Willingham addresses firing with class

Third-year coach disappointed he didn't meet own expectations

By MATT LOZAR
News Writer

Tyrone Willingham walked to the microphone in the Joyce Center interview room Wednesday afternoon, with one thing standing out from his outfit of a gold blazer and black collarless shirt.

Unlike past press conferences, Willingham wasn't wearing any Notre Dame apparel.

In his standard calm and collected manner, Willingham talked with the media for more than 15 minutes only one day after being fired as Notre Dame football coach.

"To say I am disappointed, I think that very much hits the mark, but at the same time, I understand that I didn't meet the expectations or standards that I set for myself in this program, and when you don't meet your own expectations, you make yourself vulnerable to the will of others," Willingham said. "My goals have always been to inspire people to be the best they could be, on and off the field. I believe that I have been true to that in my time here at Notre Dame and appreciative of the opportunity and appreciative of what we have done, and I am disappointed with what I didn't do more than anything else."

Willingham said he became aware of conversations about his job security occurring Sunday afternoon, but was surprised at the Tuesday firing.

Even though he was surprised, Willingham knows every coaching job doesn't come with a long-term guarantee for holding that post.

"Forgive me, but as a football coach — I think I said this as some point there is no security," he said. "It doesn't exist. It's not there."

Willingham also addressed the expectations at Notre Dame.

"I'm very proud of the team," he said. "I'm very proud of the program."

Campus addresses abortion, women's rights

Women deserve better than abortion.

Feminists for Life of America vice president Sally Winn spoke Wednesday night on being a feminist while maintaining a pro-life stance on abortion.

Lecture brings pros and cons of issue to light at Notre Dame

By MICHAEL BUSK
News Writer

Long before a Quad stroll with broken white crosses, long before Catholics were a swing vote demographic, Notre Dame has been stirred up by the issue of abortion.

"The Office of Stewardship works day in and day out," said Dan Reagan, associate vice president for university relations. "We try to be extremely careful in stewarthing the contributions.

"Stewarding is the process of keeping the donor informed of the effects his or her contribution is having on the University — how Notre Dame has established an Office of Stewardship within its Development Office for such purposes."

Since alumni contribute nearly half of all yearly donations, the Office of Stewardship has plenty of responsibility. All involved in stewarding at the University are...
INSIDE COLUMN

The rules of AIM

We're all addicted to AIM. It's a given. It's an easy way to make plans or take your mind off homework. Message checking is the root of all much procrastination. The funny thing is that over half the people on your buddy list you never even talk to—they are solely there so you can check their away message. The idea of the away message is so ingenious that people are starting to use their white boards in the form as away message boards. I don't really agree with this.

The white board is neither the time nor the place. It is for other people to leave you messages—a mailbox of sorts. Putting up an away message on a white board is like sending you a snail mail. No one does that.

If you follow certain etiquette when actually conversing with people don't you think that there should be some online etiquette as well? Me and my friends certainly do.

The No. 1 rule people should follow is avoid AIM ADHD. The most annoying thing a person can do is IM you and then just leave and not respond. I absolutely hate when people do this. Why even IM you in the first place? Along with that, if you IM someone first, it's your responsibility to carry the conversation. There is no excuse for saying "Hey, what's up?" and nothing else. And one word responses are never polite.

Second, it's really rude to put up an away message when you're having a conversation with someone without saying goodbye. It takes very little effort to type the three letters: B-Y-E. It's pretty much a given that LOL and halahah are overused. I hate that. People just use that because they are lazy and don't know what else to type.

Additionally, I think everyone agrees that the AIM background sound is incredibly irritating. I don't even know why people keep the sound on. The absolute worst is when your roommate has the sound on. You wouldn't just talk on the phone when someone is trying to concentrate or sleep, so why would you leave that annoying sound effect on?

Also, if someone leaves you a message when you are away, it is only polite to IM them back when you get back, even if they have an away message up. To not acknowledge their message is like not wandering around your house barefoot while passing. And everyone knows how embarrassing that can be.

Additionally, there are some things that are inappropriate away message content. I hate when people write the whole day's schedule on their away message. Nobody really cares that you have "class, lunch, class, running, tutor, gym" and that you're going to be back around "11 a.m."

Also, it's annoying to read how much someone misses and loves their girlfriend/boyfriend. If they are that way, you feel tell the actual person not the rest of the world. It's like AIM PDAs. I also find it kind of strange when people write "call me" and leave their cell phone number. Honestly, the people you actually want to talk to probably already have your number. No need to beg people to call you. No matter what though, nothing is worse that the default away messages.

The views and opinions stated in the Inside Column represent those of the author and not necessarily those of the Observer. Contact Hillary Thornton at hthornt@nd.edu.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How many papers and tests do you have this week?

Four quizzes, three papers, two tests and a partridge in a pear tree.

More than I want to think about.

A history paper, an anthology paper and an orgo test.

Three papers and zero tests.

More than I've had all semester.

Less than this girl.

In Brief

The lecture "The Transition Process: A Closer Look at the Peruvian Truth Commission," will be given by 2004 Notre Dame Prize Recipient Solamach in C-103 (Hesburgh Center) today at 4:15 p.m.

The Notre Dame women's basketball team will take on Michigan State tonight at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's "Messiah" tonight and Friday at 8 p.m. in the Brighthouse Center in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The film "Amen" will be shown tonight in the Browning Theatre of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts tonight at 7 and 10 p.m.

ArounCafe and the Student Union Board will sponsor "A CoundChristmas" today from 10 a.m. until 12 a.m. in the basement of the LaFortune Student Center.

The sophomore class will sponsor a dinner and The OC watch tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in the LaFortune Student Center ballroom.

The 32nd annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Regina North Lounge at Saint Mary's College.

The Notre Dame hockey team will take on Michigan State at 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

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

Network:

New York hotel offers $10,000 martini

NEW YORK—Drinkers might want to keep a clear head when ordering a martini at New York's historic Algonquin Hotel or they might pay $10,000 for that cool sip.

The landmark hotel, where famed wit Dorothy Parker and fellow literary lights at the Round Table imbibe, offers a $10,000 martini, complete with a loose diamond at the bottom.

No one has ordered one yet, in the martini's first week on the menu, but the hotel hopes some romantic soul will buy one any day now.

"We haven't had any buyers yet, but a lot of people are talking about it," said Anthony Melehiorri, the hotel's general manager, on Wednesday.

Message man: Teen text messaging king

PROVO, Utah—Ben Cook's fingers can communique at warp speed. Cook, 17, uses his cellular phone keys to type a string of words with 160 characters in 57.7 seconds Tuesday, bidding to become the world's text-messaging king.

The message was: "The razor-billed gannets of the genera Sargasus and Pycnocterus are the most fecund freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human."

Cook competed against a friend, Dave Stoddard, and others in a televised text-off. Cook improved on his early performances, which took him about four minutes to type out the standard Guinness World Record sentences.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

The Observer regards staff as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalistic ethics at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4544 so we can correct our error.

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Members make decisions as semester ends

By AMANDA MICHAELS

The Student Senate passed a flurry of resolutions at Wednesday night's meeting, quickening the pace as the semester draws to a close, and finally approved a constitutional amendment regarding elections after three weeks of extended debate.

Discussion of the amendment, first introduced at the group's Nov. 10 meeting, took almost an hour as senators worked against a deadline. Because the electoral hour as senators worked against process had to be solidified before the election held later there had to pass if for this year's arc an increased requirement for removal of the petition signature and the inclusion choice vote for senators in the case of an exact vote tie in the Senate's final meeting, took almost an

The three main points of change are an increased petition signature requirement for write-in candidate approval, the removal of the abstention option from the run-off election ballot and the inclusion of a free-choice vote for senators in the case of an exact vote tie in the run-off. On the first point there was no contention, but the other two sparked a debate.

Student body president Adam levian supported the removal of the abstention option, citing research of election policies at seven of Notre Dame's peer institutions that showed the majority of schools fail to provide the option to abstain even in the primary. Those senators opposed to the change cited the principle behind abstaining, saying that students lose the chance to make their opinion known if it is removed from the run-off ballot. Zahn senator Mike McGinley — a leading voice in the opposition camp — proposed a change to the amendment wording that satisfied both sides. The run-off ballot will retain the abstention choice, but to ensure that one of the two candidates gains the mandate of a majority, the abstentions will not be factoring into total vote percentage calculations. The decision to give the senators the power to vote as they please and not by how the majority of the dorm voted in the case of a perfect run-off was reversed, returning the original constitutional language.

