

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 41 : ISSUE 61

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Notre Dame bound for Bayou, BCS matchup

Irish to face LSU in the Sugar Bowl

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

It will be "local flavor" versus "national flavor" as Notre Dame will face Louisiana State in the Sugar Bowl at the Louisiana Superdome Jan. 3, and Sugar Bowl CEO Paul Hoolahan lauded the matchup as "just what the doctor ordered" for the struggling New Orleans economy.

"If I had written this script, I couldn't have written it any better," Hoolahan said in a teleconference with media Sunday night. "This is going to be a tremendous atmosphere."

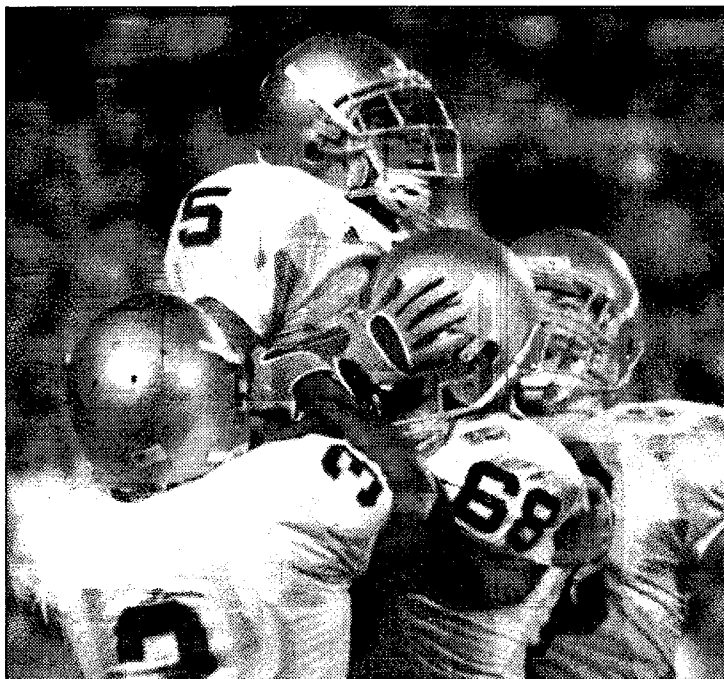
The Sugar Bowl was widely expected to select the Irish.

The Tigers earned their bid after Southeastern Conference (SEC) foe Florida jumped from No. 4 to No. 2 in the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) standings and earned a spot in the BCS National Championship Game against undefeated No. 1 Ohio State. The SEC champion plays in the Sugar Bowl annually, except when it makes the national title game.

With its compensatory selection and first at-large pick, the Sugar Bowl grabbed the local favorites from Baton Rouge and the national powerhouse from South Bend for the first bowl game in the Superdome since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

"We have had some challenges in the past year and a

see BOWL/page 6



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Rhema McKnight and the Irish are headed to the BCS for a second straight year.

Towle tabbed for Marshall

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

Senior Meg Towle's passion for and dedication to promoting international health as an essential foundation for peace building will take her to the United Kingdom next year as one of the 43 Marshall Scholarship recipients for 2007.

Towle said she will use her all-expenses paid scholarship to pursue a M.S. of humanitarian studies at The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, associated with the University of Liverpool.

"I like how the program at Liverpool is about — 'How do we get public health to work on the ground?'" Towle said. "I think it will be so cool to be there with people from all over the world and to draw from others' experiences. It will definitely be an international learning experience."

She expects to complete the M.S. in one year and said the scholarship allows for some flexibility as to how she will use the second year.

"For now I'm saying I'll probably stay on at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, but I could get there and find some other fabulous program," she said.

Towle said she learned she had been selected for the prestigious award on Nov. 8, the same day she was interviewed by a committee in Chicago.

see SCHOLAR/page 8

Aidan Project raises awareness

Sophomore's battle with cancer inspires event to benefit patients, educate ND community

By JENNIFER METZ
News Writer

Diagnosed with cancer on Sept. 25, Notre Dame sophomore Aidan Fitzgerald was forced to miss the majority of the fall semester, but he returned to campus this weekend to take part in an event created in his name to raise awareness about cancer in young adults and youth.

The Aidan Project drew more than 200 participants who sat on the floor of the LaFortune

Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday to make fleece blankets and hats for a local cancer unit at St. Joseph's Memorial Hospital.

The finished blankets, displayed on a table at the entrance of the ballroom, were tied with a tag that read, "The Aidan Project. This blanket was made with love and with care, for each who receives one knows it comes with a prayer."

Sophomore Chris Esber, Fitzgerald's roommate, said he and his friends were "shocked" to find out that their 19-year-

old friend had cancer. They started the project — which was sponsored by Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 — to raise awareness about cancer, especially cancer that affects young people.

"The situation was definitely on [Esber's] mind ... he couldn't believe it happened to his roommate," said Jake Teitgen, a Circle K member. "We decided we had to do something."

Teitgen, along with fellow Circle K members Cigi Low and Nicole Koors, helped Esber organize the Aidan Project.

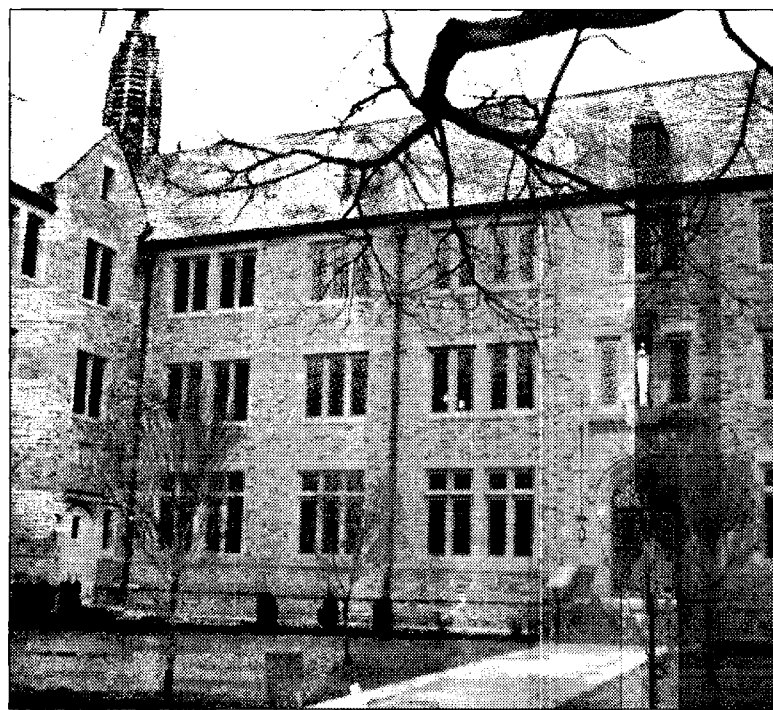
"We did the blanket project last year with Circle K," Esber said. "This year we've made [the collaboration] bigger, responding to this situation."

Koors said organizers put up more than 100 posters in residence halls and LaFortune to publicize the event.

"This is the first time I had heard about someone in our age group developing cancer," Teitgen said. "This project is all about awareness and prevention."

see AIDAN/page 9

Health Center nears completion



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

The Student Health Center building is slated to re-open in January after \$9.5 million of renovations are completed.

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

University Health Services will return in January to its former location behind the Main Building after a year-and-a-half absence and \$9.5 million of renovations.

Throughout the overhaul, Health Services has operated out of the old Security building, where Notre Dame Security/Police was located until it moved to the recently constructed Hammes Mowbray Hall.

Ann Kleva, director of University Health Services, called the renovations to the Student Health Center building "absolutely phenomenal."

The updated facility will be much easier to navigate than the old one, Kleva said, and it will have an improved healthcare

see HEALTH/page 6

Bands compete, raise money for charities

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Three bands took the stage at Saint Mary's Student Center Lounge Saturday night to battle for studio time and raise money.

The Battle of the Bands, organized by the Saint Mary's Dance Marathon Committee, was held to raise funds for Riley's Hospital for Children and for the upcoming Dance Marathon in the spring.

Dance Marathon committee leaders said they were proud of the event's success. The committee's co-president, Pauline Kistka, said if they broke even financially, the event had raised some

awareness in the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame communities.

Katius, a pop/punk band from Dayton, Ohio, won the contest and the prize — a recording session with Peak Audio Productions.

The three bands played to a crowd of about 50 students, mostly from Saint Mary's.

Katius' members were mostly high school students, with one St. Clair Community College sophomore. Katius' connection to Saint Mary's was through one of their member's, who has two sisters at the College. Katius impressed the judges with their performance of their original

see BANDS/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

All I want for Christmas

What's that? I'm in college so I'm not supposed to love Christmas toys anymore?

I don't believe you. But, even if I am too old to drool over the best merchandise in the Toys 'R' Us catalogue, I've always said that you can never be too old to write a column in The Observer ranking the greatest toys ever. I've always said that.

Anyways, let's get this list started.

My list will rank the greatest Christmas toys ever made. Each toy's ranking is in parentheses. Please understand that toys fall under a huge variety of categories and there's no way I'll be able to cover all of your favorites. I'll try my best though.

Let's begin with the Christmas mainstays, the toys that seem to have a permanent place under millions of trees every year. There are the Cabbage Patch Kids dolls (6), G.I. Joe action figures (5), the Pogo Stick (11), Barbie dolls (8), LiteBrite (14) and Lego building blocks (17).

Of course, there are also the annoying fad toys that show up for one December and bring about the worst in parents like Sinbad and Arnold Schwarzenegger. A list of Christmas toys wouldn't be complete without these. They include Tickle Me Elmo (16), the creepy Furby doll (20), and the Tamagotchi (15, because who wouldn't want to clean up an electronic animal's poop during the holiday season?).

Then we have the toys that every kid wants after watching an awesome movie featuring that toy. The best of this group are the Red Rider B.B. gun from "A Christmas Story" (13, although nowadays, this may only be considered a toy south of the Mason Dixon line), the TalkBoy voice recorder from "Home Alone 2" (7), and the tricycle ridden by that little girl in "The Shining" (just kidding, that didn't make the list).

The rest of the list can be considered a hodgepodge of great memories from the childhoods of people far and wide. Creepy Crawlers (19), Nerf balls (18), Polly Pocket (12), Lincoln Logs (10), Lionel trains (4), Hot Wheels cars and tracks (3), and those sweet Nerf guns (2) hold special places in many of our hearts.

You're welcome if I just gave you a flashback to the glory days.

Note that, in making this list, I disqualified generic toys like bicycles, sleds, video games and board games. Also, I steered clear of educational toys because they generally are not fun to play with. Finally, I am sorry if this list is somewhat gender-biased. Actually, no, I'm not.

Without further ado, I will name the greatest Christmas toy of all time: The Hess Truck. That's right. With a new design every year since 1964, the Hess Truck is an affordable, must-have for tons of people every year.

This year's Hess Truck comes with a helicopter and a flatbed truck, all equipped with flashing lights. The great song on its commercials clinches the top spot for this one-of-a-kind toy. "For Christmaaaaaaaaaaasss this year...the Hess truck's here!"

Fran Tolan

Sports Writer

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

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How do you think Notre Dame will fare in the Sugar Bowl?



Andy Hank
junior
O'Neill

"Notre Dame 31, LSU 28, in overtime."



Joe Mancuso
sophomore
Fisher

"Better than Mark May says we will, but not well enough to win."



Kevin Carrier
junior
Fisher

"Hopefully better than the Fiesta Bowl."



Meghan Chidsey
senior
off campus

"It will be sweet."



Monica Regnier
senior
Breen-Phillips

"It will be a piece of cake."



Patrick Miller
junior
Fisher

"Better than the Republicans in the last midterm election."



Saint Mary's freshman Rebecca Schiappa performs acoustic originals at the College's Student Center lounge Saturday night. Schiappa, along with two other bands, competed in a Battle of the Bands to raise money for Riley Hospital for Children.

OFFBEAT

Hawking: Humans must colonize other planets

LONDON — Humans must colonize planets in other solar systems traveling there using "Star Trek"-style propulsion or face extinction, renowned British cosmologist Stephen Hawking said Thursday.

Referring to complex theories and the speed of light, Hawking, the wheel-chair bound Cambridge University physicist, told BBC radio that theoretical advances could revolutionize the velocity of space travel and make such colonies possible.

"Sooner or later disasters

such as an asteroid collision or a nuclear war could wipe us all out," said Professor Hawking, who was crippled by a muscle disease at the age of 21 and who speaks through a computerized voice synthesizer.

Swedes guard Christmas goat from vandals

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — For 40 years it has been torched, vandalized, had its legs cut off and even been run over by a car. But officials in the Swedish city of Gavle are guaranteeing that this year's giant straw Christmas goat — the victim of Sweden's most violent

yule tradition — will survive unscathed.

The 43-foot-high goat — a centuries-old yule symbol that preceded Santa Claus as the bringer of gifts to Swedish homes — has been burned down 22 times since it was first set up in Gavle's square on Dec. 3, 1966.

But for its 40th anniversary Sunday, officials think they have finally outsmarted the resourceful vandals by dousing the battered ram with flame-resistant chemicals normally used on airplanes.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A memorial mass will be held today for senior Caitlin Brann in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m.

Jeff Jackson, the head coach of Notre Dame's hockey team, will discuss the first part of the season and look forward to the remaining games at noon at Legends Wednesday.

The Notre Dame's women's basketball team will play Purdue Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

All full-time faculty and staff are invited to a Christmas open house Thursday by University President Father John Jenkins and Officers of the University. The event lasts from 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Main Building.

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

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

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 28 LOW 16	HIGH 21 LOW 16	HIGH 34 LOW 27	HIGH 38 LOW 17	HIGH 26 LOW 16	HIGH 26 LOW 23

Atlanta 48 / 26 Boston 37 / 25 Chicago 28 / 13 Denver 45 / 24 Houston 55 / 34 Los Angeles 76 / 45 Minneapolis 21 / 6 New York 41 / 29 Philadelphia 39 / 27 Phoenix 71 / 44 Seattle 44 / 39 St. Louis 37 / 22 Tampa 67 / 47 Washington 37 / 26

ND Air Force ROTC spreads holiday cheer

Field Day benefits underprivileged children

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

A Field Day ushered in the Christmas season at Saint Mary's Saturday as underprivileged children visited with Santa Claus and watched performances by the Undertones and the Notre Dame Pom Squad Saturday at Angela Athletic Facility.

Members of the Arnold Air Society (AAS), the service organization associated with Notre Dame Air Force ROTC, and the Silver Wings, the Arnold Air Society's civilian counterpart, hosted the event.

Notre Dame junior Christine Rini, the organizer of the event and an AAS member, said the children came from various "centers" in the area.

"Some were from low-income families that go to after school programs," Rini said. "Others were from homeless shelters, and some came from emotionally disturbed families."

Volunteers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's assisted children with making gingerbread houses, decorating cookies,

painting faces and making Popsicle stick reindeer.

The children had the opportunity to take their picture with Santa and then his elves handed out presents, Rini said. The presents the children received came from the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. The AAS paid for everything else, including pizza, supplies and transportation. They hired a charter bus to transport children to and from the facility.

Rini said the Field Day had been in existence for approximately the past five years, but said this is only the second year the event was held in Angela Athletic Facility.

In the past, the Field Day was held at the Armory, but Rini said the distance from campus was a problem in getting volunteers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

"This location is excellent because the basketball court is a relatively closed-off area and it's easier to get volunteers to come out [to help us]," Rini said.

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Professor writes book on St. Nick

Story traces modern versions of Santa Claus to medieval roots

Special to The Observer

"Saint Nicholas in America: Christmas Holy Day and Holiday," by Rev. Nicholas Ayo, C.S.C., professor emeritus in the Program of Liberal Studies at Notre Dame, was recently published by Corby Books.

The book makes use of ancient and medieval sources as well as more modern and widely familiar poems, sketches and stories to bring Saint Nicholas into sharper focus while avoiding the quarrel of secular and religious holiday makers. "Christ in Christmas," says Father Ayo, "is rooted in every child's memories of an astonishing intervention of love in their life, found, of all places, in their stockings."

It may be difficult to discern in the heroic and daunting figure of the fourth century Bishop of Myra, the "jolly old elf" of Clement Clarke Moore's endearing and sentimental "Twas the Night Before Christmas" poem. The saint whose feast the Catholic Church celebrates on Dec. 6 may well have been such a pleasantly avuncular gentleman, but he

is also remembered as a powerful leader who rescued many young women from sexual slavery, intimidated vengeful emperors, came between the executioner's axe and the neck of a condemned prisoner, plucked despairing seafarers from perfect storms, and overwhelmed a threatened famine with a miraculous abundance of grain.

Writing of these older and more stirring accounts of his patron saint, Father Ayo remarks that "it does not take much imagination to wonder if the Santa Claus, who descends upon our roof, or the comic book superman, who swoops down upon our city, owe some of their inspiration and the cut of their figure to the original aerial wonder-worker, good Saint Nicholas."

He also insists that these older stories are far more than hyperbolic folk tales. In recalling the story which inspired Gentile da Fabriano's 15th century painting, "Saint Nicholas Saves a Ship from Sinking," Father Ayo observes that "here is prayer tested and grace pledged whatever the

trial. The presence of the Church in Bishop Saint Nicholas overcomes the sinking feeling that human life is doomed and we are about to perish in the vicissitudes of history or the personal disasters of our lifetime without rescue from a saving God."

High praise for the book came in an early review by University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy, who recommended its "marvelous blend of scholarship and effective narration," adding that Father Ayo "has traced the stories connected to good Saint Nicholas (generous spirit and miracle worker) with the development in the cultural context of secular America of the Christmas season tradition of jolliness and gift-giving for which Santa Claus is the most popular carrying image."

Undoubtedly, the infectious joy of this plump, ebullient and snowy-bearded saint disguises the deadly serious mission he comes to accomplish, but of course the same could be said of the adorable Baby whose birth he so conspicuously assists us in celebrating.

Ceramic Sale!

Pottery made by faculty, graduate and undergraduate students



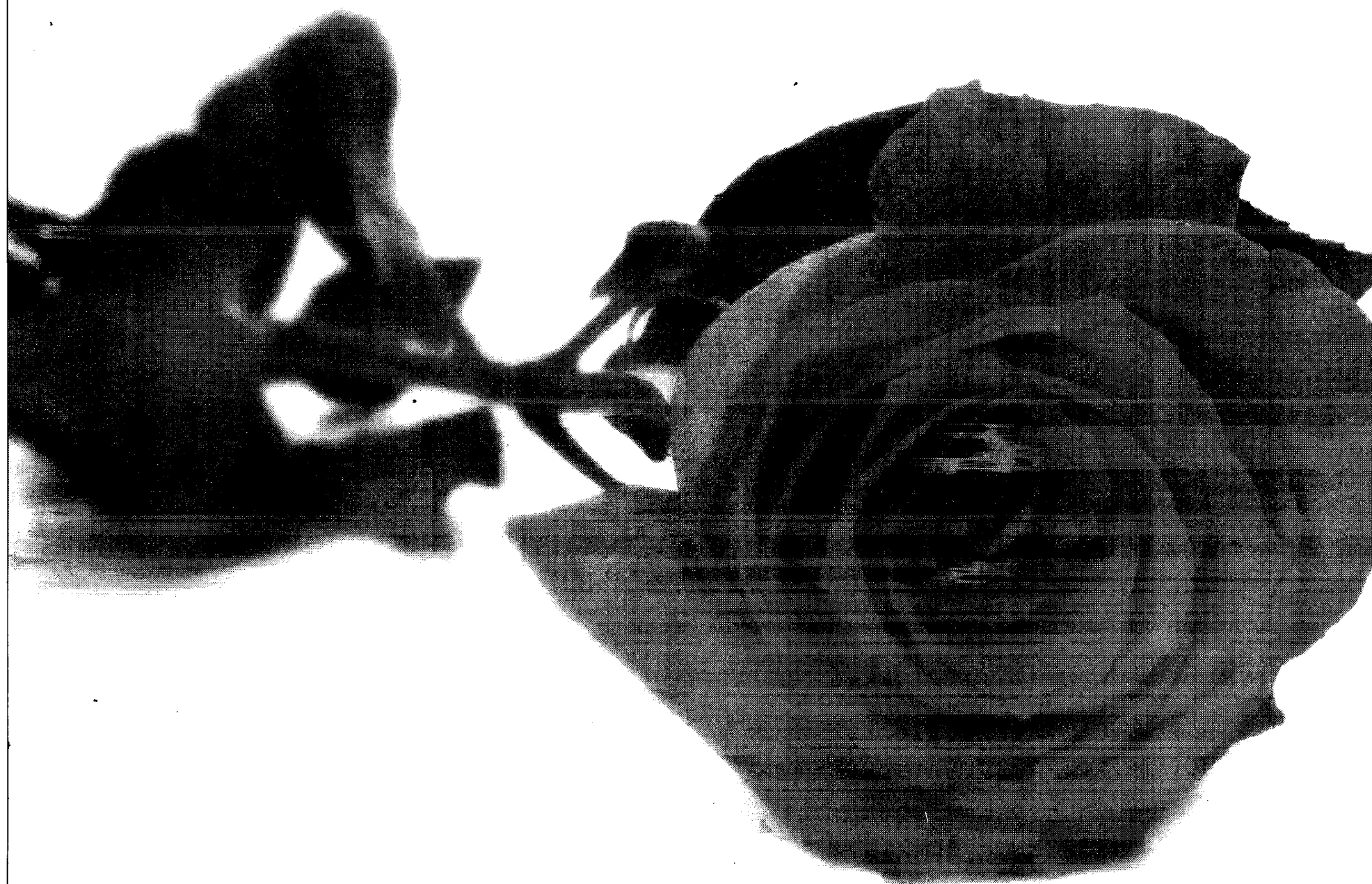
Dec. 4, 5, 6th

From 9:00am to 4:00pm

Riley Hall of ART Room 122

Come get your Christmas gifts!

Want to draw a comic? Call Mike at 631-4542.



A MEMORIAL MASS
FOR CAITLIN BRANN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006, 5:15 PM
BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

CAITLIN M. BRANN
OCTOBER 30, 1984 - NOVEMBER 10, 2006

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

One dead in Islamic religious clash

BEIRUT — Violent clashes broke out Sunday between Shiite and Sunni Muslims in the capital, leaving one man dead from gunshot wounds and 21 others injured at a time when tensions throughout Lebanon threaten the country's fragile sectarian and political balance.

Tension has been running high in Lebanon, particularly since Friday when Hezbollah supporters began an open-ended sit-in in Beirut in an effort to bring down the government of Prime Minister Fuad Saniora.

Saniora, emboldened by Arab and international support for his U.S.-backed government, vowed on Sunday to stay in office despite the ongoing protests.

Amid the sound of revolutionary and nationalist songs blaring from protesters' tents set up in the heart of Beirut, a Mass was held at Saniora's office in memory of Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, who was assassinated by gunmen in a Beirut suburb last month.

Chavez anticipates election victory

CARACAS — President Hugo Chavez sought another six-year term Sunday in an election that weighed the popularity of his oil-funded hand-outs to the poor against fears of increasingly authoritarian rule by one of the Bush administration's most outspoken overseas opponents.

Chavez anticipated a crushing victory over tough-talking political veteran Manuel Rosales who has galvanized the opposition by promising to unseat a man he accuses of edging the country toward totalitarianism.

Voters waited for hours in snaking lines, and elections officials predicted a record turnout. An independent AP-Ipsos poll last month gave Chavez a double-digit advantage.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush: Changes, troops needed in Iraq

WASHINGTON — While President Bush acknowledges the need for major changes in Iraq, he will not use this week's Iraq Study Group report as political cover for bringing troops home, his national security adviser said Sunday.

