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Obama's first year in office examined

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

The first year in the Oval Office has featured the best of times and the worst of times for President Barack Obama.

On the one-year anniversary of his inauguration, Obama is faced with slipping approval ratings and the unforeseen bump in the legislative road after Republican Scott Brown won the vacant Massachusetts Senate seat.

In order to appreciate what lies ahead for America's first-ever black president, it is important to understand the accomplishments and shortfalls of his first year in office.

Political science professor Peri Arnold said Obama's first year in office should not be examined through a singular perspective.

"You must assess it through two different lenses, the first being a policy or substance lens, and the second a political lens," he said. I would give him a higher grade on the first dimension of the presidency than on the second."

Arnold said Obama has a "natural talent for executive leadership and administration" that has helped him in his first year.

"This is arguably one of the most fit people [for the presidency] we've seen in the 20th century. He is a very talented, smart, well-educated person," he said.

Political science professor David Campbell said while many of Obama's agenda items are still unfinished, he's accomplished feats comparable to many of his predecessors.

"It's easy to get caught up in the moment and say he hasn't

gotten health care, hasn't closed Guantanamo Bay, etc., but more importantly, he has done what all presidents need to do, which is assemble a political team," he said.

The president assembled a fairly moderate administration, which has received criticism from both sides of the aisle over issues such as the stimulus package and health care legislation.

Arnold said part of this comes from his desire to make centralist decisions.

"He has an administration that has made good, economic decisions that were very much middle-of-the-road decisions. This lead to him being attacked by both sides for not doing enough," he said. "Obama has a propensity to want to center himself in poli-

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IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

President Barack Obama delivers the University commencement address last May. This month marks Obama's first full year in office.

STUDENT SENATE

Senate passes non-discrimination resolution

Committees respond to offensive comic, examine student body donations to Haiti

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

Senators examined two pressing campus issues in its Wednesday night meeting — first in a discussion of a new resolution that calls for an examination of Notre Dame's policies toward the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and second in examination of how to provide relief to Haiti.

Resolution SS0910-09, titled "A Resolution

Proposing the Review of Notre Dame's Policies Regarding Homosexual Members of Our Community," was proposed by Robyn Grant and Patrick Tighe, co-chairman of the Committee on Gender Issues.

In addition to referencing the 96 Catholic universities that already have existing Gay-Straight Alliances, Grant encouraged all Notre Dame students to draw upon their faiths and moral values to create a more welcoming campus for the

LGBT community.

"As true Catholics, look beyond sexual orientation," Grant said. "One should never attract discrimination, harassment or violence."

Breen-Philips senator Maria Lynch praised the resolution as needed step of action in response to the recent comic published in The Observer.

"We have a tangible event that there's a problem on our campus," Lynch said. The "comic was a violent threat against these students."

The resolution also calls for the University to amend its non-discrimination clause to include sexual orientation.

Student body vice president Cynthia Weber expressed the significance that the resolution will not stop at only examining legal issues.

"It has the possibility of addressing cultural issues and other issues outside of legal issues," Weber said.

The Senate voted — with

see SENATE/page 4

PLS group holds area seminars

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

As the new semester comes into full swing, a dedicated group of a dozen students in the Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) is preparing for the upcoming short story discussion sessions they lead at local middle schools in South Bend.

These student volunteers are juniors and seniors who have participated in Great Books seminars during their studies at Notre Dame, and they share and discuss a wide selection of age-appropriate short stories by classic authors with the young students they lead.

The current seminar program, which involves students from Brown Intermediate Center, Holy Cross School and St. John the Baptist Middle School, is an extension of a successful Homeless Center Great Books program that has been run by PLS chair Stephen Fallon and PLS professor Clark Power since 1998, Fallon said.

A primary goal of the program is to provide new and challenging discussion opportunities for children who may not receive such intellectual opportunities otherwise. This goal reflects PLS's vision that if the ideas presented in literature are beneficial for everyone, they should be available to absolutely everyone, including children, Jane Doering, a senior PLS volunteer, said.

During the seminars, after

see PLS/page 6

ND cancels Innsbruck program

Students disappointed as University announces end to long-standing abroad site



Photo courtesy of Aaron Steiner

Students in the 2007-2008 Notre Dame Innsbruck program pose along the Inn river. The University is ending the program after this year.

By SARAH MERVOSH
Assistant News Editor

Even before women were allowed to attend Notre Dame, students were studying abroad in Innsbruck, Austria, the University's first study abroad location.

This spring, 46 years and nearly 1,300 students later, the Innsbruck program enrolled its final class.

"I'm really disappointed in the Office of International Studies' [OIS] decision," senior Madelaine Ambrus, who spent a year abroad in Innsbruck, said. "I think Notre Dame is losing out in a really impor-

tant part of its history. Notre Dame stresses the importance of tradition, but this decision is completely contradictory to the University's position."

Notre Dame will continue to provide a German study abroad opportunity at its site in Berlin, which was initiated in 2001, assistant director of OIS David Younger said.

OIS decided to discontinue the Innsbruck program because its popularity decreased over the last decade, to the point where only two students applied for the full-year program, Younger said.

see INNSBRUCK/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

You can laugh ... now

Despite the fact that he hails from the farthest reaches of North Dakota and resembles any number of different Muppets, Chuck Klosterman is my favorite popular author.

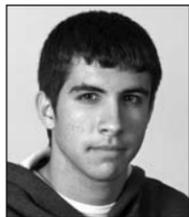
Klosterman's pop culture essays are often so abstract that they leave me puzzled, confused, but ultimately unaffected. However, in his latest book, "Eating the Dinosaur," Klosterman's essay railing against laugh tracks in sitcoms left me absolutely furious. I imagine it is something like how turn-of-the-century carnivores must have felt after reading Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle," even if the subject is slightly less grisly and dangerous to my personal health.

Klosterman's words were on my mind when I sat down to watch Monday's episode of "The Big Bang Theory" (a sitcom with a laugh track) with my roommates. Is there any convention of media that is as obnoxiously stupid as a sound recording that tells viewers when they should laugh? Halfway through the episode, I found myself uncontrollably laughing at a joke that left my roommates silent, which is not abnormal, as I am a bigger fan of the show than they. However, the joke also was not accompanied by canned laughter indicating that viewers were supposed to be laughing. For all intents and purposes, I could have been the only person in the world who was laughing at the joke. My laughter had alienated me not only from my roommates but also from social convention.

Why should I have felt this way? Amusement is — like sadness, anger, nervousness or jealousy — a very personal matter, which different people will feel varying degrees of. It is that fact which makes a laugh track so inane. The laugh track supposes that we are too stupid to enjoy the product on our own, so it provides an obnoxious cue to when the Hollywood honchos feel we should be laughing. Imagine this phenomenon in other facets of life. The sound of a sobbing woman is piped into your dorm room whenever a beloved character dies on "Grey's Anatomy" or during the climax of the latest showing of "The Notebook." The artificial sound of chattering teeth in the latest "Friday the 13th" movie makes sure to let you know that the threat of mutilation by a deranged killer should in fact make you nervous. The loudspeakers at Notre Dame Stadium give us a cue to when we should boo (although the "1812 Overture" did in fact serve this very purpose towards the end of last season. Ignore the last example). These examples would be met with overwhelming ridicule. So why do we allow laugh tracks to continue to descend to us?

I say we put a stop to it immediately. Thankfully, the laugh track has begun a slow, gradual death. The best sitcoms on TV already have forsaken the laugh track (think "The Office," "30 Rock," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia") and more and more each year follow suit. It's time to can canned laughter.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu



Chris Allen

Sports Wire Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: CAN YOU FINISH THIS SONG LYRIC? 'THIS IS THE STORY OF A GIRL WHO...'



Bianca Leonardo
sophomore
LeMans

"OMG, OMG, rah I love that song! They are playing at Legends on Friday!"



Josh Zavilla
junior
Zahm

"Was livin' la vida loca."



Kary Yergler
junior
Zahm

"Cried a river and drowned the whole world and while she looked so sad in photographs I absolutely love her when she smiles."



Elissa Gennicks
sophomore
Regina

"Became sleep deprived when all she wanted was a nap."



Mike Castillo
junior
off campus

"Heard Enrique in Zahm."



Scott Matthews
junior
Zahm

"Kicks them to the curb unless they look like Mick Jagger."

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



TOM LA/The Observer

Students discuss ways they can give back to the community at the Social Concerns Fair held by the Center for Social Concerns on Wednesday evening. Over 50 local clubs and organizations attended, offering a students a broad range of initiatives to get involved and make an impact.

OFFBEAT

Man calls police after paying for sex without getting it

MARLBOROUGH, N.H. — Police said a man and woman from New Hampshire are each facing prostitution charges after the man called police to say he'd paid for sex, but the woman then refused. WMUR-TV reported a 22-year-old woman and 32-year-old man were cited into court at a later date.

Police said the man called Marlborough Police on Monday to say he'd paid the woman and a third party \$150 to have sex with him on Sunday, but she wouldn't follow

through.

Police said they're still investigating the third party.

Man kidnaps teen at knife point after snowball hit car

ANSONIA, Conn. — Police said a prank turned potentially dangerous when a man angry about a snowball hitting his car allegedly pulled a knife on a group of youths and kidnapped one of them. No one was injured. Joshua Good, 25, was to be arraigned Monday in Superior Court on charges including first-degree kidnapping, threatening and reckless endan-

germent. The kidnapping charge carries 10 to 25 years in prison.

Police said a group of youths was throwing snowballs near Colony Park Friday night when Good's car was hit. Police say Good threatened the youths with a knife and forced a 13-year-old boy into his car.

Authorities say Good drove the boy home and didn't hurt him.

Good posted \$150,000 bail. He didn't immediately return a phone message Wednesday.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

"Expanding the Boundaries: Selected Drawings from the Yvonne and Gabriel P. Weisberg Collection" will open at 10 a.m. today. The exhibit will be displayed in the O'Shaughnessy Galleries West in the Snite Museum of Art.

An exhibit titled **"The World of Piranesi"** will be held at 10 a.m. today in the Scholz Family Works on Paper Gallery in the Snite Museum of Art.

The **Lucy Booth** will be offered in the Student Center Atrium at Saint Mary's College at 11 a.m. today.

Daily Mass will be held in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. today.

A lecture titled **"Islam and Economic Underdevelopment: Legal Roots of Organizational Stagnation in the Middle East"** will be held at 4:15 p.m. The lecture will be held at C-103 in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

"Futurism and the Mathematical Marvelous" will be held at 5 p.m. today. The lecture will be held in 131 DeBartolo Hall.

AcousticCafé will be held at 10 p.m. in the LaFortune Basement tonight.

The Student Union Board will present the movie **"Zombieland"** at 10 p.m. tonight in 101 DeBartolo Hall. Admission is \$3.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 22	HIGH 32 LOW 27	HIGH 38 LOW 30	HIGH 47 LOW 40	HIGH 45 LOW 25	HIGH 30 LOW 25

Atlanta 62 / 53 Boston 39 / 27 Chicago 34 / 29 Denver 44 / 19 Houston 77 / 60 Los Angeles 54 / 52 Minneapolis 30 / 19 New York 39 / 28 Philadelphia 39 / 28 Phoenix 66 / 50 Seattle 50 / 40 St. Louis 46 / 41 Tampa 77 / 60 Washington 37 / 31

CORRECTIONS

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

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

SGA discusses Haiti support

Board to take suggestions and plan ways to help nation after disaster

By MEGHAN PRICE
News Writer

At last night's meeting, the Saint Mary's Student Government Association (SGA) discussed possible ways in which the school could provide aid for the people of Haiti.

There are currently "Help for Haiti" change jars around campus, including at the front desk of the student center. The money collected will be sent to assist various groups in need, Katrina Mesina, SGA chief of staff said.

Carissa Salvador, president of the Student Diversity Board, informed other members of the Board of another ongoing relief project. Bettina Spencer, assistant professor of psychology at Saint Mary's, is the faculty advisor for a program that is

collecting extra T-shirts from past events at Saint Mary's and sending them to victims of last Tuesday's earthquake.

"We would like all the clubs to donate what they can," Salvador said, "Students can also donate their old T-shirts. Every one can help."

The Board also brainstormed other ideas like a Donate a Meal fundraiser, a canned food drive and a Hacienda or Chipotle Night in which proceeds would go to relief in Haiti.

The Board plans on accepting more suggestions and voting on the issue at their next meeting.

In other SGA news:

Megan Griffin, SGA vice president, presented a petition from the Political Science Club, asking for funding for a special funding program in Indianapolis in mid-February. The program, she said, is a selective learning opportunity for 18 college students, two of which will be Saint Mary's stu-

dents.

Griffin explained that the program was very important to Saint Mary's because it lobbied the state Senate and House for more funding for private colleges and universities.

"We would like all the clubs to donate what they can. Students can donate their old T-shirts. Everyone can help."

**Carissa Salvador
president
Student Diversity
Board**

"This is our chance to show that funding is really important for private schools as well," Griffin said, "a lot of grant money is in danger of being cut, which would affect all of us, especially students from Indiana."

The Board awarded the club the funds needed for two students' hotel room and transportation throughout Indianapolis during the program.

Griffin said this was an issue that they would be involved in beyond the three-day program. She said this was an issue to which both the club and College president Carol Ann Mooney were dedicated.

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Holy Cross gives hope to earthquake victims

Special to The Observer

The nearly unimaginable catastrophe of Haiti confronts any person of faith with the reality and paradox of the Cross, but for the brothers, sisters and priests of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the confrontation has been particularly intimate during the last few days.

Since 1944, when Holy Cross missionaries first came to Cap-Haitien, the congregation, the same religious order which founded the University of Notre Dame a century earlier, has established numerous educational, social and parochial ministries throughout Haiti. Holy Cross community is now organized there as the Province of Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours with 49 professed members, including two Holy Cross bishops, 25 temporarily professed members, five novices and six postulants.

Immediately after the earthquake, and continuing in its aftermath, stories of pain, grief, resolve and faith have circulated among the Holy

Cross communities internationally, all of them resonating with the reminder in their order's constitutions that "there will be dying to do on our way to the Father."

Holy Cross religious are a vital presence in this already beleaguered nation, 80 percent of whose population are members of the Catholic Church. And neither the Church nor the Holy Cross order was spared when the earth began to shudder. Returning to Notre Dame after having miraculously survived the collapse of the Montana Hotel in Port-au-Prince, Fr. Thomas Streit, founder of Notre Dame's Haiti Program, describing the apocalyptic horror he had witnessed in the rubble of the city the fact that "the churches were all gone, all of them. Places that I had prayed in, places that mean so much to the nation's people. That was their source of hope. And yet, people at night were praying and singing. They were holding hands as perhaps the only thing they could do without food or water. They turned to God."

Blair: bomber should have been terror detainee

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's intelligence chief said Wednesday that the Christmas Day airline bombing suspect should have been treated as a terrorism detainee when the plane landed. That would have meant having special interrogators question him before deciding whether to place him in the civilian court system.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was interviewed by FBI agents when Northwest Flight 253 landed in Detroit after he allegedly tried to detonate a homemade bomb sneaked through airport security in Nigeria and Amsterdam. Abdulmutallab is being held in a prison about 50 miles outside of Detroit.

Critics assert that the government should have at least considered whether to delay placing him in the civilian court system in order to press him for any useful intelligence before he gained the legal protections of a lawyer.

Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair told the Senate Homeland Security Committee that he was not consulted on whether Abdulmutallab should be questioned by the recently created High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group, or HIG, and charged in federal court.

"That unit was created exactly for this purpose," Blair said. "We did not invoke the HIG in this case. We should have."

