

THE OBSERVER

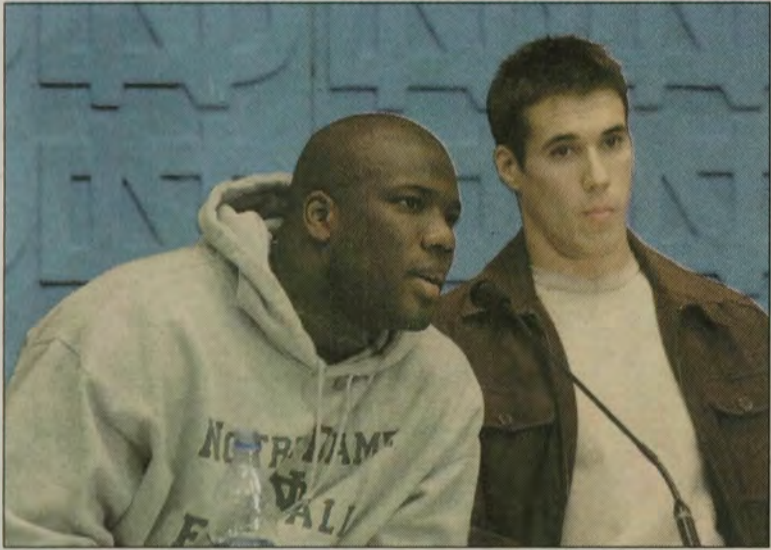
The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

It's a Fiesta: Bowl excites Irish fans



Brandon Hoyte and Brady Quinn field questions during a press conference Sunday after it was announced the Irish will play in the Fiesta Bowl.

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

Notre Dame learned Sunday it will face Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 2, securing a payout of \$14.8 million for the University and placing some Notre Dame students from Ohio in a tense tug-of-war between hometown Buckeye pride and a fighting Irish spirit.

The Ohio State University is practically in sophomore Chris Doughty's backyard. He grew up a loyal Buckeye fan — so passionate that he hated Notre Dame when it looked like the two teams would face each other in a bowl game during his sophomore year of

high school.

"This is pretty much the worst thing that's ever happened to me," Doughty said. "It was just a dagger in my heart because I've been a diehard OSU fan my entire life. I wept when they won the [2002] national championship and now I have to root against them — it's kind of a big deal."

He said he might lose friends over it, but after a year and a half under the Dome, there's no doubt Doughty will be cheering for Notre Dame.

"Hopefully I'm gonna go because it's not too often that the two teams I would kill for

see BCS/page 4

Arabic grows in popularity

Language becoming more common at ND

By KAREN LANGLEY
News Writer

The two young women, clad in dark, floor-length robes, gesture excitedly as they greet one another. "Salaam," they say, and proceed to converse for a few moments in Arabic. The other young people around them add their own comments in the language and laugh at a joke.

Then, one of the young women turns to Professor Li Guo to ask a grammatical question. Guo, lounging by a window overlooking Notre Dame's snowy South Quad, answers her in Arabic.

This classroom scene — now common at Notre Dame — would have been unheard of prior to 1989, when the first Arabic language courses were offered at the University. In subsequent years, Arabic has become an increasingly popular offering at Notre Dame, a school known for its Irish Catholic heritage. Student demand caused a third year of formal Arabic study to be added for the 2005-06 academic year, while study beyond the third year is available through directed readings courses.

The demand for Arabic

see ARABIC/page 6

Better Than Ezra concert a moderate success

By KAREN LANGLEY
News Writer

While the instant sellout crowd for the Student Union Board's first event of the semester — a comedic visit on Oct. 8 from Vince Vaughn and crew — was an obvious hit, reactions were mixed after the second big on-campus show of the year, a Better Than Ezra concert Friday night.

Jimmy Flaherty, Student Union Board president, called Friday's Better Than Ezra concert a success, emphasizing strong ticket sales and enthusiastic student reviews.

"We were extremely happy," Flaherty said. "We talked to a lot of people at the show, and they had nothing but positive reviews. A lot of people said

this has been one of the better shows they've seen, in the quality of the band and the way they played to the audience."

Approximately 1,000 tickets were sold, a figure not far off of the 1,088 capacity that fire regulations assigned to Stepan Center that night.

The building did not appear full to all the students in attendance. Freshman Bridget Cullen said she thought she would see more people at the show but still enjoyed the performance.

"I was expecting more people, but there were a good number of people there," she said. "I really liked it. It was a lot of fun."

Attendance levels were

see EZRA/page 4



Better Than Ezra performs Friday at Stepan Center. Approximately 1,000 tickets were sold for the concert.

DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Holiday event benefits children

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Saint Mary's Editor

Armed with popsicle sticks and face paint, members of the Arnold Air Society, the service organization associated with Notre Dame Air Force ROTC, and Silver Wings, its civilian counterpart, set about to help 150 local underprivileged children celebrate the holidays in Angela Athletic Facility at Saint Mary's Saturday.

Christmas music blared from the sound system as children lined up to sit on Santa's knee and receive presents donated through the Toys for Tots program. Others sat at tables making Christmas crafts with the help of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's volunteers.

The event was Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings' annual

see WINGS/page 4



Two children enjoy eating the materials needed for their edible arts and crafts project at Saint Mary's Field Day Sunday.

CHELSEA GULLING/The Observer

Students use break for service, learning

CSC offers a variety of volunteer opportunities

By SARAH WHEATON
News Writer

As students buckle down for end-of-semester projects and finals, some are also spending extra time in the classroom preparing to participate in winter break seminars through the Center for Social Concerns (CSC).

This year, the CSC is offering the always-popular The Church and Social Action seminar — better known as Urban Plunge — in a number of sites all over the country. Also offered are the Organizing, Power and Hope Seminar in Chicago, the Holy Cross Mission in Education Seminar in Arizona and the

Border Issues Seminar in Texas and Mexico.

Jay Caponigro, director of the Organizing, Power and Hope Seminar, said he saw an increase in applications this year.

"I believe this is due to word of mouth, advertising and the experience of previous participants," Caponigro said.

Notre Dame's participation in a postseason bowl game has affected some students' plans — some may now have to decide between participation in a seminar and attending a bowl game.

However, Caponigro said he does not think the possibility of a

see CSC/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Smile! You're on candid camera!

Nuclear warfare is not an area I am well-versed in, so when I went to LaFortune to write an article on a lecture about the future of non-proliferation, I needed to concentrate. I sat down in a booth at 6:45 p.m. with the intent of finishing the article by 8. With my laptop out and several pages of notes beside me on the table, it should have been obvious to anyone passing by that I was working.

Forty-five minutes later, I was still writing when a guy came and sat down on the bench right across from me and started playing a game of solitaire with his cards. I looked at him for a minute, wondering why he was sitting at the table with me and not at one of the several other available tables or chairs in the room. He avoided eye contact and continued playing an intense game of solitaire, partially covering my notes with his cards. (Yes, solitaire can be intense.)

Having grown up with five younger siblings, I can handle more distractions and noise when working than the typical person, so I moved my notes a little closer to me and continued writing.

A few minutes later, another guy came over to my table and greeted his solitaire-playing friend. He sat down and they started playing a game of War. I kept expecting one of them to look up and notice me, but it never happened. It was as if I was not even there. Time was passing quickly and I needed to finish my article, so I returned to my computer and tried to ignore the card battle taking place just inches away from me.

At 10 minutes before eight, a girl came to my booth — or what had been my booth — and sat down right next to me. She asked the guys if she could show them a magic trick.

By this time, I am sandwiched in the corner. My backpack is close beside me to make room for the girl, my notes are in a pile right next to my computer, and I know my five siblings have never produced distraction like this.

I decide it is not even worth it to ask them to leave, since I have such little time to finish and I am not sure these people will be receptive to my request to move the magic show elsewhere. I begin to gather my things, and suddenly another student emerges from behind a pillar with a videocamera.

I was the target of a sociology class's project to see how people react when social norms are violated. Now when I am in LaFortune, I keep an eye out for wandering card players and hidden cameramen. If I can help it, I will not be starring in any more hidden camera shows.


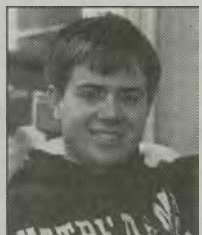
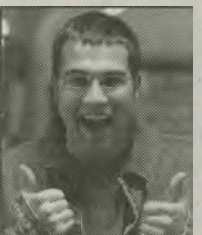



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The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: ARE YOU PLANNING ON GOING TO THE BCS BOWL?

					
John Soltis	Perry Shoemaker	Kiel Hockett	Diane Sullivan	Amelia Gillespie	Laura Brockelman
freshman Morrissey	freshman Morrissey	freshman Dillon	freshman Howard	freshman Walsh	freshman Walsh
"Is Chuck Norris the ultimate dispenser of justice?"	"I wish."	"No, because I'm getting my tonsils out, and it sucks."	"I'd go if I had tickets."	"Of course, because I'm staying with her."	"Of course, because I live in Tempe."



Residents of Morrissey Manor decorated their hallways in preparation for their winter formal festivities Saturday. Each section was themed to look like a different country.

OFFBEAT

All G sued by Kazakhstan
ALMATY, Kazakhstan — A British comedian who uses a boorish, sexist and racist Kazakh alter ego called Borat to poke fun at interviewees has responded to a legal threat from the Kazakh authorities by satirically welcoming the move.

Sacha Baron Cohen, who plays the spoof Kazakh television reporter in his "Da Ali G Show", incurred the wrath of Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry this month after appearing as Borat at the annual MTV Europe Music Awards.

He described shooting dogs for fun and said his wife could not leave Kazakhstan as she was a woman. The Foreign Ministry said his behavior was unacceptable and that Cohen might be serving political orders to tarnish Kazakhstan's reputation.

Responding in character as Borat, Cohen, who is Jewish, said: "I like to state, I have no connection with Mr. Cohen and fully support my government's position to sue this Jew."

Enormous straw goat burned by vandals
STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Vandals set light to a giant straw goat Saturday night in a central Swedish town, police said, an event that has happened so frequently it has almost become a Christmas tradition.

It was the 22nd time that the goat had gone up in smoke since merchants in Gavle, 150 kilometers (90 miles) north of Stockholm, began erecting it to mark the holiday season. Police spokeswoman Margareta Olander said officers received a call just after 9 p.m. to report that the goat was ablaze.

"In just a couple of minutes only a sooty wooden skeleton remained," she said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF



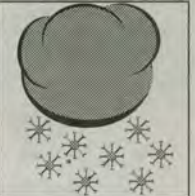
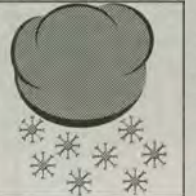
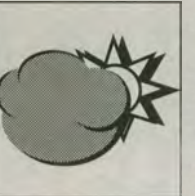
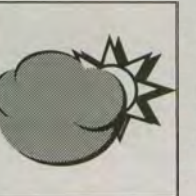
Andrij M. Hlabse will perform a senior recital on the jazz saxophone for his undergraduate degree from 7 p.m. to 8 today in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library. The recital will feature songs by Herbie Hancock, and George Gershwin as well as the self-composed "KreeFish". Additional performers include Larry Dwyer, Bill Nicks, and Darrel Tidaback.

The Saint Mary's Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership will sponsor speaker Rachel Harding tonight in the Vander Vennet Theater in the Student Center from 7 p.m. to 9. The event is free and open to the public.

The ND Breastfeeding Encouragement Support Team (BEST) will meet from 12 p.m. to 1 Tuesday in the Notre Dame Room of the LaFortune Student Center. BEST supports nursing and pregnant moms at Notre Dame and babies are welcome to meetings. E-mail Tracy Weber at tweber1@nd.edu to be added to the BEST listserv and get more information.

A "Christmas at the CoMo" benefit concert will be held Wednesday, Dec. 7 in the Hammes Student Lounge of the Coleman Morse Center from 8 p.m. to 9. ND Celebration and instrumentalists will perform, and the public is invited to attend.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail 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
	20	15		18		22		20		25		27
				10		12		10		15		10

Atlanta 50 / 31 Boston 37 / 30 Chicago 20 / 11 Denver 40 / 23 Houston 58 / 35 Los Angeles 59 / 43 Minneapolis 20 / 5 New York 38 / 29 Philadelphia 49 / 30 Phoenix 68 / 43 Seattle 49 / 35 St. Louis 36 / 22 Tampa 60 / 45 Washington 40 / 29

ND faculty can now submit grades online

End of fall 2005 semester first for new process

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

During the summer, the University restructured the process by which faculty members submit their students' end-of-term grades. This month will mark the first time faculty use the new system during the school year.

Several aspects of the process have been redesigned, but the largest change has been a move to online grade submission.

"The new system is very straightforward," assistant registrar Chuck Hurley said. "Faculty members log on[to] insideND to gain secure access to online grading ... The faculty member can submit their grades from home in South Bend or New York or Paris. Because we are no longer tied to a paper process, the instructor has much more versatility regarding time and location."

Hurley said part of the impetus for the change to Internet-based grade submission was the logistical difficulties associated with having faculty submit grades on machine-readable forms at the end of each semester.

"The whole process took a great deal of time and paper," he said. "On the day grades were due each semester, several hundred instructors would have to walk over to the Office of the Registrar, often through sleet, rain or snow,

and turn in their grade list."

The Registrar's Office does not expect the switch to online grading to cause problems with grade submission on this semester's Dec. 19 deadline.

"During Summer Session 2005, over 600 classes were graded online ... the process was simple, and many of the comments we received from the faculty were quite positive," Hurley said.

Hurley also said the office has set aside a room equipped with computers, which will have staff on hand to assist professors with concerns about submitting grades via the Internet.

Hurley said the recent changes might affect students anxiously awaiting first-semester grades over winter break.

"[The new procedures] should improve the speed and accuracy of [students'] grades," he said. "An instructor ... out of town can now grade a class online. Or, a person who might have accidentally missed the deadline previously because of a torn paper copy ... will now make the deadline."

The Office of the Registrar expects first-semester grades to be available on Tuesday, Dec. 20. Once grades are posted, students will be able to access them within the Student Services channel of insideND.

Contact Steve Kerins at
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College plans 12 days of giving

Several Saint Mary's groups join together in Christmas donation efforts

By MEGAN OSBERGER
News Writer

As department stores nationwide prepare for the yuletide shopping season, Saint Mary's students prepare for the 12 Days of Christmas, a campus-wide charity drive that will benefit 12 local families.

Spearheaded by the senior class board, the drive includes the participation of every club and organization on campus, and there is an event scheduled for each of the first 12 days in December.

"I thought it would be a really great idea to have unified projects because all of the class boards, campus clubs, athletic teams and offices have separate events every year," said senior class president Lauren Condon. "While these do work, everyone is competing for money, and if we could all work together, we were more likely to be successful."

After asking the presidents of the other class boards for help, Condon said senior class officers presented the idea to Carrie Call, director of the Office for Civil and Social Engagement, Linda Timm, vice president of Student Affairs, and Patrick White, dean of faculty.

The project is an expansion of previous charitable efforts, according to Call. Saint Mary's will help families through Resources for Enriching Adult Living (REAL) Services, as they

have in the past. In previous years, however, only faculty and staff had the opportunity to purchase presents for the families. This year, students can also directly contribute gifts.

Several different services were used to select the families, including REAL Services and the Minority Health Coalition.

"I was also put in touch with [Sex Offense Services] so we can provide for women who can't go home for Christmas due to sexual assaults," said Call.

"The families from the Minority Health Coalition are the ones who need our help the most. They are recent immigrants who have almost nothing."

Three families were also suggested by Marquette Primary School, Saint Mary's partner school, said Call.

"The idea," Call said, "is that we give students more than one opportunity to help, and that is exactly what the 12 Days of Christmas is going to do."

Each year the Business Office, Admissions Office and the Psychology Honors Society Psi Chi sponsor a family themselves. This year, lead by residence advisor Becky Winston, second floor Regina North will also adopt its own family.

"I just think the campus is going to be oozing with Christmas spirit," Condon said.

"No one on campus will be able to ignore the drive."

Planned activities included a showing of "Home Alone" in Vander Vennet Theater Dec. 4, sponsored by the Student Activity Board. The first-year board will be raffling off the second room-pick number for each of the classes, and Christmas-grams sponsored by the Student Diversity Board will be sold throughout the drive.

Students around campus are responding positively to the drive thus far.

"The holidays are all about giving to others."

Sarah Lavelle
Junior

about giving to others, and I'm glad that we can be a part of that from our own campus."

The activities will wind down Dec. 12 at the annual Late Night Breakfast served by faculty and staff, when the total amount of money raised will be announced.

"We just really want this to be an event that brings the Saint Mary's family together," said Condon. "My hope is that this year will be the first of many Christmas drives at Saint Mary's."

Contact Megan Osberger at
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ACE GOES Latin

ACE GOES LATIN

Enseñar es tocar vidas por siempre

★ Friday, December 9

★ 9PM - 11PM

★ Legends

★ Free t-shirts to the first 50 people

D.J. ★★ Food ★★ Dancing

Ezra

continued from page 1

where senior Lee Regner expected them.

"When in e-mails [SUB] said it was going to sell out, I knew from other concerts I'd been to that probably wasn't the case," he said.

Regner also said he enjoyed Better Than Ezra's performance at The Show his freshman year and decided to see them again Friday.

"I didn't know the new songs

but it was still pretty entertaining," he said. "I think they were a good choice — a relatively well-known band — but it would be nice if they had brought in someone totally new."

SUB's selection of Better Than Ezra was based on surveys of student opinion.

"Better Than Ezra was far and away the most popular choice," Flaherty said.

The opening band, Marking Twain, was also received well.

"A lot of people at Notre Dame went to high school with the [Marking Twain] members

in Ohio," Flaherty said. "They're a great up-and-coming band, and they got a standing ovation."

Sophomore Jake O'Neil did not attend the concert because of other plans, but said he would have attended if his friends had chosen to.

"I liked [Better Than Ezra] growing up but haven't heard anything from them recently," he said. "I think [artist selection] was better than The Show. I personally would have rather seen Better Than Ezra than Cake and Akon."

Simona Fernandes, a junior,

agreed that Better Than Ezra was somewhat of a throwback.

"I think Better Than Ezra is a band that was more of my babysitter's taste rather than my own," she said. "They're just a little bit before I started listening to pop music."

Against her own expectations, Fernandes did enjoy the show.

"I went to their show only knowing one song and wasn't expecting too much, but the band just had so much personality," she said. "The lead singer mixed in other songs with the band's and it was just

right."

This particular Better Than Ezra concert may have stood out in its quality, Flaherty said, a fact he attributed to the hard work of Chris Lund, the SUB Concerts Programmer, and the members of SUB.

"In our mind, it was a huge success," he said. "The concert reviewers on Better Than Ezra's Web site said it was one of the best Better Than Ezra concerts they'd ever seen."

Contact Karen Langley
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CSC

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bowl game has seriously affected student participation in his seminar.

Several students said that while they would be sad to miss a bowl game, it has not affected their plans for the break.

"I feel I would be doing myself, and others, a disservice if I didn't participate," said sophomore Regina Gesicki, who will participate in the New York City Plunge. "It's part of becoming educated, to see what social responsibility is and to step away from apathy."

The Urban Plunge seminar is the largest of all CSC seminars, accommodating up to 400 students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross. Urban Plunge sends students to various cities across the nation, with 43 different sites available this year. During their 48-hour immersion, the students will be exposed to the problems of poverty in these urban centers.

Notre Dame senior Sara Urben said she will be considering problems that are close to home — literally.

"I chose to do Urban Plunge in Chicago because as someone who lives 15 minutes outside of the city in the suburbs, I only see one side of the city," she said. "After doing a Summer Service Project in Chicago, I realized that there is an ugly side to the city that I love so much. I wanted to do an Urban

Plunge to learn more about the issues that affect our nation's big cities."

While students participating in the Urban Plunge seminar usually serve in areas near their own home, other seminars require students to travel across the country. Participants in the Border Issues Seminar will serve in both El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Elias Moo, who participated in this seminar last winter break, is now serving as one of its two student coordinators.

