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New scholarship honors athleticism, integrity

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
Associate News Editor

Notre Dame's Play Like a Champion Today (PLC) program will expand its scholarships that honor young athletes for their moral integrity instead of sheer athletic ability, program director Kristin Sheehan said.

Sheehan said the program has partnered with the Trusted Sports Foundation, a non-profit organization in Oregon, to create 12 new scholarships this year.

The PLC program, an initiative developed through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), strives to educate youth and high school coaches nationally to develop character and integrity in athletes physically, emotionally, morally and spiritually.

The Inspireum Soccer Awards, initiated this year, will give \$25,000 in academic scholarships to 12 high school soccer players who best exemplify a combination of athletic ability, courage and personal character.

Sheehan said the Soccer Awards would give more young female athletes a chance to be recognized.

"This award certainly opens the field for young women to be acknowledged for character this year," she said.

Sheehan said the Soccer Awards program is one of two awards programs sponsored

by PLC and the Trusted Sports Foundation. The second program, the High School Football Rudy Awards, and the Soccer Awards honor young athletes for their courage in the face of difficult circumstances.

"Very often that award would exemplify someone beating the odds, a situation when an athlete had [faced] adversity in his or her life and continues to flourish in [his or her] character," Sheehan said. "Really, these kids are heroes."

Sheehan said so much emphasis is placed on physical performance today that young athletes can easily lose sight of how important personal character is to sports.

"In a world where we sometimes have negative examples of sports figures who are excellent at what they do physically, they aren't [necessarily] the best [role models,]" she said.

The High School Football Rudy Awards program presents \$25,000 in academic scholarships annually to 12 young football players recognized for a commitment to excellence as well as demonstrated personal character.

The awards are based on the story of Daniel "Rudy" Ruettiger, known for his determination to make the Notre Dame football team as shown in the film, "Rudy."



Photo courtesy of Kristin Sheehan

Clockwise from left, PLC founder Clark Power, PLC associate director Oscar McBride, South Bend Police chief Darryl Boykins and PLC director Kristin Sheehan pose at a boxing event.

"They are awarded to a high school student who most exemplifies the 'Rudy' spirit," Sheehan said. "That is integrity ... perseverance, persistence, hard work all those virtues and values that we would applaud from a young athlete."

Sheehan said PLC began its partnership with the Trusted Sports Foundation back in 2008 after Ruettiger, who is involved with the charity, came to speak at PLC's annual sports leadership conference.

see CHAMPION/page 4

Play Like a Champion Today (PLC)

Sponsored through the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE)

Inspireum Soccer Awards

Awards \$25,000 in academic scholarships to 12 high school soccer players

High School Football Rudy Awards

Awards \$25,000 in academic scholarships to 12 young football players

ELISA DE CASTRO | Observer Graphic

Club practices art of gongfu



Photo courtesy of Erik Blair

Gongfu Club participants demonstrate their kicking technique for a belt test. The club was founded by graduate student Erik Blair.

By AUBREY BUTTS
News Writer

Graduate student Erik Blair has found the perfect outlet for stress in the middle of his busy schedule.

Blair turns to gongfu, a unique martial arts form, along with other members of the Gongfu Club he founded earlier this semester.

"I get so much out of teaching martial arts," Blair said. "Teaching techniques strengthens my grasp of

those techniques and deepens my skill. I think the relationships I build out of it are the best part. It's really a lot of fun when you have students who are motivated to learn and to teach others also."

Blair first learned gongfu and earned his black belt in the discipline during his time as an instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy.

"Upon coming back to Notre Dame for a Ph.D., I didn't want the knowledge to

evaporate, and I still wanted to advance in the art," Blair said. "That led me to desire to teach others and that led to the club."

Sophomore Thomas Voutsos joined the club when it first began this semester. He said he especially enjoys the welcoming atmosphere of the club and gongfu's relevance in his own life.

"Erik and the club members have been great teachers and very welcoming" Voutsos said. "The best part about participating in the club is learning a completely new skill that can have real life applications in the future. It is great exercise, and the body movements, combined with mental focus, create a very unique inner feeling during and after gongfu practices."

While Voutsos entered the club with no prior martial arts experience, he said his skills have quickly progressed, thanks to Blair's guidance.

see GONGFU/page 4

Students compete in Tough Mudder race

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

Several Notre Dame students participated in a race through a giant obstacle course this weekend, an obstacle course that ends in a field of live wires that carry a 10,000-Volt shock.

Sophomores Ryan Tixier, Dan Yerkes and Kevin Colvin tested their endurance in the Tough Mudder course Saturday and Sunday in Attica, Ind. They joined more than 6,500 other participants in

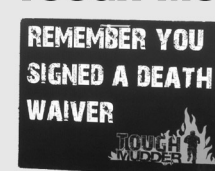
the 12-mile obstacle course.

"Tough Mudder has some crazy obstacles, but it's worth it because it's for a charity that helps returning vets readjust to life back home," Tixier said. "Our roommate, Kevin, sent us a link on Facebook about it earlier in the semester, so we all grabbed onto it."

Tixier said British Special Forces designed the course to be a test of strength, mental grit and camaraderie.

see MUDDER/page 4

TOUGH MUDDER OBSTACLE COURSE



- Designed by British Special Forces
- Totals 12 miles
- Includes over 6,500 participants
- Benefits the Wounded Warrior Project, a charity that helps veterans readjust to life in the United States

ELISA DE CASTRO | Observer Graphic

THE
OBSERVER

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Question regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Douglas Farmer.

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CORRECTIONS

A Nov. 18 article misrepresented the views of Victoria Tin-bor Hui, assistant professor of political science.

Her lecture explained arguments regarding the expansion of China, but these arguments do not necessarily reflect her personal beliefs. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BATHROOM ON CAMPUS?



Hung Anh Ta

freshman
Keough

"Keough 4B."



Zak Kapopoulos

senior
off-campus

"The South
Dining Hall
dungeon
bathroom."



Yitong Zheng

senior
off-campus

"Main building."



Matthew Ong

senior
off-campus

"The troughs at
the stadium."



Leon Zhou

senior
Stanford

"Hesburgh
basement."



Mary McKenna

senior
off-campus

"The fourth
floor of Walsh.
We had a great
three years
together."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com



SARAH O'CONNOR/ The Observer

Fans celebrate Dillon Hall's 19-14 victory over Sorin College in the men's football interhall championship game Sunday afternoon. Dillon fans rushed the field of Notre Dame Stadium after the game.

OFFBEAT

Ohio man fighting charge over rubber ax

AKRON, Ohio — An Ohio man who carried a rubber prop ax into a bar before Halloween is trying to get prosecutors to dismiss an inducing panic charge.

The Akron Beacon Journal reports that 42-year-old Bill Morrison is a Halloween enthusiast who has long worked on seasonal haunted house attractions. He told Akron police he went to Corky's Thomastown bar on Oct. 16 to sell a friend the costume ax, which had red paint to make it appear bloody.

A woman who saw Morrison with the ax under his coat called 911 and said he looked suspicious.

Morrison was jailed overnight before being released on bond.

His attorney, Ed Sawan, says the charges appear to be unfounded. Akron City Prosecutor Doug Powley indicates his office is still studying the case.

Woman tries to smuggle contraband in hollow Bible

LANCASTER, S.C. — Deputies in South Carolina say a woman used two hollowed-out Bibles to try to smuggle weapons, drugs and a cell phone to a prison inmate.

Sheriff Barry Faile said Monday authorities began investigating 28-year-old Shareca Latoya Jones earlier this month after a pack-

age mailed to Lieber Correctional Institution was returned to a post office in Lancaster. Inside the package were two Bibles containing razor knives, a cell phone, ecstasy pills and more than 28 grams of cocaine.

Deputies identified Jones as the person who mailed the package from a Kershaw post office. In her car, authorities found a loaded handgun, drugs, cell phones and cash.

Jones is facing drug and contraband charges. She was released from jail on bond, and it wasn't known if she had an attorney.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A memorial service will be held today at 9:30 a.m. in the Basilica for Professor J. Keith Rigby, Jr. A reception will follow in the Morris Inn at 10:45 a.m.

The Catholic Charismatic prayer group will gather today from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Alumni Hall Chapel. Contact Rev. Edward O'Connor for more information at 574-631-7651.

Today, the St. Mary's basketball team will play Anderson University in the Angela Athletic Facility from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Four:7 Catholic Fellowship meets every Tuesday from 8:30 to 9:45 p.m. in the Cavanaugh Hall Chapel. The group is for those looking to encounter a vibrant Catholic faith through music and discussion. Four:7 engages in other activities meant to inspire a community founded in faith, bringing that faith to everyday life.

The Thanksgiving holiday break will start on Wednesday, Nov. 23, and lasts until next Sunday, Nov. 21.

Mass at the Basilica will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 27. The Notre Dame Liturgical Choir will provide music.

This Sunday, Nov. 27, the Notre Dame men's basketball team will play Bryant College from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY



HIGH
LOW

48
39

TONIGHT



HIGH
LOW

44
39

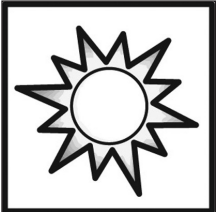
WEDNESDAY



HIGH
LOW

46
34

THURSDAY



HIGH
LOW

54
41

FRIDAY



HIGH
LOW

56
49

SATURDAY



HIGH
LOW

51
37

Holiday food prices climb

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Turkey, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie are usually staples on a traditional Thanksgiving table.

However, Saint Mary's economics professor Richard Measell said that table might look different this holiday for some American families due to the rising costs of food.

"We're seeing higher prices generally in the economy, but food prices are going up higher than overall prices out there," Measell said.

This year, inflation has increased at an annual rate of four percent, which is a higher rate than previous years, Measell said. However, food prices are increasing at a rate of six percent.

While food prices in the grocery store increase, Measell said the price of restaurant meals have not increased proportionally.

"Restaurant prices, however, have not been going up as much," Measell said. "There is just more competition among restaurants than grocery stores. For restaurants, there [are] a wider variety of choices [than grocery stores] and the increased competition held food prices more in check."

Measell said these prices are climbing for a number of reasons, including a rise in

the price of corn, higher energy costs and greater global demand for food.

"The costs for farming [are] higher, and that is one thing that is passed along to the customers on the supply side," Measell said. "And on the demand side, we have a stronger global demand for food."

As the U.S. economy and other global economies pick up, Measell said the demand for food would continue to jump.

Measell said families could cut down on their Thanksgiving grocery bill by looking for store specials. A "loss leader," for example, is a product that is lowered in price to encourage consumers to buy other

goods. Thanksgiving staples like turkey could be loss leaders right now, he said.

"I don't know if the stores actually sell them for a loss, but ... this concept of loss leaders really helps you understand how they price things at this time," he said.

"You would think that at Thanksgiving, turkeys would be way more expensive, as opposed to less expensive. But they put them on sale, and it's really interesting that stores know what customers want, and with competition, they charge the lower price of those items than what you would normally be spending."

One Thanksgiving food that is inexpensive this year is sweet potatoes.

"I guess sweet potatoes are in great supply this year, and one local store is selling them for 25 cents a pound," he said.

Resources like coupons and advertisements in the Sunday newspaper can help a consumer find the best prices on Thanksgiving, Measell said, adding that the financial strain of the holiday season might add to a family's bills.

"Some people, especially at Christmas, will be willing to go into a lot of debt to make sure their kids have a good Christmas," he said. "Sadly, they will rack up more debt than they can probably handle for their kids to have a good Christmas and will have to pay that off for the rest of the year."

However, he said consumers would also need to make decisions about what their priorities are as food costs rise.

"People are going to become more cautious on how they spend their money, but [for] some people, it's life," he said. "Thanksgiving and Christmas are big times, and you don't want to skimp at those. And I think that some people will maybe cut out other things to maybe have a better Thanksgiving and a better Christmas."

"We're seeing higher prices generally in the economy, but food prices are going up higher than overall prices out there."

Richard Measell
SMC economics professor

Contact Anna Boarini at
aboari01@saintmarys.edu

Alumna serves through Alliance for Catholic Ed.



Photo courtesy of Vickey McBride

2011 graduate Vickey McBride, top left, poses with other members of the ACE program in Brownsville, Texas.

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

When 2011 Notre Dame graduate Vickey McBride interned with the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program during her senior year at Notre Dame, her job was to educate prospective teachers about the program and recruit applicants.

Now, McBride lives the life she only talked about as an intern, teaching ninth-grade students in Brownsville, TX, at St. Joseph Academy, a preparatory school close to the Mexican border.

The transition between studying history at Notre Dame and teaching social studies in a predominantly Latino high school was a significant one, McBride said.

"The individual students are the most inspirational part of it," McBride said. "When I'm having a really bad day and don't want to go to school and I'm dreading the first bell ringing, all it takes is for that one student to walk in the door."

When McBride began her internship in the ACE office during her senior year, she automatically received a place in the competitive teaching program for her first two years after graduation.

Now that she has begun her program, these students motivate McBride to give as much of her energy as possible to her work in the ACE program, she said.

"Seeing their faces and in there seats, looking up at me and expecting something from me, it puts me in the zone," she said. "I feel very much called to do the best that I can. It's hard to slack off when you know that you 140 people [are] staring up at you asking for knowledge."

McBride said she was not sure what to expect from her high school students.

"I figured, I'm in high school," McBride said. "They're going to be so mature. Not so much the case."

