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CSAP recommendations take effect

Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention offers 22 suggestions for 2009-2010

By JENN METZ
News Writer

The Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP), along with student government, offered 22 recommendations last spring, Ann Firth, associate vice president for Student Affairs said, and several of those recommendations have been implemented in the 2009-10 academic year.

The recommendations fall into five categories — policies and procedures, resources for survivors, communication about sexual assault resources, educational initiatives and staff training and development — and were presented to University Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Mark Poorman in April.

"We are working diligently to implement these recommendations," Firth, who serves as co-chariman of CSAP along with Associate Vice President for Residence Life Bill Kirk, said. "We are very pleased at the progress we have been able to make."

The five recommendations put into place this year include an expanded training on sexual assault for residence hall staff, expanded CSAP membership and the addition of a second sexual assault resource person. The two resource persons — Ava Preacher, dean of the College of Arts and Letters, and Catherine Pieronek, assistant dean of the College of Engineering — are now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, compared to normal Monday-Friday business hours previously.

Other recommendations implemented include improvements to "College HAS Issues," the Unviersity's mandatory sexual assault education program for first-year students and the creation of a follow-up program to be piloted in 12 residence halls.

According to the letter CSAP submitted to Poorman, the Committee "focused on identifying additional, practical steps the University might take to prevent sexual assault, address unacceptable behavior, and help to ensure the safety of every student" in drafting its recommendations.

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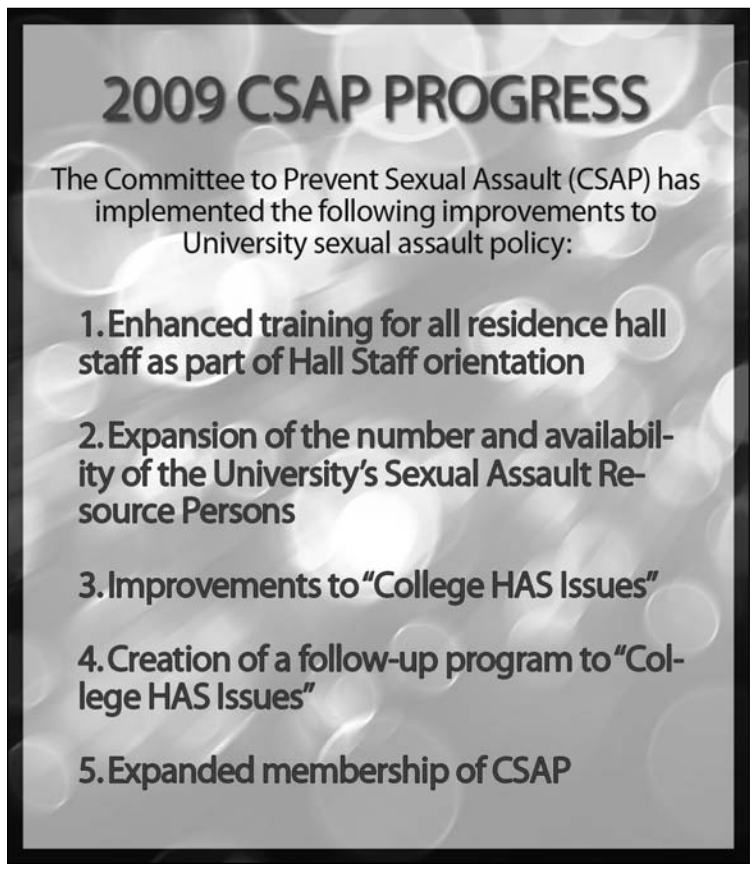

BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

NASCAR team wins competition

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Notre Dame's NASCAR Kinetics: Marketing in Motion team came away victorious this weekend at the national competition in Miami, team member and Notre Dame sophomore Cate Hefele said.

"We competed against five other universities throughout the semester and then the top three universities were chosen to come to Miami for the finals," Hefele said.

"Once in Miami we presented to a panel of five NASCAR executives — and some other NASCAR-affiliated people who weren't judging us, making it about 15 people in the room — and then awaited the results. It was all very The Apprentice-like," Hefele said. "Each team

see NASCAR/page 4

iTunes U set to offer class content on Web

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

Last week, Notre Dame announced the launch of iTunes U, a partnership with Apple that allows schools to offer multimedia content on the Web, according to Todd Woodward, associate vice president for marketing communications.

The recently launched site is open to the public and features a variety of content about every aspect of Notre Dame, Woodward said.

"I would say that there is a great desire on the part of alumni and the general public to learn more about what is going on at Notre Dame," he said. "So we have a great opportunity. People look to us on a religious front, they look to us on an academic front and they look to us on an athletic front."

iTunes U is just one mode of communication available through the Internet, Woodward said.

"I think the future of communications for Notre Dame is gathering that content, storing it in a place that's safe, and choosing the correct distribution outlets to push the information out to people," he said. "The beauty of iTunes is you can put a lot of stuff up."

Woodward said the University created and collected content for iTunes U for nearly a year because they wanted to have a wide variety when they launched the site.

"I think it's an evolutionary process so we start out with a base level of content in iTunes," he said. "I think it will just grow and keep growing as we go along."

The content itself is left up to the individual colleges and departments, Woodward said. He said as more time passes, each college will be able to judge which content is most popular and effective for them to develop, which will be a wide variety.

Woodward said he has only heard positive feedback about iTunes U thus far, but it is too soon to judge the success of the site.

"We won't be able to measure anything for a couple of months," he said. "We're hopeful that people find us out there and enjoy it."

Paul Turner, academic technology services manager for the Office of Information Technologies (OIT), said the University began working with Apple in January to develop Notre Dame's iTunes U. He also met with people who planned iTunes U at other universities.

"Apple has been reviewing our site and offering suggestions," he said. "Really I've gotten more input from other universities simi-

see ITUNES/page 4

New CIF incentive launched

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Students who fill out their Course Instructor Feedback forms (CIFs) this semester will be able to view their grades about a week earlier than students who do not, Vice President and Associate Provost of Undergraduate Studies Dennis Jacobs said.

"Last year's response rate, averaged across all courses at the University, was 63 percent in fall 2008 and 58 percent in spring

see CIF/page 4

Observer File Photo

Ryan Brellenthin, student body chief of staff (right), said students were initially apprehensive, but support the new CIF incentive.

IT addresses Zimbra issues, updates servers

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Saint Mary's Information Technology (IT) department is "absolutely" working to address the issues currently involved with Zimbra, Saint Mary's e-mail provider, Doug McKeown, senior technology engineer at the College, said.

Students have been frustrated with Zimbra's performance and IT recognizes the issues.

McKeown discussed the many factors involved in switching to a new provider as well as the issues with the Zimbra.

The switch to Zimbra was made in 2007 when the College's previous provider crashed, McKeown said. The decision had to be made

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INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER *SGA approves sponsorships* page 3 ◆ *The magic of Nintendo 64* page 10 ◆ *Women's soccer* page 20 ◆ *Viewpoint* page 8

Inside Column

Go make something

Tess Civantos

News Writer

My friend Andy told me that when he went away to college, the thing he missed most from home was his dog.

"I can talk to my family on the phone," he said, "but my relationship with my dog is fundamentally physical- cuddling, going for walks. You can't play with your dog over the phone."

When I first came to Notre Dame, I never got homesick. Like Andy, what I missed wasn't something I could talk to. It wasn't even something I could play catch with over Thanksgiving break.

I missed creativity.

Now don't get me wrong. I didn't turn off my imagination when I went away to college. Notre Dame students are endlessly creative.

The business majors devise clever marketing projects, Arts and Letters majors have brilliant thesis topics and as for the design majors, their inventions on the walls of O'Shaughnessy prove their ingenuity.

But these are works of mental creativity, which wasn't my problem. If anything, I spent too much time thinking and planning.

No, what I missed was making real, physical things.

Before I came to college, I was always making something. Planting geraniums in the front yard. Kneading dough to make dinner rolls. Cutting and gluing paper to make scrapbooks or handmade party invitations.

I missed working with my hands.

Sometimes it got so bad that I would spend hours on MarthaStewart.com, ogling the cupcake recipes and craft projects.

Making things isn't just about self-expression or even survival. It's actually good for you. Students who receive regular arts instruction are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement than their peers. Schools that offer students more access to arts education have higher graduation rates.

Now, these findings refer to drama, music and dance. They don't refer to baking muffins or carving pumpkins, which were the arts I missed.

But there isn't such a big difference between painting roses on a canvas and painting frosting onto a cake, except one is ephemeral. And edible. Either way, you're envisioning what to make and using your hands to make it.

It's so easy to buy things ready-made that we forget to make things for ourselves. But we should make things ourselves. We're not just minds and souls. We're bodies too and those bodies need to be used.

That's why I missed making things so much. Making things by hand fulfills a basic human need — to build, to imagine, to look at something beautiful and say, "I made that thing. And hey, it's pretty cool."

When you go home for Thanksgiving, I hope you get to play with your dog and catch up on sleep. But that's not what I'll be doing. I've picked out a different craft project for every day and I hope to make them all.

And now you'll have to excuse me. I've been sitting at the computer for too long and the oven is beeping at me. I've got some sugar cookies to frost.

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

Contact Tess Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu

Corrections

In the Nov. 17 issue of The Observer, the article on Campus Life Council said the task force on Disciplinary Records met with Jeffrey Shoup, director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing. The task force actually met with Bill Kirk, associate vice president of Residence Life. The Observer regrets this error.

Question of the Day: *Is it appropriate to put up Christmas lights before Thanksgiving?*

Angela Salvo

senior
Pangborn

"I think they're pretty regardless of time, but I don't think I'd put them up that early."

Daniel Anderson

freshman
Keenan

"If you do, it means you're not thankful for anything."

Johanna Kirscha

senior
McGlinn

"As long as you hold off on the Christmas music, then yes."

Jordan Matulis

sophomore
Howard

"Abso-freaking-lutely! Nothing like a few Christmas lights to brighten your night."

Sarah Spieler

sophomore
Pasquerilla West

"Sure, but it's way classier to keep them up year round."

Stephen Santay

junior
Alumni

"Absolutely. Christmas in July anyone?"

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

SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

GreeND members from left Connor Kobeski, Anne Whitty and Jackie Mirandola-Mullen reenact a swordfight between Energy Abusers and Energy Savers that was staged in South Dining Hall to promote the dorm energy competition.

Offbeat

Kangaroo attacks man and dog, man in stable condition

MELBOURNE, Australia — A kangaroo startled by a man walking his dog attacked the pair, pinning the pet underwater and slashing the owner in the abdomen with its hind legs. The Australian, Chris Rickard, was in stable condition Monday after the attack, which ended when the 49-year-old elbowed the kangaroo in the throat.

Rickard said he was walking his blue heeler, Rocky, on Sunday morning when they surprised a sleeping kangaroo in Arthur's Creek northeast of Melbourne. The dog chased the animal into a pond, when the kangaroo turned and pinned the pet underwater.

When Rickard tried to pull his dog free, the kangaroo turned on him, attacking with its hind legs and tearing a deep gash into his abdomen and across his face.

Woman asks for donations for surgery for pet turkey

REHOBOTH, Mass. — A Massachusetts woman is seeking donations from fellow pet lovers to help pay for eye surgery for her turkey named Jerry. Lyndsey Medeiros and her husband adopted three-year-old Jerry and another turkey from a Rhode Island farm last week. But Jerry has cataracts, and the eye problems mean he can't eat independently or join his female companion, Penelope, in flying.

Medeiros has posted an ad on Craigslist seeking donations for the surgery. She said the procedure could cost up to $2,600. Her farm in Rehoboth, Mass., cares for other animals with health problems.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

"Darkness and Light: Death and Beauty in Photography" will be shown in the **O'Shaughnessy Galleries** in the **Snite Museum of Art today.** The exhibit will open at **10 a.m.**

An exhibit titled "Sculptural Vessels" will be held at **10 a.m. today**. The display will be in the **Milly and Fritz Kaeser Mestrovic Studio Gallery** in the **Snite Museum of Art.**

"Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Ofrenda Installation will be held in the **Scholz Family Works on Paper** in the **Snite Museum of Art today.** The exhibit will open at **10 a.m.**

A **blood drive** will be held **11 a.m. today** at **Stadium Gate D.**

The Lunchtime Workshop Series **"The Secrets to (Academic) Success and Making Your (Academic) Life Easier"** will be held at **12:30 p.m. today** in **Madeleva Hall** at Saint Mary's College.

A lecture titled **"European Immigration Pathways from Sept. 11th: What Trajectories and What Role for Public Opinion"** will be held at **12:30 p.m. today** in **C-103 Hesburgh Center.**

"An Integrative Biology Approach to Reverse Engineering Living Systems" will be held at **4 p.m. today** in **101 Jordan Hall of Science.**

Bible Study will be held at **6 p.m. today** in the **Campus Ministry Resource room** in the Student Center at Saint Mary's College.

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

Local Weather

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH	53	46	40	35	40	43
LOW	33	33	30	27	30	28

Atlanta 67 / 46 **Boston** 52 / 44 **Chicago** 51 / 39 **Denver** 42 / 16 **Houston** 71 / 59 **Los Angeles** 70 / 54 **Minneapolis** 50 / 41
New York 58 / 47 **Philadelphia** 60 / 47 **Phoenix** 75 / 49 **Seattle** 51 / 42 **St. Louis** 55 / 46 **Tampa** 79 / 65 **Washington** 56 / 47

Students share plans for break

By CAITLIN HOUSLEY
News Writer

Typically when people think of Thanksgiving, they think of football, turkey and all the trimmings; however, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are thinking family, friends and service.

Junior Kenny Maher expressed his excitement for spending the holiday with his brothers. Originally from Maine, he is unable to go back home for Thanksgiving, but a trip to his brother's house in Indianapolis is enough, he said.

"For those of us who can't make the trip back to our home states, its nice to have other loved ones to spend the day with," Maher said.

"For those of us who can't make the trip back to our home states, its nice to have other loved ones to spend the day with."

Kenny Maher
junior

Audrey Dalrymple, a Saint Mary's sophomore, is also excited to go home for a little while.

"I've been waiting for break since last week," she said. "Although I am still going to have a lot of work to do, I'm happy that I will be surrounded by my family, for whom I am very thankful."

For those students who aren't going home for break, Saint Mary's College is offering an alternative take on Thanksgiving. Students have the opportunity to travel to Indianapolis to participate in a variety of service projects with the Peace Institute.

Kate Williams, director of the program and a Saint Mary's alumnae, said six students will be helping at the Mozel Sanders Foundation, which serves thousands of individuals in Indianapolis each Thanksgiving.

"It's a different way of experiencing the holiday —giving back to those who don't have the option of going home like I do."

Anabel Castaneda
sophomore

"They will be volunteering at the Drumstick Dash, an annual 5K that benefits the Wheeler Mission," Williams said, "[They will be] serving meals with the Mozel Sanders Foundation, and [they will volunteer] with a local congregation working to meet the needs of the community."

Mallory Price, a Saint Mary's senior, is excited to participate in this event.

"I felt that this year, I didn't want to sit around the dinner table in the comforts of my own home because I can say that I am thankful all I want, but there is no reason why I shouldn't take action and truly demonstrate that I [am] thankful for the life and opportunities I have," she said.

Another Saint Mary's student participating in the event, sophomore Anabel Castaneda, said she turned down the option of going home in order to serve.

"It's a different way of experiencing a holiday — giving back to those who don't have the option of going home like I do," Castaneda said.

Price said while serving turkey on Thanksgiving may not seem to make a huge difference, it's the relationships she will form with community members that will be the true change.

"Each time we listen to another person, or we come together in solidarity, or we challenge the status quo and how the world operates, and we put others' needs before our own, we empower others, we come together and the world is changed," Price said.

Contact Caitlin Housley at chousl01@saintmarys.edu

Catholic panel to be held Thurs.

Special to The Observer

A panel discussion titled "What Would a Good Conscience Clause Look Like? A Catholic University's Perspective" will be held Dec. 3 (Thursday) at 12:30 p.m. in the Patrick F. McCartan Courtroom of the University of Notre Dame's Eck Hall of Law.

The discussion will concern how Catholic teaching and tradition, scholarship and legal developments might inform efforts to protect the rights of conscience of health workers, pregnant women, taxpayers and other citizens.

The panelists are Rev. Michael D. Place, chair of the International Federation of Catholic Health Institutions; O. Carter Snead, associate professor of law in the Notre Dame Law School; and Margaret F. Brinig, Fritz Duda Professor of Law in the Notre Dame Law School.

Father Place, who holds a doctorate in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America, is the former president and chief executive officer of the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Snead, former general counsel to the President's Council on Bioethics, was recently appointed by UNESCO to its International Bioethics Committee.

Student Government Association

Four more clubs to receive funding

Hall Council, Sisters of Nefertiti, Around the World, Women's Issues clubs gain sponsorship

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

As finals quickly approach, the Saint Mary's community is preparing for the stress that is to follow. The Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) approved sponsorships for four different clubs at their meeting Monday night, most with study break themes in mind.

Holy Cross Hall Council president Kelly Zenere spoke on behalf of her organization. The Hall Council is sponsoring a study break during finals for all residents where they can come and have cookies and hot chocolate to unwind, Zenere said.

"We're trying to provide a different outlet for relaxing during finals week."

