THE OBSERVER
The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's
VOLUME 40 • ISSUE 66
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005
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Queer Film Festival is examined

University committee, FTT department discuss possible changes to controversial event

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

After hosting the Queer Film Festival for the past two years — prompting campus debate over academic freedom and the Catholic Church's stance on homosexuality — Notre Dame is now holding discussions with the Film, Television and Theatre Department about potential changes to the event's third installment, officials said.

The February festival, which features films by gay and lesbian artists intended to stimulate dialogue, has in recent years been the subject of talks between members of the FTT Department and a committee on academic freedom created by University President Father John Jenkins, University spokesman Matt Storin said Monday.

While Storin said discussions are occurring with the presumption the event will go on — "It's not my impression there is any discussion of canceling," he said — one issue he said administrators have addressed directly is the event's title.

"I think the [committee believes] the title in use, particularly in part 'festival,' may lead to confusion over the difference between academic examination of gay and lesbian films as opposed to taking a position on what is a controversial issue on campus ... or within the Catholic Church," Storin said. "I think there's a feeling

see FESTIVAL/page 4

ND students allotted 2,500 bowl tickets

100 tickets available for SMC seniors

By HEATHER VAN HOGERDEN
News Writer

Of the 15,000 Fiesta Bowl tickets allotted to Notre Dame, 2,500 of those will be made available to Notre Dame students and 100 to Saint Mary's seniors, the ticket office announced Monday.

According to Director of Ticket Operations Josh Berlo and an email to all students, the ticket office is holding a lottery to give students the opportunity to buy tickets for the Jan. 2 BCS bowl game against Ohio State, Notre Dame's first BCS game in five years. Students are allowed to bring one ID to Gate 10 of the Joyce Center on Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. to get a raffle ticket. If their number is in the range of numbers chosen, they have the opportunity to buy two tickets on Thursday.

Saint Mary's seniors will have the opportunity to purchase tickets from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Student Activities Office. Seniors may bring one additional ID with them to purchase the tickets. Any leftover tickets will be available to the rest of the Saint Mary's student body on Dec. 12.

see LOTTERY/page 6

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES
Budget reallocations questioned

By KAREN LANGLEY
News Writer

Controversy marked the Council of Representatives (CIR) meeting Monday night, as representatives voiced their dissatisfaction with the procedures taken by the Financial Management Board (FMB) to arrive at its new budget allocation, which affected the Judicial Council, Class of 2006, Senior Week, Hall Presidents Council, Class of 2008 and the Student Union Board (SUB).

Representatives of Hall Presidents Council (HPC) said that FMB did not follow proper procedures in its reallocation meetings.

"The process that went on during the reallocation meetings was..." see COR/page 6

SMC security bumps up 24-hour parking

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

In order to alleviate overcrowded parking lots at the College, Saint Mary's security has decided to increase 24-hour parking for students on a trial basis by providing additional spots in the Regina Lot, adjacent to the Regina Residence Hall.

This is only being done on a trial basis," said director of Security Dave Chapman.

"It gives students more parking spaces and was done to try and ease congested parking in other lots because we observed that the Regina Lot was not always full during the week."

Students are now allowed to park in the last three rows of the Regina Lot 24-hours per day and do not need to move their vehicles during the typically restricted hours in other lots on campus.

"In the rest of the [Regina] lot, students must move their vehicles out between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday," Chapman said.

But there were some stipulations with the new policy. There are times during special events on campus in..." see SPOTS/page 6

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL
Revised resolution approved

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

The Campus Life Council passed two key resolutions Monday — one targeting non-Catholic student initiatives and the other addressing the role of diversity in Notre Dame's classrooms.

Chair of the Student Senate and affairs committee Brian Boyd presented a resolution calling for the creation of a committee under the office of the Provost that would investigate how best to incorporate "cultural competencies" into the Notre Dame curricula. He clarified the scope and purpose of the resolution before numbers weighed in on its importance.

The committee's members will be drawn from various groups on campus and will include students, faculty and administrative representatives.

"We want to form a committee to investigate how to incorporate cultural competencies into the classroom," Boyd said. "One issue that has come up is the need for a diversity requirement, but this does not suggest a diversity requirement as the best way to do this; it just asks, what is best way to incorporate diversity?" It could take a number of different forms.

The same resolution passed in the Student Senate Wednesday. No one on Senate was heard for clarification on the..." see CLC/page 4

During the 2005 Queer Film Festival, audience members watched a film at Browning Cinema in Notre Dame's DPAC.
The definition of the “holiday season” seems to get progressively hazier with each year that passes. I realized this when I saw my first Christmas-themed commercial this year before Halloween. Since that fast-food commercial, I have done two things. First, I have suffered from "Christmas rage" because of the winter holidays being forcefully pushed on me pre-Halloween. And secondly, partially in response to this passive aggressive Christmas anger, I have thought long and hard about when the holidays should actually start and when they officially start for me.

It seems that retailers would essentially like people to think of the holiday season as, well, basically the whole year. They restrain themselves and usually wait until after Halloween to put out the Christmas decorations. Television stations start pushing holiday commercials before Halloween and holiday movies before Thanksgiving.

Basically, I only have one rule for when the holiday season should ideally begin. I believe that the holiday season should not start before any other holiday, specifically Halloween and Thanksgiving. Inklings of the holidays can begin to creep in around Thanksgiving, but should be limited to the last two weeks of November. Christmas decorations should not supplant Halloween costumes or Pilgrim hats in stores, ever.

With that said, I feel that even during the technical “holiday season,” you can feel less than spirited. When Christmas started creeping around my high school, I didn’t feel like Christmas until my family and I bought a Christmas tree in mid-October, you start to either get tired of it or get so used to it that it seems like a normal part of your life instead of a few special weeks.

I firmly believe that each person has a few rituals that make them feel like the holidays have actually started. In high school, it didn’t feel like Christmas until my family and I bought a Christmas tree in mid-October, cut our annual Christmas tree, and stored it inside the garage until my family and I put it up before Thanksgiving. The first night of bone-chilling December, every Friday night, my family and I would sit in the living room and watch day seven of the “Harry Potter” movies. It was not like Christmas until my family and I actually started thinking about the holidays. The first ugly Christmas-sweater party makes me feel a little more festive.

But it’s really finals week that puts me in the holiday mood. It makes me doubt my faith, believe in Santa Claus, and believe that we can all survive our finals. It makes me think about shopping for my family and friends. It makes me feel like Christmas.

OFFBEAT

Cabbie bites off finger in dispute about crowding

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — A taxi driver in Denmark bit off the tip of a 48-year-old man’s finger in a brawl over how many people could fit in the cab, police said Monday. The driver, who was bruised but not seriously injured, said the man grabbed him by the hair with his left hand and punched him with other hand. The driver claims he accidentally bit off the tip of the man’s ring finger in the commotion, police said.

Obiohan gets serious about Christmas lights

MANSFIELD, Ohio – Some people at Christmas time are content to deck their homes with evergreen wreaths and holly, and maybe a few strings of lights made to look like glistening icicles. Not Carson Williams.

He spends nearly two months hooking up 25,000 lights, then programs them to dance to Christmas music. Hundreds of cars drive by his house north of Cincinnati every night to see the display, which also is posted on several Internet sites.

“So far, everyone’s been really courteous. Williams said on NBC’S “Today” show Monday. “I told the neighbors, I told the sheriff, if they get any complaints, I’ll shut it down, because the neighbors are more important to me than the Christmas lights.”

IN BRIEF

The ND Breastfeeding Encouragement Support Team (BEST) will meet from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. today in the Notre Dame Room of the LaFortune Student Center. BEST supports nursing and pregnant moms at Notre Dame and babies are welcome to meetings. E-mail Tracy Webster at twebster10@nd.edu to be added to the BEST listserv and get more information.

The Institute for Latino Studies is sponsoring an exhibit of vintage posters created by Latino artists in the Galeria America in McKenna Hall today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A seminar titled “Surfactant Facilitated Spreading of Aquous Drops on Model Hydrophobic Surfaces” will be given today by Alexander Couts, professor of chemical engineering at the City College of New York. It will begin at 3:30 p.m. in room 140 DeBartolo Hall.

A “Christmas at the Como” benefit concert will be held Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the Hammes Student Lounge of the Coleman Family Center from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. ND Celebration and volunteer students will perform, and the public is invited to attend.

In anticipation of the film premier of “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” Fr. Charles Gordon will give a talk entitled “Anticipating Narnia” Thursday at 8 p.m. in room 102 DeBartolo Hall.

