

THE OBSERVER

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Unrest continues in Egypt; ND students evacuate

Professor discusses the future of Egyptian government; 'result of 30 years of harsh rule'

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

The current political turmoil in Egypt is a result of 30 years of harsh rule under President Hosni Mubarak, according to Emad Shahin, professor of religion, conflict and peacebuilding at Notre Dame's Kroc Institute.

"What is going on is a popular uprising that is aspiring to change Mubarak's regime that has been in power for the past

see EGYPT/page 5



An anti-government protester holds a banner in Tharir square in downtown Cairo Monday. Opposition groups have called for a million people to take the streets today in protest against President Hosni Mubarak.

Notre Dame students moved to safe haven in Istanbul from university in Cairo

Observer Staff Report

Twelve Notre Dame students were evacuated from Cairo to Istanbul Monday night, according to a University press release.

The students, who were participating in a Notre Dame study abroad program at the American University in Cairo (AUC), were among many American citizens evacuated on charter flights

see UPDATE/page 5

Legacy Square condos not open to students



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

A bulldozer covered in snow sits next to the site of the Legacy Square condominiums, which will not be open to students.

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

While the controversial Legacy Square condominium project will continue, its future occupants will not be Notre Dame students, as originally

planned.

According to student body president Catherine Soler, the condominiums will be finished and marketed to owner-occupants, not for lease to students.

"The concern [of the commu-

see LEGACY/page 6

Winter storm to strike area

Observer Staff Report

The City of South Bend is preparing for the winter storm expected Tuesday and Wednesday and anticipates issuing a Snow Emergency in the next two days, according to a Monday media advisory.

One to two inches of snow could accumulate during the day Tuesday in St. Joseph County, with an additional 11 to 12 inches Tuesday night, according to the National Weather Service.

"In anticipation of the next round of heavy snow and ice, the city's Snow-Control Team met this morning with Police, Fire and South Bend Community School Corporation to finalize, in advance, strategies to deal with the winter storm expected over the next few days," the City's media advisory stated.



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Jordan Hall of Science sits covered in snow. Another 14 inches is predicted to hit campus by Wednesday.

sory stated.

University spokesman Dennis Brown said Notre Dame makes daily weather-related closure decisions around 5 a.m.

South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke asked all South Bend

residents to plan ahead, exercise caution while driving, clear sidewalks as quickly as possible and avoid driving on all main thoroughfares once snow

see WEATHER/page 6

DeBartolo Hall home to 'experimental' classroom

By CHRISTIAN MYERS
News Writer

A new experimental classroom, B011 DeBartolo Hall, is redefining the classroom experience, and yes, anyone can write on the walls.

Room B011 is the result of multiple groups on campus working together to create an innovative, imaginative and

active learning environment. Several divisions within the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Office of the Registrar, Academic Space Management, the University Council of Academic Technology (UCAT) and the Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning collaborated in the design and funding of B011.

Jason Railton and Tim

Cichos of OIT's Technology Enhanced Learning Spaces division designed the room based on recommendations from the various groups and similar classrooms at schools like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Minnesota and the University of Michigan.

According to Brian Burchett, manager of OIT's Technology Enhanced

Learning Spaces division, the goal is for the room to be as flexible as possible and to encourage active learning.

"The idea of active learning is that students need to be participants, not simply people who receive information," Burchett said.

The room features multiple viewing screens, eight Macintosh computers, a touch-screen control panel for

controlling what appears on each screen, multiple sets of keyboards and mice, and a document camera.

The computers and screens can be connected in any way — one computer screen can be displayed on all viewing screens, each viewing screen can display a different computer screen, or any arrange-

see DEBARTOLO/page 6

THE OBSERVER

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

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

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

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CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: If I GAVE YOU AN ELEPHANT, WHERE WOULD YOU HIDE IT?



Allison Jeter
sophomore
Pangborn

"In a Swiss bank account."



Anthony Cheung
sophomore
Sorin

"In my loft."



Brenna Williams
junior
Badin

"Carroll."



Bri Neblung
sophomore
Badin

"The great hall of O'Shag."



Liz Pawlak
junior
Pangborn

"The Pangborn storage room."



Rob Carter
junior
Dillon

"In the bell tower of Morrissey because no one would ever think to look there."

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



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Men from the Notre Dame boxing team undergo physical conditioning to prepare for the Bengal Bouts Tournament, which raises money for the Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh.

OFFBEAT

Musician rescues Miami piano from sandbar

MIAMI — A baby grand piano is gone again from a Miami sandbar after a musician rescued the battered instrument for his son.

A towing crew took the piano Thursday. Its appearance on the sandbar in early January was a mystery until 16-year-old Nicholas Harrington stepped forward this week to say he put it there as an art project.

State wildlife officials had served the Harringtons with orders to remove it within 24 hours. But musician Carl Bentulan got there first.

Bentulan told The Miami Herald he plans to eventually put the piano in his living room. He said his 10-year-

old son insisted the piano needed a home.

It was unclear if the Harringtons will seek custody. But towing company owner Lynn Mitchell says maritime law gives possession to whoever pays to salvage something abandoned at sea.

Mexican gangs hurl pot into US using catapults

HERMOSILLO, Mexico — Drug smugglers are using an ancient invention as a new way to move marijuana across the border from Mexico to Arizona.

The discovery of two "drug catapults" in the Mexican state of Sonora marks the latest twist in the cat-and-mouse game traffickers play

with authorities.

U.S. National Guard troops operating a remote surveillance system at the Naco Border Patrol Station say they observed several people preparing a catapult and launching packages over the fence late last week.

A Mexican army officer says the 3-yard (3-meter) tall catapult was found about 20 yards (20 meters) from the U.S. border on a flatbed towed by a sports utility vehicle.

The officer says the catapult was capable of launching 4.4 pounds (2 kilograms) of marijuana at a time. He says soldiers seized 35 pounds (16 kilograms) of pot, the vehicle and the catapult.

IN BRIEF

Rulian Guo will be giving a seminar titled "High-performance Polymer Membranes in Fuel Cells and Gas Separation" today from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in DeBartolo 129. Guo is a post-doctoral associate in the Department of Chemistry's Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute at Virginia Tech.

RecSports will be hosting a "Train for Your First 1/2 Marathon Workshop" today at Rolfs from 5:15 to 6:45 in the RSRC Classroom. This is a great way to learn tips for training and develop a training schedule in time for the Holy Half.

The Career Center's "Winter Career and Internship Fair & Diversity Reception" scheduled for tomorrow from 4 to 8 p.m. has been postponed due to extreme weather conditions. See the Career Center's website for updates on the rescheduling.

Reference Librarian Margaret Porter will present a workshop called "Find it in the Newspapers" tomorrow from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 222 of Hesburgh Library. Porter shows how to efficiently locate current and historical newspaper articles.

Professor Mark Noll and Associate Professor Brad Gregory will present on "Evangelicals and Catholics Together? Some Real Progress But Some Real Problems Too" tomorrow from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall. Noll and Gregory are from Notre Dame's department of history.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 22 LOW 17	HIGH 17 LOW 12	HIGH 22 LOW 9	HIGH 12 LOW 8	HIGH 13 LOW 11	HIGH 20 LOW 18

RecSports uses survey to gauge student needs

By CARLY LANDON
News Writer

RecSports will release its first Student Voice survey to students randomly chosen from the University population in order to obtain feedback on the RecSports programs and facilities today.

"We're always interested in trying to make our programs better and it's really hard to reach people who don't participate," RecSports Fitness Coordinator Shellie Dodd-Bell said. "We really wanted to find out from everyone, or at least a random sample of campus, what you like about RecSports, what makes you participate, and if you don't, why don't you?"

Dodd-Bell said she hopes the survey will help provide RecSports with direction for improvement.

"The ultimate goal is to be able to look at the statistical data and make the changes necessary to improve our program as soon as possible," Dodd-Bell said. "We can use the survey as statistical evidence that certain amenities are needed in order to justify why certain expenditures are needed down the road."

Director of RecSports Sally Derengoski said she would like to see a place where everyone can be satisfied.

"First and foremost, it is about satisfaction, so we should learn about where people are really happy with our programs and facilities and where we need improvement," Derengoski said.

The survey will be sent out to a sample of students selected by Notre Dame's Department of Institutional

Research, Dodd-Bell said.

"Since there are other surveys that are also going out, we wanted to make sure we didn't bombard the same people and overwhelm them," Dodd-Bell said. "Once the survey is received by the selected group, students will have a week and a half until a reminder is sent out to them which will give them another week and a half, so they'll have a total of three weeks to finish it," Dodd-Bell said.

Derengoski said this survey has been done in universities across the nation and has led to great results.

"We're actually one of about 100 universities that has participated in this survey," Derengoski said. "It's a survey that has been created for rec programs all over the

country. The company that does this makes them and then gives us not only feedback about Notre Dame students and employees, but also how we rank relative to other universities. It should really give us some great direction with our program."

The students selected to take the survey have not only the chance to provide feedback, but also the opportunity to win various prizes.

Every student who completes the survey will receive a free order of breadsticks from Papa John's and a free appetizer from Granite City Food and Brewery in Mishawaka, Dodd-Bell said. There will also be a drawing to win \$500 certificates to Meijer and an iPod touch, she said.

Contact Carly Landon at clandon1@nd.edu

"First and foremost, it is about satisfaction, so we should learn where people are really happy with our programs and facilities."

Sally Derengoski
director
RecSports

St. Liam's prepares for flu

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

A rising number of influenza cases in the South Bend area has prompted Notre Dame Health Services to prepare for a spike in the number of visits Notre Dame students make to St. Liam's Hall in the next few weeks.

Mary Ellen McCaslin, assistant director of clinical services, said Health Services has noticed the appearance of influenza strains on campus over the last two weeks.

"We do what is called a QuickFlu Test and we have had some positives in the last few weeks," McCaslin said. "We expect to follow the trends seen in surrounding regions, which indicate a rise in the incidences of influenza cases."

Despite the expected escalation of flu cases, McCaslin said Notre Dame is in a much better position than last year.

"The H1N1 Swine Flu that we saw last year is not showing itself this year. It caused a bit of a panic in the college health sector and the public as well," she said. "People were nervous, but that outbreak was certainly not what was predicted."

McCaslin said she predicts H1N1 will remain absent, though

a mutation might reveal itself at some point.

"We were just reviewing information from the CDC website today and saw that the H1N1 has mutated into what the CDC is now calling H3N9 or N3 right now," she said. "That's the kind of flu we expect to see."

Though mutations occur, telltale signs of the flu are the same as always, she said.

Students should be on the lookout for fevers, sore throats, headaches, chills and fatigue. Once detected, the usual course of action may be taken to expedite the duration of the illness, though there is no instant cure for the flu.

"This is a self-limiting illness that will run its course as all viruses do," McCaslin said. "They are not effectively treated by antibiotics because it is not a bacteria, it is a virus."

McCaslin said treatment — except in extreme situations — is generally the same. Rest and fluids, accompanied by Tylenol or Ibuprofen to control the fever allow the illness to run its course. A new product on the market,

Tamiflu, is rumored to accelerate recovery, though McCaslin said it is not markedly better than traditional treatment methods.

"The effectiveness of Tamiflu is pretty limited," she said. "All it does is reduce the duration of the illness by one to three days."

Other parts of Indiana have demonstrated surges in illness and virus activity, said McCaslin, demonstrating a development in this year's flu season.

"This is a self-limiting illness that will run its course as all viruses do."

Mary Ellen McCaslin
assistant director
Clinical Services

In anticipation of the next few weeks, McCaslin said Health Services encourages students to practice flu prevention with good hygiene.

"The best thing that anyone can do is to sneeze and cough into your elbow and not into your hands. Alcohol-based hand rubs are a great way to keep germs under control, but washing your hands vigorously with soap and water is still the best way to reduce germs," she said. "Stay away from people who are sick if possible, and use common sense."

Contact Nicole Toczaauer at ntoczaue@nd.edu

SDB hosts dessert night

By ALICIA SMITH
Associate Saint Mary's Editor

Desserts from around the world were offered at Saint Mary's Student Diversity Board's (SDB) event "Sugar Makes the World Go 'Round."

Foods from a variety of countries were made available in Reignbeaux Lounge in Le Mans Hall at 7 p.m. Monday.

Senior Karolyn Wojtowicz and junior Christine Brown were responsible for planning the event. Wojtowicz serves as SDB's international student representative and admissions commissioner, and Brown works with the publicity department for the Diverse Student Leadership Conference (DSLCL).

The event offered students desserts from regions such as Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and Asia and served as the first big event of the semester for SDB.

Sodexo helped sponsor the

event by providing the food.

Each dessert had a place card saying where it was from. In addition, Wojtowicz explained that descriptions of the origins of the desserts as well as recipes were available.

"We also added the little information sheets, and we have a recipe on each of them and a little bit of cultural information," she said. "So it's not just here's some food, have fun, goodbye. People can actually now learn how to make something if they do want to go home and make it."

Wojtowicz said she thought the event would help teach students about other cultures through food.

"It's really cool," she said. "It allows people to know what churros are and they really enjoy them, or they really like éclairs, and it kind of gives people an idea as to learn more about other cultures while eating desserts and have fun."

Brown agreed, adding she

hoped students could "expand their learning of other cultures."

Brown said the event has been held in the past, but this year new desserts were added to create diversity.

This year's event offered several new desserts including Pineapple Fool, a dessert from Africa, and Krusciki, an Eastern European treat.

According to Wojtowicz, the event allows students to get to know members of SDB while enjoying a sweet treat.

"Events like this kind of raise awareness about Student Diversity Board and it also makes learning about other cultures more fun," she said.

Wojtowicz said SDB plans to host a variety of events in the coming months including a week to draw awareness to disabilities and Women's Appreciation Week in February and DSLCL in March.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu



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NEH fellowship success returns

Special to The Observer

Two University of Notre Dame professors—historian Thomas F.X. Noble and theologian Eugene Ulrich been awarded National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowships for 2011-12.

"It's a big honor," says Noble, chair of the Department of History and former director of the Medieval Institute in the College of Arts and Letters. "I'm very pleased to continue the line here at Notre Dame. We've done quite well with the NEH over the years."

Notre Dame has been awarded 44 NEH fellowships between 1999 and 2011 — more than any other university in the country. The University of Michigan has

been second to Notre Dame with 35 NEH fellowships during that 12-year period, followed by Harvard University at 26, Princeton University at 22, and the University of California, Berkeley, at 19.

NEH fellowships support advanced research that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Recipients usually produce articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools.

Noble's NEH fellowship is for a book called "Rome in the Medieval Imagination," which will explore how medieval people

thought about Rome.

"My book should be of value to medievalists of every kind because every medievalist encounters Rome, but no one has had a guidebook for those encounters," Noble says. "There's really no book that someone can take off the shelf and say, 'What did medieval people actually think about Rome? What did Rome mean to them? What valence did it possess?'"