"If the ideal situation is that everyone will follow the vote of their dorm if given the choice, let's cut out the 'ideal' part." Josh Pasquesi Morrissey senator

"If the ideal situation is that everyone will follow the vote of their dorm if given the choice, let's cut out the 'ideal' part," Morrissey senator Josh Pasquesi said. It was repeatedly noted that the chances of an exact-vote tie are extremely low, so odds are against this section of the constitutional amendment coming into play. A round of applause accompanied the amendment's approval. The Committee for Academic Affairs introduced a proposal to change the way the class registration times are schedule. It suggests the Registrar's Office alternate students' times between the first and second day of their class registration times, so that a person who gets a time on the first day one semester will automatically get a time on the second day the next semester and vice versa. The proposal was approved and will be used as a negotiating position with the Registrar.

The final two resolutions of the evening created a new hall commission position as liaison between the University Counseling Center and the dorm, and extending thanks to the student unioners for allowing seniors extra time to leave after the final home game. Both were passed unanimously.

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Donations continued from page 1
careful about balancing the University's needs with the benefactor's wishes, said Katherine Rosswurm, senior director of development marketing, communication and stewardship. "We are absolutely committed to accountability," she said. "We make sure that we are honoring the intentions of the benefactor.

Rosswurm also touched on the importance of regional directors of Development, who work with benefactors one-on-one at the time of the donation, to find the best fit. "If a benefactor wanted to donate a $100,000 scholarship fund," she said, "the University will go in with a general purpose, and maybe the benefactor will say, 'I'd like this to be for students from New Mexico.'"

But there are times to draw the line, explained Rosswurm. "The benefactor couldn't specify. 'The student must be from New Mexico and have one green eye,'" she said with a laugh. "We wouldn't want a restriction we wouldn't be able to follow through with."

Notre Dame is meticulous in handling alumni donations, because they are so valuable to the University. "We have a fabulously loyal alumni base," Reagin said. "And as a result, Notre Dame has been able to make great progress through financial support."

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy@nd.edu
Abortion

continued from page 1

students and faculty as well as Notre Dame Law students, set up a pro-choice counter-demonstration at the clinic. A few hours later, over a hundred members of CALL, including a number of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students, left their protest at the clinic and marched to University President Father Edward Malloy's office in the Main Building, where they demanded to speak with him and then knelt down and began to pray the rosary.

Finally, after more than seven hours, Malloy agreed to meet with the group's leaders on the condition that their protesters leave the building.

In the meeting, the leaders of the group requested Malloy join them to pray at the clinic, but he declined, commending them for their support of the pro-life cause but telling them they would express his views in his own way.

The debate about abortion continued at Notre Dame in this past election cycle. In October, Mark Roche, Dean of Arts and Letters, wrote an op-ed to the New York Times defending Catholics who would choose to vote for a Democratic, pro-choice candidate. He argued that while the Republican position on abortion is more in line with Church teaching than that of Democrats, "the Democrats are closer to the Catholic position on the death penalty, universal health care, and environmental protection."

Although Roche declared abortion an evil comparable to slavery, he said the most successful way to keep abortion rates low would be to keep a Democratic "social safety net" under the nation's poor, those statistically more likely to obtain an abortion.

The day after Roche's article appeared in the Times, Law Professor Gerald Bradley co-wrote a response in National Review Online. Bradley said that the 1.3 million abortions that occur every year in the United States demand a response with a degree of urgency far outweighing that of the death penalty, health care, or the war in Iraq.

Bradley agreed with Roche that abortion was as grave an evil as slavery, but then compared Roche's argument that abortion should be kept rare rather than outlawed to that of 19th-century abolitionists who recommended economic policies to reduce the demand for slaves rather than work to illegitimize slavery altogether.

Less than a month after the two articles were printed, President Bush won re-election, claiming more than half the Catholic vote. Some political commentators have said that the President, who is already feeling pressure from conservative Catholics and evangelicals, might use the retirement of certain Supreme Court Justices as an opportunity to populate the Court with conservatives eager to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Whether he does or not, there will be no lack of passionate students and faculty at Notre Dame who will argue about abortion for years to come.

Contact Michael Busk at mbusk@nd.edu

Applications for the 2005 SHOW CHAIR

the annual campuswide concert that kicks off the school year

Do you like music?
Are you a student leader?
Are you interested in concert promotions?

Available in the Student Activities office (315 LaFollette)
Available at www.nd.edu/~thestow

Due Friday, December 3rd

Have Questions?
Email theshow@nd.edu

Effective December 1st, college / university students can take advantage of the savings offered by TRANSPO's 31 Day Student Pass.

Show your valid school ID when using the 31 Day Student Pass. Unlimited rides for 31 days, all for $25. Call for Pass sales locations, or visit us online at www.sbtranspo.com

Convenient bus routes serving campus, taking you to the shopping, restaurants, and destinations you need go. For more information Monday-Saturday please call: 233-2131
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Napoleon's anniversary marked
Paris - France, those were the days.

The French aren't pitting for the return of their 19th-century empire, but the 200th anniversary Thursday of Napoleon Bonaparte's crowning as a emperor is a reminder of their country's former glory.

The Corsican, whose diminutive size belied his continental ambitions, is back in the news for a second time in France since he couldn't have been more telling for a country facing an identity crisis and searching for its role in a 25-member European Union and a wider world led by the United States.

"It's a phrase from a long time ago that has been much on the French lately," said Steven Englund, an American award-winning biographer of Napoleon. "And I think they're looking for reasons to celebrate their own history."

The Napoleon nostalgia underscores France's obsession with retaining its influence as a self-appointed EU leader and creating a "multipolar world" — its buzzword for a counterweight to U.S. hegemony.

Rwandan force suspected in Congo
CAMBIDGE, Mass. — U.N. observers confirmed what they believed to be about 100 Rwandan troops in eastern Congo, a U.N. official said Wednesday, marking the first reported U.N. sightings since Rwanda threatened to send its forces against Rwanda's 19th-century empire, but the country's former glory.

The suspected Rwandan forces withdrew toward Rwanda after Tuesday's encounter, said M'hand Ladjouzi, head of the Congolese U.N. mission at Goma. He spoke at a news conference in Goma, the largest city of the eastern Congo.

NATIONAL NEWS

Pentecost sentence in child rape case
INDIANAPOLIS - A 5-year-old boy who admitted he was sexually abused by an adult relative and legislators must make bold changes if they're looking for reasons to celebrate their own history.

The renewed invasion warnings by Rwanda have raised fears of a reigniting of the devastating, five-year, six-nation war in Congo, Africa's third-largest nation.

"Those will be to take proceedings against the air force that was involved," he said. "We're looking at environmental factors and aircraft performance factors."

NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said investigators want to compare Sunday's crash with a deadly January 2002 crash in England of a CL600 Challenger that tried to take off in freezing temperatures without de-icing.

"We will look at it and see if there are similarities other than that," he said.

The pilot of the Ebersols plane, 50-year-old Luis Alberto Polanco of the Dominican Republic, and flight attendant Warren T. Richardson III, 36, of Coral Gables, Fla., were also killed. The Federal Aviation Administration will conduct toxicity tests, Yeung said.

Teddy Ebersol, the youngest son of Ebersol and "Kate and Allie" actress Susanne St. James, died after being ejected from the plane and crushed by the wreckage.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board investigators said the plane had not been inspected before taking off.

"I would say right now we're looking at environmental factors and aircraft performance factors," said NTSB spokesman Mark Young.

"There are no other sons on the plane," he said.

"The behavior of the aircraft makes it more likely that de-icing is an issue," he said.

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Lecture
continues from page 1

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Thursday, December 2, 2004

Monday's pro-choice advocates, a look into the history of the women's rights movement reveals otherwise. "Believe it or not, pro-life femin­

ity is not an oxymoron," Winn said. "It is entirely congruent with the fundamental feminist principles that brought about the women's rights movement."

In fact, many early American feminists were opposed to abor­tion. Winn cited such famous fig­ures as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Blackwell as being highly vocal critics of abortion.

Citing alarming statistics of the frequency of abortions, Winn challenged her audience to ques­tion why the procedures are so common in our culture.

"Today, there are 1.3 million surgical abortions every year," she said. "Every 37 seconds, your sister, your girlfriend, your daughter, your best friend, is lay­ing down her body for an abor­tion. Why?"

According to the research arm of Planned Parenthood, the top two reasons why women have abortions are lack of financial resources and lack of emotional support. This is a telling fact according to Winn.

"Women don't want to own to is that women are being coerced by well-meaning friends and family to have abortions," Winn said. "Or by the boyfriend who says, "Oh, but remember, you can't afford a baby'. Oh, like he wasn't in the room?"

In her speech, Winn focused on the need for society to provide resources and support for college women who are pregnant. The lack of support, coupled with the social stigma of an unwed mother on a college campus, are respon­sible for the numbers of abortions performed on col­lege-age women.

"Women are not men. We have children so get over it, don't make us fit into a male model," Winn said. "Why should we have to sacrifice our bodies for our career goals?"

