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Irish fall to Tar Heels 2-1 in Championship

Notre Dame loses to North Carolina in national title game for the second time in three years



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Please turn to
page 20 for
full coverage.

Left, North Carolina celebrates after winning the Championship. Right, Elise Weber and Melissa Henderson after the loss.

Pink Zone to combat deadly disease

Women's basketball game against DePaul to benefit breast cancer patients

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

At Sunday's women's basketball game against Purdue, the cheerleaders donned pink T-shirts, the Leprechaun wore a pink vest and 150 pink T-shirts were passed out to students.

The array of pink replacing the usual blue, gold and green was part of a project to publi-

cize the Pink Zone game, an event to benefit breast cancer patients. The publicity for the event was put together by a management class at Notre Dame, said sophomore Nicole O'Connor, a member of the class and one of the project's leaders.

"Our class's job was to start promoting the Pink Zone game," she said. "The class is a combination of working on

the project and going through the text book."

The Pink Zone is an event put on by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA), O'Connor said. Each school involved designates a game to be the Pink Zone game, and they use that game to raise money and awareness for breast cancer

see PINK/page 4

Lenz retires after 35 years of service

By PUJA PARIKH
News Writer

Sister Jean Lenz, O.S.F., special assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs at Notre Dame, formally announced her retirement from the Office of Student Affairs on Dec. 3.

She will retire at the end of the fall semester after 35 years of service to the University.

"While Sr. Jean has certainly earned the right to enjoy a relaxing retirement, she is a valued and beloved member of the Office of

see LENZ/page 4

Students make fleece blankets for cancer patients

Third-annual Aiden Project held in South Dining Hall Saturday

By TESS CIVANTOS
News Writer

Notre Dame students made over 250 fleece blankets and cards for cancer patients at the third-annual Aiden Project Saturday.

The project began when then-sophomore Aidan Fitzgerald of Knott Hall was diagnosed with cancer three years ago.

"I had to take a year off my sophomore year for chemo," Fitzgerald said. "And when my roommate, who was the Vice-President of Circle K,

decided to start this, he asked 'Would it be all right if we called it the Aiden Project?'"

His roommate, Chris Esber, and other friends started the project as a means of showing support and raising awareness. The blankets are distributed to various hospitals which treat children with cancer, including Riley Children's Hospital, Memorial Hospital, and St. Joe's Hospital, Fitzgerald said.

He receives some interesting responses from the children who receive the blankets.

"I got a huge packet of

cards from kids last year, and the little kids are just hilarious," he said.

Esber said the project continues to receive support from Circle K, Kiwanis, Knott Hall, the Class of 2009 and student government.

Meanwhile, the project has grown more popular with students every year.

"It blows our expectations every year," Fitzgerald said. "We had to turn people away last year. This year we doubled the amount of fleece we used from last year, and look,

see AIDEN/page 6



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Patrick Sturm and Kelly Forster put together a fleece blanket for the Aiden Project in South Dining Hall Saturday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Deck the Halls

As I walked into my building, the faint sounds of Christmas music were heard from every corner of the hall. The welcoming aroma of Christmas cookies filled McCandless, and graciously met me as I entered the dorm. The entire hall appeared to be in the Christmas spirit.

As I continued on my trek to the fifth floor, I saw wrapping paper and ribbons, bells and Nativity scenes.

Alicia Smith

News Writer

There were snowmen, stockings, Santas, and snowflakes. As I walked to my room, I realized that something was missing. Although nearly all of the residents had decorated for Christmas, the bright and colorful twinkle of the Christmas lights I had grown to love could not be found within any of the students' rooms.

Christmas lights are banned from Saint Mary's residence halls. Deemed a fire hazard, lights are not allowed on trees, hung around the rooms, or in the windows. All lit decorations are prohibited to students. However, the halls may have lights in the lobby.

The lobby of McCandless, which is filled with Christmas lights, has not one, but several lit trees. Other lobbies on campus have lit wreaths and various other lit decorations.

An e-mail was sent to students reminding them that "electric decorative lights are not allowed in or around student rooms. This includes Christmas lights with exposed bulbs, and halogen bulbs are also prohibited."

A painful twinge of disappointment ran through me as I read the e-mail sent last week. No lit Christmas tree for me this year. Although the dorm still remained festive, I could not help but think that just a few colored lights would make the Christmas spirit ooze out of McCandless, as well as create a more homey feel to the building. According to www.christmascarnivals.com, Christmas lights have been a holiday tradition since approximately 1895 when president Grover Cleveland displayed the first lit Christmas tree. Saint Mary's students are not able to take part in that tradition.

Although I can understand how the lights could be a fire hazard if not taken care of properly, I do not see the harm in a little Christmas spirit. Christmas lights make the holidays a little brighter, especially since they are in the building anyway. Maybe it is because I am a freshman, but I am unable to comprehend how it is safe to have Christmas lights in the lobby, but it is unsafe to have them in our rooms.

I visited Notre Dame one evening this past week, and noticed that in a few of the windows of one of the dorm buildings, there were strings of Christmas lights. Why are Christmas lights a fire hazard to Saint Mary's, but not to Notre Dame? I pondered that thought for a few moments. With a frown I continued on my way, wishing that we Saint Mary's students were allowed to have a little more holiday spirit.

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

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

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: WHAT IS YOUR LEAST FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG?



Ross Degenhardt

freshman
Duncan

"Joy to the World" — I hate it."



James Bishko

freshman
Duncan

"Jingle Bells" stinks."



Brandon Porras

sophomore
Duncan

"Whichever one's being sung."



Eric Mark

sophomore
Duncan

"Feliz Navidad" because it's annoyingly repetitive. And not English."



C.J. Ramsey

senior
Duncan

"Blue Christmas" because Christmas is not a time for whiners."



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish senior forward Brittany Bock slide tackles Tar Heels midfielder Ali Hawkins in Notre Dame's championship match against North Carolina Sunday.

OFFBEAT

MBA graduate posts resume in taxi cab

NEW YORK — Are you talkin' to me — about a job?

A recent MBA graduate who can't find work in his chosen field has resorted to posting his resume inside the taxi he's been driving around New York City.

James Williamson earned his master's degree in business administration at Philadelphia's La Salle University. Then he spent four months on interviews while looking for work troubleshooting electronics, doing technical sales or

writing advertising copy.

When none of that panned out, he got his taxi license a month ago to help pay his bills.

The native of Durham, N.C., says he posted his resume in the back seat of his taxi as a last resort, hoping one of his customers might become his employer.

Homework cooking makes students sick

BIRMINGHAM —

Students at one Birmingham school can honestly say homework made them sick. Nearly half of the students in a

Smith Middle School language arts class became ill Friday after tasting meals that students had prepared as part of an assignment.

Birmingham schools spokeswoman Michaelle Chapman said the students were to write about their favorite dish and how it was prepared. The teacher allowed them to make and bring the dish to class if they wished.

Of the 18 students, 16 of them brought in dishes and eight students got sick after tasting them.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

American Red Cross will be having a blood drive today from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom of LaFortune. Students who would like to participate are asked to sign up online at www.givelife.org. Walk-ins are welcome however.

A Student Forum on Cultural Difference and Social Change will be held today at 4 p.m. in 649 Flanner Hall. Thirteen students will be presenting research that they did during their travels this past summer.

A public talk on "American Politics: A New Era?" is taking place Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Intercultural Studies Auditorium of the Hesburgh Center. Dr. William Kristol will be speaking on the impact of the recent election.

The 6th annual Christmas at the CoMo featuring the ND Celebration Choir and Instrumentalists will be held on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center. The event will feature reflections on Christmas traditions by ND international students. A freewill offering will support the Holy Cross Missions in Haiti.

The special lecture "What and When was the Christmas Star? An astrophysics perspective" will be given by Grant Mathews, professor of physics, in the Jordan Hall of Science Digital Visualization Theater. The event, held on Friday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. is sponsored by Department of Physics.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	33	32		32		35		27		18		21
				31		27		15		13		21

Atlanta 54 / 38 Boston 27 / 18 Chicago 33 / 31 Denver 39 / 24 Houston 76 / 64 Los Angeles 64 / 47 Minneapolis 26 / 15 New York 31 / 26 Philadelphia 32 / 26 Phoenix 67 / 49 Seattle 46 / 39 St. Louis 50 / 42 Tampa 74 / 57 Washington 34 / 30

SMC athletics hosts holiday craft event

By LIZZIEY BROWN
News Writer

Saint Mary's hosted its annual Holiday Party for Children in the Angela Athletic Facility on Sunday.

The event, hosted by the Student-Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) in conjunction with the Athletic Department, was held for children and families of the Saint Mary's community, according to a College press release.

The children who attended the event made crafts and participated in other events.

Six of the College's athletic teams, about 100 students, participated, decked out in reindeer antlers, Santa hats and jingle bells.

"I really enjoy the holiday party every year," said Nicole Beier, senior basketball player and committee chair of this year's party, in the College's press release. "It is a great opportunity to give back to the families of Saint Mary's that support us in the classroom, across campus, and on the playing fields and courts."

Student-athletes were waiting for the children and their families when they arrived, said senior Ashley Fusaro, a member of the softball team.

"We greeted everyone coming in," she said. "And we had cookies and candy waiting for them."

Various booths were set up along the walls, each offering a different craft and chocolate treats for the children.

Each individual team had its own booth with a craft for students, Fusaro said. Many different crafts were available, including jingle bell bracelets, stockings

and ornaments.

The student-athletes, like Fusaro, worked with children on the crafts. She helped six-year-old Sydney Miller create a stocking ornament at the softball team's booth.

"I'm on the softball team and she started with our craft," Fusaro said. "We made ornaments to go on the tree."

Fusaro and Miller also wore matching sweaters and so they took a picture together, she said.

Another participant, Jade O'Brien, 5-year-old daughter of Gwen O'Brien, director of Media relations at Saint Mary's College, created a snowman that she named "Crystal."

Freshman Arianne Rodriguez even implemented lessons learned from inside the classroom to create her craft. At the bottom of her craft she wrote "Feliz Navidad."

The athletes also played sports with the children. Seniors Cathy Kurczak and Nicole Beier along with freshman Maddy Peterek were playing volleyball with a few of the attendees and even lowered the net so four-year-old Nineth Kanieski Koso could play.

Other students, like junior Patty Duffy, handed out goody bags to the children.

The event wasn't just about the children, however, athletes got a chance to bond as well. They danced to the music, made their own crafts along side the children and their families, and were able to learn a little more about the people in their community.

"We entertained them for a while and spread some holiday cheer," Fusaro said.

Contact Lizziey Brown at
lbrown01@saintmarys.edu

Mendoza names new director

Keane appointed head of Executive Education of business college

Special to The Observer

Sharon E. Keane has been named the director of Executive Education of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame.

Keane will provide strategic direction to the Executive MBA programs in South Bend and Chicago, as well as executive non-degree programs, which include custom, online, international and open-enrollment offerings.

"The deeply rooted mission of Executive Education at Notre Dame has always been to prepare individuals for new levels of leadership that emphasizes not only work performance but also personal integrity and responsibility to the greater community," Keane said. "I'm excited to be carrying forward this tradition."

In her new role, Keane also will

be responsible for overseeing the transition to a new Executive Education center. Notre Dame recently received a \$20 million gift from alumnus Ralph C. Stayer, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Johnsonville Sausage, for the construction of the new center just south of the business school.

Keane joined the Executive Education program in August 2000, focusing primarily on developing custom programs, which earned a BusinessWeek ranking of 15th among Executive Education custom programs worldwide in 2007. Previously, Keane was a vice president of South Bend, Ind.-based Corporate Staffing Resources. She also worked for the federal government for nine years in policy analysis, sales and consulting positions, and served as a legislative assistant to Sen.

Hank Brown, R-Colorado.

Keane earned a bachelor's degree in the Program of Liberal Studies from Notre Dame and a master's degree in public administration from Syracuse University's Maxwell School.

"Sharon brings to the position a strong understanding of the challenges faced by executives seeking additional education, particularly in today's ever-more complex global business environment," said Carolyn Woo, Martin J. Gillen Dean of the Mendoza College.

Founded in 1980, Notre Dame Executive Education provides leaders in the executive and management ranks the opportunity to develop and strengthen their leadership abilities and business acumen skills with an emphasis on values-based principles in keeping with the Notre Dame mission. Today, Executive Education offers degree as well as non-degree programs in South Bend and Chicago, awarding about 120 MBA degrees annually and delivering programs throughout the United States and abroad.

"I'm excited to be carrying forward this tradition."

Sharon E. Keane
Director of Executive Education of the Mendoza College of Business

Recycling market enters slump

Budgeting at centers becomes tighter with global economic meltdown

Associated Press

CHARLESTON — Norm Steenstra's budgeting worries mount with each new load of cardboard, aluminum cans and plastics jugs dumped at West Virginia's largest county recycling center.

Faced with a dramatic slump in the recycling market, the director of the Kanawha

County Solid Waste Authority has cut 20 of his 24 employees' work week to four days from five, shuttered six of the authority's drop-off stations and is urging residents to hoard their recyclables after informing municipalities with curbside recycling programs that the center will accept only paper until further notice.

"The market is just not there anymore," Steenstra said.

Just months after riding an incredible high, the recycling market has tanked almost in lockstep with the global economic meltdown. As consumer demand for autos, appliances and new homes dropped, so did the steel and pulp mills' demand for scrap, paper and other recyclables.

Cardboard that sold for about \$135 a ton in September is now going for \$35 a ton. Plastic bottles have fallen from 25 cents to 2 cents a pound. Aluminum cans dropped nearly half to about 40 cents a pound, and scrap metal tumbled from \$525 a gross ton to about \$100.

It's getting more difficult to find buyers in some markets, Steenstra said.

While few across the country appear to be taking such drastic measures as Steenstra, the recycling market has gotten so bad that haulers in Oregon and Nevada who were once paid for recyclables are now getting nothing or in some cases are having to pay to unload their wares.

In Washington state, what

was once a multimillion-dollar revenue source for the city of Seattle may become a liability next year as the city may have to start paying companies to take their materials.

Some in the business are describing the downturn as the worst and fastest ever.

"It's never gone from so good to so bad so fast," said Marty Davis, president of Midland Davis Corp. in Pekin, Ill., who has been in the recycling business since 1975.

The turnaround caught everyone off guard, said Steven Kowalsky, president of Empire Recycling in Utica, N.Y.

"Nobody saw it coming. Absolutely nobody," Kowalsky said. "Even the biggest players didn't see it coming."

At the height of the market just months ago, customers lined the street outside Kowalsky's business, hoping to hawk scrap to pay rising food and fuel costs.

"That's not happening anymore," he said.

The Kanawha County authority, which sells donated recyclables from residents and municipalities, sells about 7,500 tons of paper, plastic and aluminum a year, Steenstra said.

Ted Armbricht III, managing partner of The Wine Shop at Capital Market in Charleston, says it won't be a problem piling up his recyclables at home, but he doesn't have that luxury with his wine business, which uses a lot of cardboard boxes.



Study Break Lunch at the CoMo

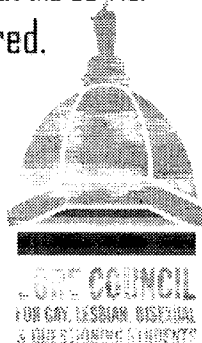
Lunch & Conversation for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Friday, December 12
Noon to 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman Morse

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

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Pink

continued from page 1

research.