"We have not failed in Iraq," Stephen Hadley said as he made the talk show rounds. "We will fail in Iraq if we pull out our troops before we're in a position to help the Iraqis succeed."

But he added: "The president understands that we need to have a way forward in Iraq that is more successful."

The White House readied for an important week in the debate over Iraq: Bush planned a meeting Monday with Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the Shiite leader of the largest bloc in Iraq's parliament, and awaited the recommendations Wednesday from the bipartisan commission.

Power loss intensifies storm damage

ST. LOUIS — The temperature barely rose into the 20s Sunday as hundreds of thousands waited for their electricity to be restored after it was knocked out in a devastating snow storm.

Tawana Jean Cooper and her family spent Sunday at a Red Cross warming center in St. Louis, which they reached a day earlier from her suburban home after roads were cleared of ice, downed power lines and broken tree limbs.

"They know this is not home. They know this is a disaster," Cooper said as she cradled her 5-month-old granddaughter in her arms.

LOCAL NEWS

Prison guard charged with sex crime

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — A female former corrections officer has been charged with felony sexual misconduct after police say she had sex with a 16-year-old male inmate at the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility.

A judge on Friday entered a not guilty plea for Margaret A. Wiley, 27, who was fired from the facility in October. Wiley has been charged with felony sexual misconduct and a misdemeanor count of trafficking with an inmate.

Wiley was released from jail on a \$3,250 bond and was ordered not to contact the boy. Wiley faces up to four years in prison if she is convicted of the charges.

Hopefuls prepare for 2008 bid

Sens. Clinton, Bayh step up exploratory efforts for White House candidacy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton met on Sunday with New York's Democratic governor-elect to solicit his support for her likely White House bid, the latest indication she is stepping up plans to join a growing field of potential contenders for 2008.

One rival, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, announced Sunday he was establishing an exploratory committee to raise money for a possible presidential run. He expects to decide over the Christmas holidays whether to seek his party's nomination.

A top aide to Clinton said he did not know when the former first lady would decide about pursuing the presidency or set up an exploratory committee. Clinton aides, however, have begun interviewing possible campaign staffers in recent weeks, Howard Wolfson said.

Clinton, who long has topped national polls of Democratic hopefuls, spent two hours with Gov.-elect Eliot Spitzer at his Manhattan home.

"We just had a great, wide-ranging meeting on so many issues that affect the city, the state and the country," Clinton said as she left the meeting.

Last week she contacted leading state lawmakers, including Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel and Nita Lowey, and the state party chairman, Denny Farrell, to assess her prospects and seek their support.

Clinton's Senate colleague, Chuck Schumer, told reporters Sunday that Clinton had called him to arrange a meeting next week. But he was coy about the purpose of the get-together.

"She wants to sit down and talk next week, which we're going to do. It could be about legislation. I have no idea what it's about, and until we sit down and talk that's all I'm going to say about it," said Schumer. He



Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind. speaks in Denver July 24. Bayh announced his intention Sunday to take the first official step toward a 2008 presidential campaign early next week.

added, "I think she'd make a very good president but let's wait and see. Everyone's sort of jumping the gun."

Wolfson told The Associated Press that Clinton "is reaching out to her colleagues in the New York delegation and asking for their advice and counsel and their support if she decides to make a run."

Clinton easily won re-election last month to a second term in the Senate. Wolfson noted that Clinton long has said she would begin actively considering a presidential bid after that election. "That process has begun," Wolfson said.

Thirteen months before the first votes are cast in the

nomination process, the presidential jockeying has intensified in both parties.

Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack announced his bid for the Democratic nod last week; Bayh is taking the initial steps; and others, such as the party's 2004 ticket of Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, are weighing possible runs.

The effort comes as Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, a rising star in Democratic politics, enjoys a wave of publicity and momentum around a possible White House bid.

Obama, a clear challenger to Clinton's front-runner status, has appeared before

huge crowds around the country, promoting his best-selling book, "The Audacity of Hope."

He met with aides in Chicago last week and they expect him to disclose his intentions about a 2008 run in a matter of weeks.

On the Republican side, Sen. John McCain of Arizona and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani have established exploratory committees; so, too, has long-shot candidate Rep. Duncan Hunter of California. Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is moving toward a possible bid and Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback is expected to announce soon about his intentions.

CHILE

Pinochet to face rocky recovery

Associated Press

SANTIAGO — Gen. Augusto Pinochet, whose 17-year dictatorship carried out thousands of political killings and widespread torture, was fighting for his life in a Chilean hospital Sunday after suffering a heart attack. But doctors said his condition was improving after an emergency procedure to restore blood flow to his heart.

Doctors initially said they planned bypass surgery Sunday on the 91-year-old former strongman but they later ruled it out. Dr. Juan Ignacio Vergara, a member of the team treating Pinochet, said the surgery was not

needed after an angioplasty performed in the morning to clear a heart artery obstruction "allowed improvement in his condition."

"No bypass has been performed and we expect no open heart surgery will be necessary," Vergara said on Sunday afternoon, explaining that such surgery was extremely risky for someone of Pinochet's age.

"There is a trend toward improvement," he said. "He is conscious, he communicates with us and with his family."

But Vergara made clear Pinochet's condition continues to be serious "and the next 24 to 48 hours will be critical to see whether other complications

appear." He said an accumulation of fluid in Pinochet's lungs "was a secondary problem that has been solved."

Earlier Pinochet's younger son, Marco Antonio Pinochet, said his father had been "virtually rescued from death" with the angioplasty. The former leader's spokesman, retired Gen. Guillermo Garin, said last rites had been administered.

"We are now in the hands of God and of the doctors. My father is in very bad condition," the son said at Gen. Luis Felipe Brieba Military Hospital.

Vergara said earlier in the day that the heart attack was "indeed life threatening," especially because of Pinochet's age.

Bowl

continued from page 1

half, but we are really excited to bring the Sugar Bowl back to its hometown," Hoolahan said. "What better way to bring it back than with two teams of the quality of LSU and Notre Dame. ... The two of these teams together in New Orleans is just what the doctor ordered. This is an absolute panacea for what's happened here, where we need to go and what has to happen in the future. It's a godsend."

Last season's Sugar Bowl was relocated to Atlanta.

Hoolahan said past Sugar Bowls averaged around \$150 million in economic impact for the New Orleans area, and past games with national championship implications brought up to \$250 million to the city. Throughout the teleconference, Irish coach Charlie Weis repeated his happiness that the Sugar Bowl will host an attractive matchup for the rebuilding Crescent City.

"We're just delighted to be coming to New Orleans," Weis said. "To be able to pick LSU in their home state for their local flavor matched up with Notre Dame for its national flavor, I think this is a perfect setup."

Hoolahan said the propensity for Tiger fans to visit restaurants and shops in New

Orleans when LSU has played occasional home games at the Superdome overcame concerns about the possibility of few LSU fans booking hotels for the game.

"I think everybody close to the program is certainly glad to see us playing in New Orleans," LSU coach Les Miles said. "We really enjoy that city. It's a wonderful place and we can hardly wait to get there."

Hoolahan said the Irish had their own set of benefits, and those were not limited to Notre Dame's ability to attract fans and generate high television ratings. Hoolahan said Notre Dame's unique position in the BCS, with athletic director Kevin White the only member of the BCS' board of managers to be a representative of one university, is a major bonus for the Irish when the BCS bowls make their selections.

"The fact that he is seated at the table and directly negotiating for Notre Dame makes a huge difference ... from the standpoint of just representing one entity," Hoolahan said. "It's a great tribute to the school that they have that one person at the table."

The other members are the 11 Division I-A conference commissioners and the representatives of the four traditional bowl games in the BCS.

Both the Tigers (No. 4 in the BCS standings) and Irish (No. 11) finished 10-2 with their losses coming to top-10 teams. LSU lost 7-3 at No. 9 Auburn Sept. 16 and 23-10 in

Gainesville to Florida. Notre Dame's losses were a 47-21 defeat at home to No. 3 Michigan and a 44-24 loss in Los Angeles to No. 5 USC.

"We're very, very excited to be traveling to New Orleans and, especially, to be facing an opponent the quality of LSU," Weis said.

For Notre Dame, the selection marks the second consecutive season the Irish will play in a BCS game. Notre Dame played Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., to conclude last season.

LSU last played in the Sugar Bowl in 2003 against Oklahoma when the Tigers topped the Sooners in the BCS title game. Notre Dame and LSU have met nine times, with a 5-4 series lead for the Irish. The last meeting between the teams was in 1998, with the Irish topping the Tigers 39-36 on Senior Day at Notre Dame Stadium.

While the Tigers have had more success in recent years, Miles praised the Irish, citing Notre Dame's ability to move the ball through the air and its "attitude" on defense.

"I'd like to congratulate Coach Weis on having a great year and a tremendously quality team," Miles said in the teleconference.

While all sides expressed satisfaction in the matchup, the BCS shakeup that led to the LSU-Notre Dame pairing was not without controversy.

Michigan finished its season Nov. 18 with a 3-point loss to unanimous No. 1 Ohio State on the road. After that game,

the Wolverines remained No. 2 in the two human polls that are a part of the BCS formula. But after Southern California beat Notre Dame last week, the Trojans jumped Michigan and took a slight lead for No.

2. When USC lost Saturday to intra-city rival UCLA Saturday and Florida beat then-No. 9 Arkansas in the SEC title game, the Gators leapfrogged both UCLA and Michigan in the human polls to earn their bid in the BCS National Championship Game.

Even Weis — whose squad lost by 26 to the Wolverines — and Miles — who is a Michigan graduate — had different opinions on who should go.

Weis said because the Wolverines "beat us soundly at home," he felt it was "the right thing to do" by voting them No. 2 over Florida. Miles said he wrestled over the options and went with the Gators, who played one more

game than Michigan.

"I felt like the winner of the SEC conference with one loss should have the opportunity to play in the national championship game," Miles said.

The other non-title BCS games pit USC against Michigan in the Rose Bowl, No. 6 Louisville versus No. 14 Wake Forest in the Orange Bowl and No. 8 Boise State against No. 10 Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl. Wake Forest earned an automatic entry into the Orange Bowl by winning the Atlantic Coast Conference title game Saturday. Oklahoma won the Big XII's spot in the Fiesta Bowl by winning its conference championship game Saturday, also.

Louisville earned an automatic berth into a BCS game by winning the Big East. Undefeated Boise State of the Western Athletic Conference used a provision of BCS by-laws intended to protect teams from smaller conferences to snag an automatic spot by finishing in the top-12 of the BCS standings.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

"I'd like to congratulate Coach Weis on having a great year and a tremendously quality team."

Les Miles
LSU coach

"To be able to pick LSU in their home state for their local flavor matched up with Notre Dame for its national flavor, I think this is a perfect setup."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

Health

continued from page 1

environment.

"The way it's positioned, it's going to be much easier for students to receive services," she said.

University Health Services plans to use the renovated building for both updated and new health programs. It will house physical therapy services run through an independent vendor for students and staff. The South Bend Medical Foundation will also extend its hours when the new building opens.

Kleva said the renovation was undertaken at this time because the old building — built in 1935 for the cost of \$295,000 — had not undergone any major renovations since its original construction and that it needed to be made more modern than its 1930s design.

"The [old] building was completely gutted, the walls, everything," Kleva said.

She said only a few parts of the original building, like the exterior walls, the main-stay supports and the original terrazzo surfaces on the stairways were left. The bottom of the chimney from the boiler house originally built on the site also remained, Kleva said.

"Other than [those] the whole building is brand new [including] the electrical, the plumbing [and] the heating," she said.

The William K. Warren Foundation funded the renovation. William K. Warren, a Class of 1956 alumnus, is a member of the Notre Dame Board of Trustees.

The building will be renamed

St. Liam Hall, after St. Liam of York. The name was chosen to also honor Warren's father, William Warren, Sr., since Liam is the English nickname for William.

Kleva said the old Security building provided an ideal space and was practical for Health Services as an interim home. It was actually an improvement over the former building, she said, but the newly renovated St. Liam Hall will be a much better location than the current location.

Health Services will start its move into St. Liam Dec. 16, and will be open for students Jan. 15, the beginning of spring semester.

"The way it's positioned, it's going to be much easier for students to receive services."

Ann Kleva
director
Health Services

Contact Ryan Sydlík at rsydlík@nd.edu

Bands

continued from page 1

song "Another Day" and their covers of other bands.

Harper's Valley, a band made of Notre Dame students Will Weicher, Chris Terschluse, Chris Urban, Jim Weicher, Rob Mineo and Chris Doolin played several songs, including "Hard to Hide," as well as a cover of a Dave Matthews Band song.

Saxophones, violins, bass

and drums made up its set.

"They can play their instruments," freshman Laura Mullen said. "I like it a lot."

Sophomore Katie Fenner thought that they were good as well. She said she liked their incorporation of saxophone and violin.

"You don't see that a lot in college bands," Fenner said. "They're original."

Saint Mary's freshman Rebecca Schiappa performed several acoustic originals like "Sweet and Sour Pork" and "Goodbye," a song she wrote

for her sister when she left for college.

Katius members were impressed by Harper's Valley's performance and said they were surprised to win first place.

Originally four bands were expected, but a member of Solus and Sola jammed his finger and the band backed out about an hour before show time.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 12,194.13 -27.80

Up: Same: Down: Composite Volume:
2,527 139 1,750 2,828,932,900

AMEX	2,065.93	-3.23
NASDAQ	2,413.21	-18.56
NYSE	8,949.07	-19.93
S&P 500	1,396.71	-3.92
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	16,229.15	-92.63
FTSE 100(London)	6,021.50	-27.30

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-0.86	-0.38	43.66
INTEL CP (INTC)	-2.17	-0.47	20.93
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-0.55	-0.03	5.39
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.82	-0.24	29.12

Treasuries	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.74	-0.033	4.425
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.000	4.890
30-YEAR BOND	-0.44	-0.020	4.541
5-YEAR NOTE	-1.40	-0.062	4.380

Commodities	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.30		63.43
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.30		650.60
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.45		91.98

Exchange Rates	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
YEN			115.2700
EURO			0.7495
POUND			0.5048
CANADIAN \$			1.1437

IN BRIEF

Calderon confronts wealth disparity

MEXICO CITY — As a man who touts creating jobs as the cure-all for Mexico's ills, President-elect Felipe Calderon couldn't be taking office at a better time.

The economy is projected to expand by as much as 4.8 percent by year's end — its fastest growth in six years — thanks to exploding business in the construction, automobile and service industries. High oil prices have poured money into government coffers, the peso has remained stable and Mexico is on track to create 1 million jobs this year.

That makes things much easier for Calderon, who took office Friday promising to build an economy that creates enough jobs so that millions of Mexicans don't have to cross into the United States.

"Mexico has all it needs to be a country that receives investment and generates employment for its people," Calderon said, voicing optimism in his inaugural address as president.

The vast divide between rich and poor has fed the social tensions that have rippled across Mexico since Calderon won the July 2 election by less than 1 percent.

Niche citrus industry still reeling

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

And he was one of the lucky ones.

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

"We've lost a lot before," with hurricanes and freezing temperatures killing trees, if not groves, agricultural agent Alan Vaughn said. But this is different, he said: "With freezes, you could go back and plant trees. Now, the grove is the low man on the list, when you have to rebuild your house."

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

Pfizer reacts to rising pressure

Company plans to slash staff after ending development of key cholesterol drug

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pfizer Inc. will likely slash staff and accelerate merger and licensing deals as the pressure on it to improve its financial performance intensified after the weekend's announcement that the company ended development of a key drug, analysts said.

Analysts differed on how much they believed Pfizer stock would fall when it opened on Monday. Barbara Ryan, an analyst at Deutsche Bank, said she believed the dividend yield of roughly 4 percent would keep shares from a free fall, but another analyst estimated the stock could plunge to \$20 a share. Pfizer shares closed Friday at \$27.86 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The world's largest drug-maker said Saturday that an independent board monitoring a study for cholesterol treatment torcetrapib recommended that the work end because of an unexpected number of deaths.

The news is devastating to Pfizer, which had been counting on the drug to revitalize stagnant sales that have been hurt by numerous patent expirations on key products. It has said it was spending around \$800 million to develop torcetrapib, which was supposed to fill the void when its best-selling drug, cholesterol treatment Lipitor, loses patent protection in either 2010 or 2011. Lipitor sales totaled \$12.2 billion last year.

"This is obviously unfortunate because this was the biggest opportunity in their pipeline," said Ryan. "Clearly there is more pressure on them to do cost cutting."

Two months ago, Pfizer said it would detail plans in January to turn the company into a more nimble organization that would go beyond the program announced last year to cut \$4 billion in expenses by 2008. Patent expirations will cost the company \$14 billion



Pfizer CEO Jeff Kindler speaks at the opening of R&D Analyst meeting presentations in Groton, Conn., Thursday. Pfizer's stock is predicted to plunge sharply today.

annually between 2005 and 2007.

In the statement Pfizer issued Saturday, CEO Jeff Kindler said the company's pace of transformation will be expedited because of the loss of torcetrapib although he didn't give any specifics. Last week, Pfizer announced it was cutting 20 percent, or 2,200 jobs, of its U.S. sales force.

Ryan said Pfizer may lay off as many 10,000 people in near future. Pfizer employs roughly 100,000 people. Ryan added that she expects Pfizer to hike its annual dividend from 96 cents to \$1.10 per share in the next few weeks in the hopes of putting a floor on the stock.

But Jason Napodano, an analyst at Zacks Indepen-

dent Research, doesn't think the yield will be enough to prop up the shares. He points out that at the end of last month, Pfizer pulled out of its deal with drugmaker Organon to develop schizophrenia treatment asenapine. Napodano said he expected that drug to add \$500 million in sales by 2010 while by that time torcetrapib's sales would total \$3 billion.

"Losing asenapine was a hole in the boat. Now they have hit an iceberg," said Napodano.

Pfizer reiterated it hopes to introduce six new products to the market by 2010, but Napodano said its pipeline just doesn't have another drug which offers the sales potential of torce-

trapib.

Ryan and Napodano both expect Pfizer to act swiftly to bring new products into the fold, either through acquisition or licensing. But Napodano said that until investors see what those products are, he sees little reason to buy the stock. He said he intends to review his "hold" rating on the stock.

Torcetrapib was designed to raise levels of HDL, or what's commonly known as good cholesterol. Pfizer has two other products in early development to raise HDL, using the same method as torcetrapib. It is too soon say where they will be affected by the compound's demise because it still unclear what caused the patient deaths in the trial.

Stocks dip as manufacturing slows

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street stumbled Friday after a key survey showed manufacturing unexpectedly contracted in November for the first time in more than three years, stoking concerns that the economy won't be able to achieve a soft landing. The major indexes ended the week with losses.

Stocks and the dollar were socked after the Institute for Supply Management said its index on manufacturing fell to 49.5 from 51.2 in October. Economists had been expecting 51.5. Anything under 50 indicates the manufacturing sector is contracting.

The report, based on a survey of corporate purchasing managers, was

seen by some on Wall Street as possibly indicating that the Federal Reserve might have overshot the mark in more than two years of interest rate hikes that ended in June. Wall Street had been expecting the Fed would hold interest rates steady at its Dec. 12 meeting, and now there is a growing belief the central bank may soon cut rates because of economic weakness.

"This is just additional confirmation that the economy is not only slowing but quite possibly going into a recession," said Hugh Moore, a partner with investment firm Guerite Advisors. "It's not just the housing and auto industry any longer, now we're finding out that manufacturing in general is slowing."

Moore said an ISM number below 50 has preceded every U.S. recession

since the 1960s.

Leading the Big Board lower in volatile trading were shares of manufacturers like 3M Co., Caterpillar Inc., and United States Steel Corp. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 27.80, or 0.23 percent, to 12,194.13.

Broader stock indicators also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 3.92, or 0.28 percent, to 1,396.71, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 18.56, or 0.76 percent, to 2,413.21.

The drop does not bode well as Wall Street hopes to finish the final month of the year with double-digit growth. The Dow is up 13.78 percent so far this year, while the S&P 500 has gained 11.89 percent and the Nasdaq is up 9.43 percent.

Scholar

continued from page 1

"I don't think it really hit me until I called my brother, who's a freshman here (at Notre Dame), and was like 'Well, you can come visit me in England next year,'" Towle said. "It's just been kind of surreal."

She said her application process wasn't an extremely long one; she found out the deadline for the scholarship was Sept. 1 as she was in the process of packing up boxes to go back to school at the end of the summer.

She approached the application with the same energy and spirit that has enabled her to do so much with her time at Notre Dame: she said she dug through some boxes to find her computer and just got to work.

"My first loves are Latin America and Africa," Towle said, and she hopes her study in England will contribute to her ultimate goal of working in international health.

She said she is especially interested in studying HIV and AIDS in conflict-ridden areas and looking at healthcare for refugees and displaced populations, "especially women's health."

Towle said her passion for international health was sparked in high school after she traveled to La Paz, Bolivia as part of a medical mission trip with a team of doctors from Kansas, her home state.

She said her dad, who was traveling as part of the mission, told her that he thought it sounded like a wonderful opportunity and if she could fundraise the money for the trip, she should get on board.

In Bolivia, she said she watched numerous reconstructive surgeries performed – "children with cleft lips and horrible burn victims, for example."

Towle came to Notre Dame intending to major in pre-med, but decided after freshman year to double major in anthropology and international peace studies.

"I was more interested in the health of communities than of individuals," she said.

An honors student, Towle has earned a spot on the Dean's List every semester.

She was also named one of only 20 Presidential Scholars at Notre Dame when she was a freshman. According to Notre Dame's Office of News and Information, the Presidential Scholars are "recognized as top academic students and potential leaders" in the Notre Dame community.

Outside of the classroom, Towle's activism in international health issues and community education and empowerment has been evident.

During her freshman year, Towle and fellow classmate Steve Cartwright founded LeadND, a program that promotes leadership development and service learning among local middle school students. Now in four local schools, LeadND relies on a large number of "wonderful volunteers" from Notre Dame and members of the local community who have supported the vision of the program, she said.

Towle said being involved

with LeadND has been one of the best things about her time at Notre Dame.

"It's been like a full-time job for me these past few years," Towle said.

She and Cartwright joke "that we are the grandma and grandpa of the program ... we are currently in the process of transitioning the leadership," she said.

Other formative experiences during her undergraduate career include time spent studying abroad in Mexico last spring and researching and working in the African nation of Lesotho last summer, Towle said.

While in Mexico, Towle taught global health to middle school students and did a research project on how globalization has affected HIV / AIDS in Mexico, especially the migrant population, she said.

During her time in Lesotho, she did research on community-based health and worked at Touching Tiny Lives (TTL), a child's safe home and HIV / AIDS outreach program founded by a Notre Dame graduate impacted by his Peace Corps service there, Towle said.

"TTL is not an orphanage; the whole goal of the program is to re-unify (children with their families)," she said.

She said she was especially interested in exploring how transmission of HIV from mother to child might be prevented.

Towle said that a UROP grant enabled her to employ the help of a translator while in Lesotho to aid her in her research. She said that her translator allowed her to "learn so much more by cutting down on the language barrier."

Conducting research in Lesotho was especially exciting for Towle as she was instrumental in founding the Touching Tiny Lives Foundation, a non-profit with a mission of "ensuring the health and reclaiming the dignity of children impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Lesotho."

Towle said the Foundation "does a lot of fundraising and there is a big effort in furthering education about issues that affect Lesotho."

Towle said she would love to see similar Foundations based on the Touching Tiny Lives model directed at supporting other countries.

Despite all of her academic accomplishments and involvement in the local and international communities, Towle is humble about being chosen for a Marshall Scholarship.

