

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 43 : ISSUE 63

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Students mixed on Weis' return

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA and
JOHN TIERNEY

News Writers

Despite losing 15 games in two seasons — the most losses for any Notre Dame coach in that time period — Charlie Weis will be retained as the head coach of the Fighting Irish for the 2009 season.

The decision has garnered mixed feelings from Notre Dame students. Some feel that impulsively firing Weis would be a mistake, especially if there are no high-caliber coaches available to replace him.

"You don't want to be too quick about this," said Michael Augsburg, a junior. "Look at the coaching market. There's no one that wants to

come here that's qualified to run the program. It's not like we can get Urban Meyer."

Sophomore Kristin Gales agreed, and said that Weis' talents in the recruiting arena are perhaps a reason why his job is, for now, safe.

"I am disappointed in how this season went, but I understand that there are many factors involved in retaining or dismissing a head coach," Gales said. "Weis has proven to be an excellent recruiter and while that is only one part of the job, it is a relevant part of his job performance and perhaps a reason for optimism in the future."

Senior James Butler said Weis' recruiting prowess is a key reason why he should be



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Student reaction is mixed at the news that Irish coach Charlie Weis will be retained for another year.

see WEIS/page 4

CatholicTV televises Basilica Masses

By EMMA DRISCOLL

News Writer

Once again, people do not have to be South Bend locals or students in order to celebrate Mass along with worshipers at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

CatholicTV, formerly called Boston Catholic Television, began airing the 10 a.m. Sunday Basilica Mass live last Sunday, according to Associate Director of Liturgy Fr. Peter Rocca.

CatholicTV has been providing Catholic television programming for 50 years and covers the East Coast, some Southern states and some of the Comcast eastern region, Rocca said.

"I know it will be a big hit, so to speak, especially in the New England area [because] there are a lot of Catholics there. I think as the word spreads it will become a pretty well known Mass to watch," Rocca said.

Comcast, Verizon, Full Channel and RCN Cable providers in the New England area carry provide CatholicTV, Rocca said.

CatholicTV can be accessed nationally on the Sky Angel IPTV and online at www.CatholicTV.com, Rocca said.

"We're very pleased that CatholicTV is doing this," Rocca said.

The Hallmark Channel broad-

see MASS/page 4

NDSP using cameras in Stadium

Alert posted on scoreboard after the throwing of snowballs, marshmallows during Nov. 22 game



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Students throwing marshmallows and snowballs were recorded on video by Notre Dame Security Police during the Nov. 22 game.

By JOHN-PAUL WITT

News Writer

If you're considering throwing a snowball (or something else) at a football game next season — watch out, because you're probably on camera.

Following the throwing of snowballs from the student section onto the field during the Nov. 22 Syracuse-Notre Dame game, the message "You are being filmed for future discipline" was displayed on Stadium scoreboards.

This was a surprise to many students, but Bill Kirk, associate vice president for

Residence Life, said that the cameras are nothing new.

"The Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) Department does employ video cameras for crime prevention, safety and security purposes in the stadium and elsewhere on campus and has done so for many years — since about the early 1990's," Kirk said, "NDSP controls the use of the cameras."

Although NDSP and the Office of Residence Life often work together, the use of video is normally restricted to matters of more serious concern than violation of University

see VIDEO/page 4

STUDENT SENATE

Grab 'N' Go options discussed

Senators debate dining preferences revealed in recent survey

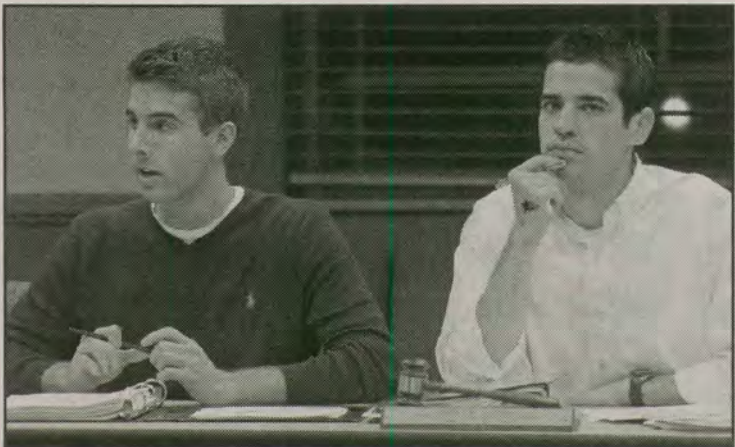
By JOSEPH McMAHON

Assistant News Editor

The Student Senate discussed the expansion of Grab 'N' Go options in their weekly meeting Wednesday, after receiving the results of a recent survey conducted by the Senate Committee on Residence Life.

Senate Committee on Residence Life Chair Joy Hwang said Food Services representatives were adamant that Grab 'N' Go food options

see SENATE/page 4



TOM LA/The Observer

Student body president Bob Reish, left, and vice president Grant Schmidt at Wednesday's Senate meeting.

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Groups ask Board for trip funding

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY

News Writer

College Republicans attended the Board of Governance (BOG) meeting Wednesday night in search of funds for their upcoming trip to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

The conference will be held Feb. 26-28, 2009 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C. Seven students, including four executives will be attending the event along with 6,000

other college students from around the country.

Erin Horvath, president of College Republicans, would like to use this opportunity to bring more conservative speakers to campus.

"I don't think the school does a good job of bringing both sides on campus, and so we are taking that responsibility on ourselves," Horvath said.

She also believes the conference will be a great chance for the students attending to net-

see BOG/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Who is responsible?

Deans of the College of Arts and Letters,

I am a sophomore PLS major who takes his education very seriously. Being a PLS sophomore, but desiring to study abroad next spring, I decided to take two seminars instead of one, the norm for all students in PLS. Each is a four-credit course, putting my credit total at 17 (including three other three-credit classes), the total number that I am allowed as a sophomore in the College of Arts and Letters. However, in preparation for graduate school (something that you have often criticized the PLS department for not doing), Professor Candida Moss, a Bible scholar, generously offered to begin teaching me Biblical Greek, a course which is not offered by the University. In order to do so, I wished to sign up for a directed reading course with Professor Moss, which would put me at 20 credit hours.

With this goal in mind, I went into your office on Monday to apply for an overload. I spoke to a very nice woman at one of the desks in the main lobby of your office, who listened to an extremely abridged version of my plan for next semester. After hearing my plan, she went to speak to one of you. She returned about twenty-five seconds later with the answer that under no circumstances are sophomores allowed to overload.

Later that day, a fellow Arts and Letters sophomore went to your office with a similar goal in mind. She accepted a job with ND Vision this summer, a program which requires its counselors to take a three-credit prep course in the spring semester before they take the job. If she were to take her normal course load and also take the Vision class, she would have eighteen credit hours, or according to you, an overload. She also described her situation, and was given the same answer. Under no circumstances are sophomores allowed to overload.

What frustrates me about these experiences is that sophomores in the College of Arts and Letters are the only people who cannot overload. Juniors and seniors in the same college can. Sophomores in all other colleges can. Even freshman, who are in the jurisdiction of the First Year of Studies, are able to overload. Only sophomores in the College of Arts and Letters are not allowed to cross the apparent pinnacle of a tolerable workload—seventeen credit hours.


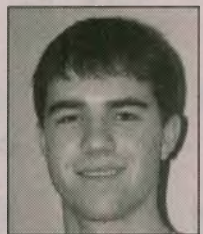
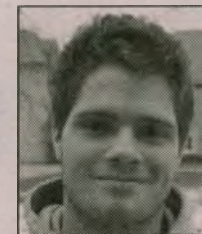


What frustrates me even more is the treatment I received in your office. I was not even given the opportunity to speak to one of you directly in order to plead my case. An important educational decision was decided for me in a matter of five minutes. As I was leaving your office, I noticed a sign on the wall which read "Students are our first priority." If this is truly the case, then why do you have a rule that is so inflexible and condescending for those who wish to take responsibility for their own education?

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 4 article titled "Sources say Weis will remain head coach," an unnamed source was quoted as having told The Observer Monday Charlie Weis would be retained as head coach of the football team. That source told The Observer this information on Tuesday, not Monday. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CHARLIE WEIS COMING BACK NEXT YEAR?

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Alex Korenstra | Chris Anderson | Dan Dansdill | Michael Call | Michael Rodlo |
| freshman Keenan | freshman Keenan | freshman Alumni | senior Stanford | freshman Keenan |
| "I think we should give him a chance to prove himself." | "There weren't any good coaches out there and it would cost too much money to let him go anyways." | "He deserves another year. He doubled our wins." | "I think he'll do a better job." | "As long as he is recruiting Kerri Hanks as the new quarterback." |



A student sells gifts and trinkets in LaFortune as part of the AVON fundraiser to support the Saint Joseph's County Spay Neuter Assistance Program.

IN BRIEF

The Silent Night Silent Auction hosted by Pasquerilla East will take place in LaFortune Ballroom tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Proceeds raised at the auction will support Building for Tomorrow.

Community Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be held at UAW Local #5 at 1426 S. Main St. south of downtown South Bend. The Celebration will take place on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please bring a donation for the Food Bank.
Members of Saint Mary's Women's Choir will perform at the College's 36th annual Madrigal Dinners this weekend. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for evening performances, \$35 for matinee performances and \$15 for children.

Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 will make fleece blankets to donate to cancer patients as part of The Aidan Project. The project will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the East Wing of South Dining Hall.

Notre Dame Women's Basketball team plays Purdue at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Joyce Center. Call 574-631-7356 for tickets or visit the Athletic Ticket Office Web page.

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

OFFBEAT

Man uses candy cane to subdue attacker

SACRAMENTO — A man using a candy cane lawn ornament fended off a knife-wielding neighbor who had been attacking holiday guests at a Sacramento home. Police spokesman Sgt. Norm Leong said the man used the two-foot-tall plastic ornament to subdue the attacker until officers arrived.

He said the 49-year-old suspect became intoxicated, went over to a neighbor's home on Thanksgiving and began waving a kitchen knife at

people gathered on the lawn.

He cut several peoples' clothing before one of them decided to fight back.

Man accused of making son drive on beer run





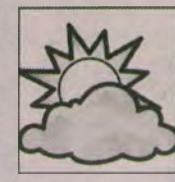

CAPE CORAL, Fla. — Authorities in southwest Florida say an intoxicated man had his 9-year-old son take him on a beer run. Cape Coral police arrested the 27-year-old man last week, after seeing a pickup truck drive onto a median.

When officers stopped the truck, the man told

them he was teaching his son to drive. Officers say the father's speech was slurred, his breath smelled of alcohol and he unable to stand without swaying. Police said an open case of Budweiser beer was in the backseat.

The man was charged with cruelty toward a child and allowing an unlicensed minor to drive. He was released from jail on \$2,000 bond. The man did not return a phone call seeking comment.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

| LOCAL WEATHER | TODAY | | TONIGHT | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | | MONDAY | |
|---|-------|-----|--|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|---|-----|
| | HIGH | LOW | HIGH | LOW | HIGH | LOW | HIGH | LOW | HIGH | LOW | HIGH | LOW |
|  | 40 | 22 |  | 26 |  | 25 |  | 27 |  | 27 |  | 32 |
| | | | | 22 | | 18 | | 16 | | 16 | | 24 |

HCC prof speaks at last Theology on Tap

By GUY GREGORY
News Writer

Mike Griffin, professor of Theology at Holy Cross College, spoke at Legends last night, as part of the final installment of the Theology on Tap series for the semester.

Around 30 students attended the talk, which spotlighted Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day, who are both known for being Catholic radicals. Griffin's main focus was to show what these people have to teach students about the faith.

Griffin's in-depth analysis of the two started with a brief biography about each.

Griffin said it was interesting that both Day and Merton were not raised to be Catholics but then became important figures in the faith.

He said that Merton and Day both questioned certain practices of the church. Day saw the church being used as an instrument to suppress social unrest. Merton's biggest complaint was the official approval of bishops found in

any orthodox Catholic literature.

Day and Merton held similar ideals and were in frequent contact with each other. In fact, Merton wrote stories for "The Catholic Worker," a newspaper started by Day.

To learn more about Day and Merton, Mr. Griffin recommended two biographies: "Living With Wisdom: The Life of Thomas Merton" and "Love is the Measure: A Biography on Dorothy Day." Both books are written by Jim Forest.

Theology on Tap occurs about five or six times per semester. Speakers are typically Notre Dame faculty and last night marked one of the first times an outside faculty member was the main speaker.

Griffin is also a member of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, which was founded by Merton.

Due to the cold weather, next semester's talks will most likely take place at Coleman-Morse Lounge.

Contact Guy Gregory at
gggregory@hcc-nd.edu

Professor receives first Huston Smith Prize

Special to The Observer

Bradley Malkovsky, associate professor of comparative theology at the University of Notre Dame, has received the first Huston Smith Publishing Prize from HarperOne publishers.

Malkovsky received the prize, which consists of a publishing agreement with HarperOne and a \$25,000 advance against royalty, for his manuscript, "God's Other Children: The Many Religions and the Quest for Understanding in Sacred India."

The book is an account of an Indian journey and of Malkovsky's encounters, reflections and conversations with Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists in a country convulsed by cultural change.

HarperOne editors praised "the spiritual and theological reflections woven into Malkovsky's narrative" and his emphasis on "the distinct beauty and wisdom of each tradition as well as its commonalities with other traditions of spirituality."

John Cavadini, chair of Notre Dame's theology department, said that Malkovsky's colleagues were "thrilled that Brad was able

to receive this award for a manuscript contributing to religious understanding.

"Brad has the unusual background of training both in Catholic systematic theology, and in the religious thought of other traditions, especially Hinduism, and therefore it is ultimately not surprising that it would be his manuscript that would be judged the best at fostering understanding among religious traditions."

Malkovsky, who holds degrees from the University of Tübingen, Germany, and has studied Sanskrit and Hindu thought at the University of Poona in Pune, India, teaches and writes about the doctrinal and spiritual relation of Christianity to other religions, and his principal scholarly specialization is the Hindu-Christian encounter. He is the editor of "New Perspectives on Advaita Vedanta" and the author of "The Role of Divine Grace in the Soteriology of Samkaracarya." He also is the editor of the Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies.

The Huston Smith award is named in honor of the author of the bestselling book "The World's Religions."

Jealousy a factor in Hudson deaths

Prosecutor: brother-in-law envious that estranged wife was dating

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The brother-in-law of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson killed three of her relatives — with a gun stolen from one of the victims — because he was angry his estranged wife, the star's sister, was dating another man, prosecutors alleged Wednesday.

William Balfour appeared in court for the first time in connection with the deaths and was denied bond. His attorney said authorities have no forensic evidence linking Balfour to the killings, but prosecutors said witness statements and the suspect's own lies and threats helped lead them to him.

Balfour was charged with murder Tuesday after being held for weeks on a parole violation. The slightly built man, wearing a yellow jump suit, stood quietly Wednesday as prosecutor LuAnn Snow described how he allegedly killed his 7-year-old stepson, Julian King, Hudson's mother, Darnell Hudson Donerson, and Hudson's brother, Jason Hudson.

Snow said Balfour had been at the Hudsons' South Side home early Oct. 24 and confronted his estranged wife, Julia Hudson, about a birthday present he believed she had received from a boyfriend.

Balfour, Snow said, also had shown up to Julia Hudson's workplace earlier in the month to confront her about dating another man.

