

Return to Grace

Professor reflects on lighting No. 1 sign atop former residence hall during 1988 season

By **KRISTEN DURBIN**
News Editor

In the midst of a surprising undefeated football season and Notre Dame's rise to the No. 1 spot atop the national college football polls this weekend, hopeful Irish fans continue to draw parallels between 2012 and 1988, the last time the team won a national championship.

But when it comes to lighting the No. 1 sign atop Grace Hall, that parallel is not merely speculative.

Design professor Robert Sedlack was a resident assistant in Grace during his senior year and the 1988 football season, and he played a crucial role in making the Irish's No. 1 ranking known to all of campus.

"It just so happened that I was an RA on the 11th floor of Grace and had the keys to the penthouse," he said. "So lighting the sign fell on my to-do

list, and I had to go up in the morning and the evening to turn it off and on each day."

Sedlack began his lighting duties after the then-No. 2 Irish jumped ahead of then-No. 1 UCLA following a 22-7 victory against Navy and the Bruins' upset loss to Washington State. He said he and his friends began preparing to celebrate that change shortly after it happened.

"Once it looked like we were going to achieve that No. 1 ranking, some buddies of mine built the sign out on the roof of Grace," Sedlack said.

They took a page out of the book of Fr. Gerry Lardner, Grace Hall's rector at the time and a Notre Dame graduate student during the team's 1973 championship season. The tradition of the No. 1 sign began after that season, when it was initially placed outside Moreau Seminary, University Architect Doug Marsh said.

"Fr. Gerry was a great rector

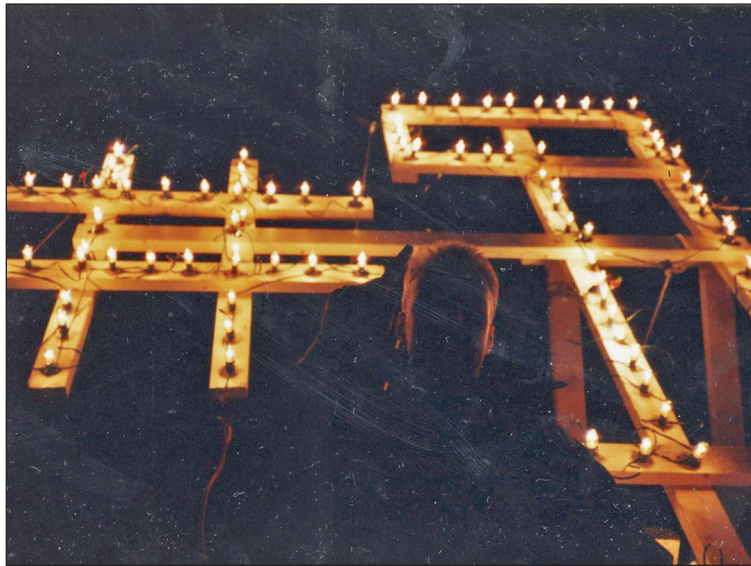


Photo courtesy of Robert Sedlack

Design professor Robert Sedlack stands in front of the No. 1 sign atop Grace Hall in 1988. He lit the sign while serving as a resident assistant.

and we had a good group of RAs that year, so he wanted to kind of redo [the sign] and so the guys rebuilt it," Sedlack said.

But the relighting of the sign came as something of a surprise after the first three mediocre seasons Sedlack and his

1989 classmates experienced.

"Our freshman year was so awful ... a guy once offered my roommate \$10 for a pair of tickets he tried to sell for the last game of the season," Sedlack said. "You fast forward

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Website fosters faith

By **TORI ROECK**
News Writer

The Notre Dame Alumni Association launched a new website, FaithND, to extend the University's spiritual resources beyond campus in an effort to fill a void for religious guidance online.

Spirituality program director Angie Appleby Purcell said the site is available to people of all faith traditions interested in exploring Catholicism, even if they are not affiliated with the University.

"As a Catholic university steeped in rich tradition, with wonderful resources of faculty, staff, students and alumni trying to live the University's mission in terms of how to be a people of faith, a Catholic community into the world, we want to be able to

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Professor honored with IBM award

By **KEVIN NOONAN**
News Writer

Earlier this month, IBM awarded its Watson Solutions Faculty Award to Notre Dame computer science professor Nitesh Chawla.

The IBM award recognizes the work of faculty on the forefront of

Nitesh Chawla
computer science professor



big data and analytics and applying that work to social problems as well as incorporating it into curriculum, according to a University press release.

Chawla, who currently serves as director of both the Interdisciplinary Center of Network Science and Applications and the Data, Interference, Analytic and Learning Lab, was honored for his work with the research of big data and healthcare innovation to examine possible solutions for the future of the health-care field.

"Big data is becoming a cornerstone of the modern economy," he said. "A lot of my research has been around data, data mining, machine learning, network science and applications, and so my Watson Faculty Award was a recognition of that work and a recognition of the curriculum."

Chawla created a multidisciplinary course at Notre Dame called Healthcare Analytics, which

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Gameday celebrates seniors

By **ANNA BOARINI**
News Writer

In less than 24 hours, a 38-0 walloping of Wake Forest on Senior Day and losses by the top-2 football teams in the country led the Irish to a perfect 11-0 record and their first No. 1 national ranking in the BCS era.

All this excitement combined with unseasonably warm weather made for "an incredible weekend," said Mike Seamon, director of Game Day Operations.

"The perfect weather, Senior Day and the undefeated record all contributed to it being one of the best home football weekends anyone can remember," he said. "It was a wonderful opportunity for the Notre Dame family to celebrate both the seniors and the special season we have been experiencing."

Seamon said this was one of the most special Senior Day celebrations in recent memory due



LAURA LAWS | The Observer

to strong student support for the football team and its seniors.

"It was evident that the student body shares a mutual, special affinity for the team, and vice versa," he said. "Couple

that with an undefeated record, and it made for a particularly special and memorable day in Notre Dame history."

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THE OBSERVER

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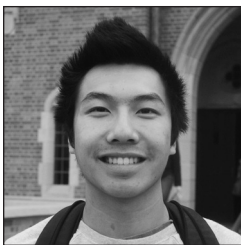
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QUESTION OF THE DAY:

What did you do on Saturday night?

Have a question you want answered?

Email obsphoto@gmail.com

Ben Yao

freshman
Duncan Hall

"I don't remember much. The details are foggy. But there was a pineapple involved."



Jason Popp

junior
Duncan Hall

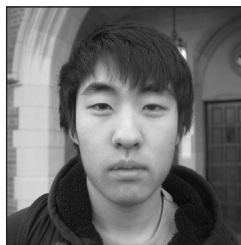
"Shouted 'We're No. 1' not nearly enough times."



Blanca Foncillas

junior
McGlinn Hall

"Celebrating with my fellow Notre Dame friends."



Ray Zhao

freshman
Duncan Hall

"I slept."



Daniel Delaney

sophomore
Dillon Hall

"I ran with my roommates to Stonehenge, sang the fight song, sang the Alma Mater, etc."



Thor Herkes

freshman
Fisher Hall

"Me and Fisher Hall took over Stonehenge."



OE KENESEY | The Observer

Students wave leis as Manti Te'o is introduced for the final time at Notre Dame Stadium on Senior Day. Te'o and the Irish look to continue their quest to the BCS National Championship Game this Saturday at the Los Angeles Coliseum against USC.

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THE NEXT FIVE DAYS:

Want your event included here?

Email obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Tuesday

Women's Basketball

Purcell Pavilion at the Joyce Center

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

ND vs. Mercer

Wednesday

Men's Basketball

Joyce Center

12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

ND vs. George

Washington

Thursday

Thanksgiving Dinner

North Dining Hall

12 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

New items on buffet

menu.

Friday

Men's Hockey

Compton Family Ice

Arena

7:35 p.m.

ND vs. North Dakota.

Saturday

Football

Los Angeles Coliseum

8 p.m.

ND vs. USC

Film: "His Girl Friday"

DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

8 p.m.-9:35 p.m.

Free with student ID.

Thanksgiving Break

Students inspire women through online forum

By **MADDIE DALY**
News Writer

Several women at Saint Mary's have embraced their unique role as women's college students in spreading the word about women empowerment worldwide by contributing to the Smart Girls Group (SGG).

Sophomore Victoria Wilbraham, who serves as SGG's vice president and director of communications, said the group is an online community designed to connect, inspire and empower girls on an international level through writings in a daily blog, The Loop, and a monthly magazine, The Smart Girls Guide.

"Our motto, 'Be Smart, Share Smarts,' encourages girls to share their passions with others," she said. "We do this through The Loop and The Smart Girls Guide, both of which are fully run by high school and college girls."

Wilbraham said SGG currently involves 110 girls from 15 colleges and seven different

countries in its online empowerment work, but the organization is looking to expand at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and beyond.

"We will be launching a campus program in January," she said. "The Campus Smart Girls will be a place where girls from different colleges around the country can come and share what is going on at their school."

Senior Monica Murphy began writing a monthly column for the online magazine, titled "Dear Smart Girl," after Wilbraham and SGG founder Emily Raleigh, two of her close friends, shared their passion and vision for SGG and its global mission with her.

"I quickly came on board and currently write inspirational columns for the magazine," Murphy said. "I want girls to embrace all that they were created to be and to understand that they are invaluable."

Freshman Keeley Frost, who heads the Saint Mary's Campus Program blog and will be featured on the cover of the magazine's November issue, said the

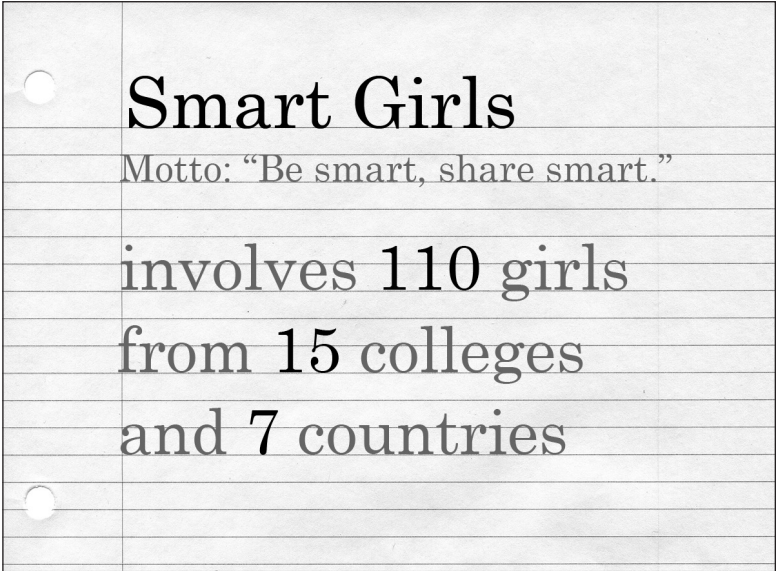
blog covers happenings at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and South Bend.

Frost said becoming involved with SGG and its emphasis on confidence, strength, courage and power helped her learn about herself as well as the ability of young women to empower each other.

"Girls have great potential to serve the world and make a difference in the lives of all other women around us," she said. "By joining the Smart Girls Group, I realize the confidence I have in my life and how I can use it to inspire others."

The SGG's online media offerings serve to inform members of the Saint Mary's community who may not know about the organization or its mission, Frost said, and all Belles are invited to help strengthen the College's involvement in the SGG community.

"The magazine comes out monthly with amazing articles written by other Smart Girls, so this campus chapter is a great way to get the word out about



LAURA LAWS | The Observer

SGG to the Saint Mary's community," Frost said. "I am so excited for it to develop into something extraordinary."

Murphy said she is proud to be involved with an organization that strives to promote the power of women.

"It is a true blessing to be a part of a ministry offering hope and light," she said. "Join us on this incredibly journey as we

transform the minds and lives of girls across the world."

As part of the group's involvement guarantee, Wilbraham said all girls interested in becoming part of SGG are welcome to do so and can contact her at toriwilbraham@thesmartgirlsgroup.com for more information.

Contact Maddie Daly at mdaly6@nd.edu

Group creates book for community center

By **ANN MARIE JAKUBOWSKI**
News Writer

Members of Notre Dame's Student International Business Council (SIBC) are collaborating with the Robinson Community Learning Center of South Bend to create and market a children's book that will bring sustainable income to the center.

The project, called "Every Child Has a Story," was started by senior I-Ming Archbold in the spring of 2011 as part of the Global Development

section of SIBC, a subset of the popular business club that focuses on social and community issues.

"I started it to bring the Learning Center a sustainable revenue source while at the same time empowering the children there by giving them a way to make a difference," Archbold said. "The idea for a children's book project made sense because the children at the center can write and illustrate it, and we can market it and get profit for the center."

Archbold said he works

with four other students in the project group and visits the Robinson Center once or twice a week to work with the children on the story.

"There are about 20 children between the ages of 7 and 11, and we separated them into groups to come up with ideas and then write and illustrate the story," Archbold said. "We wanted all of the stories to be the children's work, so we tried to lead them in the right direction and then give them freedom."