"This is the effort and support of so many people and a sign of how awesome of a place Notre Dame is," Towle said. "I'm thankful for that."

Marshall Scholarships were established in 1953 by an Act of Parliament to enable future American leaders to study in the United Kingdom, to promote an understanding and appreciation of Britain, to contribute to intellectual development in a variety of fields and to motivate scholars to serve as ambassadors from the United States to the United Kingdom and vice versa.

Contact Meghan Wons at mwons@nd.edu



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Aidan

continued from page 1

The ballroom's walls were covered with posters providing statistics about cancer mortality and survival rates and the importance of awareness. T-shirts were also sold to benefit Riley Hospital for Children, a children's cancer center in Indianapolis.

More fleece arrived around 1 p.m., so the final hour of the event was a fury of blanket-making, which Fitzgerald said he was thrilled to witness.

Fitzgerald, who said he loves Notre Dame football, was able to make it back for a few games earlier in the semester. He helped coach the Cavanaugh Interhall football team, and is a member of Knott's Interhall football team.

"I didn't know what to expect ... my roommate put this togeth-

er," Fitzgerald said. "I'm almost speechless ... it means a lot to see people come out [for the cause]. I know a lot of people here, but there are also a lot of people I don't know. It's been full wall-to-wall in here, which is so encouraging."

Koors called the turnout "exciting."

"[The event] grew a lot from the [Circle K] Blanket Bash last year," she said.

Teitgen said the organizers ordered double the supplies they did last year, and "ran out ... which was awesome."

"We did so much better than last year," Low said. "It's amazing to see this many people come out and support the cause ... [that] hit so close to home."

For freshman Erin Dolan, who played under Fitzgerald for the Chaos, the loss of a well-liked

coach was taxing.

"Mid-season, [Fitzgerald] had us take a knee ... we all thought it was going to be an inspirational speech. Instead, we found out he had cancer," she said. "Almost the whole team started to cry."

"After he left, we really missed his humor and sarcasm and all the positive things he brought to the team. ... I'm so glad to see that so many people came out to help this cause and support Aidan."

And Fitzgerald said he couldn't appreciate it more.

"I can't imagine going through this without all this support," he said.

"I can't imagine going through this without all this support."

Aidan Fitzgerald
sophomore

Contact Jennifer Metz at
jmetz@nd.edu

New study questions fast food in hospitals

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Having fast-food restaurants in children's hospitals influences patients' families to eat fast food and to think that it's relatively healthy, new research suggests.

At least 59 of the nation's 250 children's hospitals have fast-food restaurants, the study found. That is a troubling phenomenon, particularly given rising obesity rates, said the study's lead author, Dr. Hannah Sahud, a pediatrician at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

"We're giving two different messages by being in the health care profession and promoting health and saying obesity is a huge medical problem ... and then implicitly encouraging it," she said.

About 17 percent of U.S. children are considered obese and many doctors think heavy consumption of calorie-laden fatty fast food is partly to blame.

Sahud conducted the research while at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital, which has one McDonald's inside and another across the street.

Parents of children who got outpatient treatment at Children's Memorial were much more likely to buy McDonald's food on the day their youngsters were treated than parents of kids treated at Chicago-area hospitals without McDonald's, the study found.

Parents of kids treated at Children's also were twice as likely to rate McDonald's food as relatively healthy than those whose kids were treated elsewhere.

"I was shocked ... that they actually perceive it to be healthier," Sahud said.

Her study appears in December's Pediatrics, sched-

uled for release Monday.

"Hospitals should be walking the walk, not just talking the talk," said Dr. Sarah Barlow, an obesity specialist at Saint Louis University and Cardinal Glennon Children's Medical Center. She was not involved in the research.

Children's Memorial spokeswoman Julie Pesch said the hospital chose McDonald's many years ago as a special treat for sick kids going through difficult treatment.

Pesch said balanced diets can include an occasional fast-food meal, but acknowledged the study shows "doctors and families that we must continue to talk about what constitutes a healthy diet for kids."

The researchers queried 200 pediatric residency programs in 2002-03. About 30 percent, or 59, had fast-food restaurants in their hospitals. McDonald's alone or in combination with other fast-food restaurants were located in 22.

The researchers also surveyed 386 parents and other adults leaving three Chicago-area hospitals after their children had outpatient visits. They were Children's Memorial; Ronald McDonald Children's Hospital in Maywood, which uses McDonald's branding but has no McDonald's restaurant; and the University of Chicago's children's hospital, which has no McDonald's restaurant or branding on site.

The study found that 56 percent of participants at Children's Memorial had fast food on the survey day, compared with 29 percent at Ronald McDonald and 33 percent at the University of Chicago. Most at all three hospitals who had fast food that day chose McDonald's.

McDonald's has restaurants in more than 30 U.S. hospitals, said spokesman Bill Whitman.

Storm creates havoc in Midwest

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Some crews repaired downed power lines, others swept debris from train tracks and National Guardsmen went door-to-door checking on residents after the Midwest's first big snowstorm of the season.

As temperatures fell below freezing, officials warned Saturday that some people could be without power for days.

The storm was blamed for at least 15 deaths as it spread ice and deep snow from Texas to Michigan and then blew through the Northeast late Friday and early Saturday. Schools and businesses were shuttered, and hundreds of travelers were stranded by canceled flights.

Nearly 600 Amtrak passengers in Illinois and Missouri were delayed up to 10 hours Friday and Saturday morning, Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said. With many tracks still strewn with downed trees and power

lines, passengers were eventually taken by bus to their destinations.

Truck driver David Huwe got his 18-wheeler and load of frozen food back on the road Saturday after being stuck for more than 12 hours at a rest stop near Princeton, Ill., on Interstate 80, which was blocked by scores of trucks and cars that slid off the icy highway.

"I was supposed to be (in California) Sunday night," Huwe said by cell phone Saturday morning. He had revised his arrival time and hoped he'd make it by Monday.

Red Cross volunteers at Decatur



Kyle Giesler waits for another worker to help repair a power line in Greendale, Mo., Sunday. AP

helped some of the stranded I-80 travelers by ordering 100 McDonald's hamburgers, which were airlifted by the National Guard.

Pediatricians criticize advertising targeted at children

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Inappropriate advertising contributes to many kids' ills, from obesity to anorexia, to drinking booze and having sex too soon, and Congress should crack down on it, the American Academy of Pediatrics says.

The influential doctors' group issued a new policy statement in response to what it calls a rising tide of advertising aimed at children. The policy appears in December's Pediatrics, scheduled for release today.

"Young people view more than 40,000 ads per year on television alone and increasingly are being exposed to advertising on the Internet, in magazines, and in schools," the policy says.

Advertising examples cited in the statement include TV commercials for sugary breakfast cereals and high calorie snacks shown during children's programs and ads for Viagra and other erectile dysfunction drugs shown during televised sports games.

The statement also is critical of alcohol ads that feature

cartoonish animal characters; fast-food ads on educational TV shown in schools; magazine ads with stick-thin models and toy and other product "tie-ins" between popular movie characters and fast-food restaurants.

These pervasive ads influence kids to demand poor food choices, and to think drinking is cool, sex is a recreational activity and anorexia is fashionable, the academy says.

Interactive digital TV, expected to arrive in a few years, will spread the problem, allowing kids to click on-screen links to Web-based promotions, the new policy says.

In response, the academy says doctors should ask Congress and federal agencies to:

- ◆ ban junk-food ads during shows geared toward young children;

- ◆ limit commercial advertising to no more than 6 minutes per hour, a decrease of 50 percent;

- ◆ restrict alcohol ads to showing only the product, not cartoon characters or attractive young women;

- ◆ prohibit interactive advertising to children on digital TV.

The academy also says TV ads for erectile dysfunction drugs should be shown only after 10 p.m.

Jeff Becker, president of the Beer Institute, an industry group for breweries, said parents have more influence than advertising on teens' decisions to drink. He also said brewers work to ensure that beer ads appear in adult-oriented media. For much of the sports programming where beer ads appear, most viewers are at least 21, Becker said.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics is wrong to blame alcohol advertising for the actions of underage teens who willingly break the law to drink illegally," he said.

Critics of advertising restrictions say it's a free-speech issue. But the academy notes that several Western countries, including Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Greece, limit ads directed at children.

"What kind of society exploits its children and teenagers for money? This is an example of where public

health really has to trump capitalism," said Dr. Victor Strasburger, lead author of the policy statement and an adolescent medicine specialist at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Advertising aimed at children has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years, particularly because of data showing that growing numbers of U.S. children — now about 17 percent — are obese.

Spokespeople for Viacom, whose holdings include TV's Nickelodeon network and MTV, declined to offer immediate comment on the report. Viacom has urged its marketing partners to advertise healthier products, and is among media companies that have been involved in discussions with federal agencies and advocacy groups about advertisers marketing to children.

While hard scientific data linking advertising with children's health ills is lacking, Strasburger said there's compelling circumstantial evidence suggesting there's a connection.

Last year, the Institute of

Medicine agreed that evidence suggesting that TV ads contribute to childhood obesity is compelling and said industry should market healthy foods to kids.

And in September, the Federal Communications Commission said it will study potential links between TV ads and rising rates of obesity in U.S. children.

The food industry has started to respond.

Two weeks ago, McDonald's joined nine major food and drink companies in vowing to promote more healthy foods and exercise in their child-oriented advertising. And last year Kraft Foods said it would curb ads to young children for snack foods including Oreos and Kool-Aid.

Harvard psychologist Susan Linn, a co-founder of the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, praised the academy's policy and said it doesn't overstate the effects of advertising on children.

"I'm hopeful that policymakers will listen," Linn said. Self-regulation in the food industry, without a nudge from government, won't work, she said.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER

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POST OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Each Zahm resident unique

I would like to compliment The Observer for running the two-part series of stories investigating some of the changes which have taken place in Zahm Hall over the past couple years.

Before I attended Notre Dame, an aged alumnus told me, "The only thing better than going to Notre Dame is having graduated from Notre Dame!" And despite all of the illicit fun I had there as an undergrad, despite all of the playful jibe I received as a Zahm resident and despite all of the times I had to just stand in front of the Office of Residence Life and Housing and shake my head in bewilderment, I grew from the experience and now can enjoy the best part — being a Notre Dame graduate.

Alums of Zahm or any other dorm gather and shoot the bull about how "wild" or "crazy" their college days were — right up to the often touted Regis Philbin. I recall his visit to campus clearly, when I was a freshman in Zahm in fall 2001, when, in front of all the lights and cameras, he barged into his former room, 222, jumped in the loft and told all those present what a "crazy" time he had in that room, breaking all the old, silly rules.

People love to reminisce and tell stories about old traditions or "how things used to be done," mostly because it's a way of reliving those moments without actually having to do them again. Here are two suggestions regarding "stories": 1) they are probably exaggerations, and 2) nothing in the present, in reality, can top those memories.

So what does this mean for the current men of Zahm? Enjoy the elevated status which goes with being a resident in the House. Some will call it a "bad boy" or "whipping boy" image or claim that "it really worries the parents." If you actually believe those things, then you are taking college, and the whole living situation at Notre Dame, way too seriously. Guys living with guys, girls living with girls — the two allegedly not enjoying each other and staying the night together — now that is a joke the rest of the young people in America laugh at (and are extremely puzzled by, all the same).

zled by, all the same).

So if Zahm's image counters who you are, fight it; if it doesn't have anything to do with you, ignore it; if it is everything you think you want out of college, embrace it. My point is this: anyone who lives in, or has lived in, Zahm makes choices about who they want to become. Some try to destroy its image, and some have worked very hard to perpetuate it.

To assume that every resident should align with one ideology and not be uniquely creative is outlandish. To force every resident to align with one ideology is not only repressive, but also counterproductive to the educational process. After reviewing The Observer's articles on the changes within Zahm Hall, it appears that the hall's administrative figure, the rector, believes that he should dictate its direction, like a surrogate parent.

Perhaps what is misunderstood here is that the urge some of the men of Zahm feel to be fraternal, and at the same time be set apart from the typical Notre Dame community, is a normal male attitude during formative years, as is the appeal of bucking authority. I know it exists, because I have been there. The last time I checked, though, college was supposed to be an educational experience for the students, without all of the coddling mentality.

But that's the way it goes at Notre Dame. So love it while you can, lead it where you will and leave it when you're ready (or get kicked off campus!). Either way, you will have enough stories to tell all of those freshmen when you are a senior, and hopefully half of them are true.

And picture this, men of Zahm: life only gets better after you graduate from Notre Dame.

Drew Updike
alumnus
Class of 2005
Dec. 1

'Animal' term assessed

Animal nature shouldn't be denied

It may be in everyone's interest to take a step back from the debate sparked by Daniel Amiri's thought-provoking Letter to the Editor on human nature ("Encourage chastity, not 'free talk,'" Nov. 21), and in true Catholic fashion treat it on a universal scale.

That being established, and with all due respect to Pope John Paul II, I must assert that his words should be taken within the framework of Christian philosophy. If I may be so bold as to use a decidedly non-religious source, I humbly submit this quote from Wikipedia.org for the consideration of all interested parties: "Humans, or human beings, are bipedal apes belonging to the mammalian species *Homo sapiens* (Latin for 'wise man' or 'knowing man') under the family Hominidae (known as the great apes)."

My reflection upon this passage is that while we possess the mental capacity to reflect and improve upon our spiritual nature, we should not neither deny nor debase the animal nature we also possess.

Nikki Huiras
junior
off campus
Dec. 1

Pope's words can be manipulated

David Spellman ("We are not animals," Nov. 30) recently joined the debate sparked by Amiri ("Encourage chastity, not 'free talk,'" Nov. 21) and Renfro ("Stating the obvious?" Nov. 29) on the nature of mankind. While Spellman's point is certainly stated in most proper Catholic Doctrine, I must ask him this: if the late pope did in fact state that mankind are not, nor never will be animals 'while he [the pope] was most seriously ill and disabled in the exercise of his highest function,' then could we not argue that he was very much out of position to make such a judgement, as he himself was bereft of his highest function, which I can only assume is another word for reason?

But this is almost beside the point of my argument, which is that if one wishes, one can quote from and extrapolate on the words of the pope in such a way as to make it seem that almost anything is true. For example, on Oct. 28, 1994, the pope made a statement to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences lauding research on the Human Genome. The pope, His Holiness John Paul II, said that it is "an accepted fact that for all living species including man, DNA is the vehicle for hereditary characteristics and their transmission to successive generations," the key words being "all living species, including man."

Man, in other words, as said by the Holy Father, is a species. That he said this is

incontrovertibly true. Let us now turn to the Oxford English Dictionary, that bastion of our great mother tongue. According to the OED, a species is "A group or class of animals or plants (usually constituting a subdivision of a genus) having certain common and permanent characteristics which clearly distinguish it from other groups." A species is a group or class of animals or plants.

If we apply that most chief among our human faculties, reason, we can see that if (1) mankind constitutes a species and (2) a species is a class of animal or plant, then mankind must be either animals or plants. We have already seen in the section above that mankind are either animal or plant. Considering the quote from the pope provided by Spellman, namely that "a man, even if seriously ill or disabled in the exercise of his highest functions, is and always will be a man, and he will never become a 'vegetable' or an 'animal,'" animals are eliminated and we are left with only one option for the nature of mankind: non-vegetative plants.

Neither a vertebrate nor an arachnid nor a cephalopod, neither a broccoloid nor a rutebegatine nor a tomatodate, mankind is left to the domain of sea algae and mushrooms.

Chad Lavimoniere
junior
off campus
Dec. 1

QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"By swallowing evil words
unsaid, no one has ever
harmed his stomach."*

Winston Churchill
former prime minister

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Do what you can, with what
you have, where you are."*

Theodore Roosevelt
former president

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parents deserve tickets

With respect to the new football ticket policies effective next season, it is inexcusable that the University punish parents of students due to the high demand of requested football tickets. Understandably, the alumni have a vested interest in our university and its football program, and as such, they deserve access to the games. That access, though, should not come at the expense of parents who have been so supportive and faithful to our university over the years.

Alumni are required to donate money to our university to be eligible for tickets, and it is difficult to overlook this fact in the new ticketing policies. Alumni who donate a predetermined amount of money are eligible for tickets, and as more demand indicates, more money from more alumni is being donated each year. Intuitively, it appears that the university is replacing emptied pockets with juicy football tickets.

However, I believe I can accurately speak for my peers when I say that our parents are spending thousands of dollars funding our education at our university. Our parents are making daily sacrifices to give us the best chance of success both for now and the future. If money is the issue, than how can parents be the ones who suffer from the new policies?

Where was the alumni demand

three or four years ago when our football team was struggling to maintain a .500 record? Are the alumni only willing to support our team when the team has a chance to qualify for a BCS bowl? Parents have always supported our team, have always proudly traveled to South Bend to watch the games and spend time with their children. The football team was always good enough for the parents. Surely the new ticket policies cannot be a function of passion for the team.

Biologically, our university would not even exist without parents. It goes without saying that no parents equal no students, and no students equal no university and no alumni. Certainly, the role of parents goes beyond the mere fiscal or passion arguments from above. Consequently, any ticket allocation method that affects the parents seems unfounded and unfair. I challenge Director of Ticket Operations Josh Berlo, and those responsible for this new ticket policy to create a system that does not inhibit the ability to purchase tickets of parents simply due to high demand. Thank you in advance for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Chris Mueller
junior
Siegfried Hall
Nov. 30

Starbucks needs Fair Trade coffee

While large coffee companies such as Starbucks earn millions per day, coffee bean farmers on the other hand, only get paid pennies per pound of coffee beans. Not only are most people unaware of this large gap, but they are also unaware of a group of products called Fair Trade that allows for some evening of this large imbalance. Since only a few people understand what Fair Trade truly means, then an incentive to cause more awareness would be the most logical approach to solving such a problem, especially in our Notre Dame community.

As one of the world's foremost Catholic universities, Notre Dame needs to lead by example of how a group can move in a socially conscious way. The Student Senate wants to take social responsibility to the point of eliminating conventional coffee and selling only Fair Trade coffee on campus. I completely agree with this direction concerning Fair Trade coffee and the goals the Student Senate has set.

First, Notre Dame's strong Catholic identity calls the community to move in a direction in accordance to Catholic value. To support a business that is both selfish and morally wrong because it exploits coffee bean farmers in order to gain more revenue would go against Notre Dame's Catholic iden-

tity. It is Notre Dame's responsibility to uphold its Catholic identity and be an example to other universities as well as the larger community in all facets of Catholic teaching.

Secondly, Notre Dame currently owns the Starbucks location on its campus, which happens to sell the most coffee products, but ironically does not have Fair Trade coffee available. If Notre Dame desires to be more socially responsible, it needs to begin making big changes, starting with the availability of Fair Trade products at the one location that sells the most coffee.

Finally, spreading the understanding of the benefits of Fair Trade coffee may result in alleviating poverty to some degree and increasing the quality of life for many individuals, their families and the surrounding society. Although many people detest the thought of increasing the price of their already expensive lattes, they probably would also agree that a few cents here and there can't hurt too much. And for some, this extra spare change may mean the difference between today and tomorrow.

Jonathan Lee
freshman
Keenan Hall
Nov. 30

Band funding not so simple

I truly hope that I am one of many people replying to Joe Anderson's Letter to the Editor ("Band overlooked," Nov. 29). This letter was a blatant insult to the band and I am truly disappointed that it came from one of the ushers, for whom I hold nothing but respect.

Your letter was disrespectful of the planning and effort that goes into every single Notre Dame game that holds a band performance. Do you think that the band does not want to support our team at every game? If those are indeed your thoughts, you disregard the fact that we are part of the Band of the Fighting Irish.

I must remind you that we have limited funds and a 380-member band. This includes, as all those who traveled to USC can attest, airfare, hotel fees, transportation for large instruments and many, many more behind the scenes fees

that few in the band, much less the general public, will ever know about. In order to travel to bowl games, some of the money from the bowl is set aside for the band. This is not the case for USC.

My point is simply this: Robertson should not point fingers at a band who "should understand their responsibility." We understand our responsibilities, and we are only human and need funds as well as the resources to undertake a trip as large as USC. This year we had, thanks to coach Charlie Weis, enough resources for 75 band members. Maybe in future years there will be more. Perhaps, in order to assist the band in traveling, Robertson would like to make a donation?

Liz Wrape
sophomore
Lyons Hall
Nov. 30

True point lost in semantics

I am writing regarding Alex Renfro's Letter to the Editor ("Stating the obvious?" Nov. 29) and Ryan Bravo's letter ("An attempt at resolution," Dec. 1) I write because of how discouraged I am that these individuals, who are presumably representative of others who agree with them, found it necessary to comment on Dan Amiri's assertion, in his well-written exhortation to the Catholic practice of chastity, that "we are not animals."

We are mammals, which are a class of vertebrates, which are a phylum of animals. I congratulate those who have mastered the science of logic to such degree as to grasp the consequent implication. However, it also takes a "severe disconnect from reality" to think that Amiri's statement of the obvious — that we, unlike dogs, cats and birds, are capable of freely choosing how we act — somehow undermines his argument.

The issue of contraception is one that does gravely need to be discussed, especially with respect for the Catholic understanding of the matter — one that is characteristically and wrongly dismissed, in the words of Joey Falco, as "putting on Bible Blinders" ("Disloyal fathers," Nov. 20). Though I disagree with Falco, I applaud both he and Amiri for taking the time to share their views; I am one who

hopes that respectful and honest discussion ultimately leads to the truth. That issue aside, the debate about whether we can say "we are not animals" is an outrageous distraction from a subject of actual consequence.

Indeed, the condescension implied in Renfro's and Bravo's comments is insulting. It suggests that people with intelligence could not possibly hold the view that human beings are different in significant ways from the rest of the animal kingdom. Bravo's comments resolved nothing; they merely reduced the level of dialogue to name-calling. To pull out a dictionary in this context indicates a severely hyper-inflated ego, as does introducing a letter with "I can't believe I'm writing this letter." Perhaps, then, it should not have been written.

Both Renfro and Bravo knew exactly what was meant by Amiri's statement, and their subsequent need to patronize the rest of us with their "enlightened" views on what it means to be human is, in short, disheartening.

James Weicher
senior
Siegfried Hall
Dec. 3

Zahm should promote free thinking

I am disappointed to hear of the shift toward a more docile Zahm Hall. Somewhere in the early nineties, in between various lewd and obscene acts, I found time to read some Nietzsche, who tells us that "the genuine philosopher lives 'un-philosophically' and 'unwisely,' above all imprudently." The Zahm I knew enacted that philosophy, which now appears to be repressed and/or misunderstood.

Individuality, creativity, fearlessness and a willingness to question dominant values are qualities that I hope Notre Dame values. Zahm, as I experienced it, was a place that

encouraged those qualities. When your neighbors commonly run around naked, you are clearly and perhaps at first unsettlingly in a realm that values self-expression. And in such a realm, many of us unsurprisingly felt more free to voice our takes on the world, however blunt, unpopular, insightful, stupid or profane. This was a delightful antidote to the polite, safe and unchallenging discussions that dominated some classes, then and now.

Preventing dangerous behavior is one thing. But I hope that Zahm and the Notre Dame community do not enact a philosophical shift that confuses bland, polite, TV-friendly

compliance (looked at the Notre Dame Bookstore catalog lately?) with maturity and intellectual growth. If a university is to create leaders and free thinkers — and Zahm unquestionably did that — it must encourage them to take risks, to be unwise, imprudent and, on occasion, publicly nude.