The interrogation group cited by Blair was created by the Obama administration last year to handle high-value terror suspects, but it was envisioned for use with suspects caught overseas, not in the U.S. The group, to be led by FBI interrogators and including experts from a

range of agencies, is still being assembled and has not been deployed yet.

Blair said the decision to file criminal charges against the suspect in federal court was made "on the scene."

"Seemed logical to the people there, but it should have been taken using this HIG format at a higher level," Blair said.

Under questioning by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Blair and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said they were not consulted before the decision was made to not use the high-value detainee interrogation group. Also, Michael Leiter, chief of the National Counterterrorism Center, said he was not consulted.

"That is very troubling," Collins said. "It appears to me that we lost an opportunity to secure some valuable intelligence information, and that the process that Director Blair described should have been implemented in this case. And I think it's very troubling that it was not, and that three key intelligence officials were not asked their opinion."

Blair also said criteria for adding people to the government's "no fly" list was too legalistic. And he said that in recent years there has been pressure to shrink rather than expand the list because of a cascade of complaints from people getting "hassled" by authorities. "Why are you searching grandmothers?" was a too-common refrain, he said.

"Shame on us for giving in to that pressure," Blair said. Since the Christmas episode, the list has been expanded, he said.

In a separate hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, FBI Director Robert Mueller said al-Qaida and its

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This public service announcement was supported by Grant/Cooperative Agreement No. 1H75TP000339-01 from CDC. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

ND emphasizes smoking policy

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Several complaints from students, faculty and staff alike recently have sparked e-mails about enforcing Notre Dame's smoking policy, Mike McCauslin, the acting director of Risk Management and Safety, said.

The e-mails, sent to the student body last Wednesday, remind students, staff and faculty that smoking is prohibited within 25 feet of a building.

"The original focus of the e-mail was directed at faculty and staff," McCauslin said. "Smoking complaints typically rise during the winter months and also during inclement weather. People tend to smoke closer to buildings or under protective overhangs."

McCauslin said this causes two problems: smoke entering buildings through entrances, windows or ventilation systems, and people being forced to walk through smoke to enter a building.

"We decided to take the opportunity to remind University personnel of the policy. After the e-mail had been sent to University faculty and staff, we were encouraged by several e-mails to remind students of the policy," McCauslin said.

According to the policy, smoking guidelines were revised on April 10, 2006 to reflect St. Joseph County's smoking ordinance.

"The most recent change to the policy was in August 2008, when

the University incorporated the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements establishing a minimum distance from a buildings perimeter of 25 feet," McCauslin said.

This distance from the perimeter stops smoke from entering ventilation systems, according to the policy.

McCauslin said Risk Management and Safety received few complaints about students smoking in violation of the policy, and the complaints involving staff and faculty came from those entering the buildings in which they work.

According to the smoking policy, the Office of Human Resources will provide smoking cessation courses for any faculty or staff member that wishes to quit smoking, and the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education (OADE) will provide similar classes for any student wishing to quit.

"An annual survey of college freshmen conducted by UCLA has routinely reported that about 2 percent of our freshmen smoke," McCauslin said.

According to its Web site, OADE has developed the Resolve Program to Quit Smoking for student smokers.

Included in the program is a 20-day quitting guide, along with personal assessments and guides to help students quit successfully.

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SMC honors Fr. Moreau

College holds series of events commemorating founder's feast day

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

In honor of the feast day of Blessed Fr. Basil Moreau yesterday, Saint Mary's College prepared a special meal that featured food typical of Moreau's native country, France.

Each year the College honors Moreau with two meals, one on the day of his beatification in September and one on his Feast Day. Along with the meal, Mass was held in Holy Spirit Chapel in LeMans Hall. A reception followed the Mass.

Additionally, Sr. M. L. Gude, vice president of the College's Division for Mission, spoke about Moreau and the heritage of Saint Mary's.

"Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau is the founder of the religious family of Holy Cross, Sisters, Priests and Brothers. The Sister of the Holy Cross are the founders and sponsors of Saint Mary's College," Judy Fean, director of Campus Ministry said. "Moreau was beatified in Le Mans, France, Sept. 15, 2007 and his Feast Day was selected, Jan. 20, the anniversary of his death. Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau's vision of education was to educate the mind and the heart."

The Feast Day of Moreau falls within the College's

Heritage Week, which is dedicated to commemoration of the College's traditions and roots.

"I cannot think of a more appropriate time to celebrate Moreau's life than during Heritage Week at Saint Mary's," Jennifer Hoffman, student body president said. "The week's events are designed to educate students on the rich history and tradition of our

College. It is only fitting that we learn more about our history in order to appreciate our school today."

The events were designed to commemorate as well as educate students about the founder of the order of the Holy Cross.

"It is very important for us to keep Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau's vision of Christian education alive as we learn more about the mission and vision of the Sisters of the Holy Cross," Fean said.

She said Saint Mary's works to educate women not just in academics, but in social justice as well. Moreau, she said, acts as a reminder of this philosophy.

"Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau was always reaching out to be in solidarity with the forgotten or with those who lived on the fringes of society," she said. "Saint Mary's College educates women to make a difference in the world, to reach out to others, and to

work towards the common good of all people."

Hoffman agreed that it was important to remind students of the life of Moreau.

"Since Moreau played such a key role in the founding of Saint Mary's College, we students celebrate his feast day as a way to acknowledge and appreciate his vision, persistence, and determination," she said.

Contact Alicia Smith at
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Innsbruck

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"Student interest is the key factor in our ability to create and sustain study abroad programs," Younger said.

Younger said the decline of the Innsbruck program came at the same time as the addition of other study abroad programs.

"We feel that a large part of the decline was the added variety of study abroad destinations," he said.

Younger said OIS tried to rebuild the program in Innsbruck by incorporating an option for business students and adding a semester option.

Some students said these very actions, particularly the addition of the semester option, actually decreased Innsbruck's popularity.

"I think that OIS kind of shot themselves in the foot, so to speak," Ambrus said. "It's basically their own fault that there was a lack of demand, as they put it, because they cut down the year-long program into a semester-long program."

Senior Katy Smith, who also spent her sophomore year in Innsbruck, said the year-long

program was an asset to the Innsbruck program.

"My year was the first year that they did a semester program and the semester program allowed students to take classes in English for the first time," Smith said.

"To be honest, I think that was a big mistake," she said. "I think kids stopped doing the year-long program because they had the semester option as well."

Smith said her year abroad was the best year of her college career.

"I only had the option of a year to go over. It kind of forced me to be like, 'if you want to go abroad, you are going to do a year,'" she said. "It was a decision I never would have chosen otherwise, but I'm so glad that Notre Dame forced me to do it."

Smith said the Berlin program existed when she was choosing an abroad location, but she did not consider it.

"I don't know anyone who went. It wasn't at all popular," she said. "Innsbruck was the

main German program at the time. And it was also the year-long one and it was a lot more structured than the Berlin program."

Another benefit of the Innsbruck program was the housing option. Students lived in dorms with European students during the week, Ambrus said, and with a guest family on the weekends.

"In the Innsbruck program, you are immersed within the Austrian culture in the form of having a guest family. They teach you so much about the Austrian culture," she said.

In the Berlin program, students can choose where they will live, Younger said.

"During the pre-session, the students begin to search for housing in the city for the duration of the year or the semester," he said. "Some students may choose to stay in a German dormitory, find roommates or even stay with a host family."

Ambrus said the housing setup in Innsbruck contributed

to her feeling of community while abroad.

"Basically the sense of community that was present in Innsbruck is going to be completely different if they replace it with the Berlin program," she said. "[The students] were kind of like a little family. And then we also had the extension of the guest family."

Smith also said the size of the cities would contribute to a difference in the feeling of community.

"It's a very different culture [in Berlin.] I think Berlin is a huge city, where within Innsbruck you see a lot of the same faces," Smith said. "You really do become part of the town. People begin to recognize you."

Younger said the Berlin site is appealing because its language program is, relative to the Innsbruck program, more demanding.

"The Berlin Consortium for German Studies program is different from the Innsbruck program in that it is a much

more elite German language program," he said. "Students on this program enroll at an elite German institution, Freie Universität, and [it] requires higher level German language proficiency than the Innsbruck program does."

Ambrus and Smith both said they are upset about OIS' decision.

"Everyone thinks it's a huge mistake,"

Smith said. "People are shocked and upset and I think students will miss out on a great opportunity because of this."

Ambrus lamented the loss for future German language students.

"I had an amazing year. It was definitely the best year of my life, no question," Ambrus said. "So the fact that other people aren't going to be able to have an experience similar to mine ... I feel sorry for Notre Dame because they are losing an extremely important asset."

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Senate

continued from page 1

25 in favor of, zero against and one abstaining — to pass the resolution.

◆ In other Senate news: Concerning the relief efforts for Haiti, student body president Grant Schmidt announced that student gov-

ernment had collected more than \$5,200 from the student body. The money will be given to organization such as the Red Cross, Catholic Relief, Holy Cross Missions and the Notre Dame Haiti Program, he said.

A formal decision of how the funds will be appropriated is scheduled to be made Friday.

"This isn't the only effort

Notre dame students are making," University Affairs chairman Jeff Lakusta said.

Texting funds to Haiti relief hotlines and participating in dorm Mass collections are only two of the numerous ways that Notre Dame Students are helping the victims in Haiti, senators said.

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF

LUCY BLANDFORD PILKINTON

A.B., M.A., PH.D.

27 FEB 1943--19 JAN 1994

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Afghans plan increase in security

KABUL — The Afghan government and its international partners agreed Wednesday to significantly increase the country's security forces and outlined plans to lure Taliban militants from the fight in a bid to turn the tide of the war.

A joint panel of officials from Afghanistan, the U.N. and troop-contributing nations approved plans to train more than 100,000 more security forces by the end of next year.

The decision comes ahead of a Jan. 28 conference in London, which is aimed at boosting international support for Afghanistan in the face of a resurgent Taliban and complaints about runaway corruption in President Hamid Karzai's government.

Vietnam convicts democracy activists

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnam convicted four democracy activists of trying to overthrow the communist government on Wednesday and sentenced them to up to 16 years in prison for promoting multiparty democracy.

The most well known of the four defendants, U.S.-trained human rights attorney Le Cong Dinh, received a relatively light five-year sentence after judges at the Ho Chi Minh City People's Court deliberated for just a half-hour. The court apparently showed leniency because Dinh acknowledged breaking the law during his testimony.

"From the bottom of my heart, I myself and these three other defendants had no intention to overthrow the government," Dinh told the court.

NATIONAL NEWS

Worker sues for same-sex benefits

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal employee in California is suing the Obama administration to force it to provide health benefits to her same-sex spouse.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management told Karen Golinski that it was refusing to extend benefits to her wife because federal law prohibits the government from recognizing gay marriage.

The office made its decision over the objections of 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, who called the move illegal discrimination.

Golinski is a lawyer for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco.

The Office of Personnel Management says the Justice Department told it to ignore the judge's ruling because it went against the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

Texas man charged with murder

BELLVILLE, Tex. — A 20-year-old Texas man has been charged with capital murder in the shooting deaths of five family members, including a 2-year-old niece who also was decapitated.

Maron Thomas of Bellville is accused in the weekend deaths of his mother, stepfather, sister, brother and niece. He's jailed under a \$1 million bond and it wasn't immediately clear if he has an attorney.

Investigators alleged Wednesday that an ongoing family dispute led to the shootings, but declined to give details.

The bodies were discovered Sunday in their single-story home in Bellville, a town of about 4,000 people 55 miles northwest of Houston.

LOCAL NEWS

House panel passes gun bill

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill that would prohibit companies from banning guns in people's locked cars at work is on its way to the Indiana House floor.

The House Natural Resources Committee voted 10-1 to pass the bill Wednesday. The panel approved amendments that would allow domestic violence shelters and homeowners to prohibit firearms on their property.

The bill also would exempt refineries and certain facilities such as chemical plants that must register under anti-terrorism regulations.

Crews find explosives in gunman's home

Suspect, accused of shooting death of eight people, surrenders after manhunt

Associated Press

APPOMATTOX, Va. — A bomb squad discovered a multitude of explosives Wednesday at the home of a man accused of shooting to death eight people, and crews were detonating the devices as more details about the suspected gunman came to light.

Christopher Bryan Speight, a 39-year-old security guard, surrendered to police at daybreak Wednesday after leading authorities on an 18-hour manhunt following the slayings at a house in rural central Virginia where deputies found a mortally wounded man and seven bodies.

As of Wednesday afternoon, bomb squads had detonated seven explosives. The blasting was expected to continue into Thursday.

Speight had no weapons when he surrendered. He was wearing a bulletproof vest over a black fleece jacket, camouflage pants and mud-caked boots. Neither the sheriff nor a state police spokeswoman would disclose what Speight said when he gave up.

Authorities remained tightlipped on most details surrounding the slayings, including any possible motive. Nor did they immediately identify any of the victims or their relationship to the suspect. Investigators would say only that he knew his victims.

Speight, who was jailed while awaiting charges, co-owned and lived in the home where some of the bodies were found.

Reporters were allowed to see the home Wednesday. The two-story house had a big patio, where there was furniture, a children's bicycle and a plastic basketball hoop. The yard was landscaped and well-manicured.

Neighbor Monte W. Mays said Speight's mother deeded the house to Speight and his sister in 2006, shortly before she died of brain cancer.



Murder suspect Christopher Speight, center, is led out of State Police headquarters in Appomattox, Va. Wednesday. He surrendered after an 18-hour manhunt.

Mays, the county's retired commissioner of accounts, said Speight was a good neighbor. They waved as they passed each other on the road and sent their dogs out to play with one another.

"All the dealings I've ever had with him have been cordial and polite," Mays said. "We got along fine."

Speight had long been a gun enthusiast and enjoyed target shooting at a range on his property, Mays said. But the shooting recently became a daily occurrence, with Speight firing what Mays said were high-powered rifles.

"Then we noticed he was doing it at nighttime," and the gunfire started going deeper into the woods, Mays said.

Mays said the entire community is devastated and wondering what triggered the slayings.

"The only one who's going to know now is Chris," he said.

David Anderson, co-owner of the Sunshine Market grocery store in Lynchburg, where Speight sometimes provided security, said Speight was worried that his sister and brother-in-law wanted to kick him out of the house.

Speight never wanted to talk about it, but he "constantly paced the floor," Anderson said. "I thought he was going to wear a trench in it."

Clarence Reynolds, who also works at the market, said he recently discussed a personal family problem

with Speight, and Speight told him "don't let your emotions get the best of you."

Reynolds said Speight was not married and had no children.

Police were alerted to the bloodbath when they found the wounded man on the side of a road. Then sheriff's deputies discovered seven more bodies — three inside the house and four just outside.

When officers converged on the area, the suspected shooter fired at a state police helicopter, rupturing its gas tank and forcing it to land.

The shots revealed his location, and more than 100 police swarmed into the woods until Speight gave up the following morning.

HAITI

Aftershock terrifies desperate Haitians

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE — A frightening new aftershock Wednesday forced more earthquake survivors to live on the capital's streets or sent them fleeing to perhaps even worse conditions in the countryside.

A flotilla of rescue vessels, meanwhile, led by the U.S. hospital ship Comfort, converged on the capital. They are helping fill gaps in still lagging global efforts to bring water, food and medical help to hundreds of thousands of people who are surviving in makeshift tents or simply on blankets or plastic sheets under the tropical sun.

The strongest tremor since Haiti's cat-

aclysmic Jan. 12 earthquake struck at 6:03 a.m., just before sunrise while many were still sleeping. From the teeming plaza near the collapsed presidential palace to a hillside tent city, the 5.9-magnitude aftershock lasted only seconds but panicked thousands of Haitians.

