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Career Center helps grads in job hunt

Persistence and networking are critical skills alums should use to find employment

By ANN-MARIE WOODS
News Writer

In light of the struggle of many recent graduates to find employment in the weak economy, persistence and networking will prove critical for seniors entering a competitive job market.

At graduation in May, 20 percent of the graduating senior class categorized themselves as "actively looking" for employment," Associate Director of the Career Center Kevin Monahan said.

The summer months, however, have seen slight yet significant improvements in the job market — all positive signs for young Notre Dame alumni and undergraduates.

"There was a good amount of success when students were able to get back to their hometowns and become a local candidate [for a job]," Monahan said.

Monahan and the Career Center staff have worked with recent graduates from zero to three years out of school, free of charge. The Alumni Association, in conjunction with the Career Center, assist more experienced alumni in networking and job placement.

"No matter how old you are, Notre Dame will always lend a hand," Monahan said.

With online networking seminars called Webinars, the Career Center can help coach students and alumni through understand-

see JOBS/page 4



Quentin Stenger

Students discuss employment options with potential employers at last fall's Career Fair.

Students return from abroad

By SARAH GUNN
News Writer

Senior Sarah Fink spent a year in Maynooth, Ireland, after spending a semester at American University in Washington D.C.

"I think I have come out of this past year as a more assertive person ... I say that traveling abroad was a great personal experience and studying in D.C. was a great professional experience."

As well as completing coursework in history and sociology, Fink was able to research her senior comprehensive project. She also had the opportunity to attend President Barack Obama's inaugural events.

"There is something especially fulfilling about seeing what you've studied in class in person, whether it be how things worked on Capitol Hill, or seeing the Mona Lisa at the Louvre," she said.

Senior Rachel Piontek also returned from Europe, after being one of the first Saint Mary's College students to participate in the London internship program.

Piontek said the College prepared her well for an internship abroad.

"The amount of reading and research that we typically do in SMC classes — primarily focused on political science —

see ABROAD/page 6

STUDENT SENATE

Football pep rallies to move to Irish Green

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

One or two members of the football team, students, families from the community and alumni all mingling in one large field — the future of Notre Dame pep rallies looks drastically different than what students are used to, student body vice president Cynthia Weber said at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

Due to the renovation of the Joyce Center and the University's effort to accommodate community members

and alumni who wish to attend, half of this year's pep rallies have been moved to Irish Green, the large field behind the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The administration has scheduled pep rallies to take place at Irish Green for the Michigan State, Washington, Boston College and Navy games. The remaining pep rallies will take place at various campus locations.

"We are a little bit concerned about it from a student perspective," Weber said.

see SENATE/page 3



LIZ GAYDOS/The Observer

Student Senate representatives discuss the location of pep rallies at Wednesday's meeting.

DormBooks program grows in popularity

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

Notre Dame students have an increasing number of options when it comes to buying textbooks due to the growth of DormBooks, the textbook company founded by Notre Dame graduates, and student government's launching of a ISBN database of required class materials.

Karol Grzesiak and Andrew Matasic, 2009 Notre Dame graduates, founded DormBooks three years ago in an effort to provide a cheaper alternative to the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore.

"We began the business just by the simple idea of cutting out the middle-

man," Grzesiak said.

While the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore stocks all required books and is located on campus, its prices are often higher than those of other companies such as DormBooks.

The business endeavor began as a hobby, Grzesiak said, but it grew quickly. Originally, DormBooks only sold textbooks required for business concentrations, but it expanded last fall to offer books to students in all majors.

After the founders graduated last May, Matasic took a job with J.P. Morgan, but Grzesiak turned DormBooks into a full-time job. He is currently living in East Lansing,

see BOOKS/page 4

Disability awareness promoted

Students use wheelchairs to advocate improved accessibility

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Notre Dame's School of Architecture hosted Accessibility Awareness Day on Wednesday, providing students the option to use a wheelchair for a day and bringing awareness to the difficulties endured by people living with disabilities, according to a University press release.

"The initiative is intended to elevate the awareness of architectural barriers that pose challenges to persons with disabilities and discuss the architect's role in barrier-free design," Associate Vice President and University Architect Doug Marsh



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Jack Catlin lectures on how to make buildings more handicap-accessible at Bond Hall Wednesday.

see AWARENESS/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

For the love of the game ...

This time last year, when the Irish opened the season against San Diego State, I was in the press box to cover my first football game.

Before the game started, I sat down at my laptop with a plate of free food and said to the senior sitting next to me, "Not to sound like a newbie, but this is probably the coolest thing that's ever happened to me."

He replied, "No, don't worry — it's Awesome."

As it ended up last season, between The Observer, student managing and losing my ID card, I only sat in the student section for one game, the win over Purdue. And I didn't have a problem with it.

This season, I almost didn't even buy tickets, and had to be convinced to do so by friends and alumni. I wasn't thrilled to hear about the gates being open Friday afternoons so fans could walk through the tunnel and onto the field — for me, it's old hat. Outdoor pep rallies didn't excite me. And I figured I would hear Drummer's Circle from my room in Cavanaugh.

But when I found out my group has an extra ticket, I invited my best friend up for the game. She's a huge Notre Dame fan and is super excited. I got excited too. I told her she has to get here by midnight for Drummer's Circle, that we'll buy brats at 9 a.m. from the annoying kid outside my dorm, and then we'll watch as the Band marches through Fieldhouse Mall. After that maybe we'll watch the players come out of Mass, check out the Glee Club, do some tailgating. My friends and I will teach her the cheers and show her everything game day has to offer.

So I started thinking — why aren't I excited about these traditions for every game? If they're so amazing to an outsider, shouldn't they be about 10 times better for someone on the inside?

Then I realized, yes, they are. I haven't appreciated Notre Dame football like I should, and I hope no one else makes the same mistake I do.

So students, from new freshmen to seniors to those in grad school, make the most of the first game of the season and all of the ones to come. Go to the pep rally, tailgate, see the Band.

But most importantly, come to the student section pumped up and ready to root for the Irish. Scream, dance and clap in unison with every cheer and cadence.

Because standing in that large mass of students, watching our classmates in their first of many victories this season, is the coolest thing that's ever happened to any of us.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu



Laura Myers

Sports
Production
Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE SQUIRRELS ON CAMPUS?



Johanna Kirsch

senior
McGlinn

"They think they're human. Poor, delusional freaks."



Brian Dolinar

senior
Siegfried

makes squirrel noises



Marissa Collard

senior
off campus

"They're on steroids . . . like the Yankees."



John Deahl

sophomore
Keough

"They are rapid, carnivorous cousins of real squirrels."

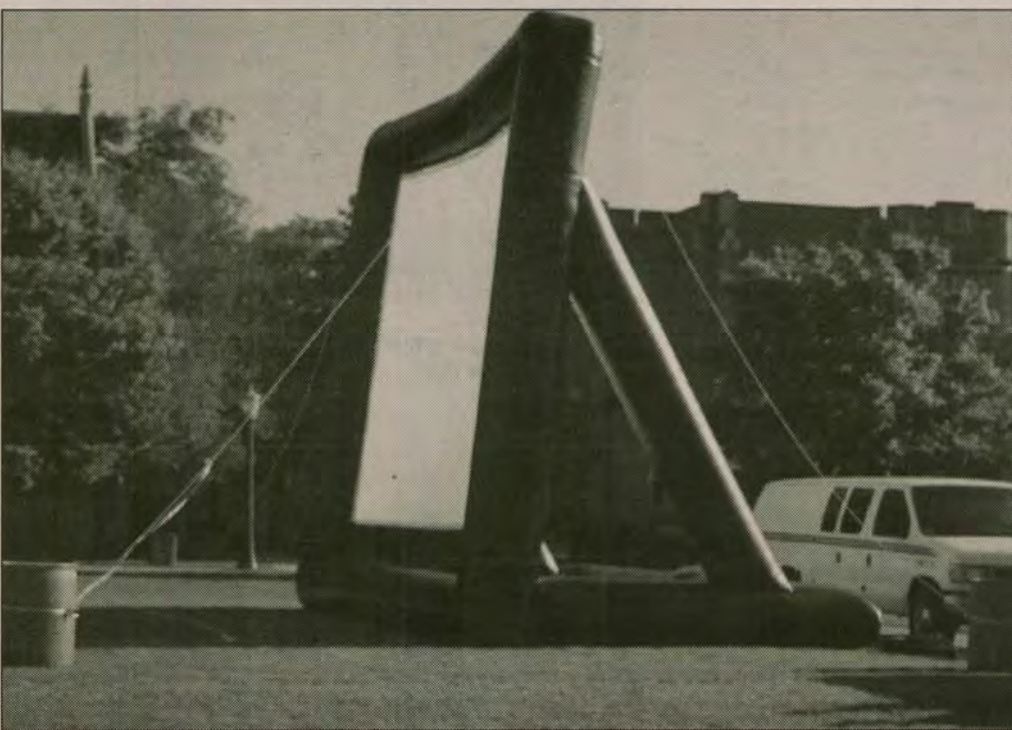


Jordan Matulis

sophomore
Howard

"If you fold up a notecard and put peanut butter in it, they look like they're reading a newspaper."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

A giant screen is set up on South Quad for a Rock Band contest that took place Wednesday night.

IN BRIEF

The Student Union Board will be showing "Star Trek" tonight in DeBartolo 101 at 10 p.m. Admission is \$3.

"The Irish Sublime," a lecture by Professor Terry Eagleton, the Excellence in English Distinguished Visitor, will take place in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium on Friday at 3 p.m. This lecture discusses the place of the sublime in Irish culture, tracing continuities in literature, politics, and aesthetics from the Middle Ages to the present. A reception will follow the event.

The Football Pep Rally will be held Friday at 6:30 p.m. on South Quad in front of Dillon Hall. The rally will include the entire Irish Cheer Squad.

The film "The Brothers Bloom" will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Sunday. The film follows two brothers, who just so happen to be expert swindlers, as they take on their last job — a wealthy heiress. Tickets are available online or at the Ticket Office 574-631-2800.

"Thin: Photographs by Lauren Greenfield" is running at the Snite Museum of Art through Oct. 18. The exhibit showcases photographs of women with eating disorders at a Florida treatment facility. The museum is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

OFFBEAT

FDA test confirms animal was in man's soda can

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. — An FDA test shows that either a frog or a toad was in a Florida man's soda can. The Food and Drug Administration test confirmed that the remains of an animal were in Fred Denegri's can of Diet Pepsi. Denegri popped the can open July 23 as he was grilling dinner outdoors in Ormond Beach.

A Pepsi spokesman said the company is aware of the FDA testing and stands by its manufacturing process. The can was traced back to a plant in

Orlando, which runs about 1,250 cans a minute on the production line. The spokesman says the speed of the production lines and the rigor of its quality control make it virtually impossible for a frog or toad to get into a can.

Denegri said he is certain the animal was in the can before he opened it.

Amsterdam lets 'beer bike' ride on, with limits

AMSTERDAM — The beer bike will ride on in Amsterdam.

The outsized bikes, seating groups of people around a central bar, are something of

a fixture in the city's center. But two accidents within two months prompted the city councillor responsible for transport to launch an investigation in June.

Following that review the city has decided to allow the bikes to carry on riding, a city spokesman said Saturday.

They will, however, need permits from the various city boroughs, and those permits are likely to come with restrictions on hours of operation and requirements for a sober driver.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 80 LOW 53	HIGH 51 LOW 45	HIGH 82 LOW 55	HIGH 80 LOW 55	HIGH 80 LOW 60	HIGH 83 LOW 58

Atlanta 80 / 61 Boston 75 / 55 Chicago 75 / 55 Denver 85 / 59 Houston 94 / 70 Los Angeles 89 / 68 Minneapolis 76 / 54 New York 77 / 60 Philadelphia 78 / 58 Phoenix 106 / 84 Seattle 78 / 58 St. Louis 79 / 56 Tampa 85 / 74 Washington 79 / 61

CORRECTIONS

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

Senate

continued from page 1

"The dynamic of a pep rally on a field with only a few football players is definitely different."

Senators voiced similar concerns about the change of venue at the Senate meeting, and offered alternative solutions for student-run pep rallies.

"I definitely think we should do something as an alternative because I don't feel like that's really a pep rally what we're talking about on the Irish Green," Duncan Hall representative C.J. Kelly said. "I feel like that's more like a fair for alumni and people coming from the community. I feel like as students, we're not getting anything out of it."

Marc Anthony Rosa from Keough Hall said that pep rallies should cater first and foremost to the students, and that the pep rally will be too far away if held at Irish Green.

"Holding it on Irish Green so far away from where everyone works, where everyone plays, I think it's a negative transition," Rosa said. "I think we need to bring it closer to the dorms, closer to where people are."

Although the administration has already decided the pep rallies will take place at Irish Green, students could decide to hold their own alternative pep rally, student body president Grant Schmidt said.

"Students can put on our own event. If it is something that is a big enough concern, we can get the students in our own venue," Schmidt said.

Keenan representative Chase Riddle suggested having pep rallies on one of the quads on campus.

Pep rallies were "one of my favorite things about freshmen year last year," he said, and said he is concerned that freshmen will be missing out on the tradition of a pep rally.

"What about trying to hold one somewhere as we said on North Quad, for one of the midseason [games]?" he said. "Similar to Dillon Hall pep rally, but a North Quad one. Or on God Quad. Just to keep it little closer, bring it back to the students"

Bradley McDonald from O'Neil Hall expressed concern about the time of the pep rallies, which are planned to start at 6:30 p.m.

"A lot of dorms have traditions starting at 4 o'clock," he said. "If you start the pep rally at 6:30 p.m., I don't see how there are any students going ... They get all rowdy and then you have all this down time."

Despite these concerns, Andrew Bell of Knott Hall suggested that students attend the first pep rally at Irish Green to see how it goes.

"Maybe we don't come out and really bash it before we go to one. The concept of it doesn't sound too appealing to students, but I'm not sure the University is going to respond to our complaints if we haven't been to one," he said. "If it really goes bad, I think we'll have more leeway in changing it."

The Senate did not decide whether the students would have an alternative pep rally. This weekend's Nevada pep rally will take place Friday on South Quad as part of the annual Dillon Hall rally.

On the Thursday before the Michigan away game, there will be a student-only pep rally in Stepan Center, Weber said.

The USC pep rally is tentatively scheduled to take place in the Notre Dame Stadium, and the Connecticut pep rally will be held in the Purcell Pavilion in the Joyce Center, according to the Notre Dame Web site.

In other Senate news:

♦ Student Government is working on extending the TRANSPO Bus hours to 3:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday. The bus provides a free alternative to students who wish to come back to campus on weekend nights.

"The purpose is safety ... The issue is that student are walking around individually or in small groups in downtown South Bend and people have been hurt before," Weber said.

The change has not been implemented yet and is still in the works.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

College holds activities night

By BRIDGET MEADE
News Writer

Saint Mary's held their annual activities night Wednesday, filling the Student Center with more than 100 booths, including groups from Notre Dame and the South Bend community, as well as from the College.

Patrick Daniel, director of student involvement, estimated around 850 to 1,000 students attended.

Student Coordinator Katie Cuda said she started planning Saint Mary's Activity Night the first day she stepped on campus this semester. From the Chinese Culture Club to the Irish Dance Team, Cuda was responsible for contacting every club and organization that was represented.

This year, the event was moved from the Angela Athletic Facility to the Student Center to "improve the movement of students," Cuda explained. "The Student Center not only has more people coming in and out, but it allows for a smooth flow of students from table to table."

Club Volleyball President Alie Bennett noted that Activities Night is crucial for

her program.

"We need activities night to recruit because most people don't even know the club volleyball program exists," Bennett said.

Freshman Tamara Meeks signed up for so many clubs that she lost count.

"I probably won't commit to all of them," Meeks said. "I'll just choose later once I have received more information about them."

Fellow first year Emily Ryniak signed up for both the Spanish Club and the humanitarian group Invisible Children.

"It was overwhelming seeing all the tables at first, but it's great that we get a chance to see everything, no matter what our interests are."

Abby Harman
SMC freshman

"I joined the Spanish Club because I plan to be a Spanish minor, and the Invisible Children group just sounded interesting," Ryniak said.

A b b y Harman, a first year, was initially intimidated by the endless options, but believes it is a great way to expose new students to all that Saint Mary's offers.

"It was overwhelming seeing all the tables at first, but it's great that we get to a chance to see everything, no matter what our interests are," Harman said.

Contact Bridget Meade at bmead01@saintmarys.edu

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Jobs

continued from page 1

ing the hiring process, reviewing resumes, teaching networking skills and preparing for interviews.

"It's hard for them to come to us because of distance, so we come to them," Monahan said.

The networking technology LinkedIn also has served as a valuable resource for undergraduates and graduates alike, and the Career Center encourages all Notre Dame students to take advantage of the resource.

"11,500 alumni are signed up for LinkedIn, and students and alumni have access to this to help share ideas, expertise and advice," Monahan said. "This shows the power of the Notre Dame family, that the alumni are there to help others, to pass along a contact and to offer advice for people in the job search."

Class of 2008 MBA graduate and class of 2007 undergraduate Bridget O'Neill experienced firsthand the difficulties facing young alumni in the current job market, but was able to utilize the Notre Dame network and University resources to augment her job search.

"To get my new job in San Francisco, I used both LinkedIn and Irish Online a lot," O'Neill said. "I looked online to find job openings, then used LinkedIn and Irish Online to find someone who worked at one of these com-

panies and sent them messages to talk to them about their company."

Irish Online and Notre Dame alumni clubs throughout the country are valuable resources from which to begin the job search, O'Neill said. He does, however, recommend being persistent and constantly following up on applications and submitted resumes.

