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Jenkins' pay remitted to Holy Cross

Private University Presidents' Compensations, 2004-5

Vanderbilt University	\$1,171,211
Northwestern University	\$774,004
Georgetown University	\$565,578
Dartmouth College	\$479,233
Notre Dame*	\$476,325

*Compensation is paid to the Priests of the Holy Cross
Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education

President's salary among lowest of national university leaders' compensation packages

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

While some college leaders' salaries are climbing into the millions of dollars, the total compensation for Notre Dame's president was last registered at just \$476,325. Whatever the sum, in University President Father John Jenkins' case, it's his religious order — the Indiana Province of the Priests of the Holy Cross — that reaps the benefits, not his bank account.

The Chronicle of Higher Education's annual "Executive Compensation" report lists the salaries of public and private university

leaders. While reporters may access the 2006-7 measurements for public schools, figures for private schools become available when their tax forms are released, nearly two years later. The \$476,325 number thus corresponds to University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy's final year, 2004-5.

Of the leaders in the 853 universities, colleges and specialized schools surveyed, Audrey Doberstein of Delaware's Wilmington College — who stepped down in June of 2005 — garnered the highest pay, with a total compensation of \$2,746,241.

see JENKINS/page 4

Index rates countries' assistance

Roodman stresses need to aid development

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

While attempts to measure just how much the world's 21 richest countries are helping the development of poor countries can often seem tainted by opinion, Center for Global Development research fellow David Roodman claims there is an objective tool to judge this — the Commitment to Development Index.

Roodman spoke Thursday in the Hesburgh Center about the Index and the Center for Global Development, a think tank in Washington, D.C. founded in November 2001 that "focuses on what rich countries are doing to help poor countries," looking primarily at government policy.

The Index takes size into account when considering countries, which explains why, for example, a small country like Denmark can rank higher than the U.S. or Canada.

"We're interested in seeing if countries are living up their potential," Roodman said.

Seven components go into the Commitment to Development Index: foreign aid, trade (specifically, openness to the exports of developing countries), investment, migration, environment, secu-

see POVERTY/page 9

Engineering enrollment an issue for U.S., ND

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

In today's increasingly technological world, the job prospects for engineers after college are plentiful, but at Notre Dame and at schools across the country, fewer students are choosing engineering as a career.

The critical need for young engineers nationwide and the decreasing numbers of engineering majors is the basis of a new guidebook for students and parents called "21 Things Every Future Engineer Should Know."

James Merz, interim dean of

the University's College of Engineering, said there has been a decline in the number of students going into engineering since he attended Notre Dame in the 1950s.

The reason for the declining numbers, he thinks, is "lack of enthusiasm nationwide for going into engineering — a perception that engineering's very hard, and 'why should I work that hard?'"

Catherine Pieronek, the director of Academic Affairs and the Women's Engineering Program, said the enrollments in engineering schools have been declining since the mid-

see ENGINEERS/page 8

University of Notre Dame College of Engineering	
Year (Fall)	%University
2006	12.6
2005	12.7
2004	11.8
2003	11.5
2002	11.5
2001	11.5
2000	11.3
1999	11.4
1998	11.4
1997	12.5
1996	12.8
1995	14.0
1994	
1993	
1992	14.2
1991	14.0

Undergraduate Enrollment
Source: College of Engineering

SIBC fundraiser dinner benefits Cambodia

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

During the past three days, the Student International Business Council has hosted three events commemorating Cambodian Awareness Week, shedding light on the continued economic and social devastation the country suffered after the Khmer Rouge incursions and genocide of the Vietnamese during the 1970s and 1980s.

On Tuesday night, the SIBC showed the film "S21" and on Wednesday the movie "Bomb Hunters." It also hosted a Thai/Cambodian dinner Thursday to raise money and awareness for its Protecting the Earth and Protecting Yourself (PEPY) subdivision.

"We were so surprised and excited by the amazing turnout," sophomore member Liz McLaughlin said. "It's disturbing when you hear people ask if Cambodia is in Africa, so we're really glad that we're educating more people about [the conditions] there."

PEPY, which is a non-government organization, was founded and created by Notre Dame Class of 2002 alumna Daniella Pappy, and its aim is to promote increased awareness of Cambodian society.

The Notre Dame chapter was created after senior SIBC member Tim Rann volunteered in Cambodia two summers ago and met Pappy during his time spent there.

"I was really impressed with

see CAMBODIA/page 9

Student trains for Paralympics

Blind sophomore swimmer hopes to participate in the China games

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

Sophomore Ashley Nashleanas hasn't let the fact that she was born blind interfere with her vision — her sights are set on making the U.S. Paralympic swim team for the summer 2008 games in Beijing, China.

Nashleanas has been swimming for a decade, and at just 20 years old, she has already competed in the Paralympic Games — the second-largest sporting event in the world, behind the Olympics. She swam the 50- and 100-meter freestyle as well as the 100-meter backstroke at the summer 2004 games in Athens.

She was just a junior in



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Blind sophomore Ashley Nashleanas holds an Olympic flag in her room Thursday. She may compete in the 2008 China Paralympics.

see BLIND/page 9

INSIDE COLUMN

Bleeding
green, blue
and gold

Whenever I meet someone for the first time and they learn that I am from Green Bay, Wis., I undoubtedly get asked about one of the following three things: cold weather, the dairy industry or football. So let me clear a few things up before I go any further. It is not really cold outside until the wind chill hits below zero. Happy cows come from Wisconsin, not California — as a certain commercial asserts. And yes, I will join my city in mourning by dressing in black for a week when Brett Favre retires.

Kristy King

Photographer

Growing up in Green Bay, the NFL's smallest city, football penetrates nearly every aspect of life. We are the only community-owned major league professional sports team in America, with nearly 112,000 people holding stock in the Packers. Every Packer game at Lambeau Field has been sold out since 1960. The waiting list for season tickets is 71,500 people long. That adds up to 35 years.

Most Green Bay residents are placed on that waiting list a few minutes after receiving a birth certificate, and it is not uncommon to will Packer season tickets to a family member upon one's death. School is cancelled for the parade and ceremony that follows a Super Bowl victory. It would be an understatement to say that the identity of our city revolves around the Packers.

When I first came to South Bend, I had no idea that I could find a place so similar to Green Bay. South Bend's intense obsession with Notre Dame football constantly reminded me of my hometown and I soon realized that the two teams had more in common than I thought. The founder of the Packers, Curly Lambeau, attended Notre Dame before he established the Packers in 1921. While at Notre Dame, he played under the legendary Knute Rockne. Lambeau was so fond of his alma mater that he chose navy blue and gold for the Packers' original colors. Now, more than 80 years after the founding of the Packers, no other college has produced more Packer players than Notre Dame, with 50 total, including Heisman winner Paul Hornung.

Although the Packers' origins have strong ties to Notre Dame, I think the most significant similarity is the dedication of their fans. Through the good, the bad and the ugly, Packer and Notre Dame fans both stand by their teams to the end. We rejoice in the victories and feel the bitter sting of a particularly harsh defeat, but regardless of what happens on the field, nothing can alter our commitment. That's what makes football cities like Green Bay and South Bend so special. They are communities that support their teams through it all, instead of cities full of handwagon jumpers who are only fans when their team has a successful season.

The true test of fans is how they react during the challenging times. Green Bay and Notre Dame fans have yet to fail that test, which makes me proud to be part of each community.

Contact Kristy King at kking01@saintmarys.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS THE BEST STATE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND WHY?

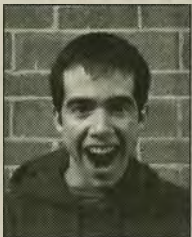

					
Danny Castellanos	Tom Hoffman	Kevin Marvinac	Mike Mesterharm	Phil Pezza	Patrick Richel
sophomore Dillon	sophomore O'Neill	sophomore Siegfried	sophomore O'Neill	sophomore Morrissey	sophomore Dillon
"A state of happiness."	"Texas, even though we're bad enough to secede again."	"Wyoming, because it's really easy to win high school state championships — in any sport."	"Colorado, because it's hip to be a square."	"Thrillinois, because of the Chi, baby."	"State of denial — enough said."



Photo courtesy of London Vale

Notre Dame students act out a scene during a dress rehearsal for this weekend's play "A Piece of My Heart" in the Washington Hall Lab Theater. Half the proceeds for the show, produced by St. Edward's Hall Players, will go to the American Red Cross.

IN BRIEF

Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 will sponsor "The Aidan Project" Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Students can help make fleece blankets and hats to donate to local chemotherapy patients.

The Student Union Board will be presenting the film "Accepted" tonight at 8 p.m. in DeBartolo 101. Tickets are \$3.

All Basilica choirs will participate in Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica. This one-hour service will include seasonal music provided by the ND Liturgical Choir, Women's Liturgical Choir, Basilica Schola, Folk Choir and Handbell Choir.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform its Christmas Concert Dec. 8 from 9 p.m. to 10:30 in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets: \$8, \$6 faculty/staff, \$5 seniors, and \$3 all students

Christmas at the CoMo Benefit Concert by the ND Celebration Choir is Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor Coleman Morse student lounge. International students will provide reflections of Christmas in their home countries. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be sent to St. Jude's Primary School, Jinja, Uganda.

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

OFFBEAT

Legally blind woman, 94, bowls a 244

CENTRALIA, Wash. — Esther Medley of Centralia is legally blind, but when she bowls she can glimpse a bit of the floor to line up with the lane.

Medley, 94, can't see straight ahead, so her 86-year-old husband Ralph tells her which pins are left after her first ball.

That's how Medley recently bowled a score of 244, which included eight strikes, at Fairway Lanes in Centralia. It was the second-highest score of the year for her league.

The Medleys have been

bowling in the senior league since 1979.

Man allegedly tries to put wife in oven

CONYERS, Ga. — A man has been arrested after allegedly trying to force his estranged wife into an oven on Thanksgiving in front of their five children.



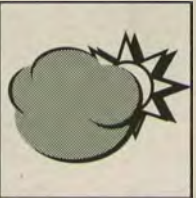
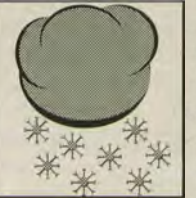
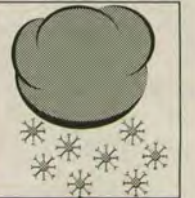

Martin Luther Jackson, 31, of Decatur, has been charged with aggravated assault, aggravated battery, cruelty to children and possession of marijuana after the Nov. 23 incident, said Sgt. Jodi Shupe of the Rockdale County Sheriff's Office.

Jackson and his 29-year-

old wife, who have been separated since July, have five children ranging in age from 1 to 13 years old, Shupe said. Jackson apparently started fighting with his wife after she and the children returned to their Conyers home on Thanksgiving.

At one point during the fight, Jackson allegedly attempted to stuff his wife inside the kitchen oven, which had been left on to heat the house, Shupe said. The woman escaped and went to the sheriff's office with visible head injuries, Shupe said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 32	HIGH 29 LOW 28	HIGH 30 LOW 17	HIGH 27 LOW 15	HIGH 30 LOW 17	HIGH 37 LOW 23

Atlanta 52 / 35 Boston 64 / 40 Chicago 33 / 8 Denver 38 / 15 Houston 59 / 34 Los Angeles 71 / 51 Minneapolis 29 / 16 New York 69 / 44 Philadelphia 71 / 43 Phoenix 67 / 41 Seattle 41 / 33 St. Louis 31 / 14 Tampa 83 / 66 Washington 72 / 40

Screenwriter lectures on success

'Family Guy' scripter, co-star preaches persistence, discusses challenges

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

"Family Guy" writer and co-star Mike Henry shared a behind-the-scenes look at the life of a cartoon star with 80 audience members in DeBartolo Thursday.

"Stick to your guns," was Henry's advice to hopeful Hollywood aspirants.

"When you're 32 and broke it's depressing, but I couldn't settle for anything else," he said. "If you can do anything else in the world besides being in Hollywood and be happy, do it. But for me, that was impossible."

Henry's life was not one of instant success. He didn't land the full-time job writing for "Family Guy" until he was 32, and that was only after many false starts and years of poverty.

"Family Guy" is a popular cartoon on the Fox network entering its sixth season of production, and Henry attributes the show's success to the fact that each episode takes 10 months to produce.

"Being rewritten for months and months makes our jokes much stronger than a normal sitcom, which is shot in a week and can't be re-shot," he said.

The concept which drives "Family Guy," Henry said, is both the desire to "make fun of everything" and the idea that each individual joke will only be understood by 10 percent of the

audience — but that 10 percent will enjoy the joke that much more.

Henry joked how his career in Hollywood began by working at the Gap. As a 25-year-old bent on breaking into show business, Henry said he eked out a meager living doing stand-up comedy, waiting to be noticed after moving to Los Angeles.

After three years, he moved back to his home in Virginia and

made a video of himself acting as what is now the "Family Guy" character Cleveland.

From this small beginning, he said, he started filming parodies of popular commercials for a film class and eventually made a commercial for a friend's restaurant. This spot went on to win a national ad

award, and Henry decided to move to New York to "get on 'Saturday Night Live.'"

Henry eventually met "SNL" creator Lorne Michaels and landed a job to create short films to air between programs. After one year in New York, Henry said he had accumulated nothing but

"\$30,000 in credit card debt." The success of his short films, however, led to an offer as a writer for the new show "Family Guy," created by Seth MacFarlane.

"Family Guy" premiered after the Super Bowl in 1999 — one of the most coveted time slots in television, Henry said — and the show has been wildly successful thanks primarily to support from college and middle-aged men.

Henry said the show faced cancellation from a hostile Fox studio in 2002, but the sale of three million "Family Guy" DVDs that year gave it enough momentum to continue.

The reason why many people with potential fail, Henry said, is that they don't try hard enough.

"If you feel like your dream in life is to go out and do something crazy, do it, and keep at it," he said.

Henry, a Catholic, said he hopes he won't go to hell for controversial "Family Guy" jokes, and added that he "hate[s] USC."

Contact John-Paul Witt at
jwitt1@nd.edu

"When you're 32 and broke it's depressing, but I couldn't settle for anything else. If you can do anything else in the world besides being in Hollywood and be happy, do it. But for me, that was impossible."

Mike Henry
writer and co-star
"Family Guy"

Battle of the Bands to support local groups

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

The Dance Marathon Fundraising Committee will bring four bands to Saint Mary's Saturday night for a Battle of the Bands.

Harper's Valley, Solus and Sola, Katuius and Rebecca Schiappa will be battling it out for studio time, photo packages and gift certificates, said Frances Bruder, assistant director of Student Activities at Saint Mary's.

The event will take place in the Saint Mary's Student Center Lounge from 6 p.m. to 9, and costs \$10 at the door. T-shirts will also be sold at the event for \$10.

The bands are primarily composed of Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students with one band from outside of the schools. Notre Dame sophomores Ashley Ahn and David Lee form the band Solus and Sola.

Harper's Valley is made up of six Notre Dame students: junior Will Weicher, sophomore Chris Terschluse, senior Chris Urban, junior Chris Doolin, senior Jim Weicher and junior Rob Mineo. The band viewed this as a last hurrah since Will Weicher and Doolin are both going abroad next semester, Will Weicher said.

The band played at Dance Marathon last year, and after some Saint Mary's students e-mailed group members, they decided to participate in the

Battle of the Bands. The band could be classified as rock/jam and plays everything from classic rock to 90s pop, Weicher said.

Schiappa, a Saint Mary's freshman, heard about Battle of the Bands through an e-mail sent to Saint Mary's students and was interested. Schiappa described her original lyrics as funny and "SNL-like," saying they're meant to be "just kind of joking around in an awkward way."

Dance Marathon Fundraising chair Sarah Voss and her committee are heading up the Battle of the Bands, the first big public fundraiser for Dance Marathon. The committee is hoping to raise about a thousand dollars and draw 200 people, Voss said.