As a woman who has had first-hand experience of being preg­nant in college, Winn referred to the overwhelming lack of support universities provide for pregnant women. "There in 10 women will become pregnant this year. Where do they go? They drop out or have abor­tions because there is usually no place to live for undergraduates, no day care, and no maternal coverage in student health care."

Since universities generally do not provide resources for preg­nant women, they leave many women with no choice but to have an abortion, she said.

"Yale University will pay for three abortions in the student health care package," Winn said. "How much for prenatal care delivery? None. Tell me, where is my free choice?"

"There is an easy route, but it is so gratifying," she said. "My daughter is the love of my life."

Still the need for change at col­lege campuses nationwide has never been greater.

"It is no secret that something needs to be done," she said. "Pro­life and Pro-choice advocates need to stop screaming at each other and be a catalyst for change."

To do this, panels should be created on campuses, comprised of pro-choice and pro-life decision makers who are willing to ask why they are not providing for their pregnant students, Winn said.

Referring to the success of a new pro-choice center at Georgetown University, Winn said if goals are set and people are willing to come together, women will benefit greatly.

Winn closed her speech by emphasizing the need to maintain the power of being feminine. Pregnancy is part of womanhood, and a gift that must be treasured.

"We have spent the last 30 years proving we can make it in a man's world," Winn said. "Why should we want to be the same?"

In the beginning, Willingham won at Notre Dame. He got off to magnificent start, coupled with eight on-the-field goals - he always talked of one winning lesson from South Carolina.

"My wish will be that this program has great success in the future," Willingham said. "That's always what's important."

After answering the questions, Willingham closed the press conference by wishing whoever takes over the program good fortune.

"I'm not going there," Willingham said. Later, he explained the abrupt answer. "Folks, there is not any anger associated with that, it's just that this is the truth," Willingham said. "Someone else holds the answers."

On another controversial topic regarding Willingham's firing, he said plenty needs to be said about how he feels regarding the Black Coaches Association, but not at this time.

Willingham didn't think it was necessary to discuss whether or not he was asked to make any staff changes. As for his successor in South Bend, Willingham passed for a while when asked what one piece of advice he would give to the next coach of the Irish. "It would be 'Be your self'," Willingham said. "That's always what's important."

Tuition continued from page 1

Dame — realistic or not — are as demanding as anywhere in col­lege football.

"I don't get into what's fair and what's not fair. I am an optimist by nature, but I am also a realist, and that makes you deal with the events as they occur," he said.

Therefore, referring to the success of a new pro-choice center at Georgetown University, Winn said if goals are set and people are willing to come together, women will benefit greatly. Willingham paused for a moment here, Dr. Kathryn, please.

"There's only one thing Win, That's it," Tyreone Willingham former Notre Dame football coach

"We had some success. We didn't have enough success," Willingham said. "That is, I think, the bottom line. We didn't reach the level that I wanted to reach."

When the topic of being given three years was fair or not, Willingham answered those questions quickly, even cutting off one reporter who was asking about that.

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Dow Jones 10,590.22 +162.20

**Market Recap**

**Dow Jones**

**In Brief**

**Southeast airlines ceases operations**

**NEW YORK —** Stocks soared Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrials rising more than 150 points, as a large buildup in the nation's energy inventories and increased consumer spending sent buyers back to the market.

The Energy Department reported an increase in crude inventories - heating oil and other derivative products - of 2.3 million barrels, far higher than Wall Street had estimated. Gasoline and crude inventories also rose substantially.

The impact on crude futures was immediate - a barrel of light crude was quoted at $47.30, down $1.83, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"Oil futures go down, stocks go up. I think that's a pattern for a long time, and the good news is that if we keep getting inventory reports like this, oil prices will be ready for a big correction downward," said Brian Belski, market strategist at Piper Jaffray.

"Overall, this market has clearly turned to a growth mode over the past few months, and should continue to grow."**

**At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 120.30, or 1.2 percent, at 10,248.32.**

Broader stock indicators were sharply higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 12.31, or 1 percent, at 1,186.13, and the Nasdaq composite index gained 30.33, or 1.4 percent, to 2,127.14.

The good news on oil built on earlier economic reports, which showed an 0.7 percent rise in consumer spending in October, a better-than-expected showing and welcome news after a mediocre start to the holiday shopping season.

The Commerce Department also reported an 0.6 percent rise in consumer incomes - considered a key barometer of future spending.

Wall Street was also happy with the latest reading of the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index for November, which measures the nation's industrial activity. The index came in at 57.8, up from 56.8 in October and better than the 57 reading Wall Street expected. November marked the 18th straight month of growth for industrial activity.

The dollar was once again a concern, but was generally overlooked by investors in favor of the strong economic data. The dollar fell to a 12-year low against the British pound, while the euro continued its record-setting gains against the greenback.

**Merger activity dominated company news, with Wellpoint Health Networks Inc. successfully completing its $16.5 billion merger with Anthem Inc., creating the nation's largest health insurer. Shares of the merged company, which will go by the name Wellpoint Inc. and trade under the ticker symbol WLP, were up $4.61 at $105.94.**

**Blockbuster Inc. rose 35 cents to $8.83 after it said it was willing to raise its takeover bid for rival video rental chain Hollywood Entertainment Corp, above its original $11.50 per share offer. Hollywood gained 23 cents to $12.92 on the news. Dow component Pfizer Inc. climbed 54 cents to $28.31 after it said it would meet its 2004 profit targets, but stood to lose $14 billion in revenues over the next three years as patent losses on some of its products expire.**

**Cigna Inc. issued projections for future profits, saying better-than-expected results in its health care business allowed the insurer to raise its profit targets for 2004 and 2005. Cigna surged $5.93 to $72.95.**

**Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by more than 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 742.39 million shares, compared with 577.17 million at the same point on Tuesday.**

**Lag in health care spending may be over**

**NEW YORK —** The slowdown in the growth of health care spending leveled off this year after two years of declines, a new study found, with the cost of U.S. health care rising American rising 7.5 percent in the first quarter of 2004 — virtually the same as the 7.6 percent rate in 2002.

Paul B. Ginsburg, co-author of the study, said the results could be a pause before the rate of spending increases will once again start to grow as programs designed to contain costs are failing to have a significant impact. Even if the rate of increase doesn't jump dramatically, he said, it is still at a dangerous level which outpaces inflation and could eventually lead to more employers dropping health coverage.

"We have leveled off at a place that is problematic," said Ginsburg, president of the Center for Studying Health System Change, which conducted the study with the Employee Benefit Research Institute. "There is just not much optimism that we know how to control costs."

**Health care spending growth slowed in both 2002 and 2003 after reaching 10 percent in 2001. Ginsburg said the surge in 2001 was partially a reflection of the end of strident managed care policies which kept costs in check. Programs and policies that shift a greater burden of the health care costs to employees helped moderate spending growth in 2002 and 2003. But Ginsburg said cost shifting can only accomplish so much because employers will drop coverage if they can’t bear the expense.**

Unlike other studies, this one measures what is paid to providers such as hospitals and doctors instead of health care premiums paid by employers to purchase coverage. Some studies measuring premiums have showed a continued decline in the growth rate.

For instance, a study released last month by Mercer Human Resource Consulting found that this year the average premium rose 7.5 percent, down from last year's 10.3 percent increase. Employers expect premiums to rise 7 percent next year — if they make some changes in the plans they offer. If not, they anticipate a 10 percent increase.
Is Christmas a political event? Yes, in two ways. First, American Civil Liberties Union lawyers can be counted on to rush to court, at the first sign of Christmas, in force communities to remove creches from public places, to silence Christmas carols in schools and to prevent public mention of the event, the “Christmas,” from corrupting the “irreligious” system. They commonly argue that public recognition of Christmas is politically divisive, although the continuous version usually arise only upon the filing of their own lawsuits.

Second, this is not a purely political way. Christmas is a political event. When the second person of the Trinity became man, man entered the world as a subject of the Roman Empire which recognized no moral authority above the absolute power of the law. Some philosophers, such as the Roman statesman Cicero, had argued that the “discretion of the spirit, and spirit things just and unjust, made in agreement with... Nation.” But the general rule before Christ was that objective justice had nothing to do with the validity of laws, and therefore that there was no moral limit to what the state could do. The incarnation of the divine person as man, manifested at Christmas, turned instead that the power of earthly rulers is subject to the law of God. As Peter told the Sanhedrin, “We must obey God rather than men.” Acts 5:29. The Christian era began with civil disobedience when this Mug, at divine direction, disobeyed the same person of God and “went back to their country by another way.” Matthew 2:12. Ant. Joseph and Mary rejected the authority of the state when they fled into Egypt with the child to escape from Herod. Matthew 2:13-15. The second person of the divine person, Christ, into the world, the absolute claim of a state not a new kind of challenge. Herod tried to kill the child because he wrongly saw him as a contender for political power. Pontius Pilate could not understand why Christ would not make a deal. He asked, “What is truth?” John 18:38. unaware that, with Truth, a capital T, was the person standing in front of him.