"I was really persistent in following up with people and jobs I was interested in," O'Neill said. "E-mails are so easily lost in one's inbox so just making sure they know you're really interested helps a lot."

Even after exhausting Notre Dame's job search resources, however, not all recent graduates have experienced the same success in the job market.

ReenAnn Downing, a Class of 2009 economics major, said a dependence on the Notre Dame network is unreliable and insufficient in a time when just about everyone is feeling the effects of the economic recession.

"I've been using LinkedIn to get in contact with Notre Dame alums in companies and industries I'm interested in," Downing said. "Some people don't reply at all, others reply 'sorry, no jobs,' and others are friendly but unable to do more than tell me if there are openings in their area. It's a struggle to even get another name recommendation sometimes."

In response to this common complaint by many struggling young graduates, Monahan said

the Class of 2010 needs to note the struggles of their friends and realize they need to be more aggressive in their job search.

"Start early by doing your research and getting your resume reviewed," Monahan said. "This is not a year for seniors to wait until April."

Delaying the process would be extremely detrimental in an economic year like this, Monahan said, especially given that the biggest struggle facing students is the caution with which companies are hiring.

"Instead of hiring 10 full-time students, they might only hire four," Monahan said. "They are still coming to campus, they are just being more cautious."

Monahan additionally urges students to be flexible and always have a backup plan, even when applying to schools and programs like Teach for America. It is going to take more effort and work this year, but it still can be accomplished, Monahan said.

For the Class of 2010, Monahan still has a lot of great hope, with 151 companies attending the upcoming fall career fair, including a few investment banks.

"That is a phenomenal number," Monahan said. "It is a positive sign that things are beginning to turn around."

The Fall Career Fair will take place on Wednesday, September 16, from 5-9 p.m. at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Contact Ann-Marie Woods at awoods4@nd.edu

Books

continued from page 1

Mich., to oversee the expansion of DormBooks to Michigan State University as well as three smaller colleges in Michigan.

DormBooks offers lower prices than other companies by putting the textbook purchasing process into the hands of students, Grzesiak said.

Sophomore Kelsey Falter and junior Richard Dougherty are the current campus managers in control of daily operations of DormBooks at Notre Dame.

Nearly 500 Notre Dame students purchased books from DormBooks this fall, and the number of customers has increased every semester, Grzesiak said. Dormbooks also employs 40 to 50 Notre Dame students during peak business times, and Grzesiak plans to hire as many as five students each year as campus managers.

DormBooks keeps prices low by renting short-term storage units, as it is not cost-effective to keep an entire bookstore in operation when peak times for textbook sales come in short bursts, Grzesiak said.

"I'm in this for the long haul," Grzesiak said. "There are almost 4,000 colleges in the United States. I don't think DormBooks will ever be at every one of them, but we want to be at as many as possible."

Junior Liz Casazza said she purchased five books from DormBooks this semester and saved \$136 compared to what she would have spent at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore. She said DormBooks was also the most convenient option because her books were delivered to her dorm.

DormBooks contributed to student government's initiative for an ISBN database of textbooks this year.

Student body Vice President Cynthia Weber said the idea for

the database began last semester when she and student body President Grant Schmidt created their campaign platform.

"Every year it's a reoccurring issue that textbooks are so expensive," she said. "Really the only definitive identification of the book is the ISBN number."

Grzesiak agreed to provide student government with the ISBN database he developed for DormBooks, and Weber contacted professors to obtain the missing numbers.

"I think our database is probably 95 percent [complete]," Weber said. "We're really excited about the student response."

Student government announced in an Aug. 22 e-mail to students that the database was available on the student government Web site.

"It was such a big project that it would have been nice if we could have released it earlier," Weber said, "but I know that it benefited some students."

Weber said that although the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore offers "reliability and convenience" to students, the ISBN database will allow students to easily find textbooks on other Web sites.

Junior John Anders said he has purchased most of his textbooks from the Web site half.com since his freshman year.

"On half.com you can search ISBN numbers, and it makes it faster," he said.

Although both Anders and Casazza used vendors other than the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore to purchase books, they turned to the bookstore for some of their books because they could not find all of their books elsewhere.

Grzesiak hopes to continue to expand DormBooks to compete with the Bookstore, and student government plans to update the ISBN database each semester to help students purchase their books.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

Awareness

continued from page 1

said.

Students spent part of the day experiencing what it's like to be disabled — either on crutches, in a wheelchair or with a visual impairment, Coordinator of Disability Services Scott Howland said.

"My office helps coordinate the simulation events by obtaining the wheelchairs and crutches from Alick's Home Medical," Howland said.

All fourth-year Architecture students were required to participate in the activity, Howland said.

"I also speak with the students before they start their day," Howland said. "I want them to understand that while they will be spending a day in a wheelchair, on crutches, or with a visual impairment, this is not truly what it is like to have a disability. Individuals with disabilities have spent

much time adapted and learning to compensate for the limitations caused by a disability."

The School of Architecture works closely with a Chicago-based firm, LCM Architects, which specializes in "barrier-free facilities design," Marsh said. Two LCM architects also gave an afternoon presentation to the participating students.

Because the program is so new, judging the impact on students is tricky, Howland said.

"[The impact on students] is hard to see since this is only the second year, but students who participated last year said it has made them think how they can better incorporate accessibility into their designs," he said.

Notre Dame is not the first university to hold such a day, Kara Kelly, director of communications in the School of Architecture, said.

"Most universities and colleges have an Office of Disability Services. They host

such events to show how difficult it can be to do day-to-day activities while on crutches, in wheelchairs or not being able to see," Kelly said. "Many of us able-bodied citizens take getting around easily and quickly for granted."

Kelly said that a day like this is intended to remind students to include accessibility for those with disabilities in their building designs. Students will rethink blueprints to include alternative ramp entrances and other accessibility issues, she said.

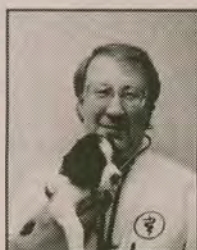
"Part of being an engaged member of one's community is looking out for everyone, including those with physical impairments," Kelly said. "As much as the layout and design of a building can help facilitate the capacity to move freely about, the better we all are in serving as active participants in the world around us."

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Thursday, September 3, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Jimena sweeps through Mexico

LOS CABOS — Hurricane Jimena plowed over Baja California on Wednesday, tearing off roofs, knocking down power poles and bringing welcome rainfall to a drought-stricken state.

The storm made landfall Wednesday afternoon between Puerto San Andresito and San Jaunico, sparsely populated area of fishing villages on the Pacific coast of the peninsula.

Wind gusts and heavy rains blew down dozens of trees and lamp posts in Loreto, the nearest significant resort town to the area where Jimena main landfall, according to Humberto Carmona, a city official manning an emergency response center.

Elections will end Honduran crisis

KABUL — A Taliban suicide bomber attacked officials leaving a mosque east of the capital Wednesday, killing the country's deputy intelligence chief and 22 other people in a major blow to Afghanistan's security forces.

The brazen assault occurred as tensions are running high after last month's divisive presidential election and a sharp rise in U.S. casualties — events that have already raised alarm in Washington over the future of President Barack Obama's strategy to turn the tide of the war.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for the bombing, which happened as Afghan dignitaries were leaving the main mosque in Mehterlam, 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Kabul, after ceremonies marking the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The bomber approached the crowd on foot and detonated an explosive belt, killing 23 people,

NATIONAL NEWS

Flammable brush not cleared

LOS ANGELES — Federal authorities failed to follow through on plans earlier this year to burn away highly flammable brush in a forest on the edge of Los Angeles to avoid the very kind of wildfire now raging there, The Associated Press has learned.

The U.S. Forest Service said that months before the huge blaze erupted, it obtained permits to burn away the undergrowth on more than 1,700 acres (688 hectares) of the Angeles National Forest. But just 193 acres (78 hectares) had been cleared by the time the fire broke out, the agency said.

The agency defended its efforts, saying weather, wind and environmental rules tightly limit how often these "prescribed burns" can be conducted.

Cuba to pay for jailing journalist

MIAMI — A federal judge ordered the Cuban government and the ruling Communist Party on Wednesday to pay \$27.5 million in damages to the mother of a journalist jailed since a 2003 crackdown on dissent.

U.S. District Judge Alan S. Gold ruled in the case of Omar Rodriguez Saludes, who is serving a 27-year sentence in Cuban prisons that the judge described as "deplorable and degrading" in his 13-page order.

The judge said the family deserved to be compensated for "the intentional infliction of emotional distress" it has endured.

LOCAL NEWS

Corrupt police officers indicted

INDIANAPOLIS — Two former Indianapolis narcotics detectives convicted of stealing drugs and money will be sentenced later this month.

A federal jury in June convicted Robert B. Long of four counts of actual or attempted drug possession with intent to distribute. Jason P. Edwards was convicted of three drug counts.

Federal prosecutors say each faces up to 20 years in prison, according to federal prosecutors.

IRAQ

Shots ring out at Iranian exile camp

11 left dead at hands of Iraqi troops at Camp Ashraf

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The women formed a human chain while the men chanted, confronting Iraqi troops moving into their compound. Gunfire rang out, and the soldiers waded in with batons, wooden bats and automatic weapons.

By the end, officials said, 11 Iranian exiles were dead — shot, beaten or run over by military vehicles.

Throughout the confrontation, American soldiers who once protected the Iranian opposition group stood by. According to U.S. officials, they had no legal authority to intervene. One video taken by the exiles even shows soldiers get into a white SUV and roll up their windows as the bloodied men plead for help.

The deadly melee at Camp Ashraf, the base of the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran, provides a glaring example of what can go wrong as the U.S. military scales back and the Shiite-led Iraqi government flexes its muscles.

The U.S. military guarded the camp since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003 under an agreement that made its 3,400 residents "protected persons" under the Geneva Conventions. The military stopped observing the agreement after a new security accord with the Baghdad government took effect in January, U.S. Embassy spokesman Philip Frayne said.

Responsibility for the camp then passed to the Iraqi government, which promised not to use force against the group. A small contingent of U.S. military police still monitors the camp, but the military said they were under orders not to intervene in the July 28 confrontation.



AP

Female members of Mujahedeen Organization of Iran yell in protest as a response to Iraqi Security forces' attempts to search their house.

"We could not become decisively engaged with a situation that really is up to the sovereign Iraqi government to settle in a peaceful manner as they have assured us that they would do," a senior U.S. military official said Wednesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue.

"Even in a situation that allowed engagement, we didn't have nearly the amount of forces present to jump in the middle of this fray," he said.

Iraqi officials said they were trying to establish a police station at the camp. And there are numerous other issues on which the Iraqi government could go

its own way — like the fate of anti-al-Qaida Sunni militias, which are strongly supported by the U.S. but now seem to get less backing from Iraq's Shiite leaders, or the multiple disputes between Baghdad and the Kurdish north, which the U.S. has sought to mollify lest they explode into violence.

"These kinds of things are only going to happen more often and in other places, and the U.S. has to decide what are we going to do about it," said Army Reserve Col. Gary Morsch, who was stationed at Camp Ashraf and maintains close ties with the exiles there.

The bloodshed brought rare criticism by

Washington of the U.S.-trained Iraqi security forces. But U.S. officials tried to balance it with the larger policy goal of handing over greater responsibility to the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki while U.S. forces reduce their presence.

"Iraq was trying to extend its sovereignty to Camp Ashraf. We understood what they were trying to do. They did not do it well," State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley told reporters two weeks after the raid.

Camp Ashraf and the presence of the Iranian exile group have been a source of friction between Washington and Baghdad.

BP discovers oil in deepest oil well

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nearly seven miles below the Gulf of Mexico, oil company BP has tapped into a vast pool of crude after digging the deepest oil well in the world. The Tiber Prospect is expected to rank among the largest petroleum discoveries in the United States, potentially producing half as much crude in a day as Alaska's famous North Slope oil field.

The company's chief of exploration on Wednesday estimated that the Tiber deposit holds between 4 billion and 6 billion barrels of oil equivalent, which includes natural gas. That would be enough to satisfy U.S. demand for crude for nearly one year.

But BP does not yet know how much it can extract.

"The Gulf of Mexico is proving to be a growing oil province, and a profitable one if you can find the reserves," said Tyler Priest, professor and director of Global Studies at the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston.

The Tiber well is about 250 miles southeast of Houston in U.S. waters. At 35,055 feet, it is as deep as Mount Everest is tall, not including more than 4,000 feet of water above it.

Drilling at those depths shows how far major oil producers will go to find new supplies as global reserves dwindle, and how technology has advanced, allowing them to reach once-unimaginable depths.

Deep-water operations are considered to be the last frontier for pristine oil deposits, and the entire petroleum industry is sweeping the ocean floor in search of more crude.

BP needs to invest years of work and millions of dollars before it draws the first drop of oil from Tiber. Such long waits are not uncommon. Three years after announcing a discovery at a site in the Gulf called Kaskida, BP has yet to begin producing oil there.

Projects like the Tiber well will not reduce U.S. dependency on foreign oil, which continues to grow. But new technology does permit access to major oil finds closer to U.S. shores.

BP expects Tiber to be among the company's richest finds in the Gulf on par with its crown jewel.

Abroad

continued from page 1

helped prep me for the basic research work that I did on a day-to-day basis at Free Tibet."

Piontek said she thoroughly enjoyed "walking all over the city, from the main sites along the Thames to any one of the glorious parks they have."

The political science and religious studies double major said she was fortunate to be able to travel around the U.K. and experience places like Edinburgh and events like Wimbledon.

Piontek said it is important for her "[to realize] that I was at the center of one of the most amazing, historic, and culturally important cities in the world."

Abroad for Notre Dame's International Summer Service Learning Program, Saint Mary's nursing senior Alison Russell said she had an inspiring experience in India.

While working in the city of Kolkata, Russell assisted the poor and elderly for eight weeks at a dispensary started by Mother Teresa.

Russell said she "helped with medical related tasks and also helped with the normal volunteer work which consists of washing and drying clothes by hand, helping exercise patients, taking patients to the bathroom, feeding and helping them eat dinner and

preparing them for bed."

Russell said that the experience was moving because "These most basic tasks became sacred and holy as we slowly formed relationships with these women."

Russell elaborated on what made the experience memorable for her.

"Learning small and big ways to immerse myself in Indian culture, embracing the feelings of confusion, outrage and helplessness that came with the poverty and corruption that was evident around every corner and openly loving the women of Kalighat are the beginning of lessons I learned during my time abroad," she said.

Piontek said she experienced reverse culture shock upon re-entry into the United States and "noticed how big everything is in America."

Russell said she is surprised at little things throughout the day that remind her of her "women in India."

Students are also returning from popular programs in Italy, France, Spain, Australia, Austria and China to name just a few.

Alumnae of these programs are invited to a "Welcome Back Party" hosted by The Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership. The party will be held in Haggar Parlor on Thursday, Sept. 10, starting at 4 p.m.

Contact Sarah Gunn at sgunn01@saintmarys.edu

Schilling interested in seat

Former major league pitcher considering run for Senate opening

Associated Press

BOSTON—Curt Schilling, the former major league pitcher who won the allegiance of Bostonians by leading the Red Sox to the 2004 World Series, said Wednesday that he has "some interest" in running for the seat held for nearly 50 years by Democratic Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

Schilling, a registered independent and longtime Republican supporter, wrote on his blog that while his family and video game company, 38 Studios, are high priorities, "I do have some interest in the possibility."

"That being said, to get to there, from where I am today, many, many things would have to align themselves for that to truly happen," he added.

Any other comment "would be speculation on top of speculation," Schilling said, adding, "My hope is that whatever happens, and whomever it happens to, this state makes the decision and chooses the best person — regardless of sex, race, religion or political affiliation — to help get this state back to the place it deserves to be."

State election law would limit Schilling to running solely as an independent candidate because it requires

those seeking a major party nomination to have been enrolled in that party for at least 90 days before the Nov. 3 deadline for filing nomination papers with the state Elections Division.

Schilling told New England Cable News that he has been contacted "by people whose opinion I give credence to," but he did not elaborate. He declined to comment when The Associated Press called his office.

The 42-year-old lives in suburban Medfield and campaigned for President George W. Bush in 2004 and Sen. John McCain in 2008.

As a player, he won three World Series, in 2001 with the Arizona Diamondbacks and in 2004 and 2007 with the Red Sox. He became a Sox legend when he won Game 6 of the 2004 American League Championship Series while blood from an injured ankle seeped through his sock. He also pitched for the Philadelphia Phillies, helping them reach the 1993 World Series. He retired in March.

He and his wife, Shonda, have four children ages 7 to 14.

Reaction among the Red Sox was decidedly jovial Wednesday.

"If he runs, good luck," said first baseman Kevin Youkilis. "I don't know if I'd

want to do that job."

Team manager Terry Francona said Schilling should do whatever makes him happy but noted, "I don't think he'd want me as his campaign manager."

So far, no major Republicans have taken out nomination papers to be a candidate in the Jan. 19 special election. Former Lt. Gov. Kerry Healey and state Sen. Scott Brown are among those considering campaigns.

Democrats said to be considering a campaign include U.S. Reps. Stephen Lynch of Boston, Michael Capuano of Somerville and John Tierney of Salem, as well as Kennedy's nephew former U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II.

So far, only state Attorney General Martha Coakley has taken out papers for a Democratic campaign, though she has refused to make any follow-up comment.

Kennedy died last week at age 77 from a brain tumor. A special election to replace him is scheduled for Jan. 19, although the Massachusetts Legislature is considering a bill that would allow Gov. Deval Patrick to appoint someone to the seat on an interim basis during the campaign.