The book is not a history of Rome, but is meant to provide insights on the medieval people who expressed such varying opinions about it, Noble says. "I'm actually not interested particularly in whether anybody was right or wrong but in why they said the things they did."

ND biologists call for plant regulation

Special to The Observer

People are increasingly obtaining endangered or threatened plants, often illegally, and moving them outside their native range, according to an article published this week in the journal *Nature* by Patrick Shirey and Gary Lamberti in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame.

According to their research last year, nearly 10 percent of the 753 plants listed as threatened and endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act are being sold — or, at least, advertised — online. Many buyers are horticulturalists who want flowers for their gardens. But increasingly, anecdotal evidence suggests that online shoppers include individuals and citizen groups involved in ‘assisted colonization’ projects. Here, species or genetic subtypes at risk of extinction are moved to non-native environments in which they might thrive — in the face of climate change, for instance.

Some private groups who want to protect the plants, such as the *Torreya* Guardians, are legally planting seedlings of the Florida *torreya* outside its current range to aid species conservation. However, Shirey urges government agencies to take more of a leadership role to monitor translocations because of the risks associated with introducing new species. The widespread transfer of endangered or threatened plants poses both environmental and economic risks.

Shirey and Lamberti cite other studies reporting that damage from invasive plant species costs more than \$30 billion in the United States by damaging crops, pastures and ecosystems. One example is the Australian paperbark tree which is a noxious weed in the United States that causes millions of dollars of damage, although its native habitats in Australia are considered threatened due to coastal development. The transfer of plants to new environments can also spread plant pathogens and pests.

Shirey and Lamberti warn of the dangers of unchecked species redistribution and urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to better monitor the movement of plants around the world and enforce existing legislation. Shirey says, “Environmental agencies and governing bodies must better enforce existing species protection laws, and establish new legal frameworks to monitor and manage this rising tide of species redistribution.”

As a first step in enforcing existing legislation, Shirey

says that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should establish surveillance teams to monitor online transactions. Secondly, the agency should restrict consumers’ ability to purchase hybrids bred from endangered species which have serious implications—good and bad—for wild populations. On a worldwide scale, exporting and importing countries should ensure the enforcement of domestic laws such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Group raises funds for Riley hospital

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Dance Marathon is selling its gear in the Student Center Atrium to help raise awareness for its main event — a 12-hour dance-a-thon to raise money for Riley's Hospital for Children in Indianapolis.

The sale will run Tuesday and Wednesday during lunch and dinner hours in the Student Center Atrium, said Kelli Minor, Dance Marathon fundraising chair.

Dance Marathon sells gear emblazoned with the logo “EMX” — the Greek letters for “SMC.”

“Currently, we are selling 2009-10 EMX hooded sweatshirts, 2008, 2009 and 2010 Trot for Tots 5K shirts, red classy and fab-

ulous shirts, SMC Dance Marathon bracelets and Riley pins,” Minor said. “The hoodies are \$20, all shirts are \$5, the bracelets and pins are \$1.”

Minor said the next big event will be Riley week, which will take place from Feb. 14-18.

“Each day there will be various ways to become involved in [Dance Marathon] and also to raise awareness for the patients and families at Riley,” she said.

According to Minor, Monday will feature an arts and crafts fair, and Tuesday a miss-a-meal night, when students can use a meal swipe as a donation to Riley. Wednesday will include door decorating and Thursday will be a salon night, with Friday serving as a campus-wide “Wear Red for Riley” day, she said.

This will be the fourth annual

Dance Marathon, which will take place on March 5, Minor said. Students interested in participating can already register.

“Pre-registration has already begun and anyone can register at any time. To get a dancer packet, students can e-mail the Dance Marathon account,” Minor said.

The group's e-mail is dmarathn@saintmarys.edu and registration is \$15 for dancers, she said.

The events will take place from noon to midnight and check-in begins at 11 a.m. in the Student Center.

“The event includes games, bands, prizes, arts and crafts, as well as the opportunity to listen to Riley families speak,” Minor said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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Egypt

continued from page 1

three decades," he said. "He has been suppressing freedoms and ruling the country with an iron fist."

Shahin said the events in Egypt are similar to those experienced in Communist Europe, at the end of the Cold War.

"I think we are witnessing a movement similar movement to the uprising in Eastern Europe against pro-Soviet dictatorships," he said. "It is mainly a movement that is pro-change and seeking to change the regime from an outdated one to free and democratic."

Unlike the events in Soviet Europe, the events in Europe have been driven by technology in order to organize the motives of change, Shahin said. The Egyptian government responded to these movements by ordering Internet service providers to shut down from the Internet, the last one complying Monday.

Though the protests began as a youth movement organized largely through social media Shahin said they have spread to all spectrums of Egyptian society since Jan. 25.

"In general, this uprising has drawn diverse segments of society from different classes, from different backgrounds, from different ages, even different ideological [areas]," he said. "It has managed to spread from the north to the south of the country."

Shahin said the movement against Mubarak's regime started as peaceful, but was met with brutal force by the Egyptian president. This has caused the situation to escalate, providing many of the violent images being broadcast around the world.

"[This forced] some of the demonstrators to target the symbols of suppression in the street and in the country," Shahin said. "Some started to burn headquarters of the state party, the National Democratic Party. These are the fires we are seeing on television."

Security police have pulled out of their duties, Shahin said, leading to a state of anarchy Mubarak hopes will aid him in retaining power. There have also been accusations of the

current regime intentionally releasing prisoners.

"It is the very simple equation of liberty versus security," Shahin said. "Mubarak's regime tried to create a state of insecurity at the expense of liberty so people would wish for security and forget about liberty."

Despite the chaos on the streets of Egypt, Shahin said the people of Egypt have taken it upon themselves to secure districts from violence.

"As a result of the breakdown and the spread of anarchy, the people themselves have started to organize in order to protect neighborhoods and ensure that order and security are maintained," he said.

Mubarak has responded to calls from the opposition to relinquish power by taking the unprecedented step of appointing a vice-president, Shahin said.

"At the political level, the Mubarak regime, bowing down to popular pressures, dismissed the government," he said. "He appointed a vice-president, something he has resisted to do for the past 30 years."

Shahin said the past few days have been especially difficult because the current government and those seeking change have not been able to make progress.

"The military stepped in, so what we have now is a military led government that is supposed to restore order," he said. "This has not happened because the people were determined to continue their pressure and their pro-democracy protests. We are having a kind of a stalemate."

Egypt is second only to Israel in terms of monetary aid received from the United States. However, Shahin said the position of the American government toward Egypt has changed in the past few days.

"The United States position started to shift," he said. "As events started to unfold, the position of the United States became much more galvanized around the possibility of seeing smooth and peaceful transition to a government that would respond to the democratic aspirations of Egyptians."

Shahin there are two possible outcomes to the current conflict in Egypt. The first involves

Mubarak retaining power through violent military suppression of the pro-democratic demonstrators, he said.

"The more likely scenario that we will see soon, perhaps within the next 48 hours, is that the people themselves will be able to hang on and steadfastly press with their demands until they succeed in bringing down Mubarak's regime," Shahin said.

Shahin said the political implications will not be felt in Egypt or the Middle East alone, but all across the world.

"The implications would be tremendous. Egypt is a heavy-weight in the region," he said. "Internationally, the Europeans and the Americans are faced with a [situation] where the status quo cannot be maintained. They will have to start formulating a new position depending on the nature of the government."

Shahin said Egyptians are capable of handling the situation without international intervention.

"This is an internal issue," he said.

Egyptians must handle this issue on their own, Shahin said, because the protestor's desired changes are revolutionary.

"Egyptians are rising up in protest in a revolt," he said. "I think now it is really a revolution in order to change the three decade long autocratic and oppressive system and institute a democratic one."

Though Egypt is undergoing a tumultuous period in its history, Shahin said people should not be shocked by the revolutionary intents of the protesters.

"It seems chaotic and unstable, but these events should not come as a surprise," he said. "The burst of democracy is a tough process. This is something most nations have to go through."

While the country is experiencing a trying series of events, Shahin said he is confident the issues at stake will be resolved in a manner that bodes well for the country's future.

"The Egyptian people will be able to restore stability and chart a new course of change and a new democratic future," he said.

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu

Update

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arranged by the U.S. State Department due to ongoing protests in Egypt.

Notre Dame is working with State Department officials to transport the students from Istanbul to their hometowns, Notre Dame or London, the press release stated. Each student will decide whether to enroll in courses at Notre Dame's campus in South Bend or at the University's London Program for the remainder of the semester, based on individual preference and available courses and housing.

"It has been an incredible four-day period," J. Nicholas Entrikin, Notre Dame's vice president for internationalization, said in the press release. "Staff members of the Office of International Studies (OIS) have worked around the clock to move our students from Cairo to a safe location outside of Egypt. Communications were severe-

ly disrupted, but students, parents and OIS staff members were able to create an effective communications network that was invaluable in facilitating the evacuation."

The University announced its decision to evacuate the students on Sunday.

While the students were without Internet and mobile phone connections in Cairo, University spokesman Dennis Brown said Notre Dame communicated with an AUC liaison through a landline and used "every connection we have to try to expedite the process" of evacuating the students from Egypt.

"We are grateful for the assistance from the American University in Cairo (AUC) for the secure environment that they provided our students amidst the protests and violence in Cairo, and U.S. State Department for their help in transporting the students to Turkey," Entrikin said. "We understand that the students are in excellent health and spirits, and we are delighted with the news of their safe arrival in Istanbul."

EGYPT

Egypt's military promises no force

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt's military pledged not to fire on protesters in a sign that army support for President Hosni Mubarak may be unraveling on the eve of a major escalation — a push for a million people to take to the streets Tuesday to demand the authoritarian leader's ouster.

More than 10,000 people beat drums, played music and chanted slogans in Tahrir Square, which has become the epicenter of a week of protests demanding an end to Mubarak's three decades in power.

With the organizers' calling for a "march of a million people," the vibe in the sprawling plaza — whose name in Arabic

means "Liberation" — was of an intensifying feeling that the uprising was nearing a decisive point.

"He only needs a push!" was one of the most frequent chants, and a leaflet circulated by some protesters said it was time for the military to choose between Mubarak and the people.

The latest gesture by Mubarak aimed at defusing the crisis fell flat. His top ally, the United States, roundly rejected his announcement of a new government Monday that dropped his highly unpopular interior minister, who heads police forces and has been widely denounced by the protesters.

The crowds in the streets were equally unimpressed.

"It's almost the same government, as if we are not here, as if we are sheep," sneered one protester, Khaled Bassouny, a 30-year-old Internet entrepreneur. He said it was time to escalate the marches. "It has to burn. It has to become ugly. We have to take it to the presidential palace."

Another concession came late Monday, when Vice President Omar Suleiman — appointed by Mubarak only two days earlier — went on state TV to announce the offer of a dialogue with "political forces" for constitutional and legislative reforms.

Suleiman did not say what the changes would entail or which groups the government would speak with. Opposition forces have long demanded the lifting of restrictions on who is eligible to run for president to allow a real challenge to the ruling party, as well as measures to ensure elections are fair. A presidential election is scheduled for September.

In Washington, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs dismissed the naming of the new government, saying the situation in Egypt calls for action, not appointments.

FILM SCREENING

[pelada]

AWAY FROM THE BRIGHT LIGHTS AND MANICURED FIELDS, THERE IS ANOTHER SIDE OF SOCCER

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Weather

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begins so plows can remove snow as quickly as possible.

The city will likely declare a snow clearance condition

Tuesday, according to a press release. Parking is prohibited on designated snow routes during snow clearance conditions on snow routes marked with signs.

“Hopefully not, but if it materializes as bad as predicted, Wednesday may be

the full declaration of snow emergency where we not only don't want people to park on snow routes — we don't want them to drive either,” said Mikki Dobski, director of communications and special projects for the City of South Bend.

Legacy

continued from page 1

ity) was if they were marketed to students and if the students would be held to the leases they had signed,” Soler said.

She attended a meeting Jan. 25 at the Robinson Community Learning Center with developer Robert Cimala, the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization (NNRO) and the Northeast Neighborhood Council (NENC).

An e-mail was sent this week by Cimala to students who had signed leases with Legacy Square saying they were no longer held to their leases, Soler said.

Soler said she became aware of the growing problems with the development through NENC meetings. Nick Ruof, student government chief of staff, is a member of the NENC, and he attends meetings of the council.

“Student government has been advocating for students in the community,” Soler said.

Soler said student government used University contacts to find out more information and talked to students about the problems. She was invited to the meeting, which was held by the developer to answer community questions and give a presentation.

At the meeting the developer outlined his future plans for the project, which do not involve student tenants, but rather owner-occupants.

The project initially began in 2007, when plans were drawn and work began on building. The zoning for the land was changed from Single Family (SF2) zoning to Planned Unit Development (PUD) zoning to allow for more freedom in construction and design.

The project was put on hold due to funding problems, Cimala told The Observer in December. Work continued at the start of this academic year, and foundations

“The concern was if they were marketed to students and if the students would be held to the leases they had signed.”

Catherine Soler
student body president

“Student government has been advocating for students in the community.”

Catherine Soler
student body president

were poured while the developers waited for final site approval.

Bill Stenz, president of the NENC, said in December that the NENC and NNRO

were told originally by Cimala that Legacy Square would be marketed to young professionals and Notre Dame alumni — not students.

“No one minds having one or

two student houses near you,” Stenz told The Observer in December. “[Where there are more than one or two student houses] there's no one there to address it or clean it in the summer. There's no regular lawn maintenance.”

The Legacy Square development became controversial when the developer applied for final site plan approval and was sent to a Dec. 21 public hearing of the Area Plan Commission (APC). Around the same time as the meeting, it was discovered Cimala was creating leases for students for housing during the 2011–12 school year.

The final site plan was denied secondary approval by the APC, which stated the current plans did not meet the original PUD zoning for the site.

At the Dec. 21 meeting, the community voiced opinions about the project, and most viewed the project as detrimental to the neighborhood.

“This plan is not creative or innovative,” Dick Nesbaum, NNRO attorney, said at the December meeting. “It is more of the same. This is a negative impact on the neighborhood.”

Contact Amanda Gray at
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DeBartolo

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ment in between.

All four walls are painted with a dry-erase paint that allows students and faculty to write anywhere around the room. Also, all of the tables and chairs have wheels, allowing for a variety of seating arrangements to make use of the display screens and writing space around the room, Burchett said.

The room can be used in many different ways, including as a giant white board, all depending on the needs of a particular class.

“The point isn't that we want people to use gobs of technology. We just want a room that allows faculty options, even traditional teaching methods,” Burchett said.

During the fall semester, the classes in B011 gave feedback on the room's features and

corresponding changes were made over Christmas break.

According to Burchett, the faculty teaching in B011 this semester completed an application process. Each of them submitted a proposal for how they would make use of the room's adaptability in their respective class.

