

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 43 : ISSUE 42

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2008

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ELECTION 2008

Indiana candidates prepare for election

Students help out on local congressional campaigns

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

While the 2008 Presidential election has spurred many students to become involved in national campaigns, some Notre Dame students have turned their attention to the local elections that will also take place on Nov. 4.

Incumbent Joe Donnelly is running against challenger Luke Puckett for Representative of Indiana's 2nd District. Both candidates told The Observer they have seen enthusiastic support from Notre Dame students.

"There have been a number of students and faculty who volunteer on a regular basis," Donnelly said. "We are extraordinarily grateful for all the help that they



Clockwise from top left, Jill Long Thompson, Gov. Mitch Daniels, Luke Puckett and Rep. Joe Donnelly all hit the Indiana campaign trail to drum up support before Nov. 4.

see CONGRESS/page 4

Incumbent Daniels holds lead over Long Thompson

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

With Election Day looming, incumbent Republican Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has opened a 12-point lead over Democratic challenger Jill Long Thompson, according to a Research 2000 poll released October 25.

Long Thompson, who narrowly defeated Jim Schellinger by less than a percentage point in the Democratic primary, also trails in campaign contributions, having raised about \$4.5 million in 2008 compared to Daniels's \$8.4 million, according to the Indianapolis Star.

The difference in campaign funds has been a major factor in the election, according to adjunct professor of American

see GOVERNOR/page 6

ND Alumni address security concerns

New Web site, council will attempt to restore friendly atmosphere by working with University



Students cheer on the Fighting Irish football at Notre Dame's 28-21 win over Stanford on Oct. 4.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

By KATIE KOHLER
Assistant Managing Editor

Even though University President Fr. John Jenkins created an ad hoc committee to review football weekend safety and security protocol earlier in the month to address complaints from fans, some alumni and fans said there is still more that can be done.

Eric Murray, a 1998 Notre Dame graduate, along with around six other alumni and several other contributors, founded the Alumni Council for Enforcement Reform to

address these concerns. Murray is spearheading the effort to restore the atmosphere of past seasons without escalating law enforcement.

"Our goal is not to have a confrontational relationship with the University. We want to act as a conduit to validate these complaints towards a rational response," he said.

They have received numerous responses via their website, thereal-notredame.com — some more vocal than others —

see USHERS/page 4

Students push for unions

CLAP collects signatures to support ND workers

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Members of the Campus Labor Action Project (CLAP) at Notre Dame want to "break the taboo of the word 'union,'" CLAP member Sarah Lyons said, so starting today they will begin an education campaign and collect signatures in support of a union for Notre Dame workers.

"A big part of this education campaign will be showing that unions are not a ridiculous, crazy idea," CLAP member Mary DeAgostino said Thursday. "The law supports it. Catholic social teaching supports it. [Executive Vice President] John Affleck-Graves said he supports workers' right to unionize. It's kind of ridiculous our workers have to be so afraid of talking about a union."

CLAP will kick off its campaign on a home football game Friday to pick up alumni signatures, CLAP member Nick Kraft said.

"If [the workers] see that a few hundred people are willing to sign something that says they support this effort, that's just a real boost in confidence," he said.

see CLAP/page 6

Panel discusses political involvement

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

A panel of local community members discussed the rights of political involvement that are held by citizens living in modern society in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center Thursday.

With the 2008 presidential election less than a week away, students and other members of the campus community have developed a heightened sense of interest in their ability to partake in political activities as Americans.

This event, entitled "Beyond Voting: A Right to Political Participation in the 21st Century,"

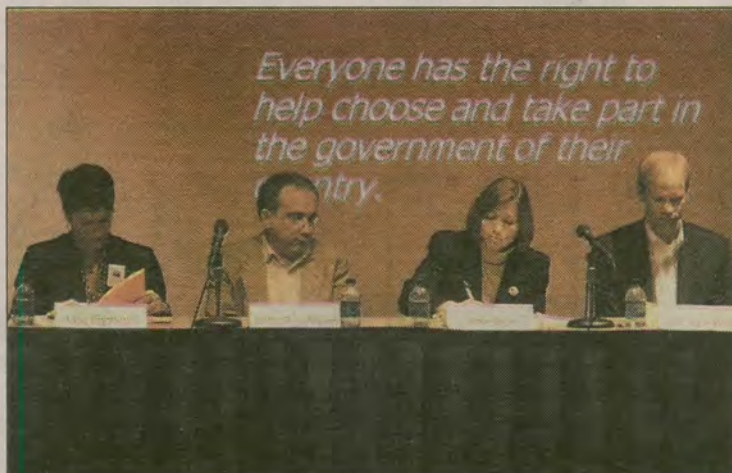
is a part of the yearlong celebration of the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Jackie Smith, an associate professor of Sociology and Peace Studies, moderated the discussion, the focus of which was to educate and discuss the practice of democracy on a local, national, and international level.

"Political participation has to expand far beyond the ballot box if we want it to count," Smith said.

Participants in the panel were four people from the local South Bend community. Two of the pan-

see PANEL/page 6



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Left to right, Lisa Plencer, Robert Fishman, Julia King and Fr. Robert Dowd discuss the importance of voting yesterday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Catholics rock

A woman foams at the mouth, convulsing hysterically. A man howls and lunges, attacking the priest praying for him.

These scenes seem straight out of a low-budget horror movie. But for Rev. Vincent Lampert, official exorcist of the archdiocese of Indianapolis, this is just another day's work. His tools are a rosary, crucifix, Holy Water and the ancient tome *The Rites of Exorcism*.

Tess Civantos

News Writer

Father Lampert came to speak at the Catholic Newman Center of the University of Illinois about his experiences as an exorcist while I visited there, and his stories range from the humorous to the outright frightening.

Most people think of demon possession as a superstitious tradition from the Middle Ages.

The truth: It is a worldwide reality. Nobody knows this better than Lampert, who receives five or six calls a week from people seeking an exorcist's help. He refers every person psychiatric counseling. If the psychiatrist cannot find a medical explanation, only then will Lampert begin consultations.

The most important qualification: the person must want to be exorcised. Also, Rev. Lampert makes sure the person has the mental and physical stamina to undergo exorcism, a demanding process.

Demons go to great lengths to distract the exorcist from his prayers. They force their hosts to levitate, foam at the mouth, speak in creepy voices and foreign tongues and have superhuman strength. Demons know a person's sins until the person confesses them, so demon's hosts will yell out the exorcist's unconfessed sins.

"That just creates an awkward situation," Rev. Lampert joked.

The demons curse God, the saints and anyone else — with one huge exception.

"They curse everyone except for the Blessed Virgin," Rev. Lampert said.

As a Notre Dame student, I was pretty excited to know my school is under the protection of the only person the Devil won't mess with. Apparently insulting God's mom is further than even the Devil will go.

Rev. Lampert's talk was one of the most interesting lectures I've attended at any college. My question: Why hasn't Notre Dame invited Rev. Lampert to speak? It's Halloween, the perfect time for discussing demons; we're a Catholic university, where a priest would be a welcome speaker; and Indianapolis is much nearer to us than to the University of Illinois.

My other question: Why do those in fear of supernatural forces always turn to the Catholic Church? Rev. Lampert's clients are usually non-Catholics, and when he advises them to turn to a pastor or religious leader of their own faith, the answer is always the same: their pastors told them to seek out a Catholic priest. It's as if they are admitting Catholics are the real deal, the only ones who can stand up to the devil's most powerful weapons. I've heard people joke that "Protestants are Catholics Lite." If demon possession and the very real work of exorcists is any measure, that certainly seems true.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Tess Civantos at tcivantos@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

In the Oct. 29 In Focus special edition of The Observer, the speech excerpt run on page 2 was from a speech Sen. John McCain gave in 2004, not his acceptance speech at the Republican National Convention. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOU EATING FOR DINNER?



Maeve Raphaelson
junior
McGlinn

"A Fapita —
part fajita, part
pita."



Scott Barton
sophomore
St. Edwards

"Chicken
wings."



Renee Rinehart
junior
Lyons

"Veggies — it's
what's for
dinner."



Danny Buckley
sophomore
Alumni

"Wing Night
sucks."



James DeDreo
freshman
Dillon

"Tossed shells
with meat balls
and baked
chicken in a
basil marinara
sauce."



Patrick Johnson
sophomore
Dillon

"Tomorrow's
energy."



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Notre Dame point guard Kyle Mcalarny dribbles up court during Notre Dame's 86-83 win against Marquette last February. The Notre Dame basketball team takes on Briar Cliff tomorrow night at 9 p.m. at the Joyce Center in its preseason opener.

OFFBEAT

Zoo uses crane to rescue polar bear that fell into moat

MILWAUKEE — A polar bear that fell into a dry moat at his zoo enclosure more than two weeks ago was rescued Thursday by officials who hoisted him out with a crane.

Zero the bear was playing with a toy on Oct. 13 at the Milwaukee County Zoo when he tumbled off the edge of his exhibit and landed unhurt on netting a metre or two above the moat floor. Zoo officials cut the net so the bear could drop safely.

Officials had hoped the 19 year old polar bear

would use a nearby stairway in the moat to climb back to his exhibit, but he stayed where he was. The zoo tried to tempt him out with treats such as apples, peanut butter and herring, but officials were forced to physically remove him when efforts proved unsuccessful.

Zoo officials anesthetized him and pulled the 500-kilogram bear out Thursday morning.

Japanese teacher punished for horsing around

TOKYO — A Japanese teacher was reprimanded after leaving her classes

more than 150 times so she could take horse-riding lessons, the education board said Wednesday.

The 50-year-old middle school teacher in western Osaka prefecture would leave her students waiting as she went out to ride horses and then return directly home.

She took 152 riding lessons for more than two years until this month, mastering horse-jumping over a fence, the Osaka educational board said in a statement.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Student Activities Office will be having a Halloween Fest today from noon to 5 p.m. There will be free food from restaurants like Chipotle, Jimmy John's, and Chick-Fil-A. There will also be Halloween activities and games played throughout the afternoon.

Notre Dame Glee Club will be performing at DeBartolo Performing Arts Center today at 8 p.m. Admission will be \$3 for students.

Student Activities Office is holding a Haunted Campus Tour today starting at 10 p.m. in LaFortune Ballroom. The tour is part of the SAO Halloween Weekend.

Gregory P. Crawford, Dean of the College of Science will give a lecture entitled "Notre Dame Science: Making a Difference" Saturday at 11 a.m. in Room 105 of the Jordan Hall of Science.

Black Images will be held on Saturday from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. It will be held in Washington Hall. Admission is \$5.

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will be holding a concert by the Alison Brown Quartet on Sunday at 2 p.m. The quartet is a bluegrass band. Tickets will be \$38 for general admission and \$15 for students.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	GAME DAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 65	HIGH 43	HIGH 57	HIGH 60	HIGH 67	HIGH 72
	LOW 43	LOW 33	LOW 40	LOW 45	LOW 52	LOW 55

Atlanta 66 / 42 Boston 60 / 34 Chicago 64 / 44 Denver 81 / 61 Houston 78 / 57 Los Angeles 74 / 62 Minneapolis 62 / 45 New York 61 / 38 Philadelphia 64 / 36 Phoenix 91 / 67 Seattle 57 / 49 St. Louis 70 / 47 Tampa 79 / 58 Washington 66 / 37

Academic building dedicated at College

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Students, faculty, benefactors and University officials gathered Thursday to dedicate Saint Mary's new academic building Spes Unica.

"The whole building is filled with light," vice president and the dean of faculty Patricia Fleming said. "There is real energy in this building. I hope you have had a chance to see it today."

Visiting alumnae, benefactors and family viewed the results of their generous contributions during the open house and tours of Spes Unica. Current students and faculty members led tours around the building, leaving from the Atrium every 15 minutes beginning at 1:30.

After the open house, visitors received a taste of the academic programs and centers housed in Spes Unica through the academic presentations. There were 23 different presentations by professors and students and department open houses.

The official blessing of Spes Unica began at 5 p.m. with a welcome from Fleming. The ceremony continued with a Bible reading by Student Body President Michelle Gruscinski and a reflection the Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy, Bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese.

In his homily, D'Arcy dis-

cussed Saint Mary's dedication to the growth of not only the minds of its students, but of their faith as well.

"What is being dedicated here is a place of learning," he said. "It is a statement by Saint Mary's that not only is there no contradiction between faith and reason — between faith and learning — but that education is only complete when both are nourished."

After the official blessing was conducted, Saint Mary's alumna Jennifer Mathilde Prikkel, a member of the Board of Trustees, thanked those involved with the development of the building and explained her personal interest in this project.

"Finally, we can show you how much you mean to us, and how much we value what you do," Prikkel said to the faculty.

President Carol Ann Mooney closed the ceremony with a final word of thanks to those who made the building possible and especially the donors. Their contributions totaling \$19.4 million paid for the entire building, so that no tuition fee is needed to be spent, said Mooney.

A Thanksgiving Mass was held in the Holy Spirit Chapel of Le Mans Hall following the reception held after the blessing of Spes Unica.

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu

Spes Unica receives positive reviews

Students and faculty appreciate resources of new academic building

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Saint Mary's new academic building, Spes Unica Hall, which was dedicated in a ceremony yesterday, has already drawn positive reviews from students and professors.

Spes Unica houses 13 of 20 academic departments and the Center for Academic Innovation, the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership (CWIL) and the Center for Spirituality. There are also department labs which offer resources to students, study rooms, a café, lounge areas and wireless internet.

Senior Katie Putz said the new building provides a big upgrade for the Saint Mary's campus.

"It's very functional," she said. "Quite a change from Madaleva [Hall]."

One thing that Putz said sticks out to her is the organization of the departments in the building.

"You don't have to go from the basement to the third floor [to get to professors' offices] everyone's centralized," she said.

Senior Deanna Molosky also approved of the new building, adding the new artwork really added a lot to the building.

"It represents Saint Mary's in that every office has a place," she said. "There is a lot of Holy Cross representation and Christian art."

Pam Blair, an administrative assistant for CWIL, enjoys the centrality of her department in Spes Unica.

"It's nice that we as a center are all together," she said, "Before we were separated."

The "cooperate" feel of the building is the only thing that bothers Professor Amanda Littauer, Assistant Professor of History and Woman's Studies.

"It's a little hard because the furniture and fabrics are pretty standardized," she said.

However the technology



MANDI STIRONE/The Observer
President Carol Ann Mooney speaks during the dedication of the College's new academic building Thursday.

and the large amount of space available to both faculty and students is especially beneficial, she said.

She pointed out the new resource room for the Women's Studies department located on the second floor. It's equipped with a computer, books, fliers and even movies to create a "community space" for students, she said.

Professor Frances Bernard Kominkiewicz, director of the Social Work program, was very enthusiastic about the new space.

"We've been just really blessed to have a building like this," she said. "In Social Work the students are energized and have stated to me that they believe their learning needs have been more than met."

The social work department in another department with a lab, she said. In that lab, she explained, students are learning interview skills. This "makes a great world of difference," she said.

"I rarely leave now until six or seven," Kominkiewicz said, "I love this building that much."

Chair of the sociology department, professor Susan Alexander's favorite part of the building is her new office.

"I was in the lower level of Madaleva so I was without a window for 17 years," she said.

She is also a big fan of the new technology available to both students and teachers, she said. The only problem she has encountered are students sitting in the far corner of a classroom whose view of the projection screen is partially blocked by the podium provided for the computers, she said.

Her department has two labs, one is a statistics lab, equipped with computers and other aids, and the other is more spacious. It has more equipment for students to use including computers and a large flat-screen television. The labs are Alexander's favorite part of Spes Unica.

"This is my 17th year here and it's the first time I've had space to do research, so I'm very happy with the labs," she said.

Contact Mandy Stirone at mstiro01@saintmarys.edu

PITT PEP RALLY

Halloween Night

DJ and live music at J.A.C.C. Gate 3 @ 5:00

Students sit closer to team- Free glowsticks

Select amount of game t-shirts tossed out by team

ONWARD TO VICTORY!

Write
News.
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631-5323.

Congress

continued from page 1

have given."

Donnelly said students have done everything from knocking on doors and calling voters in the district to computer assistance.

"It has been all-encompassing," he said.

The excitement over the Obama campaign on campus has spilled over into the congressional campaign, Donnelly said.

"We see a large number of Notre Dame volunteers every day," he said.

Puckett, the Republican candidate for Representative, said he has also seen support from the Notre Dame community.

"The Notre Dame College Republicans have helped out with a couple of things for us and I have spoken to a couple of classes," Puckett said.

He said the president of the Notre Dame College Republicans, Ed Yap has played an integral role in his campaign. Yap has organized phone banks, events and would often go to parades several hours early to get things set up, Puckett said.

"He would walk the parades with me," he said. "Ed is good at that stuff."

Puckett said working with college students was one of the more fun parts of campaigning.

"[The students] have so much stinking energy," he said.

Senior Cindy Brenner spent the summer working on Congressman Donnelly's campaign for reelection.

Brenner said she initially became involved in the local Congressional election because she enjoys working on campaigns, and she thought she would have more responsibilities on a local campaign.

"I had the opportunity to work for Obama's campaign, but as a Donnelly person you get a lot more responsibility," she said.

Brenner said she worked on the campaign as a field director, making phone calls, collecting and entering data and attending parades and events.

"I think I was at probably about 50 parades this summer," she said.

The College Democrats at Notre Dame have been campaigning strongly for Obama, but they have also included the election of Congressman Donnelly in some of their projects, Brenner said.

"[The College Democrats] made calls for Obama and asked about Joe too," Brenner said.

Brenner said a Notre Dame political science class has also participated in the campaign as part of their curriculum. The class split up so half worked for a Republican campaign and half worked for a Democratic campaign, and the Democrat group worked for Donnelly, she said.

Everyone in the group was given a precinct in which they had to contact the people who lived there by phone or in person, she said.

Brenner said she was drawn to Donnelly because of his moderate approach to politics. Although he is a Democrat, Donnelly supports the Second Amendment and he is pro-life, she said.

"He is a conservative Democrat so he has the morals of a lot of the conservative areas [of Indiana]," Brenner said. "He is a moderate candidate that everyone respects."

Congressman Donnelly said one of his main strengths as a candidate is the fact that he does not worry about party politics.

"I am an independent voice for the country," he said.

The main focus of his campaign is standing up for the working families of Indiana by creating more jobs in the area and protect-

ing the retirement and homes of everyone who lives here, Donnelly said.

"We need to make sure that we have a strong job base so there is solid employment for everyone in the community," he said.

To do so, Donnelly said it is necessary to strengthen the credit markets, create a strong banking system and ensure that people are buying products made in the 2nd district.

Donnelly said his other main concern is achieving energy independence. Although he said he does not think drilling will automatically and solely solve the country's current economic problems, he is willing to research the prospect of using American oil.

"Energy independence is critical," Donnelly said.

Puckett's campaign has also taken on volunteers from Notre Dame. Yap, who is a junior, began working on the campaign last April. Yap said he was a field organizer in the campaign, setting up phone banks in several counties, planning events and going door to door to talk to voters about Puckett.

"I found that to be a lot of fun," he said. "One of the cool things I did was supervise the filming of a commercial shoot."

Yap said he got involved in Puckett's campaign because he disagreed with Donnelly's voting record and several of his views.

"I looked for the alternative and found it in Luke Puckett," he said. "When I met him, he was very convincing and I agreed with him on a majority of the issues."

In addition to agreeing with Puckett's campaign platform, Yap said he has thoroughly enjoyed working personally with Puckett.

"He's the type of guy that you would love to go out and get a beer with," Yap said.

Puckett said his campaign platform is based on energy and the economy, and he said these two issues are linked. People are worried about how they are going to afford to put gas in their car, and therefore don't pay their mortgages, he said. Then that affects the banking system, which affects the economy, he said.

"It's cyclical. One thing leads to another," Puckett said.

Puckett said he believes energy independence is key in improving the economy.

"I firmly believe that if we are going to see gas prices stay down, our government has got to have the backbone to drill American oil," Puckett said.

Economic improvement also rests on lowering the corporate tax rate, which is now up to about 39.3 percent, Puckett said.

"Individuals who have left our country to make money internationally go out there and they make money, have all this capital and don't want to bring it into the States," he said. "We have to have capital coming into the market."

Puckett said being a small business owner, he does not have a political background, but rather a business one, which he believes will help him in Washington.

"I believe it's time we take business principles and apply them to our government," he said.

While Donnelly favors cutting taxes for 90 percent of middle class Americans and raising taxes and raising taxes for Americans in the top income bracket, Puckett said he believes this will hurt business in the area because the people that are taxed will pull back on business in the area. The decrease in spending from the people in top income bracket will decrease jobs in the area, he said.

"This isn't about tax cuts for the middle class, this is about jobs. This is all about jobs," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Ushers

continued from page 1

that cite stories of people being reprimanded or ejected from the Stadium without proper provocation or being wrongfully accused.

However, Murray recognizes the need to work with the University rather than combat it.

"We don't edit the content of the posts, but we try to de-emotionalize it, delete the four-letter words and get away from extremes. There are a lot of emotions involved in the matter," he said. "We want the situation to improve, not the University to shut down and become defensive and unapproachable."

Dave Phillipson, another founding member of the Alumni Council added in an e-mail: "We are compiling the stories and following up on the most egregious ones to encourage them to submit sworn affidavits. We may decide to explore legal options, should the need arise."

Murray, Phillipson and the other members of the group formed the committee because the problem was becoming more visible, he said.

"We realized that the problem began to crescendo under the surface with representatives of the University, police force and ushers but also from outside sources such as SBPD and the Excise police," Murray said. "We're trying to get an understanding of the interaction between the forces. We don't think its in Notre Dame's best interest for it to be going on. There is a more rational response to be had without compromising the atmosphere of football."

Murray described the group as "a loose-knit group of alumni" who do what they can to contribute to the site and the group.

"We're just alums and subway alums passionate about what Notre Dame stands for."

The group began to mobilize after NDNation.com was flooded with complaints after the first couple home games, Murray said.

"Some of the complaints were so profoundly bad, we were appalled at what was going on. We all felt like somebody should be doing something."

University spokesman Dennis Brown said there is nothing new to report on the status of game day security and ushers at this time.

"The committee has already had one meeting and will be continuing to gather and discuss these issues, with the expectation that recommendations will be made to Father Jenkins sometime next semester," Brown said.

The committee is composed of 10 people "within and without" the University with "considerable expertise and varied perspectives on matters related to game day safety, security and hospitality," Brown said.

In addition to the committee, the University has also created a Web site, <http://nd.edu/gameday>, which allows people to submit their comments or complaints with proper attribution, not anonymously.

Most of the complaints on the Alumni Council's message board criticize the University, including: "My friend has vowed never to return to Notre Dame Stadium as long as the ushers hate football," and "I have never seen the sheer numbers of law enforcement from multiple jurisdictions as I saw Saturday. It was chilling. There seemed to be enough for them to stand shoulder to shoulder. This was not the Notre Dame football experience I recall from better times."

Murray and the other contributors said they are careful to make sure the claims are true.

"We want to make sure these things are true and not simply to place a one up on stories with someone else. We want credibility with our stories because if we take a rational approach, the administration will be more receptive in doing something positive."

So far, Murray said they have seen results such as the creation of the ad hoc committee.

"We have seen results."

The collective outrage has been put on the table and voiced. Enforcement needs to be less 'gotcha' in nature and more in facilitating a safe and fun atmosphere at games. Undercover cops, surveillance cameras at tailgates and following people into bathrooms are not consistent with this," he said. "The ad hoc committee is a good first step toward acknowledging there is a problem. We've gotten over that hurdle, but we're not fully confident the people on the committee don't have a conflict of interest. They are all very close to what we see is the problem."

Murray is hoping their success this season will carry over as needed into future seasons.

The site offers the opportunity to be anonymous, but Murray encourages contributors to reveal themselves.

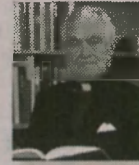
"If they deal with us they have the option to be anonymous. Some tops are outlandish and if people don't want to come forward, it will hurt our efforts."

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

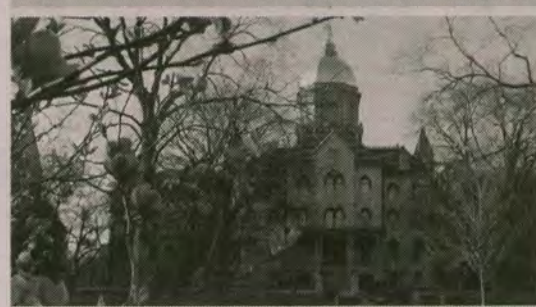
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Thanking Father Ted



Thirty-Five Years of Notre Dame Coeducation



Thanking Father Ted Foundation
Ann Therese Darin Palmer, Editor

From Andrews McMeel Publishing

ND alumnae and ND celebrities thank Father Ted for the gift of coeducation and discuss the impact of their ND educations.

Profits benefit The Thanking Father Ted Scholarship Fund

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Notre Dame Women - Connect

WORLD & NATION

Friday, October 31, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Planted bombs kill 61 in northeast India

GAUHATI, India — Bombs planted in cars and rickshaws ripped through crowded markets in a coordinated attack Thursday in India's volatile northeast, killing at least 61 people and wounding more than 300.

The scale and planning behind the 13 blasts surprised authorities, who struggled to determine who was behind the attacks — among the worst in a region plagued by separatism, ethnic violence and Islamic militants.

The largest explosion took place near the office of Assam state's top government official, leaving bodies and charred, mangled cars and motorcycles strewn across the road.

Bystanders dragged the wounded and dead to cars that took them to hospitals. Police officers covered charred bodies with white sheets in the street.

Later, dozens of people angry over the blasts took to the streets of the state capital, Gauhati, stoning vehicles and torching at least two fire engines. Police imposed a curfew on the city and closed roads leading in and out of the area.

Syrians gather to protest U.S. raids

DAMASCUS, Syria — Tens of thousands crowded a Damascus square in a government-orchestrated rally Thursday to denounce a deadly U.S. raid on Syrian territory near Iraq and send a loud message to America: Leave us alone!

A private Syrian television station also reported the government was reducing the number of soldiers along the Iraqi border, calling it a move to reduce security cooperation with the U.S. in the wake of the attack. It showed footage of troops dismantling positions and leaving the area.

The Syrian government did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Syria has threatened to end border security cooperation with the United States and Iraq in reaction to Sunday's attack.