That bill is the subject of a hearing next week.

FORTUNE 100 BEST COMPANIES TO WORK FOR 2009

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	9,280.67	-29.93	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,502	125	2,185	2,458,348,260
AMEX	1,684.72	+21.78	
NASDAQ	1,967.07	-1.82	
NYSE	6,474.79	-13.02	
S&P 500	994.75	-3.29	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,204.22	-76.24	
FTSE 100 (London)	4,817.55	-2.15	
COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP (C)	+0.44	+0.02	4.56
FANNIE MAE (FNM)	-13.84	-0.22	1.37
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	-1.09	-0.18	16.27
FREDDIE MAC (FRE)	-13.68	-0.26	1.64
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-2.37	-0.080	3.30
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.000	0.13
30-YEAR BOND	-2.24	-0.094	4.10
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.92	-0.068	2.26
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)		0.00	68.05
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)		+22.00	978.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		+0.75	79.00
Exchange Rates			
YEN			92.1550
EURO			1.4267
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.1052
BRITISH POUND			1.6254

IN BRIEF

YouTube may offer movie rentals

LOS ANGELES — YouTube, Google Inc.'s online video streaming service, is in talks with Hollywood studios to rent new release movies online, according to people familiar with the talks.

The move follows similar deals by Apple Inc.'s iTunes and others.

A final deal would be contingent on pricing and an agreed-upon release date, said the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because discussions were still ongoing.

The move takes YouTube one step away from an ad-supported business model, but does not break the mold of other online rental deals already struck by iTunes, Amazon.com Inc. and Cinemanow.com, a unit of Sonic Solutions. All of them offer movie rentals for between \$1.99 and \$3.99 each with a 24-hour viewing period.

The talks were first reported on The Wall Street Journal's Web site Wednesday.

The Internet site declined to comment specifically on the talks.

"While we don't comment on rumor or speculation, we hope to expand on both our great relationship with movie studios and on the selection and types of videos we offer our community," said YouTube spokesman Chris Dale.

Collective Brands reports higher profits

Collective Brands Inc. on Wednesday reported much higher second-quarter profits but still missed Wall Street expectations as diminished consumer spending hurt the shoe retailer and wholesaler.

The company's chief executive, however, said third-quarter sales are strong and lower costs should lead to a more positive second half of the year.

"The second quarter really represented the bottom, and we did indicate that we are seeing solid business with back-to-school," CEO Matt Rubel told analysts during a conference call. "We are seeing tremendous opportunity as we move forward, both on the cost side and an evening of the demand cycle."

The company's shares, which declined 1 cent to \$15.77 in trading before the company released its earnings, were down 28 cents, or almost 2 percent, to \$15.49, Wednesday.

Pfizer hit with record-breaking fines

Company called 'repeating corporate cheat' for illegal drug promotions

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal prosecutors hit Pfizer Inc. with a record-breaking \$2.3 billion in fines Wednesday and called the world's largest drugmaker a repeating corporate cheat for illegal drug promotions that plied doctors with free golf, massages, and resort junkets.

Announcing the penalty as a warning to all drug manufacturers, Justice Department officials said the overall settlement is the largest ever paid by a drug company for alleged violations of federal drug rules, and the \$1.2 billion criminal fine is the largest ever in any U.S. criminal case. The total includes \$1 billion in civil penalties and a \$100 million criminal forfeiture.

Authorities called Pfizer a repeat offender, noting it is the company's fourth such settlement of government charges in the last decade. The allegations surround the marketing of 13 different drugs, including big sellers such as Viagra, Zoloft, and Lipitor.

As part of its illegal marketing, Pfizer invited doctors to consultant meetings at resort locations, paying their expenses and providing perks, prosecutors said.

"They were entertained with golf, massages, and other activities," said Mike Loucks, the U.S. attorney in Massachusetts.

Loucks said that even as Pfizer was negotiating deals on past misconduct, they were continuing to violate the very same laws with other drugs.

To prevent backsliding this time, Pfizer's conduct will be specially monitored by the Health and Human Services Department inspector general for five years.

In an unusual twist, the head of the Justice Department, Attorney



Associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli, center, and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announce Pfizer will pay a record \$2.3 billion civil and criminal penalty.

General Eric Holder, did not participate in the record settlement, because he had represented Pfizer on these issues while in private practice.

Associate Attorney General Thomas Perrelli said the settlement illustrates ways the Justice Department "can help the American public at a time when budgets are tight and health care costs are rising."

Perrelli announced the settlement terms at a news conference with federal prosecutors and FBI, and Health and Human Services Department officials.

The settlement ends an investigation that also resulted in guilty pleas from two former Pfizer

sales managers.

Officials said the U.S. industry has paid out more than \$11 billion in such settlements over the past decade, but one consumer advocate voiced hope that Wednesday's penalty was so big it would curb the abuses.

"There's so much money in selling pills, that there's a tremendous temptation to cheat," said Bill Vaughan, an analyst at Consumers Union.

"There's a kind of mentality in this sector that (settlements) are the cost of doing business and we can cheat. This penalty is so huge I think consumers can have some hope that maybe these guys will tighten up and run a better ship."

The government said the company promoted four prescription drugs, including the pain killer Bextra, as treatments for medical conditions different from those the drugs had been approved for by federal regulators. Authorities said Pfizer's salesmen and women created phony doctor requests for medical information in order to send unsolicited information to doctors about unapproved uses and dosages.

Use of drugs for so-called "off-label" medical conditions is not uncommon, but drug manufacturers are prohibited from marketing drugs for uses that have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Amazon makes case against Google

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Online book-seller Amazon.com Inc. is warning a federal judge that Internet search leader Google Inc. will be able to gouge consumers and stifle competition if it wins court approval to add millions more titles to its already vast digital library.

The harsh critique of Google's 10-month-old settlement with U.S. authors and publishers emerged this week in a 41-page brief that Amazon filed in an attempt to persuade U.S. District Judge Denny Chin to block the agreement from taking effect.

A flurry of filings opposing and supporting the class-action settlement is expected by Friday — the deadline for most briefs in the case. At least two other Google rivals,

Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc., are expected weigh in with their opposition by then.

Microsoft, Yahoo and Amazon are all part of a group called the Open Book Alliance, formed last month to rally opposition to the Google book settlement. Other participants include the Internet Archive, the New York Library Association and the American Society of Journalists and Authors. The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, representing about 1,500 authors, on Wednesday became the latest group to join the alliance.

The U.S. Justice Department, which is taking a look at Google's book deal, has until Sept. 18 to share its thoughts on the case. That filing may provide a better indication whether Justice believes

Google's deal with authors and publishers would violate U.S. laws set up to prevent predatory pricing and promote competition.

Amazon left little doubt where it stands. Its brief brands the provisions of Google's settlement as "a high-tech form of the backroom agreements that are the stuff of antitrust nightmares."

Although not all critics have been as strident as Amazon, opposition has been mounting to Google's plans to create a registry that will sell digital copies of copyright-protected books on behalf of U.S. authors and publishers unless they withdraw from a class-action settlement. Even the German government expressed its opposition to the settlement earlier this week, even though the agreement only covers U.S. copyrights.

AFGHANISTAN

Spy boss killed in suicide bombing

Associated Press

KABUL — A Taliban suicide bomber attacked officials leaving a mosque east of the capital Wednesday, killing the country's deputy intelligence chief and 22 other people in a major blow to Afghanistan's security forces.

The brazen assault occurred as tensions are running high after last month's divisive presidential election and a sharp rise in U.S. casualties — events that have already raised alarm in Washington over the future of President Barack Obama's strategy to turn the tide of the war.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabiullah Mujahid, claimed responsibility for the bombing, which happened as Afghan dignitaries were leaving the main mosque in Mehterlam, 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Kabul, after ceremonies marking the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The bomber approached the crowd on foot and detonated an explosive belt, killing 23 people, including Abdullah Laghmani, deputy chief of Afghanistan's National Directorate for Security and the target of the attack, according to provincial spokesman Sayed Ahmad Safi.

The chairman of the local provincial council and the executive director of the local governor's office also died in the blast, Safi said.

Laghmani, a close ally of President Hamid Karzai, was a major figure in Afghanistan's security and

intelligence apparatus and his death was a setback to Afghan efforts to curb Taliban and other extremist activity.

Laghmani formerly served as intelligence chief for Kandahar, the former Taliban spiritual capital in southern Afghanistan, and fought with a Tajik-dominated alliance that helped oust the Islamist movement from power during the U.S.-led invasion of 2001.

In his most recent post, Laghmani directed intelligence operations especially in eastern Afghanistan and appointed local security officials throughout the area.

The attack occurred in a relatively safe city, serving as a deadly reminder that the militants are capable of striking even in areas where their influence is not strong.

U.S. troops cordoned off the blast site, filled with blood-spattered hulks of burned-out vehicles set on fire by the explosion. The local hospital was jammed with more than 50 wounded.

"It is indefensible that such an attack was carried out at a mosque during the holy month of Ramadan," said Peter W. Galbraith, the deputy U.N. chief here. "The contrast between the vast majority of Afghans who yearn for peace during this holy month and those who conducted this attack could not be more stark."

Karzai said in a statement that the "enemy" tried to kill "brave and hardworking" officials, but others would take their place.

The assassination of such a senior figure was a shock to

the Karzai administration, already under fire for alleged fraud during the Aug. 20 presidential election. With votes tallied from 60 percent of the polling stations, the country's election commission said Wednesday that Karzai is leading with 47.3 percent, followed by ex-Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah with 32.6 percent.

Karzai needs to win a majority of the votes to avoid a two-man runoff.

But the balloting was marred by fraud charges from Abdullah and others in the 36-candidate field as well as a low voter turnout, especially in southern Pashtun areas where Taliban influence is strong but where the incumbent was expected to draw most of his votes.

The Obama administration had hoped that the election would produce a government with broad public support to confront the Taliban, combat corruption and curb the flourishing drug trade.

Instead, Abdullah escalated his fraud allegations Wednesday, accusing the Afghan election commission of playing a role in "organized fraud" throughout the country.

"Proof and evidence show that with the cooperation of the election commission, a massive fraud has taken place," Abdullah told reporters.

Abdullah brought some Pashtun tribal chiefs to Kabul on Tuesday to repeat his allegations of ballot box-stuffing and other irregularities in their home districts.

CHINA

China to approve single-dose vaccine

Associated Press

BEIJING — The answer may be near to a crucial question about vaccine for the advancing swine flu — one shot or two?

Chinese officials say they are about to approve vaccines that prevent the new flu in a single dose.

If they're right, it would be good news. Many health researchers fear it will take two shots to protect people, vastly complicating efforts to stem the spread of the illness.

The World Health Organization says it is encouraged after reviewing the test details from one of the two Chinese vaccines. However, experts said more results are needed from other vaccine makers to determine if one dose would be potent enough.

Australia-based CSL should know within days whether one dose of its vaccine, administered to volunteers in that country in late July, was enough. CSL to date has been mum.

In about two weeks, the U.S. expects to announce initial test results from its vaccine, which is the same type as one of the Chinese versions, said Dr. Anthony Fauci of the U.S. National Institutes of Health.

"From what I've seen and heard of the data, it looks encouraging," Fauci said of the clinical trials of the Chinese vaccine from Sinovac Biotech Ltd. "This is very good news. Let's hope the material that we're using has similar results."

Most experts agreed. "Everybody is desperately hoping that one (shot) will do because then that's much easier to administer," said Jodie McVernon, a vaccine expert at the University of Melbourne who is involved in Australian trials of swine flu vaccines for young children. She had not seen the Chinese trial results.

However, James McGlothlin, a member of Purdue University's pandemic planning committee, was cautious about the Chinese report.

"They've got some very good scientists over there, but anything that sounds too good to be true ought to be scrutinized," he said in a telephone interview.

"I'd like to look at some of the clinical trials," that led to the one-dose conclusion, he said. "In China, the rules are a little bit different in terms of human subjects," and it's not clear what safety factors were in place, he said.

China's State Food and Drug

Administration said on its Web site it will make a decision this week on approving the two vaccines, which completed testing last month and passed reviews by panels of about 40 experts. Four other vaccines are being reviewed, it said.

Government-backed vaccine makers Sinovac and Hualan Biological Engineering Inc. said their studies show one shot of vaccine is effective on people ages 3 to 60. More than 3,000 people participated in the trials.

Sinovac says it has the capacity to produce up to 30 million doses of swine flu vaccine in a year, while Hualan said it can make 160 million doses.

Stockpiling vaccines is China's latest move in its aggressive approach to contain the spread of swine flu in the country of 1.3 billion people and relatively limited medical resources. It has quarantined travelers on suspicion of contact with infected people and ordered schools to test students' temperatures.

The Health Ministry says around 3,700 cases of swine flu have been confirmed on the mainland — none fatal.

China aims to have enough swine flu vaccine for 5 percent of the public by the end of the year, and although health officials have not released detailed vaccination plans, they have said health workers, public service workers and students are priority groups.

Should China export vaccines, however, quality concerns could arise.

Though China is a worldwide manufacturing center for pharmaceuticals, suppliers have been known to substitute cheaper and sometimes lethal ingredients. Tainted cough syrup was linked to several deaths in Central America and blood thinners made with contaminated products are suspected in dozens of deaths in the U.S. in recent years.

Last week, Mexico's health secretary, Jose Angel Cordova, said Mexico is considering buying vaccines from China, which would be more than 40 percent cheaper than other vaccines being offered to the government. But Mexico would want a guarantee that China's vaccine is safe and effective, he said.

The World Health Organization said information provided by Sinovac showed that in studies, the vaccines were tested in three formulations of 15 micrograms per dose, and all gave antibody responses that satisfied regulatory criteria. That vaccine dose is the same amount the U.S. government is testing.

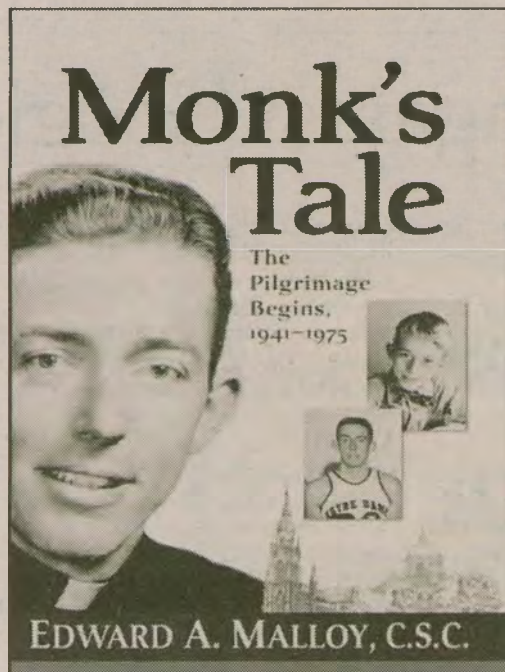
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Seattle libraries close for week

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The main library in this book-loving city is an architectural landmark: a daring, contemporary temple to the written word that draws tourists as well as literary locals and those who just want a place to sit, read, rest or think.

Just don't try checking anything out, returning an overdue book or even logging onto the online catalog this week. The city's entire library system — from its branches to book drops to Web site — is shut down to save money.

"I think it's a very sad day — week — for the city of Seattle that they can't access their local library, which is one of the most heavily used libraries in the country," said Nancy Pearl, the city's ex-librarian superstar and the author of "Book Lust," a best-selling tribute to the joy of reading.

"And even beyond that immediate sorrow is that people can't go in and check out or find a good book to read" in a time of economic trouble, she said.

All city departments have been told to reduce spending to make up a \$43 million gap in Seattle's 2009 budget. The public library is trying to cut 2 percent, or about \$1 million, and the weeklong closure of its downtown central library and 26 branches aims to save \$655,000. About 700 library employees are forgoing a week of pay, with the system to reopen the day after Labor Day.

Libraries have been targets for branch closures, reduced hours and job cuts as cities scramble for cash during the economic downturn, said

American Library Association President Camila Alire, adding that the group did not have statistics on similar closures around the country.

Among other places, cutbacks and closures have been proposed or instituted recently for libraries in Dallas, Philadelphia, Hawaii, Providence, R.I., and Norwich, Conn.

The reduced hours or closures come just as more people are using libraries for job searches, resume writing, to entertain themselves with a free book or movie, or for a place of refuge.

In western Washington, where gray, damp winters lead to introspection, books and the Seattle Public Library have always been a popular escape.

In the city of about 600,000, the library system estimates 80 percent of Seattle adults have a library card, and visits to libraries jumped from under 7 million in 2004 to more than 12 million last year. Friends of Seattle Public Library, a community support group, says that as of July, library visits were up 8 percent over the same period in 2008.

"It seems so bizarre for a city so steeped in its literature and cultural roots for its library to be closed," said Scottish tourist Cameron Burt, an architecture student at Glasgow's University of Strathclyde as he gazed at the building from the sidewalk outside its locked doors.

Burt had hoped to stroll through the Rem Koolhaas-designed central library, whose angular, steel-and-glass walls enclose large, airy spaces that Seattleites have adopted as downtown's de facto living room since it

opened five years ago.

"Libraries should always be there for everyone," he said.

Seattle has closed its libraries before, for two weeks each in 2002 and 2003 during earlier economic downturns. The city announced this week's closure in April.

City Librarian Susan Hildreth said this week was chosen because school is not in session and general library use is low this time of year. Cutting branch hours could have saved the same amount of money, but the impacts would have lasted longer and meant layoffs.

The system also is reducing training, putting off buying some staff computers and cutting administrative costs, including a 4.5 percent salary cut for Hildreth and library directors.