"It would be a good way to get the community excited for Dance Marathon," Voss said.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the event, including T-shirt sales, are going toward Dance Marathon and Riley Hospital.

The Dance Marathon Committee plans to organize other fundraisers and events, including a dinner and a Mass at Saint Mary's. While it is also looking to plan an eating contest, a chapstick sale and a pasta dinner, these events are all up in the air, said Dance Marathon chair Francesca Johnson.

Contact Mandi Stirone at
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Jenkins

continued from page 1

The highest-paid public university president was David P. Roselle at the University of Delaware, who will receive just under \$1 million for 2006-7.

Of the 33 schools classified as research universities with "very high research activity," Vanderbilt University's E. Gordon Lee earned the highest sum — and the third-highest of all private universities — receiving about \$1.2 million in 2004-5. Malloy's salary, on the other hand, was the second-lowest in the group.

"I would say that the \$400,000 level for an elite private institution is in the domain of normal, but maybe slightly low," said Paul Fain, a staff reporter at The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Presidential compensation, Fain explained, includes not only the base salary and retirement pay, but also deferred compensation — pay set aside by the institution not available to the president until he reaches an agreed-upon requirement. Performance and retention bonuses can also be added to the mix.

Whether the result of bonuses or normal salary increases, Malloy's compensation did rise from \$260,264 in the 1996-7 fiscal year to the aforementioned \$476,325, Fain noted.

But those increases didn't mean more money for Malloy, and they don't mean more money for Jenkins. What's growing, rather, is the common purse shared by the Priests of the Holy Cross.

"It's interesting that at religious institutions, the leader will donate his/her salary to the religious order," Fain said. "It's pretty unique in higher education, now."

Like all the Holy Cross priests at Notre Dame, Jenkins took a vow of poverty that requires him to donate any money he earns from employment to the order.

"A diocesan priest, like from a parish, doesn't take those vows, so he is able to own things," said Father Anthony Szakaly, the assistant provincial for the Indiana Province of the Holy Cross Priests, which is headquartered in South Bend. "We don't own anything ourselves — everything we have belongs to the province, to the Holy Cross."

"We give everything we have, and we take what we need from the common purse."

In addition to funding the priests' personal expenditures, money from the common purse is used to care for the retired religious. The Indiana province also donates to the general administration, headquartered in Rome, as well as its missions in East Africa and Chile.

"Obviously, Father Jenkins is president, [and] his salary is a significant one," Szakaly said. "But, it's not the only salary. All of our priests — whether in a parish or high school or at University of Notre Dame — all their salaries come into the common purse."

That common purse will likely be growing, if presidential salaries like Jenkins' stay on the rise. Fain said the increase reflects just how hard presidents work.

"These jobs are really tough."

"Religious institutions have a lot of credibility in some people's minds for their leaders not earning anything for doing these incredibly difficult jobs."

**Paul Fain
reporter
The Chronicle of Higher
Education**

Even people who are critical of high presidential pay recognize that," he said. "They're working 18-hour days, fundraising, interacting with everyone from students to

lawmakers to parents to faculty. There is a sense among some presidents that 'I want to be taken care of, I want to have my family taken care of, I want to be comfortable.'"

And that's why presidents of religious institutions, like Notre Dame, are so impressive, Fain said.

"There's a different ethos there. Notre Dame is a unique place," he said. "Religious institutions have a lot of credibility in some people's minds for their leaders not earning anything for doing these incredibly difficult jobs ... At

Notre Dame, you add the extra element. He is 'Father' Jenkins. He has to have moral leadership qualities that maybe you don't have at other universities. It's an extra role he has to play, and it makes it a really challenging job."

The role of professor is one that Malloy continued to play throughout his presidency. Jenkins, on the other hand, taught his last philosophy course in the spring of 2003, before he was inaugurated president.

"He's got a big job and he's still new to it, so he's got a good bit to learn," said Paul Weithman, chair of the philosophy department. "I would love to have him teaching for us because he's a very good teacher, but the most important thing he can do for us is be a good president."

"I'm most happy having him devote his time, attention and energy to that."

As Weithman noted, Jenkins' busy travel schedule and "very visible" role in the American Catholic Church might impede him from best fulfilling his professorial duties — but

Weithman thinks Jenkins is finding other ways to do the very things teaching allows.

"Given what I know of him, I don't have any doubt he has ways to stay intellectually vital because he loves to read, think and write," Weithman said. "Also, one argument for teaching is it helps the president to stay in touch with the student ... but I'm sure he's in touch with students anyway."

He also is in touch with his religious brothers, Szakaly said.

"Right now, Father Jenkins is being called to be president of Notre Dame; before, Father Malloy was called to be president; now Malloy will be back in classroom, contributing in that way. We're all working together for the same goal of promoting the mission of Holy Cross in building the kingdom as God gives us the gifts to do so. Jenkins lives with us; he joins us for common meals and common prayer."

"He's part of our community in a very real way."

Contact Eileen Duffy at
eduffy1@nd.edu

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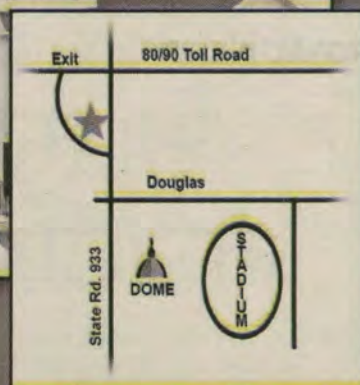
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WORLD & NATION

Friday, December 1, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Annan calls for \$4 billion in aid

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed for nearly \$4 billion Thursday to help millions of people in 29 countries "whose lives have been crippled by conflict and calamity."

He said the people in need — overwhelmingly women and children — "subsist on the very margins of society" in places like Somalia, the Palestinian territories and Congo.

"These 27 million individuals seek not a hand out, but a hand up," Annan said at the launch of the 2007 humanitarian appeal. "Their names may be unknown to us, their lives hidden from view, but their cry for our attention must not go unanswered."

Prime minister faces government revolt

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki faced a widening revolt within his divided government as two senior Sunni politicians joined prominent Shiite lawmakers and Cabinet members in criticizing his policies.

Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi said he wanted to see al-Maliki's government gone and another "understanding" for a new coalition put in place with guarantees that ensure collective decision making.

"There is a clear deterioration in security and everything is moving in the wrong direction," the Sunni leader told The Associated Press. "This situation must be redressed as soon as possible. If they continue, the country will plunge into civil war."

Al-Maliki's No. 2, Deputy Prime Minister Salam Zikam Ali al-Zubaie, also a Sunni, argued that the president's government failed to curb the spread of sectarian politics.

NATIONAL NEWS

Rice objects to Indian nuclear fuel law

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says relations with India could suffer if Congress fails to satisfy White House objections to legislation that would allow shipments of U.S. civilian nuclear fuel to India.

Critics of the plan say the Bush administration wants to remove what they say are the few remaining restraints against the spread of nuclear weapons. The plan, which President Bush considers a priority, would reverse decades of U.S. anti-proliferation policy.

Rice's misgivings were expressed in a letter to leading lawmakers that The Associated Press obtained Thursday.

Her intervention could complicate prospects for approval of the legislation. Lawmakers are trying to finish work on a final version of the bill before they leave for the year. They must reconcile competing bills passed by the House and Senate.

SeaWorld orca whale attacks trainer

SAN DIEGO — Some days, killer whales just wake up on the wrong side of the pool.

A 2 1/2-ton orca that dragged a trainer underwater during a show at SeaWorld may have been put out by a spat with another whale, grumpy because of the weather or just irritable from a stomach ache, according to marine mammal experts.

"Some mornings they just wake up not as willing to do the show as others," said Ken Balcomb, director of the Center for Whale Research.

LOCAL NEWS

Girl on trial for attempted murder

PERU, Ind. — A 12-year-old girl accused of setting her sleeping mother's bed on fire and driving away in the family car with her two younger siblings wept and embraced her mother during a hearing on juvenile charges of arson and attempted murder.

The seventh-grader denied the allegations during Wednesday's hearing before Miami County Circuit Court Rosemary Higgins Burke, who set a Dec. 20 fact-finding hearing — the equivalent of a trial — for the girl and ordered her to remain at a juvenile detention center.

TURKEY

Pope prays in Mosque with cleric

Benedict XVI hopes visit will help find 'the way of peace for the good of all humanity'

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Pope Benedict XVI joined an Islamic cleric in prayers under the towering dome of Istanbul's most famous mosque Thursday in a powerful gesture seeking to transform his image among Muslims from adversary to peacemaker.

The pope's minute of prayer was done in silence, but the message of reconciliation was designed to resonate loudly nearly three months after he provoked worldwide fury for remarks on violence and the Prophet Muhammad.

"This visit will help us find together the way of peace for the good of all humanity," the pope said inside the 17th-century Blue Mosque — in only the second papal visit in history to a Muslim place of worship. Benedict's predecessor, John Paul II, made a brief stop in a mosque in Syria in 2001.

Benedict's steps through a stone archway and into the mosque's carpeted expanse capped a day of deep symbolism and lofty goals. Hours earlier, he stood beside the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians and passionately encouraged steps to end the nearly 1,000-year divide between their churches.

The pope walked to the mosque after touring another majestic tribute to faith: the 1,500-year-old Hagia Sofia and its remarkable mix of Quranic calligraphy and Christian mosaics from its legacy as a marvel of early Christianity and then a coveted prize of Islam's expansion.

At the mosque, the pope removed his shoes and put on white slippers. Then he walked beside Mustafa Cagrici, the head cleric of Istanbul. Facing the holy city of Mecca — in the tradition of Islamic worship — Cagrici said: "Now I'm going to pray." Benedict,



Pope Benedict XVI, with Muslim clerics, visited Turkey's Blue Mosque to pray Thursday in the second papal visit to a Muslim place of worship.

too, bowed his head and his lips moved as if reciting words.

Before the pope left, he thanked Cagrici "for this moment of prayer."

"A single swallow can't bring spring," Cagrici told the pope, who ends his first papal trip to a Muslim nation Friday. "But many swallows will follow and we will enjoy a spring in this world."

The pope received a painting showing the Sea of Marmara and a glazed tile decorated with a dove. The mosque is officially known as the Sultan Ahmet Mosque after the Ottoman sultan Ahmet I, who ordered its construction. But it's widely called the

Blue Mosque after its elaborate blue tiles.

The pope presented the imam with a mosaic showing four doves.

"Let us pray for brotherhood and for all humanity," Benedict said in Italian.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said the mosque visit was added as a "sign of respect" to Muslims. "A (Christian) believer can pray in any place, even a mosque," Lombardi said, calling it an "intimate, personal prayer."

The pope has offered wide-ranging messages of reconciliation to Muslims since coming to Turkey on Tuesday, including appeals for greater understanding and support for Turkey's

effort to become the first Muslim nation in the European Union.

But Benedict also has set down his own demands.

The pope repeated calls for greater freedoms for religious minorities — including the tiny Christian community in Turkey — and denounced divisions between Christians as a "scandal."

Benedict has made reaching out to the world's more than 250 million Orthodox a centerpiece of his papacy and has set the difficult goal of "full unity" between the two ancient branches of Christianity, which split in the 11th century over disputes including papal authority.

Group urges pullback of troops

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A bipartisan commission on U.S. options in Iraq will recommend a gradual reduction of American forces in Iraq and a significant diplomatic shift that enlists U.S. adversaries to stabilize the increasingly chaotic country, officials familiar with the panel's deliberations said Thursday.

The report will endorse troop withdrawals beginning as soon as early next year but set no deadlines, the officials said. U.S. forces could also be slowly repositioned away from the front lines.

The much-anticipated report is

expected to provide political cover to President Bush to meaningfully shift his policies in an unpopular war. Yet advisers to the panel and others aware of its work indicated the recommendations will not be dramatically different from current policy or from ideas already under debate within the administration.

Bush has repeatedly rejected a wholesale pullout or what he calls artificial deadlines.

"This business about a graceful exit just simply has no realism to it at all," Bush said Thursday.

A former top U.S. official consulted by the commission said he expected the recommended withdrawal would not

be conditioned on the Iraqi government establishing benchmarks to improve security. Many remaining U.S. forces would be lighter support and intelligence units, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the panel's deliberations were private.

The approximately 100-page report will indicate the presence of U.S. troops is part of the problem in Iraq, said another official who also requested anonymity. The panel will demand more accountability from the Iraqi government, although it is not clear how progress would be measured or if there would be specific benchmarks, the official said.



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Dow Jones	12,221.93	-4.80	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,109	125	1,176	4,006,231,610

AMEX	2,069.16	+9.59
NASDAQ	2,431.77	-0.46
NYSE	8,969.00	+21.83
S&P 500	1,400.63	+1.15
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	16,274.23	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	6,048.80	-35.60

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-0.07	-0.03	44.04
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.73	+1.55	21.395
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	+1.12	+0.06	5.42
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.71	-0.21	29.36

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-1.39	-0.063	4.458
13-WEEK BILL	-0.015	-0.015	4.89
30-YEAR BOND	-0.051	-0.051	4.561
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.073	-0.073	4.442

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.67		63.13
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+11.10		652.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.58		91.53

Exchange Rates			
YEN			115.7300
EURO			0.7551
POUND			0.5086
CANADIAN \$			1.1418

IN BRIEF

'Smart' phones offered at lower prices

NEW YORK — In a blink of mere months, the mobile "smart" phone has been transformed from pricey corporate gadget to an affordable alternative for ordinary folk.

In the last month alone, Cingular Wireless has unveiled three devices priced as low as \$200 (after jumping through the assorted contractual hoops and rebates). That's well below the \$300 to \$500 that BlackBerries, Treos and Pocket PCs have generally fetched even with promotional savings.

The shift began in May with the "Q" from Motorola Inc., a slender handset with a full QWERTY keyboard for typing e-mail that Verizon Wireless introduced for \$200 and now sells for as low as \$100 — a price cut that happens to coincide with an increasingly crowded field of rivals vying for consumer dollars.

T-Mobile struck twice over the summer with the launch of the Pearl, the first BlackBerry with a camera and music features, and a hybrid cellular and Wi-Fi device called the Dash. Both were priced as low as \$200, though the Dash can now be had for \$150.

Angola applies for OPEC membership

LUANDA, Angola — Angola, the largest sub-Saharan oil producer in Africa after Nigeria, said it will apply to join OPEC next month, while the oil cartel's secretary general said Sudan also was poised to join.

OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo, speaking to Dow Jones Newswires on Thursday on the sidelines of a producers' meeting in Egypt, gave no timetable for Angola or Sudan to join the group that has not welcomed a new member since 1975.

Joining offers prestige, but would mean adhering to OPEC production quotas — though members routinely violate the limitations. OPEC agreed in October to cut total production by 1.2 million barrels a day to about 26.3 millions barrels a day as of Nov. 1, and further cuts aimed at shoring up prices could be coming.

Oil prices are down about 20 percent since hitting a high above \$78 a barrel in mid-July, though light sweet crude for January delivery rose 16 cents to \$62.62 a barrel by Thursday afternoon in Europe in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Microsoft releases new Vista

Company's first operating system since 2001 to be available Jan. 30 for home use

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Microsoft Corp. launched its first new computer operating system in five years Thursday, saying that despite delays, the product's emergence is perfectly timed for PC users who increasingly need to coordinate information from a dizzying array of sources.

Opening an hourlong demonstration and press conference at the Nasdaq Stock Market, Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer acknowledged that Windows Vista should have been out long ago.

"I should probably say it's an exciting thing to finally be here — and that's all I'll say about the past," Ballmer said, before adding: "This is the biggest launch in our company's history, that's for sure."

Businesses that buy Windows licenses in bulk have first crack at PCs with the new operating system or at upgrade discs for installing Vista on existing machines. Consumers won't be able to get Vista on home PCs until Jan. 30.

