebounds, continues to start in his place.

Pryzbilla did not score in the first half and finished with two points.

The Magic embark on a three-game road swing, including a Friday stop in Dallas. Portland stays on the road for three more games before returning home.

## Indiana 107, Oklahoma City 99

T.J. Ford had 24 points and 10

assists to help the Indiana Pacers beat the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday night.

Ford scored 11 points in the final period as Indiana (3-3) pulled away. Danny Granger added 20 points and seven rebounds for the Pacers, who won their second straight.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder (1-6) with 37 points and eight rebounds, but no other Oklahoma City player scored more than 14 points in the team's fourth consecutive loss.

Ford took over when Granger, the Pacers' leading scorer this season, got into foul trouble.

Indiana led 96-95 in the fourth quarter, but Oklahoma City had a chance to take the lead when Indiana's Jeff Foster took a charge from Russell Westbrook. Indiana's Marquis Daniels made a layup to make it 98-95, then another turnover by the Thunder led to a running bank shot by Foster that gave the Pacers a 100-95 lead.

Ford drained a 3-pointer with 1:14 to go, then made a layup with 37 seconds left to make it 105-99 and put the Pacers in control for good.

There were nine lead changes and three ties in the fourth quarter.

Oklahoma City shot 52 percent in the first quarter to take a 34-24 lead. The Thunder led 39-24 before the Pacers went on an 11-0 run to climb back into the game.

## CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

## FOR RENT

3/4 bedroom, 3 full bath deluxe homes, close to ND, fireplace, cathedral ceilings, skylights, 2-car garage, 10x20 deck. Much more. Call 574-232-4527 or 269-683-5038. From \$1,700/mo.

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HOUSES FOR LEASE 09-10 SCHOOL YEAR. 2-10 BDRMS AVAILABLE. CONTACT KRAMER PROPERTIES 574-234-2436 OR KRAMERHOUSES.COM

## WANTED

Babysitter needed for Notre Dame family. Occasional afternoons from 3-6 p.m. Should have own car. Pay: tell us what works for you. 913-426-3838.

## FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE 1/2 MILE FROM ND. 3 BEDROOMS 2 FULL BATHS. CRESSY EVERETT PAM DECOLA 574-532-0204

Manny Ramirez Price: A lot Promises to work hard until he does not want to anymore

## PERSONAL

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/csap/>

Two teachers ready to adopt newborn and provide a wonderful life for him/her. Confidential. Expenses paid. [Stephenandliz@aol.com](mailto:Stephenandliz@aol.com) or call us toll free 1-888-760-BABY

## UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

Do not go it alone. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, at (574)631-7819 or Ann Firth at 574-631-2685. For more information, visit our website at: <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pr-egnant.shtml>

Say a prayer for Robert Endrai, who passed away yesterday after a year-long bout with cancer.

"The rock is gonna fall on us." He told the magistrates "I believe that we can stop it but the time is getting late You see I've done all the research my plans are all complete." He was showing them contingencies when they showed him to the street

# AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

## NSCAA/adidas Men's Soccer Rankings

	team	points	record
1	Wake Forest (23)	575	15-0-1
2	Akron	535	13-1-2
3	Creighton	510	10-1-1
4	St. Johns	497	12-1-3
5	Maryland	495	13-3-0
6	Northwestern	455	11-1-2
7	Loyola (Md.)	451	14-0-1
8	California	399	7-2-4
9	Tulsa	383	11-3-1
10	UC Davis	359	12-2-3
11	South Florida	341	10-3-2
12	North Carolina	317	11-3-1
13	Illinois-Chicago	274	10-2-4
14	UC Santa Barbara	265	9-4-2
15	Connecticut	247	8-3-5
16	Saint Louis	223	7-2-5
17	Indiana	184	9-4-2
18	Michigan	183	10-4-2
19	NOTRE DAME	152	9-5-2
20	UC Irvine	133	8-1-6
21	Louisville	95	9-5-2
22	Dayton	76	11-2-2
23	Pennsylvania	65	9-2-3
24	Drake	50	11-3-0
25	Michigan State	44	9-5-1

## NSCAA/adidas Women's Soccer Rankings

	team	points	record
1	NOTRE DAME (34)	850	18-0-0
2	North Carolina	799	15-1-1
3	Portland	764	15-1-0
4	UCLA	763	14-0-2
5	Stanford	733	16-0-1
6	Florida State	677	13-2-1
7	Florida	639	15-2-1
8	Virginia	607	12-3-1
9	Oklahoma State	525	15-1-2
10	USC	505	12-3-1
11	Duke	464	12-3-2
12	Texas	461	12-2-3
13	Boston College	457	11-4-2
14	Texas A&M	449	14-3-1
15	Colorado	367	13-3-3
16	San Diego	364	13-3-2
17	West Virginia	301	12-2-5
18	Wisconsin-Mil.	244	15-2-2
19	Wake Forest	243	10-6-0
20	Missouri	162	12-5-0
21	Penn State	153	13-6-0
22	Washington State	130	8-5-4
23	Georgetown	101	13-3-2
24	Rutgers	66	12-5-1
25	Minnesota	59.5	17-2-0

## NCAA Cross Country USTFCCCA Rankings

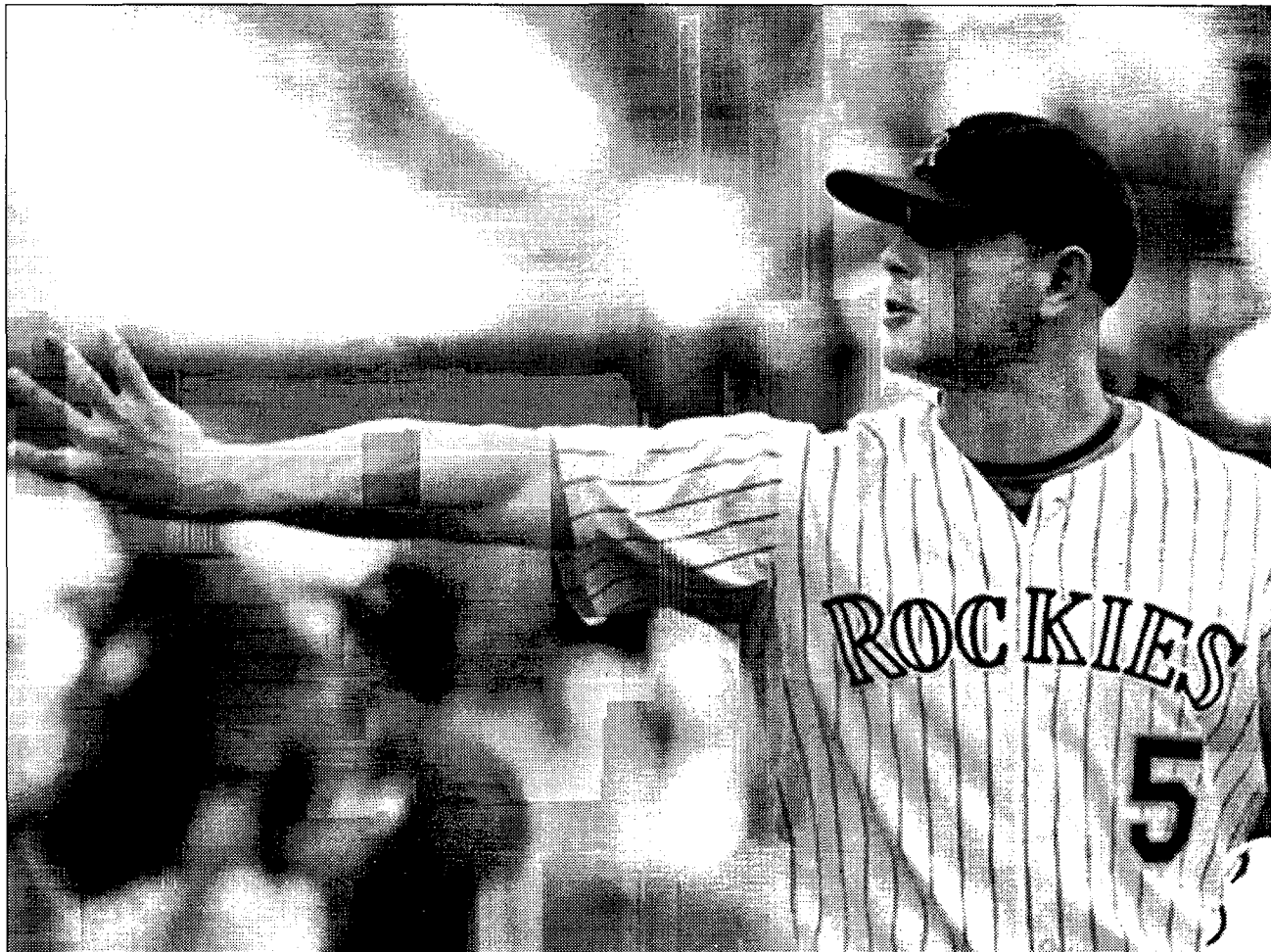
Men	Women
1 Oregon	Washington
2 Oklahoma State	Oregon
3 Stanford	Florida State
4 Portland	Princeton
5 Alabama	Villanova
6 Wisconsin	West Virginia
7 Northern Arizona	Minnesota
8 Iona	Wisconsin
9 Michigan	Texas Tech
10 Georgetown	Michigan State