Bill Dennis, a representative of the library workers' union, likewise said the closure was the most equitable way of handling a bad situation in which all city departments have had to share the pain, including jobs gone unfilled, reduced training and overtime, as well as deferred maintenance.

Because much of the library's budget is for personnel, that's where cuts had to be made, and weeklong furloughs were better than eliminating jobs outright, Dennis said.

"Simply to cut jobs and put people out on the street doesn't help anybody," he said.

No materials will be due and no fines will accrue during the closure. Library officials especially cautioned people not to simply leave books or materials on library doorsteps, saying patrons will be responsible for any damage or thefts.

Parton sings for park's anniversary

Associated Press

GATLINBURG — Homegrown superstar Dolly Parton sang "My Mountain, My Home" as leaders rededicated the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on its 75th anniversary in a ceremony Wednesday.

"These are my mountains, my valleys. These are my rivers flowing like a song," sang Parton, her voice rising with emotion amid the surrounding forest as some 2,000 people gathered at America's most-visited park.

Park supporters, lawmakers and others applauded Parton atop Newfound Gap on the Tennessee-North Carolina line as guests, including elderly former residents, recalled fond memories and great pride about the park's 1934 founding.

"I have always been an ambassador for the Smoky Mountains because I tell everybody how beautiful these mountains are," Parton said. "And no matter where I go, if you say something about the Smoky Mountains, even if the people have not been here, they just smile."

Wednesday marked the anniversary of then-president Franklin D. Roosevelt's speech in 1940 from the same stone stage as he lauded the park's creation. Roosevelt's chair was placed empty on the stage built by Civilian Conservation Corps volunteers.

"I remember seeing the president. I was only 5 years old, but I remember everybody was having a good time," said Eva Ogle Webb, 74, whose family lived on

land that became part of the park at its 1934 formation.

Roosevelt remains the only sitting president to ever come to the 520,000-acre (210,000-hectare) Smokies, the most-visited national park with more than 9 million visitors annually. President George W. Bush got as far as Knoxville's airport a few years ago, but a storm blocked his planned trip into the park.

U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar called for continuing investment and commitment to such parks, calling them "treasured landscapes for future generations."

"I am here today on behalf of President Barack Obama to celebrate Great Smoky Mountains National Park, to honor our ancestors who left us this treasure, and to rededicate an American icon for a new century," Salazar said.

Every member of the Tennessee and North Carolina congressional delegation who represents the Smokies attended the ceremony along with Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen and North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue.

"My left foot is in North Carolina, my right foot is in Tennessee," Perdue exclaimed. "And the beauty of this place is that when you are here there is no North Carolina or no Tennessee. There is only one gift from God."

Bredesen noted the Smokies' formation is unique in the park system. The land was purchased with private donations, state funding and even pennies collected from children across the country.

Meet the Author



St. Martin's Press and the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore invite you to celebrate Jim Dent's newest book, *Resurrection*

Jim will be at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore signing his book on

Friday, September 4

3:00pm - 5:00pm

&

Saturday, September 5

11:30am - 1:30pm

Resurrection is the story of Ara Parseghian, an unexpected choice for head football coach and the first selected from outside the Notre Dame "family." The task before him was not simple: to rebuild a once proud program and teach a team how to win again.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Thursday, September 3, 2009

THE OBSERVER

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I spent the first two weeks of the New Year traveling through Spain. I tried, each day, to make some sense of it — to fit things I saw disconnected into some kind of coherent narrative. In the end, this was — like all narratives in a fallen world — something of a falsification. But it was not, I think, entirely without merit: I understand Spain better now, understand what its history means for human nature. I have learned the story of Spain — a story that came together only at the end.

In the final days of my journey, I went to the Valley of the Fallen, high in the mountains over Madrid. It is a war memorial to and a mass grave for 40,000 who died in their civil war — a memorial hewn deep into the mountain by Franco's political prisoners. It is the fascist dream given physical form, a cavernous underground basilica into which one descends as though into one's own tomb. It is a grotesque inversion, almost a parody, of Saint Peter's, an echo of death itself — silent, patient and inevitable.

It is difficult to describe how it felt to be there — and even more difficult to describe my reasons for going. I suppose that I needed to see how the story ended. For the Valley of the Fallen is the logical conclusion of the glorious dream of empire born so nobly five hundred years earlier in the conquest of Granada, when Ferdinand and Isabel hoped that they might build the city of God here on earth. This was no small thing, but like all waking dreams it ended in

Daniel John
Sportiello

Bound
Variables

Francoism

madness.

Behind the altar is a grave that, almost alone among the thousands, has a name on it: Generalissimo Francisco Franco. He lies triumphant in this travesty that he built in God's name, his grave inviolate under the dome of the mountain. I confess that I wanted to spit on it. I almost did. But it occurred to me that I had no right: Franco was evil, no doubt. But could I be sure that, had I been in his shoes, I would have done differently than he had? Could I be sure that I would have been on the right side? Could I be sure that I was now?

For there is something of Franco, something of the dream that was Spain, in my own heart — something glorious and zealous and entirely mad. Something evil: the temptation to build the city of God on earth, no matter the cost. It might be that my life will take such a course that, someday, students idealistic and naïve will come to spit on my grave. If I am honest, I must admit that between me and depravity stands only the whim of history. The glorious madness lies curled inside — silent, patient and inevitable.

And yet. There is something glorious in the attempt of the Spanish Empire to transcend the merely human, something sublime. Are the 500,000 victims of their civil war too high a price to pay for "Las Meninas?" For "The Burial of the Count of Orgaz?" For "Saturn Devouring His Son?" Are the countless millions subjugated by the Spanish Empire, broken in the plantations and mines of the Americas, too high a price to pay? And, if not, isn't even one victim too high a price

to pay? But to what extent does it even make sense to ask these questions?

Nietzsche reiterates, again and again, that it is ever profound evil that makes anything truly worthwhile possible. His words are certainly true of Spain: the glory of Velázquez was borne aloft by the rape and pillage of Cortéz and Pizarro. The zeal of El Greco was not different in kind from that of Torquemada. And the sublime horror of Goya was but an echo of the madness to which he had borne witness his entire life.

Nietzsche concludes, ultimately, that we must affirm everything, no matter how awful. That we must learn not just to bear but to love fate, to make this world in its sublimity and its madness entirely our own. He might not be wrong. But this is, I suppose, little consolation to the fallen. It does not make their sacrifice any easier to bear.

In the end, it might not matter: there is indeed a part of me willing to trade my soul for glory. But I fear that the same might be said of all of us: this darkness is in each of our hearts — an original sin if ever there was one. Is Generalissimo Francisco Franco still dead, then? Not quite, I think: he lives in all of us — silent, patient, and inevitable. The Valley of the Fallen is our tomb as much as his. This is the story of Spain.

Daniel John Sportiello is a second year Doctorate of Philosophy student. He can be contacted at dsportie@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Did you like the Block Party last weekend?

Yes
No
Didn't go
Mmm, beer...

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The trouble with being poor is that it takes up all of your time."

William de Kooning
U.S. painter

Here at the beginning of all things...

As a freshman at Notre Dame, blatantly ignoring the fact that my SAT verbals were triple my math scores, and that I hated the sight of blood, I enrolled as an Arts and Letters Preprofessional, focused on a career in medicine. Two weeks in, as I heard the marching band practicing for the home opener, I walked out of my chem lab — where the powder just wouldn't turn &!*!# green! — and kept on walking.

Fr. Lou DelFra

Faith Point

Four years later, having settled into PLS and the resulting ageless wisdom it imparted, I bolted off to law school. I visited Duke Law School the day after the Blue Devils had stunned Kentucky on a last-second shot to go to the Final Four. Their whole quad was toilet-papered, and a huge black spot was signed into the quad where the Duke students had burned their dorm furniture in celebration. Coming off four great years of Top five Irish football (yes, I am that old), I knew I had found a home!

I lasted four weeks in law school... Beginnings are often deceiving times.

As a priest, I often have to preach about the story of the first disciples being called by Jesus. It's not an easy story for me. Four disciples are fishing and mending there nets on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus walks by, says "Come follow me" and "they dropped their nets and followed him." That ticks me off.

I had to suffer through impossibly futile Friday afternoon chem labs, and the most miserable month of my life at Duke and 15 other dead ends I could bore you with, before I finally came to understand how God was tugging at my heart. But these four disciples get a direct command from God — "Your life goes this way" — and off they go. These stories are often titled in our Bibles as "The Call of the First Disciples" but I sometimes feel they should be called "The Luck of the First Disciples: How Jesus Saved Them from the Pain of Discernment and Making Choices."

It turns out the Gospels are full of stories of the disciples impulsively — and sometimes misguidedly — trying to follow where Jesus is leading. One day, Peter sees Jesus walking on water and impulsively demands to be allowed to

join him. Save for some solid life-guarding skills on Jesus' part, this did not go well for Peter. Later, Peter experiences Jesus' divinity in the Transfiguration. He blurts out, "Let us build tents here so we can stay forever!" Jesus politely informs him this is the wrong answer — that they must descend the mountain to face hardship and suffering. James and John, disappointed at a city's response to the preaching of the Kingdom, ask Jesus if they might call down fire and brimstone on the people there. I would love to have been inside Jesus' brain as he heard that one.

In the Gospels, beginnings are exhilarating, but also uncertain times. For the disciples, beginnings are full of missteps — as they are for us. They are filled with sometimes laughable (in hindsight!) shots in the dark. Decisions we make with swelled chests and exuberant struts sometimes leave us, soon afterwards, scratching our heads — "What was I thinking?"

For me, part of the liberating power of the Gospels is how lovingly — even encouragingly — Jesus responds to the disciples' frequent missteps. In fact, I imagine him secretly delighting in how

exuberantly they take risks on behalf of his mission. "This is why I called them!" he must have assuredly mused, as Peter laid his first foot on the water's surface, or James and John called down their ill-conceived hellfire. Jesus discerns in their enthusiasm the hints of dogged commitment when, ultimately, they come to understand his call. "With them, I can change the world!"

Jesus' call — particularly at the beginning of new stages of our lives — is not a call to be unerring in our discernment, to make no mistakes, to take no risks. Instead, I might even guess that our hunger for risk in trying to hear and heed God's call rather pleases our Lord — who, after all, took a number of them himself. Commitments to lives of discipleship — even if the specific commitments turn out to be a bit misguided — are a beautiful way to ... begin.

This week's Faith Point was written by Fr. Lou DelFra, Director of Campus Bible Studies and ACE Chaplain. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The audacity of arrogance

Not too long ago, the so-called Bush "Torture Memos" were released. The debate about the alleged torture the Bush Administration perpetrated during his term in office has been and remains a contentious debate that has recently exploded with the release of the memos. Last week, the administration, through the Attorney General, decided to move forward with an investigation of the CIA techniques. Now I will admit I did not vote for President Obama, however he is my president and deserves my respect and support. But his recent actions deserve reprimand.

The media has spun this issue from day one trying to vilify the Bush Administration for using certain interrogation tactics during wartime. This has clouded the true nature of our intelligence gathering and birthed an unhealthy arrogance by the Obama election team, and now administration. This "I am holier and more moral than thou" attitude is unhealthy and dangerous. I recall President Obama urging and promising a forward looking agenda, not one that plays political games during wartime. Perhaps, those in this community have forgotten the celebrated words Martin Sheen spoke while accepting his Laetare Medal two years ago during graduation celebrations. "Arrogance is ignorance matured."

If people would actually read the memos, which I am guessing most have not, the types of interrogation techniques that were outlined actually have quite sound legal reason-

ing. They are very controlled techniques with doctors and other staff on hand carrying out very detailed and limited procedures. The waterboarding technique that has garnered so much attention has been limited to specific, high value prisoners. These are prisoners that are believed to have information that could thwart an imminent threat to the U.S. community; keyword being imminent threat. In fact, Obama's Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair released an internal memo confirming that valuable information had been gained by these techniques; information that might not have been gathered otherwise. He goes on to say that while he believes he would not choose to allow these techniques, he does not fault those who made the decisions.

It is rather appalling to hear an investigation, with possible prosecution, is being used as a political tool to punish members of the intelligence community who were given authorization to use these techniques. Many people forget we are at war. This atmosphere of arrogance that Obama has shown has not only limited our intelligence gathering techniques, but has provided our enemies with details about the limits with which we can interrogate. It is ignorant to think that this politicizing of the intelligence community has not made our nation less safe.

Jared Sawyer
Holy Cross alumnus
Louisville, Ky.
Sept. 1

U-WIRE

College is where character is built, not changed

Looking back three years in my life, I was in the same boat as all of you freshmen are in now. I was wide-eyed and looking for adventure, dreaming about making an impact over my college career. I was coming to college to become a "new" person. I had plans of what I was going to do, what I wanted to learn while studying and how I wanted to leverage myself for the future.

Bret Babcock

University of Toledo

As I fast-forward three years, I really haven't changed all that much, and I still have similar plans. I still want to learn, and I'm still trying to leverage myself towards that great career which will give me a great future. The fact is, the person that I was, coming into college, isn't much different than the person I am now. In this fact, I can find security and reservation, because I can look back on my college career and say that I didn't change who I am; I only got better. I say this in all humbleness, because I have truly had shortcomings these last three years, but these shortcomings have contributed to my betterment. It can be said that character is built; it isn't changed or shifted — it is simply built. And that saying gets back to something I learned in my first few weeks here at the University of Toledo as a freshman.

I was in my first Honors Reading Conference, and I had a professor that was a very intelligent man but was very frustrating at the same time. Needless to say, after my first two papers were returned with bad grades, I really couldn't stand him. I ended up working through the rest of the semester and I got progressively better in my writings and became better because of it. (I even thanked the professor at the end of the semester for challenging me.) This taught me what it means to be persistent, but it was something that he said in one of my classes that has meant the most to me.

It was early on in the semester, and he stopped a discussion on one of our readings to say something along these lines, "Over your college career you are going to learn and experience things that will challenge the things you learned as a child. These experiences could change the way you think or believe about issues and could challenge what you thought was right and wrong. But I will give you fair warning: Everything you have learned growing up isn't wrong, and

you should not abandon your principles just because you came across something else that has challenged it. It is okay to challenge your beliefs, but don't throw them away easily."

Now, the above quote is not verbatim, but it gets the point across.

You come into college around the young age of 18 (you're more of a child than you are an adult), and you will meet new people who think differently than you. Through meeting new people, you will be exposed to new philosophies and belief systems that are foreign and intriguing to you; and there is great value in this. However, don't let this exposure change who you are; instead, learn about these beliefs and study them, then see if they align with who you are.

As I stated earlier, character is built, it isn't changed or shifted. You already have a character foundation, so you can only build onto it — you can't move your foundation. You may think you have "changed" your character, but that is just a distraction, and you will soon find that out. In essence, success is found in constant building, not radical changes. So look at these new experiences as ways to build up your character and become a better person, instead of changing who you are.

I took this advice to heart, and I believe I have become better because of it. I have challenged my own beliefs while in college and because of that I am more firm in those beliefs today than I was when I first got here.

College isn't a time or place where you come to change who you are; it is a time to experience exciting new things and become a better person. Take this principle to heart: Success in life is not found in changing who you are; it is found in constantly becoming a better person.

Lastly, to all the freshman out there: Look at these next four to five years as a time where you can grow stronger in what you believe in right now and learn as much as you can, because college isn't about becoming a "new" person, it's about bettering yourself.

Best of luck and have fun!

This column first ran in the Aug. 31 edition of The Independent Collegian, the daily newspaper serving The University of Toledo.

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

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ALWAYS AN AMERICAN CLASSIC



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By LILLIAN CIVANTOS
Scene Writer

There is no doubt that Willie Nelson is an American classic. His career spans several decades and includes many awards and honors. He is as well known for his pop-culture persona — the free-spirited hippie-cowboy — as for his musical talent. His songs, including “On the Road Again” and “Always on My Mind,” are country anthems. In his newest album, “American Classic,” Willie Nelson delivers, giving 12 beloved favorites a new twist in his familiar style. Not just for

country lovers, “American Classic” resonates with any fan of musical Americana.

Nelson’s musical breakthrough came over 30 years ago, with the 1978 release of “Stardust.” Defying the stereotypes of the time for a popular artist, particularly in country, Nelson collected favorite songs of his childhood into the first-ever “Great American Songbook.” The result was a runaway success, and such collections have now become standard for any popular artist. Few young people realize that Willie Nelson started this now common tradition. Today, critics are saying that “American Classic” is the long-awaited sequel to “Stardust,” as Willie once again pays tribute to the great musical tradition that came before him.

While “Stardust” was more distinctively country, “American Classic” harkens to Nelson’s youth, evoking the music he grew up with in

the 1930s and 1940s more than the “outlaw country” movement that became his trademark. Like any Frank Sinatra or Bing Crosby album, “American Classic” fits perfectly for an elegant dinner party or a slow-moving dance number.

The album begins with “The Nearness of You,” which was written in 1938 and first became popular as sung by Ray Eberle. It has since been re-recorded by many artists, including Keith Richards, Norah Jones and Diana Krall. Both Jones and Krall appear in “American Classic,” each collaborating with Nelson for one song. Although Nelson is best known for Country Western, you can’t really tell in this album. Where a strong country twang would ruin these sweet old-fashioned ballads, Nelson tastefully plays down his roots. This is clear from the very first song, where mellow piano complements Nelson’s gentle vocals with a beautiful result.

First recorded in 1954, “Fly Me to the Moon” has been recorded many times as well — most famously by

Frank Sinatra — but never quite as Nelson plays it. His melodious voice conveys a yearning tenderness with every syllable. This song will leave you floating amongst the stars with Willie. “Come Rain or Come Shine” is borrowed from the 1946 musical “St. Louis Woman,” and has been covered by greats like Billie

Today, critics are saying that “American Classic” is the long awaited sequel to “Stardust,” as Willie once again pays tribute to the great musical tradition that came before him.