They're just so goofy and so awkward sometimes. They're just a lot goofier than I expected, which in a way is great because they're not jaded, as you might think high school kids will be."

Some of the students at McBride's school take a bus across the U.S.-Mexico border to get to school each morning, McBride said. In her predominantly Latino high school, McBride said the majority of her students are completely bilingual.

She added that she embraced the chance to improve her Spanish skills, while also eating a lot of Mexican food.

"Oh my gosh, [Mexican food is] the best," she said. "You have no idea until you come here and try it."

Food is also an important part of the house where McBride lives with seven other ACE participants, she said. Five of her housemates are also Notre Dame alumni.

"We have a ton of fun," McBride said. "It's the best part of being in ACE for me. Everybody is so committed to being there for each other and spending time with each other."

The group gathers for a "family" meal three nights a week, she said.

"Last Tuesday we made chili and cornbread," she said. "I'm not that great of a cook, but the girl I cook with is great."

The close relationships developed in the ACE house reflect the organization's commitment to community, McBride said.

"We really are a family," McBride said. "That's not just an exaggeration or a cute little Notre Dame story. We're all different people who ran in different circles at Notre Dame, but everyone in the house is really committed to making the experience not just bearable, but memorable."

Contact Nora Kenney at
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Write News.

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Photo courtesy of Erik Blair

Sophomore Tom Voutsos practices a gongfu self-defense technique with Saint Mary's junior Lizzy Schroff as his training partner.

Gongfu

continued from page 1

"In this semester, I have been able to earn a yellow belt and I am currently working on earning an orange belt," Voutsos said. "Erik is a great teacher, which has allowed me to learn a lot in just one semester."

Unlike Voutsos, sophomore Max Geraci did have previous martial arts experience before joining Gongfu Club.

"I did practice martial arts before joining the club and had obtained a black belt in Tae Kwon Do," Geraci said. "I

was fairly well-experienced with martial arts prior to training in Gongfu, but I would say that it has significantly improved my form to experience Gongfu."

During their Gongfu workouts, both Geraci and Rob McKenna said they enjoy the kiba-dachi stance, which mimics a wall-sit exercise without the support of a wall.

"I think my favorite memory so far is the time I had to hold a squat for several minutes as part of a black belt test in February," McKenna said.

Saint Mary's junior Elizabeth Schroff said she appre-

ciates the communal aspect of the club and the ability to assume a teaching role at practices.

"Everyone in the club here is really dedicated to the art, and they are all awesome to work with," Schroff said. "Being a green belt, I really enjoy getting the opportunity to help teach the younger belts and give them tips on how to improve and progress in the art."

Blair said he hopes Gongfu Club can continue as an exciting way for students, staff and faculty from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's to learn or progress in martial arts techniques.

"In the long term, I would like to get students, faculty and staff members to black belt so that the club can be self-sustaining, for I know that I won't be here at Notre Dame forever," Blair said.

Contact Aubrey Butts at abutts@nd.edu

"In the long term, I would like to get students, faculty and staff members to black belt so that the club can be self-sustaining, for I know that I won't be here at Notre Dame forever."

Erik Blair
founder of the Gongfu Club

Teenager pleads guilty to killing gay student

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Southern California teenager pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree murder for killing a gay student during a computer lab class three years ago in a plea deal that will send him to prison for 21 years and avoid a retrial.

Brandon McNerney, 17, pleaded guilty to the murder charge, as well as one count each of voluntary manslaughter and use of a firearm, said Ventura County Chief Deputy District Attorney Mike Frawley. McNerney is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 19.

The case drew wide attention because of its shocking premise: McNerney, in a fit of homophobic rage, killed 15-year-old Larry King at E.O. Green Junior High School in Oxnard because he was offended by King's dress and how the victim interacted with him.

Larry King's father, Greg King, told KABC-TV he understands why prosecutors agreed to the plea deal.

"I don't think that 21-year sentence is justice for my son, but I understand the reality that was facing the DA of trying to

convict a defendant who was 14 ... when he committed the murder," Greg King said.

Comic Ellen DeGeneres, a lesbian, weighed in on her talk show shortly after the shooting and said gays shouldn't be treated as second-class citizens.

McNerney was only 14 at the time of the February 2008 shooting. Several jurors said after the teen's trial earlier this year that he should never have been tried as an adult.

A mistrial was declared in September when jurors couldn't reach a unanimous decision on the degree of guilt. The panel took a series of votes, the last one with seven jurors in favor of voluntary manslaughter and five supporting either first-degree or second-degree murder. The trial had been moved from Ventura County to Los Angeles because of pretrial publicity.

Frawley said prosecutors agreed to the plea deal because of uncertainty about what might result from a second trial.

"We took that into account and looked at what it would take to protect the community," Frawley said. "The total time in custody for 25 years will do that."

Gates testifies in Microsoft lawsuit



AP

Microsoft founder Bill Gates arrives at the Frank E. Moss federal courthouse in Salt Lake City on Monday. Gates testified in a \$1 billion antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft.

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Microsoft's Windows 95 rollout presented the most challenges in the company's history, leading to several last-minute changes to technical features that would no longer support a rival software maker's word processor, Bill Gates testified Monday in a \$1 billion antitrust lawsuit filed by the former owner of WordPerfect.

"We worked super hard," the Microsoft co-founder said. "It was the most challenging, trying project we had ever done."

Gates was the first witness to

Champion

continued from page 1

Any student across the nation can be considered for the awards, Sheehan said.

"What we talk about is how to create champions from every child," Sheehan said. "The character traits that we would focus on would be hard work, determination, persistence, fortitude,

respect, justice, sportsmanship, integrity, care for others and passion."

Sheehan said a champion isn't always the star player on the team, but a person of both athletic excellence and character.

"What this award really celebrates is ... character and integrity through sports," she said.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfsens@nd.edu

Mudder

continued from page 1

All proceeds from the weekend's race support the Wounded Warriors Project, a charity that helps soldiers returning from overseas readjust to life in the United States. Some of these veterans participated in the race, Tixier said.

"The most satisfying thing is that you're actually helping people," Tixier said. "There were some returning vets from Iraq there, one with prosthetic legs, who did it too. That just made it much more real. It was a really great event overall."

Icy water, swamps and blazing bales of kerosene-soaked straw greeted the participants at each turn of the course, according to the race website. Other obstacles included trails of cargo nets, 12-foot high walls and wire fields.

"You'd run two miles, then scale a rope and drop 20 feet into an icy lake. You would swim under barriers and could barely move at some points," Tixier said. "At another you crawled through a trench with dangling barbed wires filled with electricity hanging down. You'd feel jolts, but you kept going."

Yerkes, who ran the Chicago Marathon in October and qualified for the Boston Marathon, said the military-style obstacles were very different from other endurance races. They made teamwork necessary to complete the course.

Tixier said he was surprised by the level of camaraderie displayed at the event. Though participants were physically exhausted, he said they were enthusiastic and helped

one another finish the course.

"You'd stay at one place for five minutes to pull people over an obstacle," Tixier said. "My roommate Kevin helped a girl over a muddy log because she couldn't move. She had said, 'My legs don't work.' But she rested and ended up finishing the course later."

Teamwork, physical exhaustion and determination were on full display during the course's final sprint, Tixier said.

"The very last obstacle was the field of live wires. You'd see the finish line, but stood there for two minutes with 20 other people trying to get the will power to just do it," he said. "But it was a good last obstacle because it brought the life back into you."

The contestants celebrated the end of the race with music and food, as well as free tattoos or a head-shave, Tixier said.

"They had a big stage with music, but most people huddled around fires," Tixier said. "We were just happy to have survived. I did get my head shaved with a Mohawk before the race started though. You could get that or a mullet."

While the race was tougher and colder than he expected, Tixier said he planned to participate in a Tough Mudder event again.

"I'll do it again, but not during November," Tixier said. "There were too many ice water swims where your entire body just goes numb. If I did it again, it would be during the summer months and I'd get more guys from my dorm to do it."

Contact Nicole Toczaucr at ntoczauc@nd.edu

Committee fails to address debt crisis



President Obama makes a statement at the White House after the Congressional committee's failure to reach an agreement.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress' supercommittee conceded ignominious defeat Monday in its quest to conquer a government debt that stands at a staggering \$15 trillion, unable to overcome deep and enduring political divisions over taxes and spending.

Stock prices plummeted at home and across debt-scarred Europe as the panel ended its brief, secretive existence without an agreement. Republicans and Democrats alike pointed fingers of blame, maneuvering for political advantage in advance of 2012 elections less than a year away.

The impasse underscored grave doubts about Washington's political will to make tough decisions and left a cloud of uncertainty over the U.S. economy at the same time that Greece, Italy, Spain and other European countries are reeling from a spreading debt crisis and recession worries.

Lawmakers of both parties agreed action in Congress was still required, somehow, and soon.

"Despite our inability to bridge the committee's significant differences, we end this process united in our belief that the nation's fiscal crisis must be addressed and that we cannot leave it for the next generation to solve," the panel's two co-chairs, Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., and Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Tex., said in a somber statement.

They added it was not possible to present "any biparti-

san agreement" — omitting any reference to the goal of \$1.2 trillion in cuts over a decade that had been viewed as a minimum for success.

President Barack Obama — criticized by Republicans for keeping the committee at arm's length — said refusal by the GOP to raise taxes on the wealthy as part of a deal that also cut social programs was the main stumbling block.

"They simply will not budge from that negotiating position," he said.

Obama pledged to veto any attempt by lawmakers to repeal a requirement for \$1 trillion in automatic spending cuts that are to be triggered by the supercommittee's failure to reach a compromise, unless Congress approves an alternative approach.

Those cuts are designed to fall evenly on the military and domestic government programs beginning in 2013, and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta as well as lawmakers in both parties have warned the impact on the Pentagon could be devastating.

"In my four decades involved with public service, I have never been more concerned about the ability of Congress to forge common-sense solutions to the nation's pressing problems," Panetta, a former House budget committee chairman, said in a statement. "The half-trillion dollars in additional cuts demanded by sequester would lead to a hollow force incapable of sustaining the missions it is assigned."

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EGYPT

Violent protest erupts in Cairo



Protesters move away from tear gas fired by Egyptian riot police near Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt. Monday marked the third day of violent conflict.

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt's civilian Cabinet offered to resign Monday after three days of violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces in Tahrir Square, but the action failed to satisfy protesters deeply frustrated with the new military rulers.

The Health Ministry and a doctor at an improvised field hospital on the square said at least 26 people have been killed and 1,750 wounded in the latest violence as activists sought to fill the streets for a "second revolution" to force out the generals who have failed to stabilize the country, salvage the economy or bring democracy.

Throughout the day, young protesters demanding the military hand over power to a civilian government fought with black-clad police, hurling stones and firebombs and throwing back the tear gas canisters being fired by police into the square, which was the epicenter of the movement that ousted authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak.

By midnight tens of thousands of protesters were in the huge downtown square.

The clashes have deepened the disarray among Egypt's political ranks, with the powerful Muslim Brotherhood balking at joining in the demonstrations, fearing that turmoil will disrupt elections next week that the Islamists expect to dominate.

The protests in Tahrir and elsewhere across this nation of some 85 million people have forced the ruling military council as well as the Cabinet it backs into two concessions, but neither were significant enough to send anyone home.

The council issued an anti-graft law that bans anyone convicted of corruption from running for office or holding a government post, a move that is likely to stop senior members from the Mubarak regime from running for public office.

Hours later, the Cabinet of Prime Minister Essam Sharaf

submitted its resignation to the council, a move that was widely expected given the government's perceived inefficiency and its almost complete subordination to the generals.

Protesters cheered and shouted "God is great!" when the news arrived of the Cabinet resignation offer, but they almost immediately resumed their chant of "The people want to topple the field marshal" — a reference to military ruler Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi.

"We are not clearing the square until there is a national salvation government that is representative and has full responsibility," said activist Rami Shaat, who was at the site.

The council released a statement late Monday calling for a national dialogue to "urgently study the reasons for the current crisis and ways to overcome it."

The statement, carried by Egypt's state news agency, said the military deeply regrets the loss of life and has ordered the Justice Ministry to form a committee to investigate the incidents of the past few days. The military said it ordered security forces to take measures that would protect demonstrators, who have the right to peaceful protest.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the United States was deeply concerned about the violence and urged restraint on all sides so Egypt could proceed with a timely transition to democracy.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also deplored the loss of life and called on authorities "to guarantee the protection of

human rights and civil liberties for all Egyptians, including the right to peaceful protest," U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

Amnesty International harshly criticized the military rulers in a new report, saying they have "completely failed to live up their promises to Egyptians to improve human rights."

The London-based group documented steps by the military that have fallen short of increasing human rights and in some cases have made matters worse than under Mubarak.

"The euphoria of the uprising has been replaced by fears that one repressive rule has simply been replaced with another," according to the report, issued Tuesday.

The report called for repeal of the Mubarak-era "emergency laws," expanded to cover "thuggery" and criticizing the military. It said the army has placed arbitrary restrictions on media and other outlets.

Egyptian security forces have continued to use torture against demonstrators, the report said, and some 12,000 civilians have been tried in military trials, which it called "unfair."

In many ways, the protests in Tahrir bore a striking resemblance to the 18-day uprising that toppled Mubarak. The chants are identical, except that Tantawi's name has replaced Mubarak's.

"The people want the execution of the marshal," protesters screamed Monday. The hallmark chant of "erhal," or "leave," that once was aimed at Mubarak is now meant for Tantawi, his defense minister for 20 years.