## around the dial

### NHL

Penguins at Red Wings  
7:00 p.m., Versus

### MLB



Colorado outfielder Matt Holliday throws baseballs to fans while taking part in the team's walk around Coors Field to mark the final regular-season home game in Denver. A proposed trade has Holliday headed to Oakland.

## Oakland reaches deal for Holliday

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Star outfielder Matt Holliday appears headed to the Oakland Athletics in a surprising move for a franchise known more for shedding stars than adding them.

Two people familiar with the proposed deal said Monday the A's and the Colorado Rockies have reached a tentative agreement. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade had not been finalized and details were still in the works.

It was unclear whom Colorado would get for the two-time All-Star. One of the people said reliever Huston Street, lefty starter Greg Smith and outfielder Carlos Gonzalez were among

the players who had been discussed in recent days.

Holliday, MVP of the 2007 NL championship series, is due to make \$13.5 million next season and then will be eligible to become a free agent.

He was scheduled to have a physical Tuesday, one of the people said. The big-hitting left fielder unexpectedly dropped in on the general managers' meetings last week in Dana Point, Calif.

The tentative trade was earlier reported by SI.com and ESPN.com.

"Talks are continuing. They're very fluid and at this point, everything's speculation," Rockies spokesman Jay Alves said, speaking on behalf of general manager Dan O'Dowd.

Oakland owner Lew Wolff,

attending a regional luncheon of Associated Press Sports Editors, wouldn't confirm or deny a trade but said he had already spoken with general manager Billy Beane three times on Monday.

"Billy's doing different things right now," Wolff said.

The A's are known for making big trades, cutting payroll during a rebuilding process that Beane is committed to at all levels in the organization. Gonzalez and Smith were among the six players Oakland acquired last winter when it traded ace and All-Star Dan Haren to Arizona.

Back in January 2001, the A's acquired Johnny Damon from the Kansas City Royals in a three-team, nine-player deal — and this might be the club's clos-

est thing since then to the magnitude of that blockbuster move.

Oakland has watched Damon, Jason Giambi, Miguel Tejada and the Big Three pitchers of Tim Lincecum, Mark Mulder and Barry Zito depart for big money elsewhere. Yet there is thought Giambi, now a free agent, could be back in Oakland this offseason.

The 28-year-old Holliday, playing half his games at Coors Field, has 128 homers and 483 RBIs in five big league seasons. His best year was 2007, when he won the NL batting title with a .340 average and had 36 homers and a league-best 137 RBIs in helping the Rockies reach the World Series. He was runner-up to Philadelphia shortstop Jimmy Rollins for NL MVP.

### IN BRIEF

#### Pats' Thomas possibly out for season with broken arm

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Adalius Thomas is the latest Patriots starter who might miss time after the linebacker suffered what could be a long-term arm injury.

Thomas didn't return after leaving the Patriots 20-10 win over the Buffalo Bills midway through the second quarter Sunday. The Patriots said only that he hurt his arm, but ESPN.com, quoting unnamed sources, reported Thomas broke his left forearm and "likely" will miss the rest of the season.

Team spokesman Stacey James said Monday the next injury update would come after Tuesday's practice. A spokesman for Thomas' agent, James "Bus" Cook Jr., said the player had not returned a phone call to Cook.

"I think it'll be difficult" to replace Thomas, said Mike Vrabel, the team's other starting outside linebacker. "He was a leader. He was a veteran guy that played well and we'll just have to find guys to step up."

#### Woman files lawsuit against Chiefs' Johnson over bar spat

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A Kansas woman filed a lawsuit Monday against Chiefs running back Larry Johnson a month after claiming he spit a drink in her face at a bar and threatened to kill her and her boyfriend.

The lawsuit, filed by 24-year-old Ashley N. Stewart, accuses the two-time Pro Bowler of negligence, assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Kevin E.J. Regan, an attorney for Johnson, called the allegations "preposterous."

"This appears to be a classic incident of someone trying to use the court system to get something for nothing," Regan said.

The lawsuit, filed in Jackson County Circuit Court, seeks punitive damages, attorney fees and any other amount a jury deems to be fair. Johnson was charged last month with simple assault for the incident that occurred Oct. 10 at Kansas City's Club Blonde.

#### Judge orders NFLPA to pay nearly \$30m to ex-players

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — A federal jury on Monday ordered the NFL Players Association to pay \$28.1 million to retired players after finding the union failed to properly market their images.

The figure includes \$21 million in punitive damages, just short of the \$21.9 million award the players' lawyer had asked of the jury to reflect roughly 10 percent of the union's net worth at the start of the year.

A union lawyer had urged the jury to award a far lesser amount so as not to damage the union's ability to represent its members.

Hall of Fame cornerback Herb Adderley filed the lawsuit last year on behalf of 2,056 retired players who contend the union failed to actively pursue marketing deals on their behalf with video games, trading cards and others sports products.

Adderley, 69, played cornerback for the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys and appeared in four Super Bowls.

## MLB

# Longoria, Soto win Rookie of Year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The rookie races were all but over by July, when Evan Longoria and Geovany Soto gave an All-Star glimpse of things to come.

Longoria won the American League Rookie of the Year award in a unanimous vote and Soto ran away with the NL honor Monday, capping impressive seasons that included All-Star appearances for both players at Yankee Stadium.

Pretty rare stuff for a pair of first-timers — but these were no ordinary freshmen.