Holiday, Judy Garland, Ray Charles and Barbra Streisand. In this song and in “On the Street Where You Live,” Nelson conveys a country aura more strongly than in most of the album.

In “If I Had You,” one of the album’s strongest numbers, Nelson more than lives up to his predecessors, teaming up with Diana Krall in a gently piano-driven number that whispers of

old-time romance. In 2001, the song “Ain’t Misbehavin’” was selected one of 365 “Songs of the Century” by RIAA. It gains a new magic in Nelson’s hands, and allows him to play up his soft side more than most modern country singers.

Don’t miss Nelson’s mischievous duet with Norah Jones on Christmas classic “Baby It’s Cold Outside.” Her fresh, youthful voice blends beautifully with his mellow entreaties.

Nelson closes the album appropriately with “Always On My Mind.” Although more than 300 artists have recorded this song, Nelson’s 1982 rendition is definitely the best known. It won “Song of the Year,” “Best Country Song,” and “Best Male Country Vocal Performance” at the 25th Grammy awards in 1983. The song has lost none of its magic through the years. Neither has Willie Nelson. As this album proves, he is and always will be an American classic.

Contact Lillian Civantos at lcivantos@nd.edu

American Classic

Willie Nelson

Label: Blue Note

Recommended Tracks: “Fly Me to the Moon,” “If I Had You,” “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” “Always on My Mind”



Coldplay Concert Up Close and Personal



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By ADRIANA PRATT
Scene Writer

Chris Martin was 10 feet away from me jumping around with his band mates as he blew on his harmonica. Thank goodness I hadn’t forgotten my picture-taking cell phone as I rushed to the mini-stage located in the vast expanse of the concert’s lawn, or else the image of Coldplay, glistening from the fantastic enthusiasm and energy they put into their performance, would have been eventually lost in my feeble memory.

Call me a bad sibling if you must, but there was no way I was going to miss the Coldplay concert this summer even if it fell on the same night as my sister’s graduation. Don’t worry; I stayed through the ceremony (complete with a sloppy version of “Pomp and Circumstance”), gave my congratulations and only after the final “sister

hug” did I rush out the door. I’d already missed Snow Patrol’s opening performance, but hey, sometimes you have to make sacrifices.

The show started off vibrantly with a performance as visually appealing as it was musically. The instrumental intro to “Life in Technicolor” slowly faded in, bringing with it the dancing members of Coldplay who used only the sparklers in their hands to find their instruments. As the music grew louder and the sun went down, the brilliant stage lighting turned up, highlighting the quintessential Coldplay costumes that materialize the chic British Coldplay vibe. Magical giant light bulbs hung on stage, serving as screens for close-up shots of the band members and immense holders of confetti that would be released throughout the concert.

“Life in Technicolor” morphed into “Violet Hill” and the image of “Liberty Leading

the People,” the 1830 painting by Eugène Delacroix adorning the cover of their latest album “Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends,” appeared through the fog as the stage’s backdrop. What followed was an engaging and enthralling performance of personal favorites and crowd-pleasers including “Clocks,” “Viva la Vida,” “Fix You,” and “Lost!” and more. Audiences never grew bored.

During the first encore’s performance of “Lovers in Japan,” the stage took on a beautiful violet hue as video images complimenting the song’s lyrics played on the big screen. All of a sudden with a magical wave of his Japanese umbrella, Chris Martin brought a shower of butterfly confetti over the front rows and band, coordinating the hopeful imagery with the piece’s theme. The smiles brought to audience members’ faces were irrepres-

sible. The front rows were not the

only ones that received love from the members of Coldplay. Chris Martin (lead vocals, keyboards, guitar), Jonny Buckland (lead guitar), Guy Berryman (bass guitar) and Will Champion (drums, backing vocals) ventured out onto additional stages set up in the venue to get as close as possible to all of their adoring fans. Songs like “Green Eyes,”

What followed was an engaging and enthralling performance of personal favorites and crowd-pleasers including “Clocks,” “Viva la Vida,” “Fix You” and “Lost!” and more. Audiences never grew bored.

“Death Will Never Conquer” and a cover of The Monkees “I’m a Believer” were played up close and personally for all to appreciate.

A second encore of “The Scientist” and “Life in

Technicolor ii” ended the show and with it a night of invaluable entertainment. Free CDs full of some of Coldplay’s best live performances were handed out to audience members as they headed to their cars, taking the concert experience above and beyond what any fan could dream of.

Coldplay’s 163-show “Viva la Vida Tour,” which began June 16, 2008 and will end Sept. 19, 2009 has included a whirlwind of performances all over the world ranging from Europe to North America, and Asia to Australasia. Their success has been so large that they have even been booked three nights in a row at various venues. The only disappointment in their June 5, 2009 performance in Noblesville, Ind. was that they didn’t stick around another night.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

Weekend Events Calendar

thursday



friday



saturday



sunday



"I Love You Man," 12 a.m.; Legends

Looking for laughs? Legends has got you covered! Student stand-up comedy is at 10 p.m., and is guaranteed to provide delightfully off-colored jokes for your enjoyment. This is the time to stake out this year's rising comedians with the first show of the year.

If that's not enough for you, Legends is also screening "I Love You Man" at midnight. Starring Paul Rudd and Jason Segel, this film is a great bromance that everyone can enjoy. Both Rudd and Segel have received high praises for the movie.

Dillon Pep Rally; 5:45 p.m.; South Quad

It's back! After the controversial hiatus of last year, the Dillon Pep Rally has returned to campus! This is the only pep rally on campus this Friday, and it is highly suggested that you attend. Comedy and school spirit combine for an instant win. Be there: 5:45 p.m. on the South Quad side of Dillon. Go Irish, beat Wolfpack!

Looking for something a little later in the evening? "The Brothers Bloom" is playing at DPAC at 9:30 p.m. This film tells the story of the con-pulling Bloom brothers (Adrien Brody and Mark Ruffalo) and their latest target, the rich heiress Penelope (Rachel Weisz). The dramedy received positive reviews overall. Tickets: \$6, \$5 faculty/staff, \$4 seniors, \$3 all students.

Michael Jackson Tribute Night; 12 a.m.; Legends

So I don't know if everyone's heard, but the King of Pop died this summer. What are we going to do now? If you suddenly feel the inexplicable urge to dance and shout "Thriller!!! In the night!," then Legends has got you covered Saturday at midnight with Michael Jackson Tribute night. This is the perfect opportunity to dance in celebration after the first win of the season! If it turns out to be otherwise, than you can mourn Michael Jackson and the performance of the football team all at the same time.

"Afghan Star"; 3 p.m.; Browning Cinema at Debartolo Performing Arts Center

Don't worry: Sunday's weekends activities won't interfere with Mass, I promise. "Afghan Star" is playing in the Browning Cinema at DPAC at 3 p.m. This film is a documentary about Afghanistan's version of "American Idol" after the fall of the Taliban. The contestants for the show include three women. The show itself is an example of democracy for the people through voting for performers, and the effect it's had on the culture there is noteworthy, as it displays the country's struggle to achieve modernity. Tickets: \$6, \$5 faculty/staff, \$4 seniors, \$3 all students.

Contact Kaitlyn Conway at kconway2@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

OutKast Proved To be the Hip Hop Generation's Prince with 'Stankonia'

Music Rewind:



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By NICK ANDERSON
Scene Writer

For the past 20 years, fans have been waiting for hip hop to get their own version of The Beatles. This expectation is unreasonable for all sorts of reasons (unless you're a fan of The Wu-Tang Clan, then it's already happened). Strangely enough, there are precedents for some of hip hop's biggest names. Eminem is a self-styled Elvis. More importantly, OutKast is as close as our generation will ever come to a reincarnation of Prince. The combination of commercial and critical success, ubiquitous hit singles and even a movie form a powerful force in a culture whose attention span has been reduced to Disney bands and ring-tone rappers.

Continuing the Prince comparison, "Stankonia" is OutKast's

"Sign 'O' the Times." It's an ambitious album in which their creativity and talent come to a remarkable zenith. Everyone is unconsciously aware of it, even if it's only because of the ever-present "Ms. Jackson," one of the catchiest and most brilliant singles to come out in the past 15 years. Its radio play unfairly overshadowed not only the other singles but also the album as a whole. It's too bad because "Ms. Jackson" came off of one of the catchiest and most brilliant albums of the past 15 years.

"Stankonia" comes from "the center of the earth, seven light years below sea level ... the place from which all funky things come." Andre 3000 and Big Boi take their inspiration from George Clinton, who first used "stank" to describe funk music, but they do things with it which Clinton never

would have imagined. Starting with funk, they incorporate such a wide variety of influences and styles that it's near impossible to describe the album more specifically than hip hop. Starting with funk, they quickly move to a loose approximation of alt rock, followed by a pop tune, and continue to soul, disco and even a ballad. Each attempt performs at an amazing level.

OutKast has described themselves as a "playa and a poet," Big Boi being the former and Andre 3000 being the latter. This dynamic was taken to an extreme on their double album "Speakerboxxx/The Love Below" but it works much better when they play off of each other within songs. The pair regularly alternate verses on each song resulting in outstanding charisma and songs which include references to

skiing, elephants and tennis mixed with smoking crack, tricked out cars and bad women. This is done incredibly smoothly, leaving the listener awestruck. Even the interludes between songs add to the feel of the album, a truly uncommon occurrence.

The culmination of the album comes just before the halfway point of the album with its first single, "B.O.B." Also less successful than both "Ms. Jackson" and "So Fresh and So Clean," "Bombs Over Bagdad" brings impressive energy, unreal sonic texture and wandering stream of consciousness lyrics over heavy booty-bass beats, electronic details and even a choir. It walks on the edge of chaos but is completely comfortable there, never coming close to disaster, even as the chorus descends into nothing more than, "Power music, electric revival."

Instead, those words show that not only can OutKast make hip hop and electronica, but welcome guitar riffs and harmonies. Of course, those of you cool enough to pay attention already know that Pitchfork named it the top track of the 2000s.

In making "Stankonia," OutKast both transcended and embraced hip hop. In doing so, they created an album that is both essential to the genre and a timeless classic for anyone with a passing interest in music. "Stankonia" is only 10 years old, but its direct influence and inspiration can already be heard throughout the current music landscape. Undoubtedly, its standing with both music critics and fans will only increase with time.

Contact Nick Anderson at ndanders5@nd.edu

U.S. OPEN TENNIS

Former champ Safin ousted in first round of final US Open

Rafael Nadal earns straight-set victory in first Grand Slam match since loss in French Open final

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Marat Safin strutted off the Grand Slam stage with little of the sound or fury that accompanied so much of his combustible career.

No postmatch pomp-and-circumstance for the two-time major champion and former No. 1-ranked player. No on-court interview. No bow to the crowd. And for the record: no broken rackets.

When Safin finished losing meekly to Jurgen Melzer of Austria in a fairly uneventful 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 first-round exit at the U.S. Open on Wednesday, the big Russian simply collected his things and strode away with a quick wave.

Looking for some sentimental-ity? Not even a trace.

"It's OK. It's the end. So, just, it's the last one. Could have been better ending, but still OK," Safin said. "I don't care about losses anymore."

The 29-year-old Safin is retiring at the end of the season, so this trip to Flushing Meadows marked his last Grand Slam tournament. It's a fitting site for his finale: Safin burst onto the scene by upsetting Pete Sampras to win the 2000 U.S. Open.

He called that victory "just a miracle for me."

"I really didn't believe I could get anywhere closer to the final of a Grand Slam. And then, after beating Sampras, I never really understood what happened," Safin said. "It was difficult, because I was 20 years old. I wasn't ready for this, so it's really difficult to understand it. ... I wasn't prepared."

Safin certainly gained a reputation for enjoying his status as a well-paid and popular sports star. Some say he frittered away the talent spread around his 6-foot-4, 195-pound frame — those powerful serves and groundstrokes, the tremendous court coverage.

He reached No. 1 in November 2000, before injuries and other issues dropped him from the top rather swiftly. Safin lost two major finals before adding a second Grand Slam title at the 2005 Australian Open.

But that would be it. He would never win another title of any sort, major or otherwise.

"To win two Grand Slams — you have to really appreciate that and give him credit for that. Of course, he had the talent to probably win five or six,"

said Melzer, a 28-year-old never past the third round at a major tournament. "I guess he's happy. I would be happy if I had a career like that."

Apparently, Safin is, too, noting more than once Wednesday that he has no regrets.

His career is fizzling out, with a 12-18 record in 2009, including a first-round loss at Wimbledon in June.

And his departure deprives tennis of one its more outlandish and outspoken stars.

As Melzer put it: "I don't watch a lot of tennis; I have a lot of tennis in my life. But when Marat played, I sat down and watched, because it was something you don't see from the other players."

That's for sure. This is a guy, after all, who once celebrated a great shot at the French Open by grabbing his white shorts and tugging them down to his thighs.

Safin was penalized a point for that — he also was docked \$500 for throwing a racket in the same match — then later ranted: "All of the people who run the sport, they have no clue. It's a pity that the tennis is really going down the drain. ... They do everything possible to, you know, just to take away the entertainment — 'You're not allowed to do that. You're not allowed to do this.'"

He's complained about the high price and low quality of the food in the players' restaurant at Wimbledon. And the list goes on and on and on.

As much of a talker as he is, Safin grew weary this year of speaking about his retirement. Not exactly the type for a farewell tour.

"It's too many questions about what I'm going to do, why I'm retiring, and this and that. So I answer the same question, I don't know, a thousand times. Just go on Google, and you have the same answer," he said Wednesday. "But it's OK. Few tournaments to go, so I can manage."

The plan is to wrap things up at the Paris Masters in November. As for what comes after that, Safin won't say — other than that he wants to get away from the world of tennis.

No TV job for him.

"I'm different than another person who wants to lay back and do nothing for rest of the life and talk nonsense on ESPN, talk about my match against Sampras," Safin said. "I will not do that. I want to achieve some-



Marat Safin reacts during his 1-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 loss to Jurgen Melzer during the first round of the US Open on Wednesday. The 29-year old former champion was competing in his final US Open.

thing else."

When asked about being the opponent in Safin's Grand Slam goodbye, Melzer used the phrase, "if he really retires."

Why the word "if"?

"With Marat," Melzer said, "you never know."

Rafael Nadal def. Richard Gasquet

Everyone's been curious about the condition of Rafael Nadal's knees, so it made sense that his first Grand Slam opponent in three months would wonder as well.

Which might explain why Richard Gasquet tried a drop shot deep in the third set of his U.S. Open match against Nadal on Wednesday. Nadal made the long run necessary to get to the ball, and flipped it back over the net, winning the point.

A moment later, as if conspiring with Nadal to show everyone how fit the six-time major champion truly is these days, Gasquet offered up another drop shot.

Nadal got to that one, too.

Starting a bid to win the only Grand Slam title missing from his resume, Nadal encountered no apparent trouble from his much-scrutinized legs in a 6-2, 6-2, 6-3 victory over Gasquet at Flushing Meadows.

Gasquet, for one, was impressed.

"He can win the tourna-

ment," said Gasquet, a 2007 Wimbledon semifinalist and former top-10 player. "Day after day, he will improve his level. For sure, he can win."

Nadal's matter-of-fact assessment: "I played well, no?"

One could certainly make the case he wasn't facing the toughest competition. Gasquet has been away from the tour, too, recently. He served a 2½-month ban after testing positive for cocaine; Gasquet successfully appealed what would have been a far more severe punishment, saying the drug entered his system inadvertently when he kissed a woman at a nightclub.

Nadal's absence was far more run-of-the-mill. He hadn't played at a major tournament since May 31, when his 31-match French Open winning streak ended in the fourth round at Roland Garros. The Spaniard cited knee tendinitis in deciding not to defend his Wimbledon title, and the layoff was a big reason Nadal has dropped from No. 1 in the rankings to No. 3.

Nadal didn't wear any tape near his knees Wednesday, something he's done in the past, much less the sort of bulky bandages Venus Williams showed up with for her second-round match.

Williams, the 2000-01 champion at the U.S. Open, had

wide patches of white tape above and below her left knee, which began bothering her when she struggled through a first-round win Monday. Like Nadal, Williams looked hale Wednesday, and she easily dispatched Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States 6-4, 6-2.

"She was moving like a cat," Mattek-Sands said.

Nadal never mentioned his knee issues publicly until after the French Open, but he said Wednesday the pain dated to April, when he won the Monte Carlo Masters. He also won the next week, and the week after that, but he now attributes that success to "being on a roll."

The recent time off means he has played a lot less than he's accustomed to by this time in the season, which is a benefit at the last Grand Slam event of the year. He's never been past the semifinals in New York.

"I am more fresh, yeah. Fresher than ever in this tournament. I don't know if this kind of fresh is good," he said. "No excuses about being very tired."

Still, Nadal finds it amusing that there has been so much discussion about his knees and his time away from the tour.

"Seems like I was two years outside of competition," he said. "It was two months."