Dr. C. Prescott Sobol
alumnus
Class of 1994
Dec. 3

CD REVIEWS

Genuine Rice releases emotion-filled album

By ANALISE LIPARI
Assistant Scene Editor

The 2003 film "Closer" introduced the mainstream American audience to bitter Irish balladeer Damien Rice through starkly lovely "The Blower's Daughter" off of his first album, "O." Three years later, Rice returns with "9," an album that builds on his raw, musically intimate style in its beautiful — but flawed — 10 tracks.

Rice comes to music audiences in an age of male singer-songwriters who thrive on emotional rawness and the frustrations of love, albeit with a higher degree of cheer than Rice ever exhibits on "9" — but all the better for him. Unlike singers such as James Blunt, Rice seems inherently more genuine, as he aptly addresses the more difficult aspects of emotion and love. Frustrated, tired, desperate or even vitriolic, Rice succeeds in creating an overall feeling of bleak reality, with his voice and arrangements better serving his audience than a Top 40-bound ditty from someone like Blunt or John Mayer. Musically, Rice is more complex than his peers, and "9" reflects that effort

and intelligence.

The album opens with the piano-centered "9 Crimes," recently heard on the Nov. 23 episode of "Grey's Anatomy." "9 Crimes" features Rice's faithful vocal accompanist, Lisa Hannigan, and the contrast between their voices elevates the hauntingly somber tones of the song to a higher level of beauty.

The lyrics, which set the tone thematically for the majority of "9," decry love's failings and frustrations. Lines such as the opening, "Leave me out with the waste/ This is not what I do/ It's the wrong kind of place/ To be thinking of you," immediately engender feelings of bitterness — feelings that the Rice of each song is unable (or unwilling) to move beyond.

"The words, while hardly ham-fisted, are in the same passive-aggressive heartsick mode that Rice can't seem to shake," Noel Murray said in a recent review with online publication The Onion's A.V. Club.

The stagnancy of that bitterness, then, is one of the main issues with "9." Several tracks devolve into somewhat excessive explorations of Rice's being the wronged (or wronging) lover in his relationships.

In particular, "Rootless Tree," with its expletive-heavy chorus, is an exercise in Rice's frustration that reaches a plateau of near annoyance. Listeners can accept a lot when it comes to an artist's anger and unhappiness, but



Photo courtesy of bbc.co.uk

Damien Rice relies heavily on convention in his latest album, "9," but still produces a solid effort. Rice sings with raw emotion that is missing from the Top 40 today.

the chorus's repetitive nature is altogether unsettling, and in a way that detracts from Rice's aesthetic of lovelorn sullenness.

"Me, My Yoke and I" functions in the same way. Normally, the raw quality of Rice's voice adds to the overall effect of his music. With this song in particular, the formerly deliciously desperate vocals become unnecessary whining.

Rice characteristically expresses himself throughout "9" with both whispers and yawns, as heard in particular in "Dogs," the album's fifth track. "Dogs" exemplifies Rice's ability to create an uncommon intimacy with his listeners, and the closeness of his feelings and expressions benefit "9" as a whole.

Other strengths of the album include "Coconut Skins," with its wryly dirty lyrics

and welcome acoustic guitar, and "Grey Room," which returns triumphantly to Rice's earlier musings on love's disappointments. These two tracks depart musically from others like "Me, My Yoke and I" and use Rice's talents to emphasize his overall themes. "Accidental Babies" is also a highlight, with its seemingly asinine series of questions that ultimately create a sense of loss and longing.

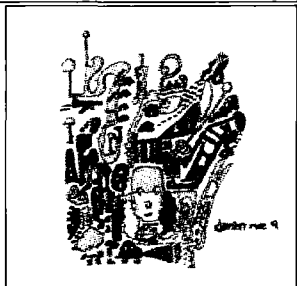
"9" is an album ridden with its own troubles. But its strengths, which stem from the appeal of Rice's raw earnestness, override its frustrating weaknesses. By the peacefully lengthy final track, "Sleep Don't Weep," Rice has drawn in his willing listeners with intoxicating tales of bitter loss, and with that, he succeeds.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

Damien Rice

9

Heffa/Vector/Warner Bros.



Recommended tracks: 'Dogs,' 'Coconut Skins,' 'Grey Room' and 'Sleep Don't Weep'

Incubus explodes creatively with 'Light Grenades'

By CHRIS McGRADY
Scene Critic

Perhaps there is such a thing as audio nicotine, and this album will have the listener either smoking two packs a day or chewing enough Nicorette to choke a horse. Incubus' newest effort, "Light Grenades," is the type of CD that once it makes its way to a person's stereo, may stay there for months. This album doesn't simply ask to be listened to — it demands it.

The members of Incubus compare their music to art. When lead singer Brandon Boyd was asked to describe his style of making and performing music, he said, "I am tapping into a place in you that is unexplored, and very dangerous, but I think essential to the creative life of an artist." Incubus stays true to this form and continues to push the proverbial musical envelope, never settling into one style of music for an entire album, not to mention an entire career.

Rather than allow the band to slip into a

rut of "don't fix what's not broken," Incubus continues to change its sound, and has done so since its beginning. The band, originally formed in 1991 (while the members were in 10th grade), consisted of Boyd, Mike Einziger (guitar), Alex Katunich (a.k.a. Dirk Lance, bassist) and Jose Pasillas (drums). Later they added DJ Lyfe (Gavin Koppel). Since then, the only things that have changed are the presence of Katunich, who has since been replaced by Ben Kenney and the replacement of DJ Lyfe with DJ Kilmore (Chris Kilmore).

For the first four years of its existence, Incubus spent most of its time touring and slowly making a name for itself, honing a sound from the likenesses of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Korn, and the Deftones. With the release of "Fungus Amongus," Incubus departed from the musical homogeneity of the pop-rock scene and found its own niche in a crowded genre. At times sounding like metal, at times like fluid pop and at other times funk, Incubus stretches its musical identities to the max, and "Light Grenades" proves this can be deftly done.

It's evident early on the album is going to be good. It opens with the song "Quicksand," a vaguely electronic, enigmatic track that features Boyd's voice synthesized as if off in the distance. This song slowly fades into track two, "A Kiss To Send Us Off," which quickly ups the energy and evokes tracks from



Photo courtesy of enjoyincubus.com

In "Light Grenades," Incubus transcends genre divisions and creates an album in league with The Killers and the Red Hot Chili Peppers. "Grenades" is the band's sixth studio album.

early in Incubus' career. The next song, "Dig," is one of the most addictive on the album and begs to be put on repeat. Don't be surprised to see this song released as a single and climb up both the Alt-Rock and Pop billboards.

Coming on the third track, "Anna Molly," is a sound reminiscent of songs from Incubus' previous work "A Crow Left of the Murder," and it showcases Boyd's vocal abilities as well as the musical capabilities of the other members of the band. Other album highlights include "Love Hurts," a semi-romantic ballad, and "Earth To Bella (Part I)" and "Earth To Bella (Part II)." Both parts of "Earth To Bella" successfully blend acoustic strumming and electric rock guitar

to a David-esque perfection, proving artistry extends beyond the realm of sculpture and paint and right into the genre of music.

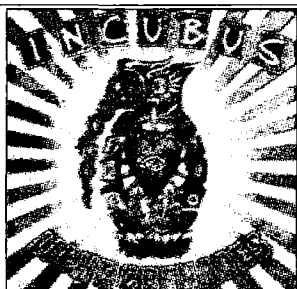
The diversity of sound and the talent of Incubus gives "Light Grenades" a fighting chance for album of the year, and can easily be considered in the same breath as "Sam's Town" by The Killers and "Stadium Arcadium" by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The tracks are addictive, intriguing, cutting-edge and beautiful. Incubus has done it again — providing an album that will never fall into the depths of auditory anonymity.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrad1@nd.edu

Incubus

Light Grenades

Sony



Recommended tracks: 'Dig,' 'Anna Molly,' 'Love Hurts' and 'Earth To Bella (Part I)'

IRISH INSIDER

Monday, December 4, 2006

THE
OBSERVER

North Carolina 2, Notre Dame 1

A step behind

*Late rally falls short,
Irish lose to Tar Heels
2-1 in NCAA finals*

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

CARY, N.C. — After 26 games, Notre Dame finally met its match. North Carolina dominated the previously unbeaten Irish for most of the game en route to a 2-1 victory and a National Championship Sunday in the Women's College Cup final at SAS Stadium.

"I'm not disappointed in my team, but I am disappointed for them," Notre Dame coach Randy Waldrum said. "I thought we had a good chance to win this one."

The quicker and stronger Tar Heels outshot the Irish 20-9, controlled possession for most of the game and took a 2-0 lead early in the second half. Notre Dame made a late run, scoring with 10 minutes left in the game, but could not complete the comeback.

The deficit was the first time the Irish seniors had been down 2-0 in their careers.

"I thought we responded to being down okay," Waldrum said. "But we shouldn't have gotten down like that in the first place."

The Irish were denied their second National Championship in three years, while North Carolina won its 18th NCAA title and its first since 2003.

Notre Dame finished its season 25-1-1, while the Tar Heels set a school record for wins with 27 against one loss.

The sellout crowd of over 8,000 was clad mostly in Carolina blue and the Tar Heels even took a pep band on the 25 minute trip down I-40. But Waldrum said the hostile atmosphere had nothing to do with the outcome of the game.

"It was loud, but once that whistle blows the crowd doesn't matter all that much," he said. "Maybe when you're right down near the goal and they start yelling you can hear it, but it shouldn't effect you too much."

The Tar Heels scored their first goal with 28 minutes left in the first half. Forward Heather O'Reilly made a run down the left side with no Notre Dame defenders in sight. Irish goalkeeper Lauren Karas ventured well out of the box to try to cut O'Reilly off.

Karas went for a slide tackle but whiffed and O'Reilly put the ball easily into the empty net for a 1-0 lead.

The defensive breakdown put the Irish on their heels.

"For the first fifteen minutes or so, I thought we were all right,"



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

North Carolina midfielder Nikki Washington, right, beats Notre Dame forward Amanda Cinalli to a ball Sunday in the NCAA Championship game in Cary, N.C. The Tar Heels won 2-1.

Waldrum said. "But that first goal, the way it happened, took the wind out of our sails a little bit."

The Tar Heels almost added to their lead with 18 minutes left in the half on a shot from just outside the box by forward Whitney Engen, but Karas made a diving save to keep Notre Dame in the game.

North Carolina continued to pressure the Irish net, forcing Karas to make another diving save with one minute left before halftime. Forward Sterling Smith beat Irish defender Kim Lorenzen and got a shot off, but once again Karas made the play to keep the deficit at one.

Notre Dame had a solid chance to score just before the half, when forward Brittany Bock flicked on a free kick with her head but midfielder Amanda Cinalli couldn't get to it before Tar Heel keeper Anna Rodenbough smothered the ball.

At halftime, North Carolina had outshot the Irish 10-2.

Immediately after the break, the Tar Heels scored again. Forward Casey Nogueira streaked into the box and headed a perfect cross from Engen into the net for a 2-0 lead with 43 minutes left.

Notre Dame made a game of it in the last 10 minutes, scoring with nine minutes left to play. Sophomore forward and Hermann Award winner Kerri Hanks lofted the ball into the box, where Bock emerged from a crowd to head it into the net and cut the lead to one.

"Getting a goal gave us some confidence," Cinalli said. "Unfortunately, we couldn't get in another one."

After the score, the Irish went

into an all-out attack mode, sending nearly every player forward and generating several more chances.

"Sometimes you play better when you have nothing to lose," Waldrum said.

The best Irish opportunity after the goal came with eight minutes left. A flip throw-in by freshman Michele Weissenhofer bounced around in the box, but Rodenbough managed to coral it and end the threat.

Hanks also had one last effort for Notre Dame, earning a free kick just outside the box with one minute remaining, but her shot flew just to the right of the net.

"It was really close," Cinalli said. "It just barely missed."

While Waldrum was pleased with the late rally, he wondered aloud after the game why his team didn't wake up until the game was almost over.

"I like our intensity in the last fifteen minutes," he said. "But we should have played like that for the entire game."

Notre Dame 2, Florida State 1

Notre Dame scored twice in less than two minutes late in the first half, then held off a furious Florida State comeback attempt to win a 2-1 thriller Friday to advance to the final against the Tar Heels.

Notre Dame freshman midfielder Courtney Rosen put the Irish up 1-0 with nine minutes left in the first half. Rosen, who had come into the game for Weissenhofer five minutes before, took a pass on the right flank, juked a defender and rocketed a shot past Florida State goalie Ali Mims.

"I heard [Mims] was a little tentative with the ball in the air,"

Rosen said. "So I was like, 'why not?' and I let it fly."

The goal was Rosen's second of her career.

The Irish scored again barely two minutes later, with a corner kick by Hanks landing right on the head of Bock, who knocked the ball toward senior Jill Krivacek. Krivacek and a Seminole defender both went for the ball, which went off the Florida State player and into the net.

Krivacek was credited with the goal.

"I was right there and I had good enough position that whichever of us touched it, it was probably going in the net," Krivacek said. "But she was the one who headed it, not me."

The Seminoles (18-4-4) had controlled possession for most of the half, but were unable to generate many chances. Florida State had more corner kicks than Notre Dame in the first half, 5 to 3, but was outshot 9-2.

Waldrum said he was concerned at halftime because the Irish had not been as dominant in the first half as the scoreboard indicated.

"Being up two is probably the most dangerous lead you can have," he said. "Sometimes you would rather maybe be up by just one, because you don't want to sit on a two-goal lead, but you don't want to give up a quick goal either."

The Seminoles kept the pressure on after the break and cut the lead to one early in the second half. Senior India Trotter blew past Irish freshman defender Haley Ford and beat Karas.

Trotter had started the game at left back, but Seminoles coach Mark Krikorian moved her up

front after Florida State fell behind 2-0. It was Trotter's eighth goal of the year, second on the Seminole team.

"We thought we had some matchups today with her attacking that would work for us, and I guess they did," Krikorian said.

Soon after the goal, Trotter moved back to defense, a move which "relieved" Waldrum.

"India Trotter is a great athlete, and she was really creating some havoc against us," he said.

Florida State had a golden chance to tie the game with 23 minutes left. A Seminoles free kick flew into the box and was headed toward the net. Karas missed it, but it hit the cross bar and bounced to the ground, where the Irish keeper knocked it out of bounds.

Florida State got two shots off on the ensuing corner kick, but both were deflected.

"We were under a lot of pressure," Notre Dame defender Christie Shaner said. "We had to get organized because players were running free."

Late in the game, Krikorian removed Mims and put a goalie jersey on junior defender Libby Gianceski in order to get a quicker, more offensive lineup into the game.

"We've been working on that for a few months," Krikorian said. "If we're in a desperate situation where we need a goal, that's usually what we go to. There's no difference to me between losing two to one and three to one."

The strategy almost paid off, with the Seminoles getting two major scoring chances with less than 15 minutes to play.

The first, with 13 minutes left, came on a through-ball to forward Kelly Rowland. Rowland was one-on-one with Karas, but the Irish keeper smothered the ball before the Florida State senior could get a shot off.

Ten minutes later, the Seminoles had a two-on-one break down the right flank, but Notre Dame freshman defender Amanda Clark, the only Irish player left on that side, managed to clear the ball.

The Irish counter-attacked after the clear and junior forward Susan Pinnick found herself running free behind Gianceski, who had moved up almost to midfield. Gianceski recovered just in time to harass Pinnick's shot, which rolled just wide of the open net.

Note:

◆Hanks, Bock, and Krivacek were named to the All-Tournament team from Notre Dame.

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player of the game

Heather O'Reilly

The Tar Heel forward's goal in the 18th minute gave North Carolina the lead, and she assisted Casey Nogueira's 48th-minute insurance goal.

stat of the game

0

Amount of times Notre Dame's senior class had trailed 2-0 in their careers before Sunday's game.

play of the game

Brittany Bock's 81st-minute goal

Bock's header from Hermann Trophy winner Kerri Hanks' pass gave the Irish life inside the last 10 minutes.

quote of the game

"I'm not disappointed in my team, but I am disappointed for them."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

Senior class leaves behind impressive legacy

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Sports Writer

CARY, N.C. — Somewhere underneath the tears of the Irish seniors following their 2-1 College Cup loss to North Carolina twinkles the glowing accomplishments of a class that made its long-awaited return to the championship stage.

Friday's semifinal victory over Florida State gave Notre Dame its 92nd win over the past four years, surpassing the soccer Class of 1997's 91 victories for the most wins by a Notre Dame senior class in the program's history.

The loss brought the senior class's career record to 92-8-3 over the past four years, a mark second in the country to only North Carolina's 97-3-3 stretch over that same time.

But at Notre Dame, success is measured in National Championships. Like the class of 1997, these seniors won a College Cup title as sophomores, when they defeated UCLA in a shootout at the same site as this weekend's matches. Sunday they attempted to become the first Irish team to win two titles and the first program besides North Carolina to win three.

"This senior class for us amazes me," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said after the game. "Ever since we've been here we've been asked Carolina this and Carolina that and the aura of Carolina and all that stuff.... I think in terms of set-

ting a legacy, this group of seniors has been to... two [College Cup semifinals] and won a National Championship. And that's equal to what North Carolina has done in the last five years as well."

After the loss, Irish coach Randy Waldrum said it was hard to talk to a group that had already won one title, but was so broken because they just lost their chance to win another.

"You never as a coach want to have that conversation. I want to be on the other side of that like [North Carolina coach Anson Dorrance is]," Waldrum said. "I think this group's has been special and helped us form our own legacy as well. I think the kids deserve to be looked at on a national scene the way that we feel like we are. We just hope that we'll be back. For the seniors, I thank them for all they've done."

Senior midfielder and All-Tournament midfielder Jill Krivacek said that at the end of the game, the long journey of the class just began to come into focus.

"Everything at that moment seemed to flash before us — for me at least," Krivacek said. "The four years playing with my best friends and the friendships that we developed, the National Championship in 2004, and I think now we have a little better perspective. But it'll be a few years from now that we really realize that it was a great four years."

In addition to the 2004 title, Krivacek said one of the great

legacies left by the seniors is their dominance at Alumni Field, where they posted a 53-2-1 record and had not lost since Michigan beat them 1-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament during their freshman year.

"[Senior forward] Molly [Iarocci] and I were talking about this [Saturday] night," she said. "That we felt for the girls who had to go off on a loss losing at home at Alumni. I think what we took pride in as a senior class is we never had [another] loss at Alumni Field in our four years. We protected our home field."

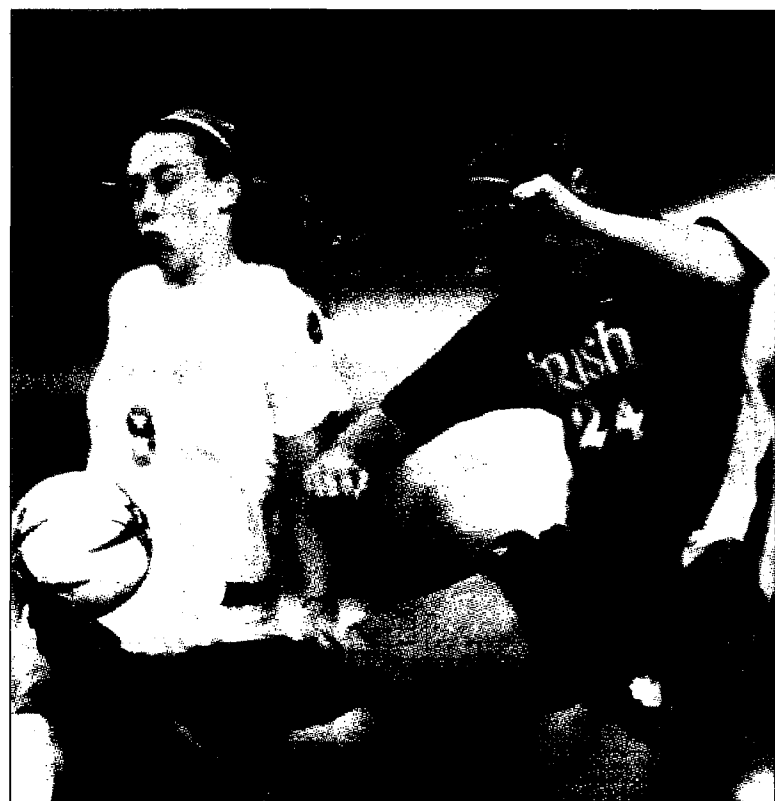
The seniors dominated in their showing at Alumni Field, knocking off No. 8 Penn State 4-0 in front of their home crowd.

"That game against Penn State was a great way to leave Alumni Field," Krivacek said.

Even after stumbling in their final act, Krivacek has no regrets.

"We hadn't played North Carolina in our four years and there's no other way to go out than to play Carolina," she said. "Unfortunately we didn't win, but it was a very good Carolina team."

It was also a very good Notre Dame team, one that carried a No. 1 ranking and its accompanying bullseye almost the entire season. It was the type of team that elicited those same kinds of remarks from the teams the Irish brought down on the way to Cary. When the Irish beat Colorado 3-0 at home in the Sweet 16, Buffaloes midfielder Katie Griffin was thankful for the opportunity to go



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer
Notre Dame senior midfielder Jill Krivacek, right, intercepts a pass intended for North Carolina's Whitney Engen Sunday.

out against No. 1 Notre Dame.

"If you have to lose to somebody you might as well go out to the number one team in the nation. We've never played Notre Dame before."

When someone finally pulls the plug on the torch atop Grace, there is nothing anyone can do to extinguish the legacy of these sen-

iors. Fluorescent light or not, when it comes to ranking the all-time Notre Dame women's soccer classes, Krivacek, Iarocci, Christie Shaner, Kim Lorenzen, Lizzie Reed, Claire Gallerano and Nikki Westfall are No. 1.

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National Championship

Nov. 10

Notre Dame 7
Oakland 1

North Carolina 2

Nov. 10

North Carolina 7
UNC Asheville 0

Nov. 12

Notre Dame 1
Wisconsin-Mil. 0

Semifinals

Notre Dame 2
Florida State 1



Semifinals

North Carolina 2
UCLA 0

Nov. 12

North Carolina 4
Navy 0

Nov. 17

Notre Dame 3
Colorado 0

Nov. 18

North Carolina 6
Tennessee 2

Quarterfinals

Notre Dame 4
Penn State 0

Notre Dame 1

Quarterfinals

North Carolina 3
Texas A&M 2

Fighting proves to be too much for Irish

CARY, N.C. — The gloves were off Sunday against the most storied program in NCAA history.

When sophomore forward Kerri Hanks lined up for the opening kickoff, the Texas native's bare hands were without the gloves she normally wears in sub-60 degree weather, prepared for the biggest game of the year.

After lasting almost the entire season as the top ranked team in the nation, Hanks and the Irish were ready for a fight against co-No. 1 North Carolina. And a title fight it was on the biggest of stages — in the epicenter of women's college soccer. There



Tim Dougherty
Sports Writer

were even scalpers and celebrities like Pat Summitt, Roy Williams, Mia Hamm and Nomar Garciaparra.

But on the field, Notre Dame played North Carolina. And in the 27th game of the season, the unbeaten Irish finally met their match.

If nothing else, Notre Dame fought, whistled for 20 of the game's 41 fouls. The Irish fought for their lives for the final 20 minutes, trying frantically to become the first team in 186 tries to come back from a 2-0 deficit to Carolina.

In the 81st minute, sophomore forward Brittany Bock emerged from a pile of fallen bodies to lay her head on Hanks' cross to send it into the net — and spark hope to a fading team.

Hanks had her shot to tie in the 89th minute, but her free kick from 20 yards out sailed right of the goal, beyond div-

ing Tar Heel keeper Anna Rodenbough.