NATIONAL NEWS

Obesity leads to increase in diabetes

ATLANTA — The nation's obesity epidemic is exacting a heavy toll: The rate of new diabetes cases nearly doubled in the United States in the past 10 years, the government said Thursday.

The highest rates were in the South, according to the first state-by-state review of new diagnoses. The worst was in West Virginia, where about 13 in 1,000 adults were diagnosed with the disease in 2005-07. The lowest was in Minnesota, where the rate was 5 in 1,000.

Nationally, the rate of new cases climbed from about 5 per 1,000 in the mid-1990s to 9 per 1,000 in the middle of this decade.

Roughly 90 percent of cases are Type 2 diabetes, the form linked to obesity.

The findings dovetail with trends seen in obesity and lack of exercise — two health measures where Southern states also rank at the bottom.

Husband stages his wife's abduction

MINEOLA, N.Y. — It seemed like one of those classic suburban nightmares: A teacher went to school on Monday morning, sent a loving text message to her husband, then vanished on the side of the road. Her husband became distraught, making tearful pleas for her safe return.

But police said Thursday that those pleas were fake.

They said William Walsh confessed to strangling his wife during a fight over his alleged infidelity. He then dumped her body on an embankment and staged an elaborate hoax to make it look as if she had been a victim of random roadside violence.

LOCAL NEWS

IU students travel to China, South Korea

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana University president Michael McRobbie and a delegation from the school will travel to China and South Korea to establish partnerships with universities there.

The delegation leaves Friday on the six day trip.

In South Korea, the group will meet with officials at four Korean schools. They will also dine with the 1,000-member Korea Alumni Club in Seoul, one of the largest IU alumni groups in the world. More than 1,200 of IU's 6,000 international students come from Korea each year.

Suspect in anthrax scare interviewed

Man has allegedly mailed 120 hoax anthrax letters, committed similar prior actions

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A California man suspected of mailing more than 120 hoax anthrax letters to media outlets was interviewed previously by the FBI after one similar mailing in 2007, but he was not charged.

Marc M. Keyser, 66, was interviewed by the FBI in January 2007 for allegedly sending a package containing a small aerosol can labeled "Anthrax," along with a compact disc, to the Sacramento News and Review newspaper, according to a criminal complaint filed Thursday in federal court.

Keyser told agents then that he was using the mailing as a publicity stunt for a novel he had penned, and "to model what would happen if terrorist were to use anthrax ... to show the amount of anthrax a terrorist might spray into the air conditioning system in a shopping mall." The can did not contain anthrax.

Agents warned Keyser that he violated federal law and could be prosecuted, but they didn't arrest him. Agent Filip Colfescu said in the complaint that Keyser at the time apologized for the hoax "and told agents they should not worry, that he would not be doing it again."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner, who is prosecuting the current case, said Keyser was not charged in 2007 because "it was a very much more limited conduct at that point. It was one instance. He was admonished."

Keyser was arrested without incident at his home in Sacramento on Wednesday and is being charged with three counts of sending hoax anthrax threats by mail. At least some of the packages had Keyser's return address on them, and agents found 11 more packets in Keyser's car, according to the complaint.

None of the packets has so far tested positive for hazardous material, the agency said.

Keyser appeared briefly in U.S. District Court Thursday,



AP

A hoax anthrax package allegedly sent out by Marc M. Keyser sits on a counter at the offices of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer on Wednesday.

and the judge assigned public defender Rachele Barbour to his case.

Barbour declined to comment outside the courtroom. Keyser is being held in a county jail until a judge rules on whether he can be released on bail. He did not enter a plea and is due back in court Friday.

The investigation began after The Atlantic magazine received a letter Monday.

Media outlets in North Carolina, California and Washington state also have received the letters, as has Rep. George Radanovich, R-Calif., and a Sacramento McDonald's. Offices were briefly evacuated in some

cases.

On Thursday, more newspapers reported receiving the packages, including the San Jose Mercury News, Orange County Register, the Star Tribune of Minneapolis, the Boston Herald and The Christian Science Monitor.

So did The Courier-Journal of Louisville, where hazardous-material experts "were able to test the substance and it tested positive for sugar," said Kathy Harrison, spokeswoman for the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness.

Given the number of packages sent, the number of charges could be increased. Each count carries a maxi-

mum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, Wagner said.

Keyser could also face "tens of thousands" of dollars in restitution payments to emergency service providers around the nation, Wagner said.

Anthrax mailed to congressional offices and others in 2001 killed five people and sickened 17.

The packages linked to Keyser contained a sugar packet labeled "Anthrax Sample" along with a biohazard symbol, the FBI said in a news release. The CD was titled "Anthrax: Shock & Awe Terror," which Keyser said was the title of his new book.

ISRAEL

3,000-year-old Hebrew inscription found

Associated Press

HIRBET QEIYafa, Israel — An Israeli archaeologist has discovered what he believes is the oldest known Hebrew inscription on a 3,000-year-old pottery shard — a find that suggests Biblical accounts of the ancient Israelite kingdom of David could have been based on written texts.

A teenage volunteer discovered the curved shard bearing five lines of faded characters in July in the ruins of an ancient town on a hilltop south of Jerusalem. Yossi Garfinkel, the Israeli archaeologist leading the excavations at Hirbet Qeiyafa, released his conclusions about the writing Thursday after months of study.

He said the relic is strong evidence that the ancient Israelites were literate and could chronicle events centuries before the Bible was written. This could suggest that some of the Bible's accounts were based on written records as well as oral traditions — adding credence to arguments that the Biblical account of history is more than myth.

The shard was found near the stairs and stone washtub of an excavated home. It was later discovered to bear characters known as proto-Canaanite, a precursor of the Hebrew alphabet.

The Israelites were not the only ones using the proto-Canaanite characters, and other scholars suggest it is difficult — perhaps impossible — to conclude the text is

Hebrew. However, Garfinkel based his identification on a three-letter verb from the inscription meaning "to do," a word he said existed only in Hebrew.

"That leads us to believe that this is Hebrew, and that this is the oldest Hebrew inscription that has been found," he said.

Hirbet Qeiyafa sits near the modern Israeli city of Beit Shemesh in the Judean foothills, an area that was once the frontier between the hill-dwelling Israelites and their enemies, the coastal Philistines. The site overlooks the Elah Valley, said to be the scene of the slingshot showdown between David and the Philistine giant Goliath, and near the ruins of Goliath's hometown in the Philistine metropolis of Gath.

Governor

continued from page 1

Studies and political analyst for the South Bend Tribune Jack Colwell.

"He's been on TV since March and they've been consistently good spots, positive spots," Colwell said. "She had to turn off her TV [ads] for most of September and October, which left him running almost unopposed."

The close presidential race in Indiana has also hurt Long Thompson's chances to win, Colwell said.

"People in Indiana aren't focused on the governor race because of the presidential race," he said. "The governor race hasn't created much of a stir at all. When she couldn't be on TV all the time, that's what really hurt her."

In the South Bend area, some of the biggest issues in the election are the Indiana Toll Road and Daylight Savings Time, according to Colwell. Despite Daniels's double-digit leads in statewide polls, "there has been some vulnerability in this area because of the Toll Road and Daylight Saving Time," Colwell said.

The state leased the Toll Road to a private corporation for 75

years. This corporation has recently raised tolls on the Toll Road, but the South Bend area hasn't seen any of that money.

"A lot of the money that he got up front for that lease has been used for projects in other parts of the state," Colwell said.

Long Thompson has said that she would not favor further privatization, according to Colwell.

Daniels was responsible for adopting Daylight Savings Time in 2006, Colwell said.

"People are still kind of displeased about that," he said. "It's too bad that the time to change the clocks is this Sunday."

As governor, Daniel claims "strong leadership and pro-active business-minded skills," according to his campaign's website. He created the Indiana Economic Development Corporation, which is designed to attract new jobs to the state.

Daniels also created the state's Office of Management and Budget in 2005 to help increase efficiency and savings in state government. He balanced the state's budget for the first time in eight years in 2005 and has continued to balance the budget throughout his time in office, according to his campaign.

The claim of getting the first balanced budget in eight years is somewhat disputed, according to

Colwell. Daniels claims that the state was "bankrupt" when he assumed the governorship. However, this is not entirely accurate, because the state constitution prohibits the state from going into debt.

"He did get a truly balanced budget," Colwell said.

If re-elected, Daniels will be most concerned with property taxes and education in 2009, according to his campaign. He wants to pass a constitutional amendment that will make the current caps on property taxes permanent. He is also proposing tax rebates that will automatically send taxes unused by the state — provided that the budget is balanced and that the state has enough money saved in its "rainy-day fund" — back to the taxpayers.

On the education front, Daniels has proposed requiring schools to work through the state to buy certain supplies. The proposed coordination would allow the schools to save money because the state would negotiate the purchases in bulk.

Daniels is also proposing a plan that would give Indiana residents \$6000 tuition discounts for their first two years at an Indiana college.

Daniels has served as governor since being elected in 2004, when

he defeated Democratic incumbent Joe Kernan. Prior to his election, Daniels served as Director of the Office of Management and Budget in George W. Bush's first administration. In this role, he helped negotiate the tax cuts of 2001 and 2003 and helped the United States respond to the Sept. 11 attacks on a domestic level, according to his campaign Web site.

From 1993 until 2001, Daniels was employed by Eli Lilly and Company, serving as President of North American Pharmaceutical Operations. He previously served as CEO of the Hudson Institute, a non-profit think tank that was then based in Indianapolis.

Long Thompson represented Indiana's 4th Congressional District in the House of Representatives from 1989 until 1995. She was defeated by Mark Souder in the Republican's huge electoral gains in 1994.

Long Thompson was then appointed as Undersecretary of Agriculture in Bill Clinton's administration, a position she held until 2001. After leaving the public sector, Long Thompson served as CEO of the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy.

As a representative, Long Thompson voted against tax increases, but was a supporter of

education, Medicare and Social Security, according to her campaign.

Long Thompson is campaigning mostly on the job that Daniels has done in his first term in office, according to Colwell.

"Long Thompson has suggested that he has not done a very good job, particularly with the economy and job creation," Colwell said.

Long Thompson has used the economy, Colwell said, to tie Daniels to President Bush by talking about the "Bush-Daniels economy."

"Maybe that's fair because when he ran for the first time, he ran as 'My Man Mitch,' which was a direct quote from President Bush," Colwell said.

Long Thompson is blaming Daniels for the federal budget deficit, because when he became Director of the Office of Management and Budget in 2001, there were record surpluses that quickly turned into record deficits, according to Colwell.

With only a few more days until Election Day, it will be difficult for Long Thompson's charges of Daniels's ties to Bush to change the outcome.

"He's probably going to win," Colwell said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

CLAP

continued from page 1

The rest of the semester, CLAP will focus on getting students, faculty and members of the South Bend community to sign the pledges.

The union support cards pledge that the signer does "recognize and support the right of all employees of the University of Notre Dame to be represented by a union in collective bargaining with the

University over rights, wages, working conditions and other grievances; and to request an election held by the National Labor Relations Board for unionization."

The cards are not actual union cards, the CLAP members told The Observer, but rather a sign of solidarity.

"Our goal is to create an atmosphere on campus that is friendly and open to the idea, and the right that people have to form unions," Lyons said.

Krafft said he hoped to compile a substantial number of

cards by the end of the semester so he could present it in a public forum.

Affleck-Graves said Wednesday afternoon that he had not heard about CLAP's intentions to distribute cards in support of Notre Dame workers unionizing.

"It's something obviously that they have a right to do," he said.

And workers at Notre Dame have the right to organize, Affleck-Graves said.

"We don't think that that's necessary, but obviously, that's

up to the staff to decide, not to me," he said.

But Affleck-Graves said, from his interaction with members of the Notre Dame staff, that he did not think workers wanted to unionize.

"They haven't chosen to before," he said. "It's hard for me to respond, because I think that Notre Dame's a great place to work."

Krafft said he disagreed with Affleck-Graves' characterization that workers had not chosen to unionize before.

"I think that choice is a funny

word when you are talking about this campus environment, because given the climate of fear that exists, I don't think you can fairly say that workers have had the choice to try to form a union," he said.

CLAP, which is not a student group recognized by the Student Activities Office, began as a living wage campaign, but the group has now expanded its attention to other issues, such as unionization.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Panel

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elists, Fr. Robert Dowd and professor Robert Fishman are members of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies. Dowd is an Assistant Professor of Political Science, while Fishman is a Professor of Sociology.

The panel also included Julia King, a Citizen Activist and member of the Women's Action for New Directions (WAND) and Lisa A. Plencer, President of the South Bend chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Fishman began the discussion by talking about the importance of voting.

"The right to vote is one of the most important rights that humans have," Fishman said. "Basic human rights allow all people, rich or poor, to share in the public decision making and in the public policy outcomes."

Fr. Dowd then addressed the differences in the democratic system in the United States and in Kenya.

"When I arrived in Kenya in 1990, there was only one political party in Kenya, so while there were elections, they were only single-party elections," Dowd said. "Obviously the system hindered

political participation in Kenya."

He said progress has been made in African countries since that time; however, the hindrance that political executives still have the ability to control and manipulate elections in Kenya and other African countries.

"Since the process is very flawed, many people do not wish to support this and this is cause for a low voter turnout," said Dowd.

Shifting gears from an academic focus to a civilian focus, Julia King spoke on some of the ways WAND participates in local and national politics.

"We often write letters to the editors, or when we aren't, we are usually encouraging each other to do so," said King. "We also try to make face to face contact with political leaders."

Plencer was the final speaker of the evening, and she discussed how individuals can make a difference by participating politically. Specifically, she spoke on the lobbying efforts of the League of Women's Voters.

"By lobbying on behalf of legislative issues, we are greatly expanding democracy for everyone, not just females," said Plencer.

The session was concluded with a 20-minute question and answer session.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at edonnonne1@nd.edu

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Stocks			
Dow Jones	9,180.69	+189.73	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,747	68	668	1,981,950,050

AMEX	1,457.41	+29.27
NASDAQ	1,698.52	+41.31
NYSE	5,975.03	+200.14
S&P 500	954.09	+24.00
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,849.79	-179.97
FTSE 100 (London)	4,291.65	+49.11

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	+3.46	+3.22	96.30
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+3.34	+1.06	32.84
ISHARES MSCI (EEM)	+13.50	+3.05	25.65
FIN SEL SPDR (XLF)	+3.49	+0.50	14.81

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.68	+0.065	3.939
13-WEEK BILL	-33.63	-0.190	0.375
30-YEAR BOND	+1.09	+0.046	4.284
5-YEAR NOTE	+1.71	+0.047	2.792

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.54	65.96	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-15.50	738.50	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.63	86.75	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		98.2150	
EURO		0.7742	

IN BRIEF

Banks borrow record amounts from Fed

WASHINGTON — Banks borrowed in record amounts from the Federal Reserve's emergency lending program over the past week, while investment banks drew loans at a slower pace.

The Fed's report, released Thursday, showed commercial banks averaged a record \$111.9 billion in daily borrowing over the past week. That surpassed the old record — a daily average of \$105.8 billion — from the prior week.

For the week ending Wednesday, investment firms drew \$87.4 billion. That was down from \$111.3 billion in the previous week. This category was recently broadened to include any loans that were made to the U.S. and London-based broker-dealer subsidiaries of Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch.

The Fed report showed that its net holdings of "commercial paper" came to \$144.8 billion on Wednesday. The Fed created a first-of-its kind program, which started Monday, to buy mounds of this crucial short-term debt that companies use to pay everyday expenses. The Fed has said that around \$1.3 trillion worth of commercial paper would qualify.

Verizon approved to buy Alltel Corp.

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Thursday effectively gave Verizon Wireless the go-ahead to buy Alltel Corp. in a \$28 billion deal that would create the nation's largest wireless carrier.

Verizon Wireless, a joint venture between Verizon Communications Inc. and Britain's Vodafone Group PLC, already has agreed to the government's condition that it sell assets in 22 states..

"We're pleased that the Department of Justice has granted approval," said Robin Nicol, a Verizon Wireless spokeswoman. "It's another step in the right direction."

The Federal Communications Commission is slated to vote on the merger on Nov. 4.

Andrew Moreau, an Alltel spokesman, said the company is "looking forward to the FCC meeting scheduled for next week."

Justice Department lawyers joined seven states in a lawsuit filed Thursday to block the merger if Verizon fails to divest assets in 100 markets.

Without that action, the Justice Department said, the deal would hurt competition, drive up consumer prices and likely produce a lower-quality network.

Wall Street begins to show stability

Dow Jones average rises 190 points, trading calms after fear of recession

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street showed some welcome signs of stability Thursday, taking a downbeat gross domestic product report in stride and driving the Dow Jones industrial average up nearly 190 points in relatively calm trading. Even the last half-hour of the session, lately a period of turbulent activity, was comparatively quiet.

The market that a week ago was reeling from fears about recession was more composed after the Commerce Department's report that GDP fell at an annual rate of 0.3 percent during the third quarter — its worst showing in seven years. Analysts expected a 0.5 percent decline in GDP, the broadest measure of economic growth or contraction, but while the report was better than expected, it still pointed to an economy that is shrinking.

It's premature to say the market's volatility is over — most analysts expect trading to remain erratic for many months, and some believe investors will eventually test the lows that were reached on Oct. 10, when the Dow traded as low as 7,882.51. But Thursday's trading session was the most placid in weeks, a sign that the market might be in the process of bottoming, analysts say. The Dow was only briefly in negative territory, and traded in a range of less than 300 points — well below the 400- and 500-point swings that have become commonplace.

"It does look like the market is taking a tentatively better tone today," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist, director of asset allocation for RidgeWorth Capital Management. "Pessimism and skepticism have become the dominant mode of thinking. And that's usually when I think that the market is more ripe for a rebound."

The market did not erupt into frantic buying or selling in the last 30 minutes — a



Trader Michael Gross works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday.

move that has become almost expected at the end of every session as big funds tried to raise cash to meet investors' calls for their money back, or rushed to cover their short positions. The last hour saw the Dow move in a range of 206 points, compared with a 370-point swing in the last quarter-hour of Wednesday's session.

Even though corporate earnings reports and outlooks have not been strong in recent weeks, there is a growing sense that business is not at a standstill. On Thursday, Exxon Mobil Corp. adhered to its five-year capital spending forecast, a day

after Starbucks Corp.'s CEO Howard Schultz said it appears the coffee retailer's store traffic may have already bottomed out. And CVS Caremark Corp. said Thursday its third-quarter earnings rose 7 percent as its retail pharmacy revenue improved.

"There's the idea that life goes on, and will go on," said Richard E. Cripps, chief market strategist for Stifel Nicolaus, noting that the daily trading range Thursday for the Standard & Poor's 500 index was about half its October average. "The market sort of inhaled, and it was waiting to exhale — and

you're seeing that now."

The Dow rose 189.73, or 2.11 percent, to 9,180.69.

Broader stock indicators also finished higher. The S&P 500 index rose 24.00, or 2.58 percent, to 954.09, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 41.31, or 2.49 percent, to 1,698.52.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 23.30, or 4.75 percent, to 514.18.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by about 5 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 6.06 billion shares, down from 7.01 billion shares on Wednesday.

Asia leads rally in world stock markets

Associated Press

LONDON — World stock markets were stronger Thursday led by sharp rallies in Asia and Latin America after the U.S. Federal Reserve said it would supply new lines of credit to Brazil, Mexico, South Korea and Singapore to help them deal with the global credit crisis.

Gains were more moderate in Europe, however, where focus appeared more set on U.S. data that showed the economy shrank in the third quarter.

But the Commerce Department's report that gross domestic product fell at an annual rate of 0.3 percent during July-September period was taken in stride on Wall Street, where the Dow industrials finished up 189.73, or 2.11 percent, to 9,180.69.

Asian markets started the day galloping higher, with Hong Kong's Hang Seng

index leading the charge, up 12.8 percent at 14,329.85. South Korea's key stock index soared a record 12 percent to 1,084.72 and Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average gained 10 percent to 9,029.76 as exporters like Toyota and Sony got a boost from the ongoing fall in the value of the yen.

Elsewhere, benchmarks in Australia, Singapore, Taiwan and the Philippines added 4 percent or more. Russia's two main indices were also up sharply.

Hong Kong's de facto central bank followed the Fed's half-percentage point rate cut Wednesday by cutting its key lending by the same amount and Taiwan reduced its key interest rate by a quarter point. In Japan, speculation mounted that the central bank would cut its key rate, already at a low 0.5 percent, at a meeting Friday.

Before the Fed acted, China also lowered its rates by just over a quarter

point. The Shanghai Composite index was up 2.9 percent.

Markets took heart from an announcement that the Fed would temporarily supply new lines of credit worth up to \$30 billion to the central banks of South Korea, Brazil, Mexico and Singapore.

The International Monetary Fund also said Wednesday it is creating a new program to get money quickly to developing countries with strong economies that are facing cash crunches in the global financial crisis.

The news brought newfound optimism to Latin American markets after a weeklong plunge in stock values and currencies.

Brazil's Ibovespa index finished up 7.5 percent to 37,449, building on even stronger gains in the two previous sessions. Mexico's benchmark IPC index also jumped 5.5 percent to 20,207.

'Gipper' haunts Washington Hall

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

As Halloween approaches, tales about the ghosts which haunt Notre Dame's and Saint Mary's campuses seem to rise from the grave.

One of the biggest legends on campus is that the ghost of George "Gipper" Gipp haunts Washington Hall. However, Ron Grisoli, Washington Hall's building manager, is skeptical.

"I don't believe in ghosts and I don't think that Washington Hall is haunted," Grisoli said.

However, he does admit working in the building can sometimes spook him, and others.

"When the wind blows outside, the smoke hatches above the main stage make the most eerie noise — like someone making a sustained 'v' sound," he said. "I can easily understand how someone might mistake the creeks, groans and other odd noises that a 127-

year-old building can make."

Professor of film and television Mark Pilkinton, who is currently writing a book about Washington Hall, doesn't believe in the haunting either.

"No, of course not," Pilkinton said, when asked about the Gipp haunting.

Although he admits that he does hear the stories.

"Those who want to believe, love to believe," he said.

However, he can prove that it's most likely not the ghost of the Gipper haunting Washington Hall.

The legends aren't just carried on by residents of Notre Dame, either. Hauntedindiana.com, a Web site dedicated to the paranormal activities of the Hoosier state, lists several legends for the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's campuses. The Web site is open source, and the site's creators take no credit for the validity of any story listed there. According to the Web site, the bell tower of LeMans Hall on Saint Mary's campus is haunted by a girl who took her own life.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@saintmarys.edu

"Those who want to believe, love to believe."

Mark Pilkinton
professor of film and television

California to cut water deliveries to help ration

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California said Thursday that it plans to cut water deliveries to their second-lowest level ever next year, raising the prospect of rationing for cities and less planting by farmers.

The Department of Water Resources projects that it will deliver just 15 percent of the amount that local water agencies throughout California request every year.

Since the first State Water Project deliveries were made in 1962, the only time less water was promised was in 1993, but heavy precipitation that year ultimately allowed agencies to receive their full requests.

The reservoirs that are most crucial to the state's water delivery system are at their lowest levels since 1977, after two years of dry weather and court-ordered restrictions on water pumping out of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This year, water agencies received just 35 percent of the water they requested.

Farmers in the Central Valley say they'll be forced to fallow fields, while cities from the San Francisco Bay area to San Diego might have to require residents to ration water.

Mike Young, a fourth-generation farmer in Kern County, called the projections disastrous.

"For the amount of acres we've got, we're not going to have enough water to farm," he said.

Young said he will be forced to fallow a fifth of his 5,000 acres. Water will go to his permanent crops — pistachio, almond and cherry trees — but most of his tomatoes and alfalfa will not get

planted.

"We've got to start spending money on next year's crop now," Young said.

Jim Beck, general manager of the Kern County Water Agency, noted that fewer plantings would yield fewer crops and a decrease in the number of farm hands hired.

"We're seeing a phenomenon in the Central Valley where growers who have been in the business of agriculture are laying off workers who have been with them for 20 or 30 years because they don't have the water," Beck said. "It's one thing to see brown lawns and shorter showers in urban areas. The real impact in the Central Valley is people are having to find new jobs."

In Southern California, the Metropolitan Water District — the agency that supplies water to about half the state's population — has depleted more than a third of its water reserves. The agency's general manager, Jeff Kightlinger, said Californians must immediately reduce their water use to stretch what little water is available.

"We are preparing for the very real possibility of water shortages and rationing throughout the region in 2009," Kightlinger said, adding that his board will consider rationing during its meeting next month.

The State Water Project delivers water to more than 25 million residents and 750,000 acres of farmland.

In 2006, water agencies received their full allotment, in part because of heavy rains and a thick Sierra snow pack that year. But last year, a federal court limited water pumping out of the delta to protect the threatened delta smelt.

Mother accused of kidnapping son

Lawyer decried suggestion that client was responsible for abduction

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The mother of a 6-year-old boy who was abducted from her home this month had gone to police after she got a warning note in July but was told that there was no imminent threat and that she should buy a shotgun, her lawyer said Thursday.

Lawyer Dennis Leavitt also decried any suggestion that Julie Puffinburger might have been responsible for the abduction of her son Cole, after a police lieutenant told a judge she had previously spread hoax stories that the boy had been kidnapped.

Cole Puffinburger was taken by two men posing as police officers after they ransacked his mother's house in what police said was message from drug dealers to Cole's grandfather. The boy was found safe four days later.

Police did not immediately respond to requests to confirm Leavitt's account that Julie Puffinburger received an ominous written message directed at her father, Clemens Fred Tinnemeyer.

Police have alleged that Tinnemeyer, 51, disappeared in May after stealing millions of dollars in drug proceeds from "Mexican nationals" and methamphetamine traffickers. He is in federal custody in California as a material witness in the kidnapping case.

Leavitt said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that two detectives who met with Julie Puffinburger about the July 13 warning note "stated they could not do anything

because there was no imminent threat and advised Julie to buy a shotgun." Leavitt said she did not buy a weapon.

"We know you have our money and you have one week to report," Leavitt quoted the note as saying. "We know where your family is and we don't play games."

Leavitt said an unidentified roommate of Julie

Puffinburger later visited several bars where Tinnemeyer used to spend time "and mentioned to her father's friends that Cole was missing."

"This was done in an effort to 'flush out' Julie's father

to find out what was going on and why she was receiving threatening notes," Leavitt said.