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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AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, Septmeber 3, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Football AP Top 25

	team	points	previous
1	Florida	1498	1
2	Texas	1424	4
3	Oklahoma	1370	5
4	USC	1313	3
5	Alabama	1156	6
6	Ohio State	1113	9
7	Virginia Tech	1054	15
8	Mississippi	1047	14
9	Oklahoma State	989	16
9	Penn State	989	8
11	LSU	914	NR
12	California	746	NR
13	Georgia	714	13
14	Boise State	659	11
15	Georgia Tech	593	22
16	Oregon	587	10
17	TCU	521	7
18	Florida State	307	21
19	Utah	289	2
20	Brigham Young	267	25
21	North Carolina	261	NR
22	Iowa	229	20
23	NOTRE DAME	225	NR
24	Nebraska	207	NR
25	Kansas	134	NR

Women's Soccer NSCAA/adidas Top 25

	team	points	previous
1	North Carolina	824	1
2	NOTRE DAME	772	2
3	Portland	760	3
4	Stanford	736	4
5	Florida State	700	5
6	Florida	652	7
7	West Virginia	522	14
8	Virginia	512	10
9	UCLA	498	9
10	Texas A&M	481	6
11	Illinois	466	13
12	San Diego	430	15
13	Penn State	421	8
14	Purdue	324	RV
15	Colorado	296	18
16	Boston College	289	20
17	Wake Forest	265	RV
18	Georgia	260	16
19	Minnesota	157	17
20	Oklahoma State	154	21
21	Utah	153	NR
22	Santa Clara	137	19
23	Missour	83	22
24	Duke	77	11
25	St. John's (N.Y.)	72	NR

Men's Golf Rankings Golf World/NIKE Top 10

	team	points
1	Texas A&M	25
2	Arkansas	24
3	Georgia	23
4	Michigan	23
5	Arizona State	21
6	Southern California	21
7	Washington	21
8	Oklahoma State	21
9	TCU	17
10	Georgia Tech	16

MLB



Astros first baseman Aaron Boone hustles down the first base line during the eighth inning of Houston's 2-0 loss to the Cubs on Wednesday. Boone returned to the field just five months after undergoing open heart surgery.

Boone returns to league after heart surgery

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Aaron Boone ran to his position at first base and that's when it really hit him. He was back, playing in a major league game for the first time since undergoing open heart surgery in late March.

"I was fine last night and all day today. And then running out there I was a little nervous, but I got into the flow of the game pretty quick," Boone said Wednesday after his Houston Astros lost to the Chicago Cubs 2-0.

"At first, you know, you handle the ball a lot. It kinda gets you into it. Once we got going, it felt pretty

good," he added.

Boone didn't appear to be rusty, even though he went 0 for 3 with two fly outs and a ground out. He made one really nice play at first base, going to the ground to knock down a hard grounder by Chicago's Jeff Baker in the second inning. He scrambled to retrieve the ball, picked it up and flipped to pitcher Felipe Paulino for the out.

"I didn't have time to think about it," Boone said. "So it worked out. It was good to get thrown right in the fire and get some action. All in all just really good to be out there, really rewarding."

Boone signed with the

Astros in the offseason, then had an operation on March 26 because of a congenital defect in his aortic valve. He has already completed a minor league rehab assignment.

The 36-year-old Boone is an 11-year veteran who began his major league career with the Cincinnati Reds in 1997. There have also been stops with Yankees, Indians and Marlins. He played last season with the Washington Nationals.

Astros teammates and coaches stood and applauded in the dugout when Boone — batting seventh — came to the plate in the second inning Wednesday. In his first at-

bat since last Sept. 28, Boone flied out to left.

"It was a good day for him to get out there. And I'm glad he got a chance to do it," Astros manager Cecil Cooper said.

Boone was in the on-deck circle when the Astros had two on in the ninth, but didn't get to the plate when pinch-hitter Geoff Blum popped out to end the game. It crossed Boone's mind that he might have a chance to deliver a big hit in his first game back.

One of Boone's signature moments came in 2003 when he hit a 11th-inning homer off Boston's Tim Wakefield to clinch the AL Championship Series for the New York Yankees.

IN BRIEF

Tomlinson to miss San Diego's preseason finale

SAN DIEGO — San Diego Chargers coach Norv Turner has confirmed what most people already guessed, that LaDainian Tomlinson will not play in Friday night's exhibition finale against San Francisco.

Tomlinson started the first two exhibitions, bucking a tradition of having him sit out the entire preseason slate in order to stay healthy. He did sit out last Saturday's loss at Atlanta.

Most other starters will be in for 10 to 15 plays.

It's also highly unlikely that running back-return specialist Darren Sproles will play Friday. Sproles has touched the ball 16 times in the exhibition season, including rushes, receptions and returns, which Turner believes is enough for Sproles to get ready for the Sept. 14 regular-season opener at Oakland.

Police recover missing Phillies World Series ring

PHILADELPHIA — Police have recovered a Philadelphia Phillies World Series ring that went missing at the ballpark.

A Phillies marketing executive says he removed the \$15,000 ring in a restroom at Citizens Bank Park on Monday, when the team was off. He returned a half-hour later, and it was gone.

Police Capt. Laurence Nodiff (NOH'-dif) said Wednesday surveillance tapes led them to a janitor, who took officers to the ring. Nodiff says the ring was found wrapped in a paper towel and stashed in a supply closet.

Police say charges are expected against the janitor, who works for a subcontractor. They say he may have hidden the ring because he had second thoughts about taking it home.

The ring has 103 diamonds and commemorates the team's 2008 world title against Tampa Bay.

McDaniels denies Jets trade talk surrounding Marshall

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Moving to quell rumors, Denver coach Josh McDaniels said Wednesday the team had not held any talks involving a trade of suspended Broncos wide receiver Brandon Marshall.

"We're looking forward to having Brandon back on Sept. 6 and starting our preparations for Cincinnati with him," McDaniels said. "There's no discussions whatsoever taking place between the Denver Broncos and any team in the NFL regarding Brandon Marshall."

There were reports the New York Jets would be interested in trading for him.

McDaniels suspended Marshall for the rest of the preseason last Friday for detrimental conduct stemming from insubordinate actions during a practice.

around the dial

NCAA FOOTBALL

South Carolina at North Carolina State
7 p.m., ESPN

NFL

Browns at Bears
8 p.m., SBT2

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2. Prepare, Prepare, Prepare

- Attend a "Prepare for the Career Fair" workshop
- Determine your objectives for attending
- Review the list of companies attending the fair and position descriptions on Go IRISH
- Visit company websites and review mission statements, annual reports, and products or services
- Develop and refine networking skills
- Develop your "Thirty Second Message"
 - Hello, I'm...(introduce yourself, your year and major, and interest in industry/career field)
 - Your company is...(demonstrate knowledge of company)
 - I'm interested because...(explain your interest in company)
 - I can...(match your skills with their needs)

3. At the Fair

- Dress in business attire and bring several copies of your resume in a portfolio
- Review the map of employer booths and take a bag for "giveaways"
- Be proactive by approaching employers
- Speak with both young alums and experienced representatives
- Demonstrate confidence and enthusiasm in delivering your "Thirty Second Message"
- Ask the representative how to sign up for an interview (i.e. "After reviewing your company information and the position, I am interested in speaking with you further. How can I obtain a slot on your interview schedule at The Career Center?")
- Obtain the representative's business card

4. Following the Fair

- Send an email thank-you to the recruiters with companies of interest within 3 days of the fair
- If you obtain an interview:
 - Prepare by researching the company, industry, competitors, and the job or internship description on Go IRISH
 - Review The Career Center's Interview Guide and practice sample interview questions
 - View The Career Center's interview preparation workshop video on the home page of the website: <http://careercenter.nd.edu>

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 Thursday, September 10, 6:00 p.m. in G-20 Flanner

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Monday, September 7, 7:00 pm in 114 Flanner

Engineering Majors:

Tuesday, September 8, 6:00 pm in 117 DeBartolo
 Wednesday, September 9, 5:00 pm in 118 DeBartolo

Science Majors:

Monday, September 7, 6:00 pm in 310 Jordan
 Wednesday, September 9, 5:00 pm in 118 DeBartolo

Sophomores:

Tuesday, September 8, 5:00 pm in 114 Flanner

All Majors:

Sunday, September 6, 6:00 pm in 114 Flanner

Utilize Go IRISH to Find Out More About the Companies, Industries, and Positions

To view all companies attending Fall Career Expo:

1. Login to Go IRISH
2. Click on Events Tab
3. Click on Notre Dame 2009 Fall Career Fairs to view participating employers and general posting information

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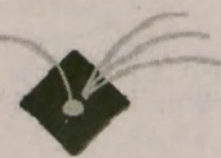
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NFL

Childress to sit Favre against Dallas

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Brett Favre's non-traditional arrival in Minnesota is not stopping Vikings coach Brad Childress from taking a traditional approach to the team's preseason finale against Dallas.

The 39-year-old quarterback will not play against the Cowboys on Friday night.

"I don't see the upside," Childress said on Wednesday.

Most teams rest their marquee starters in the final game of the preseason to avoid the risk of injury with the regular season a week away.

What makes this situation unique, however, is Favre's recent arrival in Minnesota.

It's been a whirlwind for Favre ever since he arrived to a hero's welcome just 16 days ago. A helicopter followed him from a Twin Cities airport to the team's headquarters in Eden Prairie, where more than 100 fans swarmed Childress's SUV as it pulled into the parking lot.

Three days later, Favre was in uniform and looking every bit as rusty as could be expected. He went 1 for 4 for 4 yards in two series against the Kansas City Chiefs, but looked much more comfortable on Monday night in Houston.

Favre completed 13 of 18 passes for 142 yards and a touchdown while playing into the third quarter of a 17-10 win

at Houston.

"I thought he made a nice jump from Week 1 to Week 2 and showed he's got a good understanding of what we're doing," Childress said.

Favre ran a similar offense for 16 seasons in Green Bay and has had no trouble getting up to speed with the Vikings' playbook. The biggest thing he has to work on is chemistry with his receivers, learning their tendencies and how each one puts his own variation on the routes that are run.

The biggest strides were shown on Minnesota's final drive of the first half against the Texans. Favre completed the final six passes of the drive, moving the Vikings 74 yards in nine plays, including a 28-yard touchdown pass to Chester Taylor.

"I think we can be productive, but we've got to get it together pretty quickly," Favre said after the game Monday night.

The Vikings open the regular season on Sept. 13 at Cleveland. So Favre and the rest of his offensive starters will have an entire week of practice to fine-tune things before the football start for real.

"We're at a pretty good spot right now, but he's only been here two weeks," receiver Sidney Rice said. "We still have a lot of things we can work on together. We're going to continue to work on those things

together."

Favre still has not played a game with top receiver Bernard Berrian, who missed the last two games with a hamstring injury.

He is spending extra time looking at practice tape and has stayed late at practice on occasion to throw to his receivers as they try to find the timing needed to keep the chains moving.

"I feel like we're definitely jelling," said running back Adrian Peterson, who had a 75-yard touchdown run on the first play from scrimmage against Houston. "I feel like we're there, but there's always room to improve."

"We've still got some polishing. Just shine it up and buff it up a little bit and I think we'll be OK."

For now, Favre and most of the rest of the starters will have to apply the final coat of wax in practice. Childress isn't willing to risk a major injury, and he knows firsthand that can happen.

Childress was an assistant in Philadelphia in 2001 when head coach Andy Reid decided to play his starters at the beginning of the exhibition finale against the New York Jets. Childress said that center Bubba Miller broke his leg on the last play of the opening drive.

"Just that one more play, that one more series," Childress said. "It's hard enough to lose them on regular football Sundays."

NFL

Coach says Peterson is the NFL's best RB

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — In the debate over who is the best running back in the NFL, Vikings coach Brad Childress is agreeing with Jim Brown, not LaDainian Tomlinson.

Childress came to Adrian Peterson's defense Wednesday after Tomlinson took a few shots at Peterson in a recent Los Angeles Times story.

When asked about it at practice Wednesday, an unusually emphatic Childress said he's seen Peterson improve "by leaps and bounds" in all phases of the game since he entered the league in 2007.

"LaDainian is a hell of a back and he's entitled to his opinion," Childress said. "I'm going to tell you, my guy is the best football player in the National Football League and he's the best running back in the National Football League, and I believe that."

Peterson is the reigning NFL rushing champion and also holds the single-game record for yards rushing (296) — set against Tomlinson's Chargers at the Metrodome in 2007. He has rushed for 3,101 yards in his first two seasons, leading many to call him the best running back in the game.

For years, Tomlinson has worn that crown.

"Jim Brown was telling Peterson he's the best runner he'd seen in a long time," Tomlinson told The Times. "I was sitting there reading it thinking, 'Wow.'"

"The difference with me is you can put me out on that field and there will be nothing I can't do. I won't have to come off the field. Adrian has to come off sometimes on third down. Running routes, he's still not there yet. Great downhill runner, powerful, fast, all that stuff. ... But anything on that field you want me to do — throw it, block — I can do it. That's what I pride myself on is not having any weaknesses. And

that's what makes me the best back."

LT rushed for 1,815 yards and scored 31 touchdowns in 2006, but has been slowed slightly by injuries the last two seasons. He gained a career-low 1,110 yards rushing last season, but still managed to catch 52 passes.

Tomlinson's accomplishments in the passing game certainly set him apart. He caught 100 passes in 2003 and has never caught fewer than 51 in a season.

Peterson has 40 catches in his first two seasons combined. He knows he has to be better in that area and has worked diligently to be a more reliable receiver and blocker.

"I just think he keeps getting better and better and better and better," Childress said. "I think he's come leaps and bounds from the first day in pass protection."

When it comes to running, though, Peterson might have the edge right now as he enters his prime. He rushed for 1,760 yards last season and took the first handoff of the preseason game against Houston on Monday night for a 75-yard touchdown.

Tomlinson turned 30 in June, an ominous benchmark for running backs that usually signifies the beginning of the downside of their careers.

Both are from Texas, and Peterson simply shrugged off Tomlinson's criticism.

"It really doesn't matter," Peterson said. "But it's Jim Brown, so I can see why it would definitely touch a nerve."

"The only thing I try to do is try to be the best, most complete player that I can be. And that means during the offseason if there's things that I can improve on, that make my game better, that will help the team, then those are things that I do. So, that's what I'm going to continue to focus on and continue to do and I'll let everyone else voice their opinion."

NFL

Cowboys NFL's richest team

Associated Press

NEW YORK — How 'bout them Cowboys? They're No. 1 in something even before the NFL season begins: total value.

The Cowboys are worth \$1.65 billion, the most of any U.S.-based sports franchise, according to Forbes magazine's annual rankings. Only Manchester United of the English Premier League is worth more worldwide, \$1.87 billion.

The Cowboys lead the rankings for the third straight year and are worth \$100 million more than the runner-up Washington Redskins. New England is third at \$1.361 billion, followed by the New York Giants (\$1.183 billion) and Jets (\$1.170 billion).

In all, 19 teams are worth at least \$1 billion, with the biggest gainer in Forbes' rankings the Patriots, Chargers, Bills and Buccaneers, each at 3 percent.

Oakland has the least value,

not even reaching half of Dallas' worth. The Raiders are worth \$797 million, down 7 percent from the previous year.

Eight teams saw their value decline in this year's rankings, and six had no change. Along with the Raiders, who had the biggest drop, Detroit, which comes off the first 0-16 season in NFL history, fell 6 percent; Indianapolis went down 5 percent; Miami dropped 3 percent; Seattle and St. Louis each fell 2 percent.

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NHL

Coyotes to begin season in Arizona

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Canadian billionaire James Balsillie has proposed having the Phoenix Coyotes begin the season in Arizona, then move to Hamilton, Ontario, as quickly as possible.

Balsillie's attorney, Jeff Keffler, made the suggestion Wednesday after U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Redfield T. Baum said it was "reasonably probable" that he could not resolve the many outstanding issues in the messy Coyotes fight by a Sept. 14 deadline set by the Canadian.

The statements came during a hearing on whether the judge should overrule the NHL board of governors' 26-0 vote rejecting Balsillie as a potential owner and clear the way to move the franchise to Hamilton.

"We may have to move during the season," Keffler said.

After the hearing, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said that proposals by Balsillie's company, PSE, to move the team either before or during the coming season "shows a lack of respect for the game."

The NHL vehemently opposes Balsillie's plan to buy the team and wants the judge to rule that the Coyotes will play the coming season in Arizona regardless of the outcome of the bankruptcy case. Such a ruling would kill Balsillie's bid, his attorney said.

The league, which has made its own bid, says moving the team at this late date across the continent to Hamilton would create enormous difficulty for the other teams and players, not to mention everyone involved with the Phoenix franchise. Each day of uncertainty does more damage to the franchise, NHL attorneys said.

"I think the arguments by PSE (the company Balsillie formed to pursue the Coyotes) on moving the club treats rather frivolously the issues that all sports leagues have," Bettman said. "I think it disrespects the game and it disrespects the players and what they have to go through night in and night out to do the great things they do on the ice."

Speaking outside the courthouse after the day-long hearing, Bettman said, "Of all the things that were argued, and they were important, that one strikes a chord that showed a lack of respect for the game."

The first preseason game is Sept. 15. The Coyotes open the regular season Oct. 3 at Los Angeles.

For the first time since Coyotes owner Jerry Moyes took the team into bankruptcy, Balsillie was in the courtroom.

Just when a ruling will come on any of the issues will come is unknown. The judge may well wait until the Sept. 10 auction.

"Whatever he rules, whenever he rules it I'm going to respect his ruling," Balsillie said. "That being said, obviously I still think that our bid is by far the best for creditors, for fans and for the long-term viability of the team. All I wanted from the beginning was a chance for a level playing field, a court-supervised auction where we can participate."

Thomas Salerno, attorney for the debtors headed by Moyes, said the team would lose "\$30-\$40-\$50 million" if it plays the

entire season in Glendale, money lost to the team's creditors.

Bettman defended the huge financial commitment the NHL is willing to make and vowed a court fight to the finish.

"There's nothing more important to any sports league than who owns its franchises, where its franchises are located and the application and enforceability of its rules and procedures," he said, "and if you're in this business you've got to do whatever it takes to enforce your rules in that regard."