Notre Dame's Pink Zone game will be against DePaul on Feb. 8. The game will be televised on ESPN. A silent auction and other events will raise money for breast cancer research, she said.

The objective of the project was to use management skills taught in class to market the Pink Zone game, O'Connor said. The game was officially announced to fans at yesterday's game through the efforts of the students in the class, she said.

"The class teaches the principles of management — planning, organizing, leading, controlling, evaluating," she said. "So our class was divided into project teams according to those phases."

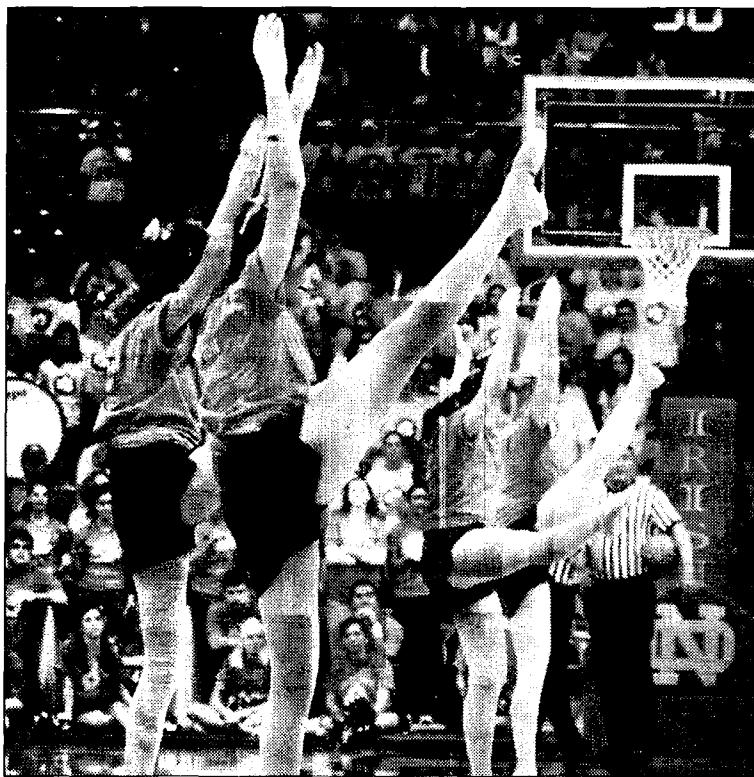
The project leaders were given an outline of what was needed to publicize the event from Women's Basketball office, and the students did the legwork to get the word out about the Pink Zone game, O'Connor said.

"We put up posters, sent out e-mails and tried to talk up the event in the dorms," she said. "Each student [at the Purdue game] got a T-shirt and a McDonalds gift card, and at the end of the game we passed out save the date cards for Feb. 8."

The class also invited Saint Joseph Medical Center, RiverBend Cancer center, LaPorte hospital and the Secret Sisters Society to set up tables at the game with information about breast cancer, O'Connor said.

"The game was sold out, so it was a pretty exciting opportunity to reach everyone," she said.

O'Connor said her group



Cheerleaders performed in pink shirts during the Irish women's basketball game against Purdue Sunday night.

was in charge of creating the pink T-shirts. Members of the class submitted design ideas, and they used a local t-shirt company to produce the shirts, she said. Students got free shirts, and the extras were thrown into the crowd.

The management class, taught by Chuck Lennon, Associate Vice President for University Relations, was approved by the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) as a service learning class, O'Connor said.

"It's the only management class in the College of Business that was approved for this distinction," she said.

Prof. Lennon presented the idea to the CSC because the class would use management principles to do a service project for the Pink Zone basketball game, O'Connor said.

"It was approved as a service project because it went beyond the usual requirements of teaching in the textbook," she said. "[Lennon] thought it was a great opportunity to get us actual real life management experience."

The posters used to advertise the event were funded by Women's basketball and the funds for the T-shirts came from the Alumni Association, which is headed by Chuck Lennon, O'Connor said.

"I think this was a great opportunity because we were able to apply what we were learning in class to real life situations," she said. "It showed us the full range of what management requires."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Lenz

continued from page 1

Student Affairs, and I know I speak for the entire senior staff in saying that her daily presence in the office will be missed tremendously," said Father Mark L. Poorman, Vice President of Student Affairs in an e-mail sent to colleges within the department. "Sr. Jean's dedication, wisdom, and commitment to the University are unparalleled."

Lenz, however, is ready to move on.

"My body was saying to me: I don't want to do this anymore," Lenz said. "It became very clear to me that it was time to step aside from doing administrative ministry. I knew that once I retire I didn't have to pick up and make a drastic change in my life and that I would be able to stay on campus and continue doing ministry besides administrative work."

Lenz, a Franciscan sister of the Congregation of the Third Order of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate, came to Notre Dame from Marquette where she pursued a master's degree in theology. After six years, Lenz, along with 10 other Franciscan sisters, were asked to come back to the University and take part in the University's transition to a coeducational institution after 130 years in an all-male environment.

"I remember getting the letter from Notre Dame asking me to come help. It was really walking into the unknown when I first came here. I only planned to stay a year or two and just help them get started with their programs. Little did I know that I would later go on to become the rector of Farley Hall," she said. "My time with Farley Hall is so memorable because of all of the women I came to know. They were all so wonderful and bright."

After serving as rector of Farley Hall, Sr. Jean switched to administrative ministry and entered the Office of Student Affairs in

1984.

"I've worked with three Notre Dame presidents, and it's been a great gift," she said. "I have so many memories from the years. I remember Fr. Jenkins when he was a student here because he had friends in Farley. I remember the coeducation process here. What an

important step it was that Notre Dame opened its doors to women. And we never had big upsets, it was a gradual shift. But those first women, they were real pioneers."

Lenz plans to continue ministry at the

University and assisting youth with spiritual direction. She will help students who have basic religious questions, are interested in the Catholic faith, or want to figure out what they will do after leaving the University.

"I went from the very pastoral to teaching to administrative work," Lenz said. "Administrative work is so different. I just got to a point where it seemed time to leave that kind of administration and the typical stress that goes with you. And I have done pastoral teaching before and really enjoy it."

Poorman said that Lenz will be missed.

"During her time at Notre Dame, Sr. Jean has been a consistent spokesperson for the Catholic character of the University and she is a pioneer of coeducation at Notre Dame," Poorman said. "Her compassion, warmth, deep faith, and great humor are an inspiration and joy to everyone who knows her..."

Lenz will also continue to reside in Farley Hall and assist with ongoing programs. She has been involved with the University's London Program, where she served as rector and chaplain from 1973 to 1983, in addition to being an adjunct instructor in theology. Sr. Jean is also the author of "Loyal Sons and Daughters," an account of her years at the University.

Contact Puja Parikh at pparikh@nd.edu

"Sr. Jean's dedication, wisdom, and commitment to the University are unparalleled."

Father Mark L. Poorman
vice president of
Student Affairs

"I remember getting the letter from Notre Dame asking me to come help. It was really walking into the unknown when I first came here."

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special assistant to
vice president of
Student Affairs

"Her compassion, warmth, deep faith, and great humor are an inspiration and joy to everyone who knows her..."

Father Mark L. Poorman
vice president of
Student Affairs

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WORLD & NATION

Monday, December 8, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Counting begins in Ghana election

ACCRA — Election officials began counting ballots late Sunday in one of Africa's rare democracies, where voters are painfully aware of the example they are setting on a continent better known for coups, rigged elections and one-man rule.

In courtyards throughout the capital, election officials put police tape around the plywood tables where they began sorting ballots. Hundreds of onlookers formed walls around the counting tables, standing on chairs to get a view and whooping as the stack of their candidate of choice grew taller.

The count capped a long day in this humid capital. The election began the night before, as hundreds of voters slept on the pavement outside their polling stations in an effort to be first. Voters spoke of carrying the burden of the continent's numerous failures as they waited to vote.

Authority challenged in Thailand

BANGKOK — Loyalists of exiled former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra met Sunday to counter a sudden bid by the main opposition party to form a new government it says will lead Thailand out of political chaos.

The move comes after protesters recently paralyzed the capital Bangkok and shut down its main international airport, stranding more than 300,000 travelers and dealing a heavy blow to the country's tourism-dependent economy.

The government was dissolved by a court order Tuesday for election fraud. A number of members of ousted Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat's People Power Party, who owe their allegiance to Thaksin, regrouped in a new one, the Pheu Thai Party.

NATIONAL NEWS

New "Meet the Press" host selected

NEW YORK — David Gregory's new job as moderator of "Meet the Press" was made official Sunday with an announcement on the long-running NBC interview program that he will take over starting next week.

The 38-year-old chief White House correspondent was introduced by Tom Brokaw, who stepped in as temporary host last June after the death of Tim Russert, the program's moderator since 1991.

"I've thought a lot about what it means to succeed somebody like Tim Russert," Gregory told viewers. "I'm not Tim. But along with this great team, I can just work real hard to make him proud."

Brain pills demanded by scientists

NEW YORK — Healthy people should have the right to boost their brains with pills, like those prescribed for hyperactive kids or memory-impaired older folks, several scientists contend in a provocative commentary.

College students are already illegally taking prescription stimulants like Ritalin to help them study, and demand for such drugs is likely to grow elsewhere, they say.

"We should welcome new methods of improving our brain function," and doing it with pills is no more morally objectionable than eating right or getting a good night's sleep, these experts wrote in an opinion piece published online Sunday by the journal Nature.

LOCAL NEWS

Two victims killed in house fire

ELROD, Ind. — State police say a house fire in the southeastern Indiana town of Elrod killed two people.

Milan firefighters responded to the fire shortly before 7 a.m. Sunday and put out the blaze in about an hour. The bodies were found after the fire was out. Firefighters believe the fire had been burning for some time before it was reported.

The victims weren't immediately identified. Autopsies were scheduled for Monday at Dearborn County Hospital in Lawrenceburg.

Iowa Court to address gay marriage

Officials to hear arguments from couples challenging same-sex marriage ban

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The gay marriage debate moves to the Midwest this week as the Iowa Supreme Court hears arguments in a challenge to the state's ban on same-sex marriage.

If the high court rules in favor of the half-dozen gay couples who sued, it would make Iowa the fourth state after Massachusetts, California and Connecticut to uphold the right of same-sex couples to legally marry. In California, however, voters have negated the courts by amending the state constitution to ban gay marriage.

The Iowa case has been moving through the legal system for more than three years, and it could take a year or more for the state Supreme Court to issue a ruling after hearing oral arguments Tuesday morning.

Camilla Taylor, an attorney for Lambda Legal, a gay rights organization representing the gay and lesbian couples behind the lawsuit, said the state has historically been a leader in supporting minority and women's rights.

"Iowa has an opportunity to play the role that it often has played in the past — being at the forefront of civil rights struggles — often long before other states were willing to be similarly courageous," she said. "This is not an uncomfortable role for Iowans, and we are looking at them to make a reality out of the promise of equality in the Iowa Constitution."

Lambda Legal filed the lawsuit in 2005 on behalf of six Iowa couples who were denied marriage licenses, as well as three of the couples' children. It names former Polk County recorder and registrar Timothy Brien.

The lawsuit prompted a ruling in August 2007 by Polk County District Court



Dawn and Jen Barbou-Roske, pictured here with their two daughters in Iowa City, Iowa, are plaintiffs in a challenge against Iowa's ban on same-sex marriage.

Judge Robert Hanson, who said a state law allowing marriage only between a man and a woman violated the constitutional rights of due process and equal protection.

After that ruling, nearly two dozen people applied for marriage licenses, but only one couple managed to get married before Hanson stayed his decision the next day in anticipation of the state's appeal to the Supreme Court. The marriage of Sean Fritz and Tim McQuillan of Ames stands, although its validity could depend on the high court.

The Polk County attor-

ney's office declined to comment on the pending case. In court documents, it has criticized the lawsuit as an attempt to change the way public policy is made.

"Plaintiffs seek to have this court establish that the courts and not the Legislature should make public policy for the State of Iowa by redefining marriage to be something totally different from what it has ever seen," the county attorney's office argued.

Maggie Gallagher, president of the Manassas, Va.-based Institute for Marriage and Public Policy,

a conservative group that opposes same-sex marriage, said Americans have repeatedly made clear that they want traditional marriage protected.

"I think it has to be clear to judges that Americans do care about this issue, and in 30 out of 30 cases, when they've been allowed to vote, they say that same-sex marriage is not a civil right," she said. "Americans don't think that two men in a union are just the same as a husband and wife, and they don't really appreciate the idea that the legal system is going to force them to accept that."

GREECE

Riots rage over fatal police shooting

Associated Press

ATHENS — Hundreds of youths angered by the fatal police shooting of a teenager rampaged through Greece's two largest cities for a second day Sunday in some of the worst rioting the country has seen in years.

Gangs smashed stores, torched cars and erected burning barricades in the streets of Athens and Thessaloniki. Riot police clashed with groups of mostly self-styled anarchists throwing Molotov cocktails, rocks and bottles. Clouds of tear gas hung in the air, sending passers-by scurrying for cover.

Rioting in several cities, including

Hania in Crete and cities in northern Greece, began within hours of the death Saturday night of a 15-year-old shot by police in Exarchia. The downtown Athens district of bars, music clubs and restaurants is seen as the anarchists' home base.

Soon stores, banks and cars were ablaze.

The rioting was some of the most severe Greece has seen in years. The last time a teenager was killed in a police shooting — during a demonstration in 1985 — it sparked weeks of rioting. In 1999, a visit to Greece by then U.S. President Bill Clinton sparked violent demonstrations in Athens that left stores smashed and burned.

The two officers involved in Saturday's shooting have been arrested and charged, one with premeditated manslaughter and the illegal use of a weapon, and the other as an accomplice. They are to appear before a court Wednesday. They and the Exarchia precinct police chief have been suspended.

Interior Minister Prokypis Pavlopoulos, whose offer to resign was rejected Sunday, has promised a thorough investigation.

"It is inconceivable for there not to be punishment when a person loses their life, particularly when it is a child," he said. "The taking of life is something that is not excusable in a democracy."

Aiden

continued from page 1

it's 1 p.m. and we already ran out."

Esber said the project spent \$4,000 on fleece.

Fitzgerald said the project had over 200 participants its first year, and over 500 students had come to this year's project on Saturday as of 1 p.m.

"And that's just the people who sign in," Fitzgerald said.

Janeva Waked, vice president of the Class of 2009, added: "The project outgrew its old space in LaFun, it outgrew this space. We moved it to South Dining Hall and it's still packed."

Annette Esquibel, the Kiwanis Chair of Notre Dame's Circle K, was pleased with this year's event.

"We were really happy with the turnout," she said.

In addition, the project emphasizes awareness in addition to just making blan-

kets. They try to raise awareness for cancer in college-age people.

"The goal of the project is to raise cancer awareness — that it can happen in youth, it can happen to your friends," Esquibel said.

Fitzgerald added: "We're not just here to make blankets, we're here to raise awareness."

Students who participated appreciated the chance to take an active part in helping cancer patients.

"It's a great cause," sophomore Brittani Russell said. "It's a wonderful way to reach out to kids who are obviously going through a rough time, and we should be doing all we can to help them."

Monsy Corbera, one of the project's coordinators, said she has a hard time describing her feelings toward the project.

"I can't even describe this in words. It's amazing," she said.

Contact Tess Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu

"We're not just here to make blankets, we're here to raise awareness."

Aiden Fitzgerald
project organizer

"We were really happy with the turnout."