The room is currently being used for an Irish Studies course, multiple foreign language courses, a first year composition course, a multimedia writing and rhetoric course, and a mechanical engineering course, among others, Burchett said. There are at least two or three classes in the room every day.

There is also an opportunity for faculty to request the room once or twice for a specific class activity though there class is held in a different room.

Sean O'Brien, assistant professional specialist in Irish Studies, teaches an Irish Studies course in B011.

“We are using the tools in

B011 to follow Ireland's current economic and political crisis. With its open format and multiple configurations of computers and displays, B011 is an ideal space to follow events in Ireland as they unfold this spring,” O'Brien said.

The multimedia writing and rhetoric course taught by assistant professional specialist Erin Dietel—McLaughlin is making use of the multiple display space and display options the room affords.

“The classroom feels much more authentic to my more decentralized teaching style and to the learning process itself. The students just plain seem to be more engaged, more lively and more curious in this room,” Dietel—McLaughlin said.

There will be an open house in Room B011 in the basement of DeBartolo Hall on Friday from 2 to 5 p.m.

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New book explores American South

Special to The Observer

It's an unsettling truth, but sometimes it takes a common enemy to reconcile two warring parties. This was the case after the U.S. Civil War, when virulent anti-Mormonism helped unify a divided nation, says Patrick Mason, a research associate professor at Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

His new book, “The Mormon Menace: Violence and Anti-Mormonism in the Postbellum South” (Oxford University Press), shows how anti-Mormonism was an important vehicle for reconciliation between North and South.

“Mormons were violently persecuted — but not because they held different beliefs and read the Book of Mormon,” says Mason. “They were persecuted because their polygamous practices challenged cultural and political orthodoxies and were seen as a threat to Christian civilization.”

In 1887, at the behest of religious reformers and the Republican Party, the U.S. Congress disincorporated the Mormon Church, seizing its assets, while southern reformers attacked Mormons by way of vigilante violence. Catholics, Jews and other religious minorities also were victims of violent attacks during this time, Mason says, but significantly more violent attacks were leveled against Mormons in the South.

The violence against Mormons during this time raises important questions about the limits of religious tolerance and pluralism in a democracy, Mason says.

“The United States has been remarkable in the way it has absorbed different religious minority groups with competing

ideologies,” he says, “but the cost of pluralism has been accommodation and assimilation on behalf of those minority groups.”

Mormons gave up what was then a central part of their theology, Mason says. (The Mormon Church officially abandoned polygamy in 1890.) Catholics, Jews and other religious minorities also made theological accommodations as they sought to join the mainstream in the United States.

Mason's book is “a deeply researched, clearly written analysis of an almost unknown aspect of southern and religious history,” writes John Boles, William P. Hobby Professor of History at Rice University. “It fills an important gap in scholarship and by so doing illuminates a wide variety of interpretative issues in both fields.”

“Patrick Mason tells an adventurous and violent story in this account of Mormon lynchings in the nineteenth-century South,” writes Richard Bushman, Gouverneur Morris Professor

“The United States has been remarkable in the way it has absorbed different religious minority groups with competing ideologies.”

Patrick Mason
associate professor
Kroc Institute

Emeritus of History at Columbia University. “His careful dissection of these bloody events leads us deep into the southern mentality and the contentious images of Mormonism in America.”

Patrick Mason earned his Ph.D. in history from Notre Dame in 2005. From 2007 to 2009, he was assistant professor of history and associate director of the Center for American Studies at the American University in Cairo. At the Kroc Institute, he is associate director for research of Contending Modernities, a global research initiative focused on the interaction among Catholic, Muslim and secular people in the modern world.



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Lawmakers paying price for tough-on-crime laws

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — When Harry Coates campaigned for the Oklahoma state Senate in 2002, he had one approach to crime: “Lock ‘em up and throw away the key.”

Now, Coates is looking for that key. He and other tough-on-crime lawmakers across the country, faced with steep budget shortfalls, are searching anxiously for ways to let inmates out of prison faster and keep more offenders on the street.

Oklahoma’s preferred answer for crime has collided head-on with a budget deficit estimated at \$600 million, and prison costs that have increased more than 30 percent in the last decade. For years, lawmakers have pushed each other to lengthen prison sentences and increase the number of criminals behind bars. Not now: This week, new Republican Speaker of the House Kris Steele is expected to unveil a package of proposals that would divert thousands of nonviolent lawbreakers from the prison sys-

tem and ramp up paroles.

Similar crash prison reductions are going on from coast to coast. Michigan has shuttered 20 correctional facilities and slashed spending by nearly 7 percent. South Carolina expects to reduce its inmate numbers by 8 percent by putting drug dealers, burglars and hot check writers into community programs instead of behind bars. Nationwide, the number of state inmates actually decreased last year for the first time in nearly 40 years.

“There has been a dramatic shift,” said Adam Gelb, a policy specialist with the Pew Center on the States in Washington, D.C.. “The old question was simply, how do I demonstrate that I’m tough on crime?” Now, it’s “a much better question: How do I get taxpayers a better public safety return on their corrections dollars?”

Other states are trying alternatives to prison time. But in no state is the philosophical U-turn more abrupt than in Oklahoma, where last year the Legislature was barreling in the opposite

direction. Lawmakers introduced 26 bills creating new felony crimes and 19 increasing penalties in 2010, even as the Department of Corrections was forcing guards and other workers to take a furlough day each month to cut costs caused by rising populations.

Oklahoma’s prison population has grown from 22,600 in 2000 to nearly 26,000 now, and the budget from \$366 million to \$483 million last year. Unless the Legislature provides \$9 million in emergency funding this year, prison officials say guards will have to take three furlough days a month beginning in March, straining the inmate-to-guard ratios that prison officials say are already the most dangerous they’ve been in decades.

Accepting that the lock-‘em-up days are finally over has been chastening for some lawmakers, especially conservatives.

“Truthfully, it’s popular to be tough on crime,” said Coates, a construction company owner from Seminole. “But when I saw what we were spending on cor-

rections and who was going into our adult prisons and for what reasons . . . you figure out it’s not exactly like you thought,” he said.

Unlike previous years, Republican leaders in Oklahoma now own the problem. The midterm elections gave the GOP the governor’s office for the first time in eight years and increased majorities in both houses of the Legislature.

“I have a little heartburn about reducing penalties,” said Rep. Don Armes, a Republican from rural southwestern Oklahoma. But “how do I balance that with being able to pay for it?”

Steele recently joined a delegation of lawmakers, judges and legislative staffers who visited Texas to see how that state has reduced its prison costs, trusting that Texans would do it without coddling lawbreakers.

“I believe there ought to be consequences for people who break the law, but there ought to be appropriate consequences,” said Steele, a minister from Shawnee.

Texas, home of the sprawling red brick complex at Huntsville that has been a symbol of tough justice, changed course several years ago after being told it would need to accommodate 17,000 new inmates otherwise. Rather than sending all lawbreakers directly to prison, the Lone Star State beefed up funding for drug treatment and started putting more drug offenders, hot check writers and petty thieves on probation. It also is giving more chances to parolees who previously were returned to prison for technical violations, like missing required meetings or falling behind on fines and fees.

Now, more Texas criminals are on probation, fewer are in prison, and the system is actually under capacity for the first time in years, said Ana Yanez-Correa, executive director of the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition.

“Things have changed drastically in Texas,” Yanez-Correa said. “And nobody suffered here in terms of political backlash.”

In Oklahoma, Steele helped implement a pilot program last year to divert nonviolent female offenders with substance abuse problems into treatment instead of prison, and said he hopes to expand that program this year. Oklahoma currently is the only state in the nation in which the governor must sign every parole, and Steele said he wants to limit the governor’s role in the process to only violent crimes. He also wants to expand eligibility for community sentencing and look at reducing mandatory minimum sentences for low-risk, nonviolent offenses.

The theory behind this approach is supported by research that shows merely incarcerating young, first-time criminals does little to change their behavior.

Department of Corrections officials seem optimistic that new measures will be approved because they have run out of other ways to save money. “We’ve already cut everything internally we could possibly cut,” said DOC director Justin Jones. Mess halls, shops, training rooms and storage units have been filled with bunks to accommodate inmates. Sex offender treatment was ended. Visitation and activities requiring guard supervision was cut when staff levels dropped to 70 percent of authorized levels.

Experts on national sentencing expect almost every state to adopt the new approach sooner or later — perhaps most this year because of the state fiscal crisis. The Pew Center is now working with policymakers in Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Kentucky, Texas and Washington about adjusting sentencing policies. Nationally, states spend an estimated \$50 billion each year in locking up criminals — four times the amount spent two decades ago and second only to Medicaid spending — according to the Pew Center. A study released by the group last year shows the amount states spent locking up inmates grew nearly 350 percent from \$11 billion in 1987 to \$48 billion in 2008.

“I got pushback,” said Texas Democrat Sen. John Whitmire, who authored a several reform measures. “But you’ve got to believe in your product, and that is in fact tough on crime. The toughest, most conservative crime package is one that lowers recidivism.”



GE will be at the Winter Career and Internship Fair on February 2 at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Parental advice

There's only so much you can learn from a textbook — of which you'll probably remember nothing — so why waste your time? The most useful lessons I've learned in life have been from my parents. In lieu of the upcoming Junior Parents Weekend, I figured I would pay them homage and relay some of their best advice.



Adriana Pratt

Associate Scene Editor

1. "You Create Your Own Reality" — Dad

Admittedly, my Dad is one of those guys who thrives on self-help books and sends my family quotes of the day motivating us to do big things. Underneath all that cheesiness though, there really is some quality advice. One thing my dad has always emphasized is that if we want something, we should go for it. We determine our own happiness and at the end of the day, we answer first and foremost to ourselves. If something's wrong, change it. If you can't, change your attitude.

2. "You can't always write the ending you want" — Mom

Though you do create your own reality, sometimes the situation that surrounds you isn't exactly what you would plan for yourself. While we are in control of our own actions, we have to realize everyone makes their own decisions and accept that. When life doesn't go your way, move on. It's okay to be hurt, but there's no need to prolong or indulge in the pain.

3. "Always have a PMA — Positive Mental Attitude" — Dad

As Mom said, you can't always write the ending to certain chapters of your life, but as Dad said, you can control the protagonist's attitude. Life can get difficult, but it's important to remember that it's usually just a phase. For every bad day, there is a whole series of good ones. A positive attitude not only makes you feel better, but it also helps you make better decisions. And with those better decisions, you might just get that ending you want.

4. "Kill them with kindness" — Mom

In fifth grade, I had a Hermione Granger complex and was proud when people made the comparison and mind you, this was before Emma Watson was hot. One teacher got irritated with me and my enthusiasm for learning was shattered.

I discussed the event with my Mom and instead of deriding me for being an annoying know-it-all, she gave me an important piece of advice I still use today. When someone is mean to you, kill them with kindness.

Sometimes you make mistakes or hurt people's feelings or get on the nerves of those around you, however unintentional it might be. Throw them a compliment and not only will you feel better about how you handled the situation, but you might just make their day- and simultaneously confuse the heck out of them.

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

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

It's scary to think that this is my last ever first column of the semester. We seniors have had a number of these realizations within the past few weeks, and only then has it really started to hit home that, in a few short months, our experience here on campus will be over. Last home football game. Last time returning from break. And, worst of all, last first week of class (it's all downhill after syllabus week.)

Andy Ziccarelli

Moment of Inertia

Those who have read my columns in the past know that I am prone to spontaneous, reflective rambling from time to time. And since I am feeling particularly sentimental, this week seemed as good as any to look back on just exactly how I got to where I am now. In many ways, my life is exactly where I thought it would be. I'm set to graduate from a great university with a degree in Civil Engineering. That was always the plan, and it most definitely what I was born to do.

And while the end result of an engineering degree may have been what I was expecting, the path that I took to get here must assuredly was not. And that is one of the best things about life, I have come to realize. As morbid as it sounds, we're all headed towards the same place in life. Eventually, no one reading this column will be alive anymore. But the journey that each takes to get there is what defines your life. College is not much different. We all come in as wide-eyed freshmen; some have a plan, and some don't. Either way, college takes us to classrooms, cities and sketchy off-campus apartments we could never have imagined when we got here and introduces us to people with backgrounds unfathomably different than our own. No one takes a defined path, and that is where learning truly happens. In the words of the great contemporary philosopher Miley Cyrus, "it's the climb."

It's the climb

I suppose my journey started in high school. For me, it's a minor miracle that I am even a student here, as opposed to about two hours south. My family raised me to worship a certain large, engineering-based, Indiana institution that just so happens to show up on Notre Dame's football schedule every year. Four years later, I still have parents from back home asking me how much I have enjoyed my time at Purdue. As a high school senior, I would have bet anyone large quantities of money that I would not be a Notre Dame student four years later. But here I am. And not only that, I became a boxer. How many people get the chance to box in college? Bengal Bouts was certainly not something I intended on doing when I decided to come to Notre Dame, and how I ended up deciding to do it is still unclear to me. But it has been maybe the most influential experience I have had during my time here. It has made me tougher, more disciplined and more confident in myself.

Other things have taken me in directions that I didn't anticipate, as well. My research (which I never thought I would be a part of) has shown me the merits of academia and has opened me to the idea of getting an advanced degree in engineering (also something I never thought I would be a part of). And I started writing as hobby, just to get my random thoughts onto paper somehow. Never once did I imagine sharing my thoughts with an audience as wide as Notre Dame's campus. All of these experiences are not reflected on the degree that I am supposed to receive in May, but they are all contributed so much to the journey.

The best example of the importance of a journey I can come up with comes from what I know best, and that is the world of sports. This past spring, the Chicago Blackhawks won hockey's ultimate prize, the Stanley Cup. As a native of Chicagoland, I was obviously thrilled. But something about the championship seemed...empty. I, like most my age, did

not grow up on the Hawks. Their home games were not broadcast on TV until 2008, well past my formative years. As a result, I had very little connection with the team up until that point. I had only began to truly follow hockey three years ago, right as the team started their resurgence from the bottom of the standings. Sure enough, in my second year following the team, they won a championship. I almost felt guilty, as though I hadn't paid my dues. There was no journey as a fan, no adventures with the team. There was no climb, and it seemed almost anticlimactic.

Meanwhile, anyone who has talked to me for longer than about 30 seconds knows about unhealthy, self-destructive obsession with the Chicago Cubs. The Cubs haven't won a World Series in 103 years, and have done absolutely nothing to earn my support over my lifetime. But for the last 21 summers, I have spent more time than I care to count in front of the TV watching the team. I have forgotten more random Cubs trivia than most rational human beings ever learn. And because of that, with apologies to my future wife, the day the Cubs win a championship will be one of the best days of my life (if it ever happens). It has been a long journey filled with excitement, tears, hope and plenty of heartbreak. But the ending will be so much sweeter because of everything Cubs fans have had to endure to get to that point.