In the end, Notre Dame spent too much time just fighting.

"I was proud of the fact that they came back and made it a game at the end," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "I'm proud that we showed that kind of heart. You find the positives in a big game like that. I just wished we could've done it a little bit earlier."

The Irish faced more pressure than they had seen all year. Tar Heels swarmed to wherever the ball was, suffocating Irish players and preventing them from establishing an offensive rhythm until the end of the second half.

North Carolina outshot Notre Dame for the first time

"For the seniors, I thank them for all they've done."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

all year, 20-9. That's a hard deficit to overcome, especially to North Carolina.

"I was quite honestly shocked that we didn't come out and have that kind [of] intensity that we had the last 15 minutes," Waldrum said.

Though junior goalkeeper Lauren Karas might like a do-over on the first goal, she kept her team within striking distance by laying out in the air and on the ground for two breathtaking first half saves.

Notre Dame brought a lot Sunday, but when you play Carolina, a lot isn't good enough. You have to bring everything you have, and then find something extra before it's too late.

Unfortunately for the Irish, time ran out before they could find it.

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

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scoring summary

	1st	3rd	Total
UNC	1	1	2
Notre Dame	0	1	1

First Half
North Carolina 1, Notre Dame 0
Tar Heel forward Heather O'Reilly lofts a ball past Notre Dame keeper Lauren Karas 17:57 into the game. The goal was assisted by Casey Nogueira.

Second Half
North Carolina 2, Notre Dame 0
Nogueira puts a 5-yard header into the left side of the net 46:28 into the game. O'Reilly and Whitney Engen assisted the goal.
North Carolina 2, Notre Dame 1
Midfielder Brittany Bock puts a header over North Carolina goalkeeper Ashlyn Harris from six yards away 80:30 into the game. Striker Kerri Hanks assisted the goal.

	1st	3rd	Total
Notre Dame	1	1	2
Florida State	0	1	1

First Half
Notre Dame 1, Florida State 0
Midfielder Courtney Rosen forces a turnover and put the ball past Seminole goalie Ali Mims from 25 yards 35:32 into the game.
Notre Dame 2, Florida State 0
Forward Jill Krivacek heads the ball into the right side of the net 38:21 into the game following Bock header and a Hanks corner kick. Hanks and Bock both received assists on the play.

Second Half
Notre Dame 2, Florida State 1
Forward India Trotter lofts the ball into the top left corner of the Irish net 51:22 into the game. Kelly Rowland received an assist on the play.

Hanks, Lapira each win Hermann trophy

Notre Dame first to have both men's and women's honoree

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Across the board, Notre Dame took home a considerable amount of hardware this weekend.

Sophomore forward Kerri Hanks won the Missouri Athletic Club Hermann Trophy Award for the best Division I women's college soccer player, and junior forward Joseph Lapira took home the same award on the men's side. Together, they helped Notre Dame to become the first ever school to have players win both the men and women's Hermann Trophy in the same season.

"I think it's pretty well known that Notre Dame has one of the best programs in the country, but this certainly reinforces that," Irish men's coach Bobby Clark said.

As a sophomore, Hanks became the youngest player, male or female, to win the Hermann Trophy. She becomes the second player under current women's coach Randy Waldrum to win the award and the third overall for the Notre Dame women's program. Only North Carolina has had more players win the Hermann Trophy than the Irish.

"I did not think I was going to win it," Hanks said in a statement after receiving the award Saturday night in North Carolina, according to a und.com press release. "I can't explain how thankful I am to my teammates. Without them, I would not be close to getting this award."

Through her first two sea-

sons at Notre Dame, Hanks has tallied 136 points — only former SMU player Lisa Cole (147) and former UC Santa Barbara standout Carin Jennings (147) had more in their first two respective seasons.

This past season, Hanks led the nation in both goals (22) and assists (21) becoming only the eleventh player in NCAA history to break 20 in both categories. Hanks joins former UNC and national team star Mia Hamm as the only players to ever lead the nation in both goals and assists, and Hanks hopes that the comparisons between the two players won't end there.

"It's always been my goal to play for the national team," Hanks said. "My time is not yet but hopefully it will come later. I think more about the team now than individually. To be the best player in the world is not something I am too worried about."

Lapira, who traveled to St. Louis this weekend to receive the Hermann Trophy at the Missouri Athletic Club, becomes the first player in the history of Notre Dame men's soccer to ever win the award. Lapira beat out junior forward Charlie Davies of Boston College and SMU senior defender Jay Needham.

"I've spent 20 plus years coaching in college soccer, and I've never had one of my players win player of the year, so obviously it's a very special moment for this program," Clark said.

Lapira led the nation in both goals (22) and points (50) this season, but perhaps more impressively, he did it playing with an injured knee. Lapira tore his left lateral meniscus in the first game of the season against UAB, but he made a joint decision with Clark and the



Irish forward Kerri Hanks dribbles around a pair of Tar Heel defenders in Sunday's NCAA Championship game.

team's training staff to put surgery off until after the season. For the last month, Lapira did not practice with the team, but rather spent time between the games working out in the trainer's room.

"Some would consider it nice not to practice, but it killed me to not be able to go out there and play in practice," Lapira said. "It was kind of a day-to-day thing whether my knee would make it through or not."

Lapira tallied 11 game winning goals this season, one of which came on September 3, when he scored four goals in a 5-4 overtime victory against in-state rival Indiana. Later in During one stretch, Lapira scored in seven consecutive games, and in that stretch

he had two goals each in five straight games.

Lapira also scored the Irish's only goals in their 1-0 wins over Illinois-Chicago and Maryland in the first two round of this year's NCAA tournament. He also had an assist in Notre Dame's 3-2 loss to Virginia in the quarterfinals.

Although that loss came little over one week ago, Lapira has already started looking towards next season.

"This was arguably the best season that Notre Dame has ever put together," Lapira said. "Arguably, the reason we went so far was the leadership of our seniors, and we're going to have to try and fill that hole next year."

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statistics

	shots on goal	9
	corner kicks	1
	saves	5
	fouls	21
	assists	1

Notre Dame season leaders

Offense			
player	points	goals	assist
Kerri Hanks	65	22	21
Michele Weissenhofer	53	18	17
Brittany Bock	29	11	7
Amanda Cinalli	26	11	4
Jill Krivacek	16	5	6
Jen Buczkowski	15	1	13
Susan Pinnick	10	2	6
Ashely Jones	9	2	5
Courtney Rosen	8	2	4
Lizzie Read	7	2	3
Molly Iarocci	6	1	2
Defense			
Goals			
player	against	saves	wins
Lauren Karas	8	36	24
Kelsey Lysander	1	4	1

UNC season leaders

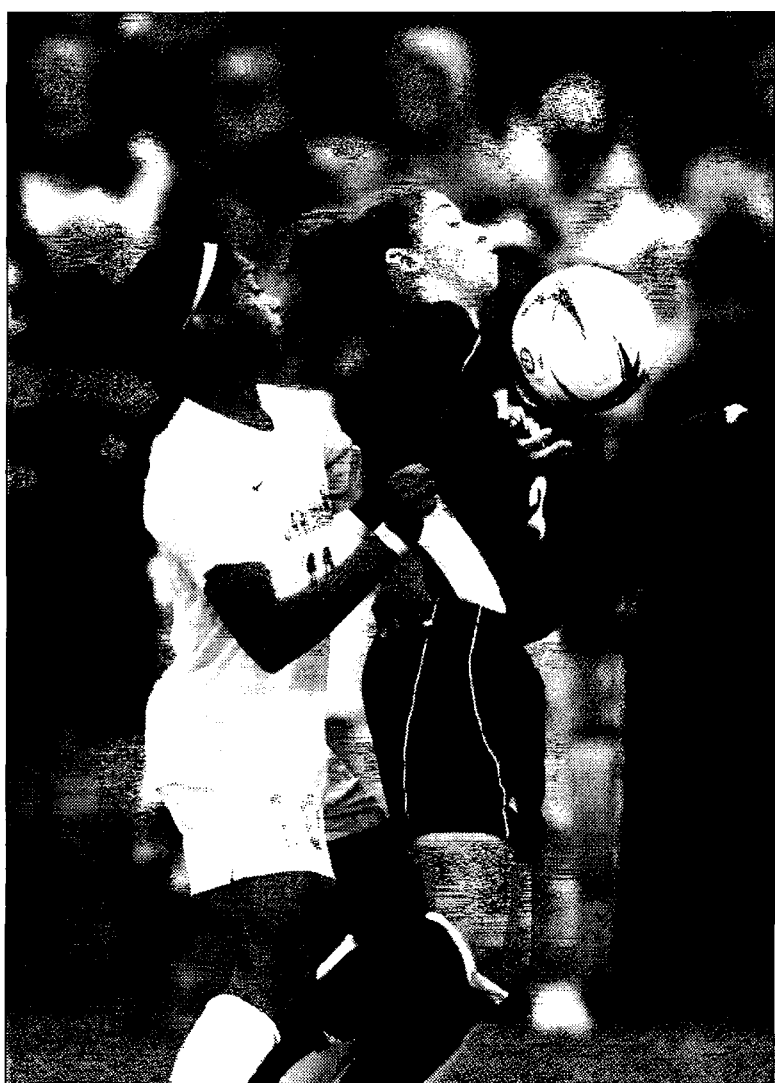
Offense			
player	points	goals	assist
Heather O'Reilly	40	12	16
Yael Averbuch	39	16	7
Whitney Engen	37	12	13
Elizabeth Guess	25	6	13
Tobin Heath	17	4	9
Casey Nogueira	16	4	8
Ali Hawkins	15	6	3
Nikki Washington	15	3	9
Jaime Gilbert	14	5	4
Sterling Smith	14	5	4
Defense			
Goals			
player	against	saves	wins
Anna Rodenbough	10	48	25
Ashlyn Harris	3	7	2



Too little, too late

Notre Dame's matchup with North Carolina pitted the then-No.1 Irish against the perennial powerhouse Tar Heels.

After surrendering goals to Heather O'Reilly and Casey Nogueira, the Irish attempted to pull a off a late game comeback. Forward Jill Krivacek's goal in the 81st minute cut the North Carolina lead to one, but Notre Dame couldn't find the equalizer before time ran out on the game and its season.



PAMELA LOCK/The Observer

Top left, forward Kerri Hanks sits down after Notre Dame's loss. Top right, Irish forward Ashley Jones slide tackles UNC's Whitney Engen. Center, North Carolina's Ann Rodenbough makes a diving save. Bottom right, Irish forward Haley Ford steals the ball from FSU's Becky Edwards. Bottom left, Hanks chests down a ball as UNC's Ariel Harris defends.

SCENE & HEARD

Perennial Christmas favorites foster holiday spirit

Between the finals, papers and general stress of the end of the semester, the fact that Christmas is around the corner sometimes gets lost.

But fear not. Christmas trees are appearing across campus, Christmas music is playing on the radio, and television stations are starting to play all of the classic favorites.

There is something about Christmas movies that makes it feel like it's the holiday season again. Whether it's because they were all we watched for a month when we were kids or because of their sweet nature, it's not Christmas without a certain few.

10. "It's a Wonderful Life" — There can't be a Christmas movie list without this Frank Capra film starring James Stewart. This touching story reminds us of the importance of life, pure and simple.

9. "Rankin/Bass Christmas Specials" — These famous stop-motion and animated shows, including "Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer," "The Year Without a Santa Clause," "The Little Drummer Boy," "Frosty the Snowman," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Jack Frost," have played on TV stations ever since they premiered in the 1960s. Something about their simple animation and spirited spins on some of the classic Christmas stories makes them appealing



Michelle Fordice

Scene Writer

year in and year out.

8. "Miracle on 34th Street" — I remember watching both versions of this movie over and over again right before Christmas. Cynicism disappears as we all start believing in Santa Clause again, even just for a little while.

7. "Little Women" — All right. It isn't really a Christmas movie. But it gives me that snowy and cozy Christmas feeling, so it's included anyway. "Little Women" is the perfect story of family love (set among some great snow scenes) that inspires you to spend more time with your own.

6. "Meet Me in St. Louis" — This movie could be included solely because it is the birthplace of the song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," sung by Judy Garland, but its sweet love stories make it all the better.

5. "The Santa Claus" — Starring Tim Allen, this is one of the funniest Christmas movies and definitely one of the best in recent years. The story of what happens when Santa gets replaced by the unlikely of men, "The Santa Clause" will warm your heart either from sincerity or laughter.

4. "The Small One" — I have yet to find anyone else who remembers this one, but I can't resist including the movie I had practically memorized as a little girl that made me cry every time. A short 1978 Disney animated cartoon, "The Small One" tells the story of a boy who must part with his pet donkey, but the only one who will buy him is the tanner. When all hope seems lost, a man offers to buy the donkey, so that he can bring his pregnant wife to Bethlehem.



Photo courtesy of lovelovetigers.tblog.jp

"Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer" is a stop-motion Christmas classic enjoyed each year. It is one of several Christmas movies that signify the spirit of the holidays.

3. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — Your head may not be screwed on just right if you can resist the original animated version. Dr. Seuss' unforgettable story of the mean and cynical Grinch who sets out to destroy Christmas for the Whos helps us remember that it can come without "packages, boxes, or bags!"

2. "A Christmas Carol" — Whether it stars Alastair Sim, Patrick Stewart or the Muppets, you can't go through the Christmas season without watching some version of Dickens' classic tale.

1. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" — In my favorite, Charlie Brown, Snoopy and

the rest of the gang get past the commercialism of Christmas and find out, as Linus says, what "Christmas is all about." This movie is the epitome of everything Christmas. It's a childhood memory, it's sweet and funny and it reminds us that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Have a Merry Christmas!

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

THEATER REVIEW

'Putnam' fuses music, comedy, spelling bees

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Critic

The Chicago production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a hilarious show that loves its audience. Irresistible characters, a strong message and a wonderful way of involving viewers drive the show to its heights.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" deserves its Tony for best book. It tells the story of six middle-school students struggling through puberty, overseen by adults who don't appear to have seen completely it through the process either, as they compete in the county spelling bee. "Putnam County Spelling Bee" is fueled by its characters. From Mitch Mahoney, the official "comfort counselor" serving his parole handing out juice boxes to eliminated contestants, to William Barfee, the contestant with one working nostril, a severe peanut allergy and a magic foot, to vice principal Douglas Panch, whose recovery from the 20th annual bee "incident" is a little uncertain, every character works his or her way into your

heart.

"Putnam County Spelling Bee" isn't afraid to interact with its audience. Before the show, audience members are interviewed and four are selected to actually perform as spellers in the show. The rest of the audience is then treated not as a theatre audience, but as the audience of the spelling bee. In the beginning, the host walks through the crowd welcoming the audience to the bee, certain members are pointed out as character's "family," and the first character to be eliminated is then exiled to work for booster club selling candy. The character rebels by throwing candy and chips out at the audience. The interactive element of "Putnam County Spelling Bee" keeps the audience involved and makes every show different.

Though at first glance "Putnam County Spelling Bee" seems to be solely a comedy, the musical has real depth. The central theme can be summed up in the lyric "the best spellers don't necessarily win." "Putnam County Spelling Bee" stresses the reasons the spellers are there and why they want (or don't want) to win. Logainne Schwartzandgrubenierre, the adopted daughter of a gay couple, continually fights to illustrate their ability to raise a child. Olive Ostrovsky tries to battle on despite the absence of both her parents. "Putnam County Spelling Bee," unlike most musicals, also keeps itself up to date, thanks to the cast's ad-libbed com-



Photo courtesy of geocities.com

The original Broadway cast of "Putnam County Spelling Bee," pictured above, helped the musical win two Tony Awards in 2005. Chicago's cast is performing in an open run.

ments about current events.

The music of "Putnam County Spelling Bee" is very plot-driven, but appealing and appropriate. While it is unlikely the musical's songs will become standards or attain success on their own — there are not many full solos — they are fun to listen to and express the feelings of the characters very well. The songs are simple, reflecting the young age of the singers, but they narrate what the characters are thinking and pack in a lot of comedy.

The Chicago cast did a wonderful job. The children are all played by adults who act so well it's hard to imagine they aren't in elementary school. Many of the actors also play

multiple roles, switching from one to the other with ease.

"Putnam County Spelling Bee" evokes laughter throughout the entire performance, all while delivering a strong message and vivid characters. A trip to Chicago is well worth getting a ticket to an I-R-R-E-S-I-S-T-I-B-L-E musical.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is being performed in an open run at the Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower. Ticket information can be found at broadwayinchicago.com.

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**The 25th Annual
Putnam County
Spelling Bee**

Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower



NCAA FOOTBALL

UCLA crushes USC's title hopes; Florida wins SEC crown

Trojans 13-9 loss to Bruins opens door for Gators to play Ohio State in BCS National Championship Game



Several Florida Gators gather around quarterback Chris Leak after his 9-yard touchdown run in the SEC championship game Saturday. Florida defeated Arkansas 38-28.

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Southern California's dejected players trudged off the Rose Bowl field, oblivious to the celebration going on around them.

Their national championship hopes had just ended with the biggest upset of the season.

UCLA knocked No. 2 USC out of the Bowl Championship Series title game with a stunning victory over its crosstown rival. The Bruins did it with a vastly improved defense and a quarterback starting on three days' notice.

"Give credit to UCLA. They made it a difficult day," said USC coach Pete Carroll, whose team lost for just the fourth time in its last 59 games. "They kept us from doing what we wanted to do. We had no rhythm. We did not anticipate this happening."

Neither did most fans of either team. The Trojans hammered the Bruins 66-19 last season to lock up a second straight appearance in the BCS title game, and figured to win again, if not by such a one-sided score, to make it three in a row.

It wasn't to be, even though USC came in averaging 32.3 points a game.

Besides having their national championship hopes ended, the Trojans (10-2, 7-2 Pac-10) had their NCAA-record streak of 63 games in which they had scored 20 or more points snapped.

And a lot of the credit goes to UCLA's first-year defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker, a former Washington Redskins assistant. It was his schemes the Trojans were unable to solve.

"I didn't believe it until the clock hit zero," UCLA coach Karl Dorrell said. "All we wanted to do was stay close and get a chance to win. I know how important this win is for the Bruin family. I know that it's been a long time."

Since 1998, to be exact. The Trojans had beaten the Bruins seven straight times. Before that, UCLA beat USC eight times in a row.

The Bruins only sacked USC quarterback John David Booty twice, but they had him on the run throughout and forced him to throw several balls away. And they held Trojans star Dwayne Jarrett to four catches for 68

yards.

"We gave them a lot of different looks," Walker said. "If we confused Booty, that would take care of Jarrett."

The strategy worked to perfection.

"Their offensive line was real wide-eyed," UCLA defensive end Bruce Davis said. "People said we're small. That's all right. We were big enough to knock Booty on the ground."

Florida 38, Arkansas 28

As silver confetti blew all around them, the Florida Gators celebrated their first Southeastern Conference since the "Fun 'n' Gun" days.

The party didn't last long, though.

It was time to start lobbying for a chance to play for the biggest title of all.

Making their pitch for a trip to the desert, the Gators got an unexpected assist from the West Coast, held on for a topsy-turvy win over Arkansas and quickly deemed themselves the most worthy opponent to face top-ranked Ohio State in the BCS championship game.

"We're going to tell a group of

young men who just went 12-1 with the most difficult schedule against six ranked opponents that they don't have a chance to go play for a national championship?" Florida coach Urban Meyer asked incredulously. "I'm going to need help with that one."

His players agreed, of course, feeling the No. 4 Gators are more deserving of a shot at the Buckeyes than third-ranked Michigan, which lost to Ohio State two weeks ago in their regular-season finale.

"Michigan already had its chance," said freshman Percy Harvin, who was MVP of the Gators' 38-28 win over No. 8 Arkansas on Saturday night. "I think we deserve a chance."

One team Florida doesn't have to worry about: Southern California. The No. 2 Trojans were knocked out by a 13-9 loss to UCLA, which finished off its stunning upset while the Gators were in the locker room at half-time.

"It was definitely motivation," Harvin said. "We wanted to go out and finish off the game."

That they did. Harvin scored two touchdowns and Florida put up two more scores off a blocked punt and a botched return, winning its first SEC crown since 2000.

The Gators trailed Michigan in last week's BCS standings but hope they did enough to leapfrog the Wolverines in the one that really matters. The media, coaches and computers will answer that question Sunday night.

When everything is settled — and no matter what happens, there will be plenty of griping — Florida either heads to Arizona for the Jan. 8 BCS championship game or settles for a spot in the Sugar Bowl.

Wake Forest 9, Georgia Tech 6

Wake Forest's defensive players huddled near the sideline, pushing and shoving, yelling and screaming, jumping and dancing.

They were trailing 6-3 and ready to do something about it. Riley Swanson did.

Swanson intercepted a pass from Reggie Ball on the next play, sparking a comeback that gave Wake Forest its first Atlantic Coast Conference championship in 36 years and sent the Demon Deacons to their biggest bowl game in school history.

Riley Skinner followed Swanson's pick with long completions on consecutive drives, setting up Sam Swank's final two field goals that gave No. 16 Wake Forest a 9-6 victory over 23rd-ranked Georgia Tech in the ACC title game on a rain-soaked Saturday.

"When you get our backs against the wall, these kids respond," Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe said.

Skinner, who grew up in Jacksonville, finished 14-for-25 for 201 yards in his homecoming — and may have had the biggest cheering section in the half-empty stadium. He struggled most of the game and was sacked four times, but he came up big when the Demon Deacons needed it most.

He hooked up with John Tereshinski for a 39-yard gain on third-and-10, setting up Swank's second field goal, a 33-yarder with 8:27 to play. The kick tied the game at 6.

On the next possession, Skinner found Willie Idlette down the middle for a 45-yard gain, setting up a 22-yarder that turned out to be the game-winner.

West Virginia 41, Rutgers 39 (3 OT)

Jarrett Brown threw the go-ahead score and West Virginia knocked down Mike Teel's 2-point conversion pass to preserve a triple-overtime win over Rutgers, denying the Scarlet Knights their first BCS berth and allowing Louisville to gain the automatic bid.

Brown ran for one touchdown and threw for another in his first career start to help No. 15 West Virginia (10-2, 5-2 Big East) cap its second straight 10-win season. Brown started for Pat White, who missed the game because of a sore ankle.

"What a ball game," West Virginia coach Rich Rodriguez said. "No one panicked tonight."

The ending was a peculiar finish to an improbable regular season for No. 13 Rutgers (10-2, 5-2). A loser for so long, the Scarlet Knights started 9-0 before being upset at Cincinnati, then rebounded by beating Syracuse to set the stage for what would have been a historic win against WVU.

But while Rutgers produced its best season since going 11-0 in 1976, it wasn't enough to get the BCS berth the Scarlet Knights were hoping for.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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FOUND: winter hat near Engineering Bldg. Call Tom 631-9806 to identify.

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I'm going to see Darlene Love!!

Only 11 more days until I get to go home!

Hey, Thomson, how does becoming a philosophy major sound?

Taylor, I miss you already. Love, Hino P.S. You're too good for Riley.

Come on Niners! All hope is not lost yet.

Television does not get better than the first two seasons of the West Wing. Everyone should watch it.