"Jesus!" they cried as rubble tumbled and dust rose anew from government buildings around the plaza. Parents gathered up children and ran.

Up in the hills, where U.S. troops were helping thousands of homeless, people bolted screaming from their tents. Jajoute Ricardo, 24, came running from his house, fearing its collapse.

"Nobody will go to their house now," he said, as he sought a tent of his own. "It is chaos, for real."

A slow vibration intensified into side-to-side shaking that lasted about eight seconds — compared to last week's far stronger initial quake that seemed to go on for 30 seconds.

Throngs again sought out small, ramshackle "tap-tap" buses to take them away from the city. On Port-au-Prince's beaches, more than 20,000 people looked for boats to carry them down the coast, the local Signal FM radio reported.

But the desperation may actually be deeper outside the capital, closer to last week's quake epicenter.

Obama

continued from page 1

tics; for what he does is prudent and careful, maybe even too cautious sometimes."

Late last month, Obama's administration issued a self-report card, where they awarded themselves a "B+" for his first year in office.

Campbell said this was an appropriate grade given his accomplishments.

"From a political perspective, that was the right answer," he said.

"You don't want to give yourself an 'F,' especially because he has accomplished a decent amount. You also don't want to come off arrogant by giving yourself an 'A.'"

Despite the comments of his critics, however, both Arnold and Campbell said they thought Obama's expedient passage of the economic stimulus bill was one of his greatest achievements this year.

"By and large people genuinely agreed that we were on the brink of disaster and the stimulus bill pulled us back from it," Arnold said. "We avoided the cataclysm economically."

Campbell also said Obama's

desire to reach out and give America a better image to the rest of the world was something the administration prioritized.

Obama's successes in his first year in office enabled the president to become the first current U.S. president to win the Nobel Peace Prize since Woodrow Wilson in 1919.

With Tuesday's turnover of Ted Kennedy's Senate seat, however, Obama will have greater difficulty completing health care reform,

an item that has garnered arguably the most attention out of any issue on his agenda.

"On one hand, the enormous amount of progress made was extremely

impressive, the item has been on the agenda since Truman's administration," Arnold said. "Now, I don't know where we are today because of the Massachusetts election."

Campbell agreed with Arnold, but also said he believes the president has had a plan in case the initial reform fell through.

"Health care hasn't gone the way President Obama was hoping, but I would be willing to bet at the beginning of the administration this was one of the scenarios they planned for," he said.

While the passage of the health care reform bill has become more difficult, it appears there

"Health care hasn't gone the way President Obama was hoping, but I would be willing to bet at the beginning of the administration this was one of the scenarios they planned for."

David Campbell
political science professor

PLS

continued from page 1

reading the short stories, middle-school students engage in dialogue with Notre Dame PLS students about themes, metaphors and ideas they have about what they read. Doering said.

PLS works in full coordination with the middle-school curriculum coordinators in each school to incorporate the short story seminars into the children's school day, Jane Doering, executive coordinator of the discussion program, said.

"We could accommodate more than the 12 student volunteers we have, but we have to coordinate when the volunteers are free and when the teachers can fit the seminars into their schedules because of the tight middle-school curriculum," Doering said.

Doering also said middle-school teachers are enthusiastic about the seminar program because short stories are not usually incorporated into their curriculums. Because the stories can be read in a short period of time, she said, students have more opportunities to discuss what they have read with their college counterparts.

Senior Kate D'Ambrose said she is often pleasantly surprised by the level of understanding of the middle-school students despite the high level of literature presented by writers like Oscar Wilde, John Updike and Langston Hughes, among others.

"It's really interesting to see what the students get out of stories and what they think,"

D'Ambrose said. "The kids can get pretty deep with the metaphors in the stories."

D'Ambrose said discussing the stories in an environment that fosters respect for the young students and their abilities allows for a great deal of learning by both the middle-school students and the PLS volunteers alike.

"It's a very different situation for the kids, but it challenges them and gives them room to grow instead of learning in the structured environment they're used to,"

D'Ambrose said. "It also helps me become a better learner because you have to be creative and express yourself in different ways if the students don't understand something."

In addition to the educational benefits of the seminars, D'Ambrose said the children also benefit from having role models with whom they can converse on a more equal level.

Many of the students, she said, don't consider college as an option for the future.

Doering agrees that exposing children to fine literature enriches their lives as well as their intellect because literature, she said, speaks to the human condition.

"Fine stories are enduring works dealing with fundamental questions of human existence that have the capacity to engage the whole person in terms of the imagination as well as the intellect," Doering said. "It is important that these ideas are accessible to everyone."

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

are still a number of ways for Obama to pull up his waning popularity in the polls.

"With approval ratings below 50 percent, which is not different from Ronald Reagan's first year in office, some of it is recession-related," Arnold said. "That said, Obama could have done a better

job shifting the blame of the recent economic status. His moderation and coolness have led him to be less powerfully aggressive and is making him sell himself less than he could have."

Campbell said critics of Obama who have said he's "washed up" already are wrong in their

assessment.

"People are wrong who say he's washed up already," he said. "It doesn't mean he'll recover, but it also doesn't mean he won't recover."

Contact Liz O'Donnell at codonne1@nd.edu

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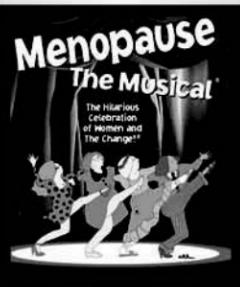
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Sunday, March 7	Bella Bridal Event Wedding Show

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 10,603.15 -122.28

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AMEX	1,881.82	-26.13
NASDAQ	2,291.25	-29.15
NYSE	7,329.83	-113.85
S&P 500	1,138.04	-12.19
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	10,673.33	-64.17
FTSE 100 (London)	5,420.80	-92.34

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP (C)	-2.26	-0.08	3.46
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	+1.04	+0.17	16.49
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-1.02	-1.17	113.89
POWERSHARES EX. (QQQQ)	-1.44	-0.67	45.92

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-0.27	-0.01	3.65
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.00	0.5
30-YEAR BOND	-0.44	-0.02	4.54
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.42	+0.01	2.41

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.87	77.15
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-27.00	1,113.0
LEAN HOGS (cents/lb.)	-1.20	89.05

Exchange Rates

YEN	91.2750
EURO	1.4120
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0474
BRITISH POUND	1.6303

IN BRIEF

Starbucks 1Q profits beat forecasts

CHICAGO — Caffeine lovers visited Starbucks Corp. more often — and spent more money when they did — during its fiscal first quarter, the world's largest coffee chain said Wednesday, more than tripling its profit.

The Seattle company that made grande and venti household words earned \$241.5 million, or 32 cents per share, for the three months that ended in late December. During the same period last year, when the recession was in full force and Starbucks was closing stores and laying off workers to cut its costs, its profit was \$64.3 million, or 9 cents per share.

Starbucks' revenue rose 4 percent to \$2.72 billion, up from \$2.62 billion.

"Despite our strong showing, we have much more work to do," CEO and Chairman Howard Schultz said on a conference call with investors.

Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters expected Starbucks to earn 28 cents per share on revenue of \$2.65 billion.

JetBlue may move headquarters

NEW YORK — JetBlue said Wednesday it will decide within three months if its headquarters will stay in New York or land in a new city.

The airline says it may move its corporate headquarters to Orlando, Fla., the site of its training facility. JetBlue has been considering that move for more than a year.

The carrier has said going to Orlando would likely mean consolidating its New York home office with its smaller finance department in Darien, Conn., at the new location. JetBlue has about 800 employees at those two offices.

Moving to Orlando would also mean a brand adjustment for the carrier, which calls itself "New York's hometown airline."

The lease on JetBlue's New York headquarters expires in 2012. The Connecticut office's lease expires next year.

Spokeswoman Alison Croyle said that no matter what it decides, New York will remain the company's operational home with its Terminal 5 at JFK Airport.

Times to charge online readers

Paper to institute fees for full Web site access beginning next year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Times plans to charge readers for full access to its Web site next year, reviving an idea that fizzled twice for the newspaper. This time it's betting that it will be able to wring more revenue from readers without crimping its Internet ad sales.

Under the plan outlined Wednesday, the Times will adopt a "metered" system that will allow readers to click on a certain number of stories for free each month before fees kick in. A metered system is designed to draw casual readers with free articles while getting fees from people who want to dig deeper on the site.

The fees won't be imposed until next year, giving Times executives more time to build the system and figure out the details that are likely to dictate whether the gamble pays off. The pivotal issues include determining how much to charge and how many stories will be free each month.

The only certainty for now is that subscribers to the printed version of the Times will still get unlimited free access to the Web site. That could help the Times sell more subscriptions to the printed newspaper among a portion of Internet readers who figure they may as well get the newspaper delivered to their home or office, too, as long as they have to pay to read everything online.

The newspaper also indicated it will meter the material it makes available on other online channels, such as through mobile phones, electronic readers and tablet computers. No further details were provided.

The metered approach has worked well for The



The New York Times plans to charge readers for full Web site access in 2011. The paper's headquarters in New York City are shown in this July 2008 file photo.

Financial Times, a more specialized newspaper that caters to an upscale audience interested primarily in news about the stock market, the economy and businesses.

Some newspaper analysts and executives have questioned whether Internet fees make as much sense for more mainstream newspapers such as the Times, whose stories span many of the political, business, sports and cultural topics that are covered by other news outlets that don't charge for Web access.

That raises the chances that hordes of fee-averse readers will flock to free news sites, a scenario that could also drive away Internet advertisers

interested in reaching the biggest possible audience. Any downturn in Internet advertising — one of newspapers' few areas of growth in recent years — could more than offset any benefit from reader fees.

The Internet currently generates between 10 percent and 15 percent of newspaper ad sales now, and the figure is expected to rise as more marketing budgets shift from print to the Web.

The Times could face an especially painful backlash because it has one of the largest newspaper followings on the Web, with 12.4 million visitors last month, according to the research firm comScore Inc. By com-

parison, The Washington Post's Web site attracted 9.2 million and USA Today drew 8.6 million.

Reflecting the stakes riding on its decision, the Times spent more than six months assessing the logic of charging for its Web site.

More newspaper publishers are likely to take the leap too, now that one of the world's best known newspapers has taken the plunge, said Greg Harmon, chief executive of Belden Interactive, which consults with publishers about Internet fees.

"This is like the industry is being given the permission to charge, almost like in a papal sense," Harmon said.

Democrats propose debt limit increase

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats on Wednesday proposed allowing the federal government to borrow an additional \$1.9 trillion to pay its bills, a record increase that would permit the national debt to reach \$14.3 trillion.

The unpopular legislation is needed to allow the federal government to issue bonds to fund programs and prevent a first-time default on obligations. It promises to be a challenging debate for Democrats, who, as the party in power, hold the responsibility for passing the legislation.

It's hardly the debate Democrats want or need in the wake of Sen.-elect Scott Brown's victory in

Massachusetts. Arguing over the debt limit provides a forum for Republicans to blame Democrats for rising deficits and spiraling debt, even though responsibility for the government's financial straits can be shared by both political parties.

The measure came to the floor under rules requiring 60 votes to pass. That's an unprecedented step that could mean that every Democrat, no matter how politically endangered, may have to vote for it next week before Brown takes office and Democrats lose their 60-vote majority.

Democratic leaders are also worried that Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., who opposed the debt limit increase approved last month, will

vote against the measure.

The record increase in the so-called debt limit is required because the budget deficit has spiraled out of control in the wake of a recession that cut tax revenues, the Wall Street bailout, and increased spending by the Democratic-controlled Congress. Last year's deficit hit a phenomenal \$1.4 trillion, and the current year's deficit promises to be as high or higher.

Congress has never failed to increase the borrowing limit.

"We have gone to the restaurant. We have eaten the meal. Now the only question is whether we will pay the check," said Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont. "We simply must do so."

What we can do together

The old saying goes that there are no atheists in foxholes. Even the most ardent non-believer, in this line of thinking, would desire to pray to a higher power in the face of great fear or impending death. Even though atheists themselves resent this implication, calling it an aphorism rather than a statistical claim, we can perhaps agree and hope that the worst of situations often brings out the best in each of us. So during this 100th anniversary Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, as I find myself praying for the many victims and heroes down in Haiti after the devastating earthquake and aftershocks, I believe and hope that there are no Catholics, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Evangelicals, Anglicans or Lutherans in Port-au-Prince right now, but simply followers of Christ, offering food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty and shelter to the homeless, binding up wounds and consoling the many who mourn.

Fr. Lou DeFra

Faith Point

The ecumenical movement, or the process by which separated Christian churches seek cooperation and unity with one another in areas such as doctrine, structure, tradition, authority and Scripture, has been gathering steam among Protestant denominations since 1910. The Roman Catholic Church officially jumped into the mix with the publication of the "Decree on Ecumenism" at the Second Vatican Council in 1964.

Each of us who calls ourselves a Christian must believe from the very start that we cannot be fully Christian outside a Christian community. The very nature of God points to this: our God is perfectly one, and at the same time three persons perfectly united as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We too are one when we are united in community through baptism and through the saving power of Christ. With spot-on perfect timing the second reading on Sunday will address this very issue, as St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, "all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ." Furthermore, St. Paul continues, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I do not need you.'" By the very diversity of the many parts of the body, the body becomes whole and complete. Can any of us, whether Catholics, Protestants or Orthodox, say to

another Christian, "I do not need you ... unless, of course, you'd like to become just like me?" St. Paul has thought of that, too. "If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be?" he asks. "If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?"

And so in our prayers for ecumenism, we do not simply ask that we would all become just like one another. The Holy Spirit has given to each of us, brothers and sisters in one baptism, a diversity of gifts. Prayer together and for each other strengthens us in the face of unbelievable suffering, just as it has surely enabled the many doctors, pilots, counselors, nurses, troops and aid workers in Haiti to offer their diverse skills to bring some measure of hope to a situation filled with despair.

In Lund, Sweden, the World Council of Churches in 1952 first stated what is now known as the Lund Principle: "Let us not do separately what we can do together." All of us can already work together to comfort, to rebuild, and to heal following an earthquake, a hurricane, a war or a tsunami. In these extreme situations we become a bit more like the one Body of Christ. In a great variety of

Christian denominations, believers have long felt the discomfort and the inconsistency of separation from each other, and since Vatican II, the Catholic Church too has actively sought constructive conversation with fellow Christians. Some issues have seen much progress towards shared understanding and common ground; others still provoke a "digging-in-our-heels" response that remains a great challenge to overcome.

We continue to see and hear heart-wrenching reports from Haiti. We know that quiet suffering persists in other parts of the world, here in the United States and right here in South Bend. Let us manifest the unity of all Christians as much as possible, through prayer, through bearing witness to the Gospel, through our willingness to become servants to the neediest among us. And let us not do so separately, for we can do it together.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More needed

Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, has been hit by a massive earthquake, affecting millions of people. Americans have already generously donated millions of dollars to help, but more help is still greatly needed. At this point, it is important to remember to give money to trusted organizations with a history of transparency, low overhead costs and efficiency to truly aid Haitians who need help the most.

Oxfam America was rated a top charity by the American Institute of Philanthropy and focuses currently on giving clean water to those affected. The American Red Cross is another top-rated charity. Besides donating money to cover immediate needs, we must also think of the future. It is crucially important for Americans to get behind the effort to cancel Haiti's debt. Corrupt and undemocratic leaders have amassed \$891 million in debt. Ordinary Haitians did not choose to build such debt, yet they see little if any of the benefits of the loans and are affected most by the burden of debt. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s response to the earthquake was to offer a \$100 million loan to this economically devastated country that has little chance of repaying the loan. Aid for development should come in the form of grants, not loans.