Microsoft and computer vendors contend that Vista will make computers more secure, powerful and graphically dynamic, especially when combined with other products Microsoft is releasing simultaneously. Those include new back-end server software for businesses, as well as Office 2007, which brings sweeping changes to widely used programs such as Word, Outlook, Excel and PowerPoint.

Ballmer said the new offerings were suited to businesses that need to link staff, partners, documents and corporate data in far-flung locales and to manage information that comes in various formats over the Web.

The new version of Excel, for instance, packs vastly increased number-crunching abilities. The Outlook e-mail program performs noticeably faster searches for tidbits buried in mes-



A staff member of Microsoft Switzerland demonstrates the American company's latest software, the 2007 Microsoft Office and Windows Vista.

sages — and it can integrate voice mail and instant messages when used with Microsoft server software.

"I think we really have the most comprehensive lineup our company has ever put in place," Ballmer said.

Much is at stake for Microsoft. Most of its revenue and almost all of its profit come from Windows and Office, funding the company's sexier ventures in video games and music players and giving it the cash it needs to fight a wide world of rivals, from open-source startups to big names like Google Inc., Oracle Corp. and IBM Corp.

Microsoft shares fell 21 cents to close at \$29.36 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

The most noticeable

changes in Vista involve three-dimensional graphics and much better search capabilities, but the software also incorporates huge changes behind the scenes. Programs have less access to the core of the operating system, closing a vulnerability that malicious hackers have giddily exploited in the past. Vista also includes basic anti-virus software.

Of course, no software can be 100 percent safe; Ballmer would have been foolish to claim that Vista is hacker-proof. But he did promise big improvements: "The reduction in the number of vulnerabilities that ever present themselves will really be quite dramatic," he said.

Even with all the touted

improvements, analysts expect Vista to only gradually appear on PCs, especially in big organizations where upgrading can be costly and complicated. Gartner Dataquest predicts Vista won't outnumber the previous operating system, Windows XP, on business computers until 2010.

That's largely because big companies need to test internal business applications on Vista before switching, a process that Gartner analyst Michael Silver estimates at 12 to 18 months in many cases.

And for many users, the changes in Vista — even when paired with Office 2007 — appear nice to have on new computers, but not must-haves.

Citrus industry feels Katrina effects

Associated Press

JESUIT BEND, La. — Last year's hurricanes flooded Ben Becnel Sr.'s citrus groves with saltwater, thrashed three of his greenhouses and workers' quarters and destroyed or otherwise damaged hundreds of orange trees.

And he was one of the lucky ones. Further south in Plaquemines Parish, Katrina and Rita laid waste to entire communities, destroying houses and livelihoods and threatening the future of the state's prized, niche citrus industry.

"We've lost a lot before," with hurricanes and freezing temperatures killing trees, if not groves, agricultural agent

Alan Vaughn said. But this is different, he said: "With freezes, you could go back and plant trees. Now, the grove is the low man on the list, when you have to rebuild your house."

With harvest under way and the parish's weekend-long orange festival set to begin Friday, farmers like Becnel, with navel oranges and satsuma mandarins to sell, are trying to fill strong demand, while older producers such as 73-year-old Gerald Ragas are struggling to start over.

It will be at least four years until the small trees he replanted to replace some of the 450 trees he lost will begin bearing fruit.

"I've had people say, Are you out of

your mind, Jerry?" said Ragas, who lives near Buras. "... What am I going to do, sit in a recliner chair and go away?"

Louisiana's citrus industry has a cult-like, regional following and is known especially for its navel oranges. The first trees were planted during French colonial times, in the 1700s, but serious farming didn't begin until the 1850s. Only about 1,330 citrus acres were planted statewide in 2004, tiny when compared to the hundreds of thousands of acres in industry leaders Florida, California and Texas. It's such a niche market that the U.S. Department of Agriculture only reports on Louisiana's industry every five years.

Engineers

continued from page 1

1980s. Nationwide, approximately 80,000 engineers graduated each year in the mid-80s, and now that number has dropped to approximately 50,000 a year, she said.

"We are also facing a situation where a large number of engineers who were educated in the 50s and 60s in this country are getting to the point of retirement and so there is going to be a gap in knowledge," Pieronek said. "That scares people because it could lead to a gap in innovation, in technological development."

The American economy has thrived for the past 50 years because the country has been so advanced in technological development, she said. Without the people to come up with new ideas, this innovation movement will be hampered.

"It's really hard for an economy to grow when you don't have new ideas — you don't have the next iPod or the next amazing communications device," Pieronek said. "And without engineering talent those things aren't going to happen."

In 1991, undergraduate engineers — excluding freshmen — made up 14 percent of the University, according to Merz. In 2006, engineers fell to comprise 12.6 percent of University undergraduates.

From approximately 1996 until 2000, there was a large dip in the number of engineering students at Notre Dame.

Merz credited his predecessor, former dean Frank Incropera, with reversing this sharp decline.

Incropera started a campaign to make engineering more interesting to freshmen who intended to declare it as their major. He created a new introduction to engineering class and the Learning Center to encourage their interest.

Engineering 111 prepares students for a major in engineering, Merz said. Since the Class of 2004 took EG 111, the retention rate into sophomore year has increased substantially, rising from approximately 55 percent to approximately 75 percent for the Class of 2009, Merz said.

But there is still a tendency for students to avoid engineering as a major because of its difficulty, he said.

"I would argue that too many students choose easier fields because they are easier fields," Merz said.

Incorporating women into engineering

Pieronek has also questioned why more students are not entering the engineering field, especially women. She said the problem is "puzzling," especially since women now make up the majority of undergraduate students nationwide.

"Between 1987 and 2001, which is the last year for which we have good data, the

number of women earning engineering degrees in this country has stayed around 11,000," Pieronek said. "That number is flat, despite the fact that the number of women in college is close to 60 percent in undergraduate programs across the country."

Companies are increasingly realizing the value of employing women as engineers, Pieronek said, because they realize that women are largely responsible for buying appliances for the home — but most of the engineers who design these appliances are men.

"Companies realize now that they need to have women involved in the engineering process, but schools aren't graduating enough women to fill their demand," Pieronek said.

Women make up 24.6 percent of the undergraduates enrolled in the College of Engineering. Throughout the University, they account for approximately 47 percent of students.

To encourage women to enter engineering and support them during their years in the college, the Women's Engineering Program was started with the entering Class of 2006, Pieronek said.

The program is a way for older students to mentor younger students, Pieronek said.

"If the younger students see that the older students have gotten through and have thrived and are getting good jobs, the younger students are more likely to believe they can do it," she said.

Since the start of the program, Pieronek said, the retention rate for women has risen.

"I think women have a different perspective to engineering, and I think when you are trying to solve problems, different ideas and different perspectives are useful to have."

Carol Matasci
sophomore
chemical engineer

For the graduating Class of 2007, the retention rate for women was approximately equal to the retention rate for men — a significant increase, she said.

For the Class of 2005, Pieronek said the retention rate for women was 40 percent from the start of first year to the start of sophomore year, with the retention rate for men at 62 percent.

Sophomore Carol Matasci, a chemical engineer, said the support she received from Notre Dame's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers "was actually part of what helped me decide to stay in engineering."

"As a freshman I was pretty intimidated by my classmates," Matasci said. "Talking to the older girls was kind of encouraging, to see that I could do it."

Matasci said she thinks there is still an expectation that women are more attracted to an Arts and Letters major than to one involving science and technology.

"I think women have a different perspective to engineering, and I think when you are trying to solve problems, different ideas and different perspectives are useful to have," Matasci said.

Diversifying the workplace

This diversity of thought is an objective that Ivan Favila, the director of the Minority Engineering Program, is trying to achieve.

"In order for the engineering innovation to be its strongest here in this country, you will need a diversity of thought that comes from a diversity of people," he said. "When you have such a majority of like engineers, then you lack that dynamic."

Minority students comprised about 13.4 percent of total undergraduate engineers in 2006.

The reason for this low number, Favila said, may be that

some minority students who come to Notre Dame don't know any professional engineers.

"Since there is an under-representation of minorities in the engineering workforce, you might see that trickle down to the number of students exposed to engineers and thus we will have a lesser number of minorities go into engineering," he said.

The Minority Engineering Program encourages minority students both to enroll at Notre Dame and to stay in the major once they enter into it. An orientation course advertised for minority students, but open to anyone interested in engineering, provides information about what the discipline entails.

Notre Dame's retention rate for minority engineers between freshman and sophomore year is slightly more than 50 percent, compared to a national retention rate of approximately 34 percent, Favila said.

"We are doing a little bit better in terms of national numbers, but 50 percent, at least for me, is not good enough," he said.

The program now has a strong base of people who have graduated from Notre Dame with the help of the Minority Engineering program and who have succeeded as engineering professionals.

Improving engineering's public relations

The College of Engineering still wants to increase its undergraduate numbers, Merz said. But part of the problem is the type of students Notre Dame has been admitting.

"We can't get more [engineering majors] if Admissions doesn't admit more engineering intents," he said.

Part of the problem with attracting students lies in a public relations problem for engineers, Merz said. A new engineering building located prominently on Notre Dame Avenue might do the job of attracting more students, he said.

"Since it is right on Notre Dame Avenue, it will be a marvelous public relations institution for the College," he said.

The new building will be located between McKenna Hall and the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2008 and be completed by 2010.

Engineers will continue to do "a lot of absolutely critical things for society," Merz said, and Notre Dame engineers will graduate into a good job market.

"Every report we get is that employers want to hire Notre Dame engineers," he said.

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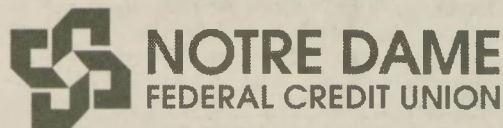
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Blind

continued from page 1

high school at the time, making her "one of the youngest members of the U.S. swim team," she said. While participants in the Paralympics may be visually impaired or blind like Nashleanas, competing athletes' disabilities range from amputation to multiple sclerosis to cerebral palsy.

Nashleanas began her swimming career free of family pressure — she doesn't come from a family of swimmers. Rather, she first began the sport because "I thought swimming was fun and that I'd give it a try," she said.

Nashleanas' competitive spirit has kept her focused on her goals, and she has been training hard in the pool — "usually five to six days a week, three miles a day" — in order to be prepared for the April 2008 Paralympic trials.

She hopes to qualify in the 100 back and perhaps the 400 freestyle, and said she prefers swimming longer distances over sprints.

When she is logging so much time and distance in the pool, Nashleanas said she appreciates the occasional practice with fellow hopeful Paralympic swimming competitor, second year political science graduate student James Fetter. Nashleanas

said while she and Fetter have very different schedules, they both relish the opportunity to work out together.

Fetter and Nashleanas are both working with Irish Aquatics master's coach Annie Sawicki, Nashleanas said.

Nashleanas said the master's swim team provides Notre Dame students, faculty, alumni and local community members with the opportunity to swim competitively.

Notre Dame's Office for Students with Disabilities supports Nashleanas' swimming by providing her with "tappers" for both practice and competition. The tappers stand at each end of her swimming lane. Using a pole with a tennis ball attached, they tap her head or shoulder at the appropriate time so she knows when to make her turn or to touch the wall, Nashleanas said.

She said this was the only modification she could think of that she needed as a blind swimmer.

Balancing school work with her tough training schedule is "difficult, but possible," she said.

"The biggest challenge is just working through practice when you're tired," Nashleanas said. "But if you really want it, you've got to go for it."

Contact Meghan Wons at mwons@nd.edu

Cambodia

continued from page 1

[Pappy's] enthusiasm for spreading awareness and developing the opportunities available for children in Cambodia," Rann said. "I felt that the diverse, 200-member SIBC could help promote PEPPY at Notre Dame."

PEPPY mainly works to benefit Cambodian children, who are the first generation of a younger population to survive after the Khmer Rouge devastation. PEPPY hopes to build homes and schools to house and educate the children in rural and urban areas.

"There are more land mines than children in the entire country," sophomore member Kate McDermott said. "There are even more than the amount used during World War II. I think that the \$5 donations will go a long way."

Well over 50 people showed up for the event. Many, like freshman Cassidy Blair, knew of friends who had volunteered in Cambodia and wanted to learn more about the situation in the poverty-stricken country.

"My friend's sister works as a missionary in Cambodia," she said, "and I'm so impressed that the SIBC is working for such a good cause."

The event also had a special guest, Heather Connell, the

executive producer of Los Angeles-based Displaced Yankee Productions. Connell showed the trailer for a documentary she has been working on for a few years, called "Small Voices: Stories of Cambodia's Children."

"The film focuses on the plight of street and garbage-dump children," Connell said, "and explores how the children view themselves, their lives and their future."

Connell and her fellow producers selected five Cambodian children to be the subjects of the documentary. Interviewing, interacting with and filming the children, she said, has been "life altering."

"Standing in [the city of] Stung Meanchey," she said, "and seeing barefoot and dirty children digging through garbage, where medical waste is dumped off, was horrifying."

PEPPY members are also exploring the option of working with Cambodian Children's Fund (CCF) and a non-profit organization that rescues abandoned children.

"I'm looking into the option of interning with the CCF next summer in Cambodia," junior Allison Fleece said. "It will require me to teach English to orphans, which may not be easy, but I'm definitely going to convince my mom to let me go."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

Poverty

continued from page 1

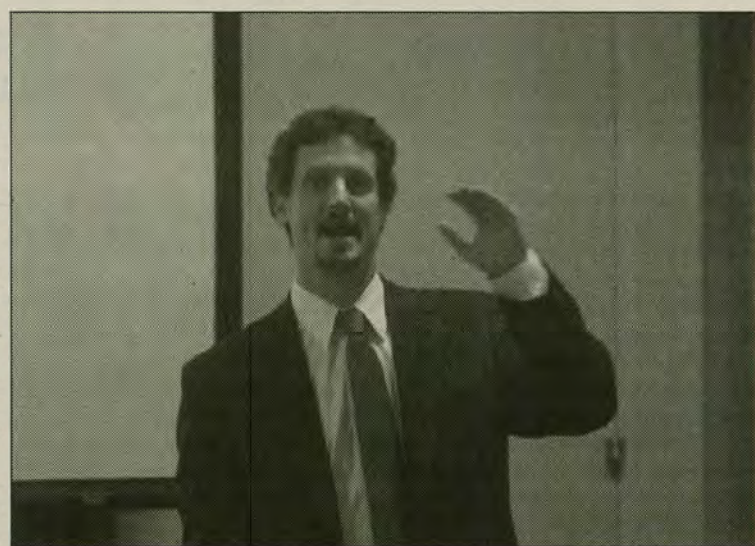
rity and technology. These components are all weighted equally, which can create controversy, Roodman said.

"The main purpose of this tool is to create communication and stimulate discussion. The biggest advantage for not weighting the components is to make it easy for people to understand," Roodman said. "I've heard people argue that [a particular component] should be weighted more heavily for each one of these components so I think it's balanced."

When looking at foreign aid, Roodman insists that aid is more than quantity. Quality of aid is important, he said, which means looking at how democratic the governments are and whether or not the aid is "tied."

"For example, if the United States gives aid to Uganda, there could be strings attached. 'If you take this money, you have to spend on it on American contractors,'" Roodman said. "That's 'tying' the aid, which reduces the quality of the aid because it prevents the ability to shop around. The United States is one of the worse offenders."

Another example of the



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Research fellow for the Center for Global Development David Roodman discusses foreign aid in the Hesburgh Center Thursday.

limitations of benefits of foreign aid is shown through the relation to trade, which includes tariffs and subsidies.

"In May 2005, the United States gave 90 million dollars to tsunami relief," Roodman said. "The three countries that benefited most pay about five million dollars in tariffs to the United States, so you could say the U.S. made back its money in six months."

Ultimately, Roodman said, all of the components have their own rewards and downsides. Although the U.S. ranked high in the areas of trade and investment, it

ended up 13th on the index overall. The Netherlands took the top position this year, and Japan finished at the bottom of the list, which included 21 countries.