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

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we are not infallible. If you have found an error, please contact us at 651-5454 so we can correct our error.

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

Contact Molly Griffin at mollygriffin@nd.edu

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Board of Governance

Group approves co-sponsorship of 12-hour dance marathon

Despite some misgivings, $2,500 allocated for fundraiser, to benefit patients at Riley's Children's Hospitals

By KELLY MEEHAN
New Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance met Monday night to approve a $2,500 co-sponsorship for the initiation of a 12-hour dance marathon set to take place in April that will benefit Riley’s Children’s Hospitals.

The Riley Dance Marathon is a volunteer event that takes place at colleges and universities throughout Indiana, residence hall association service chair Amy Dardinger and First-Year Class President Francesca Johnson hope to bring to the College.

"So many schools are getting on board with this service project, so why aren't we?" Amy Dardinger, service chair Residence Hall Association

Johnson said. "So many schools are getting on board with this service project, so why aren't we?"

Their goal for the dance marathon event is to gather at least 100 participants who would dance from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. in the Angela Athletic Facility to raise funds for Riley’s Children’s Hospital. The money gathered from the event would help the hospital maintain its mission to never turn a child away regardless of their family’s financial status, Dardinger said.

Together, Dardinger and Johnson have organized a dance marathon committee of approximately 30 students who will work to raise necessary funds for the event.

"We would have to start small and grow as years passed," she said. "Through advertising and cooperation, we would eventually be able to find a balance of giving and taking funds."

"I think that it would be so cool to start this event here with our own funding. When we ask Notre Dame for money, ND is branded all over the state," Amy Dardinger, Women Issues Commissioner said. "I think that it would be so cool to start this event here with our own funding," she said. "When we ask Notre Dame for money, ND is branded all over the place."

"I think it is best if we give them the money and consider it part of a contingency plan," Student Services commissioner Jackie Robbins said. "I think it is best if we give them the money and consider it part of a contingency plan."

"We need to talk to other places soon because it will be difficult to get the donations they need before April," she said.

The Board voted to give the Riley Dance Marathon committee $2,500, with five members abstaining from voting on the issue.

"I feel that the event could be so much more successful if it took place in the fall," Senior Class president Lauren Condon said. "It could be more beneficial, and it could become a huge event with more time to plan and fundraise."

Student Body President Kellye Mitros said she would pass along Condon’s suggestion to the committee.

In other BOG news:

• Various student government clubs will be selling coffee and snacks in Trumper during finals week as part of “Treats in Trumper” fundraiser.

• Lessons and Carols will take place this Sunday in Loretto at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Kelly Meehan at knmeehan@stmarys.edu
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December 11 7am to 3am Midnight Snacks!

December 8 7am to 3am Midnight Snacks!

December 10 7am to 3am Midnight Snacks!

Finals Week: Dec. 12-16 Open: 7am to 3am

*December 16 DeBartolo closes, 30 minutes after

last scheduled exam through the Registrar's Office.

Free Midnight Snacks on study days only!

24 Non-technology rooms, first come/ first serve

See Building Support Person if you have specific

needs: Room 103, 104

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Coley-Morse: 1st Floor Lounge 7:00am-4am
daily. Same dates as listed above.

*always-Free Snacks*

O'Shaunessy: Rooms available for open study

rooms sought by the Registrar's Office.

Monday

December 8 8:00am to 3:00am

December 9 8:00am to 3:00am

December 10 8:00am to 3:00am

December 11 8:00am to 3:00am

Finals Week: December 12-16 8am to 3:00am

Sunday 1:00pm to 3:00pm.

Rooms: 204, 206, 207, 208, 209.

Snacks during Study Days courtesy of:
Business Operations
Campus Ministry
**Good Luck with Finals**
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Island suicide bomber kills five
NETANYA, Israel - A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up among shoppers outside a Netanya shopping mall today, killing five people and wounding 20, Israeli police said. The attack may have been retaliation against Israel's recent decision to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, Israeli police said.

British law affords gay rights
LONDON - Gay couples began registering for civil partnerships at town halls across Britain on Monday as a law took effect giving them many of the same legal rights as married heterosexuals.

Although the law stops short of allowing same-sex couples to marry, many said they were still elated to claim the benefits and official recognition of their relationships - for which they had waited decades. The Times of London marked the day by publishing notices of "gay marriages" for the first time.

"We're already delighted," said 80-year-old John Walton, registering in London with his lover of 49 years, Roger Ruffian. "It's enormously important to us that we should be able to state in everyone that we are partners."

NATIONAL NEWS

Sept. 11 panel warns of problems
WASHINGTON - Time, money and present-day terrorism have done little to close gaping holes in the nation's security system, the former Sept. 11 Commission said Monday in accusing the government of failing to protect the country against another attack.

The panel cited disjointed airline passenger screening methods, sketchy border security and other problems in saying the Bush administration had moved quickly enough to enact most of its recommendations made in 2004.

"We're frustrated, all of us - frustrated at the lack of urgency in addressing these various problems," said Thomas Homan, former New Jersey governor who was chairman of the commission.

FEMA admits poor Katrina response
WASHINGTON - The Federal Emergency Management Agency admitted Monday it had failed to protect Hurricane Katrina victims from thuggish behavior by some of its own personnel and from the chaos that engulfed New Orleans after it was flooded.

"We are determined to learn from these lessons so they do not happen again," FEMA Administrator Gale A. Norton said.

Local News

IU offers gender studies doctorate
BLOOMINGTON, Ind. - Indiana University faculty voted overwhelmingly to create the nation's first doctoral degree in gender studies.

The university's trustees endorsed the degree program last month and it is awaiting approval from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. The degree will be available fall term. The university said it will offer graduate degrees in the related field of women's studies, but IU officials say there will be the first stand-alone doctorate in gender studies.

World & Nation

First witnesses testify at Hussein trial

Accounts offer gruesome details; defense walks out on judge's refusal

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq - The first witnesses in the Saddam Hussein trial offered details Monday of killings and torture using electric shocks and a grinder during a 1982 crackdown against Shiites, as the defiant ex-president threatened the judge and tried to intimidate a witness.

One witness said he saw a machine that looked like a grinder with hair and blood on it in a secret police center in Baghdad where he and others were tortured for 70 days. He said detainees were kept in "Hall 63."

But defense lawyers questioned the reliability of witnesses who were only 15 and 16 at the time and walked out of the tumultuous courtroom when the judge refused to allow former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark to address the court on Saddam's behalf. They returned after the judge relented.

Throughout the daylong session, Chief Judge Rajab Ali Mohammed Amin struggled to maintain order among heated defense outbursts. Saddam and his co-defendant and half brother, Barazan Ibrahim, gestured and shouted together, "Long live Iraq!"

"Everyone must remain calm and be civil," Amin said repeatedly.

Saddam and his seven co-defendants are charged with killing more than 80 Shiite civilians in the town of Dujail after an assassination attempt in 1982.

"I am not afraid of execution," Saddam said at one point. "Why do you just execute us and get rid of all of this," Ibrahim shouted at the judge.

The trial's first witness, Ahmed Hassan Mohammed, delivered a rambling, nearly two-hour account of the events in Dujail in retaliation for an armed attack on Saddam's convoy.

Mohammed recalled how security agents rounded up townspeople of all ages, from 14 to more than 70. "They were mass arrests. Women and men. Even if a child was 1-day-old, they threatened to take away his parents," 'Bring him with you," Mohammed said.

He said the agents took him and the others to the intelligence headquarters in Baghdad, where they were tortured before being transferred to Abu Ghraib prison.

Mohammed said his brother, who was at 17 at the time, was tortured while his 77-year-old father watched. Interrogators threatened to rape the prisoners' daughters and sisters if the men did not sign confessions, he said.

"Some men just said 'I will sign anything but leave my sisters alone,"' he said.

Mohammed, who was 15 at the time, said he himself was tortured. "They blindfolded me, but I was so young, it kept failing." At the Baghdad detention center, he said "a machine that looked like a grinder and had some blood and hair" on it, and "I saw bodies of people from Dujail."

The witness exchanged insults with Ibrahim, Saddam's half brother, telling him "you killed a 14-year-old boy."

"To hell," replied Ibrahim, who was intelligence chief at the time. You and your children go to hell," the witness replied. The judge then asked them to avoid such exchanges.

Judge will not toss serious DeLay charges

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas - A judge dismissed a conspiracy charge Monday against Rep. Tom DeLay but refused to throw out the far more serious allegations of money-laundering, dashed the congressman's hopes for now of reclaiming his post as House majority leader.