"I had a great year, bar none," Longoria said. "I know I have the ability to do more."

Following a season of breakthroughs for the AL champion Rays, Longoria became the first Tampa Bay player to win a national award from the Baseball Writers' Association of America. The power-hitting third baseman received all 28 first-place votes, making him the league's first unanimous rookie winner since Nomar Garciaparra in 1997.

Soto, the steady catcher with pop who helped the Cubs win the NL Central, got 31 of 32 first-place votes. The other went to Cincinnati's Joey Votto.

"It's kind of surreal. It really hasn't sunk in yet," Soto said on a conference call from Puerto Rico.

Called up from the minors in April, Longoria batted .272 with 27 homers and 85 RBIs despite missing five weeks after breaking his right wrist Aug. 7. Confident at the plate and splendid on defense, he was a big reason for the Rays' stunning surge to the World Series after 10 straight losing seasons.

"I definitely felt some awe most of the time during the season. I kept that to myself," Longoria said on a conference call from his California home. "I didn't start the year in the big leagues. I struggled all the way through high school ball and college ball. The journey that I went through as a baseball player — to be sitting here means a lot."

Chicago White Sox second baseman Alexei Ramirez was the runner-up after receiving 18 second-place votes. Boston outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury finished third.

Soto hit .285 with 23 homers, 35 doubles and 86 RBIs. He became the first catcher to win Rookie of the Year in either league since Mike Piazza of the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1993.

The previous winner from the Cubs was pitcher Kerry Wood 10 years ago.

"I just didn't want to put extra pressure on myself. I just wanted to do my job as the team required," Soto said.

The Rays were so sure Longoria would become a big star that they gave him a \$17.5 million, six-year contract after only six major league games. The deal could be worth up to \$44.5 million over nine seasons.

So far, he's delivered.

Tampa Bay started play in 1998 and had never won more than 70 games until Longoria helped lead the Rays to 97 wins this year and the AL East title. He also hit a tying double with two outs in the eighth inning during the July 15 All-Star game in New York.

Soto became the first National League rookie catcher to start an All-Star game. In addition to his productive hitting all season, he did a nice job handling a Cubs pitching staff that compiled a 3.87 ERA, third-best in the NL. He even caught a no-hitter by Carlos Zambrano.

Soto credited backup catcher Henry Blanco and other veteran teammates for giving him advice and pep talks that guided him through a "roller coaster" year.

"That's what helped me have a strong season all the way around," Soto said. "I did try to act very sure about myself, very secure. But I had doubts."

After his injury, Longoria, who turned 23 last month, returned in time for Tampa Bay's playoff run. He homered in his first two postseason at-bats against the White Sox, then connected four times against Boston in the AL championship series to set a rookie record with six homers in one postseason.

But his offensive tear ended in the World Series, when Longoria went 1-for-20 with nine strikeouts and two RBIs as the Philadelphia Phillies beat Tampa Bay in five games.

"Obviously, I would have loved to play well and help the team," Longoria said. "I was still pretty content that we had a great year."

The 25-year-old Soto had a disappointing October after his team compiled the best regular-season record in the National League. Bothered by a nagging hand injury, he went 2-for-11 (.182) with no RBIs as Chicago was swept in the first round by the Dodgers, leaving the Cubs without a World Series title since 1908.

Balloting for BBWAA awards is conducted before the postseason. Votto garnered 21 second-place votes and 76 points to Soto's 158. Atlanta pitcher Jair Jurrjens came in third.

"I worked really, really hard in past years," Soto said. "I feel very, very special right now. It's a very good moment in my life."

The NL Cy Young Award will be announced Tuesday.

## NFL

# Poor rush worries Tomlinson

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — LaDainian Tomlinson is worried, which is never a good sign for the San Diego Chargers.

A day after the Chargers barely held off the last-place Kansas City Chiefs, the star running back expressed concern about the team's inconsistent season and the lack of a productive running game, hinting there are issues the team is attempting to work through.

Tomlinson was held to 78 yards on 22 carries in San Diego's 20-19 win over the Chiefs and failed to score a rushing touchdown for the fifth straight game.

Although he was slowed for much of the season's first half by a sore big toe, Tomlinson went into the KC game saying he was the healthiest he's been all season. For the fifth straight game, he failed to score a rushing touchdown.

Tomlinson, the two-time defending NFL rushing champion who's also the most brutally honest member of the Chargers' organization, clearly is dissatisfied with the running game.

Asked at his regular Monday news conference why the Chargers can't run better, Tomlinson said: "That's tough to handle. I honestly believe certain things, when you start to discuss things like this, stay in house, that we discuss them among each other. There's reasons, but I'm not willing to talk about it to the media. That's something that has to be dealt with internally within the organization; players, coaches, you know, that has to be dealt with between us."

Tomlinson averaged 3.5 yards per carry against the Chiefs, who not only missing several starters but were allowing 5.4 yards per carry coming in.

While San Diego's passing game is flourishing behind Philip Rivers, its running game is ranked 25th in the NFL with only 96.1 yards per game. The Chargers are 22nd with a per-carry average of

3.9 yards. Up next is Sunday's game at Pittsburgh, which has the NFL's stingiest defense overall — allowing only 240.3 yards per game, including just 69.2 rushing yards.

Tomlinson downplayed the loss to free agency of his backup, Michael Turner, and fullback Lorenzo Neal. Turner is Atlanta's featured back and is third in the NFL with 890 yards.

"That's not the problem," said Tomlinson, who is tied for 10th with 629 yards. "To me, there's certain times in the game you have to understand

the momentum of when a team is kind of down and when you need to beat up on them and run the football a little bit versus maybe when you throw over the top of them. So that's always something that needs to be felt with the coaches and sometimes, I don't know, things don't get done in that fashion just because of the way the game may play out or it has played out most parts of the season."

Tomlinson is two years removed from his NFL MVP season, during which he set league records with 31 total touchdowns, 28 rushing TDs and won his first rushing title with 1,815 yards.

"I guess I'm really concerned about it because football to me is simple," he said. "I think in order to really be successful and to do what you want to do you have to be able to run the football. That's the way it's always been. Football is a running game. Not to say that you can't pass the ball but you have to be successful in running the football. I'm always concerned with that. Of course I'm a little biased, because being a running back and loving to run the football,

you know, but, I mean, the proof is in the pudding, is the old saying."

Said coach Norv Turner: "I think we all want to run the ball better."

The line doesn't seem to be the dominant force it once was.

"We're trying to give them every opportunity to be that

physical force.

Teams are doing everything they can to keep us from being able to do that. That's why you're getting the extra guys up in there. People have made a concerted effort in saying, 'We're not going to let

L.T., we're not going to let this offensive line control the game,'" Turner said.

"We definitely could be running the ball better," left tackle Marcus McNeill said. "We definitely want to run the ball better."

The Chargers (4-5) remain a game behind the Denver Broncos in the anemic AFC West.

"We've been so up and down this season, obviously that can drain you mentally," Tomlinson said. "We're just trying to find ways to continue to get better at this time of the year with this now starting to come down to the wire. We need wins."

The Chargers were booed often in falling behind 13-6 at halftime. They didn't clinch the win until strong safety Clinton Hart jumped to bat down Tyler Thigpen's 2-point conversion pass to tight end Tony Gonzalez with 23 seconds left.