A major goal of SIBC is to

help students get experience in different aspects of business, Archbold said, and this particular project blends the Global Development subset with marketing concepts.

"[The project] started under the Global Development subset, and then shifted to be more marketing based," Archbold said. "Within SIBC, the Global Development aspect used to be international-based projects, but now it's more about nonprofit social entrepreneurship concepts, so that's what we're focusing

on now."

The group has already submitted the first draft of the book to CreateSpace, Amazon.com's online publishing platform, which they will use to self-publish the book.


"Once the stories and illustrations were finished, the stories were typed and the illustrations were scanned," Archbold said. "We digitalized the book into a PDF and CreateSpace reviews it and makes sure it meets printing specifications, so once we meet the formatting requirements we should be able to begin printing right away."

While the initial publishing process will require SIBC funding, the long-term goal will be an entirely self-sustainable product that will benefit the center for years to come, Archbold said.

"The project fits well with SIBC's mission statement, which is 'Peace through Commerce.' If you look at peace in a structural sense, like helping the needy within each society and working to ending that structural inequality in America, you can see how this benefits the community in that way," he said. "We're trying to give kids of a lower socioeconomic status reasons to be proud of themselves, and show them that they can accomplish things on their own and set high expectations for their lives."

Contact Ann Marie Jakubowski at ajakubol@nd.edu

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Faith

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

provide good quality resources and enrichment for the spiritual and faith journey that we all are on," Purcell said.

FaithND offers a variety of informative services, such as video reflections on liturgical seasons and scripture passages, online courses and opportunities to ask questions about the Catholic faith, Purcell said.

One of the best ways to stay engaged with one's faith is to sign up for the daily email newsletter that includes the day's Gospel reading, a written reflection on it, a short prayer and a profile of a saint, she said.

"[Every morning] I grab my iPhone on the side of my bed, and I read the reflection and the prayer and the saint of the day, and many people start their day with that first step," Purcell said.

More than 9,000 people have signed up for the daily email subscription thus far, Purcell said.

Another important feature of the website is the ability to submit prayer requests at the Grotto, a service that existed even before FaithND but is now streamlined. The Alumni Association received more than 24,000 of these requests last year, Purcell said, and they still manage to light a candle for every one.

"The Grotto is a significant

part of the spiritual imagination of people who are formed here," she said "They can't be there in that sacred space, but they certainly can allow us who are here on campus to pray on their behalf."

While most of these services fall under the sphere of prayer, the FaithND website includes three other sections: "Live," "Serve" and "Explore."

The "Live" section provides monthly themes for reflection on how to live a life of faith, Purcell said.

"This month, because we're very mindful of November being All Saints [Day] and remembering holy people in our lives, we're focusing on the call to holiness, not from the standpoint

of 'I have to be a Mother Teresa,' but, 'In my daily life, how am I called and how can I make decisions based on how to be a better, more holy person?'" she said.

The "Serve" section focuses on ways to give back to the community of faith, Purcell said.

"[It] talks about how through our faith we are called to service through Catholic Social Tradition, what does that look like, how are we at Notre Dame forming leaders for the Church?" she said.

The "Explore" section addresses the intellectual aspects of faith, Purcell said, and it strives to answer the questions, "How do we explore the Catholic intellectual side of what we offer on campus, and how can that

inform us as we move forward in life?"

Purcell said FaithND was developed after months of research on the spiritual desires of the Notre Dame community, especially those of young alumni.

"This came about ultimately from our constituency, our larger Notre Dame family, internally and externally, as to where Notre Dame could help them in continuing to grow in faith," she said. "It was really a mandate from our constituency and our Notre Dame family."

Those interested in exploring the resources available though FaithND can visit faith.nd.edu

Contact **Tori Roeck** at vroeck@nd.edu

Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

uses his research ideas in part as a basis for the curriculum and includes majors from multiple colleges, he said.

"It may be one of the more multidisciplinary courses on campus," Chawla said. "Students from each discipline then are focused on how we can think about data and healthcare, how data in healthcare can lead to more personalized healthcare, more cost-effective healthcare."

The South Bend healthcare community has been responsive to the research and the class, Chawla said, and many local leaders in the industry have worked with the class, including executives from Michiana Health Information Network and the chief information officer of Beacon Health System.

Chawla said this kind of outside interest and involvement is important to the class as well as demonstrating why IBM was so interested in his work, especially with the creation of its new initiative, the artificial intelligence machine known as Watson.

IBM popularized its Watson machine by pitting it against top human competitors on the television game show "Jeopardy!," but its capabilities are much greater than that, Chawla said.

"[The class] is sort of emblematic of the work that Watson is doing. The machine is a cognitive system which brings in data and information from a variety of sources, processes it and delivers it in a viable form," Chawla said. "That's what we are trying to create in the classroom environment, where you have people from different disciplines, different backgrounds, different expertise working on projects together and then delivering it in a way that would make a difference to healthcare."

The class is split up into several groups that work on semester-long projects with the goal of operating at the intersection of medicine and big data research, Chawla said. Project topics include studying patient scheduling issues, readmission rates and global health partnerships.

Contact **Kevin Noonan** at knoonan2@nd.edu

Gameday

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The ideal conditions brought a perfect storm of about 115,000 fans to campus on gameday, Seamon said, and pregame attractions on campus also drew in large numbers of visitors Friday and Saturday.

"The Friday tunnel tour had a season high of more than 5,300 visitors, and the pep rally was standing-room only," he said. "The player walk on Saturday was absolutely packed the entire way from the Guglielmino [Athletics Complex] to the

Stadium."

Seamon said the lopsided final score helped minimize traffic on campus.

"Post-game traffic was much better and more manageable this weekend given that the game was clearly decided early on in the contest," he said.

According to a press release, the Indiana State Excise Police arrested 36 people on 49 charges this weekend. Officers apprehended 32 minors on 39 charges, including illegal possession or consumption of alcohol and the possession of a false form of identification.

Sign

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to senior year, and tickets for the Miami-Notre Dame game at home were going for \$1,000 each.

Between his freshman and senior years, Sedlack saw receiver Tim Brown win the Heisman Trophy his junior year and leave the team somewhat in limbo when he graduated.

"I think we thought we'd be OK [without Brown], but I don't think anybody thought we'd be the best in the country," Sedlack said.

"You could make the argument that my classmates and

I were at Notre Dame during the best years for Notre Dame football," he said. "Our claim is that you can't under-

"We were awful three years ago, so to suddenly have such a great team is exciting."

Robert Sedlack
design professor

stand how incredible it is to win a national championship having not had a crappy

Two men were arrested after a large fight broke out in the C1 parking lot. The men were preliminarily charged with battery, public intoxication, battery on law enforcement and resisting law enforcement. According to the press release, one Excise Police officer was injured while breaking up the fight.

Officers also arrested two adults on drug possession and paraphernalia charges.

Arrest statistics from Notre Dame Security Police were unavailable at press time.

Now, as the stadium moves into its offseason, Seamon said he and his

freshman year."

Sedlack said he feels this year's team has followed a similar trajectory in its long-awaited return to national prominence.

"We were awful three years ago, so to suddenly have such a great team is exciting," he said. "I'm really thrilled, most thrilled for the team."

Sedlack said he still takes pride in his former duty as an RA, bringing his wife and children to take pictures on Mod Quad, telling students about his experiences and sharing photos and emails with classmates.

"I feel proud to be associated with [lighting the sign]," Sedlack said. "Grace

Game Day Operations team will work to make the Notre Dame football experience even better for next year.

"As has been our typical practice the past few years, we will spend the next several weeks reviewing the season from several different angles and will identify how we can build upon the program for next season," he said.

To provide feedback on the game day experience or suggestions and comments for next season, fans can visit gameday.nd.edu.

Contact **Anna Boarini** at aboari01@saintmarys.edu

was a fantastic dorm with a good crew of RAs, and we got along well with our rector. Not unlike this year, it was a magical season."

Marsh said the 8-foot-tall sign atop Grace now remains lit so long as any Irish sports team is ranked No. 1 in the nation. Prior to its lighting Sunday, the sign was most recently lit for the University's fencing, women's basketball and women's soccer teams. The last time it was lit in honor of the football team was in 1993, when the Irish topped the Associated Press poll.

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Low-level BP oil workers indicted

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS—The manslaughter charges brought against two relatively low-ranking BP rig workers in the deadly Gulf of Mexico disaster may be as far as federal prosecutors are willing to go. Or maybe they intend to use the two men to work their way up the corporate ladder.

The Justice Department has said only that its criminal investigation is still going on. As a result, others are left guessing about prosecutors' intentions.

"Either there simply isn't evidence that anybody higher up was involved, or the department has concluded the only way it's going to make its case against more senior corporate officers is if it charges and eventually obtains cooperation" from the two men, said David Uhlmann, a University of Michigan law professor and former chief of the Justice Department's environmental crimes section.

A federal indictment unsealed last week charged BP rig supervisors Robert Kaluza and Donald Vidrine with botching a crucial safety test before the 2010 drilling-platform explosion that killed 11 workers and triggered the biggest offshore oil spill in U.S. history.

Two and a half years after the blast, they are the only individuals charged directly in the tragedy, despite a string of government investigations that spread fault among a host of people and companies. BP agreed last week to plead guilty to charges related to the workers' deaths and pay a record \$4.5 billion. But none

of the company's onshore engineers or executives was accused of wrongdoing in the indictment.

Shaun Clarke, one of Kaluza's attorneys, said the narrow focus of his client's indictment doesn't jibe with the widely accepted conclusion that "multiple failures at multiple levels in multiple companies" led to the blowout.

"It would have taken a lot of courage after spending three years and tens of millions of dollars investigating to go back to the White House and say, 'You know, Mr. President, we can't really find a person to blame.' Instead, they decided to scapegoat two people who were just out on the rig doing their jobs," Clarke said.

Natural Resources Defense Council president Frances Beinecke, who served on a presidential commission charged with investigating the explosion and subsequent spill, said the disaster resulted from "systemic failures" that raised concerns about the entire drilling industry's safety culture.

"You can fault two people for this accident, but you cannot leave it there," she said. "You have to look at what's happening throughout this industry."

That commission concluded the blowout was the product of "several individual missteps and oversights" by BP, rig owner Transocean Ltd. and cement contractor Halliburton, with mistakes made both on the rig and on shore. The panel also found that government regulators lacked the authority, resources and technical expertise to prevent the mistakes.

GAZA STRIP

Violence continues in Gaza



AP

Smoke and fire billow from a high-rise housing complex in Gaza City following rocket strikes by the Israeli military Monday. The Hamas TV station, Al Aqsa, is located on the top floor.

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers traded fire and tough cease-fire proposals Monday, and threatened to escalate their border conflict if diplomacy fails. No deal appeared near.

An Israeli airstrike targeting a Gaza media center killed a senior militant and engulfed the building in flames, while Gaza fighters fired 95 rockets at Israel, nearly one-third of them intercepted by an Israeli missile shield.

A total of 38 Palestinians were killed Monday. Two more Palestinians were killed in airstrikes past midnight, bringing the death toll since the start of Israel's offensive to 111, including 56 civilians. Some 840 people have been wounded, including 225 children, Gaza health officials said. Three Israeli civilians have been killed and dozens have been wounded.

Over the weekend, civilian casualties in Gaza rose sharply after Israel began targeting the homes of what it said were suspected militants. Two such strikes late Monday killed five people — a father and his 4-year-old twin sons in northern Gaza and two people in the south, medics said.

Jamal Daloo, who lost his wife, a son, four grandchildren and five other members of his family in an attack Sunday, sat in quiet mourning Monday next to the ruins of his home, his face streaked with tears.

"The international public opinion witnessed the facts," he said, speaking as his 16-year-old daughter, Yara, was still missing under the rubble being cleared away by bulldozers. "This does not require my words."

Egypt, the traditional mediator between Israel and the Arab world, was at the center of a flurry of diplomatic activity Monday. Egyptian intelligence officials met separately

in Cairo with an Israeli envoy and with Khaled Mashaal, the top Hamas leader in exile.

Hamas wants Israel to halt all attacks on Gaza and lift tight restrictions on trade and movement in and out of the territory that have been in place since Hamas seized Gaza by force in 2007. Israel demands an end to rocket fire from Gaza and a halt to weapons smuggling into Gaza through tunnels under the border with Egypt.

With positions far apart on a comprehensive deal, some close to the negotiations suggested Egypt is first seeking a halt to fighting before other conditions are discussed. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks are in a sensitive stage.

Mashaal told reporters that Hamas would only agree to a cease-fire if its demands are met. "We don't accept Israeli conditions because it is the aggressor," he said. "We want a cease-fire along with meeting our demands."

Mashaal also suggested that Israel's threat of invading Gaza was simply a ploy. He said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "is waving the threat of a ground offensive and asking the world to pressure Egypt, Turkey and Qatar, so they pressure Hamas."