"We are not clearing the square until there is a national salvation government that is representative and has full responsibility."

Rami Shaat
activist

INSIDE COLUMN

Why I love Turkey Day (aka food)

With the impending Thanksgiving break approaching, I thought I'd provide a reflection on some of my favorite things about my favorite holiday of the year. Here's my Top 10 list of why I love Thanksgiving.

10. Football. Thanksgiving is famous for its slate of football games, and in my household the underwhelming athleticism of myself (a 5'6" 130 lbs guy with a 4 minute 40 time) acting as quarterback and friends and family pretending to be receivers and a cohesive defense.

9. No classes. Unlike other National Holidays such as Columbus Day and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we actually get Thanksgiving off from class, which is a pleasant break from the traditional cornucopia of classes, papers, homework and exams.

8. Snow. Coming from the lovely town of Chesterton, Ind., I'm used to the first snow of the year falling sometime around late November. Nothing beats "walking in a winter wonderland."

7. Food. Thanksgiving isn't Thanksgiving without food. Given my usual slate of writing (cupcakes, Thai food and the like), it isn't surprising that national turkey day is my favorite holiday of the year. Nothing beats turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, biscuits, cranberry sauce and pie.

6. Black Friday. Some of the great Black Friday buys I've experienced in recent years include: \$8 waffle maker, which is in my dorm room, \$10 blender that broke after the second use and the first two seasons of The Boondocks for \$5 each.

5. Christmas is coming. The days following Thanksgiving are filled with Christmas shopping and decorating, realizing we are just a few short weeks before the holiday season.

4. Being Home. As much as I love being at the greatest of all universities in the world, being home for a few days is quite nice — particularly the homemade meals, carpeting and queen sized bed.

3. Sleep. Speaking of being home and a decent sized bed, Thanksgiving break is a perfect time to catch up on sleep (and all of the TV shows you shouldn't have been keeping up with while at school).

2. Family. Going along with being home, Thanksgiving is one of the few times a year I get to see my whole family and, as mentioned above, having our annual not-very-athletic Turkey Bowl.

1. Food. Yes, it's on the list twice. But then again, Thanksgiving dinner is not just a one-meal deal. Almost better than the dinner itself is the leftovers eaten the following days for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Contact Ankur Chawla at achawla@nd.edu

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



Ankur Chawla

Assistant
Scene Editor

Occupy unrest

outside the encampments.

The leaderless nature of the protests, while attractive to those wary of power and influence, renders them unable to develop a coherent and consistent message. This has led each protest to issue its own set of demands, with some of the more ridiculous including the elimination of all free trade agreements and the establishment of a \$25 per hour minimum wage. Additionally, though they claim to represent 99 percent of all Americans, the protesters tend to exclude from their movement anyone who does not subscribe to their anti-capitalist worldview, leaving them actually representing something more like .99 percent of the United States. Finally, the occupational nature of the protests — obstructing access to bridges, shutting down businesses and blocking streets — inconveniences a great many working Americans, destroys much of the sympathy they may have had for the movement and reinforces a perception that the protesters are little more than overzealous anarchists.

Despite these deficiencies, the protesters have raised a number of issues that suggest politicians and the business community should not dismiss the movement lightly. The Occupy protests have successfully tapped into the lingering anger and resentment that many Americans feel towards the financial institutions whose irresponsible risk-taking behavior played a substantial role in creating the economic crisis that has gripped this country for the past several years. Making matters worse is the almost complete lack of remorse expressed by many in the industry, and the fact that this reckless behavior is still highly pervasive on Wall Street (as evidenced in the disastrous investment practices at MF Global, which filed for bankruptcy after mysteriously misplacing over one billion dollars in customer funds). The Occupy movement

has highlighted the broad support that exists in the United States for punishing and further regulating those financial institutions that fail to willingly reform their corporate cultures, meaning that if banks do not act quickly they will be subjected to ever more stringent regulations and taxes that will severely cut into their newly recovered earnings.

The Occupy protests have also served to focus attention on the dangerous influence of money on politics. So long as political campaigns continue to be funded by donations, American democracy will never be truly free and fair, as those individuals, interest groups, corporations and labor unions with massive resources at their disposal will always be able to dominate the political discourse and disproportionately influence policies and legislation adopted in Washington.

The only solution to this increasingly worrisome problem is to remove money from politics altogether, instead having all congressional campaigns funded through a system of public financing similar to that currently employed in presidential campaigns, only mandatory rather than voluntary. This would eliminate any incentive for political leaders to craft favorable regulations or legislation for those interest groups who contribute to their reelection campaigns and would mark a significant step towards returning the balance of political power to the ordinary American voter. If they are able to keep their focus on reasonable, broadly appealing goals such as these, the Occupy protests may yet continue to live on, and their legacy will live on as one of the few truly influential movements in the history of American democracy.

Ryan Williams is a junior. He can be reached at twilli15@nd.edu

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



Ryan Williams

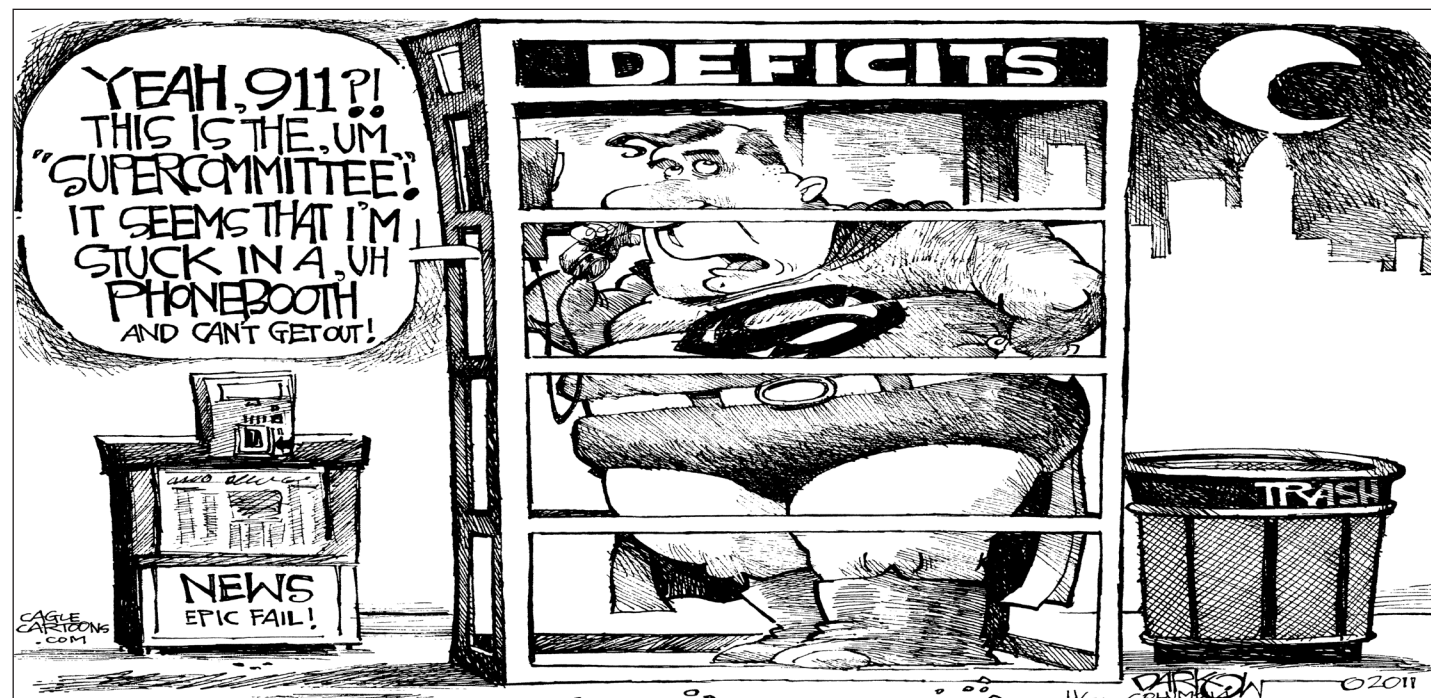
freethoughts

Over the past two months, the Occupy Wall Street movement that began as a protest against the disproportionate influence wielded by the wealthiest members of society has garnered international attention and spawned hundreds of solidarity protests across the country and around the world. Recently however, the movement has faced a number of setbacks that have threatened the continued existence of the demonstrations.

In New York, the protesters were evicted overnight from Zuccotti Park, the physical and spiritual birthplace of the movement. Police and local governments have similarly turned against the protesters in Oakland, San Francisco, Portland and dozens of other cities across the country. Additionally, public opinion appears to have soured on the Occupiers, with a recent Public Policy Polling survey indicating that support for the movement has fallen from 35 percent of American adults to 33 percent, while the percentage of those who disapprove has risen from 36 percent to 45 percent.

In light of these new developments, it may be easy to dismiss the protesters as simply a ragtag band of drugged-up homeless liberals looking for a free handout at the expense of productive members of society. This would be a tremendous mistake however, as this contemptuous approach overlooks the fact that the protests have raised a number of legitimate issues regarding greed and accountability on Wall Street, as well as concerning the role of money in politics. To be sure, the movement has a number of serious flaws that have hampered its ability to generate a broad following

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What we become depends on what we read after all of the professors have finished with us. The greatest university of all is a collection of books."

Thomas Carlyle
Scottish author

Submit a Letter to the Editor

Email obsviewpoint@gmail.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Read not to contradict and confute, nor to find talk and discourse, but to weigh and consider."

Sir Francis Bacon
English author and philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A treatise on Notre Dame football: protecting tradition

“This is not merely a football field,” says Notre Dame’s Official Campus Guide. “It is an experience, a uniquely Notre Dame synthesis of sport, tradition, pride, loyalty and belief.” The Notre Dame football experience is one born of tradition. Tradition makes Notre Dame more than a university. It gives alumni, students, and fans a passion for the school and creates a sense of loyalty to the university. Breaking this tradition would dishonor our history, alumni and accomplishments.

During the past three home games, Notre Dame has played music over the loudspeaker. Brian Kelly has also made comments supporting the idea of adding a Jumbotron and turf field, but modernizing our gameday experience would take Notre Dame’s tradition away. Notre Dame fans come to games not only to watch the game, but also to experience tradition. Fans don’t come for the same clichéd experience that you can find at other stadiums, which boast a Jumbotron, a turf field and “intimidating” stadium music.

Furthermore, the marching band is one of the biggest traditions at a Notre Dame game. They have played the same songs and lead the crowd in the same chants year after year. Playing music over the loudspeaker has already put the

band at bay and will continue to disrespect the leaders of the stadium experience.

Some have argued that stadium music will help pump up the crowd, but the tradition of Notre Dame creates an atmosphere where the fans feed off the performance of the football team, not Ozzy Osborne. We want people to be excited in the crowd, but because of the quality of football being played rather than their favorite song blasting throughout the stadium.

Lastly, although traditions do grow and change over time, it seems rash to completely overhaul the stadium experience at the whims of business students working on a project and 8,000 other undergrads. The young student body lacks the proper frame of reference to truly understand the changes which some are proposing. We are not the typical college football program and we do not have a typical gameday experience.

Joel Kolb
freshman
St. Edward’s Hall
Chris Lattimer
freshman
St. Edward’s Hall
Nov. 20

UWIRE

Recent polls show communism more popular than Congress

There are very few people who would argue America is a huge fan of communism.

After half a century of political tension and some propaganda, it isn’t too surprising. Communists were, after all, the source of fear regarding nuclear war.

Zach Davis

The Daily Reveille

Whether or not it was truly communism doesn’t make a difference — the damage has been done to the American psyche. This is obvious when you hear those on the right of the political aisle decrying some of the left’s actions because they’re “communist.”

Their definition of communism is off. The intent is to merely connect it with something most Americans despise.

Thus, it’s surprising to find there’s something Americans like even less than communism: Congress.

According to a recent Gallup poll, Congress’ approval rating is sitting at only 13 percent, continuing a historic low point in popularity. As a result of such a low popularity, some have taken it upon themselves to compare this to the popularity of other subjects.

One such person is Senator Michael Bennet (D-Colo.), who created a chart to help explain just how low these numbers are. Although Gallup puts Congress’ popularity at 13 percent, Bennet uses a recent New York Times/CBS poll which found it to be even lower at 9 percent.

As previously mentioned, one of the subjects was communism — specifically America becoming communist. According to a Rasmussen poll performed this year, 11 percent of people polled were OK with the idea of America going communist.

If that doesn’t cause a surprise, some of the other numbers should help. After the oil spill in the Gulf, BP stood at 16 percent. Nixon held 24 percent during Watergate, and banks were still hovering 23 percent as of this year, all according to Gallup polls.

Clearly, Congress isn’t very popular right now.

One last figure that some people like to bring up to help hammer this point home is the popularity of King George during the Revolutionary War. With an estimated 15 to 20 percent of those

in the colonies being loyalists, he fares much better than Congress does today.

While these are numbers Congress should heed, they are not things to which we should lend much weight. Polls may be good indicators, but polling in itself simply isn’t accurate all the time.

Take, for example, some of the polling which takes place before and after actual voting. Many times there have been surprises and disappointments when a candidate fails to do as well as the polling predicted them to. It shouldn’t be surprising.

Everyone lies at some point in time. Big or small, it’s simply a part of human nature, and is not always done maliciously. When being asked about political opinions, or other controversial topics, most people may not tell how they truly feel.