So if you look around and your life appears to have veered way off course, don't panic. Embrace it. See it as an opportunity. After all, it was a wise man who once said, "At the end, it isn't who has the most toys, but who tells the best stories."

Andy Ziccarelli is a senior majoring in civil engineering. He can be reached at aziccare@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Put the politics aside

You've heard it all before. The usual Commencement speaker viewpoint hoopla. The Commencement speaker is too boring or too controversial. This person shouldn't be awarded an honorary degree. Why can't we ever get someone cool? Yada, yada, yada. But when I heard that our Commencement speaker was Defense Secretary Gates, the only cabinet member to serve under both President Bush and Obama, I thought we would avoid this hullabaloo. I was mistaken. Mr. Linskey ("Gates the wrong choice for Commencement speaker," Jan. 31) has made things political, once again. No matter who the commencement speaker is, there will always be someone who has a gripe with it.

Mr. Linskey equates the conferral of an honorary degree to Defense Secretary Gates with "a tacit endorsement of the Bush and Obama administrations' foreign policies." What Mr. Linskey does not note is that the University has conferred honorary degrees on all U.S. presidents since Eisenhower. If Mr. Linskey's claim were true, then the University has "tacitly endorsed" all U.S. foreign policies since the 1950s. Perhaps we should see the conferral of an honorary degree as a sign of respect for our government leaders instead of a political judgment.

Mr. Linskey gripes that Defense Secretary Gates has stolen his thunder by becoming the "centerpiece" of the Commencement. Oh contraire, my friend. The centerpiece of that

Commencement day is what you make of it. Will it be when you receive your diploma or when you sing the Alma Mater one last time? You decide.

Mr. Linskey concludes by quoting a Scripture passage out of context and deems it self-explanatory. If I wanted to do that, I would have pointed to the passage where Jesus says, "Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you but rather division!" (Lk 12:51). But that is a poor method of argumentation.

Biblical hermeneutics aside, I do not have strong feelings either way about the choice of Gates as the Commencement speaker. I personally feel that the greatest asset a Commencement speaker has to offer is (surprise, surprise) his speech. If the former director of the CIA and Secretary of Defense can offer unique insight to the Class of 2011, then I have no qualms with conferring on him an honorary degree, regardless of his political views. So let's keep quiet about whether or not Gates was a good choice or not until we hear him speak on May 22.

Cornelius Rogers
senior
Keenan Hall
Jan. 31

OBSERVER POLL

Who do you want to win the Super Bowl?

- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"All charming people have something to conceal, usually their total dependence on the appreciation of others."

Cyril Connolly
English literary critic and writer

The arsenal of democracy?

The propagation of Democracy has been the driving force of U.S. foreign policy since the end of World War I with Woodrow Wilson's calls for national self-determination around the world. In the past 10 years alone

Elie G. Elian

*Guest
 Columnist*

we have toppled regimes and governments in Afghanistan and Iraq and have replaced them with democracies. George Bush stated, "[We] are committed to a strategic goal of a free Iraq that is democratic, that can govern itself, defend itself and sustain itself." The promotion of democracies has been significant to most modern presidents and has been part of the justification for the sacrifice of American lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Despite this apparently pro-democratic foreign policy, the Obama administration has failed to promote democratic movements in Egypt and has been embarrassingly ambivalent, infusing the crises with political rhetoric. Is this a departure from America's promotion of democracy, or are these policies simply political rhetoric?

In the past few days we have seen the collapse of two autocratic nations, Tunisia and Egypt. With such passion and drive, the people of Tunisia and Egypt braved walls of riot police and tear gas in the hopes of tasting the freedom that we take for granted. In the face of a populist uprising, in the name of democracy, Americans might have

expected their government to stand firmly behind this movement. One obvious reason for such an expectation would be our nation's experience and values. The government that we swear allegiance to is a government from the people for the people as a result of a populist rebellion in the face of oppression.

Despite such obvious reasons, our government was and is ambivalent about the uprising in Egypt. The Obama administration has stated that it supports economic and political reforms and does not believe the status quo in Egypt is sustainable. However, it is not calling for the "president" of Egypt to step down, nor has it lauded the Egyptian people's desire for democracy. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton stated, "We are not advocating any specific outcome." Such weak and indecisive rhetoric is intentional and reflects the political realities of the situation. Hosni Mubarak, the "president" of Egypt, is a very close political ally of the U.S. The US Agency for International Development reports that during Mubarak's reign, Egypt has been the recipient of \$28 billion from the United States. During this time the international community did not consider Egypt to be a valid democracy.

The close political ties between the United States and Mubarak may explain some of the administration's ambivalence, but Obama's administration fears something worse than the loss of an ally. They fear replacing that ally with an

enemy. If a democracy takes hold in Egypt it may empower radical elements of the population that were suppressed during Mubarak's regime, elements such as the Muslim Brotherhood. The Muslim Brotherhood is an Islamic political movement that has been actively suppressed under Mubarak. The Brotherhood is not considered an ally by the U.S. and has been linked to violent attacks primarily in Egypt. While not considered a terrorist group there are many who fear the result of the group attaining political power in Egypt. Yet how does the administration's ambivalence coincide with the long affirmed democracy promoting foreign policy?

The result of the uprising in Egypt has outlined the political rhetoric and half-hearted values that have plagued this policy. We find it necessary to impose democracy with force, but find it concerning when democracy arises from the people. We find it appropriate to sacrifice the lives of our troops in the name of democracy and freedom, but also find it appropriate to remain ambivalent while men, women, and children rise against oppression. While the fears of extremism are justified, do such fears justify oppression? Our founders feared the powers of "factions" hijacking the government and abusing its power. As a result, they did not advocate autocracy, they advocated a power sharing system within government to check power. If we are to be "the great arsenal of democracy" as FDR called us, we mustn't shy away from those who

cry out for freedom. We mustn't embrace those who stomp on the values dear to our democracy. We cannot continue to claim that we are the "arsenal" of democracy if we do not inherently support the ideal. What we must do is stand for the values that embody our nation. We must be brave enough to support democracy even if the result is not in our favor. We should do this not because it is political good for us to do it, but because it is simply right. The foreign policy of this administration and many before it, did not fight to promote democracy, they fought to promote a conditional democracy. We did not fight for the idea of democracy and the value of freedom; we fought for political ambitions. This has become apparent today in regards to Egypt. To many Egyptians we have been flying the banner of democracy and freedom with vigor and determination in Iraq and Afghanistan. When they try to do they same, we do not hoist the banner higher, we ask them to stop. Therefore, we must make a choice. Either, we must hold the values of freedom and democracy high unconditionally to all nations, or we must stop justifying war and the deaths of our soldiers in its name.

Elie Elian is a sophomore political science and Arabic double major and has lived 11 years in Beirut, Lebanon. You can contact him at eelian@nd.edu

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

UWIRE

Effects of Arab world riots on Israel

Demonstrations all across Egypt have erupted against the government. In Lebanon, protestors have flooded the streets calling for a new government and Tunisia remains in a political turmoil. Arabs across the Middle East are taking things with their own hands asking for freedom of choice. And freedom they shall get, but what will be the cost of freedom to the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Nuseir Yassin

*Harvard
 Political Review*

It is no mystery that the stagnant waters of the Arab world have become violent. Countless antigovernment protestors are rising and calling for a democratic system that would offer them better living conditions. With more than 25% of the Egyptian population under the poverty line, drastic reforms are much needed.

However, economic incentives are not the only motives behind such protests. The political agenda of Arab presidents has been met with nationwide disapproval. To be more precise, many Arabs, Egyptians especially, want to cut ties with Israel and help out their Palestinian brethren by opening up the borders and voiding the Israeli peace treaty. Hosni Mubarak has ignored such requests for the sake of political and economic stability with Israel. He realized that adhering to the nation's request by confronting Israel could potentially backfire and overthrow his government. He submitted to foreign-made pressure and to his own personal interests.

Now that riots are ubiquitous in Cairo, Mubarak's 29.35 year-long trek is nearing its end (see my prior blog post). In addition to building a better economy, Egyptians will be constructing a different

foreign policy that could affect the ongoing peace process between Israel and Palestine. As to how this new policy is going to affect the situation, I don't know. One thing is for sure though: Israel will no longer depend on full cooperation from the Egyptian end. Now that Israel is dealing with millions of Arabs instead of handful leaders, it must step back and weigh its actions accordingly.

Overthrowing any Arab government in the Middle East is dangerous for the status quo. Now, I realize that democracy in Egypt and any other Middle Eastern country is necessary. However, people should be extremely careful with their new foreign policy choices, as this could lead to more Middle Eastern conflicts. War is never the answer for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We've seen many of them take place in the Middle East, and unfortunately, Palestinians suffer more with every war. As riots continue, we must practice self-restraint and wisely choose our next steps when it comes to foreign policies.

Despite all of the risks mentioned above, I support an Arab world free of greedy dictators. I used to be ashamed of my Arab roots because we were many led by few. We were intelligent, yet we specialized in demeaning manual labor. We were consumers, but tomorrow we'll be innovators.

This year, I am proud to be an Arab.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 30 edition of the Harvard Political Review, serving Harvard University.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Welcome to 'real life'

Friday's article, ("#isthisreallife", Jan. 28), was an incredible embarrassment to me as a Notre Dame student. I am amazed that such a simple thing as shoveling the tiny amount of sidewalk associated with one's house could be such a big deal. Furthermore, the self-centeredness shown in the article is astounding.

The city ordinance that requires snow removal within 24 hours is not because the residents of South Bend do not know how often to shovel their sidewalks, nor is it so that people can take "leisurely strolls" around town. It is a safety issue which is meant to protect both residents and the men and women who deliver mail to the people of the South Bend community. Snow that is not cleared from sidewalks will melt during the day and refreeze at night, quickly forming a layer of ice if left for even a couple of days. Here under the South Bend permacloud, lake-effect weather makes snow even more prone to turn into ice.

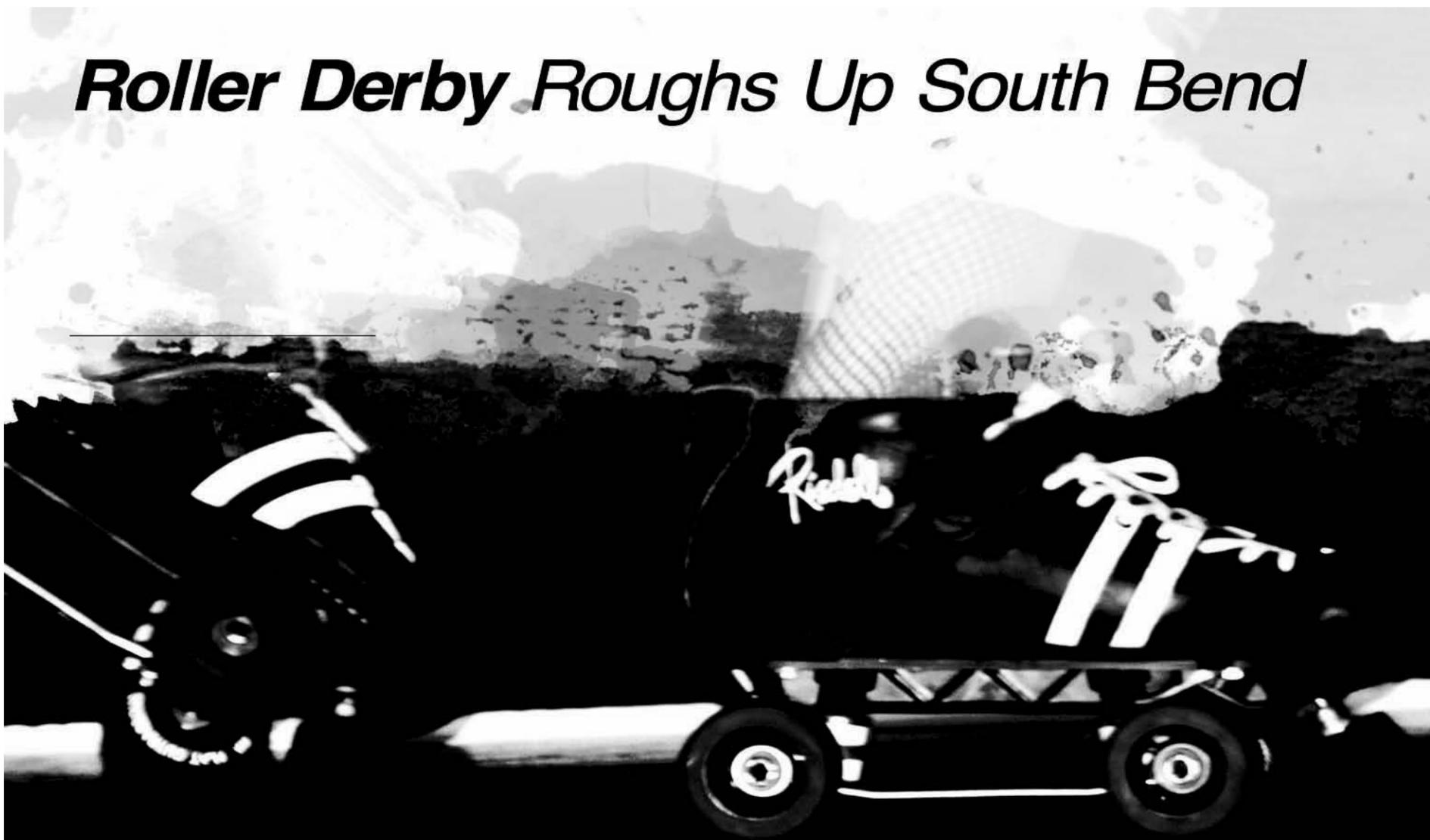
It is time that people wake up from the illusion that the city of South Bend is here to serve the students of Notre Dame. When you live off-campus, you are a part of the South Bend community. Although enforcing this ordinance in South Bend may be recent, most cities in America that regularly get snow have an ordinance like this (including West Lafayette, where Boilermakers who live off-campus have only six hours to clear their sidewalks). Maybe the next time you want to go to Club Fever, you should spend the ten minutes it takes to shovel your sidewalk and think about what it means to be a contributing member of society instead.

Robert Ring
 sophomore
 Siegfried Hall
 Jan. 30

Write a Letter to the Editor and win a pony.

www.ndsmcobserver.com

Roller Derby Roughs Up South Bend



By TROY MATHEW
Scene Writer

Roller derby features competitors with nicknames such as T.N.Tina, Thrashanova, Captain Beefstock and Schmitt Talker. They navigate a narrow track on roller skates, all while wearing "helmets, elbow pads, knee pads, wrist guards, mouthpieces and not much else." Intrigued yet? Hundreds of people in the South Bend area are.

The South Bend Roller Girls, South Bend's first and only women's roller derby league, held an inaugural exhibition game last Thursday at the USA Skate Center in Mishawaka. My friends and I arrived to a packed house and made our way to the "suicide seating," the ominously named trackside seats. The lack of barrier between us and the track, and the minimum age requirement of 18 for entry made us somewhat cautious, but we ended up leaving the match unscathed. The anticipation culminated in a visually arresting, highly entertaining match, in which the Smooth Criminals handily defeated the Pretty Young Things in an interleague match.