"He wants to negotiate with us under fire to impose his conditions, pretending he is acting from a position of strength," Mashaal said.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly threatened to widen the offensive, saying an invasion is an option. Israel has amassed troops on the Gaza border and begun calling up thousands of reservists.

Still, an Israeli official emphasized that Israel hopes to find a diplomatic solution.

"We prefer the diplomatic solution if it's possible. If we see it's not going to bear fruit, we can escalate," he

said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the diplomatic efforts under way. He added that Israel wants international guarantees that Hamas will not rearm or use Egypt's Sinai region, which abuts Gaza, for militant activity.

As part of global efforts to end the Gaza fighting, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon arrived in Cairo on Monday and was to meet with Israeli President Shimon Peres on Tuesday.

The U.N. Security Council held closed-door consultations at the request of Russia, and Ambassador Vitaly Churkin later accused one country of foot-dragging, implying it was the U.S.

Germany's foreign minister was also headed to the region for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders. On Tuesday, Turkey's foreign minister and a delegation of Arab League foreign ministers were to visit Gaza.

Hamas, an offshoot of the region-wide Muslim Brotherhood, is negotiating from a stronger position than four years ago, when Israel launched a three-week war on the militants in Gaza. At that time, Hamas was internationally isolated; now, the Muslim Brotherhood is in power in Egypt and Tunisia, and Hamas is also getting political support from Qatar and Turkey.

President Barack Obama and other Western leaders have blamed Hamas for the latest outbreak of fighting, saying Israel has a right to defend itself against rocket attacks. However, they have also warned Israel against sending ground troops into Gaza, a move that would likely lead to a sharp increase in the Gaza death toll.

Over the years, Israeli governments have struggled to come up with an effective policy toward Hamas, which is deeply rooted in Gaza, a densely populated territory of 1.6 million.

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INSIDE COLUMN

Glorious food

Katie Heit

Sports Writer

As the leaves continue falling and the South Bend weather remembers that it is fall, not winter, I am reminded of why November is my favorite time of year.

No, it isn't because of the beautiful colors of the leaves or the brisk breeze in the air. It isn't even because November brings a top-ranked Irish football team, though watching Notre Dame fight for victory has definitely improved this particular November. No, the reason I love November is plain and simple — food.

Yes, I said food. Thanksgiving is only two days away and I can already taste the vast meal that will be laid before me. I've been looking forward to stuffed turkey, homemade cranberry sauce and fresh rolls straight from the oven. A table full of pumpkin, pecan and apple pies. A meal to be remembered dreamt of and missed for an entire year to come. A meal that will only be matched by the one I will be partaking in next Thanksgiving. A meal that takes all day to prepare and lasts for weeks to come. A meal that has not one, but two turkeys placed upon its table.

People scoff when they find out Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. They name Christmas, the Fourth of July, even my own birthday and ask why those days aren't better than Thanksgiving. The answer is still food. While I love my grandmother's homemade cinnamon rolls, they don't hold a candle to a hot, steamy roll covered in pumpkin butter. I love grilling out, but I can do that all summer. Grilling is not reserved for the Fourth. As for my birthday, there's only so much cake you can eat before you get sick. The turkey remains satisfying for weeks, the cranberry sauce will last as long as I can bring myself to preserve it and it doesn't take much to bake another pumpkin pie to complete the meal once you've polished off the first three.

There are plenty of other things I appreciate about my favorite holiday. I love watching football with my dad and my brother. Playing in the fifth annual Turkey Bowl with family and friends. Hiding in my house while thousands of others battle for Black Friday deals. All of these things complete the wonderful holiday that is the day of thanks. And I am grateful for all of these things and many more.

When it comes down to it, though, when I think of Thanksgiving I think of food, wonderful food. I give thanks that I have been blessed with a full table and a loving family around me. More than anything, though, I give thanks for the poor turkey who gave his life for my Thanksgiving table, and for all the turkeys who have sacrificed themselves for me throughout my past 19 days of feasting.

On behalf of all the turkeys preparing for your own feast, happy Thanksgiving and bon appetit!

Contact Katie Heit at kheit@nd.edu

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

Chartering a new course

Adam Newman

Science Potentia Est

Charter schools may be the most controversial development in American education in the past decade. With the release of successful pro-charter documentaries such as “Waiting for Superman” and “The Lottery,” the conversation about the actual effectiveness of charter schools has been questioned as different statistics and studies have created a rigorous debate over an effort to save American education.

Charter schools are schools that are publicly funded but are administered by groups other than local school districts. These groups are held to accountability standards while being allowed the flexibility to experiment with different learning modules without needing to negotiate with teachers' unions. Many charter schools often have to rely on fundraising or donations from private foundations to make initial capital expenditures and to meet their annual operating costs.

Charter schools encompass a diverse set of innovative schools. Some charter schools, such as the SEED School in Washington D.C., provide “24-hour” support by serving as a boarding school for low income children from grades six through 12, almost exclusively African-American (Toch, 2009, p.66). Many charter schools take advantage of their increased power in the contract process with staff because charter schools do not negotiate with a union. For example, the Harlem Success Academy, a charter branch in Harlem, New York has a one-page contract with few specifics as to teacher protections and allows for individual teachers to be fired immediately. This is compared to the contract in the New York Public Schools, which in 2010 was 167 pages, and

is filled with what teachers can and cannot do during the established school hours and the established school year (Brill, 2011, p.14). This allows charter schools much more flexibility to extend the school year, extend the school day and have teachers provide more support time than a normal public school.

The authoritative study on charter schools was released by the CREDO group at Stanford University in 2009 and covered roughly 70 percent of all charter schools students. The study revealed that 17 percent of charter schools produce better outcomes than traditional public schools (CREDO, 2009, p.7), 50 percent of the charter schools nationwide have results that are no different from the local public schools and 37 percent deliver learning results that are significantly worse than public school (CREDO, 2009, p.7).

While the reviews of charters from the national level may not have shown charters to be more effective than public schools, researchers have found that charter schools located in urban areas, such as Denver and Chicago, tend to do better than their public school peers (Angrist, Parag, Pathak & Walters August, 2011). Moreover, charter schools that have been around for longer periods of time tend to be more effective. Five years is the amount of time that charters need to display whether or not they can be as effective, or even more effective than their local public school (Sass, 2006).

With charter schools, the policy should be clear. Each charter school should be given five years to prove that they are effective. If the numbers and data do not show that it is on par or better with local competitors then it should be shut down. On the flipside, the school districts should allow the groups that run the best charter schools that are proven to be effective the opportunity to

expand and take over the poorest performing schools. Hence, the best schools could expand and the worst would close down.

This is an extremely pragmatic idea that would immensely benefit children, but it will never happen because of the politics in education, specifically the fight that would come from the teachers unions. The idea of a charter school coming into a public school and changing it would be seen as an “anti-union” move. It would be fiercely protested and because teacher's unions are so powerful at the local level, would not happen as a result. The unions would have a legitimate reason to protest, but even with a legitimate reason, doing so would be placing their interests ahead of what is best for students. This is a reoccurring theme in their protests against reforms to save American education.

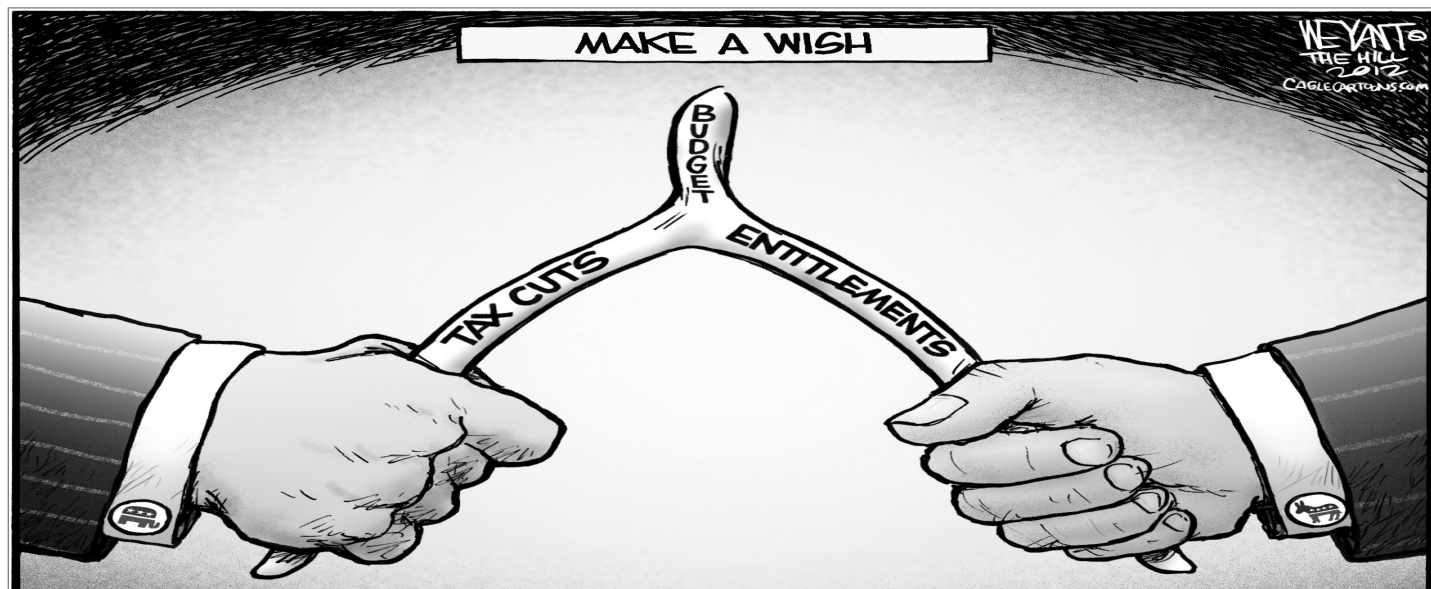
In politics, there is a saying that goes “an ideologue believes what right works; a pragmatist believes what works is right.” For too long ideology has driven how America delivers education rather than what works. There are many groups that benefit from the status quo in American education, and unfortunately American students are not one of them. But by identifying the best charter schools, and allowing them to expand while closing the ineffective charter school, American education can begin to improve. Unfortunately, this type of change is impossible, because as too often in education, appetite and ambition prevails over knowledge and wisdom.

Note: Much of the content came from a Foresight Research Paper.

Adam Newman can be reached at anewman3@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

“I celebrated Thanksgiving in an old-fashioned way. I invited everyone in my neighborhood to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land.”

Jon Stewart
American political satirist

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

True Notre Dame

Dear Editor,

I wanted to share with you and all of Notre Dame a story about Brian Kelly.

My co-worker’s 5-year-old daughter had to do a school report on the 100 Year Flood that happened here in Louisville back in 1937. In her attempt to find someone to interview, she found a 92-year-old Ursuline nun. Having lived through the flood, she welcomed the little Catholic girl in for her ques-tioning and interview.

When they were all done, she and her mother were getting up to leave and the discussion of football came up. Turns out the sister is a huge Notre Dame fan. She told them to hold on a second, and went to her study and pulled out a media guide. Stuffed inside was a letter, and a signed picture, made out to her, signed by Brian Kelly. Coach Kelly also included a Beat Miami pin.

According to the nun, before the Miami game, she had written a letter to Coach Kelly, not asking for an autograph, but instead, to tell him to “run the ball, stop throwing it.” She said she watches every game and paces the floor with her walker. She has a kelly green rosary — a Notre Dame one — that she prays with every game.

I thought the story was touching in a couple ways. This is true Notre Dame, first in the fact that a 92-year-old woman paces with her walker and rosary in hand. I can relate to this, since my grandmother is 96 years old, and still watches Notre Dame football (and basketball) every weekend. If she could pace the room, I am sure she would.

The second touching part of this story, is that Brian Kelly took the time to respond to her. Maybe there is more to the story, and maybe she is a booster, or something. But for Kelly, in the throes of the season, to take the few minutes to write her a response letter and send her some Notre Dame gear defines the man. I don’t see Nick Saban, Lane Kiffin or Urban Meyer doing something like that.

This is Notre Dame. Go Irish! Let’s go boys, finish what you started. Beat USC!

Michael Driscoll
Class of 1999
Louisville, KY
Nov. 19

Thanks for reporting

I want to thank Anna Boarini for her Nov. 14 article, “Lecture explores Church teachings.” I am grateful for her fair reporting of my St. Mary’s College “Theology on Fire” series lecture “The Church and Same-Sex Attraction” which I gave the previous night.

In spite of concerns voiced by some present and former SMC faculty mem-bers that my presence and presumed views would be too “controversial” and “isolating,” I found the larger than usual audience of mostly students both attentive to and respectful of what I said. I am grateful that — at least among the SMC students and others who attended — “diversity” and “tolerance” also included me, a person with whom some members of the audience apparently came prepared to disagree.

As a Saint Mary’s dad of 1999 and 2007 (and a Notre Dame dad of 1997 and 2005), I am pleased that undergraduate students at Saint Mary’s (and Notre Dame) are still being taught to see, hear, think and decide for themselves what is true!