Are there moral limits to what the state can do? The answer given by the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany, and many regimes in history was No. The question remains today. The people of California voted last month to ask the Supreme Court to reconsider legal human beings for the purpose of killing them and using their parts for the benefit of others. That power of the state to deprecate the meaning of life is the final legal, and thus moral, face of the Nazi depersonalization and extermination of the Jews. It was also the premiere of the French courts, which declared that slaves were property rather than persons. The reigning jurisprudence is legal positivism, in which none of those specific demonstrate that said to be unjust because we can know what is just.

“Truth,” said Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, “is the majority vote of the nation that could in all elections have broughtforth John Q. Public, or perhaps human life is a purely municipal ideal of no validity outside the jurisdiction.” As Hans Kelsen saw, the proclamation of the 20th century, put it, “justice is an irrational ideal.” Any law is valid if enacted from the current opinion of society. Kelsen admitted that the Nazi law’s being law was not valid, according to positivist theory in the world of positivist jurisprudence, there is no room for Martin Luther King’s conclu­ sion, in accord with Thomas Aquinas, that a law is unjust and void if it “is not rooted in eternal law and natural law.” This is not a merely Christian concept. But the natural law makes ultimate sense only if we identify its Author. The polit­ ical impact of Christmas arises from its assertion that the state “pilots” the law. The Lawgiver and that his law controls.

Today, when politicians and judges from the Pontius Pilate school of jurispru­ dence seek to liberate the state from the moral law, they are trying to relegate an issue that was explicitly settled by the highest authority two millennia ago. Fans of the nativity, an ultimate authority it recognizes. What Christmas tells us is that, whether they like it or not, the natural law is an ultimate authority in accord with its law. That is why the people of California, never have authority to legalize murder, to wage war unjustly, in sanction economic, racial or other oppression, or else­ where to violate the rights of others. The courts this year will have their best chance to extinguish Christmas from public life during the “Happy Holidays.”

The views expressed in this column are those of the “only one who dare Christmas” and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This is Notre Dame. It was more than a slogan that attracted me to Notre Dame. I was attracted to what that slogan stood for. Notre Dame was a place that fostered integrity and character. However, yesterday’s actions by the administration indicate that Notre Dame has lost some of its luster.

When I arrived on campus as a student in the fall of 1999, I was introduced to the Notre Dame Family. There was a common bond that linked everyone associated with the University. As you walked around, you could feel the camaraderie that filled the campus. And when the football team took the field on Saturday afternoon, they had more than 80,000 family members supporting them and cheering them on.

That was Notre Dame. The administration decided to take action and restore the football program to the glory of old. However, in doing so, the administration has risked losing Notre Dame’s defining characteristics: integrity and character.

A recent study indicated that Notre Dame is the most popular football team in the country. One would think that our less-thanstellar performance on the football field would turn fans away, yet they keep coming back. What is it that draws fans all across the country to root for Notre Dame? It can’t be our winning record because the Notre Dame faithful have been more successful teams over the last few years. So what is it? What makes Notre Dame different?

Before yesterday it was Notre Dame’s integrity and character that separated it from every other program. It was that common bond, the Notre Dame Family. Our actions toward South William will not be actions of integrity and character. They were actions of arrogance and impudence. The administration fired one of Notre Dame’s most zealous advocates of integrity and character. Apparently the chance at earning a BCS birth and the enemy that comes with it has swayed the administration.

I still believe Notre Dame is a special place, and could one coach in our football powerhouse. However, over the coming weeks, as the search for a new coach begins, let us not lose sight of what made Notre Dame so great.

Michael Zingale
dominus
class of 2002

Thursday, December 2, 2004

THE OBSERVER

Political authority comes from God

Charles E. Rice

Right or Wrong?

"Today, when politicians and judges from the Pontius Pilate school of jurisprudence seek to liberate the state from the moral law, they are trying to relegate an issue that was explicitly settled by the highest authority two millennia ago." This is Notre Dame. It was more than a slogan that attracted me to Notre Dame. I was attracted to what that slogan stood for. Notre Dame was a place that fostered integrity and character. However, yesterday’s actions by the administration indicate that Notre Dame has lost some of its luster. When I arrived on campus as a student in the fall of 1999, I was introduced to the Notre Dame Family. There was a common bond that linked everyone associated with the University. As you walked around, you could feel the camaraderie that filled the campus. And when the football team took the field on Saturday afternoon, they had more than 80,000 family members supporting them and cheering them on.

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Michael Zingale
dominus
class of 2002

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can achieve greatly." —Robert Francis Kennedy

U.S. senator
Save the tunnels

Molly Ackcr

Nobody likes a dumb blonde

Ty 'couldn't get it done;' deserved to be fired

Unbelievable.

Notre Dame realizes after three years of mediocrity that it doesn't have the coach that can get the program where it needs to be so it fires him. All of a sudden, according to all the so-called NCAAF experts, Notre Dame "panicked." Notre Dame "didn't give him a chance," the firing was "rashly motivated." Notre Dame was... well, different than all the other football factories.

That's reflective of the number-one issue in America today: We want everything to be held accountable for their actions or results (much less themselves). Poor performance is always someone else's fault, or can be blamed on one's abusive parents, broken home or ethnicity.

Coach Tyrone Willingham knew going in exactly what the job entailed and exactly what was expected... put a consistent winner on the field. If he didn't think he could do it, he shouldn't have taken the job. Neither should Urban Meyer or anyone else take the job now and claim three, five or 20 years from now that the coaching environment at Notre Dame is brutal. Brutal schedule, brutal academic requirements, crappy weather, demanding alumni, etc., etc., blah, blah, blah. If you aren't up to the challenge, don't take the job. If you are going to whine about the situation, don't take the job.

Unfortunately, Willingham was not doing the things that needed to be done to achieve the aforementioned objective (put a consistent winner on the field). He was not likely to do the things necessary to improve the team. He wasn't recruiting enough impact freshmen. He couldn't win over the hearts of the alumni, students, etc. He lost to teams he clearly should have beaten. Worst of all, there was no momentum in the program... no success trajectory... things were not obviously getting better. Willingham was fired for the same reasons everyday Americans in challenging jobs get fired... not because he is a bad person, not because he is black, not because he can't be successful somewhere else.

Because he couldn't get it done at Notre Dame and there was no convincing evidence that things were improving. Go Irish!

Bill Lewis

alumnus class of 1976

Community responds to Willingham's departure

Ty 'couldn't get it done,' deserved to be fired

Notre Dame's reputation tarnished

As an alum who was often frustrated in her Notre Dame days by the apathy on campus, I was thrilled to hear from a fellow alum and read on the internet that a large demonstration was being organized on the steps of the Dome for Tuesday night.

My joy quickly turned to horror when I learned the demonstration was to occur on the steps of the Dome for Tuesday night. I'm glad to see Father Malloy going out on such a high note.

Dear Notre Dame administrators,

Please don't let the tunnels be shut down for pedestrian use. Some students have constructed a new and separate tunnel system designed for pedestrian use. The logistics, not to mention the expense, of mapping out such a separate system amidst present building and construction on campus, indicated the prohibitive nature of such a project. For this reason no estimates were solicited. This may be true, but after speaking with many alumni and current students I have learned that there are many members of the Notre Dame community who are willing to donate money to save the tunnels.

The tunnels may not seem like they should be that important, but if you have ever been a student at Saint Mary's you know exactly what a little sad and maybe a bit annoying it would be to be closed. Ladies, let's not let them take our tunnels away from us or from future SMC Chicks. Even if it takes years before they are able to reopen, let's pass the hat around and champion the cause of saving our tunnels!

Molly Ackcr is a junior communications and humanities double major at Saint Mary's. Her column appears every other Thursday. She can be contacted at acker782@saintmarys.edu.

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

**U2 produces another classic**

By BECCA SAUNDERS

Assistant Sports Editor

There are few newly-released albums that can be called "a classic" in this era of music. Often groups are "revolutionary" or "ground-breaking" and are noted for that, but few musical performers are able to take the genre of rock and roll, rich in history and influence, and make an album that is truly great. Bono, the Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr. accomplish this feat in the latest U2 album "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb.

U2 has taken a genre that it has heavily influenced and created an album with a strong U2 character, yet one that is still new and distinct, and all this has been done without letting a single bad song slip onto the album. Early rumors of "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" had it doomed by Bono himself as U2's first rock album. While the two truly rock songs on the album, "Vertigo" and "Love and Peace or Else," are great songs, they are the only two songs that have a heavy rock beat behind them. The rest of the album is composed of what U2 does best: the rock ballad.