"He told her at the time that her family would suffer if she saw other men," Snow said after Wednesday's hearing.

Balfour threatened Julia

Hudson again that morning at the home, Snow said, adding that Hudson did not take the threat seriously because he "had not followed through on any of those threats" before.

The two left the home together that morning, with Hudson driving away as she saw Balfour walking toward his own car, according to documents prosecutors filed with the court.

But Balfour's car broke down and two acquaintances gave him a ride to a gas station — during which time Balfour told them he had a handgun, but had left it in his car, Snow alleged.

In fact, the prosecutor said, the gun belonged to Jason Hudson and Balfour allegedly stole it during the summer. "Several people observed defendant with the gun in the late summer of 2008," Snow said.

Balfour was taken back to his disabled car after the trip to the gas station, "although he was offered a ride to other locations," Snow told the court.

In the stark language of a legal document she was reading from, Snow described what allegedly happened next:

"Defendant then entered the home at 7019 S. Yale at gunpoint," she read. "He shot Darnell Donerson several times while she was in the living room area. He then went into Jason Hudson's bedroom and shot him two times in the head."

Jason Hudson, she said, was still in bed when he was shot.

Balfour allegedly then took 7-year-old Julian and put him in Jason Hudson's white SUV.

"Defendant shot Julian King in the head while the 7-year-old was laying behind the front seat of the Suburban," Snow read. His body was found three days later in the SUV.

Balfour's attorney, Joshua Kutnick, criticized the first-degree murder and home invasion charges against his client, saying no fingerprint, blood or other forensic evidence links the 27-year-old to the slayings.

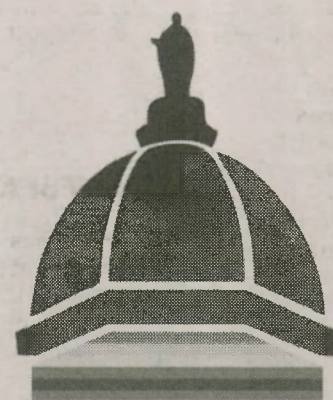
"There is no direct evidence of Mr. Balfour committing these crimes," he said, adding that a girlfriend who claims Balfour confessed to her and asked her to provide him with an alibi is "highly suspect."

Snow said there is evidence linking Balfour to the crimes, including gunshot residue on the steering wheel of the car that had broken down.

Further, she said, Balfour has made statements to authorities that detectives have disproved. For example, while Balfour claimed he used a transit card to ride a train from the Hudson residence to his home, "The card was last used two days before the murders," Snow said.

Balfour also does not appear on surveillance video of the train station he said he rode to, Snow said.

Cell phone records and gas station surveillance video show Balfour was in the immediate vicinity of the Hudsons' home until shortly after 9 a.m., according to the court documents. Snow said Balfour claimed he was at his West Side home at 10 a.m. the morning of the killings but cell phone records show he did not return there until just before 1 p.m.



**CORE COUNCIL
FOR GAY & LESBIAN
STUDENTS**

University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students

(Information, education, and resources)

Contact: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, 1-5550, or Eddie Velazquez at evelazqu@nd.edu

Office of Campus Ministry

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; discussion and support)

Contact: Fr. Joe Carey, CSC, at 1-7800

University Counseling Center

(Individual counseling)

Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at miaffert@nd.edu

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Weis

continued from page 1

retained.

"It's a good thing because there's lots of good recruits," he said.

Butler insists that Weis should get another season with his top-tier recruits. "There's a lot of potential," he said. "It's his team, and it's not like the players want to lose."

Junior Kylynn Fontaine agreed that Weis's recruiting ability is a good reason to keep him.

"For recruiting, it's a good thing that he's staying," she said. "He's really good at recruiting."

But recruiting isn't everything, according to Fontaine.

"In terms of coaching, whatever he's doing now isn't the right thing," she said. "People expect us to be better than a .500 team."

She suggested shaking up Weis's staff.

"He might need to make some staff changes at some of the offensive positions," Fontaine said.

Freshman Sindy Corgan said that all of the blame for the Irish's disappointing sea-

son cannot be placed squarely on Weis's shoulders.

"I don't know a lot about football, but I think they should give him a chance to do better. He's not the one on the field throwing interceptions," Corgan said.

Gales said that one of the biggest hurdles Weis will have to overcome next year is setting up a dominant ground game.

"The biggest challenge will include establishing a solid running game, an area Weis has struggled with for the past four years," Gales said.

Junior Andrew McCorry said that Weis's job, while safe, will not stay that way for long, despite speculations of his future with the Irish being guaranteed because of the large amount of money needed to buy out his contract.

"The decision just delays the inevitable. If Weis doesn't take the team to a BCS game next season, which I really don't see happening, he's gone. No question about it," McCorry said. "To think that Weis wasn't fired because of the buyout is nonsense. Twenty million dollars is pocket change at Notre Dame."

Other students agree that

because of all the high-profile recruits currently playing for the Irish, another disappointing season will not go over well with alumni, students, or fans.

"I definitely will be upset if we lose more than two games next year," said Justin Siler, a sophomore. "The talent is obviously there, so if we do not have a great season next year, there is obviously something wrong with the coaching."

McCorry agreed, and said that if Notre Dame has another mediocre season, then, "At this time next year, we will all be talking about who the next coach is going to be."

Senior Mike Faron was harsher in his evaluation of Weis's performance.

"He's a bad coach," he said.

Monetary considerations, especially in today's recession, are also of concern to some students.

"It's probably best [that Weis was retained] since it's rumored to be a \$20 million buyout," sophomore Sean McMillan said.

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu and John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

Senate

continued from page 1

did not replace the dining halls as students' primary food source, but were open to suggestions for improvement.

"They said they wanted to find a balance," she said.

Hwang also said it was unreasonable to accept extravagant options at the Grab 'N' Go stations.

"We will never have make-your-own sandwiches because it takes too long and there's not enough space," she said.

Senate Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Brellenthin said students

would always go to the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"Just the fact that the dining halls are places to eat will make people go there," he said.

Hwang said the survey results showed students wanted healthier options, but their top suggestions for new items were Easy Mac and canned soda.

Morrissey senator Austin Holler said there were plenty of healthy options already available, including salads and vegetable trays.

"I think there are enough healthy options," Holler said.

O'Neill senator Kevin Kimberly said while healthy options are available, they often cost too many points.

"No one wants to get vegetable trays when they cost three points," he said.

Lewis senator Robin Brown said her friends had complained about the lack of vegan and vegetarian options.

"I'm friends with two vegans and they're pretty upset their options are so limited," Brown said.

Some senators complained that they could not swipe for

multiple meals at the same time, but student body vice president Grant Schmidt said dining hall representative told him "there was no room for improvement on that one."

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Coughlin said dining hall representatives wouldn't allow students to swipe for multiple meals because "the dining hall budget is built upon the idea that people use only nine of the 14 meals every week."

Brellenthin said the Food Services should inform students they only plan for the students who use nine of their meals and students should be

allowed to use their meals whenever they want. "If we're given 14 meals it shouldn't matter when we use them," he said.

Student body president Bob Reish said allowing students to use their meals at any time would force the University to increase room and board charges.

"If we do suggest that, this would probably increase everyone's board," Reish said.

The survey also included questions about lowering prices on Notre Dame's golf courses, but most senators said their dorms weren't interested.

"Most people said that they would like lower prices but it

wouldn't make them go out and play golf," Kimberly said.

In other Senate news:

◆ Reish and Schmidt announced ESPN College Gameday would be on the Notre Dame campus for the first time ever when the men's basketball team takes on the University of Connecticut Huskies on Jan. 24, 2009.

"I think everyone's kind of shifting towards basketball," Schmidt said.

◆ The Senate passed a resolution calling for printers to be placed in every dorm. The Campus Life Council recently passed the same resolution.

"This is a very simple resolution promoting printers in every dorm," Siegfried senator Ryan Hawley said. "The reason we need to get this done as quickly as possible is because they're discussing the new contract for printer service."

The resolution will now go to Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves for approval.

◆ Upward Bound Program Director Alyssia Coates visited the Student Senate to promote the Fr. Ted Fun Run/Walk, which will take place on Apr. 26, 2009. Coates wanted the senators to advertise the program and the event in their dorms.

"Our mission is to help students from the South Bend community high schools get into college," she said. "And the way to do that is to use students like you."

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmah06@nd.edu

Mass

continued from page 1

casted the Basilica Mass for six years until earlier this year, Rocca said. Due to financial considerations and restructuring of Sunday morning programming, the Hallmark Channel did not air the Mass after June 29.

"Hallmark was doing some reformation, and also I think there were some financial considerations involved," Rocca said.

Since advertisements were not shown during the Mass, Hallmark did not make money from televising the Masses and had to show them very early on Sunday mornings. Although the earlier showing made it "difficult for our viewers," according to Rocca, viewers still made the effort to wake up and watch the Mass.

"When we went off the air in June, I got literally hundreds upon hundreds of notes from people," Rocca said.

Rocca hopes that Hallmark will tape the Mass again because the channel reaches people across the country.

"We do hope to get a new contract with Hallmark beginning January 2010 because Hallmark has national coverage," Rocca said.

A variety of Catholics and non-Catholics watch the televised Mass, particularly those who cannot attend Mass for a variety of reasons. Many viewers have sent letters to the Basilica about their experiences watching the Mass on television.

"We have people of all ages and all backgrounds ... a lot of people who are elderly, who are confined to their homes because of sickness," Rocca said.

Rocca said that he received a letter this week from an elderly couple that has watched the Mass from their home in Tucson, Ariz. because the husband has Parkinson's disease.

The televised Mass helped an elderly man grieve over the death of his wife earlier this year, Rocca said. The couple watched the Mass together every weekend, and after his wife died in February, the man would hold her picture every Sunday while watching the Mass.

"It was so helpful and encouraging for him," Rocca said.

Rocca recalled another letter from a lady in prison who wrote that the television airing was the only way that she could participate in Mass.

Rocca told The Observer he received a letter from a non-Catholic who stumbled on the televised Mass one day while channel surfing. After he started watching the Mass week after week, the man became Catholic, Rocca said.

The homilies, music and the Basilica itself attract viewers to watch the Mass on television, according to Rocca.

"Everyone comments on the quality of the preaching and of course the quality of the music," Rocca said.

The University of Notre Dame Liturgical Choir, composed of 70 graduate and undergraduate students, provides music at the Mass. Dr. Gail Walton directs the choir and Dr. Andrew McShane is the assistant director.

"And of course, the Basilica is such a beautiful setting. It's hard not to be attracted to this Mass once you see it on television," Rocca said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edricol@nd.edu

Video

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rules.

"The cameras are not normally used for follow-up on Stadium or University rule violations," Kirk said. "However, students ejected from the stadium for violations of University rules may be subjected to disciplinary follow up by the Office of Residence Life and Housing in accordance

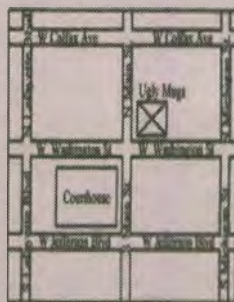
with University rules and regulations as described in duLac."

While some snowball-throwing students may have been frightened by the warning on the scoreboards, it "was made by event management personnel, not by NDSP," according to Kirk.

Requests for comment from NDSP and Cappy Gagnon, head usher at the Stadium, were directed to Kirk's office.

Contact John-Paul Witt at jwitt1@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Thursday, December 4, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russia to send warship down Canal

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Russia said Wednesday it is sending a warship through the Panama Canal for the first time since World War II, a short journey loaded with symbolic weight: the destroyer will dock at a former U.S. naval base, showcasing Russia's growing influence in the region.

Russia appears to be relishing the idea of stopping at what was long a symbol of U.S. global power; the Russian Navy announced it would visit "the Rodman naval base" — a name that the host nation, Panama has not used since taking over the base from the United States in 1999.

The destroyer Admiral Chabanenko is scheduled to enter the Panama Canal on Friday morning and arrive late in the day at what Panama calls the Balboa Naval Base.

"It is a sort of tit-for-tat for Russia's perception of U.S. meddling in Georgia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe," and has little military purpose, said Adam Isacson, an analyst for the Washington-based Center for International Policy.

Bombs found in Mumbai train station

MUMBAI, India — Police searching a mound of baggage abandoned amid the carnage of the attack on Mumbai's main train station found two bombs Wednesday — nearly a week after they were left there by gunmen — in a stunning new example of the botched security that has become a major issue in India since the three-day siege.

The discovery came as Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India is "determined to act decisively" following the attacks, saying the evidence was clear the gunmen came from Pakistan and their handlers are still there.

NATIONAL NEWS

Six children seized from compound

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas child welfare officials seized six more children Wednesday from the Tony Alamo Christian Ministries as authorities in California visited another church compound, officials said.

Julie Munsell, a spokeswoman for the Arkansas Department of Human Services, declined to say where or how the children were taken into state custody.

"I believe they are all in general good health, just like the others were," Munsell told The Associated Press.

With Wednesday's operation, state officials have seized 32 children associated with the jailed evangelist's ministries over stories of alleged beatings and sexual abuse. Alamo, 74, faces federal charges in Arkansas that he took children across state lines for sex.

New church branch formed

NEW YORK — Theological conservatives upset by liberal views of U.S. Episcopalians and Canadian Anglicans formed a rival North American province Wednesday, in a long-developing rift over the Bible that erupted when Episcopalians consecrated the first openly gay bishop.

The announcement represents a new challenge to the already splintering, 77-million-member world Anglican fellowship and the authority of its spiritual leader, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

LOCAL NEWS

Soldiers sue over chemical exposure

INDIANAPOLIS — Sixteen Indiana National Guard soldiers sued the big defense contractor KBR Inc. on Wednesday, saying its employees knowingly allowed them to be exposed to a toxic chemical in Iraq five years ago.

The federal suit filed in U.S. District Court alleges the soldiers from a Tell City-based unit were exposed to a carcinogen while protecting an Iraqi water pumping plant shortly after the U.S. invasion in 2003.

Richardson named commerce secretary

President-elect Obama chooses New Mexico governor as his newest cabinet member

Associated Press

CHICAGO — President-elect Barack Obama selected New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson as his commerce secretary Wednesday, naming a prominent Hispanic to his new Cabinet and calling him a leading "economic diplomat for America" in troubled times.

Richardson's nomination brings to three the number of former campaign rivals Obama has welcomed to his team. Joe Biden is the vice president-elect, and Hillary Rodham Clinton will be the next secretary of state, pending confirmation by the Senate.

At a Chicago news conference, Obama praised Richardson's long resume. He served as United Nations ambassador and energy secretary during the Clinton administration, and he is in his second term as New Mexico's governor. He also served seven terms in the House of Representatives.

"During his time in state government and Congress, and in two tours of duty in the Cabinet, Bill has seen, from just about every angle, what makes our economy work and what keeps it from working better," Obama said.

The president-elect seemed in a lighthearted mood as he made the announcement.

Asked about Richardson's recent decision to shave his beard, Obama joked that he was "deeply disappointed." He guessed that Richardson decided to jettison the facial hair after his wife found it scratchy.

Obama turned serious when talking about the economy, pointing to news that the country has been in recession for a year and that manufacturing production is at a 26-year low. Said Obama: "With each passing day, the work our team has begun, developing plans to revive our economy, becomes more urgent."