Annette Esquibel
Kiwanis Chair

Sit-in a symbol of employees' plight

Two hundred Chicago workers demand severance and vacation pay

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago workers in the third day of a sit-in on the floor of their former workplace peered through the windows of a door Sunday, amazed by a mix of supporters, politicians and journalists who packed a foyer outside.

"We never expected this," said Melvin Maclin, a factory employee and vice president of the local union that represents the workers. "We expected to go to jail."

The 200 workers demanding severance and vacation pay have become a national symbol for thousands of employees laid off nationwide as the economy continues to sour. They occupied the plant of their former employer, Republic Windows and Doors, after the company abruptly fired them last week.

At a news conference Sunday, President-elect Barack Obama said Republic should follow through on its commitments to its workers.

"The workers who are asking for the benefits and payments that they have earned, I think they're absolutely right and understand that what's happening to them is reflective of what's happening across this economy," Obama said.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson delivered turkeys to the workers, pledging the support of his Chicago-based civil rights group, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

"These workers deserve their wages, deserve fair notice, deserve health security," Jackson said. "This may be the beginning of long struggle of worker resistance finally."

Leah Fried, an organizer for the United Electrical Workers union that represents the workers, said the company told the union that Bank of America has canceled its financing.

Bank of America received \$25 billion as part of a government bailout. Some workers carried signs Sunday that said: "You got bailed out. We got sold out."

The bank had said in a statement Saturday that it wasn't responsible for Republic's financial obligations to its employees. Republic has not commented on the sit-in.

Meanwhile, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said in a news release late Sunday that

she had representatives at the factory investigating the closure.

"I am extremely concerned with the actions of this company, which are having a significant impact on employees and their families," Madigan said.

One of the factory's workers, Silvia Mazon, said in Spanish that she needs the money owed to her for an \$1,800 monthly house payment. The 40-year-old from Cicero said she has enough money saved to survive for one month.

"We're making history," she said.

Patrick Tyrrell, 22, of Chicago, visited the workers Saturday and returned the next day with home-cooked beans, rice, chicken and soup. Tyrrell said he felt he wanted to help, in part, because his grandfather was an electrical union member.

"This is an impressive historical event," he said.

Rep. Jan Schakowsky, an Illinois Democrat, called it the start of a movement. "This story has resonated around the world," she said.

"These workers deserve their wages, deserve fair notice, deserve health security."

Rev. Jesse Jackson

Pearl Harbor commemorates 67th anniversary of attack

Associated Press

PEARL HARBOR — While smoke still billowed from the torpedoed ruins of the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor, Thomas Griffin's B-25 group took off from its Oregon base to search for Japanese ships or submarines along the West Coast.

They didn't find any, but four months later the group flew from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet and attacked Tokyo. The raid inflicted little damage but boosted U.S. morale and embarrassed the Japanese, who launched the ill-fated attack on Midway Island six weeks later,

recalled Griffin, a retired Army Air Corps major from Green Township, outside Cincinnati.

The U.S. military "took Japan entirely by surprise," said Griffin, a keynote speaker at a ceremony Sunday commemorating the 67th anniversary of the Japanese raid that marked America's entry into World War II. He was joined by more than 2,000 World War II veterans and other observers.

Usually, the commemoration focuses on the attack on the USS Arizona, Pearl Harbor and several other installations on Oahu. But Sunday's remembrance centered more on the months fol-

lowing the raid and on an American response that helped defeat the Japanese and render the U.S. a military superpower.

At 7:55 a.m., the moment on a Sunday morning in 1941 when hundreds of Japanese planes began raining bombs and torpedoes onto Oahu's U.S. military ships and planes, onlookers across from the sunken USS Arizona went silent.

"It was an impossible beginning," Adm. Robert Willard, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, said in his address. "Yet, look at us today." He noted that Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard recently celebrated 100 years of

service and still maintains the far-reaching U.S. Pacific Fleet.

Underscoring how far Americans and Japanese have come since Dec. 7, 1941, President-elect Barack Obama in Chicago on Sunday introduced retired Gen. Eric Shinseki, a Japanese American born in Hawaii a year after the attack, as his nominee to head the Veterans Affairs Department.

Sunday's commemoration featured a performance by the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, morning colors, a Hawaiian blessing, a rifle salute by the U.S. Marine Corps and a recognition of those who survived the attack.

After the moment of silence observing the beginning of the attack, the destroyer USS Chung-Hoon rendered honors to the Arizona, which still lies in the harbor with its dead.

Nearly 2,400 Americans were killed and almost 1,180 injured when Japanese fighters bombed and sank 12 naval vessels and heavily damaged nine others.

The Arizona, which sank in less than nine minutes after an armor-piercing bomb breached its deck and exploded in the ship's ammunition magazine, lost 1,177 sailors and Marines. About 340 of its crew members survived.

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MARKET RECAP

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Dow Jones 8,635.42 +259.18

Up: 2,218 Same: 73 Down: 923 Composite Volume: 1,873,029,034

AMEX	1,278.16	+36.88
NASDAQ	1,509.31	+63.75
NYSE	5,401.25	+168.99
S&P 500	876.07	+30.85
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,917.51	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	4,049.37	-114.24

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	+3.08	+2.63	87.93
FIN SELECT SPDR (XLF)	+7.92	+0.94	12.81
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+4.19	+0.31	7.71
ULTRAFINANCIALS PRO (UYG)	+15.30	+0.81	6.11

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+3.39	0.087	2.657
13-WEEK BILL	100.00	+0.005	0.01
30-YEAR BOND	+0.84	+0.026	3.11
5-YEAR NOTE	+8.67	+0.133	1.667

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-2.86	40.81
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-13.30	752.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.80	90.30

Exchange Rates	
YEN	92.6700
EURO	0.7862
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2707
BRITISH POUND	0.6807

IN BRIEF

Gasoline hits almost five-year low

CAMARILLO, Calif. — The average price of U.S. gasoline fell 22 cents a gallon during the past two weeks, bringing it to its lowest level in nearly five years, according to a national survey released Sunday.

The average price of regular gasoline Friday was \$1.75 a gallon, oil industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said. The price of mid-grade was \$1.90 a gallon and the price of premium was \$2.02 a gallon.

The last time gas was cheaper was on March 2004, Lundberg said, when the national average for regular was \$1.74 a gallon. The all-time high was on July 11, 2008, when the price peaked at \$4.11 a gallon.

Of cities surveyed, the nation's lowest price was \$1.46 in Cheyenne, Wyo. The highest was \$2.54 in Anchorage, Alaska, and the highest in the continental United States was \$2.10 on New York's Long Island.

Recession may affect inauguration

WASHINGTON — Unemployment is on the rise. The stock market is in the tank. Is this any time for a party?

For the sake of the masses expected for President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration, let's hope so. While Obama must be sensitive to the nation's time of war and recession, there still is reason to expect a rollicking time.

"We're mindful of the fact that people in this country are hurting, that they're going through hard times," said Linda Douglass, spokeswoman for the Presidential Inaugural Committee. "On the other hand, we see this not just as a celebration of an election, but as a time for people to come together and celebrate their common values and shared aspirations and goals."

The committee has disclosed few details of the celebration, but it surely won't come cheap. President George W. Bush raised \$42 million to help finance his second inauguration. Millions more were spent by the government on security.

Though costly, an inauguration helps set the tone for a presidency, said Gil Troy, a visiting scholar at the Bipartisan Policy Center who has written extensively on presidents and first ladies.

Senator calls for GM head to step down

Chris Dodd, D-Conn., urges Rick Wagoner to leave his post as chief executive

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A senator who will help determine whether the auto industry gets a \$15 billion bailout said Sunday that the head of General Motors should step down, telegraphing what could be a congressional demand for a top-line shake-up in Detroit in exchange for financial life support.

Rick Wagoner, the chief executive of GM, "has to move on," said Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee. He spoke on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"I think you have got to consider new leadership," Dodd said. Asked if that should be a condition of any bailout, he added, "I think it is going to have to be part of it."

"I think it's clear GM is in the worst shape," Dodd said before specifying the need for Wagoner to step down.

In response, GM spokesman Steve Harris said the company appreciates Dodd's support for the loans, but added, "GM employees, dealers, suppliers and the GM board of directors feel strongly that Rick is the right guy to lead GM through this incredibly difficult and challenging time."

Last week, The Associated Press asked Wagoner if he would resign at the request of Congress, to which he replied, "It's not clear to me that experience in this industry should be viewed as a negative, but I'm going to do what's right for the company and I'm going to do it in consultation with the board."

GM's board recently has been meeting three times a week by telephone.

But the shots kept coming Sunday. President-elect Barack Obama accused auto executives of a persistent "head-in-the sand approach" to long-festering problems. In an appearance on NBC's "Meet the Press," Obama said Congress was



Rick Wagoner, GM CEO, along with the CEOs of Ford and Chrysler, testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on November 19, 2008.

doing "the exact right thing" in drafting legislation that "holds the auto industry's feet to the fire" at the same time it tries to prevent its demise.

The criticism of industry leaders deepened as negotiators for the White House and Congress narrowed their differences over a plan to extend roughly \$15 billion in short-term loans to any Detroit automaker that needs them. Analysts say General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, in particular, are at risk for running out of money in the next few weeks, and that Ford Motor Co. may need help if the

economy deteriorates further.

Democratic Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan, whose state is ground zero for the battered industry, told "Fox News Sunday" he was confident an agreement would emerge within the next day.

Democratic leaders have said they hope to pass the measure this week. While Levin declined to predict its approval, support among rank-and-file lawmakers presumably would improve dramatically if both White House and Obama were to signal their backing once the legislation is complete.

"The last thing I want to

see happen is for the auto industry to disappear, but I'm also concerned that we don't put \$10 billion or \$20 billion or \$30 billion or whatever billion dollars into an industry, and then, six months to a year later, they come back hat in hand and say, 'Give me more,'" Obama said.

Obama, who takes office Jan. 20, has drawn some criticism from Democrats who want him to become more involved in efforts to save the industry. The president-elect said his aides are monitoring developments and considering longer-term plans.

Legal counsel threatened by economy

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The day before Maria Nunes fled Florida for Seattle, her abusive husband beat her unconscious. She had already divorced him, which made the Jamaica native vulnerable to deportation because she depended on her marriage for her legal residency in the United States.

At a women's shelter in Seattle, Nunes was told she could still become a permanent resident, but that the law required women in her plight to prove they had been abused.

Attorney Jorge Baron and the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project — an organization that provides legal aid to immigrants in Washington state at no or reduced cost — stepped in to help. The pro-

ject's lawyers guided her through a 7-year legal fight to get her divorce and a residency green card.

"I didn't even know I had rights," Nunes said. "It takes a long time but they didn't quit."

Now, however, the project is one of hundreds of legal aid organizations nationwide that face losing a significant amount of their operating money, which comes in part from interest on funds that lawyers hold in trust for their clients.

All 50 states have some form of a law that earmarks such money for legal services for the poor. Nationally, it added up to about \$370 million last year, but advocates say that figure could drop by as much as 50 percent in 2009 because of both the economic meltdown and low interest rates.

"We've never had this type of

decline," said Susan Erlichman, president of national association of IOLTA programs — the acronym stands for interest on lawyers trust accounts. "In many cases, it's the double whammy, not only have the interests plummeted, many states are seeing smaller (trust) balances."

In Ohio, revenue from IOLTA is expected to drop 50 percent this year to \$11 million from \$22 million in 2007. Projections for 2009 look even grimmer with incoming revenue dropping to \$4 million.

Washington state revenue for grants is expected to drop from \$9 million in 2008 to \$6 million next year. Texas initially projected \$28 million for 2007, but interest rate cuts chopped the figure to \$20 million. The shortfall in Texas is exacerbated by Hurricane Ike's destruction, an advocate there said.

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 obsvrad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

smc.1@nd.edu

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(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu

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The endangered book

You might want to ask Santa for a book this year, since the book might be on its way out.

The news from the publishing industry (or at least the trade publishing industry; academic presses are still doing relatively well, so those of you who are hoping to say goodbye to text-books are out of luck) is grim: Major publishers — Random House, HarperCollins, Simon & Schuster, to name a few — are freezing salaries, laying off staff members and, the worst sign of all, no longer acquiring new titles. This makes about as much sense as having a TV channel refuse to create new shows; after all, who really enjoys watching TV Land or My Michiana? And it all comes down to old-fashioned demand: Publishers are doing badly because booksellers are finding it harder and harder to sell books because, in all likelihood, people are not reading for pleasure as much anymore.

If not the economic turmoil, then technology might spell the end of the poor codex. Amazon's Kindle, for example, is far from perfect in either price tag or the quality of the read, which is about as visually appealing as the display screen of a first-generation iPod. It does, however, represent the first generation of devices

that will someday allow us to access all the world's literature (read: Google Books, probably) on demand. No more needing a second hand to turn the page, no more herniating your intervertebral discs when moving out of your dorm room; the portable digital reader will do it all.

Yet there are more than a few reactionaries — Luddites, if you like, and more often than not authors or professional literary critics — who feel an inexpressible horror at the prospect of replacing books with electronic downloads. J.K. Rowling, for example, has stipulated in her contract that Harry Potter will never appear in electronic format, though one wonders whether this is as unbreakable a vow as it seems. Those who, for instance, insist that the aesthetic experience of reading a book is absolutely unparalleled on the one hand might be surprised at how well technology can recreate the book-reading experience, and on the other appear more than a bit dilettante. Practicality issues, which is to say the apparent inability of anyone to come up with a durable standard for data storage in anything, ever (.doc? .docx? .pdf? .wps?), will hopefully improve, as will issues with battery life, portability, and hard drive size. Things, in short, are not looking good for print.

But the book might not be an entirely lost cause yet. I don't know whether anyone has studied the psychology of reading on a printed page versus a computer monitor. From personal experience, however, I know that whenever I see an electronic

screen, I am seized by a sort of intellectual psychosis that prevents me from reading more than 50 words or typing more than a dozen before I feel the urge to multitask: check e-mail, pull up another website, shuffle through my iTunes list. I find it nearly impossible to read an entire essay, let alone a whole book, on the computer; doing so requires so little investment of energy and effort — a click here, an Alt-Tab there to both start and stop — that I can neither prevent my eyes from sliding past entire paragraphs at a time, nor make myself feel bad when I declare my efforts a failure. Reading a book, meanwhile, requires preparation, picking out a comfortable seat, shutting myself off from distractions and setting aside huge blocks of time just to read — a sort of temporary cloistering. Maybe it won't happen with dedicated digital readers, but it seems that reading something that doesn't in some way inconvenience the reader makes it harder to invest the time and effort to do so. That is, the e-book might be harder to read well because it will be so easy to read.

Of course, there is one last point worth mentioning. Books are also harder to steal — which, in South Bend, is probably a compelling enough reason to hope that they don't disappear just yet.

Darryl Campbell is a second-year Ph.D. student in History. He can be contacted at dcampbe6@nd.edu

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



Darryl
Campbell

Speak Up,
Please

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Patience serves as a protection against wrongs as clothes do against cold. For if you put on more clothes as the cold increases, it will have no power to hurt you. So in like manner you must grow in patience when you meet with great wrongs, and they will then be powerless to vex your mind."

Leonardo DaVinci
Italian polymath

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Those in possession of absolute power can not only prophesy and make their prophecies come true, but they can also lie and make their lies come true."