Our political beliefs are often personal things, and there are some who would go with much safer opinions to fit in with the norm. While there’s nothing wrong with this, it’s simply one of the reasons why polls must be taken with a grain of salt.

If nothing else, people can always change their mind between the poll and the vote.

At the end of the day, it’s hard to believe these polls are accurate. While Congress may be inefficient and correctly unpopular, it’s unreasonable to think more Americans agree with a turn toward communism.

Despite some people saying they dislike Congress just because it’s a popular viewpoint, the low numbers seem far more likely an indication of faulty polling.

In the end, however, Congress certainly needs to pay attention to these numbers. While they may be drastic, Congress should be aiming to at least be popular with a quarter of the country.

Twenty-five percent isn’t asking much. If Nixon and the banks can pull it off, surely this Congress should be able to as well.

This article first ran in the Nov. 21 edition of The Daily Reveille, the daily publication serving Louisiana State University.

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

Why The Shirt matters

As a former student and member of the Fighting Irish football team, I experienced firsthand how powerfully The Shirt unifies the Irish faithful. As the students and alumni of our great school have done in the past, when called to action, we respond. The hallowed halls of Notre Dame echo: God, Country and Notre Dame.

This year, we can create something better to represent our values through The Shirt.

We can make The Shirt in America to help create jobs and keep people off unemployment during these turbulent economic times. Poverty and unemployment are real in the U.S.A. now more than ever; we can be a generation of action and not just of talk.

The Shirt can be made from 100 percent Recycled Materials to avoid the use of more virgin resources. This innovation can be the key to redefining our manufacturing sector, one that is in need of stimulus. You may be concerned with environmental issues or not, but the U.S.A. represents five percent of the world’s population and produces 25 percent of its waste.

The Shirt has done much good in the past: The Shirt Charity Fund, the Rector Fund and the Twelfth Man powerfully embody the philanthropic spirit of our University. Unfortunately, the garment that finances these efforts has not always stayed true to those values. The Charities benefiting from The Shirt would be much better financed through a non-exploitive product, something consistent with their mission.

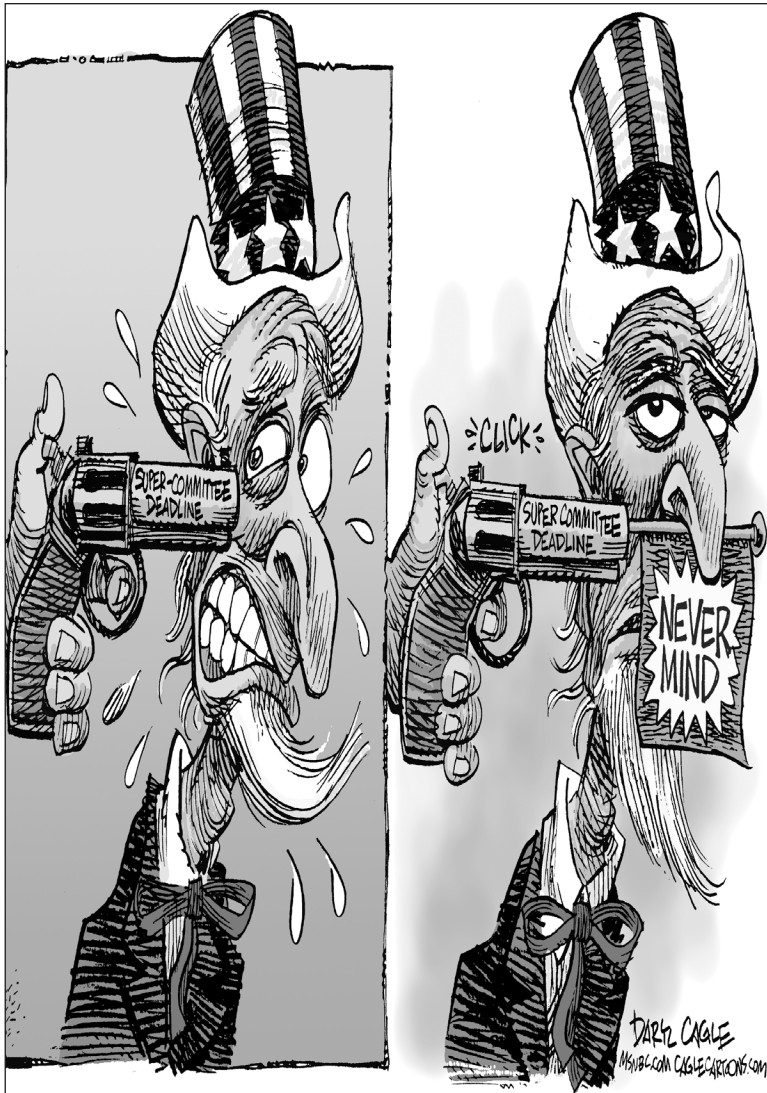
In complete honesty, if SustainU was to make The Shirt, it may cost two to three dollars more at the register. Using American Wages and materials that are progressive carry a direct cost that maybe more now, but a greater payoff in the end. SustainU is not some “Better Option” leg of another company or owned by a larger conglomerate. We are not segmented in our approach in what can be real steps to helping our country and world.

I am willing to answer any questions through my personal email and cell phone: chris@sustainuclothing.com or 574-514-3694.

Serious Questions/Comments/Inquiries only please.

Chris Yura
alumnus
Class of 2003
Nov. 21

EDITORIAL CARTOON





SCENE

Selects

1 Suri's Burn Book

Suri Cruise may be a tabloid fixture at five years old, but this blog is ten times more interesting than her couture fashion collection. The fictitious blog written in the voice of a bitingly sarcastic Suri is a collection of images and posts about other celebrity children and their unsophisticated tastes. Suri leaves no child unjudged, including Shiloh Jolie-Pitt, Kinston Rossdale, Honor Warren (Jessica Alba's adorable daughter) and Harper Beckham.

2 Colette on "Pan Am"

The retro glamour of air travel in the 1960s is the main star of Pan Am, especially since the characters still have some kinks to work out — specifically, not being annoying. One exception is the French stewardess Colette, played adorably by Karine Vanasse, sporting winged eyeliner and a black bob to go along with the iconic light blue uniform. Vastly underused by the writers, Vanasse is able to make audiences feel every emotion, from her sweet encounters with Pilot Dean to her anger and sadness when visiting Germany due to her family's experience during the Occupation. More Colette, less spy drama, please.

3 "Big Bang Theory"

The plot centers around Sheldon, a theoretical physicist, Leonard, an experimental physicist, Howard, an aerospace engineer, and Rajesh, an astrophysicist. These four geeky guys have their world of role-playing, Klingon and video games interrupted by the appearance of Penny, a waitress and aspiring actress. They soon realize that just as she can learn a lot from her new nerdy neighbors, they can learn from her as well. The combination of scientific jargon with the usual sitcom antics makes this a must-see, whether you are an astrophysicist yourself or can't even remember what you learned in high school.

4 Threadless Tees

Everyone loves a good t-shirt, and t-shirts don't get funnier, wittier, more artistic or more culturally astute than Threadless t-shirts. The Chicago-based company adds to their immense collection of shirts by marketing designs submitted through and voted on by its user community. With a \$10 t-shirt sale starting on Thanksgiving, there has never been a better time to check them out at threadless.com

5 Dontevenreply.com

Dontevenreply.com is run by one hilariously cruel blogger, who trolls Craigslist looking for people with unusual requests. The blogger then replies to the postings in a ridiculous fashion, stringing the unsuspecting people along for an absurd and often vulgar ride. The end goal is to anger and frustrate people posting classified ads and then post the results online. His prank victims vary from false daycare service-providers to a car salesman, and the stupidity of the people replying may make you lose faith in humanity.

By BRIGID MANGANO
Scene Writer

New York City is one of the most iconic metropolitan cities in the United States. Destinations such as Time Square, Broadway, the Statue of Liberty, the Brooklyn Bridge, Rockefeller Center, Ground Zero and St. Patrick's Cathedral have been photographed ad infinitum. In "Over Under Sideways Down: 15 Shots Snapped in New York City," Louis MacKenzie, chair of the Department of Music and associate professor of French, eschews the Big Apple's monumental buildings and universally recognizable sites. With his discerning eye for playful juxtapositions of light and shadow, Mackenzie finds beauty in everything from fire escapes and traffic lights to graffiti and subway stations.

On display at the Gallery at the Foundry through Dec. 30, the exhibition invites visitors to join Mackenzie as he meanders throughout New York City. Ever since his childhood, Mackenzie has enjoyed riding the New York subway to nowhere in particular, exiting at randomly chosen stops and exploring unfamiliar neighborhoods. This has not only allowed Mackenzie to develop an expert knowledge of the city's railway routes, but also has exposed him to aspects of city life that often pass unnoticed by tourists and native New Yorkers alike.

Mackenzie's perceptiveness and attention to detail came through in "From the High Line," a photograph taken from New York City's newest public park, which was built atop an inoperative freight track elevated above traffic in Manhattan's West Side. Mackenzie was there when the High Line officially opened on June 9, 2009. His photograph depicts a faded brick building with arched windows and zig-zagging fire escapes. The most striking thing about the photo is the shadow of the ladder rungs falling upon the facade, which creates an attractive pattern of parallel lines that complement the strong diagonals of the fire escape.

Fire escapes also make an appearance in "Mott Street," but here the effect is totally different. In this photograph, the viewer is arrested not by patterns of light and shadow, but rather by the building's brilliant colors. The brick exterior was painted bright

red, while the ornate window trim was brushed by an eye-catching banana yellow and the fire escapes an attractive turquoise-green. In addition, the windowpanes reflect the blue of the sky, making it easy to forget that the panes are actually transparent. Mackenzie's tight framing of this shot (neither the street level nor the roof are visible) prevent anything from distracting the viewer from this explosion of vibrant color.

Color is also a central component of "Franklin Street," a photograph of a subway entrance with a cyan blue building as its backdrop, and "Elizabeth Street," a photograph of a graffiti-covered brick wall. In the latter, the graffiti artist paints a tree in autumn and an inverted cityscape whose buildings are as tilted as the Tower of Pisa. Viewers will feel an urge to twist their heads sideways in order to get a better look at the painted skyline.

For anyone who loves New York City or who hopes to visit this cultural capital someday, "Over Under Sideways Down" offers a unique opportunity to see New York through the eyes of a talented photographer and lifelong Big Apple enthusiast.

Contact Brigid Mangano at
bmangano@nd.edu

In South Bend

What: "Over Under Sideways Down: 15 Shots Snapped in New York City"

Where: The gallery at the Foundry in Eddy Street Commons

When: Nov. 12 to Dec. 30

How Much: Free admission

Learn More: today.nd.edu

Twilight for non-fans

Disclaimer: I am not a Twilight fan. I have not read the books and my knowledge of vampires and werewolves is limited. However, for reasons both social and inquisitive in nature, I was at the AMC Showplace Theater on Thursday, Nov. 17, for the midnight release of “Breaking Dawn: Part 1.” I was prepared to wait in long lines with geared-up teenage girls supporting either “Team Edward” or “Team Jacob.” Surprisingly, though, there were no lines and only minimal swooning taking place.

Having seen the previous three Twilight films once each, I was only moderately caught up with the intricacies of the plot. Nevertheless, with my minimal knowledge of vampires and the help of a friend tolerant of questions, I made it through “Breaking Dawn: Part 1” without great confusion, and even a very slight interest in the remainder of the series.

For those unfamiliar with the series, Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), a hu-

Carrie Turek

Scene Writer

man, has fallen in love with Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), a vampire who consumes only non-human blood. Completing the love triangle, Bella and Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner), a werewolf, have had an ongoing attraction throughout the series. “Breaking Dawn: Part 1” is the first half of the film adaptation of Stephenie Meyer’s final Twilight novel.

“Breaking Dawn” begins on a promising note. Within the first few scenes, Jacob, as anyone could predict, loses his shirt upon receiving an invitation for the Cullen-Swan wedding. Picking up where “Eclipse” left off, the film commences with marriage preparations for the 18 year old heroine of the series and her immortal vampire love.

Despite Jacob’s pleas to Bella to choose him over a vampire, Bella marries Edward and they depart on a stereotypical island honeymoon. Of course, a vampire-human honeymoon can only stay normal for so long. After weeks of loving glances, romantic gestures and frolics on the beach, Bella learns that she is pregnant. Much of the film focuses on efforts to save Bella from both the dangers of carry-

ing a half-vampire with exponentially increasing strength and from the werewolves who see the vampire-child as an immense threat.

The plot may be far-fetched, but with an open mind, the complexities that Meyer weaves into the storyline and the emotional intricacies between characters can seem impressive. Though the talking digital werewolves were a bit unsettling, the set and scenery in this film was extremely well done. Costumes for Bella and Alice Cullen (Ashley Greene) were gorgeous and stylish. Edward Cullen looked clean-cut and less starkly pale in this film, and Jacob Black’s flannel wardrobe and newfound assertiveness made him a powerful, standout character (and an attractive werewolf).

Unlike the previous Twilight films, the dialogue in “Breaking Dawn” is quick, and silences are used tactfully to convey internal emotions of confusion experienced by the main characters. The overabundance of smoldering glances and sometimes static facial expressions that made the first Twilight film slightly unbelievable were mostly absent in “Breaking

Dawn.”

Despite my initial reluctance to see “Breaking Dawn,” by the end of the film, my interest was piqued.