"The seminar experience has impacted me in a way that now I feel it is a responsibility and a mission to pass on what I have seen and lived to others who may not recognize the reality of the border and our broken immigration policy," Moo said.

The seminars show students a side of life some have never experienced before.

"I'm expecting to be shaken up and upset from what I see," Gesicki said. "I hope I can learn from the people I meet or the situations I encounter and take something with me."

Moo said he hoped this new perspective would have a serious impact on students.

"I think the greatest challenge of these seminars is allowing ourselves to be open to the realities of the disparities that exist socially and economically in the U.S.," he said.

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Wings

continued from page 1

Field Day, an occasion that takes months to plan, according to Arnold Air Society director of operations Ashley Shelton.

"The main goal is just to throw a huge Christmas party for kids who might not otherwise get to celebrate in this way," Shelton said.

Shelton said the children in attendance came from a variety of community centers throughout the South Bend area, including Madison Center, Logan Center and the Boys and Girls Club of South Bend. For the first time this year, children who live in the University Village were also invited.

Field Day is tailored specifically for children, but Shelton said many parents, such as women from St. Margaret's House, also attended.

A junior, Shelton said she has participated in Field Day for the past three years and estimated the program has existed for seven years.

"It is a great opportunity for us as college students to get involved with these kids," Shelton said. "We end up learning a lot from them."

In past years, Field Day was

held at the South Bend Armory. However, Saint Mary's provided a more accessible location for volunteers coming from Notre Dame, Shelton said. The College also allowed Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings to use Angela free of charge.

The community also rallied around the children and the event, Shelton said. Papa John's sold the group dozens of pizzas at a discounted price, and the toys distributed were collected by the Marine Corps through the Toys for Tots program.

Silver Wings secretary Elizabeth Clifton, who has volunteered at Field Day for the past three years, said the organizations succeeded in their goal of helping as many underprivileged kids as possible.

"One of the kids came up to me afterwards and was like, 'This is the best field trip ever,'" Clifton said.

Shelton said Arnold Air Society and Silver Wings members who are responsible for the event continue to get better at carrying it out each year, and Field Day will likely continue for many years to come.

"It was wonderful," Shelton said. "We had a really great time with the kids. I think everyone went home happy."

Contact Megan O'Neil at
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BCS

continued from page 1

them to play each other," Doughty said. "Basically I'm going to sell my body — flesh and soul so I can go."

Notre Dame's campus was buzzing with BCS chatter Sunday evening as word of Notre Dame's opponent spread. Sophomore and Ohio native Alexander Harper said he was fielding phone calls from curious Ohio State friends back home after the BCS announcement — all of them wondering who Harper would be cheering for on Jan. 2.

"My heart hurts and I'm torn," Harper said. "I've always been a lifelong Buckeye fan. I gotta choose. It's tough, I don't know what to think. I just don't know if I'm as hardcore as other students here."

The jury is still out on Harper's decision. He hadn't made up his mind as of Sunday evening.

Junior Madison Liddy and sophomore Meagan Fitzpatrick were not aware of

the news as they ate in a crowded South Dining Hall Sunday, but were thrilled nonetheless.

"I'm really excited. I know our boys will pull out a victory," Liddy said. "We always have a chance. I think we have a chance against any team in the United States."

Liddy, who lives in California, said she will be driving to the game in Tempe, Ariz.

Senior John Duffner said he believes the matchup is a promising one, pitting two of the nation's best teams together — both with rabid football followers in their wake.

"I think it's always great when two teams with two [of the] most passionate fan bases in all of college football play each other," Duffner said. "OSU has done well, they've got almost as much tradition, but they're a distant second to us."

Notre Dame's fan base spans the globe. Junior Benoit Huon said he will be watching the game from his home in Paris. He chose to attend Notre Dame because he wanted to watch the football team win a national championship. He

said the Fiesta Bowl is close enough.

"I'll have to try to find an American bar [in Paris]," Benoit said. "I'll be there from midnight to 4 a.m. watching it. And I'll wear my ND outfit and I'll be hootin' and hollerin' all the way through the game."


As the only independent major football program in the country, Notre Dame does not have to share its BCS bowl money with a conference — allowing the University to keep the hefty payout for itself. Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves has said that any bowl money will likely be spent on academic initiatives.

Specific bowl money distribution discussions should begin by the end of this semester, University spokesman Matt Storin said last month.

According to a University press release, Notre Dame's ticket allotment is 15,000 tickets and none will be released for public sale.

Ticket information for students planning to travel to the game is expected to be released in an e-mail today.

Contact Mary Kate Malone
at mmalone3@nd.edu



STUDY TIME

DeBartolo Hall:
Open Study Hours:
December 8 7am to 3:00am Midnight Snacks!
December 9 7am to 3:00am Midnight Snacks!
December 10 7am to 3:00am Midnight Snacks!
December 11 7am to 3:00am Midnight Snacks!
Finals Week: Dec, 12-16 Open: 7am to 3:00am
***December 16 DeBartolo closes 30 minutes after last scheduled exam through the Registrar's Office.**
Free Midnight Snacks on study days only!

24 Non-technology rooms, first come/ first serve
See Building Support Person if you have specific needs: Room 103, 104.

Coleman-Morse: 1st Floor Lounge 7:00am-4am daily. Same dates as listed above.
Always-Free Snacks!

O'Shaughnessy: Rooms available for open study except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.
December 8 8:00am to 3:00am
December 9 8:00am to 3:00am
December 10 8:00am to 3:00am
December 11 8:00am to 3:00am
Finals Week: December 12-16 8am to 3:00am
Sunday 1:00pm to 3:00am.
Monday-Thursdays 5:00pm-3:00am.
Rooms: 204, 206, 207, 208, 209.

Snacks during Study Days courtesy of:
Business Operations
Campus Ministry
Student Union Board
*****Good Luck with Finals*****

WORLD & NATION

Monday, December 5, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Election boycotted by opposition

CARACAS, Venezuela — Candidates aligned with President Hugo Chavez were widely expected to increase their legislative majority Sunday as Venezuelans voted for a new National Assembly in an election boycotted by several opposition parties.

Willian Lara, a leading lawmaker in Chavez's governing party, said internal tallies of the Fifth Republic Movement indicated pro-Chavez candidates could sweep all 167 of the assembly's seats.

Chavez earlier dismissed the boycott as a failed ploy to sabotage legitimate elections and avoid an embarrassing defeat, and officials later blamed a pipeline explosion on government opponents.

"The whole world knows a true democracy is in motion here in Venezuela," Chavez said after voting at a school where cheering supporters greeted him outside.

Volunteers rebuild after tsunami

KHAO LAK, Thailand — Four months after the tsunami struck, Andy Chaggar gave up his engineering job in England and returned to Thailand to help rebuild houses near where his girlfriend was swept to her death.

"It seemed irrelevant to go back to my old job and work for a profit-making company," said Chaggar. So now he manages a housing project for some 180 Thais in the village of Thap Tawan, in the Khao Lak resort area 360 miles south of Bangkok.

The killer wave that struck on Dec. 26 killed 5,400 people in Thailand; 2,436 were foreigners. There are 2,800 people still missing. In 11 countries affected by the earthquake and tsunami, more than 176,000 people died. The disaster left 50,000 missing and hundreds of thousands homeless across the region.

NATIONAL NEWS

Singers honored at Kennedy Center

WASHINGTON — Tina Turner and Tony Bennett, two legends of American music, earned accolades from a broad array of pop and jazz stars Sunday during the Kennedy Center Honors.

In honor of Turner, Queen Latifah sang "What's Love Got to Do With It," Melissa Etheridge sang "River Deep, Mountain High" and Beyonce Knowles performed "Proud Mary."

Oprah Winfrey called herself "Tina's biggest known groupie" and spoke of seeing Turner perform live, advising the star-studded audience at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, "Add that to the list of things you do before you die."

Bennett was saluted with performances of standards like "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," by trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, "For Once in My Life," by R&B star John Legend, and "Fly Me to the Moon," by chanteuse Diana Krall.

Sex-abuse law under review

PHILADELPHIA — Roman Catholic Church officials in Pennsylvania say a proposal to let sexual-abuse victims file lawsuits decades after they were abused would be "fundamentally unfair" and could financially ruin dioceses across the state.

Pennsylvania has a strict statute of limitations that has kept most sexual abuse cases out of the courts, but some lawmakers are now recommending a one-year window in which victims could file lawsuits regardless of when the abuse occurred.

LOCAL NEWS

Incentives slow to reach southwest

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Only a tiny fraction of the \$165 million in incentives that the state's new economic development agency has distributed has gone to southwestern Indiana, a report Sunday said.

The Indiana Economic Development, which replaced the Indiana Department of Commerce earlier this year, has promised only \$7.2 million, or 4 percent of the total, to companies in the southwestern corner of the state, according to an analysis by the Evansville Courier and Press.

PAKISTAN

Pakistan says terrorist killed

U.S. denies involvement but shrapnel at site appears to be American-made missile

Associated Press

MIRAN SHAH — Shrapnel that appeared to be from an American-made missile was found Sunday at the house where Pakistan said a top al-Qaida operative was killed in an explosion, although President Bush's national security adviser declined to confirm the death.

U.S. and Pakistani officials declined to confirm an NBC report, citing anonymous officials, that the attack on the house where Hamza Rabia reportedly died was launched by a U.S. drone.

But local residents found at least two pieces of shrapnel at the blast scene inscribed with the designation of the Hellfire missile, which is carried by the U.S. Air Force's unmanned, remote-controlled Predator aircraft.

The metal pieces bore the designator "AGM-114," the words "guided missile" and the initials "US."

John Pike, director of the site GlobalSecurity.org, said the Hellfire is used almost exclusively by the U.S. military. Al-Qaida operatives would be unlikely to have Hellfire missiles, Pike said, although he said the possibility could not be completely discounted.

A man who lives near the house said he heard at least two detonations and saw a white streak of light before a missile hit the house, sparking a huge explosion.

"I ran to my home fearing it may hit me," said Mohammed Nasir, adding that residents were unaware that foreigners were living in their neighborhood.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media, said Saturday that Rabia died in a huge explosion set off by a missile attack.

U.S. national security adviser Stephen Hadley declined to confirm that Rabia, said to be among al-



Pakistanis show wreckage of a missile they found in the house where authorities reportedly killed five people, including a key associate of al-Qaida, Hamza Rabia, Sunday.

Qaida's top five leaders and responsible for planning overseas attacks, was dead or that the attack was carried out by a pilotless U.S. plane.

"At this point we are not in a position publicly to confirm that he is dead. But if he is, that is a good thing for the war on terror," Hadley told "Fox News Sunday."

Rabia was involved in planning two assassination plots against Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and "we believe he was involved in planning for attacks against the United States," Hadley said.

Musharraf said Saturday it was "200 percent confirmed" that Rabia was killed.

The senior Pakistani intel-

ligence official said the missile attack blew up a stockpile of bomb-making materials, grenades and other munitions. Pakistan Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said Rabia's two Syrian bodyguards also died in the explosion.

Pakistani officials said Rabia's death was confirmed by DNA tests. But the Dawn newspaper, citing officials it did not identify, said Saturday his body had been retrieved by associates from outside Pakistan. Dawn also cited unnamed sources saying the attack may have been launched from two pilotless planes.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed declined to comment on the report about Rabia's remains

but said there was "other information" besides the DNA tests that confirmed his identity.

"He was a high-profile commander in the network. We were tracing him for the last two years," Sherpao told The Associated Press on Sunday. "Naturally any person killed in their hierarchy is a big blow for them."

Two U.S. counterterrorism officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the information's sensitivity, said Saturday that Rabia was believed to be an Egyptian and head of al-Qaida's foreign operations, possibly as senior as the No. 3 in the terrorist group, just below al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and his lieutenant, Ayman al-Zawahri.

FRANCE

First partial face transplant successful

Associated Press

PARIS — The recipient of the world's first partial face transplant was thriving medically and psychologically a week after her groundbreaking surgery, one of her doctors said Sunday.

The woman, whose face had been partially disfigured by a dog, appeared relatively normal after the operation and doctors were pleased with her mental state, Dr. Jean-Michel Dubernard said in a telephone interview. Doctors had

been worried about the potentially negative psychological effects of receiving part of someone else's face.

"She is perfect," Dubernard said. "Psychologically, she is doing very well."

Dubernard, one of the woman's two lead surgeons, said that the 38-year-old would remain hospitalized in the southeast city of Lyon for four to six weeks. She must take drugs to prevent her body from rejecting the donated facial parts, which Dubernard has said carry "a

slightly more elevated risk of cancer."

The woman received a section of a nose, lips and chin in the 15-hour transplant surgery on Nov. 27 in the northern city of Amiens, near her home. The woman, the divorced mother of two teenage daughters, has not been identified by name.

She was mauled by a pet Labrador in May, leaving her with severe facial injuries that her doctors said made it difficult for her to speak and eat. The dog was put down.

Arabic

continued from page 1

courses has taken off in recent years.

"Every semester we get more and more students," said Professor Joseph Amar, director of the Program in Arabic Studies. "It's a growth industry. The numbers are going through the roof."

Amar said the three sections of beginning Arabic first implemented in 2003 will grow to six sections by spring 2006.

"Even those, unfortunately, have to be big sections with 30 students," he said. "We try to accommodate as many people as we can."

In spring 2005, the five scheduled Beginning Arabic classes did not provide enough room for the numbers of students interested, and an extra section was scheduled at the last moment. Amar had to leave the small Arabic program to find an instructor, but engineering professor Ramzi Bualuan — a native Lebanese — agreed to teach the class.

Upper-level courses in spring 2006 have just one section, but Amar predicted that multiple sections will be available in coming years, as students advance in the language.

Amar, a Catholic priest born in Lebanon, has been responsible for the major in Arabic since its inception in 1999. The major, which is housed under the Department of Classics, features courses in Arabic language, history, religion and literature in translation.

While majors must take at least four semesters in Arabic language, Amar said it is also important for students to develop a familiarity with the culture of the Arab world.

"Because the Arabic language is spoken in a part of the world that most Americans are not familiar with, it is important to learn something about the culture of the Middle East," he said. "In general, Americans don't know much about countries in which Arabic is spoken except what's shown on TV, and that's bogus."

Natasha Mikha, a senior Arabic and Peace Studies major, has had more exposure to Middle Eastern culture than most Americans. Mikha, whose father is Iraqi, was raised speaking Arabic but had stopped using the language long before college.

"I was fluent up until about age eight, but with doing better in school and trying to learn English, I lost it," she said. "When we got to a certain age, my parents switched us to English."

Mikha spent part of her junior year in Cairo, where she found many students who, like herself, were half Arab but not fluent in the language.

"There are a lot of kids who are part Arab who are trying to get in touch [with that background]," she said.

Mikha said only a few of her Arabic classmates at Notre Dame are of Middle Eastern descent.

"A lot of kids who study Arabic at Notre Dame are political science and peace studies majors," Mikha said. "They are also studying Arabic because it is important to the world situation."

A few of her classmates are pursuing careers in the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) or in other government branches seeking

Arabic speakers. Though Mikha plans to pursue a career in law while earning a Master's degree in Arabic, she has seen evidence of government agencies' interest in hiring Arabic-speaking students.

"It's funny because once you start taking it, when you go online, every once in while when you get a pop-up [ad], it says in Arabic 'If you can read this, we need you' and it's from the CIA," Mikha said.

Amar suggested that most students' strengthened interest in Arabic derives from their professional goals.

"People who study Arabic do it for the professional advantage they get in business, government and the media,"

Amar said. "If someone has a few credits in Spanish, [employers] don't look twice, but Arabic jumps out."

And if the Arabic majors' employment rate is any indicator, Amar's statement is true.

"Our majors are either accepted into grad schools or have jobs before they finish their senior years," Amar said. "If you finish with some Arabic and a knowledge of the Middle East, you're one in a million in this country."

Representatives and recruiters from the government, business and media come to campus each spring solely to meet Arabic majors, Amar said. Though students sometimes think the government would be the most likely hirer of Arabic speakers, both business and media are providing growing opportunities.

"Businesses doing business in the Middle East are learning that more employees can deal with Middle Easterners on their own ground — even if they are not fluent but know some Arabic, it indicates a certain level of respect and willingness to understand them on their own ground," Amar said.

All areas of media are also demanding increased communication with teams

around the world, leading to a need for speakers proficient in Arabic.

"One of the fastest growing is the media, in broadcast and print journalism," Amar said. He also said that like in other fields, media does not view fluency in the language as important as the ability to simply communicate with journalists in the Middle East.

Arabic's reputation as a difficult language to learn likely stems from its different alphabet. Mikha suggested, however, that the very fact it has an alphabet makes Arabic easier to learn than languages, like Chinese, that write in characters.

"If you can master memorizing the alphabet and pronouncing the letters, then you're fine sounding out words," she said. "It's like taking kindergarten and first grade all over again."

As a native Arab and American professor, Amar said he has seen a tendency of Americans to become intimidated by other languages.

"Americans are sort of language-shy," Amar said. "People come to Arabic expecting the worst, but we teach it in a very user-friendly way. I tell students that if they're having trouble with Arabic, it's not being taught right."

Amar said that most successful students value the challenge and intellectual stimulation of learning a new language.

"Most students just lap it up, they love it," he said.

Mikha said that when Americans do have difficulty learning Arabic, it may be because the language incorporates sounds that are unknown to English speakers.

"It's difficult because it's like nothing you've heard before," she said.

In Arabic, only long vowels are written, Mikha said.

"Certain words are spelled the same but the short vowels make them different, so in reading a newspaper, that can make them difficult for beginners," she said.

For Mikha, the hard work of relearning Arabic has paid off.

"At least on a resume, I will put that I can speak, read and write reasonably well," she said. "I'm not fluent after five semesters, but I'm comfortable enough to pause and fish for words."

While Mikha has done well with regaining her Arabic, some students have more difficulty learning the language.

Kyle Bocinsky, a sophomore majoring in anthropology and physics, dropped Beginning Arabic I his freshman year.

Bocinsky's interest in Arabic was spurred by a summer internship at CNN's international broadcasting studio in Atlanta, Ga. He helped produce two news segments — both involving the Middle East — for international broadcast. Like Amar,

Bocinsky said he realized the importance of language skills in contemporary international journalism.

"I realized that it is a hot topic, not just to the United States, but to the entire world," he said. "I've always wanted to go into broadcast journalism, and Arabic is something people going into world journalism need to know."

Bocinsky said he had difficulty studying Spanish and Latin in high school and wanted to try a totally different language.

"I thought learning a new alphabet — instead of just translating — would be a good experience," he said. "I made it through the first half of the semester while we were learning the alphabet, but when we started learning vocabulary, I realized that I was having the same problems I'd had with other languages."

Bocinsky said the highly-motivated Arabic faculty was not the problem.

"The difficulty does not stem from the professors," he said. "Because the program is difficult, it has trouble retaining students. Lots [of students] didn't make it through the second semester."

Still, the Arabic program's increasing popularity and relatively high retention rate speak to the increased awareness of issues in the Middle East among college students.

"For a long time, education has been European-centered, but clearly the trajectory is now towards Asia and the Middle East," Amar said. "Notre Dame acknowledges that and is putting students in touch with the direction that things are going."

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

Want to be
Student Body
President?

Info Meeting

Tomorrow (Dec. 6)

8PM

LaFortune's Foster Room

All interested students are encouraged to attend to learn about rules, regulations, and dates.

Questions?

Contact the Judicial Council at jcouncil@nd.edu

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Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,877.51	-35.06	
Ups	Same:	Down:	Composite Volu
2,543	120	774	2,630,046,711

AMEX	1,726.45	+16.97
NASDAQ	2,273.37	+6.20
NYSE	7,760.85	+4.31
S&P 500	1,265.08	+0.41
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	15,421.60	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	5,528.10	+42.00

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SUN MICROSYS INC (CSCO)	+1.73	+0.07	3.95
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	+0.24	+0.10	42.107
JDS UNIPHASE CP (JDSU)	-3.93	-0.11	2.69
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.92	+0.25	27.43
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-0.28	-0.05	17.64

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.19	-0.09	47.17
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.04	-0.02	45.19
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.09	-0.04	44.46
3-MONTH BILL	+0.39	+0.15	38.92

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl)	+0.85		59.32
GOLD (\$/Troy oz)	+0.70		507.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.73		88.78

Exchange Rates			
YEN			121.0000
EURO			0.8540
POUND			0.5770

IN BRIEF

Nationwide gas prices continue to fall

CAMARILLO, Calif. — Retail gas prices have continued to drop across the country, falling an additional 11 cents in the past two weeks, according to a survey released Sunday.