He said his client "is simply being held vicariously responsible for her father's actions and then treated extremely badly by the police and the news media," Leavitt said.

Leavitt said Cole's mother had not seen Tinnemeyer since October 2007 and did not know how to contact him.

"To suggest (Julie) Puffinburger is guilty of a crime or somehow responsible for the abduction is ludicrous," Leavitt wrote.

Las Vegas police Lt. Clinton Nichols told a judge Wednesday Puffinburger had

spread the stories about a supposed kidnapping. Nichols also said Tinnemeyer was the focus of a federal investigation "involving a ton of money, a ton of drugs and a Mexican cartel that was serious about getting that money back," the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Nichols did not respond to messages from the AP.

Robert and Julie Puffinburger divorced in 2004. The mother was the boy's primary caregiver before the Oct. 15 abduction, but police returned Cole to his father after the boy was found unharmed on a Las Vegas street late Oct. 18.

Clark County Family Court Judge Gerald Hardcastle awarded temporary custody of the boy to his father on Wednesday.

Bryce Duckworth, lawyer for Robert Puffinburger, said Cole was back in school and receiving counseling while authorities probed the activities of his mother.

"We've been told by authorities that she is under investigation," Duckworth said.

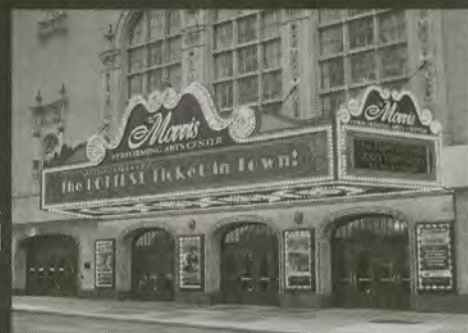
Leavitt said Julie Puffinburger received two courier deliveries of about \$30,000 each in June and put them in a safe deposit box. The lawyer said she assumed the money came from her father. He said Julie Puffinburger later told police where to find the cash.

"This was done in an effort to 'flush out' Julie's father to find out what was going on and why she was receiving threatening notes"

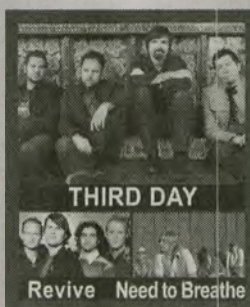
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lawyer

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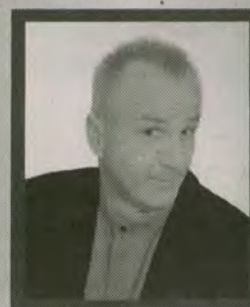
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ELECTION 2008

Friday, October 31, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 9

CAMPAIGN NEWS

Candidates to be interviewed on ESPN

BRISTOL, Conn. — Are Barack Obama and John McCain ready for some football?

ESPN says the presidential candidates are planning to participate in one-on-one interviews via satellite that would air at halftime of "Monday Night Football," the day before the election.

ESPN's Chris Berman will do the segments earlier Monday, if the candidates' schedules permit, and they'll air at about 10:15 p.m. EDT.

The interviews will give both candidates a last major chance to appeal to Americans during a coveted spot on prime-time television. "Monday Night Football" has averaged 12.2 million viewers this season.

The game, between the host Washington Redskins and the Pittsburgh Steelers, will be the first NFL game played in the D.C. area on the Monday night before a presidential election in 24 years. The Redskins defeated the Atlanta Falcons 27-14 on Nov. 5, 1984; Ronald Reagan was re-elected the following day.

Obama previously appeared on "Monday Night Football" on Dec. 11, 2006, when he opened the broadcast of a game involving his hometown Chicago Bears by parodying his own upcoming official announcement of his intention to run for the presidency.

Palin considers her political future

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind. — With days still to go in the White House race, backers of vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin are talking her up as a possible contender in 2012, speculation that irritates other Republicans who contend she's a drag on the ticket and that her lightweight image — unfair or not — will be hard to shed.

The Alaska governor has done little to quiet the talk. In fact, she fueled the discussion this week when she signaled that she will remain on the national political scene no matter what happens Tuesday. "I'm not doing this for naught," she said in an interview with ABC News.

The telegenic Palin, who burst onto the national stage seven weeks ago, has divided conservatives — some energized by her strong stand on social issues and others embarrassed by her halting interview performances. On the campaign trail, she is a popular draw, attracting numbers that a Republican Party searching for female star power can't ignore.

Biden vows to do more for middle class

ARNOLD, Mo. — With dozens of laid off autoworkers on stage behind him, Democratic vice presidential candidate Joe Biden pledged Thursday to do more for the middle class if he and Barack Obama are elected.

Biden said the union autoworkers did right by their employer, but 2,400 of them in nearby Fenton lost their jobs this fall as the economy soured. The workers at Chrysler's South Assembly Plant in Fenton rolled the last Dodge minivan off the assembly line Wednesday, two days ahead of schedule.

"At the end of the day, it's ultimately about jobs," Biden said.

Thousands of people decide to vote early

Obama surges ahead in early voting, McCain forced to play catch-up before election begins



AP

Early voters fill poll booths at Cincinnati's Hamilton County Board of Elections on Wednesday. A worker estimated that the location is getting approximately 2,000 early voters per day.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats are dominating early voting in six key states President Bush won four years ago, forcing Republican John McCain to play catch-up even before Election Day arrives.

Democrats outnumber Republicans among early voters in Iowa, North Carolina, Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada, according to statistics from election and party officials in those states. Bush won all six in 2004, and McCain needs to win most of them to claim the White House this year.

Georgia, another red state, doesn't track early voters by party, but it does by race. About 1.4 million Georgians have already cast ballots, and blacks are voting in disproportionate numbers. Black voters overwhelmingly support Democrat Barack Obama, who is bidding to become the nation's first black president.

Voters can always cross party lines and no vote totals are announced until Election Day, but the early indications clearly favor Obama. It is unclear, however, whether they will translate into success on Nov. 4 because never before have so many Americans cast their votes before Election Day.

In Florida, for example, voting lines have been so long that Gov. Charlie Crist signed an executive order Tuesday extending early voting hours.

About a third of voters are expected to vote early this year, up from 22 percent in the last presidential election. More than 15 million voters have already cast ballots, according to statistics compiled by Michael P. McDonald, a political scientist at George Mason University.

"This is off the charts in some of these states," McDonald said. "They already have record turnout (among early voters) in some states."

But is Obama, who is using

his fundraising superiority on a massive early voting campaign, merely eating into the number of votes he would otherwise receive on Election Day? Or is McCain, who trails in most polls, falling perilously behind as Election Day approaches?

McDonald said the McCain campaign is digging itself a dangerously deep hole in states the Arizona senator cannot afford to lose. "We have yet to see the Republicans really gear up their get-out-the-vote campaign," McDonald said.

However, he noted that Democrat John Kerry led among early voters in Iowa in the 2004 presidential race, only to lose the state to Bush on Election Day.

Mike Duncan, chairman of the Republican National Committee, hopes McCain will do the same in numerous states this year.

"We will send out over 200 million pieces of mail and have over a quarter of a billion contacts, counting the

mail, the phones and the door knocks," Duncan said. "These are numbers we've never been able to reach before."

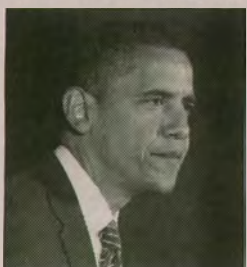
McDonald said the Republicans' massive get-out-the-vote campaign "took us all by surprise in 2004, and it could happen again. But this is a juggernaut operation that the Obama campaign has."

Democrats argue they have an advantage in voter enthusiasm, which helped them register far more new voters this year than the Republicans. Obama's campaign is turning the registration operation into a formidable get-out-the-vote effort.

Absentee voting used to be reserved mainly for people unable to make it to the polls on Election Day, whether they were sick, away on business or serving in the military. This year, more than 30 states allow any registered voter to cast an early ballot, some in person and others by mail.

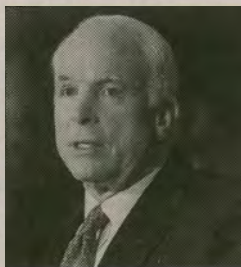
SOUND BYTE: EDUCATION

What will you do to improve the education system?



Obama

"And if I'm President, we'll give every child, everywhere the skills and the knowledge they need to compete with any worker, anywhere in the world. I will not allow countries to out-teach us today so they can out-compete us tomorrow. It is time to provide every American with a world-class education. That means investing in early childhood education. That means recruiting an army of new teachers, and paying them better."



McCain

"Public education should be defined as one in which our public support for a child's education follows that child into the school the parent chooses. The school is charged with the responsibility of educating the child, and must have the resources and management authority to deliver on that responsibility. They must also report to the parents and the public on their progress."

SPAIN

Car bomb wounds 17 at university

Associated Press

MADRID — A powerful car bomb exploded Thursday at a university in the northern Spanish city of Pamplona, wounding 17 people and setting a building on fire in an attack blamed on Basque separatists.

There was no claim of responsibility, but officials pointed the finger at the militant Basque group ETA. They said the blast could have caused massive bloodshed because it went off without warning at a busy area of the campus.

"ETA has once again displayed its vileness," said Jose Antonio Alonso, spokesman in Parliament for Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero's Socialist party.

The bomb went off in a parking lot at the University of Navarra, shattering windows and setting vehicles on fire, said Amaya Zaratiegui, spokeswoman for the university's clinic. Navarra is the region of which Pamplona is the capital.

Aparicio Caicedo, a 29-year-old Ecuadorean doctoral student, said he was studying in a library when the bomb went off.

"Suddenly the whole building shook and there was a huge column of smoke. It was tremendous, a huge explosion," Caicedo told The Associated Press by phone.

Television footage showed an unidentified building on fire at the ground-floor level and

spewing thick black smoke.

Seventeen people were slightly injured, some by flying glass, Interior Minister Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba said.

He said a man claiming to speak for ETA phoned a warning to authorities in the Basque capital, Vitoria, about an hour before the explosion, saying the bomb was packed in a white Peugeot and would go off at "the university campus."

Police thought that meant Vitoria's university, searched there and found nothing, the minister said. Instead, the bomb exploded without warning in Pamplona, 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Vitoria.

"Clearly, whoever placed the bomb gave a warning and either intentionally did not give all the information or made a mistake," Perez Rubalcaba said.

"The result is that we could have suffered an enormous tragedy today at the University of Navarra," he said.

Spanish police arrested three suspected members of ETA on Tuesday in Pamplona and another in Valencia but Rubalcaba declined to speculate on whether that could be the reason for Pamplona's being targeted.

Pamplona's mayor, Yolanda Barcina, told Cadena Ser radio she was surprised the casualty toll was not higher.

"We got lucky with the weather. It is raining, and there were fewer people than usual outside," the station's Web site quoted her as saying.

Farmer suspect in Illinois murder

Man and wife found shot and their home burned to the ground

Associated Press

CARLYLE — George Weedon hid a tractor behind a false wall on his property, allegedly for a bankrupt dairy farmer who authorities say was trying to conceal assets from his creditors. But Weedon did not keep the secret for long.

For some reason — A guilty conscience? Cold feet? An ad in the local weekly promising amnesty to anyone involved in the scheme? — Weedon called up the FBI and told them what farmer Joseph Diekemper was up to.

Two days later, Weedon and his wife were found shot to death, and their home had been burned to the ground.

Around town, suspicion immediately fell on Diekemper, an often belligerent and abrasive figure whose neighbors so distrusted him that they secretly called him "Sneak" because they were convinced he was always hiding something.

Diekemper, 60, is behind bars, awaiting trial on bankruptcy fraud charges, and has not been charged in the April 2007 slayings. State Police last week would not discuss any possible suspects and said there was not enough evidence to charge anyone. And Diekemper attorney Scott Rosenblum said his client had nothing to do with the killings.

But according to court papers filed this month, Weedon, a trucker on medical leave, had nervously told an FBI agent he feared Diekemper would burn down his home for going to the authorities. And Diekemper's neighbors near this town of 3,400 people 70 miles east of St. Louis said they feel safer with him behind bars.

"Everybody is worried he's going to get out," Diekemper's own brother, Wayne Diekemper, said from behind the wheel of his rusty, 1960s-model tractor. "We don't want him on the loose."

Joseph Diekemper — "Joey" to those who know him well — and his 64-year-old wife, Margaret, filed for bankruptcy in 2004, claiming assets of \$1.7 million and liabilities of nearly \$5 million. But bankruptcy officials suspected they weren't telling the truth. So did the bank managing their property.

In April 2007, the bank took out a large ad in the Carlyle Union Banner warning that anyone helping Diekemper hide his possessions could be breaking the law. The ad promised "CIVIL AMNESTY" to anyone who confessed.

It's not clear whether Weedon saw the ad or heard of it, or why he allegedly cooperated with Diekemper in the first place.

But Weedon, according to an FBI summary of the call, told an FBI agent he had stashed one of Diekemper's tractors behind a false wall Diekemper helped build in a shed on Weedon's land, tucked amid corn and soybean fields four miles off the highway.

The agent assured Weedon the FBI would be careful about disclosing his identity. Weedon agreed to call back the next week to arrange a formal interview.

But before he could arrange to come in, he was found dead in the front seat of a muscle car that he had been fixing up for someone else. Some 100 yards away, in the ruins of the Weedons' burned-out home, firefighters discovered the

remains of Linda Weedon, a 41-year-old hospital worker.

In the days that followed, an investigator quietly told neighbors to watch their backs, and they heeded the warning.

Diekemper's 61-year-old brother slept with a high-powered rifle and packed a pistol in his bib overalls when on his tractor. Down the road, 62-year-old Ed Albat, shared a bed with a .40-caliber pistol and took it with him when he cut the grass.

Albat recalled that he once reported Diekemper to environmental regulators for dumping manure along the road, and Diekemper got even by spreading the waste so thick and so close to Albat's neighboring house that his four-wheel-drive machine got stuck.

"He did that just to spite me," Albat said. "Neighbors don't do that to other neighbors."

Wayne Diekemper said his brother was chronically in financial trouble.

"He always wanted to be the big cheese of the family," Wayne Diekemper said. "He wanted to outdo everybody, outfarm everybody. He was always bragging and carrying on."

Authorities said Diekemper — an avid player of poker and blackjack, according to neighbors — blew \$115,000 in 190 trips to casinos.

Last summer, Diekemper and his wife were indicted on charges of defrauding their creditors and others by lying about — and often hiding — millions of dollars in real estate and farm equipment. Diekemper has been jailed since July, when a federal judge revoked his bail after finding he had two rifles.

Hubble update delayed for NASA upgrade

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Hubble Space Telescope is working again, taking stunning cosmic photos after a breakdown a month ago. But the good news was quickly tempered by NASA's announcement Thursday that a mission to upgrade the popular telescope will be delayed at least until May.

A key replacement part that is essential because of the telescope's failure in September won't be ready for at least six months.

It was the latest twist in the long-running drama surrounding the 18-year-old space telescope — one that initially took only fuzzy photos, then when fixed, provided dazzling and scientifically significant pictures of space, including a new one NASA showed Thursday.

A repair and upgrade mission to the telescope was nixed a couple of years ago as too risky for the astronauts. But enthusiasm and improved safety measures convinced NASA's current chief, Michael Griffin, to go forward with it.

That flight was supposed to happen in mid-October. But the science computer on the telescope unexpectedly shut down, so everything was put on hold. NASA was finally able to get a backup computer system to

work in recent days.

But officials can't count on that backup working indefinitely, so they want astronauts to install an additional system part. That part, in storage since 1991, revealed a "significant" problem during testing, said Hubble program manager Preston Burch. It won't be ready to fly for at least six months, he said.

"I don't see this as a huge insurmountable deal," he added.

But if engineers don't get the spare box working properly, NASA will have to face a decision on whether to do the upgrade mission at all, said Jon Morse, NASA's astrophysics chief. That is because of the potential futility of upgrading an observatory that could fail at any moment.

That's not an issue right now, said NASA spokesman Ed Campion: "We're a long way from declaring anything absolutely failed."

The delay also may hinder another bigger NASA program, its new moon rocket that NASA hopes to launch by 2015. The space agency needs to spend several years reconfiguring a Kennedy Space Center launch pad for the new moon rocket testing. But that's the pad the Hubble repair mission will launch from.



Coffee at the Como

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, November 4
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316 Coleman Morse

The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning members of the Notre Dame family, along with their friends and allies, to an informal gathering at the Co-Mo.

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

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599-2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is \$100 for one academic year; \$55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
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P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
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Stipend unnecessary for student government

After five weeks of controversy, the Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) finally approved the 2008-2009 Student Government Association (SGA) budget effectively allowing funds to be dispersed to clubs and organizations who have been waiting for their allotments since mid-September at their meeting Wednesday night.

At the heart of the controversy was a stipend allotted for the Executive Board, who also serve as the SGA budgeting committee and therefore designed the budget, in the amount of \$20,000. This money was to come from the \$160 each full-time student at the College pays for a student government fee along with tuition. After BOG continuously voted not to approve the budget, the Executive Board reduced the amount of the stipend and eventually removed it entirely.

Last year's Executive Board was the first to take a monetary stipend in the amount of \$40,000. The student body and many members of the 2007-2008 BOG did not know that this amount of money was being used to pay a stipend which amounted to salaries. This year's Executive Board should be applauded for being forthcoming with their intentions to take a stipend, allowing the student body to voice their opinion and ultimately listening to them.

But why was this controversial stipend allowed to be a line item on the past two SGA budgets in the first place and why was the budget held up for so long?

It is very clear in the fact that there are checks and balances in place in the SGA Constitution that keep the Executive Board from having the final say on the budget.

A clause in the Constitution states that BOG has final approval of the budget after the budgeting committee approves it; however, they almost were not allowed to do so because the clause was not public knowledge. Had a concerned student not brought the clause to the attention of the Executive Board, the budget, using student funds for a salary, would have gone into effect for the year.

The Constitution does not stipulate whether or not the Executive Board can allocate funds for themselves; however, that does not explain why this practice started in the first place.

The students who would collect a stipend were unaware that they would be receiving a salary for their service to the student body when they ran for office or applied for their appointed positions.

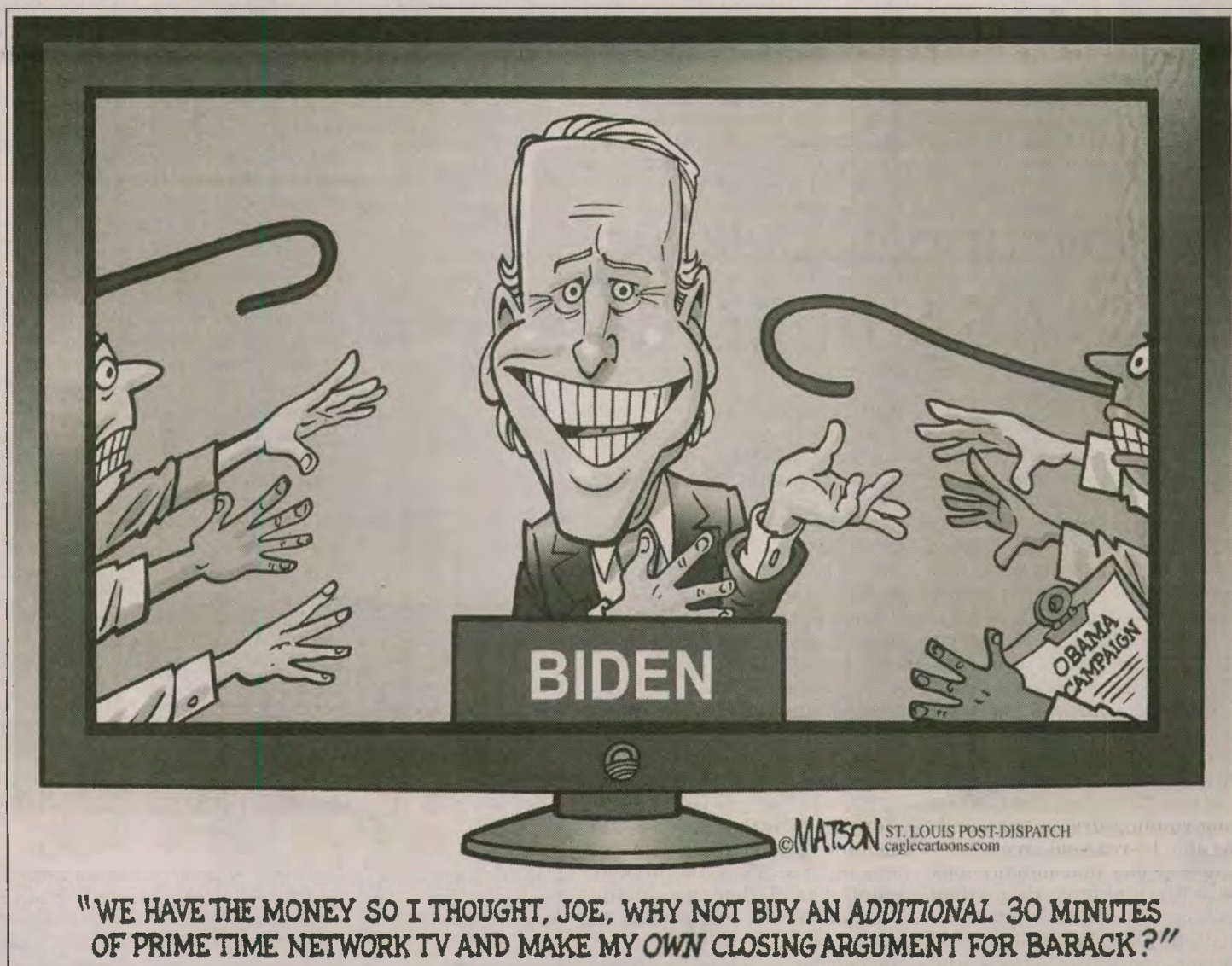
They were told of the stipends after taking office and had to decide whether or not they would budget for the stipend as well. If they applied for the job with no intention of receiving a stipend, why did they decide to include it in the budget?

Had the stipend been approved this year, it would have changed the way student government functions at the College. While some students would still run for office because they love Saint Mary's and want to give back to the student body, there would be others who would run solely because they would be receiving money.

The Executive Board clearly does a lot of work managing student government and planning events for the student body, but funding which is set aside for student government should be used for those events and activities instead of as a paycheck.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

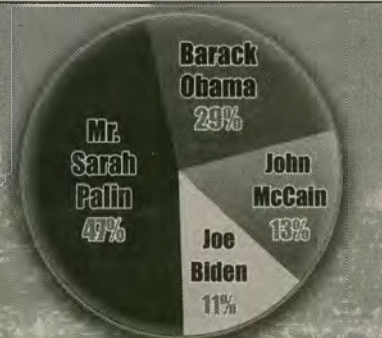
EDITORIAL CARTOON



Observer Poll

Who would you rather spend a night on the town with?

	Votes	Percentage
Mr. Sarah Palin	1255	47%
Barack Obama	788	29%
John McCain	354	13%
Joe Biden	294	11%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Forgive your enemies. Nothing annoys them so much"

Oscar Wilde
playwright

Fearful symmetry

As our airplane descended into Seattle last weekend it rocked with some turbulence. While this was probably just the result of heavy winds, I couldn't help but be reminded of Zach Braff's nightmare in "Garden State." Grabbing my armrests, I braced for the worst and considered whether or not it would be possible to fashion a parachute out of a blanket if the plane were to rip apart like in "Lost." As the plane righted its course, I not only realized that we were going to be fine, but that I might watch too many movies.

Like many people I try to act like I am fearless, but with today being Halloween it is only appropriate that I admit to my fears while contemplating everybody else's. With our economy in shambles and the country on the verge of an historic yet divisive election, Americans of all backgrounds are scared of what happens next. This Halloween, more than any other in my lifetime, finds Americans more fearful than ever.

As the presidential election enters its final weekend, websites and television



Bob Kessler

House of Stix

programs have all reported that Americans are terrified that the candidate of their opposition will win. As "The Daily Show" correspondent John Oliver put it, "There is no red America, no blue America, there's just one scared sh**less America." It does not matter if people support Senator Obama or Senator McCain. People across the country are terrified of what would happen if the other guy wins, and they should be.

As young Americans, we college students should be more scared than anybody. Our country is about to elect a man that will be ready and willing to push the problems of his generation on to our own without batting an eye, and I can say this without making any assumptions about who wins on Tuesday. This is because both candidates only care about Joe the Plumber, and couldn't care less about his children's future. Both candidates want to spend more money while they raise less money. Both candidates will run a record budget deficit next year. Both candidates will continue to create debt that their administrations will never find a way to pay off, and we are the generation that will be forced to solve these problems in the future.

I almost wish that Doc Brown could swoop down in his DeLorean, pick up Messrs. McCain and Obama and say,

"The problem is for your kids." He could whisk the two away to a future where Americans can't afford the flying cars that the Chinese and Japanese have because we are forced to pay ridiculously high taxes just to make sure the government doesn't collapse. If people are worried about GM and Ford in the present, I can only imagine what it will be like when Honda, Toyota, and Nissan have cornered this market on flying cars.

That will be fine with me, though. I do have that acute fear of flying I mentioned earlier.

Although I might not be as troubled by a flying car that I could have control over. My fear of flight might simply be grounded (pun intended) in the notion that I have no control over the situation rather than the actual act of being so high above the ground. If this lack of control is actually what scares me, then there really is nothing more I can do, just like there is nothing more we young Americans can do to stop our parent's generation from dumping their problems on us.

The generation ahead of us destroyed this economy by purchasing houses they couldn't afford and then looking to the government when the financial system into which they put their faith collapsed. The government, in turn, produced \$700 billion out of nowhere to fix this

mess, leaving the governments of the future to balance the checkbook. As Sarah Connor might have remarked, Judgment Day was prevented.

However we know better by now. We have seen T3. Judgment Day cannot be prevented; it can only be delayed. So just as John Connor was left to solve the problems that his mother could not, we will one day be left to pick up the pieces of our current economic crisis. Only this will happen many years after John McCain or Barack Obama has been given four years to dig an even deeper whole of debt for this country.

Some might say that it doesn't matter who you vote for, just as long as you vote. I agree that it doesn't matter who you vote for, and it doesn't even matter if you vote. I believe this because four years from now the government will have left its children with more loans to pay off, and it probably won't have the ability to save itself by fashioning a parachute out of a blanket. On the bright side, we will probably still have a new "Saw" movie to ease our fears every Halloween.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mustaches unite!