With a final jolting glance from Bella, the film cuts to credits and leaves fans counting down the days until the next installment. “Breaking Dawn” was better than I had expected it to be and the best of the Twilight films yet. Though I have not been bitten and turned into a die-hard Twilight fan, chances are good that I will be one of the many to see the conclusion of Meyer’s saga when “Breaking Dawn: Part Two” is released on Nov. 16, 2012.

Contact Carrie Turek at cturek@nd.edu

“Breaking Dawn: Part 1”

Starring: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner and Ashley Greene
Directed By: Bill Condon



Movies to watch over Thanksgiving break

Scene staff report

“The Descendents”

George Clooney, the eternal bachelor, plays father to Shailene Woodley in what looks like an unusually heart-warming film. Set in beautiful Hawaii, Matt King (Clooney) is forced to take on the role of nurturing parent after his wife is injured in a boating accident. He has trouble controlling his reckless teenage daughter, but upon trying to convince her to open up, he learns that his wife has been cheating on him. As his emotional stability falters, he begins to connect with his daughters in a way he never had before.

“My Week With Marilyn”

Michelle Williams channels Norma Jean in “My Week With Marilyn,” a film based on the true story of a Marilyn Monroe filming, “The Prince and the Showgirl,” in Britain. After her husband leaves, Colin Clark, an assistant on the set of the film, shows Marilyn around Britain. In the meantime, however, Clark is given a privileged view inside the life of a woman who lived her act to the very end. Portraying such an iconic figure as Marilyn would be a daunting feat for any actress, but Williams seems to strike a believable tone.

“A Dangerous Method”

Michael Fassbender as Carl Jung. Viggo Mortensen as Sigmund Freud. A disturbed young Russian woman

played by Keira Knightley coming between them. This is nothing like your 9:30 a.m. psychology class. Directed by David Cronenberg, whose films include the intense “A History of Violence” and “Eastern Promises,” “A Dangerous Method” explores the relationship between Jung and his mentor Freud, and how a beautiful patient both divides them and helps them develop the famous theory of psychoanalysis. If nothing else, Knightley’s Russian accent should be somewhat entertaining.

“Arthur Christmas”

In this soon-to-be Christmas classic, the question that has eluded children through all time will finally be answered: How does Santa get all those presents delivered around the world in one night? The story follows the Claus family: the “Grand-Santa,” the current Santa and the next-in-line, Santa’s son Steve. And then there’s Arthur, Steve’s awkward and easily-excited younger brother. When one little girl’s present gets left behind, and the “new and improved” Santas are not concerned, this unlikely hero must step up and bring back the spirit of Christmas. With comedy, family and Christmas cheer, this movie is perfect for the start of the holiday season.

“The Artist”

Set in the 1920s, a silent film star struggles with his fall from fame with the rise of talking pictures, while the

woman he loves is a rising star in these “talkies.” This film follows the style of the old silent black and whites, showing the hardships that accompany loss of fame and those that go along with being in love with someone who is taking your place in the spotlight. This film has romance, comedy, tears, smiles and John Goodman. It is very unique and has won awards at several international film festivals, so you won’t want to miss this one.

“Hugo”

Though Hollywood has been hot for 3D recently, many of its most prolific directors have been hesitant to join the craze. On Nov. 23, Martin Scorsese of “The Departed,” “Taxi Driver” and “Goodfellas” fame releases “Hugo,” his first film in 3D. Based on the novel “The Invention of Hugo Cabret” by Brian Selznick, “Hugo” follows the story of a young boy, Hugo (Asa Butterfield), who lives in the walls of a Paris train station after being orphaned. He discovers a magical mystery involving his deceased father (Jude Law), some automotons and the famous French pioneering filmmaker Georges Melies (Ben Kingsley), whom he must unravel with the help of new friend Isabella (Chloe Moretz). The movie promises adventure and a heartfelt story perfect for friends or the entire family over Thanksgiving weekend. “Hugo” also features Sacha Baron Cohen and Christopher Lee, amongst many others

in this impressive cast.

“The Muppets”

Kermit, Miss Piggy and friends are back. It’s been a while since these puppet characters have been in our lives, but their new movie promises to be one not to miss. A Texas oilman wants to destroy Muppet theater to drill the oil underneath, but Walter (voiced by Peter Linz), the Muppets’ biggest fan, gets wind of the plan. Along with his brother Gary (Jason Segel), they try to raise the money necessary to save the theater. But they must reunite the Muppets, who have all gone their separate ways and have lost some of their fame. It’s hard to go wrong with a Segel film, and combining him with the Muppets ensures that the movie will keep you laughing. Bring your whole family for some extra Thanksgiving bonding time.

“Melancholia”

Lars von Trier’s “Melancholia” stars Kirsten Dunst, who plays a depressed woman on her wedding day. Her wedding day just happens to be right before the apocalypse. “Melancholia” refers not only to the mood of the film, but the name of the planet about to crash into Earth. The trailer for “Melancholia” features something prevalent in nearly all Kirsten Dunst films $\frac{3}{4}$ a lot of Dunst staring at the camera and looking sad. However, the sci-fi aspect of “Melancholia” seems intriguing,

NHL

Crosby nets two goals, two assists in return

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Sidney Crosby capped his comeback with a flourish. The superstar forward scored twice and added two assists in his season debut and the Pittsburgh Penguins crushed the New York Islanders 5-0 on Monday night. Playing his first game in more than 10 months while recovering from concussion-like symptoms, Crosby appeared to be in midseason form. He scored on his third shift in spectacular fashion, weaving through the New York defense before beating Anders Nilsson with a backhand for his first goal since last December. Crosby added assists on goals by Evgeni Malkin and Brooks Orpik and capped his comeback with a second tally, a backhand that fluttered by Nilsson early in the third period to provide the final margin. Steve Sullivan also scored for the Penguins while Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 29 shots. Nilsson, making just his second start of the season, made 31 saves for New York. The rookie looked overwhelmed at times as the Penguins roared to life with their captain back. An electric Consol Energy Center crowd greeted Crosby with a deafening roar when he skated onto the ice during warm-ups while “Back in the Saddle Again” blared over the speakers. Fans held placards with “Sid” on them — a directive from Hall of Famer and team owner Mario Lemieux — while others brought homemade homages to “Sid the Kid,” including one that read “Merry Sid-Mas.” Crosby’s return gave a late-November game between a perennial contender and an overmatched also-ran a play-off-like feel, and not just because more than 250 press credentials were handed out, four times the usual number. Throughout his achingly slow rehab the 24-year-old stressed he wouldn’t return until he felt 100 percent and stressed it would be nearly impossible to top Lemieux’s successful return from cancer in 2000, when he notched an assist on his first shift then later added a goal and another helper. Amazingly, Crosby one-upped his boss.

Displaying the speed that’s made him a national icon in his native Canada and the face of the sport at age 24, Crosby transformed the Penguins from Cup contender to Cup favorite in less than 6 minutes, or the time it took him to score his first goal in 328 days. Finishing off a backcheck, Crosby streaked up the ice, took a pass from Pascal Dupuis as he crossed the center line and went to work. He worked the puck to his backhand, slipped past New York’s Andrew MacDonald and flipped the puck over Nilsson’s glove. The normally reticent Crosby screamed as he skated into the corner, thrusting his arms aloft and letting out a huge scream. He was just getting started, later helping the Penguins go up 2-0 by feeding Orpik on the point and watching his defenseman rifle a slap shot by Nilsson. Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma said before the game he’d try to monitor Crosby’s minutes but knew it would be difficult to keep him off the ice. It was. Crosby played nearly 16 minutes and for the first time in nearly a year, absorbed a hit at game speed. New York’s Travis Hamonic cleanly checked Crosby to the ground during a first-period Pittsburgh power play. It was the first real test of Crosby’s comeback, and he popped up immediately to get back in the play as the Penguins — and the rest of the hockey world — exhaled. His return, however, is a “be careful what you wish for” proposition for the NHL. The Penguins have been solid without him. During his first night back, they were spectacular. Crosby earned a secondary assist on Malkin’s power-play goal early in the second and Malkin later provided a highlight-worthy point of his own, threading a saucer pass to Sullivan as Pittsburgh pushed the lead to 4-0. Crosby capped his spectacular debut with a backhand that fluttered by Nilsson in the third, turning the last 15 minutes of the game into a celebration worthy of late-spring not the week of Thanksgiving.

MLB

Verlander wins MVP, Cy Young

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Justin Verlander figured time had run out on his chance to become the first starting pitcher in a quarter-century to be voted Most Valuable Player. Last Tuesday, he found out about 12:40 p.m. that he was a unanimous winner of the AL Cy Young Award. It was closing in on 1 p.m. Monday, and he still hadn’t gotten word on the MVP. “I had told myself that it wasn’t going to happen,” he said. “I figured somebody else got the call.” Not to worry, there was just a slight delay because Verlander didn’t give the Baseball Writers’ Association of America his telephone number, forcing the BBWAA to relay the news through Brian Britten, the Detroit Tigers’ director of media relations. Britten telephoned Verlander at 12:56 p.m., about one hour before the announcement. “It was just a weight off my shoulders,” Verlander said, “and pure elation, really.” After winning the AL’s pitching triple crown by going 24-5 with a 2.40 ERA and 250 strikeouts, Verlander received 13 of 28 first-place votes and 280 points. He became the first pitcher voted MVP since Oakland’s Dennis Eckersley in 1992 and the first starting pitcher since Boston’s Roger Clemens in 1986. “Obviously pitchers are not just written off all of a sudden because they’re pitchers,” Verlander said. Boston center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury was second with four firsts and 242 points, followed by Toronto right fielder Jose Bautista with five firsts and 231 points, Yankees center fielder Curtis Granderson with 215 and Detroit first baseman Miguel Cabrera with 193. Recent history has been against pitchers. Since Eckersley’s win, only once had a pitcher finished as high as second. In 1999, Boston’s Pedro Martinez was 13 points behind Texas catcher Ivan Rodriguez after going 23-4 with a 2.07 ERA and 313 strikeouts. Martinez had eight first-place votes to seven for Rodriguez, but La Velle Neal of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and George King of the New York Post left Martinez off their ballots. “Not even in my wildest dreams had I thought of this,” Verlander said during a conference call from his home in Virginia. “I want to say this is a dream come true. I can’t say that because my dream had already had come true ... to win a Cy Young. And the next dream is to win a World Series. This wasn’t even on my radar until the talk



AP

Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander delivers a pitch during Detroit’s 1-0 loss to the Angels on July 5.

started. And then all of a sudden it was a this-could-actually-happen type of thing.” Verlander had the most wins in the major leagues since Oakland’s Bob Welch went 27-6 in 1990. Verlander pitched his second career no-hitter at Toronto on May 7. His season reopened debate over whether pitchers can be MVPs. “I think that a starting pitcher has to do something special to be as valuable or more so than a position player,” Verlander said. “Obviously, having the chance to play in 160-some games in the case of Miguel, they can obviously have a huge impact every day. That’s why, I’ve talked about on my day, on a pitcher’s day, the impact we have is tremendous on that game. So you have to have a great impact almost every time out to supersede (position players) and it happens on rare occasions, and I guess this year was one of those years.” Verlander, the 2006 AL Rookie of the Year, joined the Brooklyn Dodgers’ Don Newcombe as the only players to win all three major awards in their careers. “I think this set a precedent,” Verlander said. “I’m happy that the voters acknowledged that, that we do have a major impact in this game and we can be extremely valuable to our team and its success.” Verlander appeared on only 27 ballots and was omitted by Jim Ingraham of The Herald-News in Ohio, who voted Bautista first. Sheldon Ocker of the Akron Beacon Journal voted Verlander eighth.

Ingraham doesn’t think pitchers should be eligible. “I’d wrestled with this for a long time. If I was ever going to vote for pitcher for MVP, it would be him this year,” Ingraham said. “He hasn’t appeared in 79 percent of their games, any starting pitcher really doesn’t appear in 79 percent of his team’s games in a year. “Would you vote for an NFL quarterback for MVP if he only appeared in three of his team’s 16 games, which would be 21 percent? So that’s part of it. Another part of it is I think they’re apples and oranges. The guys that are in there every day, there’s a grind to a season that a starting pitcher doesn’t, I don’t think, experience the way the everyday position players do playing 150, 160 games.” Other pitchers to win MVP and Cy Young in the same year are Newcombe (1956), Los Angeles’ Sandy Koufax (1963), St. Louis’ Bob Gibson and Detroit’s Denny McLain (1968), Oakland’s Vida Blue (1971), Milwaukee’s Rollie Fingers (1981) and Detroit’s Willie Hernandez (1984). Since Mickey Cochrane (1934), Hank Greenberg (1935, 1940) and Charley Gehringer (1937), all Tigers voted MVP have been pitchers, with Verlander joining Hal Newhouser (1944 and 1945), McLain and Hernandez. “He deserved it,” Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski said. “He should have won it, but I didn’t know how voters would respond because the talk of some people not wanting to vote for a pitcher.”