The weighted average price for all three grades dropped to \$2.16 a gallon on Dec. 2, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semi-monthly Lundberg Survey of 7,000 gas stations around the country.

Self-serve regular averaged \$2.13 a gallon nationwide. Midgrade cost \$2.24, and the price for premium was \$2.33.

Prices have fallen about 88 cents a gallon since September, Lundberg said.

Among stations surveyed, the lowest average price in the country for regular unleaded was \$1.89 a gallon in Tulsa, Okla. The highest price was \$2.55 in Honolulu.

Health care provider creates bank

CHICAGO — The Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association wants to launch a bank that will administer its consumer-directed health plans, a responsibility currently shared by third-party financial institutions.

The association announced Monday that its board of directors has approved development of the Blue Healthcare Bank. The aim is to simplify the administration of health savings accounts and other similar plans offered by Blue Cross insurers throughout the United States, said Scott Serota, president and chief executive officer of the association.

The bank, which would be based in Salt Lake City, would give those enrolled in Blue Cross plans a familiar, centralized financial institution to monitor and access their accounts, Serota said. Creation of the bank is subject to regulatory approval.

"By being closely aligned and integrated with your benefits, we will be able to ensure that your account is paid properly and that your deductible will be applied correctly," he added.

Health savings accounts (HSAs) can be set up by consumers who have high-deductible insurance plans. Both workers and their employers can deposit money into the accounts, which grow tax free and can be used to pay for medical expenses. Unspent money in the account accumulates and can be invested through the HSAs administrator.

Actors union talks contracts

Screen Actors Guild takes tougher stance against powerful media conglomerates

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The largest union representing actors has promised a new, tougher stance in contract talks with powerful media conglomerates.

But the Screen Actors Guild may self-destruct before it ever gets the chance.

The labor union's long-running infighting has escalated into what could become a mutiny after the election in September of SAG President Alan Rosenberg.

Rosenberg and his allies gained a majority on the national board by pledging to squeeze more money from the studios from the sale of DVDs and new technologies, including downloading of films and TV shows. He also pledged to unite SAG's feuding factions.

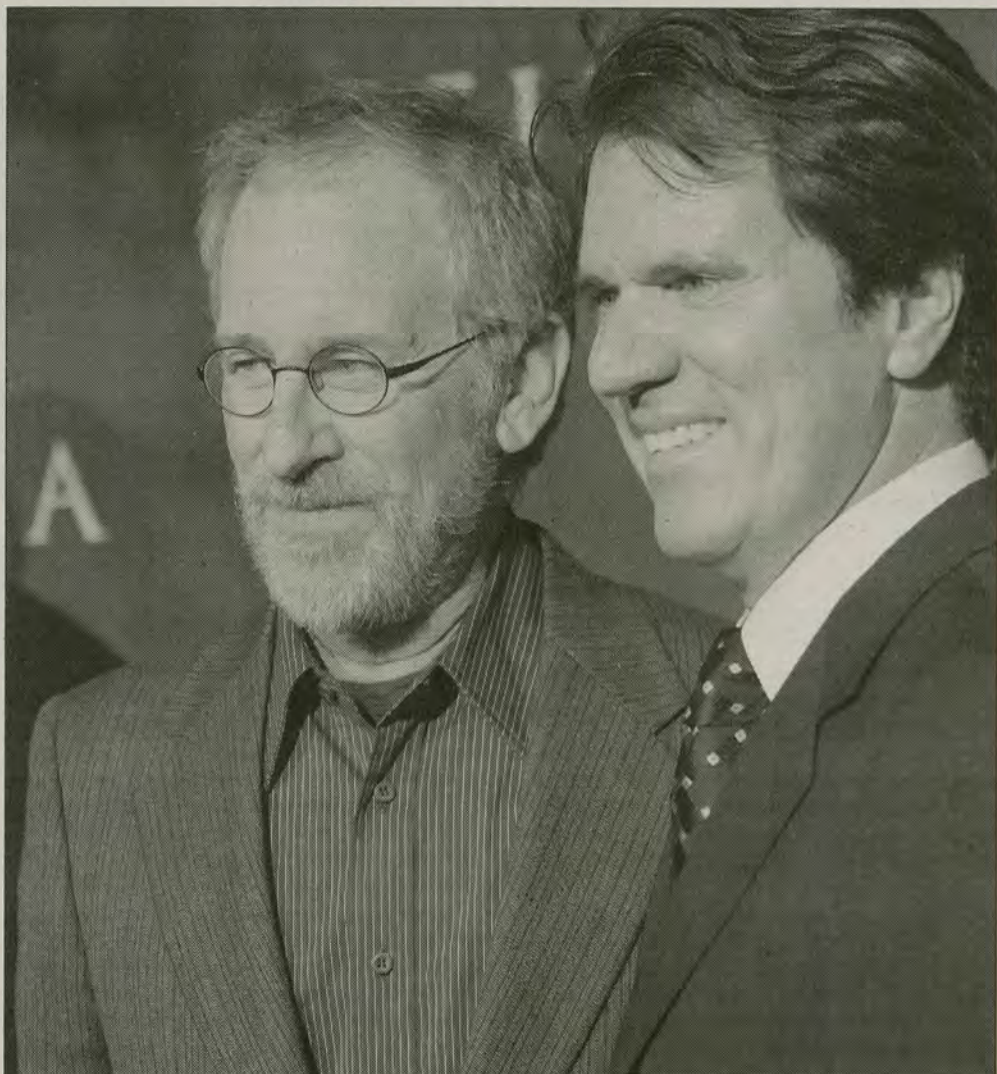
Instead, Rosenberg, 55, divided the union even more by almost immediately firing popular SAG national executive director Greg Hessinger. He had been hired by the previous leadership, which Rosenberg accused of surrendering too easily on key economic issues in contract talks last year.

Many union members see the firing as an arrogant display of power by Rosenberg that could finally split the union into two groups — one that represents film and TV actors, primarily based in Hollywood, and another mostly comprised of members in New York, Chicago and elsewhere who do commercials and voiceovers.

Paul Christie, president of SAG's New York branch, said talk of a split has heated up since the election of Rosenberg, who was a regular on the TV series "LA Law" and "The Guardian," and is married to "CSI" star Marg Helgenberger.

"I think he's capable of better things," Christie said.

With 120,000 members,



Steven Spielberg and director Rob Marshall pose together at the premiere of "Memoirs of a Geisha" Sunday in Los Angeles.

SAG has always been a fragmented labor union, representing both multimillionaire superstars and rank-and-file membership with an unemployment rate of more than 80 percent.

Membership in the union is all but required to work in films, television and commercials. Many SAG members also belong to the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, which has jurisdiction over the prime-time schedule of major networks, among other areas.

Rosenberg's agenda mirrors that of the newly elected president of the Writers Guild of America, west. Patric Verrone also ran on a promise to get tougher

with studios and also fired his executive director soon after taking office.

Both men justified the firings by saying they needed staff who would push their agendas of increasing membership, fighting the rise of reality TV shows and gaining more economic concessions from studios.

Rosenberg's action deepened the geographic rift that already existed in the union.

Actors outside Hollywood are not as reliant on residuals from DVDs and other technology and are less inclined to endure a lengthy, costly strike over the issue. Those actors also fear Los Angeles-based members, who control the

guild because of their numbers, will abuse their power and push through an agenda that ignores the needs of actors in other regions.

Rosenberg acknowledges that bridging these differences is his most pressing challenge.

"You have people living in all different areas of the country who feel like they're muzzled and don't have a voice or are afraid they're going to be muzzled," he said.

He has visited the New York and Miami branches in recent weeks and plans on visiting other locals in the hope of creating a more unified front for upcoming contract talks.

Car wheel maker files bankruptcy

Associated Press

GAS CITY, Ind. — An auto parts supplier has filed for bankruptcy for the second time in a year, citing a loss of business from General Motors Corp.

Amcast Industrial expected new and continued business from GM — the source of about 80 percent of Amcast's revenue — after it reorganized and emerged from its first Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing last summer, according to documents filed Thursday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Indianapolis.

"Neither of those assumptions has proven to be true," Amcast officials said in court documents. "Not only has GM cut back on existing programs in some areas, but has also told Amcast

that no new business would be given to Amcast and existing programs would be migrated away from Amcast in the coming months."

Amcast, based in the northeastern Indiana town of Fremont, employs 727 workers at plants in Fremont, Franklin and Gas City. The company makes aluminum wheels for cars and trucks and aluminum castings used for automobile suspensions, brakes and steering.

The bankruptcy filing allows Amcast to continue doing business while resolving its issues with GM, company officials said in a news release.

"In the meantime, employees will be paid their normal wages and bonuses

and all benefit programs will continue uninterrupted," said Richard A. Lindenmuth, Amcast interim chief executive officer. "We have funding arrangements in place with our existing lenders to continue operations during the bankruptcy case. We hope to conclude the process as promptly as possible."

In an attempt to restore its own profitability, GM recently announced that it would cease production at 12 facilities within the next two years and eliminate 30,000 jobs.

GM officials were aware of Amcast's bankruptcy filing, but would not comment on any loss of business, said Tom Hill, a spokesman for the automaker.

Homeowners hand holiday decorating over to contractors

Time-consuming task of festively furnishing, decorating homes proves too much for elderly, creatively challenged

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — The last thing John Gendron wants to do during the holidays is climb high on his steep-pitched roof to hang a wreath from his chimney.

These days, he doesn't have to. Instead, he hires a contractor to put one wreath on his chimney and two others high on the house, and to hang Christmas lights on his home and in the crabapple trees in his front yard.

Tens of thousands of Americans this year will do the same.

Short on time, leery of ladders and lacking expertise for sometimes-elaborate lighting displays, homeowners are opening their wallets and hiring others to do the work.

This is the third year that Gendron has hired Lucas Tree Experts, a Portland tree service company that installs Christmas lighting and decorations for homeowners and businesses during the holiday season.

When it gets closer to Christmas, Gendron and his family will trim indoor and outdoor trees for the festivity and pleasure of it, while also enjoying the lights and wreaths put up by Lucas Tree.

"These people are professionals at what they do, much like we're professionals at what we do," said Gendron, who owns a commercial real estate firm. "We're

not able to do what they do as well as they can do it."

Lucas Tree is a franchisee for Christmas Decor Inc., a Texas-based company with 375 franchises in 48 states and Canada that will put up holiday decorations for 40,000 customers this year, according to Christmas Decor marketing director Brandon Stephens. The company has been adding 30 to 40 franchises and 5,000 to 6,000 customers a year, he said.

For a price, the company will design a Christmas display, install the lights and decorations, take them down after the holidays and store them until the next year. The average initial cost is \$1,500, with the cost going down in subsequent years because the commercial-grade lights already have been purchased.

In Maine, Lucas Tree will put up lights, wreaths, silhouetted Santas and other decorations on about 50 homes and businesses for prices ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. Gendron declined to reveal what he paid, other than to call it a "good value for the money."

Customers include working couples who have little spare time and older folks who don't want to climb ladders, said Chuck Cotton of Lucas Tree. Others don't have the skills or the equipment needed to put up intricate displays.

"It's more a convenience than anything," he said. "They don't



Contracted workers put up Christmas decorations on a house Nov. 29 in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Tree service companies stay busy in the fall installing Christmas lighting for homeowners.

have the time or the ability to do some of the things that we can do."

Hiring people to hang lights was once considered something only the wealthy could afford.

But with the cost of lights going down and companies able to install them in an efficient manner, the jobs are no longer reserved just for the rich, said Virginia Postrel, author of "The Substance of Style," a book that

examines the link between aesthetic pleasures and American commerce and culture.

Many people who hire contractors to install Christmas decorations could be described as upper-middle class who simply want nice-looking holiday displays, she said.

"Their time is worth more than their money," Postrel said. "And if you don't have a giant mansion, it's not that expensive of a job."

Brite Ideas Decorating Inc., a national Christmas decoration installation company based in Omaha, Neb., says its distributors will decorate more than 23,000 homes this year — up from just over 1,000 five years ago. Customers include tennis player Andre Agassi, country singer Travis Tritt, boxer Evander Holyfield and basketball player Grant Hill, said Reed Nyffeler, national sales director.

Nontraditional ornaments adorn national Christmas tree

First Lady chooses to substitute fresh flowers for ornaments to keep with 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' theme

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is experimenting with a nontraditional Christmas tree decoration this year — laboratory test tubes.

As part of the "All Things Bright and Beautiful" theme selected for the 2005 holiday season, first lady Laura Bush came up with the idea of dec-

orating Christmas trees with fresh flowers.

That left White House Chief Florist Nancy Clarke with the problem of keeping all those roses, lilies and azaleas properly hydrated.

"One of my suggestions was that we take a test tube, a regular test tube from any kind of lab and wrap it with wire," Clarke said. "We could

fill it up with water and actually make a Christmas ornament and still give our flowers a water source."

It worked, and on Wednesday, when Bush presented 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue's holiday decorations, flower-bedecked Christmas trees stood in the State Floor rooms.

The centerpiece, Bush said, is the official White House Christmas tree, a 18 1/2-foot Fraser fir adorned with white lilies, crystal ornaments and white Christmas lights. The tree is so tall the Blue Room's chandelier had to be removed.

"I think it is one of the most beautiful Christmas trees I've ever seen," Bush said.

Wearing a Carolina Herrera two-piece suit — what she called "her new red suit" — she also presented simple one-color bouquets of tulips that grazed mantels, and boxwood garlands with gold trim that adorned mirrors. Wreaths with gold-trimmed lime sashes hung in windows and fresh tangerines or pears played prominent roles in

table centerpieces.

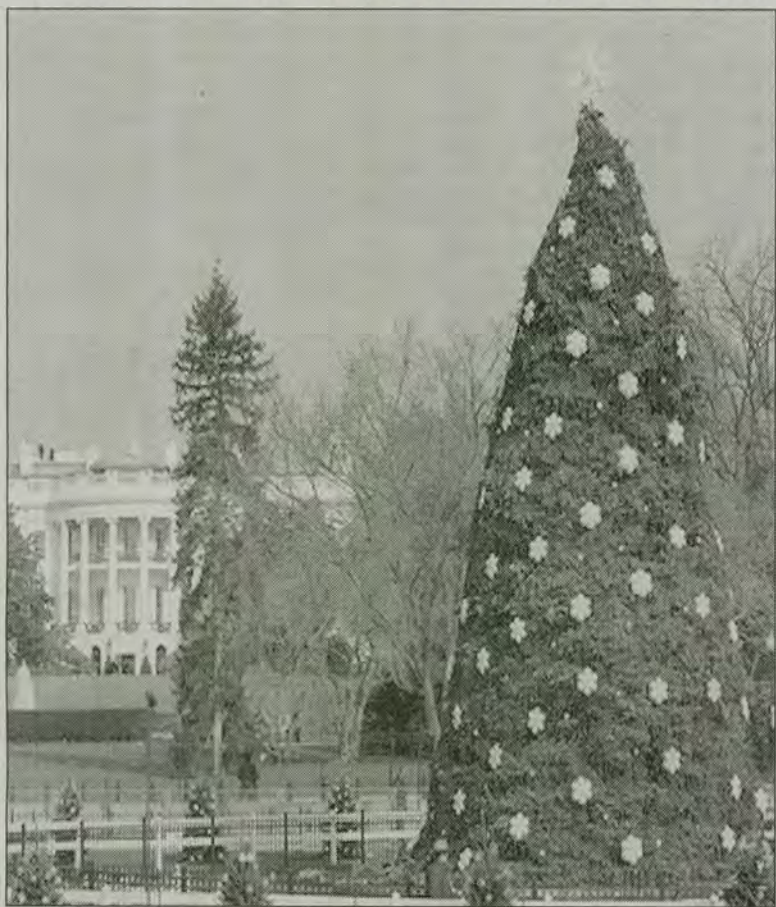
Bush said they deliberately took a simpler approach to the decorations, holiday cuisine and the official Christmas card to highlight the elegance of the official residence.

"We used natural and real flowers, fruits and garlands to show how beautiful nature is," she said.

The natural theme could be seen in the holiday food

choices as well. Samples of the cuisine to be served at upcoming parties included cheese from Vermont and Minnesota, Virginia ham and traditional fruit cake and apple cobbler.

Straying from the simplicity, however, was an enormous and elaborate gingerbread White House, made by White House pastry chef Thaddeus DeBois.



The National Christmas Tree near the White House is prepared for lighting by President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush on Dec. 1.

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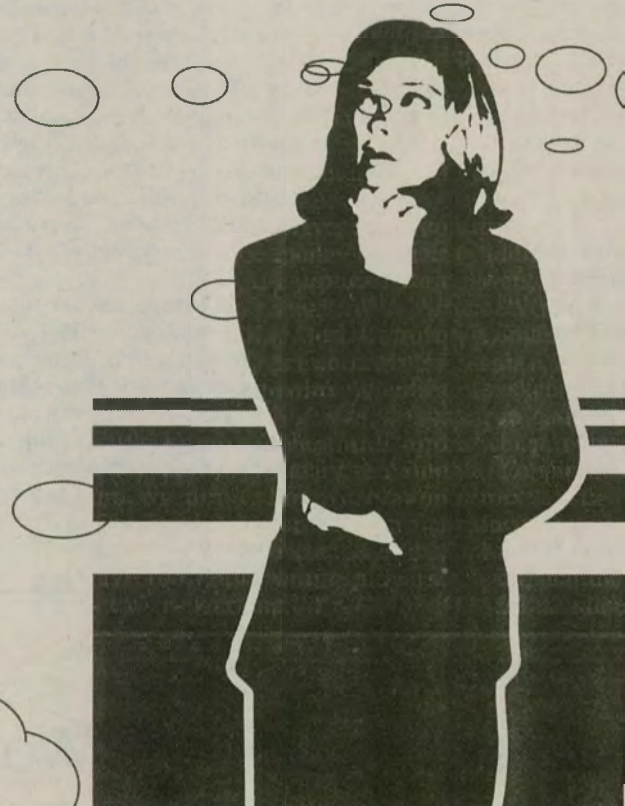
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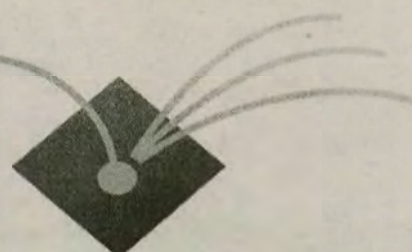


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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Monday, December 5, 2005

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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Down with Christmas

The perceptive eyes of Bill O'Reilly and the Reverend Jerry Falwell have once again foiled the liberal plot to sabotage the "Christmas" season, and it looks as if once again my fellow left-wingers and I will have no choice but to set aside our pagan secularism and worship the coming of the "Savior" this December.

As many of you may have heard, Falwell recently launched his "Friend or Foe of Christmas Campaign" to determine, it seems, who will be getting lumps of coal in their stockings and who will be the lucky few waking up Christmas morning to find a tree-full of those little green Bibles that those creepy men shove in your face outside of LaFortune. In actuality, Falwell is attempting to fight back against the major corporations and local government bodies who have boldly chosen to take a shot at J.C. this December by publicly using the term "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas."

Falwell's campaign is already off to a frighteningly fast start. Last Thursday, for instance, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino was pressured to change the name of the city's official seasonal evergreen from the "Holiday Tree" to the "Christmas Tree." Yes, even in America's Mecca of tea parties and liberalism, Jesus made his return, presumably prompting thousands of Democrats to flee the city in search of secular shelter elsewhere. Senator Ted Kennedy, one of the leaders of the Christ-Killing Democratic Catholics Movement, was rumored to have expressed his disgust by getting plastered, climbing the

"Holiday Tree" and defiantly trying to pass his oversized head off as a big red ornament for the remainder of the holiday season.