"The key message is that helping is more than aid, aid is more than quantity, and every country can do better," Roodman said. "The big countries, which can make the biggest difference, are not stepping up to the plate."

Roodman holds a bachelor's degree in theoretical mathematics from Harvard.

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

VATICAN

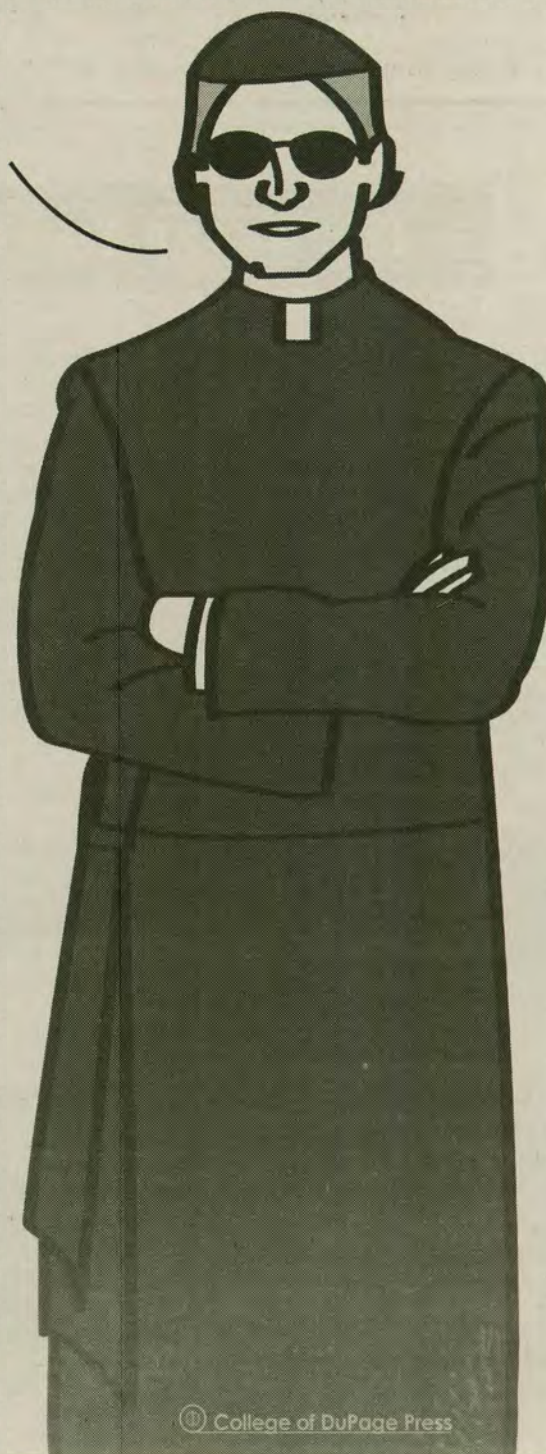
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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns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

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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Ticket problems remain unsolved

Notre Dame demonstrated serious ticket mismanagement this week when it announced it would cut by half or more the amount of tickets reserved for parents of current students.

Under the current system, parents could apply for two sets of four tickets, traditionally for one game in the middle of the season and the last home game of the year. The new rules will ensure parents who have a specific game preference get two tickets to that game, but no more. According to the athletic department's release, instead of a maximum of eight tickets a year, parents will now get four at most — and likely just two.

That's a shame.

Josh Berlo, the department's director of ticket operations, said the move was to give more groups access to Irish football games. The facts, however, contrast sharply with Berlo's statement. The new policy has four "designated games" — the two games for current parents, an early-season game for "senior alumni" and the final home game for "alumni family."

That increased access, however, is going to people who already had it.

The "senior alumni" game is for "contributing alumni who graduated 35 or more years ago." But all contributing alumni already had access to games. The "alumni family" game also gives priority only to contributors who already had access.

The Observer Editorial

The change is simply an attempt to increase donations for season ticket access. A better way to increase revenue in the long run would be to increase the appreciation current students have for the school and the athletic department.

But Notre Dame decided to give more seats to alumni who often got more access than parents of current students before the change. That means families with three children, including one at Notre Dame, probably won't be able to bring the siblings not at Notre Dame to a game next season.

Parents of this year's juniors now must change their plans if they were logically expecting they could bring a few extended family members to a game.

Last year's Fiesta Bowl fiasco — when the athletic department and ticket office failed to ensure that each student applied for a ticket

only once — won't be forgotten soon.

This problem, though, Notre Dame can get right. The University can decide that frustrating the student body and its parents isn't a good idea. It can decide that fostering a spirit of family and community at the school is a good thing. It can decide to stop aiming for unlimited revenue through season ticket "donations" by unnecessarily forcing people, who already spend \$40,000 a year in tuition, to donate thousands more dollars for football game ticket access.

The Judge Judy side of the ND scholarship

The 1994 Viewpoint page with Reverend Robert F. Griffin's column, "Letters to a Lonely God," fell from a shelf when I searched for my passport this week. It was the third time in November that Griffin had intruded into my life, but the words on that page were the most final of thoughts. He had written that, at the age of 69, he finally bought his first bed without the assistance of others.



Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

He wrote, "If I am lucky, it's the bed I will die on. The luck would be in not dying on a mattress soiled in sin at some cheap one-night stand hotel; or in a nursing home where I would be taking my turn, playing follow the leader with all those other terminal cases who have popped off to eternity from the same launching pad ... A hospital bed must be a very lonely place to die."

Father "Griff" has drifted in and out of my life for nearly 35 years, even after his death in 1999 when I joined others to promote a scholarship at Notre Dame in his name. But he recently invaded my life in a most unwelcome manner when the Notre Dame Ticket Office wrote me this month to say that our football ticket purchasing privileges were suspended for two years as a result of profiting from the resale of tickets.

I had listed tickets on eBay in an effort to help raise \$100,000 to fund the scholarship at its minimum level. Fortunately, the ticket office held to the fair but tough standards that Judge Judy uses for her court. It also helped that I could forward to the ticket office a communication from the Development Office acknowledging my

earmark for the scholarship. While I could not escape a Judge Judy experience, I learned that future attempts to sell football tickets require collaboration with the athletic department.

Griffin is one of the "Angels of Notre Dame," those many unique individuals who throughout the years touch students of every generation and heal their souls. Each of these "Angels" deserves memorializing, and the process is easier than enduring a half-hour before Judge Judy.

The Development Office manages scholarships, established at the donor's behest for the minimum \$100,000 level and will list the benefactor's name on the campus Scholarships and Fellowships Recognition Wall. Initially, contributions are pooled with the Notre Dame Endowment (earning more than 14.5% each year) and the interest is reinvested until the fund reaches a \$25,000 minimum. At that time, financial aid is distributed to qualifying students. However, once fully funded, the scholarship is officially named.

Our goal is to raise an average of \$15,000 per year (10 donors giving \$1,500 each per year for 7 years), which will reach the \$100,000 level by 2014. My thought is that 200 of Griff's closest friends should contribute \$500 each next year to fast track the task. I urge anyone who admires someone within the Notre Dame community to consider creating a scholarship of their own.

Championing such a terrific memorial for any of our "Angels" is a worthy and noble gesture that keeps their spirits alive on campus. Griffin served as a Chaplain for the Glee Club and in the Campus Ministry. He founded Darby's Place in the basement of LaFortune Center where he served as a counselor and friend to countless students after midnight.

His many Observer columns were

compiled in his book, "In the Kingdom of the Lonely God," where he demonstrates a remarkable talent with the English language. Griffin could soothe suffering, counsel heartache, share joy and console peace even in absolute silence during the early morning hours that nudged sunrise, his alarm clock for sleep. Those in need of solace always found comfort through him.

I am personally appreciative of Griff's love and selfless life, almost to the same point of loyalty shown from his many cocker spaniels named "Darby." While I do not know how many souls he may have healed, he is an Archangel in my mind because he taught me to appreciate and understand life. Griffin almost never corresponded with others, yet I received a letter from him the summer after my graduation. It seems only fitting that as a holder of such a rare item I promote his legacy with a scholarship.

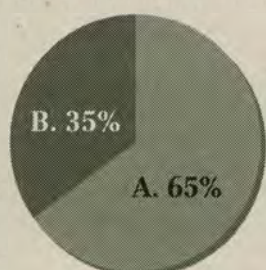
His 1994 Observer column predates Griffin's death by five years, but concludes with a foreboding of his life's end. He asks for four angels — one to watch, one to pray and two to bear his soul away. He concludes with, "May flights of angels sing me to my rest, though not soon."

May he and all Notre Dame Angels who have implanted bits of wisdom into our souls never be forgotten ... and guide us through the Judge Judy moments each of us inevitably encounters throughout our lives.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a political strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com

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

OBSERVER POLL



Will you be watching the Notre Dame women's soccer team in the Final Four this weekend?

A. Yes
B. No

This poll is based on 600 responses recorded at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

Soren Kierkegaard
philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New ticket policy blurs true Notre Dame family

As an alumnus, parent of a recent grad, and parent of a current sophomore, I was disappointed to learn about the most recent change in football ticket policy as it relates to parents of current students. For many years, parents have been able to purchase four tickets to two pre-selected games, typically games that are likely to generate lower overall ticket demand.

Over the years, this has allowed our family to treat grandparents, godparents and siblings to their first experience of a Notre Dame football weekend. But parents of present and future students will not have that luxury, because the new policy guarantees only two tickets to one game — a 75 percent reduction!

Be prepared to tell your grandparents, brothers, sisters and other relatives to watch the games on NBC, because if Mom and Dad are traveling out for a game, there won't be any additional tickets. It is curious that this change occurs at the same time that 5,000 season tickets have miraculously

become available, as long as one is willing to spend \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year for two tickets. Even more disturbing is the fact that one need not have any relationship to the University to purchase these tickets, as long as an additional \$1,500 contribution is made.

Apparently the price of admission to the "Notre Dame Family" has been set at \$4,500 to \$6,500. I can certainly understand that some changes to the parent ticket policy might be necessary due to increased demand, but wouldn't it make more sense to guarantee four tickets to one game (still a 50 percent reduction)? Then the true extended Notre Dame family will continue to have the opportunity to experience the tradition of a football weekend.

Mark Thimons
alum
Class of 1978
Nov. 30

An attempt at resolution

I can't believe I'm writing this letter. According to Webster's dictionary:

animal Function: noun 1 : any of a kingdom (Animalia) of living things including many-celled organisms and often many of the single-celled ones (as protozoans) that typically differ from plants in having cells without cellulose walls, in lacking chlorophyll and the capacity for photosynthesis, in requiring more complex food materials (as proteins), in being organized to a greater degree of complexity and in having the capacity for spontaneous movement and rapid motor responses to stimulation

human Function: noun : a bipedal primate mammal Humans are mammals, which are a class of vertebrates.

Vertebrates are a phylum of animals. A belongs to B, B belongs to C, C belongs to D, therefore A belongs to D.

Ryan Bravo
senior
Fisher Hall
Nov. 30

Direction of Zahm examined, questioned

Zahm shift unwanted, unnecessary

My name is Mark Marquez and from 1999 to 2003, I lived in Zahm Hall. In my time in Zahm Hall, I served on the Freshman Orientation Committee my sophomore year and was as co-commissioner at Zahm Hall Foodsales my senior year. My years as a Notre Dame student and a resident of Zahm Hall constituted some of the happiest moments and best memories in my life. I was deeply saddened upon reading the article "Zahm struggles with culture shift" because the article describes the growing indifference and apathy now associated with being a Zahmbie.

While I was a student at Notre Dame, Zahm did have the "Animal House" reputation, but along with that also came the Zahm Hall spirit. I do believe that Zahm was the closest thing to a fraternity in terms of dorms at Notre Dame. There was a camaraderie among the men that lived in Zahm, but unlike a fraternity, Zahm had none of the negative drawbacks, such as the hazing that goes on in most traditional fraternities. I would hardly consider intoxicated juniors and seniors coming home from bars and waking up freshmen a hazing ritual. With that, I pose the question, "What older brother hasn't played a prank on a younger brother?" Now, I understand that a line has to be drawn somewhere, and I don't condone any type of physical abuse, or waking up freshmen the night before mid-terms or finals, but that is a far cry from an actionable offense worthy of sending students to Residence Life.

In my time at Notre Dame, I never truly felt that Zahm was a "whipping boy." Yeah, jokes were made, but I would submit to you, the source of those jokes came from those who only wish they could emulate the Zahm Spirit, and those jokes were never taken seriously anyway. Besides a sense of community and togetherness, the Zahm Spirit also encompassed community service. While the assertion was made that Zahm Foodsales was neglected, one thing myself and the other co-commissioner accomplished in our tenure as Commissioners of Foodsales was the donation of Foodsales profits to a local charity in South Bend called, "There are Children Here," founded by Jim Langford. That is a rich tradition that seems to have died.

The article made mention of two Zahm Hall rectors: Father Dan Parrish and Father Tom Bednar. I feel I would be remiss if I hadn't mentioned, at this point, a rector that truly embodied the

Zahm spirit. Before Parrish became rector, before Bednar's tenure and even before his immediate predecessor Father Jim Lies, was Father Jim King. Rather than fighting the Zahm spirit, King embraced it. I personally have met Father King only once, at one of the famous Zahm Decade Dances, but I know him from the stories that were told about him by Zahmbies that came before me.

One such story had King in the middle of the debate regarding which dorm to convert into an all female dorm: Zahm or Cavanaugh. As the story goes, King told the administration that if Zahm were to be converted to a female dorm, he would lock himself in his room, and let the Zahmbies have free reign. By sharing this story, I do not intend to promote complete anarchy. I simply mean to illustrate that Zahm Hall, as a dorm, and as a community constitutes one of the strongest bonds a Notre Dame student could have, and precluding its existence is a tragedy.

Furthermore, if you have been accepted at the University of Notre Dame as a student, there is a reason for it. Every year, I read about the average SAT score getting higher every year as well as the statistics on students at Notre Dame being generally well rounded. It's not like Notre Dame has "undesirable" matriculants who are then ostracized to Zahm. Zahm Hall is not British Colonial Australia.

Finally, the article alluded to legendary dining hall dinners, rowdiness at the football pep rallies and the running of naked males through LaFortune. While I agree with Zahm dinners and pep rallies being loud and boisterous, I don't believe the description of "naked males streaking through LaFortune" is entirely accurate; we were all wearing shoes.

Mark Marquez
alum
Class of 2003
Nov. 30

Debate overblown

As a member of the Zahm community, the very one that has cultivated my heart as well as mind, I must address the opposing viewpoints on the current state of the dorm. I start with a simple message to both parties: Get over yourself!

While I would like to thank Zahm Hall rector Father Dan Parrish for winning the Interhall football championship and ensuring that there are no dirty dishes in the dorm kitchen, I disagree with him

when he says there is an indifference to the dorm's "unofficial traditions," the ones that are supposedly disappearing. The indifference lies far beyond streaking and vomiting, two traditions that are necessary to foster such a loving community. The fact is that most of the residents don't buy any of the rhetorical nonsense that people use to justify any "traditions" and Parrish just happens to be residing over the dorm when residents are finally "waking up."

In fact, Parrish isn't responsible for the eradication of any of these sacred traditions. Has anyone given any thought that people don't like being woken up in the middle of the night? Is it possible that most would like to keep their doors intact? Could it be that vomiting is repulsive? Sadly, most of the former residents would like to reminisce of the good old days when public vomiting and vandalism were encouraged. These are the same sad individuals who will roam the halls of Zahm 30 years from now, talking about how they tried to save the dorm and how they still hold a grudge against that mean old Father Dan.

Let's face it — Parrish, as much as he would like to credit himself for providing some change in the dorm, isn't responsible for anything more than a few extra weights and televisions in public areas, and the Zahm "traditions" were destined to be lost because things just change.

The two-day article in The Observer was just another example of how everyone at this school thinks they're important, when the truth is that they just have too much time on their hands.