"I think what happened, the first half guys were a little mellow, there was a little chill around the locker room and when we went back in we realized that hey, 'Look, we can actually lose this game if we don't get it together,'" Hart said.

*"I think in order to really be successful and to do what you want to do you have to be able to run the football."*

**LaDainian Tomlinson  
Chargers running back**



## MEET COACH BREY

Mike Brey stops by campus  
to talk Irish hoops

Join Coach for pizza, prizes,  
and Q&As on the upcoming season

Wednesday at Host Dorms:  
Cavanaugh Hall @ 7pm  
Knott Hall @ 8pm

Open to all students, meet in common areas



## NFL

# Home streak has Falcons flying

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Suddenly, it seems Matt Ryan and the Atlanta Falcons can't lose.

At least not at home.

Their 34-20 win over New Orleans on Sunday was the first of three straight home games for the Falcons, who are 4-0 at the Georgia Dome this season. Atlanta never trailed and led the Saints by 21 in the fourth quarter while improving to 6-3.

The Falcons have won four of their last five and are tied with Tampa Bay for second place in the NFC South, one game behind Carolina. Atlanta will play host to Denver next Sunday.

Evidence of the Falcons' rising respect around the league came Monday, when the kickoff for their Nov. 23 home game against Carolina was moved from 4:15 p.m. to accommodate a national TV audience.

"It's confirmation that we're doing things right," Falcons coach Mike Smith said.

Atlanta fans who have only seen the Falcons at home may start to wonder if Ryan, the rookie quarterback, will ever make a mistake.

In four home wins, Ryan has completed 59 of 84 passes for 902 yards with five touchdowns and no interceptions.

Ryan has been especially impressive early in games. One week after leading the Falcons to scores in their first four possessions in a 24-0 shutout of the Oakland Raiders, Ryan completed 10 of 13 passes for 145 yards and a touchdown in the first half as the Falcons built a 17-6 lead over the Saints.

"It was big for us to get off to

a good start," Ryan said. "The Saints' offense is so powerful and has the ability to score on any drive. It was important for us to put some points on the board and support the defense as much as possible."

Overall, Ryan was 16-of-23 passing for 248 yards and no touchdowns against New Orleans.

The Saints couldn't believe they were watching a rookie lead the Falcons' offense.

"He's a good quarterback," said Saints linebacker Scott Fujita. "He's a good manager on the offense. He does a good job of working the clock as he comes to the line and he does a good job in the hurry-up mode."

"I'm not trying to compare anybody to Peyton Manning, but for somebody to do this that early in their career and have that much maturity and that much control of the offense and be able to dictate to us the things that they wanted to do, I was impressed with him — and frustrated and (ticked) off at the same time."

The Falcons delivered the knockout in the third quarter. They settled for a 27-yard field goal by Jason Elam, but the real damage in the 13-play drive came in the way they held the ball for 8 minutes and 30 seconds — their longest drive of the season.

Michael Turner, who had 27 carries for 96 yards and a touchdown, had 10 carries for 33 yards in the third quarter.

"I thought it was a very dominant performance by our offense," Smith said.

The Raiders were left with only eight plays and 22 yards in the quarter while holding the ball for only 3:24.

Ryan had the benefit of

another strong game by his offensive line, which did not allow a sack for the fourth time this season.

By contrast, John Abraham and the Falcons' defensive front constantly harassed Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who threw a season-high three interceptions. The Falcons deflected 15 of Brees' 58 passes.

Abraham had a sack, four quarterback hurries and a pass deflection.

"We weren't able to affect the passer, certainly we weren't able to affect the passer as well as they were," Saints coach Sean Payton said. "I thought they did a good job of getting a push on Brees. He was awfully hurried. We weren't able to do that with (Ryan)."

"If you just look at that one particular aspect of the game and said who impacted the quarterbacks most, you have to credit Atlanta. They were able to do that and we weren't."

Ryan added a 67-yard touchdown pass to Jerious Norwood on the second play of the fourth quarter for a 27-6 lead.

The Saints, who had only 215 yards and 24 pass attempts through three quarters, had 34 passes by Brees and 306 yards in the fourth quarter, when they scored two touchdowns.

The Saints' final quarter left the Falcons with some ugly defensive statistics.

"We were on course to have a very solid game statistically," Smith said. "Statistics can be deceiving. Our number one goal on defense is to limit points and we did that. We gave up only six points in the first three quarters."

## NFL

# Law returns to Jets' defense

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Ty Law is back with the New York Jets — just in time to play against the New England Patriots.

The five-time Pro Bowl cornerback agreed to terms on a one-year deal with the Jets on Monday after sitting out the first 10 weeks of the season as a free agent.

"Things appear to be headed in that direction," a person familiar with the signing told The Associated Press.

The NFL Network first reported the signing on its Web site Monday night. The Jets wouldn't confirm the deal because it had not yet been completed, likely pending a physical.

The 34-year-old Law, who

has 52 career interceptions, played for the Jets in 2005 before spending the last two seasons with Kansas City. He garnered interest from New York and New England, where he played the first 10 years of his NFL career.

Law jumps back into one of the league's biggest rivalries as the Jets play at New England on Thursday night, with the winner taking sole possession of first place in the AFC East.

"This is going to be different playing Thursday night against the Patriots, matching up against my former team and the players I'm used to practicing against," Law told the NFL Network. "I know they're going to throw at me, but I welcome the challenge."

Law and Jets coach Eric

Mangini are very familiar with each other, dating to Mangini's five seasons as New England's defensive backs coach.

Law told the NFL Network that the Jets plan to use him at both cornerback and safety. Cornerback Darrelle Revis, who has started every game in his first two NFL seasons, looked up to Law while growing up in the same hometown of Aliquippa, Pa., and even wears Law's No. 24.

"That's my little boy," Law told NFL Network. "I've watched him grow up and to be able to help him now, it'll be a good deal."

Law, no longer the shutdown corner he once was, also might play opposite Revis at times. Rookie Dwight Lowery has started all nine games, but has looked shaky recently.

## NCAA FOOTBALL

# Alabama looks to finish year strong

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — No. 1 Alabama's road to a perfect regular season seems paved in crimson and white.

The next two opponents are Auburn and Mississippi State, after all, two teams mired in disappointing seasons who are a combined 3-8 in Southeastern Conference games. Time to start gearing up for that matchup with No. 3 Florida in the league title game, right?

Not for a team that has lost two straight to Mississippi State, Saturday's opponent, and an excruciating six in a row to chief rival Auburn.

"If somebody were to say that to me, I'd believe they haven't seen them," Crimson Tide offensive tackle Drew Davis said.

"Because it doesn't matter what your record is right now; everybody's going to play you tough, especially Mississippi State and especially Auburn."

If there was any chance of Alabama (10-0, 6-0) getting ahead of itself, recent history would suggest that's premature.

The Tide secured a spot in the SEC championship game with Saturday's overtime win at LSU, ending a five-year losing streak to one Western Division rival. Now, what defensive end Brandon Deaderick jokingly calls Alabama's "revenge tour" resumes.

"We know that they've beat us the past two years, and it makes us mad, OK?" quarterback John Parker Wilson said. "We want to go out there and win the game to keep doing what we've done this season. We've just kind of had a bad taste in our mouth the last couple of years, them and Auburn."

LSU, too. But that's old news now.