The fight then moved to Capitol Hill, where Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert ordered that the "Capitol Holiday Tree" be renamed the "Capitol Christmas Tree." Rumor has it that Senator Joseph Lieberman, an insolent member of the religion that killed Jesus, responded to this change by igniting eight different parts of his body on the Senate floor in order to create the "Capitol Chanukah Menorah."

In the retail market, Wal-Mart, Lowe's and Target have all come under fire from conservative Christian groups for taking the Christ out of Christmas. Target, for instance, a well-documented bastion for secular shoppers, boldly chose not to mention the word "Christmas" in its advertising this year. In response, 600,000 evangelicals trying to get onto Santa's "nice" list signed a petition to boycott the store.

As Bill O'Reilly has stated in defense of this "Pro-Jesus" holiday movement, "The town square is there to reflect the nature of the country, [and] 85 percent of the country is Christian." Now, call me a stat-loving Jesus-hater, but according to the U.S. Census Bureau, only 77 percent of Americans are Christian. (For anyone struggling in the math department, this means that a whopping 23 percent of Americans will one day burn in the fiery chasms of Hell.)

Yes, this is a tragic day for secularism.

For years, we Democrats have battled to remove any glimmer of Jesus' presence from daily life in the United States. Why should we wish you a merry Christmas when we can stick it to the Son of God and wish you a season's greeting? Why rock around the Christmas tree when we can take a jab at the big guy in the sky and rock around the holiday tree? Why kiss

someone under the mistletoe when you can fight back against the Bible and have premarital sex under it?

You must remember, of course, that it's not like the Democratic Party gives a damn about the 23 percent of Americans who choose not to celebrate Christmas — like the five million-plus American Jews who celebrate Chanukah. Word has it that Adam Sandler invented that goofy candle holiday a few years ago to promote some song on Saturday Night Live. Kwanzaa? We liberals only pay lip service to that one to keep Jesse Jackson from running away with our entrenched African-American voting bloc. And don't even get me started with the many Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists residing in the United States. (It's not like their minority vote counts on Christian Hill ... I mean Capitol Hill, anyway.)

The real reason we push for "Holiday Trees" and "Season's Greetings" is because we are attempting to kill God. We are simply jealous and embittered because in both 2000 and 2004, the Almighty publicly endorsed George W. Bush for president and helped steal the election from us. So now we're angry — at George and at God. (But really, is there a difference?)

Now, it's our turn to fight back. We're going to steal Christmas for good this year, and unlike that soft, mushy, God-fearing Grinch, were not going to give any of it back in the end.

And why is that? Because we're Democrats — proudly endorsed by Satan since 1932.

Joey Falco is a junior American Studies major. His column appears very other Monday. He can be contacted at jfalco@nd.edu

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



Joey Falco

Forty ounces to Falco

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A life to remember

Dear Notre Dame,
On Nov. 7, our pal Matt Garber committed suicide.

You might not have talked to Matt, but you might recognize him. He was the guy in the pink sweater, eating cookies at Waddick's. He had a ponytail and square black glasses. He rode a bike, slept on South Quad benches, wrote like Borges and made movies like neon static and fireworks. He might have audited one of your classes.

Matt enrolled at Notre Dame in the fall of 2002. In-between then and now, he went to the University of Chicago, worked in a bakery, went fishing and became very, very sad. This fall, he returned to the Notre Dame campus to reconnect and reapply. I last saw him in a Dairy Queen parking lot. He was eating a Blizzard.

Bottom line: Matt was an intense and lovely person. If you, like me, are missing him, then I am sorry; I am also sorry if you did not know him. Please take this letter as my equivalent of putting his name in lights across South Quad, and amidst the craziness that is a Notre Dame December, say it to yourself a few times: "we miss you, Matt Garber."

Thank you.

Mairead Case
senior
Off-campus
Dec. 1

World AIDS awareness

I eagerly anticipated the release of the movie "Rent" all year. I particularly enjoy the music and the theme of love and seizing the day. But, what I failed to grasp, even with the songs resounding in my head was the most important underlying theme: the severity and bitter reality of the AIDS epidemic.

Some movie reviews were adamant that "Rent" might not appeal to modern audiences because they couldn't relate to the AIDS problem faced by the United States in the '80s and '90s. I couldn't disagree more. Certainly AIDS awareness has increased in the United States, but today more than ever, AIDS and HIV are becoming ever more daunting problems in the world. Simply because we don't talk about the problem of AIDS or don't encounter it daily doesn't mean it doesn't

exist.

World AIDS day certainly brought to light for me the epidemic which humanity is facing. The daunting facts and statistics of the number of people infected with the disease was really enlightening, and I'd like to give a hand to all those who partook in the Notre Dame project.

"Rent" is only a popular movie. The songs are catchy and its themes are motivating, but hopefully audiences will realize that there is a greater problem which does exist here and now. World AIDS day sent a message that I found similar to the moral of "Rent": we are all connected in this world, and we must help one another to live each day.

Katie McNaney
freshman
Breen-Phillips hall
Dec. 1

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If one speaks or acts with a cruel mind, misery follows, as the cart follows the horse ... If one speaks or acts with a pure mind, happiness follows, as a shadow follows its source."

the Dhammapada
teachings of the Buddha

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I am not in this world to live up to other people's expectations, nor do I feel that the world must live up to mine."

Fritz Perls
psychoanalyst

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vatican declaration spurs discussion

Document carries dire consequences

I want to thank my colleague Andy Buechel for his compassionate, reasoned response to the Vatican's new instruction regarding homosexuality and the clergy. I apologize if my own anger and pain about the document detract from the larger points I attempt to make.

Always bear in mind that when God surveyed his creation, he deemed it good, not perfect. We must recognize the value of others despite any deficiencies.

None of the effects of this document have only theoretical ramifications. It harms the flesh and bones of Christ's Mystical Body, gay and straight, lay and ordained. This document renders the Catholic Church less catholic, less compassionate and less Christian. Furthermore, it will exacerbate the priest shortage at a time when so many Catholics lack the nourishment provided by a communal celebration of the Eucharist.

It alienates not only gay and lesbian Catholics but their loved ones as well, who have perhaps struggled but succeeded in accepting their homosexual loved one as a good person in whom the Spirit is active. As a gay Catholic, I find it difficult to conceive a place for myself that maintains any semblance of intellectual, spiritual or emotional integrity; I see a dismissal of my ability to achieve a humane communion with my fellow persons and with Christ. The Vatican has further marginalized an already marginalized group by pandering to people's fears and stereotypes. This document amounts to a predation upon those men with whom I share a unique emotional commiseration and thus speak more effectively to my spiritual struggle. It attempts to amputate part of the Mystical Body.

We cannot pass this position off as a "hate-the-sin-love-the-sinner" exhortation;

otherwise, a commitment to celibacy would suffice. The equation of predilection to actual act has dangerous implications for all Catholics. The inclination to sin, common to all and part of our imperfection, should never be squared with sin itself lest we abandon the hope for living in a Christ-like way by overcoming the inclination to sin to instead act with love and justice.

What those who condemn homosexuality fail to realize is that it is not only or even primarily about sex, just as heterosexual attraction is not. To be momentarily flip-pant, if attraction was primarily about sex, everyone would be having a lot more of it. If it were only about sex, I'm sure more gays and lesbians could reduce it to a "transitory problem" by fulfilling their emotional needs with friends and family. A non-normative attraction does not constitute an "affective immaturity" that precludes normal relational interactions. In fact, in my experience and that of every other gay person I know, the stifling of our sexuality through denial, self-loathing, an attempt to enter straight relationships or a spiritually unsatisfying celibacy causes much more dysfunction in relationships of all types than does admitted homosexuality. The "trial" of homosexuality comes from the fear of reprobation or rejection by others, to which the Church contributes under the pretext of stabilizing the priesthood. Once we come to terms with our own sexuality and remember that we are still children of God, we can see ourselves as God does: good, imperfect but unquestionably good.

E.S. Emme
graduate student
Off-campus
Dec. 1

Close reading elicits positive response

I write in response to Andy Buechel's negative conclusion on the Vatican document on homosexuals and seminaries. I think Buechel, in large part, is a victim of his own feelings. By not carefully examining the document and by relying on emotions rather than theological fact, Buechel misinterpreted the document which, I believe, is a very necessary step in the reconciliation between the church and its failings in dealing with the sex abuse crisis.

Buechel asserts that any man or woman who has homosexual tendencies will be banned from entry into a Roman Catholic seminary. In reality, though, this assertion is just plain wrong, and Buechel fails to tell the whole story. The document states that the Church "may not admit to the seminary and Holy Orders those who practice homosexuality, show profoundly deep-rooted homosexual tendencies, or support the so-called gay culture."

Though the phrase "show profoundly deep-rooted homosexual tendencies" seems vague, the phrases that precede and follow it clarify any vagueness that may seem to exist. The document is not at all unsympathetic to those men and women who have same sex attractions—quite the contrary. However, it is unsympathetic to those men and women who fail to observe the Church's teaching on the matter, as well as those who fail to live chaste lives, and rightly so.

With this in mind, I believe that the document is right on the money — those men and women who disregard the Church's teaching on homosexuality and chastity will encounter problems in "relating with men and women." It is wrong, and heretical, in the eyes of the Church, to teach that it is morally correct that men and women

who deal with same sex attractions may act upon their feelings and may disregard Christ's call to chastity. Religious men and women must not only respect the Church's teachings but also be a role model for the laity. Those religious who do not respect the Church's teaching on homosexuality are not able to fulfill their duties as holy men and women.

So, should men and women with same sex attractions be concerned about being denied Holy Orders? If they follow the Church's teaching, which is very clear and Biblically based (see Paul's letters to the Corinthians, Romans and to Timothy), they have no reason to be nervous, and I believe I am a great example of this. I plan to enter a Catholic seminary at some point after graduating, and despite the fact that I deal with same-sex attractions, I have no reason to believe that I will have any difficulties in becoming a priest because I follow the Church's teachings and call to chastity.

In reality, then, the document makes it very clear — those men and women who follow Catholic teaching and live chaste lives, all other things equal, may be granted Holy Orders. Those who do not, whether homosexual or heterosexual, probably are not fit to represent the Catholic Church anyway. I encourage you to read the document for yourself. A good translation can be found at the Catholic World News website, and after careful examination, I believe that you will have a positive perception of the document.

Christian Hoeffel
junior
St. Edward's hall
Dec. 1

Breaking the bread? 'Gay? Fine by Me' shirts at Mass

In the Dec. 1 Observer, Andy Buechel commented on the instruction released in Rome Concerning the Criteria for the Discernment of Vocations with Regard to Persons with Homosexual Tendencies in View of their Admission to the Seminary and to Holy Orders. Andy correctly pointed out that, "this document is, and I say this with no small amount of shame as a Catholic and a theologian-in-training, a complete ban on homosexual men to the priesthood of the Catholic Church, regardless of their commitment to celibacy." As a fellow theologian, I share Andy's conviction that this document is profoundly damaging to the integrity of the Church.

For this reason, I attended Mass Sunday with an informal group of a dozen students to pray for the priests who will be forced into silence and shame, for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Catholics who will receive yet another assault on their dignity as children of God and for the conversion and repentance of the Vatican authorities who again are asserting their raw power over us with very little religious coherence or moral integrity to back it up. Praying and receiving the sacrament together, we wore those orange T-shirts that say "Gay? Fine by Me."

This was not a media stunt or a "protest." I have no desire to petition the Vatican and ask that they dialogue more with the laity, that they let us "express ourselves" as individuals. This is not about gaining the liberal, middle-class right to "participate" in decision-making. Those of us who live under the reign of the liberal state know well enough that protest politics don't work; they amount to little more than begging the authorities for a handout, a modicum of respect, a reform that only solidifies their authoritarian power over us. No, I am not a protestant reformer.

On the contrary, my decision to wear that

T-shirt to mass was an outgrowth of my faith in the Incarnation of God in the holy sacraments. It was an extension of the practice of the Eucharistic meal. Some may say that we were being overly divisive, that our "politicization" of the Mass created dangerous divisions within the body of Christ. But the message we carried on our bodies was one of communion. We are the ones who are calling for an end to the oppressions that divide the people of God and make a mockery of Christian fellowship. The ones who sew division are the church authorities who seem to be saying that God's gratuitous gift of grace is in fact limited to those who the Magisterium chooses based on their own political and pseudo-scientific selection criteria for who can be deemed "affectively mature." As if the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus Christ and the sacraments transforms only some aspects of humanity, leaving our deepest desires suspect. As if the persistence of what the Vatican calls "homosexual tendencies" marks some people essentially and biologically with an "intrinsic disorder." As if the Vatican still really believes below all their sophisticated Thomistic rhetoric that these gay folks are miscreants, bearing in their bodies flaws in created human nature that cannot exist in a world ordered by a Logical God.

Abominations. Like the lepers, the demons and the hemorrhaging women, they must be shoved aside, out of the temple and into the closet, lest the neat, tidy categories of our theological science be thrown into question. To me, this sounds more like the rigid biologism of 19th century proto-eugenic scientists than the transgressive, boundary-crossing, dappled and irreducible gospel of Jesus Christ who broke all of his culture's taboos to form a communion table with those deemed sick, sinful and disorderly by the self-righteous religious authori-

ties of his time.

Some may accuse us of degrading and profaning the Eucharist by making it a political event. But this presupposes that politics is inherently vulgar and that the sacraments have nothing to do with the real world. It presupposes the worst kind of dualism, an iron curtain defending the Altar from the messy crowds of the streets. This common liberal dualistic mindset teaches that in the realm of politics, humans are just like barnyard animals that need to be fed, watered and given their shots by a benevolent state. Then they can go to Church to fill that "other side" of themselves — they can go to Mass to "fill up" on grace. In this divided world, political life is shorn of its mystery; it is no longer a site of encounter with the Incarnate Word. Politics is nothing but bread and violence, so the Eucharistic host must be forced to transcend this profane sphere of power and basic needs. In short, it must become a magic ritual to a God who, despite his life, death and resurrection on this Earth, is still supposed to hide his face in shame from our everyday existence.

No, we reject this ruthless division between bread and Bread, wine and Wine, politics and Communion. For Jesus, the task of announcing good news to the poor, freedom to the captives and the justice of the Kingdom was inseparable from the sacrifice of his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. His institution of the Eucharist was not a separate act from his washing of the disciples' feet, where he warned his apostles against their temptation to become an elite class above society and reminded them that the theologian's world of preaching the gospel cannot be separate from the servant's world of labor and feet-washing. Yet this is exactly what the Magisterium has done. It has separated what God wanted mixed and has defined

itself as the pure philosophical and theological guardians who hover above this world of bodies supposedly degraded by work and politics, judging from on high who is "affectively immature" and who is "intrinsically disordered."

The response we took this Sunday was simple: we celebrated the Eucharist in all of its scandal and all of its queer communion. For the Eucharist itself is the most radical of signs; it crosses the sacred and the political, the salvific and the everyday, the holy and the physical, the Many and the One. And in preparation, at the height of the Mass, I, a young man who may or may not have "homosexual tendencies" hugged another young man who may or may not have "homosexual tendencies" in the explicitly Christian, boundary-crossing sign of peace.

In this season of Advent, we are called to remember and prepare for history's ultimate act of crossing: the clothing of God in human flesh, in the womb of a yet-unmarried peasant woman. The Holy Family of the Bethlehem manger is hardly the model for modern heterosexual family values. If anything, it resembles the most subversive side of the monastic tradition — a woman who "knew no man" serves as priest as the sacramental incarnation occurs in her womb. Far from maintaining the rigidities of Platonic order in family life and sacramental practice, the Advent season should be full of valleys getting raised and mountains lowered, the world transgressed and turned upside down by the scandal of the coming Incarnation. What better way to practice Advent than to go to mass and pray for the liberation of queer folks?

Matthew Hamilton
graduate student
O'Hara-Grace
Dec. 4

CONCERT REVIEW

'Better' than ever

Better Than Ezra returns to campus after three years with same talent, new material



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

"Before the Robots" is Better Than Ezra's most recent album. The band played music from their new album, as well as songs featured on past releases.



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

The band's lead singer Kevin Griffin sings during Friday's concert at Stepan Center. Better Than Ezra is known for playing powerful, high-energy songs.

By CHRIS McGRADY
Assistant Scene Editor

After several years out of the national spotlight, Better Than Ezra is back. Although not on top of the charts quite yet, the New Orleans-based band is proving that it has the musical ability, the staying power and the charisma to make a run for the top.

Better Than Ezra played to a packed house Friday night. True to the band's old form, it played a good show, proving to everyone there that the band had not lost anything with age.

The group opened with "Burned," the first song from the band's most recent CD "Before the Robots." This high-energy ballad that showcased Kevin Griffin's powerful lyrics showed the audience that the band meant business. In this lies the true beauty of Better Than Ezra — they are serious musicians who are

True to the band's old form, it played a good show, proving to everyone there that the band had not lost anything with age.

seriously talented but who don't take themselves too seriously.

Better Than Ezra continually joked around on stage, mentioning numerous times that "LSU-Notre Dame would be a great match up in the Sugar Bowl." This joke stems from the fact that several of the band's members went to Louisiana State University.

One detriment to the concert was the venue. Stepan Center is unfortunately one of the only places on campus available to host a concert the size of the one on Friday. The acoustics in Stepan Center are terrible. The opening act, Marking Twain, was talented, but from the back of the Stepan Center, the group's lyrics were inaudible. The distorted guitar cut into the lyrics and caused each of the group's songs to sound the same. Nonetheless, Marking Twain put on a good show and engaged the audience.

However, as it should be, the headlining act stole the show.

Better Than Ezra played both new songs and hits from previous albums.

Much to the crowd's delight, Griffin called out, "We aren't like some bands that will only play their new songs. We are going to play everything!" These were encouraging words and a far cry from many bands today that use concert tours solely to promote recent albums.

Better Than Ezra gave off the feeling that the group wasn't just in existence to make money. They seemed to enjoy playing and making music and had a tremendous stage presence.

Perhaps the highlight of the concert was during "This Time of Year," a song from the 1995 release "Deluxe." Halfway through the song, Griffin called into the crowd for someone to come up on stage and play the guitar part to the song, making clear that this person would already have to know the song.

A student was pulled out of the crowd and was outfitted with Griffin's gold Les Paul guitar. After some directions from Griffin, the student played along with the song before being instructed to

climb the drum stand and finish the song. Much to the crowd's (and no doubt the band's) amazement, the student then tore into a solo that rivaled anything Griffin had played all night. After the song, the student was led back to his seat and was greeted there by thunderous applause.

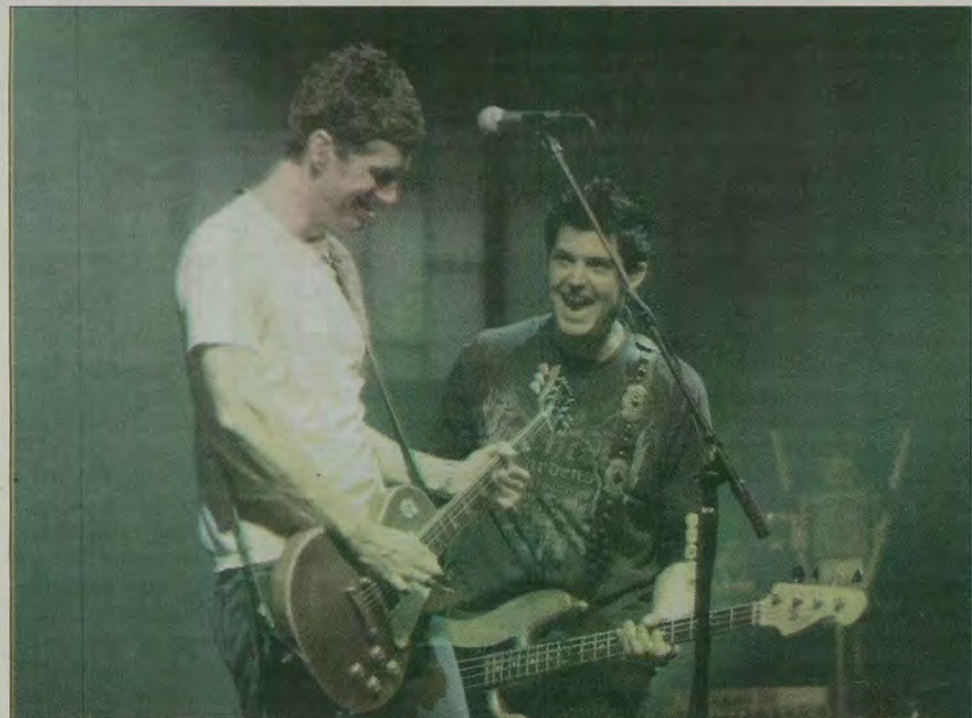
In this lies the beauty of Better than Ezra — they are serious musicians who are seriously talented but who don't take themselves too seriously.