To Whom It May Concern:

There was a time when Saturdays in the fall were greeted by men who harnessed a power that went beyond the weight room and wind sprints. Opposing teams would cringe with fear as they huddled in the tunnel, scared to death by the sight that awaited them under the golden helmets and black Adidas. For the next four hours, their names would ring out to the pleasure of 59,000 screaming fans — Zorich, Pritchett and even Donny Grimm.

These heroes had a common bond, one that I call upon Pat Kuntz and the 2008 defense to shake from the Notre Dame graves and resuscitate this 2008 — a mustache. Imagine the entire defense sporting the 'stache, lead by Kuntz's Mohawk, descending upon our opponents like the black angel of death cloaked in a handlebar mustache. Imagine the 80,000 plus in the House that Rockne Built wearing fake staches, chanting our battle cry on three and three ... Mustaches unite! Mustaches unite!

Think about it. It's about time we get back to basics.
Best,

Tom Parnell
alumnus
Class of 1997
Oct. 9

No reason not to vote

Mr. McKeon ("More reasons not to vote," Oct. 15),

I can only hope that your letter is some kind of joke or satire, but I did not pick up on the humor. Whether it is sarcastic or sincere, your letter delivers a very destructive message to those who do not possess what I hope is simply your high-functioning wit.

You dismiss the American system of government as "garbage," and you quote stand-up comedians as authorities on the matter. Surely if you were serious, you would have cited more qualified commentators of politics. You state that you do not vote, but that you do not discourage others from voting. I see, however, no other purpose in your letter than to encourage others to "solve this political dilemma" as you have by not voting.

There are admittedly many glaring flaws in the American system of government, but these flaws will never be corrected by apathy and cynicism. Participation by the people is the only way to repair defects in American democracy. You may argue that American democracy does not work, but democracy, by its nature, does not work if voters do not participate. If you disapprove of the candidates, show your dissatisfaction by voting for a third-party candidate. The third party won't win the election, of course, but by voting for a minor candidate, you show your dissatisfaction.

The right to vote and to have a voice — however small it may be — in government is a right held dearly by millions of Americans. If you do not value that right, do not insult those who do by encouraging political apathy among your peers. You have chosen not to exercise your right to vote; please feel free not to exercise your right of free speech, as well.

Eddie Guilbeau
sophomore
Duncan Hall
Oct. 18

Voting responsibility

As the election draws near, there have been more and more letters about the two candidates and which one to vote for. But there is another choice, the choice not to vote.

Robert McKeon ("More reasons not to vote," Oct. 15) says he will not because politicians practice in double speak. He claims they do not provide answers to the important questions. While just this week both candidates have outlined plans to revive our suffering economy, and spent an evening debating the issues, Barack Obama has also discussed possible plans for health care. And both candidates have stated their desired strategy for handling the wars.

Whether you support McCain, Obama, Barr or Nader it is important to vote. If you do not support any, then it is important to look at the candidates' positions and align yourself with who you think is the best. America is at a crossroads; this election could be a defining moment for our generation, and even in

American history. The policies that the upcoming president will enact will primarily affect our generation.

Lastly, McKeon quotes "I ... who did not vote ... am in no way responsible for that these politicians have done" is a particularly unnerving statement. As a child of two lawyers, I have witnessed first hand the number of frivolous lawsuits grow. The amount of people shirking responsibility, and looking for others to blame is absurd. It is time for our generation to change this trend and take responsibility, because in a few short years the results will be ours to bear regardless of whom is to blame.

I encourage everyone to educate themselves and vote for who they feel is best, because there will never be a perfect or near perfect politician.

Luke Ricci
junior
Dillon Hall
Oct. 21

We are all socialists

That is, if we take Christina Pesavento's cookie-cutter concept of 'socialism' seriously ("Barack the Socialist," Oct. 28).

According to the dictionary Pesavento consulted, you're a socialist if you subscribe to "any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods." Thus Pesavento ought to agree that any Senator who voted to give Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson the authority to recapitalize and buy equity stakes in the U.S. banking system — as McCain did not a month ago — is a 'socialist'.

Similarly she should agree that any Senator who supports a top marginal income-tax rate of 35 percent rather than 39.6 percent — rather than advocating doing away with progressive income taxes, which McCain certainly

doesn't — is a socialist. Not to mention any Senator who supports the principle of tax-payer subsidized medicine for the poor and the elderly (in the guise of Medicaid and Medicare, respectively). And so on.

The problem with labeling Obama a socialist is not only, pace Pesavento, that it sounds like a scare tactic. (Which it certainly is. Labeling Democrats 'Arabs' and 'terrorists' doesn't work any longer, I guess.) Worse, it prevents a serious public discussion of the genuine differences between the candidates. Which, as one of McCain's own campaign aides recently admitted, is the discussion that at least one of these candidates is going to great lengths to avoid.

Alexander Skiles
grad student
off campus
Oct. 28

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voting privilege

Every morning on my way into work at the human rights bureau at the State Department, I pass by a powerful image many of you have probably seen in the media: the picture of an Iraqi woman giving the peace sign, her right index finger stained purple after she voted in the 2005 elections. It's a reminder about democracy in action — never perfect, rarely easy — but nevertheless the only political system built on the premise that all citizens should have a say in the governance process. That's an idea that we sort of take for granted in this country, even to the extent of getting lazy about exercising our constitutional right to vote.

So many times over the past few election cycles we have heard criticism of our generation as apathetic and indifferent to social issues or civic engagement. During our time at Notre Dame, we do a great deal to dispel that notion as we demonstrate our passion for an extraordinary range of issues. But

there is still the possibility that when it gets down to the wire, some of us may not go to the polls or send in an absentee ballot. Maybe due to indecision, lack of spare time, or doubt that our votes will really matter this time around. Do not let that be you on Nov. 4.

If the fact that this election is critical for the future of our country as we face daunting challenges on nearly every policy front is not a sufficient reason, then I urge you to think again about the sacrifices people all over the world have made for freedom and recognition of their rights through the ballot box. Voting is fundamental to faithful citizenship. Voting is also easy. So let's make sure NDVOTES on Nov. 4.

Michael McKenna
alumnus
Class of 2008
Oct. 30

Give employees union rights

Notre Dame claims to be a family, claims to listen to the voices of everyone at the University. But does the administration really live up to this rhetoric?

If you talk with Notre Dame workers, they will tell you that they have no voice on this campus. We cannot truly live as a family if workers' call for change cannot be heard. When workers at Harvard, Yale and Georgetown, among other renowned universities, called for similar change, their voices were respected and their issues were addressed. All of these universities have even achieved living wages.

But another crucial element, which these campuses all share that ours lacks, is union protection. Unions played a key role in the living wage campaigns at all of these universities because they provided a unified, strong and powerful voice for workers. The

University will refuse to listen to demands for better working conditions and just wages until they are forced to, and the voice of students and workers on their own has not been enough.

John Affleck-Graves, the executive vice president of the University, claims "Notre Dame has long recognized the right of our employees to unionize if they wish, and has stated that if they do vote to have a union the University will bargain with it 'in good faith.'" It is time to put this claim to the test. The workers at Notre Dame may lack a voice, but they are calling for change. If the University will not listen, it is time to seek outside help.

Teresa McGeeney
junior
Lyons Hall
Oct. 29

Partisanship separate from Church ideals

In response to the Letter "Non-Partisan?" published on Oct. 28, I would like to call attention to a few points.

The writers of the article say that the focus on abortion at the NDVotes event on Oct. 14 "demonstrates a lack of understanding of the holistic nature of Catholic social teaching." They forget, when they assert that "larger" issues such as immigration and discrimination were ignored, that the Catholic Church also teaches that not all issues carry the same weight, that life issues are of supreme importance and that abortion is a non-negotiable issue.

They may also forget that we attend a Catholic university, where many students take the Church's teaching on weighting these issues seriously, especially when voting. No one has ever accused NDVotes of being anything but fair until this Letter, and, as far as I know, the authors' complaint has been the only one.

I believe there is an explanation for this; please keep reading. I would like to point out that many people, including the writers of the Letter, seem to be in denial of Barack Obama's actual stance on abortion and the effect his proposed policies would have on the number of abortions performed in the United States. Politicians and advocates of Obama, not to mention Obama himself, have used elusive and eloquent language to water down the facts. It would have been irresponsible for NDVotes not to make sure people at this event knew the facts and what is at

stake in this election.

The authors of the Letter say that "Many argue that Obama's social policies will reduce the need for abortion." Firstly, it is erroneous to say that there was ever a "need" for abortion. Secondly, this statement is simply false; Senator Obama's policy propositions cannot possibly do anything but cause a spike in the abortion rate, as Professor Carozza pointed out.

If anyone doubts this, please research the following topics: the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion and which Obama opposes, the ban on partial birth abortion which Obama opposes, and especially the Freedom of Choice Act, which would abolish literally all restrictions on abortions, including mandatory waiting periods, parental consent laws, informed consent laws and conscientious objection laws allowing doctors, nurses, other state-licensed professionals, hospitals and other healthcare institutions to refuse to perform or participate in abortions.

Obama has pledged to make this the first bill he signs into law as president of the United States. To those whom these facts seem "skewed" toward a particular agenda, I would suggest re-examination of support for your candidate.

Christine M. Romero
junior
Lewis Hall
Oct. 28

A campus-wide thank you

We just want to let the students at South Dining Hall know how special they are to us. Each of you bring your own special 'sunshine' into our day. Being checker/monitor is a pleasure to look forward to, as it gives us an opportunity to get acquainted with wonderful young ladies and gentlemen, who come through our station. It is a gift that we will always remember and treasure. Thank you all for making our time here a rewarding experience.

John and Lila Ritschard
South Dining Hall employees
Mishawaka, Ind.
Oct. 27

Vampire energy

Think vampires are scary? Try your phone charger.

The leaves are falling, the temperature is (drastically) dropping, and everyone is excited for the frightening Halloween fun that will commence this weekend. However, there's one thing that isn't falling — our energy bill. In light of Halloween, we'd like to take this time to talk about one of the scariest things of all to your wallet: vampire electricity.

Yes, that is really what it's called. Creepy, right? Vampire electricity refers to electricity used by appliances and electronics when they are turned off. You may not know it, but your TV, DVD player, microwave, toaster, clock radio, laptop and yes, your phone charger, all consume small amounts of energy even when you are not using them. The reason for this is that most modern electronics go into standby (zombie) mode when you hit the off switch — they never actually turn off. These small amounts of energy add up to a pretty spooktacular sum over time, and cost consumers a lot more money than they realize.

The Department of Energy estimates that five percent of U.S. electricity is wasted by vampire electronics every year, and that figure could

increase to 20 percent by 2010. Vampire electricity is estimated at about 25 watts per household, which, when multiplied by 110 million households, gives the ghastly figure of \$2.7 billion per year that Americans are spending on this alone. That's enough to buy nine and a half million cauldrons worth of Hershey's Kisses. Moreover, it puts more strain on a horrifically overloaded power grid.

So what can you do to stop those ghoulish electronics that are haunting your house, sucking electricity, and therefore money, out of you? Unplug. You don't need to have your cell phone charger plugged in when your phone is not attached to it. Same goes for the TV or the toaster. The convenience factor may be lost, but you'll gain a lot more in terms of money and energy saved.

(Katie Woodward & William Staruk are juniors at Notre Dame who attended the CSC's Energy Policy Seminar in Washington D.C. They are not going as trees or tree huggers for Halloween.)

Katie Woodward
William Staruk
juniors
Oct. 29

Election considerations

Dear Observer readers,

As a member of a politically conscious family and as a voter of the battleground state of Ohio, I would give you some thoughts to consider on the meaning of "pro-life."

Someone who professes to be "pro-life" must be respectful of human life at all levels in all nations, not only toward privileged American fetuses. As a pro-life person, you would consider the livelihood of Americans of all ages and backgrounds, the guests of America and the citizens of the countries with whom we have relations and responsibilities.

Consider generations besides your own when voting. While one candidate may have an attractive offer on how to fix a problem temporarily, it would be far wiser to consider the candidate who has a detailed plan on how to fix problems with far-reaching outcomes.

Younger Americans, consider a plan for health care which benefits more people. If we vote it in now, it will be substantial by the time we need it, and we will receive respect from the older generations.

Politicians, consider admitting

mistakes of previous administrations and withdraw from the countries who have made it clear they do not want our help.

Consider respecting the military families and non-Americans who have been suffering long enough. Leaving a war is a "pro-life" action on multiple levels. Not only will we save lives, but we will be able to use the money we had been spending there on and spend it on issues that matter here at home. Consider using the money to boost our troubled economy.

Invest in education so we can shape future American leaders and hop back on track with the global academic classroom. Invest in the environment to show our commitment to life and future life.

Also, if you need a ride to your polling place, I will drive you there personally. Take some responsibility and show your enthusiasm for your issues and your candidates. When other Americans see your passion, they will get excited, too!

Mickey Gruscinski
senior
LeMans Hall
Oct. 30

Ben Folds redefines the word **NORMAL**

By **PATRICK GRIFFIN**
Scene Writer

"Way to Normal" is the title of the latest album produced by the cynical rocker, Ben Folds. Though the title of the album may suggest otherwise, the musician's third full length studio album proves to be far from the norms of pop rock.

The album may seem like trademark Ben Folds irony, the North Carolina native would argue that the album is a return to his inspirational roots.

"This new album is really about me being free, which is why it feels cathartic and expressive," Folds said on his official Web site. It's about me coming back to being myself.

"Way to Normal," which hit the stands on Sept. 16th, is expected to be a popular reinvention for a diverse Folds following.

Though Folds' Web site promised "irresistible hooks and piano-pounding pandemonium that listeners haven't been treated to... since his years with Ben Folds Five," "Way to Normal" features few structural differences compared to his previous albums. That isn't to say that the album is a failure. It packs the same sardonic punch that has earned Ben Folds his devout fan base.

The album strongly opens with two crowd pleasers entitled "Hiroshima (B B Benny Hit His Head)" and "Dr. Yang." The first track is an account of the public humiliation Folds earned after falling off the stage while performing in Japan. Not only did the accident afford the performer medical attention, it also provided the material for one of the album's most memorable tracks when set to the rhythmic pounding of Folds' piano.

"Dr. Yang" similarly drives the listener deliberately toward a final fuzzed and energetic crescendo.

Way To Normal Ben Folds

Released by: Sony Records

Recommended Tracks: Hiroshima, You Don't Know Me (Featuring Regina Spektor), Cologne



The first track is an account of the public humiliation Folds earned after falling off the stage while performing in Japan.

Many of the other tracks spawn from characteristic Ben Folds lyrical spontaneity and harsh opinion.

In addition to the signature anthems, Folds births several romanticist ballads that call to mind previous works such as "Brick" and "The Luckiest." Accompanied by a subtle orchestral ambience, Folds ponders both the beginnings and failures of relationships in "Cologne."

The song draws a curious reference in citing former astronaut Lisa Nowak who, "put on a diaper and drove 18 hours to kill her boyfriend." Concluding the album with a similar romantic observation, "Kylie from Connecticut," recants the past affair of the long-wedded protagonist Kylie.

The final track of the album lulls the listener into appreciative tranquility with its wandering piano line and clinching string section.

The album's first hit single, "You Don't Know Me," featuring the bright vocals of Regina Spektor, may be the best track on the album. The poppy single combines many of Folds' best musical and lyrical tendencies juxtaposed with Spektor's swooping voice. Behind a conscientious

assessment of a failing relationship, the staccato of an accompanying violin parallels, once again, a catchy and memorable piano line.

Folds agrees that the addition of Spektor vitalizes the single: "She gave it more life. I think she's one of the best singers out there, she's just so talented."

Many of the other tracks spawn from characteristic Ben Folds lyrical spontaneity and harsh opinion. He criticizes, with tonal contrasts between verse and chorus, upper class elitism in "Frown Song," and even voraciously attacks a critic through several challenges of the victim's integrity in "Brainswascht."

At times during "Way to Normal," Folds displayed the musical charisma of some of the greatest piano rockers: Elton John, Billy Joel or Freddie Mercury.

The album isn't flawless, though. More than once, Folds deviates from the flowing structure of his typical musical style for droning conversational tangents. The misplaced digressions lengthen several songs unnecessarily, boring the listener. Fortunately, these shortcomings are limited and do not excessively taint the album's integrity.

If you are a faithful Folds fan, "Way to Normal" will resemble the pianist's past albums — a collection of both catchy anthems and emotional ballads whose appeal gradually grows on the listener. For those who are unfamiliar with the artist, the album is an excellent introduction to Folds' quirky and acerbic tendencies. If you're looking for an album that deviates from typical pop trends, look

Contact Patrick Griffin at pgriffi3@nd.edu





By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

Try and name a Hollywood screenwriter. Just one. It seems an oxymoron to refer to anyone who has written a screenplay without doubling as a director as famous. Screenwriters simply write the stories and show up in the credits. Don't tell that to Charlie Kaufman, though.

To say that Kaufman transcends Hollywood is an understatement. He is a paradox of a writer whose work is almost indescribable and incomprehensible at times, yet always engrossing. His plots are otherworldly. His dialogue is down-right foreign. Each scene that he constructs operates in a dreamlike fashion, allowing the audience to seamlessly surrender any semblance of what they're accustomed to seeing when at the movies.

He is Charlie Kaufman, the lone star writer, and as

Synecdoché, New York

Directed by: Charlie Kaufman

Starring: Philip Seymour Hoffman, Samantha Morton, Michelle Williams, Catherine Keener,



of last Friday, he is now Charlie Kaufman, the writer/director.

It is only fitting that the Academy Award winning writer behind "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," and such far out there films as "Being John Malkovic" and "Adaptation" would aim for the stars in his directorial debut. So what did Kaufman conjure up this time?

Kaufman is a paradox of a writer whose work is almost indescribable and incomprehensible at times, yet always engrossing.

Well, he made "Synecdoché, New York", a two-hour journey into the confines of life, death, love, art, and the universal struggle to be authentic in an inauthentic world.

Everything is ever shifting in Kaufman's world. Duplicate characters roam through unfamiliar environments in shifting time frames, creating a jigsaw puzzle of a movie that those willing to follow will find tantalizing but inevitably rewarding. Yes, to say it bluntly, it's a head-trip, but the kind that is brilliant both for its journey and its destination.

The story centers on Caden Cotard (Philip Seymour Hoffman), a depressed theater director who is miserably married to Adele Lack (Catherine Keener). The couple live in a seemingly broken home with their daughter, Olivia. When the film opens, Caden is directing Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman," only with young actors (including Michelle Williams) rather than middle-aged ones.

Although the curtains eventually go down on the play, it is Miller's "Death of a Salesman" and its theme of dreams arising out of reality, that goes on to

dictate the rest of the film.

After his wife leaves him and takes their daughter to Berlin, Caden's health begins to deteriorate. Or so he thinks. A short time later he receives a MacArthur Grant, which he uses to work on a theater production of epic proportion. Inside a massive warehouse he reconstructs a life-size replica of New York City and auditions thousands of actors.

From there, fiction and non-fiction blend into an almost indecipherable mix, as Kaufman continues to further mine the many themes of the film.

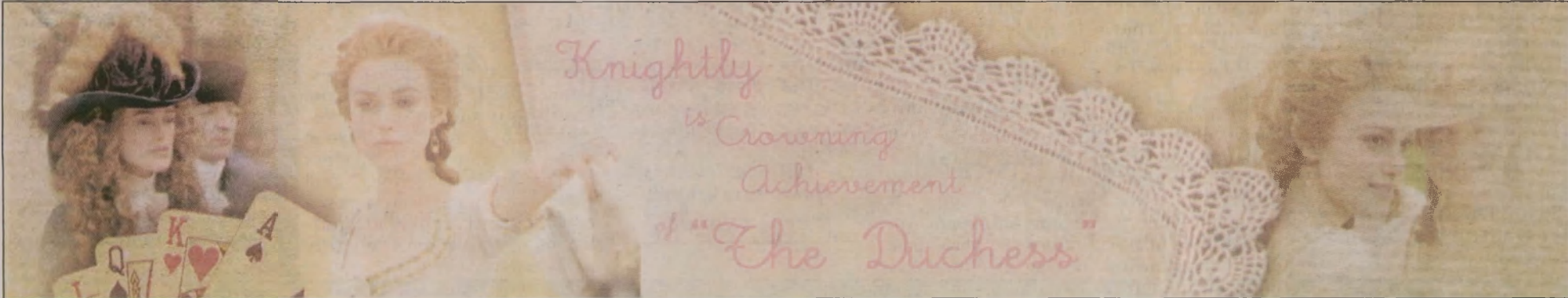
In the end, Caden's grand theater piece illuminates the true silver lining of this film, that we are all authentic and important, because in life, no one is an extra, because we are all lead roles in our own stories.

"Synecdoché, New York" is so intricate and meaningful on so many levels that it begs to be watched over and over again. One can't wait to see it again, not to try to better understand it, but to once

again immerse oneself in Kaufman's metaphorical theater that so interestingly and beautifully attempts to explore life from every which way. It has enough creativity to fill 10 movies and enough ambition to fill another 20.

Of course, Kaufman aims so high that the only way he could have truly succeeded is if "Synecdoché, New York" were the greatest film of this century. Instead, it's just a great film, and one that resonates long after the credits roll.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu



By CAITLYN FERARRO
Scene Writer

"The Duchess" depicts the desperate life of Georgiana, the Duchess of Devonshire (Kiera Knightley) living in 18th century England.

In the eyes of her public, the Duchess was one of the most fashionable and charming women around. Even high society followed in her wake, emulating her fashions and wigs. It is painfully obvious early on that the gossip line is evident, and that the Duke is "the only man in England not in love with his wife."

While Georgiana leads an extravagant political and public life, her personal life is characterized by unhappiness due to her marriage. Ralph Fiennes perfectly portrays the evil Duke with great subtlety that it creeps up on the viewer. The Duke does not bother to get to know his wife, but like many other stories of the time only wants her to provide him with a male heir.

While this film does contain some soapy underpinnings, it avoids most of the soap opera pitfalls. The

The Duchess

Directed by: Saul Dibb

Starring: Kiera Knightley, Ralph Fiennes, Charlotte Rampling, Dominic Cooper



riveting performances of the actors save the film from this fate by demonstrating elegance, wit, and power.

It is a beautiful period piece that delves into the dirt and vice of the seemingly clean cut royal class. Part of the realism translates from the book, which was based on a true story that inspired the film, by Amanda Foreman.

While the Duchess struggles to produce a son, she must suffer through the uncomfortable love triangle that includes her husband and his live-in mistress, Lady Katherine (Charlotte Rampling). Georgiana's once best friend and confidant.

The awkward meals that the three share are extremely tense. When the Duchess can no longer remain calm at one of these meals, it leads to a harrowing sexual confrontation between the Duke and his wife. The film succeeds here by avoiding the clichéd drama about the woman being infertile, as Georgiana births daughter after daughter. The problem here is simply bad luck.

Full of emotions ranging from anger to love to desperation, both Lady Katherine and Georgiana seem willing to do anything for their children. The two women are extremely strong characters in the face of a society that does not value their voice, especially in politics and ownership. Unfortunately, the men seem to only care for their children if they are males.

To the outside world, Georgiana is a vibrant celebrity known for her fashions and quick wit. But when need be, Knightley carefully portrays the depression underneath her character. And when the Duchess falls passionately in love with a young politician,

Charles Grey (Dominic Cooper), Knightley comes alive.

"The Duchess" is visually sumptuous and more honest than most costume dramas. Knightley is truly exceptional as the titular character. There is even Oscar buzz surrounding the actress with this performance.

After roles in "Pride and Prejudice" and "Antonement" it seems she has perfected the British time period woman who experiences fanciful fits, eloquent discourse, and sometimes a little steamy sex. It would be the second, and a well-deserved, nomination for Knightley.

While Knightley certainly deserves ample praise, Fiennes does just as well. Since the film is entitled "The Duchess" it is expected that her char-

acter will sometimes overshadow his.

However, he holds his own as he perfectly plays the controlling villain, although his performance is certainly less obvious than his Lord Voldermort persona. In a twisted way, he makes the Duke's terrible actions seem necessary, and towards the film's end he briefly reveals a hint of humanity.

His portrayal of the painfully aristocratic man is impeccable, as he leads the audience to consider sympathizing with him and condemn society instead.

Cooper and Rampling round out a great cast as the supporting characters that suffer themselves due to the dysfunctional Devonshire marriage. In the end, "The Duchess" contains expansive scenery, wonderful costumes, makeup and hair, impressive dialogue, and outstanding performances.

Contact Caitlyn Ferarro at cferrarl@nd.edu

WOMEN'S INTERHALL

Lyons looking for a big upset against top-seeded Welsh Fam

Playoff-tested PW set to battle Howard; Walsh wants to avenge Farley blowout; Pangborn and McGlinn ready to go

By MOLLY SAMMON,
DOUGLAS FARMER,
CHRIS MICHALSKI, and
RYAN O'CONNELL

Sports Writers

To kick off the first round of the playoffs, top-seeded Welsh Family has history on its side against No. 8 seed Lyons.

These two teams met in the first playoff game last season with the exact same seeds. Last year, Welsh Family won — but it's a new season, a new game, and Lyons seems prepared for the fight.

"I think the biggest challenge this Sunday is being prepared mentally," Lyons junior quarterback and co-captain Claire Connell said. "We need to show up to the game ready to play with intensity."

As Lyons works on their game intensity, Welsh Family has a different gameplan for securing their win, come Sunday.

"We can't get complacent with the wins we have this year and need to stay focused on winning our upcoming games," Welsh Family captain Jenni Gargula said.

During the regular season, the Whirlwinds went an impressive 6-0, but almost suffered their first loss against Breen-Phillips in their last game, owing their problems to struggling to score in the red zone.

Lyons finished its regular season at .500.

"We have not played Welsh Family Hall this year, but we know that they are a strong team," Connell said. "We are looking forward to ending

their winning streak."

The game will take place Sunday at 1 p.m. LaBar Fields.

Howard vs. Pasquerilla West

Every season, when playoffs roll around, it becomes a different ballgame. Teams with deep playoff experience, such as Pasquerilla West, understand this fact.

But squads like Howard, with only one playoff game in team history, don't necessarily know the feeling.