Enthusiastic announcers, a well-displayed scoreboard, disco balls and pregame Michael Jackson tunes made for a hugely enjoyable experience. Competitors with lively attire and cleverly intimidating nicknames were also the source of much spectacle. However, it was the lively, high scoring gameplay and shows of athleticism that were truly the main show. Cringe-inducing falls coupled with close proximity to the court equaled two or so hours of pure enthrallment.

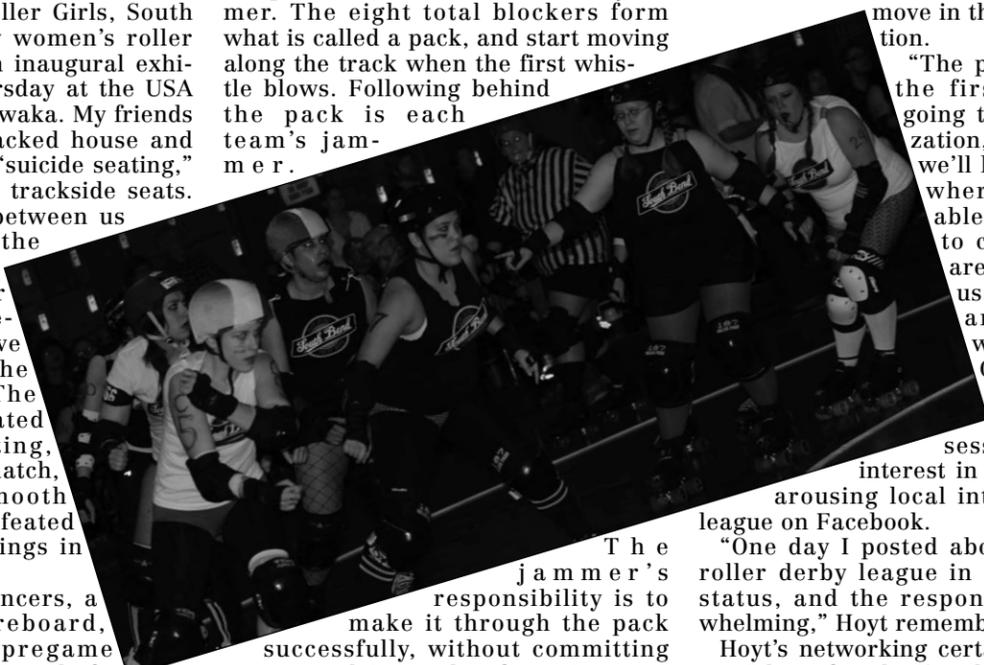
About the Sport

Having never been exposed to roller derby before, my friends and I prepared to be utterly confused while watching the league's first official

event. The majority of the crowd was new to the sport as well, so the South Bend Roller Girls were thoroughly prepared for our demographic.

After explanations on the back of the program, along with a slow-mo demonstration round with the players, we felt prepared to enjoy the match. For the unacquainted reader, here's a rundown of the rules and game play:

Each of the two teams plays five players at a time. These teams are comprised of four blockers and a jammer. The eight total blockers form what is called a pack, and start moving along the track when the first whistle blows. Following behind the pack is each team's jammer.



The jammer's responsibility is to make it through the pack successfully, without committing any penalties. The first jammer through the pack becomes the "lead jammer." Once the lead jammer has made it through the pack, the scoring laps begin. The jammer earns one point for each opposing player she laps. The lead jammer can call off the round whenever she wants, or let the round run for the full two minutes. After the round runs out of time or is stopped, the players make any substitutions and line up for another round. The game is composed of two 30-minute halves.

The track gets chaotic, as each team is trying to simultaneously block for their jammer and stop the opposing

jammer from passing them.

Illegal conduct includes elbowing, tripping, clothes lining and basically any move seen in the popular movie "Whip It," as a roller derby referee pointed out.

About the League

Started in March 2010, the South Bend Roller Girls are a non-profit organization. Most roller derby leagues are philanthropically involved, and co-founder Shannon Hoyt plans to move in the same direction.

"The proceeds from the first event are going to our organization, so that soon we'll be at the level where we will be able to give back to charities that are important to us," Hoyt said in an interview with The Observer.

Hoyt mentioned possessing an early interest in the sport and arousing local interest for the league on Facebook.

"One day I posted about starting a roller derby league in my Facebook status, and the response was overwhelming," Hoyt remembers.

Hoyt's networking certainly paid off, as tickets for the South Bend Roller Girls' first official event were in high demand. Spectators for the exhibition match filled the USA Skate Center's parking lot and spilled into several neighboring lots. Generating such fervor and enthusiasm in a new organization means a lot to Hoyt.

"I read in Newsweek that South Bend was a dying city, and that really bothered me," said Hoyt.

The event's turnout speaks to the contrary, however, as dozens of people were lined outside the facility, waiting in line for tickets to last Thursday's events.

Hoyt and her co-founders' love for

the sport propels them to keep promoting it. When asked about the appeal of roller derby, Hoyt highlighted the theatrical nature of the sport, which dates back to the sport's invention in the 1960s.

"It definitely serves as a type of escapism. The costumes and nicknames sort of represent our alteregos," Hoyt said.

Hoyt, known also as Smooth Criminals team member "Hoytie Toity," can attest to the serious dedication roller derby players possess for their sport. They practice two to three times per week, for around two hours each session. Conditioning on skates, as well as various other exercises, comprise the league's average workout.

"Even though we like to have fun with our clothes and names, we want people to take us seriously as athletes and competitors," Hoyt said.

As serious athletes, the roller derby participants face the constant threat of injury. Tailbones and knees are the most commonly affected, as competitors often face heavy impact with the wooden track surface. Although several officials, both on and off skates, regulate game play, rough play still ensues. Size differences in players can be a definite cause for concern.

"One of our players is 6-foot-2, and her normal elbow position is right in my face," Hoyt mentioned.

Despite the players' imposing physical presence and gear emblazoned with slogans such as "I Hit Girls," they are an incredibly welcoming group, and really enjoy having a lively crowd present.

When attending a future event of the South Bend Roller Girls, be sure to keep your eyes open for familiar faces amongst the competitors. Known as "Aris-throttle," a certain Notre Dame philosophy professor has been known to don the skates and pads.

To learn more about the South Bend Roller Girls and their upcoming events, find them on Facebook or visit southbendrollergirls.com

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The Avett Brothers:
Folk for the Folk-less

By ADRIANA PRATT
Associate Scene Editor

For the folk of heart, dreams came true this weekend when the North Carolinian band the Avett Brothers graced South Bend with a performance. The Avett Brothers landed at the Morris Performing Arts Center on the last leg of their January tour this Saturday and were met with enthusiasm, appreciation and an abundance of plaid.

Even from the worst seats in the house, the performance was exquisite. The acoustics and energy travelled across and through the hearts of the thousands amassed. Feet were stomping, voices were warbling and bodies were swaying as the Avett Brothers transitioned from tune to tune.

Opening act David Mayfield Parade started off the night with a lively performance that prepared the theatre for what was to come as the Avett Brothers graced the stage around 9 p.m.

Brothers Scott (banjo) and Seth (guitar) took turns alternating on vocals while upright bassist Bob Crawford and cellist Joe Kwon strummed along. Performing in South Bend was a great experience, Crawford told the Observer in an interview Monday.

"It was a wonderful night. Everybody was very warm and welcoming. A pleasant surprise," Crawford said.

The Avett Brothers wasted no time making a commitment to their audience, opening their concert with a performance of the simple country ballad "January Wedding." Screams of delight met them as they recalled their bad decisions with a lighthearted rendition of "Shame." Two songs later they reinforced their decision to be something and then to go be it with "Head Full of Doubt."

The college kids in the audience cheered the band on with extra enthusiasm as Seth and Scott listed the booze blunders they incurred with "When I Drink." Saying things they don't mean to say, feeling things when they shouldn't really care and doing things they didn't want to do topped the list of mistakes. Songs like these further solidified the Avett Brothers' relevance as a band for our generation.

The evening was full of surprises, even for the bandmates themselves. When Crawford walked out on stage Saturday night, the monitor came out to tell him that for some reason his whole mix had been erased. Crawford took the news in stride and the show went on.

"We've played all kinds of places and been in all kinds of situations

... That's where the experience kicks in. I think, 'What do I really need in this situation? I can probably get through this,'" Crawford said.

That was not the only surprise Crawford received. During the sound check, he was also told that he would be performing a solo that night.

"There's never time to prepare. I never know when I'm going to be called upon but that's an example of me kind of playing my role on the team," he said. "For me, doing it that way is great because I don't do it every night and therefore whenever I do it, there's the heart palpitations and the adrenaline kicks in. I think it's great because it keeps it very real."

In spite of the nerves, Crawford kept his cool on stage and impressed the audience with a light and easy performance of "Letter to a Pretty Girl." His turn as a singer made obvious one of the characteristics that sets the Avett Brothers apart. They are a multitiered group who don't limit themselves to a conventional musical approach.

With a conglomeration of songs including jigs that sound like Ben Folds ("Kickdrum Heart"), ballads reminiscent of Johnny Cash and tunes that defy any sort of category, the Avett Brothers are a unique presence. Their infectious banjo, piano, guitar, cello, drums and bass concoctions draw you in and keep you guessing.

Not only are the songs impressive, but the dancing itself makes the concert worth the ticket price. Legs have not moved in such jerky spirited motions like those of Scott and Seth Avett since the days of Forrest Gump. The brothers jumped and kicked around — and somehow kept enough breath to sing — while Crawford and Kwon strummed along to their hearts' content.

The night closed with a performance of their biggest hit, "I and Love and You." Then sadly the band said their goodbyes.

Though the Avett Brothers left South Bend, fans can still expect more to come. The band doesn't seem too concerned about the direction it's headed but has faith it will go where it needs to go — including to its next album, expected to be released in the next year.

"That stuff will just come when it comes. We haven't been able to see this road unfold before it's unfolded for the past decade and we don't expect to be able to see it now," Crawford said.

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COLD WAR KIDS
Polish their sound but lose their edge

By CHRISTOPHER COLLUM
Scene Writer

For its first album in about two and a half years, Cold War Kids selected Jacquire King to sit behind the boards as its producer. This choice should tell a little bit about the direction in which the band is presumably headed. King's most recent successes have been the pair of Kings of Leon albums "Only by the Night" and "Come Around Sundown," both of which sported a well-burnished studio sheen complete with "arena-ready" hooks that skyrocketed Kings of Leon into superstardom.

Likewise, King's only previous foray into the loosely-defined world of "indie rock" — a term fairly applied to Cold War Kids — was Modest Mouse's 2004 album "Good News for People Who Love Bad News," an album that gave Modest Mouse a big hit in "Float On" and probably lost legions of hardcore fans with its refined, seemingly diluted sound. Choice of producer: a nefarious omen for "Mine Is Yours?" Possibly.

The album opens with the sparse twirlings of the title track, which features little besides synthesizer and Nathan Willett's voice at first before broadening into the predictably catchy chorus as Willett proclaims, "What's mine is yours" repeatedly. The song seems to be some kind of tale of youthful love, but the lyrics are so ambiguous that it's difficult to say for sure. This lyrical ambiguity, and at times downright mediocrity, is prevalent throughout the album.

So far, not so bad though. The song is predictable, yes, but not so much in a bad way as in a "well-written pop song" kind of way.

Second track and first single "Louder Than Ever," however, demonstrates what is amiss on this record. Where he once sounded spontaneous, even dangerous, Willett now simply sounds extremely suave and self-impressed. Gone is the fitful (if borrowed) urgency of the band's 2005 breakthrough single "Hospital Beds," replaced instead by some kind of studio bastardization of Bono and maybe Win Butler of Arcade Fire fame.

The band does its best, however, as musically, this record sounds like any number of solid 90s pop-rock records. Counting Crows' "August and Everything After" and Goo Goo Dolls' "Dizzy Up the Girl" come to mind in particular. While a little bit heavy on reverb at times, that is more a strike

against the production than the musicians most likely. Drummer Matt Aveiro shines through in particular, especially on album highlight "Bulldozer" — the one track on which Willett manages to momentarily recall his former sense of urgency.

Despite the negatives, there are some very likeable moments on this record. The chorus of "Finally Begin" sounds made to play over the season finale of next season's biggest new sitcom. Album closer, "Flying Upside Down", sounds like a more cluttered version of something off Coldplay's "Vida La Vida," and, as previously mentioned, the last two minutes of "Bulldozer" really shines. That song will certainly have the listener humming along as Willett sings, "I can feel your arms around me / Pull me closer / Hold me tightly."

Despite this, some songs are just bad — there's no other way to put it. "Sensitive Kid" and "Cold Toes on the Cold Floor" are both pretty obvious duds. However, "Mine Is Yours" is not a bad record overall. It's a somewhat mediocre record, but not a bad one. A first-time listener to the band might find the album rather enjoyable. Any fans hoping for a return to the sound of the band's debut "Robbers and Cowards" must look elsewhere, unfortunately.

If "Mine Is Yours" will undoubtedly be recognized as one singular thing, it is that it is the record that truly has the potential to give the band some kind of mainstream breakthrough. A little wiser single choice and maybe another tour supporting Death Cab for Cutie and Cold War Kids should find its place in what's left of the mainstream rock scene before too long.

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ccollum@nd.edu

'Mine is Yours'
Cold War Kids

Label: Downtown Records
Best Tracks: "Bulldozer", "Skip the Charades" and "Mine is Yours"



AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Djokovic establishes himself as one of the world's elite

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — For a few years now, Novak Djokovic has been known as a top-10 player with a difficult name to pronounce and a reputation as a bit of a jokester.

Funny quips on the court, a favorite in the locker room, and, oh yes, those hilarious YouTube imitations of other players' serving mannerisms.

On Sunday, the comedian came up with another impressive punch line, winning the second major championship of his career. He trounced Andy Murray 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 to take his second Australian Open title, extending Britain's near 75-year drought in men's singles Grand Slams.

Djokovic's first major came here in 2008. And after throwing his racket, shirt and shoes into an adoring crowd Sunday night at Rod Laver Arena, he let it be known he's a different guy than when he won three years ago.

"I feel like a more experienced player," Djokovic said with the trophy sitting next to him. "Physically, I'm stronger, I'm faster. Mentally, I'm more motivated on the court. I know how to react in certain moments, and I know how to

play on a big stage."

Murray, trying to become the first British man to win a Grand Slam singles title since Fred Perry in 1936, saw all those facets of Djokovic's game in the final.

Just two months after leading Serbia to its first Davis Cup, Djokovic completely dominated Murray to hand the Scottish-born player his third straight major final loss in straight sets. He's 0 for 9 in major finals.