Patrick Tucker
sophomore
Zahm
Nov. 30

Zahm Hall more than just a building

In The Observer's recent article about Zahm Hall ("Zahm struggles with culture shift," Nov. 29), the way that Zahm Hall rector Father Dan Parrish describes what Zahm was like when he arrived in 2003 is very telling. "When I came here in the fall of 2003, Zahm was a mess, in every way," Parrish said. "We were broke — flat broke. We had no money ... Our weight room was a pigsty, carpet torn up, just tattered, black smudges all over the walls. Common spaces were just dilapidated. The Foodsales kitchen was dirty, full of rundown broken refrigerators, carpets — everything was just kind of neglected." The first "problem" that Parrish mentions is a lack of finances. I

would like to remind him that Zahm is a place for students to live and not a business.

At the time of his arrival, Zahm Foodsales donated all its proceeds to a charity that Zahm had very close ties to: There Are Children Here. Unfortunately, TACH is no longer running so the Foodsales money stays in the dorm and finances are up. This might make Parrish happy, but if I still lived in Zahm, I can say that I would much rather see revenues going to kids in need than to keeping Zahm in the black.

Secondly, his description of the dorm is clearly one of an outsider. He describes physical blemishes, something a stranger might notice upon walking through Zahm when it is empty of residents. In other words, these are all superficial elements of the dorm — things that might be said to constitute its image but not its identity. When I walked into Zahm for the first time in 2003, I did not notice any of these blemishes. First of all, I thought rundown refrigerators and old carpets were something I might encounter at a college. But I think the real reason I did not notice was that I was so distracted by all the great people that lived in Zahm.

Zahm might have been old and cruddy, but that hardly mattered when its residents formed such an enthusiastic community. I could not take an outsider's perspective of the dorm because from the moment I walked in my peers made me feel welcomed and at home. The problem I see with Parrish's mindset is that he is overly concerned with Zahm's image, and this leads him to ignore its identity. He has to realize that the dorm is a place for students to live — they are the most important part. And they don't care about torn carpets, old refrigerators and messy weight rooms if they are with friends in a place where they feel at home.

It does not matter if parents get the wrong idea about Zahm from some security guard. Parents are not the ones living in the dorm, and they will find out soon enough from their kids that Zahm is a great place. The fact that Zahm had a "bad reputation" was always just part of the fun for those of us who lived there. I always thought that people who put stock in this "bad rep" really did not know a thing about Zahm. Unfortunately, it seems like Parrish is one of them.

Ian Mackay
senior, former Zahm resident
off campus
Nov. 30



NOTRE DAME: T

STORIES BY BRIAN DOXTADER & M

CLASSICS OF NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL LORE ON DVD

Pat Terrell batting down Steve Walsh's two-point attempt. Joe Montana hitting Kris Haines for a touchdown as time expires. Two point conversion, Mirer to Brooks in the back of the endzone. Shawn Wooden knocking down Charlie Ward's desperation heave.

All these moments have become part of Notre Dame football lore, though most of them haven't been seen by fans in the context of their full games. Yet all of these great moments are collected in A&E's new eight-disc set, "University of Notre Dame Fighting Irish — Collector's Edition (College Football's Greatest Games)." The mammoth and exhaustive set collects seven and a half of Notre Dame's greatest victories from 1966 to 1993, each presented in its entirety (with one exception).

The games included on the set are:

- ◆ The Green Jersey Game (1977 regular season vs. USC)
- ◆ The 1978 Cotton Bowl vs. Texas
- ◆ The "Chicken Soup Game" (1979 Cotton Bowl vs. Houston)
- ◆ The "Catholics vs. Convicts Game" (1988 regular season vs. Miami)
- ◆ 1989 Fiesta Bowl vs. West Virginia
- ◆ The "Snow Bowl" (1992 regular season vs. Penn State)
- ◆ The "Game of the Century" (1993 regular season vs. Florida State)
- ◆ The second half of the "Game of the Century" (1966 regular season vs. Michigan State)

A glance at the rosters of these games indicates just how powerful Notre Dame was between 1977 and 1993. Joe Montana, Rocket Ismail, Tony Rice, Bob Golic, Ken MacAfee, Aaron Taylor, Chris Zorich, Michael Stonebreaker, Reggie Brooks, Rick Mirer and Jerome Bettis all make appearances.

While there admittedly some great games missing from this set (the 1973 Sugar Bowl against Alabama, the 1980 game against Michigan, the 1992 "Cheerios Bowl" against Florida), the contests on this set are indeed among the most classic and legendary in Notre Dame — and therefore, college football — history.

The most entertaining game on the entire set may be the Snow Bowl

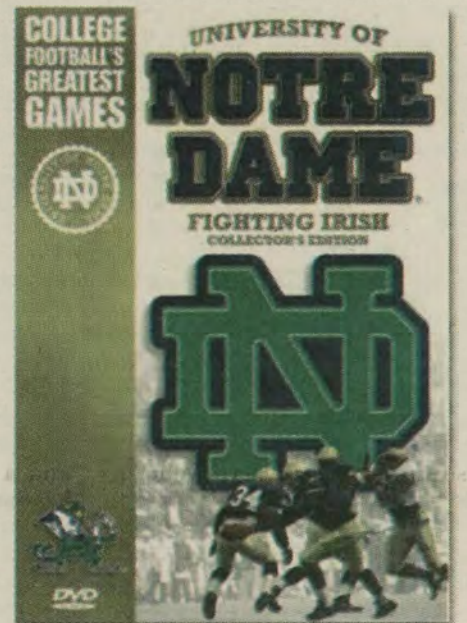
against Penn State, which marked the end of the 1992 regular season. In a swirling snowstorm, the Irish, led by Rick Mirer, Reggie Brooks and Jerome Bettis, fought a young Kerry Collins-led Penn State in a defensive struggle. Trailing 16-9 late in the fourth, Mirer led the Irish down the field before finding Bettis in the endzone. Holtz then elected to take a risk — go for two points and the win. Mirer took the snap and dropped back almost 15 yards before finding Reggie Brooks in the back corner of the endzone for the unlikely win.

There are at least two games on the set which reach almost epic proportions — the 1988 "Catholics vs. Convicts" against Miami (arguably the greatest game in Irish history) and the 1993 "Game of the Century" against Florida State. In both contests, Notre Dame held off late rallies by batting down passes by the respective opposing quarterbacks (Steve Walsh in 1988 and eventual Heisman winner Charlie Ward in 1993). Watching Holtz and his coordinators (defensive coordinator Barry Alvarez in 1988 and Rick Minter in 1993) match wits against Jimmy Johnson and Bobby Bowden is a special treat. Additionally, it's marvelously funny to see Bobby Bowden and Joe Paterno coaching during their heyday more than a decade ago when the young coaches were in their mere 60s.

Oddly enough, a lot of memorable plays (particularly from the Holtz years) didn't actually come from any of these games. No Tim Brown returns, no big Bettis runs, no electrifying Rocket returns. Yet the games presented were arguably more complete, and also showed how underrated Tony Rice was as Notre Dame's last Championship quarterback.

Most of the presentations were taken from their cable broadcasts, though Bob Costas' classic introduction to the Game of the Century is noticeably missing. Also, unsurprisingly, Keith Jackson and Brent Musberger — announcers on some of the games — were no less annoying then than they are now.

The most intriguing game on the set is the 1966 matchup between Notre



Dame and Michigan State. Though the picture quality isn't the greatest and it only contains the second half of the game, it still stands as one of the most bizarre and frustrating ties in football history. The Irish were without their starting quarterback and tailback and fought back to tie the game at 10-10, with Parseghian's conservative choice to sit on the ball (and thus, the tie) going down as a memorable and controversial decision.

The box set itself is fantastic. Each of the games is shown in its entirety and the quality of the presentations is generally very high, though the 1977 Green Jersey Game has a considerable portion of the game which is far fuzzier. The set is sparse on special features but with eight complete games, it doesn't really need any. Notre Dame's football tradition, as presented, speaks for itself.

For Irish fans, this set is a blessing. While the Notre Dame faithful hope and expect Charlie Weis to bring the Irish back to the top of the football world, with this set they can look back at some of the program's glory days and wake up the echoes in the comfort of their home.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu



Then and Now

MARTY SCHROEDER 1966 to 2006



DUAL THREAT: NOTRE DAME COACHES AS AUTHORS

Two of the most recent and most prominent Notre Dame coaches, Lou Holtz and Charlie Weis, are also published authors. They have written on an array of topics from discussions of their own lives, their goals and careers as coaches and general life strategies. Both men are considered morally upstanding, and their books have done well on the market.

One of Lou Holtz's earlier books is "Winning Every Day: The Game Plan for Success." Published in 1999, this book is equal parts football and life lessons. Using strategies that Holtz has learned being a football coach for a top tier program, he discusses how to use those strategies in everyday life.

Finding focus and commitment to tasks is similar to attacking an opposing team on the gridiron. Summing up the goal and themes of the book, Holtz says, "Your talent determines what you can do. Your motivation determines how much you are willing to do. Your attitude determines how well you do it."

In "Winning Every Day," Holtz discusses his rags-to-riches past, from growing up in a poor river town and having nothing to becoming coach at one of the most revered academic and athletic institutions in the nation — and his ensuing success in this capacity. He outlines what he calls his "WIN" strategy ("What's Important Now"). For the person struggling in a new job, a new residence situation or any other difficult life situation, this is a book from a guy that has seen just about everything.

In 2006, Holtz decided to write an autobiography, and "Wins, Losses, and Lessons: An Autobiography" was the end product. Coming from the man who is the only coach to lead six different college football teams to a bowl game, the winner of the Coach of the Year award three times and the ninth winningest college football coach of all time, this promises to offer an inside look into an interesting life.

How did a 135-pound, rail-thin man become one of the best coaches in college football history? How did a man — in his own words — write a book when many expected him never to read one? The answers and the strug-

gles can be found in the pages of this autobiography. The message this book conveys is that being a moral person and a well-educated person is ultimately more important than being a good football player. Although Holtz earnestly cared about the game, it never became more important than his relationship to his players, his family and God.

Alongside books written for an older readership, Holtz also wrote a book for pre-teens and teens. "A Teen's Game Plan for Life" promises to offer moral guidance in a style suited to a younger crowd. Promoting those values closest to Holtz such as loyalty, clean living and a commitment to God, this book has been very successful with younger readers. Holtz has a particular expertise in guiding young minds, thanks to his career as a college football coach. His goal of molding boys into men can be applied to the lives of other young readers.

Alongside Holtz stands the future of Notre Dame football — Charlie Weis. Never one to be outdone, Weis has just released his first book co-authored with Vic Carucci, entitled "No Excuses: One Man's Incredible Rise Through the NFL to Head Coach of Notre Dame." The title itself is evidence of Weis' allegiance to the University. To consider it a rise from the NFL to Notre Dame is an example of how much Notre Dame means to Weis. Granted, he may have had nothing to do with the title, but it is interesting nonetheless.

This book follows Weis' career from coaching high school in New Jersey to coaching at Notre Dame. During the interlude, Weis had a successful tenure as an NFL coach. First coaching under Bill Parcells as the defensive assistant and assistant special teams coach with the New York Giants, Weis began accumulating the knowledge needed to be successful. He won the first of his four Super Bowl rings that year as the Giants defeated the Buffalo Bills.

When Parcells left the Giants for the New England Patriots, Weis followed and became the tight ends coach for two years, the running backs coach for one year and the wide receivers coach for one year. Weis then followed Parcells to coach the New York Jets



where he became offensive coordinator. Parcells decided to retire in 1999 and Weis was hired by Bill Belichick as the offensive coordinator. Here he won three Super Bowls until finally landing in South Bend as the Notre Dame head coach on Nov. 30, 2004.

This book also explores Weis' personal life and discusses issues he has had with his weight and his family life. He discusses the relationship he has with his best friend and wife, Maura, his "best buddy and son," Charlie Jr., and his "guiding angel" and daughter, Hannah. Weis and his wife have started a foundation called Hannah & Friends, which helps families with special needs children.

These two coaches have gone through many hardships that most people have not experienced and their lives provide excellent examples of how to face hardship and succeed. From Holtz's stories growing up in a poor family to Weis' experiences raising a special needs child, everyone can find some inspiration in his or her life. The books are not the men themselves, but it is a way to find a part of them outside of the coaching careers they are most known for.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu

TOM HANCULA/OBSERVER GRAPHIC



NHL

Kessel scores game-winner in Bruins victory

Thrashers wing Marian Hossa snags first career hat trick as Lehtonen shuts out Toronto in a 5-0 rout in Atlanta

Associated Press

BOSTON — Tim Thomas saved all seven shots in the shootout and Phil Kessel scored on Boston's seventh attempt, giving the surging Bruins a 4-3 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Thursday night.

Brad Boyes, P.J. Axelsson and Glen Murray scored and Patrice Bergeron had two assists for the Bruins, who beat Tampa Bay for the third time this season and have won eight of 10 overall.

Eric Perrin and Vincent Lecavalier each had a goal and an assist and Martin St. Louis also scored for the Lightning (13-12-1), who lost their second straight after winning three in a row.

Boston came back from deficits of 2-1 and 3-2 to force overtime despite being outshot 31-22 in regulation. Tampa Bay has won just twice in its last 23 games in Boston.

Thomas saved 31 shots in regulation before turning away all seven Lightning attempts in the shootout to win his third consecutive start. He improved to 10-5-2 after winning only one of his first six decisions.

Boston improved to 3-2 in shootouts.

Atlanta 5, Toronto 0

Marian Hossa had three goals and an assist, Kari Lehtonen stopped 36 shots and the Atlanta Thrashers beat Toronto on Thursday night for their first victory over the Maple Leafs in more than three years.

Scott Mellanby and Brad Larsen also scored for the Thrashers, who snapped the Maple Leafs' eight-game winning streak in the series by handing Toronto its first shutout of the season.

It was Atlanta's first win over the Maple Leafs since a 3-2 overtime victory on Oct. 27, 2003, in Toronto. The Maple Leafs outscored the Thrashers 37-9 in their eight straight wins, including a 4-2 victory on Oct. 30 in Toronto.

Hossa ended his personal history of frustration against Toronto with his first hat trick for Atlanta. Hossa leads the NHL with 20 goals this season, but he had only one goal and one assist in his last nine games against Toronto, a streak that began before Hossa's 2005 trade to Atlanta from Ottawa.

Carolina 4, Montreal 2

Justin Williams and Eric Belanger scored less than a minute apart in the third period to lead the Carolina Hurricanes past the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday night.

Erik Cole added a pair of goals off his own rebounds for the Hurricanes, who stayed on the attack almost the entire way. Carolina finished with a season-high 48 shots to keep steady pressure on Montreal goalie Cristobal Huet throughout, while Cam Ward finished with 25 saves on the other end.

Michael Ryder and Tomas Plekanec scored for the Canadiens, who had won four of



Boston's Phil Kessel battles Toronto's Kyle Westwood in the second period of Thursday's 4-3 Bruins win at the Air Canada Centre. Kessel later scored in a shootout to lead his team to a win.

five. Huet finished with 44 saves.

The Hurricanes had lost three of four, prompting coach Peter Laviolette to meet with his players in groups after Wednesday's practice and discuss ways to get the Stanley Cup champions refocused. The Hurricanes responded with a strong effort, surpassing their previous season high of 40 shots — set three times — before finally pushing ahead with the scores from Williams and Belanger.

With the score tied at 2, Williams took a pass from Ray Whitney and flipped a backhand shot by Huet from near the right circle for the go-ahead score at 12:27 of the third. Then, after a battle along the boards in the Montreal zone, Belanger corralled the puck and flipped a shot by Huet for a 4-2 lead at 13:13.

The Canadiens struck first when Ryder took a short pass from Guillaume Latendresse and beat Ward from the right side of the crease midway through the first period.