But, despite only being separated in the standings by half a game, and tying each other earlier this fall, Pasquerilla West (3-1-2) enters the first-

round game against Howard (3-2-1) on Sunday with at least that one large factor in its favor. At the end of September when the two teams last met, the season was near its halfway point. The two teams endured a defensive slugfest to a 6-6 tie.

Pasquerilla West team captain Cara Davies described that matchup as "an ugly, sloppy game by all accounts."

Both teams relied on strong defensive rushes to fluster the opposing quarterback. This strategy led to Pasquerilla West lineman Jordan Johnson recording two sacks. The Howard defense countered those sacks by intercepting Davies twice in the first half.

The greatest difference

between the two teams is their playoff experience. PW has won two titles in the past three years, but were stifled last year in the semi-finals.

"Our goal this year is to end up back in the Stadium," Davies said. "We're definitely looking to get back to familiar ground."

Last season the Ducks reached the playoffs for the first time. Their stint was short-lived though, as they lost in the first round.

"We're taking it one game at a time," captain and sophomore quarterback Kayla Bishop said. "But we've always got that Stadium game in the back of our minds."

Both Pasquerilla West and Howard are eager for a better game than the last time they played each other. Howard hopes to record its first playoff victory in history and Pasquerilla West is chasing its third title in four years.

The Ducks and Purple Weasels meet Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. at the LaBar Fields.

Farley vs. Walsh

On Sunday, third-seeded Walsh will try to get redemption against the sixth-seeded Farley in a first-round playoff matchup.

The two teams faced off in their season openers, with the Finest tallying an easy 26-0 win. Quarterback Emily Murphy threw for three touchdowns in the dominant

offensive performance.

However, Farley captain Jenny Rolfs has noticed a definite improvement in the Wild Women over the course of the regular season. This improvement is seen especially in the Wild Women defense, which has allowed six points or less in three of the last four games and has brought the team's record to 3-2-1.

The Finest will rely on their defense, which shut out its previous opponent, Lewis, and has been stellar throughout the season.

"Our defense is very solid, we have held other teams to little or no points," senior captain Jenny Rolfs said.

The offense, on the other hand, was unable to produce any points against Lewis, and the Finest are trying to get Murphy to repeat her performance in the season opener.

Farley is focused on improving short yardage plays and moving the ball quickly.

The winner of this match will go on to face the winner of undefeated Welsh Family and Lyons.

Pangborn vs. McGlinn

This Sunday, the Pangborn Phoxes and McGlinn Shamrocks will face off on LaBar fields at 4 p.m. in the concluding game of the first playoff week.

Both teams are hoping that their gameplan and experi-

ence gained over the course of the season will lead them to victory and one game closer to the championship.

Despite Pangborn's sub-par performance in their previous game against Farley, the team believes it will be competitive with any team it plays. Before playing Farley, the high-powered Pangborn offense averaged nearly 25 points a game.

"We didn't play as well as we would've liked last game," Pangborn captain Kathy Poploski said. "Losing the last game of the regular season is not the ideal way of entering the playoffs, but it won't affect how we play our remaining games."

On the other sideline, McGlinn plans to use the momentum from its win over Lyons to give the Shamrocks an advantage against Pangborn. However, the

Shamrocks aren't content with merely making the playoffs. The Shamrocks have their sights set on the championship.

"It means a lot to be in the playoffs especially after the rough season

last year, but we are not content with just making the playoffs because we think we have a chance to win it all," senior captain and quarterback Sarah deGroot said. "I think the playoffs are coming at the perfect time as we are playing our best football of the season."

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu, Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu, Chris Michalski at jmichal2@nd.edu, and Ryan O'Connell at roconn3@nd.edu

Read the football coverage that is too juicy for The Observer.
Check out the Casual Observer, the Observer Sports Blog,
at Observersportsblog.21cr.info.

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, October 31, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

Men's Basketball ESPN/USA Today Top 25

	team	points	pvs
1	North Carolina	775	3
2	Connecticut	707	NR
3	Louisville	694	6
4	UCLA	650	4
5	Duke	578	16
6	Pittsburgh	576	18
7	Michigan State	572	13
8	Texas	538	5
9	NOTRE DAME	525	19
10	Purdue	465	20
11	Gonzaga	437	NR
12	Memphis	425	2
13	Tennessee	408	7
14	Oklahoma	387	NR
15	Arizona State	304	NR
16	Miami (FL)	233	NR
17	Marquette	219	21
18	Georgetown	175	12
19	Florida	161	NR
20	Davidson	158	9
21	USC	153	NR
21	Wisconsin	153	10
23	Kansas	130	1
24	Wake Forest	129	NR
25	Villanova	122	24

Women's Soccer NSCAA/adidas Top 25

	team	points	record
1	NOTRE DAME	850	18-0-0
2	North Carolina	799	15-1-1
3	Portland	764	15-1-0
4	UCLA	763	14-0-2
5	Stanford	733	16-0-1
6	Florida State	677	13-2-1
7	Florida	639	15-2-1
8	Virginia	607	12-3-1
9	Oklahoma State	525	15-1-2
10	USC	505	12-3-1
11	Duke	464	12-3-2
12	Texas	461	12-2-3
13	Boston College	457	11-4-2
14	Texas A&M	449	14-3-1
15	Colorado	367	13-3-3
16	San Diego	364	13-3-2
17	West Virginia	301	12-2-5
18	UW-Milwaukee	244	15-2-2
19	Wake Forest	243	10-6-0
20	Missouri	162	12-5-0
21	Penn State	153	13-6-0
21	Washington State	130	8-5-4
23	Georgetown	101	13-3-2
24	Rutgers	66	12-5-1
25	Minnesota	59	17-2-0

MIAA Volleyball Conference Standings

	Team	League Record
1	Hope	13-1
2	Calvin	12-2
3	Alma	11-3
4	SAINT MARY'S	9-7
5	Adrian	8-8
6	Kalamazoo	4-10
7	Albion	4-11
8	Trine	4-11
9	Olivet	2-14

around the dial

NBA

Bulls at Celtics
8:00 p.m., ESPN

Spurs at Trail Blazers
10:30 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Brewers general manager Doug Melvin helps Milwaukee's new manager, Ken Macha, into a jersey at a news conference on Thursday. Macha, who led the Oakland A's to two AL West titles, signed a two-year contract.

Brewers hire Macha as manager

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Ken Macha was hired Thursday as manager of the Milwaukee Brewers, taking over from Dale Sveum following the team's first postseason appearance since 1982.

The 58-year-old Macha, who managed Oakland to a pair of AL West titles, agreed to a two-year contract. He replaces Sveum, who became interim manager when Ned Yost was fired with 12 games left in the regular season.

"It means a tremendous amount to me," Macha said. "The players are the guys that go out there

and win or lose the games for you, and I think the job of a manager and a coach is to get these players as prepared as you possibly can."

Macha immediately tried to dispel the notion that he lost touch with his players in Oakland, including Jason Kendall, now the Brewers catcher.

"I've got a couple things to say about that. No. 1, the job of the manager is really not to be buddies with all the players. You have to make very difficult decisions over the course of the year," he said. "Sometimes players get a little personal and think

it's personal. It really isn't."

Macha led Oakland to a 368-260 record. He was fired two days after the Athletics were swept by Detroit in the 2006 AL championship series, a result that frustrated players.

"I think if you go back and talk to those players now, they might have a little bit of a different take," Macha said.

Macha said he spoke with Sveum, who was dropped from consideration Oct. 17, and encouraged him to keep his dream of being a manager one day.

"I really feel that Dale

will be a plus to this staff," Macha said. "I'm hoping that he stays."

Willie Randolph and Bob Brenly also were finalists for the job.

Six years ago, Macha was considered the lead candidate to become the Brewers manager when Doug Melvin became GM, but Macha was promoted from bench coach to manager in Oakland.

Milwaukee went 90-72 last season and won the wild-card berth on the final day. The Brewers then lost in four games to Philadelphia, the eventual World Series champs, in the first round of the playoffs.

IN BRIEF

Witten wants to play Sunday against Giants

IRVING, Texas — Cowboys tight end Jason Witten feels every breath he takes because of a broken rib. Sleeping is difficult and doctors have told him that it could be three or four weeks before his side will feel any better.

Yet, Witten still hopes to play Sunday against the NFC East-leading and rival New York Giants.

During the early portion of practice open to reporters, Witten was in shorts and doing conditioning drills on the side with a team trainer. It was the second day in a row he didn't practice.

Witten, the NFC leader with 46 catches, said he would like to get some practice reps this week, but still described himself as a game-time decision.

The Cowboys (5-3), who had lost three of four games before their 13-9 victory Sunday over Tampa Bay, are already without quarterback Tony Romo (broken pinkie) and guard Kyle Kosier (foot) on offense and several injured defenders.

Griffey on the market after White Sox decline option

CHICAGO — Ken Griffey Jr.'s \$16.5 million option was declined Thursday by the Chicago White Sox, making the No. 5 home run hitter in major league history eligible for free agency.

Griffey is owed a \$4 million buyout, which completes a \$116.5 million, nine-year contract that he agreed to with the Cincinnati Reds before the 2000 season.

The 38-year old hit a combined .249 with 18 homers and 71 RBIs in 143 games last season for the Reds and the White Sox. Griffey batted .260 with three homers and 18 RBIs in 41 games with the White Sox, who acquired him July 31 in a trade that sent right-hander Nick Masset and infielder Danny Richar to Cincinnati.

Griffey, who agreed to come to Chicago so he would have a chance to play in the postseason, went 2-for-10 in the AL playoffs as the White Sox were beaten in four games by the Tampa Bay Rays.

Judge says that Vick must appear in person

SUSSEX, Va. — Former NFL quarterback Michael Vick won't be allowed to plead guilty to dogfighting charges by videoconference, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Vick's lawyers had requested that he be allowed to enter the plea from federal prison in Leavenworth, Kan., where he is serving a two-year term since admitting he bankrolled a dogfighting operation and helped execute dogs.

But citing high public interest in the case, Surry County Circuit Judge Samuel Campbell said it would be better for Vick to appear in person.

Prosecutor Gerald Poindexter preferred that Vick's plea wait until his release from federal prison. He objected to the video conferencing motion on grounds that it has never been used in Virginia and he didn't want the county to set a precedent.

MLB

Rays shift their focus to next year

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — One remarkable ride is over, and the Tampa Bay Rays are already planning another.

No stepping back to savor what they accomplished over the past six months. The AL champions want to make winning and going to the World Series an expectation.

"Our minds have been stretched. Everything about us has been stretched," manager Joe Maddon said. "I don't think our guys are ever going to be satisfied going home in October again."

A year after finishing with the worst record in baseball, the young Rays pulled off one of the most improbable turnarounds in major league history. On the way to a franchise-best 97 wins, Maddon's bunch showed it doesn't take a large payroll to field a winner.

Including the playoffs, they won 39 more games than in 2007.

The team dropped the "Devil" from its nickname, took on new colors and uniforms and said goodbye to a decade of futility in which Tampa Bay finished last in the AL East in nine of 10 seasons.

"We made a powerful statement," Maddon said. "It's just the beginning."

Players began clearing out their lockers at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

"I'm having a tough time today. But seeing the guys eases the pain," slugger Carlos Pena said. "The reason it hurts too much is because we were having too much fun. It was amazing. We were kids just living a dream. We're hungry for more. This year is one we'll never forget."

Pitcher James Shields said it hurt to fall short of their ultimate goal, but echoed his teammates' sentiments that the future is bright.

"It hit me this morning when I woke up. But I woke up all smiles," Shields said. "What a crazy season. Absolutely amazing."

Not only did the Rays outlast the big-spending Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees to win the division, they also prospered in the playoffs, long after skeptics figured they'd run out of gas.

"They kept believing in themselves to the point they were disappointed they didn't win this thing," principal owner Stuart Sternberg said after Wednesday night's 4-3 Series-clinching loss to the Philadelphia Phillies.

"They never counted themselves out at any time from the month of February on," Sternberg said. "They really believed, even down three games to one ... they felt extraordinarily confident that they were going to bring this back to St. Petersburg ... and win this thing."

The Rays did not play well against the Phillies, however they didn't make excuses for the shoddy defense, shaky pitching and lack of timely hitting.

Instead, Maddon focused on what they did well, and how that ties into a promising future.

In Games 2 and 3, the Rays scored eight runs, just one of

them on a hit. Pushing four runs home on groundouts and scoring on a sacrifice fly, safety squeeze and throwing error delighted the manager.

He's going to put out an instructional video and use it in spring training to reiterate how much small details mean to winning. He plans to spread the message to players in the minor league system, too.

"We need to continue to grow. There are a lot of things we have to do better," Maddon said. "I'm into the little things. ... This series really validates a lot of the concepts we have put out there."

Maddon, who spent 31 years in the Angels system before taking over as Rays manager in 2006, grabbed players' attention with his "98" speech on the opening day of spring training and sold them on the notion that nine players playing hard for nine innings every day could equal one of eight playoff berths.

"Again, I think we validated and created the Ray way of playing baseball," he said. "I'm very proud of that, and we have to make it better."

Solid pitching, strong defense and timely hitting were a winning recipe. And, the Rays have every reason to believe they can sustain their success.

All-Star left-hander Scott Kazmir is only 24, and he's already the team's career wins leader. He's also the youngest member of a rotation whose average age of 24.6 gave the Rays the youngest set of starters to get a team to the playoffs since the 1986 New York Mets.

What's scary is 23-year-old David Price, who has yet to make his first big league start, may turn out to be the best of all the young pitchers.

"I think we're going to be pretty good for a while," said rookie Evan Longoria, who started the season in the minors but wound up hitting 27 homers in 122 games and being selected to play in the All-Star game.

Maddon addressed the team after Wednesday night's game, telling them how much he enjoyed their growth as people, not just baseball players.

"I thought the way we handled this entire month for being as inexperienced as we are, and as young as we are, and as remarkable also," he said. "I wanted them to know it goes beyond a lot of different components of playing baseball."

Cliff Floyd, one of the veterans signed last winter to bring leadership and stability to the clubhouse, said the Rays should be able to contend for years.

Still, he cautioned his younger teammates to beware, citing the Detroit Tigers as an example.

"They had a great team, a great bunch of guys and added even more depth to their team and didn't quite get over the hump (in 2008). But the year before, they were an outstanding team," Floyd said.

"If you want to look at anything, you look at that team and see how quickly it can turn. The Colorado Rockies, how quickly it can turn. You have to come prepared for spring training, know that this year is completely over, you're not the champions, and if you're going to be champions we got a taste of what it takes to do that."

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MLB

Phillies want to do it again

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Phillies are built to be more than a one-year wonder.

Cole Hamels and Brad Lidge aren't going anywhere. Neither are Chase Utley, Ryan Howard and Jimmy Rollins. With the team's nucleus expected back next year, the Phillies have a chance to be the first repeat World Series champions since the New York Yankees won three in a row from 1998-2000.

"Thanks for your support! And let's do it again!" general manager Pat Gillick screamed out to the delirious fans Wednesday night, moments after the Phillies beat the Tampa Bay Rays to capture the second championship in the franchise's 126-year history.

The 71-year-old Gillick probably got caught up in the euphoria of the wild celebration when he said 'again.' After all, he plans to retire when his three-year contract expires Friday. That doesn't mean the Phillies can't do it without him.

Surely, repeating won't be easy. Only the Yankees and Toronto Blue Jays (1992-93) have won consecutive titles in the last 30 years.

But these Phillies are young, talented in many areas and possess the intangibles — team chemistry and resilience — needed to maintain success.

Left fielder Pat Burrell and soon-to-be 46-year-old pitcher Jamie Moyer are the only significant players that will become free agents. Burrell, who hit .250 with 33 homers and 86 RBIs in the regular season, wants to return. So does Moyer, who had a team-best 16 wins.

Burrell, 32, made \$14 million this season, and he'll probably get a more lucrative offer from another team. He started well, tailed off in the second half and struggled in the World Series after a strong NLCS.

If Burrell played his last game with the Phillies, his last at-bat was a memorable one. He broke an 0-for-13 skid in the Series with a leadoff double in the eighth inning of Game 5. Pinch runner Eric Bruntlett scored the go-ahead run on Pedro Feliz's single,

and Lidge preserved the 4-3 victory for his 48th save in 48 tries this year.

"It's not really in my hands," Burrell said of his future with the team he's spent his entire nine-year career. "It's up to them."

Moyer had a remarkable season and came back with a solid outing in Game 3 of the Series following two subpar performances in the first two rounds. He walked off the field amid the chaos Wednesday night with the pitching rubber after digging it up with a shovel.

That looked like a guy who may be ready to call it quits.

"Heck, no," Moyer said afterward.

Moyer, who made \$5.5 million this season, could get a better offer somewhere else. But he'd rather close out his career with his hometown team. Moyer grew up in the area, skipped school to attend the Phillies' 1980 championship parade and will be part of it Friday.

"It's not easy in Philadelphia," he said. "But when you win, it makes it that much sweeter."

The Phillies have five other players who will be free agents. Only two — lefty reliever Scott Eyre and reserve outfielder So Taguchi — made the post-season roster.

There are 10 players who will be eligible for arbitration, and many of them will get huge raises. Howard (\$10 million), Hamels (\$500,000), center fielder Shane Victorino (\$480,000),

right fielder Jayson Werth (\$1.7 million), starter Joe Blanton (\$3.7 million) and relievers Ryan Madson (\$1.4 million) and Chad Durbin (\$900,000) should make a lot more money next year.

The Phillies' payroll on opening day was a franchise-record \$104.5 million. Keeping it close to that total for '09 will be a challenging task for the new GM. Current assistant Ruben Amaro Jr. is the leading candidate to replace Gillick.

It was fitting the Phillies finally won it all in a strange and wacky World Series. One game started after 10 p.m. and the clincher was delayed 46 hours by rain. And, those games were the ones in Philly. The first two were played in

Tampa Bay's quirky, domed stadium with all the catwalks and goofy ground rules.

This soggy Series was a microcosm of the Phillies' season. Philadelphia got contributions from almost everyone to beat the Rays in five games. Utley had two big homers, but batted .167. Rollins hit just .227 and Burrell .071.

Catcher Carlos Ruiz (.375) and Feliz (.333) were among the unlikely heroes. Geoff Jenkins got his first hit of the postseason, a double that led to the go-ahead run in the sixth inning of Game 5. Werth offset some baserunning blunders by hitting .444. Even Blanton chipped in with a homer and a strong pitching effort in Game 4.

"We're losers no more," said Howard, who had three homers in the Series. "The organization, we're winners. Nobody can take that away from the city of Philadelphia, and nobody can take that away from us."

From the day pitchers and catchers reported to spring training on Feb. 14, everyone made it clear the goal was to win the World Series. Just making the playoffs wasn't going to cut it, not after getting a taste of it last season.

The Phillies overcame a seven-game deficit with 17 remaining and surpassed the New York Mets on the final day to capture their first NL East title in 14 years in 2007. Then, they promptly got swept by the Colorado Rockies in the first round.

Players set the tone early for '08. They walked around the clubhouse on the first day in Clearwater, Fla., wearing red T-shirts that said on the back, "Winning Starts Now."

It didn't come easy. It never does in this city.

The Phillies battled the Mets and Florida Marlins throughout the season, saving their best for when it mattered most.

They were 3½ games behind the Mets with 16 to play, but won 12 of the next 15 to clinch their second straight division title on the next-to-last day of the regular season.

The celebration wasn't too crazy after the Phillies secured a playoff spot. Everyone emphasized the goal was to get a ring. They partied after beating Milwaukee in the first round and Los Angeles in the NLCS, but stayed focused on their mission.

Here they are now, champions at last.

Now, can they do it again?

MLS

Beckham going to play for Milan

Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — David Beckham will join AC Milan in January on a three-month loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to maintain his fitness and prolong his career with the English national team.

The former England captain's stint in Serie A will begin Jan. 7, and he will rejoin his Galaxy teammates in March.

"He will have to go back to Galaxy by the time the MLS starts, and training before that," Milan sporting director Umberto Gandini said Thursday. "David is committed to the LA Galaxy and the MLS. Only David knows his future, but for sure he has a commitment to go back to the MLS and fulfill that."

Milan vice president Adriano Galliani said an agreement was reached Thursday with Beckham's lawyers, although a contract is still to be written.

The 33-year-old midfielder is eager to play in Europe during the MLS offseason to remain fit and available for selection for England, which plays an exhibition at Germany on Nov. 19 before World Cup 2010 qualifying resumes in March.

Galaxy coach Bruce Arena declined to say what the Galaxy will get in return from lending Beckham to AC Milan, and that the loan was never sought for longer than three months.

"The terms of the agreement will remain confidential," Arena said on a conference call with reporters. "In my view, this on the part of David was a purely technical rationale. He wants to continue to play for England. He wants to be in a good environment ... and what better environment can you be in than AC Milan?"

The Galaxy coach added that he wasn't overly concerned that Beckham would get injured.

"When players don't go 100 percent, they get hurt. David is a very experienced player, and knows when to go for challenges and when not to," Arena said.

Beckham is one appearance away from matching the record 108 for an outfield player — held by 1966 World Cup-winning captain Bobby Moore. Goalkeeper Peter Shilton holds the overall England record of 125.

"Milan has made a good acquisition," said England manager Fabio Capello, who also coached Beckham at Real Madrid. "In Madrid, I dropped him from the team because he signed with Los Angeles. But he continued to come and train and I put him back on the team."

Beckham will likely undergo medical tests Dec. 20 and be introduced a day later, when the club will unveil his jersey number. He is set to travel with Milan to Dubai for a midwinter training camp, which includes an exhibition.

Beckham's first competitive game for Milan could come in the capital against AS Roma on Jan. 11.

He will become the first English player to play for the club since 1987, when Ray Wilkins and Mark Hateley left the club.

Beckham will join a stellar midfield at the San Siro, including Italy's World Cup champions Andrea Pirlo and Gennaro Gattuso, plus Massimo Ambrosini, Mathieu Flamini and Clarence Seedorf.

During the last MLS offseason, Beckham trained with Arsenal to keep fit, but did not play for the English Premier League club.

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Henry pleads not guilty to charges

"The conditions for release are not optional," Ostby told Henry, who played for the Broncos, Titans and Bills in a seven-year NFL career. "Your

The case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Richard Cebull.

Carolyn Ostby
Magistrate Judge

Jones approves Johnson

Johnson's experience is a big plus, but the Cowboys (5-3) may need Bollinger's better mobility and stronger arm

Jerry Jones
Dallas owner

The Cowboys are a heavy underdog Sunday, partly because of all their injuries. Romo is among several key starters who will be missing on offense and defense. Tight

"I am very confident. I know how the players are approaching the game. Everybody has got their head in the right place. This is a great opportunity for us to go to New York to play the world champs. This could really do something for our team to have success."

"Catholics and Evolution: Old Tensions and New Directions"



Phillip R. Sloan
Professor, Program of Liberal Studies and
Graduate Program in History
and Philosophy of Science

11:00 a.m.
Saturday, November 1, 2008
Annenberg Auditorium,
Snite Museum of Art

Are Catholics committed to supporting "Intelligent Design" against evolutionary theory? Sloan will examine the history of the response of Church officials to Darwin's theory and summarize the most recent reflections in Catholic circles and in the official statements of the Vatican.

Fall 2008 Schedule

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09/06—San Diego State
 “Faith Taking Shape: Early Christianity and the Arts”
 Thomas F. Noble, Professor and Chairperson, History

09/13-Michigan
 “Peter Pan as Cultural Icon”
 Susan C. Ohmer, William T. Carey and Helen Kuhn Carey Associate
 Professor of Modern Communication, Film, Television, and Theatre

09/27-Purdue
 “Election 2008: Race, Gender, and Faith”
David E. Campbell, John Cardinal O’Hara, C.S.C., Associate
 Professor, Political Science
Darren W. Davis, Professor, Political Science
Christina K. Wolbrecht, Associate Professor, Political Science

10/04-Stanford
 “The Sub-Prime Mortgage Mess and Federal Reserve Policy”
 Christopher J. Waller, Gilbert F. Schaefer Professor of Economics

 11/01-Pittsburgh
 “Catholics and Evolution: Old Tensions and New Directions”
 Phillip R. Sloan, Professor, Program of Liberal Studies

 **11/22-Syracuse**
 “Before and Beyond Modernism: Icons as Art”
 Charles E. Barber, Professor and Chairperson, Art, Art History,
 and Design

3-1/2 hours before kickoff in the Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum of Art (unless otherwise noted).
For more information, visit <http://saturdayscholar.nd.edu>

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MLB

Mariners mum on Griffey return

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners can have Ken Griffey Jr. back if they want him, now that he's a free agent.

New Mariners general manager Jack Zduriencik refused to say whether Seattle will make a push to sign its former franchise center fielder who is still beloved in the Northwest. That was hours after the Chicago White Sox made Griffey a free agent — and free

for a potential return to the team with which he said two years ago he would like to retire.

"We can't comment on any specific free agent at this time," Zduriencik said Thursday afternoon through a Mariners spokesman in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

The White Sox declined Griffey's \$16.5 million contract option for 2009. Griffey will get a \$4 million buyout to complete a \$116.5 million, nine-year contract he agreed to with his hometown Cincinnati Reds before the 2000 season — after he demanded a trade from Seattle.

The Mariners drafted Griffey, who turns 39 next month, No. 1 overall in 1987 and put him in their opening-day lineup two days later while he was still a teenager. He stayed there for the next 11 years.

Griffey was an All-Star 10 times with Seattle. He's been an All-Star just three times since — the last time in 2007.

He hit a combined .249 with 18 homers and 71 RBIs in 143 games last season for the Reds and the White Sox, to whom he agreed to be traded so he could play in the postseason. He went 2-for-10 as Chicago lost in four games to Tampa Bay in the first round of the AL playoffs.

Griffey batted .260 with three homers and 18 RBIs in 41 games with the White Sox, who acquired him July 31 in a trade that sent right-hander Nick Masset and infielder

Danny Richar to Cincinnati. Griffey had arthroscopic surgery on his left knee this month to repair torn meniscus and torn cartilage, a condition that affected his power numbers.

"He will undoubtedly help some club, both on the field and in the clubhouse," White Sox general manager Ken Williams said Thursday. "Pure class."

"He will undoubtedly help some club, both on the field and in the clubhouse. Pure class."

Ken Williams
White Sox general manager

Griffey passed Sammy Sosa for fifth on the home-run list last season and has 611, trailing only Barry Bonds (762), Hank Aaron (755), Babe Ruth (714) and Willie Mays (660). Griffey is 18th with 1,772 RBIs.