Texas Judge Pat Priest, who is presiding over the case against the Republican, issued the ruling after a hearing last month in which DeLay's attorney argued that the indictment was fatally flawed.

When he was indicted in September, DeLay was required under House rules to relinquish the leadership post he had held since 2003. While Monday's ruling was a partial victory for DeLay, it cannot reclaim his post because he remains under indictment.

The ruling means the case will move toward a trial next year, though other defense objections to the indictments remain to be heard by the judge.

"The court's decision to dismiss Bonnie Earl's numerous charges against Mr. DeLay underscores just how baseless and politically motivated the charges were," DeLay spokesman Kevin Madden said, referring to the Democratic district attorney who brought the case.

"Mr. DeLay is very motivated by the swift progress of the legal proceedings and looks forward to his eventual and absolute exoneration based on the facts and the law."

DeLay declined to speak with reporters shortly after the judge's decision as he entered a Houston hotel for a campaign fundraiser.

In a written statement, Earl's office said prosecutors were studying the ruling and had made no decision about whether to appeal.

Earle has 15 days to appeal the decision.

DeLay, 58, and two GOP fundraisers, John Colyandro and Jim Ellis, are accused of illegally funneuling $190,000 in corporate donations to 2002 Republican candidates for the Texas Legislature. Under Texas law, corporate money cannot be directly used for political campaigns, but it can be used for administrative purposes.

In asking that the case be thrown out, DeLay lawyer Dick DeGuerin argued that one of the charges - conspiracy to violate the Texas election code - did not even take effect until after the allegedly offenses occurred.
COR
continued from page 1

"It's tough to say [what the demand will be]," Berlo said. "All of our indicators of demand - student and non-student - and the same point. With higher demand, we anticipate the number of tickets available to students." Beolo said the rest of the 15,000 tickets allotted to Notre Dame, a number he said was a standard bowl allotment, goes to alumni, the Notre Dame department, the team, University administrators, parking pass holders, Notre Dame Club members and benefactors.

He also said the University is expecting more tickets for students. If this endeavor is suc
cessful, he added, "it's a good thing."

The spending review occurred the week before Thanksgiving. The results of the review repre
tatives of the six groups involved presented their budgets to FMB, noting what they had spent thus far in the semester and what funds they projected needing to carry them through the semester.

The Student Senate and FMB, president Mike Marshall said.
"My opinion is [you] better get [the money] right because there are a lot of people who need this money," Hall Presidents Council co-chair Dan Zenker said. "If it's going to be $40,000, it should be done the proper way."

Zenker suggested, that unless clubs needed their reallocated funds immediately, the budget be sent back to FMB for further con
sideration.

"Sending the budget back to FMB would hurt as far as SUB, and the students would be concerned," SUB president Jimmy Fishery said. "I think it would be a huge error to bring this down.

Fishery noted that SUB's pending contracts - including some for events as early as mid-February - cannot be finalized without the budget reallocations.

Marshall said that a procedural revamp would facilitate future reallocations but suggested that COR approve the cut this budget revisions.

"This is certainly not what it should be, but to prevent the reallocation would be against from various sources," Berlo said. "If we're able to do that, we would go and add an additional winning lottery numbers."

Should students win the lottery, they are able to purchase tickets on Thursday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the 14 games, cash or cash only. Students are also able to purchase four winning IDs on Thursday of people with whom they want their tickets. Berlo said the lottery system was implemented to make amounts of student money.

"In order to minimize the amount of time students are wait­ing in line, we do not elect to use lottery system," he said.

According to Ohio State's Web site, their ticket allotment will be distributed throughout the lottery, but students and faculty will not obtain their tickets until they arrive at the Fiesta Bowl. There, they present a claim voucher that states they have a ticket and their student or faculty ID, according to the release. Should they win the ticket, Ohio State students have the opportunity to purchase the ticket.

The Fiesta Bowl will be played in Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Ariz., capacity of 73,379, accord

ging to Arizona State. The Sun Devil Stadium is the home of the NFL's Arizona Cardinals and the Arizona State football team.

Contact Heather Vail@e.god@hvnas@nd.edu

In other news:

Notre Dame's football game will be played at the new Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, the site of the BCS Championship Game.

The game will be played at the Superdome on January 13, the day after the Fiesta Bowl.

The match-up will be against the University of Oklahoma, the Big 12 champion.

The game is expected to be a huge financial boost for the University, as tickets are expected to sell out quickly.

Contact Anna Marie Durning at amadurn@nd.edu

LC
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meaning of "cultural competen
cies," and CLC members expressed the same concerns - knowing that if the resolu
tion passed, it would be sent to the Faculty Senate. Dillon Hall rector Father Paul Doyle pre
dicted those faculty members would probably not be satisfied with such a vague term.

"I'm willing to vote for this, but people want a tighter definition of cultural competencies somewhere along the way," Doyle said. "Professors want to define your terms, that might slow things down, but the spirit is something we can embrace.

"Boyd clarified the meaning of cultural competencies, calling them "a specific range of skill, knowledge and abil

yet," said Doyle.

The newly revised resolution asks that Student Affairs and the Faculty Senate incorporate a presentation on resources for non-Catholic students during their spring speaker gatherings - instead of a separate workshop on the topic. It also called for Campus Ministry to give greater atten
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The resolution still faced doubt from several members. "It is seemingly ironic that we're talking about having entities that have offered infor
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Diversity Council representa

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Members also expressed further doubt about word choice and vagueness in the resolu
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Though Badin Hall rector Ann Napoli claimed that the resolution was calling for 15 or 20 minutes to be spent on non

Catholic resources as part of Campus Ministry's hall staff presentation, Doyle said that Campus Ministry did not have the resources to incorporate such a presentation, and therefore the student body, is able to do that, we are going to do that," Doyle said. "We want to define your terms, that might slow things down, but the spirit is something we can embrace.

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The resolution still faced doubt from several members. "It is seemingly ironic that we're talking about having entities that have offered infor
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Diversity Council representa

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Catholic resources as part of Campus Ministry's hall staff presentation, Doyle said that Campus Ministry did not have the resources to incorporate such a presentation, and therefore the student body, is able to do that, we are going to do that," Doyle said. "We want to define your terms, that might slow things down, but the spirit is something we can embrace.

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tion to the issue during its presentation to hall staff in the fall.
Boston Scientific offers $25 billion to Guidant

Amount tops previous Johnson & Johnson bid by more than $3 million

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS—Troubled Guidant Corp. drew a $25 billion offer Monday from a medical device rival Boston Scientific Corp., topping Johnson & Johnson's watered-down bid by more than $2 billion.

Guidant's one-flagging stock rose $6.16, or nearly 10 percent, to close at $67.98 amid Wall Street's speculation of a bidding war.

But market analysts said that J&J, which did not return repeated phone calls for comment, may not want Guidant badly enough to spend billions more for the Indianapolis-based maker of pacemakers, defibrillators and other devices which has been plagued by a series of recalls and by related regulatory investigations.

It was just three weeks ago that Guidant accepted a revised $21.5 billion proposal from J&J and stopped using the health care products company to close on a year-old acquisition offer of $25.4 billion.

Boston Scientific, whose products include the top-selling cardiac stent Taxus, offered Guidant a combination of cash and stock worth about $72 per Guidant share—a 16 percent premium over Friday's close. The prospect of entering the lucrative $10 billion international market for treatable pacemakers and defibrillators out­weighed Guidant's recent legal and regulatory problems.

"The primary driver of our proposal is to increase Boston Scientific's competitive position and grow our car­diac-rhythm management business," Boston Scientific's chief operating officer, Paul LaViolette, said in a telephone interview.

Guidant's original deal with J&J bogged down amid a series of recalls and warnings affecting nearly 200,000 pacemakers and about 80,000 defibrillators since June. Dozens of shareholder and product liability lawsuits have ensued, costing Guidant more than a quarter of its value. Its stock plummeted to a low of $55.26 last month.

"We understand there have been some recent issues, but we believe they are manageable," LaViolette said. "We are experienced with these issues."

Guidant's strengths outweigh its problems for Boston Scientific, which has seen its stock dwindle since, Jefferies & Co. analyst Ryan Rauch said.

"Guidant would shore up Boston Scientific's 2008 pipeline, if they're willing to take significant dilution to their shares in the short­ term," Rauch said.

Rausch said he did not expect Guidant's shareholders to embrace J&J's offer over Boston Scientific's, given the premium and the frayed relations between Guidant and J&J. Rauch said J&J was not likely to sweeten its offer.

"There's no love lost between Guidant and J&J," Rauch said. "I believe J&J won't come back into the dance at a higher price."