Washington 4, Dallas 3

Olaf Kolzig made 35 saves and withstood a third-period rally to finally defeat the only NHL franchise he had never beaten when the Washington Capitals posted a victory over the Dallas Stars on Thursday night.

Richard Zednik, Chris Clark, Matt Pettinger and Alexander Semin scored for the Capitals, who won their second straight

after six losses. Jakub Klepis had two assists.

Kolzig, who won his 255th career game, had been 0-9-1 against the Minnesota/Dallas franchise before handing the Stars their season-high third consecutive loss. Dallas had beaten the Capitals five straight.

Jussi Jokinen had two goals and Stu Barnes also scored for Dallas, which dropped its fourth consecutive road game.

Zednik and Clark tallied 1:52 apart in the first for a 2-0 lead.

Zednik's fourth goal of the year put the Capitals up 1-0 13:05 into the game. No one picked Zednik up along the right wing and he snapped a short pass from Brooks Laich past Mike Smith from the right circle.

With Washington on a power play, Klepis won the puck in a scrum along the boards and fed Clark, who scored from between the circles at 14:47.

Jokinen halved the lead 41 seconds into the second period, flipping the puck past Kolzig from high in the slot.

Ottawa 6, Florida 0

Dany Heatley had two goals and an assist and Ray Emery made 31 saves for Ottawa's first shutout of the season in the Senators' win over the Florida Panthers on Thursday night.

Mike Fisher, Chris Kelly, Andrej Meszaros and Antoine Vermette also scored for Ottawa, which won its second straight. The Senators, who moved one

game over .500, have won seven of eight since getting off to a 7-11-1 start.

Two children attending the game were sent to a hospital — as a precaution — after plexiglass shattered in front of them when Senators defenseman Chris Phillips checked Florida's Stephen Weiss into the boards early in the first.

Heatley scored a power-play goal 2:37 in, then made it 2-0 with his team-leading 16th goal at 8:52.

Fisher scored a short-handed goal at 17:37 to increase the lead to 3-0, and Ottawa added three more goals in the second.

Emery got his fourth career shutout and first since March 19, when he stopped 22 shots in a 4-0 win at New Jersey.

Rostislav Olesz came close to spoiling the shutout when he hit the left post with 3:30 remaining.

Florida, which lost 1-0 in a shootout at Montreal on Tuesday, has lost five straight and been held to one goal in its last three games.

Alex Auld allowed five goals on 17 shots before he was replaced by Ed Belfour 6:01 into the second. Auld, who made his third straight start and fifth in six games, earned his second career shutout two nights earlier despite losing after he was beaten twice in the shootout.

Belfour stopped 10 of 11 shots, allowing Vermette's ninth goal 16:10 into the second.



Maple Leafs' Jeff O'Neill and Atlanta's Steve McCarthy dive after a loose puck in the Thrashers' 5-0 win Thursday night.

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NBA			
Eastern Conference, Atlantic			
team	record	pct.	GB
New Jersey	6-9	.400	-
Philadelphia	5-9	.357	.5
Boston	5-9	.357	.5
New York	6-11	.353	1
Toronto	5-10	.333	1
Eastern Conference, Central			
team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	9-5	.643	-
Cleveland	9-6	.600	.5
Indiana	9-7	.563	1
Chicago	5-9	.357	4
Milwaukee	5-9	.357	4
Eastern Conference, Southeast			
team	record	pct.	GB
Orlando	12-4	.750	-
Atlanta	6-7	.462	4.5
Miami	6-8	.429	5
Washington	5-9	.357	6
Charlotte	4-11	.267	7.5
Western Conference, Northwest			
team	record	pct.	GB
Utah	13-3	.813	-
Denver	8-5	.615	3.5
Minnesota	6-8	.429	6
Portland	6-10	.375	7
Seattle	6-10	.375	7
Western Conference, Pacific			
team	record	pct.	GB
LA Lakers	9-5	.643	-
Sacramento	8-5	.615	.5
Phoenix	8-6	.571	1
Golden State	9-7	.563	1
LA Clippers	7-7	.500	2
Western Conference, Southwest			
team	record	pct.	GB
Dallas	11-4	.733	-
San Antonio	11-5	.688	.5
Houston	10-5	.667	1
NO/Oklahoma City	8-7	.533	3
Memphis	4-11	.267	7

NCAA Hockey				
USCHO Top 20				
	team	record	points	previous
1	Minnesota	12-1-2	800	1
2	New Hampshire	9-2-1	701	8
3	Maine	8-3-1	677	2
4	Miami (Ohio)	11-5-0	656	3
5	NOTRE DAME	10-3-1	650	4
6	Michigan	11-4-0	586	7
7	Boston College	7-4-1	555	5
8	Denver	9-4-1	525	10
9	Boston University	5-2-4	489	11
10	St. Cloud State	6-3-3	386	13
11	North Dakota	7-6-1	372	9
12	Michigan State	6-6-1	350	6
13	Cornell	7-3-0	290	12
14	Alaska	6-2-4	254	16
15	Colorado College	8-5-1	216	19
16	Yale	6-2-1	153	17
17	Dartmouth	5-3-2	147	15
18	Vermont	7-4-1	129	NR
19	Massachusetts	6-3-1	109	14
20	Northern Michigan	7-6-2	90	18

around the dial

NBA	
Sacramento at Dallas	8:30 p.m., ESPN
Chicago at New Orleans	8 p.m., Comcast

MLB



Ex-Ranger Adam Eaton pitches to Eric Chavez of the A's in a July 9 game last season. The 29-year-old Eaton agreed Thursday to a three-year contract worth \$24.5 million with Philadelphia.

Phillies sign Eaton to three-year deal

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Pitcher Adam Eaton and the Philadelphia Phillies finalized a \$24.5 million, three-year contract on Thursday. A first-round pick by the Phillies in 1996, Eaton is 54-45 with a 4.40 ERA in seven major league seasons. He has been on the disabled list six times in his career, but the Phillies are banking on the right-hander to fill out their rotation.

Eaton, who turned 29 on Thanksgiving, was 7-4 with a 5.12 ERA in 13 starts in his only season with Texas, making \$4.65 million. He won 11 games in consecutive seasons with San Diego before he was traded to the Rangers last December.

Eaton solidifies a promising rotation that includes Brett Myers (12-7, 3.91 ERA), Cole Hamels (9-8, 4.08), Jon Lieber (9-11, 4.93) and Jamie Moyer (11-14, 4.30 with the Phillies and Seattle).

“He stabilizes our rotation and will complement the rest of our staff nicely,” general manager Pat Gillick said.

The Phillies’ only other free-agent signing so far this offseason was infielder Wes Helms, who got a \$5.45 million, two-year deal. Gillick wanted slugger Alfonso Soriano, but the Chicago Cubs outbid everyone else for the five-time All-Star.

Going into next week’s winter meetings, the Phillies want to upgrade their bullpen, add a catcher and still hope to find a right-handed hitter to protect NL MVP Ryan Howard in the middle of the lineup.

Gillick wouldn’t comment about reports that the team backed out of a deal with reliever Joe Borowski after he was given an extensive physical. Borowski went 3-3 with a 3.75 ERA and 36 saves in 72 appearances for the Florida Marlins last season.

“Medical situations are tricky to talk about,” Gillick said, adding the team has made proposals to other relievers.

Eaton’s best season was his final one with the Padres. He went 11-5 with a 4.27 ERA in 22 starts in 2005 after going 11-14 with a 4.61 ERA in 33 starts the previous season.

Eaton had elbow surgery in July 2001 and didn’t return until the following September. He missed several starts in ‘05 with a strained middle finger and didn’t make his first start with Texas until late July because of the same finger injury.

IN BRIEF

Gophers coach Monson resigns after slow start
MINNEAPOLIS — Dan Monson resigned as the men’s basketball coach at Minnesota on Thursday, one day after the Gophers’ fifth straight defeat left them with their longest losing streak in more than 40 years.

Assistant coach Jim Molinari will take over as interim head coach.

The Gophers fell to 2-5 with a 90-68 home loss to Clemson on Wednesday night. Minnesota’s skid is its worst in nonconference play since a six-game slide during the 1962-63 season.

Monson, who received a \$1.1 million buyout from the university, said “a new voice” was needed.

“I think at the end of the day as a coach, if you’re not putting the players first, if you’re not putting the university first, you’re not doing the job. And I’m trying to do my job here.”

Jockey Baze ties all-time record for victories
SAN MATEO, Calif. — Russell Baze tied Laffit Pincay Jr.’s record of 9,530 victories Thursday at Bay Meadows, winning by 4 1/2 lengths aboard Christie’s Fame in the sixth race.

Far from the glamour, rich races and classy horses that define thoroughbred racing in Southern California and New York, Baze got the job done in his typical workmanlike fashion.

He sent Christie’s Fame to the lead out of the gate and settled along the rail. They maintained a length lead on the backstretch. Chased by Afeelyated, Baze peeked under his left arm to check his competition before going to the whip briefly in the stretch.

He will try to break the record Friday, with scheduled mounts in seven races at the 72-year-old track where Seabiscuit ran.

Red Sox sign Japanese reliever Okajima
BOSTON — The Red Sox agreed to a contract with a Japanese pitcher — no, not that one.

In the midst of negotiations with potential ace Daisuke Matsuzaka, the Red Sox agreed Thursday to a \$2.5 million, two-year contract with left-handed reliever Hideki Okajima, a deal that includes a \$1.75 million team option for 2009.

The Red Sox also moved closer to signing free agent outfielder J.D. Drew. The sides are in the drafting stages of a \$70 million, five-year contract that is likely to be announced next week, a person familiar with the talks said on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been finalized.

Boston general manager Theo Epstein envisions Okajima as a setup man and occasional specialist against lefty batters.

“He’s going to be a valuable member of our bullpen,” said Epstein.

NFL

Bengals top Ravens on Houshmandzadeh TD

Cincinnati's win means AFC North title is still in contention; Bengals defense looks significantly improved

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Maybe T.J. Houshmandzadeh is right after all.

Houshmandzadeh caught a 40-yard touchdown pass on a flea-flicker that caught Baltimore off-guard, sparking Cincinnati to a 13-7 victory Thursday night that kept the AFC North title up for grabs.

A surprisingly stout Bengals defense had a lot to do with it.

Coming off a 30-0 win in Cleveland, one of the NFL's lowest-ranked defenses held Baltimore scoreless until Steve McNair threw a 36-yard touchdown pass to Derrick Mason with 1:01 to play. No Cincinnati defense had ever gone seven quarters without allowing a point.

With a chance to win the AFC North title outright, Baltimore's offense came apart, crossing midfield only once in the first three quarters.

Keiwan Ratliff clinched it by recovering the onside kick after Baltimore's only score.

All of it supported Houshmandzadeh's main point: Right now, Cincinnati (7-5) just might be the better team.

After the Ravens won 26-20 on Nov. 5, the long-haired receiver insisted that everyone knows the Bengals are better. He repeated it again this week, getting a rise out of some of the Ravens. Safety Ed Reed suggested that Houshmandzadeh should just shut up.

The Ravens were in no position to argue after Houshmandzadeh caught 10 passes for a season-high 106 yards, including the trick-play touchdown that made it 13-0 early in the second half and allowed the defense to dig in on a rainy night.

The Bengals don't usually resort to trick plays — their offense has enough firepower to beat teams straight-up. They did something different against one of the league's nastiest defenses.

On their first drive of the second half, Palmer handed off to Rudi Johnson, who then lateralled the ball back to quarterback. Houshmandzadeh was well beyond the coverage when Palmer let fly with the flea-flicker pass.

Reed was the only player close to Houshmandzadeh when he caught the ball at the 12 and ran untouched into the end zone.

Palmer had a solid showing against a defense that led the league in interceptions, ranked second in sacks and was third in points allowed. The Ravens rarely got to Palmer, who was on the mark on a rainy night — 21-of-32 for 234 yards with only two sacks.

More stunning was the Bengals' defense.

Cincinnati's defense plummeted to last in the league

rankings after giving up 42 second-half points to San Diego and nearly 600 yards to New Orleans. The defense got itself straightened out during the shutout in Cleveland, its first in 17 years.

It was even better against Baltimore.

Baltimore crossed mid-

field only in the first half, and came away empty when Matt Stover missed a 29-yard field goal in the closing seconds. He made the kick on his first try, but the Bengals strategically called timeout just before the snap.

On the second try, holder Sam Koch struggled with a

bad snap and the kick went to the left, only Stover's second miss in 21 tries this season.

The Ravens knew then that it wasn't their day.

By contrast, Shayne Graham connected from 23 and 27 yards in the first half, giving the Bengals an early lead and a chance to

relax.

Baltimore played the second half without returner B.J. Sams, who broke the fibula in his lower right leg while returning the kickoff. His right foot twisted awkwardly, and he was taken off the field on a cart with his right ankle in a protective brace.

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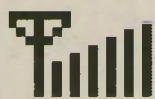
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NCAA FOOTBALL

SEC commissioner balances conference with BCS

Slive maintains that role with BCS is not a conflict of interests

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As Southeastern Conference commissioner, Mike Slive's job is to be an advocate for his members at bowl time. He believes being Bowl Championship Series coordinator does not change that.

The SEC is in prime position to get two teams in the BCS when the pairings are released Sunday. The winner of the SEC championship game between Arkansas and Florida on Saturday receives an automatic bid.

LSU was fifth in the last BCS standings, right behind Florida, and will be in the mix for an at-large berth in one of the five big-money bowls.

Slive said all commissioners have a responsibility to promote their teams to bowl officials.

"As commissioners, we talk with bowls about our teams, and we talk about how good we think they are and we know they are," Slive said Wednesday during a teleconference. "We talk about the fan base. I talk about the fact in the SEC that we had ... over 6.8 million people to

our games this past year, and we just wanted to make sure that everyone knows all there is to know about the Southeastern Conference."

The SEC champ will play in the Sugar Bowl, unless Florida can catch some breaks and reach the national title game. LSU could be looking at a Rose Bowl bid.

"I think you advocate as a commissioner, and as a BCS coordinator, my roles is to make sure that the system works properly, fairly and equitably," Slive said.

Slive reiterated he's open to discuss changes in the current BCS systems, including the plus-one model which would set the championship game after the big four bowl games are played.

In the current system, the top two teams after the regular season meet in the BCS championship game.

For the first time this season five BCS games will be played instead of four. The championship game will be played on Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz., about a week after the Fiesta, Sugar, Rose and Orange bowls are played.

Slive also said that the BCS should not influence a conference's decision whether to play a league championship game. Of the original six BCS conferences, the SEC, Big 12 and Atlantic Coast



Arkansas tailback Darren McFadden, right, tries to evade LSU defensive end Ryan Willis in the first quarter of Arkansas's 31-26 loss to the Tigers Nov. 24.

Conference play title games, adding an extra difficult game to their schedules. The Pac-10, Big Ten and Big East do not.

"One of the premises of the BCS is that every conference

has the right to figure out how it wants to determine its champion," he said. "We (in the SEC) enjoy a championship game and we can't dictate to any other league that they have to have a

championship game. So we have to put together our priorities and obviously we would love to win the national championship, but we certainly value and hold highly our (championship) game."



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SMC SWIMMING

Belles prepare for DePauw Invitational meet

Saint Mary's swimmers have put up outstanding times this season but are focused on team success this weekend

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Halfway through a season filled with great individual success, the Belles will compete today and Saturday in the DePauw Invitational, a 10-team meet hosted by DePauw University.

The Belles have four swimmers who hold one of the top-10 fastest times to date in their events. Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth ranks first out of 20 swimmers in the 1,650-yard freestyle with a time of 11:04.

"It's a sign I'm making progression in the right direc-

tion," she said. "Now I just have to get first at the meet and then I will be happy."

Gerbeth is also ranked second in the 500 free and sixth in the 200 free.

Freshman Sara Niemann ranks sixth in the 200-yard backstroke and ninth in the 200 free.

Freshman Lindsey Nelis holds the seventh fastest time in the 200 free and 10th fastest in the 500 free. Freshman Kayla Ferguson is ranked seventh in both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard backstroke.