"When I got ahead in some games, even in just points, he was sticking up lobs that were landing on the baseline, passing shots that were on the line," Murray said. "I broke his serve twice in the third set and still lost 6-3."

Murray said he might take a break from the game for a while.

"Right now I am disappointed," he said. "I've been away since the week after the tour finals. It's a long time. I'm looking forward to getting back to seeing friends, family, my dog, doing all the normal stuff I like doing."

"I want to spend time with my girlfriend, chill out and get away from the court."

The match ended in 2 hours, 39 minutes, and the statistics underlined Djokovic's domina-

tion: he won 11 of his 14 service games, Murray only six of 13. Murray's second serve was pounded by Djokovic — Murray won just 16 of 51 points, 31 percent, on his second serve.

Murray and Djokovic, each 23 and born a week apart, are good friends and often practice together. At the coin flip before the match, Djokovic smiled broadly for photos while Murray looked fidgety and nervous.

"I understand how he feels, it's his third final and he didn't get the title," Djokovic said. "As I said on the court, I really have big respect for him and his game, because I think he has everything it takes to become a Grand Slam champion."

Trailing 5-4 in the opening set, Murray double-faulted to start the 10th game. He challenged the final point of the set when he thought his forehand stayed in on the backline, but Djokovic walked away with the set in 59 minutes.

"Maybe there was a turning point in the whole match, that 5-4 game," Djokovic said. "I was a bit fortunate. I kind of anticipated well and read his intentions and played some great shots and great moments. It is a big advantage mentally



Novak Djokovic throws his shoes into the crowd following his win over Andy Murray in the Australian Open Final on Sunday. AP

when you are a set up and you are getting to the second set and really going for the shots."

Djokovic leads the head-to-head series 5-3, ending a three-match winning streak for Murray.

Despite having a final that

didn't feature defending champion Roger Federer or Rafael Nadal, who was trying to win his fourth straight Grand Slam but got beaten in the quarterfinals, Djokovic said it was too early to include his name or Murray's among them.

WNBA

Taurasi denies wrongdoing after drug test

Associated Press

CHINO, Calif. — Diana Taurasi insists she did nothing wrong.

The former Connecticut women's basketball star says she hadn't even heard of the banned stimulant modafinil until she found out she had tested positive for it. And no matter what those results showed, Taurasi is adamant that she never used performance-enhancing drugs.

"I've never needed anything to help me. Only thing that I'm guilty of is taking too many jump shots," she told The Associated Press by telephone Sunday night from her parents' home in Chino, Calif.

In her first interview since testing positive in December for modafinil, Taurasi and her lawyer blamed the Turkish lab where the sample was analyzed.

"There's no way I've ever taken anything," she said.

Taurasi is regarded by many as one of the best women's players in the world. She was the first prominent WNBA player to test positive for a banned substance.

Taurasi said she intends to return to the WNBA when the season begins in June. The Phoenix guard has led the league in scoring the last four seasons and signed a multiyear extension with the Mercury last August.

The 28-year-old also plans to play for the U.S. team and coach Geno Auriemma in the 2012 Olympics. She's already helped the Americans win the last two gold medals. Taurasi has talked to Auriemma, who coached her in college, at length since she tested positive. He said he'll stand by her.

"My goal has been to play basketball," she said. "Things have come up in my life, but that's life for you. ... This one was an unexpected one. I've been doing the right thing for

my career. I'll take this and move forward.

"I went from being really angry to wondering, 'Why me?' I won't let it bring me down," she said.

Taurasi's contract was terminated by the Turkish club Fenerbahce this month after both her A and B samples tested positive. The Turkish federation still hasn't announced a punishment — the organization was awaiting a response from Taurasi. Her lawyer, Howard Jacobs, said it was delivered Monday. Despite reports of Taurasi's positive test surfacing last month, Jacobs only received the official report from the federation on Wednesday.

Taurasi faces a ban of up to two years and said she will appeal any suspension. The International Olympic Committee bars any athlete given a doping penalty of six months or more from competing in the next games.

"This will be resolved well in advance of 2012," Jacobs said. "My understanding is that we have the right of appeal to the sport of arbitration body in Turkey. That could take a couple of months. All the appeals should be done by the end of this year."

Taurasi said she was at her home in Turkey, on her couch, when the Fenerbahce general manager handed her the paper stating that she had tested positive for modafinil.

Taurasi said the news shocked her.

"I had never heard of it and couldn't pronounce it," she said. "I had to Google it to find out the side effects. I never have come in contact with it."

The drug has been involved in several major doping cases, including that of American sprinter Kelli White, and is on the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned substances. Modafinil is used to counter excessive sleepiness

due to narcolepsy, shift-work sleep disorder or sleep apnea, according to drug manufacturers.

Jacobs said he's handled about 75 athlete drug cases, including those of Floyd Landis and Marion Jones. He's questioning the lab's handling of Taurasi's sample and pointed out that it had been suspended by WADA.

WADA spokesman Catherine Coley wrote in an e-mail to the AP that the organization won't comment until the case is resolved "in order to protect the integrity of the proceedings."

For Taurasi's part, her lawyers noted she passed a polygraph test and that the Turkish lab was suspended by WADA for three months in 2009. The player's legal team also contends that the lab has failed to properly identify modafinil and that there are questions about the chain of custody for Taurasi's test.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

NOTICES

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

Don't go it alone.

Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819. For more information, visit ND's website at: <http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu>

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we can help. For more information, visit Notre Dame's website: <http://csap.nd.edu>

Congrats Conor Kelly and Laura Coletti on learning how to lay out this page!

A good man is hard to find,

Chuck Norris does not take kindly to good men

They wanted to put Chuck Norris's face on Mount Rushmore, but the granite wasn't hard enough for his beard

They wanted to put Chuck Norris's face on Mount Rushmore,

but the granite wasn't hard enough for his beard

Chuck Norris doesn't brush his teeth,

he just dares them to get dirty

Chuck Norris can submit duplicate facts on Chucknorrisfacts.com

Once you go Norris, you are physically unable to go back

The day Chuck Norris will die, he will roundhouse kick the bucket

NFL

NFL prepares for heightened security at Super Bowl

Associated Press

DALLAS — At this year's Super Bowl, even people stuck outside the stadium will get a pat-down from a security guard.

The 5,000 fans paying \$200 to watch the game on big screens outside massive Cowboys Stadium will be subjected to the same security searches as the 100,000-plus who will watch the game inside on Sunday.

The six-figure attendance number presents the most unique challenge the NFL faces at this, the 10th Super Bowl since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

For the first time, the NFL will set up a party plaza outside the stadium for people who can't get tickets for the game but still want to be close to the action.

"They'll be contained," said Milt Ahlerich, the NFL's vice president of security. "We wouldn't call their security situation special, other than that those folks can't come

into the building. It will be a good, tight area, a well-managed area."

For the second straight year, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano visited the host city to tour the Super Bowl stadium and review the NFL's security plans. The federal government designates the Super Bowl as a Level One security event, which makes more money and resources available to secure the area. Temporary flight restrictions will be put in place across a wide swath of airspace surrounding the stadium.

The NFL, meanwhile, spends about \$6 million a year on the Super Bowl security effort on top of what local and federal government spends. The league has hired more than 1,200 employees from private security companies to augment support from military and law enforcement. More than 60 government agencies contribute to the Super Bowl effort.

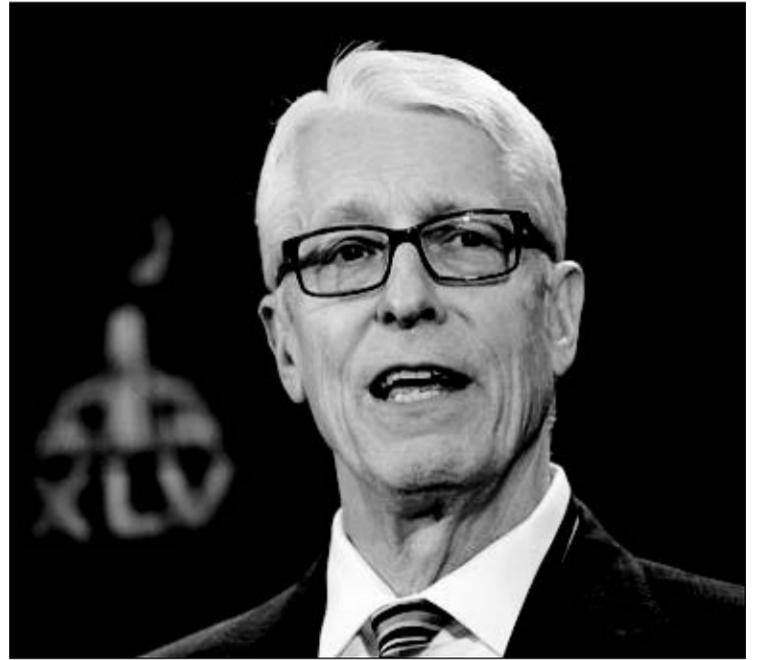
The league and the government also used the opportunity of Monday's security news conference to reintroduce one of the core post-Sept. 11 messages: "If you see something, say something." Signs saying that, and urging people to call 911 if they see suspicious activities, have been posted around the stadium and the Dallas area.

"Time and time again, we see how that kind of vigilance pays off," Napolitano said, recalling last year's failed bomb threat in Times Square.

Last Friday, a parking lot at Cowboys Stadium was evacuated when a suspicious package was found, but it turned out to be harmless.

"We want to err on the side of caution and we want citizens, regardless of how silly it may be, to say something," said Theron Bowman, police chief in the Dallas suburb of Arlington, home of Cowboys Stadium. "If it doesn't feel right, doesn't look right, we want them to report it."

The NFL released its list of banned items inside the stadium, including camera and binocular cases, coolers, backpacks and noisemakers. With the crowd expected to break the Super Bowl attendance record of 103,985 — set in 1980 at the Rose Bowl



NFL vice president of security Milt Ahlerich speaks at a press conference Monday announcing security measures for the Super Bowl.

— Ahlerich urged fans to be patient while they wait in what are expected to be long security lines.

"The thing that's surprised us over the years is how much cooperation we get from the fans," he said. "They'll put up with standing in line, a little bit of inconvenience, to be safe. As long as they're treated equally,

and they will be." Security planning has become more complex since the terrorist attacks.

"We're a lot better at it now," Ahlerich said. "The expectations and the template we follow, it's well defined. We know it. Sometimes, it's hard to do it but we know what we have to do."

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NFL

AP names Polamalu league's top defender

Associated Press

DALLAS — Now that the voters have chosen Troy Polamalu over Clay Matthews for The Associated Press 2010 NFL Defensive Player of the Year award, the two stars can prove their worth against each other on the field.

In the Super Bowl.

Pittsburgh safety Polamalu received 17 votes Monday from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who cover the league, edging Green Bay linebacker Matthews by a hair — two votes.

Despite missing two games, in which Pittsburgh went 1-1, Polamalu became the sixth Steeler to win the award. He had seven interceptions this season along with 63 tackles, but made his mark with big plays. In a late-season victory at Baltimore, his leaping tackle forced a fumble that set up the winning touchdown.

That victory catapulted the Steelers to the AFC North title.

Now, they are in the Super Bowl for the third time in six seasons, where they face Matthews and the Packers.

"I don't imagine their game plan changing over one player," Polamalu said. "We don't single out anybody. Anything we achieve here is done as a team, as a whole."

Added Steelers linebacker James Harrison, who finished third in the balloting with eight votes and won the award two years ago: "Troy brings this defense from a 'C' defense to an 'A' defense. He's someone that you have to account for in the secondary."

So much so that one opponent called the eighth-year pro the NFL's top player, regardless of position.

"With all due respect, I honestly think Troy Polamalu is probably the greatest player I've ever played with or even seen play in person," gushed Jets receiver Antonio Holmes, who was the MVP of Pittsburgh's 2009 Super Bowl win over Arizona. "Everybody has their one person they think is the greatest player. In my eyes, I think he's the greatest player I've ever played with."

Polamalu has had better statistical years than 2010, including the 2008 championship season and in 2005, when he had a career-high 91 tackles and three sacks as the Steelers won the title. He hasn't had any season where he made more big plays than in 2010.

That fit perfectly with defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau's claim that

Polamalu is the most versatile defensive back he's ever worked with. And LeBeau has been involved with the NFL for about a half-century and is in the Hall of Fame.

"I know Troy is going to do the right things," LeBeau said.

Matthews did plenty of things correctly in only his second pro season, enough to make the All-Pro team thanks to 60 tackles, 13½ sacks (fourth in league), an interception return for a touchdown and, like Polamalu, a penchant for delivering decisive plays.

"Game-changing plays," Steelers linebacker LaMarr Woodley said with emphasis.

"I mean, you look at all the plays Troy's made — game-changing plays. ... So many game-changing plays to go out there and help win football games. Things that he

(does), not only in the secondary — coming up, tackling backs in the backfield. Troy does it all."

Matthews said it would have been a "unique honor" to win in his second year. His goal, he said, is to become "world champions."

A d d e d
M a t t h e w s : "Despite defensive player of the year, I get the chance to play Sunday for the world championship."

Considered the lesser of three linebackers drafted in the first round in 2009 from Southern California, Matthews has had the biggest impact of that trio. Yes, Brian Cushing was the league's top defensive rookie in '09, but he tailed off in 2010 while Matthews was surging.

Matthews' sensational season came while facing consistent double-teaming.

"You really just attack it," said Matthews, whose father and grandfather played in the league and whose uncle, Bruce, is a Hall of Fame offensive lineman. "I think last year, obviously, was about winning the one-on-one battles. Towards the playoffs, that's when I saw the increase and it's kind of continued. ... So you deal with it, you try and beat one, then another, and get to the quarterback."

Polamalu and Matthews take their competition to Dallas Cowboys Stadium on Sunday. They already are considered marketing adversaries, with Polamalu's jersey the top seller in the league, and both vying for hirsute superiority.

"Well, I can guarantee you my hair's more expensive," Polamalu said.

Also receiving votes for AP Defensive Player of the Year were Chicago end Julius Peppers with six and linebacker Brian Urlacher with two; and Baltimore safety Ed Reed and nose tackle Haloti Ngata, one each.

"With all due respect, I honestly think Troy Polamalu is probably the greatest player I've ever played with or ever seen play in person."

Santonio Holmes
Jets wide receiver

NFL

Pouncey not yet ruled out

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Maurkice Pouncey still has a shot at playing in the Super Bowl.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin would not rule out his Pro Bowl rookie center Monday, despite Pouncey having a high left ankle sprain. Pouncey needed crutches to walk down the steps from the team's charter flight in Dallas, and wore a bulky walking boot on his left foot.

"We've been very aggressive in terms of treating it," Tomlin said. "We've even been putting it in hard casts and so forth. Just trying to do everything in our power to give him the best opportunity to participate. I don't know what his chances are at this point."