The Catholic Church spearheaded the Jubilee Year Debt Forgiveness effort that helped developing countries crippled by debt start anew and should take the lead again in helping Haiti recover. Additionally, the government of Haiti needs reform to stop widespread corruption and to end the cycle of poverty (Haiti was recently ranked as one of the most corrupt countries by Transparency International). I encourage my fellow Domers to keep donating money for relief efforts and to cancel Haiti's debt.

Claire Brosnihan

junior
abroad
Jan. 20

Spirit still missing

We commend the Editorial Staff's intention to apologize for including "The Mobile Party" in your Jan. 13 edition. As you note, the publication of the cartoon was, indeed, an "egregious error in judgment." However, the content of your apology continues to create concern. Referencing what you claim to be the regrettable acts of others (Sen. Reid) as you apologize for your own regrettable actions is an attempt to justify your actions, to make them seem more common, and therefore, less objectionable. As children sometimes say, "Yes, it's wrong, but everyone does it! Why should I be the only one that gets in trouble?"

Your apology also fails to fully name the act for which you seek apology, and to show an understanding of the historical context here at Notre Dame. The problem with the cartoons is not just hate; the problem is hate against sexual minorities that we as a University community and as a Church walk a very, very fine line in addressing. That line is often writ so fine as to be lost or willfully ignored by too many of us. Too often, it is we Catholics and Notre Dame — and not the secular world that we are so quick to condemn — who give witness to our own fears and prejudices, rather than witnessing for the world the New Commandment: love one another as God has loved us.

The Observer seeks to move forward. Dropping "The Mobile Party" and accepting the resignation of one of your staff members are first steps. Your problematic apology and failure to appreciate the historically unwelcoming atmosphere for sexual minorities here at Notre Dame continue to cause concern. And attempting to move forward without University officials taking the opportunity to state boldly and publicly that hate and discrimination against sexual minorities are an affront to justice, let alone to the "Spirit of Inclusion," would be an opportunity wasted. Rather than censor or impose stricter editorial supervision on The Observer, the University has wisely allowed those who created and those who allowed the cartoon to be published the opportunity to take full responsibility for their actions. But what is now lacking is the University's pro-active leadership

to ensure that Notre Dame is no longer topping lists for intolerance of sexual minorities.

Martin Luther King, a man who knew great hate and discrimination, explained "Discrimination is a hellhound that gnaws at Negroes in every waking moment of their lives to remind them that the lie of their inferiority is accepted as truth in the society dominating them." In honor of his witness, we take this opportunity to speak truth to the lie that sexual minorities are unequal members of our community. We ask the Editorial Staff and the University to do the same.

Sean B. O'Brien
Felicia O'Brien
Jill Godmilow
Susan StVile
Catherine Perry
Stephen Fredman
Jim Sterba
Steve Tomasula
Maria Tomasula
Clark Power
Ann Power
Francisco Aragon
Lionel Jensen
Fred Dallmayr
Margaret Doody
Robin R. Rhodes
Kristin Shrader-Frechette
Peter Walshe
Sean T. O'Brien
Judy Fox
Brian S. Collier
Mary Beckman
Carolina Arroyo
Jay Brandenberger

Members of the Notre Dame Progressive Faculty and Staff Alliance
Jan. 20

GLAAD on 'Party'

As a Catholic, a father, and a gay man, I was deeply troubled to see "The Mobile Party" cartoon printed in The Observer on Jan. 13.

My faith is an important part of my life. As a Catholic, I've always cherished our traditions of promoting peace and kindness to all people. Jesus taught us that, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." We are called to abhor violence, and to treat our fellows with respect. Sadly, this cartoon did not live up to this teaching.

In America today there are still far too many cases of anti-gay violence; violence that is often the consequence of slurs that demonize people by demeaning who they are. This imagery is real for many

Americans, because we've seen the stories of Matthew Shepard, Gwen Araujo, Angie Zapata, Simmie Williams, Steven Lopez Mercado and far too many others. These young people were targeted for violence by people who hated them because they were gay or transgender.

Let there be no mistake, images in the media make an incredible impact, and this cartoon diminished the sense of safety and respect among many people — gay and straight alike — in the Notre Dame community.

As the father of two teenage boys, I worry about sending my sons out into a world where this type of violence is promoted for a cheap laugh. GLAAD's conversations with students and alumni over the past week

affirm an important truth: there are gay, lesbian, bi and transgender (LGBT) students currently attending the University of Notre Dame. GLAAD knows, from conversations with students and community members, that Notre Dame feels less safe for LGBT people today than it did before this cartoon was printed. The school administration was right to publicly and forcefully condemn this cartoon and the violence it promotes.

It is admirable that Jenn Metz, the Editor-in-Chief of The Observer acted quickly to issue an apology on these editorial pages. It's worth noting that those responsible for creating the cartoon issued an apology through the Letters to the Editor section of this paper, and that the editor who made

the decision to publish the cartoon has apologized and resigned from The Observer. These important initial steps must be followed by concrete actions that ensure anti-gay and anti-transgender material is not published again. As an organization dedicated to fighting anti-LGBT defamation and proactively sharing stories of LGBT people, GLAAD stands ready to be a partner in these conversations. Together we must work to undo the harm created by this divisive and dangerous cartoon.

Jarrett T. Barrios

president
Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)
Jan. 20

By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

With 2009's Palm d'Or winner, "White Ribbon," author Michael Haneke has further cemented himself as not only one of the world's premiere directors but as perhaps the most uncomplicated social critic in the industry while wrought with complexity at the same time. His deliberately paced tour de force of a film is unnerving at the least, and at the most, downright horrifying in its illumination of what we as humans are not only capable of but what is a part of our very nature. With the lights casting deep shadows on the cast, Haneke's pre-WWI period piece manages to delve deep into the confines of both sides of our black and white world — more specifically, into the death of innocence and the manifestation of evil.



A MASTERPIECE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER

His comment on the human condition, so beautifully rendered here in

luscious black and white, is a harrowing look into a culture veiled in a blanket of lies that only make the mysterious atrocities witnessed in the seemingly unsuspecting German town all the more revealing as a precursor to the atrocities perpetrated by Germany in the years to come.

The unnamed North German town is governed by an unquestioned moral code that is nothing more than a mistaken façade defied by all levels of the hierarchy in ever more serious ways. The children, seemingly the only innocent characters in the film, suffer the most from this code, while the adults, mainly the religious heads and powerful men, the keepers of the code, carry on as if they haven't raped, cheated, stolen and murdered. The children however are the true evil in this film. True to the word of Thomas Hobbes, they internalize the wickedness of their parents, adhere to the blanket of falseness their town forces on them, and carry on with their stagnant lives as innocence, the town's gold — the gold of humanity — goes to die.

Armed with a keen eye for composition and an exceptional understanding of actor blocking, Haneke elevates the medium to a polished form of classic black and white that makes the film altogether believable as a period piece as well as metaphorical. His evil souls stand out against the dreary grey backdrop of the town, while the meticulous details that fill the

screen distract from the monstrosities, or humans, depending on how you judge them, looming in the forefront. When all else fades to black though, the shot sits still to reveal the entire cast sitting in a church almost as if to be judged by God, and only a white ribbon remains, reminding us all of the innocence that has eluded the town, and would go on to elude the country.

What exactly is happening in this small German town? Just who is responsible? And why? These are the pivotal questions looming over the town throughout the film, but just as elusive as they seem, the answers are staring at us the entire time, making no attempt to hide themselves from our glare. And therein lies the beauty of the mystery — that there may be no mystery at all, and maybe, even, that while the characters are speaking German, and while we know beforehand what Germany did in the decades to come, "White Ribbon," as dated and national as it is, may not be about Germany. Not really, anyway. Maybe the film's setting and seeming criticism of Germany is just as much a façade as is the religiousness and morality of the town we slowly but surely begin to shake our heads in dismay towards. We're frowning at ourselves really — at

Germany for the manifested monstrosity that it was — but at ourselves for the monstrosity that deep down inside, we know we can be and in many ways are.

There's an undeniable truth in seeing what we, not just Germans, are capable of, and where it starts and how it grows. Evil is humanity, Haneke asserts. And with that being said, this is a veraciously chilling film, one that, perhaps, never answers the real question at its core, "What makes us capable of such atrociousness?"

Maybe the question isn't meant to be answered. Maybe it's not even important, just like the questions of who, what, and why.

Or perhaps ... Perhaps it is meant to be answered.

Maybe the answer is staring us in the face all along, just like the guilty children are. Maybe — or come to think of it — almost assuredly, the answer is that the

heinousness perpetrated in this film runs through our veins just the same as blood does, and that no dose of religion or moral code can deny nature its just desserts.

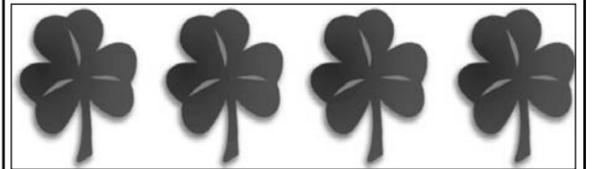
And there lies the secret to the only film this year truly deserving of being called a masterpiece: a simplistic complexity, or sweeping narrowness. Here, Haneke creates no eluding tale wrought with perplexities. Confused, and in denial perhaps, we search for something greater than is actually there, something as complex as we foolishly perceive the film to be. But our search is all for naught. Haneke has crafted no elusive puzzle. Instead, he shows naked humanity, after all of the facades we cloak ourselves in, after all the lies we tell ourselves. He delves into the soul and peers directly at the head of the heart, and without color, without hesitation and without apology, reveals the sewage that is man. Nothing more. Nothing less.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu



'White Ribbon'

Directed by: Michael Haneke
Noteworthy Tracks: Ulrich Tukur, Christian Friedel, Ernst Jacobi, Leonie Benesch



By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

20. The Return (2004)

A deliberately paced masterful allegory that defines simplicity, and for that reason alone it works. The pacing of this Russian language film, the best from that nation this decade, is eerie in a way rarely seen in the medium, and the acting, of those meant to be scared, coupled with those doing the scaring, is enough to send cool shivers down the spine throughout the film's runtime.

19. Once (2007)

Folk singers/songwriters and first time actors Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova share the same screen in the most touching love story to grace the silver screen in quite some time. The music will grab you and never let you go, for Hansard sings as though he's exposing his bare soul to the world in the form of words wrought with the kind of emotional power that can only be evoked by someone truly, and I stress the word "truly," in love. His music, so naked and bare, are love songs in the truest sense. And that is the overriding triumph here—the connection between these two and the rawness that Hansard brings to the role as a man, we assume, who has felt the real thing, that rare thing, the one dreams are made of and the one that in the end may only happen "Once," if ever.

18. Waltz With Bashir (2008)

A paradox of a film, this animated documentary about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the 1980's is a marvel in every sense of the word. It will at once tug and tear at your insides forcing you to want to look away in anguish, only to fail because the animation draws you in

and doesn't let you escape its otherworldly allure.

17. Antichrist (2009)

Costars Charlotte Gainsbourg and Willem Dafoe give their entire selves and then some unto director Lars von Trier's bare-as-bones, uncompromisingly bleak view of human nature. The self-proclaimed "best director in the world" admitted to having suffered from chronic depression during the filming of the movie, and the film undoubtedly benefits from it, as it crosses into rare territory.

ritory of being truly affecting art. Art that at once will terrify his audience, abandon it, but ultimately, attest to the true visceral power of film, and its ability to not only

unnervingly but to leave permanent scars.

16. Werckmeister Harmonies (2000)

Touching on everything from Thomas Hobbes to the relationship between music and nature, Bela Tarr's unapproachable but unforgettable philosophical drama is one of the greatest hidden gems of the decade. It feels like a classic even as you watch it for the first time, and despite the difficulty in discerning the film's meaning, or even its plot really, it's a few heart-stopping moments, shots suspended in time and washed in nearly unequalled grace that make this film truly worth the trip.

15. Borat (2006)

Call it what you will — crude, distasteful, offensive, downright disgusting — but for all of the naked wrestling and drunken Pamela Anderson-ogling, Sacha Baron Cohen's exercise in social criticism veiled as a comedy is pure brilliance. Whether that brilliance was intentional or just stumbled upon is the big question, but to paint a picture of what Cohen has managed to do here, the Soviet Union exhausted billions of dollars and countless resources in an effort to paint America as a stupid, racist,

hypocritical farce of a country, but failed. In two hours of relentless stu-

pidity that'll have you literally crying from laughter, Sacha Baron Cohen has succeeded at what a once superpower could not.

14. The Lives of Others (2006)

Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck not only impresses, but amazes with his first feature length film. It stole the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar from right under "Pan's Labyrinth's" nose and rightfully so, as this story of a couple under the surveillance of the Stasi during the final hours of East Germany's existence is a pitch-perfect thriller that at once will bring you aback and hate its main character, the Stasi man tasked with the surveillance (Ulrich Muhe in a perfect, and I mean perfect, performance), and then feel for him, and instead hate the system as he begins to turn against it.

13. The Diving Bell and the Butterfly (2007)

The lavish and oftentimes unruly Jean-Dominique Bauby, former editor-in-chief of French "Elle," is the subject of Julian Schnabel's aesthetically wonderful, masterfully shot film about the late editor's life after being diagnosed with "locked-in" syndrome. Paralyzed from head-to-toe by a stroke and able only to use one eye, Bauby underwent a tremendous journey of self-discov-

ery and overcame his condition to the point that he dictated an entire book that shares the title of this film. He was a truly inspiring person and through his one eye, we see the world from his perspective, unable to go our own way or do anything but blink and stare, but through that one eye, we see a world filled with breathtaking beauty.

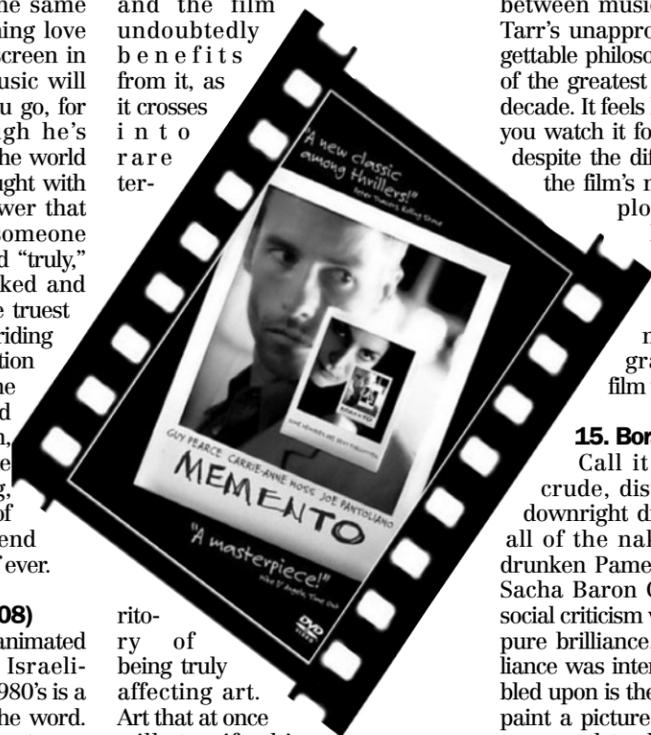
12. The Wrestler (2008)

An awe-inspiring tour de force of a film, Darren Aronofsky's masterpiece is so deeply penetrating, that it becomes a sort of beautiful requiem. Mickey Rourke's performance as an over-the-hill wrestler trying to hold onto the false hope that he can mount a comeback is iconic at the least and deserves placement alongside the great screen performances of all time.