The only mistake Better Than Ezra made was one of redundancy. The band never seemed to mix it up. There were no jam sessions of any kind, no acoustic sets and only a very brief encore.

Overall, the concert was a success. Part of the Student Union Board's job is to bring big name bands to campus, and that is exactly what Better Than Ezra is.

Although perhaps not as familiar to students as some other bands, Better Than Ezra put on a good show and proved that they will again ascend to greatness.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrad1@nd.edu



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Better Than Ezra was founded in 1987 by guitarist and vocalist Kevin Griffin, left, when he and other members were students at Louisiana State University.



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

The band includes vocalist and guitarist Kevin Griffin, bassist Tom Drummond and drummer Travis McNabb. The band has changed lineups several times.

SHOW REVIEW

Dance Company shows rhythm, 'Soul'

By LIZ BYRUM
Assistant Scene Editor

For such a new group on campus, the Dance Company of Notre Dame has collected a lot of talent. On Thursday and Friday night, this talent was showcased in a performance titled "Soul," which was presented by the company in Washington Hall.

The Dance Company of Notre Dame, which is comprised of over 50 members, has only been in existence for three semesters. It recently split into two distinct companies, called the Blue and the Gold. It is entirely student-run and is currently led by president Ashley Lucchese. As was evident in the performances this weekend, the dancers put many hours of time and effort into dances, which range from hip-hop and lyrical to jazz and ballet.

"We started preparations for the show during the summer, figuring out the theme and planning dances. Most of the choreography happened over the summer," Maria Iuppa, a sophomore Gold Company member, said.

The show both opened and closed with performances by the entire company, and the Gold and Blue Companies were brought together for other pieces including "Numb" by Jay-Z and Linkin Park, as well as "Oh Lord, Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" by Santana Esmeralda.

The mix of music to which the group showed allowed various members to show off their particular strengths. In "Fever," which was choreographed by Gold Company member Stephanie Kern, a group of five dancers brought together

from both companies displayed dancing creativity and intertwined this with their ballet talents.

The Gold Company, led by captain Kathy Nosek, showed their high level of experience with their emotional performance to Joss Stone's "The Right to be Wrong."

One of the most entertaining and memorable performances of the night was the Gold Company's dance to a medley of hip-hop songs titled "Ballin'." This included pieces by Usher, Lil' Jon and Ludacris, Missy Elliot and 'NSync.

The members of the Dance Company are obviously talented dancers, but the wide array of costumes worn throughout the show also proved that at least some of the members are talented in others art forms as well.

The Blue Company, led by co-captain Marti Mullen, closed out the first half of the show to the song "Miami." Not only were the costumes creatively made out of cut-up Miami T-shirts, the dancers also put on an impressive performance with dance moves that looked like they belonged on a Miami dance floor.

Freshman Blue Company member Monalisa Icaza, who performed in "Miami," said she enjoys dancing to hip-hop and that "Miami" was fun because "it was kind of Latin as well." Icaza, who has been dancing ballet since she was three, said that the dance company "is also a way to make new friends."

Fans of any genre of music would have been pleased with at least one performance last weekend. Coldplay fans were no exception, as members of the Gold Company performed a beautiful dance



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

The Notre Dame Dance Company has more than 50 members and is entirely student-run. "Soul" included a variety of music, dance styles and costumes.

choreographed by Meghan Winger to the band's song, "Politik." It was during this performance that the background talent in both costuming and lighting for the night was especially apparent. The colors of both the costumes and the background lighting throughout the song corresponded perfectly with the mood the music set.

The company even succeeded at getting the audience involved throughout the show. A number of dancers filled in the song changes by encouraging the audience to purchase roses for their favorite dancers during intermission, and even had

the audience loosened up (literally) during the "seventh inning stretch."

The Dance Company of Notre Dame is a great way for dancers to continue doing something they love during college. The great variety of music, creative costuming and beautiful performances made "Soul" a very successful show. Whether someone is looking for a way to continue dancing, or just searching for entertainment for an evening, the Dance Company of Notre Dame is a great place to look.

Contact Liz Byrum at ebyrum@nd.edu

CONCERT REVIEW

'Messiah' combines great music, performances

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Writer

The Leighton Concert Hall in the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts filled with the sounds of "Hallelujah" and "Hosanna" on Friday and Saturday night as the University of Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra presented their annual performance of Handel's "Messiah."

With its stunning music and triumphant atmosphere of celebration, Handel's "Messiah" is one of the most long-lived and beloved Christmas traditions. The University of Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra did not fail to inspire with their performance of this wonderful piece.

Handel's "Messiah" is a fantastic performance for every audience member. Its elegant melody is emphasized by its strong focus on choir, soloists and orchestra. It benefits from using all of these elements instead of just focusing on one. Familiarity also makes it a great performance for frequent attendees of classical musical performances. Likewise, it is just as enjoyable for new audience members.

The libretto of "Messiah" comes primarily from the Church of England's "Book of Common Prayer" and is in English, which allows for easy understanding. Nearly everyone has heard the popular "Hallelujah" chorus at least once. The universal appeal of "Messiah" is one of the best reasons for its longevity.

Composed circa 1741, Handel's "Messiah" has been rewritten and rearranged on numerous occasions and

by many different musicians, including Handel and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and often is changed each time it is performed.

Director Alexander Blachly continues this tradition, selecting only certain pieces of "Messiah" to perform. He chose for his choir to sing primarily Part I, which focuses on texts about the prophecy of and birth of Jesus Christ, and Part II, which focuses on texts about Jesus Christ's sacrifice and resurrection. He also included two numbers from Part III, which focuses on writings about general resurrection, and ended with the most famous section of "Messiah," the "Hallelujah" chorus.

Commenting on the Christian themes in "Messiah," Blachly said, "for anyone who was raised in the Christian tradition, Handel's musical settings of the familiar words of scripture have an irresistibly reassuring effect."

The University of Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra's performance was a success. The orchestra and choir balanced each other throughout the show and gave a strong performance. Blachly showcased the talent of the Chorale by selecting eleven different singers for the piece's various solos. All did a commendable job with difficult solo parts. The Chorale and Chamber Orchestra managed to captivate their audience from the first measure until the last chord.

Michael Suso, president of the Chorale, said, "To be able to perform such a magnificent piece of music in an outstanding concert hall in front of an enthusiastic audience was extremely gratifying. I am thoroughly pleased with both perform-



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

The Notre Dame Chamber Orchestra and Chorale performed Handel's "Messiah" Friday and Saturday, a piece frequently performed during the Christmas season.

ances and only hope that our audiences took as much pleasure in listening to Handel's "Messiah" as we did in performing it."

The University of Notre Dame Chorale is Notre Dame's official concert choir. Specializing in works that range from the Renaissance to the present, including pieces by Bach, Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Stravinsky, the Chorale's 55 voices have a very strong, precise and beautiful sound. This sound complimented the intricacies and range of "Messiah" perfectly. They can be heard again in both their concert and their tour in the spring.

The University of Notre Dame Chamber Orchestra is a select ensemble of students that performs both with the Chorale and independently in its own concerts. Because there are only one or two instruments for each part, the musician's are all very skilled.

From the opening overture to the final "Hallelujah," the Notre Dame Choral and Chamber Orchestra's performance of Handel's "Messiah" was a wonderful experience and a great beginning to the Christmas season.

Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu

NFL

Indy stays unbeaten with 35-3 win over Titans

Kansas City tops Denver in AFC West showdown; Dolphins overcome 20-point fourth quarter deficit to beat Bills

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts are making perfection look easier every week.

Now they'll have a chance to keep their historic quest going in the playoffs, too.

With the Triplets in sync and the defense producing another physically dominant performance Sunday, Tennessee never had a chance as the Colts rolled to a 35-3 victory to clinch a playoff spot and remain the NFL's only unbeaten team.

"Anything that comes along with winning, you accept it," two-time MVP Peyton Manning said.

The Colts are the fifth team in league history to go 12-0, but must wait until next week at Jacksonville for a chance to wrap up their third straight

AFC South title and first-round bye in the playoffs.

If the past few games are any indication, that's only a matter of time.

Indianapolis has won seven of its last nine by at least 17 points, averaging more than 35 points. The Colts even routed Tennessee on a day Manning threw only 17 passes, the second-fewest of his NFL career. He threw two passes in last year's season finale at Denver.

But the latest victory epitomized how Indy continues to win — by overcoming anything opponents try.

On Sunday, the Titans (3-9) wanted to play keep-away. It didn't work.

Manning completed 13 of 17 passes for 187 yards and three touchdowns, giving him a near-perfect passer-rating of 151.2 and extending his NFL record

to eight straight seasons with at least 25 TD passes.

Edgerrin James carried 28 times for 107 yards, becoming the third-fastest player in league history to top 9,000 yards. In 93 games, James has rushed for 9,067 yards. Eric Dickerson did it in 82 games; Jim Brown did it in 88.

Chiefs 31, Broncos 27

With a little help from instant replay, the AFC West race suddenly got a lot tighter.

The Kansas City Chiefs received a favorable ruling when they challenged the spot on a run that appeared to give Denver a first down near midfield on a fourth-and-1 play with 2:01 left.

Then the Chiefs (8-4) ran the clock down to 3 seconds and preserved a 31-27 victory that pulled them to within one game of the Broncos (9-3), who had won four in a row.

Trent Green threw two touchdown passes and Larry Johnson rushed for 140 yards and two more scores, but one of the biggest plays was Mike Anderson's plunge into the right side of the line on fourth down.

Officials on the field gave him a first down a couple of yards short of the 50. But coach Dick Vermeil threw the challenge flag and the officials overturned the spot.

When Denver got the ball back with 3 seconds left, Jake Plummer — who threw two costly interceptions — had time for one heave. It fell incomplete.

Plummer, who went 229 passes without an interception until the Dallas Cowboys got one last week, was picked off by Kawika Mitchell on his first throw of the second half. He also threw an interception to Patrick Surtain in the first half on fourth-and-goal from the 4.

Dolphins 24, Bills 23

Even in the late-afternoon shadows covering the end zone, Chris Chambers was easy to spot, leaping to make the reception that capped the best day of his NFL career and the Miami



Kansas City Chiefs running back Larry Johnson cuts upfield in the Chiefs 31-27 win over the Denver Broncos Sunday.

Dolphins' biggest comeback victory since 1974.

Chambers caught a lobbed 4-yard pass from Sage Rosenfels on fourth down with 6 seconds left, the last of three touchdowns Miami scored in the final 11:35 Sunday to beat the Buffalo Bills 24-23.

With the game up for grabs, Chambers curled into the end zone and outmaneuvered cornerback Jabari Greer for his 15th reception of the game.

"It was a jump-ball situation," Chambers said. "You have to go up and get it."

Lee Evans caught three touchdown passes to put the Bills ahead 21-0 less than 13 minutes into the game, and they led 23-3 in the final period.

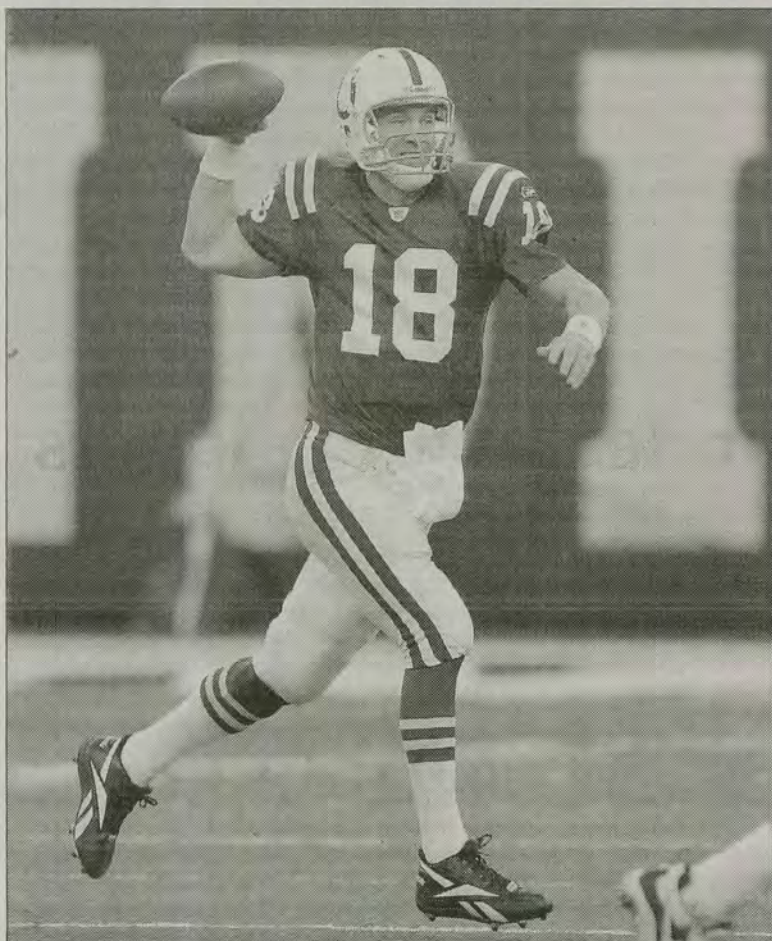
"You can't play like the game was over, but maybe we played like the game was over," coach Mike Mularkey said. "We didn't finish the job."

Struggling Miami quarterback Gus Frerotte was forced to the bench with a concussion in the third quarter, and Rosenfels directed fourth-quarter touchdown drives of 70, 49 and 73 yards.

"We really like for everyone to get their money's worth," coach Nick Saban joked. "You talk about playing 60 minutes, and it's a cliché, but this was an example of that today."

Alas, only 25,000 fans remained from the announced crowd of 72,051 when the Dolphins began their final march with 1:51 left trailing 23-17.

A catch by Chambers gave Miami a first down at the 1 with 50 seconds to go, but two incomplete passes, a penalty and a scramble by Rosenfels made it fourth down with the clock running and less than 30 seconds left.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning looks for a receiver in the Colts' 35-3 win over the Tennessee Titans Sunday.

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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To the Bastille!

A Fiesta in Tempe

AROUND THE NATION

Monday, December 5, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

BCS Top 25

	team	prev.	pct.
1	USC	1	.9868
2	Texas	2	.9732
3	Penn State	3	.9187
4	Ohio State	6	.8559
5	Oregon	7	.7989
6	NOTRE DAME	8	.7329
7	Georgia	13	.7182
8	Miami	9	.7037
9	Auburn	10	.6747
10	Virginia Tech	5	.6715
11	West Virginia	11	.6403
12	LSU	4	.6293
13	Alabama	15	.4538
14	TCU	14	.4445
15	Texas Tech	16	.4288
16	UCLA	12	.3693
17	Florida	17	.3058
18	Wisconsin	18	.3021
19	Louisville	21	.2624
20	Michigan	19	.2579
21	Boston College	20	.2452
22	Florida State	NR	.1110
23	Oklahoma	23	.0999
24	Georgia Tech	24	.0945
25	Northwestern	22	.0887

A.P. Football Top 25

	team	record	points
1	USC (56)	12-0	1,616
2	Texas (9)	12-0	1,569
3	Penn State	10-1	1,483
4	Ohio State	9-2	1,375
5	NOTRE DAME	9-2	1,327
6	Oregon	10-1	1,241
7	Auburn	9-2	1,221
8	Georgia	10-2	1,202
9	Miami	9-2	1,098
10	LSU	10-2	1,028
11	West Virginia	10-1	991
12	Virginia Tech	10-2	943
13	Alabama	9-2	813
14	TCU	10-1	790
15	Louisville	9-2	644
16	Florida	8-3	588
17	UCLA	9-2	542
18	Texas Tech	9-2	533
19	Boston College	8-3	410
20	Michigan	7-4	377
21	Wisconsin	9-3	325
22	Florida State	8-4	296
23	Clemson	7-4	240
24	Georgia Tech	7-4	189
25	Iowa	7-4	86

Men's Big East Basketball

	team	total W-L	pct.
1	Connecticut	6-0	1.000
2	Pittsburgh	4-0	1.000
3	Villanova	4-0	1.000
4	Louisville	2-0	1.000
5	Rutgers	5-1	0.833
6	St. John's	4-1	0.800
7	Syracuse	6-2	0.750
8	Georgetown	3-1	0.750
9	Marquette	5-2	0.714
10	Cincinnati	3-2	0.600
11	Providence	3-2	0.600
12	Seton Hall	3-2	0.600
13	USF	3-2	0.600
14	West Virginia	4-3	0.571
15	NOTRE DAME	2-2	0.500
16	DePaul	2-3	0.400

around the dial

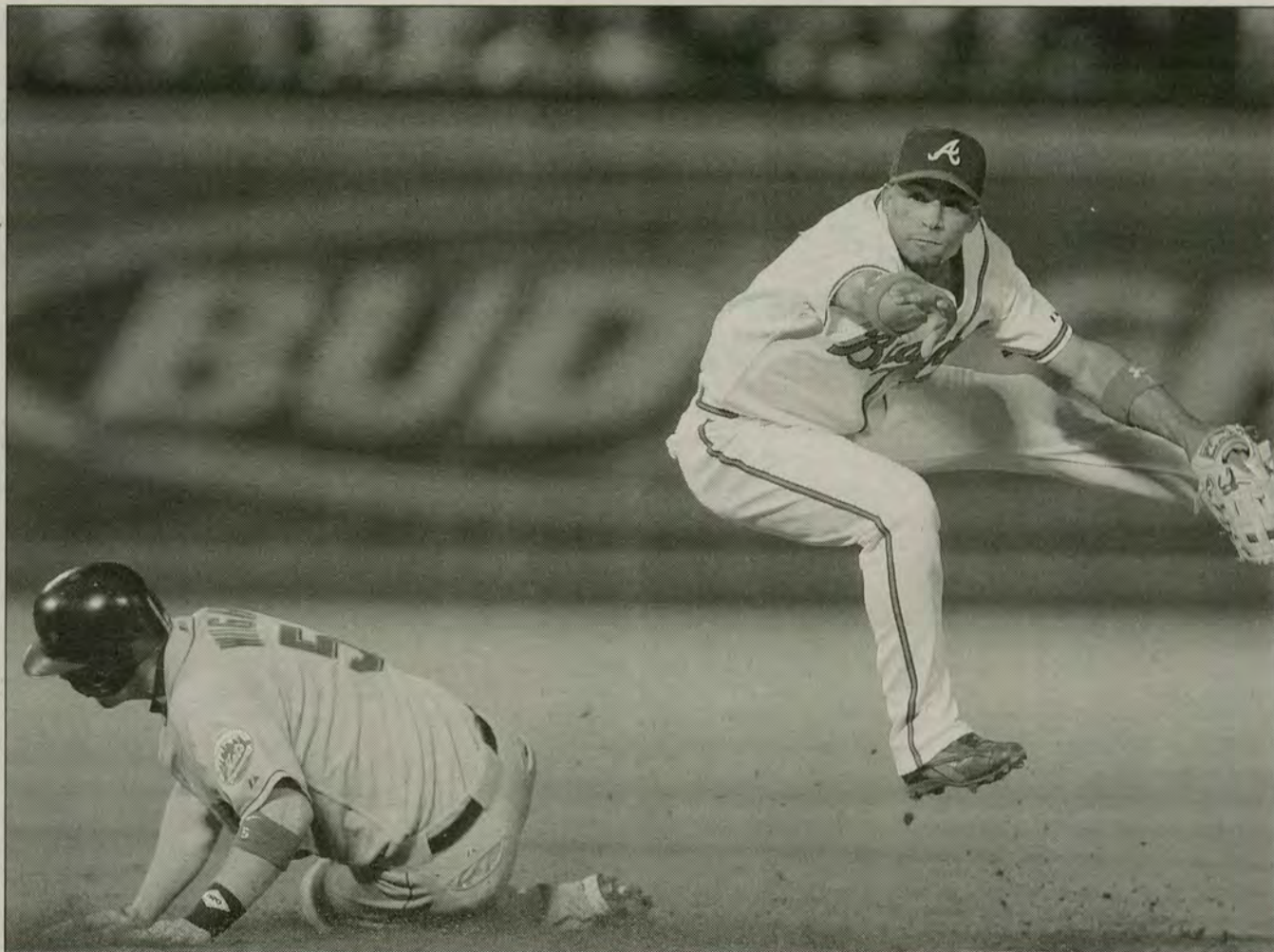
NFL

Monday Night Football
Seattle at Philadelphia
9:00 p.m., ABC

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jimmy V Classic
North Carolina vs. Connecticut
7:30 p.m., ESPN2

MLB



Former Atlanta Braves shortstop Rafael Furcal makes a leaping throw to first base during a contest with the New York Mets on May 2. Furcal reportedly agreed to a \$39 million contract with the Dodgers Sunday.