CLASSIFIEDS

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PERSONAL

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Boston Bruins Top 10 All-Time Points Leaders

Ray Bourque	1506
Johnny Bucyk	1339
Phil Esposito	1012
Rick Middleton	898
Bobby Orr	888
Wayne Cashman	793
Ken Hodge	674
Terry O'Reilly	606
Cam Neely	590
Peter McNab	587

Detroit Red Wings Top 10 All-Time Points Leaders

Gordie Howe	1809
Steve Yzerman	1755
Alex Delvecchio	1281
Nicklas Lidstrom*	1108
Sergei Fedorov	954
Norm Ullman	758
Ted Lindsay	728
Pavel Datsyuk*	651
Brendan Shanahan	633
Reed Larson	570

*Current Red Wings Player

Montreal Canadiens Top 10 All-Time Points Leaders

Guy Lafleur	1246
Jean Beliveau	1219
Henri Richard	1046
Maurice Richard	965
Larry Robinson	883
Yvan Cournoyer	863
Jacques Lemaire	835
Steve Shutt	776
Bernie Geoffrion	759
Saku Koivu	641

Columbus Blue Jackets All-Time Points Leaders

Rick Nash*	478
David Vyborny	317
Nikolai Zherdev	181
Geoff Sanderson	168
R.J. Umberger*	158
Manny Malhotra	145
Kristian Huselius*	142
Ray Whitney	140
Jakub Voracek	134
Rostislav Klesla	133

*Current Red Wings Player

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.

MLB

Valentine pursues Red Sox manager position

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox said they were looking for a different voice in the clubhouse when they let Terry Francona walk after the worst September collapse in major league history. Enter Bobby Valentine.

Known for his confrontational style that rubbed some of his players the wrong way and for feuding with his bosses with the New York Mets, his last big league managing gig, Valentine formally interviewed for the Boston job on Monday when he met with general manager Ben Cherington and other members of the Red Sox brain trust.

“They have one of the best teams in baseball, one of the best organizations in baseball, one of the greatest venues in baseball, with a winning tradition over the last 10 years,” he said. “Other than that there’s really no reason why I want to be here.”

The Red Sox had originally interviewed Gene Lamont, Torey Lovullo, Dale Sveum, Sandy Alomar Jr. and Pete Mackanin. Sveum has been hired to manage the Chicago Cubs by former Red Sox GM Theo Epstein; Mackanin had been told he was no longer in the running, and Alomar got the same news on Monday.

Working against Alomar wasn’t a lack of managerial experience as much as the fact that none of his coaching experience had been in a dugout. He had worked as a bullpen catcher with the Mets and first base coach with the Cleveland Indians.

“We just felt like that is

an important step for him,” Cherington said. “I told him how highly I think of him and I think he’s going to be a really good big league manager one day, but he wasn’t going to be the choice for us in 2012.”

Although Cherington had maintained that he did not expect to expand the field, he met with Valentine in Hartford earlier this month, just before the former Mets and Rangers skipper appeared on a panel with Red Sox president Larry Lucchino. Valentine has also met with Red Sox ownership, Cherington said; Lamont is scheduled to meet with the owners this week.

“This was always going to be a choice that I’m going to make with ownership,” said Cherington, who was promoted when Epstein left for the Cubs. “We’ve known since the start of this that this was too important a decision to rush.”

The Red Sox led the AL East for much of the summer, but they went 7-20 in September to blow a nine-game lead in the AL wild-card race and finish one game behind the Tampa Bay Rays. Out went Francona, who was known as a players’ manager, a move that was followed by reports that pitchers were drinking beer and eating fried chicken in the clubhouse during games instead of cheering their teammates on from the bench.

Asked for his philosophy of discipline, Valentine said he learned from his time in Japan that players appreciate having rules that are enforced because it helps them stay in line.

NHL

Blue Jackets win second in a row

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jeff Carter had two goals, Curtis Sanford made 27 saves and the Columbus Blue Jackets beat the Calgary Flames 4-1 on Monday night for their first winning streak in 42 games.

Antoine Vermette and Rick Nash also scored, and Vinny Prospal added three assists for the Blue Jackets, who improved 3-1-1 in their last five games, and 2-0-1 in those games with the red-hot Sanford. Nash stopped a seven-game drought.

Sanford, who signed a two-way contract in the offseason and recently returned from a groin injury, has been a steadying influence on the team in place of the struggling Steve Mason.

Mark Giordano scored for Calgary, which was seeking a third consecutive win. Backup Henrik Karlsson made 26 stops.

Carter, who has all three of his goals this season in the last two games, carried the puck the length of the ice before sending a snap shot from the left circle over Karlsson’s glove at 3:01 in the first period.

The Blue Jackets continued to forecheck and it paid dividends three minutes later. Derek Dorsett jostled the puck loose around the Flames net and eventually Vermette flicked a nifty shot between his legs and inside the near post to make it 2-0.

Calgary coach Brent Sutter used his timeout after the goal and the Flames responded, playing with more cohesion. They finished the period with an 11-10 shots advantage, but Sanford was there to close



Blue Jackets forward Rick Nash, right, carries the puck against Calgary’s Scott Hannan during Columbus’ 4-1 win Monday.

the door on the best chances.

Sanford stymied Tim Jackman trying to finish a 2-on-1, kicked aside an uncontested slap shot from Giordano and gloved Alex Tanguay’s attempt.

In the second period, soon after Sanford got a piece of a shot from Rene Bourque on a short-handed breakaway, Columbus capitalized on a two-man advantage at 5:28. Carter fired a Prospal rebound into an open net to make it 3-0.

The Flames bounced back with a power-play goal of their own just over four minutes later. Skating laterally into the right circle, Giordano put on the brakes and snapped a perfectly placed shot to the far post for his third.

The Flames’ best chance in the third came early when Tanguay hit the post and Mikael Backlund couldn’t sweep the rebound into a gaping net.

Nash put the game away with his fifth at 18:29.

MEN’s NCAA BASKETBALL

Blue Devils defeat Volunteers in first round at Maui

Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Tennessee missed too many shots at the rim early, nearly everything from the perimeter the whole game.

That’s not going to work against a team like Duke.

Tennessee kept it close early despite its shooting woes, but faded down the stretch in a 77-67 loss to the sixth-ranked Blue Devils in the first round of the Maui Invitational on Monday.

“I think they did a good job of taking away those shots from the perimeter,” Tennessee coach Cuonzo Martin said. “I thought we did a good job in the first half getting to the basket off the dribble. We did it in spurts in the second half.”

Tennessee (2-1) is in rebuilding mode after the NCAA fiasco with coach Bruce Pearl, but still managed to keep up with Duke for a while. The Vols just couldn’t seem to get the ball in from close range early or from anywhere on the perimeter, missing all eight of their 3-point attempts.

Jeronne Maymon had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Ten-

nessee, which moves on to face No. 8 Memphis on Tuesday.

“They obviously did a good job on chesting us up, keeping their hands high without fouling,” Maymon said. “We’ve got to focus on finishing more around the basket. That’s mostly on us.”

Austin Rivers scored 18 points, Seth Curry and Ryan Kelly had 17 each to help Duke (5-0) pull away in the second half and improve to 13-0 all-time in Maui.

Mason Plumlee had 13 rebounds and Andre Dawkins added 10 points for the Blue Devils, who move on to Tuesday’s semifinals against No. 15 Michigan, which knocked off Memphis.

“Late in that game, the biggest plays we could have made were defensive stops and defensive rebounds,” Kelly said. “I thought we did a pretty good job in the closing minutes of getting to all of those balls.”

The Blue Devils have been the kings of the Maui, winning titles in 1992, 1997, 2001 and 2007.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski called this year’s team his most inexperienced group headed into Maui after losing its top three scorers from last season: ACC player of the year Nolan Smith,

2010 Final Four Most Outstanding Player Kyle Singler and Kyrie Irving, the No. 1 pick in the NBA draft.

The Blue Devils are young but talented, with a heralded class of five freshman headed by Rivers, the consensus top recruit in the nation and son of Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers.

Duke has already been through a string of tough opening games, beating Belmont, Presbyterian, Michigan State and Davidson. The win over the Spartans, last Tuesday at Madison Square Garden, gave Krzyzewski his 903rd win, passing his mentor and former coach Bobby Knight for most all-time in men’s Division I.

The Blue Devils kept rolling against Tennessee behind Rivers.

The freshman was out of control at times in the first half, making just 1 of 5 shots from inside the arc. He was good outside the 3-point line, though, hitting 3 of 4, including a pair late in the half that put the Blue Devils up 39-33.

Rivers started to hit a few shots inside the arc in the second half and dropped in another

3 as the Blue Devils stretched a 2-point lead midway through the half up to 13. He finished 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

“When you’re a freshman, you start evaluating what you’re doing and sometimes you’re a step slow to the next thing and that’s because you care,” Krzyzewski said. “You want to be good. You’ve just got to get through that.”

While Duke always seems to have talented new players, about the only thing the same at Tennessee are those bright orange uniforms.

The Vols are under new direction this season after Martin replaced Pearl, who was fired in March after admitting that he lied to NCAA investigators.

Tennessee lost forward Tobias Harris and guard Scotty Hopson to the NBA draft, four other seniors who saw regular playing time and will rely on five new scholarship players — not to mention new offensive and defensive schemes.

An annual favorite to win the SEC under Pearl, the Vols were picked 11th out of 12 teams in this year’s preseason media poll.

Martin has tried to retool what

Tennessee does, using a basic form of the motion-style offense that helped Missouri State become one of the Missouri Valley Conference’s top scoring teams and a high-pressure defense similar to what Pearl ran during his early tenure in Knoxville.

Long and athletic, the Vols were able to keep up with the big Blue Devils early on, keeping it close despite missing numerous shots at the rim and a few wild ones. Tennessee missed all six of its 3-point attempts in the half on the way to shooting 33 percent, but was still within six.

After Duke’s short run to end the first half, the Vols rallied to tie the game at 45-all early in the second. The Blue Devils made another run and Tennessee answered, pulling within 2 midway through.

Duke again started to pull away and the Vols had no answer this time, headed to the loser’s bracket in their first trip back to Maui since 2004.

“I thought our guys competed,” Martin said. “They just made plays down the stretch and really executed. I thought we had a couple of quick shots, but it was tough.”

ND VOLLEYBALL

ND to close out season at Dayton

By CORY BERNARD
Sports Writer

After seeing their impressive postseason run come to an end in the Big East conference final, the Irish head to Dayton, Ohio, on Friday for what could be their final match of the 2011 season.

Cincinnati (25-8, 13-2 Big East) beat Notre Dame (17-12, 8-6) in three hard-fought sets Sunday to claim the Big East tournament crown and earn the conference's automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. While it remains possible for Notre Dame to earn an at-large bid, it is not likely. Senior outside hitter Kristen Dealy said she was disappointed to see an opportunity lost against the Bearcats.

"I guess maybe we have a slight chance [to make the tournament], but we had a pretty rocky regular season," Dealy said. "That's a shame because we could have won [against Cincinnati]."

Though disappointed by the loss, Dealy said both being named to the all-tournament team for the fourth time in as many seasons and the team's tournament run left her feeling positive about the season.

"Specifically, it means when push came to shove, you played well," she said. "No matter what the outcome, I feel like I gave my best effort. It's special it's just nice to know to that we did our best when it mattered most."

Without little hope for an NCAA tournament berth, the Irish will take on Dayton with little at stake. The Flyers (24-6, 14-1 Atlantic 10) won their conference title for the third straight season and, like the Bearcats, are guaranteed a spot in the NCAA tournament.

Dealy said the Irish don't feel any pressure heading into the



ALEX PARTAK/The Observer

Sophomore middle blocker Andie Olsen prepares to strike the ball during Notre Dame's 3-0 win over Rutgers on Nov. 6.

match.

"We don't really watch film on them, but they're always pretty good," she said of Dayton. "It's going to be nice nothing to lose, last game. Really, if we just come together and play with confidence, we can beat anybody we play."

Dealy said the Irish will take some confidence into next season after she graduates, as Notre Dame's younger players finally realized their potential during the Big East tournament, which included a 3-1 victory over top-seeded Louisville on

Saturday.

"There were people after the Louisville game that we didn't even know coming up to us and saying, 'That was the best volleyball we've seen,'" Dealy said. "I think that was good for the younger girls, especially. Everyone saw what [we] could be if everyone steps up and plays confidently."

Notre Dame's match against Dayton begins at 7 p.m. on Friday.

Contact Cory Bernard at cbernard@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to snap losing streak

By BRENDAN BELL
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's looks to get back on track with a victory against Anderson tonight. After winning its season opener against No. 25 Wheaton, the Belles fell in both games of the Manchester College Bankers' Classic over the weekend.

In the consolation game of the tournament, Saint Mary's (1-2) faced Denison, another ranked opponent, and managed to exchange baskets for most of the game. With the score tied midway through the second half, Denison (2-1) pulled away late and defeated St. Mary's 81-74.

"Right now, our team needs to develop consistency on defense," Belles coach Jennifer Henley said.

Another key factor in the game was Denison's dominating bench, which outscored the Belles' bench 48-4. Despite the tough losses Friday and Saturday, senior forward Jessica Centa's play was a bright spot, as she was named to the all-tournament team. Centa turned in two double-digit scoring performances and averaged 15 points per game during the tournament.

Hoping to build off the positive contributions from the



COURTNEY ECKERLE/The Observer

Saint Mary's freshman forward Ariana Paul, right, pursues a rebound during the Belles' 66-63 win over Wheaton on Nov. 15.

Belles' loss to Denison, the team remains focused in practice as it prepares for an important test against Anderson (0-2).

"I think Anderson is going to be another great match-up for us," Henley said. "Our goal is to get out and set the tone early with them defensively."

The Belles have been adjusting to the recent losses by rec-

ognizing what they need to do to win.

"Our main focus has been the transition game, as well as boxing out for the rebounds," Henley said. "When we do these two things well, we are successful."