In a large meet like this, preliminary morning races allow 16 swimmers to qualify for evening finals. The fastest

eight swimmers go to the finals, and swimmers nine through 16 go to consolation races. The preliminary races are the most important.

"The prelim swims are crucial because no one from the consolation finals can place ahead of anyone in the finals regardless of their time during the evening swim," Saint Mary's coach Ryan Dombkowski said.

The point system starts at 20 points for first place and decreases to one point for 16th. Relays earn double points, making them an important factor. The Belles 800-yard freestyle

relay team is ranked fifth.

The Belles have struggled with depth all year, and a large meet like this one will bring that deficiency into stark relief.

"We are one of the smaller teams so we all have to do our best to make an impact at the meet," Gerbeth said.

However, both Dombkowski and Gerbeth expect other swimmers to step up, including freshman Jen Lebiecz, sophomore Shannon

Hansen and junior Kelly Tighe.

Saint Mary's, however, is anything but unprepared for the competition.

"I've asked the team to put in a decent amount of yardage during the Thanksgiving holiday, and this week we've rested for a few days and worked on some of the different segments of our races," Dombkowski said.

Gerbeth said the team had been "taking it easy this week."

"We were all expected to swim hard last week on our breaks, and this week we are relaxing our muscles a little more and preparing for the meet," she said. "There are going to be a lot of close races this weekend, and the most competition we have seen so far, so we all want to be prepared."

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu

"It's a sign I'm making progress in the right direction."

Melissa Gerbeth
Belles swimmer

"There are going to be a lot of close races this weekend, and the most competition we have seen so far."

Melissa Gerbeth
Belles swimmer

NCAA FOOTBALL

Bruins are USC's only title barrier

Georgia Tech takes on Wake Forest in ACC Championship game

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The UCLA Bruins trudged off the Coliseum field following a 66-19 loss to Southern California last year with a feeling they'll always remember.

And Bruins center Robert Chai believes that's a good thing.

"I remember thinking as I stood in the tunnel, 'I don't ever want to feel this again,'" Chai said. "I don't want anyone on this team to forget what that felt like."

The outcome might have been expected, but the margin of victory wasn't. USC entered with an 11-0 record and UCLA was 9-1.

"All year long, you talk about this game," Chai said. "You talk about it at the beginning of the season, talk about it during summer training. You talk about USC, that you want to beat them. And unfortunately the past couple of years, we haven't done the job."

Chai has a short memory — USC has beaten UCLA seven straight times, not just the last couple of years. When the teams meet Saturday at the Rose Bowl, the Bruins will be shooting for their first win over their crosstown rivals since 1998.

"Very frustrating. It makes you sick," Bruins cornerback Trey Brown said. "This is our opportunity to shut people up and earn some respect. It's been way too long. It's got to stop sometime."

While the Bruins may have been thinking about the Trojans for some time, as Chai said, that apparently hasn't been the case at USC. Coach Pete Carroll believes every game is a championship game, and his players have embraced that philosophy.

Now that it's UCLA week, though, Carroll and his players are free to speak on the significance of playing the Bruins.

"We love this matchup and we love playing it, whether it's at the Coliseum or at the Rose

Bowl," Carroll said. "We don't get to play another game for a long time — this is the last game we get to play this year."

"Next year, we get to play another game, so we will deal with that when the time comes."

No. 2 USC (10-1, 7-1 Pac-10) can clinch a berth in the BCS title game with a victory — just like it did last year. If the Trojans lose, they'll play in the Rose Bowl game.

They swear they won't be caught looking ahead.

"The history of all sports says yes. The history of this football team says no," Carroll said regarding that possibility. "We haven't had problems with that. That is not a factor I'm concerned about at all."

Win or lose, UCLA (6-5, 4-4) will oppose Florida State in the Emerald Bowl on Dec. 27 in San Francisco.

The Trojans have a 41-27-7 record in the series that dates back to 1929, when they beat the Bruins 76-0. UCLA won eight straight before USC began its current seven-game winning streak.

Some of the wildest games have been played at the Rose Bowl, where UCLA has played its home games since 1982. Before that, the teams shared the Coliseum.

UCLA won a 20-19 decision in the first game the teams played at the Rose Bowl when the Trojans failed on a 2-point conversion in the final seconds. USC's Todd Marinovich threw a touchdown pass in the final minute to give his team a 45-42 victory in 1990.

ACC Championship Game — Georgia Tech vs. Wake Forest

Reggie Ball has a way of bouncing back from his lowest moments.

He'll certainly need those pow-

ers of recovery on Saturday.

The Georgia Tech quarterback is coming off a miserable performance against Georgia, but he doesn't have long to fret about it. The No. 23 Yellow Jackets (9-3) are facing 16th-ranked Wake Forest in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game, with the winner claiming a spot in the Orange Bowl.

"He'll come back strong," teammate Calvin Johnson predicted. "We have a tough game coming up. We know Reggie is not going to let it bother him at all."

Clearly, Ball has a lot of forgetting to do.

Last week, the senior looked like a raw freshman in the 48th start of his career, completing just 6-of-22 passes for 42 yards in a 15-12 loss to Georgia Tech's most bitter rival. As if that wasn't bad enough, he was intercepted twice and coughed up a fumble that was returned for Georgia's first touchdown.

"Reggie! Reggie! Reggie!" the Georgia crowd chanted derisively.

But Ball has been through this sort of thing before during an up-and-down career. As a freshman, he was picked off three times in a blowout loss to lowly Duke — the Blue Devils' first ACC win in four years — but he rebounded the following week with three touchdown passes to beat North Carolina.

In 2004, Ball nearly lost his starting job when he completed just 20-of-54 with six interceptions in back-to-back losses to North Carolina and Miami. He played much better in the next game, an upset win over Maryland, and coach Chan Gailey dismissed any thought of making a change.

Ball's maddening inconsistency stretched all the way to his senior season.

"We have a tough game coming up. We know Reggie is not going to let it bother him at all."

Calvin Johnson
Yellow Jackets receiver

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MEN'S SWIMMING

No. 16 Notre Dame takes on 12 teams in tournament

This weekend's Ohio State Invitational will test the Irish as the team tries to improve on its program-best No. 16 ranking

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Things are looking up right now for the men's swimming and diving team.

Notre Dame is off to a 4-0 start this fall in its dual meet schedule and is currently ranked No. 16 in the latest College Swim Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) poll — the highest ranking in the program's history.

Head coach Tim Welsh, however, knows this can all change quickly.

"If we keep improving, the rankings will take care of themselves," he said. "If we don't, then they'll go the other way."

Notre Dame will have the chance this weekend to see how much it has improved over the last few months as it heads to Columbus to take part in the Ohio State Invitational.

The event will feature 12 teams, but only five universities will send both swimming and diving teams. Among them are two other CSCAA ranked teams. No. 7 Minnesota and No. 12 Ohio State round out the top-25 competition, while No. 18 Purdue — who the Irish

defeated 156-144 in a dual meet Nov. 2 — will only send its diving team.

"We're looking forward to the challenge," Welsh said. "That's why we came. We want to race in the fastest possible field and make our fastest swimmers work really hard."

The meet will include 15 individual events and five relays, with the relays counting for twice as many points as the individual events.

"The format is the same for the Big East meet and the NCAAAs," associate head coach Matt Tallman said. "We're

trying to get everyone prepared for that."

Leading the way for the Irish this year with seven individual wins is senior Ted Brown. Brown has excelled in a variety of events, spreading his seven wins over five different events — the 200-yard free, 200 IM, 200 fly, 500 free and 1,000 free.

Fellow senior Tim Kegel also has seven wins overall, including five relay wins.

The Irish have also benefited from the performances of their new team members.

Sophomore Jeff Wood has

five relay wins and individual wins in the 200-backstroke and 100-backstroke in dual meet competition, while freshman John Lytle has also has five relay wins to go along with dual meet wins in the 100 and 200-yard freestyle.

"I think from top to bottom, this is the best team we've had," Tallman said.

Welsh said he tries not to let the early success get to the swimmers' heads by critiquing their progress.

"Each guy has a list of things they can improve upon," Welsh said. "There's always room for improvement."

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"If we keep improving, the rankings will take care of themselves."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

"I think from top to bottom, this is the best team we've had."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to shake off loss to Hope against Vikings

Team faces second of five contests on road

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Fresh off a 67-42 loss to Hope in its first conference game, Saint Mary's will try to regroup in its second of five games on the road against North Park tonight.

The Belles continued to be hampered by turnovers, losing

possession 29 times against Hope. The youth of the team factored into the prevalence of turnovers, said head coach Jennifer Henley, but it was not the only culprit.

"We need to do a better job of recognizing defense before passing," she said.

The Belles face a tough Viking offense led by senior guards Laura Mount and Lauren Martin. Martin shoots a fiery 60 percent from three-point range, and Mount leads the team in scoring with 16.7

points per game. Stopping them will be a challenge.

"We need to contain Martin Friday night," Henley said. "She is a very good shooter. We will have to find her in transition and make her work for every shot."

The Belles are up to the task, however. The Saint Mary's defense held Hope junior guard Jordan Boles — who has shot 43.2 percent from the field on the season — to just six points on 3-of-11 shooting.

"Boles is a great player. We

told the team to find her in transition and not give any help off of her defensively," Henley said. "Alison Kessler guarded her most of the evening and she really did a nice job on her."

Even if the defense performs well, the Vikings — who sink 43.8 percent of their field goal attempts — will ensure that the game will be a shootout. Saint Mary's must keep up on offense as well.

"We always want to look to score in transition and have that up tempo style of basketball," Henley said. "We will rely on our defense and rebounding to take care of Martin, Mount and [junior forward Evie] Peterson."

For this to happen, Saint Mary's offensive leaders — Kessler and senior guard

Bridget Lipke — will have to perform better than against Hope, a game in which they combined to shoot 19 percent from the field.

"We will rely on our defense and rebounding."

Jennifer Henley
Belles coach

"Hope focused on shutting down Lipke and Kessler, like we expected them to," Henley said. "They have been our leaders from the beginning."

In addition, the post players will have to do a better job of producing and making their presence known.

"We have been telling our post players all season that they need to step up and be a factor," Henley said. "Anna [Kammrath] did a great job on the boards for us and got some easy buckets."

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wbrink@nd.edu



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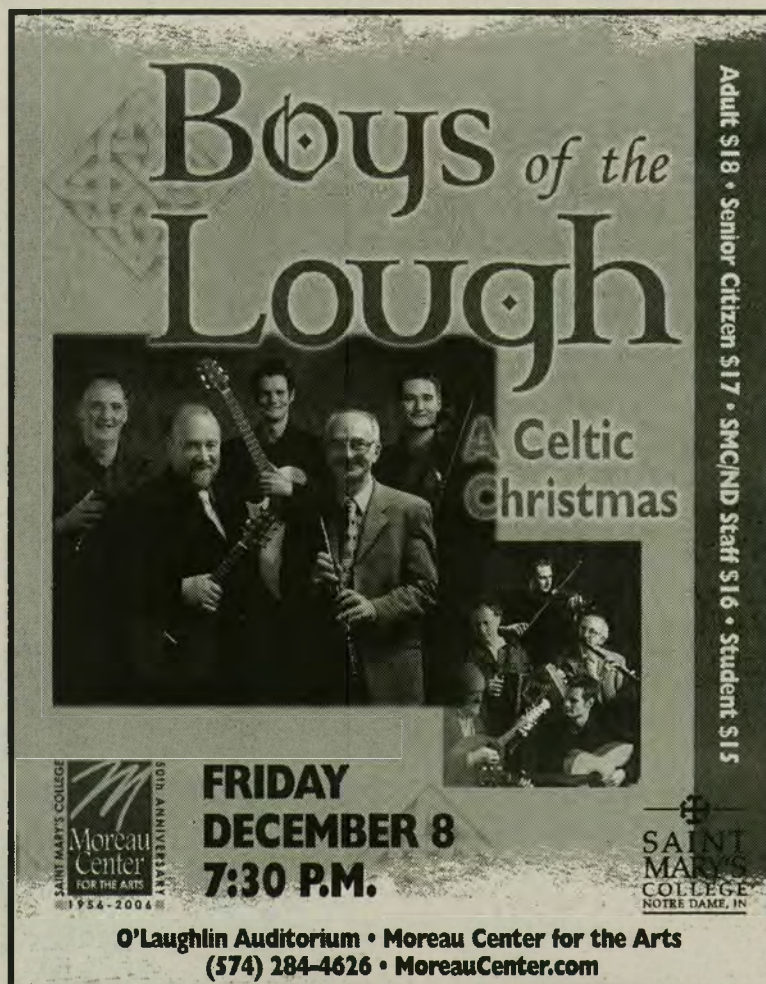
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SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE NOTRE DAME, IN

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish prepare for first round of NCAA tourney

Notre Dame will travel to Madison tonight to take on the Badgers in its 15th consecutive postseason appearance

By DEVIN PRESTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame kicks off NCAA Tournament play with a match at No. 10 Wisconsin tonight at 8 p.m. Facing such a highly ranked team in the first round of the tournament will challenge Notre Dame, but the Irish are ready to go up against Wisconsin.

Notre Dame, now in its 15th consecutive appearance in the NCAA Tournament, is one of only eight teams to be so prolific in the post-season.

Irish head coach Debbie Brown knows her team will have to bring its best against the Badgers.

"They're a strong team, no question," she said. "They have good net play and blocking. I think they're one of the top five blocking teams in the country right now."

There's more to Wisconsin than defense, however. Brown said she is equally concerned about how the Irish defense will fare against a high-powered Badgers attack.

"They have a well balanced offense as well," Brown said.

The Badgers (23-7) are led offensively by freshman outside hitter Brittney Dolgner, who has been able to rack up 4.14 kills per game. Other key players on the

Wisconsin squad include fellow All Big-Ten players Taylor Reineke, with 1.62 blocks per game, and Jackie Simpson, with 12.86 assists per game.

The Irish offense is led by

freshman outside hitter Christina Kaelin's 3.56 kills per game, and is balanced by 3.08 kills per game from junior Adrianna Stasiuk and another 2.99 kills per game from sophomore Mallorie Croal.

While Wisconsin ranks just third in the Big Ten, its national ranking shows that the Big Ten is a very strong conference and has prepared the team for the post season.

Wisconsin displays a level of play much higher than that of the Big East opponents Notre Dame has played during the regular season.

"[Wisconsin] is probably

most similar to Louisville, in that they're big at the net, they have very tall players. They're better than Louisville," Brown said. "Better defensively, but that's the team that's most similar to what we're going to see."

Wisconsin will be looking for a chance to put Notre Dame's season to an end this year, but the Irish are entering the tournament with a strong desire to overcome the nationally ranked obstacle in their way.

"It's a challenge, but not one that's too big for us to handle," Brown said. "It's definitely something we can handle. We're at the point where we have nothing to lose, and we're going in with the mind-

set that we can achieve an upset."

Going up against teams favored to win is not something new for the Irish, especially in recent play. Notre Dame has been seen as the underdog in its last four matches.

But an underdog mentality will only take the Irish so far. For Brown, the crucial element will be the players

working together as a team.

"There's really not one thing that will make the difference," she said. "We need to have a total team effort."

Contact Devin Preston at
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"They have good net play and blocking. I think they're one of the top five blocking teams in the country right now."

Debbie Brown
Irish coach

"It's a challenge, but not one that's too big for us to handle."

Debbie Brown
Irish coach

Terps

continued from page 24

beating Maryland — and following it with a win against Alabama — would give the team confidence heading into the Big East season.

"If you can play well this week, get a couple wins, it could jumpstart something that could be really special, there's no doubt about that," Falls

said. "We have marquee wins ... highlighted wins on our non-conference schedule that could mean a lot at the end of the year."