Mia Ravasio
Women's Issues commisioner

The council was granted their allotment with the exception of requested money for a frame for their hall photo, which was denied because funds of that nature can come from the council's allotment funds.

Mia Ravasio, Women's Issues commissioner, presented her sponsorship request for a study relaxation program Monday through Thursday of finals week in the Women's Resource Center. A sponsorship was granted to the center, which is located on the second floor of the Student Center. They plan to have relaxing activities and food, including bagels, movies, coloring books, cookie decorating, tea and hot chocolate.

"We're trying to provide a different outlet for relaxing during finals week," Ravasio said.

The Sisters of Nefertiti were also rewarded a sponsorship for their campus programming event. The club is putting on a pre-Kwanza ceremony, Kristle Hodges, Board of Trustees commissioner said.

Kwanza itself runs for seven days — Christmas to New Years. There will be speakers talking about each of the seven principles of Kwanza and there will be the opportunity to make crafts to give to others present to symbolize the gift giving aspect of Kwanza, Hodges said. SGA approved Sisters of Nefertiti's sponsorship to help cover the cost of their refreshments.

Around the World Club was the fourth approved sponsorship of the night. They are planning an International Spa Day, club secretary Molly Schall said. The club was requesting money for some basic refreshments to be served along with the vendors they are bringing in.

Students will be able to take advantage of eyebrow threading from India, Henna tattoos and African hair designs, for a minimal fee. There will also be a booth from Sephora Cosmetics, Schall said.

In other SGA news, the board will be decorating the outside of the Student Center next Monday after their meeting to spread a little holiday cheer to campus, student body president Jenny Hoffman said.

Contact Nikki Taylor at ntaylo01@saintmarys.edu

CSAP

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The Committee features representatives from the Office of Residence Life, the University Counseling Center, University Athletics, Notre Dame Security Police, Saint Mary's College, the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education and University students and rectors, as well as several other campus and community resources for victims of sexual assault or violence.

"We have all of these people around the table who are working together to eliminate sexual assault on campus," Firth said, adding that this group with diverse backgrounds can "offer a comprehensive look" at the reality of sexual violence at Notre Dame.

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber became a member of CSAP this year. She said she believes the expanded membership of the Committee to include rectors added a previously missing element in the discussion of sexual violence on campus.

"[Rectors] add a unique and valuable perspective to the efforts to prevent sexual assault," she said.

In the course of her work with the Committee, Weber said she has discovered that sexual assault is "not an easy issue to address."

Lauren Cummings, an assistant rector in Farley Hall and CSAP member, said one of the most important things hall staff, including rectors, can do to prevent sexual assault from occurring on campus is "to foster of community of mutual respect for one another."

"Sexual assault is about asserting power and control over another person," she said. "If you respect someone, you will not violate his or her human rights by attempting to overpower that person."

Hall staff, Cummings said, plays "a critical role" in supporting the members of the University community who share their stories of surviving sexual assault.

"We need to believe the survivors' stories and avoid judgment based on dress, sexual history or alcohol consumption," she said.

Student government's role, Weber said, is "to bring our knowledge specifically as students to this broad discussion. CSAP provides the venue whereby these efforts can be discussed and enacted."

Weber said student government focuses primarily on education through programming and policy, and has worked on improving the "College HAS Issues" program, presented during freshman orientation at the University, as well as implementing other events aimed at raising awareness, such as "Sex Signals," which premiered in October.

After the Student Senate passed a resolution calling for a review of University sexual assault policies in the spring, the collaboration between CSAP and student government began.

"The resolution was a catalyst to an important and open discussion about how we can improve our university's efforts," Weber said.

Firth said she believes the Committee's work in recent months is evidence of "a successful collaboration between CSAP and student government."

Firth, Cummings and Weber believe Notre Dame's community can achieve the elimination of sexual assault and violence from the campus.

"Community awareness and frank discussion about sexual assault is also a key component to preventing it," Weber said. "When a community says, with a clear voice, 'we will not tolerate this,' it helps stop the crime from happening."

Firth said sexual assault is "antithetical" to the values of the Notre Dame, as a Catholic university.

"This is a serious issues that should never be accepted as a part of our culture," Cummings said.

Events like Sexual Assault Awareness week, which takes place annually during the spring semester, offers the community the opportunity to hear from survivors of sexual assault, which can have an impact, Weber said.

"Hearing from survivors ... helps us be aware of precautionary steps we can take, like creating situations where we can socialize in our comfort zones," she said.

Firth said she hopes these events will "get people talking about the issues."

Sexual assault "is under-reported across the board," she said, citing the national statistic reporting one in five women experience sexual assault and 10 percent of men are victims of sexual violence.

"Notre Dame faces the same challenges [as other universities nationally] in getting good numbers," Firth said.

"Sexual assault harms our community," Weber said, "and at Notre Dame, we are tasked to hold each other to high standards. We value any questions or input about sexual assault and how it can be prevented on campus."

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

Author focuses on reconciling societies

Special to The Observer

How do you reconcile former enemies in a society shattered by war, genocide or violence?

In a new book, "Unchopping a Tree: Reconciliation in the Aftermath of Political Violence," published by Temple University Press, Ernesto Verdeja answers this question by examining reconciliation efforts in post-conflict regions from Chile to South Africa to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He proposes a new theory of reconciliation — one focused on a process of public truth-telling, accountability for perpetrators, recognition of victims, commitment to the rule of law and, most importantly, cultivation of moral respect and dignity.

"After war or genocide, former enemies must reach some form of morally acceptable coexistence, even though they have great political differences and disagreements," says Verdeja, assistant professor of political science and peace studies at the University of Notre Dame. "The key to reconciliation is not forgiveness or social harmony, but respect for each other's moral worth."

The book analyzes reconciliation at four levels: among political leaders, through legal and institutional actors (trials and truth commissions), within civil society and among individuals. As the title suggests, the process is often disjointed and may occur differently among political elites and regular people, Verdeja says.

"True reconciliation is achieved in a society only when the conflict-era identities — black/white, left/right, Hutu/Tutsi, Muslim/Christian — are no longer the primary cleavages in politics, and people acquire new identities that cut across those earlier fault lines."

"'Unchopping a Tree' ... offers a sustained and clarifying analysis of respect and thus moves beyond forgiveness as the key to personal and political reconstruction after mass atrocities," writes Martha Minow of Harvard University. "The integration of personal narratives into the conceptual analysis makes this an especially valuable treatment of the daunting and demanding challenges for societies recovering from violence."

Verdeja "does an excellent job of presenting what he finds to be the strengths and weaknesses of the competing major approaches to this topic on the way to constructing and defending his alternative," writes Ron Eyerman of Yale University. "His style is both pedagogic and clear-sighted. I think this will be an important work that makes a clear contribution to the literature."

CIF

continued from page 1

2009," Jacobs said. "Given the disappointing response rate last year, we are launching a university-wide campaign with a stronger incentive to improve student participation."

Students who fill out their CIFs will be able to view their grades on Dec. 22 and students who do not complete them will be able to view their grades on Dec. 28.

The University enacted this change because 78 percent of students said having early access to grades would motivate them to complete online feedback forms, according to a survey by the Office of Institutional Research.

Jacobs said the University also based their decision off of peer institutions like Stanford, Yale and Princeton, who have very high response rates for their online student evaluation.

"We discovered they all employed a common incentive," he said. "Those students who completed all their evaluations were able to see their grades before those students who did not complete their evaluations."

Student body chief of staff Ryan Brellenthin said students seemed initially apprehensive about the change in policy, but supported the change once they understood the importance of CIFs.

"At first, students seem to be suspicious of the University, almost afraid that Big Brother is forcing them to fill these evaluations out," he said. "However, once we let them know how important CIFs are to the quality of our undergraduate education, student reaction has been overwhelmingly supportive.

"CIFs are essential to the quality of the Notre Dame education because it is the best way for students to hold their instructors accountable," he said. "In past years, there has been a perception that … the results went into some administrative black hole and would never benefit the students."

Brellenthin said the CIFs do make a difference.

"The feedback from our evaluations plays a crucial role in deciding promotions and pay levels for our professors," Brellenthin said.

Jacobs said he received suggestions that CIFs remain open through finals.

"This suggestion is under consideration for future semesters, but for this semester the feedback window will close before finals," he said.

Though Jacobs said he received relatively little feedback from students about the new policy, those who responded "have commented that the new incentive is likely to be effective. One student wrote to say he felt that delaying access to grades was unfair."

Brellenthin said the new policy is not intended to be a punishment.

"Students are not being punished for not filling out their CIFs," he said. "Instead, the University is trying to show students that it supports their feedback by giving people who fill out their CIFs an extra incentive that is not available to people who do not."

The new policy only applies to courses that close on or after Dec. 2, Jacobs said. CIFs for a course that already ended will not be counted.

The University will continue to allow students who fill out their CIFs to see the student feedback portion of Class Search, in addition to having early access to grades, Jacobs said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

NASCAR

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had a separate practice and presentation time and we couldn't watch each other, and then we didn't find out until the next day who won."

The team found out Thursday morning they won out over the other schools.

"We waited and waited and waited, and finally the two cars arrived to take the losing teams straight to the airport — no passing go, no collecting $200," Hefele said. "We went outside and each car had a school logo on it, designating which school was to ride in the car. When we looked at the cars and saw that the ND logo wasn't there, it dawned on us that we won."

Winning was an amazing feeling, team captain and junior Ricky Gonzalez said.

"It was very intense, almost a reality TV show," Gonzalez said. "We were confident with our presentation, and felt that the judges received our ideas well, and we felt comfortable in the room even though there were very high executives judging. However, we had absolutely no idea what ideas the other school's had, nor how they presented. We learned it was very close with Howard University, but we were certainly proud to win."

The group got to stay in Miami for the weekend, attending the last three races of the NASCAR season and going behind the scenes with the drivers, among other activities, Hefele said.

"Really it was the intangibles that I know I got the most out of," Gonzalez said. "The experience of working with a professional organization, presenting to top officials within that organization, and learning the values of leadership and teamwork are things that cannot really be measured, but I can assure have paid off so much in job interviews and just in practicality. These are all things that cannot really be learned in the classroom, and as a result, that is why I got way more than just a trip to Miami."

This is only the second semester of the NASCAR Kinetics program, and the first semester Notre Dame participated, Gonzalez said. He hopes Notre Dame continues to have success with the program.

"This program is awesome," Gonzalez said. "It is a great experience, and even if we didn't win, I would not regret the time put in. However, if you do win, you are sure to get an experience of a lifetime."

The group has put in many man-hours over the entirety of the semester, Gonzalez said.

"It was essentially the equivalent to another three credit hour course," Gonzalez said. "We'd meet on average, once or twice a week for at least an hour at a time, but when cases were due, upwards of two to three hours each meeting."

Hefele said she doesn't regret the time commitment.

"I mean we logged a ton of hours at the library and had to sacrifice other homework and some serious sleep, but I'm answering my e-mail from a lawn chair in South Beach," Hefele said. "Doesn't get much better than that."

If interested in joining the group, contact Gonzalez at egonzal6@nd.edu or Notre Dame's representative from NASCAR, Talia Mark, at NASCARkinetics@nascar.com for an application.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Zimbra

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quickly, and Zimbra was an inexpensive, progressive package that was still new.

"Any piece of software is going to have problems," McKeown said.

In order to switch to a new, less problematic server, IT is working to create an Active Directory that would condense Saint Mary's three main servers into one. According to McKeown, he could then allocate the memory within the new server when needed, which would allow for higher quotas in e-mail.

The process to switch from three servers to an Active Directory will take several months, but IT hopes to complete it early in the spring semester of 2010, McKeown said.

Once on Active Directory, Saint Mary's will be able to more readily switch to a new e-mail provider and help student, faculty and staff communication run smoother, he said.

"With Active Directory, big changes in e-mail and relief from Zimbra will be possible," McKeown said.

Until the change happens though, there are things students can do and should be aware of to help their e-mail accounts work better.

McKeown said crashes generally happen when a large number of people are on at the same time, or high volumes of e-mails are coming in.

According to McKeown, simple things like remembering to edit down the sizes of your pictures before you send them will help speed up the system.

Students should also keep their quotas low and clean out their e-mails periodically, he said.

IT also wants students to be more aware of their content before they send messages.

Janice Thomasson, Chief Information Officer for IT, warns students to be aware of what they are sending at all times.

"Be careful what you send on e-mails," Thomasson said. "You may be sorry later."

Once content enters the system, it is no longer completely private.

McKeown stressed that IT will never ask for a student's password via e-mail, which is what many phishing scams request.

"Once they have your password they can send out thousands of e-mails in minutes. [Providers] will then put Saint Mary's on a blacklist," McKeown said.

Sifting through email can also be a struggle because of the volume of spam that comes through. According to McKeown, since January of this year, 46 million e-mails were marked spam, while only 10 million were sent by users. So around 80 percent of e-mails being sent into the system are spam that "clogs the pipes," he said.

If students have questions or IT concerns, Thomasson said they can contact ResNet to have their issues addressed.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

iTunes

continued from page 1

lar to Notre Dame, places like Duke and Emory."

A different iTunes U site, available only to students, faculty and staff at Notre Dame, will offer material for specific classes and feature content by student groups, Turner said. Access to this private site will require a netID and password.

Some professors have already used iTunes U in their classes, Turner said. This semester, the introductory chemistry class for freshmen as well as some engineering and Film, Television and Theatre classes have used iTunes U.

Sophomore Walker Anderson, chair of student government's campus technologies committee, said the private side of iTunes U will launch for use by on-campus student groups early in the spring semester.

"It enables students to share multimedia content and enables students to advertise their groups and what they do to the rest of the student body," he said. "It's a great resource for students to share the content that they generate."

When this site launches, Anderson said student government plans to advertise and organize a competition between student groups to produce the best content. The competition would add incentive to explore and use the site, he said.

Anderson said student government has been working with the Student Activities Office (SAO) and OIT to develop iTunes U as a resource for student groups.

"Our role came down to making sure student content had a way to get on iTunes U and making sure student content is generated for iTunes U," he said. "We're excited for it and we're looking forward to the launch."

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

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International News

Compromise issues delay Iraq election

BAGHDAD — Iraq's parliament failed Monday to produce an election law acceptable to minority Sunni Arabs, prompting U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to say that nationwide balloting scheduled for January "might slip" to a later date.

The United States has linked the pace of its military drawdown to the elections, though the top U.S. commander in Iraq has said the schedule is on track for now. U.S. combat troops are supposed to be out of Iraq by August, and the rest of the forces are scheduled to leave by the end of 2011.

The dispute over an elections law highlights the ethnic and sectarian divisions in Iraq. While more secure than in past years of war, the country has yet to achieve the political reconciliation vital to long-term stability.

McDonald's adopts green logo

BERLIN — McDonald's is going green — swapping its traditional red backdrop for a deep hunter green — to promote a more eco-friendly image in Europe.

About 100 German McDonald's restaurants will make the change by the end of 2009, the company said in a statement Monday. Some franchises in Great Britain and France have already started using the new color scheme behind their Golden Arches.didunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.

"This is not only a German initiative but a Europe-wide initiative," Martin Nowicki, McDonald's Germany spokesman, told The Associated Press.

National News

Ruling delayed on Filipino spy

NEWARK, N.J. — A judge reserved ruling Monday on whether a former Philippine National Police officer who served prison time for receiving classified U.S. government documents will be extradited to face murder charges back home.

U.S. Magistrate Esther Salas heard arguments on an attempt by Michael Ray Aquino to fight extradition, an effort that began in earnest earlier this year after the 43-year-old had served more than three years behind bars for receiving the documents from a former Marine at Fort Monmouth.

Aquino was released from federal prison in March but has been held in the Hudson County Jail while his extradition case goes through the courts.

Man with porn shrine arrested

MADISON, Wis. — A Wisconsin man transformed his apartment into a pornographic shrine to young girls, arranging mannequins in a sex act, plastering every flat surface with pictures and setting up a bed covered with stuffed animals, investigators said Monday.

Kevin M. Derks' collection featured photographs of Hollywood starlets, including a poster of actresses Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen with a caption inviting himself to join in sex acts with them, DVDs of child pornography and photos he said he took of girls at local beaches.

Prosecutors charged Derks, 53, of Kenosha, with 20 felony counts of possessing child pornography. His attorney, Nancy Barasch, said she had just learned of the case Monday afternoon and knew little about Derks so far.

Local News

"Zachary's Law" killer gets life

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A convicted child molester whose murder of a 10-year-old boy led to the creation of Indiana's sex offender registry has been resentenced to life in prison without parole.

A Tippecanoe Superior Court judge sentenced 37-year-old Christopher M. Stevens on Monday.

Stevens had been sentenced to death for the 1993 murder of Zachary Snider of Cloverdale.

But a federal appeals court set aside his death penalty in 2007 and let the murder conviction stand after determining that defense lawyers at the original trial hadn't presented adequate evidence of Stevens' mental illness.

Kenya

Children become war casualties

Injured boy represents the thousands of civilians hurt in the Somalian crisis

Associated Press

AP

Dr. Igohwo Etuh examines Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud in a hospital in Kijabe, Kenya, on Nov. 11. Mohamoud is one of the latest victims of Somalia's savage war.

NAIROBI — The bullet hit mother and son as they walked through Somalia's capital. She felt a sharp pain in her palm. Then she saw her 8-year-old: The bullet tore through his cheekbones, nose and mouth. Blood gushed down to his waist.