His fit in Seattle could be as a full-time DH, something he has resisted becoming. But he may not fit Seattle's first months of a massive rebuilding job that Zduriencik was hired this month to lead. The Mariners last season became the first team with a \$100 million payroll to lose 100 games.

When he came back with the Reds for an interleague series in Seattle in June 2007, Griffey said he wanted to retire as a Mariner. When asked to clarify whether he'd like to play for Seattle again, Griffey said then, "I don't know. That depends on a lot of things, health and everything else."

"Never did I imagine it would be like this coming back. I didn't know how much I missed being in Seattle."

Ken Griffey, Jr.
Free agent outfielder

Griffey didn't specify whether he'd like to return to Seattle as an active player or simply for a ceremonial contract before retiring.

In the weeks leading up to his '07 return, Griffey was reluctant to talk about it and even told Mariners president Chuck Armstrong he feared getting booed.

But then he got an extended roar from the crowd before the series opener, just after Armstrong and others presented him with a framed picture of Safeco Field with the words "The House that Griffey Built" across the top.

"Never did I imagine it would be like this coming back," Griffey told the crowd that night. "I didn't know how much I missed being in Seattle."

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WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame set to open home slate

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame welcomes Big East foe Pittsburgh (1-0) tonight for its first home meet of the season. Races begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

"This is one of great dual-meet rivalries in the Big East, and we look forward to it every year," Notre Dame coach Tim Welsh said. "Pittsburgh is a well-coached team and very competitive. We enjoy going head-to-head with them and we're excited to have the team in our pool."

The Irish last faced the Panthers in November of last year, with Notre Dame claiming a 169-131 win on the back of individual victories in nine of 16 events.

Juniors MacKenzie LeBlanc and John Lytle each won individual events, with LeBlanc finishing tops in the 200-yard fly (1:51.83) and the 500 freestyle (4:36.87). Lytle took first in the 50 freestyle (0:21.20) alongside first-place finishes in the 100 free (0:45.60) and the 200 free relay (1:24.60).

It was the fourth straight victory against Pittsburgh for the Irish. Notre Dame is 4-4 all-time against the Panthers under Welsh.

Last week, the Irish dropped their first match of the season

159.5-126.5 against rival USC in Los Angeles. Notre Dame senior Daniel Rave, along with LeBlanc and Lytle, won individual events.

Rave finished first in the 200 breaststroke (2:08.94), while Lytle tied for first in the 200 yard freestyle with Trojan Zoltan Povaszay, who represented his native Hungary at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. LeBlanc claimed first in the 200 butterfly (1:52.16).

The College Swimming Coaches Association of America recognized six former and current Irish swimmers and divers for academic and athletic excellence. Rave, graduate Steven Crowe, Lytle, graduate Sam Stoner, sophomore Patrick Augustyn and sophomore Steven Brus each earned Honorable Mention All-Academic nods from the CSCAA.

"We were very pleased and proud of our men for their great academic accomplishments last year," Welsh said. "With the 2007-08 season being one of our finest in terms of academics, it is nice to be recognized for those efforts and it serves as even more encouragement to perform just as well, or even better, in the years to come."

Notre Dame finished with a team-average 3.32 GPA, fifth in the nation.

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ND CROSS COUNTRY

Irish off to Big East Championships

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The men's and women's cross country teams look to repeat past glory today in the same city where a former Irish star will be commemorated this weekend.

Notre Dame will compete in the Big East Championships this morning at Van Cortlandt Park in New York City. The last time the league championships were held there, in 2005, the Irish swept both races.

Many past Irish runners will gather in New York this weekend to honor former Notre Dame cross country standout Ryan Shay, who died Nov. 4, 2007 in New York City while competing in the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Former teammates of the nine-time All-American will run in the New York City Marathon Sunday in his honor, wearing gold and blue Notre Dame uniforms.

The Staten Island Alumni Club will also host a mass for Shay on Saturday night.

Irish coach Joe Piane, Shay's coach from 1997-

2002, said he spoke to Shay's father about the events, but that neither he nor the team will be staying.

"A lot of that was organized by the guys themselves," he said. "It's a very emotional thing."

As for the races Piane said an outcome similar to 2005 would be nice, but that the competition is tough.

"You've got Georgetown, Villanova, Syracuse. There's

a minimum of five really strong teams," he said. "If you do well against these teams it's going to help you immensely."

The men finished fourth of 14 teams in 2007, and the women finished sixth of 16 teams.

Both teams will look to their most consistent runners to set the pace once again. For the women, jun-

ior Lindsay Ferguson has finished first among the Irish in three of their four races. Sophomore Marissa Treece finished ahead of Ferguson once and second to her in the rest of the contests.

Ferguson said the two enjoy training together and have helped each other improve this season.

For the men, senior Patrick Smyth has led Notre Dame in the two races in which he has competed, including a fourth place finish in the Pre-NCAA meet on Oct. 18.

Piane said his team did not get much time to rest over fall break, as Notre Dame needs to do well to have a shot at making the NCAA meet.

"They trained really hard over break. How do you get to national if you're not in the top two of your region?"

The women's 6K race begins at 10:30 a.m., and the men's 8K contest follows at 11:10 a.m.

Contact Laura Myers at
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Fisher

continued from page 28

"It's tough having been to the playoffs before and now being in the situation that we're in," Fisher linebacker Cameron Compton said. "I guess you just find importance in whatever the situation is. We don't want to end the season winless, so that's what we're playing for."

Following a near victory last week that saw them lose because of botched extra point attempts, the Rabid Bats (0-2-1) are in the same boat as the Green Wave. Winless and without any cause for celebration, they too are seeking to end their season on a good note with a win and look to next year as a remedy for this year's woes.

Zahm's run-centered offense has been somewhat successful of late, but its defense has proven prone to giving up huge plays, which have been back-breakers for Zahm. On Sunday, senior running back Theo Ossei-Anto and company will try to power their way through a defense that has yet to be mastered, even by playoff-caliber teams. That matchup should prove the difference in this game.

With their seniors dreading the thought that this will be the last Interhall football game of their college careers, and their sights set both on next year and this last game, both Zahm and Fisher are at similar places.

This battle between the running prowess of the Rabid Bats and the stalwart defense of Fisher would prove an interesting one on any given day, but on Sunday, it will decide which team ends its sour season on a good note and which team ends its season without having won a single game.

Duncan vs. Siegfried

Desperately seeking its first-ever win, Duncan (0-3) will try to take down the Siegfried Ramblers (3-0) this Sunday at 1 p.m. at Riehle Fields.

The Highlanders have yet to savor the taste of victory, and they want to end the season on a high note by defeating Siegfried.

"We obviously [want to] go out with a win on the schedule. Upsetting a team would be good," Duncan captain Garret Burke said.

The Highlanders must find an answer to their offensive woes if they have any chance of an upset. They have only managed to score one touchdown the entire year, finally ending their scoring drought in their last game, a 16-6 loss to Morrissey.

The performance of Duncan wide receiver Mike Kearney, who scored the lone touchdown, will be key if the Highlanders hope to put any points on the board against a strong Siegfried defense, which has allowed just three points the entire year.

Although the Ramblers have already locked up a playoff spot, they know they need to win to secure a favorable seeding in the playoffs. Captain Kevin Kelly said that they are not taking this game lightly.

"We'd like to continue our intensity and continue our execution on our plays against Duncan," he said.

Siegfried is counting on its offensive stars including running back Marcus Young, fullback Dex Cure and quarterback Max Young to break through Duncan's defense, and then let their own shut-down defense take care of the rest.

The Ramblers have had success this season not only because they have such a reliable defense, but also because they have come together as a team.

"We have really good chemistry and we work really well together," Kelly said. "We all know our roles."

Kelly also said he understands there are more implications to this game other than seeding purposes or preserving an unbeaten record. Momentum will be a key factor in the playoffs, so the Ramblers want to go out with a victory, Kelly said.

Stanford vs. Keenan

The Battle for the Chapel and a rematch of last year's championship game will take place when Keenan takes on Stanford this Sunday.

The Griffins (2-1-1) and the Knights (1-1-1) faced off last year in the stadium for the 2007 Interhall Championships, with Stanford claiming victory. The results of last year's championship will provide motivation to both teams, with Stanford vying to protect their victory and Keenan trying for a little revenge.

"Expect a tough game for both teams, and expect us to fight hard in all aspects of the game," Keenan captain Barton Dear said.

The Knights will be bringing a solid defense and a versatile offense to the field.

"Expect a tough game for both teams, and expect us to fight hard in all aspects of the game."

Barton Dear
Keenan captain

Keenan squad include senior running back Alex Gonzalez, senior fullback and outside linebacker Brett Wilps, senior free safety and wide receiver Andres Villalba, and sophomore center and defensive end Ash Cooke. Contributors from the freshmen class include tight end and defensive end Pat Kelly, and quarterback Terry Mahoney.

Stanford will rely experience and enthusiasm to pave the way to victory Sunday.

"There are a lot of guys returning from when we won the championship last year, we have a lot of heart and we really want to win," Stanford captain John Burke said.

"We have really good chemistry and we work really well together. We all know our roles."

Kevin Kelly
Siegfried captain

During this week's practice, Stanford concentrated on returning to the level of play that they had reached before fall break.

"We will just be making sure that we have everything polished up," Burke said.

Team leaders for the Griffins include senior and fourth-year quarterback Brian Salvi, senior safety and defensive captain David Costanzo, and on the line, senior defensive end Karun Ahuja.

"We will be coming out on Sunday ready to play, we beat Keenan two times last season and we want to win and make it to the championship," Burke said.

Game time is 3 p.m. Sunday on Riehle Fields.

O'Neill vs. Keough

Pride is on the line this Sunday as Keough faces off against O'Neill in their annual rivalry game. The Roos and Mob are out of the playoff hunt, but both teams are eager to finish the season with a win.

O'Neill (1-2-0) will try to rebound this week following a demoralizing loss to Stanford that eliminated the Mob from the playoffs. The Griffins completed a two-point conversion as time ran out to capture a 15-14 victory.

Nevertheless, the Mob will bring intensity to this rivalry.

"We have a special group of guys that play for each other," senior captain Matt Bono said. "It's rare when a team comes together like that."

Led by Bono in the trenches, O'Neill will try to take advantage of a Keough offensive line that surrendered four sacks to Dillon in its previous game. Linebacker Brad Blomstrom, who calls the plays for the defense, adds experience and leadership.

On the offensive side, sophomore quarterback Bobby Powers leads the Mob as they try to establish a passing game that has been effective all season. Sophomore running back Tom Freel will test the Keough linebackers on the ground.

Still seeking its first win of the season, Keough (0-2-1) will rely heavily on a defense that has emerged as the backbone of the team.

Coming off a lackluster 2-0 loss to Dillon, the Roos will try to establish a rhythm on offense, a key factor that has been missing all season. Junior quarterback Matt Bruggeman and senior running back Nazur Ahmed will lead an offense that has only seen the end zone once this season.

"We're just going to have fun," sophomore running back

"We have a special group of guys that play for each other. It's rare when a team comes together like that."

Matt Bono
O'Neill captain

Kevin Laughlin said. "We're opening up the whole playbook and pulling out all the stops."

As the two teams see the season come to a close on Sunday, neither team wants to put the pads away without getting a victory against a bitter rival.

"It's going to be intense," Laughlin said. "Any season we beat O'Neill is a good season."

The two teams face off this Sunday at 3 p.m. at Riehle Fields.

Knott vs. Morrissey

Knott looks to rebound from a last-minute loss last week when they face off against Morrissey in a game that has playoff implications for both teams.

After a disappointing loss to Alumni with six seconds left, Knott (1-2) captain Aidan Fitzgerald stressed the importance of a win in their upcoming game against the Manorites (2-1) on Sunday, as a win would put them in a three-way tie in the division at 2-2.

"We are a little rusty coming off the break," Fitzgerald said. "But now things are starting to flow and we will be ready for Sunday."

Morrissey will be a tough team to beat, though. Captain Joe McBrayer

expressed that his team's emphasis in practice hasn't been anything fancy or different, just a lot of repetition.

"Everybody needs to know where they need to be and execute. That's when our game is as smooth as ever," MacBrayer said. "Everybody [needs to step up], we don't just need one guy out there and play well, we need everybody doing their jobs."

With the regular season winding down this is a must win game for both teams. They face off this Sunday at Riehle Field at 2 p.m.

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ND VOLLEYBALL

Syracuse comes to the JACC

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The Irish end a three-game road trip when they return to action Saturday in the Joyce Center for matches against Big East opponents Syracuse and Marquette.

The Irish (11-11, 6-3 Big East) currently stand in third place in the conference in a tie with Louisville (10-10, 6-3) and Pittsburgh (14-10, 6-3). Ahead of them in the standings are St. John's (16-7, 7-1) and Cincinnati (20-5, 7-2).

Although they have one more match against St. John's left at home, the Irish are not in control of their own destiny and would still need help from other teams to win the Big East title.

"Even if we win out and beat St. John's we will still need a lot of help," head coach Debbie Brown said. "We need to win as many games as we can, and certainly we would like to have the highest seed possible in the tournament."

Freshman outside hitter Kristen Dealy has had a strong couple of matches for the Irish, with double-doubles in each of the team's last three games. Dealy has a 2.84 kills per set average, second to only junior outside hitter Christina Kaelin, who averages 3.30 kills per set.

The team holds the top statistical spots in the Big East in hitting percentage (.277) and kills per set (14.28), and ranks second in assists per set with 13.31. The Irish also rank second in digs per set with 14.5.

But having good marks in the stat book is not enough; the first step towards winning out the rest of the Big East season begins this weekend against Syracuse (14-11, 5-3).

"Syracuse is playing very well right now," Brown said. "They took Cincinnati to five sets this year and almost beat them."

Syracuse is led by a strong middle block, highlighted by junior Sarah Morton. Brown said she does not see any easy one-on-one hitting advantages in this match, so the Irish will have to play balanced volleyball. The Irish were too reliant on their outside during their loss to Villanova, Brown said.

"We are going to be pushed by Syracuse for sure," Brown said.

Next up this weekend is another Big East foe in Marquette (8-13, 2-6) who is having a down season. Brown said she does not believe Marquette's poor season to date is indicative of how they will play on Sunday.

"Any given team can beat any other given team on any given night in the Big East," Brown said. "They took Syracuse to five sets in a loss. They will be ready to play."

Marquette beat the Irish for the first time in program history last year.

The Irish will continue their Big East stretch run next weekend against Rutgers in Piscataway, N.J.

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MLB

Phillies fans anxiously await parade

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Many baseball fans here would not speak the "P" word in the anxious days leading up to the city's World Series title, lest they jinx the team.

But now that the Philadelphia Phillies have claimed their second championship, everyone is talking about a parade.

Hundreds of thousands of people could crowd the sidewalks on Friday to cheer the city's first national sports title in 25 years. A hundred thousand more are expected to pack the baseball and football stadiums to watch the festivities on big screens and rally with the players.

"This is a bright and shining moment," Mayor Michael Nutter said. "We're going to have a great time."

But he cautioned against the scattered vandalism that marred the postgame revelry late Wednesday and early Thursday. Police reported 76 arrests and

several vandalized businesses; they are also examining photos and video of the crowds to identify and arrest additional offenders.

"You can be joyous; you cannot be a jackass," Nutter said. "That kind of idiotic, destructive behavior will not be accepted in the city of Philadelphia."

The Phillies parade begins downtown at noon on Friday, and is expected to take about 90 minutes to cover approximately four miles to the sports complex in South Philadelphia. Team officials said the players will attend a rally at Citizens Bank Park and make a brief appearance at Lincoln Financial Field, where the Eagles play.

Free tickets to the two stadiums were gone in less than 90 minutes after becoming available on the Phillies' Web site Thursday.

Officials stressed the importance of using public transportation Friday, though they cautioned that buses, trains and subways are likely to be operating at

full capacity.

"Patience is going to be critical, and frankly so is common sense," said Rina Cutler, deputy mayor for transportation.

Fans continued the celebration on Thursday, snapping up World Series T-shirts, pennants and hats. At one downtown sporting goods outlet, at least 100 people stood in a line wrapping around the inside of the store as they waited to pay for their merchandise.

The city's two main newspapers, The Philadelphia Inquirer and Philadelphia

Tierney said.

The Phillies' victory over the Tampa Bay Rays also means Nutter gets to enjoy a meal of Florida seafood. He won a bet with three Tampa-area officials — St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Baker, Clearwater Mayor Frank Hibbard and Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio — who

will be sending him coconut shrimp, stone crab claws, Cuban sandwiches, key lime pie and cigars.

Had the Phillies lost, Nutter would have been sending cheesesteaks, soft pretzels and Tastykakes to Florida.

The last time a Philadelphia team won a major championship was in 1983, when the 76ers won the NBA title. The Phillies won their only other World Series in 1980.

"You can be joyous; you cannot be a jackass. That idiotic destructive behavior will not be accepted in the city of Philadelphia."

Michael Nutter
Philadelphia mayor

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MEN'S SOCCER

Irish can clinch division

Team travels to Morgantown to face West Virginia Saturday

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

After one year full of graduations, injuries, upsets and convincing victories, No. 19 Notre Dame enters its final game of the regular season with its Big East destiny in its own hands.

In 2007, the Irish suited up for their final game against Georgetown two points ahead of Connecticut, but Notre Dame's tie combined with a Huskies victory over Seton Hall allowed Connecticut to grab a share of the Big East Blue Division title with the Irish.

This year, the Huskies are again the team standing in Notre Dame's way of an outright division title, but the Irish have even more margin for error. If Connecticut doesn't beat Seton Hall tonight or Notre Dame manages at least a draw on Saturday, the Irish walk away outright division champions.

"We have an opportunity to win the league for the second year in a row and that's something we've never done here," Irish coach Bobby Clark said. "It would be nice to win the Big East title outright this year. It's a fabulous opportu-

nity for us and I know everyone is excited about that."

Despite the division standings, the team Notre Dame is most concerned with right now isn't Connecticut but West Virginia. The Irish travel to Morgantown Saturday evening, which has not been a kind location for Notre Dame in recent years.

The Irish are 2-4-0 all-time at West Virginia, and they haven't won at Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium since 2001. Notre Dame's most recent contest at West Virginia came in 2006 when the Irish fell to the Mountaineers 2-1.

This weekend seems as good a time as

any for Notre Dame to end their road woes. After a strong 2007 in which West Virginia went 14-6-2 and notched an NCAA Tournament appearance, the Mountaineers have scuffled to a 5-7-5 record in 2008. They have especially struggled scoring goals, averaging only 0.5 goals per game. Currently, no player on West Virginia has scored more than two goals.

West Virginia's record would be worse had its defense not been so stingy this season. The Mountaineers are allowing an average of only 0.62 goals per game in 2008.

Still, West Virginia has shown the capability to play with the upper-echelon of teams. The Mountaineers are 2-3-1 against ranked opponents this season including wins over Connecticut and Ohio State.

The Irish enter Saturday night's game on a positive note after their 2-1 defeat of No. 24 Georgetown. Sophomore forward Jeb Brovsky led the way, scoring both goals. Brovsky has made his presence felt recently, scoring three of his five goals this season in Notre Dame's last four games.

As always, the Irish will also count on forward Bright Dike to drive the team's offense. The senior leads the team in goals (10) and points (25), and his assist on Brovsky's first goal Wednesday night tied Dike with Dave Donahue for the team lead in assists at five.

At the other end of the field, there will be a new face in the Irish goal as junior Phillip Tuttle will get the start. Although Tuttle has played in three games this year, including one start, senior Andrew Quinn has seen nearly all the playing time. Quinn, however, injured his shoulder diving for a ball against Georgetown on Wednesday and will be out for at least several weeks.

Saturday's game will begin at 7 p.m. and can be followed via Gametracker at und.com.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

HOCKEY

Conference win crucial to help build confidence

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

No. 13 Notre Dame took a 10-hour bus ride to Marquette, Mich., Thursday to get ready for its weekend series against Northern Michigan.

"It's always challenging to go on the road especially on a long trip like this. We're here a day ahead of time so hopefully we'll be refreshed for tomorrow," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said.

The Irish will take on their CCHA counterparts tonight and again tomorrow night in search of their first conference win on the season.

The team opened its conference schedule last week with two losses to No. 6 Miami at the Joyce Center. The RedHawks picked up a 2-0 shutout last Friday before holding off a late surge on Saturday for a 3-2 win.

"We need to get a win under our belt in the conference and it's important that we gain some confidence and get offensively back on track," Jackson said.

The Irish (2-3) have had a slow start to the season against top competition. Their other loss came against then-No. 6 Denver in the season opener in Colorado.

Jackson said before the season that he expected his young, talented team to fill up the nets this season. They do have 14 goals through five games but 10 of them came against an overmatched Sacred Heart team, including seven in one game.

"We haven't scored as much as we would like to and we start to cheat and end up get-

ting caught defensively," Jackson said.

The Irish defense is also a very young unit with no players with more than two years of experience at the start of the season. Sophomore Ian Cole has played well at the point so far the Irish — last week he was named the CCHA Defensive Player of the week.

"He's been a factor in a couple of games so far, he has to be careful not to get complacent at time," Jackson said. "But when he's playing with intensity he's one of the best players on the team."

Cole is a big physical player who has two goals and three assists so far this season.

Northern Michigan is also a big, strong team that has started its conference schedule 1-3. The Wildcats won their opener against Michigan before losing in a shootout on day two and then being swept by the Spartans last weekend.

"They play a pro style game and they are aggressive, not quite as aggressive at home because they play on an Olympic sheet," Jackson said.

The Olympic-sized rink has more space behind the net and outside of the faceoff dots, giving teams more room to operate.

"You just have to be a little bit smarter in certain areas of the ice. You just can't get caught outside the dots too much," Jackson said.

The coach said his team needed to be smart and try to keep form spending too much time on the open perimeter on defense or offense.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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Top 10

continued from page 28

day on Oct. 14, Irish coach Mike Brey said he did not currently consider the team as a top-10 squad. Not much light, though, will be shed on the issue Friday night when Notre Dame opens their exhibition schedule against Briar Cliff at the Joyce Center.

The Chargers did go 22-12 last season. However, Briar Cliff is also a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics as opposed to the NCAA.

After Friday's exhibition, it will not take long to find out if the 2008-2009 Irish are truly the best squad in some time to grace the JACC. After starting the regular season against USC Upstate and Loyola Marymount, Notre Dame's schedule begins to look like a duplicate of the first Coaches' Poll.

The top 25 includes six teams from the Big East not including the Irish — Connecticut (2), Louisville (3), Pittsburgh (6), Marquette (17), Georgetown (18) and Villanova (25). Notre

Dame plays all six and will battle Connecticut and Louisville twice.

To take a break from its Big East schedule, Notre Dame has a road contest with No. 4 UCLA in February as well as potential match-ups against No. 1 UNC and No. 8 Texas in the Maui Invitational this November.

"At times, I've looked at [the schedule] during the summer and wondered what I was thinking when we did all this," Brey said during his media day press conference. "The thing that's crazy — in the midst of what the Big East is this year and the midst of what we've been given in the Big East — we're just going to go to Pauley Pavilion one weekend. We're just gonna take a break and just go play UCLA on the road. I should have my head examined on that one."

Notre Dame only lost one starter, forward Rob Kurz, to graduation.

Notre Dame finished 25-8 last year and 14-4 in the Big East.

Friday's game against Briar Cliff will begin at 9 p.m. at the

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

Happy Halloween.

Juniors

continued from page 26

talent.

"The staff is so, so far ahead than they have ever been," Frank said. "I've never seen a more organized group of guys when it comes to getting ahead of the game. They are light years ahead of where they were, even at this point last year."

With the 2008 campaign shaping up in a favorable manner, a strong finish will go a long way in terms of gaining interest from several of these elite junior prospects.

"What it means is, if Notre Dame can finish this season strong, meaning they pick up eight or nine wins, you're going to see Notre Dame have a tremendous 2010 recruiting class," Frank said. "They've come in on so many of the elite players already."

Of the numerous prospects in attendance for the Pittsburgh game, a few have already garnered the attention that only elite talents receive. Offensive tackle Matt James, who attends the same high school as freshman tight end Kyle Rudolph, is no exception.

"Matt James is 6-foot-7, 285 pounds has offers already from Ohio State, Michigan, Tennessee, and he's a big-time player coming in," Frank said. "I think a lot of people are going to look at him as a top offensive lineman in this class for sure."

The Irish are looking to keep

the pipeline state of California alive with their recent success in the area and are bringing in some impressive juniors from the region.

"A guy like Brett Thomas, who is a safety at 6-foot-1, 185 pounds, will be one of the better prospects in California," Frank said. "To get California kids on campus is impressive in itself. They're coming in on their own dime. Notre Dame can't pay for their trip, so just to get so many guys from Florida, guys from Pennsylvania, guys from all over the country, it says something about the effort Notre Dame is putting in."

Shawn Afryl, a 6-foot-4, 295-pound defensive end from Niles West High School in Illinois, will visit this weekend as well. Chase Rettig, a 6-foot-3, 195-pound quarterback out of LaSalle High School in California, and Dylan Davis, a 6-foot 215 pound linebacker out of St. Bonaventure High School, will both make the trip from California.

Although the prospects are showing serious interest in the Irish, there is still work to be done. It will be essential to perform well on the field to pick up pledges.

"I think if Irish fans just wait for what happens, if Notre Dame wins eight or nine games, which I firmly believe they will, if they can wait for 2010, I really think that Notre Dame is going to have at least a top 5 class next year, if not the top spot."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

Big East

continued from page 26

Last season, the Irish began the season 2-3-2 and had to essentially dig themselves out of that early hole for the remainder of the regular season. The 2008 team is in better position to make a national title run because it has been able to stay fresh and allow numerous players to contribute off the bench. Not to mention that immaculate 18-0-0 record.

"The season last year was so difficult because we had such a slow start, you know," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "We struggled so much early last year that we were in a position where we had to win to keep the hopes of playing. And [it was difficult] not knowing where we were going to be seeded and where we were going to be traveling and things. So it's a lot different where we sit today than where we sat a year ago."

Yeah, Notre Dame now sits in a La-Z-Boy whereas last year they were fighting for a seat on a run-down sofa.

The team's ability to avoid major injuries has been a major difference between this season's team and last year's edition. Neither forward Michele Weissenhofer nor defensive anchor Carrie Dew played all of last season at full strength. And Waldrum said seniors Kerri Hanks and Brittany Bock logged so many minutes during the regular season that they may have run out of gas in the 2007 post-season.