Saint Mary's will host Anderson on Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

Contact Brendan Bell at bbell2@nd.edu

ND CROSS COUNTRY

Both teams place in top 25 at national meet



TOM YOUNG/The Observer

Junior Jeremy Rae races during the Notre Dame Invitational on Sept. 30. Rae finished 105th in the NCAA championships.

By AARON SANT-MILLER
Sports Writer

In a field featuring the best teams in the nation, the men's and women's teams finished 24th and 22nd respectively at the NCAA championships. The times marked the highest finish for the men's team since 2008 and the best finish for the women's team since 2005.

"It was a nice race, but it wasn't our best," junior Jessica Rydberg said.

Junior Jeremy Rae of the men's team echoed this sentiment.

"[The outcome] wasn't good, but it's not the worst," Rae said. "It's kind of where we thought we'd be."

Wisconsin won the men's 10-kilometer race, finishing with 97 points. Arizona freshman Lawi Lalang won the race with a time of 28:44.1.

Rae, who finished 105th with a time of 30:49.7, led the Irish along with sophomore Martin Grady (30:52.6) and junior J.P. Malette (31:10.2). All three runners finished in the top 150.

"It wasn't too horrible, but I'm not happy with my performance," Rae said. "I didn't run quite as well comparatively as I did last year. We were ranked 25th coming in and finished 24th. Everyone could have been 20 spots up and that would have put us where we wanted to be."

The women fared a little better, yet the pace was set by Georgetown, who took the top spot with 162 points. Villanova stood out with two runners in the top six. Wildcats senior Sheila Reid, who finished with a time of 19:41.2 in the women's six-kilometer race, won the race and led Villanova to a top-three finish.

"It was exciting," Rydberg said. "It is always exciting to be

able to compete with that level of people."

Overall, the Notre Dame women ran as a very tight group, with the team's top five runners all finishing in the top 150 and within 14 seconds of each other. Sophomore Kelly Curran, who finished with a time of 21:09.8, led the Irish women.

Despite the solid results, Rydberg said the racers shared a certain level of disappointment.

"We did okay," she said. "As a team we had a good pack together but we would prefer the pack be a little further up."

In reflection on the season, which has now come to a close, there was a lot of untapped potential for both the men and the women.

"I think we all know we have a lot more potential that we'll be able to reach in the future, which is pretty exciting," Rydberg said. "We have a relatively young team, and this season we learned how to work out together really well and run together really well."

Both teams have room to grow, and the runner remain optimistic for the rest of the year.

"It's track season now," Rae said. "For basically all of us, it is way more exciting than cross [country] season."

Yet, even with the excitement building, the Irish runners need to recover from the exhausting season.

"We will probably take a week or two off to recover," Rydberg said, "But then we'll get refocused and get straight to the indoor season."

The first indoor race occurs on Dec. 2, but many of the runners will likely sit that race out.

Contact Aaron Sant-Miller at asantmil@nd.edu

November 29–Dec 3:

SUSH WEEK

On November 29, 1990, a boy was brought unto the world. Like the phoenix rose from the ashes, this boy has now risen to be SUSH

Mon: Club 23 at 12:01
Tues: "Kildare's"
Wed: FIINNYYSSSS
Thurs: Sush Night at the Feve
Fri: \$5 Formal at Chippewa Bowl
Sat: Backer Backer Backer

We're not in Rockville anymore...

HOCKEY

Irish set for rematch with WMU



JULIE HERDER/The Observer

Irish junior center Riley Sheahan skates with the puck during Notre Dame’s 3-2 win over Western Michigan on Nov. 15. Sheahan scored two goals in the win.

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

After beating then-No. 3 Boston College on a last-second overtime goal Friday, the No. 2 Irish will take on another familiar foe in No. 12 Western Michigan.

Last Tuesday, Notre Dame (9-2-2, 6-1-2-0 CCHA) beat the Broncos 3-2 at the Compton Family Ice Arena behind junior center Riley Sheahan’s two goals.

“Both goals were kind of lucky I guess,” Sheahan said. “I [was] just focusing, visualizing before the game, thinking I could go out there and make some offensive impact. That’s something I’ve been trying to do this year.”

Sheahan, who now has four goals and nine assists on the season, is trying to take some of the scoring load off sophomore left wing Anders Lee and sophomore center T.J. Tynan. Lee and Tynan lead the CCHA in goals and assists, respectively.

“There’s a lot of pressure on Anders and T.J., and they’ve been doing a great job,” Sheahan said. “It’s good to have some spread out scoring and we’ve been lucky to have that. I’d like to keep up the effort I’ve been giving. It feels better when you can contribute a little on the score sheet.”

Following a big win against Boston College, Irish coach Jeff Jackson said he is concerned about a possible aftereffect from such a draining game.

“That’s always a concern after a big win,” Jackson said. “They

practiced pretty well yesterday, and hopefully we can have a good skate today. It’s a matter of just getting refocused for three tough road games.”

Sheahan said that the team can overcome the potential distractions to focus on the games ahead.

“We just have to come out and focus,” Sheahan said. “It was a fun game, but it’s over now and we can’t think about it, we can’t think about the past. We just have to worry about each shift at a time.”

The Broncos (6-4-3, 4-4-1-1) have not played since losing to the Irish 3-2 on Nov. 15 and carry a four-game losing streak heading into tonight’s matchup.

“We’re playing there, which makes it a lot more challenging,” Jackson said. “It was a very hard-fought game [and] could’ve gone either way. We were fortunate enough to get a two-goal lead, and they still came back on us and made it challenging.”

Conversely, the Irish will be playing their fifth game in 12 days, including their third in a row against a ranked opponent.

“We’re a pretty well-conditioned team. We work pretty hard off the ice,” Sheahan said. “All the guys work pretty hard in the weight room, so I don’t think conditioning will be a factor.”

Notre Dame will also be playing its second straight Tuesday night game, an anomaly in college hockey.

“Mid-week games are a bit more difficult, but I’d rather be on the road for it,” Jackson said. “Our guys will be able to focus

on the game throughout the day and get themselves ready to play.”

In the Broncos’ loss to Notre Dame, Western Michigan freshman goaltender Frank Slubowski stopped 18 Irish shots. His 2.15 goals against average currently ranks 19th in the nation.

This weekend, Notre Dame will head north to take on No. 13 Lake Superior State in a two-game series.

“You have to [grind out wins],” Jackson said. “It will be the same way at Lake Superior. Everybody projects [Western Michigan] to be a top team in our conference, and Lake [Superior] State is a top team in our conference. These will be tough, gritty games on the road. It’s hard to win on the road in the CCHA.”

The Lakers (9-3-2, 5-2-1-1) currently sit in fourth place in the CCHA, six points behind conference-leading Ohio State. Junior forward Nick McParland leads the team with seven goals and six assists, while sophomore goaltender Kevin Kapalka has started all but one game.

“The next three games are going to be extremely difficult,” Jackson said.

The Irish and Broncos faceoff at 7:35 p.m. tonight at Lawson Arena in Kalamazoo, Mich. Notre Dame and Lake Superior State take the ice Friday and Saturday at Taffy Abel Arena in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. The contests each start at 7:05 p.m.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

Missouri

continued from page 16

combined for 38 of the Irish points in their first loss of the young season.

“It felt good for a couple possessions,” Abromaitis said. “It’s nice to be back playing, but they’re a great team. It was kind of like being thrown into the fire.”

After scoring 52 in the first half, the Tigers did not slow down, opening the second half

on a 10-3 run. They capitalized on easy baskets, scoring 44 points in the paint.

The Irish struggled shooting the ball from beyond the arc, connecting on just four of 16 shots from distance. They also recorded 12 turnovers and only eight assists.

Missouri senior guard Marcus Denmon led the way for the Tigers, scoring 26 points on nine of 11 shooting. Sophomore guard Phil Pressey added 17 in the victory.

“I’m going to be saying this all year: ‘He’s just very talent-

ed,’” Tigers coach Frank Haith said. “He had a nice pace, a nice rhythm to his game tonight.”

Sophomore guard Eric Atkins and freshman guard Pat Connaughton each chipped in seven for Notre Dame. Connaughton also grabbed five rebounds.

The Irish will need to rebound from the loss quickly when they take the court tonight against Georgia at 7:45 p.m. in Kansas City, Mo.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

ND Women’s BASKETBALL

Notre Dame to travel to Bahamas for tourney

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

After dropping their first game of the season to No. 1 Baylor 94-81 Sunday, the No. 4 Irish will spend Thanksgiving Break in Freeport, Bahamas, for the Junkanoo Jam, with hopes of starting a new winning streak.

Notre Dame (3-1) will play two games on its Caribbean trip. The first is against USC on Friday, with the second against either No. 7 Duke or Gardner-Webb on Saturday, based on Friday’s results.

The Trojans (1-2) had a spot in the national rankings until they dropped out from No. 23 in this week’s coaches’ poll.

“They were in the top 25 before and [are] definitely a formidable opponent [with] some great players and outstanding guards,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. “They have a well-balanced team.

“We’ve played [USC] a number of times and we used to play them every year. We just stopped in the last year or two. We’ve got a pretty long tradition of playing them, but not in the last couple of years.”

Though the Irish have played the Trojans before, many changes have come for Notre Dame and USC over the few years their schedules did not intersect that will make this game a new experience.

“We have a lot of new players since the last time we’ve seen them. [Playing USC] is like playing a team for the first time,” McGraw said. “They have a lot of new players and a new coach.”

On Saturday, the Irish will play either currently undefeated Duke (3-0) or winless Gardner-Webb (0-4). Should the Irish defeat the Trojans, they will play the winner of the Blue Devils and Bulldogs. A loss to USC will result in a matchup with the loser of the game between Duke and Gardner-Webb.

“We haven’t played Duke in quite a while and we

have never played Gardner-Webb,” McGraw said. “These are some new teams to look at. We’re just excited to be able to play in the Bahamas.”

The last time the Irish took to the court, they lost a tough fight to the Bears as the then-top two teams in the country played each other in the championship game of the preseason WNIT.

Despite senior guard Natalie Novosel’s career-high 28 points and junior guard Skylar Diggins’ 27 points, the Bears held tightly to their top ranking.

“I think we played very well offensively, particularly Natalie with a career-high points, and Skylar had an outstanding night,” McGraw said. “I think they both did everything they did to help us win as many games as we could.”

Diggins earned the first Big East Player of the Week for the 2011 season. Both Diggins and Novosel were named to the WNIT all-tournament team based on their statistics offensively and defensively in the four total games of the tournament.

Though they shined on offense against each of their WNIT opponents, McGraw said she is looking for better defensive play from the Irish on Friday and Saturday.

“The biggest thing that we need to do is rebound better,” McGraw said. “That was our weakness — the whole team. We did a lot of good things, but we were disappointed with how our rebounding went and with our defense.”

The Irish tip-off against the Trojans at 5:45 p.m. Friday. If they win against USC, they will play either Duke or Gardner-Webb in the championship game at 8:00 p.m. Saturday. If they lose to the Trojans, they will play the loser of the other game in a consolation match at 5:45 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

Stanford

continued from page 16

difficult start of the season would be a great thing for our program as we move forward,” he said. “So [beating Stanford] means a lot. It’s also you know, that last game you play, you know. You want to be feeling good about your bowl prac-

tices and things of that nature. So it’s the [No. 6] team ranked in the country. They’ve got arguably the best quarterback in the country. It’s a national television game. It’s a great way to finish up the season.”

The Irish and Cardinal will kickoff at 8 p.m. EST Saturday in Palo Alto, Calif.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

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- SCARVES
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- Across**

1 ____ the Hutt ("Return of the Jedi" villain)

6 Stuff to wear

10 Not of the clergy

14 Take a weapon from

15 Flu symptom

16 "The King and I" governess

17 Starch: a cross between ____?

20 "____ the season ..."

21 Oscar winner for "Moonstruck"

22 Swinger who loves Jane

23 Underwire garment

24 Pre-euro Italian currency

25 Pimple: a cross between ____?

31 Sad poem

32 Pinnacle

33 Call at first base, maybe

36 Messenger ____
- 37 What Visine is dispensed in

38 Sunbeam

39 Apple Store offerings

41 Concerning

42 "Love Lockdown" singer West

44 Hisses: a cross between ____?

47 Word before "Boy," "Love" and "Come Back" in titles to #1 songs

48 Construction project in Genesis

49 Classic Chevy model

52 Leatherworking tools

54 No. on a college transcript

57 Beetles: a cross between ____?

60 Isaac's eldest

61 Rural road sign
- 62 Like helium

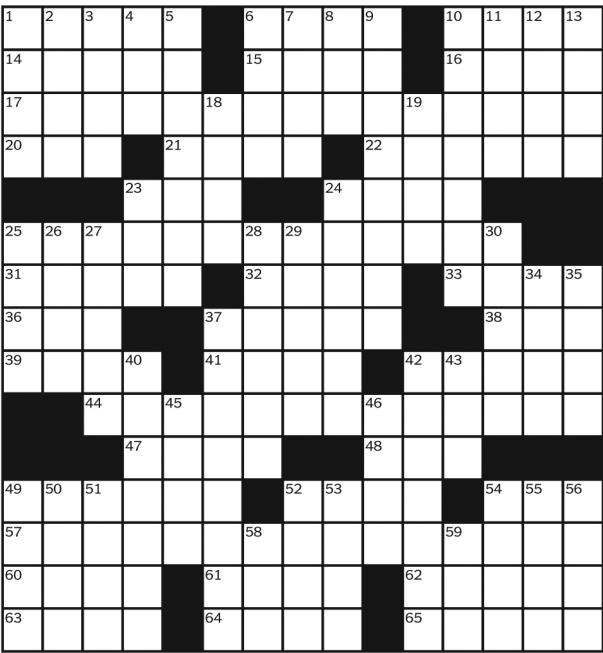
63 Deck hands

64 Cashless transaction

65 Seen-it-all feeling

Down

- 1 Merely
- 2 Not a fan of
- 3 Sounds in "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"
- 4 Reaction to a cold snap
- 5 "Take a hike!"
- 6 "Let's Get It On" singer
- 7 Petri dish gel
- 8 Choose flight instead of fight
- 9 Parents set them for kids
- 10 Prizes in early Olympics
- 11 1998 animated film loosely based on "Brave New World"
- 12 Machu Picchu resident
- 13 "Come Fly With Me" lyricist Sammy
- 18 Title that's a homophone of 13-Down
- 19 Instrument on Ireland's coat of arms
- 23 Panhandle
- 24 Walked with one foot asleep, say
- 25 Salon treatment
- 26 Forearm bone
- 27 Get through to
- 28 Charles ____, hero of "A Tale of Two Cities"
- 29 Contempt



Puzzle by Patrick Berry

- 30 Makes at work

34 Dunaway of "Chinatown"

35 They may be lazy or wandering

37 Breaks up

40 Outbacks and Foresters

42 Alley seen on TV

43 Pump
- 45 Festive occasion

46 Malevolent Hindu goddess

49 "That doesn't surprise me!"