Mississippi State beat the Tide 17-12 in the last meeting, part of a four-game skid to end the regular season. Two years ago, the Bulldogs handed Alabama an even more painful loss. They snapped a 23-game SEC losing streak on the road and didn't exactly help soon-to-be-fired coach Mike Shula's job security.

"They came out and fought their tails off and beat us fair and square," Deaderick said. "When somebody does that to you, especially when you can see so many places you could

win the game, it's really a dagger to the heart. You go out there wanting to make up for last year and the year before that, just finish this season the way it should be finished."

The coaches hung a poster featuring last year's final score from the Mississippi State game in the football complex as a reminder. Alabama couldn't even manage a touchdown in the game.

Tide coach Nick Saban doesn't think his players need any reminders about the recent history against the Bulldogs.

"I think they know it, and I think that they have respect for the team that we're playing," Saban said. "It's important that we play well. I think the emphasis is that we play well and that we execute. What happened in last year's

game will have no impact on this year's game. What happened the year before when I wasn't even here and I can't even remember where I was at really won't have any impact on this game either."

If Saban can keep the Tide focused through all the talk and attention surrounding his return visit to LSU, the next two games might not be so problematic, anyway.

The Tigers and Bulldogs certainly would love nothing more than an attention-getting, morale-boosting win over Alabama.

But for a team that has spent the past seven weeks as either No. 1 or No. 2 nationally, Saban doesn't think that's anything new.

"I think we've been the target for a while now," he said. "Everybody's bringing their A-game to play us. That's something our players need to understand. There's a difference between playing to win and to play to keep from getting beat. We certainly don't want to get into that mode."

Saban isn't taking the team's focus for granted, even though it hasn't sustained many big lapses all season. He likens it to having teenage children, which he does, and worrying about them when they're out at night — even though he trusts them.

"That's how I feel about our guys," he said. "I love them, I trust them. They've done a good job all year. They haven't gotten in trouble but until they show up and do it ... when they walk in the door at night, then I'm fine."

*"It doesn't matter what your record is right now; everybody's going to play you tough."*

**Drew Davis**  
Alabama offensive tackle

Please recycle The Observer.

## NFL

# Poor QB play a concern for Steelers

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Maybe it's the accumulated wear and tear from all the sacks. Maybe it's his slightly separated shoulder, the bad thumb, his reduced practice time or the spotty offensive line protection. Perhaps it's all the above.

Whatever the reason, Ben Roethlisberger isn't the quarterback he was last season, or even a few weeks ago. He's certainly not the quarterback the Pittsburgh Steelers expected when they chose to pay him nearly \$28 million in salary and a signing bonus this season.

Roethlisberger's problem is one more befitting a rookie than a five-year veteran who has won a Super Bowl: He keeps throwing the ball to the guys in the other shirts.

His mistakes — eight interceptions in 10 quarters — have cost the Pittsburgh Steelers (6-3) their last two home games, their once-comfortable AFC North lead over Baltimore (6-3) and maybe a bit of confidence.

Something's wrong with Big Ben, but neither the quarterback nor his team is saying exactly what it is. The numbers are telling, however: one touchdown pass and eight interceptions in his last three games, compared to nine TDs and three interceptions in his first six games.

"I am not concerned about his confidence," coach Mike Tomlin said after Roethlisberger's three interceptions proved pivotal in a 24-20 loss to Indianapolis on Sunday. "He is our quarterback because he is. If you play that position in this league, you have to remain unwavering."

Maybe unwavering isn't a word, but the Steelers are having trouble finding the right ones to describe what is wrong with their franchise quarterback. Two weeks ago, his four

interceptions were the major reason they lost to the Giants 21-14 in another game they led late.

Roethlisberger's lower-grade shoulder separation has been an ongoing problem since he was hurt in the Sept. 7 opener, but not enough to prevent him from leading the Steelers to a 5-1 start. He also has a damaged ligament in his left little finger.

The achy shoulder has twice kept him from practicing until Friday of a game week, meaning he missed the two most important practices each week.

"I don't think it's that big of an issue," Roethlisberger said of the reduced practice time. "I'm taking mental notes and I'm seeing everything that is going on, so it's not as tough as it may seem."

The falloff in Roethlisberger's play is a worry, especially with the Steelers readying to play two home games in five days, on Sunday against the Chargers (4-5) and a week from Thursday against the Bengals (1-8).

Roethlisberger's slippage is evident. He has been sacked the third-most times of any NFL quarterback (28) and he is tied for second with 11 interceptions, or as many as he had last season. His 76.1 passer rating ranks only 25th — he trails Dan Orlovsky and Tyler Thigpen, among others — and is far below his 104.1 of last season.

There was nothing wrong with his 71.4 percent throwing accuracy against Indianapolis, but what ruined his day was his 7.1 completion percentage to the Colts.

His first interception came

with the Steelers trying to sit on a 10-point lead and led to a game-changing score by the Colts with six seconds left before halftime. The second set up Indianapolis' go-ahead touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The third, thrown into the Colts' end zone, ended the game.

"When you feel like it's your fault, it really hurts," said Roethlisberger, who said his discomfort was more emotional than physical.

None of his teammates would guess afterward how much the bad shoulder is affecting Roethlisberger's play. The Steelers were coming off a dominating 23-6 win at Washington six days before, but Byron Leftwich — not Roethlisberger — directed the two key TD drives in that second half.

With only three days off between their next two games, the Steelers won't have much recovery time given their fast-growing injury list that includes running back Willie Parker (shoulder), linebacker LaMarr

Woodley (calf), cornerbacks D. E. S. H. E. T. O. W. N. S. E. N. D. (hamstring) and Bryant M. C. F. A. D. D. E. N. (broken forearm), left tackle Marvel Smith (back) and, yes, Roethlisberger.

Parker's shoulder injury appears to be worse than

originally thought — the Steelers aren't saying if he has a torn labrum — but Tomlin said he could play against San Diego.

A bigger concern now might be how Roethlisberger will play.

"It's frustrating because you feel like you played well, and there's a turnover at the end of the half and the turnover at the end," he said. "I take it on myself. I let the guys down, offense and defense, but the good thing is it's not the end of the season. We'll come back."

*"When you feel like it's your fault, it really hurts."*

**Ben Roethlisberger**  
Steelers quarterback

*"I am not concerned about his confidence. He is our quarterback because he is."*

**Mike Tomlin**  
Steelers head coach

## WTA

# Nadal to sit out Davis Cup final

Associated Press

BARCELONA — Rafael Nadal will miss Spain's Davis Cup final against Argentina because of a knee injury.

The top-ranked Nadal said Monday he was still struggling with tendinitis in his right knee following a week of treatment.

"The knee said no," the 22-year-old said.

Spain team doctor Angel Ruiz-Cotorro said Nadal would need three to six weeks to recover.

"These are very difficult moments, but I have done all that I could to be ready for the final," he said. "It was a huge objective, and I'm used to playing with pain, but this is a distinct, new pain that I couldn't control."

Nadal's absence deals a big blow to Spain's bid for a third Davis Cup title since 2000. Spain captain Emilio Sanchez Vicario has until Tuesday to name his team.

Spain plays Argentina on indoor hard court at Mar del Plata from Nov. 21-23.

"We're sorry for him, but it's good news. Spain is one thing with Nadal, and another thing without him," Argentine captain Alberto Mancini told Buenos Aires-based radio station Continental.

Nadal was a key player when Spain beat the United States 4-1 in the semifinals, winning both his singles matches.