It's a much different picture this time around. Junior defender Haley Ford and freshman forward Melissa Henderson, among others, have allowed the Irish to rest key players like Dew and Hanks while hardly missing a beat.

"The depth of the team is better than what we've ever had," Waldrum said. "I think it's allowed us to stay sharper and a little bit more fresh all the way through. So I think that's the big difference."

But the biggest difference between last season's team and this year's might actually be the one extra year of experience. The senior class — which has racked up seemingly countless Big East regular season and conference titles, Final Four appearances and individual honors — is on a mission to win the National Championship that has eluded them. On the determination scale, they might actually fall somewhere between "Rocky" and "Captain Ahab."

"As a class, our freshman year we lost in the [national] quarters and then we lost in the finals and we lost in the semis so we're just kind of hoping this year will be the one to get that last step," Dew said.

Waldrum said that "hoping" is an understatement for the seniors' mindset as he compared them to the last class that led Notre Dame to a national championship.

"I think they're every bit as focused as any [class] we've had. They remind me a whole lot of the [2004 senior] class that won it," he said. "I said that, early in the year, this team reminded me of that team in a lot of different ways. I think part of it is the senior class this year has pretty much done everything except win a national championship."

Stay posted because there's a good chance that will change in about a month.

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

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Rest

continued from page 28

tle extra rest to prepare for Sunday. The last competition Notre Dame saw came on Oct. 26, when the Irish defeated Seton Hall 6-0 in their final game of the season. The players hope that extra rest will help them to succeed far into the post-season.

"We're always completely driven," senior captain Carrie Dew said. "We're really ready and I think we'll have a little extra rest not playing on Thursday or Friday. We'll be ready to go on Sunday."

That's always been the Irish style, to leave everything they have on the field, and the Irish plan on doing that Sunday.

"I think it's a game where we'll

go back — we've kind of felt this way every time we stepped on the field this year, some games more than others — but I feel like it's a game that, regardless of which team we play, it's about how well we perform and what we're going to do," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "We can really only focus our execution of what we want to get done. I feel like if we do that, we'll be fine."

Waldrum said the post-season is not likely to mean changes to Notre Dame's game either. And if it's anything like the regular season, that could mean a lot of scoring from multiple faces on the field. The Irish outscored their opponents 64-8 in the regular season, and 16 different Irish players pitched in.

Senior Kerri Hanks leads the Irish with 18 goals, with Melissa Henderson in a close second with

15. The Irish defense hasn't been quiet either, allowing only eight goals with Dea and keeper Kelsey Lysander at its backbone.

But Waldrum said it will be hard to tell if players will see as much rotation in the postseason.

"That's probably going to fall on a game-by-game basis. If we can keep the rotation, we will," he said. "But if we get into a game where we feel like we need to leave our forward line on a little bit more [and] our midfielders on a little bit more, then we'll do that. That's the plus side of having the rotation and doing it as much as we've done this year. It gives us two different options."

Options that are likely to help the Irish continue far into the postseason.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu



JESS LEE/The Observer

Irish defender Lauren Fowlkes kicks the ball during Notre Dame's 3-1 win over Marquette on Oct. 5. The Irish have not lost this season and earned a first-round bye in the Big East tournament.

ND, SMC, & HCC Students

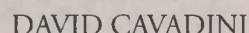
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FRIDAYS WITH FRAN

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The Observer
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FRIDAYS WITH FRAN

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do not despair, rabies fans. The best submission from last week: "Rabies, because foaming at the mouth is hot." Indeed it is.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's	Jumbles: RAPID EMPTY INLAID COUPLE
	Answer: What she experienced when she danced in her new shoes — PAIN AT THE "PIMP"

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Bring on the Bearcats

Team will test perfect record against Cincy

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

Few teams can say they've ended their regular season undefeated, but that's why Notre Dame is No. 1, and the Irish hope to carry that perfect record right to the Big East Championship. The first test starts Sunday when the Irish take on Cincinnati in the Big East quarterfinals on Alumni Field.

The Bearcats (11-6-3) enter the contest having knocked off St. John's 1-0 Thursday night to make the quarterfinals. Julie Morrissey scored the Bearcats' only goal in the 56th minute. The Irish are no strangers to Cincinnati, having defeated the Bearcats 6-0 on Sept. 28, but that doesn't mean Notre Dame is certain of a win or a guaranteed spot in the championship.

The Irish did not practice Thursday or Friday, gaining a lit-

see REST/page 26



Senior forward Brittany Bock controls the ball near the goal during Notre Dame's 4-1 win over Louisville on Sept. 26. ESPN The Magazine named Bock and defender Elise Weber first team Academic All-District.

After three near-misses, this team can go the distance

If the 2007 Notre Dame team was the equivalent of Ken Griffey, Sr., then this year's squad is Ken Griffey, Jr. In other words, the modern version is much better than its predecessor. Which is pretty telling, considering the Irish made it to the



Fran Tolan
Associate Sports Editor

NCAA semifinals last season. Notre Dame heads into the Big East tournament in better shape than last year's team for a variety of reasons, including health, depth and more experience playing with each other than Snoop Dogg has with cannabis.

see BIG EAST/page 26

MEN'S INTERHALL

St. Edward's faces Sorin in battle of unbeatens

By CHRISTINA MCDONALD, SHANE STEINBURG, KYLE SMITH, LIZA NAVARRO, CHRIS MASOUD and BOBBY GRAHAM
Sports Writers

Two undefeated teams will face off this Sunday when St. Ed's takes on Sorin at 2 p.m. at Riehle Fields in the last game of the regular season.

The Otters (3-0) have dominated all season long. Their offense and defense coalesce to form a powerful, cohesive

attack on both sides of the ball. The Sorin defense has only given up six points on the year.

To win Sunday, the Otters need to continue to maintain the vigor and energy that has made the team one of the strongest contenders. Specifically, they will need a big game from freshman standout Bobby Sullivan.

"We're confident we will emerge from this game undefeated and earn a top seed in the playoffs," Sorin captain Rob Gallic said.

However, remaining undefeat-

ed promises to be a difficult task this week, as St. Ed's (3-0) also comes into the game unbeaten. The Gentlemen have reeled off a string of victories, and are coming off a 14-12 victory over Zahm. For them, they hope that this energy will carry over and propel them to a strong performance against Sorin.

St. Ed's, like Sorin, has dominated the league on both sides of the ball. Specifically, the Gentlemen hope to use their running game effectively. St. Ed's captain Andrew Nester predicted that running back

Gavin Payne would put up "a mile of rushing yards."

The St. Ed's offense will have to be flawless against the Sorin defense that is sure to show up this Sunday.

"This game is for an unblemished record and small dorm league supremacy," Gallic said.

The stage is set for two undefeated teams to fight for their record in the last game of the season.

Fisher vs. Zahm

Heading into Sunday's final regular season game, both

Zahm and Fisher find themselves winless and struggling to soften the blows from what has so far been a season full of disappointment.

Fisher's downfall has been its offense, which has yet to score more than a touchdown in a game this season. Although its defense has executed well on its bend-but-don't-break mentality, the Green Wave (0-3), fresh off of two consecutive postseason runs, have no hope of making it to this year's playoffs.

see FISHER/page 23

FOOTBALL

High school junior prospects visit campus

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Although Notre Dame got off to a hot start on the recruiting trail despite last year's 3-9 season, the Irish coaching staff is already looking ahead at the class of 2010.

With 16 members of the class of 2009 already pledging their verbal commitments, Notre Dame will have close to 50 high school juniors on campus for the game against Pittsburgh Saturday.

Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame football for Scout.com, spoke about the importance of

making a notable first impression on many of these elite talents.

"They're going to have players coming in from all over the country," Frank said. "This is essentially a junior day in October, which is unheard of. This just kind of goes along with the success that they are having with recruiting right now."

Much of the reason as to why all these high-school juniors will be visiting is a testament to the effort coach Charlie Weiss and the rest of the Irish staff has invested in recruiting top

see JUNIORS/page 26

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Season opens against Briar Cliff

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Nobody will be surprised by Notre Dame this year.

After two consecutive years in which they began the season unranked and finished with NCAA Tournament appearances, the Irish commence the 2008-2009 season as the No. 9 team in the nation according to a USA Today/ESPN Preseason Coaches' Poll.

The highest previous Coaches' poll preseason ranking for Notre Dame was No. 17 in 2000-2001.

During the team's media



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior forward Luke Harangody goes for a dunk in Notre Dame's 82-70 win over Pittsburgh on Feb. 21.

see TOP 10/page 25

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, October 31, 2008

THE
OBSERVER

BOY WONDER

*Freshman receiver MICHAEL FLOYD
lights up opposing secondaries—
and gets better with every game.*

COMMENTARY

Irish need win to prove true talent

Wisconsin, Oregon St., Arizona, Miami (OH), Washington, San Jose State, Northern Colorado, Central Michigan and Idaho.

What do all these teams have in common — other than the fact that you can probably count the players you know on their rosters with less than one hand?

These are the teams that schools that have lost to Notre Dame have beaten — all of them.

The Irish have taken down five teams thus far this season, more than most may have expected, but let's put that into perspective. Those five teams are currently a combined 9-21. Four of those wins belong to Stanford and none of the other teams have more than two.

From that list it sounds like the grounds crew should be spray painting the turf blue. For a school that normally prides itself on its strength of schedule, this year's could use a little spinach.

Notre Dame's two losses in 2008 have come on the road against No. 22 North Carolina and No. 21 Michigan State, both ranked with 6-2 records.

So where does that leave Charlie Weis and his apparently revitalized football team?

They have without a doubt proved that they can win football games, which is an improvement from last year. But so far, they have yet to prove they can win a game that hasn't been decided before the coin toss. It appears Notre Dame still has a lot of questions to answer.

Questions that kept pollsters from ranking the team when it started 4-1 for the first time in program history.

However, take away a pick six to start the second half in Chapel Hill or a freshman fumble to start the second half in East Lansing and this could be a very different tune. Those plays didn't doom the Irish, but they certainly could have made a difference. Even Ball State can get ranked without a loss.

Don't get me wrong, Notre Dame doesn't deserve to be 7-0 or ranked at this point in the sea-

son. Finding a way to close out tough wins is a big part of being a good team, something that a very young Irish team has yet to learn to do.

These next two weeks are a huge opportunity for the Irish to make the next jump. Both Pittsburgh and Boston College are quality teams in the same pack as Notre Dame, right at the fringe of cracking the Top 25.

"[The players] want to be a top 25 team. You've got to beat the good teams that are on your schedule. I mean, it's really pretty simple. So you've got a team like this coming in here that's a nice solid team that's coming in and playing at home. You've got to beat them," Charlie Weis said.

The Irish players said they were just trying to take things one game at a time, and would worry about polls and bowls when that bridge needed to be crossed. The response is generic, but it is the right one.

The Panthers should be the only team on their minds, because right now it is the biggest game of most of the young player's collegiate careers.

All season long the nation has watched a youthful team and its youthful players maturing right in from their eyes. The team has learned to win, how to create offense, and how to finish a game. This Saturday against Pittsburgh is another major step in that progression. The Irish need to learn how to beat a quality opponent.

Doing that is not quite as simple as, well, play a little bit better. The psyche of facing a team that has national superstars — like Michigan State's Javon Ringer or Pitt's LeSean McCoy — or that is favored to beat you is different.

It is the type of difference that can let an early second-half turnover take the wind out of your sails. When a team is supposed to beat you, it is much easier to accept it when it starts to happen.

Notre Dame has the talent to compete with teams like Pitt and Boston College, so these games will come down to whether or not the team has the confidence and maturity to assert themselves.

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



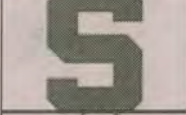


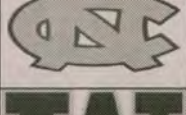




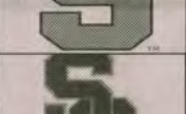

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu



Dan Murphy

Sports Editor

2008 Irish opponents

	Last week	This week
	(1-7) L, 38-34, Colo. St.	at Wyoming
	(2-6) L, 35-21, Mich. St.	at Purdue
	(7-2) W, 35-21, Mich.	vs. Wisconsin
	(2-6) L, 17-6, Minn.	vs. Michigan
	(4-4) Idle	vs. Washington St.
	(6-2) W, 45-24, BC	Idle
	(0-7) L, 33-7, ND	at USC
	(5-2) L, 54-34, Rutgers	at Notre Dame
	(5-2) L, 45-24, UNC	vs. Clemson
	5-3) W, 34-7, SMU	vs. Temple
	(1-6) Idle	vs. Louisville
	(6-1) W, 17-10, Arizona	vs. Washington

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A steady ascent

Michael Floyd's first collegiate catch was a touchdown. He hasn't looked back since.

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

As much as Michael Floyd's play through the first half of the season has bordered on hyperbole, his attitude and demeanor fall on the opposite end of the spectrum.

How does he feel about breaking the school freshman record for touchdown receptions? About being tied with Golden Tate for most receptions on the team? About becoming a favorite target of Jimmy Clausen's and playing a large role in the reversal of Notre Dame's fortune?

"It's been pretty good," Floyd said. "I like it a lot."

The king of understatements. To Floyd, though, his performance this season coincides with his goals. He said he hoped to get playing time this year and worked hard over the summer, both physically and mentally, to get there.

"It was just about paying attention a lot. I wanted to play this year," he said. "That was one of my goals, to come in here and play. Giving a lot of attention to detail, formations and stuff like that really helped me a lot."

It's no surprise to him, then that his performance gets better and better every week. From his first reception, his role in the offense has helped Clausen find his rhythm, take pressure of Tate and revitalize the Irish offense.

But aside from what he does for his teammates, his personal accomplishments draw the most attention — and rightfully so.

San Diego State: one reception, 22 yards, one touchdown

Floyd's first catch of his career went for a touchdown in the second quarter of Notre Dame's 21-13 win over the Aztecs. In fact, it was the first touchdown of Notre Dame's season. Considering the Irish didn't score an offensive touchdown until week four last season (on a one-yard touchdown run, no less) Floyd's presence signified the change the team hoped it had experienced in the

offseason.

"It was pretty nice," Floyd said of the score. "Jimmy looked at me and gave me the signal to run a fly. I saw it was one-on-one coverage and took it outside."

The catch, he said, was his favorite of the season.

"It was exciting," he said. "It was an easy route so I couldn't mess up on anything."

Floyd said the speed of practice gets him ready for the speed of the game, which could have attributed to his ability to contribute from day one.

"It depends on the speed of practice, but when we go full go it is [like game speed], because the corners give you lots of moves and you get used to it, so when you go out into the game, it's easier to see, you can read everything," he said.

Michigan: two receptions, 10 yards

Lest Floyd harbor any delusions of grandeur after his first-game success, Michigan defenders brought him back to earth.

"When I caught pass against Michigan, three dudes hit me, and told me, 'Welcome to college football,'" he said. "They hit me pretty hard too. I was just laughing back to the huddle."

Michigan State: seven receptions, 86 yards, one touchdown

Clausen found Floyd often in this game despite the fact that Notre Dame lost. Watching film together and discussing what they see helps Floyd and Clausen connect on the field, Floyd said. In this way, Floyd said, they stay on the same page regarding what routes to adjust and when Clausen should and shouldn't look his way. The two watch film both of past games, where they watch their passing plays, and of future opposing defenses.

"He kind of talks to me about

what to look for in a corner, how's he playing, stuff like that," Floyd said.

When the running game got nowhere in the first half, Notre Dame switched to four- and five-wide receiver spread-style offense in the second half. This suited Floyd, who played in the spread at Cretin-Durham Hall High School in St. Paul, Minn.

"For the most part high school kind of helped adjusting to the play call-

ing here," Floyd said. "It's a little bit different here because there's a lot more stuff built into the plays and things we have to do."

Floyd said most receivers thrive in a wide-open passing offense.

"I think us wide receivers like that a lot," he said. "Coach Weis has a lot of confidence in us, catching the ball, making big plays."

That rapport with Clausen has continued.

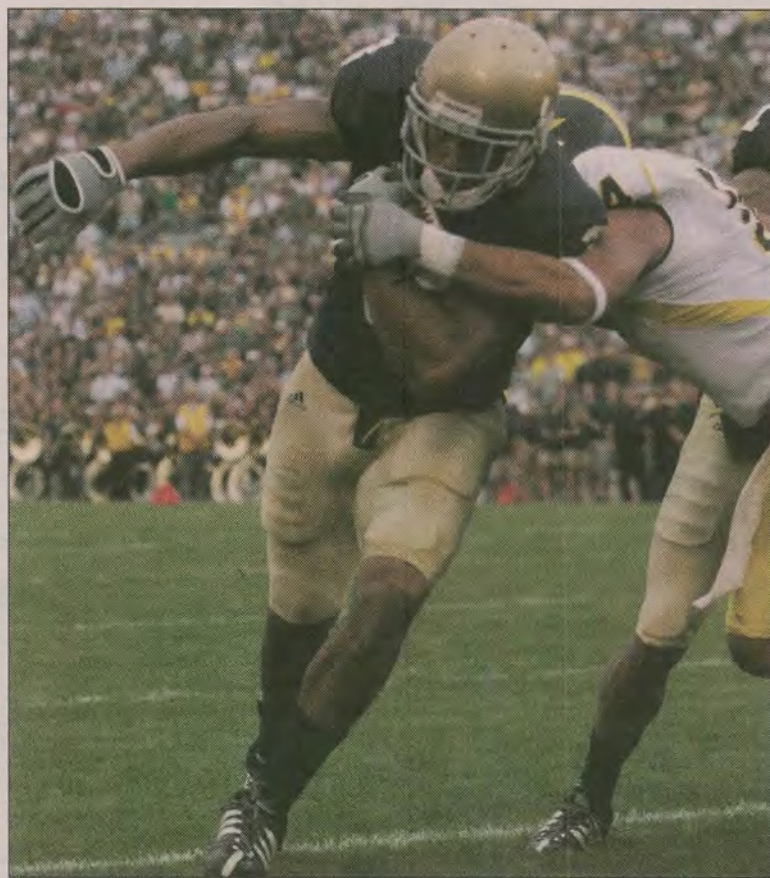
"Our relationship is good right now. We just connect," he said. "He knows how I play, I know how he plays. Getting the routine down with the wide receivers is a good thing."

Purdue: six receptions, 100 yards

Both Clausen and Floyd say the deep routes down the sideline that put Floyd on the highlight reels this year depend on the coverage they face and the play call.

"When I'm looking at the line, the DB, it depends on how he plays," Floyd said. "If I convert my route on him, [Clausen] knows that when I'm looking out there that I should convert my route. He knows when to throw it up and when not to."

Those long go routes have helped Floyd rack up 533 yards on 31 receptions and five touchdowns this season. Floyd was the No. 5 wide receiver in last year's class. Only one of the



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish receiver Michael Floyd powers past a Michigan defender during Notre Dame's 35-17 win over the Wolverines on Sept. 13.

four ahead of him — Southern Miss' DeAndre Brown — has more touchdowns than he does. The No. 1 receiver recruit, Alabama's Julio Jones, has 444 yards and four touchdowns this season.

Floyd doesn't care.

"I just try to do my own thing. The outcome will take care of itself," he said. "I try not to get a big head. Players help me out with that too."

Stanford: five receptions, 115 yards, one touchdown

Floyd displayed his hands in the previous games. Against Stanford, he showcased his physicality.

Theoretically, Floyd had met his match in Cardinal cornerback Wopamo Osaisai, the Pac-10 100 meter champion. Osaisai, at 5-11, 198, gave up some size to the 6-3, 215-pound Floyd, but surely Osaisai's school-record 10.39 100 time would keep Floyd in check.

Not so much. Floyd torched him down the sideline for a long reception and had his best game yet.

"It's just a challenge for me knowing that he's the Pac-10 100 champion," Floyd said. "So it was a challenge for me to do what I know I can do."

Floyd's speed and strength stems in part from his workouts before the season, he said.

"I wanted to get stronger in the summer," Floyd said. "I know there are a lot of upperclassmen who are stronger than me, but maybe I can get them off with the quickness and the agility I have."

Floyd said his strength and athleticism helped him run over people in high school while run-blocking, but that strategy won't work now.

"A lot of guys are stronger, faster, you just have to use a lot of technique," he said, adding that receivers coach Rob Ianello often critiques his run blocking along with his route running.

North Carolina: six receptions, 93 yards, one touchdown

During the first road game at Michigan State, Floyd said he

was nervous. At North Carolina, however, he said knowing what the crowd would be like helped.

The final play of the game overshadowed another great performance. With less than a minute remaining and Notre Dame down by five, the Irish had the ball in Tar Heel territory. Clausen completed a pass to Floyd over the middle, and as Floyd was tackled, the ball came loose, and North Carolina recovered.

Floyd said he was just trying to get down as quickly as possible. The route called for him to go into the end zone, but he didn't reach it.

"I was pretty down on myself," Floyd said later.

Weis and Clausen both told Floyd to keep his head up, and so far he has. He hasn't seen the replay.

"I want to move on."

Washington: four receptions, 107 yards, one touchdown

Floyd's athleticism revealed itself again when he turned a four-yard screen pass into a 51-yard touchdown. He broke away from a tackle and outran the rest of the Huskies defense to put the Irish ahead just three minutes into the game.

Floyd acted equally blasé about the response to his play from students on campus and his friends back home. "[Friends back home] just say, 'We were watching on TV, stuff like that,'" he said. "They just say great game, keep going, just positive things. My roommates always write stuff on the board, like good job."

At least his friends aren't inflating his ego.

Rest of season: who knows?

Floyd has dazzled in the first half of the season and has the potential to help the Irish continue to win. He speaks in simple words, and he simplified the keys to Notre Dame's success for the rest of the season.

"Just play how we know we can play," he said. "No turnovers for the offense."

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JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Irish receiver Michael Floyd runs past Stanford safety Sean Wiser during Notre Dame's 28-21 win over the Cardinal on Oct. 4. Floyd has 533 yards on 31 catches and five touchdowns this season.

Notre Dame Fighting Irish

Record: 5-2

AP: NR

Coaches: NR



Charlie Weis
head coach

Charlie Weis
Fourth season at
Notre Dame
career record:
27-17
against
Pittsburgh:
1-0

Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht	Wt.	YR
1	Deion Walker	WR	6-2	188	FR
3	Michael Floyd	WR	6-3	215	FR
4	Gary Gray	DB	5-11	188	SO
5	Armando Allen	RB	5-10	195	SO
6	Ray Herring	DB	5-10	198	SR
7	Jimmy Clausen	QB	6-3	217	SO
8	Raeshon McNeil	DB	6-0	190	JR
9	Ethan Johnson	DE	6-4	275	FR
9	Kyle Rudolph	TE	6-6	252	FR
10	Dayne Crist	QB	6-4	233	FR
11	David Grimes	WR	5-10	177	SR
12	Nick Lezynski	QB	5-8	157	SO
13	Robert Blanton	DB	6-1	180	FR
13	Evan Sharpley	QB	6-2	215	SR
14	Brandon Walker	K	6-3	202	SO
15	Brian Castello	QB	6-2	191	SO
15	Dan McCarthy	DB	6-2	200	FR
16	Nate Montana	QB	6-4	200	FR
18	Duval Kamara	WR	6-5	219	SO
19	George West Jr.	WR	5-10	196	JR
20	Terrail Lambert	DB	5-11	195	SR
21	Barry Gallup Jr.	RB	5-11	200	JR
22	Harrison Smith	DB	6-2	206	SO
23	Golden Tate	WR	5-11	195	SO
24	Leonard Gordon	DB	5-11	187	JR
24	Brian Coughlin	WR	6-0	172	JR
25	Jonas Gray	RB	5-10	230	FR
26	Jamoris Slaughter	DB	6-0	182	FR
27	David Bruton	DB	6-2	212	SR
28	Kyle McCarthy	DB	6-1	203	SR
29	Jashaad Gaines	DB	6-0	202	JR
29	Michael Garcia	WR	6-1	178	SO
30	Steve Paskorz	FB	6-2	235	SO
31	Sergio Brown	DB	6-2	205	JR
32	Luke Schmidt	TE	6-3	246	JR
33	Robert Hughes	RB	5-11	237	SO
34	James Aldridge	RB	6-0	225	JR
35	Kevin Smith	LB	5-8	200	SR
35	Kevin Brooks	TE	6-2	241	JR
36	Joe Bizjak	K	6-2	165	JR
36	David Posluszny	LB	6-0	220	FR
37	Mike Anello	DB	5-10	170	SR
37	Eras Noel	RB	5-8	190	SO
38	Chris Bathon	DB	5-10	192	JR
38	Christopher Gurries	WR	5-10	181	SO
39	Ryan Burkhardt	K	5-11	190	JR
40	Maurice Crum Jr.	LB	6-0	235	SR
41	Scott Smith	LB	6-3	235	SR
41	Nikolas Rodriguez	RB	5-11	205	SR
42	Kevin Washington	LB	6-1	250	SR
42	Dan Franco	WR	5-10	188	JR
43	John Leonis	DB	5-9	169	SR
43	Eric Maust	P	6-2	177	JR
44	Asaph Schwapp	FB	6-0	257	FR
45	Darius Fleming	LB	6-1	236	FR
45	Kris Patterson	WR	5-11	185	SR
46	Steve Filer	LB	6-3	236	FR
47	Joe Vittoria	LB	5-11	44	JR
47	Mike Narvaez	FB	5-11	231	JR
48	Steve Quinn	LB	6-2	225	SR
49	Toryan Smith	LB	6-1	244	JR
51	Dan Wenger	C	6-4	302	JR
52	Braxton Cave	C	6-3	315	FR
53	Morrice Richardson	DE	6-2	255	JR
54	Anthony McDonald	LB	6-3	225	FR
55	Eric Olsen	OG	6-5	303	JR
56	Kerry Neal	LB	6-2	246	SO
57	Mike Golc Jr.	C	6-3	280	FR
58	Brian Smith	LB	6-3	245	SO
59	Chris Stewart	OG	6-5	337	JR
61	Martin Quintana	LB	6-1	242	JR
62	Bill Flavin	C	6-3	252	SO
63	Jeff Tisak	OT	6-3	306	SR
64	Tom Burke	LB	5-10	242	JR
65	Mike Hernandez	OL	6-2	275	FR
67	Tom Bemenderfer	C	6-5	300	SR
69	Carl Brophy	OL	6-4	278	FR
70	Matt Romine	OT	6-5	292	SO
71	Dennis Mahoney	OL	6-6	290	FR
72	Paul Duncan	OT	6-7	308	SR
74	Sam Young	OT	6-8	330	JR
75	Taylor Dever	OT	6-5	308	SO
75	Lane Clelland	OT	6-5	281	FR
76	Andrew Nuss	DE	6-5	304	SO
77	Mike Turkovich	OG	6-6	305	SR
78	Trevor Robinson	OG	6-5	301	FR
79	Hafis Williams	DE	6-2	302	FR
81	John Goodman	WR	6-3	197	FR
82	Robby Parris	WR	6-4	210	JR
84	Will Yeatman	TE	6-6	265	SO
85	Sam Vos	WR	5-10	199	JR
86	Paul Kuppich	TE	6-3	232	SR
87	Joseph Fauria	TE	6-7	245	FR
89	Kapron Lewis-Moore	DE	6-4	257	FR
90	John Ryan	LB	6-5	264	JR
91	Emeka Nwankwo	DE	6-4	295	SO
93	Paddy Mullen	NT	6-3	300	JR
94	Justin Brown	DE	6-3	277	SR
95	Ian Williams	NT	6-2	310	SO
96	Pat Kuntz	DE	6-3	283	SR
97	Kallen Wade	LB	6-5	255	JR
98	Sean Cwynar	DE	6-4	283	FR

Notre Dame 2008 Schedule

Sept. 6	SDSU — W
Sept. 13	MICH — W
Sept. 20	at MSU — L
Sept. 27	PURDUE — W
Oct. 4	STANFORD — W
Oct. 11	at UNC — L
Oct. 25	at WASH — W
Nov. 1	PITT
Nov. 8	at BC
Nov. 15	NAVY
Nov. 22	SYRACUSE
Nov. 29	at USC



COACHING

QUARTERBACKS

IRISH RUSHING

IRISH PASSING

NOTRE DAME

After his team proved it could win on the road last week, Charlie Weis' squad needs to avoid a home letdown to a Pitt team that has looked great at times and awful at others.