AROUND THE NATION

Monday, December 4, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Football

Associated Press Top 25

team	record	points	previous
1 Ohio State (65)	12-0	1625	1
2 Florida	12-1	1529	4
3 Michigan	11-1	1526	3
4 LSU	10-2	1365	5
5 Louisville	11-1	1333	6
6 Wisconsin	11-1	1255	7
7 Oklahoma	11-2	1232	8
8 USC	10-2	1182	2
9 Boise State	12-0	1097	10
10 Auburn	10-2	1020	11
11 NOTRE DAME	10-2	939	12
12 Arkansas	10-3	867	8
13 West Virginia	10-2	865	15
14 Virginia Tech	10-2	798	14
15 Wake Forest	11-2	766	16
16 Rutgers	10-2	631	13
17 Tennessee	9-3	576	17
18 Texas	9-3	564	17
19 Brigham Young	10-2	436	20
20 California	9-3	390	21
21 Texas A&M	9-3	379	22
22 Nebraska	9-4	193	19
23 Boston College	9-3	179	25
24 Oregon State	9-4	112	NR
25 TCU	10-2	80	NR

NCAA Football

USA Today Coaches Poll

team	record	points	previous
1 Ohio State (62)	12-0	1550	1
2 Florida	12-1	1470	4
3 Michigan	11-1	1444	3
4 LSU	10-2	1299	5
5 Wisconsin	11-1	1263	6
6 Louisville	11-1	1223	7
7 USC	10-2	1173	2
8 Oklahoma	11-2	1115	10
9 Boise State	12-0	1053	9
10 Auburn	10-2	1000	11
11 NOTRE DAME	10-2	923	12
12 Arkansas	10-3	800	15
13 West Virginia	10-2	798	8
14 Virginia Tech	10-2	781	14
15 Wake Forest	11-2	745	16
16 Texas	9-3	582	17
17 Rutgers	10-2	567	13
18 Tennessee	9-3	500	19
19 California	9-3	436	20
20 Brigham Young	10-2	369	21
21 Texas A&M	9-3	303	24
22 Nebraska	9-4	242	18
23 Boston College	9-3	175	25
24 TCU	10-2	95	NR
25 Georgia Tech	9-4	72	22

NCAA Football

BCS Rankings

team	record	comp. avg.	Harris
1 Ohio State	12-0	1	1
2 Florida	12-1	12	2
3 Michigan	11-1	12	3
4 LSU	10-2	5	4
5 USC	10-2	4	7
6 Louisville	11-1	6	5
7 Wisconsin	11-1	10	6
8 Boise State	12-0	7	9
9 Auburn	10-2	8	110
10 Oklahoma	11-2	16	8
11 NOTRE DAME	10-2	9	110
12 Arkansas	10-3	12	13
13 West Virginia	10-2	14	12
14 Wake Forest	11-2	18	14
15 Virginia Tech	10-2	19	15

NCAA FOOTBALL



Florida players celebrate with the SEC Championship trophy Saturday after a 38-28 win over Arkansas. The Gators came from behind to edge out Michigan in the rankings and face Ohio State in the BCS Championship Game.

Gators to play Buckeyes in title game

Associated Press

NEW YORK— Florida beat Michigan on Sunday in the only game that mattered.

The Gators, who lobbied hard for this victory, were picked to play No. 1 Ohio State for college football's Tostitos BCS Championship Game, ending any chance for the Wolverines to get the rematch they so desired and thought they deserved.

After the numbers were crunched, it was Florida — barely. The Gators had a BCS average of .944, and the Wolverines were close behind at .934. The teams were tied in the computer

rating, but Florida had a 38-point lead in the Harris poll and a 26-point advantage in the coaches' poll.

The close selection was sure to set off renewed calls to scrap the Bowl Championship Series and go to a playoff.

Southern California was a step away from the title game if only it had beaten UCLA on Saturday. Instead, the second-ranked Trojans were upset 13-9, dropping in the standings and clearing the way for Florida (12-1) or Michigan (11-1).

The Gators leapfrogged idle Michigan by winning the Southeastern Conference championship game, 38-28, over

Arkansas.

"It's well deserved, and I'm proud of it," said Florida coach Urban Meyer on the Gators' selection.

The championship game is Jan. 8 in Glendale, Ariz.

Michigan's consolation prize is a Rose Bowl bid to play USC, a classic Big Ten vs. Pac-10 matchup of teams left to wonder what could have been.

For the first time in the BCS's eight-year history, the championship matchup was a mystery heading into selection Sunday.

When the Wolverines ended their regular season with a 42-39 loss to the Buckeyes two weeks ago, they talked about getting

another swing at their Big Ten rivals.

While Michigan was left to wait and hope, the other contenders still had games to play.

Florida made its final case by beating Arkansas, but second-year coach Meyer became very vocal about getting a chance to play Ohio State, especially when it appeared the Gators would be left out.

"It's an imperfect system," said Meyer of the BCS. "If you want a true national championship, the only way to do it is on the field."

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, however, is not in favor of a playoff.

IN BRIEF

UC-Santa Barbara mens soccer takes championship

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Nick Perera had a goal and an assist and unseeded UC-Santa Barbara beat UCLA 2-1 Sunday to win the program's first national title and second championship in school history.

Perera banged the Gauchos' first shot off the left post and into the UCLA goal to make it 1-0 less than 3 minutes into the game. Tyler Rosenlund carried the ball deep into the box before passing it back to an unmarked Perera, who had plenty of time to settle it and take the shot.

The Gauchos (17-7-1) took a 2-0 lead in the second half. Perera collected a pass in the UCLA box from Bryan Byrne and flicked the ball to an open Eric Avila, who slid it into the bottom left corner of the goal.

The UC-Santa Barbara victory came less than a day after it played 110 scoreless minutes in its semifinal victory over Wake Forest.

Tiger to build his first golf course in Dubai

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Tiger Woods said Sunday he will develop his first golf course in Dubai, an oil-rich city that hosts two European Tour events and has seen a recent rise in golf course construction.

The Tiger Woods Dubai will feature a 7,700-yard, par-72 course, a 60,000-square-foot clubhouse, a golf academy, 320 exclusive villas and a boutique hotel with 80 suites.

"I look at this project not only as an opportunity, but also as a great responsibility," Woods said.

Dubai already has eight golf courses, including the Emirates Golf Club, which hosts the Dubai Desert Classic. Woods won the tournament earlier this year in a playoff over Ernie Els. Woods lost in Dubai five years ago when he made double bogey on the final hole to finish two shots behind Thomas Bjorn.

Safin victory clinches Davis Cup for Russia

MOSCOW — Admitting he was downright scared, Marat Safin composed himself and won the Davis Cup title for Russia.

The two-time Grand Slam champion had 16 aces in beating Jose Acasuso 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (5) on Sunday in the fifth and deciding match, giving Russia a 3-2 decision over Argentina for its second Davis Cup crown.

"There were some very difficult moments today," Safin said. "It was tough to control the match. Everything worked out."

Safin lost his opening singles match Friday, blaming the indoor carpet at Olympic Stadium. But neither the surface nor lingering knee injuries stopped him this time.

"This is probably the most important win in the last two years," Safin said. "I was under pressure and I was pretty scared," Safin said.

around the dial

NFL

Carolina at Philadelphia
8:30 p.m., ESPN

NCAA BASKETBALL

USC at Kansas
9 p.m., ESPN2

NFL

Steelers finally find stride against Tampa Bay

Pittsburgh dominates; Titans victorious on late 60-yard field goal

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers saw last week what happens when a hurried quarterback has no time to make throws, set up in the pocket or get any rhythm going.

Too bad for them they waited until it was too late in the season to figure out how to do the same.

The Steelers didn't do much on offense for the second week in a row, but it didn't make much difference as they capitalized on repeated mistakes by Tampa Bay rookie quarterback Bruce Gradkowski to beat the Buccaneers 20-3 on Sunday.

In a matchup of two of the league's most disappointing teams, Ben Roethlisberger bounced back from one of the worst games of his three-season career to throw touchdown passes to tight ends Jerame Tuman and Heath Miller — both times after the Bucs (3-9) turned the ball over.

The Steelers (5-7) entered with a league-high 30 turnovers, but this time limited themselves to one turnover while Tampa Bay gave away the ball four times — and, with it, the game — in losing their sixth in seven games. The Bucs have scored only five touchdowns in losing all six road

games this season.

Roethlisberger was sacked nine times and threw two interceptions last week in a 27-0 loss to Baltimore that effectively ended any chance the Super Bowl champion Steelers had of repeating. He wasn't that much better against Tampa Bay, completing fewer than half of his 25 passes against one of the league's weakest pass defenses, but did throw scoring passes of 16 yards to Miller and 2 to Tuman. He also was sacked only once.

The Bucs avoided their second shutout when Matt Bryant kicked a 27-yard field goal on the final play, promoting coach Jon Gruden to say, "I probably will get criticized for it."

"There's kind of an unwritten rule against it but, if I had been them, I probably would have kicked it, too," Steelers linebacker Joey Porter said.

Roethlisberger (12-of-25 for 198 yards) threw his league-high 20th interception less than four minutes in, making him the first Steelers quarterback since Cliff Stoudt in 1983 to throw that many. Stoudt had 21 interceptions in his one and only Steelers season as a starter.

New Orleans 34, San Francisco 10

Like his father, Reggie Bush was a 49ers fan growing up.

Not on Sunday.

With San Francisco in town,

Bush's father, LaMar Griffin, attended a game in the Louisiana Superdome for the first time since his son turned pro, wearing Bush's No. 25 Saints jersey. Bush delighted his parents and everyone else wearing black-and-gold, showing like never before that all those electrifying plays he made in high school and college could translate to the NFL.

"Obviously, I haven't had the flashy runs or the breakthrough game like everybody has been expecting, but at the same time, I'm adjusting to the NFL. I'm learning," Bush said. "It's the kind of a game I've been waiting for, too. It finally came today."

Bush tied Joe Horn's franchise record by scoring all four of the Saints' touchdowns and gained 168 total yards as New Orleans beat the San Francisco 49ers 34-10. The victory helped New Orleans (8-4) remain alone in first place in the NFC South, while reducing the 49ers (5-7) to playoff longshots.

Most of Bush's gains were modest, but his stunning acceleration, fancy footwork and leaping ability were evident in all of his touchdowns and numerous drive-sustaining plays. He finished with 131 yards on nine receptions and 37 yards on 10 rushes.

It was fitting that Bush looked more comfortable than he had previously in his young pro career, since so many elements

from his past had converged in this game.

San Francisco quarterback Alex Smith was Bush's high school quarterback in San Diego. They won a pair of championships together. Their high school coach also was at the game. And Bush said he needed an outlet after watching his school, Southern California, lose its chance for a national title by falling to rival UCLA a night earlier.

"I was sick last night. I wanted to throw up. I couldn't believe they lost," Bush said. "I had a little extra aggression and I wanted to take it out on the 49ers."

Tennessee 20, Indianapolis 17

Magic is in the air around the Tennessee Titans. Just ask Rob Bironas.

Bironas kicked a 60-yard field goal — the franchise's longest ever — with 7 seconds left, and the Titans upset Indianapolis for their first victory over the Colts since December 2002 and their second straight amazing comeback.

The team that tied for the NFL's second-biggest comeback in the final 10 minutes last week against the New York Giants struck again Sunday against the Colts (10-2), who had lost only four of their previous 36 games.

With the wind at his back, Bironas needed every gust to lift the longest field goal in his short career over the crossbar for his

second consecutive game-winning kick. He became the sixth kicker in NFL history to connect from 60 yards or better.

"I needed that wind behind me today," Bironas said. "It was all at my back ... I let the wind take it the rest of the way."

Peyton Manning said the wind was a big factor for the Titans in the fourth quarter, and never bigger than on Bironas' field goal.

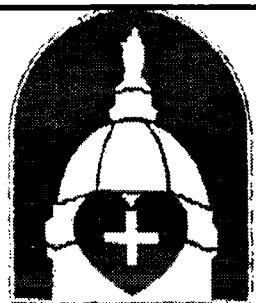
"The guy made a heck of a kick," Manning said.

The Titans (5-7) didn't trail by 21 this time, but they were down 14-0 in the first half before starting this comeback with 10 points just before halftime. They intercepted Manning twice, and Vince Young threw for two touchdowns and used his legs to help keep the ball away from the two-time NFL MVP.

Indianapolis needed a victory to clinch the division for a club-record fourth straight year and its seventh playoff berth in eight years. Seemingly easy enough for a franchise that had won 12 straight divisional games coming into Sunday.

Instead, the Colts blew a 14-point lead for the first time coach Tony Dungy could remember and lost to the Titans for the first time in eight games.

"They make a 60-yard field goal, and you take your hat off to them. We put ourselves in that position where a field goal beats you, and it did," Dungy said.



**UNIVERSITY
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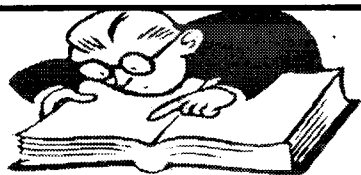
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December 7: 7am to 3:00am Midnight Snacks!

December 8: 7am to 3:00am

December 9: 7am to 3:00am

December 10: 7am to 3:00am

Finals Week: December 11-14 Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

December 15 DeBartolo Hall closes 30 minutes after last exam scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Midnight Snacks available during Study days.

See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs: Room 103, 104.

**Coleman-Morse: December 7-December 14.**1st Floor: 7:00am-4:00am2nd floor: 7:00am-3:00am3rd Floor: 7:00am-12am

See Building Support Person if you have specific needs: Room 101

**O'Shaughnessy: Rooms available for open study except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.**

December 7 & 8: 8:00am to 1:00am

December 9-12: 8:00am to 3:00am

December 13 & 14: 8:00am to 1:00am

Rooms: 106, 107, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 206, 207, 208, 209.



Good Luck with Finals



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Arizona easily tops struggling St. Louis

Cardinals win 34-20; Cowboys defeat NFC East rivals New York; Patriots edge Detroit

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The normally soft-spoken Marc Bulger had to speak up: St. Louis had just lost to the Arizona Cardinals at home, and the Rams' mistakes Sunday made it obvious to the quarterback that some of his teammates are no longer committed.

"I know there's some guys in here who don't care," Bulger said after a loss to Arizona that touched off a flurry of finger-pointing.

Prized by his coaches for his calm demeanor, the quarterback kept his voice down and didn't single out anyone after the Rams (5-7) were whistled for a season-high 126 yards in penalties. What eats at Bulger, he said, is the repeated mistakes throughout the season.

"There's more than one guy in this locker room that could care less that we're losing, or thinks it's OK to make mistakes," he said. "When we get embarrassed and you think it's OK and keep making the same mistakes, it's not OK."

Everything seemed OK for Arizona (3-9) on Sunday. Marcel Shipp scored three touchdowns, Edgerrin James had 115 yards rushing and Matt Leinart won for the second time in seven pro starts for Arizona, which made the most of the Rams' mistakes to win for the first time on the road this season.

"I think we're getting better every week," said Leinart, who was 15-for-24 for 186 yards and one touchdown.

James' 50th career 100-yard rushing game came against the NFL's worst run defense. Shipp's touchdowns were his first since 2002, when he was Arizona's feature back.

James, who had 94 yards in the first meeting against the Rams in the third week of the season, didn't mind his teammates finishing off drives.

"I had an opportunity to go in, and I said, 'No, let Shipp go in,'" James said, "because they've been so supportive of me in practice and everything."

New England 28, Detroit 21

The Patriots know how to finish games. The Lions just finish themselves off.

Corey Dillon scored two of his three touchdowns in the last 8:35. Detroit turned the ball over on its last three possessions and New England avoided a stunning upset with a victory.

Dillon gave the Patriots their first lead of the second half with his 4-yard scoring run with 2:33 left, backing up Tom Brady's belief that the Patriots nearly always have a chance to win.

"Any time there's time left on the clock, we think we can," he said. "For so much of that game we didn't play with much energy or enthusiasm."

That's not shocking, considering Detroit has the NFL's worst record over the last six

years (23-69) and is 2-10 this season. It's a surprise, though, considering the Patriots (9-3) talked all week about not taking any opponent for granted.

"Embarrassing, frustrating, but a win is a win," fullback Heath Evans said.

The Lions took an 18-13 lead after Evans was tackled in the end zone for a safety when he fell on Brady's fumble. Jason Hanson's 26-yard field goal, his fourth of the game, made it 21-13 less than 2 minutes into the fourth quarter.

The Patriots needed a touchdown and a 2-point conversion just to tie. Could they actually lose to a team that started the day with nine losses one week after the Patriots beat a team with nine wins in a 17-13 victory over Chicago on the same field?

Well, Detroit did squander a 10-0 lead in a 27-10 loss to Miami in its previous game.

Dallas 23**New York Giants 20**

Bill Parcells has never been crazy about kickers.

Martin Gramatica may have changed the Dallas coach's opinion.

Gramatica, signed last Monday after Parcells cut the enigmatic Mike Vanderjagt, kicked a 46-yard field goal with a second left to give the Dallas Cowboys a win over the New York Giants and a two-game lead in the NFC East.

"I've got to thank the Cowboys for giving me a second chance," said Gramatica, once a top kicker who had just one field goal in three games since 2004.

"It's been a rough couple of years for me," the journeyman said, "being out all last year and then not making any teams this year."

The winning score was set up by a 42-yard pass by Tony Romo to Jason Witten and came just over a minute after the Giants, wearing their red jerseys for the first and only time this season, had tied the game at 20-all on a 5-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to Plaxico Burress.

Gramatica, who also kicked field goals of 41 and 35 yards, was signed last week after the Cowboys cut Vanderjagt, who had received a three-year \$5.3 million contract in the offseason.

But being the new guy didn't keep Gramatica from bursting into one of his over-the-top celebrations: The diminutive kicker leaped into the arms of his teammates, while coach Bill Parcells broke into a wide smile on the sidelines as the ball sailed through.

"Gramatica made me look good," Parcells said with a smile. "For a first game back in the league, you can't get more pressure than that for the division lead."

It didn't look so good for Parcells on Gramatica's first kick, a 44-yard attempt on the Cowboys' opening drive.

Draw a comic.

Call Mike at 631-4542.

ND SWIMMING

Swimmers, divers perform under pressure

Both teams take third place — men at OSU, women at U.S. Open

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Competing alongside some of the top college teams in the country as well as several Olympic athletes, No. 20 Notre Dame finished in third place this weekend at the U.S. Open.

Held at the Boilermaker Aquatic Center in West

Lafayette, Ind., the Irish tallied 89 points to finish behind Open champion Auburn (427 points) and Florida (266).

Notre Dame was led by senior Katie Carroll who finished ninth in the 200 freestyle with (2:03.75) and 17th in the 200 butterfly (2:12.73). Carroll was also part of the Irish 400 medley relay team that included senior Julia Quinn, sophomore Christa Riggins and junior Caroline Johnson, which finished fourth at 4:20.33.

Freshman Stacey Nerud

turned in her best performance of the season, finishing second in the 200 individual medley. Nerud's second place effort was the highest finish for any Irish swimmer over the weekend.

While the majority of the team competed in West Lafayette, the Notre Dame divers competed in Columbus at The Ohio State Invitational.

The Irish had three divers place within the top-20 in one-meter diving. Natalie Stitt (11th), Lucy Hirt (15th) and Tiffany Robak (16th) all

turned in solid performances for Notre Dame.

The Irish men also traveled to Ohio State this weekend, coming home with a third-place finish out of 11 teams. Notre Dame accumulated 601 points over the three days, finishing behind only No. 7 Minnesota, who won with 1193 points, and host Ohio State (749.5).

Freshman MacKenzie LeBlanc posted the highlight performance for the Irish as he won the 200 butterfly in a pool-record time of 1:48.36. Sophomore Daniel Rave also

turned in a strong performance in the 200 breaststroke as he took fourth place with a time of 2:02.97.

Notre Dame posted seven top-five finishes in all, including junior Jay Vanden Berg, senior Louis Cavadini, sophomore Sam Pendergast and senior Alan Carter.

Neither men's coach Tim Welsh nor women's coach Carrie Nixon could be reached for comment Sunday evening.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies cruise to victory over Texas Southern

Price puts up 20 in Connecticut's victory; FSU upsets Florida

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — The Connecticut Huskies are making the most of an extended stay at home to start the season.

A.J. Price scored 20 points, Hasheem Thabeet tied a Connecticut record with 10 blocked shots and the 20th-ranked Huskies blew out Texas Southern 106-55 to win their 26th straight home game.

The Huskies open the season with 11 games in either Storrs or Hartford, none against a Big East or Top 25 team.

"We as a coaching staff have got to keep them, hopefully, in reality," coach Jim Calhoun said. "Today you didn't beat Carolina or Pittsburgh or Rutgers or anyone else. You beat Texas Southern, who we are fortunate enough to have better players than, on our home court, and we did a good job defensively."

Thabeet, the Huskies' 7-foot-3 center, tied the blocks record held by Donyell Marshall and Emeka Okafor. He also had seven points and four rebounds.

"I can see everyday, I play better defense," said Thabeet, a freshman from Tanzania, who has been playing organized basketball for just three years. "I belong here is what I am thinking, playing defense, playing hard."

Four other Huskies scored in double figures. Jerome Dyson had 19 points, Doug Wiggins had 17 and Marcus Johnson and Jeff Adrien each had 11. Adrien added nine rebounds for UConn. Price also had seven assists.

"He knows when to feed guys and when not to," Calhoun said of Price, a sophomore point guard. "I just thought he looked like he had some spring and he played with a lot of energy."

Leonta Matthews had 10 points to lead Texas Southern (2-6).

UCLA 61, UC Riverside 38

Tearing up and down the court is UCLA's favorite way to play. So when the Bruins encounter an opponent that slows things down, frustration sets in and their fans nearly go to sleep.

Arron Afflalo scored 13 points to help the top-ranked Bruins beat UC Riverside Sunday, giving them a 6-0 record for the first time since they won the 1995

national championship.

"We got a lot of aggressive guys on this team that want to get up and down," Afflalo said. "It's pretty difficult (to play slow)."

Luc Richard Mbah a Moute had 12 points and 12 rebounds in the Bruins' second blowout victory that ended their first week as the nation's top-ranked team in 11 years. They beat Long Beach State by 30 points last Tuesday night. Josh Shipp and Lorenzo Mata added 10 points each.

"We're a fast-breaking team," point guard Darren Collison said. "It's real difficult for us, but we did a good job in the second half standing our ground. We're the No. 1 team and everyone is trying to beat us, and they're going to do what it takes."

Henrik Thomsen scored eight points for the Highlanders (3-5), who played a top-ranked team for the second time ever. In 1988, UCR stunned No. 1 Iowa 110-92 in the Chaminade Christmas Classic.

The Highlanders controlled a slow tempo in the first half and were down by 10 at the break.

"Early we were a little anxious," UCLA coach Ben Howland said. "We missed some open shots from 3-point range. That was a tough game because they were very patient on offense."

UCR was limited to four points over the final 7 1/2 minutes on baskets by Justin Bell and Michael Creppy. The Highlanders shot 30 percent for the game and committed 12 turnovers — under their 20.2 average.

"Some of those guys haven't been getting a lot of playing time," UCR interim coach Vonn Webb said. "We got some stops, but then we turned it over, gave up some easy baskets and these kind of things break you down."

The Bruins were messy, too, with 13 turnovers, but they shot 68 percent from the floor in the second half and got to the free throw line nine more times than UCR.

Florida State 70, Florida 66

Al Thornton is so important to Florida State that Seminoles coach Leonard Hamilton almost feels guilty about it.

Still, Hamilton isn't shy about going to his team's biggest strength.

Thornton scored 28 points, including two free throws with 4 seconds left, and Florida State upset No. 4 Florida.

"It's a shame he has to go out and get 28 points every night for us to win," Hamilton said. "Tonight we had to go with Al."

Thornton scored 18 in the second half, missing just once from the floor. He finished 10-for-16 for the game and also had nine rebounds.

"There's no doubt he was ready to play tonight," Hamilton said.