Two months later, Ahmed Mohamed Mohamoud's nose is a small hole. His mouth is always open because he has no upper lip and his right eye is gone. He can barely speak.

His is a lost face of Somalia's war.

Like so many other victims of a savage war, Ahmed was caught in the crossfire between Islamist insurgents and government forces, struck as he walked home from a Mogadishu market with his mother, who says a barrage of bullets poured out from the presidential palace.

Unlike Afghanistan and Iraq, there are few images of the bloodshed in Somalia, where thousands of children have been casualties without the world knowing. Most foreign journalists stay away because of the danger.

On Sept. 24, an Associated Press photographer was present after Ahmed was shot and took pictures of the boy, bleeding profusely as he was carried from the scene by two bystanders. During the weeks that followed, AP journalists kept tabs on Ahmed and his mother, who are still struggling with his grievous wounds.

"My heart bleeds whenever I recall his former face, whenever I compare the two faces," said Safi Mohamed Shidane as she inspected her son's scars at a hospital in neighboring Kenya, where Ahmed was flown for treatment after a Minnesota-based Somali immigrant group intervened.

"God will judge those who did this to my son," she said.

The lack of basic medical care, much less specialized doctors, has worsened the plight of children wounded in Somalia, a country mired in chaos since the last central government was ousted in 1991 and warlords turned their guns on each other.

"Ahmed's situation represents the crisis faced by many, many children in Somalia," said Katherine Grant, a child protection specialist with UNICEF who has visited the boy in the hospital outside Nairobi. Her agency will soon release a report accusing all parties in Somalia's conflict of recruiting child soldiers.

There are no reliable casualty figures for children in Somalia, according to Grant and Susannah Friedman, emergencies director for Somalia for Save the Children U.K.

"It is one of the most dangerous situations we've seen for children," said Friedman, whose agency has aid workers in southern and central Somalia, but has pulled out of Mogadishu.

Yet even in violence-plagued Somalia, where the U.N. says one child in 10 dies before his or her first birthday and only 30 percent of the population has access to clean drinking water, Ahmed's suffering tugged at heartstrings.

Doctors at Mogadishu's Medina Hospital did all they could: They inserted a tracheotomy tube for Ahmed to breathe and a feeding tube for nourishment. Doctors stitched together the horrific wounds to his face and wrapped it in thick layers of gauze.

But medical supplies — and expertise — are scarce in Somalia. When heavy fighting hits the seaside capital, tents go up at Medina to accommodate all the casualties. Inside, bloody footprints track down long corridors echoing with screams.

Appeals went out for help for Ahmed, including on Somali Web sites.

China

Activist speaks out on quake, gets 3 years

Associated Press

BEIJING — A veteran dissident was sentenced Monday to three years in prison after casting a spotlight on poorly built schools that collapsed during China's massive earthquake last year, killing thousands of children — an apparent government attempt to squelch such information.

Huang Qi, founder of a human rights Web site, had been charged with illegally possessing state secrets, his wife Zeng Li said by telephone. His detention in June 2008 came after several posts on his blog that criticized the government's response to the massive earthquake that struck Sichuan province a month earlier and killed about 90,000 people.

Huang had alleged that state-controlled media provided skewed reports on relief efforts and accused the government of obstructing the work of non-governmental organizations responding to the disaster, according to reports at the time by Paris-based monitoring group Reporters Without Borders.

"The government is using its propaganda to portray itself as a savior to little avail," the group quoted him as saying in one Web posting.

Huang had also spoken to foreign media outlets about parents' accusations that their children had been crushed in badly built schools. The government has attempted to quash such complaints, fearing the contentious issue could undermine the admiration and goodwill it earned for the massive rescue effort it led, boosted by volunteers and international aid.

But activists and parents — many of whom lost their only children in the quake — have repeatedly demanded those responsible for the shoddy construction be punished and called for an inquiry. Those seeking to press the issue have been detained, harassed and threatened by police and thugs believed to be in the employ of local officials.

Somali men convince others to join terrorist group

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Promising both "true brotherhood" and "fun," several Somali men convinced fellow immigrants in Minneapolis to return to their East African homeland and take up arms with a terrorist group, according to federal charges unsealed Monday against eight individuals.

The charges are part of an unfolding federal investigation into the disappearance of as many as 20 young Somali men from Minneapolis over the last two years — most of them U.S. citizens who federal authorities say are guilty of terrorism. Federal prosecutors say most of the men traveled to Somalia to join the terror group al-Shabab, which the U.S. State Department says has links to al-Qaeda.

Ralph S. Boelter, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Minneapolis field office, called the latest round of indictments a "tipping point" in the more than year-long investigation. "We have reached momentum, and reached a point where we will have full resolution of this case," Boelter said at a news conference with Minnesota's U.S. Attorney, B. Todd Jones.

Fourteen people have been charged in the investigation. The eight charged Monday are accused of a mix of recruiting and raising funds for the trips, and of engaging in terrorist acts in civil war-torn Somalia. Indictments say some attended terrorist training camps where they received instruction in firing small arms and machine guns, military style tactics and indoctrination in "anti-Ethiopian, anti-American, anti-Israel, and anti-Western beliefs," according to a federal affidavit.

Two of those charged Monday helped raise money for the trips by approaching unknowing members of Minnesota's Somali community and soliciting funds by telling them it was to pay for trips for young Somali men to travel to Saudi Arabia and study the Koran, according to the affidavit.

Boelter and Jones said one reason they disclosed new details about the case was to reassure members of Minnesota's Somali community that the investigation is focused on a relatively small group of individuals. The larger community "has consistently expressed deep concern about this pattern of recruitment activity," Jones said.

Still, the federal officials declined to say whether any of the new indictments targeted alleged leaders or masterminds of the recruitment scheme. The investigation is ongoing, they said, and there could be more indictments and arrests. Federal officials declined to name a local mosque which court documents allege was a site for some recruiting and planning.

Of the 14 people indicted, four have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing. Seven are not in custody and are believed to be outside the United States.

Boelter said he did not think that Minnesota Somalis are still being recruited, but he could not say for sure. "I'm confident it's not happening, but you're never 100 percent sure there's no activity," he said.

FBI Director Robert Mueller has said the case is worrisome because it shows young men raised in the United States can be recruited by terrorists overseas, trained to conduct attacks and in some cases killed in the fighting there.

One of the men who left Minneapolis, Shirwa Ahmed, allegedly carried out a suicide bombing in Somalia's Puntland region in October 2008. New charges unsealed Monday said Ahmed was also among a group of al-Shabab fighters who launched an armed ambush against Ethiopian troops.

AP

FBI Special Agent in Charge Ralph Boelter speaks during a press conference Monday in Minneapolis about charges against eight related to involvement in extremist groups in Somalia.

Boelter said he had "no indication" that any of the Somali men ever intended to engage in a terrorist attack in the United States. "But the national security implications are evident — Americans with U.S. passports attending foreign terror camps," he said.

One of the eight named Monday was Mohamud Said Omar, who was arrested earlier this month in the Netherlands. Prosecutors accused Omar, a Somali citizen and U.S. permanent resident, of helping with travel plans for some men between Minneapolis and Somalia, and providing hundreds of dollars to fund the purchase of AK-47 rifles for the men.

Two of Omar's brothers who live in Minnesota have said they believe their sibling is innocent, was not an extremist and was so poor that he couldn't afford to bring his new wife from Somalia to the U.S.

The newly unsealed court documents reveal a series of meetings beginning in 2007 "in a variety of locations around the Twin Cities," as well as in phone calls in which several individuals, both in Somalia and in Minnesota, tried to convince Minnesota Somalis of the worthiness of the cause.

Somalia has not had a functioning government since 1991, when warlords overthrew a socialist dictator and then turned on each other, causing chaos in the African nation of 7 million. Minnesota has the largest population of Somali immigrants of any U.S. state.

The investigation, which Boelter described as "global" in scope, has spread beyond Minnesota to California, Ohio, Massachusetts and multiple foreign countries.

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Memorial service held for 15-year-old boy

Associated Press

HIGHLAND PARK, Mich. — An impromptu memorial of artificial flowers and dozens of stuffed animals remained Monday near strands of yellow crime-scene tape in a vacant lot where relatives say 15-year-old Jamar Pinkney Jr.'s father shot him in the head while he begged for mercy.

The lot is next to the two-story brick home where Jamar lived with his mother in the impoverished Detroit enclave of Highland Park, a once-prosperous city of 16,000, where decay, abandonment, fires and demolition have eaten away at the community.

Around the neighborhood, Jamar was remembered as a humble and generous boy who grew up tossing the football and worried about keep his grades up. Since his death a week ago, friends, family and the community have struggled with making sense of his slaying and his father's arrest.

Relatives say Jamar's father, Jamar Pinkney Sr., was irate over allegations that his son had sexual contact with a 3-year-old girl and made him strip at gunpoint, marched him to the lot and shot him as he begged for his life. Prosecutors have charged him with first-degree murder and jailed him without bond.

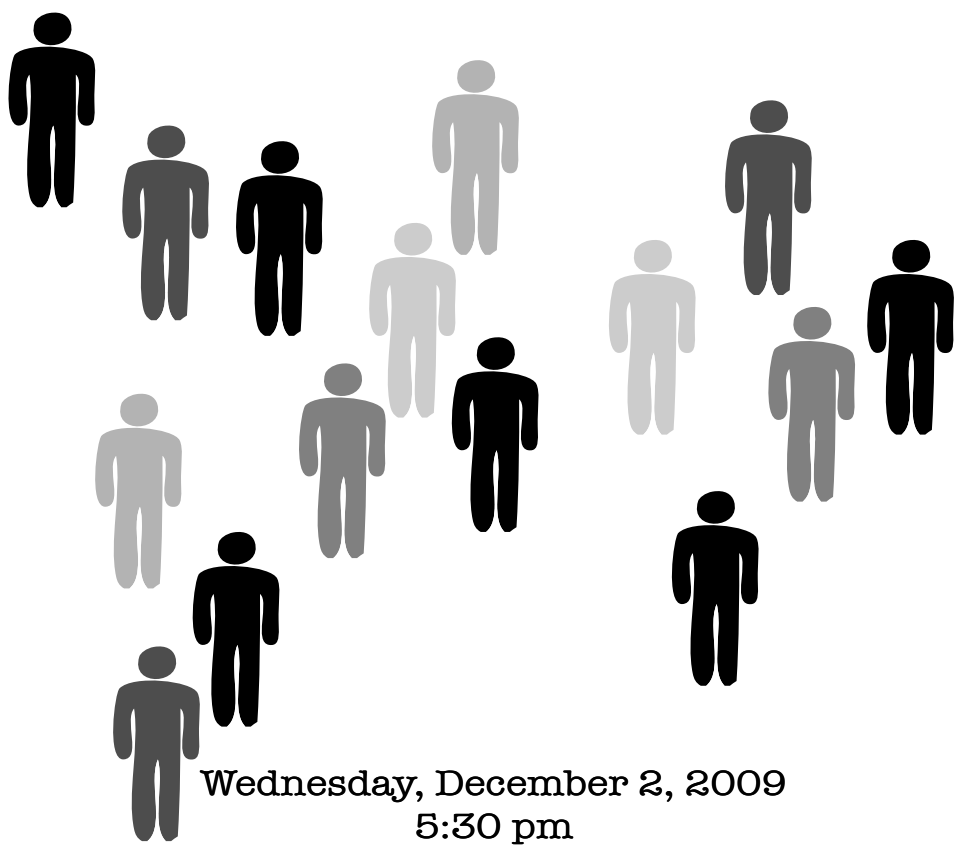
Police say the sexual misconduct accusation isn't part of the their investigation, and for many who knew Jamar, that allegation hasn't tempered the grief and outrage that another young life has been cut short.

"Most people feel that no 15-year-old, no matter what the circumstances or no matter had transpired, was deserving of this kind of fate," said Bishop Edgar L. Vann II, who delivered the eulogy before about 1,600 people gathered for Jamar's funeral on Monday at Second Ebenezer Church in Detroit.

Jamar's family said he was known for his entertaining personality and selfless kindness. He had competed as a wrestler since age four and played football since he was six.

"He was generous, he was kind," said Deborah Jenkins, principal of Martin Luther King High School in Detroit, where Jamar was a sophomore. "Many of the children claimed him as their best friend. They said anytime that they had a down moment it was Jamar that came up to them, giving them a hug and making them feel better."

Interrace Forum:
Census 2010: Issues of Countability and Accountability



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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones	10,450.95	+132.79

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,922	115	856	204,331,812

AMEX	1,803.56	+21.49
NASDAQ	2,176.01	+29.97
NYSE	7,186.33	+101.86
S&P 500	1,106.24	+14.86
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	9,497.68	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,355.50	87.80

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+1.90	+0.08	4.28
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+1.27	+1.39	110.82
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	+1.24	+0.20	16.29
PowerShares (QQQQ)	+1.61	+0.70	44.14
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.24	+0.0080	3.36
13-WEEK BILL	+100.00	+0.01	0.02
30-YEAR BOND	-0.19	-0.0080	4.29
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.14	+0.0030	2.17
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)		+0.98	78.45
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)		+18.00	1,164.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		-1.33	85.80

Exchange Rates	
YEN	89.0550
EURO	1.4962
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0556
BRITISH POUND	1.6611

IN BRIEF

U.S. to present emissions target

WASHINGTON — The United States, under pressure from other nations as one of the world's largest greenhouse-gas polluters, will present a target for reducing carbon dioxide emissions at next month's climate conference in Copenhagen, Obama administration officials said Monday.

The development came as the European Union urged the United States and China to deliver greenhouse gas emissions targets at the long-anticipated summit, saying their delays were hindering global efforts to curb climate change.

For nearly a year the Obama administration has indicated it would eventually come up with specific targets for quick reductions in pollution that causes global warming, as part of international negotiations. Those targets will soon be made public, officials said.

A senior administration official, briefing reporters only on condition of anonymity in order to discuss the administration's thinking, said that all countries, including the U.S., "will need to put their emissions targets on the table."

The Obama administration has resisted talking specific numbers without the backing of Congress, which is not expected to pass climate legislation until next year at the soonest. The official would not offer details about the U.S. targets but said any U.S. goal will reflect the unfinished state of legislation on Capitol Hill and would not seek to get ahead of it.

Spammer gets 4 years in fraud scheme

DETROIT, Mich. — A federal judge has sentenced a suburban Detroit man described as one of the world's most prolific senders of spam e-mail to more than four years in prison for his role in a 2005 stock fraud scheme that netted him $2.7 million.

Alan Ralsky of Oakland County's West Bloomfield Township pleaded guilty in June to fraud and acknowledged that he sent millions of unsolicited e-mails trying to influence Chinese stock prices.

Ralsky told Detroit U.S. District Judge Marianne Battani during Monday's sentencing that he took full responsibility for his crimes.

He said his company specialized in mass Internet mailings, and he entered the business with good intentions.

Feds investigate Chinese drywall

Gov. finds strong association between Chinese-made product and corroded pipes

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — The federal government said Monday that it has found a "strong association" between problematic imported Chinese drywall and corrosion of pipes and wires, a conclusion that supports complaints by thousands of homeowners over the last year.

In its second report on the potentially defective building materials, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said its investigation also has found a "possible" link between health problems reported by homeowners and higher-than-normal levels of hydrogen sulfide gas emitted from the wallboard coupled with formaldehyde, which is commonly found in new houses.

The commission, along with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, continues to study the potential health effects, and the long-term implications of the corrosion.

"We can say that we believe that there's a number of different chemicals that when brought together can be related to some of these irritant health effects that we've been getting reports of," said CPSC spokesman Scott Wolfson. "But we're still working toward that exact nexus."

The commission said it can now move forward with additional studies to identify effective remediation of the problem and potential assistance from the federal government. However, Warren Friedman of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development said it's too soon to discuss specifics of any financial assistance homeowners could get.

The Formaldehyde Council, a trade group, said there is no scientific evidence to support the theory that the two chemicals can combine to sicken people.

Betsy Natz, the group's executive director, called it "irresponsible to speculate that formaldehyde and hydrogen sulfide can act in a synergistic ... manner to cause irritant effects in human beings at the low levels found in the CPSC study."

AP

An air conditioner coil shows some corrosion because of contact with Chinese-made drywall in the home of James and Maria Ivory in Punta Gorda, Fla.

The CPSC has spent more than $3.5 million on the studies, and has received more than 2,000 homeowner complaints from 32 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, in what is now the largest consumer product investigation in U.S. history. Most of the complaints have come from Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia. Wolfson said the CPSC has committed nearly 15 percent of its staff to the issue.

The results released Monday came, in part, from a 51-home indoor air quality study.

However, officials cautioned that not all Chinese drywall is necessarily problematic and that homes with American-made drywall also are being studied.

"Not all drywall is alike," said Jack McCarthy, president of Environmental Health & Engineering Inc., the firm hired by the government to perform the air quality tests. "It depends on what it's made of, not necessarily the country where it came from."

Added Wolfson: "We are not limited in the scope of our investigation to just Chinese drywall."

The commission released its first report on the drywall last month, noting further studies were needed before it could consider a recall, ban or other action.

Thousands of homeowners who bought new houses built with the imported Chinese building product are finding their lives in limbo as hundreds of lawsuits against builders, contractors, suppliers and manufacturers wind through the courts.