50 Mountain with a flat top

51 Distinctively shaped fruit

52 On the ocean
- 53 Les Nessman's station in a 1978-82 sitcom

54 Isolated valley

55 Home of former U.N. Secretary General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

56 Italian wine region

58 Mountain ____

59 Spike TV, once

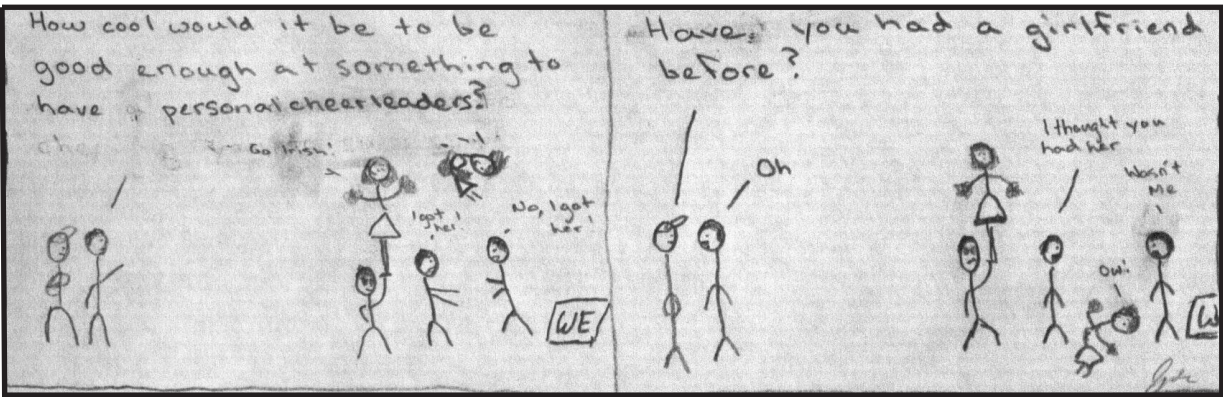
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



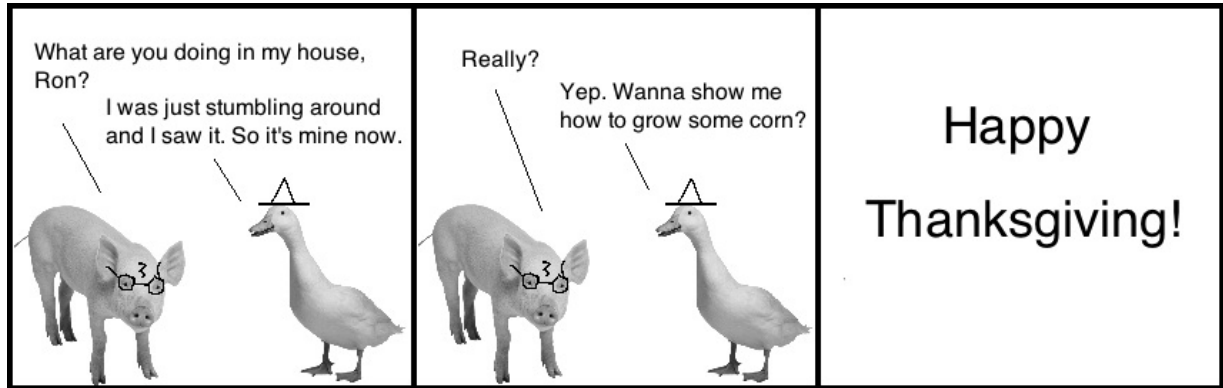
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashley Fink, 25; Dan Byrd, 26; Joel McHale, 40; Bo Derek, 55.

Happy Birthday: Be careful how you go about your business. Not everyone will be on your side. Get everything in place before you share your findings. You will learn from observing the way others react to the changes taking place. You will have the upper hand if you don't reveal where you stand. Your numbers are 6, 11, 19, 22, 26, 31, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone you share information and knowledge with will inspire you to change your beliefs. Not everyone you are close to will agree with your new outlook or attitude, but you have to follow your heart and whatever direction you feel is best for you. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A day trip will help settle your nerves and bring you information that will contribute to something you want to pursue in the future. Share your thoughts and engage in activities that allow you to expand your knowledge and friendships. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get chores out of the way. You are best to keep busy. Idle time will be the enemy that leads to a disagreement with someone to whom you are emotionally attached. Set up a new budget or update your personal papers. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to what you know and do best. You don't want to challenge someone who is looking for a fight. Meddling will leave you sitting in a precarious position. A change to your home or lifestyle will cause an emotional setback. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan to travel or engage in a challenging activity you enjoy. You will attract plenty of attention as well as interest in what you are up to and what you have to offer. Someone exceptional will want to partner with you. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can expect to face opposition, no matter what you do or say. Retreat or go out with friends who are more forgiving of your idiosyncrasies. Travel, shopping or taking a class of some sort is your best bet. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An emotional problem will escalate if you take part in a secretive act that can damage a relationship you have with someone close to you. You may be trying to keep the peace, but your efforts will backfire, leaving you in an awkward position. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A great idea can turn into a lucrative investment. Ask questions and solicit help if you need it, but be realistic and listen to suggestions and warnings. You can make a profit by starting small and building slowly. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen and learn. You will be caught if you do something wrong or you exaggerate about something you did. You may just want to have fun, but don't do so at someone else's expense. Kindness and diplomacy will get you further ahead. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll hit a wall and experience frustration if you underestimate the extent of what needs to be done. Focus on home, family and your financial security. Less spending and more budgeting will pay off. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love is in the stars, along with partnerships and doing something you are proud of. Collaborating with someone you respect will lead to a great friendship as well as information that can help you financially, contractually or legally. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's what you do that will bring you good fortune, not what you say or who you befriend. Don't let ulterior motives lead you in the wrong direction. You must think and do for yourself or you will be accused of taking someone for granted. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You harbor your feelings. You are a diplomatic peacemaker.

JUMBLE

HENRY ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

SOJIT
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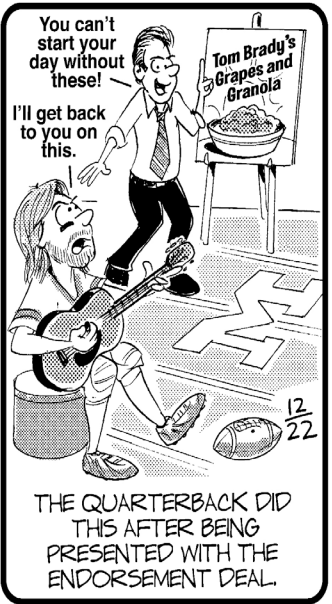
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Ans: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's | Jumbles: VODKA THEME WILLOW POCKET
Answer: When little Raymond Romano was born on 12-21-57. everybody — LOVED HIM



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FOOTBALL

Cardinal rule



JAMES DOAN/The Observer

Irish junior running back Cierre Wood looks for room to run during Notre Dame's 16-14 win over Boston College on Saturday. No. 22 Notre Dame will take on No. 6 Stanford this Saturday.

By **ANDREW OWENS**
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish will conclude their 2011 regular season Saturday when they travel to Stanford, who still has national title aspirations.

Notre Dame (8-3) enters the season finale ranked No. 22 in the Bowl Championship Series rankings, the first time it has been ranked in that poll this season. The Irish won their 12th game in 15 contests with a 16-14 victory over Boston College on Saturday.

"We asked [the players] to play hard for four quarters, and they

did that tonight," Irish coach Brian Kelly said after the game Saturday. "Just a satisfying win as a football coach to see your team battle. We've overcome a lot of things, and [it was] just a really nice victory for our football team today."

The result was not all positive for the Irish, however, as senior running back Jonas Gray was lost for the season with a knee injury in the win. Kelly said junior receiver Theo Riddick, a former running back, might be an option the Irish look to as a complement to junior running back Cierre Wood.

"We'll sit down as a staff and,

first of all, see what Theo is able to do physically and then decide whether he can go into a running back position and help us out," Kelly said. "We haven't made that decision, but we'll certainly consider it."

No. 6 Stanford (10-1, 8-1 PAC-12) will provide a difficult matchup for the Irish, who have won eight of nine games since stumbling to an 0-2 start, a testament to their competitiveness, Kelly said.

"Clearly you know coming back from an 0-2 start to continue the winning through a very

see **STANFORD**/page 14

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish fall to Missouri in K.C.

By **ERIC PRISTER**
Sports Writer

In his first game back from suspension, fifth-year forward Tim Abromaitis scored 22 points on nine of 19 shooting against No. 21 Missouri.

But the Tigers' offense was too much for Notre Dame to handle, scoring 52 first-half points on the way to a 87-58 win in the semifinals of the CBE Classic in Kansas City, Mo., on Monday.

"Flat out, men versus boys," Irish coach Mike Brey said to the Associated Press. "They're really good, they're really mature. It was the varsity playing the JV at times."

A Missouri 14-3 run early in the first half gave the Tigers a 13-point lead. The Irish were able to cut it to seven, but Missouri pulled away late in the first half and went into the locker room up 15. The Tigers shot 58.2 percent from the floor in the victory.

Abromaitis added a team-high eight rebounds to his 22 points, and was joined in double figures by senior guard Scott Martin, who threw in 12 for Notre Dame and added five rebounds. Irish upperclassmen

see **MISSOURI**/page 14



KARLA MORENO/The Observer

Irish senior Scott Martin rises for a jump shot during Notre Dame's 93-69 win over Delaware State on Nov. 18.



Allan Joseph
Sports Editor



At first glance, this game seems like a no-brainer. While Stanford is really solid from top to bottom, Notre Dame is inconsistent and often sloppy.

Then you look a little closer. If the defensive line can pressure Luck, he'll force passes. If Tommy Rees can find his targets consistently, the Irish can hang in the game to have a shot to win at the end. Combine it

with a timely big play here or there, and Notre Dame can pull this off. But let's be real here. This Irish squad hasn't shown they can put it all together against a good team.

FINAL SCORE: Stanford 35, Notre Dame 24

Douglas Farmer
Editor-in-Chief



I'm the last one to the computer screen tonight, and as I scan the other prognosticators' scores, I'm amazed. Stanford by 11, by seven, by 17, Notre Dame by three.

Sure, the Irish have come too far this season to give this game away, but there is only so much an over-matched Notre Dame can do against this Stanford juggernaut.

The Cardinal is ready to restate its case to the country after two rough weeks. Unfortunately, Notre Dame will bear the brunt of that motivation.

FINAL SCORE: Stanford 34, Notre Dame 13

Eric Prister
Senior Sports Writer



The Irish have either been more talented or at least as talented as each team they have played so far this season. This will not be the case Saturday against Andrew Luck and Stanford. Luck is the Heisman favorite, and Notre Dame's defensive backs will likely have trouble containing him.

The Irish offense should be able to move the ball and score some points, but the real question is if the defense can keep things close enough. Stanford is the best team Notre Dame has faced, and even with a potential (though unlikely) BCS berth on the line, the Irish will come up short.

FINAL SCORE: Stanford 37, Notre Dame 30

Andrew Owens
Associate Sports Editor



Notre Dame has a golden opportunity to end its 2011 regular season with its biggest win in quite a long time, though it had similar opportunities before the Michigan and USC games this year.

There is no question the Irish can hang with Stanford, but I just don't think they will. The loss of Jonas Gray is a major setback to a hot-and-cold offense. If Stanford's fifth-ranked rush defense makes Notre Dame one-dimensional, then it's game over for the Irish, as Rees has shown little if any reason to believe he can lead an upset of a top-five team.

FINAL SCORE: Stanford, 41, Notre Dame 24

Chris Masoud
Assistant Managing Editor



I worked in Palo Alto this summer, and I saw approximately two articles of clothing worn by supposed Cardinal fans. They have a beautiful stadium, a second-to-none campus, a distinguished academic reputation, a Heisman trophy candidate and the No. 6 football team in the nation. But they don't have real fans. Inspired by Iowa State, Notre Dame will finally exercise its California demons, taking down the Cardinal and sending fans toward the exits with time to spare in the fourth.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 24, Stanford 21