Keffler told the judge that Balsillie was willing to play a season in Glendale if the NHL would split the anticipated losses, not tie up the case in appeals and act on the request to relocate the franchise to Hamilton.

"It's not a suggestion that has much appeal to us," Bettman said.

Baum succinctly summed up the issue before him regarding Balsillie and his representatives.

"Either they have the ability to force themselves into the league, in a simple sense, or they don't," the judge said. "If they don't, then game over."

He noted that a ruling Balsillie's favor would be unprecedented.

Keffler argued that the NHL rejection of Balsillie was a "thin pretext" conjured up by lawyers when the league's real concern is a potential legal battle with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

The contention is largely based on a November 2006 letter from the Maple Leafs' counsel that cites the franchise's position that any relocation of a franchise must be approved by a unanimous vote.

Bettman says he has made it clear to all owners that relocation would be decided by a majority vote.

League attorney Shep Goldfein called the allegations "just made up" and "something from 'The Twilight Zone.'"

The judge put aside for now assertions by Balsillie's attorneys that the NHL had a serious conflict of interest because it was a bidder. The league filed a \$140 million offer to buy the team last week when a group headed by Jerry Reinsdorf pulled out.

On Wednesday, the NHL said it had changed its offer and, if it is awarded the team, the league will give any net profit on the resale of the club to the creditors. The initial bid offered 20 percent of the profit. However, the league has said in court documents that a net profit on the sale is unlikely.

Balsillie's attorney, Susan Freeman, said the NHL was considering making a bid at the time of the league vote against the Canadian as an owner. That put the league owners in a position of rejecting a competitive bid.

As if the nearly 900 documents filed in the case weren't enough for him to read, Baum asked for the full transcripts of all depositions in the case. Each of those is 250 to 300 pages long.

Balsillie is offering \$212.5 million, contingent on immediately moving the franchise to Hamilton. Under that bid, Moyes would get \$104 million of the \$300 million he says he loaned the Coyotes.

MLB

Young sidelined for two weeks

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Michael Young thought his season was over when he heard a pop in his hamstring while running down the baseline.

So the bad news for the playoff-chasing Texas Rangers that their All-Star third baseman will be out at least two weeks could have been much worse.

"The second you hear a pop in your hamstring, you think something's wrong and it's going to more than a month recovery time," Young said Wednesday. "So for them to tell me there's a good chance I'll be available the last two weeks, that's great news to me. That's all I'm going to focus on."

An MRI confirmed his injury sustained running out a grounder Tuesday night was a strained left hamstring, not something much worse. He also had a blood platelet injection designed to accelerate the healing process.

Still, the loss of Young for any time is a significant blow for a Texas team in the hunt for its first playoff appearance in 10 years. The Rangers face an unprecedented extended stretch without their longest-tenured player, in his ninth season.

"There's no way to replace Michael. He's the leader," Marlon Byrd said. "We've got to hold down the fort until he comes back. ... At this time of the year, the way he's swinging it, the way he's been carrying us, you can't even put into words."

Since becoming a full-time

player in 2002, Young has never missed more than two consecutive starts. He even managed to maintain that streak last season, playing 155 games after breaking a finger on each hand and sustaining a groin strain.

"His hitting, defense, leadership, work ethic. He's one guy who shows up at the ballpark who everybody feeds off of," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "But does it give us an excuse to have a lull? No. We're not going to have a lull."

The Rangers went into Wednesday night's series finale against Toronto trailing AL wild-card leader Boston by 3 1/2 games and the AL West-leading Los Angeles Angels by 4 1/2 games. Texas made its last playoff appearance in 1999 after winning its only three division titles in a four-year span.

Young was sixth in the American League with a .322 batting average. His 48 multi-hit games ranked eighth, and he had hit in 18 consecutive games for the longest active streak in the majors before going 0 for 2 with two walks in the first game of a double-header Tuesday against the Blue Jays.

Young got hurt in the second game, pulling up after crossing first base for the final out of the third inning.

"The boys can kind of keep the ship afloat for a while, and I'll be ready to go to work those last couple of weeks," Young said. "I've been here for nine years and this is a golden opportunity, so it's disappointing to miss these games. At the same time,

when I'm doing my rehab, I'm going to focus on the fact that I'm going back with something to play for."

Chris Davis was in the starting lineup at third base Wednesday night, and Hank Blalock was at first base. Davis had started eight of his nine games at first since being recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City, where he played mostly third base. Davis had started 70 games at first for the Rangers earlier this season before being sent down.

Omar Vizquel, the 11-time Gold Glove shortstop who is a backup infielder for Texas, or Esteban German could also play third. Vizquel made a diving backhanded stab on one play, then threw the batter out from his knee after replacing Young at third Tuesday night.

"He's the engine of this team. He's the one to get everything going," Vizquel said. "We're really going to miss him now, especially this last month when every game is important. ... It's really sad to see one of the best hitters going down for a little bit."

Young, a five-time All-Star shortstop before moving to third base this season, said he was sore from the injection but would be aggressive with his rehabilitation. While there will be no baseball activity right away, he will take on a different leadership role.

"Just break out my pom-poms and be a cheerleader," Young said. "I'm not worried at all about the baseball aspect of hitting and throwing. That stuff will come back to me in a day."

Josh Dorfman

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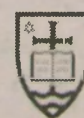
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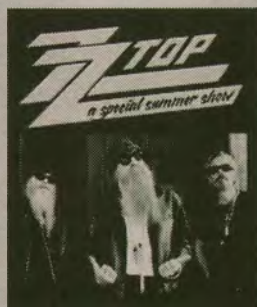
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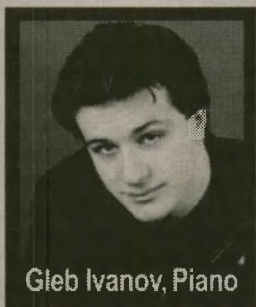
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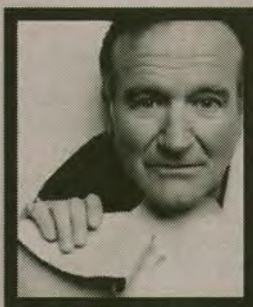
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ATP

Serena rolls into next round at Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Serena Williams offered a new, tongue-in-cheek explanation for why she plays so much better at Grand Slam tournaments than other events.

"Maybe it pays more," she said with a smile. "I guess I'm trying to pay off my mortgage."

Defending champion Williams joined her sister in the U.S. Open's third round with a dominating victory Wednesday night, playing pretty close to perfect while beating 51st-ranked Melinda Czink of Hungary 6-1, 6-1 in less than an hour.

Williams is seeking her fourth U.S. Open championship and 12th Grand Slam singles title overall. She's won three of the past four major tournaments — but she hasn't won a single non-major tournament in that span.

The American is trying to become the first woman to win consecutive titles at Flushing Meadows since her older sister Venus in 2000-01.

The siblings could play each other in the semifinals. Venus Williams wore heavy bandages above and below her left knee while winning earlier Wednesday, eliminating Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the United States 6-4, 6-2.

The Williamses are scheduled to team up Thursday in the first round of doubles, taking on Julie Goerges and Arantxa Parra Santonja. Serena said she hadn't had a chance to speak to Venus about whether they would stay in the doubles event but figured they would play.

The younger Williams played Czink at a hard-court tournament in California in July, and things were much more competitive until Williams eventually prevailed 6-3, 7-6 (7).

Why was Wednesday's encounter so different?

"I definitely made adjustments," Williams said. "I knew her game better today."

Truth be told, Czink simply couldn't handle Williams' power, like a baseball hitter whose swing is too slow to get around on a fastball and keeps fouling off pitches.

That was illustrated on consecutive points early in the second set: First, one ball flew wildly off Czink's racket and soared wide and high, so off-track and so hard that it smacked the score-keeping gizmo off the chair umpire's stand. Next, another ball went directly sideways, nearly into the noggin of a line judge.

Williams finished with an impressive ratio of 25 winners to only nine unforced errors.

About the only glitch for Williams came midway through the first set, when she thought she had pounded an ace. Instead, the serve was waved off by a line judge, who called a foot-fault.

Williams turned and glared, setting her hands on her hips. She just stood there with a straight face for a few seconds, staring down the official. When play resumed, Williams pushed a forehand into the net, then again sent a serious look in his direction.

And on the following point, Williams smacked an ace at 115 mph and looked over once more, as though to say, "Was my foot in the right place that time?!"

"I was kind of frustrated because I hit a great serve, best serve I hit in months. Yeah, I was just like, 'Ugh!'" Williams said.

Asked about the staredown, she said: "They do play that song, 'Straight out of Compton' when I walk out."

NHL

Luongo signs 12-yr extension with Canucks

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Goaltender Roberto Luongo chose to finish his career in Vancouver because he believes the Canucks can win a Stanley Cup.

The 12-year, \$64-million contract extension he signed on Wednesday may help.

Luongo's new contract comes with an annual salary cap hit of just \$5.33-million, which is down from the \$6.75-million average of his current four-year, \$27-million deal that expires at the end of the upcoming season.

"I want to win the Stanley Cup," Luongo said on a conference call. "That's why I play. We had to do something that made sense for both me and the team, and I think that's what we accomplished by doing a deal where the money is a bit more front-loaded."

Luongo's deal includes a no-

trade clause, keeping the 30-year-old Canucks captain in Vancouver until the 2021-22 season.

The new deal pays Luongo \$10-million in 2010-11, but just \$1 million in each of the final two seasons to give the Canucks more flexibility under the NHL salary cap.

"For me it was more about my love for the game," Luongo said. "I just want to play as long as I can. I don't see what's wrong with that."

He also plans to play for Canada at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

"Roberto Luongo is the leader of our hockey team; he is in the prime of his playing career and has a tremendous desire to make the Canucks a championship team," general manager Mike Gillis said in a statement. "His leadership, competitiveness and character are what this team will represent for many years to come."

Recycle The Observer.

MLB

Penny's debut a success as Giants beat Phils

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — After a sensational and surprising debut with San Francisco, Brad Penny kept his eyes on the Red Sox game on TV as he dressed.

"Those are my buddies over there," he said. "I love all those guys."

Penny would still be with Boston if he pitched like he did against Philadelphia on Wednesday night. He threw five-hit ball over eight shutout innings in his first start with the Giants, leading the NL wild-card contenders to a 4-0 win over the Phillies.

"It's more than we expected, but I just think this guy was on a mission tonight and it showed," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said.

Penny (1-0) was back in his old All-Star form in his first outing since he was released last week by Boston. Penny went 7-8 with a 5.61 ERA this season — including 1-6 in his last 11 starts. Penny could be a huge boost to San Francisco's NL wild-card push if he can pitch like this the rest of September.

"Some things are hard to explain," Bochy said of Penny's Boston collapse, "and that's one of them."

Penny's lone jam came in the fifth inning when the first two batters reached base. He got All-Star Raul Ibanez to fly out, and escaped the inning without any further damage.

Ibanez, whose torrid first half got him voted an NL All-Star starter, continued his dreadful second-half slide. He went 0 for 3 and has only 10 hits in his last 75 at-bats. He hit 10 homers in May.

Still, no one in the World Series champion Phillies lineup did much of anything against a suddenly-effective Penny.

The Red Sox might be nipping at the Yankees in the AL East if the righty pitched like this the last two months. It was Penny's

longest outing in 28 starts this season and he nearly tossed his first complete game in three years.

"This is what you put a uniform on for, to get into the play-offs and play in the World Series," Penny said.

Penny was clocked at 97 mph in the first inning and his fastball remained in the mid-90s over 102 pitches for his first win since July 24.

Penny said he felt no nerves as he took the mound for the first time since Aug. 21. His explanations for his performances in Boston was an odd one.

"A lot of those foul balls to first base that they catch for outs are foul balls in Fenway because there's no foul territory," Penny said. "It's an extended at-bat, and who knows what could happen? Plus it was the Yankees. There's not a lineup better than the Yankees in baseball."

Juan Uribe and Aaron Rowand each homered for the Giants, who won their 73rd game surpassing last season's total. The Giants trailed Colorado by 1 game in the wild-card race entering Wednesday night.

Tampa Bay 8, Boston 5

Pat Burrell snapped an eighth-inning tie with a RBI single and Evan Longoria followed with a two-run homer Wednesday night to help Tampa Bay avoid falling farther back in the AL playoff race with a victory over Boston.

A night after playing poorly in the opener of a series crucial to their hopes of returning to the postseason, the defending AL champions rebounded with a solid effort to nudge back within five games of the wild card-leading Red Sox.

J.P. Howell (7-4) pitched one inning to earn the victory, despite allowing Boston to tie the game 5-all in the eighth on



Giants pitcher Brad Penny delivers a pitch against the Phillies in a 4-0 victory Wednesday night. The game marked Penny's first start since being traded from the Boston Red Sox.

his wild pitch with the bases loaded. Dan Wheeler got the final two outs for his second save.

Carlos Pena led off the bottom of the eighth with a double off Ramon Ramirez (7-4), then scored on Burrell's single to right-center. Longoria hit his 26th homer — eighth against Boston this season — on reliever Manny Delcarmen's first pitch.

Burrell and Carl Crawford hit solo homers off Red Sox ace Josh Beckett, who gave up five runs and seven hits while striking out nine in six innings. The Rays led 5-1 before the Red Sox scored twice in the fourth and once in the seventh to get back in the game.

Jason Bay, David Ortiz, J.D. Drew and Victor Martinez drove in runs off Rays starter Matt Garza, who allowed four runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings but was unable to get his first win since July 24 — a stretch of seven starts.

Boston pulled even in the eighth, loading the bases on three walks before scoring on Howell's wild pitch. The Red Sox were unable to get the others home, though, and finished 3-for-16 with runners in scoring position.

Beckett has not pitched well the past month, allowing 14 homers over his last five starts after giving up 10 in his first 22 starts of the season. During that stretch he's 1-1 and yielded 27

runs overall in 31 1-3 innings.

Crawford homered in the first and Burrell went deep in the second, when Tampa Bay also scored on Akinori Iwamura's RBI single and B.J. Upton's sacrifice bunt, which first baseman Victor Martinez fielded and threw to the plate too late to keep Gregg Zaun from scoring from third.

Zaun's RBI double made it 5-1 in the third.

Boston scored on Bay's RBI triple in the second, then added two more in the fourth on Drew's run-scoring single and Ortiz's RBI grounder. The Red Sox trimmed their deficit to 5-4 when Martinez singled with two outs in the seventh to finish Garza.

NFL

Young arrested after traffic stop

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans Saints safety Usama Young's failure to appear in court for parking in a handicap spot led to his arrest this week after he was stopped for speeding.

Harahan Police Chief Peter Dale said officers initially pulled Young over in suburban and intended to give him a ticket, but had to arrest him because records turned up an outstanding violation in Jefferson Parish. Sheriff's spokesman Col. John Fortunato confirmed that Young had failed to appear at a court date.

Young and his attorney, Donald "Chick" Foret, said the other citation came last year when the player was parked illegally at a cell phone store.

"I wanted to say I sincerely apologize for doing what I did. There's no excuse for it," Young said in a phone interview. "I ran into the AT&T store for a two- to three-

minute stop to get a phone charger, and came back out and an officer was writing me a ticket. Immediately, I knew I was wrong."

Young said he also wanted to apologize specifically "to all people with disabilities or the elderly who need handicapped parking spots. I wasn't acting professionally and you can bet that I won't do anything like that again."

Young said he forgot to pay the parking ticket and forgot about the court date, in part because he had a lot going on between the end of the 2008 NFL season and his return to Kent State University in Ohio to finish work on his degree in education.

Young was on his way home when he was pulled over by Harahan police around 3:14 a.m. on Monday.

Dale said Young was clocked at 55 miles per hour in a 40 mph zone and drove about a mile before pulling over.

"He wasn't belligerent. He

didn't give officers any trouble," Dale said.

Still, the officers cited Young with reckless driving and fleeing police, then arrested him. He was transferred to the Jefferson Parish jail in Gretna and released on \$1,500 bond soon after, Foret said.

Saints spokesman Greg Benseal said the team was aware of Young's arrest.

"We are working with him, our legal counsel and we are supporting Usama in this matter," Benseal said.

Young, 24, was a standout at Kent State and a third-round draft pick in 2007. He spent his first two seasons as a reserve cornerback and special teams player.

This season, he switched to free safety and has impressed coaches during training camp while competing with veteran Darren Sharper for the starting job. Sharper is expected to start, but coaches have said Young is making a strong case for playing time.

WNBA

Phoenix rebounds with win vs. Fever

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Phoenix Mercury quickly got over their tough loss at Detroit the previous night.

Cappie Pondexter scored 25 points and the Mercury shot nearly 60 percent from the floor in a 106-90 victory over the Indiana Fever on Wednesday night in a matchup of first-place teams.

"We were focusing on ourselves, not losing two in a row," Pondexter said. "It was a good test for us, knowing Indiana has the best record in the WNBA."

Phoenix was coming off a 101-99 defeat against the surging defending champion Shock on Tuesday night.

DeWanna Bonner scored 15 points, Diana Taurasi had 14 and Temeka Johnson 13 as the Mercury (21-10) shot 41 for 70 from the field (59 percent), including 10 for 18 on 3-pointers. Western Conference-leading Phoenix won for just the

fifth time in its last nine games and moved 1 1/2 games ahead of second-place Seattle.

"We did some good things early tonight," Taurasi said. "It is difficult to put up 100 points against a half-court defense like Indiana. ... We have to give credit to our big players doing a good job crashing the boards."