The remaining nine songs on "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" are all songs that are better than most rock bands' singles. Songs with terrific melodies, strong music composition and moving lyrics seem to be average fair for U2 on this album.

U2 has been around for awhile, and thus it is not entirely surprising that its songs are not composed of lyrics concerning anything less than enlightening. The song "Miracle Drug," which has been misinterpreted by many as a song about AIDS, is in fact about a man from the high school the members of U2 attended. This boy was completely paralyzed, but his mother would still talk to him out of her love for him. Eventually he began taking a drug that gave him the ability to blink his eye and through this ability he conveyed moving pictures to his mother that had been stored up in his head. This man experienced a whole new world because of his mother's dedication to him. Bono sings of his newfound freedom in one of the best lyrics on the album: "freedom has a scent / like the top of a new born baby's head."

The song is about the powerful love the mother had for her son, "I am you and you are mine / Love makes no sense of space / And time." This song covers much more than your average rock song.

In that same spirit, "Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own" is a beautiful acoustic sounding slow song that sounds like a song about a couple, but Bono wrote about it his father. Another terrific song, "One Step closer," is also about Bono's father, who died a couple of years ago. It was inspired by a conversation with one of the Gallagher brothers of the band Oasis about Bono's father. Gallagher had asked if his father died a believer, and Bono told him that he was not sure, and Gallagher responded that at least now he was one step closer to knowing. Bono claims to have known at that moment he was going to write that into a song. As the main lyricist throughout the majority of the album, Bono exercises his immense talent in writing songs that are powerfully personal, yet at the same time immensely universal.

While not all the songs on "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" are terrific, they are generally pretty close. "Blinding Lights," written about U2's first visit to New York City has an introduction rivaling the moving intro to the classic "Where the Streets Have No Name." There is something to be said for and about every song on the album, and that is a novel occurrence.

"How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" may very well turn out to be one of U2's best albums in regards to almost every song being really spectacular. It definitely at least holds its own in the ranks among "Achtung Baby" and "All That You Can't Leave Behind." If U2 fan or not, it would be hard not to at least appreciate the pure experience and ingenuity that shines through on every track of "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb.

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**Free Yourself winds up disappointing**

By BRODERICK HENRY

Sports News Editor

Fantasia Barrino proved to be an amazing live performer. Armed with the vocal stylings of a woman far greater in age and life experiences, the American Idol winner delivered some of the best musical displays in the three-year history of the television contest. As a result of such performances Fantasia has been awarded a number of comparisons to R&B soul diva Mary J. Blige. Some have even crowned her the new face of RB&R. Yet, there still remains one question surrounding Barrino: are audiences really interested in hearing her sing?

If record sales of Fantasia's first single, "Believe," are any indicator then the answer is no. In its first week of release the song sold 142,000 copies which is pale in comparison to the sales of the first Idol winner Kelly Clarkson or even last year's Idol runner-up Clay Aiken. Many critics assert the poor reception of "Believe" is directly attributed to Fantasia's over singing. Both on stage and while recording she has the tendency to scream and shout notes rather than actually sing them.

Although television audiences may have been able to stomach and even enjoy the two-minute outbursts, it remains to be seen whether record buyers have the wherewithal to listen to the same outbursts in heavy rotation.

Yet, with her debut album, "Free Yourself," Fantasia does little to quiet the critics. The 13-track album, which is relatively short by R&B standards, suffers from a number of debilitating ailments. Most noticeably, Barrino, without fail, sings every song in the shrillest yet sassy octave imaginable. But the shouting is often to the detriment of the songs. For the anoles prov- en and their soul mate inspiration, but rather distractions for listeners.

In order to compensate for Barrino's shortcomings, Clive Davis, the album's executive producer must have had one intention — appeal to as many segments of music buyers as possible. Therefore any producer who has made a hit record in the last five years was invited to assist on the project. Missy Elliot, Jermaine Dupri, and Rodney Jerkins all lend a helping hand to the album. Yet, with so many cooks preparing the meal, "Free Yourself," just ends up sounding like a compilation. I doubt the Gereshin Broadway classic "Sunset and Comet," juxtaposed to "Baby Mama," a song saluting young single mothers, will rest well with most listeners.

For their sake the album should be renamed, "Now Songs That Will Never Sound Good Together!"

Even with its many missteps "Free Yourself" does have a couple of standout tracks. One track in particular, "Good Lovin'" finds Barrino praising the love she receives daily from her "man." "What a sunny, sunny morning..." if my man is right by my side/hold me so closely I felt love inside." The aforementioned Elliot even finds a way to wildly contain the idol star's waiting. Accompanied by a bass-heavy track, the song sounds like a 70s classic.

Overall, "Free Yourself" illustrates the greatest disappointment surrounding Fantasia. It is obvious she has a great deal of talent. But it appears she is more intent on relaying her vocal prowess rather than delivering beautiful and occasionally well-written songs in the manner in which they were intended. Luckily, much has been invested in the young star, and she will definitely get the chance to make another album. Let us hope Fantasia returns to the art of singing before she embarks on that endeavor. In the meantime, free yourself from the disappointment and leave this album on the shelf.

Contact Broderick Henry at bhenny@nd.edu

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**How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb**

**U2**

Interscope

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**Free Yourself**

**Fantasia**

J-Records

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**THE OBSERVER SCENE**

Thursday, December 2, 2004

WSND 88.9FM TOP 5 SPINS OF THE WEEK: 1) Elliot Smith - From a Basement on the Hill 2) Cake - Pressure Chief 3) Satchm...
ALBUM REVIEWS

The Beatles' U.S. albums finally released

By JULIE BENDER
Scene Music Critic

By 1963 the Beatles were an established act in the United Kingdom, inviting hysteria wherever their Beatles treads and selling records faster than hot cakes off the grill. Despite this phenomenon, miles across the Atlantic, the band was a hard sell. Ingrained with the attitude that nothing "British" would sell in the U.S. — especially nothing with long hair. Major American record labels systematically refused to sign the Beatles. Producer George Martin managed to convince the tiny group and 1960s label, Veejay, to take a chance on the band. But its 1964 U.S. release, "Introducing The Beatles," was a flop, and the group was quickly dropped. Meanwhile, with long hair. Major American record labels systematically refused to sign the Beatles. Producer George Martin managed to convince the tiny group and 1960s label, Veejay, to take a chance on the band, but its 1964 U.S. release, "Introducing The Beatles," was a flop, and the group was quickly dropped. Meanwhile, back in Europe, the Beatles continued to meet with astounding success, and Beatlemania hummed along in full force.

After several more months, Capitol Records, a label who had rejected the Beatles four times prior, could no longer deny the band's potential and quickly snapped up its songs for release in early 1964. Capitol, however, did not release the same albums the British public had seen. Instead, the label took the liberty of changing the song order and cutting the album length down by several songs. Instead of "Please Please Me" and "With the Beatles," American fans got "Meet the Beatles," "The Beatles' Second Album" and other U.S. releases like "Something New and Beatles '65" in place of the British counterparts. In 1985, things changed when the Beatles catalog was transferred to CD, and in this process the American album versions all but disappeared. Only the original British albums were released on CD, leaving the U.S. albums almost a non-existent part of history.

In what some call a natural, albeit late, move and others a strategic moneymaking ploy, Capitol has finally released the first four American Beatles albums in box-set form, titled, "The Capitol Albums Volume I." For the first time, Beatles fans can possess and listen to "Meet the Beatles," "The Beatles' Second Album," "Something New and Beatles '65" in CD format. For original U.S. fans, this is a chance to hear the Beatles exactly how they heard them the first time around in 1964. For fans a generation removed, this is a chance to own a bit of Beatles history.

Some complaints have been aired about this release, and rightfully so. "The Capitol Albums" is listed at close to $70, and, after all, these American releases contain no new music. For the fan that already has the British albums, this is money spent for songs already owned. For a real Beatles fan, however, this package is a dream come true. The quality of music is unimpeachable, and the four CD set comes with a 48-page booklet and the original album cover art. There are the classic songs like "All My Loving" and "She Loves You," and the lesser known, but equally good songs like "No Reply," "I'm A Loser" and "This Boy." Included is even the German version of "I Want To Hold Your Hand." "Komm, Gib Mir Deine Freiheit." Even more, each album contains twice the amount of songs, with each song appearing in both the mono and stereo versions. A true Beatles ear will be able to detect the sound differences and delight in both variations. And, with several other U.S. albums still unreleased, there is promise that these songs won't be the last notes heard from the band.

Whether "The Capitol Albums" is a money scam or enticing package, the Beatles unquestionably remain the masters of rock 'n' roll. No matter how it is boxed up, wrapped up or sold, the band and its music will always be priceless.