11. Memento (2000)

A supremely crafted get-in-your-head-and-stay-there psychological thriller with a killer twist to boot, Christopher Nolan's most critically celebrated film is audacious in everything from its structure to its gritty pacing. This is edge-of-your-seat stuff that ranks up there with the most meticulous films of our time, or any time for that matter. Really, it's nothing short of a truly captivating and mentally stimulating experience, and a rare one at that, because unlike most films of its ilk, it manages to completely tie together every loose end with painstaking precision.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu



Weekend Events Calendar

thursday

friday

saturday

sunday



DPAC, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Student Film Festival

The 21st Annual Student Film Festival will premiere tonight at the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It comprises films produced by Notre Dame students, many made for a variety of film classes offered on campus. The Student Film Festival is always a very popular event, highlighting the extraordinary talent of the Notre Dame student body. Each film lasts between three and 15 minutes and promises to exhibit the acting skills of students and faculty alike. The festival will continue on Friday and Saturday evenings at the same time, so there are plenty of opportunities to attend. This event always sells out quickly, so be sure to get tickets ahead of time.

Legends, 10 p.m. Nine Days Concert

Some of you may remember the rock/pop band Nine Days from the early 2000's just by their name alone. Others of you would certainly recognize their song "Absolutely (Story of a Girl)." Or you may have never heard of them at all. Regardless, the band is set to perform at Legends this Friday night and it promises to be a great show. With the combination of a catchy turn-of-the-century (the 21st century, that is) sound and lots of energy, Nine Days is sure to be a crowd pleaser. After Nine Days has put you in a nostalgic state of mind, hang around for the 90s nightclub at midnight.

Legends, 10 p.m. Joze Valdez and the Mambo Allstars

Joze Valdez and the Mambo Allstars will be performing at Legends Saturday night. The band is known for their combination of classical and modern Latin beats, encompassing many popular forms of Latin dance including salsa, meringue and cha-cha among others. They have performed at many well-known venues including the Taste of Chicago, Summerdance at Grant Park and the Adler Planetarium. This energetic dance music is sure to get your blood pumping and your toes tapping. Even better, it will put you in the mood for Salsa night, which starts at midnight. Be sure to bring your friends and embrace your inner, or outer, Latin dancer.

Free Day

Sunday is the perfect day to relax and prepare for the week ahead. Take this time to catch up on homework, enjoy a cup of coffee and a movie or watch the latest episode of your favorite TV show. If staying in is out of the question, this could be a good day to grab lunch with friends off campus or go to the women's basketball game at 1 p.m. at the Purcell Pavilion. Above all, this is the perfect day to get rejuvenated and ready to do it all again next week. As students, we all need to be sure to slow down from our lives and take care of ourselves. And it is never too early to start.

Contact Genna McCabe at gmmccabe@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

For a band whose American debut album was slated as one of the top-10 releases in 2009 by Rolling Stone magazine (in the Dec. 17 edition), British hipsters The xx surprisingly are not megastars in the states ... yet. Consider yourself warned. The quartet is poised to permeate U.S. airwaves with their critically acclaimed self-titled album.

Named one of Spin Magazine's top-10 bands to watch in 2010, The xx arrived on U.S. shores in late 2009 to great fanfare in the underground music scene. With the dawning of a new year and decade, the band continued their systematic infiltration of the American music scene, while being praised avidly on National Public Radio.

Currently, the band is touring internationally, and is already billed to play at this spring's Coachella Music and Arts Festival.

The band's sound is simplistic, yet unique. Featuring his and hers vocalists, a reverb-laden,

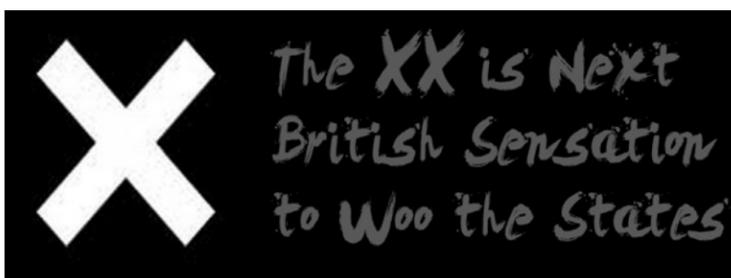
and Chris Isaac's "Wicked Games," and you may loosely recreate The xx's spacey style.

Interestingly, despite The xx's creativity and uniqueness, the minimalism in their work is just as critical to their success as the stylistic techniques they employ. Their music sounds as if it was recorded in a great open hall. Each song sounds as if it cannot fill the virtual space of the track, yet this characteristic dramatically emphasizes the individual portions of the band's personality.

Lead singer-bassist Oliver Sim and guitarist-vocalist Romy Madley Croft nonchalantly croon

relationships and coming clean to significant others. In "Crystallized," Sim groans "Things have gotten closer to the sun/and I've done things in small doses/so don't think that I'm pushing you away/when you're the one that I've kept closest." Comparatively, in "Shelter," Croft confesses, "I still want to drown whenever you leave/please teach me gently how to breathe."

The interaction between Sim's deep drone and Croft's breathy utterances is, at times, like witnessing an exchange between embattled loved ones. Thus even in the simplicity of "xx," each song can be interpreted as dramatic, realistic and personally telling. For all of the musical effort put into "xx," what stands out about the Brits' debut is its simplicity. The xx do not overwhelm listeners with



staccatoed guitar, profound synthesizers and mod beats, "xx" creates a smoky room aura of musical coolness. Think equal



parts Explosions in the Sky, Peter, Bjorn and John,

and mumble lyrics about romantic uncertainty, tumultuous rela-

'xx' The xx

Record Label: Young Turks

Noteworthy Tracks: "Crystallized," "Shelter"



showy instrumentation or addicting vocals. Rather, The xx set a mood — one that is open to audience interpretation. Perhaps it is the band's tendency to err on the side of minimalism that allows for spooky and mystifying atmospheres to be created in the music.

As an album, "xx" flows brilliantly from the introductory track to its 11th and final song. The band maintains its spacey identity while producing a new characteristic in each track. For a fresh and difficult-to-characterize sound from an emerging band, give "xx" a listen before it becomes England's next big export.

Contact Patrick Griffin at pgriffi3@nd.edu

ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Georgetown upsets Pittsburgh in Big East battle

Wake Forest hands Tar Heels their first three-game losing streak under Williams; Temple holds off Xavier

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Chris Wright scored 27 points and No. 12 Georgetown held No. 9 Pittsburgh scoreless for four minutes while taking control with a late 9-0 run and the Hoyas ended the Panthers' eight-game winning streak with a 74-66 victory Wednesday night.

Austin Freeman and Greg Monroe added 13 points each, and Monroe fed Julius Vaughn inside for a key basket that made it 66-58 with 3:50 remaining after Vaughn put in a free throw to complete the three-point play. Vaughn scored 11 points.

Gilbert Brown scored a career-high 20 points for Pitt, but the Hoyas (14-3, 5-2 in Big East) ended Pitt's 31-game home winning streak a season after the Panthers stopped Georgetown's 29-game run at home by winning 70-54.

Pitt (15-3, 5-1) missed a chance to go 6-0 in the Big East for the first time and lost for only the third time in 13 home games against ranked opponents since the Petersen Events Center opened in 2002.

Pittsburgh led 56-54 on Jermaine Dixon's 3-pointer with 7:48 remaining, but the Panthers didn't score again until Brown made two free throws with 3:48 remaining that cut the Hoyas' lead to 63-58.

Wright hit a 3-pointer that put the Hoyas ahead for good at 59-56 before Wright and Freeman

dunked on successive possessions to finish a decisive run that began with Monroe's two free throws.

Pitt hadn't lost at home since a 75-73 loss to Louisville on Feb. 23, 2008. The Cardinals led Pitt by five points in the final minute Saturday, but the Panthers came back to win 82-77 in overtime.

Georgetown shut down Pitt's leading scorer, Ashton Gibbs, by limiting him to eight points — 9.5 below his average — on 3 of 16 shooting, including 2 of 8 from 3-point range. Gibbs also was the primary defender on Wright, who repeatedly hurt the Panthers inside and out by scoring from the perimeter or driving the lane.

Wright scored 12 points in the first half as Georgetown, coming off an 82-77 loss to No. 4 Villanova, made its first five 3-point attempts while taking leads of 19-11 and 25-17. The Hoyas finished 7 of 10 from beyond the arc. But Gibbs hit a pair of 3s during a 10-2 Pitt run that tied it at 27 — Gibbs' one brief burst of the game — and it was 31-all at the half.

Wright's early scoring was a good omen for the Hoyas, who dropped their previous three to Pitt. Georgetown is 13-0 when Wright scores in double figures but has lost all three games — to Villanova, Marquette and Old Dominion — in which he didn't.

Dixon added 14 points for Pitt, but Gibbs, Brad Wanamaker and Nasir Robinson weren't much of a factor offensively against the Hoyas' zone defense. Gibbs came

in averaging 17.5 points, while Robinson scored a career-high 26 points against Louisville and Wanamaker scored 20.

Gibbs and Wanamaker (4 of 12) were a combined 7 of 28 as Pitt shot 45.6 percent.

Wake Forest 82, UNC 69

Freshman C.J. Harris scored a career-high 20 points and Wake Forest beat No. 24 North Carolina on Wednesday night to send the Tar Heels to their first three-game losing streak under coach Roy Williams.

Ishmael Smith had 20 points, and Al-Farouq Aminu added 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Demon Deacons (13-4, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference). They hit 56 percent of their 3-pointers and were 7 of 8 from long range in the second half of their first victory in Chapel Hill since 2003.

Will Graves scored 16 points to lead the Tar Heels (12-7, 1-3). The defending national champions, who have dropped four of five, were playing their first game since falling to No. 24 — their lowest ranking in The Associated Press Top 25 since 2006.

The losing streak is their longest since they dropped five in a row under Matt Doherty in 2002-03.

Harris had 13 points in the second half and fellow freshman Ari Stewart added 11 points for Wake Forest, which was coming off a 20-point loss three nights earlier at Duke but salvaged a split against its top in-state rivals by winning its second straight against North Carolina.

The Tar Heels made it a one-point game shortly after halftime before Wake Forest's first-year guards fueled the 18-6 run that put the Demon Deacons in complete control.

Stewart closed the run with three straight 3s in a 90-second span, capping it with a 25-footer that stretched it to 58-45 with 10:45 to play. Even after the spurt was over, the 3s kept falling: Harris swished a pair 30 seconds apart from the same spot on the left wing, stretching the lead to 68-53 with 7:26 left.

Travis Wear and Deon Thompson had 13 points apiece, and Graves pulled North Carolina to 40-39 with a 3 with 17 minutes remaining before the Tar Heels faded to the fourth 1-3 start in ACC play in program history.

Two key members of North Carolina's front line were on the bench in sport coats and ties. No. 2 scorer Ed Davis sat out with a left ankle injury and 7-footer Tyler Zeller missed his third straight game with a stress fracture in his right foot.

But it was in the backcourt



Georgetown guard Chris Wright, right, shoots around Pittsburgh center Gary McGhee during Georgetown's 74-66 win Wednesday.

where Wake Forest had its way with the Tar Heels.

North Carolina's guards have struggled since Ty Lawson and Wayne Ellington left early for the NBA — and Smith and the Demon Deacons exploited that weakness repeatedly at both ends of the court.

Smith simply beat the Tar Heels downcourt three times for early layups before Harris and Stewart took over from long range after the break. Meanwhile, North Carolina finished 6 for 26 from beyond the arc against the ACC's best defense against the 3.

Smith had 10 points in the first half for the Demon Deacons, who went ahead to stay during a run of 10 straight points. Gary Clark put them up for good with — what else? — a 3-pointer about nine minutes in that made it 19-18.

Temple 77, Xavier 72

Ryan Brooks scored 22 points, Lavoy Allen had 16 and No. 16 Temple beat Xavier in a matchup of Atlantic 10 unbeaten, on Wednesday night.

The Owls (16-3, 4-0 Atlantic 10) won their fifth straight game and are off to their best start since they also opened the 1993-94 season 16-3. Juan Fernandez scored 15 points for the Owls, who knocked off the three-time defending league champions.

Temple won the past two A-10 tournaments to earn automatic NCAA bids. At this rate, the Owls won't need to win that championship game to secure a spot in the field of 65.

Jordan Crawford scored 18 points and Jason Love had 16 for Xavier (12-6, 4-1).

Brooks, Fernandez and Allen have all helped the Owls climb the national rankings and enjoy their best season in 16 years. But it's defense where Temple has carved an identity. The Owls ranked third nationally in defense (55.5 points per game) entering the game and held a Musketeers offense that scored in the 50s only once this season below that number until late.

The Musketeers got hot late in the final two minutes and made the Owls sweat out this victory.

Brad Redford hit two clutch 3-pointers — he was left open in the corner on the second one — that sliced the deficit to 71-68 with 23.4 seconds left.

Brooks, Temple's newly minted 1,000-point scorer, calmly made two free throws for a 73-70 lead. Brooks, who nearly fumbled away the ball before he was fouled on a press, hit two more and the Owls could finally relax in a game between the league's top-two teams.

Each time Temple seemed on the brink of building a comfy lead, Xavier inched its way closer toward a comeback. Crawford finally put the Musketeers ahead for the first time since early in the first half on a 3-pointer that made it 48-47.

With Dante Jackson yelling "Movement! Movement!" before an inbounds pass, the Musketeers listened, working the ball around and inside to Love — who was whistled for an offensive foul.



Tarheels guard Larry Drew II passes the ball around Demon Deacons guard Al-Farouq Aminu during Wake Forest's 82-69 win Wednesday.

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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PERSONAL

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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, we can help. For more information, visit Notre Dame's website: <http://csap.nd.edu>

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"Julio, you're out!, Doni, you're in!"

Being prime minister is a lonely job... you cannot lead from the crowd.

Any woman who understands the problems of running a home will be nearer to understanding the problems of running a country.

I always cheer up immensely if an attack is particularly wounding because I think, well, if they attack one personally, it means they have not a single political argument left.

I'm extraordinarily patient provided I get my own way in the end.

People think that at the top there isn't much room. They tend to think of it as an Everest. My message is that there is tons of room at the top.

To me, consensus seems to be the process of abandoning all beliefs, principles, values and policies. So it is something in which no one believes and to which no one objects.

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, January 21, 2010

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2 Florida	2
3 Oregon	1
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5 Arkansas	8
6 Oklahoma	16
7 Arizona State	5
8 Texan A&M	9
9 LSU	4
10 Minnesota	14
11 Baylor	5
12 South Carolina	20
13 Virginia Tech	22
14 Texas Tech	13
15 Auburn	NR
16 Stanford	11
17 Kentucky	19
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21 Oklahoma State	NR
22 Kansas State	16
23 New Mexico	16
24 Wisconsin	NR
25 Kansas	NR

NCAA Women's Basketball RPI

team	previous
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2 Stanford	1
3 Tennessee	3
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5 Ohio State	6
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GymInfo Women's Gymnastics Rankings

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2 Oklahoma	9
3 Alabama	3
4 Florida	4
5 Oregon State	10
6 Utah	2
7 Arkansas	8
8 Stanford	7
9 Nebraska	15
10 Georgia	1

NFL



Colts quarterback Peyton Manning looks to pass in a game against Jacksonville Dec. 17. Manning will lead his team in a rematch against the Jets in the AFC championship game, seeking to come out on top this time around.

Manning and Colts hope for revenge

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning is on a simple mission this week: Strike fast, stay on the field and take the Colts back to Miami.

The four-time MVP and his Colts teammates can't wait for the journey to begin.

Nearly a month after the undefeated Indianapolis set off a national firestorm by yanking its starters early against the New York Jets, Manning & Co. will get another at them in this weekend's AFC championship game — even if nobody lets them forget what happened the first time.