Despite the crisis, he



Commerce Secretary-designate Bill Richardson looks on as President-elect Barack Obama speaks at a news conference in Chicago on Wednesday.

struck an optimistic tone, saying: "I am more confident than ever that we have everything we need to renew our economy. We've got the ingenuity, the technology, the skill and commitment, we just need to put it to work."

Richardson pledged — in English and Spanish — to work to renew the economy when he is confirmed by the Senate to take over the sprawling department that oversees the National Weather Service, the Census Bureau, economic development programs and more.

His appointment adds more demographic diversity to a Cabinet that already

includes several women and blacks. Richardson is the first Hispanic named to Obama's Cabinet.

Obama is considering another Hispanic politician, California Democratic Rep. Xavier Becerra, to be U.S. Trade Representative, according to two Democratic officials speaking on a condition of anonymity ahead of an announcement for the position.

New Mexico's Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, a Democrat, will become the state's first female governor when Richardson leaves to assume his new post. Denish will take over for the

remainder of Richardson's term, which runs through 2010.

In neighboring Arizona, Obama's selection of Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano to serve as secretary of Homeland Security will put the state in the hands of a Republican governor.

Under Arizona law, Secretary of State Jan Brewer, a Republican, will take over from Napolitano.

The president-elect is moving quickly to fill his Cabinet, having identified choices for more than half the positions since he was elected the country's 44th president.

CANADA

Prime minister faces political crisis

Associated Press

TORONTO — Push has come to shove for Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

With a confidence vote set for Monday, Harper faces the possibility of a parliamentary defeat that would send the country toward a new election or give his opponents a chance to form a coalition government.

So the Conservative prime minister was taking his case to the Canadian public Wednesday night, and a cabinet minister suggested he would take the unprecedented step of asking Governor General

Michaëlle Jean to suspend Parliament until next month — giving him needed time to develop a stimulus package.

Harper said his Conservative party is pursuing all legal means of stopping the opposition from toppling his minority government and forming a coalition government.

Harper's Conservative Party was re-elected Oct. 14 with a strengthened minority government, but the opposition has united to topple Harper because he has failed to present a plan for dealing with the global economic crisis.

The move against him was also fueled by a proposal to scrap pub-

lic subsidies for political parties, something the opposition groups rely on more than the Conservatives. Analysts have called the proposal a colossal mistake that unified the opposition against him.

Although that proposal was scrapped, the opposition has continued to seek his ouster by saying he had lost the trust and confidence of the 308-seat Parliament.

Jean, who is the representative of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, holds a mostly ceremonial position. But it will be her decision on whether to suspend Parliament.

Boy held captive escapes

17-year-old climbs out window after year of alleged imprisonment

Associated Press

TRACY, Calif. — After being held captive for about a year, an emaciated and shackled 17-year-old boy climbed out a window in the home of his captors and walked into a nearby gym in search of help, police said Wednesday.

Authorities were still investigating the boy's alleged imprisonment and abuse by a California couple, but details of his escape were becoming clearer, police said.

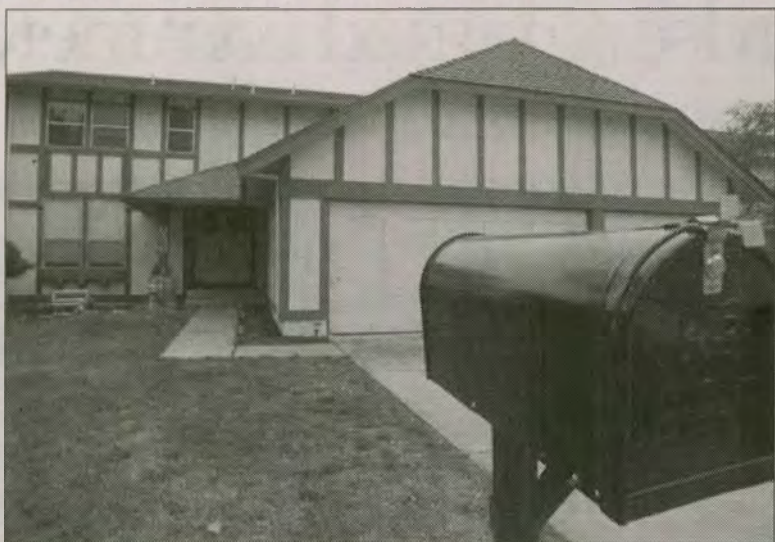
The boy has been released from a hospital and was in the custody of Child Protective Services, Tracy police spokesman Matt Robinson said.

Law enforcement officers also were trying to determine how the aunt and one-time guardian of the teen knew the couple accused of holding him against his will for nearly a year.

Caren Ramirez was arrested Tuesday in Berkeley, a day after the boy walked into a gym and begged managers to hide him. He was covered in soot, had a chain on his foot and was wearing only boxer briefs.

Police arrested a couple who lived near the gym in Tracy and booked them on suspicion of torture, kidnapping and child abuse. Tracy is about 60 miles east of San Francisco.

Ramirez, 43, had been the teen's guardian after child-welfare officials took him from his abusive father three or four years ago, police said. Ramirez herself was later arrested for allegedly abusing the boy, and he was placed in a Sacramento foster home, which he fled in late 2007, police said.



This is the Tracy, Calif. home where police believe Kelly Layne Lau and Michael Schumacher held a 17-year-old boy captive.

Since then, the boy's whereabouts were unknown until Monday, when he entered the fitness center.

Police had said there were conflicting reports about how the boy ended up at the gym. The boy told investigators he had been chained inside a sport utility vehicle that pulled up to the home. After going inside the house, he climbed through a rear window and jumped the fence between the backyard and a fitness center, the boy reported.

"He found his opportunity and he took it. It's basically luck that this all occurred," Robinson said. He also said police officers were traumatized by the boy's condition and that a chaplain was brought in to counsel them.

Kelly Layne Lau, 30, and Michael Schumacher, 34, were arrested earlier Tuesday and were jailed in lieu of bail set at nearly \$1.2 million each. They were set to appear in court Thursday. Authorities

said neither they nor Ramirez had attorneys.

Schumacher and Lau turned down interview requests from The Associated Press. Ramirez was still being questioned by police.

Lau and Schumacher's four young children, two of whom were home when police arrived, were taken into protective custody, authorities said.

Gym manager Chuck Ellis said the teen was scared someone was going to come after him and asked to be hidden.

The boy said he had been held captive for nearly a year, said Ellis, adding that he looked as if he was only 10 to 12 years old.

Ellis said the Schumachers requested during the summer to raise the height of the wall separating their home from the gym. They complained that teenagers were sneaking through their yard to the gym to play basketball, he said.

BOG

continued from page 1

work.

"There will be several speakers, very notable ones. President Reagan has spoken there in the past. Sarah Palin will likely be in attendance this year," Horvath said.

Also discussed during the meeting was a co-sponsorship for Phi Beta Epsilon, the honor society for the math department, who is also planning a trip to a math conference in Washington D.C. from Jan. 5-8, 2009.

They will be attending lectures and conferences as well as networking with other mathematicians, Courtney Perry, president of the honor society, said.

She said she hopes to have a lecture sometime next semester to relate what the group learned while on the trip.

The Sisters of Nefertiti attend-

ed Wednesday's meeting to ask for funds for the National Black Leadership Student Diverse Conference they hope to attend.

The conference, running Jan. 9-11, 2008 in Washington D.C., will be an intensive interactive three-day leadership experience with other students and leaders, said LaQuay Boone, president of the club, said.

Once the students return from the conference, they plan to have a workshop, panel, or event in order to relate what the group has learned, Boone said.

In other BOG news:

♦ Elections commissioner Francesca Johnson announced that she will propose changes to the student government election process at next week's meeting. She would like to move elections back a few weeks from the second week of the semester to February.

To-go Mugs will be sold in the Student Center Atrium during lunch and dinner hours today

and tomorrow, Sarah Falvey, student body vice president, said. Mugs will be one for \$8 or two for \$15, and can be used to carry drinks out of the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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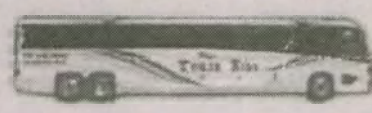
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| NYSE | 5,405.55 | +96.60 |
| S&P 500 | 870.74 | +21.93 |
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| FTSE 100 (London) | 4,169.96 | +47.10 |

| COMPANY | %CHANGE | \$GAIN | PRICE |
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| CITIGROUP INC (C) | +8.31 | +0.60 | 7.82 |
| ULTRA FINANCIALS (UYG) | +10.28 | +0.51 | 5.47 |
| POWERSHARES (QQQQ) | +2.84 | +0.79 | 28.62 |

| Treasuries | | | |
|--------------|--------|--------|-------|
| 10-YEAR NOTE | -0.63 | -0.017 | 2.676 |
| 13-WEEK BILL | -70.00 | -0.035 | 0.015 |
| 30-YEAR BOND | -0.56 | -0.018 | 3.184 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | -2.39 | -0.040 | 1.632 |

| Commodities | | |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|
| LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.) | -2.32 | 46.96 |
| GOLD (\$/Troy oz.) | +6.50 | 783.30 |
| PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.) | +0.03 | 92.25 |

| Exchange Rates | |
|-----------------|---------|
| YEN | 93.1850 |
| EURO | 0.7869 |
| CANADIAN DOLLAR | 1.2566 |
| BRITISH POUND | 0.6769 |

IN BRIEF

UAW makes concessions to Big Three

DETROIT — Worried about their jobs and warned that the cost of failure could be a depression, hundreds of leaders of the United Auto Workers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to make concessions to the struggling Detroit Three, including all but ending a much-derided program that let laid-off workers collect up to 95 percent of their salaries.

"Everybody has to give a little bit," said Rich Bennett, an official for Local 122 in Twinsburg, Ohio, representing Chrysler workers. "We've made concessions. We really feel we're doing our part."

Union leaders also agreed to let the cash-starved automakers delay billions of dollars in payments to a union-administered trust set to take over health care for blue-collar retirees starting in 2010.

In addition, they decided to let the Detroit leadership begin renegotiating elements of landmark contracts signed with the automakers last year, a move that could lead to wage concessions.

The vote came on the eve of congressional hearings on as much as \$34 billion in loans that General Motors and Chrysler say are critical to their survival. Ford has said it may be able to hang on through 2009 without additional credit.

Trampled man's family to sue Wal-Mart

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. — The family of a worker trampled to death in a "Black Friday" crush of bargain hunters at a Long Island Wal-Mart store filed a wrongful-death lawsuit on Wednesday, claiming store ads offering deep discounts "created an atmosphere of competition and anxiety" that led to "crowd craze."

The lawsuit claims that besides failing to provide adequate security for a pre-dawn crowd estimated at 2,000, Wal-Mart "engaged in specific marketing and advertising techniques to specifically attract a large crowd and create an environment of frenzy and mayhem and was otherwise careless, reckless and negligent."

Wal-Mart issued a statement saying it would cooperate with local law enforcement officials to develop stronger safety measures for the future.

US automakers plead to Congress

Big Three executives argue case for \$34 billion aid plan, but votes lacking

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Imperiled automakers and their union worked feverishly Wednesday to sell a skeptical Congress on a \$34 billion aid plan, promising labor concessions and restructuring. The Senate's Democratic leader said there still weren't enough votes to tap the \$700 billion federal bailout fund to prop up the foundering Big Three.

One day before the chiefs of the auto companies return to Capitol Hill to make their urgent cases for loans, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the money was unlikely to come from the Wall Street rescue fund.

"I just don't think we have the votes to do that now," Reid told The Associated Press in an interview.

The White House called the timing of his comments "interesting" coming on the eve of high-stakes congressional hearings Democrats demanded.

"It's not hospitable," said Dana Perino, the White House press secretary.

In Capitol Hill meetings, industry officials said the collapse of one or more of the Big Three carmakers could greatly worsen the nation's recession and undermine the companies' ability to survive.

"We're on the brink with the U.S. auto manufacturing industry. We're down to months left," Chrysler's vice chairman, Jim Press, told the AP in a separate interview. "If we have a catastrophic failure of one of these car companies, in this tender environment for the economy, it's a huge blow. It could trigger a depression."

The United Auto Workers union, scrambling to preserve jobs and benefits, agreed at an emergency meeting in Detroit to allow the companies to delay payments to a multibillion-dollar, union-run health care trust and to scale back a jobs bank in which laid-off workers are paid most of



AP

GM CEO Rick Wagoner exits his car on Wednesday after driving from Detroit to Washington to testify at Congressional hearings about the auto bailout.

their wages. The concessions could help mollify some lawmakers who have criticized the union's benefits as too rich when compared with those of workers at foreign-brand auto plants in the U.S.

The Bush administration and auto-state Republicans and Democrats are pushing to help the automakers with aid from a different source: a previously approved \$25 billion program that's supposed to be used to help them produce more environmentally advanced vehicles.

Environmentalists — and a number of powerful friends in Congress — are

vigorously opposing that idea.

Reid said the administration could act unilaterally to use a portion of the Wall Street bailout program for loans to the automakers, but the White House has consistently resisted that approach.

"There's talk going around now that the Bush White House may ask for" the second \$350 billion installment of the \$700 billion financial industry rescue fund, Reid said.

But if Bush's team doesn't act, he said, "I think that we are probably going to have to try to do something" in

Congress.

Reid said he would rely on Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, to determine what kind of legislation would be appropriate.

The autoworkers' concessions are "a step in the right direction," he said.

"I think it's too bad that negotiated contracts between labor and management are going to have to be changed," Reid said. "But it's obvious to everyone — as strong of a union guy as I am — it's obvious that there has to be some changes made."

Experimental cotton poses no risks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An unauthorized strain of genetically modified cotton was accidentally mixed in with other harvested cotton in Texas last month, but government officials said Wednesday they do not believe the incident poses safety concerns.

About a quarter ton of the experimental cotton seed engineered to contain a protein that produces a pesticide was combined with about 60 tons of commercial cotton growing nearby, said Eric Flamm, a senior adviser at the Food and Drug Administration.

The mixture was then stored along with 20,000 tons of commercial cotton seed in a warehouse. Nearly half the crop was processed into cottonseed oil and cotton meal to use as animal feed before offi-

cials at Monsanto Co., which grows the experimental cotton on a test plot, realized the mistake.

Monsanto officials notified the government of the error on Nov. 10.

"We're talking about a very small amount, but nevertheless, a material that contains a pesticidal substance and has not been authorized for food or feed use," Flamm said on a conference call with reporters.

Flamm said most of the contaminated crop that was processed into animal feed had already been consumed at cattle feed lots. Two truckloads of the crop were delivered to Mexico, and U.S. officials have notified that country.

The FDA, Environmental Protection Agency and Agriculture Department are all investigating the incident to determine what enforcement action is warranted against

Monsanto.

Monsanto spokesman Lee Quarles said the crop was mistakenly harvested on Oct. 31, and the company learned about it eight days later when field researchers went to check on it and discovered it was not there. It is grown in a research plot adjacent to other cotton and separated by border rows.

"We've taken responsibility for this release and we're actively working to resolve it in a manner that's satisfactory with the USDA and other agencies," Quarles said.

Quarles said the protein has been determined to pose no threat to humans and approved for use in corn, but not yet in cotton.

But one food safety group said the incident shows the need for stricter government regulation over experimental crops.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Thursday, December 4, 2008

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

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Chris Hine.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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

POSTMASTER:
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
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You've been tagged

Today I logged on to Facebook. I was kindly informed by the truly non-invasive Facebook feed that my 600 or so friends had added 48 new photo albums in the past week. Wow. That's a lot of pictures. I supposed that I shouldn't be too surprised; The Facebook statistics page notes that fourteen million photos are uploaded daily.