Jimmy Clausen started hot but was lucky to escape Washington with just one interception. His services weren't really needed against the lowly Huskies, but that won't be the case this week.

James Aldridge was the back du jour against Washington, posting a career day with 84 yards and a pair of touchdowns. Freshman Jonas Gray impressed with 62 yards on nine carries as the Irish rushed for 252 yards total.

Michael Floyd needs two catches to become Notre Dame's leading freshman receiver of all-time, and his touchdown last week was his fifth, also a freshman record. Clausen put up career highs in his last two home games (Purdue, Stanford).

PITTSBURGH

Former Chicago Bears and Miami Dolphins head coach Dave Wannstedt has proven he can recruit in his first college coaching gig, but he has yet to lead his alma mater to a bowl game.

Bill Stull threw for a career-high 279 yards before leaving last week's game because of a concussion. His 223.1 passing yards per game rank second in the Big East, but Stull has thrown five interceptions compared to just five touchdowns.

The Panthers allow 122 yards per game on the ground but surrendered just 71 yards on 30 rushes to Rutgers. Iowa's Shonn Greene and Syracuse's Curtis Brinkley each ran for more than 100 yards in consecutive weeks to end September.

Pittsburgh's pass defense is usually stout, giving up 187 yards per game, but Rutgers quarterback Mike Teel threw for 361 yards and six touchdowns last week en route to Big East Player of the Week honors.

ANALYSIS

The then-No. 17 Panthers looked ill-prepared for a 2-5 Rutgers team last week, losing 54-34 at home. The Irish may be streaky, but they have looked ready for and have been competitive in each game this year.

Stull will start, but one big hit might knock him out. Clausen will have to be the offensive catalyst for the Irish, who have struggled to run the ball against quality opponents.

The Panthers run defense may be average, but the Irish have yet to show they can run the ball effectively against anything but pitiful run defenses — Purdue and Washington rank 32nd and 16th nationally, respectively, in rushing yards allowed per game.

Teel needed just 21 attempts to throw for his 361 yards — expect Clausen to throw about twice as much. Clausen's turned into quite the gunslinger at home, and Weis will let him spread out the defense and use his talented receivers.



Bill Brink
Sports Editor

The Irish will recycle the game plan from Michigan State, because this game comes down to the same idea: stop running back LeSean McCoy. McCoy will get his yards — and touchdowns — but once the Irish stack the box to stop him, Panthers quarterback Bill Stull will melt. Pittsburgh's pass defense was exposed last week, so look for Jimmy Clausen to throw 40-plus times and have another big day.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 28
Pittsburgh 27



Jay Fitzpatrick
Managing editor

Things are just going right for Notre Dame right now. It won its first road game handily after two close losses earlier in the season. And with the passing and running game coming together nicely, the Irish have a good chance of exploiting Pitt's defense. Weis knows how to exploit a team's weaknesses and he has a lot of clues as to what those are after Rutgers dropped 54 on them last week.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 38
Pittsburgh 21

Irish experts

D HEAD

Pittsburgh Panthers

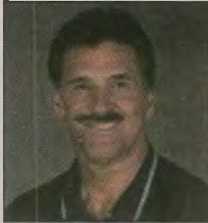


Pittsburgh 2008 Schedule

Aug. 30	BGSU — L
Sept. 6	BUFFALO — W
Sept. 20	IOWA — W
Sept. 27	at 'CUSE — W
Oct. 2	at USF — W
Oct. 18	at NAVY — W
Oct. 25	RUTGERS — L
Nov. 1	at NOTRE DAME
Nov. 8	LOUISVILLE
Nov. 22	at CINCY
Nov. 28	WEST VA.
Dec. 6	at UCONN

Pittsburgh Panthers
Record: 5-2
AP: NR
Coaches: NR

Dave Wannstedt
Fourth season at
Pittsburgh
career record:
21-21
against
Notre Dame:
0-1



Dave Wannstedt
head coach

Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht	Wt.	YR
1	Cedric McGee	WR	6-1	205	JR
2	Darin Dickerson	TE	6-2	230	JR
3	Aaron Smith	WR	6-0	180	FR
4	Andrew Janocko	QB	6-1	200	FR
5	Elijah Fields	DB	6-2	220	SO
6	Scott Shrake	DB	6-2	200	SR
7	Cameron Saddler	WR	5-7	170	FR
8	Chris Bova	FB	5-11	240	JR
9	Steve Dell	LB	6-1	235	JR
10	Jovani Chappel	DB	5-9	180	JR
11	Adam Gunn	LB	6-2	230	SR
12	T.J. Porter	WR	6-1	195	JR
13	Aundre Wright	WR	5-11	180	FR
14	Bill Stull	QB	6-3	215	JR
15	Dan Cafaro	DB	5-10	170	JR
16	Kevan Smith	QB	6-3	225	SO
17	Greg Cross	QB	6-2	210	JR
18	Shane Murray	LB	6-1	220	JR
19	Tino Sunseri	QB	6-2	200	FR
20	Brian Kaiser	LB	6-0	215	JR
21	Aaron Berry	DB	5-11	175	JR
22	Dave Brytus	P	6-4	230	SR
23	Pat Bostick	QB	6-3	220	SO
24	Irvan Brown	DB	6-0	205	JR
25	Buddy Jackson	DB	6-0	175	FR
26	Antwuan Reed	DB	5-10	180	FR
27	Ronald Hobby	DB	5-10	175	FR
28	Kevin Collier	RB	5-11	195	SO
29	Luke Briggs	PK	5-9	180	SO
30	Austin Ransom	DB	6-2	215	SR
31	LeSean McCoy	RB	5-9	210	SO
32	Ricky Gary	DB	5-11	175	SO
33	Henry Hynoski	FB	6-0	250	FR
34	Eric Thatcher	DB	5-11	195	SR
35	Chris Burns	RB	6-3	190	FR
36	Conredge Collins	FB	6-0	230	SR
37	Dan Hutchins	PK	6-7	190	SO
38	Dom DeCicco	DB	6-2	220	SO
39	Tristan Robert	LB	6-1	230	FR
40	LaRod Stephens-Howling	RB	5-11	180	SR
41	Brandon Lindsey	LB	6-3	230	FR
42	Michael Toerper	DB	5-10	190	JR
43	Conor Lee	PK	6-2	200	SR
44	Greg Williams	LB	5-11	225	FR
45	Jarred Holley	DB	6-1	170	FR
46	Scott McKillop	LB	6-1	240	SR
47	Andrew Taglianetti	DB	6-3	175	FR
48	Manny Williams	LB	6-3	205	FR
49	Shariff Harris	RB	6-4	215	FR
50	Nate Nix	LB	5-10	235	SO
51	Tyler Tkach	DL	6-4	265	SO
52	Shayne Hale	LB	6-2	240	FR
53	Kevin Harper	PK	6-2	170	FR
54	Doug Fulmer	DL	6-4	255	JR
55	Max Gruder	LB	6-6	235	FR
56	Rashaad Duncan	DL	6-3	295	SR
57	Tommie Duhart	OL	6-1	290	JR
58	Lucas Nix	OL	6-3	300	FR
59	Joe Trebitz	LB	6-3	200	FR
60	Alex Karabin	OL	6-5	290	SO
61	Chris Jacobson	OL	6-2	310	SR
62	C.J. Davis	OL	6-4	300	JR
63	Joe Thomas	OL	6-4	290	JR
64	Craig Bokor	LS	6-2	245	SR
65	Mark Estermyer	OL	6-2	295	FR
66	Greg Gaskins	OL	6-5	280	JR
67	John Bachman	OL	6-6	315	FR
68	Wayne Jones	OL	6-7	285	JR
69	Robb Houser	OL	6-2	280	SO
70	Scott Corson	OL	6-4	285	FR
71	Dan Matha	OL	6-5	290	FR
72	Jordan Gibbs	OL	6-7	285	SO
73	Jared Martin	OL	6-3	305	SR
74	Dominic Williams	OL	6-6	295	FR
75	John Fieger	OL	6-4	330	SR
76	Chase Clowser	OL	6-4	280	JR
77	John Malecki	OL	6-3	300	FR
78	Ryan Turnley	OL	6-3	275	SR
79	Frank Kochin	OL	6-1	255	SO
80	Jason Pinkston	OL	6-5	210	JR
81	Nate Byham	TE	6-3	220	JR
82	Derek Kinder	WR	6-5	260	SR
83	Jonathan Baldwin	WR	6-5	270	FR
84	John Pelusi	TE	6-3	220	JR
85	Mike Cruz	TE	6-2	205	FR
86	Mike Shanahan	WR	6-5	235	FR
87	Oderick Turner	WR	6-4	265	JR
88	Tony Tucker	DL	6-3	240	FR
89	Greg Romeus	DL	6-2	280	SO
90	Justin Virbitsky	TE	6-1	275	FR
91	Gus Mustakas	DL	6-3	285	JR
92	Myles Caragein	DL	6-2	250	FR
93	Mick Williams	DL	6-1	250	JR
94	Justin Hargrove	DL	6-3	275	JR
95	Jabaal Sheard	DL	6-4	280	SO
96	Chas Alecxih	DL	6-5	275	FR

PANTHERS RUSHING

The Irish allowed just 26 rushing yards to Washington last week, bolstering their per game average to 120.6 yards per game. But memories of Javon Ringer's 201-yard outburst in week three still linger.

LeSean McCoy is scary. Through seven games, he has racked up 835 yards and 14 touchdowns, and his 12 points per game scoring average leads the nation. And he's a sophomore.

Don't expect McCoy to rush for 303 yards like Pittsburgh great Tony Dorsett did against the Irish in 1975, but the Panthers will feed their workhorse, likely with some degree of success.

PANTHERS PASSING

A rejuvenated pass rush has eased the burden on an overachieving Irish secondary. Notre Dame has recorded 10 sacks over the last three games after posting just one in its first four games.

Much of Stull's success stems from his ability to spread the ball around to multiple receivers. The Panthers have seven players with at least 10 receptions and three more with eight on the year. McCoy is a threat here as well, averaging 12.1 yards on his 17 receptions.

Though the Panthers have slightly favored the run this year, Stull has still been chucking it about 30 times per game. Notre Dame's pass defense was one of few bright spots last season and has continued to both limit big plays and force turnovers this year.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Brandon Walker has made his last three field goal attempts, including a 42-yarder last week. Explosive wide receiver Golden Tate got a shot to return punts last week and was a block or two shy of taking one to the house.

The Panthers have blocked six kicks in seven games — three extra points, two fields goals and a punt. Conor Lee is 11-for-13 on field goals this year. He made three from at least 40 yards out last week and hasn't missed from inside the 40-yard line all year.

Walker has definitely made strides in the past two games but needs to prove he can be consistent in high-pressure situations. Lee, a fifth-year senior, has already done so.

INTANGIBLES

The leaves may have changed from the last time the Irish played at home, but the fact remains that Notre Dame's offense has looked dominant on its own field. No doubt the Irish will be fired up to host a quality opponent.

The Panthers don't beat themselves, as they commit the third-fewest penalties per game in the nation and score on 92-percent of their red zone possessions.

Pittsburgh has won four in a row on the road, including upsets of No. 10 South Florida this year and No. 1 West Virginia last year. But the Irish will be ready for a home test they must pass before going on the road for two.



Chris Hine
Editor-in-Chief

In keeping with the theme of next week's presidential election, this week-end should be a referendum for Notre Dame's run defense. Panthers running back LeSean McCoy has 861 yards on the ground so far this year and he currently leads the nation in scoring. The defense could have a tough time, but overall, Notre Dame's offense is too good right now.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 35
Pittsburgh 28



Dan Murphy
Sports Editor

The Irish have proved that they can win the games they are supposed to win, but they haven't yet pulled off a big victory. Home field advantage will play a factor in changing that as Clausen gets back on track after a sub-par showing against the Huskies.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 34
Pittsburgh 28

Irish
experts

Crunching the numbers

2008 SEASON AVERAGES PER GAME

PITT points scored	PITT 28.7
ND points scored	ND 26.6
PITT points allowed	PITT 26.1
ND points allowed	ND 18.7
PITT rush yards	PITT 162.7
ND rush yards	ND 122.7
PITT rushing allowed	PITT 122.0
ND rushing allowed	ND 120.6
PITT pass yards	PITT 233.0
ND pass yards	ND 262.6
PITT passing allowed	PITT 187.1
ND passing allowed	ND 212.3

THE OBSERVER CLASSIFIED



DAN WENGER #51

C 6'4" 302 LB.

HOMETOWN: CORAL SPRINGS, FL

What is your favorite football moment?

Probably this year beating Michigan. Having come here and having two losses my freshman and sophomore years and coming out and being a part of it and laying a pretty good one on them.

What is your pre-game routine?

I don't really have a routine. It's just I kind of put on some calming music and get my head cleared and get focused for the game and being in a relaxed mood for going into the game.

In practice, who is the toughest guy to block?

For me it's usually Ian Williams because we're always in those one-on-one battles. He's a pretty stocky guy, strong and powerful. We've had some battles in the trenches.

What's your favorite spot on campus?

My dorm room and my bed.

What's the hardest class you've had so far?

Probably Finance.

Who is the strongest guy on the team?

In the weight room is one of our walk-ons, [junior linebacker] Tom Burke. He's just a shredder. We call him "Tomold" because he reminds us of Arnold Schwarzenegger. So I would probably say Tomold as far as weight room. He just goes in there and throws around weights.

Are you a business major?

I was, but then I changed. I'm a sociology major now. I realized business is not for me. It just wasn't suited for my type of personality.

What's your favorite place off-campus?

I would have to say Bruno's. It's pretty good food and we got a lot. It's always a good time just around with the guys. It's usually buffet.

Who is the funniest guy on the team?

James Aldridge is pretty funny. But I think in our own little section of the O-line, I think we all have our little moments.

What's your favorite food in the dining hall?

I usually get a lot of grilled chicken, a lot of vegetables — corn, broccoli, things like that — I might get a Caesar salad. I try to eat pretty well.

If we went to your iPod right now, what is the top played song?

Probably "Sacrifice" from The Expendables.

Villa Macri

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Blanton tough on the field, loud off of it

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

On the field for the Irish this season, freshman Robert Blanton's biggest contribution came against Purdue when he returned an interception for a touchdown.

"Coach Brown made a great call, put me in a great position to make the play," Blanton said of the pick. "And then once I caught the ball, my teammates were there to make the blocks left and right into the end zone."

Off the field, he has made his biggest impact with his mouth.

Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis said Blanton is one of the biggest trash talkers on the team, something he has had to temper at times this season.

"Like I've had an incident, players have had incidents," Weis said. "Because sometimes you have to pull them aside and say, okay, you're a freshman and if you want to do this, this is what's going to come with the territory. We have had that side of the story as well."

When asked how chirpy he is during practices or games, Blanton thought for a while and then smiled and laughed.

"I honestly don't say too much. I try to keep it down, I just pump my teammates up, give them confidence, keep them going," he said.

However, classmate Darius Fleming told the true story.

"Honestly, he's definitely not quiet, not one bit," Fleming

said. "I love R.J., he brings a lot of emotion to the team. And even though he's a wild guy, it's great to be like that at times. He has a lot of heart and just plays with emotion."

Blanton opened up about his trash talking after learning that Fleming spilled the beans.

"We've always talked a little junk back and forth with each other in high school and little league, I guess it's just kind of stuck," he said.

Weis told one example that describes Blanton's personality in practice.

"He had an interception in a one on one [in practice], so he intercepts the ball and he runs about ten yards to where the offensive guys are and then he just dives over the line like he was diving into the end zone, okay, and spikes the ball," he said.

Blanton explained that play, saying he wanted to nettle the offensive players.

"Any time you make a big play is to make the offense feel worse about it so they will make another bad play. I try to do that every time," he said.

Blanton said he likes to rile up Irish receivers Golden Tate and Michael Floyd in practice to make them up their games.

"If I get them riled up, I know they'll give me their best shot. So I'm just trying to get them going a little bit," he said.

One main target of Blanton's trash talk this season has been fellow freshman, receiver Michael Floyd. Floyd said Blanton's talkativeness is neces-



DAN COOPER/The Observer

Irish cornerback Robert Blanton, left, celebrates with safety Kyle McCarthy and cornerback Raeshon McNeil after his interception for a touchdown in Notre Dame's 38-21 win over Purdue on Sept. 27.

sary for a defensive back.

"You gotta have swagger if you're a DB. If you don't you're not really a DB," he said.

But Floyd can hold his own in the back-and-forth.

"He thinks he's a good basketball player, but he sucks though. I never really play him because he's just average," he said of Blanton.

Blanton is not always the smack-talker that he is when playing, however.

"I've got a personality on the football field and a personality off the football field," he said. "Off the football field, I quiet down, tone down. On the football field I try to release all my energy."

Blanton said his life at Notre Dame is pretty simple.

"I like to hang out with teammates. Most times we're going back and forth from football to study hall to dinner. ... And hanging out with the ladies," he

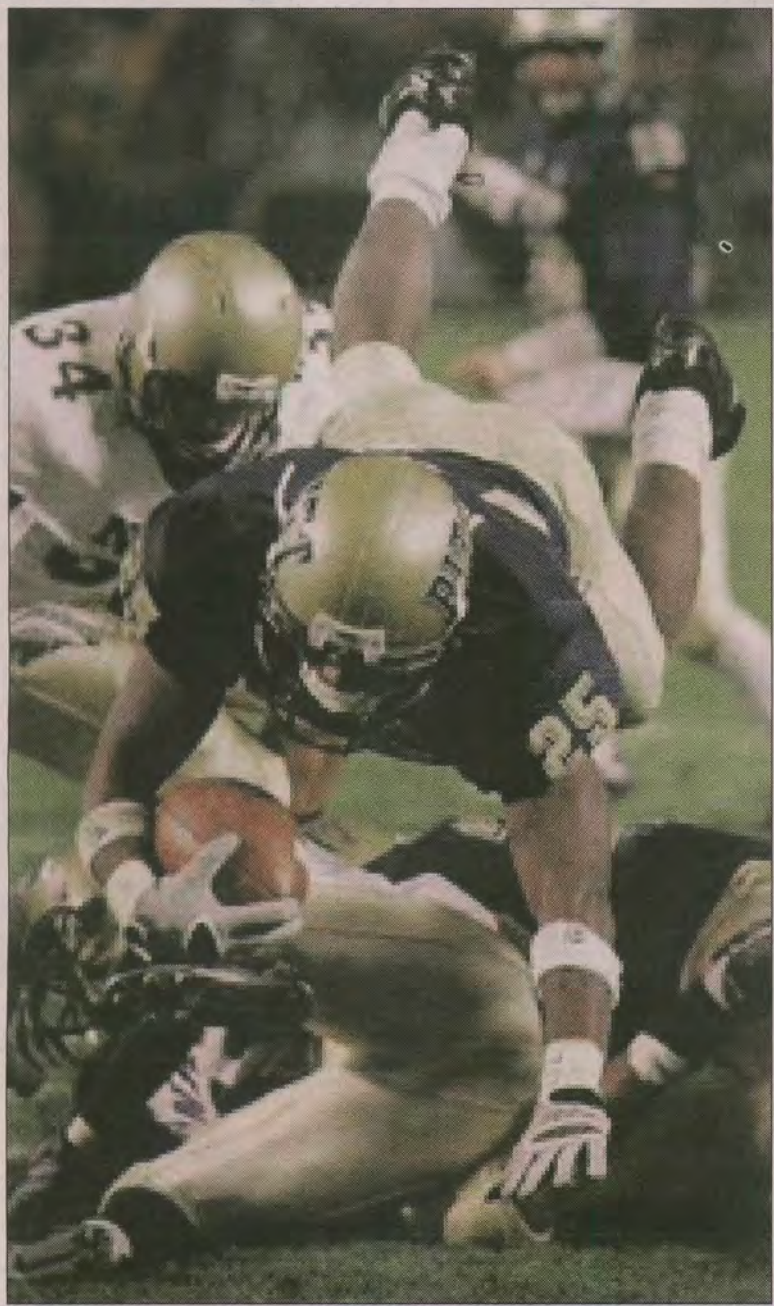
said.

But the Blanton said he thinks the one thing people should know about him is the "No. 1 woman in [his] life," at least until he gets married: his mother Kathrine Edwards.

During the days off for fall break, Blanton said he returned home to North Carolina for a surprise visit to his mother.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu

McCoy, like Ringer, presents a challenge to ND defense



AP

Panthers running back LeSean McCoy dives for extra yards during Pittsburgh's 42-21 win over Navy on Oct. 10.

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

Notre Dame has already faced one big-name running back this season — Michigan State's Javon Ringer — and will face another one this Saturday against Pittsburgh in sophomore LeSean McCoy. Ringer torched the Irish for 201 yards on 39 carries in Michigan State's 23-7 win over the Irish on Sept. 20.

In seven games, McCoy has rushed for 861 yards on 161 carries (5.2 yards per carry) good enough to rank 11th in total rushing. He has 14 touchdowns — four in Pittsburgh's 54-34 loss last week against Rutgers — which has propelled him to the No. 1 spot nationally in scoring average. McCoy has also caught 17 passes this season for 206 yards.

"Their whole offense centers around McCoy," Irish coach Charlie Weis said Tuesday. "I know he's a sophomore, but he's definitely one of the best backs in the country. He can run and catch. This guy is a complete back. And he's very, very good."

Pittsburgh coach Dave Wannstedt said McCoy has become better as the season has gone on, and McCoy's 154 yard-performance

against Rutgers showed that.

"I thought that our offensive coaches had a very good plan on how to attack Rutgers and all their movements and pressures. That's a credit to the blockers but also a credit to LeSean," Wannstedt said. "He knew where the crease would be and he just wasn't out there getting the ball and running. He's maturing and starting to see the big picture. Yes, you have to run reckless but at the same time you have to do the little things and I think that's what everyone's seeing."

"[McCoy] knew where the crease would be and he just wasn't getting the ball and running. He's maturing and starting to see the big picture."

Dave Wannstedt
Panthers coach

Weis said. "There's a lot of guys that are like cut back, bounce out runners, or there's guys that pound it

"Their whole offense centers around McCoy. I know he's a sophomore, but he's definitely one of the best backs in the country."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

like Ringer, for example. Ringer is not a guy who really spends a lot of his time on the edge ... That is not the same running back we have here, because this guy can run inside and run outside, and they give him an opportunity to do both."

But this week, Notre Dame may be able to load the box against McCoy and contain him. As of press time

Wednesday night, the status of Pittsburgh starting quarterback Bill Stull was uncertain. Stull, who has thrown for 1,562 yards and four touchdowns this season, suffered a concussion against Rutgers. Pat Bostick would start in place of Stull if Stull can't go.

Even if Stull does play, Notre Dame may have success at the line of scrimmage due to the injury of center Robb Houser. Houser sustained a season-ending ankle injury against Rutgers. Wannstedt wasn't sure how he was going to fill that hole, but regardless, Notre Dame knows it will see a heavy dose of McCoy.

"We're going to have to show that we can stop them or else it's going to be a long day for the Irish," Weis said.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu



"Catholics and Evolution: Old Tensions and New Directions"



Phillip R. Sloan

Professor, Program of Liberal Studies and
Graduate Program in History
and Philosophy of Science



11:00 a.m.

Saturday, November 1, 2008
Annenberg Auditorium,
Snite Museum of Art

Are Catholics committed to supporting "Intelligent Design" against evolutionary theory? Sloan will examine the history of the response of Church officials to Darwin's theory and summarize the most recent reflections in Catholic circles and in the official statements of the Vatican.



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Professor of Modern Communication, Film, Television, and Theatre

09/27—Purdue

"Election 2008: Race, Gender, and Faith"
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Darren W. Davis, Professor, Political Science
Christina K. Wolbrecht, Associate Professor, Political Science

10/04—Stanford

"The Sub-Prime Mortgage Mess and Federal Reserve Policy"
Christopher J. Waller, Gilbert F. Schaefer Professor of Economics

11/01—Pittsburgh

"Catholics and Evolution: Old Tensions and New Directions"
Phillip R. Sloan, Professor, Program of Liberal Studies

11/22—Syracuse

"Before and Beyond Modernism: Icons as Art"
Charles E. Barber, Professor and Chairperson, Art, Art History,
and Design

3-1/2 hours before kickoff in the Annenberg Auditorium,
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