"Do you expect to play all

four quarters this week?" Manning was asked jokingly before he could even settle in at the podium Wednesday.

"I do, yeah," Manning deadpanned, drawing laughter.

But in Indianapolis, this is no laughing matter.

Furious fans deluged local radio talk shows following Indy's 29-15 loss in Week 16, and fans weren't the only ones upset.

After the game, four-time Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday said he understood why Indy's home fans booed, other players seemed surprised by coach Jim Caldwell's decision to pull players early and Manning insisted nothing

should be read into his body language even though he uncharacteristically kept his helmet on for most of the final 20 minutes that day.

Since then, players and coaches have reached a consensus that they may not be playing in their third AFC title game since 2003 had they not done it this way.

"Really, we've tried to focus in on the things that we thought were in the best interest of our team to get us into the position we are right now," Caldwell said. "That was the ultimate goal."

It's taken the Colts (15-2) a little longer to convince the fans.

Three weeks ago, Manning jump-started the

reconciliation process after another loss at Buffalo by explaining nothing could be changed. He said it was time to move forward and that he hoped fans would forgive the Colts and provide a united front in the playoffs.

The message resonated.

While other players and team president Bill Polian continued making their pitches, fans responded Saturday night by hitting the highest decibel-level in the two years Lucas Oil Stadium has been the Colts' home. The result: Indy 20, Baltimore 3 — the Colts' first postseason victory since Manning was named Super Bowl MVP in February 2007.

IN BRIEF

Steve Smith to replace Fitzgerald in Pro Bowl

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — New York Giants receiver Steve Smith will replace Arizona's Larry Fitzgerald on the NFC Pro Bowl team.

The Giants announced the change Wednesday, making Smith the team's first wideout to be selected for the Pro Bowl since Homer Jones in 1968.

Fitzgerald pulled out of the Jan. 31 game in Miami because of a knee injury.

Giants receiver David Tyree played in the 2006 Pro Bowl as a special teams player.

Smith, who entered last season with 65 career catches, led the NFC and shattered the Giants' single-season record with 107 — 25 more than Amani Toomer's previous team record in 2002.

Smith's 1,220 receiving yards were the second-highest total in franchise history. Toomer had 1,343 in 2002.

Bills coach Chan Gailey searching for quarterback

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — In becoming the Buffalo Bills new head coach, Chan Gailey's first challenge is addressing a familiar problem: Coming up with a starting quarterback.

Gailey vows to do a thorough evaluation, while cautioning he isn't even sure if the Bills currently have one on their roster. That's not exactly a vote of confidence for Trent Edwards or Ryan Fitzpatrick, who split the starting duties in leading Buffalo to a 6-10 finish last season.

Gailey's quarterback quandary is a reflection of the state of the Bills. The team's inability to land a franchise quarterback since hall of famer Jim Kelly retired after the 1996 season is a major reason Buffalo has gone 10 straight years without a playoff appearance.

Jets defensive end Shaun Ellis ready to face Colts

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — New York Jets defensive end Shaun Ellis sat out practice because of a broken left hand, but he is expected to play in the AFC championship game against the Indianapolis Colts.

Ellis broke the hand on the Jets' first defensive play in their 17-14 victory at San Diego on Sunday but later returned with a cast wrapped up like a club. He said he'll have surgery to have screws inserted after the game against the Colts.

Linebackers Bart Scott (left ankle) and David Harris (right ankle) were limited at practice Wednesday, but coach Rex Ryan said they'll be fine to play.

Running back Thomas Jones and fullback Tony Richardson were held out of the first practice of the week to give them some rest, as has been the case for the last month.

around the dial

NBA

Lakers at Cavaliers
8 p.m., TNT

NHL

Blackhawks at Flames
9:30 p.m., TSN

NFL

Vikings mum on status of defensive end's knee

Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Ray Edwards walked into the locker room, listening to music with oversized headphones covering his ears.

Once he took them off, a pack of reporters and cameramen quickly surrounded Edwards at his cubicle. This is how far his career with the Minnesota Vikings has progressed: His knee is injured, and it's become big news.

"Just trying to stay on top of it and keep the swelling down," Edwards said, in his typical nonchalant tone.

It's NFC championship week, so secrets are guarded even more closely than during the regular season in this already tight-lipped league. Edwards hurt his right knee in the third quarter of last Sunday's divisional playoff victory over Dallas, and he was held out of Wednesday's practice.

The signs point to Edwards playing this weekend in New Orleans, but he wouldn't offer many clues himself.

"Just taking it day by day," he said, smiling.

The timing of the injury was awkward, if not ironic. Edwards, whose emergence this season at left defensive end opposite All-Pro Jared Allen has quietly been a critical part of this defense's fierce pass rush and overall success, gave the Vikings the game of his life against the Cowboys.

Three sacks, five quarterback hurries, eight tackles — including two for a loss, according to coaching staff film review — and a forced fumble in not much more than 30 minutes of action. He came back for a few plays after getting hurt, then was done for the day with the Vikings way out in front.

"I just felt good," Edwards said. "We've got the best fans in the NFL. They made a lot of noise for us."

Edwards and Allen thrive off the loud home crowd perhaps as much as any other player, for the split-second advantage they can gain on opposing tackles who have trouble hearing the snap count and communicating with their teammates. The Vikings won't have that edge on Sunday in the equally raucous Superdome, but the Saints aren't about to take it easy.

"He's an athletic playmaker who had a whale of a game against Dallas," said Saints right tackle Jon Stinchcomb, who will be lined up across from Edwards. "That just shows on a big scene: He stepped up and made huge plays for them. I'm going to have to put in the work now and prepare as much as I can, because he's obviously a great player."

Allen and defensive tackles Kevin Williams and Pat

Williams are much bigger names with a longer list of accomplishments than Edwards, who the Vikings drafted in the fourth round out of Purdue in 2006.

He became a full-time starter in his second year, before a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's policy on performance enhancing substances. He claimed a mistake in not checking the list of the league's banned workout supplements.

Edwards came back in 2008 and, buoyed by the offseason acquisition of Allen, boldly professed a goal of breaking the all-time single-season record for sacks. It was tough talk for a guy who had a total of just eight in his first two years.

"I looked at him and I was like, 'What?'" his agent, Doug Hendrickson, said this week. "But I think Ray believes he can be one of the best defensive ends in the league, and I don't see why not."

Edwards is one of the 212 NFL players who would lose unrestricted free agency status, and instead become a restricted free agent, if the league and the union can't agree on a new labor contract and save the salary cap for the 2010 season.

Hendrickson said he's had some discussions with the Vikings about an extension for Edwards, but the uncertainty of the collective bargaining agreement complicates any negotiations.

Edwards said he's not concerned about his contract, a strictly on-field focus he hasn't always had. The sack-record declaration was one example of how he let himself be distracted in this early stage of his career.

"Last year was a learning experience," he said. "I was trying to do too many things. My personal life was kind of bogging me down a little bit. You just learn from stuff and hopefully don't make those mistakes again. I don't plan to. You just learn and keep growing."

Edwards, who left the Boilermakers after his junior season, turned 25 just three weeks ago.

"I think the one thing people forget is that when Ray came in the league he was one of the youngest players in the draft," Hendrickson said. "He finished his fourth year at 24 years old. There's rookies that come in the league at 23. He's always been very mature, but I think it takes awhile for anyone to kind of figure everything out."

On Sunday against New Orleans, Edwards will go searching for another former Purdue player: Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

"Just to say hello," Edwards said, smiling. "Boiler up."

NFL

Raiders interview coaches

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis has started interviewing potential assistants for next season even while he continues to mull the fate of coach Tom Cable.

ESPN.com reported the Raiders interviewed Baltimore Ravens quarterbacks coach Hue Jackson about becoming the team's offensive coordinator.

NFL.com reported the team interviewed recently fired New York Giants defensive line coach Mike Waufle, who held the same position in Oakland in 1998-2003, to replace Dwaine Board as line coach for the Raiders.

"A lot of people have called inquiring about coaching positions," senior executive John Herrera said.

Both Jackson and Waufle worked on the staff at California with Cable in the 1990s, and Jackson was offensive coordinator at Southern California under current Raiders quarterbacks coach Paul Hackett.

Herrera denied a report in the San Francisco Chronicle that Davis has interviewed Jim Fassel

and Marc Trestman as potential coaching candidates.

Fassel and Trestman are former Raiders assistants who have been mentioned as possible successors to Cable if he is indeed fired. Fassel, whose son John is special teams coordinator in Oakland, was an assistant with the Raiders in 1995 and led Las Vegas to the inaugural UFL championship last season.

Fassel told SIRIUS XM Radio that he has not interviewed for the job.

"I think if a coach is in place you don't start calling somebody and seeing if the job is open or not," Fassel said.

"Tom Cable is the coach. ... I follow the Raiders pretty closely because my son is coaching there and I coached there at one time. But, no, I'm not lobbying for any job. I'm not lobbying for the Raider job. I have never in my life rooted for a coach to be let go so there's an opening. I never have. I'm in the same fraternity. I just got my nose to the grindstone. I'm down here in Vegas working on getting situated down here and that's where I am. Nobody's reached out to me."

Trestman, who was offensive coordinator in Oakland in 2002-

03, has spent the past two seasons coaching the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League. He took the Alouettes to the Grey Cup final in his first season and won it this past year.

Cable's status is in question after he went 5-11 in his first full season as coach and failed to develop JaMarcus Russell into a legitimate NFL quarterback. Cable is 9-19 since replacing Lane Kiffin early in the 2008 season, leading the Raiders to their NFL-worst seventh straight season with at least 11 losses.

Cable has pointed to the team's improvement after Russell's mid-season benching as proof that he deserves another year to get the Raiders back to the playoffs.

Herrera said Davis and Cable have talked extensively since the season ended, with many of those discussions coming by phone.

"Most of the characterizations of Al Davis' meetings with the head coach being short or brief are not true either," Herrera said. "Mr. Davis has had meetings of some depth with the head coach. There have been meetings and meetings of substance."



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MLB

League nears deal for series in Puerto Rico

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball and the players' association are close to moving a three-game series between the New York Mets and Florida Marlins to San Juan's Hiram Bithorn Stadium from June 28-30, according to people familiar with the negotiations.

Management and the union also are in the final stages of arranging a spring training trip for the Los Angeles Dodgers to play in Taiwan against the country's national team on March 13 and 14, the people said.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because agreements for the trips had not been completed.

The Mets-Marlins series originally was set to be in Miami, and the Marlins would remain

the home team.

Hiram Bithorn hosted 22 Montreal Expos home games in each of the 2003 and 2004 seasons before the franchise relocated to Washington and was renamed the Nationals. Average attendance dropped from 14,000 in 2003 to 10,000 in 2004.

In addition, the ballpark also hosted the 2001 season opener between Texas and Toronto, and it was the site of games during the World Baseball Classic in 2006 and 2009.

The Dodgers have been among the major league teams most interested in international play. Two years ago, they traveled to Beijing for a pair of March exhibition games against the San Diego Padres.

Their spring training trip is to be announced Friday at a news conference in Taiwan.

NFL

Carroll fills coaching staff

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Pete Carroll's coaching staff with the Seattle Seahawks is coming together with a heavy mix of NFL experience and few ties with Carroll's last coaching job at Southern California.

Carroll said Wednesday that most of his staff is in place with just a few positions still to be filled. Carroll had previously announced that renowned offensive line coach Alex Gibbs would be joining the Seahawks after spending last season with Houston.

Coming with Carroll from USC will be Jeremy Bates as offensive coordinator and Ken Norton Jr. as linebackers coach. Bates was previously the offensive coordinator in Denver before joining Carroll last season in the same position with the Trojans. Bates replaced Steve Sarkisian at USC when Sarkisian left to be the head coach at Washington.

Before becoming the offensive coordinator in Denver, Bates worked as an offensive assistant in Tampa Bay and quarterbacks coach with the New York Jets.

"It's a really good core. A good mix of experience and background," Carroll said. "I love the familiarity on the offensive side of the ball to

make Jeremy to really ready to rock n roll and hit it full speed. And Alex is a big player in all of that to give us the running game emphasis that we want."

All of Norton's coaching experience has come at the college level following a 13-year NFL career with San Francisco and Dallas. Norton joined Carroll's staff at USC in 2004.

Brian Schneider is also coming from USC to be Seattle's special teams coordinator. Schneider held the same position for one season with Carroll at USC after two seasons with the Oakland Raiders.

Carroll is keeping two coaches from the previous staff in Seattle under former coach Jim Mora. Gus Bradley will remain as Seattle's defensive coordinator, while Dan Quinn will coach the defensive line for a second straight season.

"I'm really pumped up about Gus. We've been working late at night here to put our thoughts together," Carroll said. "And the background between Gus and Monte Kiffin and myself is really unique, and were very fortunate."

Also joining Seattle's defensive staff is Jerry Gray, who is leaving the Redskins after four seasons as their secondary coach. Gray was previ-

ously the defensive coordinator for five years in Buffalo and played in the league for nine seasons with the Rams, Oilers and Buccaneers.

On the offensive side, Pat McPherson is leaving Denver to coach tight ends with the Seahawks, the position he most recently held with the Broncos. Jedd Fisch will be the quarterbacks coach after spending one season at the college level with Minnesota. Fisch worked on the Broncos staff with Bates and McPherson in 2008.

Carroll will interview Sherman Smith on Thursday to potentially become Seattle's new running backs coach. The 55-year-old Smith was Washington's offensive coordinator during Jim Zorn's brief tenure coaching the Redskins. Zorn and Smith, a former NFL running back, were teammates on the original Seahawks of 1976 through 1982.

Last week, new Redskins coach Mike Shanahan informed Smith he won't be back; Shanahan is bringing his son Kyle in to be Washington's offensive coordinator. Smith coached running backs under Jeff Fisher for the Houston Oilers and Tennessee Titans from 1995-2007.

Carroll is also seeking a new wide receivers coach in Seattle.



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NFL

Seahawks introduce new GM

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — John Schneider was already a candidate for the Seattle Seahawks' general manager position when the team bolted from the NFL norm last week and hired college czar Pete Carroll to be its powerful head coach.

Seattle's new coach is driving the GM and the rest of the organizational train, rather than vice versa. It's not exactly how the 17-year veteran of personnel moves and recent right-hand man of Green Bay general manager Ted Thompson was used to operations working.

Yet Schneider considered the credentials of Seattle's coach, the fact Carroll would have equal or more authority than the general manager on personnel issues — and he just shrugged. The boyish-faced, 38-year-old native of rural Wisconsin signed a four-year contract to become a first-time GM anyway.

"When this thing went down with Coach Carroll I had a moment where I thought, 'OK, that was different.' But that's how they had to do it to get a guy of his caliber," Schneider said of the man who restored a dynasty at Southern California from 2001 until last week.

"Then I thought, 'This job is even more attractive right now.'"

The Seahawks introduced Schneider Wednesday to complete the reinventing of their broken operation that has gone 9-23 since Seattle's last playoff appearance in January 2008.

Schneider was picked from among four finalists. Team CEO

Tod Leiweke said the immediate connection between Carroll and Schneider in last week's interview was vital in the final decision.

"Most compelling for me is the amazing energy I saw between the man to my right and man to my left," Leiweke said, sitting between Carroll and Schneider. "They connected, they saw eye to eye and they had a similar philosophy on how they wanted to do this."

Schneider replaces Tim Ruskell. The Seahawks forced Ruskell to resign as GM and president last month as Seattle was finishing 5-11 and losing its last four games by a combined 123-37.