Generally speaking, I am all for technology. Who isn't? If something can be made more efficient or more easily accomplished, go for it. However, I am starting to see why some things are better left outside the grasp of technology. Photography is one of them.

Don't think that I am some sort of photography snob. I don't have the faintest idea how a photo is developed or why a dark room is actually red. In fact, I didn't even own a camera until this summer when my parents bought me a cheap Nikon to take abroad. But, as far as I can tell, buying a Nikon didn't make me a photographer; it just made me a Nikon owner. However, I can tell the difference between a good picture and a bad one, a picture that actually does (as the cliché goes) tell a thousand words and one that doesn't. I'm afraid that Facebook and digital cameras have led to far more of the latter and left more people unable or unwilling to look at their own or other's photographs with any sort of critical eye. This is not good for two reasons. The first is pragmatic. The second is more philosophical, if a business major dares

venture there.

Practically speaking, spending time uploading all of those photos actually takes quite a while. First, you have to put them off the camera onto the computer. Then, you have to load each of them to Facebook. Then, if you are feeling particularly ambitious, you have to think of a fun, witty, interesting description to each one, mostly trying to explain how this picture is different than the last one. This part usually involves a number of exclamation points. Finally, you have to tag each person in each picture. After all, if you didn't do that, nobody would look at them, and what would be the point? Let's be serious, most people are only really looking at albums they are in anyways. Spending all of this time putting hundreds of photos that are more or less the same poses, the same people, in different dorm rooms, houses, and apartments just doesn't seem a totally fulfilling way of spending time or expressing what's important in your life to others.

This brings me to my second point. The unlimited storage of digital cameras and Facebook servers have caused people to lose feeling for what the moments that really should be photographed are. They mistake every moment as a photo op. Instead of finding the one moment in a party that truly defines an evening (almost always when Journey comes on), kids are just taking 40 pictures and hoping one of them really does capture the essence of something. It's tough to truly enjoy the party if you are too busy checking the photo you just took to see if it is good enough, or whether someone wasn't looking and you need to take another.

Using the camera to take a few choice photos to remember or show off the experience is wonderful; taking photos

instead of being in the experience is not. No matter how great an experience, viewing it entirely through a 2.5 by 2.0 inch LCD screen will completely diminish it. The famous photographer, W. Eugene Smith commented, "The world just does not fit conveniently into the format of a 35 MM camera." If a man who took famous pictures for Life magazine of WWII atrocities was sure that he couldn't capture the essence of life, who are we to be able to fit our life on a 128 MB memory card.

My advice for kicking this photo habit: set a limit and buy a disposable camera. I know this sounds completely stupid, but it's not. Consider that each camera has about 24 pictures. Each time you take a picture, you know you only have so many more. This forces one to really look for a moment worth remembering. For the price of one digital camera, you could purchase almost fifteen high quality Kodak single use cameras. Considering how often cameras are broken, this isn't a bad prospect. Furthermore, with digital CDs these days, it is not hard to get them on your computer, and it makes the prospect of developing them much more exciting and special. With some practice, it might even make you a better photographer.

Imagine Facebook without serial photo albums. Each person loads an album of just 24 pictures covering a few weeks or months. The pictures are special and specific, focused on the best moments. These are the photos I would love to look at, even if I'm not in them.

Jason Coleman is a junior majoring in management. He can be contacted at coleman.70@nd.edu

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



Jason Coleman

Man at large

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Should Charlie be fired?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What we play is life."

Louis Armstrong

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A life of procrastination

Thanksgiving break is over and we are caught up once again in a new season. Days are short and gray as folks scurry across the frozen campus. The tone of this new season is different, and everything and everyone seems to have changed. Some say the catchwords of this time are "Watch," "Wait," and "Be prepared!" I prefer, "Awake!" because this season has always meant one thing to me. "Gadzooks! The semester's almost over and there is far too much work to be done!"

Fr. Gary
Chamberland

Faithpoint

The Church calls this season Advent. It is a time to slow down, collect oneself and prepare for the coming of Christ both in our renewed celebration of his first coming into our world as a babe in a manger, and when he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. As a lifelong procrastinator, I have always called this season Panic. While I love the idea of Advent, my mind is too often directed to other things.

I was talking with my parents one Thanksgiving when I was in grad school. My mother opined that I must be excited that the semester was almost over. At her words, my stomach tightened and turned, leaving me certain that I was going to be sick. I could envision no Christmas break, only the mountain of under-researched papers still to be written. I tried to explain the reality of my immediate future and my mother laughingly quipped, "Honey, you've never finished a single thing in your life before the very moment it was due." Suddenly, my mind was flooded with images of a lifetime of procrastination: the quickly constructed diorama of Abe Lincoln's log cabin, the 4th grade book report scrawled after-dinner the night before it was due, the science project display board with the glue still wet as I carried it to school. I realized that procrastination was not merely a bad habit; it was a fundamental defect of my personality. It was who I was; it was my basic approach to life.

True procrastinators know that there is no real joy in delaying a project until

the eleventh hour. The time between now and that moment when there is no tomorrow is filled with the knowledge of that pending deadline. The interim is wasted on idle chatter and useless tasks. Days are not enjoyed nor is life lived robustly, because one knows there is work to be done.

Procrastination is a life of wasted opportunities and half-realized projects. As a student, it translates into a career filled with the flush of excitement about an experiment or an idea without the time to run the data or push one's intellect to the limits. It is a sad way to spend an academic life; it is a tragic way to live the spiritual life.

Spiritually, we are given seasons in life to slow down and reflect on the gift of God's grace, on the blessings we have received, and the new life we have in Christ's nativity, passion, death and resurrection. We are given the opportunity to cut open our festering wounds of doubt so that they may be healed by the radiance of his light. We are called to awaken and prepare for his coming with acts of praise and thanksgiving. We are

allowed to watch for his return with true vigilance, practicing love as we await Love. We can embrace the gift or sit idly by as it passes us by. The watching and waiting of Advent calls for anything but procrastination. Rather it need be spiritual calisthenics to exercise the faculties that will help us be attuned to and ready for the signs of his coming in glory. When that day comes, there should be no panic or fear of too little time. For if we act on the gift today, the task will already be finished.

Advent is intended to help us prepare for the biggest project of our lives. We can wait with the intention of starting tomorrow, but *tempus fugit* and the due date is coming. Or we can wait with Christian hope, awake, watchful and ready for the coming of the Lord.

This week's Faithpoint is written by Fr. Gary Chamberland, CSC, Professor of Theology at Notre Dame. He can be reached at gchamber@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's not arrogance, it's pride

In response to the Dec. 3 column titled, "Notre Dame Arrogance," I completely disagree with such a classification. I am surprised that a fellow alum would take a stance that so often is mischaracterized by people outside of the extended Notre Dame family.

To me the culture is one of tremendous pride, not arrogance. Going to Notre Dame fulfilled a lifelong dream of mine and is something I will always cherish. I believe that this pride is rampant among fellow alums, current students, faculty or subway alum that have at some point been associated with Notre Dame be it from growing up going to football games, watching the movie Rudy, or just being able to visit campus.

I never look at myself as better than anyone else based on where I graduated from college but rather am humbled that I could be a part of something that I regard as special. There will always be situations where a scant few create a negative reputation based

on their actions and force others to believe that this is representative of the entire group (snowballs anyone?).

However I believe that Notre Dame is not an arrogant institution. We strive to be the best in whatever we do and that goes for academics, athletics or even graduation speakers. I don't think our arrogance has been pushed to the forefront but rather a desire to succeed. This "football spectacle" was created by a desire to once again be relevant in a passion that many cherish.

What few might call arrogance I still hold to be pride. I am proud to be part of the Notre Dame family whether we go 0-12 or 12-0 in football and believe that it would take a lot to tarnish the multitude of accomplishments that this University has achieved.

Mark Connolly
alum
class of '05
Dec. 3

Crying over spilled beer

This past weekend, I got a ticket, headed out to Los Angeles, but was not prepared for the unprovoked attack I would suffer minutes before the game.

While tailgating outside the stadium, I enjoyed an adult beverage while the USC "Band" marched on the roadway outside the Coliseum next to the tailgate I was attending. I watched the supposed band march past us playing one of the two songs they know, held up my adult beverage, and yelled "Go Irish".

The adult juice box in my hand ended up on the ground, upon a pile of broken glass doused in tears pouring from my eyes. The party responsible for this travesty was not me, but a member of the USC marching band.

I was stunned to say the least. I couldn't move and was thankfully frozen and prevented from facing surefire jail time from hitting the sorry excuse for a trombone player in his stupid sunglasses that he was wearing for a night game.

It became even more obvious to me

that our band is superior to any other hack band in the country. Would any other opposing fan ever have a trombone player or any other band member attack them? Would the Band of the Fighting Irish stoop to the level of spilling precious adult beverages just to embarrass an opposing fan? No.

This sunglasses wearing, slow marching, and two song playing sorry excuse for a band member could never match our glorious individuals, so I can't blame him, but he did not have to stoop to the level of spilling my beer. My only way of surviving the game in person.

In this, I salute our band for their ever present class and talent and will ever assert the primacy of the Band of the Fighting Irish.

A Slightly Drunk Mike Smith Senior,

Michael Smith
senior
Alumni Hall
Dec. 2

The same football

I am writing in response to yet another alumnus who is unhappy with the institution they no longer attend on a daily basis. Mr. James Gillen accuses the Notre Dame administration of "prostituting the entire football experience" to NBC without even mentioning the exponential benefits that the University reaps from the media deal.

I have no experience or inside knowledge of the contract my school has with NBC, but after checking the Notre Dame News and Information Web site, I know the following: the Notre Dame Football program is listed as the most valuable team in college football (\$101 million); the football program contributes \$21 million towards academics at Notre Dame (equal to the next 5 programs on the list combined in their contributions to academics at their respective institutions); and Notre Dame is able to keep all \$9 million earned from the television revenue from NBC (Forbes 2007).

What I gather from this is that the NBC deal has not only allowed Notre Dame far more exposure than any other college program in the nation, but it has also allowed Notre Dame to grow academically as well as ath-

letically in any number of areas.

As for the games being "annoyingly stretched into a marathon," and losing the emotion and home field advantage due to a televised game; I (and I hope and assume many others feel this way) have no problem with being given the opportunity to stay an extra 1-2 hours at Notre Dame Stadium on a couple Saturdays each fall. Each "annoying" TV timeout allows the best band, student section, and alumni network in the country more of an opportunity to play songs, cheer loud, and be recognized for their accomplishments in between plays.

While Mr. Gillen wants the administration to "protect home football games for those who love them," I'm simply grateful that the administration is looking out for the financial, academic and athletic interest of the entire University; and if I have to sit through annoying marathon games and receive a world class education in small part because of a TV deal, I guess I can manage that.

John Whitty
junior
Stanford Hall
Dec. 3

Declining a bowl bid

I would hope that ND will seriously consider declining any bowl bid this year. The oft spoken arguments for accepting a bowl bid are additional practices, recruiting exposure and a reward for a job well done. The unspoken argument for accepting a bowl bid is money.

Notre Dame does not need the money or the recruiting exposure. The mediocrity displayed throughout the six and six season falls well short of even the most lenient description of a job well done.

I am not convinced that the 20 practices in December have a tremendous carryover effect to the following fall, especially since the seniors will no

longer be with us. To our seniors, I say thank you for your dedication. To the underclassmen, I hope that two years without attending a bowl will be used as a motivating factor for the duration of your Notre Dame career.

The Notre Dame standards of intelligence, sportsmanship and athleticism will not be served by accepting a bowl bid. Notre Dame has declined bowls in the past. This will not be setting a precedent.

Paul McDonnell
alum
class of '77
Dec. 3



BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

By JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor

The title, "Australia," is about as vague as they come, and yet it's painstakingly difficult to come up with an apt title for this epic film.

Baz Luhrmann's direction is famous for the over the top "Moulin Rouge!" with its glittery depictions and musical numbers. But "Australia" is memorable in quite a different way. Losing his typically gaudy approach, "Australia" takes on the daunting task of cinematically addressing a marathon love story, racism, the plight of the aborigines, robber barons of Australian cattle herding and World War II. That's an awful lot of ground to cover, even within a 165 minute running time.

But with the breathtaking backdrop of the Australian outback, somehow

the multitude of subject matters and the myriad of characters each get their due. This is a film that you definitely get your money's worth for, both in terms of its entertainment value and its atypical length.

"Australia" follows Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), a snooty British aristocrat who journeys to the outback to investigate her husband's suspicious cattle business, which she suspects to be a cover for his extramarital affairs. Her guide to Australia is Drover (Hugh Jackman), an uncouth cattle herder, who's more than rough around the edges.

Upon reaching the ranch, Far-Away Downs, Sarah finds her husband murdered, allegedly by an aboriginal voodoo king, and her business in shambles. Nullah (Brandon Walters), a half-aborigine, half-white boy, lives on the ranch with his mother, a worker on the farm. He reveals to Sarah that Fletcher, the ranch's manager, is ruining the business intentionally to help Carne, the ranch's rival cattle business.

Upon firing the underhanded Fletcher, Sarah, Drover, and Nullah become a sort of platonically family. Together, they lead an epic cattle drive across the outback to

restore Far-Away Downs to its full glory. And of course, along the way they find love, hope, and adventure. Their story continues after their hefty droving, following their "family" through the trials and tribulations of shady cattle business dealings and WWII.

Full of twists and turns, tragedy and success, the story is almost as expansive as its location. Most analogous to "Gone with the Wind," "Australia" manages to cover tons of territory, while still following a core cast. The film could have used a bit more editing; in "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" fashion, there were about three endings to the story.

Overall the story remains controlled. The characters remain consistent throughout, while not being static. Additionally, Luhrmann creates a uniformity and cohesiveness with his distinctive artistic touch that utilizes themes of love, music, and social elitism.

There was little to complain about concerning the casting. Appropriately, all the cast members, aborigine and white alike, are native Australians. Headlining superstars, Kidman and

Jackman, fill the lead roles well, though there is nothing exceptional in their portrayals of Sarah and Drover. In fact, these complex, compelling characters would have been just as good in anyone else's hands. Basically, Kidman and Jackman brought little to

the roles outside of their star power. The truly great performance came from new comer, Brandon Walters. His portrayal of Nullah was simple and brilliantly genuine. His character and his talent are the heart and soul of the film.

While the story is detailed and lengthy, it is not difficult to follow. It's easy to become emotionally attached to the characters, and this is perhaps the most appealing aspect of the film. Additionally, the amazing scenery and cinematography contribute to create a delightful work. Though viewers should be forewarned of the film's length, it's an appealing story that's vividly brought to life. It's an enjoyable epic that's worth every penny to see on the big screen.

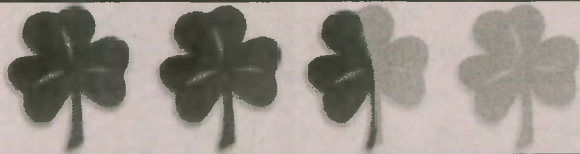
Contact Jess Shaffer at
jshaffe1@nd.edu.

Full of twists and turns, tragedy and success, the story is almost as expansive as its location. Most analogous to "Gone with the Wind," "Australia" manages to cover tons of territory, while still following a core cast.