Philip Sutton
Class of 1973
South Bend, IN
Nov. 19

UWIRE

US plays big, silent role in Gaza

The Oracle Editorial Board
The Oracle

Though the rockets and bomb blasts are almost 7,000 miles away, the turmoil in Gaza is not far removed from U.S. interests. In fact, with its economic heft, the U.S., as a seemingly silent superpower, is a larger player in the chaos ensuing now than perhaps either Israel or the Gaza strip.

But as Israel has intensified air strikes and bombs in retaliation to Hamas-launched rockets from Gaza, the U.S. response has spoken as to what side the American taxpayers will be supporting.

While President Barack Obama has said it would be “preferable,” ac-cording to the Associated Press, for violence to not exist, he has consis-tently defended Israel’s “right to defend itself.”

But according to the New York Times, Gaza health officials have re-ported at least 600 injuries and 70 deaths since Wednesday and Israel has reported 79 injuries and three deaths, the human rights violations being brought upon the people of Gaza by Israel are not things the U.S. should endorse.

While the initial violence of the rocket launch is not condonable, Israel’s response — the response sponsored by the taxpayers of America — is certainly not either, and coupled with the history of aggression and blatant disregard of civilian, women and children’s lives, the U.S.’s strategic oblivion is one that goes against the very value of democracy that allied Israel with the U.S. in the first place. Gilad Sharon, the son of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, called for the “flattening of Gaza” in an op-ed written for the Jerusalem post.

“We need to flatten entire neighborhoods in Gaza,” he wrote. “Flatten all of Gaza. ... There should be no electricity in Gaza, no gasoline or moving vehicles, nothing.”

The U.S. has a strong, vested interest in Israel — an interest so expan-sive (and expensive) that it is willing to overlook important aspects of democracy, such as human rights, to secure its own best interest in an utterly undemocratic process.

Israel has received about \$115 billion in U.S. aid, and continues to receive about \$3 billion a year, making it the largest recipient of U.S. aid since World War II. According to a Congressional Research Report prepared for the U.S. Congress, the Bush administration approved a 10-year, \$30 billion package for Israel’s Foreign Military Financing grant, which Obama has continued.

The very Iron Dome system, the system that has intercepted 245 rock-ets for Israel since the recent burst of violence, is largely funded by the U.S, which provides an additional \$70 million for it per year, according to CNN.

While it is incredible that this technology protects Israeli civilians, does the U.S. government value their lives more than Palestinians? Though a 2011 Gallup poll found that 63 percent of Americans supported Israel over Palestine, it is worth a closer look as to whether cozying up to Israel solely because of its “democratic” roots is worth the fiscal and humanitarian costs.

A democracy is not simply electing leaders, and by turning a blind eye to these injustices, the U.S. is further distancing itself from other Middle Eastern nations at a time in which diplomacy is most needed.

This article originally ran in the Nov. 19 edition of The Oracle serving the University of South Florida.
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

You’ve read the

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The Ugly Sweater

Style with Sean

Sean Fitzgerald
Scene Writer

Whether you are just looking for something warm to wear when South Bend's weather gets its act together and reminds us that the weather here really is pitiful, or you're gearing up for an ugly sweater party, ugly sweaters are about to make an entrance back into the public scene.



Photo courtesy of jcpennney.com

When we were little children, the ugly sweater from Aunt Mary that our mothers made us wear was absolutely dreadful. It was especially bad if your whole family had matching ugly sweaters, hopefully no photographic evidence exists. However, college changes people. Students are ready to take risks and experiment. Some may wonder if that sweater was

really that ugly or now realize that the man makes the sweater, the sweater does not make the man.

For the sartorially inclined in our midst, the ugly sweater is an affront to style. It is a crime of aesthetics. However, I am here to argue that the ugly sweater has an important place in the annals of American

history, nay World History.

You may be wondering, what makes the ugly sweater such a wonderful piece of attire? Let me enlighten you. First of all, the ugly sweater is a celebration of the season. It is a celebration of the change from Fall to Winter. It is the perfect transition piece from falling leaves to falling snow. It is only worn during the



Photo courtesy of jcpennney.com

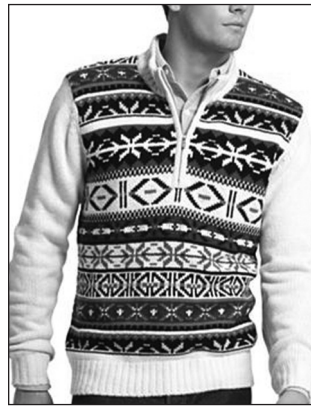


Photo courtesy of jcpennney.com

happiest time of the year, the season of joy, and, of course, presents. And, who doesn't like presents? That's right, only the Grinch.

Secondly, who doesn't love a giant snowflake pattern with a bunch of random geometric shapes all in symmetry? It is the equivalent of the grown up version of making a paper snowflake, but you can wear it. To find and

wear such an ugly sweater shows that you have confidence and no matter what you wear you can rock it. Immediately upon wearing such a sweater, you become that much more attractive, nigh irresistible. Caution: Women may flock to you; I am not liable for any injuries and/or deaths occurring as a result of your impressive sense of style.

Finally, ugly sweaters are so comfortable. They are the male equivalent of yoga pants, or so I've been told. It is as if you were encompassed by the warmest of furs, in sweater form. People less fortunate than yourself look on in envy and wonder, "How is he able to cut down that tree with such ease and comfort?" You reply "My power lies in the odd-looking reindeer on my chest." Onlookers stare in awe. People ask, "Who is that guy?" I claim he is a man of the season. A man of style.

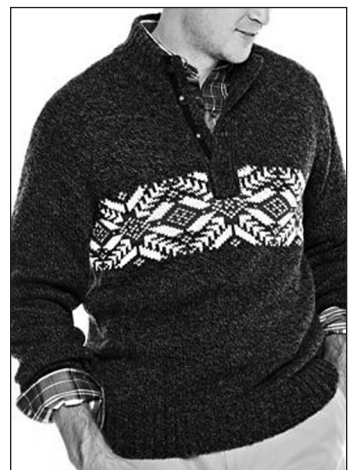


Photo courtesy of jcpennney.com

Contact Sean Fitzgerald at sfitzge3@nd.edu
The views in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

The 10 Best Foods to Have for Thanksgiving



By ANKUR CHAWLA
Scene Writer

As everyone's favorite festival of food is almost upon us, I felt it necessary to go through some of my favorite foods to eat on Thanksgiving Day.

10 – Turducken: This week's episode of Chopped featuring Thanksgiving-themed ingredients had Turducken as one of the mystery basket ingredients and I was intrigued. Apparently, it is chicken stuffed in duck stuffed in a turkey. My mind was blown.

9 – Pizza: Every family has experienced the disaster Thanksgiving where the turkey catches fire or falls flat on the floor. Also for those of you stuck on campus for the holiday, pizza is never a bad alternative.

8 – Chinese Food: Always the contrarian, I have been known to partake in alternative Thanksgiving feasts flocking to the one type of restaurant open in my hometown, the local Chinese place. Nothing says Happy Thanksgiving like Kung Pao Chicken.

7 – Mashed Potatoes: There is not much one can say about mashed potatoes, and yet everyone knows of its deliciousness and the fact that it is a turkey dinner staple. Be sure to make it fresh though, a boxed mash is a disappointing mess.

6 – Gravy: Without gravy, the potatoes, stuffing, turkey and biscuits create far

too dry a dish. While some may say cranberry sauce solves this, the diversity of flavors, particularly one more compatible with potatoes is certainly a necessity.

5 – Stuffing: While not my personal favorite side, most people I have talked to have expressed their opinion that stuffing is the best part of Thanksgiving. I don't see it, but I guess if you don't have a duck and/or chicken to stuff a turkey with it works.

4 – Cranberry Sauce: I do not understand why cranberry sauce is not used on everything I eat, but someone declared that Thanksgiving is the one day a year where it is on my dinner table. I'm thankful for that.

3 – Pie: One of my favorite desserts, the beauty of pie is the countless varieties and seasonality of flavors. The best types for Thanksgiving include pumpkin, pecan and sweet potato. Pecan is my personal favorite if anyone is feeling generous and wants to share.

2 – Turkey: It's just not Thanksgiving without turkey. It's definitely the "key" to a great Thanksgiving dinner.

1 – Biscuits: One of the most underappreciated parts of a Thanksgiving dinner, biscuits not only serve as the carb base of the meal but also the perfect breading for sandwiches made from leftovers. Not to mention they are delicious when done properly.

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An Unexpected Ending to
‘The Twilight Saga’

By **CLAIRE STEPHENS**
Scene Writer

With an entire year of waiting after the last film, the finale of the Twilight Saga, “Breaking Dawn Part 2” was finally released in theaters at 10 p.m. on Nov. 15 (instead of midnight Nov. 16), much to the relief of pop culture across America. After the dramatic/traumatic ending of “Breaking Dawn Part 1” with the violent “birth” of Edward and Bella’s baby, weak and clumsy Bella is at last a powerful vampire.

The strength in this last installment, which received better reviews than any of the previous movies, is its artistic choices in changing the novel into screenplay. “Breaking Dawn Part 2” glosses over some of the lengthy parts of the book — such as Bella’s descriptions of her new life as a vampire — to get straight to the action. The choice of shots conveys her thoughts without lingering too long on her. Another one of these good translation choices was changing Renesmee, Edward and Bella’s vampire/human child, from a baby to elementary-school aged child rather quickly.

The dialogue of this final film is surprisingly scattered with funny moments. The

humor kept the finale from feeling too emotional, weighty and melodramatic and rewarded fans of the books with those awkward and hilarious moments between the characters they’ve come to know and love beyond film characterization.

The bulk of the story is devoted to the Cullen clan’s newest problem: the royalty, papacy and mafia of vampires, the Volturi. This time they are after Edward and Bella’s daughter. Wanting to protect her and avoid being executed by the Volturi, the Cullens gather their vampire friends from all over the world to and stand in battle against the Volturi. Dozens of new international characters with varying, interesting gifts are added to the story. Though their powers seem to be that of superheroes rather than of vampires (control of electricity, the natural elements, mind control, etc.) their presence adds some interest to the sometimes-nauseating amount of emotion bouncing around between Edward, Bella, Jacob and Renesmee.

However, it is still impossible to avoid the supposedly romantic, artistic montages between Edward and Bella with close ups of skin on skin that are more awkward than romantic. The beginning and especially

the end make a point to try to nail into your head the epic nature of their romance now that they have a happy family forever, that this series is really over now, etc. Even if you’re a nostalgic fan, the scenes go on a little too long.

The shining moment in the film, however, is near the end. SPOILER ALERT — the best part is also the least expected and most surprising, especially for fans of the book.

In the book, a very convenient solution is found at the last minute, so the big fight never happens. In the film the Volturi want to fight and will fight. From here the film completely strays from the book into a fight between the entire Volturi and their guard versus the Cullens and their witnesses. Ignoring the bizarre nature of violence and dismemberment in the series, those 10 minutes are the most thrilling and interesting part of the movie, because not even book readers know what is happening and what will happen next. This move was genius, because fighting actually gets to happen, and major characters are killed in the process, proving that this really isn’t the book anymore and anything can happen.

Even less expected is after 10 minutes of crazy, unpredictable violence, it turns out

everything the audience has just seen was the clairvoyant vampire’s futuristic vision of what would happen if the Volturi decided to fight ... but none of it actually happened. Needless to say, the 10 p.m. release fans in the theater were losing their minds the entire time, and never has there been such a vocal reaction from an audience in a movie theater.

Though not a cinematic masterpiece of our time, this Twilight ends the series well enough from the book material it had to work with, and worked even better with what it created on its own.