Sanchez Vicario most likely will replace Nadal with Tommy Robredo, clay-court specialist Nicolas Almagro or Marcel Granollers. David Ferrer, Feliciano Lopez and Fernando Verdasco are expected to be back on the team.

Nadal this year won a fourth straight French Open and his first Wimbledon title. He withdrew from the Paris Masters last month with an

injury to the same knee after losing the first set of his quarterfinal against Nikolai Davydenko. He then pulled out of this week's season-ending Masters Cup in Shanghai, China.

Nadal also won the Olympic gold medal in a year when he supplanted Roger Federer at No. 1.

"I don't know if the injury (resulted) from my fight to be No. 1 because in reality, I didn't play in any extra tournaments, I only played what I had to for the ranking and I don't think you can reproach me for that," Nadal said. "I didn't do anything crazy to be No. 1."

Ruiz-Cotorro said the injury was not career threatening, but that it was "totally impossible" for Nadal to be ready in time for the final.

"Rafa comes in off a very tough year and his body has been warning him for weeks. It's an acute injury that needs time to recuperate," Ruiz-Cotorro said. "If he played in Argentina, it could become worse."

Robredo helped Spain to a 5-0 rout of Peru in a first-round match in February, but has reached the quarterfinals of only one of nine tournaments since winning at Bastad in July. The 21st-ranked Robredo has been a Spain regular since 2004.

The 19th-ranked Almagro made his debut against Peru, winning both singles matches, while 56th-ranked Granollers has never been selected.

"Spain has top-level players capable of achieving victory," said Nadal, who didn't rule out traveling to South America to support his teammates.

Agustin Calleri and Jose Acasuso will join David Nalbandian and Juan Martin Del Potro for the Argentine team.

## NFL

# Lawsuit filed against RB Johnson

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY — A Kansas woman filed a lawsuit Monday against Chiefs running back Larry Johnson a month after claiming he spit a drink in her face at a bar and threatened to kill her and her boyfriend.

The lawsuit, filed by 24-year-old Ashley N. Stewart, accuses the two-time Pro-Bowler of negligence, assault and battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

Kevin E.J. Regan, an attorney for Johnson, called the allegations "preposterous."

The lawsuit, filed in Jackson County Circuit Court, seeks punitive damages, attorney fees and any other amount a jury deems to be fair. Johnson was charged last month with simple assault for the incident that occurred Oct. 10 at Kansas City's Club Blonde.

"This is not about money," said Kirra N. Jones, Stewart's attorney. "My client has worked her way through school. She's in the Air Force, National Guard. She's a hardworking student and this really came as an unfortunate incident in her life. But you know what? She's a fighter. She's willing to be the person who finally makes Larry Johnson answer for his repeated bad behavior."

But Regan said an investigation performed on his client's behalf determined that Johnson didn't threaten anyone and that Stewart threw a drink at Johnson earlier in the evening. Regan said he would move to strike the lawsuit, which he described as "amateurishly written," and might file a counterclaim.

"This appears to be a classic incident of someone trying to use the court system to get something for nothing," Regan said.

Johnson was back with the team on Monday after serving a

one-game suspension imposed by the NFL for violating the league's personal conduct policy. He also missed the previous three games after being deactivated by the team.

According to the lawsuit, Johnson offered to buy Stewart a shot of alcohol on Oct. 3, but she declined. A week later, she alleged, Johnson became belligerent toward her and said, "All I wanted to tell you is I'm going to kill your boyfriend."

Stewart claims Johnson also said, "I'm gonna kill you, too. First I'm gonna kill your boyfriend, then I'm going to kill you and that's a promise."

She says that as she was backing away from him, Johnson took a drink from his glass and spit it in her face, then his two bodyguards tackled her.

The suit claims that Johnson tried three more times to spit on Stewart as he was walking to his car with his bodyguards.

## Notre Dame ROTC Veteran's Day Ceremony

Tuesday,  
11 November  
5 PM

Clarke Memorial  
Fountain  
(Stonehenge)

Guest Speaker  
Rev. Theodore M.  
Hesburgh, CSC

The ceremony will  
follow a 24-hour vigil.  
All are invited to  
attend.





## Helgeson

continued from page 20

reached the quarters against a very strong field, losing to a red-hot German player from Wisconsin. He demonstrated poise beyond what he had shown a year ago and is finding more ways to get to the net and put pressure on his opponent. I believe that he can be one of the big surprises in college tennis this year. He and Stephen Havens have fared well in doubles, losing in the quarters to the eventual winners.

The rest of the Irish squad traveled to the William & Mary Invitational. The team combined a 32-7 record in singles and doubles play being led by senior captain Sean Tan.

Sophomores Dan Stahl and Stephen Havens combined for 10 wins on the weekend.

"My expectations for this team are that we continue to improve," Bayliss said. "With a schedule like ours in which the majority of our opponents will be among the nation's top 25 teams, we know that we had better meet that level quickly or be left behind trying to get the number of the truck that just hit us. Certainly we will take some losses and our destiny will be

shaped by how we respond to these challenges."

After losing Sheeva Parbhu and Andrew Roth from last season's starting lineup the Irish will look to Havens, and Stahl, among others to lead the Irish behind Helgeson.

Freshmen Casey Watt and Niall Fitzgerald also have stepped up and earned some big victories already for the Irish.

"Our freshmen have been quite good, if somewhat inconsistent," Bayliss said. "Sometimes the best thing about freshmen is that they become sophomores, but this group can be really good if they buy in. Casey Watt is a real shotmaker, who needs only to improve his volleys and become more consistent. He needs to learn that tennis is not like gymnastics in that there is no extra reward for the degree of difficulty in each shot attempted. Niall Fitzgerald needs to believe in himself more a crunch time and firm up his backhand."

Bayliss stressed that the Irish will have to rely on the underclassmen heavily to balance out the rest of the lineup.

The Irish will have time to heal and mature until they host Pepperdine on Jan. 16.

Contact Katelyn Grabarek at [kgrabara01@saintmarys.edu](mailto:kgrabara01@saintmarys.edu)

## Stremick

continued from page 20

Magazine Academic All-District V second team.

"We're really good about working on the road, on the buses and in the airport," she said. "You just have to be able to study in non-optimal study environments."

Stremick has excelled on the volleyball court as well as the classroom. Her freshman year, she was used mostly as a substitute to add depth to the Irish frontline, notching 15 blocks in only 23 matches. Stremick said that her favorite moment during her four years at Notre Dame was the team's trip to the UTSA Dome Rally in the Alamodome that season in San Antonio, where the Irish took down No. 8 USC and No. 6 Florida, propelling them to No. 8 in the AVCA National Poll.

"We beat them both in three and won the tournament," Stremick said. "I had a lot of fun, being on the road with the team for the first time."

Her sophomore year, Stremick stepped in as a full-time starter for the Irish, playing in all 114 games. She led the team in hitting percentage (.304) and blocks (156).

Stremick asserted herself as a dominant player in the Big East her junior year, ranking fourth in the league in both hitting percentage (.369) and blocks per game (1.58).

So far this year, Stremick leads the Irish with 1.06 blocks/game, despite missing the first six matches recovering from injury. Last March, Stremick tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and meniscus. She completed her rehab a month earlier than doctors expected, but still had to sit out Notre Dame's first two early-season tournaments.

"It sucks to just sit out and watch," she said. "So I really appreciate being able to play more than I did before."