Eric Hoffer
American philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Spygate, Cassel's success prove Weis can't coach

Perhaps this is just the bitter Steelers fan inside of me speaking after having two AFC Championships stolen, but Charlie Weis built his credentials on a lie now known publicly as "spygate" and Notre Dame deserves their money back. Spygate involved Patriots' video coordinator Matt Walsh filming the opposing team's defensive coordinator as well as pre-game warm-ups with the goal of knowing which play the defense was going to run on each down. Subsequently, Weis and the Patriots' offense would call the play they felt would be most effective against that defense. Clearly, this made calling the right plays and winning superbowl a whole lot easier.

Sure, there is the school of thought that the Patriots' signal stealing was crafty and just part of the game, but when Notre Dame, a school with no knowledge of this alleged scandal, hires you solely because of your past success at picking plays, this becomes tantamount to fraud — fraud that the school wouldn't tolerate when they hired George O'Leary and fraud the school, when considering its Catholic roots and strict honor code, shouldn't tolerate now. After watching the Irish play their final regular season football game (if you even want to call it that), it became apparent that Weis, without knowing what the defense is running, is far from an offensive genius. In fact, when considering the Patriots' continued success without him and Notre Dame's ineptitude with him at the helm, you'd have to say he's the exact opposite — an obese, foul-mouthed, uninspiring

leader who appears more desperate than Bob Saget's character in the movie *Half Baked*.

Aside from his supposed genius on offense, Weis was brought in to develop young talent, since he was responsible for making Tom Brady what he is today. Or was he? This season, Bellicheck has molded Matt Cassel, a perennial backup who hasn't seen the field since high school, into a 400-yard-per-game fantasy football stud. Meanwhile, Clausen's decision making seemed to only get worse and worse as the season progressed. This is obviously the result of Charlie never having played football and therefore being unable to teach the fundamentals and intricacies of the game.

To his credit, he never lied about his athletic accomplishments as O'Leary did. So, maybe the University is to blame for wrongly attributing the Patriots and Tom Brady's success to Weis, and maybe calling his superbowl fraud is a bit of a stretch, and maybe Swarbrick should be fired for reliving our mistake, but since Charlie Weis is staying I'd like to offer him one piece of advice: Try not to fall too hard off of Bill Belichick's coat-tails, or you may just re-injure that knee, and destroy what little remains of your coaching career in the process.

Ryan Shestak
junior
Dillon Hall
Dec. 4

Bowl bid essential for team

Dear Mr. McDonnell,
I can tell from your recent Letter to the Editor "Declining a bowl bid" (Dec. 4) that you are rather disappointed with the way things have gone for our beloved Fighting Irish this year. Please believe me when I say that I share your frustrations. But please, do not allow an unfortunate year of football to cloud your judgment on what is best for our team.

You assert that Notre Dame needs neither the monetary gains nor the recruiting opportunities that attending a bowl game would offer. Although I'll agree with you in regard to the recruiting, I do promise you that there are plenty of programs here at Notre Dame that could use a little financial boost, whether they be athletic, academic or otherwise. And I know plenty of students whose lives would be eased significantly if they had a little more scholarship money from the school. Now, I would think that Notre Dame would help all of these people and programs if they had the money, so I'm assuming that Notre Dame could definitely use more money. Do we need the money? Probably not, but I'm sure it would be nice to have.

You also claim that the extra practices in December that the team would gain wouldn't be particularly helpful. Perhaps not, but they certainly can't hurt the team. And although the senior players — who will be sorely

missed — will not gain from the practices, the team is not composed entirely of seniors. There are plenty of talented juniors, sophomores and freshmen on our team and they will be benefited by the practices.

Finally, I notice that you don't actually present any reason that Notre Dame shouldn't attend a bowl game, unless you count the incredibly vague statement "the Notre Dame standards of intelligence, sportsmanship and athleticism will not be served by accepting a bowl bid." Now, if there is a good reason why attending a bowl game is bad for the team I'd love to hear it, but so far I'm not seeing it. And as far as your statement goes, I will say this: It seems unintelligent to pass up on easy money and practices, and it seems unsportsmanlike to not play the game just because you aren't winning.

Plus, there is at least one major bonus to attending a bowl game — we can win it. I have faith in our football team (as any true fan should) that they can rise above some problems in the past to defeat whatever opponent is thrown their way. I don't want to see my Fighting Irish hide under a rock until next season — I want to see them fight.

Jake Pardo
sophomore
Keenan Hall
Dec. 4

Meador's arrogance

As a female alum of the University, I am incredibly insulted that Mr. Meador ("Notre Dame arrogance," Dec. 3) would refer to one of his fellow classmates as a "little girl." It seems that he needs to take a look at himself and his own prejudices and arrogance before he starts casting stones at those around him. Furthermore, if he felt so adamantly that the University was extremely arrogant from the day he hit campus, he should have done the honorable thing and transferred so that someone more appreciative could take his place.

Sue Ellen Dooley
alum
class of 2003
Dec. 4

Use money for good

I'm an avid alum and fan of football at Notre Dame (ask any of my former students, some of whom even write for The Observer now). I have posters of Notre Dame in my classroom and every Monday, somebody brings up the topic of the game, and I even suffer through watching Pete Carroll gloating as he trounces us! But how much money is it really worth to win a few more games each year? More than football, which I love, Notre Dame taught me to love helping other people. Use the buyout money for something more altruistic and dignified of the University. If they want to get rid of somebody, look for the guy who gave the contract extension to an untested head coach!

Dave Henner
alum
class of 1973
Dec. 6

Carefully consider buyout

I read with dismay some recent letters from students urging the university to buy out Charlie Weis' contract. Some students even volunteered to chip in a little for the fund. If Notre Dame buys out Weis' contract, they had better never contact me for a donation again. Any university that chooses to use its resources this way and still expects families to pay \$50,000 a year for their children to attend has no sense of proportion at all and does not deserve my financial support. Students and alumni are not "owed" a winning program, much less a national championship. They should expect a program with integrity, nothing more or less.

Michele Thomas
alum
class of 1983
Dec. 3

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Look at this.

This is an awful lot of empty space.

**(That's your cue to fill it with a
Letter to the Editor.)**

viewpoint.1@nd.edu



Succeeded with studio debut

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

One would be surprised to learn the self-categorization of the duo that make up The Knux considering their criminal past and the company they continue to keep.

Despite their arrests for involvement in an I.D.-forging and auto theft ring, the brothers from New Orleans cite artists such as Radiohead, Led Zeppelin and the Strokes as some of their strongest influences.

"We spent our youth thuggin'," Kintrell 'Krispy Kream' Lindsey told "Blender" magazine in their December issue. "I know the same people back home [Lil'] Wayne does. The dudes he calls to get someone knocked off? Same dudes I'm gonna call."

The flannel clad duo of Krispy Kream and his brother, Alvin 'Rah Almillio', recently released their debut album: "Remind Me in 3 Days..." The two account for 100 percent of the album as they played every instrument including guitars, synthesizers and bass.

Growing up in the tough environment of New Orleans's Ninth Ward, the Lindsey brothers were made to practice the trumpet, trombone, and French horn by a domineering mother. While their peers notched legal altercations all over the streets of New Orleans, Kintrell and Alvin excelled in their school's marching band.

Their mother's tough love eventually generated the critical acclaim that they have enjoyed of late. The Knux have garnered mass recognition and have established themselves as contenders in the developing "hipster rap" genre.

Though the band recognizes their gangster rap influences, The Knux are more than just repetitive beats and

arrogant lyrics.

"We want to bend rules in our music," Krispy explained to "Blender." "Hip-hop is just the lens we run all our influences through." That is just what the brothers Lindsey have done with their initial mainstream effort.

Though their lyrics channel the likes of fellow rappers such as Big Boi of Outkast and The Roots, it is the instrumental styling on display in "Remind Me in 3 Days..." that distinguishes The Knux from most hip-hop regulars. Krispy Kream and Rah Almillio combine original and exploratory beats with crunchy guitar rifts that are both simple and memorable.

In the sixteen-song album, The Knux explore a broad range of subject matter including the typical topics of sex and money. However, the duo also delves into their troubled past and ongoing redemption from their previous legal conflicts.

Other tracks celebration the illustrious party lives that the brothers now enjoy. In fact, the album's initial track opens with a dialogue featuring Krispy with the background ambience of a nightclub.

Most of the tracks are creatively distinct from each other, providing a brand new experience for every successive track.

One of the few negative observations of the album may be attributed to the album's length. Because the rookies released a high quantity of tracks, some pieces seem to lack key instrumental participation, as if the songs were hastily tossed together.

It is almost as if The Knux had some leftover lyrics that they just couldn't leave on the back burner, but no significant accompaniment to accent the vocals. Thankfully, these monotonous songs are few and far between, and there are still plenty of quality tracks.

For a band only several years removed from serious legal ramifications, The Knux have done well to entirely reinvent themselves in a way most beneficial to the public.

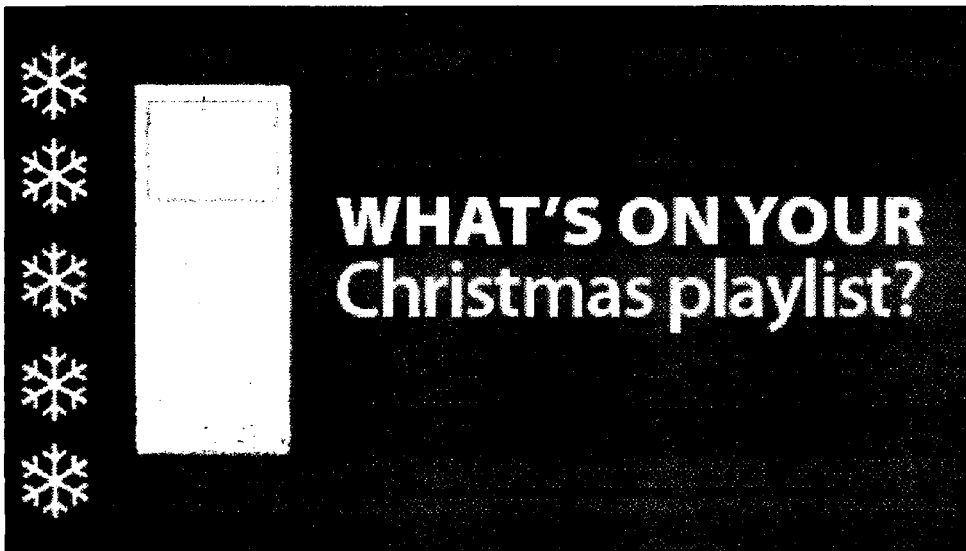
As the hip-hop industry continues to evolve, resulting in a most dynamic sound, The Knux have proven to be a musical force with a promising future.

Contact Patrick Griffin at
pgriffi3@nd.edu

Remind Me in 3 Days...
The Knux

Produced by: E Pluribus Unum
Recommended Tracks: "Hush" and
"Cappuccino."





MARY CECILIA MITSCH | Observer Graphic

Deck the halls with boughs of holly — it's officially time for Christmas music.

I couldn't bring myself to play any of my holiday tunes before Thanksgiving. Heck, mid-November, I heard Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" at a local barroom establishment, and that was just too much. Even last week didn't quite feel right, and songs like "Holly Jolly Christmas" went unplayed on my laptop and iPod, lonely and gathering cyber dust.



Analise Lipari

Scene Editor

But now that the snow has begun to fall (and to accumulate, which is key), my dorm room door is gift-wrapped and both white and multi-colored lights have been hung all over the place, I'm ready to jam to my Christmas playlists and start rockin' around the Christmas tree.

I always like hearing my friends' favorite holiday tunes and contrasting them with my own. I've discovered new and old classics, like Guster's "Donde Esta Santa Claus?" and Darlene Love's original version of "Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" after trading Christmas playlists with my buds and dormmates. I've also shared some of my own collection, including some of Bing Crosby's lesser-known ditties like "Christmas in Killarney." Over some hot cocoa and frosted sugar cookies, it's always a good time.

As the dorm rooms and dining halls keep up their steady soundtrack of holiday fare, I'm offering a list of my top Christmas hits to the world. Feel free to add or subtract your own, as there's no shortage of holiday music out there.

10. "Mele Kalikimaka," Bing Crosby: If you ever find yourself celebrating Christmas on the white, sandy beaches of Maui, you'll need this lei and ukelele-tinted hit by one of the business's best crooners. If you think your celebration is lacking some hula-themed spirit, then look no further.

9. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," Judy Garland: I'm kind of a purist when it comes to some of my favorite holiday songs, and this is definitely one of them. The original recording comes from the film "Meet Me In Saint Louis," and was a favorite among wartime audiences.

8. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," Brenda Lee: It may sound similar to "Jingle Bell Rock," but this classic

holds its own. It's cheery, slightly cheesy, and all around holiday fun. Plus, any song that's worthy of Kevin McCallister's Christmas playlist in "Home Alone" is good in my book.

7. "White Christmas," Otis Redding: Yes, I know that this isn't the definitive Bing Crosby version, and yes, I realize that to some, that may be nothing short of a holiday sacrilege. But I stand by my choice, because Redding's version is a soulful delight.

6. "Christmas Don't Be Late," the Chipmunks: Because deep down, I just want a hula-hoop. I remember sitting up in the wee hours of Christmas morning with my siblings, waiting until our parents woke up to unwrap our presents, and listening to this song. Nostalgia is a powerful thing.

5. "Little Saint Nick," the Beach Boys: Totally adorable and definitely loveable, this surfer tune fits perfectly with the rest of the group's library while still feeling distinctly like a holiday song.

4. "Believe," Josh Groban: Now hold on, all you Groban-haters. Even if you think his music is nothing short of pure cheese, you'd have to have a heart that's two sizes too small not to feel a tug at the old heartstrings when this new classic plays. The boy's voice is beautiful, and the song is, too.

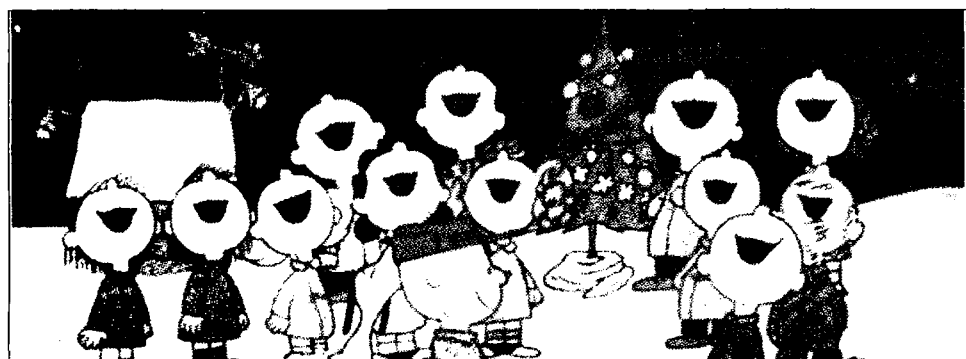
3. "Silver Bells," Bing Crosby: Another classic, this tune is more relaxed than some of my other, jazzier selections, but here especially, Bing's smooth vocals are just right.

2. "Sleigh Ride," Amy Grant: I think you'll be hard-pressed to find a bad version of "Sleigh Ride," although the sheer volume of Christmas music out there might suggest otherwise. Instrumental versions are also great, but I have to go with Amy Grant's classic cover from 1983. We still listen to the cassette tape of her Christmas album at my house and I wouldn't have it any other way.