The Boston Scientific offer consists of $36 in cash and 3.36 worth of its shares for each share of Guidant stock. J&J is offering $33.25 in cash and 0.493 share of Johnson & Johnson common stock for each Guidant share.

Turmoil in actor union could lead to split

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The largest union representing actors has promised a new, tougher stance in contract talks with powerful media conglomerates.

But the Screen Actors Guild may self-destruct before it ever gets the chance.

The labor union's long-running infighting has escalated into what could become a mutiny after the elec­tion in September of President Alan Rosenberg.

In last week's market break the five-week rally after a string of government reports painted a rosier picture of the economy than many had been predicting. That economic strength could justify the interest rate hikes and big rally of Wall Street's year-end advance, said Bill Groenveld, head trader at Fianance Investments.

"Whether the market flattens out for the next couple of weeks, there's always going to be uncertainty about the future," Groenveld said. "It's going to be a real news-sensitive market over the next quarter."

In brief

Cardiologist criticizes Merck & Co. Inc. - A prominent cardiologist testifying against Merck & Co. accused the drug maker Saturday of engaging in scientific misconduct, suppressing clinical evidence and stifling medical discourse as it promoted the painkiller Vioxx.

"Dr. Eric Topol, chairman of the cardiovascular medicine department of the Cleveland Clinic, called certain aspects of Merck's behav­ior "reprehensible" and "appalling" during his three-days of videotaped deposition.

Topol said Vioxx can cause heart attacks any time after a patient begins taking it, and that its risks are apparent as early as Week 2 when the drug was approved. Vioxx was removed from the market last year after a study showed heart attacks and strokes after 18 months of use.

"Vioxx's risk has been evident since trials were conducted in 1999 and all the way through the time of withdrawal in September 30, 2004," Topol said.

This is the first federal trial over Vioxx; Merck has already lost one state trial over the drug and won another, but it still faces about 7,000 lawsuits and analysts estimate its liabil­ity could reach $35 billion.

Inflation again concerns Wall Street - NEW YORK — Higher oil prices and news of slowing growth in the service sector pulled stock indexes lower Monday despite some optimism over a $25 billion bid for Guidant Corp.

Inflation worries again plagued Wall Street as it cooled after reaching $60 per barrel, consolidating concerns that the Federal Reserve might continue lifting interest rates to stem inflation from increased energy costs.

Last week, the market broke a five-week rally after a string of government reports painted a rosier picture of the economy than many had been predicting. That economic strength could justify the interest rate hikes and big rally of Wall Street's year-end advance, said Bill Groenveld, head trader at Fianance Investments.

"Whether the market flattens out for the next couple of weeks, there's always going to be uncertainty about the future," Groenveld said. "It's going to be a real news-sensitive market over the next quarter."
It is often typical of the Left to extol the virtues of a great society: a great society in the sense of the elderly and the poor; it educates its children and pays for medical treatment. These sentiments are well and good until one attempts to ascertain from a left-winger how exactly society accomplishes such eugenics goals; because (as I am often quick to point out) left-wingers hardly mean "society" when they speak the word.

When the Left speaks of society "taking care" of the people, it does not imply society itself; it refers instead to the welfare state and its many tendrils: Social Security, public schooling, universal healthcare — social programs that are funded via compulsory taxation by the government.

Government is not society. In fact, Thomas Paine agreed with me when he said: "Society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil." Society is the voluntary cooperation and coexistence of individuals; government is the involuntary subjugation of some individuals to the will of others. Now, I am not necessarily claiming that every government is inherently oppressive, but merely that any government without a gun is just another interest group.

This distinction is important because every social end enumerated by the Left must be accomplished by governmental coercion. Indeed, both the Left and Right embrace a certain paternalism when it comes to the actions of "society": whether it be grants medical treatment, smoking bans, or eating so poorly. The Left also embraces a certain paternalism when it comes to government programs.

Let us therefore address the former: government-subsidized health care. I will not go any deeper into the details of this complicated issue, but will instead focus my energies on the elementary paternalism that is inherent in it.

In the United States, we have (as of yet) avoided the catastrophe that is "socialized health care." What we have instead are Medicare and Medicaid — complex bureaucratic institutions that, in effect, reimburse elderly, disabled and poor people for many medical services (including treatments for, among other dubious things, erectile dysfunction).

According to the director of health policy studies at the Cato Institute, Michael F. Cannon, "Medicare spending is increasing at twice the rate of the gross domestic product" and the new Medicare prescription drug plan is slated to "cost more than $700 billion over the next 10 years." As mismanaged as any government program can be, Medicare faces a budget shortfall of as much as $62 trillion — that is, the government promises $62 trillion more than it can deliver to beneficiaries. Today, the government collects slightly more than $2 trillion in total taxes.

That is quite the shortfall. But suppose people are abusing alcohol and tobacco, or eating so unhealthy that America continues her reign as one of the most obese nations in the world. Americans suffer from heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes and myriad other ailments that stem from our obsession with eating poorly.

At this point, the government still has some options: it can cut Medicare benefits (and sacrifice the political future of Republicrat politicians) or it can raise taxes by about, say, 1.500 percent. But the real, philosophically central question is: if the government is bad at helping the poor, does it have the right to force its citizens to be healthier in order to reduce its medical expenditures? Beginning in 2006, Medicare will require coverage of genetic screenings, lending credence to the notion that a few hundred billion dollars of prevention is worth $62 trillion of care. So to avoid the impending Medicare crisis that is at hand, would acting unhealthily be made illegal?

I have heard it argued before, believe it or not. Originally I believed it to be a joke, but upon further reflection, it seems perfectly reasonable. I have a vested interest in keeping you healthy, since I am forced by my government at some point or another — to pay for your medical bills.

Such is the paternalism implicit in the government health of health care. Socializing health effectively destroys the lines that delineate what is your personal choice and what affects me. Subsidies give society a controlling stake in what you do with your own body, where your health is no longer merely your concern.

In 1971, the U.S. Supreme Court matter-of-factly stated that subsidized programs "have almost always been accompanied by varying measures of control and surveillance." It is beyond reasonable doubt, therefore, that government control and surveillance of health in America will soon become even more omnipresent — even more so than it is today.

No, I do not believe McDonald's should be illegal. However, when "society," owns your body, there are few — if any — realistic options left.

Like I said: $62 trillion is quite the shortfall.

Scott Wagner is president of the College Libertarians and writes politically incorrect satire for the Web site The Enduring Vision. You would probably be too offended by it, so never mind. He can be contacted at scott@ntlm.com.

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

Scott Wagner
Live and Let Live or Die

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**The Ann Collett Collection**

![Ho! Ho! Ho!](image)

**What are you laughing about you scoundrel?**

---

**Quote of the Day**

"The way a team plays as a whole determines its success. You may have the greatest bunch of individual stars in the world, but if they don't play together, the wins aren't worth a dime."

Babe Ruth
former baseball player

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**Quote of the Day**

"Peace is not an absence of war, it is a virtue, a state of mind, a disposition for benevolence, confidence, justice."

Baruch Spinoza
philosopher
Commutation: not a time for politics

In the Dec. 5 issue of the Observer, Matthew Hamilton rigorously defended his choice to wear the orange "Gay* Fine by Me" shirt to Mass on Sunday. He defines himself by arguing the illegitimacy of and destructive nature of the Vatican's much-publicized statement. He concludes by saying that far from being inappropriate at Mass, such a message as a preparation for communion and participates in the radical nature of the Eucharist. After all, he says, church is not a venue for a protest, and the intentions of the Catholic Church are nationally "protest." I have many friends who are gay, I support gay rights, and these groups do not rally for homophobia, or the Mass is not a time for politics. I have many friends who are gay, I support gay rights, and these groups do not rally for homophobia, or the Mass is not a time for politics.