Australia

Directed by: Baz Luhrmann

Starring: Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman and Brandon Walters



Notre Dame Chorale ushers in Christmas Season with Handel's 'Messiah'

BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

As the spirit of Christmas begins to blanket campus, one of Notre Dame's most diverse vocal groups offers a limited time performance of classical holiday celebration. This weekend, the Notre Dame Chorale ushers in the Christmas season with their performance of George Frideric Handel's "Messiah."

Composed of fifty-five members, both men and women, the Chorale is the official concert choir of the University. With student participants ranging in age from freshmen to graduate students, the ensemble is one of the most diverse on campus. Under the direction of Dr. Alexander Blachly, the Chorale focuses on the vocal compositions ranging from the Renaissance period to modern times.

The vocal company is accompanied by

Notre Dame's Chamber Orchestra. This select ensemble feature one or two advanced musicians at each orchestral instrument. This weekend, the orchestra will offer its representation of "The Messiah" to its patrons.

The piece that the Chorale will perform on Friday and Saturday is Handel's most renowned masterpiece. It was composed in the summer of 1741, during the Baroque period. The German-born composer wrote the oratorio (a musical piece comprised of vocal and orchestral arrangements) in the image of a libretto by Charles Jennens.

"The Messiah" documents the life and the Christian significance of Jesus Christ, focusing especially on the passion. Though the oratorio was written during the Catholic season of Lent, it has become tradition to perform Handel's masterpiece during Advent.

"The Messiah" is divided into three por-

tions, each focusing on a separate aspect of Christ's life. The first portion describes the traditional Advent and Christmas stories. The second depicts the passion, resurrection, ascension and spread of Jesus' word. Finally, the oratorio is a summation of the Revelation of St. John.

The Notre Dame Chorale has chosen about fifteen separate songs from "The Messiah" to perform. The performance will last about an hour and a half, culminating with the celebrated "Hallelujah" chorus. This piece concludes the second of the three parts of the oratorio, but has been chosen to close the Chorale's performance because of its fame.

The Chorale enthusiastically presents this show as an ideal introduction into the Christmas season. Featuring multiple student solos, the concert appears to be an excellent showcase of musical expertise. "Singing Handel's 'Messiah' puts me in high Christmas spirits," sophomore Chorale member Steve Santay said. "There are few feelings that can compare to when you hear the Chorale singing the 'Hallelujah' chorus."

A sellout is expected for the second of

the Chorale's three annual concerts. Though the music comes first, and the recognition of the club's determination and talent is paramount, the ticket sales are also of notable concern to the vocal group.

Revenue from ticket purchases funds the Chorale's domestic and international tours. Having completed a summer tour of New Zealand and Hawaii, the Chorale is currently planning their annual winter break tour. This year, the club will travel to the Southern and Eastern United States, stopping in Memphis, St. Louis, Washington D.C., and Atlanta for performances.

The Chorale, accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra, performs at 8:00 p.m. on both nights in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased online, at the box office or by calling 574-631-2800. Prices are \$3 for students, \$8 for staff and \$10 for adults.

Contact Patrick Griffin at
pgriffi3@nd.edu.

*Handel's
"Messiah"
Notre Dame
Chorale
DeBartolo
Performing Arts
Center
Tickets: \$3
Students, \$8 Staff,
\$10 Adults*

Weekend Events Calendar

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

In the Holiday Spirit Cooking Class. 6:30 p.m. Martin's School of Cooking

Brandy walnut glazed brie, bourbon glazed ham, Grand Marnier roasted sweet potatoes, sauteed green beans a la Frangelico and cherries jubilee are on the menu for this fantastic cooking class that will give you great ideas for items to add to your cooking repertoire this Christmas. Learn how to delight and dazzle guests by adding an extra punch of "fun" to your holiday dishes with a pinch of brandy and a touch of Frangelico. Chef Scott Rossen will guide and teach newcomers with special enthusiasm and zeal. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 at the customer service counter of Martin's Super Markets at Heritage Square. Call (574) 807-8220 for details.

"Burn After Reading." 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. 101 DeBartolo

The Coen Brothers' follow up their gritty Academy Award winning "No Country For Old Men" with this farcical story of stolen CIA information, infidelity, mistaken killings and a lot of buffoonery. Former CIA analyst and alcoholic Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich) has his personal files copied off his computer by his divorce-seeking wife Katie Cox (Tilda Swinton) who gives them to her lawyer. When the lawyer's receptionist leaves them at the gym Hardbodies, the disc of files finds its way into the hands of employee Chad Feldheimer (Brad Pitt) who mistakes it for highly classified information. He teams up with another employee Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) and they attempt to blackmail Osbourne. What results is hilarious and calamitous. Tickets are \$3.

Winter Boutique. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. South Bend Museum of Art.

Looking for the perfect gift this holiday season for your mom, dad, sibling or significant other? Stop by the third annual Winter Boutique sale at the South Bend Museum of Art to find that perfect treasure which will bring a smile to their face, brighten up their room, and eternally remind them of your love. Featuring artwork created by South Bend's very own premier artists, the sale will raise money to help purchase new equipment for the museum's studios. This Saturday will feature a special Holiday Art Walk that will guide participants to all of the fantastic art studios and galleries around downtown South Bend while providing warm refreshments and infusing a good dose of holiday cheer. Tickets are free.

It's A Wonderful Life. 2 p.m. Amish Acres.

The 1946 Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life" is brought to the stage for a special performance this season and is one you'll definitely want to see. Based on the classic Frank Capra film, this theatrical show follows the life of George Bailey, a man going through rough financial times at Christmas (a situation we can relate to both as college students and with the economic downturn) and losing heart and hope that things will look up. Guided by his personal guardian angel, Bailey finally realizes just how much there is to live for and comes to recognize the things that truly matter. Be reminded of the many blessings you have this winter by attending the Amish Acres' performance of "A Wonderful Life". Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 dollars for children. Visit www.artseverywhere.com for show details.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Dining Hall Dish

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Assistant Scene Editor

Finals week is gearing up. We aren't quite there yet, but suddenly our to-do lists are filled with the last papers and exams of the semester. And we'll all need good fuel to make it through! Here are some recipes to fight off the hunger and hopefully give you a tasty break from the rush.

This week's recipes:

Lemon Alfredo Pasta

You've probably noticed that lemon wedges are a frequent ingredient in these dining hall recipes. They are a good way to give a quick dash of flavor or balance out other ingredients, but in this pasta dish

lemon takes on the starring role. Mixed with a creamy Alfredo sauce and parmesan, lemon creates a tart, pleasant and flavorful pasta.

Pick up three or four lemon wedges and a grilled chicken breast.

Fill a bowl with short pasta and a ladle-full or two of the dining hall's Alfredo sauce.

Add a dash of red pepper flakes and a bunch of parmesan cheese from the pizza bar.

Shred the chicken breast and mix it into the pasta.

Squeeze the lemon wedges over the pasta and chicken.

Add in a dash of salt and a bunch of pepper. Mix.

Bread Dipped in Olive Oil

Whenever you eat out at a good Italian restaurant, they

always offer bread with the meal. Why not provide it for yourself in the dining hall? These directions are on the extraordinarily easy side, but it will help jazz up your dinner.

Pick up a hunk of good Italian bread.

Fill a bowl with olive oil and a couple dashes of balsamic vinegar. If you are in South, head to the spice rack and add a couple dashes of Italian seasoning and garlic powder.

Dip and enjoy!

Brownie Sundaes

This is a simple concept, but one that is hard to beat. Warm brownies melting your cold ice cream ... what could be better?

Pick up your favorite type of

brownie, whether nut filled or M&M topped.

Heat of the brownie in the microwave.

Top with your favorite ice cream — traditional vanilla and mint are good options.

Top with whipped cream, hot fudge, nuts (if you like them) and of course a cherry!

Quick Tip

Check out the waffle bar if it is open for extra ice cream toppings. Sometimes it will offer toppings (like whipped cream, nuts and syrupy fruits) that don't make it out to the ice cream area, especially at South.

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.

FOOTBALL

Cavaliers extend home streak against Knicks

Trail Blazers ride Roy's hot shooting to win; Rondo earns first career triple-double in Celtics win vs. Pacers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Cavaliers have never been better at home.

LeBron James scored 21 points and then grabbed an early seat on the bench as the Cavs improved to 10-0 on their own floor for the first time in franchise history with their 14th win in 15 games, 118-82 over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Wearing replica wine-and-gold uniforms from their 1970 expansion season, when they played at dingy Cleveland Arena, the Cavaliers built a 42-point lead in the second half and breezed to their sixth straight win. They also remained the Eastern Conference's only unbeaten team at home.

Cleveland opened 9-0 at home in both the 1976-77 and 1991-92 seasons at Richfield Coliseum.

The 36-point margin of victory was Cleveland's largest in 171 games against New York.

With another blowout win, the Cavs, who have won their last nine games by at least 11 points, improved to 15-3 and continued the best start they've ever had. Right now, it doesn't matter where they play.

"They're really good everywhere," Knicks first-year coach Mike D'Antoni said before his team was rocked by Cleveland for the second time in a week.

Mo Williams added 16 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and none of Cleveland's starters played more than 28 minutes.

Al Harrington scored 20 points, Anthony Roberson had 19 and David Lee 16 with 16 rebounds for the Knicks, who shot 39 percent and made 28

turnovers.

The Cavs were so efficient, James didn't even play in the fourth quarter. He was pulled with 2:33 left in the third quarter but still managed six assists, five rebounds, five steals and made 10 of 10 free throws before kicking back and cheering on Cleveland's backups, who manhandled New York, too.

The Knicks, eyeing James as a free agent in two years, must be wishing they could jump in a time machine and transport themselves to 2010. Along with injuries and the circus surrounding guard Stephon Marbury's dismissal from the team, New York played the second half without starting guard Quentin Richardson.

Late in the first half, Richardson was slapped with two quick technicals and ejected by referee Rodney Mott.

Somewhere, assuming he was watching, Marbury must have smiled at seeing Richardson get tossed.

After all, it was Richardson who had criticized Marbury after a recent game in Detroit, when with Marbury in street clothes, the Knicks were forced to play short-handed. "I don't look at him as a teammate because teammates don't do that," Richardson said.

The only moment of concern for the Cavs came in the third quarter when James was pulled down by Harrington on a break-away.

Trail Blazers 98, Wizards 92

Brandon Roy took over down the stretch Wednesday night, scoring 12 of his 22 points in the final 8 minutes to help Portland beat the Washington Wizards and extend the Trail Blazers'

winning streak to six games.

The well-balanced Blazers put five players in double-figures: Roy, Greg Oden, LaMarcus Aldridge, Rudy Fernandez and Steve Blake. Oden, the rookie center who missed all of last season, finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds for his sixth double-double in the past 12 games.

Antawn Jamison scored 22 points and Caron Butler added 16 for the Wizards, who fell to an Eastern Conference-worst 3-13. Washington was coming off a 20-point victory at the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday night, but still is seeking its first winning streak of the season.

Jamison's basket with 52 seconds left pulled the hosts within 92-90, and Roy responded, blowing past defender DeShawn Stevenson at the top of the key and laying the ball in for a four-point lead with 35 seconds on the clock.

Darius Songaila's 16-foot jumper got Washington back within two points, but he fouled Steve Blake at the other end, and the former Wizards guard made both foul shots to make it 96-92. Songaila then missed a jumper, Blake rebounded and was fouled, and the fans headed for the exits.

Butler, the two-time All-Star who leads Washington in scoring, started despite bumping knees with a Nets player Tuesday.

"He's fine," Wizards interim coach Ed Tapscott said before tipoff. "Banged and bruised, but not too bad."

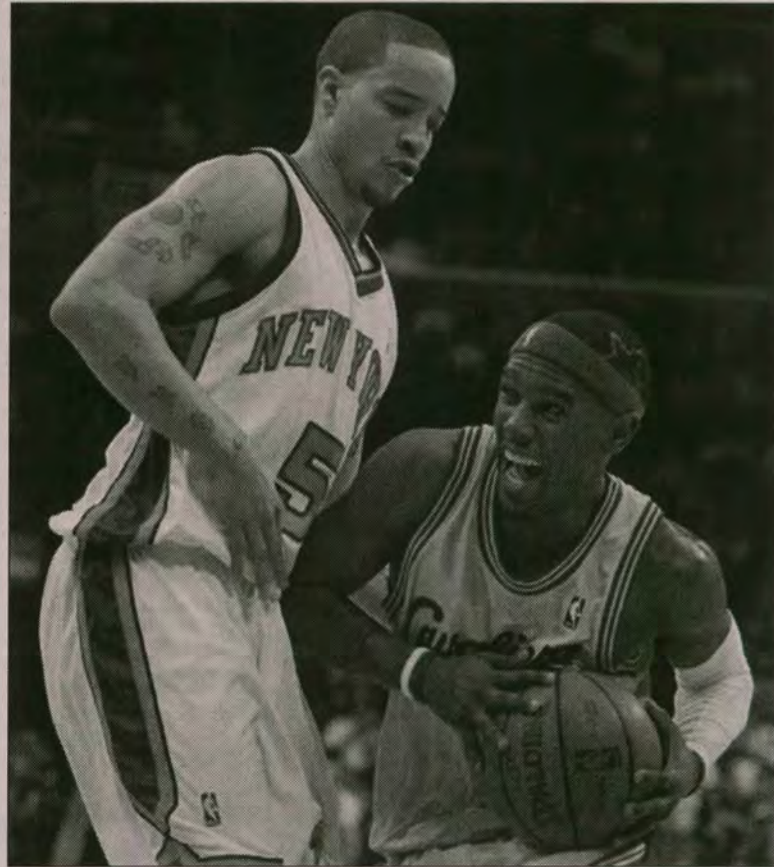
Perhaps, but Butler didn't score at all against Portland until the final minute of the first half, hitting a 21-foot jumper with 47 seconds left to pull Washington within 45-43 at the break.

He opened the second half with a 20-footer to tie it at 45, part of a personal 12-point third quarter that kept the Wizards close. Still, the visitors took a 77-72 lead into the final period thanks in part to Fernandez's three-point play with 1.8 seconds to go.

Washington began the fourth quarter with a 9-0 spurt capped by Nick Young's 3-pointer that put the Wizards ahead 81-79. Portland shot 0-for-6 in that stretch, not scoring a point in that quarter until nearly 4½ minutes had elapsed.

But that's when Roy really began to assert himself, scoring seven points in a 9-2 run by the Blazers as they took an 86-83 lead.

Roy was honored Monday as Western Conference Player of the Week for his work from Nov. 24-30, when he averaged 20 points, 5.3 rebounds and six assists



Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson goes up for a layup against Knicks forward Anthony Roberson during Cleveland's 118-82 win.

while shooting 51 percent on field-goal attempts.

He pretty much kept up that pace across the board Wednesday, shooting 9-for-19 and adding eight rebounds and four assists to his stats line.

Celtics 114, Pacers 96

Rajon Rondo notched his first career triple-double and Ray Allen scored 31 points, leading the Boston Celtics over the Indiana Pacers, on Wednesday night for their 10th straight victory.

Rondo scored 16 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and handed out a career-high 17 assists. Kevin Garnett added 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who matched their longest winning streak since their 2007-08 championship season, a 10-game run from Feb. 24-March 12.