1. "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing": I couldn't keep any Christmas song count down entirely secular, especially as a Catholic girl at a Catholic university. While I have other liturgical Christmas favorites, particularly "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Joy to the World," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" remains at the top of my list. Plus, on a less holy note, it closes one of my all-time favorite holiday specials, "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

So what's on your holiday playlist? Keep those tunes pumping throughout the Christmas season, and have a very merry, music-filled Christmas.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu



The rousing finale of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" memorably features the classic Christmas carol, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." Image courtesy of syracuse.com

SCENE'S TOP VIDEO PICKS

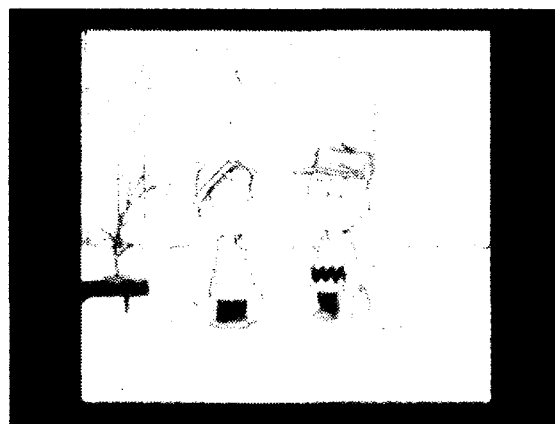
You

Jump — Love Actually



Arguably the movie's best scene.

Charlie Brown Christmas



That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.

12 Days of Christmas — Muppets & John Denver



Classic tune, classic Muppets.

Bing Crosby "White Christmas"



A true holiday standard.

NFL

Tennessee clinches AFC South with rout of hapless Browns

Eagles deal Giants second loss of the year with ball control, stout defense; stay in the hunt in the NFC East

Associated Press

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Titans aren't about to be distracted by a power outage in their locker room or a struggling opponent.

Not now. Not as a division champion.

Kerry Collins threw two touchdowns, and Chris Johnson ran for 136 yards and a score as the Titans routed the Cleveland Browns 28-9 Sunday to grab the AFC South title for the first time since 2002 in what they hope is the first of many goals reached this season.

"Obviously, we're all pleased and happy we won the division," Collins said. "We know there's a lot of things left we want to accomplish. Today was a good first step."

The Titans have won 15 of their last 16 games, and are the first team to secure a postseason berth this year. They maintained at least a two-game lead with three to play for home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs and clinched a first-round bye when San Francisco beat the New York Jets 24-14 later Sunday.

A subdued celebration featured players dumping a cooler of water over coach Jeff Fisher for the Titans' second consecutive playoff berth, secured with the franchise's best record through 13 games, 12-1. Fisher credited his Titans' 10-0 start with helping them wrest the division away from the Indianapolis Colts.

"It's a rewarding feeling. Our goal when we left the playoff game in San Diego, the day we came back, was to have a home playoff game this year. That was our first goal, first and foremost. We've now guaranteed that. We'll move onto the next step hopefully," Fisher said.

The Titans were a bit like a videoboard that didn't work thanks to a blown transformer that knocked out all but four emergency lights in their locker room. They turned it over three times, with LenDale White losing his first fumble this season, and they had a season-high 13 penalties for 131 yards.

Defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth said he didn't even notice the power even after dressing in near darkness.

"I thought they were trying to get the mood right," he said.

Cleveland (4-9) lost its third straight and fifth in six games, with the Browns starting a third different quarterback in as many games. It was Ken Dorsey's first start since Nov. 27, 2005, when he was with the 49ers, and he didn't get much help from an injury-decimated team whose top receiver, tight end Kellen Winslow, was out with a sprained ankle.

Tennessee didn't make nearly

enough mistakes to help the Browns, who haven't scored an offensive touchdown in three straight games and couldn't add to the 6-0 lead Phil Dawson gave them after the first quarter. Coach Romeo Crennel, whose job status grows shakier with each loss, defended his team for still fighting.

"The Titans are a very good football team, and I think they showed why they are today. We came down here and had some turnovers and had opportunities to try and get a little bit done. We weren't able to get enough done," Crennel said.

The Titans outgained Cleveland 390-178, intercepted Dorsey once and sacked him another time. White just missed joining Johnson with a 100-yard rushing game for a second straight week when he was stopped for a 1-yard loss on fourth-and-2. He finished with 99 yards on 24 carries.

Tennessee took the lead for good within the opening minute of the second quarter as Collins found Ahmard Hall on fourth-and-1 with a short pass the fullback took up the left sideline for a 28-yard TD and a 7-6 lead.

Collins added a 9-yard TD pass to Justin Gage in the third quarter.

Dorsey started because the Browns have lost both Brady Quinn and Derek Anderson. Dorsey hadn't completed a pass in three years in an NFL game, and he started well enough, connecting with Braylon Edwards on the first two attempts. He wound up completing 22-of-43 as the Titans pressured him early and hit him often.

The Browns also tried running Joshua Cribbs from the quarterback spot. He finally got to throw in the fourth period, trailing 28-9, and Edwards just missed getting a second foot down for what would have been their longest completion.

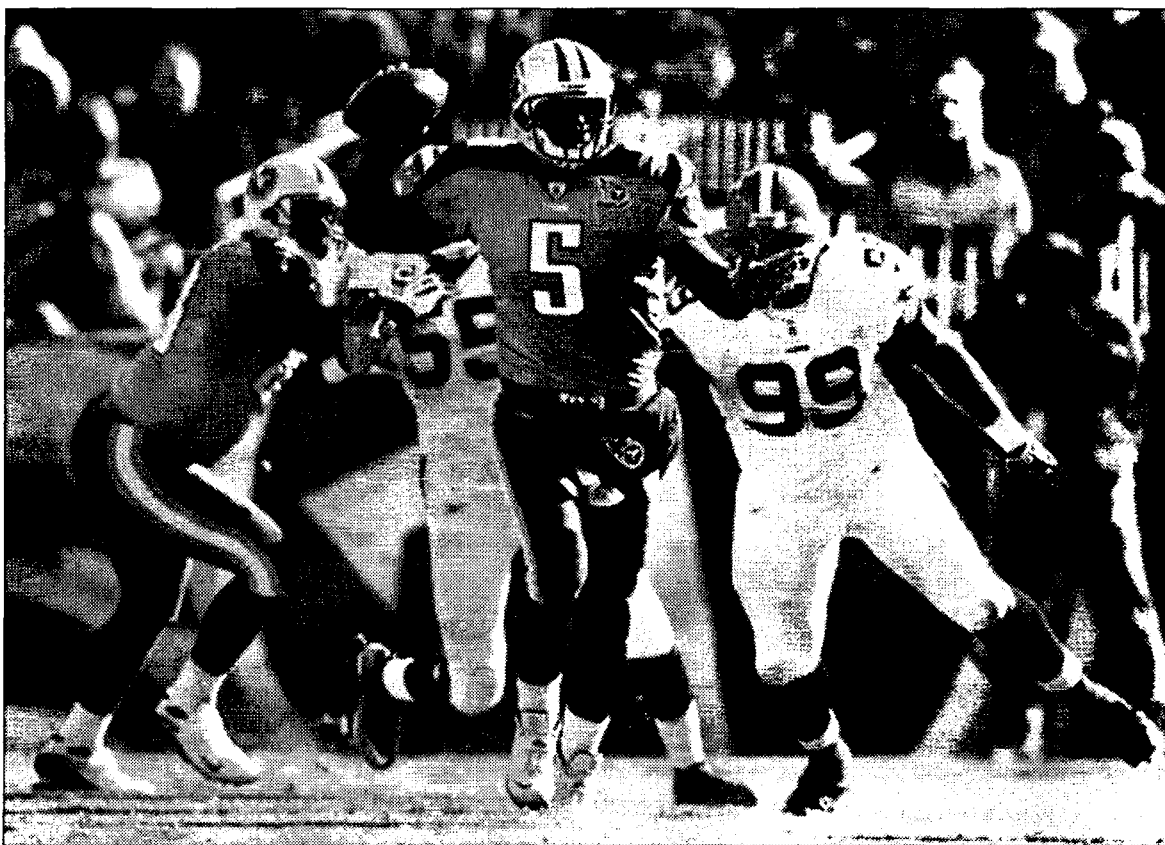
"We're not last year's team," Cribbs said. "We have a different football team. We have to play better football."

Tennessee finally got it together late in the first quarter in a 68-yard drive capped by the TD to Hall. Pinned at their 7, the Titans put together their longest scoring drive this season by moving 93 yards in 10 plays, with White running in from the 3 for his 14th TD this season for a 14-6 lead just before halftime.

During the drive, Johnson joined Hall of Famer Earl Campbell and Eddie George as the only rookies in franchise history to rush for 1,000 yards, and he topped that mark with a 15-yarder on only his ninth carry.

Eagles 20, Giants 14

Donovan McNabb, Brian Westbrook and the desperate



Tennessee quarterback Kerry Collins prepares to throw a pass while being chased by Browns' linebacker Willie McGinest and defensive lineman Corey Williams in the Titans 28-9 win Sunday.

Philadelphia Eagles proved more of a headache for the New York Giants than all the chaos surrounding Plaxico Burress.

Westbrook ran 30 yards for a touchdown, caught another 40-yarder from McNabb, and the Eagles defense limited the Giants to 211 total yards in a victory Sunday that ended the Super Bowl champions' seven-game winning streak and prevented them from clinching the NFC East — at least for a few hours.

The Giants (11-2) still won the division title when Pittsburgh beat Dallas 20-13 later Sunday.

"I just think we kind of beat them," said Eagles tight end L.J. Smith, who had six catches for 44 yards. "It's tough to say. That's one of those: 'How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Roll?' Who knows if the distractions hurt them and helped us? I don't know."

The Philadelphia (7-5-1).

McNabb finished 19-of-30 for 191 yards on a windy day that the Eagles controlled the ball for almost 35 minutes. Westbrook was the workhorse, gaining 131 yards on a season-high 33 carries and catching six passes for 72 yards. The defense limited New York's league-leading rushing game to 88 yards.

"This was a big win," Westbrook said after the Eagles won their second straight game. "But we're in a position now where we have to win them all."

This is going to remembered as

the game the Super Bowl champions came up empty on offense and defense after a week of scrutiny and media hype following the suspension of Burress for the rest of the season in a wake of nightclub shooting.

It also didn't help that there is an ongoing investigation into the role of middle linebacker Antonio Pierce in the aftermath of the incident in which Burress shot himself.

"It's a great story," defensive end Mathias Kiwanuka said. "I'm glad you can use it, but it's a dead issue with us."

Giants coach Tom Coughlin also downplayed the distraction theory.

"We didn't play well," he said. "We didn't play the way we had been playing. We're a better football team than that. As far as all those other things go, that's all speculation."

Pierce, who talked to investigators in the office of the Manhattan district attorney Friday, was nowhere to be found on Westbrook's 30-yard run. He also was three steps behind on a crossing pattern on the clinching TD in the fourth quarter.

"It was just a bad game," said Pierce, who had a game-high 15 tackles.

It didn't help that Eli Manning didn't have Burress as a target.

In his place, Domenik Hixon dropped a 50-yard pass right in his hands with New York trailing 3-0 in the first half.

"I should have caught the ball," said Hixon, who had three catches

for 30 yards.

New York scored late in each half. Kevin Dockery returned a blocked field goal 71 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the first half, and Manning (13-of-27 for 123) found Darcy Johnson for a 1-yard TD pass with 15 seconds to go.

The loss opened up the NFC race again. Until Sunday, the Giants were the dominant team. The Eagles gave everyone hope, beating the Giants at their own game: defense and ball control.

"It was one of those days where their defense didn't play as well as they had in the past and we played very well," Westbrook said.

The Giants, who had overcome the retirement of Michael Strahan, a season-ending preseason knee injury to Osi Umenyiora and a suspension and hamstring injuries to Burress earlier this season in going 11-1, did almost nothing right in the first half.

The one play they got right was the blocked field goal at the end of the first half with Philadelphia looking to extend a 10-0 lead.

With David Akers kicking into a swirling stiff wind, defensive end Justin Tuck got a hand on the ball, knocking it toward midfield. Dockery picked the ball up, stumbled forward in breaking a tackle attempt by Eagles guard Todd Herremans, regained his balance and scooted into the end zone for a score that prevented the Giants from being shut out in the first half for the first time since 2004 against Washington.

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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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/csap/>

Early one mornin' the sun was shinin', I was layin' in bed Wondrin' if she'd changed at all If her hair was still red. Her folks they said our lives together Sure was gonna be rough They never did like Mamma's home-made dress Papa's bankbook wasn't big enough. And I was standin' on the side of the road

Rain fallin' on my shoes Heading out for the East Coast Lord knows I've paid some dues gettin' through, Tangled up in blue. She was married when we first met Soon to be divorced I helped her out of a jam, I guess, But I used a little too much force. We drove that car as far as we could Abandoned it out West Split up on a dark sad night Both agreeing it was best. She turned around to look at me As I was walkin' away I heard her say over my shoulder,

"We'll meet again someday on the avenue," Tangled up in blue. I had a job in the great north woods Working as a cook for a spell But I never did like it all that much And one day the ax just fell. So I drifted down to New Orleans Where I happened to be employed Workin' for a while on a fishin' boat Right outside of Delacroix. But all the while I was alone The past was close behind, I seen a lot of women But she never escaped my mind, and I just grew

Tangled up in blue. She was workin' in a topless place And I stopped in for a beer, I just kept lookin' at the side of her face In the spotlight so clear. And later on as the crowd thinned out I's just about to do the same, She was standing there in back of my chair Said to me, "Don't I know your name?" I muttered somethin' underneath my breath, She studied the lines on my face. I must admit I felt a little uneasy When she bent down to tie the laces of my shoe, Tangled up in blue.

AROUND THE NATION

Monday, December 8, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

College Football BCS Standings

	team	average	record
1	Oklahoma	.9757	12-1
2	Florida	.9479	12-1
3	Texas	.9298	11-1
4	Alabama	.8443	12-1
5	USC	.8208	11-1
6	Utah	.7846	12-0
7	Texas Tech	.7840	11-1
8	Penn State	.7387	11-1
9	Boise State	.6980	12-0
10	Ohio State	.6354	10-2
11	TCU	.5848	10-2
12	Cincinnati	.5384	11-2
13	Oklahoma State	.4866	9-3
14	Georgia Tech	.4516	9-3
15	Georgia	.3775	9-3
16	Brigham Young	.3580	10-2
17	Oregon	.3395	9-3
18	Michigan State	.2866	9-3
19	Virginia Tech	.2440	9-4
20	Pittsburgh	.2377	9-3
21	Missouri	.1627	9-4
22	Ball State	.1464	12-1
22	Northwestern	.1377	9-3
24	Boston College	.1046	9-4
25	Mississippi	.0837	8-4

College Football AP Top 25

	team	points	record
1	Florida (50)	1,603	12-1
2	Oklahoma (9)	1,540	12-1
3	Texas (6)	1,530	11-1
4	Alabama	1,410	12-1
5	USC	1,372	11-1
6	Penn State	1,259	11-1
7	Utah	1,225	12-0
8	Texas Tech	1,193	11-1
9	Boise State	1,101	12-0
10	Ohio State	1,069	10-2
11	TCU	921	10-2
12	Cincinnati	863	11-2
13	Oklahoma State	853	9-3
14	Georgia Tech	761	9-3
15	Oregon	710	9-3
16	Georgia	599	9-3
17	Brigham Young	477	10-2
18	Pittsburgh	428	9-3
19	Michigan State	423	9-3
20	Mississippi	389	8-4
21	Virginia Tech	318	9-4
22	Northwestern	262	9-3
23	Ball State	249	12-1
24	Oregon State	163	8-4
25	Missouri	150	9-4

NCAA Swimming CSCAA Rankings

Men	Women
1 Texas	Georgia
2 Stanford	Stanford
3 Michigan	Arizona
4 Arizona	Texas
5 California	Florida
6 Florida	California
7 Tennessee	Auburn
8 Auburn	Texas A&M
9 Minnesota	Minnesota
10 Georgia	Indiana

NCAA FOOTBALL



Oklahoma wide receiver Brandon Caleb celebrates after Oklahoma beat Missouri 62-21 to win the Big 12 Championship on Saturday in Kansas City, Mo. The Sooners ended the season ranked first in the BCS standings.