I encourage Hamilton and anyone else who feels strongly about this issue, to set up forums for discussion. I applaud Hamilton for writing a letter, that's what it's for. But please, do not cross the line between what is appropriate and what is not. Church services are a time for communion, after all, we call the Sacrifice of the Mass "Communion," but worship services are also a time for an individual to engage in one of the most personal acts imaginable, the dialogue of one's innermost self with his or her God. Out of respect for this, there are many customary ceremonies that are observed. Many churches have instituted crying rooms for infants. That is not because infants are not appreciated, nor considered outside of the community. However, since they can be distracting to others, many parishes make these available. Another courtesy is refraining from excessive affection. Again, it is a matter of decency for couples to abstain from displays of their love. Even though sex is praised by the Church for its holiness, it could become slightly distracting during even the best homily. Clearly, if Hamilton's statement at Mass was to be effective, it must be noticed by other people and thereby become a distraction during the service. We all recognize a certain order of propriety in life. Certain things are fitting at certain times, but not at others. I hope we can all recognize in his comments and actions that, although there should not be a divide between our love of God and love of neighbor, or between theological teaching and social teaching, that is not to say that the Mass is an equal footing with politics. If our various religious beliefs had no superiority to the state, there would be no problem with state religions. Churches could welcome political campaigners to deliver some election year caucuses. The core beliefs of any political party could be dictated by the opinion of the majority. However, it was for the intentions of the United States to guarantee that religion would always be beyond the reach of the state. And rightly so. Christ himself, as the one who defines the political realm, differentiates between those things that belong in one world and those that belong in another world. Finally, prayer and personal holiness is necessary that we be as effective as possible in bringing the Word of God to all people. However, in all of this, we must recognize the proper respect that is due to the worship of God, and the respect we have for others who are participating in their own arts of worship. What happened on Sunday took into account neither, and thus was a profanation and an action of disrespect in all those who were trying to worship. I recognize that Hamilton believes the Vatican to have already crossed both of those lines, but that does not legitimize this act. Let us strive to reach greater understanding and communion with one another and with God, and let us be aware of both the intended and unintended results of our actions.

Will Dowdy
graduated student
OBSERVER
Dec. 5

Publicity stunts not appropriate for Mass

On Dec. 4 I attended the 10 a.m. Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, as I do almost everyday. Upon entering the church, I glanced at the altar and saw a group of people sitting together, wearing the "Gay* Fine by Me*" shirts. As I looked at them, and then around the small circle, I was offended, not because I have anything against homosexuals, but because I feel that the church is not an appropriate place for such a demonstration. I have many friends who rally for gay rights, and it wouldn't bother me if homosexuals were allowed to be ordained, even though I understand the Church's reasons for not allowing this. But these were not the issues concerning my reaction to the demonstration.

I reached the way I did for two reasons. First, this demonstration was a stunt, regardless of what is claimed by the students involved. Matthew Hamilton's letter in the Dec. 5 issue of the Observer claims that this "was not a political stunt or a protest." He says that the group was simply attending Mass on Sunday to "pray for the priests who will be forced into silence and shame, for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Catholics and for the conversion and repentance of the Vatican authorities.

Fine by me. But isn't prayer just as effective no matter what you are wearing? The students ask why they should wear these shirts if they were going to Mass just to pray. I do not see how others are expected to believe that this was not some kind of media stunt. Second, it is inappropriate and disrespectful to protest such a thing during the Mass. The fact that these students chose the Mass as a venue for their demonstration has really made me believe that hardly anything is sacred today. Issues concerning homosexuality and the Catholic Church are obviously very controversial, and it is evident that one side can so easily exploit the other. It is my opinion that if a group came to Mass to show support for abortion, or to display their support for the use of birth control, if they were the manner of this, they would not bother me if homosexuals were allowed previously, and I feel that this is completely irrelevant to all of this. The core beliefs of any political party could be dictated by the majority, but the core beliefs of any religious party could not.

Alison Frishart
senior
Pasquerilla West
Dec. 5

I'm not leaving

Tell me one opportunity you're going to have after graduation to party it up? At 3 a.m., be in class by 11 a.m., be on the couch watching a "Southpark," even by 3 p.m., and at various points in all of that, you get to see thousands of single members of the opposite sex. Not to mention all the flannel Needles you can eat.

I'm going to be honest here and admit that I'm scared of this very thing. I'm scared to taste it of everything first of the month when my rent payment comes, and I don't like what I've seen so far. I've heard they make you get drunk, get rowdy, and forget playing beer pong. (Quite frankly, I don't want to be a part of something that makes me lose memories on a weekly basis.) That's not the only thing that scares me though. Wasn’t just a kid on the swings in the playground yesterday? My sky where you seem to be taking on a new journey. The potential of a career that will make you more money a year than you've had in the last four and a house with a white picket fence — I can see why you're anxious to get out. But I think we all have a tendency to sometimes put our focus on what makes college stressful instead of what makes it fun. Are you really trying to leave the football games, the hoopla, the commiserates, the mornings you wake up and don't know where you are for a nine to five? I didn't think so. I'll meet you at the next stop.

This column originally appeared in the Dec. 5 issue of the Rocky Mountain Echo, the daily publication at Colorado State University.

Brett Guevara
Colorado College
Colorado College

Stop right now seniors. Don't do it. Put your pencils down, throw your books in the trash and spend finals week building a life for yourself to live in.

Whatever you do, don't take your finals and graduate. What's the point? I don't know what that's all about there? Lions and tigers and corporations that will deny your applications because you don't "meet the standards." This is why I have decided to never leave. I am going to stay in college until I reach nirvana. I will rewrite my Chemistry 101 book! You will have to pry it from my cold, lucky fingers.

You see, college truly is the best of both worlds. You get paid and awarded (and money, if you're lucky) from the high school world and you combine it with this rodeo and independence of the working-stiff world. There is no better combination.

Brett Guevara
Rocky Mountain College
Colorado College

I'm not leaving
I'm that guy. You know the one. The guy who can tell you off the top of his head which games the next year by video game and movie release dates. I was there on Sept. 9, 1999 when the Sega Dreamcast was released at midnight. I waited in a line for a chance at obtaining the first of the third-generation of consoles, knowing I would have to up in less than six hours to get ready for school. "Soul Calibur" made sure that having to get up never occurred. I was there on March 24, 2005 when the Sony PSP was also released at midnight. I had pre-ordered it months beforehand, fully paying off the system and several games well before they were released and reviewed. Six a.m. came very quickly, as I played that tiny machine until the wee hours of the morning. Getting sick due to lack of sleep was only a minor detail, as it gave me the opportunity to play "Twisted Metal" a little more.

And I was there Nov. 22 for the midnight release of the Microsoft X-Box 360. Excitement was high in the tiny shop as the seconds ticked closer to the time the system could be sold. The first of the next generation, the fabled fourth tier of video-gaming, had my brother and me wide-eyed with anticipation.

But then our enthusiasm began to dampen. A number of things led into this, I suppose. Perhaps the first sign was the bill, which totaled well over $300. It is one thing to be aware of what something will cost, but quite another when the time comes to hand the money over.

The second was the rarity of the complimentary hardware. Ever since the arcade games of yore has the value of playing with a friend been realized, and then compounded by games like "Goldeneye" and "Halo." But as the cashier was ringing up the purchase, there was a conspicuous absence of a specific accessory. So I went home that night with a solitary controller.

But then that is where the real disappointment set in. My brother and I quickly hooked up the X-Box 360 to my television, fervently waiting for what the next generation of gaming was going to bring.

As we started to play through "Perfect Dark Zero," a feeling of déjà vu began to set in, and in a positive way. The next generation of gaming felt disturbingly similar to the last one, and for that matter, the one before that. The graphics were prettier, but beyond that, it wasn't the leap that "Halo" was from "Goldeneye," or even from "Goldendust 3D" to "Doom."

Maybe I'm just jaded, or perhaps the sad fact is that games are ceasing to impress. The same games are being made that have been made before, but with a dash of new paint.

This then begs the question — why did we do it? Why go out at midnight to spend over half-a-thousand dollars on a product that so far is pure hype with no solid review base?

The same could be said for movies, books and all the other products that get a midnight release. There is a reason people go to extreme lengths to fulfill non-essential pleasures.

There is a thrill on being at the ground floor of an event. Attending the midnight premiere of a movie, or even the release of its opening day, add a special flavor to the action. To say, I was there first, I did that, carries a certain satisfaction.

But in light of my X-Box 360 adven­turedness, perhaps this should be more conservative in what we choose to indulge.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemenderfer@nd.edu

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

Madrigal Dinners recreate
dramatic passions

By NICOLE ZOOK
Scene Critic

Saint Mary's kicked off the holiday season with three days of "merrymaking" during its 33rd annual Madrigal Dinners, set in the Great Hall of the Lecan Stocker Center.

The four madrigal performances that occur each year carry on an age-old tradition. Students and faculty worked for weeks to transform Regina North Lounge into the Great Hall of an ancient castle, where the "local rabble, peasants, serfs, fieldhands and their families" could feel transported back in time to an atmosphere of jubilation.

Students and faculty members are invited to partake in a medieval-style holiday feast dinner that revolves around the music of the time.

The two Madrigal performances held on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2 were open only to students and faculty, but beyond that, it wasn't the leap that "Halo" was from "Goldeneye," or even from "Goldendust 3D" to "Doom."