During the height of the U.S. housing boom, with building materials in short supply, American construction companies imported millions of pounds of Chinese-made drywall because it was abundant and cheap. An Associated Press analysis of shipping records found that more than 500 million pounds of Chinese gypsum board was imported between 2004 and 2008 — enough to have built tens of thousands of homes.

Tax credit gives home sales a big boost

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — First-time buyers taking advantage of a special tax credit gave sales of existing homes in October their biggest surge in a decade, raising hopes for a turnaround in the housing market and pleasing Wall Street.

While rising foreclosures and disappearing jobs still threaten the comeback, there are now bidding wars for houses in some cities, and home sales are nearly 36 percent above their low point in January.

The National Association of Realtors said resales rose 10.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.1 million in October, from 5.5 million in September. It was the biggest monthly increase in a decade and far better than what economists expected, according to Thomson Reuters.

Analysts said the gains mainly reflected the tax credit of up to $8,000 for new homeowners, which was due to expire this month before Congress extended it until spring — and expanded it to more buyers.

The sales figures released Monday provided the juice for a rally on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average, also lifted by a weak dollar, rose more than 130 points.

The extension of the homebuyer tax credit should help sustain the housing market next year, economists said. Yet the overall economy will probably benefit only slightly from higher home sales.

There are still too many factors weighing down the recovery. Foreclosures are rising. Job creation is slow. People remain reluctant to spend. And construction of new homes — as opposed to sales of existing ones — plunged in October.

The biggest contribution the housing industry makes to economic growth is from home building. Commissions and fees generated from home sales also help, but far less than construction.

"I wouldn't want to bet the house on housing, really, in terms of the strength of the U.S. economy going forward," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Mesirow Financial in Chicago."

That's partly because shoppers seem in no mood to spend. In fact, 93 percent say they'll spend less or about the same as last year, according to an Associated Press-GfK poll. Half of all those polled say they're suffering at least some debt-related stress.

THE OBSERVER

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POLICIES

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Jenn Metz.

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Single-issue politics

Charles Rice

Right or Wrong?

The health care debate shows the limits of single-issue abortion politics. Obamacare, in its several versions, is objectionable for reasons beyond the funding of abortion and of euthanasia through rationing of care. It would transform the economy and culture. Its centralization and pervasive reach violate the principle of subsidiarity. The takeover of health care invites bureaucratic control of everything that affects your health, including what you eat, how you heat your home, etc.

Individual bishops and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have objected to federal funding of elective abortion. They rightly insist that any reform must improve access to health care and protect conscience rights and the rights of the elderly, the disabled, immigrants and other vulnerable persons. Major pro-life entities, however, including the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) and the USCCB, have stressed the restriction of abortion to such an extent as to generate the impression that the lack of such a restriction is the only decisive objection to Obamacare. That impression contributed to the House approval of Obamacare.

On Saturday night, Nov. 7, the House passed H.R. 3962, The Affordable Health Care for America Act, by a vote of 220 to 215. Its passage was secured by the approval that night of the Stupak-Pitts Amendment, which made H.R. 3962 subject to the Hyde Amendment, the restriction on other appropriations that forbids federal funding of abortions except to save the life of the mother or where the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest.

Stupak-Pitts was adopted, 240 to 194, with one "present." The Member voting "present" was John Shadegg, a pro-life Republican from Arizona. He had obtained commitments from numerous Republicans to vote "present" so as to defeat Stupak-Pitts and ensure the defeat of H.R. 3962 itself. At noon Saturday, Nov. 7, however, the National Right to Life Committee (NLRC) informed all members of the House that "NRLC will regard a 'present' vote as equivalent to a negative vote on the Stupak-Pitts Amendment." Faced with that threat of NRLC opposition to their re-election, those who might have supported the Shadegg strategy voted "yes" on Stupak-Pitts.

Shadegg's strategy of voting "present," so as to defeat Stupak-Pitts, was designed to kill H.R. 3962 itself since, if Stupak-Pitts were defeated, enough Democrats would have voted against H.R. 3962 to ensure its defeat. His strategy would have stopped Obamacare and would have cleared the way for a genuinely deliberative consideration by Congress of health care reform. H.R. 3200, the original House proposal, had 1,017 pages. H.R. 3962 has 1,990. The main Senate bill, which funds abortion, has 2,074. The accelerated votes on those and other bills, which very few, if any, members of Congress have read, is a mockery of legislative process.

Not even a total prohibition of abortion funding would make Obamacare worthy of support. Pro-life entities, therefore, should have supported the Shadegg strategy instead of reacting to the Stupak-Pitts approval by virtually endorsing Obamacare. "Over the weekend," said the USCCB Monday, Nov. 9, "the US House of Representatives advanced major legislation to provide adequate and affordable health care to all." None of the versions of Obamacare deserves that description. Stupak-Pitts incidentally, in addition to funding abortion in life-of-the-mother, rape and incest cases, would not restrict funding of abortifacients which can prevent implantation of the embryo in the womb and which are wrongly defined as contraceptives.

At the other end of life, Sec. 1233 of H.R. 3962 provides Medicare reimbursement to practitioners for "voluntary advance care planning consultation" between "the individual and a practitioner" who does not have to be the individual's physician. It does not state whether the consultation will be initiated by the practitioner or the patient. An individual may receive such consultation "no more than once every five years unless there is a significant change in [his or her] health." The bill imposes no limit on the number or frequency of such consultations. A consultation may include: an explanation of "end-of-life services [and an] explanation by the practitioner of physician orders regarding life sustaining treatment." Such is "an actionable medical order relating to the treatment of that individual that … is signed … by a practitioner, and is … to be followed by health care professionals across the continuum of care." The order "communicates the individual's preferences regarding life sustaining treatment." But it does not specify that the order must comply with those preferences. The order must be "signed and dated by a practitioner" who could be someone other than the practitioner who gave the consultation and formulated the order. Nor does the bill require that the signer ever saw the patient. Could the signer by a member of a panel reviewing such orders without ever seeing the patient? Yes. Could that fairly be called a "death panel?" Yes.

Speaker Pelosi won approval of H.R. 3962 by exploiting the pro-life focus on restricting funding of abortion. "The Stupak amendment," Shadegg said, "gave political cover to Democrats … Before the vote [Pelosi] promised pro-abortion Democrats she would strip the Stupak language [from the final bill]. Obama will help her. She will strip the Stupak amendment in Conference and pass the bill with the votes of Democrats who claim to be pro-life. … Republicans who, at the request of Right to Life … voted "yes" on Stupak last night defined a 'yes' vote as the pro-life vote. But, it wasn't. A 'yes' vote increased the votes for [H.R. 3962] and enabled Pelosi to pass it. That means more abortions … If Republicans had voted 'present' as a group, we would have defined the 'present' vote as the pro-life vote. … Now, the Democrats who voted for Stupak will say the 'Right to Life' vote was on Stupak and they voted pro-life. Republicans set the standard. Instead of making 'present' the pro-life vote, we made 'yes' the pro-life vote. … When the Stupak language is stripped in Conference (and Nancy Pelosi will strip it), the supposedly pro-life Democrats will be pressured by Pelosi and Obama to vote 'yes' on the Conference report … Pelosi and Obama … will tell [them] they're safe from attack by Right to Life because they voted for the Stupak amendment. For real pro-lifers to stop the Conference Report after the Stupak language has been stripped will be nearly impossible. I pray we can, but fear last night was our best chance … Nancy Pelosi caught Republicans off-guard."

The Obama Administration has indeed brought change. For a comparable transformation of a constitutional republic to a command economy under a leader with an anti-life agenda, one has to go back a few years. Adolf Hitler was named Chancellor on Jan. 30, 1933. In the following weeks he consolidated his power through decrees and other measures. The decisive event, however, was the Reichstag's approval of the Enabling Act on March 23, 1933, by which it ceded practically full and irrevocable powers to Hitler. The Enabling Act received the needed two-thirds vote only because it was supported by the Catholic party, the Center Party. Eliot Barculo Wheaton, "The Nazi Revolution: 1933-35" (1969), 286-93; William L. Shirer, "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich" (1959), 88, 276-79. If Obamacare becomes law, it will be permanent lights out for limited government in the United States. It will be pathetically tragic if it becomes law through the misguided tunnel-vision support of Catholic entities and individuals.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Roe v. Wade is the best thing that ever happened to The Observer [Viewpoint]."

Joseph Eno
Sorin senior

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can tell a lot about a fellow's character by his way of eating jellybeans."

Ronald Reagan
40th U.S. President

Responsibility lies with Father Jenkins

Michael Sydlik
Guest Columnist

Let's go back five years to see how we got to where we are now.

1. Newly-elected Fr. John Jenkins acts in December 2004 to fire Tyrone Willingham prior to his formal installment as President in the spring.

2. Kevin White, his athletic director then, publicly states that he had no part in this decision — in fact, he did not agree with it — yet is retained to embark on a program of watering down Notre Dame's schedule for the near-eternity by employing the Ohio State model of 7-5 (later to be perfected to 7-4-1) with the inclusion of increasingly-crappier teams over time. (And after the 10 year deal-in-the-making with Rutgers fell through, Mr. White then agreed to a five year contract with upstart Connecticut — and we all know how that turned out.)

3. Obviously, with White not being on board with the firing, no real homework regarding a replacement had been done other than living on a prayer that Urban Meyer would obviously want to come to his "dream school" and work for the group that for over a decade just couldn't seem to shoot straight.

4. After nearly-constant abuse on various Notre Dame Football-related blogs, said former athletic director leaves of his own volition to pursue employment opportunities at a school with which we hoped to "aspirationally peer." That he was never outright fired at the time of the Willingham dismissal or essentially told to hit the road a short time later is especially telling.

5. And this special telling is that Fr. Jenkins — and not Jack Swarbrick — is essentially calling all the important shots on the football program at Notre Dame. Now why would I say this? Well, think about it. When Jack Swarbrick, a lawyer with zero experience in running a college athletic program of any kind — not even considering football at any level — is hired to be the new yes-man in town, he promptly proclaims that he and Fr. Jenkins have a "shared vision."

6. So what then does Mr. Swarbrick proceed to do upon his hiring? He promptly proclaims upon meeting with Charlie Weis in the summer of 2008 that both he and the coach have the same "shared vision" too. So now what you have is not just two but the top three people responsible for the football program at Notre Dame all running around sharing the same flawed vision for the long-ago-storied Notre Dame Football program.

7. So then you start the 2008 season thinking you're on Easy Street, but when cracks start to show up in the offense, it becomes painfully obvious that the book on beating Notre Dame is to rush only four, double on Tate and Floyd, and wait for us to absolutely not exploit such a defense obviously stacked against the pass by trying to develop some semblance of a running game.

8. And then you finish the season out with an embarrassing loss to lowly Syracuse and the customary blowout loss to USC. But instead of firing the guy with so many flaws at being head coach of a major college football program, both Swarbrick and Jenkins let said coach B.S. his way into keeping his job by throwing out some nonsense about saving the recruiting class, having an experienced Jimmy back, and being in the "BCS conversation" with an overall experienced roster returning next year also.

9. Then, come this year, the new AD with the apparent good father's blessing, proceeds to further tarnish the Notre Dame Football mystique by adding powerhouse programs such as Utah, Tulsa, and Western Michigan to our illustrious home schedule so as to clear the field for our obviously-overmatched coach next year as a follow-up to inking multi-year deals with Army at really cool, off-site venues at the same time. Then the season that was never-meant-to-be turns out to be the same-as-it-ever-was as our head coach outright refuses to commit to the run with opposing teams continuing to stop our decided schematic advantage dead in its tracks with the same rush-four, double-on-the-outside-receivers, and wait-for-us-to-blow-up-on-offense defense.

10. Now the new yes-man in town is going around making inane statements that his evaluation matrix for Coach Weis — which includes a lot more data points than mere wins and losses — doesn't begin until after this week's impending debacle. So give me a break. Fr. Jenkins got exactly what he wanted when he hired Jack Swarbrick, no more and no less, so it's going to have to be up to the good father himself to make the right decision for the first time in nearly 15 years regarding the football program at Notre Dame. And I'm not sure he's up to it given his track record over the last five years. And if he isn't, he should step aside and let someone with some basic knowledge of college football step in and do so.

11. So if you truly care about the Notre Dame Football program and its importance in the lives of so many people — as well as the prestige that college football success at Notre Dame affords the University — please, please, Fr. Jenkins, do the right thing here and do it sooner than later, real soon to be precise. Otherwise, it may be forever too late.

Michael Sydlik is an alumnus of the classes of 1973 and 1975.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thankful for the Weis family

My son is the biggest ND fan on this planet. My son also has autism. We were watching the game at Hannah and Friends. I knew my son was tense, and he could not even sit down to watch the ND/UConn game. My son's savant area of expertise is sports. He is quite aware of the pressure coach Weis is under. We had to abruptly leave, the game was too close, and my son's passion for the Irish and coach was more than he could bear. He started to cry in the car. He was very overwhelmed. He finished watching the game at home. He said, "Mom you know the coach's job is on the line here. If we lose, he will get fired. Who will support Hannah and Friends? All the Alumni care about is a winning football team." I told him Hannah and Friends is the Weis family's dream come to reality. They will continue their mission of compassion what ever may happen.

So for Thanksgiving, I want to thank the Weis family for giving my son a happy life. He loves his cooking classes, the dances, the football games, the Family Fest, all the parties. You have provided a haven where our children can be respected, celebrated and loved. I also want to thank all the ND students who volunteer and make our kids smiles even bigger. I am thankful for the Alumni who have given their time to help raise money for Hannah and Friends, and the Domers that come to fundraisers. Last but not least, I want to thank coach Weis, Maura, Charlie Jr. and Hannah — you will always be our Champions. We are thankful for you helping make our community more compassionate to our angels walking the earth.

Katherine Robinson Coleman
alumna
class of 1978
Nov. 23

Not quite Christmas yet ...

Well, I've waited as long as I could. I'm supposed to be writing a midterm paper, but my hand has been forced, and my ear is pressed firmly against the grindstone. Does that make sense? Not really, but whatever. The tide of Christmas music and decorations has finally pushed me over the edge — my own Keough Hall has begun decorating for Christmas.

You would think something as sacred as the commercialized, secular Christmas season would command more reverence. I've always felt strongly that Christmas music and what not should be specifically reserved for, at most, the weeks between Turkey Day and Christmas. I would prefer not starting until December 1st, but impoverished college students can't be choosers. The rest of society, however, deems it appropriate to begin spreading schmaltzy tidings of good cheer sometime circa Halloween. "Halloween? But that's in October!" you might exclaim incredulously "In most normal places, there's not even snow on the ground. Egad!" I know, I know — as Cat Stevens once said, "Oh, baby, baby, it's a wild world."

And yet it persists. Howard Schultz, although I love the man and all he's done for my burgeoning caffeine addiction, is one of the most notorious enablers. It wasn't too many years back when Starbucks refrained from serving holiday drinks until the second of December. Then the first. Then Thanksgiving. And now, to the extreme dissatisfaction of Peter Frampton, myself, and numerous others, November 2. That is altogether too early.

Following the principle of Double Effect, which I understand very little, and the teachings of the Catholic Church, I am fairly certain this is a mortal sin, one which usually results in an eternity of Hellish captivity in a pit filled with boiling monkey sputum. A Christmas season which occupies one-sixth of the year is altogether too long.

If this trend continues, soon there will be nothing special about all the Christmas classics, like Jimmy Buffet's masterpiece of sanctimonious Yuletide cheer, "Ho ho ho and a bottle of Rum," or "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation," or robotic reindeer and Santa Claus spawning like weeds on lawns all across America.

Nick LaPlante
junior
Keough Hall
Nov. 23

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Tryptophan? Check.
Football? Check?
Shenanigans that will result in Letters to the Editor?

Check.

www.ndsmcobserver.com

You Haven't Heard These Songs!? '09

By Shane Steinberg

1. "Mango Tree" – Angus and Julia Stone
2. "Quiet Little Voices" – We Were Promised Jetpacks
3. "Lisztomania" – Phoenix
4. "We Are the People" – Empire of the Sun
5. "Sleepy Head" – Passion Pit
6. "Not Falling Apart (Tiesto Remix)" – Maroon 5
7. "Gifted (Feat. Kanye West, Santogold and Lykke Li)" – NASA
8. "Too Fake" – Hockey
9. "Just Let Go" – Mae
10. "Two Weeks" – Grizzly Bear
11. "Underdog" – Kasabian
12. "Generation Lost" – B.O.B.
13. "When They Fight They Fight" – Generationals
14. "All is Love" – Karen O and the Kids

With 2009 drawing to an end, I think it's about time we celebrate the hidden gems of this year. For every overplayed No. 1 Hit and every VH1 and MTV fixture there are a handful of relatively unheard-of songs by new and/or unheard-of artists that prove that with a little searching, the real standouts of the music industry are the songs that aren't blaring through dorm hallways on Friday nights. Granted, you'll recognize some of these artists, and you might even know some of these songs, but some of the songs in this playlist I'm sure will definitely be considered as coming from way out in left field. There's an inherent charm in great music that isn't universally known, and a sense of pride that goes into finding such songs. Here are the 14 hidden gems from '09 that I'd like to share with you.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu

Lambert's Shock and Awe Fizzles

By NICK ANDERSON
Scene Writer

Everyone loves getting awards. They tend to be incredibly shiny and heavy, have your name printed on them, look impressive on a mantle and normally come with some cash. It's not at all unexpected, then, that there's a glut of award shows to honor the humble among us: musicians. Never ones to toot their own horns, it's important we gather annually to pass out the American Music Awards.