The Seminoles (5-2), who had lost their previous two games by a total of 37 points, led 36-31 at the half and built the lead to 55-41 before Walter Hodge's 3-pointer with 3:02 left got the Gators to 62-59. Hodge's shot capped an 18-7 Florida run.

Hodge hit another from long range to cut it to 68-66 with 53.2 seconds left, but Florida State's Toney Douglas blocked a 3-point attempt by Taurean Green with 4 seconds left and Thornton was fouled as he picked up the loose ball.

Pittsburgh 74, Auburn 66

The missed free throws down the stretch bothered Jamie Dixon far more than the final score.

No. 2 Pittsburgh had most of a late 14-point lead wiped out and missed six straight free throws over the final 1:31, but still beat Auburn in the Panthers' first road game.

"Not a lot of teams have a good road win like that and are 8-0 at this point," the Pitt coach said. "We won by eight on the road and if we would have made

some more free throws that might have changed some things against a very good team."

Aaron Gray scored 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds despite playing with a painful blister on his left foot and spending most of the second half in foul trouble.

Gray grabbed a rebound after one of the missed foul shots and laid it in, then blocked an Auburn shot.

"I was just trying to give my team a little bit of energy," said Gray, who developed the blister late in Pitt's last game against Robert Morris.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's falls to 1-5 after loss

Team hopes to rebound against Carthage in tonight's home game

By DAN COOPER and BILL BRINK
Sports Writers

In another close game, the Belles came up short Saturday night, losing to Washington University 66-62 at home.

The win improved the Bears record to 3-3 while the Belles dropped to 1-5, extending their losing streak to three.

"We just need to get out and play and get a win," guard Allison Kessler said. "[We] need to focus on the next game."

The Bears jumped to an early lead due to the play of forward Rebecca Parker who scored nine of Washington's first 15 points. Washington would maintain control of the game throughout the first half.

With 23 seconds left in the first half, senior guard Bridget Lipke hit a jumper to pull the Belles within five, sending the Belles into the locker room down 29-34 at half-time.

Despite trailing for the

first 35 minutes, the Belles surged to a 20-10 run and took the lead, 56-55, with 4:55 to go.

Saint Mary's matched the Bears in forced turnovers (15) and points scored off turnovers (17), but were out-rebounded (38-32) and shot a lower rate from the field (42 percent compared to Washington's 46).

Washington regained the lead with an 8-2 run and held on for the win.

Junior guard

Allison Kessler was near-automatic from the charity stripe, making 12 of her 15 free throw attempts as the Belles outshot the Bears from the line (66%-60%).

Recent struggles were "not [due to] anything we haven't been doing," Kessler said. "[We need to] get better at what we're doing right."

Saint Mary's will hit the court tonight at Carthage (2-

2) which has dropped its last two games. In those contests, Carthage has averaged 56 points per game, down from 70.5 in its first two.

The Lady Reds utilize their bench greatly — no starter averages over 29.5 minutes.

Forward Katie Jarger leads the team with 14 points and 8.8 rebounds per game.

The Lady Reds have a plus-3.3 turnover per game margin as well as a 0.8 assists-to-turnovers ratio. Kessler feels that the problem Saint Mary's has had with turnovers stems not from the Belles' offense but their defense.

"It's more of not really changing the way we play, but trying to cause more turnovers on their side," she said. "If we're going to allow high amounts of turnovers, we need to cause high amounts of turnovers."

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@nd.edu and Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

"It's more of not really changing the way we play, but trying to cause more turnovers on their side."

Allison Kessler
Belles guard

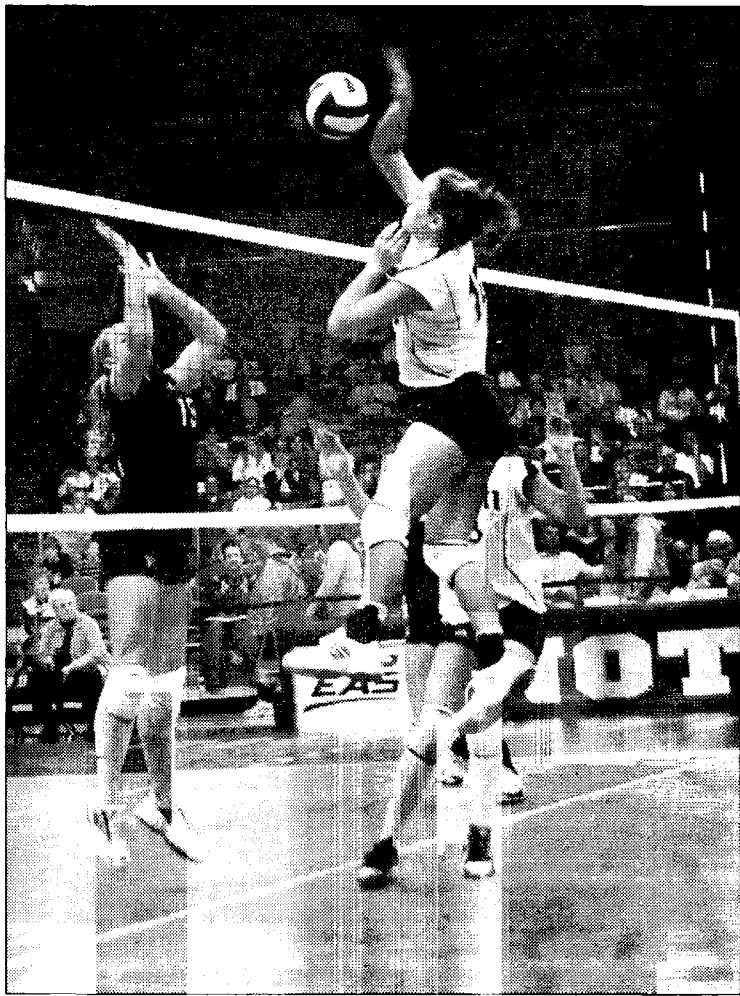
"We just need to get out and play and get a win. [We] need to focus on the next game."

Allison Kessler
Belles guard

ND VOLLEYBALL

Badgers overcome Notre Dame again

Wisconsin knocks the Irish out of NCAA Tournament for third consecutive season



HY PHAM/The Observer

Irish middle blocker Tara Enzweller attempts to spike the ball in a 3-0 win over West Virginia Nov. 12.

By DEVIN PRESTON
Sports Writer

Wisconsin had knocked the Irish out of the NCAA Tournament two consecutive times.

This weekend, the Badgers made it three, beating the Irish 34-36, 26-30, 21-30 at UW Fieldhouse in Madison, Wisc. Although the Irish strung together some impressive plays, they were not able to keep their season alive against the superior Badgers.

Before the game, Irish captain Adrianna Stasiuk said that the history between the Irish and the Badgers gave the Irish an "edge" of motivation. But that edge didn't overcome the talent of 10th-seeded Wisconsin.

Notre Dame's offense was led by Stasiuk who tallied 12 kills. Wisconsin freshman Brittney Dolgner dominated with 21 kills at a hitting percentage of .545. The Badgers out-hit the Irish .324 to .204.

A well-balanced offense was key for Wisconsin. The three Badgers with the highest kill counts all had hitting percentages above .294 — higher than Notre Dame's team leader Kim Kristoff.

Senior libero Danielle Herndon led all players with 17 digs, playing a big role in keeping her team's hope of an upset alive.

"They're all aggressive, and they're scrappy, and their defense was great, especially in the first game they were out-digging us by five or six," said Wisconsin coach Pete Waite.

The scrappy play from Notre Dame forced Wisconsin to seven

game points before they were finally able to put the Irish away.

"We played really well," said setter Jamel Nicholas. "We executed our game plan and fought for every point."

Although Notre Dame was able to tie the score with Wisconsin late in the game, needing only two points to take the game, it was unable to win the battle for momentum and fell behind Wisconsin later in the match.

"It would have helped to win," Nicholas said, "but it didn't set us back at all. We came out playing just as hard in the second game."

Wisconsin opened the second game in dominant fashion with a 6-2 run. The Irish were able to go on a 7-2 run out of a timeout and take their first lead at 9-8. The team did not allow the Badgers to gain more than a two-point lead until late, when a service error from Kristoff preceded Wisconsin's 8-2 run to put the Badgers ahead 28-22. After a timeout, Wisconsin was able to win its second game of the night off a kill from junior Audra Jeffers.

Notre Dame lost stride early in the third game with Wisconsin leading from its fourth point until the end of the match. The Irish made an attempt to regain control of the match with a kill from Mallorie Croal kicking off five consecutive points to narrow the Wisconsin lead to 15-13.

But the Irish were unable to overcome the Badgers, falling 21-30 after another Jeffers kill sealed the match.

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Bowl

continued from page 24

games."

"We want to stop answering questions about Notre Dame not winning bowl games," said captain and strong safety Tom Zbikowski.

Work toward that goal began at 6 a.m. today when Notre Dame was scheduled to hold its first practice after learning its opponent.

Irish coach Charlie Weis said Sunday that that much of Sugar Bowl preparation would center on lining up "good guys against good guys."

"We'll spend the next few weeks [with the No. 1 offensive unit practicing against the No. 1 defensive unit]," he said, in an effort to simulate game competition during the month-long layoff before the game.

The Irish allowed 404 total yards of offense against USC — including 132 receiving yards and three touchdown catches by Trojans wideout Dwayne Jarrett — which prompted many in the media to question Notre Dame's speed.

The team wasn't so sure. "[USC] made more plays than

"We want to stop answering questions about Notre Dame not winning bowl games."

Tom Zbikowski
Irish safety

"USC made more plays than us, but I don't see speed as the reason."

Travis Thomas
Irish linebacker

us," Thomas said. "But I don't see speed as the reason."

Thomas and his defensive teammates will try to slow LSU's fleet-footed pack of receivers — part of a squad that finished No. 4 in the final BCS standings and fell only to No. 2 Florida and No. 9 Auburn on the road.

That will be a tough task, given that the Sugar Bowl will be in front of a New Orleans crowd, just 80 miles from the Tigers' Baton Rouge campus.

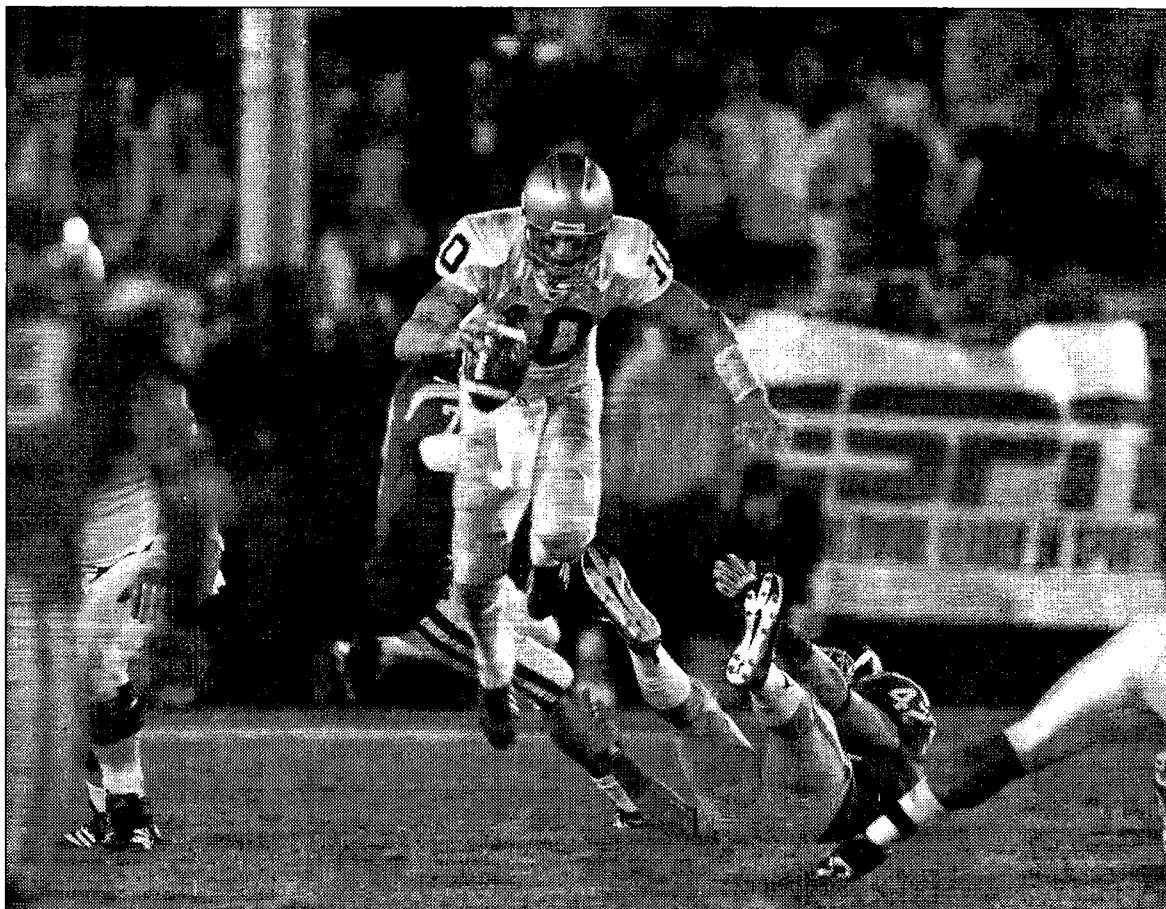
Still, Notre Dame said Sunday that it's confident in its abilities.

"It's not like we don't have talent and can't match up with those guys," Thomas said.

Notes:

♦ Both Weis and LSU coach Les Miles disclosed who they voted No. 2 in the coaches poll released Sunday. Weis, citing the Wolverine's win at Notre Dame in September, put Michigan in the second spot behind Ohio State. Miles, despite being a Michigan graduate and a coach in Ann Arbor for several years, voted Florida No. 2 because it won the SEC title. Florida finished No. 2 in the both the AP, coaches and BCS standings and will face Ohio State in the National Championship Game Jan. 8.

♦ Notre Dame and LSU both



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Irish quarterback Brady Quinn is upended by two USC defenders in Notre Dame's 44-24 loss to the Trojans Nov. 25. The Irish found out Sunday night they will play No. 4 LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

enter the Sugar Bowl as at-large berths. Notre Dame was picked after finishing No. 11 in the final BCS regular-season standings while LSU finished No. 4.

♦ The Irish held their annual football banquet Friday evening in the Joyce Center, with several players taking home awards. Quarterback Brady Quinn won the Notre Dame Monogram Club MVP award, offensive tackle Ryan Harris won the

Guardian Lineman of the Year Award as the top offensive lineman and defensive end Victor Abiamiri won the Lineman of the Year Award from the Moose Krause Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame.

Thomas won the Nick Pietrosante Award as "the individual who best exemplifies the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Irish All-America full-back."

Finally, offensive guard Dan Santucci took home the Knute Rockne Student-Athlete Award from the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley and tight end John Carlson won the Westwood One/State Farm Student Athlete of the Year Award.

Editor's Note: The Sugar Bowl is sponsored by Allstate.

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SMC SWIMMING

Gerbeth leads Belles to sixth place at DePauw Invitational

Prospective recruits see team perform well

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth scored 48 of Saint Mary's 258 points en route to a sixth-place finish at the DePauw Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Gerbeth won the 1,650-yard freestyle outright with a time of 11:04. She finished second in the 500 free in 5:22.69 and 8th in the 200 free, finishing in 2:05.70.

Aside from winning the team points, Gerbeth's victory brought additional benefits to the program.

"It helped in terms of recruiting and team morale," Belles head coach Ryan Dombkowski said. "There were a couple recruits at this meet, and it's great for them to see Saint Mary's swimmers winning events and moving in the right direction."

Saint Mary's had eight swimmers score points in the meet. Junior Kelly Tighe finished 11th in the 50 free with a time of 26.52 seconds and 15th in the

100 breaststroke, finishing in 1:18.14.

"Tighe had a great meet. She moved down half a second in the 50 free," Dombkowski said. "It was an encouraging move. She was stuck in the low 27s the entire year, and moving up was exciting."

Freshman Kayla Ferguson finished 12th in the 100 backstroke in 1:08.24. Freshman Lindsey

Nelis finished 11th in the 200 freestyle in 2:05.10, and 11th again in the 500 free with a time of 5:34.51. She also swam the 100 free, finishing in 1:02.59 and placing 16th.

Freshman Sara Niemann swam the 200 backstroke in 2:21.55 and finished in 5th place. She finished 12th in the

200 free with a time of 2:05.47 and 14th in the 500 free in 5:40.87.

Some relative unknowns also performed well. Freshman Katie Carroll placed 10th in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:44.59. Sophomore Shannon Hansen finished 16th in the 200 individual medley with a time of 2:33.57. Freshman Jennifer Lebiecz swam the 200 butterfly in 2:35.67, good for 14th place.

The relay teams also performed well, combining to score 128 points.

"Both our A and B relay teams swam well at the end of the meet," Dombkowski said. "They showed a lot of heart and determination at the end of two long days."

The days were long indeed. The team left at 5 a.m. Friday and drove four hours to the meet, arriving in time for morning

warm-ups. It was the first time the freshmen had swam a same-day prelim-final meet.

"It was rough," Dombkowski said. "The prelims were swum in the morning and the finals in the evening. It was an energetically taxing day on the entire team."

Several other Belles, although not part of the scoring, posted

new season bests. Tighe, Niemann, Carroll, Hanson, sophomore Jennifer Nicol, sophomore Leah Bocinsky and senior Sarah Budd all lowered their best times on the season.

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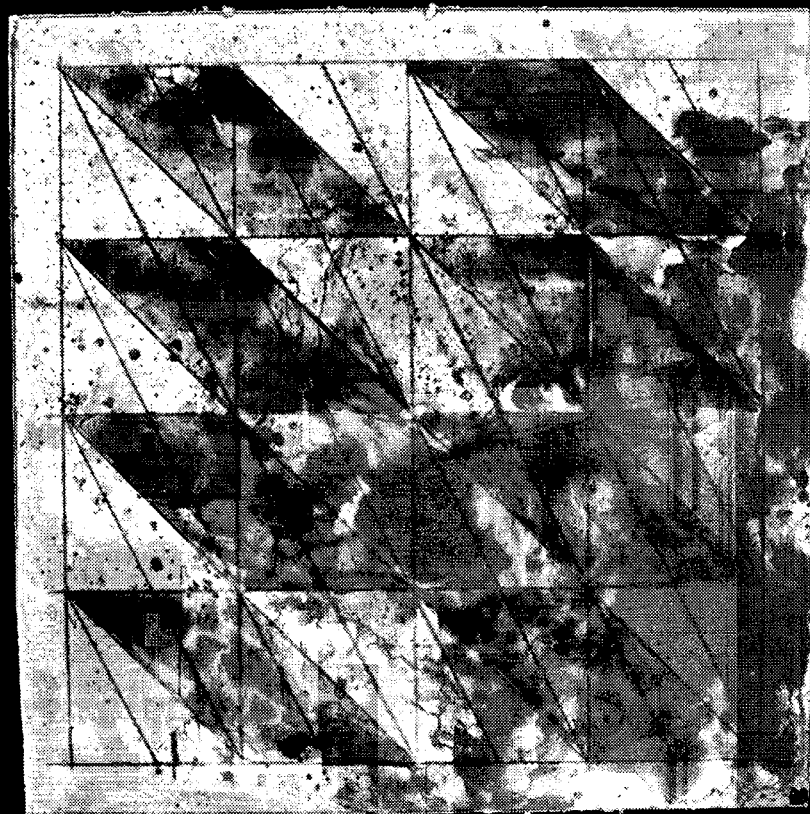
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Recycle The Observer.

Revenge

continued from page 24

defenseman Kyle Lawson (goal, assist).

Irish goalie Dave Brown made 38 saves in two games, surrendering just three goals.

The two teams combined for only 16 penalties in two games despite a first contest dominated by big checks and numerous scrums in front of the nets.

"Can you imagine college football teams playing Saturday and Sunday nights," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "Hockey is an emotional, physical sport and Saturday nights are usually toned down from Friday nights."

In the first game, three quick goals midway through the third period gave the Irish a 3-1 victory.

Thang got the scoring started with a shorthanded goal at 9:14. Junior Michael Bartlett hit Thang with a pass at center ice and the freshman skated down the right side of the ice, muscled past an Alaska defenseman and slipped the puck through Johnson's pads.

The goal, Notre Dame's fourth shorthanded tally of the season, gave the team a much needed spark as it pounded in two more in the next two minutes.

Thirty seconds later defenseman Brett Blatchford secured his first collegiate goal when he put a wrist shot past Johnson's blocker side. Center Garret Regan picked up this assist, his third of the year.

The final goal came when Van Guilder took control of the puck in the Nanooks zone. The junior right wing skated towards the middle and got off a shot as he was being tripped up. The goal ended Van Guilder's four game scoring drought, which went back to a 4-0 win over Bowling Green Nov. 11.

"It takes a lot of pressure off, it was pretty nice to get one tonight and hopefully we can keep it going," Van Guilder said.

Despite outshooting the Nanooks 34-22, the Irish trailed for most of the game as Alaska picked up an early goal 10 minutes into the contest. Sophomore Ryan Muspratt ripped a shot that bounced off Brown's facemask and rang the inside of the crossbar. Referee Matt Shegos initially waved the goal off but when Notre Dame scooped the puck up and scored on the ensuing odd-man rush, the call was reviewed and reversed.

"On the bench we all thought [the Alaska shot] had gone in," Jackson said. "That's why we have instant replay."

Alaska held on to the lead for two periods before the Irish offense exploded in the third. Notre Dame was able to come from behind by physically wearing down the Nanooks and beating them to the loose pucks late in the game. "I'm sick of watching guys stand around and fish for pucks," MacMillan said. "Too many guys want to stand there like they're holding a hoe — get a shovel."

In the second game of the series, Notre Dame neutralized Alaska's offense — outshooting the Nanooks 33 to 19 — and stymied its defense and goal-tending version of musical chairs with speed and scoring

chances to win 6-2.

"They throw pucks from everywhere," MacMillan said. "They get pucks on net and crash the net. We seem to think that you have to create a Van Gogh to score a goal — you have to create a masterpiece. I don't understand our mentality that way."

Irish left wing Evan Rankin, making his first appearance in several weeks, knocked starting goalie Johnson out of the game for a portion of the second period with a wraparound goal 2:30 into the period for the 2-1 Irish lead. Junior Wylie Rogers, who had not played since a Nov. 24 tie with Lake Superior State, took over between the pipes, but surrendered three goals on seven shots to the Irish before Johnson was put back in the game.

"I'm sure it was difficult,"

"I'm sick of watching guys stand around and fish for pucks. Too many guys stand there like they're holding a hoe — get a shovel."

Tavis MacMillan
Alaska coach

Jackson said of replacing Johnson with Rogers. "I've been there. It's not easy coming in cold, especially when the momentum is going the other way."

Thang then opened up the Notre Dame lead to 3-1 at 4:27 when he beat

Rogers high glove side on his first shot faced. He received the pass from Lawson in the corner while he curled toward the net along the top of the right face off circle, getting the shot off wide open from inside the slot.

Lawson added the first goal of his career at 8:15 and the fourth of the game with a slap shot from the right point that deflected off a Nanooks player and into the net just below the crossbar. Van Guilder slapped in his second of the game for the 5-1 Irish lead at 9:13.

"It was kind of getting to me," Lawson said. "It's tough to get that first one, but hopefully a couple more will come."

The Nanooks and Irish exchanged goals nine seconds apart in the 16th minute of the second period for the 6-2 final. On the power play, Alaska's Brandon Knelsen got the first goal of his career before center Jason Paige answered for the Irish with his sixth on the season.