Contact Julie Bender at jbender@rud.edu

BEATLES' US. ALBUMS FINALLY RELEASED

The Capital Albums, Vol. 1

The Beatles

Capitol

by KENYATTA STORIN
Asst. Scene Editor

Mos Def after long hiatus

Mos Def fans beware — this is not the same Mos Def of five years ago.

Back in the late 90s, Mos Def came out with "Black Star" (with Talib Kweli) and his solo debut, "Black on Both Sides," and immediately became one of hip-hop's top up-and-coming artists. A gifted and socially conscious rapper, he provided an intellectual alternative to gangsta rap, much like rap groups De La Soul, Brand Nubian and A Tribe Called Quest. However, after the release of "Black on Both Sides," Mos Def decided to pursue other endeavors, acquiring several acting roles ("The Italian Job," "Monsters Ball"), appearing on Broadway ("Topdog/Underdog") by 1999, starting the rock band, Black Jack Johnson. After this long hiatus, Mos Def has finally come out with his second solo release, "The New Danger," but unfortunately he has lost much of the magic that once made him great.

On the album, Mos Def brings in a number of music genres aside from hip-hop, including rock, soul and blues. Unfortunately, the result is a messy musical montage, with awkward transitions between tracks. Furthermore, Mos Def's attempts at some of these genres are pedestrian at best. On tracks like "Old Panties" and "Modern Marvel," he puts his singing at the forefront, and while he is a better singer than most rappers, he still is not good enough to carry songs with his voice. His attempt at blues on "Black Jack Jink" is also nothing special.

Black Jack Johnson, is featured on several tracks, and after one listen it becomes quickly apparent why the band does not have its own album yet. The group's guitar riffs and grooves are listenable, but ultimately lackluster and uninspiring. For the most part, the band seems out of place on the album, showing Mos Def most likely included it for the sole purpose of giving his band publicity.

Not surprisingly, Mos Def is at his best when he sticks to rapping. Aside from Kanye West, the album has no big-name producers, but the beats, while not stellar, are generally pretty effective. If there is any track that would make a good single, it would be "Sex, Love & Money," which has a simple, but effective flute and bass beat. "Sunshine" and "Groovy Man Business" are also quality hip-hop tracks.

But as one would expect from a five-year hiatus, Mos Def's flow is more Based than it was before the new millennium. For instance, there are several instances where Mos Def rhymes the same word twice: "Layin' the cut like they don't give a fuck!"

Cuz if I gotta make a move dray they not gonna know." Also, he often falls into repetitious rapping patterns, rhyming the same sounds over and over: "Like, Hall Magic, all of that / I'm fade / [people] come in and shoot up the place / And make you pull up your face / The deck, I'm a pull out the ass..."

But his biggest area of decline is his song content. While there are glimpses of social commentary, it is a far cry from the provocative lines he used to flow. This is exhibited best by the album's worst cuts, "The Rupe Over," an attack on the hip-hop industry that remake's Jay-Z's song, "Hakowever." On it, he ends with the lame line, "Rum-bom-bom-bu / the running this rap s—, something he never would have said before. Even worse, the song abruptly ends shortly after this line, with Mos Def simply muttering, "That's it," which makes one wonder exactly how much effort Mos Def put into the album.

For a man of Mos Def's talents, it is hard to call "The New Danger" anything but a disappointment. It still has its moments here and there, but it is nowhere near the quality of "Black on Both Sides" and "Black Star." Clearly, Mos Def has lost the drive he once had in his music. Hopefully, he finds something to inspire him again for his next album, and will once again resemble the groundbreaking emce he once was.

Contact Kenyatta Storin at kstorin@rud.edu

THE NEW DANGER

Mos Def

Geffen
Oxford, Miss. — David Crowton struggled to replace Eli Manning and refused to make major changes after his first losing season in six years as coach of Mississippi.

Those two issues cost him his job. Crowton was fired Wednesday, following the Rebels' worst season in 11 years.

The usually stoic Crowton fought through tears several times while speaking regretfully about his final season in Oxford.

"Things just haven't been good in 2004," he said.

He declined to discuss specifics of his dismissal, which came after two days of meetings with athletic director Pete Boone and chancellor Robert Khayat.

"We just couldn't come to an agreement," Crowton said. "We couldn't get everything on the same page."

Boone said Crowton refused to submit a written plan to fix problems within the program, including improving a defense that consistently ranked among the Southeastern Conference's worst.

He preferred the status quo, keeping things how they are, Boone said. "I didn't hear a plan that was better."

Assistant coaches will remain employed until the new coach decides whether to retain them, Boone said. Boone and Khayat will look for the new coach.

Crowton is a native of Lafayette, Louisiana, and has coached in the South for much of his career. He is known for his knowledge of the game, but also his inability to win big games.

"We knew his job was in jeopardy," Boone said.

Crowton, 57, has been a head coach at five other schools, including Louisiana-Lafayette, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The Rebels went 4-8 this year, the program's worst season since 1981.

"We decided it was in the best interest of the program to move on in a different direction," Boone said.

Crowton, the offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Tennessee, said he had been critical of his handling of the quarterback position this season.

"Coach Cutcliffe and I had a great run and great relationship, and I think he's a great coach and a great person," Manning said.

"We didn't think he had left Ole Miss a better place than when he came in. I know he'll be fine," Crowton said.

Crowton, the former offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Tennessee, had been criticized for his handling of the quarterback position this season.

"It's essential that the football program be competitive. It's not now-and-then competitive. It's every-year competitive," Crowton said.

Boone said he had five candidates in mind, but declined to elaborate further.

"We expect our program to be competitive, to be moving forward. We will not accept mediocrity," Boone said.

Crowton, who was fired only days after Provo, Utah, made a strong push to bring Manning to BYU to be its quarterback coach to share the same staff.

"When I took the job, following LaVell Edwards was the biggest challenge," Crowton said.

His former athletic director and coach at California, said Crowton was not a candidate to take over as coach.

"There will be no coach who applies for this job who will think there will not be pressure," he said.

Crowton is a former Cougars assistant who was working as offensive coordinator with the Chicago Bears, when he was tapped by BYU after the 2000 season.

Crowton returned to Provo with a wide-open offense that was profligate his first season and brought back many of the same players from BYU at its best, with Edwards guiding quarterbacks such as Steve Young, Jim McMahon and Ty Detmer.

The Cougars started 12-0 under Crowton and went 4-8 the next season.

Crowton lost a strong supporter in the program when athletic director Val Hale, a former high school teammate of Crowton's in Provo, died Sept. 8.

Crowton said he wants to get back into coaching, but would pursue other job opportunities.

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Associated Press

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Associated Press
McNair considering retirement after completing season

Titans quarterback cites health concerns, family responsibilities as reasons to potentially walk away from football

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair isn't backing away from his talk that he will consider retirement after this season, and said Wednesday his health and spending more time with his children are his top concerns.

"It's frustrating when you've got a 6-year-old boy (who) asks you to go play catch, and you've got to tell him no because you're injured. That's kind of frustrating," McNair said. "That frustrates you mentally because you can't do things as a father that you need to do. "I want to be able to play catch. I want to be able to go out and do the things with my kids that a normal father would do. I can't do it banged up. That's the biggest consideration right now."

The 2003 co-MVP originally said Sunday he would evaluate his football future immediately after a 31-21 loss to the Houston Texans in which McNair turned the ball over three times. Coach Jeff Fisher talked with his quarterback that night and again Monday and said McNair was frustrated over the loss.

Given a chance to back off his own comments, McNair refused on Wednesday. "It's nothing to do with this football team or what position we are in right now. It's all about my health. This year has been one of the worse as far as me not being on the field," he said. "I've been doing that for a long time, and my body right now, it's saying one thing and my mind is saying another."

McNair aggravated his bruised sternum in last weekend's loss, an injury that put him in the hospital for two nights in September and kept him out of three games completely. Twice, he was knocked out of games. "That's the most playing time I've had since 1999, when he sat out five games because of surgery to repair a disc in his lower back."

But the man who has played through at least 24 separate injuries and six operations or procedures before this season is used to pain. His misery stems from what he can't do at home. "Nobody understands but me and probably a couple other people how hard it is for me after a game to get out of my bed or go out and play toss with my little boy," he said. "And that's the frustrating part about it - not being able to do the things I normally would do if I was healthy."

McNair only watched practice Wednesday, and Fisher said the quarterback likely won't do anything on Thursday either.

Titans owner Bud Adams told Houston television station KFIV on Monday that it's important that McNair keep playing. The franchise is 7-6-1 when McNair starts, but Adams said any decision McNair makes will not be based on money.

"He is a real conservative guy. He's hung on to his money and has a lot of it in the bank. If he wanted to hang 'em up, he would be fixed for the rest of his life," Adams said.