At first glance, the AMAs seem redundant in the presence of the more popular, relevant and respected Grammies, but AMA creator and American icon Dick Clarke disagrees. Since its inception in the early 70's, the awards have been decided solely on popular vote, wrestling critical acclaim away from professional writers, producers and musicians to its rightful place in the hands of the same population which determines record sales.

This year's show proved, yet again, that the American public really likes both the records it buys as well as a fair share of misinformed sentimentality. Taylor Swift took several awards to the bank, including Artist of the Year, Favorite Female Country and Pop/Rock Artist, as well as Favorite Album. It's good to see her four-times Platinum album get some recognition, especially after Kanye West was so mean to her at the VMA's.

The other big winner of the night was Michael Jackson. Jackson won Favorite Male Pop/Rock and Soul/Rhythm Artist and Album. These awards were won on the merits of "This Is It", the companion album to the documentary of the same name and one of 13 Michael Jackson collections to be released in the last year. The Man in the Mirror's winning spree was nothing but a lifetime achievement award, especially contrasted with his last new release, 2001's wholly forgettable "Invincible."

After a night of boring, predictable awards, it seems the only talking point could be provided by the show's closing performer, Adam Lambert. Lambert, whose sexuality is cited as a factor in his loss of American Idol, followed in the footsteps of Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson with an efficiently calculated publicity stunt aimed squarely at conservative America.

Lambert, who spent the previous two weeks complaining about the double standard between male and female pop stars, put his own "edgy" brand of sexuality on display during his performance of his newest single, "For Your Entertainment." Impressively, he managed to back up his words by working in dancers in bondage gear, male dancers on leashes, an open mouth, male on male kiss, and simulated oral sex. It should be noted that all of these moves could have been taken straight from a Ziggy Stardust-era Bowie concert.

His actions are gathering a fair share of headlines in the aftermath, as well as a moderate 1,500 indecency complaints (which undoubtedly came from a small number of people who didn't even watch the performance). Helping his point, Lady Gaga and Rihanna gave sexually-charged performances nearly nude.

Should we really be shocked by Lambert's actions? Lambert only furthered his career by getting his name in the paper (or more accurately, the blogosphere). The current uproar is evenly divided; one side claiming indecency while the other claims a double standard. One only has to look back to Madonna's 2003 VMA lip lock with Britney Spears to see that the latter argument appears the stronger.

Lambert wanted to prove a point and make himself some money. Was he raunchy, blatant and vulgar? Yes. Did he manage to alienate most of his American Idol fan base? Not likely. Did he change anything? Other than his own profile, not really. In a post-Nipplegate world, it seems there's nothing left to shock our culture. The real question remains, is that really a bad thing?

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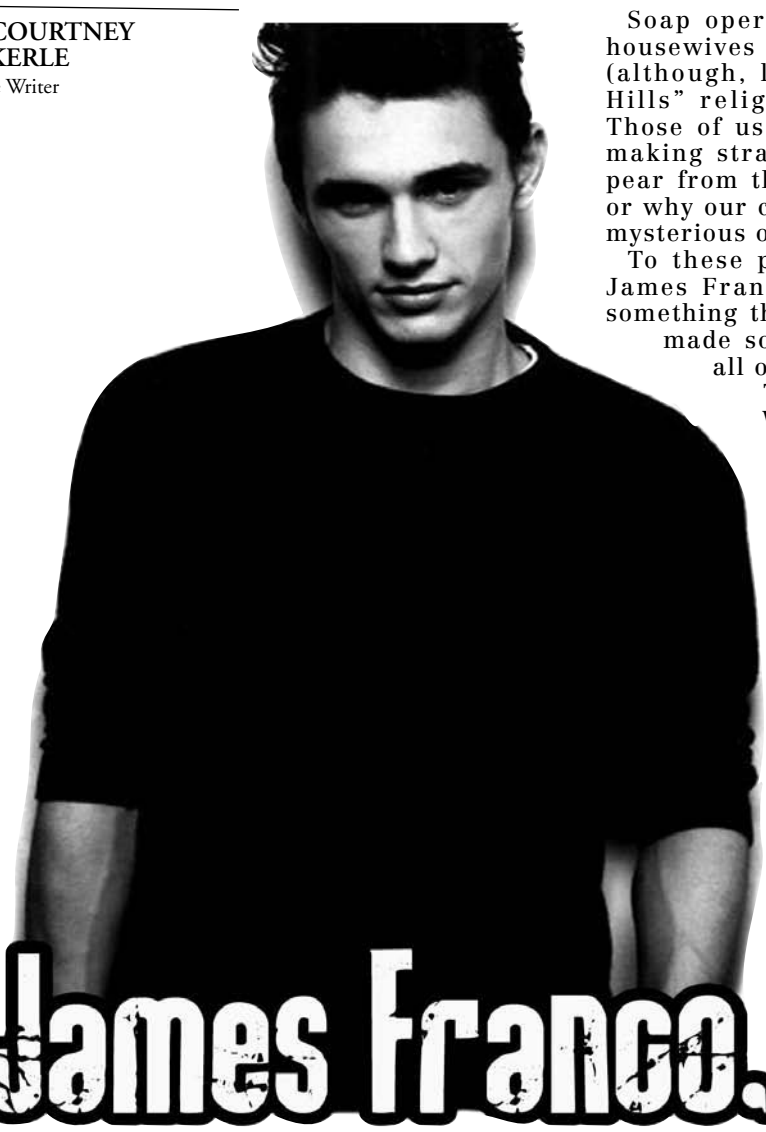
Observer Graphic I BLAIR CHEMIDLIN

James Franco.
Acting God Turned Soap Opera Stud

By COURTNEY ECKERLE
Scene Writer



Soap operas are uncool. Grandparents and housewives watch soaps, not college students (although, let's be honest, is watching "The Hills" religiously any less embarrassing?). Those of us who watch them do so in secret, making strange excuses as to why we disappear from the world in the middle of the day, or why our class schedule is arranged around a mysterious one-hour gap.

To these people, James Franco is a savior. James Franco, in one strange career choice, something that cost him one week of time, has made soap operas cool again, possibly for all of eternity.

This leads to the question of why. Why would a well-known, highly paid, Golden Globe-winning actor sink so low as to turn to a soap opera? Is he doing research for a film role? Is he just totally freaking weird? Or are we in an alternate universe where Sally Field opted out after the whole winning an Oscar thing, and decided to do Boniva commercials for the rest of her career? It just doesn't make sense.

Except it does — James Franco is cool. That's the answer. Despite seeming like a career killer, soap operas are one of the ultimate acting challenges. Those actors have to memorize hundreds of lines a day, despite the fact that it seems like it takes characters days to have a single conversation.

James Franco is the current Independent Spirit Award Best Supporting Actor, and yet he still wants to know how it feels to slum on daytime television. That doesn't sound like desperation, but like humility. It's a move that has gotten him more press than any other work he's done, with updates hitting the gossip blogs as soon as they become available. Fans of "General Hospital" and James alike were poking around for details on his story line (an "artist whose medium is death," and that's a direct promo-quote) and salivating over the first pictures of his character that were released.

He is also guest starring on an episode of "30 Rock," attending graduate school at New York University, and he will be starring in the comedies "Your Highness" with Natalie Portman, "Eat, Pray, Love" with Julia Roberts and "Howl," where he portrays Allen Ginsburg. This guy doesn't dispatch his time carelessly, and that should really say something in defense of soaps.

He is also certainly not the first celebrity to do a cameo on a soap opera. Every fan knows that a celeb in town can shake things up more than an evil twin carrying her sister's husband's illegitimate child. The B-52's were on "Guiding Light" in 1982, Snoop Dogg was on "One Life to Live" in 2008, Betty White made an appearance on "The Bold and the Beautiful," Lily Allen appeared on the Australian soap opera "Neighbours" earlier this year and of course there was Elizabeth Taylor's mesmerizing performance on "General Hospital" in the 80's.

Even if you've never watched a soap before, even if you think they're stupid and ridiculous (careful with those stones — many ridiculous things are also good, the perfect example being "Twilight"), everyone knows someone who watches a soap. Now there is finally something to get even the most cynical cynic of daytime television watching — James Franco's face. Soaps love—nay, are practically obsessed with the awkwardly long, yet meaningful close-up. Which means that James Franco's face will be taking over the television screen for probably what amounts to 10 minutes per episode.

Is the writing great? No, especially considering that James' character's name is 'Franco', so there are no points scored for creativity there, and "Law and Order" has already done the whole serial killer photographer thing, but soap operas are supposed to be cheesy. There is a reason housewives are the majority of watchers, and it's the same reason why college students should be — to escape. Escape from the everyday, the grind of classes, the laundry that's piling up, whatever. What could be more out of real life than two rival killers clashing in epic proportions in a town of people who have been married upwards of six times and hang out in the local hospital just for fun? Not a single thing comes to mind.

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The Magic of NINTENDO 64

By ERIC PRISTER
Scene Writer

There's something about multi-player Nintendo 64 games that brings out the worst in people. Even the most mild-mannered person can be seen screaming when his he loses his last life in Super Smash Bros., or when he gets a star stolen from him in Mario Party.

But there's also something about these games that brings people together, some small enjoyment that comes from competition that requires nothing but some hand-eye coordination and basic video game playing skills. I suggest that every dorm room should include a Nintendo 64 (something that can now be purchased relatively inexpensively) and these few games which can provide hours of entertainment, and often some bitter rivalries and excessive yelling.

Super Smash Bros.

Arguably the greatest multi-player video game of all time, Super Smash Bros. is a must-have for any Nintendo 64 owners. The enjoyment comes from being able to match your fighting skills with someone else's, one-on-one, and proving that you can beat up your opponent, even if it's only in a video game. Intensity and hilarity can ensue when the lives start slipping away and it starts coming down to the last few attacks, especially if someone finds a hammer. And no, using Kirby is not cheating. It's just smart game play.

Mario Party

Why play a regular board game when you can play a Mario board game complete with mini-games and the frustration that comes with happening spaces and chance time? Mario Party appeals to all because of the combination of strategy and luck, and the variety of mini-games allows everyone to excel at something. And what brings more intensity than the end of a round of Mario Party, waiting to see who will get the coin star, the happening star and the game star, all in the pursuit of the ever-elusive Super Star. Wow, I'm a nerd.

Mario Kart

A game that tends to be more lopsided in favor of those who have experience playing the game (or those who have memorized the courses forwards and backwards), Mario Kart is a game that should be played with players of comparable skill level. The 16 courses provide variation that gives the game replay value, but the ability to play as many or as few races as you want makes it a good game for filling any amount of free time. Just remember not to drink and drive. It's against the rules.

Mario Golf

Another game that takes some getting used to before it really becomes fun, Mario Golf can provide a much-needed golf fix in the midst of the cold winters of South Bend. One drawback is that rounds of 18 holes can take a while, but Mario Golf offers a save feature which can postpone rounds for later. Nothing is more frustrating that missing a short putt for the win, but nothing is more exhilarating than chipping in or recording the rare albatross. Don't forget to factor in the rain, though. Or the lie. Or the wind.

If any of these appeal to you, the I strongly urge you to find a Nintendo 64, get some friends together and play one of these games. Just be prepared for the biting insults, a lot of yelling and the occasional controller-throw. Just make sure that you don't hit the system too hard, or it will freeze. Epic fail.

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BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

NHL

Garborik helped in victory over Blue Jackets

Ottawa comes back in overtime to defeat Washington; Islanders outshoot Maple Leafs in overtime victory

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Marian Gaborik again sparked the Rangers' offense with two goals and two assists, but this time he had lots of long-awaited help in New York's 7-4 victory over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Monday night.

Sean Avery also scored twice and Henrik Lundqvist made 26 saves for the Rangers, who strung together seven straight goals after falling behind 2-0.

After Columbus scored twice in the first period, Gaborik got the Rangers going on their way to matching their biggest offensive output of the season following coach John Tortorella's timeout. The often-fiery Tortorella seemed to deliver a positive message during the break.

Whatever he said, it surely worked.

New York scored three times in the first to take the lead and then added four goals in the second against Blue Jackets starting goalie Steve Mason and beleaguered backup Mathieu Garon.

Gaborik, Artem Anisimov and rookie defenseman Michael Del Zotto wiped out the early deficit. Avery scored at 6:12 of the second period to make it 4-2 and chase Mason — last season's NHL rookie of the year — who made only 14 saves.

Anisimov had a goal and two assists, and rookie forward P.A. Parenteau also helped set up two goals.

Garon was under siege as soon as he came in. Avery, who hadn't scored in 15 games, added his second goal of the night just 51 seconds later on the first shot Garon faced. New York made it 2 for 2 just 20 seconds after that when Gaborik netted his second goal and 18th this season, moving him into a tie for the league lead with San Jose's Dany Heatley.

New York scored three goals in a span of 1:11 to break it open. Avery muscled defenseman Mike Commodore off the puck and stuffed it in for his first of the game. Then he finished off a 2-on-1 for his second.

Derek MacKenzie, with his first of the season, and Jared Boll gave Columbus its 2-0 lead. Kristian Huselius scored with 1:12 left in the second to snap the Rangers' streak of seven goals. Jakub Voracek's tally with 11:47 left brought the Blue Jackets to 7-4.

Columbus is 0-1-1 on its five-game road trip, which began after a three-game winning streak. The Blue Jackets lost in regulation for the first time since Nov. 11 when they were beaten 9-1 by Detroit in coach Ken Hitchcock's 1,000th NHL game.

With Hall of Fame New York defenseman Brian Leetch looking on, Matt Gilroy — another Rangers rookie defenseman — scored a breakaway goal at 12:47 of the second to make it 7-2. New York had three goals on its first five shots against Garon, who was bailed out later in the period when Christopher Higgins and Ryan Callahan both hit posts with shots.

When Garon finally did secure the puck with a save, he heard mock cheers from the festive Madison Square Garden crowd that had been longing to see a win. The Rangers were 4-9-1 since a seven-game winning streak ended in mid-October and they had dropped three straight at home as their offense sputtered.

Gaborik and linemate Vinny Prospal had scored each of New York's previous goals before Anisimov broke the string and tied it 2-all at 13:37. Tortorella has been calling for the Rangers to get much-needed secondary scoring, and Anisimov's goal snapped a stretch of 212 minutes, 19 seconds over four games since someone other than Gaborik or Prospal found the net.

New York had scored only 18 goals overall in its previous 10 games (3-7).

AP

New York's Matt Gilroy (97) shoots past Columbus goalie Mathieu Garon (32) to score on a breakaway during the second period of a game at Madison Square Garden in New York Monday.

Senators 4, Capitals 3

Mike Fisher scored 1:14 into overtime, giving the Ottawa Senators a comeback victory over the Washington Capitals on Monday night.

Fisher, selected the NHL's third star of the week earlier in the day, batted Chris Phillips' centering pass out of the air and past Semyon Varlamov for his 10th goal of the season.

Brian Elliott made 25 saves in his fifth start for the Senators, who rallied from a 3-1 deficit in the third period to win their fourth in a row and wrap up a 4-0-1 homestand.

Alexandre Picard scored Ottawa's second goal in a span of 4:20 on a power play 7:40 into the third to tie it at 3.

Peter Regin gave the Senators a 1-0 lead 7:27 in before Ottawa allowed three straight goals.

Chris Neil got his fourth goal 3:18 into the third to draw the Senators to 3-2 before Picard beat Varlamov with a slap shot from the point to tie it after Alex Ovechkin was called for roughing at 6:43.

Rookie Jay Beagle got his first NHL goal to put Washington up 3-1 in the second after Chris Clark and Brendan Morrison scored in the first.

Varlamov stopped 33 shots for the injury-ravaged Capitals, who have dropped four of five (1-2-2), including a 2-1 shootout loss Saturday in Toronto.

Capitals right wing Alexander Semin missed his fourth straight game because of a wrist injury. Milan Jurcina, Boyd Gordon, Shaone Morrisonn and Tom Poti all remain day-to-day with a variety of injuries and were also out of the lineup once again for Washington, which has also lost Mike Knuble to a broken finger and Quintin Lang to a broken jaw.

Regin opened the scoring off a deflection. He tipped Jesse Winchester's shot past Varlamov from the edge of the crease for his third goal.

Clark drew Washington even at 11:19 when Brian Pothier's slap pass went in off the Washington captain's left skate. Ovechkin drew an assist for his pass to Pothier to begin the play — and the goal was upheld by a video review.

Morrison gave Washington the lead with 29.3 seconds left in the first when he skated past the crease to redirect Mike Green's pass for his eighth goal.

Beagle made it a 3-1 advantage with an unassisted effort 11:44 into the second. The 24-year-old rookie beat Elliott with a snap shot from the slot after the puck landed at his feet when Senators forward Jonathan Cheechoo's backhand clearing attempt struck him on the skate.

Islanders 4, Maple Leafs 3

Dwayne Roloson made 58 saves and Josh Bailey scored in overtime to lift the New York Islanders to a win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Monday night.

Bailey scored 4:18 into overtime, taking a pass from Sean Bergenheim and slamming the puck into an open net. It was the Islanders only shot of the extra period. Jeff Tambellini, Matt Moulson and Bergenheim also scored for New York (9-8-7).