Furcal signs 3-year deal with Dodgers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Shortstop Rafael Furcal and the Los Angeles Dodgers have reached preliminary agreement on a \$39 million, three-year contract, his agent said Sunday.

Paul Kinzer said a physical was scheduled for his client on Monday. Dodgers spokesman Josh Rawitch would only say no announcement was planned before baseball's winter meetings, which begin Monday in Dallas.

Los Angeles beat out Atlanta and Chicago Cubs

for Furcal, who had spent his entire six-year career with the Braves.

"He liked all three fits," Kinzer said.

Kinzer said the Dodgers entered the negotiations late, but that new general manager Ned Colletti and owner Frank McCourt made a persuasive argument.

"Earlier in the week, we were about finished when they got involved," Kinzer said. "They asked if we could listen. We have a tremendous amount of respect for Ned."

Adam Katz, Kinzer's partner, had dinner with

Colletti on Tuesday night. Furcal and Katz went out to dinner Friday night in Los Angeles with McCourt, and Furcal was impressed by McCourt.

"He told Raffy his vision of where he wanted the team to be and how he fit in," Kinzer said. "Once the Dodgers went to \$13 [million], the Cubs and Braves weren't moving to that point."

Furcal will receive \$9 million next year, with \$5 million of that to be called a signing bonus. He gets \$13 million in cash in each of the following two seasons, and there is a

final \$4 million payment in January 2009.

"It's going to be tough. This is going to be the first time he's ever been without Bobby Cox," Kinzer said, referring to the longtime Braves' manager.

It was the first major move for the Dodgers under Colletti, hired in mid-November as the successor to Paul DePodesta. Before Los Angeles got involved, Cubs manager Jim Hendry appeared to be the favorite.

"Jim Hendry really wanted it, worked hard," Kinzer said.

IN BRIEF

Colts' Manning, Harrison and James reach Milestones

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts triplets again were setting milestones at a frantic pace Sunday.

Marvin Harrison became the 12th receiver in league history to top 12,000 yards receiving in the first quarter against Jacksonville. He did it on the Colts' opening drive, catching a 36-yard pass to top the mark and then catching a 10-yard TD pass from Peyton Manning to extend the duo's NFL record to 92 touchdowns.

In the third quarter, Manning and Edgerrin James got their own accomplishments.

On the opening drive, James carried for 8 yards with 11:29 left to give him 9,003 yards in 93 games, making him the third-fastest player to top 9,000 yards rushing. The only players to do it quicker were Eric Dickerson, who accomplished the feat in 82 games; and Jim Brown, who did it in 88.

James finished with 107 yards on 28 carries and one touchdown. He now

has 9,067 yards rushing.

Manning completed the drive with a 27-yard TD pass to Reggie Wayne. That gave Manning 25 touchdown passes this year, extending his NFL record to eight consecutive seasons with 25 or more.

Free agent pitcher Byrd signs contract with Indians

CLEVELAND — Free agent starter Paul Byrd is close to finalizing a \$14.25 million, two-year contract with the Cleveland Indians, filling one of the club's biggest needs on the eve of the winter meetings.

Byrd, who went 12-11 with a 3.74 ERA in 31 starts for the Los Angeles Angels last season, was trying to complete a deal with the Indians, a person familiar with the negotiations said Sunday night, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal was not yet in place.

Byrd's decision to sign with Cleveland was first reported by ESPN.com, which said the sides had reached an agreement. The person

familiar with the talks told the AP that there were a few outstanding issues remaining but that a deal could be struck later Sunday or Monday.

The Los Angeles Angels, Baltimore and Texas also sought Byrd.

His deal with the Indians would include an option that could raise the value to \$22 million over three seasons.

Pacers finish road trip without Croshere, Tinsley

SEATTLE — The Indiana Pacers were without starters Jamaal Tinsley and Austin Croshere when the team closed out a five-game road trip Sunday night against the Seattle SuperSonics.

Tinsley missed his second straight game with a sore groin. He was inactive Friday against Portland.

Croshere, who injured his abdomen against the Trail Blazers, started five straight games before Sunday. In 10 starts this season, Croshere averaged 9.3 points and 7.3 rebounds.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke tops Virginia Tech on last-second shot

Dean bounces back from slump to lead Louisville over Arkansas State; UCLA overcomes slow start to beat Coppin State

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke's magic at Cameron Indoor Stadium is alive and well.

Sean Dockery made a heave from about 40 feet with less than a second left, giving the top-ranked Blue Devils an improbable 77-75 victory over Virginia Tech on Sunday night in the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams.

The frantic finish denied the Hokies a stunning upset after they rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final 4 1/2 minutes. Coleman Collins capped the comeback by tipping in a miss by Zabian Dowdell, and after conferring with TV replays, the referees put 1.6 seconds back on the clock for the Blue Devils (7-0).

Coach Mike Krzyzewski drew up a play with freshman Josh McRoberts throwing the inbounds pass, and he lofted a perfect one to Dockery just over halfcourt. He took one quick dribble and launched his shot from the "Coach K Court" decal near the sideline.

It rattled in, sending the Cameron Crazies into a frenzy and giving Virginia Tech (5-3) its second stunning loss in two days. On Saturday, Marcus Vick and the Hokies' football team lost the ACC's first championship game to Florida State.

Shelden Williams dominated throughout and finished with 21 points and 19 rebounds, while J.J. Redick bounced back from first half foul trouble to add 18 points. Yet with the game on the line, Dockery was the one who came through.

He finished with a season-high 19 points — the first time he's been in double figures all season — and was 4-of-5 from 3-point range. Of course, the final one was the most important.

Collins led the Hokies with 25 points on 12-of-17 shooting, and Dowdell added 15.

It proved to be short-lived.

Louisville 67, Arkansas State 55

Taquan Dean's shooting slump didn't last long.

The Louisville guard made six 3-pointers and scored 24 points as the seventh-ranked Cardinals overcame a sluggish first half to pull away from Arkansas State at the Colonial Classic on Sunday.

Dean knocked down three shots from beyond the arc during a decisive 19-4 run in the second half when Louisville (3-0) shook free of the Indians (2-4) in the final 10 minutes.

"He's the target on everybody's blackboard," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "Taquan is the man. Every coach is screaming 'Don't let him shoot.'"

Dean entered the game shooting just 27 percent from the field and 19 percent from 3-point range. It looked like his struggles would continue against the Indians. He missed six of his first nine shots, most of them long jumpers that bounced harmlessly off the rim.

A quick evaluation of his shooting motion by Pitino set Dean straight.

"I was moving back on my jump shot, I wasn't landing in the same place," Dean said. "Coach told me that at halftime, now I feel more comfortable with my

shot. I feel I'm in a little groove now."

Juan Palacios had seven points and nine rebounds, Brandon Jenkins scored 11 points, and David Padgett added five points, five rebounds and four assists for Louisville.

Dereke Tipler led Arkansas State with 20 points, most coming in the first half on an array of circus shots that allowed the Indians to keep it close.

"We executed well and didn't back down," Arkansas State coach Dickey Nutt said.

UCLA 69, Coppin State 57

Fortunately for UCLA, college basketball is played in two halves. The Bruins needed the last 20 minutes to make up for another uninspired start.

Arron Afflalo scored 20 points and keyed a second-half rally with Cedric Bozeman that helped the 16th-ranked Bruins beat Coppin State Sunday.

The Bruins (6-1) won their fifth straight at Pauley Pavilion, but needed another comeback to put away an inferior opponent. Last Tuesday, they blew all of a 19-point lead and trailed by one before closing out Albany 73-65.

"We're definitely concerned because we play much better teams [in the future]," Afflalo said. "It's always tough when you know a team is 0-5. You just got to come out and play hard. We picked it up a little bit in the second half."

The Eagles remained winless, falling to 0-6 for the first time since starting the 1999-2000 season. They are playing their first 14 games on the road, including a brutal December



Duke players celebrate their last-second 77-75 victory over Virginia Tech Sunday. The win kept the Blue Devils atop the AP poll.

filled with stops at No. 5 Oklahoma, No. 12 Illinois, Pittsburgh, Michigan and No. 13 Michigan State.

"They have to play games on the road to raise money for their budget," UCLA coach Ben Howland said.

Tywan McKee led Coppin State with a career-high 21 points and Augustine Woodlin added 12.

"We know we're small and young and they have the name and we don't, but we played extra hard. We were in it in the first half," McKee said. "We just have too many young players, but we're learning."

Trailing by three, the Bruins ran off seven straight points to take their first lead, 42-38, since early in the first half. Bozeman had four points and Afflalo added two free throws as UCLA went ahead for good.

"We lost our composure," Coppin State coach Ron Mitchell said. "We gave them a lot of easy baskets to start the second half. You can't do that if you want to win at a place like this."

Coppin State wasted five of its next six possessions on turnovers, while the Bruins put together a 25-10 spree that extended their lead to 60-48 with 4:23 remaining.

NCAA WOMEN'S SOCCER

Portland beats UCLA to win NCAA title, 4-0

Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Portland ended UCLA's near-perfect run in the NCAA tournament by producing a shutout of its own and getting a record-setting performance from its star player.

Christine Sinclair scored two goals, setting an NCAA record in the process, and Portland beat UCLA 4-0 in the national championship game on Sunday.

Angie Wozniak added a goal and two assists for the Pilots (24-0-2), who won their second title in three years. Portland beat Santa Clara 2-1 in the 2002 championship game.

"This team just showed the whole country what it's built out of — a lot of class, a lot of talent, a lot of hard work and a foundation that will always be with us," Portland coach Garrett Smith said.

Sinclair, a member of the Canadian national team, scored both of her goals in the first half, giving her 39 this year. Entering the game, Sinclair was tied for the NCAA season mark with SMU's Lisa Cole, who had 37 goals in 1987.

Sinclair was already the NCAA tournament's all-time

goal scorer and finished her career with 25.

The Bruins (22-2-2), who outscored their first five tournament opponents 25-0, lost in the title game for the second straight year. They lost to Notre Dame on penalty kicks last year after playing to a 1-1 tie.

"My heart and soul is with my team," UCLA coach Jill Ellis said. "I'll try to console them and remind the things they've done this season and the successes they've had."

With UCLA's defense keying on Sinclair from the start, Wozniak moved to an opening, took a feed from Megan Rapinoe and zipped a right-footed shot under UCLA goalkeeper Valerie Henderson just 92 seconds into the game.

"To score a goal that early, I think, makes the other team question a little bit what they're capable of," Wozniak said.

UCLA had shut out 17 of its previous 19 NCAA tournament opponents before Wozniak's goal, the fastest the Pilots had scored in a game this season.

"They did a great job to capitalize on our mistake," Ellis said. "That certainly put us behind the 8-ball."

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish hold off Truman, win ND Invitational

Carroll breaks meet and pool records in 1,650 freestyle race

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

The women's swimming and diving team got out of the blocks quickly and never looked back on their way to a comfortable victory in the Notre Dame Invitational this weekend. The Irish led from start to finish, accumulating 1,822 points while holding off five-time defending Division-II champions Truman State (1,643 points).

After starting the meet in strong fashion Thursday with nine top-three finishes, Notre Dame refocused and delivered stronger results on Friday and Saturday.

During the final two days, the Irish garnered 12 top-three finishes, eight first-place finishes, one season-best time, one NCAA "B" cut time and two meet and pool records.

"You always want to finish the meet strong," Irish coach Carrie Nixon said. "I felt that our best performance was on Saturday night, and that was very pleasing."

The highlight of the weekend was Katie Carroll's performance in the 1,650 freestyle. Carroll, with a time of 16:37.58, broke Linda Gallo's eight-year-old meet record time of 16:44.91 and bested Michigan's Emily-Clare Fenn's pool record of 16:40.28 from 2003.

Carroll's time, which was the fifth fastest in school history for the event, was fast

enough for an NCAA "B" cut time, her sixth of the season.

"Katie's versatility was really exemplified in the 1,650 [freestyle] this weekend," Nixon said. "We're able to put her wherever we need her and wherever she feels that she can make the biggest difference for us."

Carroll was not the only swimmer to set records for the Irish this weekend, as the 200 individual medley team of Caroline Johnson, Julia Quinn, Rebecca Grove and Jessica Stephens bested a seven-year-old meet and pool record held by Michigan. The relay team set the record by .04 seconds with a time of 1:43.73.

Casey Wagner, Stephens and Johnson turned in other impressive performances this weekend. Wagner won the

200 butterfly with a career-best time of 2:02.79. Stephens earned an NCAA "B" cut time in the 100 butterfly with a time of 55.35.

Johnson won the 100 backstroke with a season-best time of 56.45.

This recent trend of season-best times and NCAA qualification times has not been lost on Nixon.

"It's a building process," Nixon said. "We've been training really hard, but we've also been learning how to be better athletes. It takes a while to learn that as it builds up over the course of a season."

With a streak of four consecutive victories behind it, the team has nearly a month off until its next meet against Michigan and Illinois.

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"I felt that our best performance was on Saturday night, and that was very pleasing."

Carrie Nixon
Irish head coach

ND VOLLEYBALL

Team advances to Sweet 16

Sixth-seeded Irish defeat Northwestern 30-27, 32-30, 30-28

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

Sixth-seeded Notre Dame (30-3) advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 for the first time since 1997 with a second-round victory Friday evening over Northwestern (20-12) 30-27, 32-30, 30-28.

"We're really excited about moving on to the next round and being in the Sweet 16," Irish coach Debbie Brown said. "It's been a long time for the program since we've been there."

The Irish — who have dominated the Big East for more than a decade — finally got the monkey off their back and will travel to College Station, Texas for the Sweet 16 Friday.

"I'm really pleased with the way the team came out tonight," Brown said. "We've struggled recently in games three, and we started off poorly in game three, but the last half of game three we played really, really well to finish it and just competed hard."

"It was a really good team win. We're excited that we get to keep playing."

Senior Lauren Brewster said her team can play without the pressure of being the favorite, and, now, they don't care who their opponent is. Now, they're playing the nation's best.

"I think we're going to be able to focus on our team a lot more now," she said. "We know that the better we're going to be, each round in the NCAA tournament, there are going to be good teams and they're going to play well."

"I think before... [there was] more pressure on us to have to win. Now, it's just down to the 16 best teams. We know they're going to show up to play."

Notre Dame will play No. 11 Wisconsin (25-6) in the College Station, Texas regional this Friday at 6 p.m.

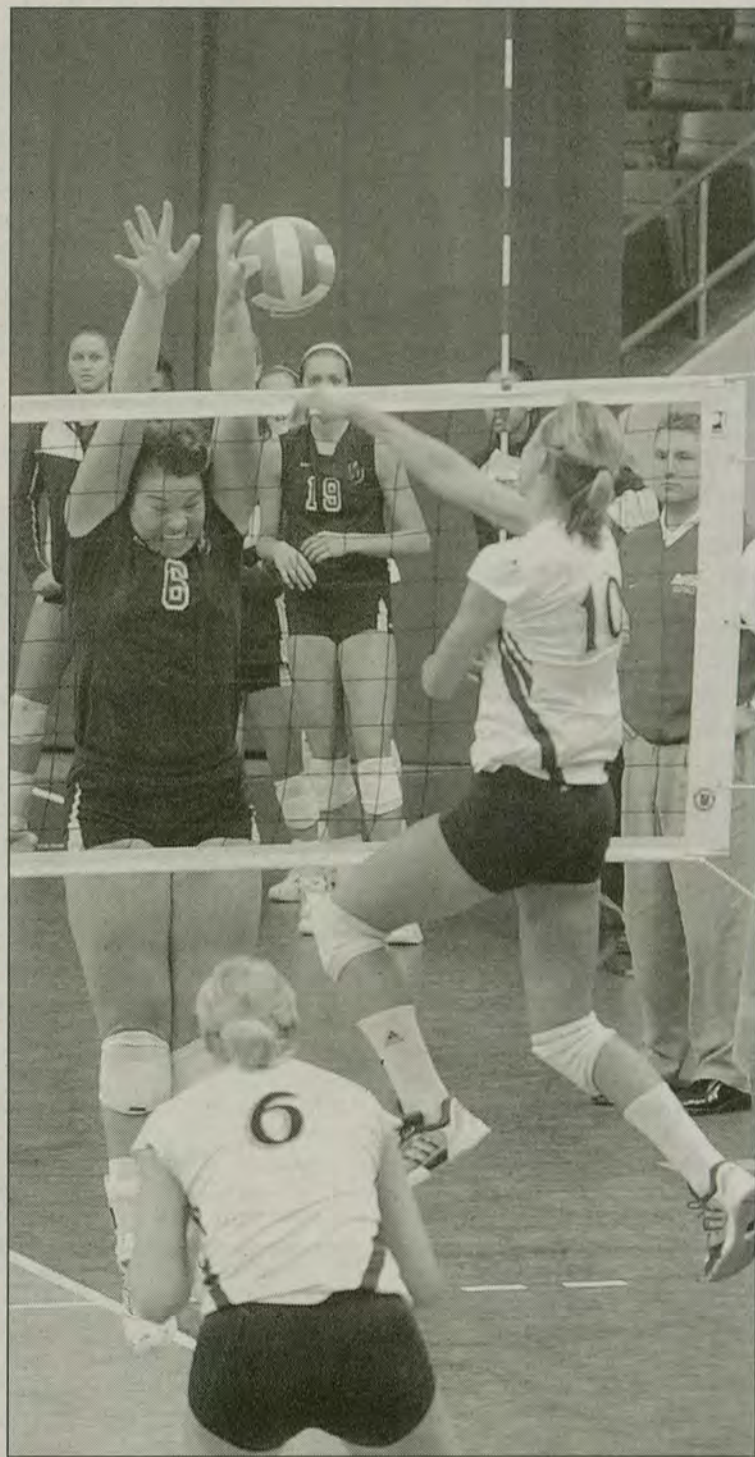
The other matchup is No. 3 Washington (28-1) and No. 14 Purdue (25-8). The two will square off at 8 p.m.

Against the Wildcats, sophomore outside hitter Adrianna Stasiuk finished with 16 kills, including one cross-court rocket that landed within five feet of the net, and a match-high 19 points. Kelbley drilled 13 kills, while Brewster spiked 10. Senior Carolyn Cooper added nine.

Defensively, senior Meg Henican nabbed 21 digs, while Stasiuk and junior Danielle Herndon added 10 and nine, respectively. Brewster led the team with nine blocks. Cooper also had eight.

The Irish battled for a 2-0 lead against the Wildcats. The second game was neck-and-neck the entire way, with 13 ties and two lead changes.

Despite the 2-0 deficit, Northwestern knew it had a



HY PHAM/The Observer

Irish outside hitter Adrianna Stasiuk spikes the ball Thursday against Dayton. Notre Dame beat Northwestern Friday.

chance.