---

No. 3 Illinois defeats No. 1 Demon Deacons

Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Top-ranked teams might want to think twice about visiting Assembly Hall. Roger Powell Jr. scored 19 points, Dee Brown and Luchez Head added 16 each and No. 5 Illinois made No. 1 Wake Forest look more like a nonconference patsy in a 91-73 rout Wednesday night. The Illini led by double-digits for the last 28-plus minutes of the game, and were up by as much as 32 to the second half. With 8:34 still to play, the "Orange Krush" student section broke into chants of "WE'RE THE BENEFACTORS.

Even Illini coach Bruce Weber was sporting a dayglow orange blazer, so loud even Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser had to chuckle when they shook hands before the game.

That was about all that made Prosser and the Deacons laugh. The Demon Deacons were no match for them. Especially not on "Paint the Hall Orange" night, when the 16,500-seat Assembly Hall was sold out with abs and all of the fans in bright orange. Even Illini coach Bruce Weber was sporting a dayglow orange blazer, so loud even Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser had to chuckle when they shook hands before the game.

But the Illini are a cut above Providence and Arizona, and the Demon Deacons were no match for them. Especially not on "Paint the Hall Orange" night, when the 16,500-seat Assembly Hall was sold out with abs and all of the fans in bright orange. Even Illini coach Bruce Weber was sporting a dayglow orange blazer, so loud even Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser had to chuckle when they shook hands before the game.

That was about all that made Prosser and the Deacons laugh. The Demon Deacons were held to 39 percent shooting, and two of their best players were never a factor. Chris Paul, the leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team, had just 10 while Justin Gray, MVP of the preseason NIT, had 11.

Eric Williams, the other member of Wake Forest's big three, had 18 on 7-of-13 shooting.

Though the Demon Deacons had a decisive edge in rebounding, the game was played inside. Illinois never let them use it, harassing and badgering them anytime they tried to get close to the basket. And Wake had no answer for Illinois' speed — or its smoothness.
AUGUSTA, Mich. — Two men were banned from events at The Palace for what the Detroit Pistons say is their involvement in last month’s brawl during an NBA game. John Green and Charlie Haddad have been sent letters informing them of the ban, which also includes events at the Delta Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston, Pistons spokesman Matt Dobek said Wednesday. The Clarkston location is another holding pattern for Artest, Dobek said. The team will start next season with its third head coach in five seasons. The firing is the first major coaching change by athletic director Rick DiNardo since he was hired in September as the school’s fourth AD in a little more than three years.

“BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Gerry DiNardo is now the latest coach to have failed to reverse the fortunes of the long-suffering Indiana football program. DiNardo’s firing was announced Wednesday, 17 days after the Hoosiers ended a 3-9 season with a 63-24 loss to Purdue, their seventh loss in eight years in the Big Ten opener that game was its third losing season.

The firing is the first major coaching change by athletic director Rick Green, who was named in July 2001 after the Hoosiers’ 3-9 season. He was retained by the new athletic director, Rick DiNardo, who replaced Cam Cameron after the 2001 season. DiNardo had an 8-27 record in three seasons.

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Indian head coach Gerry DiNardo hangs his head as he paces the sideline during their 53-7 loss to Penn State in State College, Pa., in this Nov. 15, 2003 photo. DiNardo was dismissed as Indiana’s football coach Wednesday.

Associated Press

“I don’t believe in quick fixes,” he said. “I do believe in looking at trends and patterns.”

One of those patterns is declining attendance. Crowds averaged about 24,800 this season in Indiana’s 52,000-seat Memorial Stadium — down from about 35,000 the year before and the 12th straight year attendance averaged less than 40,000.

IN BRIEF

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Green of Oak Ridge, Firth, Breda, and Jonathan Haddad are part of the broadcast team for the InCredible League. Pacers sign Haislip to help replenish roster.

JERSEY — Jerry Baker, longtime broadcaster and member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, is leaving the staff of the Indiana High School Athletic Association after three years as sports information director.

Baker’s resignation, announced Wednesday by ISHSA Commissioner Blake Hess, is effective Jan. 31. "During my tenure with the ISHSA, I have learned a great deal about the inner workings of the organization, and I had no concept of just how complicated it is for such an organization to facilitate the needs and demands of nearly 400 member schools," he said.

Baker, former radio voice of the Indiana Pacers and TV announcer for ISHSA championship events since 1978, said he plans to continue his broadcasting career. He currently is a part of the broadcast team for the InCredible League. Pacers sign Haislip to help replenish roster.

INDIANAPOLIS — The short-handed Indiana Pacers signed former Milwaukee Bucks forward Marcus Haislip on Wednesday.

Haislip, a 2002 draft pick out of Tennessee, was waived by the Bucks when they signed Marcus Fizer last month. In 70 games for the Bucks over the last two seasons, the 6-foot-11, 230-pound Haislip averaged 3.6 points and 1.5 rebounds.

The Pacers’ roster has been depleted by injuries and suspensions. Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, Jermaine O’Neal and Anthony Johnson were suspended for fighting with Detroit fans, and Jeff Foster, Reggie Miller and Jonathan Bender are injured.
SMC BASKETBALL

Belles blow halftime lead in loss

By: CHRIS KHOERE
Sports Writer

At halftime, it looked as if St. Mary’s would continue its winning streak. The Belles led 37-32 and had dominated much of the first half action, building a lead as large as 11 points. However, the team fell apart in the second half and lost to the Albion Britons 71-62 Wednesday night at Kresge Gymnasium in Albion, Mich.

Bridge Boyce led the Belles with 22 points, 15 coming in the first half, but got little help from her teammates. The team’s only other double figure scorer was Emily Creachbaum, who chipped in with 22 points, 15 coming in the first half, but got little help from her teammates.

THE SMALLEST BAND IN THE LAND MINIKI

For the No. 21 Irish (6-1), this weekend’s Notre Dame Invitational isn’t solely a matter of winning and losing. “This is the half-time report,” coach Tim Welsh said. “Excellence of time and excellence of place is what we’re looking for, but placing high without good times will not be satisfying.”

Ten men’s teams and five women’s teams will travel from all over the country to compete in the three day invitational, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday. Welsh said he expects to see impressive performances from West Virginia, Columbia, and Truman State among others.

“Everyone is clear on what the goals are,” Tim Welsh, Irish coach said.

ND Men’s Swimming

Team to host Notre Dame Invitational

Swimmers looks to improve race times

By: ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

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ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING

Swimmers and divers split up this weekend

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Like couples in all long-term relationships, the No. 21 Irish swimming and diving teams are taking a weekend apart to follow their own paths.

The swimmers will travel to Athens, Ga., to compete in the Georgia Invitation-al. The prestigious event, which will feature top-ranked Georgia and top-10 power California, will be the Irish’s biggest measuring stick to date.

“It will go as the culmination of what we’ve been doing this fall,” coach Bailey Weathers said.

The team will be led by freshman Caroline Johnson and sophomores Jessica Stephens and Ellen Johnson, all of whom have had excellent seasons.

While many of the team’s top swimmers will be in the pool this weekend, however, the Irish will be without some of their leaders. Seniors Katie Eckholt and Brooke Taylor will not travel with the team, staying in South Bend because of LSAT testing.

“It will definitely take points out of the meets, but that’s how it is right now,” Weathers said.

The team will also be missing a few swimmers because of injury, but Weathers declined to comment on the nature of those injuries.

On the other hand, the divers will stay in South Bend and play host to the Notre Dame’s biggest measuring stick to date. California, will be the Irish’s biggest measuring stick to date.

“It will go as the culmination of what we’ve been doing this fall,” coach Bailey Weathers said.

The team will be led by senior Meghan Perry-Eaton, who is a 2004 All-American and owns 11 victories out of the 12 events she has competed in, will lead the divers.

Weathers is pleased she will be able compete in a bigger event against more people.

“The competition will be good for her, the diving is as good or better than the swimming,” he said.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

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JANET VALLONE

Nutcracker

Irish guard Meghan Duffy drives to the basket against USC on Nov. 26. Duffy and her teammates face Michigan State tonight.

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns to the Joyce Center tonight — where it has won 24 straight games — to face its third ranked opponent of the early-season schedule, this time against No. 15 Michigan State at 7 p.m.

The Spartans (4-1) are looking to rebound after their first loss of the season — an 80-75 defeat to Texas Christian Sunday. Meanwhile, the No. 3 Irish (7-0) haven't played at home since facing Colorado State Nov. 22.

"They’re just a really good team," Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said of Michigan State. "They have a great inside and outside game. They play great defense and they present a lot of match-up problems for us."

Lindsay Bowen, a second-team All-Big Ten selection who poured in 33 points against TCU including 6-of-11 three-pointers, is one of the leaders of the Spartans.

Center Kellie Roehrig also gives Michigan State a strong inside presence. She was third all-time in career field goal percentage entering the 2004-05 season.