Phil Kessel, Wayne Primeau and Niklas Hagman replied for the Maple Leafs (4-11-7).

It was a relatively quiet night for Islanders rookie John Tavares , who admitted to feeling some nerves before a game that was attended by roughly 100 friends and family. The 19-year-old from nearby Oakville was limited to one quality scoring chance — he roared in off the wing in third period and had a shot stopped by Jonas Gustavsson.

The Islanders surged to a 3-0 lead over a span of 3:13. Tambellini took a nice breakaway pass from Mark Streit and beat Vesa Toskala high, Moulson pumped his fists after tipping home his team-leading 11th of the season and Bergenheim came in alone on a short-handed rush and roofed a shot over Toskala.

Suddenly, the boos poured down from an Air Canada Centre crowd that has witnessed just two wins in 11 games this season.

A glimpse of hope arrived soon after off the stick of Kessel, who scored for the sixth time in 10 games with the Maple Leafs . He charged hard to the goal and had a tap-in after taking a nice pass from Matt Stajan at 15:32.

Interestingly, Leafs coach Ron Wilson sent Gustavsson in for Toskala shortly after Kessel's goal. It was unclear if Toskala suffered an injury - he went straight to the dressing room after getting pulled before returning to the end of the bench for the third period.

Primeau scored at 2:10 of the third period from his knees before Hagman roared around Freddy Meyer and made it 3-3 at 9:18.

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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TODAY IS THE LAST OBSERVER UNTIL TUESDAY, DEC. 1. HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE THANKSGIVING.

———————————————

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. Notre Dame has many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-17819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit ND's website at: http://pregnancysupport@nd.edu

———————————————

Are we idiots? What right, does Jim have to claim authority? Is he as good a salesman as I? Is he as matronly as Phyllis? There are moments where we can affect change. For a few seconds every decade... We exist. These are those seconds! Let us storm his castle. Come on! Let's get him. Let's get Jim!

———————————————

Support the Eyes On Africa Foundation and help them win 25K by voting for them on the Facebook Chase Community Giving contest.

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NCAA Men's Basketball Division I AP Top 25

	team	previous
1	Kansas	1
2	Michigan State	2
3	Texas	3
4	Kentucky	4
5	Villanova	5
6	North Carolina	6
7	Purdue	7
8	West Virginia	8
9	Duke	9
10	Tennessee	10
11	Butler	11
12	Connecticut	12
13	California	13
14	Washington	14
15	Michigan	15
16	Ohio State	16
17	Oklahoma	17
18	Dayton	21
19	Georgetown	20
20	Louisville	19
21	Georgia Tech	22
22	Clemson	24
23	Illinois	23
24	Minnesota	25
25	Maryland	NR

NCAA Women's Basketball Division I USA Today Top 25

	team	previous
1	Connecticut	1
2	Stanford	2
3	Ohio State	3
4	North Carolina	5
5	Tennessee	9
6	NOTRE DAME	7
7	Arizona State	11
8	Texas A&M	16
9	Baylor	4
10	Florida State	12
11	California	13
12	Duke	6
13	Texas	14
14	Xavier	15
15	LSU	17
16	Oklahoma	8
17	Virginia	18
18	Vanderbilt	20
19	Louisville	19
20	Maryland	21
21	Michigan State	10
22	Georgia	NR
23	Purdue	23
24	Iowa State	24
25	Pittsburgh	22

USCHO/CBS Men's Hockey Division I Rankings

	team	points
1	Miami (Ohio)	983
2	Denver	938
3	Massachusetts-Lowell	864
4	North Dakota	794
5	Colorado College	792
6	Bemidji State	690
7	Cornell	648
8	Michigan State	632
9	Quinnipiac	622
10	Massachusetts	587

around the dial

NCAA Football
Ball State at Western Michigan
7 p.m., ESPN2

NCAA Basketball
Maui Invitational
1:30 p.m., ESPN2

MLB

AP

Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer prepares for an at-bat during a game in Milwaukee on June 25. Mauer became only the second catcher in 33 years to win the American League Most Valuable Player Award Monday.

Twins' Mauer wins AL MVP decisively

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joe Mauer sat behind a table on a podium in a conference room at the Metrodome when Justin Morneau shouted out the last question of the day. "Are you finally going to buy dinner now?" Morneau said to his teammate from the audience, one MVP to another.

Mauer became only the second catcher in 33 years to win the American League Most Valuable Player Award, finishing first in a near-unanimous vote Monday.

The Minnesota Twins star received 27 of 28 first-place votes and 387 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Yankees teammates Mark Teixeira (225 points) and Derek Jeter (193) followed. Detroit's Miguel Cabrera drew the other first-place vote and was fourth with 171 points, one point ahead of the Angels' Kendry Morales.

Mauer became the second Twins player to win in four years, following Morneau in 2006. Morneau gave Mauer a bottle of champagne.

"Hopefully we can pop that open here a little later," Mauer said.

Born in St. Paul, the 26-year-old can leave the Twins and become a free agent after the 2010 season, when he is to make $12.5 million. Minnesota is expected to try to sign him to a new deal.

"I've always said it will happen when it needs to happen and I truly believe that," he said. "I'm not the kind of guy that, you know, says by this date we need to have something done."

He enjoys playing in front of his family and friends and his preference is to stay with the Twins.

"Can we win here? Yes. Definitely. I think so," he said. "And that's ultimately what I would like to do."

For now, Twins general manager Bill Smith didn't want to address the business side.

"All that contract stuff, that's for another day," he said. "I'll just say one thing: If you think if he finished second that the price is going to come down ... No."

Morneau, signed at $14 million for each of the next four seasons, usually picks up checks as the highest-paid member of the Twins. He might be losing that status to Mauer sometime soon.

"We're going to do everything we can to keep him here as a Minnesota Twin," Morneau said. "The biggest thing now isn't the money. It's going to be whether or not he feels like we can win every day."

Mauer set a major league record for highest batting average by a catcher and won his third batting title, becoming the first repeat batting champion since Nomar Garciaparra in 1999-00.

In Brief

Judge clears sale of Lions' old stadium

PONTIAC, Mich. — A judge has cleared the way for Pontiac, Mich., to sell the stadium that was once home to the NFL's Detroit Lions to a Canadian company for $583,000.

The Lions abandoned the 80,300-seat Silverdome in 2002, when they moved to Detroit's Ford Field. Pontiac has been spending $1.5 million a year to maintain the largely unused stadium.

Oakland County Circuit Court Judge Edward Sosnick refused Monday to grant a preliminary injunction to Silver Stallion Corp., which made a $20 million offer for the Silverdome last year.

That deal fell through in a dispute over environmental cleanup costs.

Pontiac officials say the Canadian company, Triple Properties Inc. of Toronto, will take ownership within 45 days.

Tebow, McCoy, Ingram named Maxwell finalists

DALLAS — Tim Tebow and Colt McCoy are set for at least one showdown off the field.

The quarterbacks for No. 1 Florida and third-ranked Texas were chosen finalists Monday for two of the biggest postseason awards outside the Heisman Trophy.

Tebow, McCoy and Alabama running back Mark Ingram are the finalists for the Maxwell Award that goes to the best all-around player in college football. Tebow won the past two Maxwells.

Houston's Case Keenum joins Tebow and McCoy as finalists for the Davey O'Brien Award given to the best quarterback.

The winners of the Maxwell, O'Brien and seven other awards will be announced at Walt Disney World in Florida on Dec. 10, two days before Tebow and McCoy figure to be in New York as Heisman finalists for the second year in a row.

Stafford, Johnson may not play against Packers

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Matt Stafford and Calvin Johnson played the game Sunday that Detroit Lions fans had been waiting all season to see.

Stafford set an NFL rookie passing record with 422 yards in a 38-37 victory over Cleveland and became the youngest player to throw five touchdown passes in a game. Johnson had seven catches for a career-best 161 yards, including a 75-yard touchdown.

Trouble is, a national TV audience might not get to see either player on Thursday.

Stafford and Johnson were both injured on a chaotic play as time expired, and Lions coach Jim Schwartz didn't sound optimistic that either would be available to face Green Bay on Thanksgiving Day.

Stafford suffered a dislocated left shoulder when he was hit as he threw a desperation pass into the end zone.

LPGA

Nordqvist triumphs at Tour Championship

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Texas — Lorena Ochoa and Jiyai Shin's duel for LPGA player of the year fittingly came down to the final hole of the season.

Anna Nordqvist won the LPGA Tour Championship on Monday and Ochoa finished second to earn the top player title for the fourth consecutive year.

The 22-year-old Nordqvist shot a final-round 65 to finish 13 under par. Ochoa was two strokes back and won the top player honor when Shin couldn't chip in for birdie from the front of the 18th hole.

"I always say that I want to stay on top as long as I continue playing."

Lorena Ochoa
Golfer

"I always say that I want to stay on top as long as I continue playing, so this is just a great year for me," Ochoa said. "It's been tough in many different ways, but the important thing is I'm at the top."

Shin led Ochoa by eight points (156-148) in the race entering the tournament. Once Ochoa secured second place, Shin had to finish no worse than seventh to win the player of the year award. Point totals are based on top-10 results.

Shin seemed to take the inside track when Ochoa needed two shots to escape a greenside bunker on the par-3 17th hole. Ochoa sank a bogey putt, virtually ending her chances of winning the tournament, as Shin and Nordqvist watched from the tee.

"I definitely tried to be aggressive. It was pretty tight up the leaderboard."

Anna Nordqvist
Golfer

But Shin also hit a bunker on the 17th, blasted out short of the green and bogeyed.

Ochoa dropped her approach to the 18th hole about 16 feet away and studied the leaderboard as she walked to the green. She and caddie Greg Johnston talked about the situation before Ochoa curled in the putt, giving a modest fist pump after it fell.

Shin's second shot to the 18th hole stopped a few feet off the green. Her chip missed the hole by inches and Ochoa patted her heart, embraced Johnston and held back tears near the scorers' tent.

"I'm happy I can make history, and my goal is to continue that," said Ochoa, who's getting married in two weeks. "Hopefully, I'm going to get back home and work hard and be ready for next year."

The 21-year-old South Korean fell short in her bid to win the rookie and player of the year awards. Nancy Lopez remains the only player to sweep both titles, in 1978.

The good-natured Shin was still smiling after coming up short.

"I learned a lot from this year," she said. "I need more focus, concentration, and everything. I really made my goals. I just missed player of the year, but I still had a good year."

Ochoa also won her fourth straight Vare Trophy, honoring the season's lowest scoring average. Ochoa and Shin were separated by decimal points in that race award coming into the tournament.

Though she was constantly aware of where she stood with Shin, Ochoa said she never lost focus on the task at hand.

"I was just trying to win the tournament, so I didn't have to worry about how she finished, or the points at the end of the day," Ochoa said. "I'm just really proud of the way I finished."

Nordqvist, meanwhile, earned her second career victory and made it through the season without missing a cut in 15 starts. She also won the LPGA Championship this year.

Shin and Nordqvist played in the day's final group, right behind Ochoa. The Houstonian Golf and Country Club was still soggy after more than an inch of weekend rain and players were allowed to lift, clean and place their balls.

Nordqvist surged to the lead at 12 under with five consecutive birdies between Nos. 8-12. She bogeyed the 13th, then added birdies on 14 and 15 to settle the tournament and clear the way for Ochoa and Shin to decide their duel.

"I definitely tried to be aggressive," Nordqvist said. "It was pretty tight up the leaderboard, so you were really going to have to shoot low in order to pull it off. I'm just very, very happy that I did."

Na Yeon Choi (64) and second-round leader Kristy McPherson (70) finished 10 under, tied for third. A trio of players finished 7 under and Shin's costly par dropped her into a four-way tie for eighth.

Choi surged up the leaderboard in the early afternoon with a 30 on the front nine. She holed a 175-yard shot from the ninth fairway and birdied the 10th hole to reach 10 under.

Shin struggled to make putts on the front nine and didn't make her first birdie until No. 11. By then, Ochoa was within a shot of the lead. But Ochoa dropped shots at Nos. 8 and 9, and Nordqvist to zip past her.

Ochoa got back on track with an 8-foot birdie putt on No. 15, setting up the dramatic finish.

The event was shortened to 54 holes after weekend rains forced long delays. The second round was completed Monday morning, the cut was made and the third round began immediately in sunny, calm conditions.

NFL

Injuries plaguing teams

Associated Press

The playoff chase has gotten much more difficult for the Packers after they lost two key defensive players to season-ending injuries.

Cornerback Al Harris and linebacker Aaron Kampman will have knee surgery after suffering major injuries Sunday. Both were hurt on separate plays in the second half of a victory over San Francisco, apparently damaging their left knees. Coach Mike McCarthy would not confirm specific details of either injury.

"They're both professionals," McCarthy said. "I think we have a lot of confidence they'll both respond very well. They're both in great shape, both take great care of their bodies."

The Packers have a short turnaround before visiting Detroit on Thanksgiving Day. The Lions also have injury concerns, particularly quarterback Matthew Stafford.

Lions coach Jim Schwartz said Monday that the top overall pick in the draft was "extremely sore" after sustaining a separated left shoulder on the next-to-last play of the win over Cleveland, and he won't play against Green Bay unless the pain subsides.

Stafford said he is "in a good amount of pain."

Schwartz was also unsure about receiver Calvin Johnson, who hurt his knee on the same play that Stafford was injured.

The Redskins, already among the league's most injury-ravaged teams, added running back Ladell Betts (torn left knee ligaments), tackle Chad Rinehart (broken leg) and fullback Eddie Williams (broken leg) to their long injured reserve list. Betts is the backup to Clinton Portis, who likely won't return from his concussion for at least one more game. Tight end Chris Cooley will be in a walking boot for another 10 days, and DeAngelo Hall has a sprained knee.

"Brutal. Brutal. It's been brutal," said Rock Cartwright, now Washington's starting running back. "We lost a lot of key guys we planned on having for the season."

The Steelers not only dropped to 6-4 with a stunning loss at Kansas City, they saw their top two quarterbacks go down. After Ben Roethlisberger left with concussion-like symptoms, backup Charlie Batch injured his left wrist during overtime. Batch could undergo surgery later this week and miss about six weeks. Batch sat out last season with a broken collarbone.

Arizona's Kurt Warner, the other starting QB in last February's Super Bowl, left in the second quarter against the Rams after banging his head against the turf. Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said he spoke with Warner on the flight home, and the quarterback was "very upbeat and alert."

Warner will undergo a mandatory "baseline test" of his cognitive functions Tuesday.

"We are obviously optimistic that there won't be any issues with that whatsoever," Whisenhunt said.

Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo took a knee to the back early in a victory over Washington. He didn't miss a snap.

"We've already talked to Tony and he says he feels a lot better," coach Wade Phillips said. "He had a little bit of stiffness. He had quite a bit during the ballgame, but says he feels a lot better."

Phillips expects Romo to play Thursday against Oakland.

Rams QB Marc Bulger will be sidelined 3-6 weeks with a broken left leg sustained in Sunday's loss to the Cardinals. The team said it would not place Bulger on injured reserve.

He also underwent an MRI exam on his groin and hamstring Monday and was due for a second MRI on a swollen knee. Plus he's being tested for concussion-related symptoms.

Linebacker Chris Chamberlain and rookie offensive tackle Jason Smith also will be tested for concussions Tuesday.

Dolphins nose tackle Jason Ferguson will miss the rest of the season with a quadriceps injury. Coach Tony Sparano was unsure if Ferguson, who turns 35 on Saturday, will need surgery.

"We lost a heck of a player and another captain and those types of things," Sparano said. "It is happening every place you look around the league right now. That is what happens. It is Week 12."

Dolphins running back Ronnie Brown (foot) and quarterback Chad Pennington (shoulder) have also suffered season-ending injuries this year.

MLB

Shortstop Vizquel signs contract with White Sox

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Omar Vizquel is joining a team with a long history of Venezuelan shortstops, and that was part of the attraction in coming to the Chicago White Sox.

The 42-year-old Vizquel agreed Monday to one-year contract worth nearly $1.4 million to add depth, experience and perhaps advice to a young infield. Last season, the White Sox made 113 errors.

Now they have an 11-time Gold Glove winner around, one who has spent most of his days at shortstop during a 21-year career.

"I feel pretty comfortable that I can do the job in the field, that I can still run and hit and do everything that a major league player is asked to do," Vizquel said.

"I look at myself as a mentor to some other guys."

Omar Vizquel
White Sox shortstop

Vizquel, who will turn 43 in April, will play for fellow Venezuelan Ozzie Guillen, a former shortstop who will be 46 in January.

The White Sox manager made it clear his team didn't sign Vizquel to be a coach. But Vizquel said he'll gladly be a mentor to younger infielders.

Chicago traded for Mark Teahen and he will play third; Alexei Ramirez will be at shortstop and Gordon Beckham will switch from third to second in his second season.

"I think this kid is the best player to come out of my country."

Ozzie Guillen
White Sox manager

"I look at myself as a mentor to some other guys," Vizquel said. "I don't think that's going to be an issue. I've always been there for younger guys. I've been playing in the big leagues for a while."

With the Texas Rangers this year, Vizquel hit .266 with one homer and 14 RBIs in 62 games. He had no errors in 207 chances while playing shortstop, third and second. The slick-fielding veteran also mentored Venezuelan shortstop Elvis Andrus, the runner-up for AL Rookie of the Year.