Contact Claire Stephens at
cstephe4@nd.edu

“Breaking Dawn Part 2”

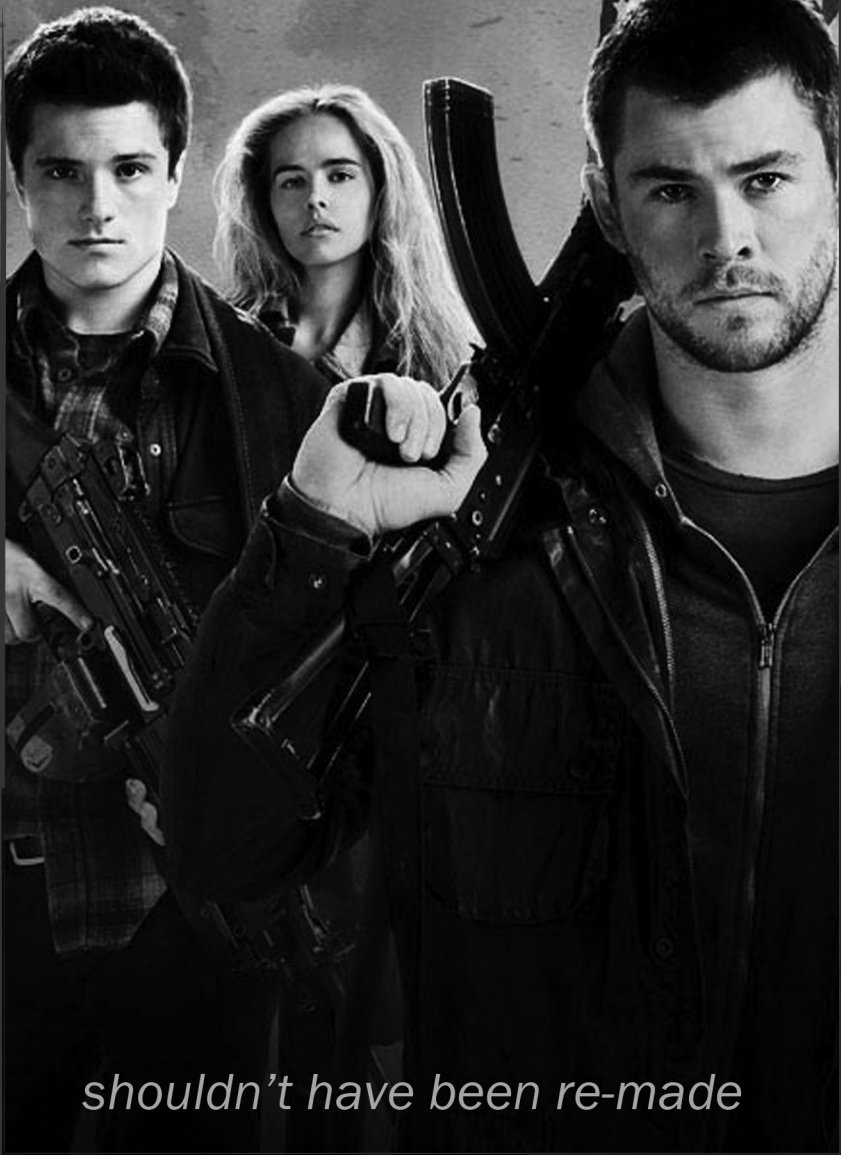
Director: Bill Condon

Studio: Lionsgate

Starring: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner



10 reasons
‘RED DAWN’



shouldn’t have been re-made

By **KEVIN NOONAN**
Scene Editor

10. The 1984 original helped launched Charlie Sheen’s career. Do we want to create another Charlie Sheen? Have we learned nothing?

9. The original had a budget of \$4 million and holy bad graphics, Batman, you can tell. The remake has a budget of \$75 million and holy this movie is obviously going to suck, Batman, this movie is obviously going to suck.

8. Since the original was released, Ronald Reagan tore down the Berlin Wall with his bare hands, torched Communism after sneaking into the USSR by posing as Sylvester Stallone’s stuntman in “Rock IV,” ended the Cold War with his winning smile and did it all while wearing an American Flag pattern tie, smoking a cigar and grilling bratwurst. The Soviets aren’t coming.

7. The kids in the movie call themselves the Wolverines, which is of course the DUMBEST NICKNAME EVER.

6. Go Irish, suck it Wolverines, go Irish go.

5. This remake is the first major role for Tom Cruise’s son, Connor Cruise. Something something scientology stinks. That’s all I got.

4. Lea Thompson and Jennifer Grey and their respective alter egos as Mrs. McFly and the chick Patrick Swayze lifts up in that one scene in “Dirty Dancing” >>>>>> Adrienne Palicki and Isabel Lucas.

3. The most redeeming quality of the original was how straight up American it is. In the remake, Chris Hemsworth attempts to replace Swayze (can’t be done). Hemsworth is Australian. Sleeper cell if I ever saw one.

2. The villain was originally supposed to be China but it was changed in post-production to North Korea. North Korea is led by a guy who can make up literally anything about himself that he wants and the people have to believe it (see: Kim Jong Il’s 11 holes in one in a single round of golf), but couldn’t even make up a girlfriend.

1. Patrick Swayze. Pour one out for a fallen homie.

Contact Kevin Noonan at knoonan2@nd.edu

SPORTS AUTHORITY

Money drives crazy realignment



Peter Steiner
Sports Writer

And the dominoes continue to fall.

Maryland became the newest member of the Big Ten on Monday, with Rutgers expected to follow the Terrapins in an announcement sometime today.

Many believed the shifting, realigning and politics finally ended when Notre Dame announced its decision earlier this fall to join the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) in every sport except football. But, alas, the wave continues with a further ripple effect anticipated after Maryland's departure from the ACC.

With the movement of two more teams, we now live in a world where the Big Ten will have 14 members, while the Big 12 has just 10. Colorado and Utah apparently lie on the West Coast and the Big East will soon include football teams from Texas to California to Idaho.

But the reason for all this craziness is simple — money. It has become more and more apparent with each subsequent move by NCAA conference commissioners, but in this most recent news, money stands as seemingly the only reason for the addition of Maryland and Rutgers to the Big Ten.

By increasing its reach to the Atlantic coast and New York area, the Big Ten adds new markets and expands the TV region for the Big Ten Network. The Big Ten will increase its annual revenue, while also adding more leverage at the TV contract negotiation table.

What else can explain adding a mediocre Maryland program whose football team finished last in the ACC Atlantic Division in 2011? And while Rutgers leads the Big East at 9-1 this season, they add barely any prestige to a conference dotted with big names filled with tradition.

Are Maryland and Rutgers to blame for ditching their respective conferences for the Big Ten? Hardly. When someone offers you a Thanksgiving-day turkey on a silver platter, it's hard to turn it down.

The culprits are the conference commissioners who continue to escalate this competition to have the greatest

conference, most money and best legacy. Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany was not going to stand on the sidelines as another conference reeled in Notre Dame and a brand-new TV network.

But lost in the fray of the conference politics stand the fans and many athletes, who are the real losers in the majority of these decisions. They've become second fiddle to the money and attention the biggest conferences are seeking.

Sure, some schools, players and fans will benefit from the shifting landscape of college sports. Numerous lesser schools have elevated their program's status by joining the Big East or Big 12. And many big-name schools are glad to make the move, like most of the top-tier programs leaving the crumbling Big East.

But in most cases, from the fan's perspective, the disadvantages of conference realignment outweigh the potential gains. Suddenly, a conference filled with age-old Midwest rivalries has been diluted with subpar competition. Schools like Michigan, Ohio State and Wisconsin can no longer play all of their rivals every year, because they must divide their nine-game conference schedule (assuming the Big Ten expands its conference schedule to nine games) between 13 schools.

And instead of making the trek to Penn State every other year, the Big Ten schools must travel to the East Coast every year and sometimes twice a year. These games prove the most taxing for the athletes who must make the long trips and the distance virtually excludes fans from attending these road games.

Despite the negative results for fan bases, the conference realignment will continue, especially as the ACC will look to replace Maryland with perhaps Connecticut or maybe Louisville.

So unfortunately, there is only one question that remains. How long until the next domino tumbles to the ground?

Contact Peter Steiner at psteiner@nd.edu

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

SMC SWIMMING & DIVING | WOEHNKER INVITATIONAL

Saint Mary's finishes sixth in invitational at Wabash

By **PETER STEINER**
Sports Writer

In their first non-conference event of the season, the Belles finished sixth in the Woehnkner Invitational, a two-day event hosted by Wabash College.

While the Belles placed behind the five other schools, Belles coach Mark Benishek said it was important for his team to swim competitively after three weeks of training.

"We had a lot of hard training leading up to this meet," Benishek said. "I think for some of them it was just a reaffirmation of getting out there and racing again, especially on Saturday where it's an all day meet. That takes a lot out of any swimmer. Overall, I think we had a good meet."

Belles seniors Ellie Watson and Genevieve Spittler led the team on Saturday with eighth-place finishes in the 500-yard freestyle and 200-yard butterfly, respectively. Freshman Megan Knobloch also stood out with strong swims in three different events, Benishek said.

"Megan Knobloch had some great swims, especially for a first year athlete, in

the 50[-yard] free, 100[-yard] free and the 100[-yard] backstroke," Benishek said. "I think she had a really solid meet. That's great to see out of any first year athlete."

While Knobloch performed well in the freestyle events, senior Liz Litke had a strong showing in the various breaststroke events. The senior captain finished 14th and 18th in the 200-yard and 100[-

two-day invitational with 130 points, trailing the next-closest opponent Valparaiso by roughly 170 points. Carthage won the Woehnkner Invitational with 730.5 points.

With much of their season remaining, the Belles recognize their need to work on details, Benishek said.

"I think the small things we need to worry about," Benishek said. "Our conditioning is

"I think the small things we need to worry about. ... We need to hone in on those little tiny details and fine-tune them and I think the girls will see better results."

Mark Benishek
Belles Coach

yard] breaststroke events, respectively.

"Liz Litke, one of my seniors and captains, had hands down a tremendous meet," Benishek said. "I think this exactly what she needed at this point in the season. She's battling back from a tough season last year. She had to sit out most of the season due to a back injury so this is just great for her to see those times drop at this point in the season."

The Belles finished the

there, but when it comes down to it those small things can really affect a race, whether it's turns, streamlines coming off the wall. We need to hone in on those little tiny details and fine-tune them and I think the girls will see better results."

Saint Mary's will next head to the Calvin Winter Invite in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Nov. 29.

Contact Peter Steiner at psteiner@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL | SMC 75, ILLINOIS COLLEGE 73; WHEATON 62, SMC 42

Belles split pair of tournament games

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's split their opening games this weekend, taking a thrilling 75-73 victory over Illinois College on Friday night before dropping a 62-42 contest to Wheaton on Saturday at the Beth Baker Tournament.

Junior guard Shanlynn Bias was the hero for Saint Mary's against Illinois College, making a layup as she was fouled with three seconds left to lift the

Belles to a victory in their first game of the season. Bias had a career-high 17 points for Saint Mary's.

Freshman forward Krista Knapke chipped in 16 points in her first-ever college contest, while freshman forward Emily Page added 14 points to the victor's score.

The victory marked the fifth straight season-opening win for the Belles and earned the Belles a chance to play in the

tournament's championship game. Unfortunately for Saint Mary's, host Wheaton was too much to handle as the Belles dropped a 62-42 decision. Bias again led Saint Mary's in scoring, putting up 15 points in the defeat.

Bias and Knapke were both named to the All-tournament team.

Saint Mary's next takes on Anderson on the road tonight at 7:30 p.m.

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you can take/On your knees you look up/Decide you've had enough/You get mad you get strong/Wipe your hands shake it off/Then you Stand, Then you stand

Life's like a novel/With the end ripped out/The edge of a canyon/With only one way down/Take what you're given before its gone/Start holding on, keep holding on

Cause when push comes to shove/You taste what you're made of/You might bend till you break/Cause its all you can take/On your knees you look up/

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame hosts Mercer over Thanksgiving break

By VICKY JACOBSEN
Sports Writer

Thanksgiving break begins this afternoon for many students, but the No. 5 Irish will remain on campus to host tonight's game against the Mercer Bears.

Mercer (3-0) has a five-game winning streak going back to last season, which is the third longest streak in the country (only Oklahoma with eight and Minnesota with seven have won more consecutive games).

So far, Mercer has avoided both buzzer-beaters and blow-outs, beating Brevard, Troy, and Jacksonville St. by seven, six, and eight points, respectively. This is the Bears' first 3-0 start since 1999.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she did not have a specific game plan based on Mercer's style of play, and will instead trust her team's style to take care of the opponent.

"I think at this point in the season we really want to concentrate on us and trying

to feel like we're executing, we're running the stuff we want to run, defensively we're in the right spots," McGraw said after Notre Dame's 94-50 win over UMass on Sunday.

Even after a dominating performance in their home opener, McGraw said she would like to see an improved defensive effort from the Irish

"I think at this point of the season we really want to concentrate on us and trying to feel like we're executing, like we're running the stuff we want to run."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

(2-0) on Tuesday.

"We'll see if we can do a little better job getting some charges and helping each

other a little bit more, so I would say defensively we've still got some work to do for Tuesday, but offensively I think we're headed in the right direction," she said.

Although McGraw still has tweaks for her defense, she's pleased with the harassing, frustrating style of defense that has tripped up opponents so far.

"We've really been working hard at double-teaming, running at the ball, and trying to make our defense get the offense to be really uncomfortable," McGraw said. "That's really our goal, and I thought we did a pretty good job of that. I was disappointed we didn't take more charges, I think that's something we've really got to work at overall, but I thought we had a really good awareness today, of where the shooters were."

The Irish might be playing without sophomore guard Madison Cable, who is dealing with foot pain after missing most of last season with stress fractures in both feet.



LILY KANG | The Observer

Sophomore forward Markisha Wright fights for the ball during Notre Dame's 88-28 victory over Edinboro on Nov. 1.

"Her foot was bothering her. She had to quit practice [Saturday] about half way through, and it was kind of a game time decision," McGraw said. "If it felt better today she was going to go, and after warming up she decided she couldn't go, so she was really ready 'til the tip. She was

planning on playing, but after the warm up it was hurting too bad. So she's questionable for Tuesday."