Stremick said that despite all the individual accolades she has achieved with the Irish, she said she wished the team could have more success during her four years.

"I didn't want my freshman season to be my best season, as far as the team goes," she said. "I had a lot of fun, the team has been a lot of fun. As a player I've learned a lot. It would have been nice to see more win's the last couple of years, though."

Stremick will have a chance to achieve some of that success this postseason, starting with key matches this weekend against conference leader St. John's and

fourth-place Connecticut, followed by the Big East conference tournament.

"Obviously this weekend is going to be important," she said. "I think the attitude I'm taking is just to finish strong. We know that we have a good team."

As the only senior middle blocker on Notre Dame's roster, Stremick said it's her job to use her experience to teach and direct the younger players.

"I just really bring my confidence to the front line when we're serving and blocking and let everyone know what's coming and where the hitters are," she said. "I just really take control of the net when I'm in the front row."

Stremick said she fully expects the younger players will be ready to step in and fill her role after she graduates. She said when she was injured at the beginning of the year, she got to run some drills in practice and was struck by how quickly the younger players developed.

"I think they're definitely ready to step in," she said. "We've got some good younger players."

Leaving Notre Dame volleyball in good hands, it's time for Stremick to move on to other things, like saving lives.

Contact Sam Werner at [swerner@nd.edu](mailto:swerner@nd.edu)

## Weis

continued from page 20

The defense, however, played well, limiting Boston College to 10 offensive points (safety Paul Anderson ran an interception back for the Eagles' first touchdown). Eagles quarterback Chris Crane passed for only 79 yards. Weis said he may focus more on the offense because he feels comfortable with where the defense stands.

"We've gone the last game and a half without production on offense, and I think that I feel very confident with where we are on defense right now, and this allows me at this time — look it, I'm trying to do this head coach thing where you kind of delegate," Weis said. "But I think that when there's a problem and it's an area where you believe that you can be part of the answer, I think you'd better go help."

Weis said the defense played well enough to win, but the offense and special teams failed to hold up their end of things.

"Defensively, they actually played as well as they've been playing," Weis said. "That was a pretty gutty performance by the defense."

Weis had not yet decided exactly what his role in the offense would be. He said he would discuss the matter with his coaching staff to

finalize his role before the team game — planned on Tuesday.

Weis said he wanted to spend more time with the special teams, which had a multitude of problems on Saturday. Golden Tate fumbled a punt return and gave the ball to Boston College, which set up a touchdown. Punter Eric Maust had a punt blocked and only averaged 26.1 net yards per punt. The Irish also committed penalties during returns that cost them yards.

"Take that one in combination to what I just talked about with the offense, and that's two-thirds of the team who really didn't play very well yesterday," Weis said.

### Note:

◆Weis pulled the defense aside near the end of the game to assure them that they had played well.

"I let them know that I thought that they should definitely keep their heads up because they were the reason why we were even in the game," he said.

◆Clausen was not feeling well before the game. Weis sent him to bed early Friday night, but he said he looked better Saturday.

"I think as the game went on he probably wasn't feeling too well, both physically and how the game was going," Weis said.

Contact Bill Brink at [wbrink@nd.edu](mailto:wbrink@nd.edu)

J U S T

ONE  
YEAR

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BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

MR. PROVOST, THE RESEARCH TEAM'S COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO THE CAMPUS SQUIRREL OVERPOPULATION PROBLEM: BIRTH CONTROL.

I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW.

WE'RE DEVELOPING AN INJECTION THAT PREVENTS THEM FROM CONCEIVING.

IT NEEDS TO BE ADMINISTERED TO EVERY SQUIRREL YEARLY, BUT WE FEEL IT'S WORTH THE EFFORT.

HOW SOON UNTIL IT'S READY?

THE PROGRAM'S STILL IN R&D, BUT ONCE CLINICAL TRIALS ARE DONE WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION.

HEY, WHERE'D ALL THE SQUIRRELS GO?

THEY WERE DIGGING UP THE GROUND, SO I TRAPPED 'EM AND DUMPED 'EM IN THE WOODS.

WITH THE PROPER FUNDING, AND IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, WE ESTIMATE THE POPULATION WILL BE UNDER CONTROL WITHIN FIVE TO TEN YEARS.

THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PAT GARLAND

Hey, what's with the football pads?

I'm trying out for our team, I'm going to play offense.

You mean your interhall team?

No, the school's team.

But you've never played football before, have you?

Wait, are you sure that's a requirement?

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Telly watcher

5 Companion of Snow White

10 Cry out loud

14 PC pop-up

15 "Boléro" composer

16 One of Pittsburgh's three rivers

17 Ice cream holder

19 Pull hard

20 Whacked, in the Bible

21 Monk's hood

23 "You can't mean me!"

24 Lion in "The Lion King"

27 Classic clown

29 "Then what happened?"

32 Diagram of nutritional needs

36 Responses to bad calls

38 Cousin of a bassoon

39 Actress Emma Roberts, to Julia Roberts

Down

2 Upscale autos

3 Photocopier tray capacity, maybe

4 Google users seek it

5 Rap's Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

6 W.W. II-era female in uniform

7 Guacamole base

8 Gambling mecca

9 Passed quickly

10 Part of EGBDF

11 Occasions to cry "Eureka!"

12 "Brown bagger"

13 Mischievous Norse god

18 Explorer Ericson

22 \_\_\_\_\_ Doone cookies

25 \_\_\_\_\_ court (law school exercise)

26 Rises suddenly, as a buoy

28 Where Ali dethroned Foreman

29 Focus of the Manhattan Project, briefly

30 For dieters

40 Many pizza slices, geometrically

42 Hear about

44 Large in scale

45 Ashe Stadium org.

47 Volcano in Verne's "Journey to the Center of the Earth"

48 Community of Web journals

51 Old J.F.K. lander

52 Chow \_\_\_\_\_

53 End of an iffy statement

55 Ring hit

57 Theater mogul Marcus

59 Bother persistently

63 The works

65 Six-colored puzzle

68 Langston Hughes poem

69 Actress Christensen of "Traffic"

70 Isle of poetry

71 Weak

72 Baker's 13

73 Sounds of disapproval

21 Short-lived economic expansion of the late 1990s

33 Snowball hurler

34 Desktop images

35 Trim, as meat

37 Looie's underling

41 Cause of a blown engine, maybe

43 Get through hard work

46 Movies, TV, Broadway, etc.

49 Sawed logs, so to speak

50 How long it takes canyons to form

54 "Be silent," in music

55 One corner on a Monopoly board

56 Lead-in to a congratulatory cry

58 100 cents

60 Wise one

61 Kind of

62 Sawbucks

64 Playwright Akins

66 Former White House moniker

67 Bob Dole's state: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ONEGLES DOLLAR HBO ZONE  
POTROAST EUGENE EARLOBES  
THEUNITEDSTATESOFAMERICA  
SST IN GODWETRUST AMS  
EAU ESC TEAACT YOW AAH  
GREATSEAL WISE BALDEAGLE  
GAMMARAYS EVEL STEELDOOR  
ONEAL XED YELL AER DOONE

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD  
MIKE ARGIRION

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

VOIPT

KAHIK

CEADAR

LINGES

Have a cocktail

You're no fun

No, thank you

THE REVELERS SHUNNED THE TEETOTALER BECAUSE HE---

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

A:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CLOTH PUDDY VANISH BEAUTY

Answer: When she played the role of a secretary, the starlet was -- "TYPE" CAST

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eve, 30; Brittany Murphy, 31; Mackenzie Phillips, 49; Sinbad, 52