"Perfect Dejade," or perhaps the sad fact is that games are ceasing to impress. The same games are being made that have been made before, but with a dash of new paint.

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The general mood of anticipation was only heightened by noting the selection of pieces that the prestigious ensemble was to present that evening. And with Rachmaninoff, Strauss and Sibelius played to near perfection, it was an evening of masterful artistry.

As guest conductor Hans Graf at the helm, the PSO was truly remarkable. Their level of professionalism, talent and style was of the highest caliber, and witnessing their concert was undoubtedly one of the most emotional joys of the semester.

The first piece performed, Richard Strauss' tone poem, "Don Juan," was a bright and energetic opening for the concert. The piece, first performed in 1889, uses a featured selection of instruments to tell the familiar tale of Don Juan through music. Flute, bassoon, harp and timpani are among the instruments chosen, and the piece's varying pace and melodies heighten those choices.

From its vibrant opening to the more measured middle sections, the tone poem's gorgeous melodies carried the audience to the music's fervent pace. The piece's strong contrast between smooth, lilting string harmonies and bright, bombastic brass and tim­pani led the audience to feel both the power and elegance of the music. Its final crescendo fueled the height of musical force and energy.

The second piece, Sibelius' violin concerto in D minor, featured celebrated violinist Sarah Chang. Chang, a known prodigy whose credits include performing with the New York Philharmonic at eight years old, was, in a word, a wonder. Her technique and beauty was astronomical for the average concertgo­er to witness, and her handling of the intri­cacies of the music was outstanding.

The concerto itself was unique in its accent­ting of the violin's solo moments with a subtle depth of complementary orchestration. The accompanying instruments provided a strong background and partnership for Chang's violin, and throughout the concert's three movements, the orchestra and the violinist were heard with distinction.

The final piece performed was Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2 in E minor. The suggested performance time of two hours and 20 minutes has been dashing for all those who could have seen the music. But the main focus of the event was the Madrigal Singers, an all-female group who put dinner guests in a festive, holiday spirit, singing Christmas classics such as "Here We Come A-Wassailing" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas," as well as "Jingle Bells" and Christmas carols and songs. Dinner guests even hummed along to the more familiar tunes as they feasted.

The atmosphere of the group's best work was heard in period pieces and modern madrigal-style tunes such as the sweet, lilting melodies of "Fatpatau" and "Le Sommes de l'Enfant Jesus" and the Polish carol "To A Baby."

While several songs were accompanied by the Andrews University Early Music Ensemble, one of the standout performances of the night was the a cappella "In Dulce Jubilo." The room felt silent as the simple and yet emotional madrigals were sung, with not even the clink of a glass or a plate to interrupt.

Interesting, the madrigal was an entirely interactive concert. The singers would Harmonically, rap the music into the audience while the actors visited tables and served dinner. Dinners even interacted with each other, gaining a sense of community as they intermingled and chatted with neighbors, passing bowls of food down the long tables. Guests and performers alike also united in singing "Silent Night."
e a fun medieval festival

Medieval servers bring out the food for the Saint Mary's sponsored Madrigal Dinners. The Madrigal Singers serenaded the attendees as they ate.

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra performed at the Debrahalo Center for the Performing Arts last Thursday night. Hans Graf was the guest conductor for the evening.

DPAC REVIEW

'Innocent Voices' an emotional experience

By GRACE MYERS
Scene Writer

An 11-year-old boy, Chava, must fight for his home, family and childhood in war-torn El Salvador. "Innocent Voices," a movie based on the true story of screenwriter Oscar Torres, compellingly addresses the El Salvadoran Civil War and child recruitment during the 1980s. The film shows the vast and prolonged suffering caused by daily violence. The film's screening at the Browning Theater was put together by a Notre Dame student who, after spending time in El Salvador and experiencing the effects of the war firsthand, wanted to raise awareness of the civil war and the issue of child recruitment. She also brought Torres, to speak and answer questions after the screening. Seeing Torres, the now 33-year-old creator of this film based on his embattled childhood, made viewing the film an incredibly powerful experience.

The film is highly acclaimed all over the world, receiving awards from many film festivals, including Best Feature Film Award at the San Diego International Film Festival and Best Picture at the Berlin International Film Festival. "Innocent Voices" has earned high praise in the United States, despite its initial difficulty in finding an American distributor company.

"Innocent Voices" shows history's evils, raising awareness of the devastation war inflicts on children, and also showing the strength of the human spirit in the midst of these evils.

The boy, Chava, struggles to maintain a degree of normalcy within his home. In the midst of frequent shootings in his village, he constantly fears turning 12—the age when the government can recruit him to fight against his nation's peasant rebels. Meanwhile, he cares for his younger brother and sister, trying to preserve their innocence and sheltering them from the chaos that surrounds them. During the frequent shootings, Chava draws on his face and does magic tricks to create a "circus" under the bed frame where the children hide.

Chava gets his first job to help his single mom pay the bills, survives a shooting within in his school and sees his friends be recruited to the army and changed forever. His life becomes a bitter struggle for survival, as he is forced to choose between being recruited and joining the rebels, while experiencing the disorienting effects of constant fear.

The brilliance of this movie lies in the balance of the devastation and specific cruelties of this civil war with the funny and charming displays of Chava's childhood and family. The young Chava's point of view sets this film apart from other Latin American war films: he has no political opinions, does not understand the purpose of the violence and seeks to return to his normal life. Unlike the adults around him, he does not choose his future. His fear of being recruited by the army dictates his decision to finally join the peasant rebels.

"Ask any 12-year-old if he wants to join a war, and he will say no," Torres said in a recent interview with National Geographic. "The problem is that many children do not have a choice."

Torres was also quick to point out, in both the film and in the post-screening discussion, that child recruitment is found in other places besides El Salvador. In fact, more than 300,000 children presently serve in armies in over 40 countries throughout the world, most frequently in Africa. Various organizations, such as Amnesty International and UNICEF, work diligently to solve the problem. A major difficulty, however, is the unawareness of the reality of the world. With his powerful "Innocent Voices," Torres directly educates and inspires the world of this ongoing crisis.

Contact Grace Myers at gmyers@nd.edu

Contact Nicole Zook at zook8928@saintmarys.edu

y an artistic success

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Contact Grace Myers at gmyers@nd.edu
Tuiasosopo might play Sunday

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Marques Tuiasosopo probably will get his shot at Oakland's starting quarterback job.

Coach Norv Turner is leaning toward naming the struggling Kerry Collins and plans to make his final decision before the Bowman Bowl practice field Wednesday to prepare for the lowly New York Jets. "If he isn't, though, it sure seems Turner has all but made up his mind.

The coach already spoke to Collins about the potential change for Sunday's regular-season finale.

"I wouldn't have brought it up if it wasn't something we're considering strongly," Turner said Monday on the heels of the Raiders' second straight defeat and fourth loss in five games, 34-10 at San Diego.

"We're going to look at the quarterback situation and say, 'Hey, is it time to look at Tui?' With his mobility, would that help?"

Collins, who started one game in the quarterback situation and said, "considering strongly," Turner said, has been sacked 32 times this season for 194 lost yards. Tuiasosopo, who played in 23-13 loss at Detroit and hasn't played in a regular-season game since, has been sacked seven times.

"That's something we need to make our final decision on," Turner said. "I'll lay low for a couple more weeks and obviously on Wednesday all will know and I'll have that decision."

Starting or not, Collins wouldn't approach it any different. There are no added expectations in his case, no super-secret sure thing, either. When was playing in college, he didn't go out and play. Pressure is a lot of things that have nothing to do with football, just as long as I love to go out and compete to win," he added.

This preseason, Tuiasosopo threw for 343 yards and completed 29 of his 44 passes with four interceptions and no touchdowns. He has been holding up well in snaps with the first-team offense at times and is more athletic than Collins, allowing him to move more in the pocket.

The fans have been calling for him to get an opportunity for weeks now, chanting "Get 'Tui!'" when the offense takes the field.

"I have nothing to say about it," receiver Jerry Porter said of Turner's decision. "No matter who's the quarterback, I'll be OK. I've been with Marques all five years he's been here."

After a promising start to the season, the 32-year-old Collins has lately found himself facing constant questions — just like his mistake-prone year last season — about the Raiders' ineffective offense.

"That's a tough one," left tackle Barry Sims said of the possible QB move. "I don't think Kerry's played in a way that suggests that he should be replaced, but at the same time, it's been here a long time, and hardly played at all. It would be interesting to see how he handles it. I don't think that Kerry should be replaced by any measure. I think he's the quarterback, and it's his job. I think you can't pin the whole loss on him."