The Irish and Bears tip off at 7 p.m. today in Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Vicky Jacobsen at vjacobse@nd.edu

ND VOLLEYBALL

Irish face non-conference test against Bobcats

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

The Irish are looking to rebound from a Big East tournament upset this Friday when they take on Ohio.

Notre Dame (20-8, 13-2 Big East) faces the Bobcats (20-10, 14-2 MAC), with Ohio coming off of its own conference tournament disappointment. It was stunned by Northern Illinois in the semifinal round of the MAC tournament after earning the No. 1 seed.

South Florida defeated the Irish in the quarterfinal round of the Big East tournament after entering at the No. 3 seed. Both teams will be looking to return to their winning ways on Friday.

"We are all pretty disappointed with what happened at the Big East Tournament but there is nothing we can do about it now," Irish junior outside hitter and captain

Andrea McHugh said. "The biggest thing for us right now, is to make our practices great for our match against Ohio on Friday."

McHugh said it's not al-

"I think it is hard to bounce back from an upset sometimes, because you look at all the hard work you have put in throughout the season, and then to go home in the first day of the tournament is frustrating and disappointing."

Andrea McHugh
Irish outside hitter

ways easy for teams to have a positive mentality after

an upset, but the Irish are spending this week focusing on working through the disappointment and getting ready for this match, as well as the rest of their postseason.

"I think it's hard to bounce back from an upset sometimes, because you look at all the hard work you have put in throughout the season, and then to go home on the first day of the tournament is frustrating and disappointing," she said. "But, it's so important to work through adversity and come into the gym with more motivation and focus as a team so we can be successful."

Ohio will be especially motivated on Friday, because much of their chance at a berth in the NCAA tournament is dependent on the result of their match against Notre Dame.

"They are a bubble team and they have to beat us in order to have a chance at making it [to the post-season], so they are going to be fired up and more than ready to face us on Friday," McHugh said.

As for what the Irish need to do in preparation for the match, McHugh said the team needs to concentrate on getting back to basics.

"It really just comes down to the simple things like



LILY KANG | The Observer

Junior outside hitter Andrea McHugh hits the ball during Notre Dame's victory over St. John's on Oct. 7.

communicating on the court and taking care of the ball on every play," she said.

Last weekend, the Irish had three players garner All-Big East accolades. Outside hitter Toni Alugbue and right side hitter Jeni Houser, both sophomores, were named to the first team, while junior setter Maggie Brindock

earned a spot on the second team. This was Brindock's second consecutive year being named to the second team.

The Irish and the Bobcats will get underway at Ohio's Convocation Center on Friday at 7 p.m.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish look to break through against A-10 foe

By **MATTHEW DeFRANKS**
Associate Sports Editor

When Notre Dame welcomes George Washington to Purcell Pavilion on Wednesday night, Irish coach Mike Brey will be facing not only the Colonials but also his past.

Brey played one year at George Washington, where he averaged five points and 4.8 rebounds as a senior and earning team MVP honors.

"A lot of good memories," Brey said. "We were watching tape today from their game against Youngstown State in the Smith Center and I told the guys 'Fellas, I spent a lot of time in that building right there.'"

He isn't the only member of the Brey family with ties to George Washington. His wife played volleyball there, his mother was the swimming coach when Brey was there and his father earned his Master's degree at the university.

The Colonials (1-1) enter the game following a 72-59 win over Boston University on Saturday but dropped their season opener to Youngstown State 80-73.

George Washington belongs to the Atlantic-10 conference, a league that has given Notre Dame (3-1) fits recently.

The Irish have lost their last two games against Atlantic-10 competition — Xavier in the NCAA tournament last season and Saint Joseph's this past weekend. Notre Dame lost to the Hawks 79-70 in overtime Friday night.

"I think I need [my team's] attention, we're 0-2 against

"I think I need [my team's] attention, we're 0-2 against the [Atlantic 10]. Let's see if we can beat an [Atlantic 10] team. They'll be ready to go, they're athletic up front."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

the [Atlantic-10]," Brey said. "Let's see if we can beat an [Atlantic-10] team. They'll be ready to go, they're athletic up front."

Freshman guard Joe

McDonald leads the Colonials in scoring, averaging 14 points in his brief college career. Brey said Notre Dame took a look at McDonald but passed on him to make room for incoming guard Demetrius Jackson.

Senior forward Isaiah Armwood, a Villanova transfer, has given George Washington a boost in the frontcourt with 8.5 rebounds and 4.5 blocks per game.

"They're rebuilding it. They have young guards. They have the Armwood kid who transferred from Villanova who transferred, athletic as heck.

"They have some shot blockers back there. That really bothered us Friday night when Saint Joe's had some guys flying around."

Brey said George Washington's roster will resemble some Big East teams' ones.

"[Atlantic-10] personnel is close to Big East personnel sometimes. You have to be ready to go. It certainly will be a big one for them but I think it will be a big one for us given how we played Saturday and how we're looking at this window of eight games looking at



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

Junior guard Erik Atkins dribbles the ball up the court during Notre Dame's 84-57 victory over Monmouth on Nov. 12.

Chicago State."

Notre Dame rebounded from its first loss Friday night by defeating BYU 78-68 in the consolation game of the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament. In the game, the Irish played a lot of zone defense to slow down the Cougars.

Brey said the Irish may play more zone defense against the Colonials.

"You never get to play as fast as you want if you're our

opponent, defensively or offensively," Brey said. "That wears on you after a stretch of time ... I've been afraid to go to zone a lot because we haven't been as good at guarding the arc out of zone."

Notre Dame and George Washington will tip off Wednesday night at 7 p.m. in Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

HOCKEY

Irish face North Dakota in top-10 matchup

By **JACK HEFFERON**
Sports Writer

Two storied histories. Two elite squads. Two sets of interlocking "ND" jerseys.

That's what will be on the line when No. 6 Notre Dame takes on No. 7 North Dakota this weekend.

North Dakota (5-3-2, 3-1-2 WCHL) is one of the greatest programs in the history of college hockey, with seven national championships in its trophy case back in Grand Forks, N.D. They are still a force to be reckoned with though, as evidenced by their top-10 ranking, and a roster that has top-to-bottom talent.

"They're well balanced," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "They've got good forwards, good defense and good goaltending. They're probably one of the top two or three teams in their conference, and they're going to be a challenge — probably the best team we'll face all year outside of maybe Boston College. They're a very good hockey team."

For the Irish (8-3-0, 5-1-0-0 CCHA), North Dakota is merely the latest obstacle in a brutal November schedule. After splitting a series with No. 9 Western Michigan and

losing a 3-1 contest at No. 1 Boston College, the Irish rebounded by sweeping a series at No. 19 Michigan for the first time since 1978. While Notre Dame is certainly riding a high after their winning weekend against the Wolverines, Jackson knows that the Irish still have plenty of room for needed improvement.

"We still have to improve our power play, and continue to work on faceoff. There's

"I've always said that playing tougher non-conference opponents makes us a better team overall."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

always things to work on," he said. "My biggest concern right now is getting [junior center] T.J. Tynan going, and I think our power play is a big part of that. I think we've been doing a decent job defensively and on the penalty kill, but offensively I think we can be more of a threat."

In the midst of such a tough stretch, it might be a challenge

just for the Irish to show up prepared and motivated for every game. But Jackson said he doesn't believe that will be a problem for his team.

"I don't think that will be an issue," he said. "Our guys know that they're one of the top programs in the country. We played up there a couple of years ago, and they manhandled us in the first game, then we held on for a tie the second night. So we definitely know what they're capable of. Fortunately we're home against them this time, so we're expecting a great series and two close games."

Regardless of the outcome for the Irish, two exciting games are most likely in store for South Bend hockey fans. The level of competition should only serve to fill the Compton Family Ice Arena — and, Jackson hopes, build up his team as well.

"That's one of the reasons we made the decision to play them a few years back, was to try to bring in these high-profile programs for our fans," Jackson said. "They're also games that make us better. I've always said that playing tougher non-conference opponents makes us a better team overall. You go into it knowing that you're probably

not going to win every one of those games against those top teams, but if you can build confidence against those teams — that's what matters to me."

Notre Dame and North Dakota will square off this

weekend at the Compton Family Ice Arena. The puck will drop on Friday at 7:35 p.m., while Saturday's game will begin at 5:05 p.m.

Contact Jack Hefferon at jheffero@nd.edu

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MEN'S SOCCER

Notre Dame prepares for in-state matchup

By **JOSEPH MONARDO**
Sports Writer

After rolling past Michigan State with a 3-0 win Sunday, the Irish will continue their NCAA tournament run against another familiar Big Ten foe. No. 1 Notre Dame will host No. 16 Indiana in Alumni Stadium on Sunday in the third round of the national tournament.

The Irish (17-3-1, 5-2-1 Big East) opened championship play in the second round against the Spartans. After a slow start Notre Dame notched two first-half goals before adding a third in the 80th minute to secure the victory. Playing at the same time, the Hoosiers (12-5-3, 3-2-1 Big Ten) defeated Xavier 4-1 to advance to the third round. The matchup with the in-state opponent represents a difficult task for the nation's top seed, Irish coach Bobby Clark said.

"Indiana is a team that could win the national championship," he said. "This is a very hard game. We've got a very hard bracket. I think if we can get past this one we are in really good shape. I

think this will be the hardest game of our way in. So we'll see."

The two teams faced off once in the regular season, with Notre Dame taking the 1-0 victory in Bloomington, Ind. In the September contest Irish senior defender Grant Van De Castele scored the game-winner in the 71st minute.

In the upcoming outing, Notre Dame will have to handle the Hoosiers with some new faces on the

"This is a very hard game. We've got a very hard bracket. I think if we can get past this one we are in really good shape. I think this will be the hardest game of our way in."

Bobby Clark
Irish coach

Notre Dame back line. Irish junior defender Andrew O'Malley missed Sunday's

game against Michigan State due to injury and his status for the third-round game is uncertain. Junior defender Luke Mishu will miss the matchup with Indiana after receiving a red card in the 73rd minute against the Spartans. Following a collision in the Notre Dame penalty box, Mishu and Spartans junior midfielder Wesley Curtis became entangled in a shoving match. Both players were ejected.

"Obviously it's a big disappointment," Clark said. "Luke's a great kid, but it just shows you, discipline is so important in winning games. It was only going to help them and not help us, that was the disappointment. But we'll see. We'll have a look. We've got players. [Senior defender] Eric Tilley came in and did fine [against Michigan State]. We'll see how Andrew O'Malley is, he should be getting closer next week."

Irish junior defender Connor Miller made the start Sunday for O'Malley.

Notre Dame is 7-24-1 all-time against Indiana but the Irish have fared better under



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

Sophomore midfielder Nick Besler fights for possession of the ball during Notre Dame's 3-0 win over Michigan State on Saturday.

Clark, whose teams hold a 6-6-1 record against the Hoosiers. In the last three years Notre Dame has two wins — both in Bloomington — and one scoreless tie.

"This is a big game," Clark said. "Anytime we play Indiana, if anything is in play it's big. We've been down there a couple of times, we've actually done well. But to be honest we've actually had a poorer record

here against Indiana than we've had in Bloomington, so I'm hoping we can rectify that a little bit this coming week. But that will be a great game. Just a fantastic game for the town of South Bend. ... It's exciting."

Top-seeded Notre Dame will take on No. 16 Indiana in Alumni Stadium on Sunday.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Irish to face No. 1-seed Seminoles

By **BRIAN HARTNETT**
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to advance to the College Cup for the 13th time in program history when the Irish battle No. 1-seed Florida State in the quarterfinal round of the NCAA championships on Friday night at the Seminole Soccer Complex in Tallahassee, Fla.

Notre Dame (16-5-2, 8-1-1 Big East) advanced to the quarterfinals after beating No. 2-seed Florida 2-0 at Pressly Stadium in Gainesville, Fla., in third-round action Sunday. The victory over Florida came two days after the Irish came from behind to dispatch No. 3-seed Wake Forest 2-1 in a second-round battle.

Irish coach Randy Waldrum said he was

pleased with the efforts of his defense, which allowed one goal against two top-10 opponents.

"We've been really good defensively for a while now, and we just continue to get better and believe in ourselves," Waldrum said. "Outside of the one goal we gave up to Wake Forest, we pretty much handled [junior] Katie Stengel, one of the best forwards in the country, and we handled [junior forward] Adriana Leon and Florida."

On the other end of the field, Notre Dame seems to have found its stride offensively, as the Irish have accounted for seven goals in three NCAA tournament games.

"Going into the tail end of the season, the last two or three games, we struggled to score goals," Waldrum said. "It was good to get two goals in each of the games over the weekend, and hopefully we're finding our way offensively at the right time of the year."

Despite Notre Dame's recent success on the pitch, Waldrum stressed the need for his team to remain focused as it heads into its matchup with the Seminoles (19-3, 8-2 ACC).