Pouncey injured his ankle in Pittsburgh's 24-19 victory over the New York Jets in the AFC championship last Sunday. He did not practice at all last week, and Tomlin said Pouncey is "not on a running clock" until Wednesday — the team's first practice before the Super Bowl.

"We will remain hopeful," Tomlin said.

According to media reports, Pouncey also has a broken bone in the ankle — a report Tomlin would neither confirm nor deny.

"I'm sure it could be characterized as that," Tomlin said vaguely. "I'm sure I've got something floating around in my ankle. The issue that's keeping him from participating is the high ankle sprain."

Backup Doug Legursky, who



Steelers coach Mike Tomlin speaks to the media Monday after arriving in Dallas. His team will play in Super Bowl XLV Sunday.

lost out to Pouncey for the job in training camp, would fill in if necessary. Legursky is a former undrafted free agent from Marshall who was on the Steelers' practice squad during their last Super Bowl win two years ago.

"I don't think it's going to affect us at all personally because we have a lot of guys on this team, let alone the offensive line, that can come up and step up if one of the starters come down," offensive tackle Flozell Adams said. "So I have no shadow of a doubt that Doug will do just as good a job — if not better than Pouncey —

being in there for this Super Bowl. And I mean that."

Legursky came in for Pouncey after the first-round pick out of Florida went down early in the game against the Jets, and quarterback Ben Roethlisberger fumbled an exchange that resulted in a safety. Still, Tomlin echoed Adams' confidence in Legursky, who started four games at right guard earlier this season when starter Trai Essex went down with an injury.

"We're comfortable if we have to go in that direction," Tomlin said.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Georgetown tops Louisville at home, 62-59

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chris Wright scored a season-high 24 points, and No. 13 Georgetown overcame a major dose of Big East ugly Monday night to get its fifth straight win, blowing an 11-point second-half lead before pulling out a 62-59 victory over No. 15 Louisville.

Wright, who was held scoreless in the Hoyas' win at then-No. 8 Villanova on Saturday, went 8 for 8 from the free throw line, including making two with 4.4 seconds left that forced the Cardinals to attempt a 3-pointer to tie. Peyton Siva, who had perhaps his worst collegiate game, dribbled down the court and missed from the top of the key at the horn.

The Hoyas (17-5, 6-4) won a game that featured 32 turnovers — 16 for each team — but their winning streak has them in the top half of the conference standings after a 1-4 start.

Austin Freeman, who was averaging 24.3 points during the Hoyas' winning streak, was held to 13 points and committed six turnovers. He had his streak of 23 consecutive free throws end, but he did move into the top 10 on

Georgetown's career scoring list.

Terrence Jennings scored 18 points for the Cardinals (17-5, 6-3), who dropped into a tie for third in the Big East. Siva committed a career-high eight turnovers in 29 minutes and scored five points on 1-for-5 shooting from the field.

A falling-down layup by Wright tied the game at 55 with 2:55 to play, and, after a missed Louisville shot, Hollis Thompson hit a 3-pointer with 2:01 remaining to give the Hoyas a 58-55 lead. The Cardinals missed three shots on their next possession but chased down the rebound each time until Siva was fouled in the lane. He made both free throws to cut the lead to one with 49 seconds to go.

Jason Clark made two free throws with 25 seconds left to restore the three-point lead. With the clock winding down, Siva opted not to take a contested 3-pointer and instead passed to Jennings for an easy dunk to make it 60-59 with 5.9 seconds to go.

That forced Louisville to foul immediately, and Wright made both shots for the game's final points.

Both schools were coming

off upset wins of top 10 teams on Saturday — Georgetown over Villanova and Louisville over Connecticut — and apparently 48 hours wasn't long enough for either team to recover. The teams combined to commit 12 turnovers before they could score a combined 12 points. The Hoyas shot 31 percent in the first half, the Cardinals 26 percent.

Clark missed all six of his shots in the game, and Louisville's Preston Knowles was 3 for 14, but no one was more off-kilter than Siva, who had seven turnovers in just 13 first-half minutes. Siva had never committed more than five turnovers in his 52 career games at Louisville, and many of them on Monday were embarrassing unforced errors, including a bad pass out of bounds that followed a timeout by coach Rick Pitino.

The way the game was going, Georgetown's 22-18 halftime lead looked insurmountable, and indeed that seemed to be the case for a while. The Hoyas had a 10-2 run early in the second half.

The lead was 43-32 when 3-pointers from Siva (his first points of the game), Chris Smith and Kyle Kuric



Louisville forward Terrence Jennings blocks the shot of Georgetown guard Austin Freeman. The Hoyas won the Big East contest, 62-59.

ignited a 15-4 Louisville run. Suddenly, it was Georgetown's turn to commit turnovers, and a steal by the Cardinals in the backcourt led to a layup that tied the game at 47 with about 8

minutes to play.

Pitino made a change in the lineup, giving Kuric his first start since Jan. 5, ahead of Stephan Van Treese. Kuric finished with nine points.

NBA

Cavs drop 21st consecutive game in 117-90 loss at Miami

Associated Press

MIAMI — Once again, LeBron James helped the Cleveland Cavaliers reach a milestone in the NBA standings.

First to 40 wins one year.

First to 40 losses the next.

Dwyane Wade scored 26 of his 34 points in the first half, James finished with 24 points and eight assists and the Miami Heat beat the Cavaliers for the third time since the two-time MVP changed cities, winning 117-90 Monday night to hand Cleveland its 21st straight loss — as many as it dropped in the entire 2009-10 regular season.

Cleveland (8-40) is now two losses shy of tying the single-season NBA futility streak record shared by the 1995-96 Vancouver Grizzlies and 1997-98 Denver Nuggets. Overall, the Cavaliers have lost 31 of 32 games, along with 24 straight on the road.

"I have nothing bad to say about the players that I left and the team," James said before the game. "I wish the organization the best. And I wish the fans, more than anything, the best because we had a lot of great years together."

They might be hard-pressed to remember those now.

This game had a few moments of hope for the Cavaliers. They were down by 19 in the first half, when Wade was almost unguardable for stretches — one of his dunks, off a pass from James, was so spectacular that rap moguls Sean "Diddy" Combs and Rick Ross leaped from their court-

side seats.

Quietly, Cleveland started putting together good stretch after good stretch, getting within 70-67 in the third quarter.

Was this going to be the night?

Not a chance.

James had nine points in a 19-5 run to close the third quarter, Miami's lead was 89-72 entering the fourth, and it turned into a romp from there.

The Heat (34-14) moved within 2½ games of Boston for the best record in the Eastern Conference. Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 12 points and a season-high 14 rebounds against his former team, Eddie House also scored 12 and Chris Bosh added 10 points for Miami.

For Cleveland, Antawn Jamison finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Manny Harris scored 20 points and J.J. Hickson added 14. The Cavaliers were outrebounded 49-39.

Wade hit 10 of his first 12 shots, the third straight game for him with a sizzling start. James had 15 in the first half, including a highlight-caliber dunk over Christian Eyenga and Hickson that gave Miami a 61-44 lead.

And although it was a one-possession game midway through the third quarter, the outcome never truly seemed in doubt.

Cleveland's franchise — which reached great heights with James for seven years, and has fallen to the bottom of the NBA less than seven months after he left — already

owns the all-time NBA losing-streak record, a 24-game slide that spanned from March to November 1982.

At this rate, that mark might be erased in a week.

"We just keep fighting. That's all you can do," Cavaliers coach Byron Scott said before the game. "You've got two choices, either you're going to fight or you're going to lay down. I don't think we have any guys that will just lay down. We don't on the coaching staff. So we're just going to keep fighting and keep working every day."

Last Feb. 4, the Cavaliers beat Miami 102-86, moving to an NBA-best 40-11 at the time. The Cavs finished last season 61-21, two games better than anyone in the league.

This year? They're better than no one. The next chance to snap the skein is Wednesday against Indiana. Cleveland is at Memphis on Friday, back home to face Portland on Saturday, then goes to Dallas next Monday.

Lose them all, and that'll be 25 in a row — the blight of blights in NBA history.

James sees no reason to enjoy Cleveland's epic struggles. And it doesn't give him a sense of vindication, either.

The way he sees it, Cleveland's descent does nothing to prove that he made the right choice in joining up with Wade and Bosh in South Florida.

"It didn't matter for me if the Cavs were going to have a successful season or not," James



Heat guard LeBron James is defended by Anthony Parker of the Cavaliers. Miami won the game, 117-90, to improve to 34-14.

said. "I felt like I was making the right choice for me as an individual and for my career."

Monday's game was the third time Miami and Cleveland have met since James switched uniforms. Unlike the first two, it almost seemed like a regular game instead of having a circus atmosphere.

"The first two were kind of crazy, but now both teams went their separate ways," Scott said. "Obviously they're doing extremely well and we have been hit with the unbelievable injury bug and all kind of other stuff that has happened. I think it is just a game right now and I

think that's how both teams look at it."

It wasn't just James who played the role of superstar who dealt a team a significant blow by moving elsewhere last summer, of course. Without Bosh, the Toronto Raptors have now lost 12 straight, its longest slide since the season before James, Bosh and Wade were all part of the same draft class.

In Miami, that threesome just keeps on clicking.

"I'm happy that at this point in the season, we're playing some good ball, whether it's against the Cavs or whatever," James said.

CLUB SPORTS

Women's hockey splits in Illinois

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame traveled to Hoffman Estates, Ill., Friday evening, where a hard-fought battle against the Flash ended in a 3-1 victory.

Notre Dame started the game firing on all cylinders. Midway through the first period, senior captain Gillian Allsup scored off a pass from sophomore defenseman Mara Catlaw. The Irish capitalized on a hooking penalty and added to their lead with a power-play goal from Junior Margot DeBot. DeBot finished a behind the net feed from Catlaw to put the Irish up 2-0. Junior Brinya Bjork finished off the Irish scoring with a third-period unassisted goal to put the game out of reach for the Flash.

The Notre Dame defense played strong with an excellent game from junior newcomer Lauren Miller. Sophomore goalie Stacey Collins made 24 saves in goal and allowed just one shot past her.

On Saturday evening, the team faced off against the Flash once again. The Hoffman Estates team got off to an early lead when Donna Cucuau scored 20 seconds into the game. Cucuau struck again late in the second period as the Irish struggled to clear their own zone. After having dug themselves an early hole, the Irish refused to give up and played very strongly in the third period.

A tripping call sent Kris Keely to the penalty box and put the Irish on the power play. Junior Kristin Hepburn won the faceoff to Allsup, who sent the puck back to Catlaw. Several screens in front allowed for Catlaw to finish the puck into the lower left corner. Minutes later, freshman coach E.J. Borg called a timeout to strategize. The Irish pulled their goalie, but were unable to capitalize and gave up an empty net goal with two seconds remaining in the game, which the Flash won 3-1.

Notre Dame will return to action this weekend, when the Irish host the Brew-City Blades for a weekend series at the Joyce Ice Arena. The Irish women will play on Friday at 7 p.m. and again on Saturday at 10 a.m.

Women's Water Polo

The Irish kicked off their season on Saturday with a tough loss to varsity program Wheaton College. The Irish scored early with an advantage goal by senior Ali Durkin but were outscored 6-3 by the Thunder in the first half.

The Irish came back strong in the third quarter and were able to tie the game at 7-7 with the help of sophomore Victoria Anglin and juniors Maisie O'Malley and Erin Gibson. However, the Irish weren't able to hold onto their momentum

and Wheaton's strong shooters were able to get the Thunder back in the game. The final score was 11-8.

The Irish finished their day Saturday with a scrimmage against Lindenwood University. The Irish were led by sophomore Laura McCoy, whose strength in the two-meter position kept the Irish in the game. Senior Liz Casazza led Notre Dame's stellar defense with six steals.

The Irish are looking forward to next weekend when they will compete in an invitation at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo.

Skiing

Notre Dame's ski club opened its season this weekend with strong performances from both squads. Led by Justine Murnane's first-place overall finish, and freshman Hilary Rolfs' runner-up performance, the squad claimed first place.

Seniors Tom and Chris Knoedler took sixth and seventh, respectively, in leading the men to a second-place team finish in the sanctioned MESA event.

Erin McNeil finished second and Pat Lane ninth, as the women's and men's snowboarders finished second and fifth overall, respectively, in their events.

Squash

Notre Dame competed at the Northwestern Round Robin over the weekend of Jan. 22-23. The squad played four matches, beating the University of Illinois-Springfield, 6-3, but losing to Northwestern, 9-0, Washington University St. Louis, 7-2, and the University of Illinois, 8-1.

The 10-man squad was led by freshman T.J. Sarda, who stepped up to No. 1 this week and competed well against the best that other schools had to offer. Freshman No. 2 Paul Mickan continued to elevate his game, with a win against UIS and a hard-fought loss against UIUC. Sophomore No. 3 Mike Todisco and senior No. 5 Kenneth Schlax showed determination in a pair of five-set marathons against UIS. Junior Matt Sushinsky, back from studying abroad in Australia, returned without missing a beat at No. 4.

Freshman Clayton Smith, No. 6, showed promise for the future in his matches, going 1-3 on the day. Freshman Chris Sander, No. 7, helped secure the victory over UIS. Freshmen No. 8 Luke Pardue and No. 9/10 Casey O'Melia earned victories over Washington and UIUC, respectively. Senior No. 8/9 Karen Riedl enjoyed her opportunity to play squash this weekend, as she is busy every other weekend with women's ice hockey. The club is priming for nationals at Harvard in February.

NFL

Rodgers, Packers arrive in Texas

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Now that the Packers have arrived in North Texas for the Super Bowl, Aaron Rodgers has put his team's Twitter-driven mini-controversy to rest.

"I think, obviously, this was made a bigger issue than it was," Rodgers said shortly after his team settled in at its hotel. "There was nothing going on in Green Bay last week, so this little thing blew up bigger than we ever thought it would."

Rodgers hopes that's the last word in a week filled with bickering about hurt feelings of injured teammates who tweeted to complain when it looked like they weren't being included in this week's team photo. It's the kind of minor issue that can suddenly become a big deal when a team is in the spotlight preparing for the Super Bowl. Packers coach Mike McCarthy will try to steer the team clear of such potential distractions the rest of the week.

"Our players were really excited to get down here today, just visiting with a number of them one-on-one," McCarthy said. "They're excited about the process leading up to the game. Like a lot of us, we wish the game was already here. We don't want to take away this experience. I told them to be very realistic, be practical. Enjoy it, it's unique, an opportunity to be in front of the media every day. It will be a great experience for our players



AP
Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers fields questions about his team's Super Bowl matchup with the Packers at a Monday press conference.

and our coaches. But at the end of the day, this is about beating the Pittsburgh Steelers."

First they'll have to figure out how they want to deal with the weather. They've left Wisconsin but can't seem to shake free from winter.

With icy conditions predicted in the Dallas area, McCarthy said he will consider taking the team indoors for practice but first wants to get a look at the indoor practice facility available to him.