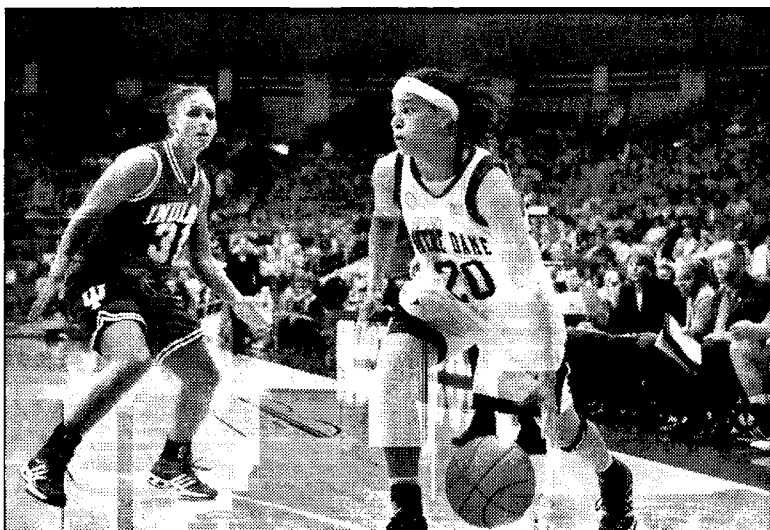
The two teams exchanged first period goals in a slow start reminiscent of the first two periods of play Saturday.

"We were sluggish out of the gate," Jackson said. "It was just a matter of getting back to playing the way we are capable of playing."

The Irish capitalized on a turnover for the lead at 12:13 on their own blue line when Nanooks right wing Adam Naglich coughed up the puck to Mark Van Guilder, creating a three-on-two. Van Guilder drove up the left side of the ice and fired a low wrist shot at Johnson's five-hole that was saved. Van Guilder, however, shoveled in the puck seconds later from the front of the crease with an assist from Noah Babin and Garrett Regan.

Alaska tied the game at 14:50 when the puck deflected off an Irish defender and bounced onto the stick of Nanooks left wing Kyle Greentree in the right slot. Brown was still caught on the left side of the net and Greentree slid the puck into the open low right side.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu and Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Notre Dame freshman guard Ashley Barlow drives against Indiana guard Leah Enterline in Notre Dame's 54-51 loss Sunday.

Split

continued from page 24

wanted for most of the shot clock, until Charel Allen got the ball on the right wing.

"I had a wide open look and it just didn't fall," Allen said.

Although Allen missed the potentially game-tying shot, she did have one of the few bright days shooting for the Irish, posting 17 points and 9 rebounds to match a career high. Melissa D'Amico was the only other Irish player in double figures. The junior center recorded the second double-double of her college career with 15 points and 10 boards.

In the first half, things looked grim for the Irish. They shot only 22.6 percent from the floor, including a dismal eight percent from beyond the arc.

"We're not a very good shooting team — 1-for-14 from the 3-point line," McGraw said.

This poor shooting effort was coupled with tough defense against the Hoosiers. Notre Dame held Indiana to just 33.3 percent shooting while out-rebounding the Hoosiers in the first half 28-15. But Notre Dame's poor scoring performance was enough to give Indiana a 27-22 halftime lead.

"We played pretty well — that's the fewest points we've given up all year," McGraw said. "We just need to find somebody that can make a shot right now."

For McGraw, the main halftime adjustment had to be Notre Dame's shooting game.

"We talked at halftime about just stepping in and just shooting 15-footers," McGraw said. "We can't make shots right now so it's going to be hard for us to win."

This change worked effectively early in the second half, with the Irish going on a 7-0 run to start the second half. The game remained within two points or fewer for the first seven minutes of the half until another big Irish run — this time 10 straight Notre Dame points — gave the Irish their biggest lead of the night at 41-33.

"We were getting closer in, I think that was when Charel was hitting some shots inside like 10 feet in, [D'Amico] hit some shots inside," McGraw said. "We were getting a higher percentage shot at that point."

But the Hoosiers responded quickly, going on their own 9-0 run over the next two minutes to bring the score close. During the Hoosiers stretch, Smith took over the game, scoring six straight points of her own — four from the charity stripe, two from the floor — to will Indiana back to a 42-41

lead.

The game would remain tight until the end, when unforced Irish errors handed the game over to the Hoosiers.

Notre Dame 61, Michigan 58

With four seconds to play, Irish guard Tulyah Gaines sank two free throws to give the Irish a 59-58 lead against the Wolverines en route to an Irish win.

"Tulyah's [free throws] were really, really big because that's how we won the game," McGraw said. "We don't win the game if she doesn't hit one of those free throws."

After a turnover by Wolverine guard Janelle Cooper and a foul by forward Melinda Queen, Allen sank two more free throws to ice the lead.

Despite winning by three points, the Irish were down by four with 22 seconds to play, but a 3-pointer by Allen brought the Irish to within one.

Allen was one of three Irish players in double figures with 15 points, alongside Gaines (11) and freshman guard Ashley Barlow (14).

Even though those three led the Irish in scoring, McGraw credited her entire team with the win.

"The great thing was that everybody contributed," she said. "Everybody did something. It was a real team effort."

This teamwork was clear down the stretch. Freshman guard Melissa Lechlitner was able to find Barlow for a 3-pointer.

Allen nailed threes and swiped errant passes to give the Irish the ball back. Freshman center Erica Williamson notched a steal and set the screen for Allen's three near the end. And with five seconds remaining, forward Crystal Erwin grabbed a board, giving Gaines a chance to make the game-winning free throws.

Despite the win, McGraw was still disappointed in her team's rebounding. Michigan out-rebounded the Irish 45-32.

"We just refused to box out, and it's really disappointing," McGraw said.

The win was the second big comeback for the Irish in the young season, the first being an 85-81 overtime victory against Bowling Green Nov. 13.

"Things haven't been easy for us and they know every game is going to be a dog-fight," McGraw said. "They really have a lot of inner drive and I think a lot of that comes from Tulyah. I think that she is a great leader for us. She's always encouraging the team."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Upset

continued from page 24

tions like that tonight [were] making plays," guard Colin Falls said. "We really grew up tonight and I think it's a great confidence builder for us to continue on our non-conference schedule."

Notre Dame had four players in double figures. McAlarney led all scorers, followed by forward Rob Kurz (16 points), Falls (14 points) and guard Russell Carter (13 points). Sophomore Zach Hillesland made his first career start and contributed with eight points, nine rebounds and four assists.

The Irish trailed the Terrapins 32-29 at the half after guard Eric Hayes nailed a 3-pointer to take the lead into the break. The teams traded baskets early in the second half until McAlarney took over. Tied at 49, the sophomore scored

eight consecutive points — two 3-pointers and one layup — to take an eight point lead and force Maryland coach Gary Williams into calling a timeout with 8:18 remaining.

"This was a big stage and I'm not the type to back down from anyone," McAlarney said. "Obviously I'm really proud of the way I played but all our guys tonight really stepped up."

Out of the timeout, Notre Dame guard Colin Falls nailed a 3-pointer capping off an 11-0 run from which Maryland would not recover. The Irish scored 52 second half points, including a stretch where they made 11 consecutive field goals from 13:58 to 7:23 left in the game.

"We just stayed really poised in an away atmosphere, they have all the fans and everything," McAlarney said. "Sometimes it's tough, it's hard to get going because they have such momentum but we just stayed real poised, put good pressure and we just controlled the tempo. And we just knocked down shots."

Notre Dame limited Maryland's production on the offensive end after it got up 60-

49 relying on a combination of zone and man-to-man defenses. The Terrapins cut the lead to six points after guard Greivis Vasquez (13 points on 4-of-15 shooting) nailed a 3-pointer with 5:30 remaining, but would never pull any closer.

"If we can defend, we're going to be a dangerous basketball team," Falls said. "We're an NCAA Tournament team if we defend

and rebound. I'll stick to that and in the years past if we had defended and rebounded better, we would have been in the NCAA Tournament."

Notre Dame controlled the tempo from the beginning of the game, jumping out to a quick 7-2 lead heading into the media timeout with 15:55 left in the first half. Kurz had five

points in that stretch — the first two baskets of the game. Maryland would respond with a 10-5 run of its own to tie the game at 22 with 5:20 remaining in the first half. Terrapins forward Ekene Ibekwe (13 points on 5-of-7 shooting) led Maryland in that stretch with seven points.

Maryland guard D.J. Strawberry led the Terps with 17 points on 6-of-11 shooting to go along with his six steals. Notre Dame's attention now turns to Alabama, who visits the Joyce Center Thursday — the team's second consecutive game against a ranked opponent.

McAlarney said he's excited to combine the momentum from Sunday's win with Notre Dame's home atmosphere.

"I love our fans and hopefully all of them show up on Thursday," McAlarney said. "They've been great so far this year."

Contact Bob Griffin at bgriffi3@nd.edu

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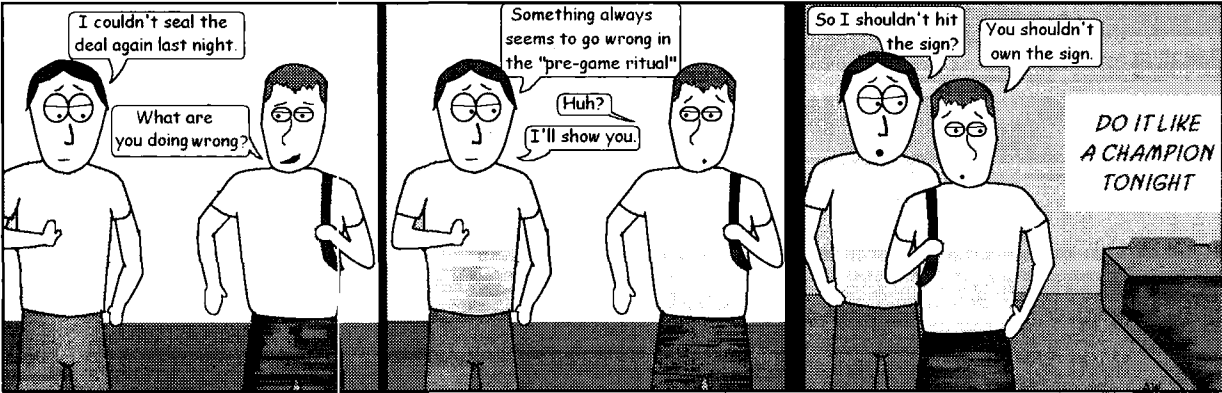
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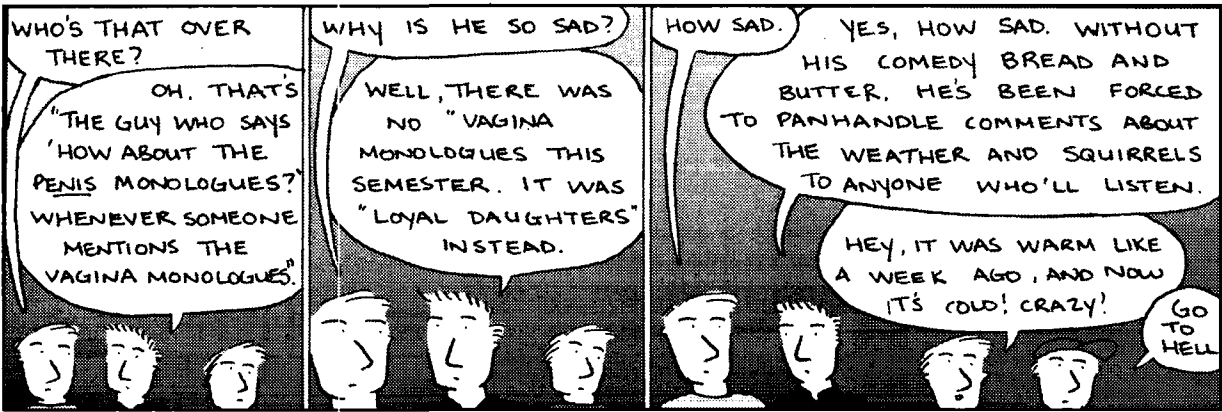
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**

1 End place for many a car accident

6 Mire

9 "Shhh!"

14 Novelist Calvino

15 Bother

16 The "U" of UHF

17 Astronaut's attire

18 Fluffy scarf

19 Go into

20 Not the real Charlie of Star-Kist ads?

23 Born: Fr.

24 Big part of an elephant

25 Ambulance worker, for short

26 Tetley product

29 Vintage French wines?

32 Rabble-rouse

34 Inexperienced in

35 Italian volcano

36 Assistant in a con game

39 Nix by Nixon, e.g.

40 Mire

42 Peanuts

44 1960's sitcom ghoul on the terrace?

47 1976 and 2001, e.g.: Abbr.

48 Sunbather's shade

49 Founded: Abbr.

50 Korean automaker

53 What 20-, 29-, 44- and 53-Across are of each other

56 Actress Sarandon

59 "Exodus" hero

60 Muscat native
- DOWN**

1 "Start eating!"

2 Reply to "Who's there?"

3 Brownish gray

4 Annual award named for a Muse

5 Stressful spot

6 The Sultan of Swat

7 Smell

8 Uncle Sam facial feature

9 Director Tarantino

10 Arm bone

11 Major defense contractor

12 "But I heard him exclaim, ___ he ..."

13 Driveway surface

21 Bye-byes

22 Referee

26 Pisa landmark

27 French political divisions

28 Regarding

29 City on Biscayne Bay

61 Prank

62 Lower, as the lights

63 Stirred up

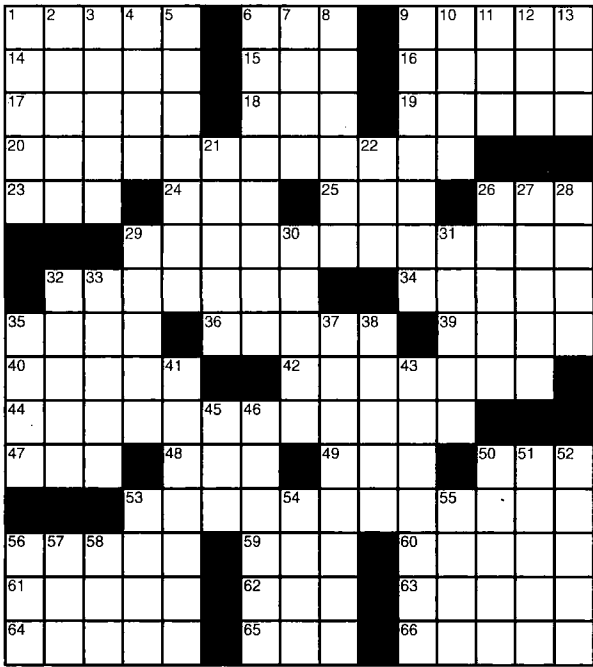
64 With feigned shyness

65 Reverse of WNW

66 Trap

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

H	O	M	E	F	R	E	E		D	A	Y	S	P	A
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G	E	T	S	A	W	A	Y		R	I	B	O	S	E
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T	R	A		E	N	A	M	I		D	U	B		
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R	E	S	O	R	T			L	I	A	R	L	I	A
E	S	S	E	N	E			S	E	X	S	E	L	L



Puzzle by John Calvin Williams

- 30 Have the throne

31 Emphatic no

32 In armed conflict

33 Pesky swarm

35 Catch sight of

37 Lollygag

38 "___ luck!"

41 Effectiveness

43 Racetrack habitués

45 Deface

46 Like beds before housekeeping

50 Australian "bear"

51 Word before tube or circle

52 Off the direct course

53 Bucket

54 "Exodus" author

55 Poker player's declaration

56 Anatomical pouch

57 Tres - dos

58 Muddy enclosure

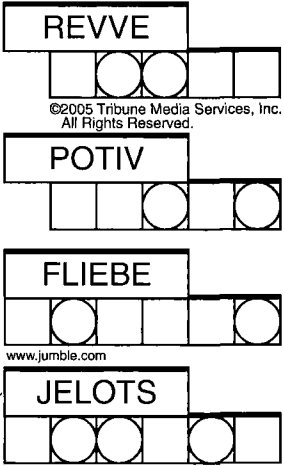
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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
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JUMBLE

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



Answer: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POKER FELON MARTYR PARADE
Answer: The prison class learned that this comes at the end of a sentence — FREEDOM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



THE OBSERVER

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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FOOTBALL

Irish earn date with No. 4 LSU in Sugar Bowl

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame was selected to face LSU in next month's Sugar Bowl — the program's second BCS berth in as many seasons — but the Irish said Sunday

after bowl pairings were announced that the January trip to New Orleans will be more about business than pleasure.

The Irish (10-2) have struggled in their last three games against marquee opponents — falling 34-20 to Ohio State in

last year's Fiesta Bowl, 47-21 to Michigan on Sept. 16 and 44-24 at Southern California Nov. 25.

"We need to get off to a fast start [in the Jan. 3 matchup with the Tigers (10-2)]," said Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn. "Any time you get behind by two or three scores

... you almost get desperate."

That might also be a good way to describe Notre Dame's feeling toward winning a bowl game — a feat the program hasn't accomplished since the 1994 Cotton Bowl against Texas A&M. Since then, Notre Dame has played in eight bowl games,

and lost them all.

Not that the statistic will hamper the Irish, said captain and linebacker Travis Thomas. "I think morale is strong," he said. "We obviously want to end that streak of not winning bowl

see BOWL/page 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Shell shocked

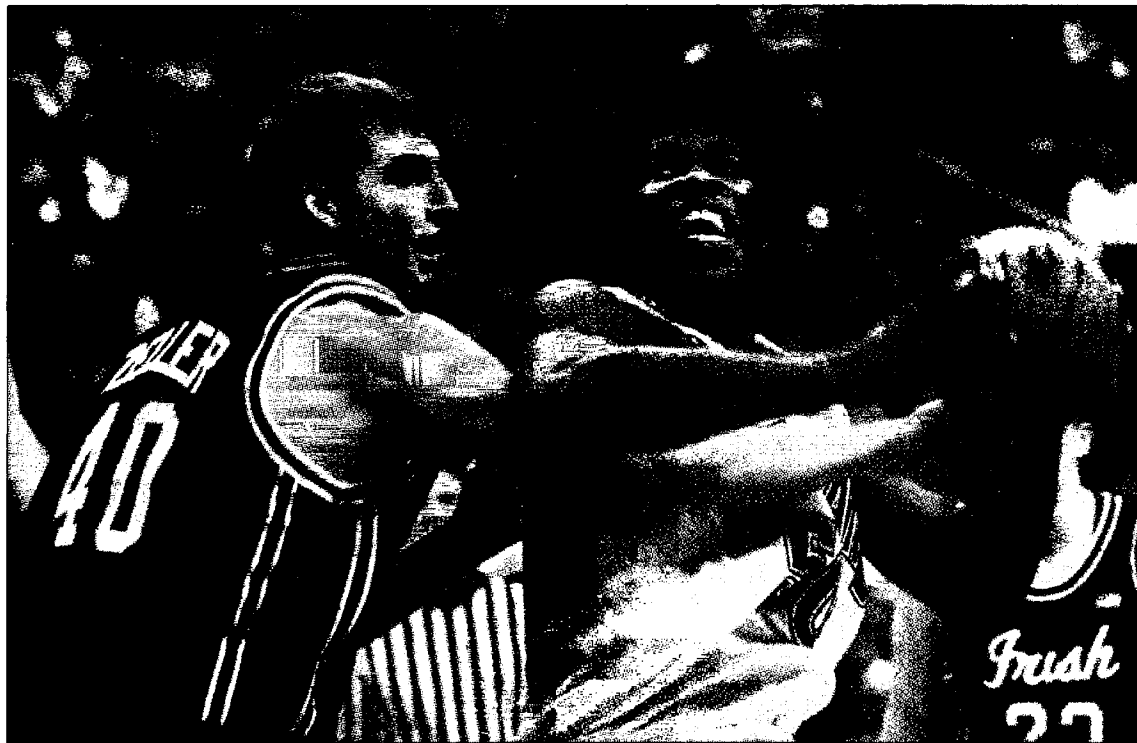
Notre Dame upends No. 23 Maryland in BB&T Classic 81-74

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame guard Kyle McAlarney scored a career-high 18 points on 6-of-11 shooting and the Irish defeated No. 23 Maryland 81-74 in the BB&T Classic at the Verizon Center in Washington D.C. Sunday — their first game against a ranked opponent all season.

It was Notre Dame's second consecutive victory against Maryland, the last coming in the first round of the BB&T Classic in 2002 when the Irish knocked off the defending champions 79-67.

"Younger guys on this team that really haven't been in posi-



Irish forward Luke Zeller defends against Maryland's Bambal Osby in the first half of Notre Dame's 81-74 win over Maryland Sunday in Washington D.C.

see UPSET/page 22

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team goes 1-1 against Big 10 foes

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame split two games against Big Ten teams this weekend, beating Michigan on the road 61-58 Friday before falling to Indiana 54-51 Sunday.

The games were both close to the finish, marked by tough defense and strong play down the stretch. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it was only able to pull out one win.

"I thought that was a really disappointing loss [to Indiana] especially in light of how we came out and played our last game [at Michigan]," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought we had the game in hand and just really beat ourselves."

Indiana 54, Notre Dame 51

With only six seconds in the game, Irish guard Charel Allen lost her dribble with the Irish down three, leading to a steal from Hoosiers forward Whitney Thomas to cement Indiana's 54-51 win.

After the steal, the Irish fouled Hoosier guard Kim Roberson. Roberson missed the free throw attempt, but the Irish could not get a last-second shot off, ending the game.

Going into the final seconds, Notre Dame and Indiana had traded leads throughout the second half, but a turnover by Allen gave the Hoosiers the ball back, letting Indiana guard Nikki Smith nail a jump-shot to push the Hoosier lead to three.

On the possession following the Smith jumper, the Irish could not find the look they

see SPLIT/page 22

HOCKEY

ND shows no patience for Nanooks

By DAN MURPHY and KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writers

No. 5 Notre Dame got a polar-bear sized load off its back and swept No. 14 Alaska in a two-game series at the Joyce Center this weekend — the same Nanooks team that beat the Irish in three straight meetings to close out last season, including two losses to knock them from the CCHA playoffs.

The Irish (12-3-1, 7-2-1 CCHA) defeated the Nanooks (6-4-4, 4-3-3 CCHA) 3-1 and 6-2 to move out of a tie for third place with Alaska in the league standings and three

points behind league-leading No. 4 Miami.

"A whole lot faster, a whole lot bigger, a whole lot stronger, a whole lot better coached, a whole lot better goaltending — a whole lot of everything," Alaska coach Tavis MacMillan said of Notre Dame's play in comparison to the Nanooks on the weekend.

The Irish were led by junior right wing Mark Van Guilder, who regained the scoring touch he had lost the previous two weekends and beat Nanooks goaltender Chad Johnson three times in two games, and left wing Ryan Thang (two goals) and

see REVENGE/page 21



Alaska right wing Brandon Knelson tries to score against Irish goaltender David Brown during Notre Dame's 3-1 win Saturday.

LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

SMC SWIMMING

DePauw Invitational

Saint Mary's finishes sixth as potential recruits attend meet.

page 20

ND VOLLEYBALL

Wisconsin eliminates the Irish in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

page 19

SMC BASKETBALL

Washington 66 Saint Mary's 62

The Belles fall to Washington University but take on Carthage tonight.

page 19

ND SWIMMING

The women's team takes third in the U.S. Open, while the men's squad takes third in The Ohio State Invitational

page 18

WOMEN'S SOCCER IRISH INSIDER

Irish fall to North Carolina 2-1 in National title game after topping Florida State 2-1 in semis.