Boston broke open the game in the third quarter with a 26-8 run over the first nine minutes, with Garnett and Allen combining for 14.

Danny Granger led the Pacers with 20 points, while Troy Murphy chipped in with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Rondo, who also added three steals, secured his triple-double with 10:32 remaining in the third quarter after he grabbed two offensive rebounds and followed with a nifty pass to Garnett for an easy layup.

The Pacers chipped away at an

85-61 deficit with 2:44 remaining in the third quarter after Granger nailed a pair of 3-pointers and Murphy completed a three-point play to cap off a 21-5 run, cutting the lead to 90-82 with 8:54 remaining in the fourth.

Boston responded with a 10-0 run to put the game out of reach as Indiana failed to post consecutive victories over the NBA's top two teams. The Pacers edged the Los Angeles Lakers 118-117 Tuesday.

The Pacers beat the Celtics on Nov. 1, handing Boston one of its two losses while forcing the Celtics into a season-low 34.6 percent shooting and a season-high 24 turnovers. The Celtics' only other loss since then came at home to Denver on Nov. 14.

Rondo did the majority of his damage in the first half with 10 points, eight rebounds and nine assists, leading Boston to a 57-51 halftime lead.

Trailing by seven, Boston closed the first quarter with a 7-0 run for a 28-27 lead. The Celtics beat Indiana for the sixth time in seven home games.

Boston hosts Portland on Friday. The Trail Blazers come in with a six-game winning streak.

Indiana, which has dropped eight of 11, travels to Cleveland on Friday before a rematch with the Celtics on Sunday, finishing what appears to be its toughest stretch of the season.



Boston guard Rajon Rondo goes up for a rebound against Indiana's Troy Murphy during the Celtics' 114-96.

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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Words of wisdom from Mike Gundy

I'm not going to talk about football today. I'm not going to take a question about the game.

I'm going to talk about this article right here. Anybody hasn't read this article — I don't read it, but it was brought to me by a mother with children.

I want to talk about this article. Three-fourths of this is inaccurate. It's fiction and this article embarrasses me to be involved with athletics tremendously. That article had to have been written by a person that doesn't have a child and has never had a child that's had their heart broken and come home upset! And had to deal with the child when he is upset!

If you have a child someday, you'll understand how it feels. But you obviously don't have a child. I do. If your child goes down the street and somebody makes fun of him because he dropped a pass in a pickup game, or says he's fat, and he comes home crying to his mom, you'd understand. But you haven't had that.

That's why I don't read the newspaper! Because it's garbage! And the editor who let it come out is garbage! Attacking an amateur athlete doing everything right!

And then you want to write articles about guys who don't do things right and downgrade them, the ones that do make plays.

Are you kidding me? Where are we at in society today? Come after me! I'm a man! I'm 40! I'm not a kid! Write something about me! Or the coaches. Don't write a kid that does everything right, that's heart is broken, and then say the coaches say he was scared! That ain't true! That's not true! So get your facts straight!

AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, December 4, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Page 13

USCHO.com Hockey Top 20

| | team | record | previous |
|----|-----------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 | NOTRE DAME (40) | 10-3-2 | 2 |
| 2 | Boston College (1) | 9-4-1 | 5 |
| 3 | Minnesota (2) | 7-2-5 | 1 |
| 4 | Miami (OH) (2) | 8-3-3 | 6 |
| 5 | Colorado College | 9-4-3 | 3 |
| 6 | Northeastern | 10-3-2 | 4 |
| 7 | Boston University (1) | 9-4-0 | 8 |
| 8 | Denver (1) | 9-5-1 | 9 |
| 9 | Princeton (2) | 9-2-0 | 7 |
| 10 | Air Force (1) | 13-1-0 | 11 |
| 11 | Minnesota State | 8-3-3 | 10 |
| 12 | Vermont | 9-3-2 | 13 |
| 13 | Cornell | 5-1-2 | 12 |
| 14 | Michigan | 9-7-0 | 14 |
| 15 | Alaska-Anchorage | 7-5-2 | 19 |
| 16 | Dartmouth | 6-4-0 | 20 |
| 17 | Mass.-Lowell | 8-5-0 | NR |
| 18 | Nebraska-Omaha | 9-4-1 | 16 |
| 19 | New Hampshire | 5-6-3 | 15 |
| 20 | Alaska | 8-4-2 | |

USA Today Hockey Top 15

| | team | record | previous |
|----|-------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 | NOTRE DAME (33) | 10-3-2 | 2 |
| 2 | Minnesota (1) | 7-2-5 | 1 |
| 3 | Boston College | 9-4-1 | 6 |
| 4 | Miami (OH) | 8-3-3 | 5 |
| 5 | Boston University | 9-4-0 | 8 |
| 6 | Colorado College | 9-4-3 | 3 |
| 7 | Denver | 9-5-1 | 10 |
| 8 | Northeastern | 10-3-2 | 4 |
| 9 | Princeton | 9-2-0 | 7 |
| 10 | Air Force | 13-1-0 | 11 |
| 11 | Minnesota State | 8-3-3 | 9 |
| 12 | Vermont | 9-3-2 | 13 |
| 13 | Cornell | 5-1-2 | 12 |
| 14 | Michigan | 9-7-0 | 15 |
| 15 | New Hampshire | 5-6-3 | NR |

NCAA Basketball AP Top 25

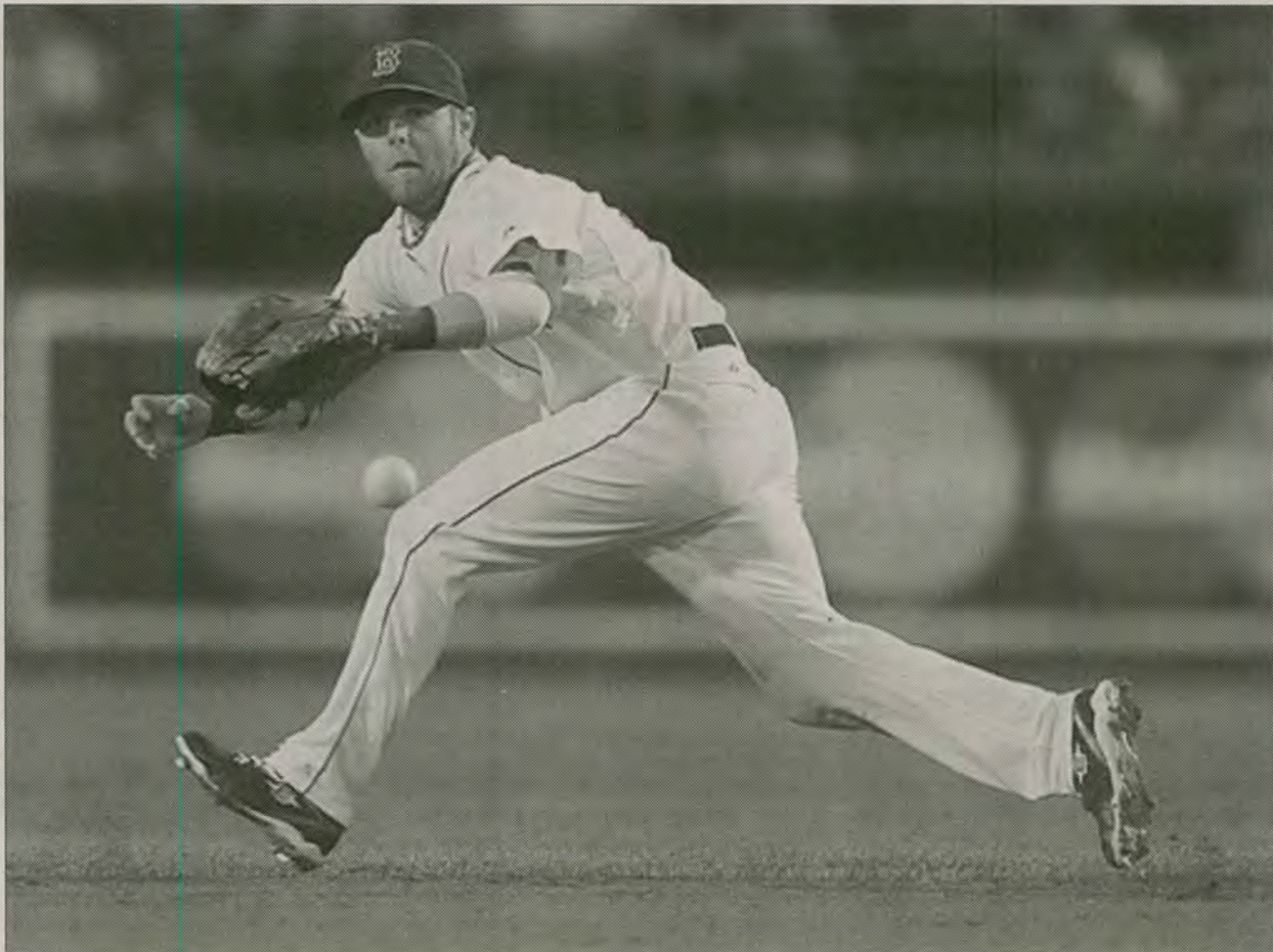
| | team | points | previous |
|----|---------------------|--------|----------|
| 1 | North Carolina (72) | 1,800 | 1 |
| 2 | Connecticut | 1,723 | 2 |
| 3 | Pittsburgh | 1,592 | 4 |
| 4 | Duke | 1,526 | 7 |
| 5 | Gonzaga | 1,489 | 9 |
| 6 | Oklahoma | 1,437 | 11 |
| 7 | NOTRE DAME | 1,359 | 8 |
| 8 | Texas | 1,231 | 6 |
| 9 | Purdue | 1,086 | 10 |
| 10 | Tennessee | 1,016 | 12 |
| 11 | Louisville | 1,003 | 3 |
| 12 | UCLA | 966 | 13 |
| 13 | Michigan State | 946 | 5 |
| 14 | Xavier | 902 | 16 |
| 15 | Wake Forest | 736 | 19 |
| 16 | Syracuse | 668 | NR |
| 17 | Villanova | 570 | 20 |
| 18 | Memphis | 526 | 18 |
| 19 | Arizona State | 401 | 14 |
| 20 | Georgetown | 388 | 21 |
| 21 | Miami (FL) | 309 | 22 |
| 22 | Davidson | 286 | 24 |
| 23 | Florida | 281 | 17 |
| 24 | Baylor | 272 | NR |
| 25 | Marquette | 221 | 15 |

around the dial

NCAA FOOTBALL

Louisville at Rutgers
7:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia fields a ground ball during Game Three of the American League Division Series. Pedroia won the American League MVP award on Nov. 18.

MVP Pedroia earns new contract

Associated Press

BOSTON — Dustin Pedroia has a Rookie of the Year award, an MVP, a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger and, of course, a World Series ring.

And now he's got the big-bucks contract befitting one of the most decorated young players in baseball.

The Red Sox second baseman, who earned \$457,000 last season while winning the AL Most Valuable Player award, agreed Wednesday to a \$40.5 million, six-year contract that could keep in Boston through at least 2014.

"I wanted to be here a long time," Pedroia said at

a Fenway Park news conference. "Hopefully in the next six years we can win some championships."

Heading into his third year in the majors, the 5-foot-9 second baseman has already joined Cal Ripken Jr. and Ryan Howard as the only players in baseball history to follow a rookie award with an MVP. Pedroia led the AL with 213 hits, 118 runs and 54 doubles while batting .326 with 17 home runs, 83 RBIs 20 stolen bases.

He is the first AL second baseman to win the MVP award since Nellie Fox in 1959 with the Chicago White Sox. And the Red Sox have reached the postsea-

son in both of his years with the club.

"He embodies just about everything we look for in a Red Sox player, and that makes this a great day for the organization," general manager Theo Epstein said. "Dustin plays hard, first and foremost, all the time. He plays to win. He plays for his teammates, not himself."

"What's not to like? If we had 25 guys like him, we'd be in good shape. I don't think we'd be the Red Sox right now without Dustin Pedroia."

The club effectively bought out Pedroia's arbitration years and his first two years of free agency (2013-14); there is also a

club option for 2015 that is voided if he's traded. Although negotiations began during the summer, the Red Sox expected Pedroia to be in contention for the MVP award and made their offer knowing that arbitration awards for MVP winners can be expensive.

At 25, Pedroia sacrificed — actually, postponed — the chance for a free agent jackpot for an average annual salary of around \$7 million and the chance to stay with the organization that picked him in the second round of the 2004 draft. He would be 32 when the contract expires, if the Red Sox pick up the option.

IN BRIEF

Stars' Avery apologizes for inappropriate remarks

DALLAS — Suspended Dallas Stars agitator Sean Avery flew to New York on Wednesday for a meeting with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, and gave a likely sample of what he'll say by apologizing for comments about his former girlfriends.

"I would like to sincerely apologize for my off-color remarks to the press yesterday from Calgary," Avery said. "I should not have made those comments and I recognize that they were inappropriate."

"It was a bad attempt to build excitement for the game, but I am now acutely aware of how hurtful my actions were. I caused unnecessary embarrassment to my peers as well as people I have been close with in the past."

"I apologize for offending the great fans of the NHL, the commissioner, my teammates, my coaching staff and the Dallas Stars management and ownership."

Leach negotiating new deal with Texas Tech

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers says the school is negotiating a contract extension with Mike Leach, amid reports that the Red Raiders coach has met with the University of Washington about the Huskies' top job.

Myers couldn't confirm newspaper reports that Leach was in Seattle this week to talk to UW officials. Myers said Leach, named Big 12 coach of the year on Tuesday, didn't seek permission for an interview and that he hadn't been contacted by Washington.

Leach didn't return a call seeking comment Wednesday. A person who answered the phone Wednesday at IMG and identified himself as one of Leach's agents disputed that Myers has offered a contract extension. He declined to give his name and hung up.

Raptors dismiss head coach Sam Mitchell

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors fired coach Sam Mitchell on Wednesday and replaced him with assistant Jay Triano, one day after an embarrassing loss at Denver.

Mitchell led the Raptors to the playoffs in each of the last two seasons and was honored as the NBA's coach of the year for 2006-07. Toronto was off to a sluggish 8-9 start, due in part to injuries.

General manager Bryan Colangelo said Tuesday night's 132-93 loss to the Nuggets was the final straw. Toronto allowed Denver to shoot 60 percent from the field and the Nuggets' 37 assists were the most by an NBA team in regulation this season. The 39-point difference marked the fifth-worst loss in franchise history.

"Obviously, last night's game was just an absolute kick to the gut," Colangelo said. "When you look back, it's a culmination of things. Expectations are high. We want to win."

NFL

Burress done for season, playoffs

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants expect Antonio Pierce to play in Sunday's game against Philadelphia while the team gathers information on the line-backer's involvement in a shooting that led to the season-ending suspension of star receiver Plaxico Burress.

Coach Tom Coughlin said Pierce would practice Wednesday with the Super Bowl champions.

"Each case is different, each is separate," Coughlin said when asked about the decisive action the Giants took against Burress on Tuesday — fining and suspending him for four games, the rest of the regular season.

The team also placed Burress on the reserve non-football injury list for conduct detrimental to the team, which means he won't be back for the playoffs, either.

Coughlin said there currently is no need to consider potential punishment of Pierce, the Giants' leader of defense.

"There is no doubt we'll do the right thing," Coughlin added, "and that's no threat to the players, they know that."