"We discussed it earlier in the week," McCarthy said. "With the weather and the indoor facility and the surface and so forth, we'll probably make that decision sometime later tomorrow."

Then they'll have to find a way to bridge their inexperience gap.

While the Steelers have no

shortage of Super Bowl experience, the Packers have two players who have been on losing teams, Charles Woodson and Ryan Pickett. Fullback John Kuhn earned a Super Bowl ring as a member of the Steelers' practice squad.

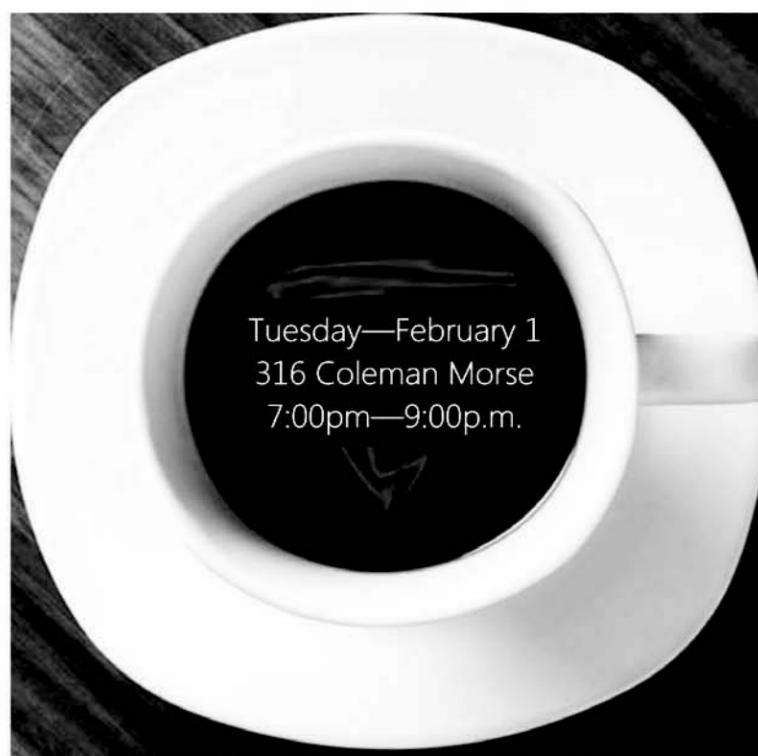
McCarthy doesn't think experience will be a factor after the game kicks off.

"The advantage Pittsburgh has over us in my opinion is today through Saturday," McCarthy said. "So we'll continue to work and educate our football team. They are a dedicated and focused bunch so I'm not really concerned about it."

McCarthy has picked other coaches' brains for advice about preparing for a Super Bowl, but he can't draw on any personal experience. This will be his first trip to the game — even as a spectator.

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USTA

continued from page 20

were named the girls 18-U doubles champions at the USTA Winter National Championships, where they entered the tournament as the No. 8 seed.

Sabacinski lost her first match of the season against Marisa Lambropoulos of Illinois, then gained momentum last weekend against Yale's Kim Szokol and Arkansas' Valentina Starkova. She was one of the strongest players for the team in both matches, recording two-set victories against the Bulldogs' and Razorbacks' No. 6 singles players.

With doubles partner Kristen Rafael, a senior, Sabacinski has gone 1-3, defeating only the No. 3 doubles pair from Yale. Louderback said that Sabacinski will be featured heavily in both singles and doubles competition throughout the season.

"The two freshman, Jennifer Kellner and Julie Sabacinski, are going to be in our singles and doubles line up. They're going to have to get used to duel matches," Louderback said. "It's definitely a different atmosphere and as they go along I think they'll do really well. I think they should fit in well. We had a couple of big holes to fill."



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Senior Kristen Rafael prepares to serve in the Eck Classic. Rafael has been paired with freshman Julie Sabacinski as doubles partners.

Junior Kristy Frilling said that all the freshmen have the potential to fill the place that last year's seniors left behind.

"It'll be important for the freshmen to step up," Frilling said. "Every match is important and we have a tough schedule and we travel a lot. We have to make sure we're really ready to compete."

Frilling was impressed with Sabacinski's performance in the first week of competition and is looking to her, along with

Kellner, to do big things for the team.

"Everyone just kind of got into the groove of things [against Illinois]," she said. "They are only going to continue to improve throughout the season."

Sabacinski, Kellner and the rest of the Irish will be back in action this Saturday against North Carolina in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

Recruit

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for us because of the academic and athletic fit that he brings to Notre Dame."

The freshman picked up his first career victories in his collegiate debut Sept. 17 at the Illinois Invitational. The wins were a testament to the hard work that Andrews has put in since stepping on campus for the first time less than a year ago.

"He has not disappointed at all," Sachire said. "He has a great attitude and work ethic. He's going to keep improving and getting better."

With the combination of the

high ranking coming out of high school and the contributions he has made during his freshman year, the future is bright for Andrews.

"He will play an integral role in singles and doubles moving forward," Sachire said. "He is one of our most important players."

For someone as accustomed to winning as Andrews, the step up in leadership means ending the season with a championship — just like last year — is the only acceptable option. This time, however, it would come at the Big East Championships and NCAA tournament.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Junior Casey Watt serves in a match against Louisville. Watt has helped freshman Greg Andrews develop this season.

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NBA

Lopez, Harris lead New Jersey to win

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Brook Lopez scored 27 points and Devin Harris had a career-high 18 assists as the Nets gave Carmelo Anthony an indication why he might want to play for New Jersey with a 115-99 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Monday night.

The game was the first between the teams since Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov told his team to halt extended trade talks with Denver for Anthony a little less than two weeks ago, saying the drawn-out negotiations were hurting his team.

The Nets (15-34) are 5-3 since the talks ended, but Anthony gave the fans who jeered and cheered him at different times a clear indication why he is so valued, scoring 37 points — two shy of his season high — to keep his team in the game.

Travis Outlaw scored 13 of his 20 points in a big first quarter for the Nets and Anthony Morrow, who was part of the three-team, 15-player deal for Anthony that included Detroit, added 18. Kris Humphries had 15 and nine rebounds for New Jersey, which shot 53.2 percent from the field, hitting 9 of 15 3-pointers.

Chauncey Billups, who was

also supposed to be sent to New Jersey in the deal, had 17 of his 19 points in the second half. Nene added 16.

New Jersey never trailed after the opening minutes and led by as many as 18 points in the first half.

However, Melo wouldn't get the Nuggets go away and Harris, who was the major part in the Nets deal to the Nuggets, wouldn't let Denver get over the hump in its comeback.

Trailing 82-69 with 2:36 left in the third quarter, Anthony hit a jumper to ignite a 9-3 run that featured six of Billups' 11 points in the quarter.

The lead shrunk and it looked as if it was down to 85-81 when J.R. Smith hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer, but it was reviewed and waved off because the shot left his hand a split second too late.

Denver managed to cut the lead to four points three times in the fourth quarter, the last at 96-92 on a drive and jam by Nene with 7:43 to play.

Harris then drove for a layup to ignite an 8-1 run that ended with six free throws, one courtesy of a technical against Billups, who was miffed a foul wasn't called when he was stripped for his seventh turnover.

Denver never got close after that.

Please recycle The Observer.

Syracuse

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The Orange enter the contest on a three-game winning streak but will face a tough task in extending that streak at the Purcell Pavilion. The Irish have been victorious in five consecutive games since the heart-breaking 79-76 loss to Connecticut at home Jan. 8.

Recent circumstances have cut the Irish rotation short in recent weeks, as two players have had to leave the team for various reasons, but McGraw said that has created an opportunity for other players to grow leading up to the NCAA tournament.

"The team is adjusting really well," McGraw said. "We're playing very well lately. We're looking inside more for our post players. [Freshman forward] Natalie Achonwa is playing really well, so we have seven players in the rotation as of late."

The Irish defense has led the team during the five-game winning streak, as they have not allowed more than 60 points in any of those contests. That strong defensive play will need to continue as Notre Dame enters the final month of the regular season.

"We're continually trying to get better," McGraw said. "We've been sloppy at times,

but have done a nice job with our 3-point defense."

The improvements to the 3-point defense were evident in the 58-43 win over Villanova on Saturday. The Wildcats made just two of their 16 attempts from beyond the arc.

The matchup with Syracuse will likely be an important litmus test for the Irish defense as the Big East and NCAA tournaments are around the corner. Syracuse features four players averaging in double figures, led by senior

guard Erica Morrow, who will test the Notre Dame guard rotation.

The game will tip off at 7 p.m. at the Purcell Pavilion as both teams aim to notch a key Big East win.

"The team is adjusting really well. We're playing very well lately."

Muffett McGraw
Irish head coach

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Junior Natalie Novosel attempts a free throw earlier this season against Connecticut. The Irish lost the game against the Huskies, 79-76.

DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Duals

continued from page 20

ence championships."

Sophomore Ellie Watson anchored the final leg of the race with a team-high time of 55 seconds. In addition, Watson shined in individual events, earning two first place finishes in the 500 freestyle and 1000 freestyle and third place in the 200 individual medley (IM).

Junior Audrey Dalrymple also led the way with first place in the 200 breaststroke and 200 IM. Dalrymple nearly won the 100 breaststroke but finished second to Hope swimmer Sarah Krueger by a mere 0.34 seconds.

Benishek described both Watson and Dalrymple as "strong leaders in the water" and believes that they both possess strong chances at earning bids to the NCAA Division III Championships in March.

Sophomore Katie Griffin also contributed to the winning effort with first place in the 100-yard butterfly, while junior Megan Price took second in the 200 and 500 freestyle events.

However, Saint Mary's will swim in the MIAA Championships without two solid contributors in sophomores Liz Litke and Liz Palmer, who are both studying abroad this semester.

The Belles now have nearly three weeks to prepare for the MIAA Championships held on February 17-19, which will be held at Jenison High School, southwest of Grand Rapids, Mich.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Looking ahead

Irish host Syracuse in Big East matchup at Purcell

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

The Irish have faced adversity throughout the season and lost key players of late, but one thing has remained constant: the team continues to win.

No. 8 Notre Dame (18-4, 7-1 Big East) is set to begin the second half of a crucial Big East season tonight as it plays host to Syracuse (16-4, 4-3). One of the main challenges for the Irish will be stopping the strong play of the Orange post game.

"They're a really good team," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "They have a strong inside and 3-point combination. They also rank third in the country in rebounding margin, so that will be a good challenge for us."

see SYRACUSE/page 18



Junior Natalie Novosel looks to pass to teammate Devereaux Peters in a game against St. John's last week. The Irish won 69-36. Notre Dame faces Syracuse tonight at Purcell Pavilion.

SARAH O'CONNOR/The Observer

SMC SWIMMING

Belles earn first win in over a year

By MATT UNGER
Sports Writer

The Belles earned their first dual-meet win in more than a year Saturday — and by the slimmest of margins. Just 1.15 seconds separated the Belles from their closest competitors in the meet's final relay to provide a thrilling conclusion to the event.

In the three-team meet in Holland, Mich., Saint Mary's beat Alma College 137-126 but lost to Hope College, 142-106.

Having struggled in dual-meet relay races all season, the Belles saved their best performance for last in the 400-meter free relay, finishing with a time of 3:51.09.

"[The relay races] were an amazing swim by both of our relay teams," Belles coach Mark Benishek said. "It couldn't have come at a better time to lift our spirits heading into the confer-

see DUALS/page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Centa leads Belles in scoring as team wins road game

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's rode a balanced scoring attack and timely defensive stops to an 82-72 win over Alma on Saturday in a key conference road game.

After exchanging baskets for the first six minutes, the Belles (14-6, 7-4 MIAA) snapped a tie with a 5-0 scoring run to take a 13-8 lead. The Scots (1-18, 0-10) answered with an 8-2 run of their own to take the lead with 11 minutes remaining in the first half.

Saint Mary's regained the lead and built it to 14 with three minutes remaining, but Alma closed out the half on a scoring tear, and the Belles headed to the locker room with a 39-36 advantage.

Belles coach Jenn Henley said that she wasn't too worried about Alma's run at the end of the half.

"Basketball is a game of runs," Henley said. "But we did talk about making some adjustments to get out on their shooters and do a better job of rebounding at both ends."

The Belles came out strong in

the second half, and held a double-digit lead with under 15 minutes remaining in the second half. They controlled the rest of the game and maintained the lead to scratch out the win.

"I think our team did a great job in their transition offense against Alma," Henley said. "We were able to get out and attack the basket pretty consistently during the game. We still need to continue improving on our team defense — we gave up too many points on Saturday."

Junior forward Jessica Centa

led the Belles in scoring, matching her career-high with 18 points. Junior guard Maggie Ronan added 16 points, while senior guard Pasty Mahoney chipped in with 10. Junior forward Kelley Murphy recorded her seventh double-double of the season with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Henley said she was pleased to see many of her players post big numbers.

"The balanced scoring attack is what every coach wants to see," Henley said. "We have a lot of different ways we can score as a

team which makes us harder to defend."

Ronan earned her second consecutive MIAA Co-Player of the Week honors for her performance on Saturday as well as in last Wednesday's game against Olivet.

"I think she [Ronan] did a pretty good job for us," Henley said. "Overall, our entire team played very well last week."

Saint Mary's returns home on Tuesday to play No. 3 Hope.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Sabacinski impresses Irish

By KATIE HEIT
Sports Writer

On a team loaded with nationally established tennis players, freshman Julie Sabacinski is already making a name for herself in her inaugural campaign with the Irish. Sabacinski handily defeated her last two opponents as Irish coach Jay Louderback's squad begins its spring season.

The Florida native joined the team this year straight off the four-time Florida state champion tennis team at American Heritage High School. She was the No. 9 recruit out of her home state and was one of the top-50 recruits in the 2010 graduating class. Last February, she and doubles partner Britney Sanders

see USTA/page 17



Freshman Julie Sabacinski hits a backhand at the Eck Classic earlier this season.

PAT COVENEY/The Observer

MEN'S TENNIS

Freshman Andrews makes early impact

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Throughout his tennis career, all Greg Andrews has done is win. He doesn't know how to do anything else.

The true freshman from Richland, Mich., has easily transitioned from one of the best prospects in the nation into a team leader for the Irish and an up-and-coming threat in the Big East.

"He's an awesome player," associate head coach Ryan Sachire said. "When we recruited him we knew he was the total package — a great high school student and tennis player."

Andrews has contributed in both singles and doubles for Notre Dame in his rookie campaign. Most recently, he and junior Casey Watt picked up the lone Irish victory in a 4-1 loss to No. 16 Illinois.

Only a year ago, Andrews was fresh off a state championship as the No. 1 singles player at Gull Lake High School. He also was a member of the National Honor Society and excelled in the classroom.

"Greg was in the top-10 of his class in the entire country and the best player coming out of the Midwest," Sachire said. "He made a lot of sense

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