Schneider began his NFL career as a college intern who "basically stalked Ron Wolf" in 1992 before Wolf gave him a job. He has been the Packers' director of football operations since May 2008. He was the top personnel assistant to Green Bay's GM for six years before that. He spent 2000 as Seattle's director of player personnel in the Seahawks regime of Thompson and former Packers coach Mike Holmgren. He was the vice president of player personnel for the Redskins for one year, 2001, before returning to Green Bay.

His role in Seattle is unique. Unlike most general managers who get say over the coaching staff, Carroll was in place for a week before Schneider's hiring was made official.

But both Schneider and Carroll said they hit it off from their first meeting. They rambled on during their initial inter-

view so long they kept Leiweke late into the night and from celebrating his 50th birthday.

The team will be built around Carroll's philosophy and Schneider agrees with that approach, Leiweke said.

"If someday there is a dispute between these two guys and there's a coin toss, we are going to build the team around this man and his players," Leiweke said, nodding to Carroll, "Pete wins the coin toss."

"But that's not an issue, because (Schneider) walked in from Day One saying 'We have a special coach and we're going to build the team around the philosophy of this coach.'"

Leiweke also clarified that salary cap and contract issues, handled by returning administrator John Idzik, will be under Schneider's control. Previously, Leiweke believed he'd have three positions atop Seattle's remodeled football operations: "a cap/contract door" for money and number crunching; a GM door that Schneider will sit behind; "and Pete will have his own, unique door."

Leiweke said his job will be to ensure collaboration that has worked throughout his business career, including his last several years with Seahawks owner Paul Allen's Vulcan management company and helping Allen run the NBA's Portland Trail Blazers and Major League Soccer's Seattle Sounders.

"We wanted to create a team approach where we're unified in our goals," Leiweke said. "It was a heartbreaking couple of years, and in some ways people here deserve better."

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NFL

Saints' Sharper ready to face old teammates

Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — Darren Sharper loves a good story, even more so when it involves him.

The NFL's active interception king is on the cusp of only the second Super Bowl appearance of his 13-year career. To get there, his Saints must beat Minnesota, the team that let him go after last season, and Brett Favre, who was once Sharper's teammate, then a rival, and still a friend.

He wouldn't want it any other way.

"You know, you get to Chapter 9 in a 10-chapter book, to make that ending a little bit more of an exciting end, you want to have some great story lines and

this is a good one because of the relationships," Sharper said on Wednesday at the Saints' suburban New Orleans training center. "You know, me playing (against) my former team, Brett returning — you could say it's his last hurrah.

"It just makes you not want to fold that book up in Chapter 5. You want to continue to read it until the end and that ending hopefully will be a good ending for us."

The beginning of Sharper's story in the NFL dates back to 1997 when he entered the league with Green Bay. He went to his only Super Bowl in his rookie year, when the Packers lost to Denver. Favre was his teammate for eight years, then Sharper left for division rival Minnesota, facing Favre twice a year for three seasons and intercepting him once in 2006.

Sharper, however, was not a part of Minnesota's plans in 2009. The Vikings had a young safeties in Tyrell Johnson and Madiou Williams, to whom they gave a big contract last year.

"That was an easy transition for them," Sharper said.

Sharper was interested in staying in Minnesota, a team he thought would be a contender, but the Vikings let him

go in free agency after he had only one interception in 2008.

The Saints, by contrast, were looking for a savvy veteran to stabilize a defensive backfield that had been prone to giving up big plays. New Orleans already had the league's top offense, led by Drew Brees, but wound up only 8-8 last season, losing five games by three or fewer points in part because of defensive blunders.

Sharper, who turned 34 in November, made an immediate difference, proving that his paltry interception total a season earlier was not a sign of deteriorating skills. Rather, Sharper has had one of his best seasons in New Orleans, intercepting nine passes and

returning three for touchdowns. His career interception total now stands at 63, tied with retired San Francisco safety Ronnie Lott.

Sharper also set an NFL record for most interception return yards in a season with 376.

"Physically, he looks as good as he's ever looked," Favre said. "But his instincts, those are the things you can't coach. He makes a lot of plays. The thought is from people when you play a guy like Sharp is you can trick him to get big plays.

"In all honesty, you really don't see that this year."

Sharper sat out practice on Wednesday in order to get some extra rest — typical of his schedule since midseason,

when he began to have minor soreness in his left knee.

He has continued to look sharp in games, however, recovering a fumble in the Saints' 45-14 win over Arizona last Saturday in the divisional round. He also intercepted Warner once, making a difficult catch on a tipped ball, but the play was wiped out by a roughing-the-quarterback penalty.

Linebacker Jonathan Vilma said Sharper has performed exactly as the Saints hoped. Vilma fondly recalled the club's effort to recruit him over dinner at one of celebrity chef Emeril Lagasse's restaurants, a meal attended by Vilma, general manager Mickey Loomis and defensive coordinator Gregg Williams.

"I told him he would be a perfect fit for us," Vilma said. "He was the guy we needed to help lead our secondary and get us to this spot right now."

The Vikings, of course, thought the exact same thing about Favre, who spoke to

Sharper about his decision to return to the NFL with Minnesota.

"In talking to Brett, before he signed with Minnesota, I told him they had a good team and a team that was, if he went there, they were

going to be in the running for getting to where they are now," Sharper recalled. "He understood that. I believe that was part of his decision to return.

"Me coming here was the same thing," Sharper continued. "We knew we had a good defense. It just needed a couple pieces, a guy on the back end to kind of solidify things a little bit, make the play when you had a chance to make it. So it is kind of ironic that we're facing off. I told him he had a Super Bowl-caliber team in Minnesota before he got there. I just hope I can renege on those words and make us the Super Bowl caliber team come Sunday."

"You want to continue to read it until the end and that ending hopefully will be a good ending."

Darren Sharper
Saints defensive back

"Physically, he looks as good as he's ever looked."

Brett Favre
Vikings quarterback

PGA

Bertsch earns win at Hope

Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Shane Bertsch hopped out of his RV and excelled on a course he hadn't seen in over 10 years, opening with a 10-under 62 Wednesday at the Hope Classic for a two-stroke lead over Alex Prugh and Jeff Quinney.

Bertsch was the last player to register for the five-day, four-course tournament after a comically difficult travel path from Hawaii to the Palm Springs area, yet he still posted the best round of his PGA Tour career.

Bertsch had 10 birdies without a bogey even while helping line up putts for his pro-am playing partners under intermittent rain and wind.

"I was just comfortable," Bertsch said. "I always like these formats, because I help the guys out, and it keeps me maybe not so focused on myself until it's time to hit, and then I just go and hit."

J.P. Hayes, George McNeill, Joe Ogilvie and Garrett Willis were three strokes back. Heath Slocum, who skipped last week's Sony Open while his wife gave birth, was in a large group at 6 under.

The rain pelting Southern California this week didn't really cause trouble until later Wednesday, with many

players beginning the day wearing nothing thicker than golf shirts before the wind and moisture whipped up.

"It was Palm Springs golf — not a lot of wind, starting to warm up," Slocum said. "And then all of a sudden when I made the turn, it definitely kicked right back up. The wind started blowing, and it cooled off. I put the sweater back on, and obviously golf is a little more difficult."

Not for Bertsch — although after missing just two greens and three fairways in a sizzling 25-putt round, he realized he certainly couldn't chalk up his career day to rest or preparation.

He was stuck in Hawaii for a day following the Sony Open, where he finished an encouraging 25th, with his wife and daughters when their red-eye flight

was canceled. They eventually flew Monday night from Hawaii to Phoenix, where the Denver native picked up his RV and drove across the desert to blustery Palm Springs, arriving late Tuesday afternoon.

Quinney, Bertsch and the 25-year-old Prugh all played the idiosyncratic Nicklaus Private course, which is considered among the easiest on tour — but Bertsch hadn't visited it since qualifying school in the 1990s. Thanks

to his travel woes, he didn't even get a refresher look before teeing it up.

"It was like a new adventure over every hill," Bertsch said. "I didn't know really what to expect. It was one of those courses I just didn't remember a lot about."

Yet Bertsch is no stranger to difficult paths through golf. His entire career has been one big challenge.

He was off the tour from 1997 until 2006, when his comeback was derailed by a bout of vertigo, which sidelined him for most of 2007. He got a medical exemption to play in 2008, but finished 126th on the money list after sitting out late-season tournaments when he mistakenly thought his card for 2009 was safe.

Bertsch then he broke his right foot while slipping on the stairs at his home in late 2008, limiting him to two PGA Tour events and four Nationwide Tour stops last year. A solid performance in Q-school last month got him back on track.

Although the weather largely behaved, the field might not get as lucky Thursday, when heavier rain is expected — and Bertsch's outstanding opening round could loom even larger.

"It was moist. It wasn't wet," said Hayes, making his season debut after a strong Q-school comeback. "We played the ball up, (but) we didn't really have to. It's probably more in anticipation of what might come than what was today."

"I was just comfortable."

Shane Bertsch
Professional golfer

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Palmieri

continued from page 20

for Palmieri's success.

"It's a great thrill for all of us to know he was part of a good medal team," Jackson said. "What a great thrill for the rest of your life. You can win a championship, but when you win one for your country, you know the meaning behind it. It's the ultimate team."

The tournament marked Palmieri's second opportunity to wear the red, white and blue after being a member of the U.S. National Under-18 team prior to coming to Notre Dame.

"It was such a honor to play, and it was incredible to put the U.S. jersey on again," Palmieri said. "It's definitely up there as one of the top moments in my life. I was proud to represent my country and, obviously, to win a gold medal for us."

In seven games for the U.S. team, Palmieri finished third on the team in points with eight assists and a goal as the U.S. rolled to a 6-1-0 record. The team's only blemish was a loss in the preliminaries against Canada on New Year's Eve.

While the U.S. seized an early lead, Canada rallied en route to a 5-4 shootout win. Palmieri called the game a turning point for his team.

"I think after the first few games against Slovakia and Latvia, we kind of knew we could beat those teams as long we played our game," Palmieri said. "We were surprised when

we got that early lead and competed the way we did against Canada. I think that really helped our confidence. We knew they were just like us — a bunch of under-20-year-olds."

The U.S. team found itself trailing early in the championship, but a goal set up by Palmieri tied the game at 1-1. The Canadians rallied late to bring the game into overtime. However, U.S. defenseman John Carlson's winning slapshot from the left circle silenced the crowd as the U.S. team poured onto the ice in a jubilant 6-5 victory.

"It was a surreal moment," Palmieri said. "Playing in Canada, against a team that had five straight golds ... we went in there and surprised a lot of people."

Jackson gave Palmieri a week off after the tournament before rejoining the team for last weekend's home-and-away series against Michigan State. Palmieri felt the experience would energize him for Notre Dame's push to make ground in the CCHA.

"I wanted to start the second half [of the season] strong," Palmieri said. "I had a weak first half in my opinion, and I wanted to bring the energy back from the World Juniors and be productive in the second half."

Palmieri and the rest of the Irish will travel to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., this weekend for a pair of games against conference foe Lake Superior State.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

FENCING

Fencers begin competition

By KEVIN BALDWIN
Sports Writer

After months of tireless practice and anticipation, the Irish look to make a statement to the fencing world with the start of intercollegiate play this weekend in New York City. In spite of stiff competition the Irish are confident that they can meet and hopefully exceed the lofty standards set by previous squads.

Under the leadership of head coach Janusz Bednarski — former coach of the Polish Olympic team — they have won two NCAA titles since 2003 and have been the defending runner up in team competition for the last two years, second only to Penn State.

In a sport that often doesn't receive the level of exposure as the likes of football and basketball, the Irish have a reputation in the fencing world as a consistently dominant program, boasting two former Olympians — senior Kelly Hurley on the women's team and sophomore Gerek Meinhardt on the men's. Others who have a presence in the world cup circuit include juniors Zach Avery and Barron Nydam, forces to be reckoned with in the men's saber, plus sophomore

Courtney Hurley with four gold medals in the women's junior category.

In addition to the aforementioned, Bednarski is thrilled with other members of the team, freshman and veteran alike, who have stepped up throughout the year.

"Hayley Reese in womens foil will be showing up [this weekend], her silver medal in the last national championship was not an accident, she is growing as an athlete," Bednarski said. "We have some new freshmen who are very talented such as James Kaull and Jason Choy in sabre and Enzo Castellani."

However, the tide may have already turned as Irish fencers bested their Nittany Lion rivals in just about every event last weekend in individual competition at the USA North America qualifier in San Jose, Calif., with six fencers taking top-10 spots compared to just one for Penn State.

But don't expect the Irish to rest on their laurels; they feed their drive for success by constant competition within the team, pushing one another to achieve a higher level of talent. Each school is limited to the number of fencers they can send to each competition: five per event for men's and women's for

regional finals and only two per event for nationals.

"It looks to be an interesting competition not only on the NCAA level but internally here: who will go on to represent us in the finals," Bednarski said, "They have to compete between themselves, not only against others but in practice which is important."

It will be a long road to the top, especially since every year the level of competitiveness in the NCAA intensifies as the sport of fencing grows at the collegiate level.

"Fencing in an emerging sport, like soccer, it became more and more important for some colleges especially who want to get more individual sports into the program," Bednarski said.

For now, the Irish will set their sights on the weekend and use the experience to gauge themselves off of others in order to continue their quest for their first championship since 2005, and continue to be one of the most successful athletic programs at Notre Dame.

"It is better to compete as the underdog but we have to look behind us because other teams are so close that there will be a lot of competition," Bednarski said.

Contact Kevin Baldwin at kbaldwin@nd.edu

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Hinton

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to Ohio State for two years before beginning his head coaching career in the high school ranks. Shortly afterwards, he spent three years at Ohio University before spending more than a decade as head coach at Marion Harding High School in Marion, Ohio, where he enjoyed sustained success.

In 2004, Hinton moved to Cincinnati to coach under Mark Dantonio. When Dantonio moved to Michigan State in 2007, Hinton retained his spot on the coaching staff under Kelly, Dantonio's successor.

Throughout his coaching career, he has served in such myriad roles as wide receivers, linebackers, defensive line and running backs coach, as well as recruiting coordinator for Cincinnati last year.

"The mindset from an offensive standpoint is that we want to be aggressive," Kelly said. "It's not about anything

else but scoring points."

To that end, Kelly and offensive coordinator Charley Molnar will install the same spread offense they implemented at Cincinnati. The spread does not rely much on a traditional power running back, but rather on a much more versatile back, according to Hinton, who says he will coach and develop three distinct areas of play.

"One, it's what God gave you ... and that's running the ball," Hinton said. "Every running back wants to carry the ball and will carry the ball, even in the spread offense. Two ... their ability to run as a wide receiver and catch the ball. [Three], the area that no one likes to talk about — you better be a great pass protector."

To that end, Hinton will recruit running backs based on three characteristics that relate to the three areas identified: explosiveness, catching ability and toughness. Although he says that body type does not necessarily matter, it seems that the running backs of the near future at Notre Dame will look more

like Armando Allen than Robert Hughes.

In addition to focusing on the pass-catching abilities of the running backs, Hinton will also focus on another major aspect of the spread offense: the read option. An integral part of Molnar's attack, the read option will be new to most of the running backs on the roster; teaching it will be one of Hinton's foremost responsibilities.

Hinton has not studied the current running back corps (led by senior Allen, junior Hughes and sophomore Theo Riddick) beyond what he has seen on television due to the frenzy of the recruiting season.

"I've told them all, I'm going to give them a clean slate," he said. "I'm not really listening to what people are telling me about every kid, and I'm not going to watch a ton of film." He will, however, utilize now-wide receivers coach Alford, who coached this group previously, especially for motivational purposes.