"Everyone's fallible," senior outside hitter Christie Gardner said. "We knew we had a good chance to win. We knew we were capable."

When the Irish went to the locker room for the break in between games two and three, they, no doubt, had their previous two matches in the backs of their minds. In their last match before the NCAA tournament, the Irish lost to Tennessee in five games after leading 2-0. In Thursday's NCAA first round, Notre Dame went up 2-0 on Dayton and eventually won a tight fifth game.

This time, the Irish wanted nothing to do with a fifth game. They didn't even want a fourth.

"It's just a mental hurdle to get over," Brown said, referring to finishing the third game. "It was good. I liked the way the team talked in the locker room between games two and three, and I liked the way we finished."

This time with the season on the line, the Irish knew they would get the job done.

"I went home and I thought about it and tried to figure out what went wrong yesterday," Kelbley said. "I was resolved to get out there and make it happen. I tried to talk to my teammates and make sure everyone knew

we were going to win this match today, and that there was no other option."

For Brown and the Irish, especially the five seniors, each win brings another chance to play together.

"We love playing," Brown said. "It's the most exciting time of the year."

For the seniors, who have been gearing for this moment their entire careers, the Sweet 16 is that much sweeter.

"I think we were really determined," Brewster said. "I love championship games. I love the NCAA tournament. We've been trying to get to the Sweet 16 for the four years we've been here, so that was a motivating factor for all of us."

Though the Irish took the third game from the Wildcats, it wasn't easy. They went down 4-7 to start the game.

That had Brown thinking they were in for yet another momentum swing.

"I thought, 'Down 4-7, oh no, here we go again.' It needed to stop right there," she said. "And the team did a great job of coming out of the timeout and again having the commitment and the resolve to get it done. The competitors came out."

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HOCKEY

Brown shuts out Western Michigan in 3-0 win

Junior earns fifth shutout of career in Saturday victory as Irish, Broncos split weekend home-and-home series

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

Early this season, Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said he was waiting for a goalie to show him something. Junior Dave Brown may have finally become that goalie this weekend as the Irish split a home-and-home series with Western Michigan.

Brown relieved Freshman Jordan Pearce in the third quarter of Friday's 4-3 loss to the Broncos in Kalamazoo, Mich. He made seven saves and did not allow a goal as Notre Dame stormed back from a three-goal deficit in the final period.

Brown started and earned the fifth shutout of his career Saturday in a 3-0 victory at the Joyce Center.

The win ended a five-game winless streak for the Irish and improved Notre Dame's record to 4-9-1 and 3-6-1 in the CCHA.

"[Brown has] played well [all season]," Jackson said of Saturday's performance. "I thought we played well in front of him, didn't give them a lot of chances. There were no back-door situations. He made the saves we needed made, and he made some when we really needed them."

Junior defenseman Wes O'Neill opened the scoring for the Irish Saturday with a power-play goal 1:46 into the second period. Bronco defenseman Jonathan Lupa was called for holding as time expired in the first period, giving the Irish

a one-man advantage to open the second. O'Neill redirected a centering pass from junior left wing Josh Sciba past Western goalie Daniel Bellissimo.

"Actually, it was a broken play," O'Neill said of his goal. "The guy was pressuring me, so I cut down the wall and got a great pass from [Sciba]."

The game represented a renaissance of sorts for O'Neill, who also recorded an assist. After going pointless for the last four games, O'Neill was key to the Irish victory Saturday.

"It the best game he's played for us this year," Jackson said of the junior. "Confidence is a funny thing. When [players] lose their confidence, they don't have as much energy. I had a little talk with him this morning about his game last night and how he prepares himself to play, and he was one of the best players on the ice."

The Broncos threatened to even the game after the puck went into a corner. Junior defenseman Tom Sawatske was called for clubbing a Western player in the back of the head in the ensuing melee. With one official holding his arm up for a delayed penalty, another called Sciba for tripping. Both Irish players were

sent to the penalty box and Notre Dame found itself at a 5-on-3 disadvantage.

The Broncos were unable to score however, as the Irish defense cleared the puck four times and allowed only one shot, which Brown saved easily.

"That was a turning point in the game for us, to be able to kill off a 5-on-3," Jackson said.

"Penalty killing hasn't been our specialty, but guys were blocking shots and sacrificing and realizing what they needed to get done."

The Irish added to their lead at the 5:59

mark of the third period. After a charging call on Western center Sean Weaver gave Notre Dame a power play, O'Neill found himself with the puck behind the Bronco net. He flipped a pass into a crowd between the face-off circles and senior left wing Mike Walsh batted it past Bellissimo.

Notre Dame capped off the game with its first five-on-five goal of the night at 17:31 of the third when junior center Jason Paige rocketed a shot past Bellissimo from the point.

The game was one of the cleanest the Irish have played this year, with only ten penalties committed between the two squads, including just one

in the third period.

"It was good game because the official called the game," Jackson said. "He didn't call what everyone wants him to call. He didn't make things up, which added more tempo and flow to the game."

Western Michigan 4, Notre Dame 3

The Irish fell behind 4-1 Friday in Kalamazoo but mounted a comeback that gave them some momentum for Saturday night.

"Coach talked about us making sure we get back to the little things that make us a complete hockey team," O'Neill said of Jackson's second intermission speech that carried over to the next night.

The game got off to a fast start with a goal by both teams in the first 33 seconds.

Notre Dame forward Tim Wallace took a loose puck off the opening face-off and skated down the ice to score just nine seconds into the game. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it would give up four goals before finding the back of the net again.

Twenty-four seconds after Wallace's goal, Western right wing Daryl Moore blasted a shot into a crowd in front of the Irish net from the right face-off circle.

The puck hit a stick and flew up in the air, landing behind Pearce and trickling into the net.

Less than three minutes later, Broncos star forward Brent Walton scored the first of his three goals on the night.

Walton took a pass from defenseman Ryan Mahrle, skated into the Notre Dame zone and ripped the puck past Pearce's outstretched glove to give the Broncos a 2-1 lead 3:23 into the game.

"I thought that [Western Michigan] came out flying for the first ten minutes, but after the first ten minutes, we played pretty well," Jackson said of the game's high-scoring early going.

Walton would add to the lead in the second period. His slap shot from the left circle skipped along the ice and got underneath Pearce's pads to put Western up by two.

Just 44 seconds later, Walton completed his hat trick when he fought through a crowd to get to the rebound of a shot by defenseman Jason Moul.

"We gave up a couple of bad goals on shots Jordan Pearce would usually stop, but a couple of them went in the net, which really put us on our heels," Jackson said of the Bronco's scoring outburst.

The Irish would answer after Paige stole an errant pass in the Western zone and banged home his first goal of the year.

Brown replaced Pearce in goal and held the Broncos scoreless, but Notre Dame could only muster a Sciba goal at 10:04 of the third period and the comeback fell short.

The Irish get only two days off before returning to the ice in Mankato, Minn., against Minnesota State Tuesday.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Cold second half leads to loss for Saint Mary's

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

The Belles took a 25-23 lead into halftime, but poor second half shooting led to a 55-49 loss Saturday against North Park in Chicago.

Both teams shot poorly, but North Park's 29-percent from the floor was enough to defeat St. Mary's, who shot 23 percent on the game — 19 percent in the second half.

The Belles were just 2-of-15 from 3-point range and 70 percent from the free throw line. The Belles also had 38 rebounds to the Lady Vikings 37, the second time the Belles have out rebounded an opponent this season.

"We just didn't make shots in either half," Belles coach Steve Bender said. "That game was just a couple of shots from being a different story."

"We played hard. [The girls'] intensity has been great every game."

Erin Newsom led the Belles with 14 points and also added nine rebounds and a blocked shot. Bridget Boyce led the team with three assists and

had a steal, as well as 13 points, including 8 points from the free throw line on a team-high ten attempts.

Allison Kessler also had 10 points, and Bridget Lipke lead the team with 10 rebounds to go along with five points, three assists and a steal.

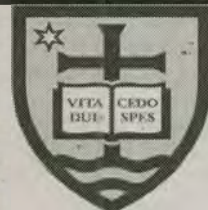
St. Mary's next game is Wednesday, and the Belles will look to end a four-game losing streak. Coach Bender thinks that his team's struggles will end on Wednesday and their hard work will finally pay off.

This week, Coach Bender says the Belles will work on "execution" in practice and in the game they need to "have a little patience, get [their] confidence up and get on a roll."

"We've got to come with a positive attitude," Bender said. "I've got a real good feeling about [Wednesday]. We've got to get some confidence early and be the aggressors. These past few games, we've been on our heels a little."

St. Mary's will take on Adrian College (2-3) at home on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Quinn proves to be a warrior despite loss

Plenty of very good players have the ability to take over a game. They just don't have the heart.

It's the fire that burns inside a player after scoring six first-half points. It's the pride and determination that forces a player to put the game on his shoulders, for better or worse. It's the desire to take over a game.



Bobby Griffin

Associate Sports Editor

Irish point guard Chris Quinn proved Saturday — at least for one afternoon — he simply has it.

Quinn missed a potential game-tying floater after Michigan guard Dion Harris made it a two-point game with 17 seconds left. But that's fine. He had a good look, and he had no intention of passing it up.

Many good basketball players could become special but fall short because they don't have this heart. It happens all the time at the pro level.

Philadelphia 76ers forward Chris Webber, a perennial all-star, disappears faster than David Blaine in the fourth quarter. Sacramento Kings forward Peja Stojakovic averaged 24.2 points per game in the

2003-04 season before scoring eight points on 3-of-12 shooting in a Game 7 against the Timberwolves.

There is a reason why Reggie Miller is a borderline Hall of Famer even though his career points per game average (18.2) is barely legal. He thrived under pressure and hit big shots in big spots.

Let's not get ahead of ourselves, though. Quinn is clearly not at this level. But against Michigan he showed he is the type of player who can elevate his play when his team needs it most.

Anybody can score in the first half when the crowd is quiet, but only a special player wants the ball when it matters.

The numbers tell the story. In the first half Quinn was 3-of-6 from the field for six points. In the second half, Quinn exploded on 6-of-12 shooting for 20 points, including 4-of-5 from 3-point range. He played the entire 20 minutes and hit all four of his free throws down the stretch.

Quinn has been waiting for this moment. While former point guard Chris Thomas didn't always live up to expectations, he always welcomed the pressure. Sometimes he forced

shots and sometimes he made turnovers, but he did it knowing he had to step up more so than anyone else.

Thomas became the poster boy for the motto that teams should live and die with their best player.

Quinn watched and learned.

Revisit Kyle McAlarney's layup that tied the game at 52 with 8:17 remaining. It was the last Irish basket that was not credited to Quinn. Michigan took a 30-second timeout, and Quinn scored Notre Dame's final 15

points — only forcing one shot in that entire span.

"Looking at his numbers, I'm not sure anybody's presence was going to stop Quinn this afternoon," Michigan coach Tommy Amaker said.

And Quinn almost did Saturday what Thomas could not do his senior year, with the exception of last season's St. John's game — finish a big game with a bigger basket.

But Quinn's late missed shot does not discredit his performance. Irish forward Torin Francis said after the game that Quinn hits that shot nine out of 10 times. There is no doubt he will have more chances this season in close games, and Quinn will come



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Irish guard Chris Quinn goes up for a layup in Saturday's 71-67 loss to Michigan. Quinn scored 26 points in the game.

through.

"I think he needed a game like this, as the man, this year," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "The lights were on, and he answered the bell continuously."

The only question that remains is where this attitude, this hustle, this determination will take Notre Dame in the

long run.

Great players make good teams out of average ones. Let's see if Quinn can do the same.

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

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish win fifth consecutive Notre Dame Invite

Bulfin, Stoner earn highest combined total of careers; team has not lost at Rolfs Aquatic Center since 2003-04 season

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

The Irish swimming and diving team continued to dominate at home this weekend with their fifth consecutive first-place finish at the Notre Dame Invitational.

Notre Dame has yet to lose at Rolfs Aquatic Center this year and has only suffered defeat once in South Bend since the 2003-04 season — a stretch that includes eight dual meet victories and six first-places finishes in tournaments. Its only loss came last year in a 163-134 loss to a strong Northwestern team.

"Being at Rolfs is where we are most comfortable," Irish captain Patrick Hefernan said. "It's where we train every day, and everyone is always ready to swim at home."

The Irish were ready this weekend as they came out strong, opening up a 400-point lead on the first night of competition. The team led from the first race until the last.

Over the three-day meet, Notre Dame was able to pile up 2,813 points — almost twice as many as its closest competition, Utah, who ended with 1,366.

Many of the individual swimmers and divers had career-best weekends while helping the team to their overall title. Jay Vanden Berg placed first in both the 500 and 1,650 free style races while posting his season's best times in both events.

The diving team helped out the Irish with Michael Bulfin

and Sam Stoner achieving their highest combined scores since arriving at Notre Dame.

Chris Barnes also had a career day by qualifying for the Big East conference meet for the first time in his career in both the 100 and 200 freestyle events.

"This was my last Notre Dame Invitational and our last meet of the semester, so it was crucial for all of us to get good

swims in before our Christmas training trip," Barnes said.

The Irish begin training for the second semester almost immediately. Irish coach Tim Welsh gave his team little time to celebrate, as they will be back in the pool for practice on Monday morning, focused on their ultimate goal of the season, defending their Big East Championship.

This weekend's invitational,

which Welsh referred to as a "dress rehearsal" for the Big East Tournament, left Notre Dame feeling confident about the second semester of their season.

"We have a little ways to go, but compared to this point last year, I think we are doing very well," Hefernan said.

No. 19 Notre Dame does not swim again until Jan. 13 when they take on Evansville on the

road. Only a month remains before the conclusion of the season in Long Island, N.Y.

"If we continue to swim as well as we have been and then exceed some of our own lofty expectations, then the Big East championship will be something special to see," Barnes said.

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Kansas St. hires new head coach

Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Kansas State has hired Virginia offensive coordinator Ron Prince to replace Bill Snyder as head coach, athletic director Tim Weiser said Sunday.

Weiser said the school will formally announce the hiring Monday.

The 36-year-old Prince, raised about 20 miles from Manhattan in Junction City, will become only the fourth black head football coach in Division I-A, joining Washington's Ty Willingham, Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom and UCLA's Karl Dorrell.

A lineman at Dodge City Community College and Appalachian State, Prince spent five seasons at Virginia, the last three as offensive coordinator.

He also coached at Dodge City, Alabama A&M, Cornell, South Carolina State and James Madison, and spent four seasons as an NFL Minority Fellowship intern with Jacksonville, Washington, Atlanta and the New York Giants.

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Fiesta

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are now," Hoyte said Sunday evening after the pairings were announced. "I think it's something that you gotta definitely hold onto and use that as motivation."

Notre Dame, which became BCS-eligible with its ninth win on Nov. 26 at Stanford, moved up to sixth in the BCS after Saturday's games, earning an automatic at-large bid. Ohio State (9-2) earned the bid after finishing fourth in the final BCS standings, earning an automatic spot. No. 6 Oregon was squeezed out of the BCS picture, despite finishing fifth in the BCS standings with a 10-1 record. However, since both the Buckeyes and the Irish moved into the top six in the BCS, both teams were guaranteed a BCS bid, leaving the Ducks to play in the Holiday Bowl, where they will face Oklahoma.

Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said Sunday his team was looking forward to playing the Irish, having a chance to watch them on tape against Michigan and Michigan State, two of Ohio State's opponents this season.

"It was fun watching and learning and studying them," Tressel said. "They're just a great football team — well-schooled, and it will be exciting to play against them."

And Weis says though his team has come a long way, the Buckeyes, who have lost to only two BCS teams — Penn State (Orange Bowl vs. Florida State) and Texas (Rose Bowl for the national championship vs. USC) — will present a challenge.

"I think that the fact that they got picked as one of the top eight teams in the country is a very rewarding feeling for those players," Weis said of his team Sunday night. "They certainly have come a long way from walking off the field last year and ending up 6-6. But I do know that as rewarding as this year has been, they realize they have a formidable opponent ahead of them. And it's going to be a tough task."

For Notre Dame quarterback and co-captain Brady Quinn, a native of Dublin, Ohio, a Columbus suburb, the matchup holds special meaning.



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Irish running back Darlus Walker hurdles defenders in Notre Dame's 34-10 win over Syracuse on Nov. 19.

"It was more or less an ideal situation," Quinn said. "Playing in a bowl game out there in the Fiesta Bowl against a team I always grew up watching, basically in my backyard."

The last time Notre Dame won a bowl game was also the last time the Irish finished the regular season in the top five in the polls.

In 1993, the Irish finished No. 4 with a 10-1 record and then went on to defeat No. 7 Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl, finishing the season as the No. 2 team behind Florida State, who they beat earlier that season 31-24, before losing to Boston College in the final game of the regular season. But since then, the Irish have lost seven straight bowl games.

The Irish lost in the Fiesta Bowl to end the 2000 and 1994 seasons, the Orange Bowl to end the 1995 season and the Independence Bowl to

end the 1997 season. Most recently, the Irish lost the Gator Bowl to end the 1998 and 2002 seasons and the Insight Bowl at the end of last season. But both Irish captains are ready for that streak to end.

"I think it's something that's a motivational factor," Hoyte said. "Just to be able to for me personally to leave this program the way it should be and make sure Notre Dame stays on top through my tenure."

Quinn smiled at the question, knowing the answer immediately.

"That's something that obviously needs to end," Quinn said of the losing bowl record. "It's something that's gone on far too long and we're working toward that as one of our goals, ending that streak."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

Weis

continued from page 24

Tempe, looking for their first win there since dismantling West Virginia for the 1988 national title.

Of course, the team is thrilled. But not just because of the \$14.8-million paycheck that is on its way to South Bend.

This game is about much more than money. It's about the Irish being officially back. A strong performance in Tempe, win or lose, sends the message to the rest of the college football world that Notre Dame isn't a program content with its golden past. It's a team eager to add to its tradition.

This program is on a roll. And a win over Ohio State, whether by one point or 50, would erase any doubts that the near-upset of USC on Oct. 15 wasn't a fluke. It would also propel Notre Dame toward the front of the pack of a wide-open national title race next season.

Texas quarterback Vince Young will more than likely return, but Mack Brown and the Longhorns have never been known to play well when expected to.

Southern California will likely wave goodbye to the one player that kept it from losing in South Bend this season — Reggie Bush.

And who knows if Penn State coach Joe Paterno can keep his Nittany Lions at the high level they're playing now.

Just the fact people are talking about the problems other teams will have next season, and not worrying about whether the Irish will be able to beat Navy or North Carolina, shows how far Notre Dame has come.

And this matchup with the Buckeyes is a symbol for just how far the Irish have traveled.

Last season's Insight Bowl, when the Irish were whipped by Oregon State 38-21, was played in Phoenix's Bank One Ballpark, only 14 miles from

the site of the Fiesta Bowl at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe.

But the Notre Dame teams that played and will play in those two venues might be a thousand miles apart.

The Irish began this season with enough question marks to fill up the current phone book-sized playbook.

A quarterback who had thrown just one more touchdown pass (26) than interceptions (25) in two years as a starter.

A wide receiver unit whose most talented player, Maurice Stovall, looked like he might graduate as one of the biggest underachievers in recent Irish history.

And finally a head coach with as many years of collegiate head coaching experience as the Irish have bowl wins

since 1994 — zero.

Yet this season the Irish have proven they can throw, they can catch, they can hit and they have a coach who has adjusted to the college game as flawlessly as Stovall has hauled in Irish quarterback Brady Quinn's passes. They seem to have all the answers.

As Quinn alluded to in Sunday's press conference, the Irish are focused on a serious run at the national title next season. And the perfect runway for them to take off from is in Tempe.

Yes, sending off Brandon Hoyte, Corey Mays, Matt Shelton, D.J. Fitzpatrick with a win in Sun Devil Stadium is a wonderful way to cap their dedicated careers.

But it's also the best way to set the Irish up for next season as well as validate their efforts this season.

Is it a failure if Notre Dame doesn't win the national title next season?

Not at all.

There's too many factors that go into that.

However, a win on Jan. 2, 2006 couldn't do anything but help the Irish make it to Jan. 4, 2007.