Gators and Sooners to clash for title

Associated Press

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Florida was an up-and-coming power and Oklahoma was a declining one when Bob Stoops made his move. He left his post as Gators defensive coordinator to take his first head-coaching job with the Sooners.

Ten years later, both programs are on top. On Sunday, they earned their invitations to play for the BCS national championship on Jan. 8 in Miami.

As expected, the final BCS standings had Oklahoma at No. 1 and Florida at No. 2 — the reverse order of their rankings in the Associated Press poll — setting up the

first meeting between these storied programs.

"Nine weeks ago our team got together and said let's make every game count," Gators coach Urban Meyer said, speaking of Florida's rebound from its only loss, in September to Mississippi.

Tim Tebow and the Gators did just that. So did Oklahoma, which bounced back from a loss in October to Texas.

Two teams with one loss each debate-free make up the title game, but even President-elect Barack Obama — outspokenly in favor of a playoff for college football — might have to agree that both these teams

belong.

Florida (12-1) has averaged 49 points a game in the nine games since its only loss. Oklahoma (12-1) became the first team since 1919 to score 60-plus in five straight games.

Other teams had their chances this season, and also finished with one loss: Texas, Southern California, Alabama, Texas Tech and Penn State.

Of them, Texas had the best argument for why it should've been playing for the title. The Longhorns finished in a three-way tie in the nation's toughest division — the Big 12 South — but were denied a spot in the title game because of the tiebreaker, which looks to the BCS stand-

ings.

Oklahoma won the tiebreaker. Texas protested.

"They went to a system we all agreed upon before the season," Stoops said. "If someone didn't like it, they should have decided to change it before the season, and I'd have played by whatever rules they wanted to play by."

Instead, Texas finished third in the BCS and AP rankings and will play Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl.

"Oklahoma's a traditional power just like Florida is now," said Steve Spurrier, the former Gators coach who brought Stoops on as his defensive coordinator in 1996.

IN BRIEF

Pacquiao dominates De La Hoya in eight rounds

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — The end for Oscar De La Hoya on this night came as he sat in the corner after the eighth round, his left eye swollen shut and his face bruised by punches Manny Pacquiao seemed able to land almost at will.

The decision to call it a night was easy. The decision to call it a career may be a lot tougher.

"My heart still wants to fight, that's for sure," De La Hoya said. "But when your physical doesn't respond, what can you do? I have to be smart and make sure I think about my future plans."

Pacquiao gave De La Hoya a lot to think about by beating and battering him around the ring for eight rounds Saturday night before De La Hoya declined to answer the bell for the ninth round.

De La Hoya absorbed such a beating that he was taken to a hospital afterwards for what was described as a precautionary examination.

Wie earns LPGA card at Qualifying School

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Michelle Wie has been playing LPGA Tour events since she was in the seventh grade, drawing the biggest galleries because of her youth and power, but earning little respect from players because of her preferential treatment.

In the 62 tournaments she has played over the last seven years, Wie received 53 exemptions or invitations.

The next time the 19-year-old from Hawaii tees it up, she finally can feel like she belongs.

Wie opened with three straight bogeys before settling down in blustery conditions Sunday for a 2-over 74, easily finishing among the top 20 players at the Q-school to become a card-carrying member of the LPGA Tour.

"It's a good feeling," Wie said. "I really earned it. I legitimately went through Q-school. I took my medicine. And I got it. It feels good. It's like high school graduation."

Skip Holtz intends to meet with Syracuse

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — East Carolina coach Skip Holtz hopes to meet with Syracuse's athletic director, but said he is not close to accepting the Orange's head coaching job.

Holtz said Sunday he has had no formal meetings with Syracuse and called an NFL Network report that he was to be introduced as the new coach Monday "inaccurate." Holtz, however, didn't rule out replacing the fired Greg Robinson.

"I would like to have the opportunity to talk to (Syracuse AD) Daryl Gross," Holtz said. "But at this point, no, I'm not going through an interview process. I've made that very clear."

Holtz was in Charlotte on Sunday to serve as the keynote speaker for the Bronko Nagurski Trophy dinner, an award given to the nation's top defensive player.

Holtz led the Pirates to a 27-24 win at Tulsa in the Conference USA championship game Saturday. East Carolina (9-4) will play Kentucky in the Liberty

around the dial

NHL

Buffalo at Pittsburgh
7:30 p.m., Versus

TRACK AND FIELD

Irish run away in Blue and Gold meet

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Though it's only early December, the Irish have visions of championships in their heads.

Senior pole vaulter Mary Saxer qualified for a bid to the NCAA Championships and Notre Dame won 27 of 32 events Friday in its first meet of the indoor season at the Blue and Gold Invitational in the Loftus Center.

Saxer won the pole vault with a height of four meters, which was good enough for a trip to nationals.

"She has been working quite hard this year, and she deserves it," coach Joe Piane said. "I'll be anxious to see how high she goes. That's just the beginning for her."

The Irish also qualified for the Big East Championships in 50 events based on Friday's marks.

"That was our objective, to get as many people qualified as we could," said Piane. "That was a great way to end the semester, with 50 kids all set and not having to worry about qualifying for the Big East anymore."

Notre Dame had an athlete in the top five in its events at the meet, which was against Big East rivals DePaul and Marquette as well as Detroit Mercy.

In the men's pole vault, senior Matt Schipper came in first place with a vault of 4.95 meters, and his brother, freshman Kevin Schipper, finished second with a vault of 4.8 meters. Both Schippers qualified for the Big East tournament, as did senior Tray Morgan (4.50 m) and sophomore Justin Schneider (4.35 meters).

Schneider also placed first in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.48 and seventh in the shot put with a throw of 12.58 meters.

Senior Anna Weber qualified for the conference meet in the women's weight throw, winning the event in dominating fashion with a throw of 18.31 meters. The second place finisher, Detroit Mercy's Brittany Horne, had a throw of 15.75 meters. Weber also won the women's shot put with a toss of 14.47 meters.

Notre Dame did well in the distance events. The women took eight of the top 10 spots in the 3000-meter race, with senior Heidi Rocha winning the event in the time of 10:00.31. The men took the top three spots in the 3,000-meter and six of the top seven in the 5,000-meter. Senior Daniel Clark finished first in the 3,000 with a time of 8:14.26. Senior Patrick Smyth finished second in that event and first in the 5,000, with times of 8:28.47 and 14:21.39, respectively.

Piane said the team will continue to work on fitness over winter break, but will not be coming back early for practice.

"We'll train this week, and then take a break once classes end [on Thursday]," he said. "A few kids will come

back a day or two early, but mostly it will be a full break. Our schedule goes until June, so there's really no reason to bring people back early to train."

The team will be back in action at the Indiana Opener in Bloomington, Ind. on Jan. 10, and will have their next home meet at the Notre Dame Indoor Opener on Jan. 16.

"We hope to pick up right where we left off," Piane said.

Contact Laura Myers at
lmyers2@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles finish fourth in TYR Invite

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's ended up with a fourth place finish in this weekend's TYR Invitational hosted by Carthage College in Kenosha, WI.

The meet was won by a favorite in Division II — No. 3 St. Cloud State University. The Belles also finished behind Carthage and Hillsdale.

The Belles did have several strong individual performances on the weekend.

Freshman Audrey Dairympole

pulled off a solid finish in the 200-yard breaststroke finals with her season best time of 2:28.76 seconds. The time was just .23 seconds away from the Saint Mary's all-time record. Dairympole was also within one second of breaking another school record in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:09.45 seconds.

Freshman Eva Cavadini pitched in with a pair of top 10 results, finishing in fifth place in the 200 butterfly with a time of 2:21.02 and a ninth place finish in the 100 butterfly in

1:07.42 seconds.

Sophomore Maggie Williams finished sixth in the 200 backstroke with a 2:16.95 time, as well as a seventh-place finish in the 100 backstroke in 1:04.65 seconds.

In the long distance races, senior Melissa Gerbeth had two eighth place finishes — in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:26.30 seconds and in the 1650 freestyle with a time of 19:08.31 seconds.

The Belles will next head on their winter training trip from Jan. 2 to 9.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Freshman leads Irish over Purdue

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Freshman forward Kellie Watson said she didn't want to play like a freshman when she stepped on the court against Purdue.

She could have fooled the sold-out Joyce Center.

Her three 3-pointers near the end of the first half, two of them in a 25-second span, gave the Irish a halftime lead they would not relinquish in their 62-51 win over the Boilermakers in the Joyce Center Sunday.

The Irish offense, suffering from the absence of Ashley Barlow, hit just 3-of-22 shots before Watson's 3s.

"I thought Kellie was maybe the player of the game," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Purdue coach Sharon Versyp said the game plan was to keep Watson from getting an open shot.

"We were not supposed to help off of her at all," Versyp said.

Watson finished with 13 points. Guard Lindsay Schrader had her second straight double-double, finishing with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

Guard Melissa Lechlitner had a career-high 19 points on 7-of-13 shooting. While always in the driver's seat of the offense, she asserted herself in the paint and created shots for herself in the second half.

"I thought Melissa played maybe the best game of her career," McGraw said. "She was in command of the game."

Lechlitner had 11 of her 19 points in the second half.

"She just keeps getting better and better and better as she's been here," Versyp said of Lechlitner.

Boilermakers forward Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton led Purdue with 18 points and 10 rebounds, but she made only 8-of-19 field goal attempts. Forward Lakisha Freeman added 12 points.

Notre Dame held its lead after halftime, but again the offense struggled. Almost three minutes passed after Lechlitner's 3-pointer at 16:33 before the Irish scored again, but once they did, they didn't stop. Lech's 3 started a 14-4 run that put Notre Dame ahead 41-27 with 8:48 to go.

At that point, Lechlitner took over. She drove the lane for a layup on a give-and-go to Schrader, then hit a jumper with the shot clock winding down. She hit another jumper at the top of the lane to put Notre Dame ahead

49-40 with 2:59 to go.

"Since Barlow was out I knew coming in I had to take a little more offensive mindset," Lechlitner said.

The Purdue zone defense spread out to cover the outside, Lechlitner said, which opens the middle of the floor for drives to the basket.

Purdue started pressing the Irish in the final 10 minutes and produced turnovers, but the Irish defense kept them from capitalizing. Lechlitner stole the ball as Purdue ran the fast break after one turnover, and Watson blocked a shot after another steal.

The press came back to bite the Boilers with two minutes remaining. Williamson rebounded a missed Purdue shot and started a passing chain that snaked through the press and found Schrader by herself under the basket for an open layup to put the Irish ahead 53-42.

Foul trouble hurt the Irish in the second half. Bruszewski fouled out with 2:55 remaining and Williamson picked up her fourth foul with four minutes to go.

Foul trouble hampered the Boilermakers down the stretch as well. Malone fouled out with 1:37 remaining and center Danielle Campbell picked up her fourth with two minutes to go. Malone's fifth foul also put the Irish in the double bonus.

The first half started slowly for both teams, but the Boilers took a 12-5 lead with 12:13 left in the first half. After three offensive rebounds and three missed put-back attempts, Schrader put the fourth home, and two free throws from Novosel brought the Irish within three. Notre Dame out-rebounded Purdue 47-35 and had 17 offensive rebounds.

"We knew this game would be won on the boards," McGraw said.

Purdue got an easy layup and a jump shot from forward Natasha Bogdanova. Two free throws from guard FahKara Malone put Purdue up by nine with 7:04 to go in the first half.

Then Watson got hot from long distance, and the Irish pulled ahead by one at the half.

Note:

♦ Guard Ashley Barlow did not play because of a concussion she suffered in the Michigan State game. McGraw said she was day-to-day.

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu

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HOCKEY

Red hot Irish win 12th in a row

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Two more games, four more CCHA points for the top-ranked Irish.

Notre Dame (12-3-2, 8-2-2-2 CCHA) extended its unbeaten streak to 12 games this weekend, taking 3-1 and 1-0 decisions over Ferris State.

Irish senior goalie Jordan Pearce stopped 30 of 31 Bulldog shots Friday night, and made 25 saves Saturday to earn the shutout.

"I thought he played well both nights," Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said. "I thought Friday night they were definitely trying to shoot at bad angles on him and create rebounds. Our team did a good job of coming back and not allowing any of those rebound shots to be taken. [Saturday], I think he was in much better control of the puck coming off his body."

Ferris State got on the board first Friday, when Blair Riley knocked in a rebound at the tail end of a 5-on-3 Bulldog advantage just 53 seconds into the second period.

Notre Dame stayed positive, though, and equalized on a Ben Ryan goal. The sophomore tucked in an Erik Condra rebound at 8:29 of the second period.

"It seemed like the second period we started coming on,"

Jackson said. "And when we scored I think we were dictating the tempo of the game."

The Irish took the lead just 1:12 later with the first of two power-play goals of the night when sophomore Calle Ridderwall redirected a Christian Hanson feed past Ferris State goalie Tyler Nelson.

Hanson gave Notre Dame an insurance goal on the power play at 16:02 of the final period with his team-high 10th score of the season.

Jackson said the Irish power play, which leads the CCHA with a 23.9 percent success rate, has done well because of the selflessness of the players on the unit.

"They're sharing the puck," he said. "No one player has been trying to do too much."

Jackson also said, though, that the squad would have to adapt to maintain its effectiveness.

"Teams are going to find ways to try and shut it down," he said. "And we're going to have to try to find ways to give it a different look."

The Bulldogs shut down the Irish power play Saturday night, holding the unit scoreless in five chances. It didn't matter, though, as a second period goal from Dan Kissel was all the scoring Pearce needed. Kissel knocked in a Hanson pass at 17:55 of the second period for the game-

winner.

Even though the score was tighter, Jackson said he felt his team played better Saturday night against Ferris State's unique defensive trap style.

"I feel like we had to see it live to get accustomed to what we were going to face," Jackson said.

Jackson also said the ability to win tight, low-scoring games is an important part of any championship contender.

"Having the ability to close out games is extremely important," he said. "Our team has to know how to buckle down. They have to know how to play smarter with the puck. It's all about turnovers, and it's about making sure you don't get beat up the ice by extra people."

With only two games remaining in the first half of the season, Notre Dame currently sits in second place in the CCHA, three points behind leader Miami. The Irish, though, have two games in hand against the RedHawks.

"We want to get to [the CCHA championship in] Detroit," Jackson said. "The biggest thing for us is making sure that we finish in the top four. Every game makes a difference, and we have to just play each league game with that in mind."

Contact Sam Werner at
swerner@nd.edu

ND SWIMMING

Maxwell's records headline at OSU

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

Sophomore Samantha Maxwell's two school records highlighted Notre Dame's third-place finish at the Ohio State Invitational this weekend.