Happy Birthday: This is no time to relax or to coast along. Effort, imagination, structure and hard work will all be required to finish what you started. Success is just around the corner if you pay the price of dedication and time. Face the future with courage and the will to achieve—and you will. Your numbers are 9, 13, 18, 25, 29, 38, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotions will get the better of you if you can't separate what's really important from what will pass with time. Focus more on home and family and a little less on what outsiders think. You can get back on track financially. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Hidden agendas will surface when you least expect. Too much of anything will work against you. A partnership will cost you if you are trying to impress with a cash donation or paying for someone's way. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do what you can to make your home more convenient and comfortable. Don't waffle regarding issues or concerns that others have. Be direct and, if it doesn't work for you, take a pass. This is not the time to spend money you do not have. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't second-guess what you know in your heart you should be doing. Get on with your plans, even if you aren't totally ready. You will gain momentum and, although it will be hectic, the results will be good. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let things get you down at home or regarding some of your partnerships. You need to put a little excitement back into your life. Plan an outing with friends or take a mini trip. It's good to reward yourself once in a while. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend on your surroundings, not on frivolous items that you don't really need. It's time to firm up on a deal or to get your papers in order before year's end. Talk to someone who can contribute solutions to a problem you are facing. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be fooled into thinking that something is a done deal when you haven't signed on the dotted line. Protect your interests so you don't end up with nothing. Emotional matters will escalate if you make a poor decision. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can get more for your money if you are shrewd in your dealings. Negotiations will go well as long as you stay in control and refuse to settle. Use your knowledge and expertise as leverage and you will get what you want. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make changes on the home front and don't look back. Accept a challenge and resolve it so you can move on. Problems with authority or someone who wants something from you will prevail. ★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An oversight on your part could be costly. Make sure you double-check your facts and figures. A change in your professional direction or regarding your status will pay off. A big splash will get you a higher return. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Use your charm to get ahead. Now is not the time to give in. Love is in the stars and will develop if you engage in a cause or you join a club or group that interests you. You need to interact with more people. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Start thinking about your future. Procrastinating and listening to idle promises will stop you from making a move. Make the changes that will encourage your success. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are determined, relentless and courageous. You are quick to react and are not afraid to ask for what you want.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, mspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

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## ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

# View from the top

*Irish pick up top-seeded ranking in NCAA Tournament; games to be played at Alumni Field*

By FRAN TOLAN  
Associate Sports Editor

There was no question top-ranked Notre Dame felt it deserved a No. 1 seed for the NCAA Tournament. The Irish were just happy they didn't have to wait long to see their optimism validated.

On the NCAA Tournament Selection show Monday night on ESPN2, the Irish earned the top overall seed in the Tournament and the "Notre Dame Region." The team watched the telecast in the Joyce Center auditorium and cheered as its seed was the first one displayed.

"For it to come up right away as the No. 1 seed, that's fantastic," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "I think it's the right decision based on the year we've had."

But the top overall seed was not as much of a sure thing as it might have seemed for undefeated Notre Dame. Waldrum warned his team before the show that since its RPI was just 6 through Nov. 2, the selection committee might not award the



Seniors Carrie Dew, left, and Brittany Bock, right hold the Big East championship trophy after their 1-0 overtime win over Connecticut Saturday.

JESS LEE/The Observer

see NO. 1/page 17

## FOOTBALL

# After loss, Weis' role to increase

By BILL BRINK  
Sports Editor

Notre Dame's stagnant offense against Boston College has forced coach Charlie Weis to revisit his role in the offense, Weis said during his press conference Sunday. He said he would confer with the other coaches and announce his specific role during his press conference today.

"I just told them that I was going to be taking a more active role and I'll define that more for them [Sunday]," Weis said.

Notre Dame failed to score during Saturday's 17-0 loss to the Eagles in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Quarterback Jimmy Clausen threw four interceptions and the Irish only rushed for 66 yards during the game.

see WEIS/page 18

## MEN'S INTERHALL

# Blocked extra point sends Stanford past Dillon

By DOUGLAS FARMER,  
CHRIS MASSOUD, ALEX  
WEST and TIM LANG  
Sports Writers

Often times, what a team fails to do can define its season. On Sunday, Dillon failed to make an extra point, and lost to Stanford 7-6 in the first round of the playoffs.

The Stanford offense had a total of five possessions in the

game, four of which ended in punts. Only the second drive garnered points, culminating in a 20-yard touchdown connection from senior quarterback Brian Salvi to receiver Tony Rizzo.

"Everyone stayed focused and made the plays they needed to in order for us to win," senior captain John Burke said. "Tony Rizzo really stepped up in fighting for the last few yards in the score."

In the first half, Stanford junior defensive back Chris Gill had both an interception and a fumble recovery deep within Stanford's own territory. This defensive strength compensated for Stanford's inconsistent offense.

When the second half began, a mixture of rain and hail was pelting the field horizontally.

Dillon junior quarterback Joe Garigliano seemed to relish the conditions. With their starting

running back out for the game, the Big Red put the ball in Garigliano's hands.

"After turning the ball over twice in the first half inside Stanford territory, we needed to keep our drives simple and methodical," junior captain Chris Cugliari said.

Garigliano rushed for over 55 yards on the opening drive of the second half, and scored on a three-yard run up the middle. Then, as the 11th man of the

field goal unit barely got onto the field before the snap, Stanford's

Josh VanSchaumburg blocked Joey Leary's kick.

"The most disappointing part of the game today was my failure to call the timeout on the PAT," Cugliari said. "But give credit to Stanford, they made one more play than we did."

After knocking Dillon out of

see INTERHALL/page 17

## ND VOLLEYBALL

# Senior looking towards med school after college

*Justine Stremick undergoing application process*

By SAM WERNER  
Sports Writer

Notre Dame still has at least three games remaining in its 2008 season, hopefully more with postseason tournaments, but forgive senior middle blocker Justine Stremick for already thinking about the next phase of her life.

Stremick was in Atlanta Monday, interviewing at Emory University Medical School, which she hopes to attend after graduating in May.

"I'm either going to go straight out of college or I'm thinking about taking a year off and

doing service," she said. "But I'm doing all my interviews now."

After posting five blocks in a 3-0 win over Rutgers Sunday, Stremick flew straight to Atlanta, and didn't return to Notre Dame until last night.

"I really liked Emory," she said. "I feel like that about every school, but I really think I liked this one more."

Doing work while traveling is something Stremick has become accustomed to. The Langdon, N.D. native posted a 3.76 grade point average last year, and was named to the ESPN The

see STREMICK/page 18

## TENNIS

# Helgeson leads maturation

*Senior is helping pave the way for Irish improvement this season*

By KATELYN GRABAREK  
Sports Writer

Brett Helgeson proved he deserved his preseason ranking of No. 25 in the nation.

Leading up his Round of 16 showing at the ITA National Indoors this past weekend, Helgeson had a quarterfinal finish at the Midwest Regional event.

Helgeson also made a run to the round of 16 of the All-American Championships.

"I think Brett had a very strong showing at Regionals," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "He



VANNESA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior Brett Helgeson returns a shot at last September's Tom Fallon Invitational.

see HELGESON/page 18