"I'm trying to get this young team to understand that there's not another day to win if they don't take care of it now," he said. "We can't get caught up in looking at it like it's one game away from the College Cup. I think it's a matter of just continuing to focus on the next game that's in front of us. We're doing our part to make sure they're focused on the game."

Notre Dame will face a familiar playoff foe when it plays Florida State, as the Irish and Seminoles met in four consecutive NCAA tournaments from 2006 to 2009. The Irish beat the Seminoles in the semifinal round in 2006 and in the quarterfinal round in 2008 and 2009, while the Seminoles won the 2007 semifinal matchup.

"[Florida State] is steady and a real solid team," Waldrum said. "You don't get a No. 1 [regional] seed for being average. They have enough experience with these guys, and we'll have our hands full."

Florida State is paced by senior forward Tiffany McCarty, who leads the team with 15 goals, and sophomore midfielder Dagny Brynjarsdottir, who is second on the team with nine



SUZANNA PRATT | The Observer

Junior midfielder Maddie Laddish controls the ball during Notre Dame's 2-2 tie against Rutgers on Oct. 7.

goals. Junior goalie Kelsey Wys, who holds a 0.67 goals-against average, has been a standout in goal for the Seminoles this season.

Waldrum said the keys for Notre Dame to pull off the upset are strong defense and opportune plays on offense.

"We just have to be good on the day like we have been," Waldrum said. "We have to be good defensively

like we have been and take advantage of the opportunities we create. If we continue to do that, we'll have a good chance to get past them."

Notre Dame will meet Florida State in quarterfinal action Friday at 7 p.m. at the Seminoles Soccer Complex in Tallahassee, Fla.

Contact Brian Hartnett at bhartnet@nd.edu

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JODI LO | The Observer

Senior tight end Tyler Eifert tries to break a tackle during Notre Dame's 38-0 victory over Wake Forest on Saturday. The Irish can clinch a spot in the national championship game with a win this weekend against USC.

Test

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

position and learned from his mistakes, he has transformed the program into his vision.

Kiffin has simply remained the same abrasive character who has turned off so many people in the past.

It started in August when he lied about voting USC No. 1 in the Coaches' Poll. It continued with his revocation of credentials for a Trojans beat writer who reported an injury. Then he felt the need to trick Colorado (Colorado!) by having players switch numbers. A couple weeks ago a student manager was

relieved of his duties for deflating footballs against Oregon, which the coaching staff assuredly had no role in.

Each gaffe is followed by another, and another and another.

Today, it seems far-fetched that USC was No. 1 just a couple months ago. But its struggles aren't because of a lack of talent. It's because of the coach, whose maturity is less than that of many Trojan players. It's not out of the question that USC comes out with an inspired performance Saturday in the absence of quarterback Matt Barkley, but it would be a credit to the players'

resolve, not the coach's button-pushing.

At Notre Dame, Kelly continues to push the right buttons. His team is No. 1. His recruiting class is No. 3. The program's graduation rate is the highest in the country. He continues to go about his job the right way.

As Kelly's future looks as clear as a crystal football, Kiffin's is losing air as quickly as a deflated one.

Contact Andrew Owens at aowens2@nd.edu

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

Kelly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

and think of dominance," Kelly said. "They felt like last year they let a game slip through their hands with sloppy play, [USC] beat them at their place. So no, our guys are excited about the challenge of playing a rival in USC, but there's no trepidation. There's a great deal of respect for USC and what they've done, but our guys are very confident in themselves, as well."

For Kelly, the No. 1 ranking marks an accomplishment unreached by any Notre Dame coach since Lou Holtz. But the third-year

coach also said he realizes how short-lived a ranking can be.

"I'm sure there's a great deal of excitement, but again, we've got to hit the pause button here and realize that we're not doing this to be No. 1 for three or four days; we're doing this because we want a consistent program that is in the hunt every year. That's really the focus of this program."

No. 1 Notre Dame heads to Los Angeles with a national championship berth on the line against USC on Saturday at 8 p.m. on ABC.

Contact Andrew Gastelum at agastell1@nd.edu

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Matthew DeFranks
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame is one game away from the national championship game and two away from a national title. Think about it. Take a second. Matter of fact, almost no one saw this coming and even less people saw mighty USC's fall.

Before last week, it looked as if the Trojans could still be a tough game for the Irish. But then Matt Barkley emerged from USC's loss to UCLA with his arm in a sling, knocking him out for the showdown with No. 1 Notre Dame.

The Trojans still have Marqise Lee and Robert Woods that should worry Notre Dame's secondary but without a reliable signal caller to get them the ball, the Irish defense should not have too much of an issue with USC.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 28, USC 17




Andrew Gastelum
Associate Sports Editor

And then there was one.

One game to the BCS National Championship game. One game to an undefeated season. One game against a hated rival that would enjoy nothing more than to demolish everything Notre Dame has worked for this entire season. But this Notre Dame team is something special, proved in big road wins against Michigan State and Oklahoma, grinders in Stanford and Pittsburgh and blowouts in Navy and Wake Forest.

Every player on this Irish team knows what is at stake and will play his most inspired football of the season against a team that will be missing its proven leader in Matt Barkley. Notre Dame will head to the national championship in style.


FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 30, USC 7



Allan Joseph
Editor-in-Chief

I don't think even Brian Kelly could have seen this coming in his wildest dreams. But here we are — the Irish are No. 1, and they have one game left. Vanquish USC, and the dream ride continues right on to a final destination of Miami. But don't expect the 7-4 Trojans to roll over. USC is athletic everywhere, especially with receivers Marqise Lee and Robert Woods. With Lane Kiffin's job hanging in the balance, the Trojans will play their most inspired football of the season. But the Irish defense will give first-time starting quarterback Max Wittek fits and the running game will grind out a victory in the second half. It's not a dream anymore. It's reality — the Irish will be playing for the national championship.


FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 23, USC 17



Andrew Owens
Assistant Managing Editor

It's starting to feel like Notre Dame is destined to have an historic season, especially after the top two teams fell last weekend. The Irish have survived close game after close game this year, even when it looked bleak. Why would this weekend be any different? USC might be without Matt Barkley and could be on the verge of firing Lane Kiffin, but this is the Trojans' Super Bowl. Brian Kelly uses that mantra often when describing opponents preparing to play the Irish, but it is especially true this weekend. The 7-4 Trojans can ruin their archrival's dreams of winning a national championship, and that alone should be enough of a reason to play inspired football. But this Irish team is on a journey, and the road leads to Miami.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 21, USC 16



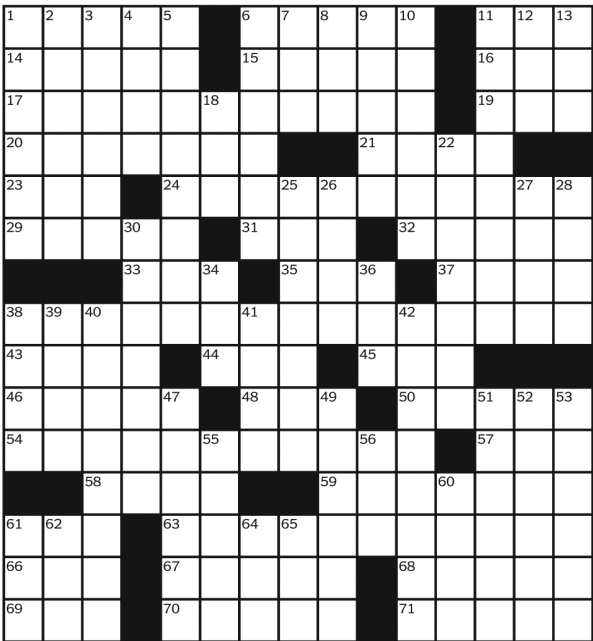
Chris Allen
Sports Editor

After months of preseason speculation, weeks and weeks of intense scrutiny and a season consisting of close games and blowouts, it comes down to this. No gray area — if Notre Dame beats USC, it will play in the BCS National Championship game and attempt to cap off one of the great seasons in school history. With that sort of incentive, some may worry about the team crumbling under immense pressure. I've seen nothing from the 2012 Irish to suggest such a fate. The USC program is probably one bad loss to Notre Dame away from firing its coach, and the biggest threats — Marqise Lee, Robert Woods and Nelson Agholor — will be limited by the unproven backup quarterback getting them the ball. Irish will roll and set off a party from South Bend to South Beach over the next month.

FINAL SCORE: Notre Dame 28, USC 16

CROSSWORD | WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
1 Verdi duet "Madre, non ____?"
6 Gucci rival
11 Wheelwright's tool
14 Cousins of foils
15 Strange
16 Narrow inlet
17 Cows, pigs and chickens
19 Equivalent of about seven cases of beer
20 Watery
21 Deep-toned instrument
23 Sister
24 Location of Mount McKinley
29 Mural surface
31 ____ the Lip (major-league nickname)
32 Buddy of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
33 UPS delivery: Abbr.
- 35 See 26-Down
37 Masculine side
38 One can be found in each of the answers to 17-, 24-, 54- and 63-Across
43 Gen. Robt. ____
44 Otto's vehicle on "The Simpsons"
45 Italian article
46 Frighten
48 Do a voice-over for
50 Out of touch with reality
54 A.M. or F.M. news dispatch
57 Baseball scoreboard letters
58 Cream-toned
59 Certain sedatives
61 Gun, as an engine
63 Sprain, say
66 Alcindor : Abdul-Jabbar :: Clay : ____
67 Direct (to)
- Down**
1 Render harmless, as a snake
2 Impossible to see through
3 "Seinfeld" episodes, now
4 Idea that may spread via the Internet
5 Japanese-born P.G.A. star
6 Former Saudi king
7 Blight victim
8 Actress Vardalos
9 The Mississippi has a big one
10 Cover, in a way
11 Bill Clinton, by birth
12 Go out, as a fire
13 Turn back sharply
18 Void, in Versailles
22 Where one might get one's first pair of overalls
25 Lampoons
26 Bryant of the 35-Across
27 There's one for curly hair
28 56-Down grad: Abbr.
30 Ball-like
34 Hunk
36 Tempe sch.
- 68 French square
69 Inits. on a bottle of Parisienne
70 Tin Pan Alley output
71 Aikman and Donahue



Puzzle by Bill Thompson

- 38 Be frightened
39 Teatro ____ Scala
40 Manta
41 Like the athletes in the ancient Olympics
42 You might not think to use it
47 Quagmire
- 49 Pro wrestling fans, frequently
51 Conductor Toscanini
52 Sundae topper
53 "You're right, absolutely"
55 Total
56 Upstate N.Y. sch.
- 60 Like a door that doesn't afford complete privacy
61 Manta, e.g.
62 Loop transports
64 "Brainiac" author Jennings
65 Calf's place

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	L	T	O		W	R	O	T	E		V	E	S	T
J	O	H	N		H	A	G	A	R		E	C	H	O
A	G	E	R		A	N	D	R	E		G	O	A	D
R	O	Y	A	L	T	I	E	S		J	E	L	L	O
					M	O	S		N	I	N	E	T	I
S	H	I	P	O	U	T		Y	E	A				
P	E	R			P	R	O	P	E	R	T	I	E	S
E	X	I	S	T		O	B	E		S	E	A	L	Y
C	A	S	U	A	L	T	I	E	S		G	I	N	
					B	R	A		S	A	N	J	O	S
B	E	A	U	T	I	E	S		M	I	O			
A	V	E	R	S		N	O	V	E	L	T	I	E	S
H	E	R	B		E	R	R	E	D		T	O	R	I
A	R	I	A		D	O	R	I	A		E	W	O	K
I	T	E	N		S	L	Y	L	Y		D	A	S	H

HIGHLY PUNLIKELY | CHRISTOPHER BRUCKER



LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS | LENNY RAGO & PATRICK CROSS



SUDOKU | THE MEPHAM GROUP

Level: **1** 2 3 4

	3			4			6	
6		5			2	1		
					7		4	
		1	7					8
			2		9			
7					6	9		
	7		8		5			
		4	9			8		6
	5			6			3	

SOLUTION TO MONDAY'S PUZZLE								
1	8	5	7	4	2	6	9	3
9	3	6	8	1	5	4	2	7
4	7	2	9	6	3	8	5	1
2	5	1	6	9	8	3	7	4
3	4	8	2	5	7	9	1	6
7	6	9	4	3	1	5	8	2
5	2	4	3	7	9	1	6	8
6	9	7	1	8	4	2	3	5
8	1	3	5	2	6	7	4	9

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

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HOROSCOPE | EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodie Foster, 50; Meg Ryan, 51; Allison Janney, 53; Ann Curry, 56.