Collins has completed 245 of 446 passes for 3,114 yards and 16 touchdowns, but he has thrown 10 interceptions and been sacked 32 times for 194 lost yards.

His recent struggles have been surprising after his strong start in his first full season as starter. Collins didn't throw an interception until his 143rd pass in Week 2 against San Diego, then didn't give another pick for 95 more attempts. Seven of his 10 interceptions have come in the past four games, including three in a 31-17 loss to Denver on Nov. 13.

"Kerry wants to play," Turner said. "He's a competitor. He's a strong guy. He gives everything he's got."

Oakland Raiders quarterback Kerry Collins is sacked by Miami Dolphins defensive end and former Dolphins teammate Jason Taylor, during the second quarter of an NFL game in Miami, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2002. Collins has been sacked 32 times this season for 194 lost yards.

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — This year's bowl-bound college football teams are the ones setting the standards, the NCAAs new academic standards, with 41 percent falling below minimum quality indices and almost half lacking a 50 percent graduation rate, according to a policy released Monday.

The 56 Division I-A football teams headed to bowl games have a lingering problem of too many students who can't complete their studies, said R. John Lapchick, the University of Central Florida professor whoauthored the annual report.

"The key is admitting students who are qualified to be in that school."

Richard Lapchick University of Central Florida professor

NCAA Football

Bowl teams failing to meet new standards

NC STATE and Villanova may be the best of the bunch among the bowl-bound teams, according to the NCAAs new academic standards awards AP points based on how many scholarship student-athletes meet NCAA's new academic performance indices.

A cutoff score of 925 means an average of 50 percent of those student-athletes are on track graduation.

Developed last year, the NCAAs new academic standards awards AP points based on how many scholarship student-athletes meet NCAA's new academic performance indices. A cutoff score of 925 means an average of 50 percent of those student-athletes are on track graduation.

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**NFL**

Seattle Seahawks linebacker Lofa Tatupu celebrates after intercepting a Mike McMahon pass for a touchdown. The Seahawks had six turnovers and three defensive touchdowns in the 42-0 rout of the Eagles.

Seahawks dominate depleted Eagles

**Associated Press**

PHILADELPHIA - A cross-country trip to Philadelphia for a Monday night game in the snow hasn't exactly been a formula for success. Then again, these are not the same old Seattle Seahawks.

Using big plays on defense, including interception returns for touchdowns by Andre Dyson and rookie Lofa Tatupu, and smaller ones from their same offense, the Seahawks routed the Eagles 42-0.

Neither are these the same Eagles who made the last four NFC championship games. Philadelphia (5-7) has been torn apart by injuries and the Terrell Owens affair and played its worst game since becoming an NFC force in 2001. Certainly a better fight was expected. Yet the Seahawks (10-2) dominated from the outset, winning their eighth straight game, tying a team record set in 1984. They gained only 194 yards overall - the Seahawks were averaging 386 - but didn't need to do much after taking a 35-0 halftime lead.

Seattle, which got two short touchdowns runs from NFL rushing leader Shaun Alexander, sort of sneaked its way to the top of the conference and barely survived the New York Giants last week. In the Monday night spotlight, though, the NFC West champions filled the scoreboard.

The only negative came when Dyson, after he returned Ryan Moats' fumble 25 yards for another touchdown on the first play of the second half, sprained his left ankle. Dyson was carried off the field by several teammates.

It was Philadelphia's worst loss since a 38-0 flop against Seattle to open the 1994 season. Indeed, as Dyson scored on his fumble return, the Line pretty much emptied out. The majority of fans stayed that long only because the Eagles retired Reggie White's No. 92 at halftime. Though the Eagles' turnovers, were shut out for the first time since 2003 when Tampa Bay beat them 17-0 in the first game in the new stadium. It was the Eagles' worst home loss since they were beaten 49-0 by Green Bay in 1962.

And, they lost running back Brian Westbrook with a sprained foot.

It didn't take along for Seattle's powerful offense to begin the scoring. Well, it actually took more than eight minutes on the opening drive, a relentless march featuring four third-down conversions and 16 plays.

---

**Men's Swimming Coaches Poll**

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**Women's Big East Basketball**

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**IN BRIEF**

Clemens unsure if he will continue to play next year

DALLAS - Roger Clemens hasn't decided if he will pitch next season, again leaving the Houston Astros in a bind as they plan for 2006.

"Today, he would retire if he had to make the decision," Clemens' agent, Randy Hendricks, said Monday at baseball's winter meetings.

Hendricks added that the seven-time Cy Young Award winner, who hobbled off the mound after only two innings in Game 2 of the World Series against the Chicago White Sox because of a strained left hamstring, probably won't make a decision until late January or early February.

The Astros have until Wednesday night to sign Clemens or offer him salary arbitration. Otherwise, he would not be able to re-sign with them before May 1.

"It's the same situation we were in last year where we were uncertain as to when we would get an answer," Houston general manager Tim Purpura said. "It puts us at somewhat of a disadvantage to build our club."
Jeff Jackson appears to have settled on Brown. The junior has played in each of the last seven contests, starting six of them. He recorded his fifth career shutout Saturday against the Broncos. "That's what we need from Browny," O'Neill said. "He's a great goalie.

The Irish fell behind Western 4-1 midway through the second period of Friday's 4-3 loss in Kalamazoo, Mich. Conversely, when Notre Dame was able to get and hold a lead in the second period of Saturday's contest, the Irish went on to win. "We're not a team that needs to be trying to come back night after night," Jackson said. After going four games without a point, O'Neill burst back on to the scene against Western Michigan with a goal and an assist. Jackson said he hopes the talented junior can continue his improvement against Minnesota State.

The Mavericks, whose school was formerly known as Mankato State, started this season with six straight losses but have since recovered to go 3-3-3 in their last nine contests. They went to overtime in two games against Minnesota-Duluth this past weekend, losing 4-3 on Friday and earning a 2-2 tie Saturday.

The Irish and Mavericks will also square off Saturday at the Joyce Center. That game begins at 7:05 p.m.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu
Cotton Bowl officials propose costly stadium renovation

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Cotton Bowl would add more than 16,000 seats and undergo extensive remodeling under a plan unveiled Monday, but the city's mayor warned that the home of the Texas-Oklahoma game must receive new commitments before renovations are approved. The nearly $50 million proposal would upgrade seats, concession stands, scoreboards and restrooms to the declining 75-year-old stadium. Seating capacity would increase to 92,100 under the 34-proposal that was to be submitted to the City Council. Frustrated with the deteriorating facilities, athletic directors from Texas and Oklahoma have threatened to exercise an opt-out after 2007 and switch the Red River Rivalry to a home-and-home series. Dallas Mayor Laura Miller said she wants extended commitments from schools before making improvements. Miller said in Monday's online edition of The Dallas Morning News that if the city doesn't receive long-term pledges, "then we won't upgrade the Cotton Bowl." Prairie View-Grambling and the AT&T Cotton Bowl Classic are the only other football games the stadium hosts. The city has been trying to lure Texas A&M and Texas Tech to play its annual game at Fair Park. Before this year's game, Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds said he wanted to keep the Texas-Oklahoma game in Dallas but was not optimistic. He said he would find it difficult for the city to commit so much money to a stadium that hosts only a handful of games each year.

But Miller told the newspaper that negotiations were "going very well" between Texas and Oklahoma and that she expected an announcement in January. "We won't lose it. We're not going to lose it," Miller said.

Since 1929, the rivalry has been played in Dallas, halfway between the campuses in Norman, Okla., and Austin. The stadium is equally divided between burnt-orange-clad Texas fans and crimson Sooners and anchors the surrounding State Fair of Texas.

**Lunch and Conversation**

**For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame**

Thursday, December 8th
12:00 - 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal lunch and study break at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.

*Lunch will be served*

UNIVERSITY OUTFITTERS

the campus store off campus

- bowl merchandise*
- charlie's army t-shirts
- jerseys
- sweatshirts
- steins
all at a reasonable price

officially licensed Notre Dame merchandise

**Blockbuster Bowl**

Associated Press

MIAMI — When their teams last met, Bobby Bowden asked Joe Paterno how much longer he planned to stay in coaching. Sixteen years later, the leg­ends may have that conversa­tion again.