Vizquel said he had to make an adjustment to being a utility player last season but found it to be an opportunity to see the game from a different perspective, something that could help him someday should he manage.

But right now the White Sox are also counting on him to be a productive contributor because he is still in such great shape. They guaranteed him $1,375,000.

"I think this kid is the best player to come out of my country," Guillen said. "I don't want to say kid — he's almost the same age as me."

Vizquel, a switch-hitter, has 2,704 hits. He is a career .273 hitter with 78 homers, 906 RBIs and 1,378 runs in 2,742 games with Seattle, Cleveland, San Francisco and the Rangers.

Vizquel, who has played 238 games at shortstop since turning 40, has a career fielding percentage of .984. A three-time AL All-Star, he played in the 1995 and 1997 World Series with Cleveland.

Vizquel considered joining the White Sox five years ago before signing with the San Francisco Giants following his stellar stint with the Indians.

One thing that will likely change is his number. Familiar No. 13 belongs to Guillen.

AP

Then-Ranger Omar Vizquel prepares to throw to first in an Aug. 18 game vs. the Twins. He signed with the White Sox Monday.

"That's going to be a hard thing. I don't think Ozzie is going to give up his number," Vizquel said.

He said he might ask countryman Luis Aparicio if can wear his retired No. 11 as a tribute. Or maybe the No. 17 that was worn by another Venezuelan shortstop who played for the White Sox, Chico Carrasquel.

Guillen said nothing has been decided but he would be reluctant to part with his number, one he wore for so many years with the White Sox.

He suggested that Vizquel try No. 23 — just one digit removed — because it's such a big number in Chicago, the one most notably worn by Michael Jordan.

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NFL

Cardiac Colts winning close games this year

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — On paper, everything looks perfect for Indianapolis.

The Colts are 10-0 again, in charge of the AFC South again, and could lock up another playoff spot in the next two weeks.

Yet with four straight victories by four points or fewer, coach Jim Caldwell knows this is not like the last time Indy opened the season with 10 straight wins. It's been a whole lot tougher.

"The realistic thing is that this is more typical of what you see week-to-week in the NFL," he said Monday. "I think there are a number of areas we need to improve upon, but the bottom line is we're getting the job done."

Nobody can quibble with the results. Indy holds a three-game lead in the chase for the AFC's top seed. What many want to know is whether the Colts might be living on borrowed time.

In some ways, this looks like the same old Colts.

They went 7-0 in 2007 before losing to eventual AFC champion New England. They were 9-0 before losing at Dallas in 2006, and they opened 13-0 in 2005 before San Diego finally stopped their quest for perfection. Peyton Manning has topped 3,000 yards for a 12th consecutive season, second only to Brett Favre's 17, and they have overcome the usual spate of injuries to key players.

In other ways, these Colts are very different.

Their 19-game regular-season winning streak is now the second-longest in league history, trailing only New England's 21-game streak. The Colts haven't missed a step with Caldwell taking over for Tony Dungy while Reggie Wayne and Dallas Clark have taken up the slack left by Marvin Harrison's departure. Wayne and Clark have combined for 141 receptions this year, the most by teammates over the first 10 games of a season in league history.

But the big change is how Indy is winning games.

Back in 2005, the Colts opened 13-0 with an average victory margin of 16.3 points. None of the wins came by fewer than seven points, though Indy wound up losing three of their last four including a divisional round game to eventual Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh.

This year, the Colts have won six of their 10 games by four or fewer points — including three straight escapes.

Houston's Kris Brown missed a potentially tying 42-yard field goal as time expired, Bill Belichick lost his risky fourth-down gamble and Baltimore's Joe Flacco threw an late interception, thwarting a chance at a possible go-ahead field goal Sunday.

Lucky? Perhaps.

Caldwell thinks all these close calls could make Indy a tougher playoff opponent.

"We certainly feel we've developed a pretty solid mental toughness," he said. "Hopefully, it's going to serve us down the road and make us continue to get better. Hopefully we can benefit from it."

There are already indications that philosophy is taking root.

Over the first 10 games, the offense and defense have traded big plays.

At Miami, Manning had the ball less than 15 minutes yet rallied the Colts for an improbable victory. Against New England, the defense stopped the Pats short on fourth-and-2 and Manning slowly took the Colts 29 yards for the winning score. On Sunday, it was middle linebacker Gary Brackett fooling Flacco and then making a nifty grab for his first interception since 2007.

"I think there are a number of areas we need to improve upon, but the bottom line is we're getting the job done."

Jim Caldwell
Colts coach

And it's the defense that has made the greatest progress.

Baltimore was forced to kick five field goals Sunday, giving Indy a three-game total of six TDs allowed vs. 10 field goals.

That's not good enough against Manning.

"With our offense, nobody is ever going to beat us kicking field goals," safety Antoine Bethea said after Sunday's 17-15 victory.

The question, of course, is whether Indy can continued winning close contests.

"Obviously, any time your team is finding ways to win, particularly when things haven't gone perfectly, you find some satisfaction there," Caldwell said. "You can also look at it is maybe there are some situations that occurred earlier in the game that could have put you in a little bit better position, but the reality and the fact of the matter is that typically in this league that's what the games boil down to."

NCAA Basketball

Profs say refs affect game

Associated Press

AP

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo has words with a referee in the Spartans' 82-73 win over Connecticut on April 4.

They don't all need glasses. But if you always suspected basketball referees are biased — well, you're right, according to a couple of professors who've studied the matter.

Refs favor the home team, the academics say. They're big on "make-up" calls. They make more calls against teams in the lead, and the discrepancy grows if the game is on national TV.

The professors studied 365 college games during the 2004-05 season and found that refs had a terrific knack for keeping the foul count even, regardless of which team was more aggressive.

Exhibit A: The 2005 Final Four meeting between Illinois and Louisville. The Illini, known for being more aggressive defensively, got whistled for the first seven fouls. By the end of the game, the foul count was Louisville 13, Illinois 12. The Illini won 72-57.

Results like this were the norm across all the games the professors studied from that season — from the Big East to the ACC to the Big Ten and all 63 NCAA tournament games. The take-home message for coaches: The more aggressive your teams the better because, in the end, the foul count is going to be about even no matter what.

It helps explain, the professors say, why college basketball has gotten increasingly physical over the past 25 years.

"Part of the reason for the study came from something my coach used to tell me," said study co-author Kyle Anderson, a visiting professor at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, who played at Division III Knox College. "He said a team can come in and push and shove and grab and hold, and by the end of the game, or end of the half, they've only got one or two more fouls because officials kind of get tired of calling it."

Among the key findings, which were published The Journal of Sports Sciences earlier this year:

—The probability of a foul being called on the visiting team was 7 percent higher than on the home team.

—When the home team is leading, the probability of the next foul being called on them was about 6.3 percentage points higher than when the home team was trailing. The professors also cited an earlier study that concluded there were more calls against teams ahead in games on national TV versus those ahead in locally televised games. Calling fouls against the leading team tends to keep games closer, the studies said.

—The bigger the difference in fouls between the two teams playing, the more likely it was that the next call would come against the team with fewer fouls. When the home team had five or more fouls than the visiting team, there was a 69 percent chance the visiting team would be whistled for the next foul.

As part of their 365-game sample, the professors looked at 93 games played on neutral courts, and the numbers remained largely the same when it came to leveling the foul count.

"There's something to it," said Irv Brown, a former official who worked six Final Fours and was supervisor of officials for the Western Athletic and Big Sky conferences. "If you're looking at the board and one team has a lot more fouls, you probably look a little harder to do something, subconsciously."

Brown said he used to experiment and try not to look at the scoreboard, but human nature dictates that referees will. Same for home-court advantage. Try as they might, there's no way a referee can completely block out thousands of fans yelling at him from close range.

"As an official, you get the reputation that you're tough on the road, and that's what you want," Brown said in a telephone interview last week. "But it takes a lot of years. You have to get established. Some guys who aren't established, you'll see them out there, trying to take some of the heat off, trying to take care of the home crowd."

Anderson said he talked to a number of referees as part of the research and the majority said "you're crazy. We don't do this."

"But a few others said, 'Yeah, I try to make it even out,'" Anderson said.

The NCAA asked for a copy of the study, and Anderson said he hasn't received any negative feedback — at least not yet.

The professors looked only at first halves because teams committing intentional fouls while in catch-up mode at the end of games skewed the second-half results.

Anderson and his co-author, David Pierce of Ball State, made it clear in the study that referees aren't intentionally trying to influence foul counts.

"We'd like them to have no memory and strictly call what's going on on the court," Anderson said. "But part of this is, if I'm a ref, I want everyone to think I'm fair and if I call 10 fouls on one team and two on the other, people are going to think something's going on here. It's sort of subconscious. And it points out one of the biggest problems with basketball is that it's a very hard game to officiate."

McGraw

continued from page 20

ment," McGraw said. "How do you play three days in a row and how do you adjust your game?"

The Aztecs are off to a strong start this season behind the outstanding play of forward Paris Johnson, who is averaging 14.3 points, seven rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game. Jene Morris leads the Aztec backcourt averaging 13 points and four steals per game.

"It going to be interesting having speed on speed," McGraw said. "We have a quick team but they have some great post players too and I think that is where our challenge is going to be. They will be a very difficult matchup for us because they can run and pressure defensively."

The Irish will counter with an impressive lineup of guards led by senior Ashley Barlow and freshman Skylar Diggins. In three games, Barlow has tallied 13.7 points per contest while Diggins, last week's Big East Freshman of the Week, has added 13.3 points per game despite not yet having cracked the Irish's starting five.

"Barlow is kind of the unsung hero of our team ... She doesn't get a lot of attention," McGraw said. "I think Skylar has done great so far, scoring and defending. I'm most happy with her defense, the way she gets up on the ball and gives us a lot of intensity."

"We aren't going to get to practice [in the Virgin Islands] which could be a problem."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Friday, the Irish will face the Gamecocks, who boast one of the most talented players in the country, before matching up in Saturday's finale with the Sooners.

Gamecocks center Kelsey Bone is averaging 21.3 points and 11 rebounds per game and was the second highest-rated freshman recruit coming into this season behind only Diggins.

The Irish will be short on bodies to throw at Bone as sophomore forward Kellie Watson will not make the trip due to a knee injury.

Senior center Erica Williamson looks to be Notre Dame's best option inside on the defensive end, however her minutes have been limited so far this season as she too continues to recover from an injury.

Overall, McGraw has been pleased with the results her team has achieved thus far and is intrigued by the unique challenge that this weekend's tournament will present.

"[The team has some momentum] coming off the win at Michigan State and I thought we played well defensively at home against Iona," McGraw said. "But we aren't going to get to practice [in the Virgin Islands] which could be a problem. We are going to see how the team reacts to that."

Contact Alex Barker at abarker@nd.edu

Florida

continued from page 20

and I have every reason to believe that we'll still be highly motivated. It's an opportunity for us again to play a top 25 team, so that in itself is perfect for us. We also know that this is really important in terms of getting momentum going into the NCAA Tournament."

The Irish recognize the postseason benefits they can gain from playing a demanding regular-season schedule.

"Playing Louisville this past weekend, who's playing at a very high level right now, and obviously Florida playing at a high level, we know that to get into the Tournament you have to keep getting better and better," Brown said. "We've consistently played at a higher level, we haven't peaked, and we know that the best is still ahead of us."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

NBA

Duncan, Spurs stop the Bucks, Jennings

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tim Duncan had 24 points and 12 rebounds, and the San Antonio Spurs halted the Milwaukee Bucks' three-game winning streak with a 112-98 victory Monday night.

Matt Bonner had 23 points off the bench and the Spurs won consecutive games for only the second time this season. They also finally took advantage of a big night from Duncan, having previously been 0-4 when the All-Star scored 20 or more.

Milwaukee Bucks forward Ersan Ilyasova is defended by the San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan during the second half of an NBA basketball game at the AT&T Center in San Antonio, Monday, Nov. 23, 2009.

Ersan Illyasova led Milwaukee with 20 points. Brandon Jennings scored 12, held well below his rookie-leading average of 25.3 points per game.

Michael Redd scored four points in his first action in nine games. The former All-Star strained a tendon in his left knee when he went up for a dunk during Milwaukee's first game of the season.

Bonner was 6 of 8 from behind the arc, matching his career-high for 3-pointers in a game.

George Hill had 14 points off the bench for the Spurs, who blew out their opponent for the second time in as many games. Five of San Antonio's six wins have come when scoring 100 points or more.

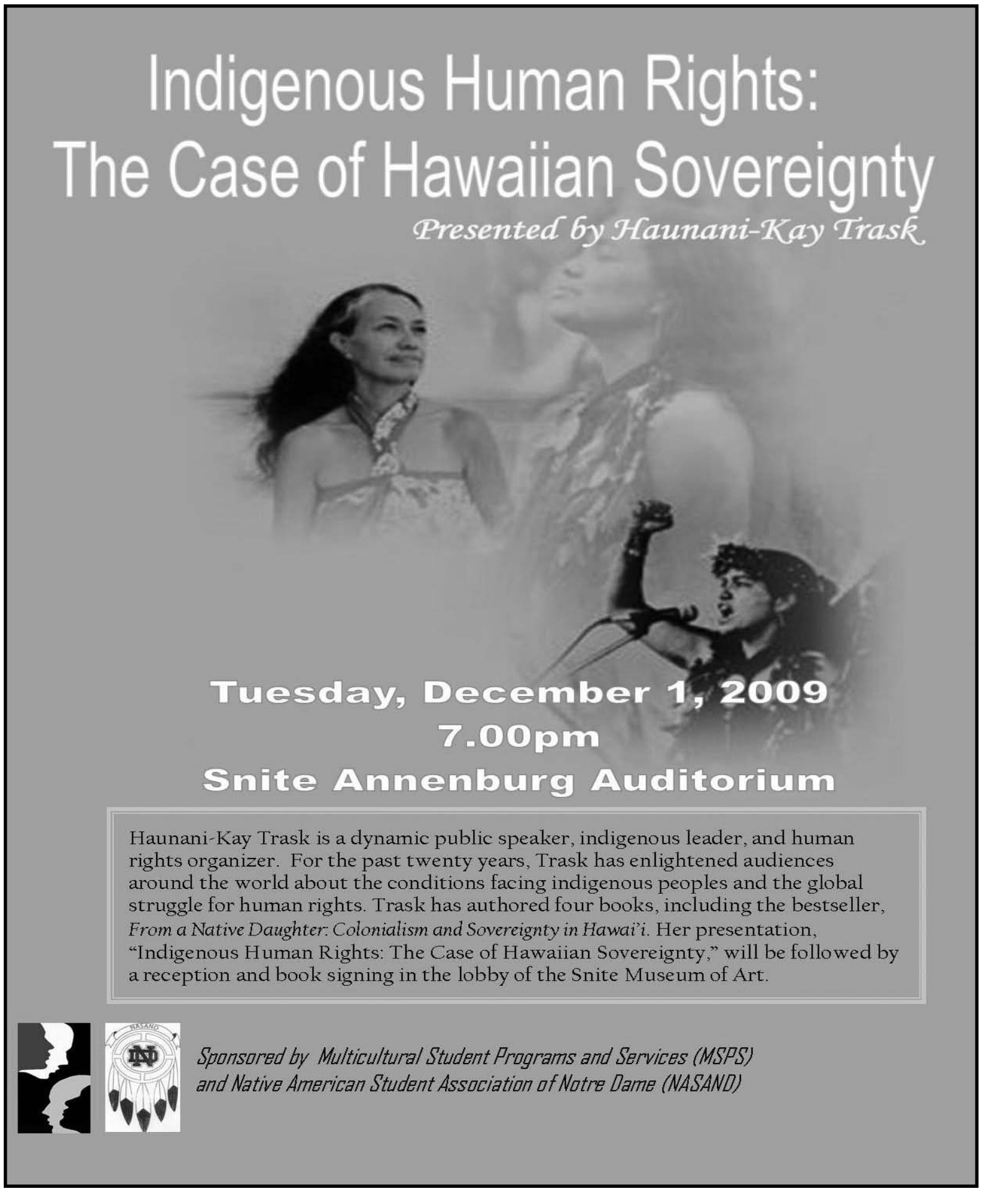
The Spurs (6-6) climbed back to .500 during what has been one of the worst starts to a season in the Duncan era. They play four of their next five at home.

Hakim Warrick scored 15 points and Carlos Delfino had 11 for Milwaukee. The Bucks entered the game as the top rebounding team in the league but were bullied on the boards 46-29.

Redd played 11 minutes off the bench and showed a predictable bit of rust while playing for the first time in four weeks. His first shot was a jumper that badly missed the rim, and he finished 1 of 3 from the field and made just one of six free throws.

Bucks coach Scott Skiles said Redd returned probably a little sooner than even he expected. But the 10th-year guard fared well after getting through his first contact practice Sunday.

Milwaukee lost for the second time in nine games as the Bucks (9-3) came to San Antonio off to their best start since the 2001-02 season.



Seminoles

continued from page 20

the two teams have played each other in the College Cup. The two teams faced each other in consecutive national semifinals matches in 2006 and 2007, with the Irish taking the first matchup and the Seminoles the second.

Since Notre Dame defeated Florida State in the national quarterfinals last season, Irish coach Randy Waldrum said he believes the Seminoles may be out for revenge against his team.