Point guard Kyle McAlarney said the Irish will need to pressure the ball and control the game speed to beat Maryland. McAlarney scored 10 points against Winston-Salem State and said he's still figuring out a balance between running the team and looking for his shot.

"I think it's going to be very important for us to control the

tempo of the game," McAlarney said. "We're just going to go out there, have fun, nothing to lose for us, and we're just gonna play. We're not scared of them and we're not backing down."

Brey used his entire bench in Wednesday's win and said after the game he is still in the process

of establishing how many players will be in the regular rotation.

Freshmen Tory Jackson and Luke Harangody, along with sophomore Zach Hillesland, have been the first three off the bench. Sophomore Ryan Ayers played 21 minutes Monday, his first significant chunk of

"I think it's going to be very important for us to control the tempo of the game."

Kyle McAlarney
Irish guard

time of the season.

"[We] try to jump start him a little bit, try to see if we got nine [in the rotation]," Brey said. "I think if you've watched us the last couple games, is it nine, is it eight, is it eight and a half, is it nine? I think we're really trying to figure that out."

Tip off between Notre Dame and Maryland is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

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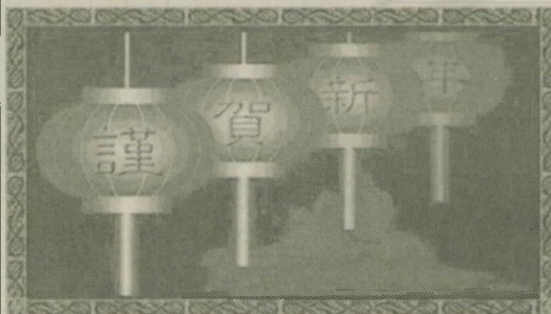


ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Sophomore guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles down the court in a 95-40 win over Winston-Salem Nov. 29.

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Nanooks

continued from page 24

But this season the No. 14 Nanooks (6-2-4, 4-1-3 CCHA) will encounter a bigger and vastly improved Irish team when they return to South Bend to play No. 5 Notre Dame (10-3-1, 5-2-1 CCHA) this weekend in the first two of four games between the teams.

Alaska's size and ability to control the puck better than an undersized Irish team in the playoff series forced Irish coach Jeff Jackson to institute a heavy offseason strength program.

"Alaska was the one that really forced us to add some girth on our team," Jackson said. "Our guys added a lot of weight, strength and a big part of that was due to the fact that Alaska is not the only team that's big. Lake Superior is a big, physical team and Ferris State has some big guys on their team. You run across

that with different teams in college hockey, and you have to be prepared to play against either type of team if you're going to be successful."

The Irish added the weight, a speedy freshman class and a lot more to launch themselves to the top of the national rankings, but Alaska has worked its way into the top 15 behind several new contributors. Among them is sophomore goaltender Chad Johnson, who has taken control of a majority of the starting job from junior Wylie Rogers — the stonewall behind the Nanook playoff series win.

"We thought we were kind of clicking at the right time last year, but we ran into a hot goaltender and a team that matched up well against us," Irish defenseman Dan VeNard said of Rogers and last year's playoffs. "And they kind of just

stopped our momentum."

Johnson is currently ninth in the nation in goals-against average (1.96) and 12th in save percentage (.923), while Rogers has a 3.43 average and .895 percentage in four games.

"I think they're both very good," Jackson said. "Wiley Rogers played great against us last year — I wouldn't be surprised to see him either, they know he played well against us too."

The Nanooks' success lies not only in their size and strong defense behind Johnson's goaltending, but also a potent offensive attack behind junior left wing Kyle Greentree and newcomer Dion Knelsen. Greentree is Alaska's scoring leader (11 goals, nine assists), while Knelsen is fourth with four goals and six assists.

Prior to an injury in early

"Alaska was the one that really forced us to add some girth on our team."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

November against Nebraska-Omaha, Knelsen had been fourth in the nation in points per game (1.5), earning recognition from pro scouts. He was named an "A" prospect Nov. 15 by the National Hockey League's Central Scouting Service, a label saying he has the potential to be drafted in the first three rounds of the upcoming NHL draft — the first "A" prospect in Alaska history. Knelsen is also 17 years old, the second youngest player in college hockey.

"They do a real nice job of recruiting in my opinion," Jackson said. "They've got some talented players on their team and adding another offensive skilled player is no different than us."

Notre Dame enters the weekend series after a late loss Saturday to Nebraska-Omaha. The Irish allowed a third-period goal on a Maverick five-on-three to lose 3-2 — something they paid for in practice Tuesday.

"Practice was fun, we got the legs going a little bit,"

VeNard said. "They're a little more sore now. Obviously there were mistakes made on the weekend, so we paid for them."

The Irish must improve on scoring five-on-five and receive significant contributions from multiple forward lines each night, Jackson said, but also to maintain the stellar defense — first in the nation with 1.36 goals allowed per game — that has launched the team into the national spotlight.

"Part of that is not just from a defensive perspective, part of that is from we're doing a much better job possessing the puck," Jackson said. "And that's the best defense of all, when you're not throwing the puck away — when you're cycling and controlling the tempo of the game."

The series will begin at 7:05 p.m. at the Joyce Center Saturday, due to the football banquet being held in the

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

Wolves

continued from page 24

starting four of the Wolverines seven games this season. She is second on the team in both points per game (8.9) and rebounds per game (5.4).

"[Phillips has] done a lot of good things. She's definitely somebody who's going to be a force for us just because of her size [6-foot-6]," McGraw said.

But Phillips is not the only Wolverines freshman making an impact. Freshman starting guard LeQuisha Whitfield has started all seven games for Michigan this season, averaging 9.4 points per game in 19.3

minutes.

Even with these two freshmen, the Wolverines have a veteran-heavy lineup that returns all five starters from last season as well as 10 letter winners. But McGraw said Notre Dame's combination of veterans and freshmen will also be effective in Ann Arbor.

"We've got some veterans and we certainly start a veteran lineup, but our freshmen play so many minutes," she said. Their contribution has been tremendous, and we do get a little bit younger when we sub."

But this youth will definitely play a factor in the Irish bid for their first win away from the Joyce Center.

"That's our youth showing again, I think. We're working on it," McGraw said of her team's road woes this season. "We're looking to see what kind of things we can change up on gameday, maybe getting on a bus will be getting a little different than getting on a plane."

One of the things McGraw has stressed this season has been her team's rebounding. Notre Dame has struggled at times on the boards, and despite four big home wins, the team has

been unable to box out opponents effectively. The Irish have been outrebounded 36.3-37 against consistently smaller opposition.

"We're really concentrating on rebounding where every drill we're talking about rebounding, seeing if we can improve individually," McGraw said. "We're watching a lot of film to stress how we've got to box out a little bit better an I think we're doing it."

Even though the Irish have had trouble getting the ball off

the glass, they have been able to put it in the hoop in their four wins this season. The team has outscored opponents 86.8-70, giving up less than 70 points to every opponent but one.

The game against Michigan is the first of a three-game stretch against Big Ten opponents for the Irish, who will follow the Wolverines with home games against in-state rivals Indiana and Purdue on Sunday and Wednesday of next week. Despite these two big games next week, McGraw and her team remain focused on the task at hand — Michigan.

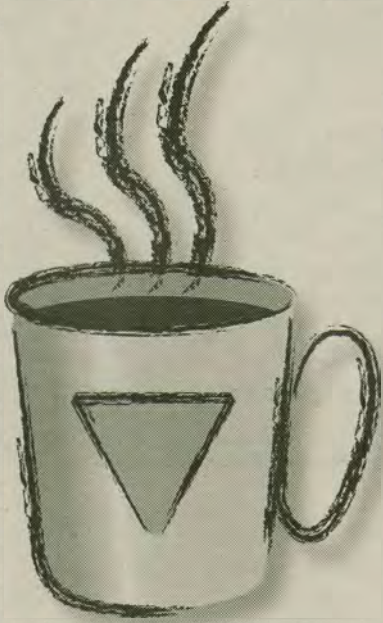
Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

HANG TIME



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Wide receiver Rhema McKnight goes up to catch a pass during a 41-9 win over Army Nov. 18. McKnight had two TDs in the game.



Lunch and Conversation

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Finals

continued from page 24

would be good," sophomore forward Kerri Hanks said.

Irish coach Randy Waldrum, who will be taking Notre Dame to its fourth Final Four in eight years as head coach, said that although expectations are high for his top-ranked squad, he doesn't expect it to be affected by the pressure.

"There's no added pressure to get this far because we expected this," Waldrum said. "Just the fact that we're Notre Dame sometimes adds pressure and when you add the 'No. 1' tag to that, we always get the other team's best effort."

For the Irish upperclassmen, this weekend represents a chance to win their second national championship in three years. Notre Dame beat UCLA for the 2004 title, but

lost to Portland in the quarter-finals last year.

"Our group knows how to win every time they step on the field," Waldrum said. "That's a credit to our seniors and our younger players have bought into it."

The Irish have torn through their opposition so far in the NCAA Tournament, outscoring Oakland, Wisconsin-

Milwaukee, Colorado and Penn State by a combined score of 16-1.

Forwards Michelle Weissenhofer, Brittany Bock and Hanks have combined for 10 goals in the four games.

"I feel like we've played very well lately," Waldrum said. "We've been solid defensively and gotten good chances on offense. But I still hope our best two games are ahead of us."

The Seminoles come into today's game 18-3-4, with two of their three losses coming to the Tar Heels. Florida State

has made the College Cup Semis in three of the last four seasons. Last season, it fell 4-0 to UCLA in the semifinal.

"Florida State's got a really good team and a really up and coming program," Waldrum said. "They're very athletic."

The Seminoles beat Clemson 2-1 last Friday to advance to this year's semifinals.

Florida State is led offensively by forward Selin Kuralay. The junior from Melbourne, Australia has scored 13 goals and dished out three assists so far this season.

Freshman midfielder Becky Edwards leads most Seminole counterattacks, finding open teammates to the tune of eight assists this season.

Florida State will play a defensive style against the aggressive Irish, relying on a defense that has allowed just .59 goals per game this season and has registered 11 shutouts.

"They'll bunker in and look to counter-attack," Waldrum said. "We're going to have to be patient offensively because they'll put a lot of people in the box."

If the Irish can get by the

Seminoles, they will face either the Bruins or Tar Heels. UCLA (21-3) is appearing in its fourth semifinal in four years, while North Carolina (25-1) is looking to add to already impressive tradition in women's soccer.

The Tar Heels have won 18 national titles in the 25 years since the NCAA started awarding women's soccer National Championships.

"You look back and it's 'North Carolina, North Carolina, North Carolina,'" Hanks said. "We have tremendous respect for them and their program."

North Carolina's only loss this year came on Aug. 25, 1-0 in double overtime against

Texas A&M in College Station.

The Tar Heels have won 25 straight games since then, shutting out 15 opponents.

Notes:

◆ Both the semifinals and final this weekend are expected to draw more than 7,000 fans, easily the largest crowd the Irish have played in front of this year.

"[The crowd] shouldn't be a big deal," senior captain Kim Lorenzen said. "It'll be just like any other big game."

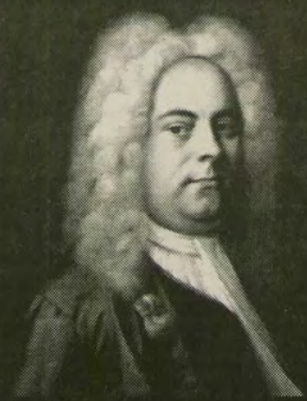
◆ Today's game will be televised live on ESPN U and carried on tape delay on ESPN 2 at noon on Saturday. Sunday's contest will be televised live on ESPN 2.

"There's no added pressure to get this far because we expected this."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

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DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Irish freshman Courtney Rosen dribbles around a St. John's defender in a 3-0 win in the Big East tournament Oct 29.

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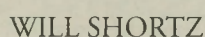
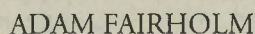
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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Gone to Carolina

Irish travel south for last two games of the NCAA College Cup

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

No. 1 Notre Dame is 24-0-1 this season.

The Irish have outscored their opponents 82-8 and recorded 18 shutouts, including not allowing a goal in their last three tournament games.

Right now, however, none of that matters.

Notre Dame will travel to Cary, N.C., for a College Cup semifinal matchup with No. 5 Florida State 6:30 p.m. today at SAS Soccer Park.

If the Irish get past the Seminoles, they will take on the winner of No. 3 UCLA and co-No. 1 North Carolina for a chance to reach the one goal Notre Dame has focused on since August — the national championship.

"We've done everything we possibly can so far, so if we can win the whole thing, that

see FINALS/page 22



CHRIS MASSAD/The Observer

Irish freshman Michele Weissenhofer, far left, celebrates with her teammates after scoring one of her three goals in a 4-0 victory over Penn State in a NCAA quarterfinal matchup Nov. 24.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ND hopes to get first road win

McGraw has team ready for Ann Arbor

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

After going 0-2 with 53.5 points per game in its first two road matchups this season, Notre Dame is ready to turn this trend around tonight at Michigan.

The Irish (4-2) are coming off a big win against Richmond Tuesday night, while the Wolverines (5-2) look much improved after winning only four games all of last season.

"They're off to their best start in a long time," McGraw said. "They've got a new sixth player — [freshman center Krista] Phillips — who's really changing the game for them."

Phillips has been able to take over games despite only

see WOLVES/page 21

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish face two big tests in Terps and Alabama

ND plays No. 19 Maryland this weekend

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame faces the biggest challenge of its young season Sunday when it travels to the Verizon Center in Washington, D.C. to play No. 19 Maryland in the BB&T Classic.

Maryland (7-0) has already defeated three major conference schools this season with wins over Michigan State, St. John's and Illinois. Irish coach Mike Brey said Wednesday following Notre Dame's 90-45 win over Winston-Salem State that the Terrapins could be one of the hottest teams in the country.

"We have a great opportunity against Maryland, they're a hell of a basketball team," Brey said. "They're men, they're old, they've [been]

around and they're confident. But we've played well in that place down there, I'm still referring to it as the MCI Center."

Brey said Maryland is productive getting inside against its opponents, making it important that Notre Dame doesn't relax on defense when it moves from man-to-man sets into two-three zones.

"They get into your paint on cuts, they get into your paint on drives, they get into your paint on offensive rebounds," Brey said. "That theme that we talked about from the first week of practice as a point of emphasis will really be tested against this group on Sunday."

Notre Dame guard Colin Falls said Wednesday that

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HOCKEY

Team tries to bear Nanooks

No. 16 Alaska swept the Irish during last trip to South Bend

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

In the Inuit language a nanook is a polar bear, but in Inuit mythology Nanook was the master of bears — the power that determined if hunters deserved success in the pursuit of their prey, and a fitting nickname for the team that out-powered Notre Dame last season.

The Nanooks of the University of Alaska played the role of their mythological forebear last year and decided that Notre Dame did not deserve to move on to the second round of the 2006 CCHA playoffs, sweeping the Irish out in a first round series at the Joyce Center.

see NANOOKS/page 21



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Junior forward Mark Van Guilder and defenseman Brock Sheahan battle for a loose puck in a 4-0 win over Mich. State Nov 17.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

ND VOLLEYBALL

**Notre Dame at Wisconsin
Tonight, 8 p.m.**

The NCAA tourney opens up with match in Madison.

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ND SWIMMING

Ohio State Invite

Today-Sunday

The No. 16 Irish take their 4-0 record to Columbus to face stiff competition.

page 19

SMC SWIMMING

DePauw Invite

Today-Saturday

The Belles look to continue their early success in a 10 team meet this weekend.

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SMC BASKETBALL

**Belles at North Park
Tonight, 7 p.m.**

Saint Mary's tries to capture its first MIAA conference win of the year.

page 19

MLB

Philadelphia Phillies sign right-handed pitcher Adam Eaton to a three-year contract.

page 15

NHL

**Boston 4
Toronto 3**

Bruins wing Phil Kessel scores shootout goal to give Boston the comeback victory.

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