Tamika Catchings had 27 points and a season-high 12 rebounds for the East-leading Fever (20-9), losers of four of their last five. Tammy Sutton-Brown scored 19 points, rookie Briann January had 14 and Ebony Hoffman 11.

"We were soft defensively early with their 3," Fever coach Lin Dunn said. "To stay with this team we need to hit the open shots and we didn't. We need to be more focused. Two or three of our players were not scoring, plus missing Katie Douglas hurt us. We allowed Phoenix to penetrate too much. We hurt ourselves with some of our decisions."

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Defense

continued from page 24

hasn't weakened the bond between teammates.

"We're a close knit group," said McCarthy, a senior captain. "No one's looking out for themselves. If that means they're not starting one day, that's what it means and they're here to help the team."

The return of corner Darrin Walls, who has made 13 career starts, gives Notre Dame an extra starting-caliber player opposite listed starters Robert Blanton and Raeshon McNeil. In fact, Irish coach Charlie Weis said Walls is "right there," in terms of being a starter after missing last season.

"I wouldn't read too much into Raeshon being ahead of Darrin," Weis said. "I think you'll see them both on the field. It's just that Darrin was limited [by injury] really for a week and a half and Raeshon was getting all those reps and Darrin was hardly getting any."

Though there were open competitions for many starting jobs throughout Irish camp, none featured more proven players than the three-way battle for the two starting corner spots. But Walls echoed McCarthy's statement in saying that the healthy competition only made the team stronger.

"For the most part we look at each other as brothers, we look out for each other, and we know we have a lot of good guys back there that can play," Walls said. "We just push each other every day and try to get each other better. We know the coaches are going to make the best decisions."

In terms of how the Irish



Junior defensive back Gary Gray runs through drills at practice Tuesday.

will line up Saturday, several defensive backs will likely see time against Nevada's vaunted pistol attack. Corners Gary Gray and Jamoris Slaughter will likely work their way into the rotation.

But McCarthy and Smith will surely be called upon to help in run support, as Wolfpack quarterback Colin Kaepernick and running backs Vai Taua and Luke Lippincott will each be looking to run downhill through the Irish defense.

Notre Dame's safeties should be up for the task, however, as McCarthy was the team's leading tackler a year ago, and Smith is a converted linebacker.

McCarthy made 110 stops last season, including a team-high 64 solo. He also had 3.5 tackles for loss and made two interceptions.

Smith had 57 tackles (39 solo) and 8.5 tackles for loss, including 3.5 sacks, which tied for the team lead. He figures to be a run-stopping threat as he moves further away from the line of scrimmage but will still have the flexibility to make big plays to stop the ground game.

Blanton and McNeil each had two interceptions last season, and McNeil led the Irish with 11 pass breakups.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Billboard

continued from page 24

The sign, which will apparently be up for 12 weeks, reads "Best wishes to Charlie Weis in the fifth year of his college coaching internship — Linebacker Alumni." And for a day or so, people wondered who paid for it, until you finally manned up.

But, after all, it really was you, according to the South Bend Tribune. Apparently you lettered in football in '67 ... congratulations, I guess. I Googled your name and couldn't find anything about your career. Apparently while on the practice field you missed some real-life lessons along the way.

I tried thinking for a long while to try and imagine what you really thought you could accomplish with a billboard. I'm not by any means sold on Charlie Weis as head coach either, but really, why waste the money? They invented Twitter for random spewing like this.

It's not like you're the first one to say anything like this or are changing anyone's mind. The calls for Weis' head have been going strong since 2007, and while the colors are nice and all, the billboard isn't swaying anyone who still supports the coach at this point.

Apparently there are also around 50 football players whose sentiments you also represent. They may agree with your disappointment regarding Charlie Weis's performance, but they all really thought a billboard was a good idea? Those 50 players sound a lot like the millions of dollars the anti-Obama campaign so scientifically counted last spring that would no longer be donated (personally, I withheld \$500,000).

I think those other players, though, probably realized that nothing good will come out of this billboard. It's created negative publicity for the program on SportsCenter and every media outlet, and will welcome 12 weeks of

recruits and their families who visit South Bend.

You see, most alumni would realize that the billboard isn't changing anything — not public opinion, not any fans, not John Jenkins or Jack Swarbrick, and I can tell you Charlie Weis could care less.

As a former player and student, you should know there's much better and probably more influential ways to express your feelings. Maybe write a petition with your players or a letter or ... anything else really, besides some useless publicity stunt.

And the money you've wasted is gone. Instead of trying to get publicity and draw attention to your aimless "cause," that money could've been used for so much better to support the university you supposedly "still care about".

In an e-mail responding to the South Bend Tribune you said you don't remember how much you paid for the billboard, but a quick look at Burkhardt Advertising's website tells me it's around two grand for four weeks...so for 12 weeks, assuming a little discount, you dropped around \$5,000? For this?

How about giving to Hannah and Friends instead, whose billboard yours currently sits right next to. Or to The Shirt charity fund, or to help create a scholarship that will help bring somebody less well-off to Notre Dame.

Anything but a billboard that wastes money, generates a little negative publicity, and tries to bring instability to a program that probably couldn't care less what you think.

Oh, and next time you want to take shots at someone, just sign your name instead of hiding behind a cute little name.

Sincerely,
Michael Bryan

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

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Tennis

continued from page 24

when pulled wide, he recognizes when to come in, and his serve is much improved. His key will be to maintain his poise in match play. Keeton is a terrific ball striker. He has added more coil to his forehand, allowing him to generate pace without risk, become much more proficient at the net, and is beginning to be able to counter on the backhand side with some slice."

The Irish are also looking for their freshmen to make solid contributions and compete for spots in the lower part of the lineup.

"Our freshmen are quite good,"

Bayliss said. "Blas Moros has already reached the quarterfinal of one of the US Futures, quite an accomplishment for an entering freshman. Michael Moore had a very strong showing at the US Junior Nationals. Spencer Talmadge returned from playing and training in the Phillipines during July. Each has a chance to contribute as a freshman. We will find out pretty quickly where they stand, as we open with the Illini Invitational in mid-September."

The Irish will look to improve their doubles lineup as well as find answers at the top of their lineup this fall before beginning dual matches in the spring.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu

would be full," Waldrum said. "We really like that atmosphere to be full. You don't want to build it so big that it looks half empty. That won't create the atmosphere."

The team has already seen the atmosphere it waits to experience. The women's soccer team attended the men's soccer game Tuesday night, a 5-0 victory over No. 21 Michigan.

"We couldn't wait to see it under the lights," Waldrum said. "It is just going to be a fantastic stadium."

Kickoff for Friday night's matchup with North Carolina is scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Stadium

continued from page 24

Such added comforts stem from the lead donations of former men's soccer players Tom Crotty, class of 1980, and Rob Snyder, class of 1984.

Alumni Stadium already has permanent seating for nearly 2,500 fans, and with standing room, the stadium can hold 3,000 people. Waldrum said the architects presented an option for a bigger stadium, but the decision to build conservatively was an easy one.

"We had to decide if we make it bigger and risk having empty seats or do we build it to what

Unplanned Pregnancy?

Don't go it alone.

If you or someone you love needs help or information, please call. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you.

Confidential support and assistance available at Notre Dame:

- Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, Student Affairs, 631-7819
- Ann Firth, Student Affairs, 631-2685
- Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich, Counseling Ctr., 631-4365
- Ann E. Kleva, Health Services, 631-8286

South Bend Community Resources:

- Women's Care Center: 234-0363
- Catholic Charities: 234-3111

Visit our website at:
<http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu>

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Facility

5 → What this is, on a calendar

8 Signals

12 Jilted of myth

14 Yamaha offering, in brief

15 Perform acceptably

16 Profanities (and a hint to this puzzle's anomalies)

19 Peer group?

20 Razz

21 Liverpool-to-Portsmouth dir.

23 Buzzers

25 Some exchanges, quickly

28 Arrives

30 Mean mien

32 Scale range

33 Do what Jell-O does

34 Alley of Moo
- 35 Patient responses

36 Geisha's accessory

37 Like

38 Many "Star Wars" fighters

40 Blood, e.g.

42 Forward

43 Some people in a tree

44 Division of an office bldg.

45 Wasn't straight

46 Carry-_____

47 Garden sights

49 Is behind

51 Record holders? (and a punny hint to this puzzle's anomalies)

58 Sluggish

59 Whistle blower

60 "American Idol" judge

61 "Man oh man!"
- Down**

1 Voltaic cell meas.

2 Abbr. in a help-wanted ad

3 E-mail address ending

4 Like H. P. Lovecraft among all popular writers?

5 Show types

6 Part of a 2005 SBC merger

7 Actress Mimieux of "Where the Boys Are"

8 Offering, as a price

9 12 or 15 min.

10 Rx abbr.

11 Peck parts: Abbr.

13 Iranian supreme leader _____

15 100 lbs.

17 Some musical notes

18 Football linemen: Abbr.

21 They may have niños and niñas

22 Exit

24 Royal son of the comics

26 Nuclear unit

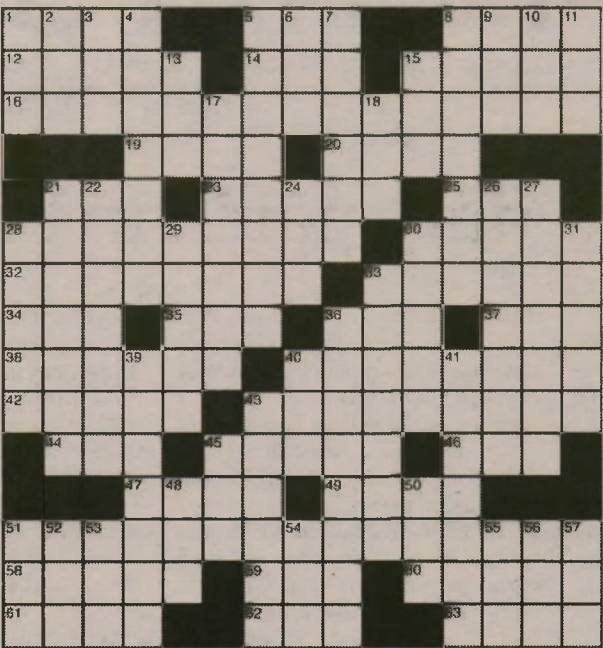
27 Merchants

28 Stuff on a shelf

29 Kowtow

30 Squeals

31 Cans



Puzzle by Ashish Vengarkar

- 33 Courtroom identification

36 Starts of some sporting events

39 Big chip off the old block?

40 Health supplement chain

41 Defended
- 43 Pergolas

45 Dance grp. at the Met

48 It goes over a plate

50 _____ leash

51 Horse and buggy

52 Official lang. of Barbados
- 53 Part of a violin

54 Hardly macho

55 Actress Williams of the 1960s-'70s

56 _____ Lopez (chess opening)

57 On the _____

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

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Salma Hayek, 42; Lennox Lewis, 43; Keanu Reeves, 44; Terry Bradshaw, 60
Happy Birthday: There is plenty on the line and the boundaries are limited. You will have to calculate your every move, making sure you don't waffle or give in too soon. Balance will be the key to getting what you want in the end. Take it slow and make each move strategically. Your numbers are 4, 12, 20, 26, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll feel emotionally up and down due to what you are told and how you are treated. Nothing will be as bad as you think, so don't react. A connection you have to someone who motivates you may be questionable. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a break. You need some time to put things in order and decide what you want to do with the rest of your life. New places will intrigue you and a job you never considered in the past will interest you. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A unique proposal based on your qualifications and ability to multitask will interest you. Don't be too slow to accept an opportunity or you'll have regrets. Love is in the stars and a social event will be geared toward romance. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick close to the people you trust and respect. The older and more experienced people will give you good advice and stand behind your every move. Your personal relationships, however, will give you mixed messages leading to misunderstandings and breakups. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Doing things that are unique will give you connections with interesting people who are inspirational and can add a spark to your ideas. Love is growing with someone who wants to spend more time with you. Try to accommodate this person. 4 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There will be a lot riding on how much you do. The expectations will be high and the willingness on your part to add detail and precision will seal a deal. A partnership with someone very different from yourself will form if you aren't adamant about working alone. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get into a fight with someone. It won't be worth your time and the backlash you face will be hard to rectify. You may want to rethink your relationships and consider whether or not some of them are good for you. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't rely on others. You can get some good advice on a job you want to do at home but do the actual work yourself, if possible. Hiring someone to do something you can do yourself will be a waste of money and the job won't be done to your satisfaction. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can position yourself professionally in such a way that the demand for your talents will skyrocket. Offer a new innovative idea, concept or service. Some of the older people will fight the change but you will surpass any interference. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't underestimate the power of communication. Someone can and will twist your words around. Explain your ideas concisely. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Personally and financially you are coming into an interesting and unusual development that will make your life easier. A commitment or promise will help you achieve your dreams, hopes and wishes. Love is on the rise. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't get labeled passé because you are using old, outdated methods. Look to someone younger who is a little ahead of his or her time to inspire you to move in the right direction. It may be time to take on a younger partner. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You have a sophisticated appeal and are creative and clever. You can be demanding, uncompromising, persuasive, charming and controlling.

SCHAD & FREUDE

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK



If you placed a comic submission regarding the Nevada game on Jenn Metz's chair please contact jmetz@nd.edu

JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

SCOUF
□ □ □ □ □

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RASCY
□ □ □ □ □

RULBET
□ □ □ □ □

WEDDEG
□ □ □ □ □

www.jumble.com

Print answer here: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: WHINE OLDER PEPTIC UNSEAT
Answer: Why the play didn't have a long run — IT WAS "PEDESTRIAN"



THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Team looks forward to first match in brand new stadium

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

After 16 months of watching Alumni Stadium grow brick-by-brick, No. 2 Notre Dame will finally be able to enjoy their \$5.7 million state-of-the-art facility when No. 1 North Carolina comes to town Friday night.

"There is no other word to say than it's exciting," Irish coach

Randy Waldrum said. "We are going to get on the field early Thursday night just to have a little bit of practice on it before Friday's game."

The team wants to test out the new field before Friday's tilt not just because the defending champion Tar Heels are coming to town, but also because the new playing surface at Alumni Stadium will alter the flow of the game.

"We brought in some sod, a

different kind of grass than was at Alumni Field, from Colorado because the weather is similar there," Waldrum said. "[Men's soccer coach] Bobby Clark and I both wanted a shorter grass than was at Alumni Field, a little bit quicker grass."

The shorter grass will distinctly speed up the pace of any game played at Alumni Stadium, while an LED Daktronics scoreboard will keep track of Irish scores. Luxuries such as the

scoreboard, an improved lighting system and an air-conditioned press box elevate Alumni Stadium to a rarified air in college soccer. Other programs with stadiums of similar quality include West Virginia, Tennessee and Texas, but few, if any, other college soccer programs have the same amenities the Irish will begin enjoying Friday.

"What the team is most excited about is the locker room and

the lounge area we will have," Waldrum said. "We have been using the visitor's locker room in the baseball stadium as our permanent locker room for the 10 years I've been here."

The new Alumni Stadium will have a locker room with custom wood lockers for each player, as well as a lounge area with flat-screen plasma TVs for the players.

see STADIUM/page 22

FOOTBALL

Secondary to none

Talented defensive backs headline Irish D

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

No position group boasts more talented and experienced depth than the Irish secondary, an area of strength on last year's mediocre defense that hopes to improve with gifted youngsters throughout the front seven.

Though safeties Kyle McCarthy and Harrison Smith have been projected starters since the start of spring camp, there has been a healthy competition between corners, and for playing time in nickel and dime packages. But that

see DEFENSE/page 22



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior safety Harrison Smith, left, and sophomore cornerback Robert Blanton run through defensive back drills Tuesday. Both players are scheduled to start against Nevada Saturday.

An open letter to alumnus Tom Reynolds

Dear Tom Reynolds,
You had me fooled. For a while there, I thought there was no way that the person that paid for that billboard above the 'Backer was actually a Notre Dame alumnus. It had to really be some USC or Michigan fan, right? I mean, there's no way anyone smart enough to receive a degree from Notre Dame would put that up...right?



Michael Bryan

Associate
Sports Editor

see BILLBOARD/page 22

MEN'S TENNIS

ND needs youth to step up in fall

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

After the graduation of Brett Helgeson, the Irish will look to a young core of returning players to fill the No. 1 singles void over the course of the fall season in preparation for the spring.

Among the potential candidates are juniors Stephen Havens and Dan Stahl, who played No. 2 and 3 singles respectively for the Irish last season. Sophomore Casey Watt also may have an opportunity to prove himself early in the season.

"Last year Havens at times played like that player, but he needs to demonstrate the match-to-match consistency that was missing a year ago," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Certainly he has the ball-striking ability to win at the top. Adding a stronger presence at the net will give him a chance to see just how good he can become. Watt had an outstanding record for us, but at a lower lineup slot."

Bayliss noted that Stahl had success last season in the middle of the lineup and that the team may end up with a No. 1 by committee for the time being.

The Irish will compete in some

events this fall that will allow them to shift the lineup around and find the right combination of players. Included in that mix will be sophomores Niall Fitzgerald and Sam Keeton, who each saw significant action last season for the Irish.

"Watt always competes ferociously, but needs to expand his tennis vocabulary by adding some new weapons," Bayliss said. "Fitzgerald has come back with much greater confidence. He is now able to keep his backhand out of the middle of the court

see TENNIS/page 22



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Sophomore Niall Fitzgerald returns a shot against Kentucky on Feb. 23. The Irish fell to the Wildcats 5-2.



Check out The Observer's Irish Insider podcast
at ndsmcobserver.com/podcasts

as beat writers Bill Brink, Matt Gamber & Sam Werner preview Saturday's game against Nevada