Maxwell, Notre Dame's top breastroker, broke her own school record Sunday in the 200-yard breaststroke record with a time of 2:12.46 at Ohio State's McCorkle Aquatic Pavilion. Maxwell's record-setting swim in the 200 came less than 24 hours after she broke another of her own school records Saturday in the 100-breaststroke with a time of 1:01.57. Maxwell had previously set both records during the 2008 Big East conference championships.

As a team, the No. 24 Irish finished with a total of 458 points, finishing in third place behind Minnesota and Penn State in the 11-team field. Notre Dame's 458 points was just enough to edge out the host Buckeyes, who came in fourth with a total of 434 points.

Sophomore Lauren Sylvester finished ninth in the 1650-freestyle with a time of 16:57.46. Junior Maggie Behrens finished 10th in the 200-backstroke with a team-best time of 2:01.66. Sophomore Amywren Miller set a team-best

mark with her 10th place finish in the 100-freestyle after clocking in at 50.92. Fellow sophomore Katie Casey also recorded a season-best time with a time of 2:02.36 in the 200-fly.

The Notre Dame men's team wrapped up its performance with six season-best times in each of Sunday's six events. The Irish placed fourth overall out of 12 teams with 398 points, finishing behind Ohio State, Minnesota and Penn State. However, the Irish finished two spots ahead of sixth-place Purdue, who had previously defeated Notre Dame on Nov. 8.

Notre Dame's season-best performances began with junior Andrew Deters' 11th place finish in the 1650-freestyle. His time of 15:35.4 was the fastest time of any Irish swimmer this season. Sophomore Michael Sullivan set a season-best time in the 200-backstroke with a time of 1:49.98, which was also good for 11th overall.

In the 100 free, junior John Lytle finished sixth overall with a time of 44.78. Senior Daniel Rave finished seventh in the 200-breaststroke with a time of 2:03.09 and sophomore MacKenzie LeBlanc's sixth place finish in the 200-fly with a time of 1:49.07.

Contact Mike Gotimer at
mgotimer@nd.edu

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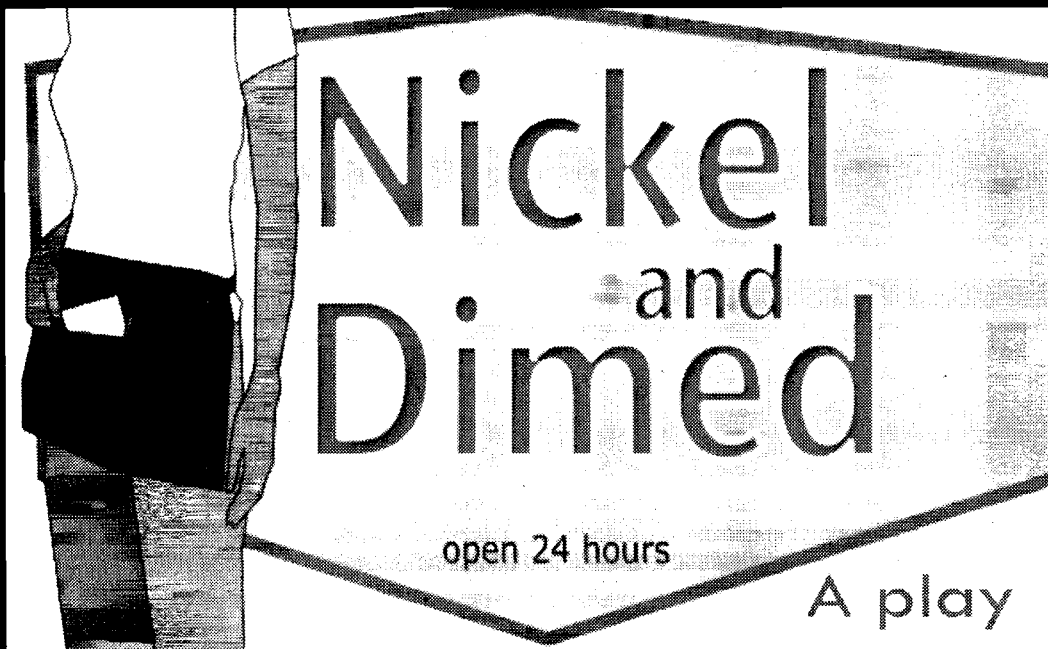
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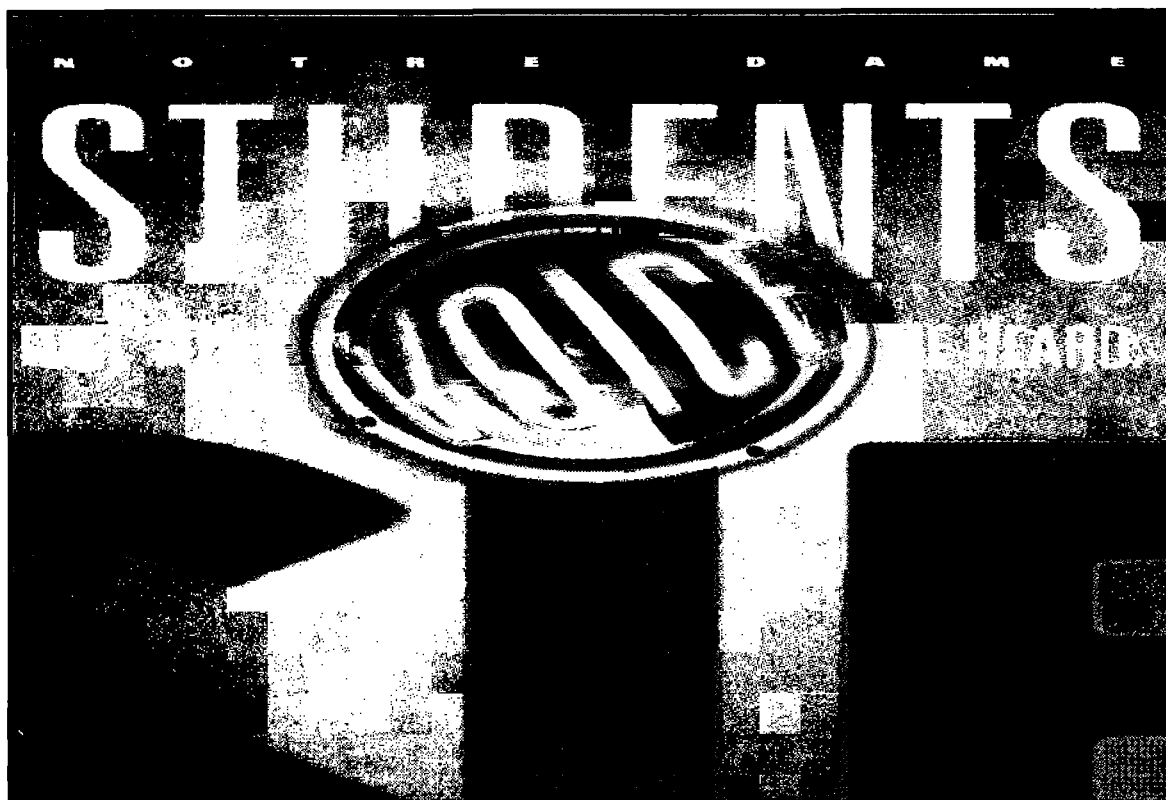
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Turner leads Buckeyes past Irish in Indianapolis

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

All week Luke Harangody was the main topic of conversation, but it was Evan Turner that had everyone talking by the end of Saturday afternoon.

Turner had 28 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and two clutch free throws to help seal Ohio State's 67-62 upset over No. 7 Notre Dame.

After Tory Jackson made his third 3-point shot of the second half to cut the Buckeyes lead to one with 26 seconds remaining, Turner was put on the free-throw line with 21 seconds to go. The sophomore nailed both free throws and left the Irish needing a three-pointer to send the game to overtime.

Kyle McAlarney attempted to dial up a shot reminiscent of his 3-point shooting barrage against North Carolina in Maui, but his long-range attempt hit off the side of the rim and ended Notre Dame's comeback efforts.

McAlarney missing a three-pointer was an all too common occurrence for the Irish Saturday. After hitting 10, nine and seven three-pointers in Notre Dame's last three games, McAlarney missed all six of his attempts against Ohio State. That statistic was testament to the defensive display put on by the Buckeyes who, through Nov. 30, were ranked second in the country in defensive field goal percentage — they allowed their opponents to shoot 32 percent from the field.

Ohio State put all that defensive ability to work in an effort to negate Notre Dame's 3-point shooting. The Buckeyes employed a 2-2-1 full-court press to force the Irish into a slower half-court offensive game, and they tailed McAlarney and fellow sharpshooter Ryan Ayers around outside the three-point line.

The result was that Ayers and McAlarney couldn't find an uncontested 3-point shot, and the two finished the game a combined 3-for-13 from behind

the arc.

"They got us out of our offensive rhythm," McAlarney said to the Associated Press. "We weren't in a good flow, weren't scoring well."

The Buckeyes' defensive strategy did leave open spaces inside the lane and forced the Irish to utilize the low-post much more than they're accustomed to. Harangody was the primary beneficiary. The junior big man, who reportedly has lost 12 pounds since contracting pneumonia in Maui, showed no ill effects in finishing the game with 25 points on 10-for-25 shooting and 16 rebounds.

"I felt good in practice," Harangody told the AP after the game. "Once I got out there, it was easy to forget about everything else. Toward the end of the game [I felt tired], but overall I felt pretty good out there."

Despite his 16 rebounds, neither Harangody nor any other Notre Dame player was able to do anything to deny Ohio State on the boards during a key second half stretch.

Between the 13:45 and 8:51 mark in the second half, the Buckeyes grabbed five offensive rebounds and allowed Ohio State to score on seven consecutive offensive possessions. Before that stretch, the largest Ohio State lead had been six points, but in that five-minute stretch the

Buckeyes turned a one-point lead into a nine-point advantage that Notre Dame would never overcome.

Ohio State out-rebounded Notre Dame 43-36 on the game, and the Buckeyes

grabbed 11 offensive rebounds — eight of which came in the second half — to Notre Dame's nine.

"Their second shots really hurt us," Irish coach Mike Brey said to the AP. "We probably didn't deserve to win. Ohio State outplayed us and deserved to win."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

"They got us out of our offensive rhythm. We weren't in a good flow, weren't scoring well."

Kyle McAlarney
Irish guard

"I felt good in practice. Once I got out there, it was easy to forget about everything else."

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

"Their second shots really started to hurt us. We probably didn't deserve to win. Ohio State outplayed us and deserved to win."

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Irish coach

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Left, Irish forward Michele Weissenhofer battles for the ball with two Tar Heel defenders during Notre Dame's 2-1 loss to North Carolina Sunday. Right, Irish forward Brittany Bock stands with the runner-up trophy after the game. Bock and the other seniors have been to the College Cup three times in their four years.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Nogueira

continued from page 20

corner of the net. Irish goalie Kelsey Lysander had hardly any time to react on the shot.

"I just hit it as hard as I could, and thank goodness it went in," Nogueira said.

Her second goal proved to be the game-winner. With 2:06 remaining in the game, the left-footed Nogueira hit a lefty shot from just outside the box. The ball was deflected and sailed over Lysander's head.

"On the greatest platform we have, which is the national championship final, she scored two of the most phenomenal goals I've ever seen," said Dorrance, who has coached North Carolina for 30 years.

"I'm talking about, if both of those were struck in a Premiership game, you'd be seeing both of those goals on a highlight reel at the end of the week."

Nogueira said she came to North Carolina with considerable raw skills but little idea of how to use them. She said, somewhat jokingly, that her coaches even had to teach her how to sprint.

"When I came in here my freshman year, there was a lot I had to learn and [Dorrance] has taught me a lot," Nogueira said. "... I never really knew the difference between playing and competing. I just liked to play so I did."

Dorrance agreed and said that his star forward is still a work in progress. But he also claimed that "the sky is the

limit" for Nogueira.

"I think Casey has the potential, if she puts all the pieces together, to be one of the greatest players in the world," Dorrance said.

Dorrance said Nogueira has the skill set to be among the best players in the game. But the coach added that he hopes she continues to improve.

"You could be the greatest juggler and still be totally ineffective on the field," Dorrance said. "So her evolution as a player is to take all these remarkable tools she has and figure out how and when to use them."

Nogueira certainly knew how and when to use them Sunday against Notre Dame.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Hawaii

continued from page 20

on a good note."

The Hawaii bowl is Notre Dame's 29th in school history and fourth in the past five seasons. The Irish have not won a bowl game since 1994, when it defeated Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl 24-21. Notre Dame is 13-15 all-time in bowl games.

Hawaii is 5-3 in bowl games since it joined the Bowl Championship Subdivision in

1974. The Warriors are 7-6 this season.

"We are thrilled to have the University of Notre Dame in the 7th Annual Sheraton Hawaii Bowl," Sheraton Hawaii Bowl Executive Director David A. K. Matlin said in a release. "Notre Dame is a storied football tradition and we are honored to have both them and the University of Hawaii in our 2008 game."

ESPN will televise the game at 8 p.m. EST.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Fickle

continued from page 20

season it's been."

Still, seniors Kerri Hanks, Carrie Dew, Elise Weber and Brittany Bock deserved better.

Even though soccer is often such a crapshoot, the fourth-year players must feel like their numbers never came up.

After Notre Dame beat Stanford 1-0 on Friday despite being outshot 20-12, Cardinal players and coach Paul Ratcliffe repeatedly talked about the illogical nature of soccer.

They claimed that they outplayed the Irish in the second half but simply got unlucky.

Notre Dame, especially

the seniors, surely felt the same way as the crowd counted down the final seconds of the season. The Irish had defeated North Carolina in the teams' last two meetings but came up just short on Sunday.

Most of the Notre Dame players took up soccer when they were barely kindergarten graduates. For the most part, the sport treated them well and that's why they have given so much of their time to it.

But on Sunday, the Irish surely felt like soccer packed up its bags and moved out on them.

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

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Finals

continued from page 20

planned to alter the game plan for her.

"I wasn't worried about Casey Nogueira, I mean any more than any other player Carolina has," Waldrum said. "She's a great player along with a lot of great players, we didn't make any special arrangements for her, we didn't do anything different than we would do with anybody else on their team."

Neither team seemed to change its game plan, knowing either could have notched a

win. Notre Dame and North Carolina could arguably be the two best programs in the country — unfortunately for the Irish, soccer isn't a seven-game series sport.

The Irish were understandably unhappy with the outcome, especially after a debated lack of call in the box late.

In the final 30 seconds Hanks made a run down the left flank and fell to the turf. Hanks felt she was fouled.

"I was running and I know she didn't mean to trip me but she did," she said. "It's in the box and she's the last player. It should have been a call."

Waldrum declined comment

on the possible foul, but told fans to watch replays and make the decision for themselves.

A call in the box and the Irish could have been right back in the game with a shot at overtime. But the luck just didn't swing their way.