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

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

FOOTBALL

Quinn, Samardzija named co-MVPs at banquet

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Brady Quinn and Jeff Samardzija were named co-MVPs at Friday night's football banquet, which was highlighted by former Irish coach Lou Holtz as the guest speaker.

Holtz spoke in front of a sell-out crowd of 1,900 after last year's banquet was held privately, as it came on the heels of the firing of Tyrone Willingham. Holtz said Friday before the banquet that it was good to be back at the place where he coached from 1986-96.

"It's just special every time you come back [to Notre Dame]," Holtz said. "You just get upbeat and uplifted."

Quinn and Samardzija have

shattered Notre Dame records this year, Quinn setting records for touchdown passes and passing yardage — both single-season and career — and Samardzija for touchdown receptions and single-season receiving yardage.

Senior offensive guard Dan Stevenson won the Guardian of the Year Award as the top offensive lineman, while junior defensive end Victor Abiamiri won the lineman of the year.

Three seniors and one junior won the Nick Pietrosante Award as individuals who best exemplified the courage, loyalty, teamwork, dedication and pride shown by the late Notre Dame fullback. Linebacker Corey Mays, wide receiver Maurice Stovall, tight end Anthony Fasano and safety Tom Zbikowski shared the award.

Meanwhile, co-captain Brandon Hoyte won the Knute Rockne Student-Athlete award, as he boasts a 3.14 grade point average as a double major in psychology and management.

Finally, defensive tackle Trevor Laws and offensive guard Dan Santucci won the Westwood One/State Farm Student-Athlete of the Year award.

Before the banquet, Holtz talked about a number of different things, from comparing his Irish teams to today's team to his relationship with Mark May of ESPN.

On the Guglielmino Athletics Facility:

"It's really fantastic. Notre Dame's changed an awful lot. You have tremendous facilities. You pay coaches now. But the one thing that you didn't do —

Notre Dame has not changed its values, its purpose and its mission. All the things you're talking about, facilities and stuff, that doesn't do anything but enhance Notre Dame. It's not like you want to build a great football program at the expense of certain things. Notre Dame will always be the same, regardless."

On whether any of his teams compare to the current Irish team:

"It doesn't remind me of mine. Number one, I wouldn't throw the ball."

On Charlie Weis as a leader:

"There isn't any doubt he's in charge. People can name you the head football coach. What they can't do is name you the leader. Titles come from above,

leaders are determined by the people below. The person that they're going to choose as a leader is someone who has a vision and a plan. From talking to Charlie, he has a vision and a plan."

On sparring with Mark May about Notre Dame on the air:

"Mark May is one of the more astute, hardest working, intelligent people that expresses himself exceptionally well. He's a true professional. Why he doesn't like Notre Dame, he would have to answer, but boy he sure made me look good. I said to him on the air one time you're gonna lose your job as an analyst if you keep thinking like this."

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Badgers

continued from page 24

also had five assists, six rebounds and three steals. Duffy was one of four Irish players to finish in double digits. Freshman Lindsay Schrader had 13 points on 6-of-6 shooting, including her first career 3-pointer, and Tulyah Gaines and Melissa D'Amico each had 11 points. Washington joked Sunday that she should have played Schrader more than 29 minutes because she didn't miss a shot.

"She's a scorer — the coach is an idiot — she should have played her more. She could've went 12-of-12 or something," Washington said, joking about her coaching.

"She had a great night offensively, and we needed that. Every one of her baskets were big baskets. She had a great night, hopefully she can build on it."

The Irish outrebounded the Badgers 34-27, the first team to do so this year against Wisconsin, which moved to 4-3 after the loss. Leading the way on the boards was D'Amico, who finished with eight rebounds — two away from a double-double.

"I felt like we had everybody

going to the glass," Washington said. "They're a tremendous rebounding team, and for us to be able rebound them speaks volumes about our effort and intensity on the glass."

The game was close most of the way, as Notre Dame led just 42-39 at the half. Wisconsin fought back to tie it at 62 with 8:50 to play in the game, but Notre Dame guard Breona Gray hit a 3-pointer to give the Irish the lead with 6:03 to play. And when Wisconsin cut the lead to 67-65, it was Duffy and Gaines who hit big shots, Gaines with the shot clock winding down.

In front of a relatively large crowd of 5,455, the Irish found a way to get their second road win of the year.

"We knew coming into this place that Wisconsin's a tough place to play," Washington said. "They're a Big Ten team, so they're used to playing quality competition. We knew we would have our hands full."

And with Notre Dame's sixth win of the year, Washington thinks this young Irish team is starting to figure out just what kind of team it is going to be this year.

"I think this team is slowly finding itself and finding its identity," she said. "And I think one

of our hallmarks is going to be that we are a true team. I think that everybody else is starting to see that on any given night they can go out and make big plays. As they get their confidence night-in and night-out, I think we're going to be a tough team to defend."

Notes:

◆ It is unclear when McGraw will be healthy enough to coach the Irish again. Notre Dame's next game is Wednesday night at Purdue before a week off for final exams. Then the Irish hit the road for the Duel in the Desert tournament, which starts Dec. 17.

◆ The Irish shot 55.1 percent Sunday, shooting 27-for-49 from the field. These figures included Duffy's 5-for-14 shooting, which made the rest of the team 22-for-35, an impressive shooting percentage of 62.8 percent. The 55.1 percent was the best shooting percentage of any team Wisconsin has faced this season.

◆ Notre Dame shot 25 free throws, making 20 of them, good for 80 percent. Wisconsin, on the other hand, shot just 9-for-13 from the charity stripe.

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Harris

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Dame's final 15 of the game, but his floater inside the lane with four seconds on the clock rimmed out.

The Irish (2-2) lost their second straight after falling to North Carolina State, 61-48, on Nov. 26.

"That one [miss] at the end hurts a lot, especially coming off where our team was last week," Quinn said. "But I think this was a lot better effort [than we had last game] as far as a team effort."

Irish coach Mike Brey made adjustments with spacing on the offensive end of the floor to free up more scoring chances and create better flow. Notre Dame benefited by scoring 19 more points than it had in its previous outing and by returning to an inside-out mentality — at first.

Center Torin Francis scored 26 points on 8-of-16 shooting, grabbing 13 rebounds and making 6-of-7 free throws. Notre Dame fed Francis early, and he scored seven of the team's first 11 points.

But again, as in the loss to North Carolina State, the opposing defense forced the ball away from the post and into the hands of Notre Dame's guards. And Michigan point guard Daniel Horton (7-of-14, seven assists) scored 13 of his 19 points in the second half in addition to a drive-and-kick assist that led to Harris' shot.

"I told them [after the game] I think we're better than last week," Brey said. "It stings, and it should sting tonight and for a while. But we were fearless. We did some fearless stuff today, and some new faces did it."

Notre Dame's offense became one-dimensional in the game's final 10 minutes.

Freshman guard Kyle McAlarney converted a driving layup to tie the game at 52 with 8:17 remaining, and Quinn would be the only Irish player to score the remainder of the game.

The Irish led 65-60 on a Quinn 3-pointer with 3:03 to go. But Wolverines forward Graham Brown (13 points, 10 rebounds) scored a 3-point play off an assist from point guard Daniel Horton, who plagued Notre Dame in the second half, and Michigan was within two.

Quinn sank two free throws to stretch the lead to four with 2:19 remaining, but Brown made a layup and a tip-in on consecutive possessions to tie it at 67. Notre Dame freshman Luke Zeller, who had sank 2-of-3 shots from behind the arc in the game already, missed a 3-point attempt that gave Michigan the ball, which then led to the game-winning jumper.

Irish guard Russell Carter was guarding Horton across halfcourt when Brey called for a 2-3 zone, intending to force Horton as a ball handler out of a 1-on-1 situation.

Quinn stepped out to meet Horton and jumped to tip the pass to the corner, but no one remained in the corner to contest Harris.

"We wanted to cheat a little bit, and [Horton] made a senior play," Brey said.

Notre Dame had limited Horton and Harris, two experienced seniors, to 11 total shots in the first half. But the Irish even went to a box-and-one defense at points in the second half to contain Horton, with Quinn and freshman guard Kyle McAlarney sharing the responsibilities as primary defender.

"We just tried to do anything to slow Horton down," Brey said. "It made somebody else make a play for them, instead of him making a play like he did at the end of the game."

While Horton and Harris (12) combined for 31 points, Quinn received no help from his mate in the starting backcourt, Colin Falls. Falls did not get open all game and attempted only three shots, missing all of them.

Falls' silence on the offensive end also contributed to Notre Dame's shooting 0-for-10 on 3-pointers in the first half, only the second time the Irish have not hit a first-half three during Brey's tenure. The last time was a 63-52 win over West Virginia on Jan. 7, 2004.

Notre Dame started the game quicker than the initially sluggish Wolverines, who missed six of their first seven shots and committed unforced turnovers. The Irish scored 18 points in the paints in that half but did not pull away further than eight with 11:59 remaining in the half.

Michigan scored seven straight points out of a TV timeout at the 3:50 mark to make the score 27-

25. And McAlarney sank two free throws before half to go into the locker room with a 27-27 tie.

Notre Dame is now 7-14 all-time against Michigan.

Notes:

◆ Quinn's first of two free throws with 5:42 remaining made him the 44th player in program history to reach 1,000-points in his career. Francis is on his way to becoming No. 45, since his 22 points on Saturday increased his career total to 985 — just 15 points shy.

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BCS

continued from page 24

hearing — scheduled for Wednesday — to discuss the controversial postseason system. Chairman Joe Barton, R-Texas, said his House Energy and Commerce subcommittee "cannot ignore" a system he described as "deeply flawed."

The subcommittee also invited Weiberg to testify. And though Congress has investigated the BCS before, Weiberg believes any significant change in the system must occur through the consensus of its members.

"It is true that we have a BCS arrangement that we have all agreed to — all 11 conferences, Notre Dame — for another four-year period past this one," Weiberg said. "And I really do believe the only way there will be change is if the conferences and Notre Dame agree to that change."

"We really have collective support at this juncture of the 11 conferences and Notre Dame about the direction [of the BCS], so I don't think there is a conference that is pushing this matter. This I think is a little different perhaps than some of the other times when we've been asked to go to Washington, [D.C.]"

Though it currently governs four bowl games — five beginning next season — the BCS was originally founded to determine the national champion. The system

accomplished its primary goal this year and also got six of the top seven teams in the final standings into BCS bowl games.

"This particular year, of course, the at-large positions were really filled automatically under the rules that all of the conferences and Notre Dame agreed to," Weiberg said.

The BCS selections, but not their destinations, became predetermined when LSU and Virginia Tech lost Saturday to slide down in the final rankings. No. 6 Notre Dame and No. 4 Ohio State both received automatic bids due to current BCS rules — top-six, non-affiliated conference teams receive automatic bids, and so do top-four teams, regardless of conference affiliation.

Weiberg said the top-six rule that locked in Notre Dame has been in place since the BCS was first established. But Oregon finished at No. 5 and did not receive a BCS bowl bid, which challenges the rule that is sending the Buckeyes (9-2) to Tempe, Ariz. instead of a one-loss Ducks team.

"There seemed to be some support for [ending the rule] this past year," Weiberg said. "There's a general feeling that the more you ask the standings formula to do outside of determining the 1-2 matchup, the more it can lead to controversial situations."

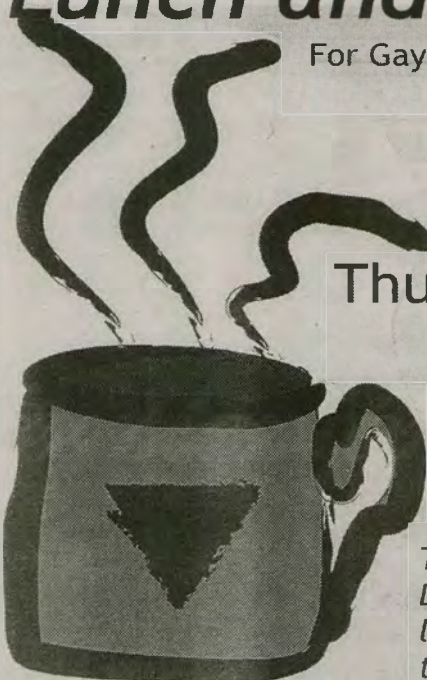
Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

"There's a general feeling that the more you ask the standings formula to do outside of determining the 1-2 matchup, the more it can lead to controversial situations."

Kevin Weiberg
BCS coordinator

Lunch and Conversation

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame



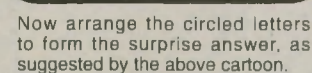
Thursday, December 8th
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal lunch and study break at the Co-Mo.



Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.

Lunch will be served

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

EUGENIA LAST

EUGENIA LAST

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

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FOOTBALL

BCS slots Irish into Fiesta Bowl

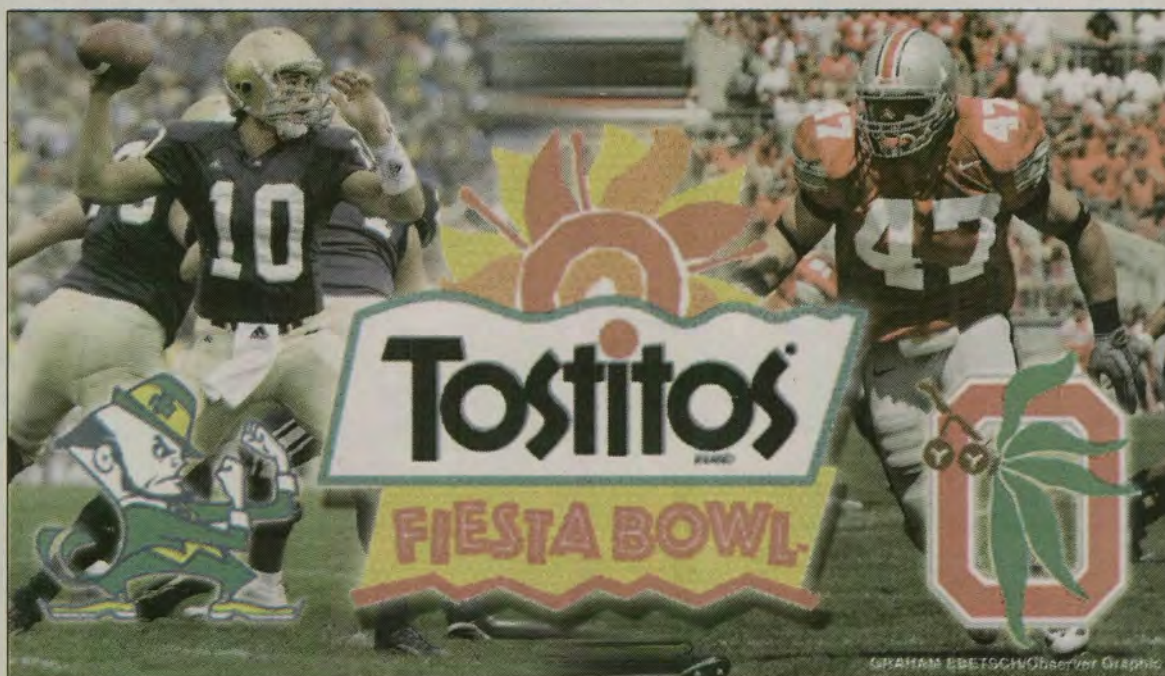
No. 6 Notre Dame will play No. 4 Ohio State in Tempe, Ariz. on Jan. 2

By HEATHER
VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

One year after a 6-6 season ended the tenure of former coach Tyrone Willingham, Notre Dame has earned a trip to a BCS bowl under first-year head coach Charlie Weis and staff.

No. 5 Notre Dame faces No. 4 Ohio State in the Jan. 2 Fiesta Bowl at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., it was announced Sunday evening. The site is close to where the Irish played last year when they lost 38-21 to Oregon State in the Insight Bowl, played at Bank One Ballpark in Phoenix. The team at the time, coached by defensive coordinator Kent Baer, said it was playing for Willingham, who was fired Nov. 30, 2004, just two days after the Irish had accepted the bowl bid. But this year's bowl game and Notre Dame team is very different from the one of a year ago.

"I smile a lot more," Irish co-captain and fifth year senior



Brandon Hoyte said of this season. "For me as a fifth-year senior, for our fifth-year seniors who have no eligibility left, it gives us a chance to go out on top and feel as if we've left a mark on the Notre Dame pro-

gram, to leave it in the right hands."

This time around, the stakes are much higher for the Irish, as Notre Dame is to play in its first BCS bowl game in five years following a 9-2 regular

season, compared to last year's 6-5 finish before the loss in the Insight Bowl.

"We as a team realize where we came from and where we

see FIESTA/page 21

Irish have made big strides in one full season under Weis

Anyone who said Notre Dame would be even close to a BCS bowl at the end of Charlie Weis' first season as coach probably would have been

ridiculed back in September.

Forth Worth, Shreveport or some other low-budget December destination looked like a safer bet for the Irish.

Fiesta? That sounded more like an SYR theme than a realistic possibility for Notre Dame.

But here they are. The Irish are headed back to



Mike Gilloon

Sports Editor

see WEIS/page 21

BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg pleased with this year's selection process despite Congress

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

The Bowl Championship Series (BCS) generates annual controversy over the college football postseason. But

Sunday's announcement of this year's matchups did not follow that lead.

BCS coordinator Kevin Weiberg, also the Big 12's conference commissioner, was especially pleased that the 2005 version of the constantly

evolving playoff formula slotted the consensus top two teams — USC and Texas — in the national championship game Rose Bowl.

"I really feel like we have a marquee championship game of two unbeaten teams ... that

wouldn't be together in a bowl game if not for a BCS arrangement," Weiberg said during a 6 p.m. EST teleconference following the announcements.

Critics as high up as Capitol Hill are continuing to pressure the BCS and its methods

despite this year's "consensus" results.

On Friday, the Associated Press article reported the chairman of a congressional subcommittee had called a

see BCS/page 22

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Harris jumper beats Irish

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Michigan guard Dion Harris sank a corner jump shot with 17 seconds remaining to take a 69-67 lead and send the Wolverines to a 71-67 victory in the Joyce Center Saturday afternoon, despite Notre Dame's attempt at its own late-game heroics.

Irish point guard Chris Quinn scored 26 points, including Notre

see HARRIS/page 22

See Also

"Quinn proves to be a warrior despite loss"

page 19



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Irish forward Rick Cornett guards Wolverines forward Courtney Sims in Saturday's 71-67 loss at the Joyce Center.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Duffy pushes Notre Dame past Badgers

By HEATHER
VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

In their second game playing without head coach Muffet McGraw, the No. 11 Irish found a way to defeat Wisconsin 77-72 at the Kohl Center in Madison, Wis., winning their sixth straight game to open up the season.

McGraw missed her second straight game due to illness and did not make the trip to Wisconsin. She also missed Tuesday's game at the Joyce Center against Iona.

Irish associate head coach

Coquese Washington, who coached the team for the second straight game in McGraw's absence, said she was content with her team's play on Sunday.

"I was pretty pleased with our overall team play," Washington said. "We got a lot of contributions from everybody. It was a wonderful team effort and a big win. This was a huge win for us."

Senior point guard Megan Duffy led all scorers with 20 points, including 9-for-10 from the free throw line and six free throws down the stretch. She

see BADGERS/page 24

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC BASKETBALL

North Park 55
Saint Mary's 49

The Belles struggled shooting 23 percent from the field in the loss.

page 18

HOCKEY

Notre Dame 3
Western Michigan 0

Irish goalie Dave Brown recorded his fifth career shutout in the win.

page 18

ND VOLLEYBALL

The Irish advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1997 with a win over Northwestern.

page 17

NCAA BASKETBALL

Duke 77
Virginia Tech 75

Blue Devils guard Sean Dockery hit a game winning 40-footer to avoid the upset.

page 16

MLB

The Los Angeles Dodgers agreed to a three-year deal with shortstop Rafael Furcal worth \$39 million.

page 15

NFL

Chiefs 31
Broncos 27

Larry Johnson rushed for two touchdowns as the Kansas City Chiefs stayed involved in the AFC playoff hunt.

page 14