"I think certainly they'll remember last year and having to come here and play, and it seems like the last four years we've had to play them somewhere along the way," Waldrum said. "So when they beat us two years ago, we remembered it last year, so I'm certain they'll be thinking about it when we play them."

The game features two of the more prolific scoring offenses in the Tournament thus far, as the Irish are second in the field with 11 goals in three games, trailing only UCLA's 15, and the Seminoles have nine, behind the Bruins, Irish and Portland.

"It's going to be tough [to shut FSU down]," Waldrum said. "They have a couple of kids with [sophomore Tiffany] McCarty and [sophomore Jessica] Price up front as good as any forwards we've seen all year long and kids like [senior Amanda] DaCosta and Casey Short at midfield, you know a lot of kids who can score goals. They're just like us where they have a lot of weapons."

Waldrum said he believes both teams have multiple goal-scoring threats and that dead-ball set pieces could have a big impact on the game.

"They've got a girl with a long throw and we have [senior forward Michele] Weissenhofer with her flip throw, and we've been good in set pieces," Waldrum said. "I think the game could turn on a dead-ball play."

"They're just like us where they have a lot of weapons."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

As the Irish have advanced this far in the NCAA Tournament in each of the past six seasons, Waldrum thinks that the team should be ready for the matchup mentally, especially with their ability to adapt to different styles of play.

"The one thing I've been really proud of this group about, and I told them [Monday], is that this team maybe more so than some of our other teams has adapted to the game in terms of playing whatever style we need to play in order to win games," Waldrum said. "The one thing our team has done this year is to find ways to win. This team has shown that they can win in different ways."

Notre Dame plays at Florida State 2 p.m. Friday.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

Brey

continued from page 20

Harangody scored 32 points and had nine rebounds against Liberty, making all 10 of his free throws. Junior forwards Tim Abromaitis and Tyrone Nash both had 12 points.

Notre Dame has gotten great performances from Abromaitis off the bench this season. He has averaged 13.3 points per game and has made 11-of-16 3-point shots.

Senior point guard Tory Jackson is the final of the four Irish players who has averaged double-digit points so far this season — he scores 10 per game. He also averaged six assists per game in the first four games of the season.

The Owls are 2-1 and lost to Saint Louis 76-66 Sunday. Jon-Michael Nickerson and Markeith Cummings have both scored in double figures in all three of the Owls' first three games. Cummings leads the team in scoring with 16.5 points, and Nickerson is right behind him with 16. Cummings also pulls down 8.5 rebounds a game.

Brey said he wanted the team to focus on being basketball players given the fact that they have the week off of classes for Thanksgiving.

"Some of the school responsibilities are going away this week, so we can just become basketball players, which is a good thing given the challenges of this week," he said. "We can really step forward as a team."

The quick turnaround of games in the coming two weeks, Brey said, will test the team's abilities under pressure and fatigue.

"This is a good two weeks for us," Brey said. "It gets really intense. I told the guys I want to see them concentrate better than we ever have before."

Because of Notre Dame's early-season schedule, the freshmen — Mike Bronghammer, Joey Brooks, Jack Cooley and Tom Knight — have gotten some playing time. Brooks has made 57.1 percent of his field goals and averages two points in 19 minutes.

"We want them to compete and play hard," Nash said after Sunday's game. "They need to take advantage of every minute and every second out there. It's good to see them having fun. I'm glad to see them having fun."

Tip-off is at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Purcell Pavilion.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Rydberg

continued from page 20

improvement by six spots from their overall performance in last year's national meet.

"We didn't get out well and got stuck early on," Irish coach Tim Connelly said. "We didn't run poorly, but we didn't run as well as I'd hoped we would run."

Senior Lindsey Ferguson led the team, finishing 35th overall in 20:43. As a top 40 finisher, Ferguson earned All-American status, a goal she had been working towards since she began running at Notre Dame.

"[Ferguson] put herself up into the lead pack and just stayed there the whole race," Connelly said. "It was familiar territory for her. She decided early in the year that she was going to be the leader for us, and that's what she did."

Following Ferguson was Rydberg (21:04) in 54th place as the seventh freshman in the country, junior Marissa Treece (21:43) in 129th place, sophomore Rachel Velarde (21:44) in 130th place, freshman Rebecca Tracy (22:16) in 176th place, sophomore Kari Johnson (22:46) in 195th place and junior Erica Watson (22:47) in 196th place.

Despite the men's team not qualifying from the NCAA Regional competition, Walker made the cut to compete in Monday's national meet as in individual to represent Notre Dame. Walker came in 129th place overall in 31:12.50.

Though the 2009 cross country season is over, the teams will both begin training soon to prepare themselves for potentially making it to next year's NCAA Championship meet, but the necessary physical recovery is crucial.

"These kids never quit as they go from cross country to indoor track in January," Connelly said. "Right now, what we need to do is make sure that they're recovering from the season."

Both Connelly and men's cross country coach Joe Piane said potential growth in ability from the younger members of each team will be crucial to next season.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

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Crossword

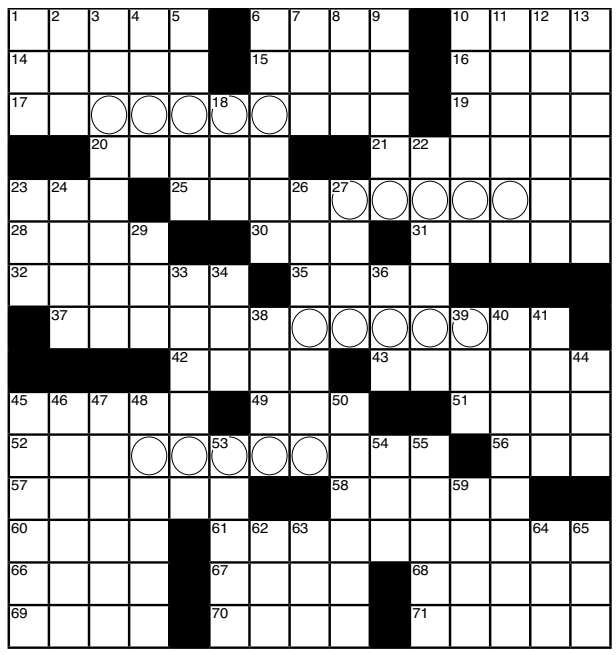
WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Composer Kurt
6 Basketball backboard attachment
10 It's the truth
14 "Are not!" retort
15 Dame who's a hoot
16 Jacob's twin
17 View from the Oval Office
19 Madams' partners
20 Grab ___ (eat on the run)
21 Wrecks beyond repair
23 Stay-at-home ___
25 Premium Scotch whiskey
28 Sportscaster Hershiser
30 Sip from a flask
31 Greeted the morning
32 First-rate
35 Tandoori-baked bread
37 Event featuring sports stars of yesteryear
42 Not a copy: Abbr.
43 New York's ___ Square
45 "Your 15 minutes of fame ___!"
49 Litter box visitor
51 Sushi bar soup
52 Pastry sold at pizzerias
56 Safety device eschewed by the Flying Wallendas
57 Levels of society
58 Like an unborn baby's position
60 10 C-notes
61 Make an abrupt change … and a hint to this puzzle's theme
66 Passbook amts.
67 Smooth, as the way
68 Kovacs of early TV
69 Word after Bay or gray
70 Eyelid woe
71 Aid in pulling an all-nighter

Down

1 It was hell, to Sherman
2 Punk rock subgenre
3 "You're on!"
4 Leopold's 1920s co-defendant
5 Mr. Spock's forte
6 Found on this page
7 Like a "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" item
8 Cyclops eye count
9 Trousers
10 Addams Family uncle
11 Panini cheese
12 France's Bruni-Sarkozy and others
13 Bit of a fight
18 Greece's capital, in its airport code
22 Tropicana fruit
23 ___ Holliday
24 Folkie Guthrie
26 Partner of oil
27 On ___ with (equal to)
29 Drug sold on blotting paper
33 Visit while on the road, as a motel
34 Broadcast
36 ___ Wednesday
38 Prey for owls
39 Biceps' place
40 The rest of the U.S., to Hawaiians
41 "You're something ___!"
44 Preceder of com or org
45 #2 in a prosecutor's office: Abbr.
46 Newsman Dan
47 Chunnel's home
48 Patriotic chant
50 Chewy coating for an apple
53 Says while choking
54 Tennis do-over
55 Three-star U.S. Army officer
59 Commercial prefix with "flot"
62 Busby or derby
63 Wall creeper
64 Ipanema's locale
65 "___ who?"



Puzzle by Gary Cee

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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L	O	O	N	S		L	E	I	S		E	N	D	S
I	N	N	S			D	R	A	T		S	T	A	T

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Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Austin Majors, 14; Salli Richardson, 42; Maxwell Caulfield, 50; Bruce Hornsby, 55

Happy Birthday: Take every chance you get to experience something new. Change is upon you and your acceptance of what's to come and willingness to go along for the ride will determine your success. An open attitude will spare you negative reactions. Follow through with your promises. Your numbers are 2, 11, 16, 19, 22, 36, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You don't need to depend on others in order to get things done or to get what you want. Getting someone else involved will hold you back. Don't give to an unworthy cause because you are tired of listening to complaints. ★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't let generosity be your downfall. Giving too much will set you back to an uncomfortable financial level. If you are too forgiving or emotionally sensitive, you will be taken for granted. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can make things happen and get the backing you need if you do your fair share but you'll be disappointed if you expect the work will get done magically. Bend over backwards to accomplish. You will get the returns you want. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You must let others know how you feel. Being open will help you obtain the freedom you require to live life your way. An original plan will allow you to fulfill a dream you've been thinking of for some time. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't assume anything, especially if it has to do with friends, family or money. Obsessing over the little things will cause poor health. Problems with your home or a move can be resolved as long as you are thoughtful of others. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You have to broaden your outlook before judging someone who is confused. Listening to other people's problems will make you see your own troubles in a different light. An opportunity at work may not be all it's being cracked up to be. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You need to relax and learn how to have fun. Giving too much, too fast to a new friend may cost you emotionally and financially. Deception is apparent, so question anyone talking big or promising the impossible. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take one step at a time, especially if you are dealing with someone who is jealous or doesn't want to share you or give you space to do your own thing. Include the people you love and you will avoid problems late in the day. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): This is not the time to take chances. Choose your words wisely and take action defensively. Be complimentary and describe the way you see things unfolding so that everyone is included. Give others leeway to do as they please. ★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Demands will not get you any closer to what you want, so back off and rethink your strategy. If you don't like the way things are developing, take a pass. Sometimes going it alone is a better alternative. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your confusion will lead you astray. Don't try to fix something without first understanding what's wrong. Emotional matters will affect what you do and say, causing problems with someone you care for. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't try to fool anyone if you don't know what you are doing -- someone will point it out fast, making you look bad. No one will conform to what you want unless you are on top of matters. Put everything in order before you let others get involved. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are the life of the party. You will take on anything, anyone, anywhere without hesitation and you will follow your beliefs in all circumstances.

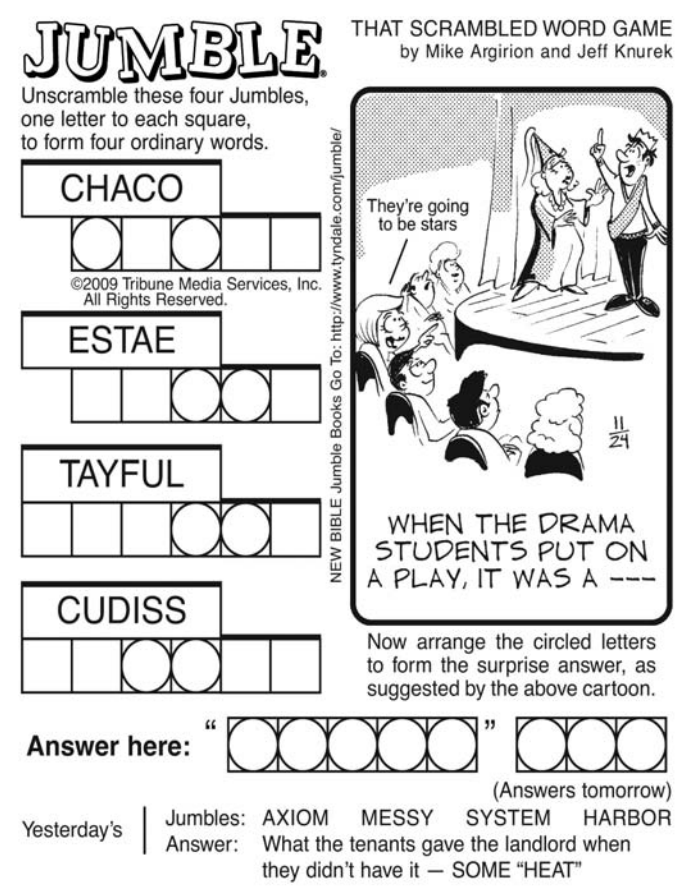
Schad & Freude

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK

The Observer apologizes for the absence of T.I.N.D.

Jumble

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION



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ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Rivalry Renewed

Seminoles stand in way of Irish once again

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

For the sixth straight season, No. 5 Notre Dame is making an appearance in the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament, and for the second straight year, Florida State stands between the Irish and a trip to the College Cup Final Four.

Unlike last year, Notre Dame will hit the road for this contest with the Seminoles. The Irish hold a 2-1 advantage in the all-time series between the two teams, but this will be the first time that Notre Dame has played in Tallahassee.

This fourth match-up between Notre Dame and Florida State will also be the fourth time that

see SEMINOLES/page 18

PAT COVENEY/The Observer
Junior midfielder Julie Scheidler takes a free kick against Oregon State during Notre Dame's 1-0 victory on Nov. 20 in the third round of the NCAA Tournament at Alumni Stadium.

ND CROSS COUNTRY

ND finishes season 23rd at NCAAs

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

The 2009 cross country season ended Monday at the NCAA National meet as the Irish women's team and senior Jake Walker from the men's team competed against the fastest runners in collegiate cross country.

"The team did well today, and we finished about where we were predicted to," freshman Jessica Rydberg said. "It was a fast race with a lot of competition and I think everyone stepped up to the challenge."

The seven women from Notre Dame competed as a team at Indiana State University's home course and finished in 23rd place overall with 519 points, an

see RYDBERG/page 18

ND VOLLEYBALL

Notre Dame heads to Florida before NCAA Tournament

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Following a narrow loss to Louisville in the Big East championship last weekend, the Irish face the task of bringing their best effort to the court when they face No. 15 Florida on the road Saturday.

Notre Dame (21-5, 14-0 Big East) fell to the Cardinals in five sets in the second round of the conference tournament, the fifth straight year the two teams have met in postseason play. Although disappointed by the outcome, Irish coach Debbie Brown said she believes her team hit the court ready to play.

"I think we actually played really well," Brown said. "We came up against a team who's on fire and has played extremely well. It's just one of those really competitive matches, and we got edged out right at the end. We can definitely learn from it, and there are things that we can get better at."

With that in mind, the Irish begin preparations for a Florida squad that has dismantled non-conference opponents.

The Gators (21-5, 15-4 Southeastern Conference) are coming off a convincing 3-1 win against No. 10 Kentucky, the division leader.

Brown is confident her team will make the necessary adjustments to succeed against Florida and future opponents.

"We weren't as strong offensively as we've been in the past, so a couple things to tweak there," Brown said. "We're in the process of looking at the film and evaluating things and trying to get the team into the best postseason shape that we can in terms of taking care of all the little things. We still think we're in a great place."

While Notre Dame's perfect Big East record did not translate into a conference championship, don't expect Saturday's game to have any lingering effects. The Irish followed up their last loss by rattling off 15 straight victories.

"I don't think motivation has ever been an issue with the team," Brown said. "I think it's a highly motivated group,

see FLORIDA/page 17

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish busy over Thanksgiving

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's season intensifies this week when the Irish face Kennesaw State today before heading to the Chicago Invitational Challenge this weekend.

The Irish (4-0) play their first game away from the Purcell Pavilion Friday when they play Northwestern in the Challenge. If they win, they advance to the finals Saturday.

"It's a busy week for us," Irish coach Mike Brey said after Notre Dame's 91-72 win over Liberty at home Sunday. "It's a week we can really get better. We have three practices and three games by Saturday night. It's a chance for us to really step forward as a team."

Irish senior forward Luke

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VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer
Senior guard Tory Jackson drives to the hoop during an 82-62 victory over Long Beach State on Nov. 19 at Purcell Pavilion.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

McGraw and team head to Virgin Islands

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

No. 6 Notre Dame will get a break from the chilly Midwest as it travels to play in the Paradise Jam tournament hosted by the University of the U.S. Virgin Islands over the Thanksgiving holidays.

"It's great for the girls to have such a nice destination to go to," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "It's just a great tournament and the teams we're playing will offer some strong competition."

With the number of distractions that will greet the Irish in the Caribbean, McGraw said she just hopes her team will be able to keep its focus.

"I'm a little worried about the focus of the team," she said. "The veterans should be okay, but it's going to be a bit of a challenge. We're going to keep our usual road trip routine, but when you look outside its going to look a little different."

While the weather and scenery are sure to keep Irish eyes smiling, the tournament competition will be far from accommodating.

Notre Dame (3-0) will meet No. 23 San Diego State (3-0) Thursday before squaring off with South Carolina (2-1) and No. 20 Oklahoma (2-1) over the weekend.

"This will be like training for the Big East tourna-

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