The Giants punished Burress a day after he was charged with two counts of illegal weapons possession. He shot himself in the right thigh at a Manhattan nightclub early Saturday morning.

Pierce, who was with Burress, has not talked to police about his involvement since the incident. Authorities are trying to determine whether he tried to cover up the shooting; investigators impounded Pierce's Cadillac Escalade and are searching it for any blood or gun residue.

He might face potential charges and a possible suspension if he did.

Coughlin said Wednesday that he used two words in discussing the Burress' situation with the team — disappointment and sadness.

"That sums it all up," Coughlin said. "I had a conversation with Plaxico. He was very humble. He was remorseful. Obviously that doesn't change anything. But you have to understand that he is part of our team and our concern is with he and his family's well being, and the ability of him to get through this circumstance and be healthy again."

The Giants handed down their decision on Burress after Dr. Scott Rodeo, a team physician, examined Burress and told them the gunshot wound would sideline the 31-year-old player for 4-to-6 weeks.

The Giants (11-1) are deep at wide receiver, however, with players such as Domenik Hixon and Sinorice Moss who can

replace the man who caught the game-winning pass in the 17-14 Super Bowl win over the New England Patriots.

It would be much harder to replace Pierce.

Pierce smiled but declined to speak to The Associated Press on Wednesday morning when he reported to Giants Stadium about 8 a.m.

Running back Ahmad Bradshaw was also in the club, but not near the other two players, his attorney said.

Following the shooting, police say Pierce drove Burress to the hospital and returned to New Jersey with Burress' gun in the glove compartment of his black Cadillac Escalade.

Pierce's lawyer said Tuesday he contacted prosecutors as soon as he was hired by the line-backer on Monday.

"After the events in question, Mr. Pierce did what any other reasonable person would do under the circumstances, he hired counsel," attorney Michael Bachner said. He said he hasn't been notified that Pierce will be charged.

"Mr. Pierce, given the extraordinary circumstances of that evening, acted responsibly in trying to save what could have been the life of a friend," Bachner said.

Bradshaw's attorney, Charles Stacy, said his client wasn't suspected of any wrongdoing.

Both players said they were planning to speak with the district attorney's office soon.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again about the case Tuesday, saying he talked to Giants president John Mara and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. He told them the law says "you see something, you got to call the cops. That's the thing you should do."

Police also plan to interview the people at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center who treated Burress and did not report the shooting, as required by law.

Dr. Josyann Abisaab was suspended for not reporting Burress injury. She apparently arrived at the hospital at 2 a.m. to treat him, but it's not clear why she was called.

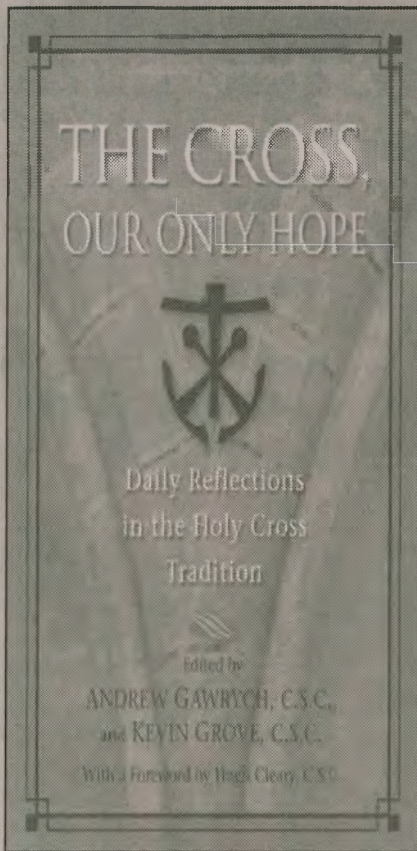
Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon said the team has no tie-in with Abisaab.

"She is not...we have no relationship with her... we do not know her," Hanlon said Wednesday.

Abisaab could not be reached for comment. She graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and has no history of state disciplinary action. She is affiliated with the hospital and specializes in internal and emergency medicine.

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NFL

Minnesota judge blocks Viking suspensions

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked the NFL's suspension of Vikings stars Kevin and Pat Williams for violating the league's anti-doping policy, but the players' status for Sunday's game at Detroit remained uncertain.

Hennepin County District Judge Gary Larson issued the temporary restraining order at the players' request, saying he wanted more time to hear arguments in the case. No further hearing date immediately was set.

The Williamses were among six players suspended for four games for testing positive for a diuretic that can be used as a masking agent for steroids. They have argued that the substance containing the diuretic didn't list all its ingredients, and that league scientists and lawyers had information about the substance but withheld it from players.

The NFL argues that the league's policy on banned substances is collectively bargained with the players' association and players are responsible for what is in their bodies.

"This is one of the more difficult cases I've had in 23 years," Larson said before signing the order. "If I make a mistake, I've got to decide on a temporary basis which side I'm able to make the mistake on."

Larson said he would make himself available to reconsider the issue "as quickly as you'd like me to hear it." He also said he expected lawyers for the NFL, who participated in the hearing by phone, would take the issue to federal court in Minneapolis to get the suspensions reinstated.

"There is no merit to this lawsuit and we will promptly seek to have the order reversed," the NFL said in a statement.

Both Kevin and Pat Williams, who are not related, sat in the courtroom with their lawyers for Wednesday's hearing, which lasted more than two hours. Both declined comment afterward.

Their attorney, Peter Ginsberg, didn't claim victory, instead saying, "It's a long hard road. It's going to take a long time for them to reclaim their reputations."

A message left by The Associated Press seeking reaction from the Vikings was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Dan Nash, an attorney for the NFL, told Larson before he issued the order that granting it would be unprecedented and create a sideshow, disrupting the Vikings team and sending a message to other suspended players that they could file similar lawsuits.

"This program (governing banned substances) would be thrown into disarray," Nash said.

But Ginsberg said his clients' case is unique and they should be given the benefit of the doubt and continue playing until the issues are fully addressed in court.

The Vikings are 7-5 and in first place in the NFC North, with the

Williamses a big part of their success.

The two Pro Bowl tackles are the foundation of one of the league's top run defenses and leaders of a unit that has played a big role in the Vikings ascending to sole possession of first place in the division for the first time in four years.

"They're the first two guys here every morning at 7 o'clock working out," said Ellis Wymys, the backup to Kevin Williams. "You see the dedication that those two guys have to this team and this game."

"It's not that way around the league with a lot of guys. A lot of guys in their position would be able to take days off and chill out. Those guys have unbelievable dedication in what they do."

The ruling gives the Vikings a newfound hope that they may have the Williams Wall intact, at least for the immediate future, while they try to sew up the division title.

"They'll get back and get their playbooks and start focusing on Detroit," Ginsberg said.

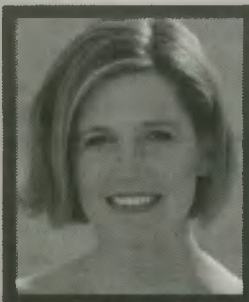
"There is no merit to this lawsuit and we will promptly seek to have it reversed."

NFL Statement

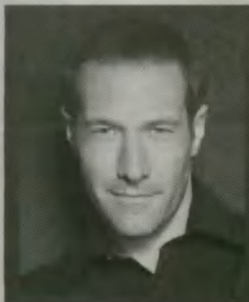
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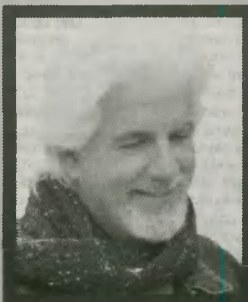
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Weis

continued from page 20

Alarm went off somewhere in the bowels of the sporting world and we all dug our claws in and hung on for dear life. After nearly two weeks of unabridged Weis Watch, we are finally right back where we started. Some people are happy, some are sad, and Charlie Weis is the head football coach at Notre Dame.

If you thought the attention and public outcry was bad when his job was in jeopardy, imagine what it will be like now that it is secure again. Before the thousands of screaming parrots break out of their cages once again, threatening to throw themselves into a wood chipper at the thought of another season with Charlie at the helm, let's take a deeper look.

Anyone who knows who Rudy is can tell you that the past two seasons have been the worst stretch in the program's history. They'll tell you about his inability to make adjustments or motivate his team. Some even complain about his arrogance. Would you really want a coach to tell you he stinks and his players don't stand a chance? Show me any person in sports who doesn't think he's the best, and I'll show you someone who never will be.

The Irish have fallen on tough times, but it didn't come out of nowhere. Last year after Notre Dame's 38-0 drubbing against USC, Pete Carroll told the press that he saw this down year coming three years ago — while Weis was still busy collecting jewelry in New England.

The nay-sayers say Weis can't develop talent. Every facet of the 2008 team was stronger and better prepared than in 2007. The defense gave up an average of one less touchdown per game this season, and the offense averaged one more touchdown per game.

If they make the same improvements next season, and there is no reason to think they wouldn't, the Irish would win three of the games they lost this year. 9-3 ain't too shabby.

Actually, the Irish were less than a handful of plays away

from 9-3 this season. A pick six on the first throw of the second half against North Carolina can't be blamed on Weis. With a bum knee, he couldn't have thrown an interception even if he tried to. Neither can a blown coverage on the goal line against Syracuse or an overthrow in overtime against Pittsburgh. If the guys on the field make those plays, we would all be whistling a very different tune.

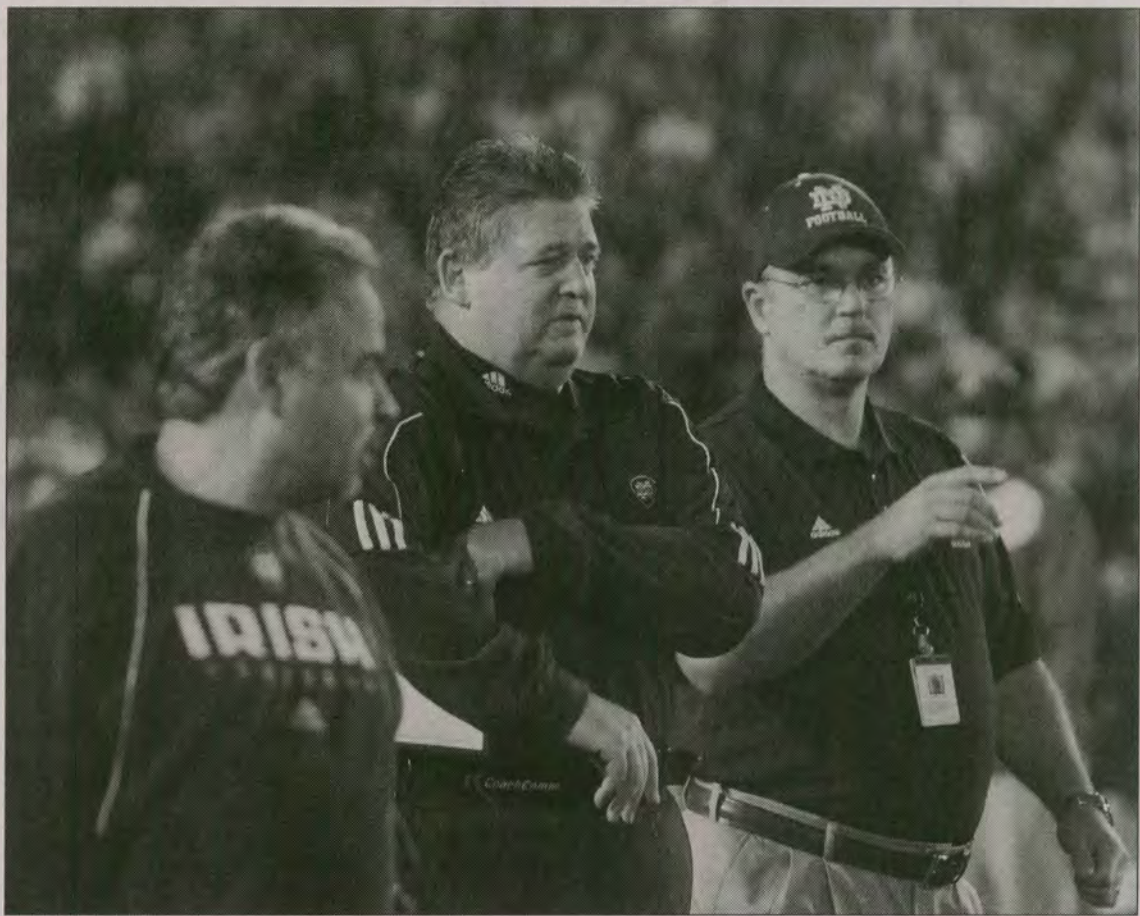
A head coach is a lot like a president. People are going to criticize him anytime anything goes wrong. Just look at Mr. Bush: At first glance it would seem that the man probably still wears Velcro shoes. He does have a degree from Yale and somehow managed to take residence on Pennsylvania Ave., he probably knows a thing or two that you and I don't.

The same goes for Charlie. So, as you spend the next few weeks ranting in your dorm rooms, at the dinner table or in your classrooms, remember he too probably knows a thing or two that you and I don't.

Take for example the end of regulation against Pittsburgh. With just over a minute to go and the ball near midfield Weis was faced with a fourth-and-1. Instead of safely punting the ball away or sneaking up the middle, the Irish called a play action fade route to Golden Tate. The pass was incomplete and suddenly your four years of play-calling on Madden Football greatly outweighed his expertise. However, if Tate had hauled that pass in, something he's been known to do, Notre Dame would be in good position to at least drive into field goal range and win the game. Then it would have been good ol' Charlie — our favorite offensive genius.

To gauge real improvement, judgments can't be based on a few missed plays or bounces that didn't go the right way. Perspective is key. This year Weis took a dismal 3-9 team and a strong recruiting class to 6-6. With a mediocre 6-6 team and another outstanding recruiting class on the way, who knows what 2009 will bring. I'm willing to find out; luckily, so is Notre Dame.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu



Head coach Charlie Weis walks off the field in defeat after Southern California's 38-3 victory over Notre Dame Saturday.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Staying

continued from page 20

same priorities, do we see the same things that need to be fixed?"

Weis led the Irish to a 4-1 start this year before Notre Dame lost four of its last five to finish 6-6. He has a 28-21 record in his four years at Notre Dame. He coached the team to two BCS bowls in his first two seasons, but then lost a school-record 15 games in the next two.

Swarbrick described a two-step process used to evaluate the program. First, determine how closely Weis' priorities matched his. Should the two differ drastically, he said, he would decide whether the differences could be resolved.

"But we didn't. We never did," Swarbrick said. "My list and his list were remarkably similar, and our views with where we need to go forward were very much in sync. In that sense, it wasn't in doubt."

Swarbrick didn't specifically say what needed to be fixed. He said he did not consider any

other candidates for the head coaching position.

"Never talked to anyone else, never asked anyone else to talk to somebody, didn't engage somebody for that purpose ... whatever versions of that you can think of, we didn't do," he said.

Swarbrick said he talked to a number of people, both inside and outside the program, and asked them for their opinions of how Notre Dame could improve the team. He talked to people involved with both college football and the NFL, he said.

"You just talk to people," he said. "What are your observations? What do you see when you look at us? What do you think we ought to be focused on? They're open-ended questions that invite people with special knowledge and expertise to share their views with you."

Swarbrick knew after his Tuesday meeting with Weis that Weis would be the head coach. Based on what they talked about in the meeting, Swarbrick said, he knew the two could agree on a plan.