Happy Birthday: Embrace change and you will excel. Follow the path that intuitively feels right. Don't share your secrets or take part in gossip. Sticking to your game plan and executing what needs to be done with precision, integrity and hope will be your pathway to a better future. Speak from the heart and you will make a difference. Your numbers are 5, 13, 15, 23, 27, 31, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take action against bullying. Show your versatility, strength and courage to do what you say and honor any promise you make. Intuitive awareness will be key in making the best choice. A creative plan can help you advance. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Relationship trouble will escalate if you let your emotions take over and cause a stubborn no-win situation to develop. Getting along and listening to what others have to say will ensure that you get the opportunity to keep moving forward. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't settle for less when you can achieve so much more. Put your heart and soul into whatever you do. Someone you least expect will give you the help and support that can alter your direction in the future. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Honesty, integrity and doing what's right should be foremost on your mind. Stepping up and taking charge will help you express what you feel is necessary to achieve your personal goals. Reach for greater equality in your important relationships. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Listen very carefully. Respect and appreciation will be necessary if you want to get through the day with little adversity. Focus on love, generosity and making positive changes. Travel plans or discovering something or someone new will make your day. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Knowing exactly where you have to go and what you want to achieve will make life easier. Short trips and talking to people who can offer you pertinent information will help you achieve your goals and enlighten you regarding future prospects. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Pick a location or a subject that interests you. There is much to gain if you expand your horizons, awareness and friendships. Love is in the stars, and planning a romantic or social evening will lift your spirits and invite intimate interaction. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your past be your teacher when it comes to financial matters. Conservative spending will enable you to stretch your dollar and afford the things that will be conducive to getting ahead. An old idea has the potential to become profitable. ★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep the peace by accepting the inevitable and working with what you have. Don't divulge information that affects someone's reputation. A partnership with someone striving to reach similar goals will lead to greater accomplishments. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Resurrect old ideas. People and places from your past will complement what you are trying to accomplish now. A move will help you put your plans into motion. Develop, present and market what you have to offer. Avoid unreliable people. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Research and find out what will work best for you rather than relying on someone else's opinion. Trust in your judgment. Happiness begins at home. Making your place comfortable and efficient will satisfy your needs. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be in a powerful position when it comes to marketing what you have to offer. Speak up and negotiate a deal that will satisfy you mentally, physically, emotionally and financially. Ask for something reasonable and you shall receive. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are passionate, proactive and imaginative. You act fast and aggressively.

JUMBLE | DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

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

SEYZT
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

CHITK
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

DACIEV
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

NIMLEG
○ ○ ○ ○ ○

Answer here: "○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○" ○ ○ ○ ○ ○
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's | Jumbles: FLUTE JUICE MODEST SHRINK
Answer: The judge's portrait didn't — DO HIM JUSTICE

WORK AREA



Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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ONE MORE TEST

No. 1 Notre Dame travels to Los Angeles for chance to play in BCS National Championship Game

By **ANDREW GASTELUM**
Sports Writer

For the first time ever, Notre Dame is No. 1 in the BCS standings. But given one final road test against a USC team that started the year at No. 1, the Irish have not had too much time to celebrate with a national championship berth at stake.

"You know what, they didn't even talk about [being No. 1]," Irish coach Brian Kelly said in his Sunday teleconference. "A couple of the guys were congratulated by a couple of the trainers, and their first response was 'Yeah, but it doesn't mean much if you don't beat USC,' so that's really all I needed to hear."

USC (7-4) began the season as the title favorite with the Heisman leader in senior quarterback Matt Barkley,

but it has lost three of its last four to Arizona, No. 5 Oregon and No. 17 UCLA on Saturday. Several media outlets have also reported that Barkley (3,273 yards, 36 touchdowns) will miss Saturday's season finale with a sprained shoulder. Despite the absence of the prolific signal-caller, Kelly said he is still concerned about an explosive Trojan attack.

"No, because they have great weapons. [Sophomore receiver Marqise] Lee and [junior receiver Robert] Woods and the running back situation, they've got two great backs. So we're going to have to defend all of those players, not just one. Certainly if Barkley is playing, which we'll prepare for him like he is playing, the offense is still going to be about getting the ball to their playmakers. So it really won't change much in terms of what we do."

Lee has been at the center of recent Heisman talks and leads the country with 1,605 receiving yards. In a 39-36 loss at Arizona on Oct. 27, Lee had a breakout performance with 345 receiving yards and two touchdowns on 16 receptions. Woods have put together a solid 2012 campaign as well with 721 receiving yards and 10 touchdowns after going for 1,292 receiving yards last season.

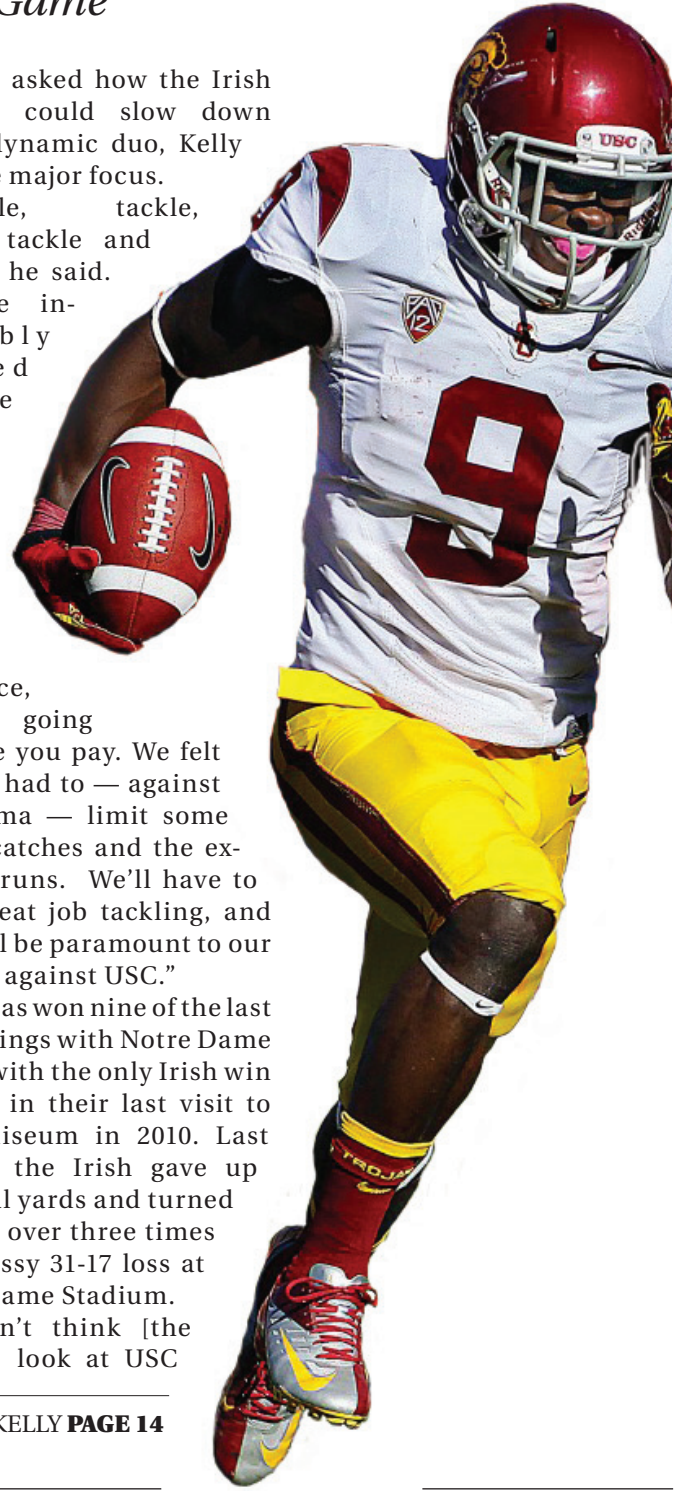
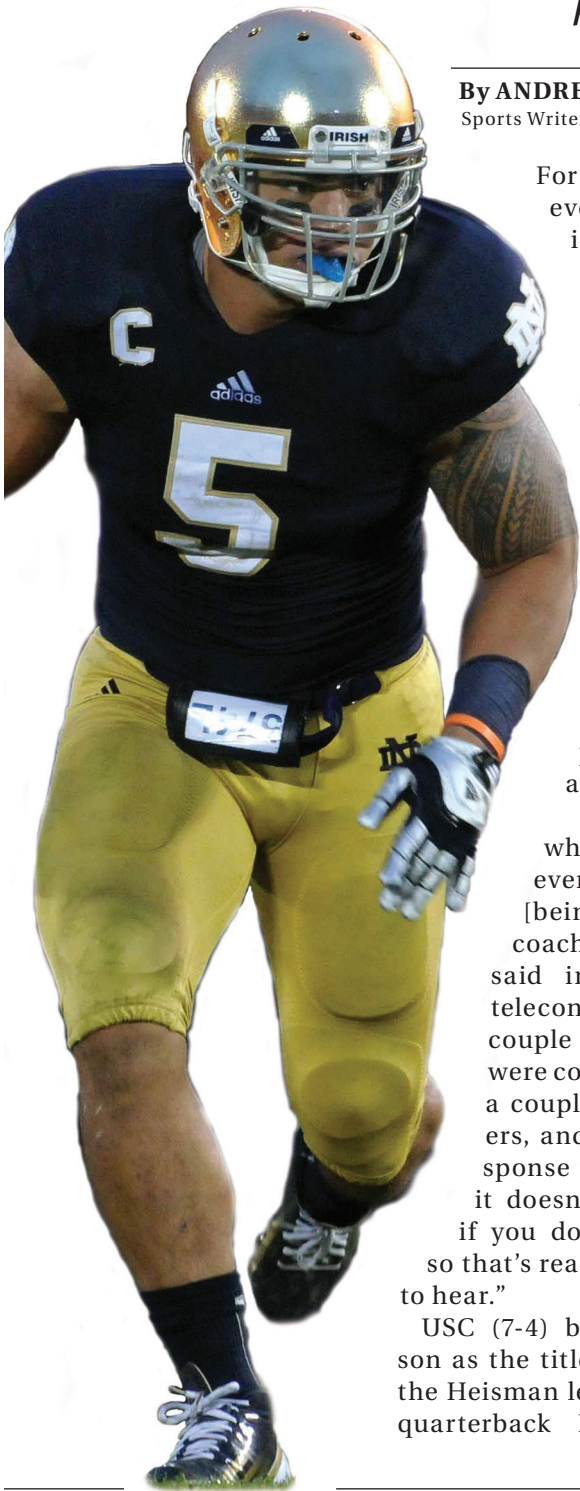
When asked how the Irish defense could slow down USC's dynamic duo, Kelly had one major focus.

"Tackle, tackle, tackle, tackle and tackle," he said. "They're incredibly skilled with the ball in their hand, and if they have a lot of space, they're going to make you pay. We felt that we had to — against Oklahoma — limit some of the catches and the extended runs. We'll have to do a great job tackling, and that will be paramount to our success against USC."

USC has won nine of the last 10 meetings with Notre Dame (11-0), with the only Irish win coming in their last visit to the Coliseum in 2010. Last season, the Irish gave up 443 total yards and turned the ball over three times in a messy 31-17 loss at Notre Dame Stadium.

"I don't think [the players] look at USC

see KELLY PAGE 14



LAURA LAWS | The Observer

Kelly and Kiffin headed in different directions in third years



Andrew Owens
Assistant Managing Editor

When archrivals Notre Dame and USC conclude the regular season in Los Angeles on Saturday, the matchup will showcase one head coach's program trending upward. On the other sideline, the head coach will feel the weight of a 7-4 record, a failed season and a disgruntled fan base on his shoulders.

It's exactly what everyone expected in August, but

with a twist of role reversal: USC, the preseason AP No. 1 squad, has tumbled out of the top 25 with a nightmarish season, while Notre Dame, who was more likely to play in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl than the BCS National Championship Game, is the top team in the land for the first time since Everett Golson was 10 months old.

Pundits can point to many reasons for the Irish uprising and the Trojan fall, but it boils down to this: Quite simply, Notre Dame has a better

coach.

USC coach Lane Kiffin's childish antics have just about worn out their welcome at a school still recovering from the public-relations hit of severe NCAA sanctions. Following a 38-28 loss to crosstown rival UCLA on Saturday, even a victory over the No. 1 Irish might not be enough to save his job.

His third-year counterpart, Irish coach Brian Kelly, took a lot of criticism during his first 30 months on the job.

He doesn't know how to

build a defense, they said. He's never been at a big-time program before, they said. Look at the way he yells at his players, they said.

Poor beginnings — a 1-3 start in 2010 and 0-2 in 2011 — fueled critics' arguments. Kelly didn't have the immediate success predecessors Tyrone Willingham and Charlie Weis did. But he's proving the foundation he laid is more stable than any coach since Lou Holtz roamed the sidelines.

A year ago, in the week

following Notre Dame's flat 31-17 night-game loss to the Trojans, Kelly took heat for his comments regarding the differences between players he recruited and those Weis recruited.

It was atypical of Kelly's calculated handling of the media and his players. Whether he was trying to light a fire or was simply reacting to his frustration, he looked immature in the aftermath. As he grew into the

see TEST PAGE 14

See our predictions on page 14