"They’re very balanced," Irish guard Meghan Duffy said. "They have great guards that can score and they distribute the ball. Their post players are very physical — a typical Big Ten team."

Last season, Michigan State pummeled Notre Dame 92-63 in East Lansing. The Irish hope to return the favor this season.

"Just from watching the film from last year’s game we were extremely disappointed with our effort," Duffy said. "That’s the biggest key for (this year’s game), just to come out and have intensity and shut them down defensively."

Duffy scored 20 points in Notre Dame’s 69-59 victory against Valparaiso Tuesday. All-American forward Jacqueline Batteast scored 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Batteast tweaked her ankle during practice Wednesday, but should be ready for tonight’s game.

"They’re very balanced," Irish guard Meghan Duffy said. "They have great guards that can score and they distribute the ball. Their post players are very physical — a typical Big Ten team."

Irish guard Meghan Duffy drives to the basket against USC on Nov. 26. Duffy and her teammates face Michigan State tonight.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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Washington informally contacted Willingham

Recently-fired coach isn’t sure yet what his future plans will be

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Former Irish football coach Tyrone Willingham, fired by the University Tuesday, said Wednesday he had had informal contact with the University of Washington regarding that school’s vacant head coaching position.

When asked what his future plans were, Willingham said that he was planning to think about things.

“I will take a step back,” Willingham said. “I will relax for a moment. I do not know how long that moment will be, but a moment could be a week or it could be a month. Then I will reflect on what I need to do, and I will make that decision.”

The Washington position opened up after Keith Gilbertson resigned under pressure in early November after two years as Huskies’ head coach. Washington finished this season 1-10 and 0-8 in the Pac-10 Conference, including a 38-3 loss at Notre Dame. Gilbertson was 7-13 in his two years as Washington’s head coach. It was Washington’s first losing season since 1976.

Willingham addressed many of these guys are taking a wait-and-see approach to what’s going on with the Husky program.

“Budget aside, I think it’s most important that we have the right person in place and our leadership is committed to that and we’ll figure it out,” Turner said in a Nov. 1 press conference.

Should Willingham be offered a job at Washington and accept, he would face the Irish in Notre Dame’s game of the season, Sept. 24 at Washington.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvhoeg@nd.edu

84th annual ND football banquet cancelled

Major event’s absence could affect team’s recruiting efforts

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Due to the firing of head coach Tyrone Willingham, Notre Dame cancelled its 84th annual football banquet scheduled for Friday night.

Irish players agreed with the coaching staff and their families to modify the banquet to a private dinner.

“The banquet is normally open to the public, with tickets sold for a dinner and the presence of a prominent guest speaker,” Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White said.

“Although the banquet was cancelled, the football program is fully committed to continue honoring our players, families and coaches banquet only. We’ll have an announcement about that here shortly. The event also serves as an important recruiting window for Irish coaches.”

Washington was scheduled to host its football banquet in conjunction with the football team’s weekend of Jan. 16, 2003, when Willingham welcomed 10 recruits to a banquet that helped secure the coach’s best recruiting class in his tenure as head coach.

“I’ve talked to a number of the guys that were supposed to be in,” Mike Frank, Irish Eyes.com said. “For the most part, most of these guys are taking a wait-and-see approach to what’s going on with the coaching staff.”

Frank said two recruits in particular, Dan Deering (Barrington, Ill.) and Raymond Henderson (Oak Creek, Wisc.), could slip out of Irish hands.

“I think Notre Dame might be hurt on a couple days because the player also serves as an important recruiting window for the other team,” Frank said.

“The problem is Notre Dame doesn’t have an actual recruiting weekend until January.”

By then, Frank said, many recruits will have made verbal commitments.

A number of players announce their intentions in early January at the U.S. Army All-Star game on national television.

“In all reality, if they really want to go to Notre Dame, they’re going to wait and see who the coach is, develop a relationship and see if they still want to go,” Frank said.

Former Irish Heisman Trophy-winner Raghib “Rocket” Ismail was scheduled to speak Friday.

Former Notre Dame quarterback Joe Montana spoke at the 83rd annual banquet on Dec. 12, 2003.

The Notre Dame ticket office staff is contacting members of the general public who bought tickets to provide automatic refunds via the initial payment mode.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu
**THE OBSERVER**

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GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Relationships are going through a high cycle, but tree don't guarantee things will run smoothly. If you are interested in more than one person, make a choice before you lose out. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Think twice about how you are spending your year-end and today is a perfect day to start. Don't let anyone talk you into a deal that you aren't convinced is right for you. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider going it alone. **

Birthday Baby: You are bright, shiny and always making people smile. You have a strong will and a determined nature, but you also know how to get your way by using finesse and diplomacy. Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astropro.com and eugenialast.com.
By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

The e-mail was sent at 12:30 Tuesday afternoon — there was a meeting at 1 p.m.

Most thought it was about the Insight Bowl. Others weren’t quite so sure.

But according to Irish players Wednesday, none expected the announcement of the firing of head coach Tyrone Willingham at that meeting.

"As players, we didn’t know what was going to happen," offensive lineman Ryan Harris said. "We knew there would be some major measures taken, but I believe that if you would have asked any of the players here, no one would have thought that coach Willingham would not be the coach any longer."

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White told the team Tuesday’s meeting that Willingham would no longer be their head coach.

Shortly after, the team was able to meet with Willingham to talk with him about the decision made.

"I was completely shocked," Irish quarterback Brady Quinn said. "It really went from talking about the bowl game to that. I had no idea. I had no idea that was coming. It was just shocking."

With less than a day to prepare, Irish players expressed both shock and disappointment that Willingham would no longer coach them.

"I just have a heavy head, a heavy heart," Irish tight end Anthony Fasano said. "There’s a whiskers all the time around here about coaching changes. Especially at the time it happened — no one on the team ever thought it would really happen."

Irish linebacker Brandon Hoyte, who said he wished he had the character of Willingham, said the team was emotional upon hearing the news.

"It was definitely very emotional," Hoyte said. "There was a lot of emotions that played into it. It was hard, overall, just hard."

Most of the players blamed their performance as a team for one of the reasons Willingham was fired. Those comments came a day after White said Notre Dame wasn’t getting it done on Saturdays.

"We as players don’t feel we did enough to help coach out," Harris said. "That’s not for me to answer if he got a fair shot, but there is a sentiment among players that we should have done more, we could have performed at a higher level for coach."

The Irish finished the regular season with a 6-5 record, and last season finished 5-7. They were 21-15 during Willingham’s three-year tenure. However, after winning their first eight games with Willingham at the helm, they finished 13-15.

"Everybody on this team is responsible for our performance the last two years, and it’s a shame he gets blamed for it," Fasano said. "It’s really not him. It’s our team. It’s our coach and that’s really what it comes down to."

Players commented on Willingham’s character and leadership abilities. Most said they were sad to see him go.

"First off, we’re losing a great leader," Quinn said. "He’s someone who, without a doubt, leads a life that, I think as a person, many people should try to imitate.

"As a leader and a coach, he’s someone who I was always able to confide in, talk to about a little extra something."

When asked if he thought Willingham had enough time to show what he could do at Notre Dame, Quinn said the coach should have been given more time.

Willingham was the first Irish coach to be fired before his initial contract expired.

"If you think about it, that’s not even allowing one of his recruiting classes to get all the way through," Quinn said.

Quinn also said that if asked to look for a new head coach, he’d want someone similar to Willingham.

"For me, I would want someone like coach Willingham," he said. "So, if he’s got a twin or someone out there he doesn’t know about..."

The Irish quarterback, who started as a true freshman last season, also expressed his gratitude for Willingham’s support throughout the past two years and the ups and downs.

"I can’t thank him enough just for the opportunity he’s given me, and for the man he’s made me these past two years," Quinn said.

The Irish team now turns to each other for support and to move on.

But Quinn said it will be no easy task to achieve that goal.

"Anytime you don’t have closure on an issue, especially one where a lot of emotions play a big part, you can be hard for a lot of people to get through something like this," Quinn said. "Right now, I think what we have to do as a team in rally together and use this time to get closure."

So as the coaching search begins, the Irish find themselves unsure of what the future holds, both for the team and the head coaching position.

"It’s a tough situation," Fasano said. "You think about a lot of things, and you really just worry about your teammates, yourself and the future of what is going to happen."

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There’s a large discussion about African-Americans and what this means. But coach Willingham has never, ever, in any speech, or any statement in the team, brought race into the equation."

Ryan Harris
Irish offensive lineman

"I think the bottom line is, unfortunately, to a certain extent, you gotta move on. And I think that one of the greatest things about playing for coach Willingham is being able to face adversity and be able to come out of it stronger."

Brandon Hoyte
Irish linebacker

"It was shocking. It wasn’t really expected, to be completely honest. Going into the meeting, it was the farthest thing from my mind."

Bob Morton
Irish offensive lineman