Hinton will also be involved in recruiting, especially in Ohio and Florida, where he



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Running backs coach Tim Hinton addresses the Notre Dame media on Jan. 15. He will take over the role from Tony Alford.

has a significant amount of experience.

Above all, he is excited to be at Notre Dame and work toward his stated goal of making Kelly the nation's best

coach.

"This is a great place," he said. "It's a dream come true."

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

Alford

continued from page 20

more difficult than the decision to stay with the Irish, Alford said. But he believed it to be the right one for himself and for the team.

"I didn't know what to say [when Kelly asked]," Alford said. "I thought it over, talked to some people who are very close to me ... and I think it's in my best interest. Professionally and selfishly, I think it's a good move. It will expand my knowledge base and résumé, if you will, for the things I want to accomplish in my career."

"At the same time, I believe that if Coach Kelly didn't believe this would be in the best interest of the football team, he wouldn't do it."

In his time at Notre Dame Alford has also had a hand in recruiting, something Kelly emphasized as one of Alford's strengths.

For the Class of 2010, he has

recruited four-star running back commitment Giovanni Bernard, four-star defensive tackle commitment Louis Nix and four-star wide receiver and early enrollee Tai-ler Jones, among others.

"He understands what it takes from my end to recruit," Kelly said. "He's a tireless recruiter, outstanding in the homes ... he does a terrific job."

Though Alford is excited about the amount of talent he will have to work with when he begins coaching the wide receivers, he said he has not looked far ahead.

"I've been busy recruiting, and trying to finalize this class," he said. "That's kind of been the focus at this juncture."

However, he said he already knows his main responsibility to star receiver Michael Floyd.

"Just don't screw him up," he said.

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

Minor

continued from page 20

has completely dedicated herself to making this year her year. She stayed in South Bend this summer taking classes and training at the Irish facilities.

"She worked very hard this summer and came into the fall with an unbelievable attitude, very focused on what she wants to accomplish," Garnham said.

Although her coaches have laid out specific goals for her to accomplish this year, Minor holds herself to a standard higher than even her coaches demand.

"I know my goals for her, we have spoken about them," Garnham said. "I believe she has set some higher goals than what I was thinking."

In order to achieve those goals, Minor has been hitting the track, gym and weight room hard to get to the level at which she needs to be to compete for Big East titles.

"In the weight room, she straight gets after it," Garnham said.

Aside from her personal achievements, Minor has shown strong leadership on and off the track.

"[Her teammates] look up to her for her leadership," Garnham said.

Minor has always been a jumper and has competed in the long and triple jumps the past three seasons. This season, she has added the 60-meter dash to her résumé to help her work on runway speed. Minor has also competed in the 100- and 200-meters in the past.

As good as the past has been and the present is for Minor right now, the future looks brighter than ever, especially in her featured event.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Jaime," Garnham said. "She is a very talented athlete who I believe is just beginning to scratch the surface in the triple jump."

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

Elston

continued from page 20

the country in 2009 with 28.5 yards per return and were fourth with three returns for a touchdown.

"He's just done a great job for us, developing our players," Kelly said. "That's really what this is about, developing them from freshman year to senior year."

This will be Elston's 12th year as an assistant in the NCAA's Football Bowl Subdivision. Before he joined

Kelly at Central Michigan, he spent three years as an assistant at Eastern Michigan, first as a defensive ends coach in 2001 and then as defensive line coach and recruiting coordinator in 2002-03. Before that, he spent two years as a graduate assistant at the University of Michigan, his alma mater, where he had been a three-year letter winner as an outside linebacker. Elston served as assistant to the football camp director prior to becoming a graduate assistant, and was in this role in 1997 when the Wolverines went 12-0 and won a National

Championship.

Kelly said the two had addressed Elston's possible loyalties to Michigan.

"He does have one thing going against him, so we worked on that, cleaned that up quite a bit," he said.

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu



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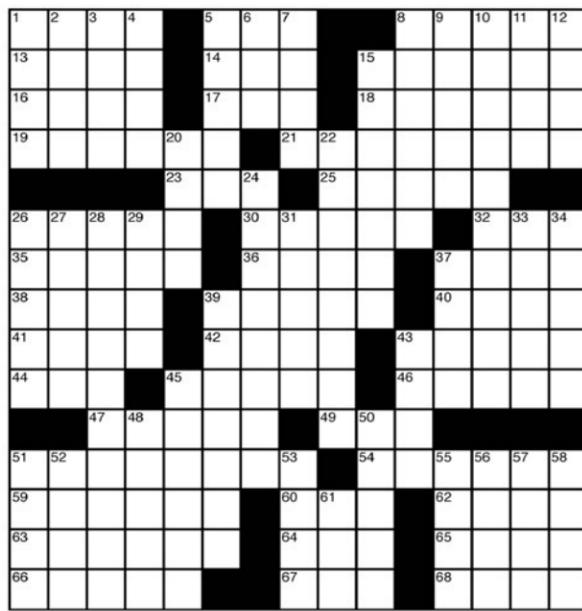


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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Gulf competitor
 - 5 "What Do You Do With ___ in English?" ("Avenue Q" song)
 - 8 Preserved, in a way
 - 13 Vat waste
 - 14 Hipster
 - 15 A Previn
 - 16 Canaanite deity
 - 17 Tractor make, briefly
 - 18 More sumptuously furnished
 - 19 No holds barred
 - 21 Craft that's the subject of this puzzle
 - 23 Subject of "Hofmann's Potion"
 - 25 Finish behind
 - 26 ___ Americano
 - 30 Customarily
 - 32 Physical sound
 - 35 United hub
 - 36 ___ Haskins, 1960s-'70s N.B.A. player
 - 37 "___, sing America": Langston Hughes
 - 38 Spicy sauce
 - 39 PX, e.g.
 - 40 Line to Penn Sta.
 - 41 Marilyn's mark
 - 42 Kind of board
 - 43 It may get food away from a canine
 - 44 Had eggs, e.g.
 - 45 Mercury and Gemini astronaut, informally
 - 46 Forename meaning "born again"
 - 47 Old-fashioned "Sweet!"
 - 49 Group of pin-heads?: Abbr.
 - 51 How the passengers went in 21-Across
 - 54 Brute
- Down**
- 1 Hundred Days campaign planning site
 - 2 It makes an impression
 - 3 Navy commando
 - 4 ___ City Hall, Nobel ceremony locale
 - 5 Sales off. folders
 - 6 Sound made while being fleeced?
 - 7 Envelope abbr.
 - 8 James of "Star Trek"
 - 9 Allen and ___, old comedy duo
 - 10 It fills a chest
 - 11 Loupe user, say
 - 12 Dagger
 - 15 "Puh-leeze!"
 - 20 Title role for a 1997 Oscar nominee
 - 22 Sweet frozen treat
 - 24 "Billy Bathgate" novelist, 1989
 - 26 "New York, New York" has one
 - 27 "What ___!" ("So funny!")
 - 28 Toppled
 - 29 Available
 - 59 Paris's Rue de ___
 - 60 Frank
 - 62 National frozen dessert chain
 - 63 Penguin from Antarctica
 - 64 Follow relentlessly
 - 65 Viking foe?
 - 66 Excellence
 - 67 Withdrawn
 - 68 Louis VIII nickname, with "the"



Puzzle by Francis Heaney and Patrick Blindauer

- 31 Reason for 21-Across
- 33 Basketball shooting game
- 34 Gymnast's equipment
- 37 "Winnie ___ Pu"
- 39 Certain terrier
- 43 Memorable 1996 hurricane
- 45 Works stocked by a bookstore with a rainbow flag
- 48 Locale in a Carlo Levi best seller
- 50 Loose
- 51 Vehicle that makes pit stops?
- 52 Like some loads
- 53 2:1, e.g.
- 55 "___ be all right"
- 56 Early 12th-century year
- 57 "Peek-___!"
- 58 "For Better or for Worse" cartoonist
- 61 "That's gotta hurt!"

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ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have to put more time and effort into enjoying life and less into worrying about the things you cannot change. Love will help give you the strength and courage to surpass the people who have hurt you personally or professionally. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Taking on problems that don't belong to you is pointless. Give more time and effort to your own accomplishments. A personal problem will leave you feeling confused. Make whatever adjustments are necessary. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let someone's change of plans cause you to alter what you intend to do. An offer being made will not be as good as it first appears. Get the low-down on what's actually expected of you before you make a commitment. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let everyone know where you stand so you can get matters resolved and move on to bigger and better things. Avoid taking on a burden or responsibility that will cause you to miss out on a chance of a lifetime. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be tempted to travel for love or money but, in the end, it will be a waste of your time. Put your time into constructive, professional pursuits. Don't limit the possibilities by making poor choices. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let your emotions get in the way of what needs to be done. You have plenty of options that can lead to some interesting and fruitful endeavors if you keep a sound mind and realistic outlook. Social networking will pay off. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): An emotional matter will bring to the surface issues that need to be addressed. A romantic relationship can help you determine how you want to handle the personal and professional problems you face and the decisions you need to make. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look at your situation realistically. If you allow someone you love to talk you into something you aren't ready to do, you will have regrets that will lead to a breakdown of your relationship. Change is needed but must be a positive endeavor. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You won't be able to handle emotional turmoil in a practical manner. Don't let someone coerce you into making a promise you know you will not keep. A partnership you've been considering will determine how much you can do. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change will be as good as a rest. Visit an old friend or a destination that brings you great joy and relaxation. You need time to think about how you are going to take care of some of the responsibilities heading your way. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't slip into the same old routine when you can be and do so much more. Look to someone you respect to help you move forward instead of stagnating and making the same mistakes over again. Do what needs to be done. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let erratic behavior be your downfall. If you are unfair or think you deserve more than everyone else, you will find yourself on a slippery slope, losing your fair share and not getting anything at all. ★★

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ALQUI

REXILI

NEUQUI



Print your answer here: ○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's | Jumbles: PENCE DUCAT PUNDIT UNHOOK
Answer: What the quack doctor did when the police arrived — "DUCKED" OUT

THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

New boss, new job? No problem

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Tony Alford may have a different post on the new Notre Dame staff, but some things will never change.

"I'm going to yell at [Armando Allen] every day," he said. "Armando will never get too far away."

Alford, the only constant from the staff of former coach Charlie Weis, has spent all 15 years of his coaching career teaching running backs. However, he will move to wide receivers coach this season.

"When you take a coach that's only coached that position, he becomes almost a specialist in one area," Irish coach Brian Kelly said at a press conference Friday. "I don't want specialists. I want great teach-

ers and great educators that can communicate across the board."

Alford admitted that he will have some studying to do in order to make a successful switch. However, he said his approach is no different from before.

"You roll your sleeves up and you go to work," he said. "I like to pride myself and think I'm a good teacher. I want to lead the men the right way. At the end of the day it still comes out to working hard, putting in a good day's work."

Weis hired Alford as running backs coach in 2009 after he had spent two years in that position at Louisville. Before that, he had also coached running backs at Iowa State, Washington, Kent State and Mount Union.

The Kent, Ohio, native had a

previous relationship with Kelly when one of Alford's relatives played for Kelly at Grand Valley State. Thus, he said, it was easy for him to agree to stay at Notre Dame.

"When [Kelly] got the job, he gave me a call and said are you interested in staying, and of course I said yes," Alford said.

He said he thinks his relationship with the current players will help as the new staff begins its work.

"I think that will bode well as far as the players knowing who I am, as far as expectations," he said. "For the most part it's just about having a previous relationship with the players already in place and kind of going from there."

The decision to switch to coaching wide receivers was

see ALFORD/page 18



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Former running backs coach Tony Alford will coach the Irish wide receivers this season.

Elston to guide defensive line

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

New Irish defensive line coach Mike Elston is used to having plenty of responsibilities under coach Brian Kelly. This year should be no exception.

Elston, who has coached with Kelly since 2004, served as assistant head coach, defensive line coach and special teams coordinator at Cincinnati during the 2009 season while also functioning as a top recruiter.

With the Irish, he will continue to coordinate special teams along with his defensive duties.

"[Elston has] been on offense and defense and he also takes charge of special teams," Kelly

said in a press conference Friday. "He does a terrific job."

Under Kelly at Central Michigan, Elston coached the defensive line in 2004-05 and linebackers there in 2006. He spent time as co-defensive coordinator in 2005 and special teams coordinator in 2006.

Elston then made the move to Cincinnati with Kelly in 2007. In his first two years there, he served as tight ends coach, special teams coordinator and recruiting coordinator.

Kelly said Elston would remain special teams coach for the upcoming season, though Kelly may add another member to his staff in the future.

"Elston has the best knowledge base on special teams. We do want to assist him and we're going to do that more

than I have in the past because it is a big load ... but before we transition out those special teams, it won't be for another year," Kelly said.

Elston had to work with a young defensive line in 2009, having to replace all of his 2008 starters. He also helped to transition the defense from a 4-3 to a 3-4 scheme.

Despite those challenges, Cincinnati's rush defense held opponents to 3.6 yards per carry and ranked third in the country in tackles for loss and 10th in sacks. The defensive line was responsible for 57 of the tackles for loss and 25.5 sacks.

Elston's kickoff return unit at Cincinnati finished second in

see ELSTON/page 18

Hinton ready to lead pack of backs

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

"You know, he's just a good ol' ball coach."

So said Irish head coach Brian Kelly when introducing his new running backs coach Tim Hinton, with whom Kelly has worked since 2007. Hinton is one of nine assistant coaches on the staff, one of five on the offensive side of the ball, and one of four who came to Notre Dame from Cincinnati alongside Kelly. He replaces Tony Alford as running backs coach, who has

moved to wide receivers coach.

Hinton, a south-central Ohio native, hails from a family of coaching brothers. His brother Ron is one of the winningest active high school coaches in Ohio, long considered one of the most competitive states in the nation.

Hinton began his coaching career at Wilmington College, where he started off as a student assistant coach in 1981 before moving to tight ends and wide receivers coaches from 1982-84. He then moved

see HINTON/page 18

HOCKEY

Golden break for Palmieri



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Freshman wing Kyle Palmieri played on the U.S. World Junior team that defeated Team Canada in the championships.

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

While most of the Irish were home with family over winter break, one player was skating in the biggest game of his life.

Notre Dame wing Kyle Palmieri was a key member of the U.S. World Junior team's magical run to the gold in Saskatchewan, defeating Team Canada in a dramatic 6-5 overtime championship game on Jan. 5. The freshman was one of 11 Division I players on the team and the 13th Irish player in team history to be selected to the U.S. World Junior team.

Irish coach Jeff Jackson, who guided the 1997 U.S. World Junior team to a silver medal, expressed his joy

see PALMIERI/page 17

TRACK AND FIELD

Minor jumping for senior season goals

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Senior jumper Jaime Minor is starting off her senior season on the right foot. Always a determined athlete, Minor has stepped it up a notch in her final year.

"Jaime has made a huge turn around since I have come to Notre Dame," Irish jumping coach Jim Garnham said. "With her training, work ethic and her entire attitude toward track and field."

A three-time Big East championships competitor in the triple jump, twice indoor and once outdoor, Minor has been working hard to make steady progress over the years. This year, she is in position

to make a serious run at the Big East again in the long jump, triple jump and 60-meter dash.

Minor had an impressive performance to start the season at the Blue and Gold Meet with a fourth place finish in the 60-meter dash, a second place finish in the long jump and set a Big East qualifying mark at 11.30 meters in the triple jump, winning the event.

In the Notre Dame Indoor Opener, Minor finished sixth in the 60-meter dash and fourth in the long jump. But in her best event, the triple jump, Minor captures first with a Big East qualifying mark with a jump of 11.38 meters.

To get to this point, Minor

see MINOR/page 18