"Now we'll continue to build out that plan, we'll get more

detailed about it and start to implement some things, but we knew at the end of that meeting that we were on the same page," Swarbrick said.

Swarbrick said the large amount of attention from the media, fans and alumni, while a healthy aspect of the program, did not factor into the decision-making process.

"They do and say what they do and say because they care so much," Swarbrick said. "And I think that's a great thing. I don't pay attention to it substantively. I don't look at it for advice or good ideas, we don't survey it to see how it's running."

Swarbrick also said the possibility of a bowl bid did not impact the process, but he expected Notre Dame to go to a bowl, though he did not know where.

"If we're presented with a situation that we think is right for the student athletes, that's consistent with providing a great experience for them, not conflicting with finals, et cetera, then we'll be eager to do it," he said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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**HIPHOP
NIGHT**

5

6

Big East

continued from page 20

per set with 2.81, despite playing in only 84 sets on the season.

"She's tough," Brown said. "And that's the reason she was in there as the libero for us at the end of the year."

Kaelin paced the team with 367 kills on the season and a .258 hitting percentage. Kaelin was coming back after missing the entire 2007 season due to injury. Her freshman year, Kaelin posted 318 kills but only a .188 hitting percentage.

"I think Christina Kaelin came back from her surgery and was very good," Brown

said. "Certainly [she was] a much better player statistically than she was her freshman year."

Brown said that she was currently meeting with each player individually to go over this season, but that the team would soon turn its focus to 2009.

"We're evaluating the season," she said. "It's not like we haven't looked to next season at all, but I think while it's still fresh in our minds we're going over what we did this year."

With only Croal and senior Justine Stremick graduating, the future certainly looks bright.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Seniors

continued from page 20

Alumni Field.

"Even though they were disappointed, they handled it very well, they handled it like sportsmen," Clark said. "Their legacy may be that they helped next year's team. I know it's going to happen — there's going to be a team that before very long will make it to the Final Four. I don't know when, but I know it'll happen sooner than later."

Not all was lost, however, for a team Clark had often called his best at Notre Dame. The Irish captured the Big East regular-season title for the second straight year, a first in the program's history.

"They played very nice soccer — as nice a playing team as I've ever had," Clark said. "They're a great group, and I don't know

when I've had a group with such a great attitude ... All my teams have been very good, but in many ways they were a special group. They all came in very fit and worked their tails off."

Walk-on defender Terry Lee epitomized the work ethic of the senior class, Clark said. He called the 5-foot-9, 155-pound senior "one of the inspirations behind this team" because of the effort he brought to practice on a daily basis.

After back-to-back all-Big East selections, senior defender Matt Besler was named a Preseason All-American heading into this year. He didn't disappoint, earning individual weekly conference and national honors several times throughout the season while starting every game for the Irish.

"Without question he'll be in the MLS combine and have a fair chance of being drafted," Clark said of Besler. "We know he's an Academic All-American, and I'd

say he's got a good chance at being an All-American as well — terrific senior year, but a terrific four years as well."

Notre Dame's leading scorer, senior forward Bright Dike (12 goals, 29 points), could be granted a fifth year of eligibility after not playing as a junior. Defender Cory Rellas and goalkeeper Andrew Quinn — who was Notre Dame's starter this season until suffering an injury on Oct. 29 — may also apply for another year after not seeing any game action as freshmen.

Whether it has some returnees or not, the nine-man senior class is one with which Clark has cherished his time.

"These guys are just all terrific guys and they have been fantastic," Clark said. "I just can't say enough positive things about them."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

BEARDED ASSASSIN



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior guard Kyle McAlarney drives to the basket for a layup in Notre Dame's 102-76 win over South Dakota Tuesday.

Belles

continued from page 20

Trine. Murphy also pulled down two rebounds.

Fellow freshman Patsy Mahoney hit a key three pointer in the first half and had a total of nine points in the game.

The freshmen will have to help the team overcome the loss of Alison Kessler to graduation.

"Alison was a good player but we have seven new players this year," Beier said. "I think that we are a very different team and I can't wait to see

what we can do as we head into our conference games."

The Belles are coming off of a successful Thanksgiving break that saw them earn one victory and a tough one-point loss in the Anderson College Tip-Off Tournament.

"I think that Wheaton win was great for us," Beier said. "It was frustrating losing another close game but I think that we are moving in the right direction. The games over break have helped us prepare well for our upcoming conference games."

The Belles were able to defeat Wheaton at home on Nov. 25 by a score of 81-78.

Newsom was a force in the

game against Wheaton as well as, notching her first double-double of the season. She and Beier combined for 35 points, with Beier coming off the bench in the game.

"I expect us to have more depth in our program this year," Henley said. "We need to improve our overall team defense, and be more balanced in our offense from last season."

The Belles will look to keep up their winning ways when they host inter-conference foe Calvin on Saturday. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m.

Contact Katelyn Grabarek at kgrabara01@saintmarys.edu

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MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PAT GARTLAND



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Play place

6 Ballroom dance

11 Chart-topper

14 Sign of spring

15 Mountaineer's tool

16 ET's ride

17 Play follower, usually

19 Unruly do

20 Amateurish

21 "___ economy is always beauty": Henry James

23 Buggy rider

26 Loofah, e.g.

30 108-card game

31 Start the pot

32 Pest control brand

33 Spoil

35 Bibliophile's suffix

36 Tipplers

37 Circulatory system flow
- 41 Singer ___ P. Morgan

43 Early 11th-century year

44 Back at sea?

47 Actress Chase of "Now, Voyager"

48 For dieters

51 Smidgen

52 Shoot-'em-up figure

54 Harmony, briefly

55 Clobber, biblically

56 Computer that uses OS X

58 Director Lee

59 What the starts of 17-, 26-, 37- and 52-Across are

66 Crib cry

67 Burger topper, maybe
- Down**

1 Amniotic ___

2 Play about Capote

3 Put on TV

4 Manage, barely

5 Jacob's twin

6 G.I.'s helmet, slangily

7 Duke's sports org.

8 "Read Across America" grp.

9 Guy's partner

10 Primrose family member

11 Saroyan novel, with "The"

12 "It slipped my mind!"

13 Letterman lists

18 ID on a dust jacket

22 Acknowledges nonverbally

23 PC glitch

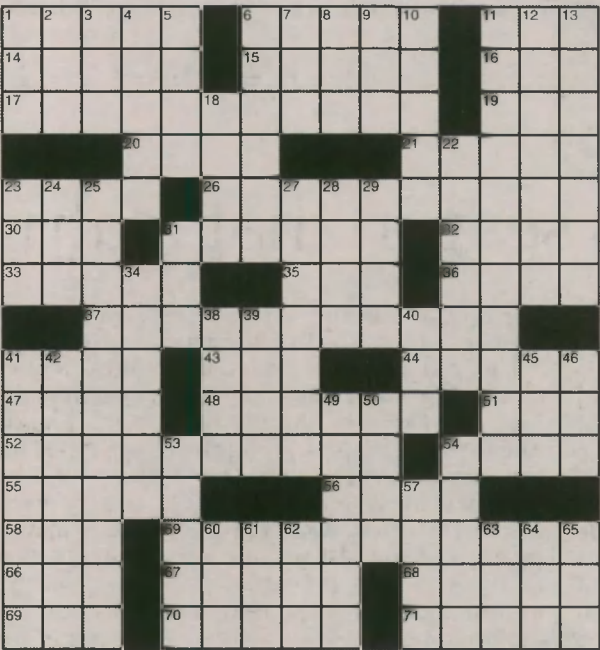
24 "Wheel of Fortune" buy

25 Hoops coach with the most N.C.A.A. Division I wins

27 Playful mockery

28 Rural event on horseback

29 Work out in the ring



- Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld
- 31 Commotion

34 Red Sox div.

38 Old Dodge

39 Singer of the 1962 hit "The Wanderer"

40 Guinness Book suffix

41 Tools for making twisty cuts
- 42 Barnard grads

45 Bled, like dyes

46 "Deal or No Deal" network

49 Fakes, as an injury

50 Weaponry

53 Leave alone

54 "Beat it!"
- 57 Wood-shaping tool

60 Suffered from

61 Here, in Paris

62 "I'm kidding!"

63 Deadeye's asset

64 Dryly amusing

65 Nintendo's Super ___

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

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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

PROOD

LALIV

PEMEXT

NORIPS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



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

Print answer here: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HANDY TAWNY REDUCE MYOPIC
Answer: When the gangster went to prison, he became part of — THE "IN" CROWD

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

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

Happy Birthday: Your ability to detach yourself from the past and the negative will be your best asset for getting ahead this year. There are gains to be made and, although some of them may be at the expense of others, it's time to make that decision. Your numbers are 4, 13, 24, 27, 31, 33, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Help others and, in the end, you will get something you least expect in return. Impetuous action will not get jobs done quicker. If you have to push others to help, you should do things on your own. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Everything has a price tag, so don't think someone is giving you something for nothing. Make plans early or you may not reap the benefit of an enjoyable evening with someone special. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let people know what you have to offer and promote your services, skills and ideas. You will get interesting responses that can help you achieve some of your goals. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have to set a budget that will allow you to feel in control. Stress is something that you have to work hard to eliminate. Remember to look at the positive in your life, as well. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your ability to put things together, convince others to do things or to sell an idea will be golden. A relationship will need nurturing. You'll find interesting gifts for the people you want to impress this season. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can get ahead enough to feel comfortable about taking time off at the end of the month. Someone you love will help you get things finished. A change of plans will annoy some and please others. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do what needs to be done and get on with your life. Not everyone will agree with you but that's OK, as long as you base your decisions on what matters most to you. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take what others say as the gospel. Find out for yourself what's going on before you make a choice. If you let your emotions get involved in your decisions, you will have to backtrack. Don't give in to bullying. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do your research before you go shopping. Knowing what and where to find an item at the best price will make your life easier. Someone you meet through work or school will take a greater interest in you. Trust in your creativity and intuition. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An experienced friend will come to you with an offer you cannot refuse. Look at the potential to stabilize your financial situation. A settlement, rebate or surrender you are waiting for will come through. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Help is available as long as you don't let your emotions cloud issues and stop you from accepting what you need to move forward. Asking for a favor may put you in an indebted position but it will be the best way to get what you want. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be the one to ruin a surprise. Talks will lead to arguments, so keep your beliefs a secret for now. Make personal changes instead of trying to mold someone else. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, innovative and intellectual. You set goals and go after them. You pick sides and fight for your beliefs without remorse.

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

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FOOTBALL

It's official: Weis to return

Swarbrick met with Weis Tuesday in Calif.

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Charlie Weis will remain the head coach of the football team, athletic director Jack Swarbrick announced Wednesday.

Swarbrick and Weis met in California Tuesday to discuss the season and the future of the football program. Swarbrick said the decision came as a result of a review of the football program, not directly regarding Weis' job status.

"The issue becomes, the outcome of that analysis for me, is the things that I see that we ought to focus on, are they consistent with the coach's view?" Swarbrick said in a phone interview with The Observer. "Are we on the same page, do we see the

see STAYING/page 16



Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis looks at the action during Notre Dame's 27-21 victory over Navy on Nov. 15.

Despite struggles, not all blame falls on Weis

He's staying. You may now resume the conversations that you most likely dropped mid-sentence 12 days ago. Even before Notre Dame's embarrassing 24-23 loss to Syracuse on Nov. 22, there were calls for Charlie Weis' headset. After the loss, there were calls for his head.

The Notre Dame Crisis



Dan Murphy

Sports Editor

see WEIS/page 16

VOLLEYBALL

Big East run highlights season that featured ups and downs

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

For Notre Dame coach Debbie Brown, the 2008 season has just been a series of ups and downs.

"It was a little bit of a rollercoaster ride," she said. "Certainly we had some high points, but we also had some low points too. We'd have like to have been more consistent than it was."

Brown said the highest point of the Irish season was the team's Big East tournament run, when it beat Connecticut and top-seeded St. John's

before falling to Louisville in the final by a score of 3-1 (25-23, 28-26, 15-25, 25-22).

"We finished strong, and that's definitely an important thing," Brown said. "Even though we came only a couple of points shy of winning the Big East tournament, we certainly made strides in getting there. I felt that in our last couple of matches, we just played a much higher level of volleyball."

The rollercoaster ride started early for Notre Dame, who participated in four early season tournaments in Notre Dame, Minneapolis and Moscow, Idaho. The Irish went 5-7 in these matches, with one of

their losses being a five-set thriller to then-No. 4 California.

The Irish proceeded to go 9-5 in the Big East, good enough for fifth place in the conference, but fifth-set struggles continued to haunt Notre Dame all year. The squad finished 2-5 in matches that went the distance, and just 3-7 in four-set matches. In tilts that went the minimum three sets, though, the Irish were 12-2.

"I think that was probably a coincidence," Brown said of her team's struggles in the fifth set. "I don't think it was the fact that it was a five-game match. Certainly I don't think it was conditioning or fatigue."

Brown did say, though, that senior Mallorie Croal would have helped the Irish in those long matches. Croal went down with an ankle injury in the spring of her sophomore year, and was hampered the past two years. The senior outside hitter played her last match in Notre Dame's Oct. 21 loss to Long Beach State this season.

"[Croal] would have made a huge difference," Brown said. "She's somebody that has big game experience, she's very poised, and she makes players around her better. In close games she's somebody that wants the ball."

Even without Croal, Brown

said she saw several bright spots on this year's team, specifically freshman outside hitter Kristen Dealy, sophomore libero Megan Dunne, and junior outside hitter Christina Kaelin.

Dealy played in 116 out of 117 sets this year and led the team in aces with 30. Brown praised Dealy's all-around play, specifically her passing game.

"We were hoping that she'd be able to come in and do that," Brown said. "But the fact that she did, and just the load that she carried, especially the passing load, was big for us."

Dunne led the team in digs

see BIG EAST/page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Squad takes first home and conference victory

By KATELYN GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's defeated Trine for its first home and MIAA Conference victory of the season to bring their record 3-3 (1-0).

"Our goal for this year is to win conference," senior Nicole Beier said. "We want to make it to the finals of the conference tournament."

Each of the last two seasons the Belles have reached the semifinals of the MIAA tournament. Tonight the Belles took a step toward that goal with their 80-72 victory.

The Belles spread the scoring around in the game against Trine, with senior Erin Newsom

leading the way with 20 points, and nine rebounds.

Junior Anna Kammrath also chipped in 10 points and eight rebounds for the night.

"Our freshmen need to learn our program and what we are trying to establish," Belles coach Jen Henley said. "We have a very talented young group that will have the opportunity to contribute early for us."

Some of that young group have had the opportunity to get their feet wet early this season.

Freshman Kelley Murphy, scored six points, and made three key free throws down the stretch for the Belles against

see BELLES/page 18

MEN'S SOCCER

Seniors suffer heartbreak

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

For a senior class that had reached the NCAA Sweet 16 in each of its first three seasons, a Nov. 25 season-ending loss to Northwestern in the tournament's second round was both shocking and shattering.

"This group of seniors really set their hearts on the Final Four," Irish coach Bobby Clark. "I just feel so sorry for the seniors. I don't know if I've ever seen a locker room more disappointed after game."

The loss was the first — and only — at home for Notre Dame (12-7-2) after a regular season during which the Irish posted a 9-0-1 record at



Senior defender Matt Besler deflects the ball during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Georgetown on Oct. 29.

JESS LEE/The Observer

see SENIORS/page 18