Notes:

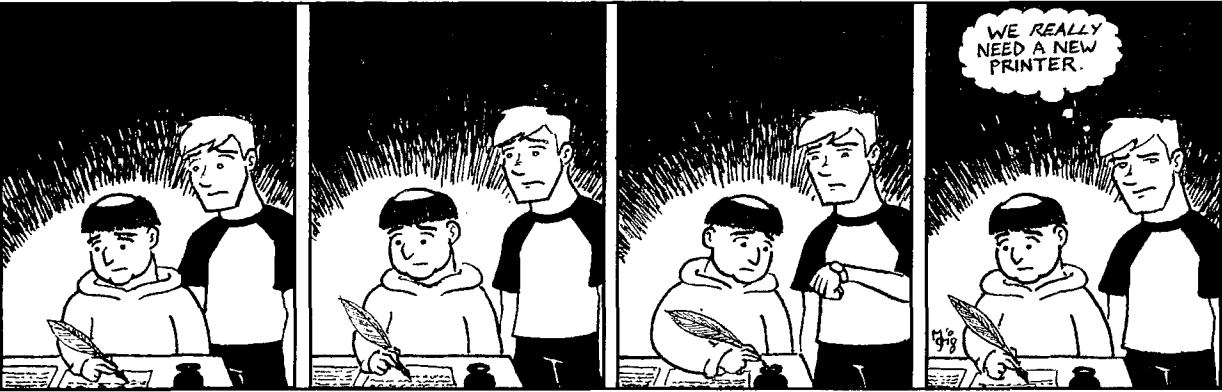
♦ Courtney Barg, Kelsey Lysander and Kerri Hanks were named to the All Tournament team.

♦ Carrie Dew was named the defensive MVP of the tournament.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

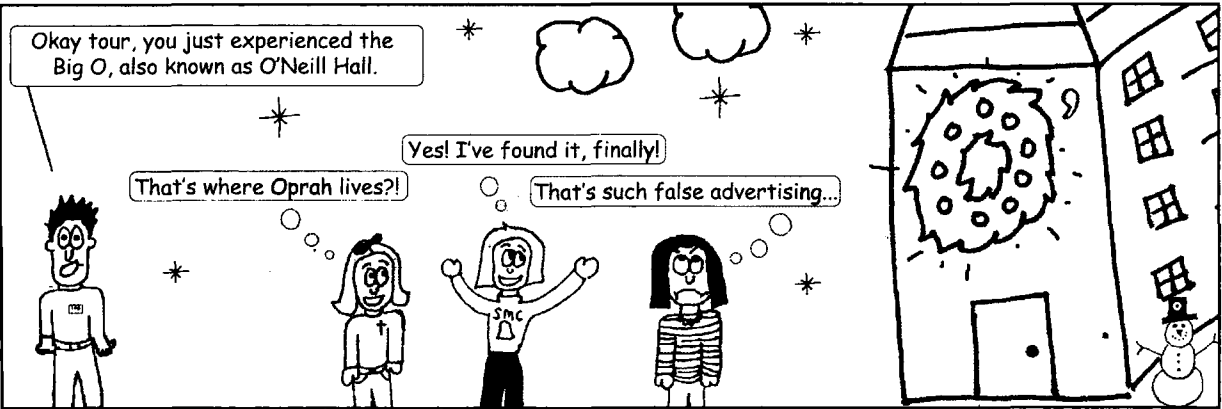
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE DOME PIECE

DAVID CAVADINI



JUMBLE

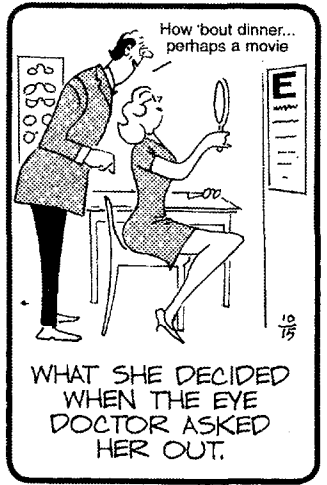
HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

YEDEK
MUGMY
CLITIE
HINSIF

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



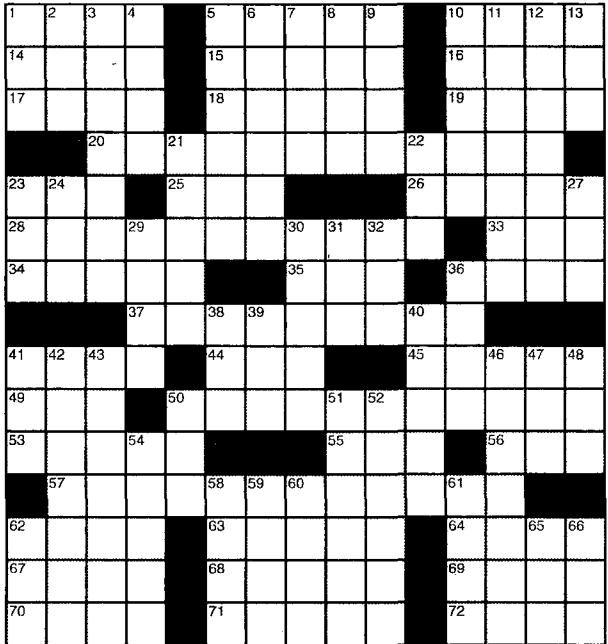
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: TO " " (Answers tomorrow)
Saturday's Jumbles: PROBE BUXOM RACIAL BROOCH
Answer: What the weaver left in his estate — AN "HEIR" LOOM

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Peak
 - 5 Chattered incessantly
 - 10 TV horse introduced in 1955 ... or a Plymouth model introduced in 1956
 - 14 Partiality
 - 15 Seeing red
 - 16 Prime draft status
 - 17 Drug-yielding plant
 - 18 Opposite of serenity
 - 19 Cartoonist Al
 - 20 Scary sound from the ocean?
 - 23 Park, e.g., in N.Y.C.
 - 25 "Sting like a bee" athlete
 - 26 Having seniority
 - 28 Scary sound from a war zone?
 - 33 Juillet's season
 - 34 Kodiak native
 - 35 Physics unit
 - 36 Theory's start
 - 37 Scary sound from a cornfield?
 - 41 Splinter group
 - 44 Motel-discount grp.
 - 45 Sales slips: Abbr.
 - 49 Galley implement
 - 50 Scary sound from a steeple?
 - 53 Tedious
 - 55 Boot part
 - 56 "Whew!"
 - 57 Misspells, say, as a ghost might at 20-, 28-, 37- and 50-Across?
 - 62 Abominate
 - 63 African antelope
 - 64 Hot rod's rod
 - 67 Lackawanna Railroad
 - 68 Countryish
 - 69 Boot part
 - 70 Card game for three
 - 71 Walk leisurely
 - 72 Stealth bomber org.
- Down**
- 1 Charles Gibson's network
 - 2 A.F.L. -
 - 3 Cane cutter
 - 4 Biblical son who sold his birthright
 - 5 Wavelet
 - 6 Language whose alphabet starts alif, ba, ta, tha ...
 - 7 Child's caretaker
 - 8 Suffix with hypn-
 - 9 Part of a bottle or a guitar
 - 10 Kind of point
 - 11 Helpless?
 - 12 Filled to the gills
 - 13 Big fat mouth
 - 21 Country just south of Sicily
 - 22 Moo goo gai pan
 - 23 Lawyers' org.
 - 24 Kilmer of "The Doors"
 - 27 Irvin, classic artist for The New Yorker
 - 29 Cowlick, e.g.
 - 30 Fit for a king
 - 31 Blunder
 - 32 "Long _____ and far away ..."
 - 36 Creep (along)
 - 38 Name that's an anagram of 27-Down
 - 39 de mer



Puzzle by Gary Steinmehl

- 40 Egyptian dry measure equal to about five-and-a-half bushels
- 41 Soak (up)
- 42 Tag for a particular purpose
- 43 Neighbor of Slovenia
- 46 Co. addresses, often
- 47 A duo
- 48 Crafty
- 50 Tournament pass
- 51 Like some music
- 52 Musically improvise
- 54 Sport utilizing a clay disk
- 58 Hospital shipments
- 59 Styptic agent
- 60 Part of a fishhook
- 61 Island with Waimea Bay
- 62 Gentlemen
- 65 Meadow
- 66 Shoemaker's helper, in a fairy tale

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Bonsall, 27; Anna Chlumsky, 28; Bruno Campos, 35; Holly Marie Combs, 35

Happy Birthday: Don't let impulsiveness guide you without having a game plan. If you are well organized, the sky is the limit. This year, if you are willing to do the research and position yourself well, no one will come close to your achievements. Can you take the lazy route to nowhere or the aggressive, hardworking path to victory. Your numbers are 3, 15, 21, 23, 28, 36, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): As the year ends, you can see the changes that need to be put into place. You can pick up the education and experience you need to carry on with your plans. Don't let a lost love or spat with someone bring you down. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You are overdue for a vacation or just spending time with the one you love. Make it happen -- don't wait for better times when it's now that you need to nurture your relationship or rejuvenate your frame of mind. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A sudden change on someone else's part may be a blessing in disguise. Prepare to take advantage of any opportunity that presents itself. Your aggressiveness will be envied by those unable to adjust as quickly. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be emotionally challenged, so don't get into an argument. Prepare to discuss what's really bothering you or nothing will be resolved. You may not like the outcome but it will push you in a direction that will be better. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be traveling or making arrangements for a trip back home or somewhere you know you will enjoy. Get into the festive spirit and start remembering all the people who have been kind to you in the past. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get away from home where the potential for too much friction will push you into a family feud. Making some personal changes that will make you feel good about yourself will be your best bet. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be pulled between two points of view. Try to remain neutral and compassionate. Being a good listener can help but, if forced to get involved, pick the side you relate to most. You may have to say no to someone you love. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stop worrying so much about home and family and allow yourself some fun and enjoyment. A sudden change will help you make a decision you've been unable to make in the past. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can take a look at a good property investment and make a deal that will put you ahead financially in the new year. This is not the time to worry about someone else's losses, only your gains. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone will probably bring you back to reality if you get tied up in something you shouldn't. If you let love or your emotions sway you, it will lead to loss. Protect your heart, your assets and your future. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You've got so much ahead of you but choices must be made now if you want to take advantage of your upcoming good fortune. A new career, skill or service that you can offer will turn into a prosperous venture. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Learn all you can about something you want to pursue. An emotional plea on your part will turn a past problem into a future gold mine. Now is not the time to walk away from something you believe in. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, pushy and know how to get what you want. You defend your beliefs and are loyal and a great friend.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugeniast.com for confidential consultations, newspace.com/eugeniast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvic.com for fun

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Twice denied

Two Nogueira goals lift Tar Heels over Irish for second time in three years



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

From left, Irish players Courtney Barg, Rose Augustin, Melissa Henderson, Brittany Bock and Courtney Rosen line up to block Tar Heel forward Casey Nogueira's free kick during North Carolina's 2-1 win over Notre Dame in the NCAA Championship Sunday.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

CARY, N.C. — Not even an undefeated season and a goal within the first 17 seconds of the title game could secure Notre Dame a National Championship.

With two nearly untouchable shots by Casey Nogueira, North Carolina ended the perfect Irish season.

In the 87th minute, Nogueira tested her left foot. Standing from the left side of the Irish 18, Nogueira sent a chip that deflected off an Irish defender into the top right corner of the

Irish net. The goal was a final surprising blow in a game the Irish thought was theirs from the start.

Kerri Hanks and Notre Dame caught North Carolina flat-footed in the first 17 seconds. Hanks took a long ball from Courtney Rosen and buried a ball in the right corner of the net and past Tarheel's keeper Ashlyn Harris.

"Kerri Hanks is a great player. There's no way I'm going come flying out for that ball, she'll tap it right past me or dribble me, I have way too much respect for her," Harris said. "I just tried to come out, make myself as big as a I could, she just had so much time, she just tapped it right

past me in the corner."

And even though the Tar Heels managed to outshoot the Irish 7-2 in the first half, Notre Dame clung to the 1-0 lead going into halftime. But the early lead wasn't enough — that's just how soccer goes, Hanks said.

"That definitely wasn't our game plan [scoring early]. You score a goal early and that's good for our team, just try to keep doing it, but obviously we didn't get it done," Hanks said. "I thought we played a good game, but that's how it goes. The game of soccer."

One fewer foul and the game could have gone to the Irish. But

in the 48th minute, Notre Dame committed a foul at the top of its own 18-yard box, giving North Carolina a chance to tie it at 1-1. And that's just what Nogueira did. The Tarheel junior drilled the free kick into the bottom left of the Irish net, evening the score at one and deflating the Irish sails.

Irish coach Randy Waldrum said Notre Dame seemed to fall off its rhythm early in the second half, but he felt that his team turned it back around.

"I actually thought we were better after about 15 minutes," Waldrum said. "I thought early in the second half we were still working, finding our way to get

our rhythm to get out, but I actually thought after the first 15 minutes I thought we started to get our rhythm back and create some opportunities."

The Tar Heels continued to outshoot the Irish 11-5 in the second half, but the game looked like it was headed for overtime. With five minutes of regulation time remaining, both teams seemed to slow their pace and prepare for a golden-goal opportunity. That never happened.

And even though Nogueira had both goals for North Carolina, Notre Dame never

see FINALS/page 18

FOOTBALL

Irish get Hawaii bowl bid

ND faces Hawaii in Honolulu Dec. 24

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Notre Dame accepted an invitation to face Hawaii in the Sheraton Hawaii bowl in Honolulu on Dec. 24, the University said in a press release.

Notre Dame has played in Hawaii three times before. The Irish lost to Southern Methodist 27-20 in the 1984 Aloha Bowl, and beat Hawaii in the regular season in 1991 and 1997.

"We're very excited about heading out west to play in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl," Irish coach Charlie Weis said in the release. "This is a great opportunity for our team to face a quality opponent in their backyard and we'll need to be ready."

"I know the extra practices this month will really benefit our team and we look forward to ending this season

see HAWAII/page 18

Nogueira's great skill set could still improve

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

CARY, N.C. — After North Carolina forward Casey Nogueira scored both of her team's goals in a 2-1 win over Notre Dame Sunday, Tar Heels coach Anson Dorrance compared her skills to those of Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho.

Despite Nogueira's pair of nearly perfect shots, the compliment was probably a stretch. But it also says a lot about the state of NCAA women's soccer.

"Obviously, our game doesn't get much exposure and certainly for the young girls that are

watching, it gets almost none," Dorrance said. "As far as those young girls think, the only sort of people that can hit that kind of strike [like the two by Nogueira] are these men that play in the [English] Premiership."

"What's kind of cool right now is in the national championship final, everyone that I've had that game can show their kids, 'This is how women can play.'"

Nogueira, a junior who won the ACC player of the year award, notched her first goal on a rocket free kick into the left

see NOGUEIRA/page 18

Soccer's erratic nature kills

CARY, N.C. — Soccer is more fickle than an on-again, off-again significant other.

After his team defeated Notre Dame 2-1 in the national title game, North Carolina coach Anson Dorrance articulated that fact to highlight the momentous feat his team had just completed.

"The trouble with a game like ours is it's a roll of the dice," Dorrance said. "There's no guarantee even

on your best day, even on a day you dominate, that you're going to win."

The nature of soccer, as Dorrance described it, came back to haunt Notre Dame.

After beginning the season 26-0-0, the Irish finished on a one-game losing streak. And that loss is what matters right now.

Notre Dame trailed just twice all season. Unfortunately for them, one of those instances was the final two minutes of the national title game.

Which is why it hurts so much. There's no way around it. And the Irish didn't try to disguise the pain they felt. In the team's press conference after the game, Irish coach Randy

Waldrum gave his shortest post-game statement of the season.

"I'm just really proud of our girls. That's it," the normally gregarious coach said.

Notre Dame had an opportunity to go down as one of the best teams in the history of college soccer. Instead, the senior class will leave with three College Cup appearances and no meaningful hardware. At least not the most meaningful trophy.

"The season has been phenomenal," Waldrum said. "I told the girls they'll look back in a few weeks and recognize how great of a

see FICKLE/page 18



Fran Tolan
Associate Sports Editor