Florida State (8-4) and Penn State (10-1) will meet in the FedEx Orange Bowl at Miami on Jan. 3, a game that'll mark a showdown between major col­lege football's two winningest coaches. It's the sixth Bowl Championship Series appearance in eight years for the Seminoles, the first-ever for Paterno's third-ranked Nittany Lions. And neither septuagenarian — Paterno turns 79 later this month, Bowden is 76 — wishes to play a starring role in the month's events before renovations are approved. The Seminoles are the lowest-ranked team in the BCS, finishing 22nd in the final standings and getting into the mix only by upsetting Virginia Tech on Saturday for the Atlantic Coast Conference title. Still, game officials said they're thrilled to have a Bowden-Paterno matchup.

"We are extremely proud to have two of the best here. . . . Two marquee coaches in the game, one and two respective­ly," Orange Bowl CEO Keith Tribble said.

Bowden has 359 wins, six more than Paterno — and both steered their teams to surpris­ing comeback stories in 2005. Bowden's Florida State team snapped a three-game losing streak on Saturday when it beat then No. 5 Virginia Tech for the ACC crown — the Seminoles' 12th in 14 seasons. Florida State's reward turned out to be a matchup with another highly touted opponent, a Penn State team that nearly went unbeat­ten.

"I feel very fortunate for us," said Bowden, whose team fell from the national rankings after losing three straight. "I feel very happy for our boys and our assistant coaches that we were able to do it. Naturally I feel very lucky about it and some­times I can't hardly believe it."

Amid whispers that their longtime coach is too old to compete, Paterno's Nittany Lions had lost 17 of their last 24 games entering this season and haven't won a bowl game since the 1999 season. But only a last-second touchdown by Michigan kept Penn State from finishing this regular season with a perfect record.

"We've caught a lot of heck this year. I've caught a lot of heck," Bowden said. "I can look at Joe's program and say, 'Look there. Just be patient. Look what'll happen.' It just sub­stantiates my feeling that nobody's going to win forever. You can have a bad year. You can have a bad cycle, but that's not the end because you can come back."

Bowden is 1-6 all-time against Paterno; he lost six all meetings as West Virginia's coach in the early 1970s, and guided Florida State to a 24-17 victory over Penn State in the 1990 Blockbuster Bowl, also at Miami.

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, right, talks to quarterback Drew Weatherford Saturday. The Seminoles will play Joe Paterno's Penn State Nittany Lions Jan. 3 in the Orange Bowl.
Career Development Classes

Professional Development Seminar - AL23001 (For Seniors Only)
Tuesdays & Thursdays: January 24 - March 9
Professional Development Seminar will allow you to...
Explore leadership concepts; business etiquette; communication in the workplace; financial planning and more about your work style and the types of work that might interest you!

Career Development Seminar - AL23002 (First Year Studies, Sophomores and Juniors)
Mondays: March 20 - May 1
Career Development Seminar will help you...
Find a career that fits who you are; Learn what you can do with your major; Learn how to find an internship related to your interests or majors; and more.

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Upcoming Career Fairs

Winter Career and Internship Fair and Diversity Reception
Wednesday, February 1, 2006
Diversity Reception: 12:00-2:30 p.m., Monogram Room
Career Fair: 4:00-8:00 p.m., Joyce Center

Career and Internship Connections
Chicago, January 6, 2006 Boston, January 9, 2006
Career Fair: 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Interviews: 12:15-5:00 p.m.

Diversity on LaSalle
Friday, February 3, 2006 in Chicago
For application information, please contact Jonika Moore jmooore5@nd.edu

Big East Career Fair
Friday, March 10, 2006 in New York City

Indiana Careers Consortium Career and Internship Fair
Friday, March 24, 2006 at Indiana University South Bend
For more information, contact Indiana Careers at Notre Dame at 574-631-2964 or IndianaCareers@nd.edu.

Hire Big 10 Plus Career Fair
Friday, April 7, 2006 in Chicago
Visit http://careercenter.nd.edu for more information!
Reuland continued from page 20

at landing Reuland. "I would be very, very surprised if he went anywhere but Notre Dame," Frank said Monday night.

Reuland took an official visit to Notre Dame for the Navy game on Nov. 12. The tight end came away impressed with the game day atmosphere and the passion of the Notre Dame students and fans. Reuland is consistently rated as one of the country's top players. Rivals.com gives him five stars and ranks him as the top tight end and the No. 42 player overall in the nation. The tight end also receives five stars from Scout.com, who rates Reuland as the No. 2 tight end nationally.

Weis has secured 22 known verbal commitments. Reuland would be an excellent addition to an already highly thought of Irish class and the second tight end to commit to Notre Dame. "Anytime you can pick up a five-star player, you are doing well," Frank said. "Notre Dame targeted two tight ends this year — (Reuland) and (current Irish commit) Paddy Mullen. If they landed (Reuland), they landed the top two guys that they wanted."

Notre Dame's competition does have one obvious advantage in the recruitment of Reuland, though — location. Southern California and UCLA are both a short drive from the tight end's home in Mission Viejo. But Reuland insists he is not afraid to leave the warm weather of Southern California. "I definitely think I can handle the cold," Reuland said. "I lived in the fourth and second grade, so I'm used to it. Ideally, I'd rather have to deal with the weather of Southern California — great weather all the time. But it's not going to sway my decision either way." Reuland is attracted to different aspects of each of his final three schools. The light end said he knows he would enjoy playing under head coach Pete Carroll at Southern California. "It seems like they really have fun over there — everybody loves the team," Reuland said. "(Carroll) would just be a great guy to play for." UCLA coach Karl Dorrell and his coaching staff have caught Reuland's attention with the use of their tight ends, particularly senior Marcedes Lewis. Lewis — along with Notre Dame tight end Anthony Fasano is one of three finalists for the John Mackey Award, which is given to the nation's top tight end in the nation each season. "They definitely have it going from a tight end standpoint," Reuland said of the Bruins. "One specific aspect of Notre Dame's program has stood out for Reuland — the head coach himself. The tight end cited Weis as the main draw to South Bend. "They've shown me a lot of commitment," Reuland said of the Notre Dame staff. "(Weis) has done a really good job of recruiting and retaining guys."

Like most recruits, Reuland dreams of playing in the Big East after college. Reuland said he is confident Weis would do an excellent job preparing him for the next level. "That's something I want to do is play in the NFL," and Coach Weis is a great link to the NFL," Reuland said. "He knows so many people. I really feel he can get me in position of putting me up in the NFL." Fasano hosted Reuland on the second night of his official visit to Notre Dame. Reuland said Fasano is exactly the type of tight end he would like to be in college — someone who excels in both the passing and running game. "I'd definitely like to be a balanced tight end," Reuland said. "That would be ideal for me. I just want to be a balanced tight end instead of just one-dimensional." Frank believes Reuland has already achieved that balance, adding tremendous blocking to his already great receiving skills this season. Frank said Reuland will remind Irish fans of a combination of Fasano and backup tight end John Carlson. "He's got the height and the athletic ability of Carlson, who might be a little bit more fluid than Fasano," Frank said. "But he also has Fasano's toughness and his blocking ability, so he's kind of a really good combination of both those guys."

"He's a tremendous player." Contact Kevin Brennan at kkvenan@nd.edu

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Signings
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center spotlight as a freshman in 2007 if heavily scouted junior catcher Sean Gaston signs with a Major League team after the current season.

"If (Gaston) signs professionally, then we're talking about having a situation where Ryan Smith will be coming in as a freshman and competing for the starting job with Eddy Mendiola, who we recruited as an infielder and we're converting to the catching position this fall," Mainieri said.

Mainieri said the situation at catcher is emblematic of why this fall's recruiting class was so important.

"We're going to be a young team next year," he said. "In 2007, we could have as many as 20 of 30 players on our roster as freshmen or sophomores. It will be a unique year for our program."

Mainieri said there are serious down sides in having a young team but noted past Irish success in situations like Notre Dame have in 2007.

"In '99, we started four or five freshmen every day, and that team ended up hosting an NCAA Regional for the first time ever in Notre Dame history," Mainieri said. "In '03, the year after we went to the (College) World Series, we had a lot of turnover again, and we had a lot of young players again that contributed. And we had a tremendous year and went to the Regional at Fullerton."

"We are going to be awfully young, but I still feel confident that we'll be able to maintain playing at a high level,"Mainieri said he expects the 2007 Irish team to utilize heavily the three right-handed pitchers in this year's recruiting class to stay at a nationally competitive level.

Billy Bockford, Steven Mazur and Andrew Scheid all join the Irish as highly touted prospects. Scheid, a 6-foot-7, 200-lb. starting pitcher for Regis Jesuit High School outside of Denver, Colo., enters Notre Dame as one of the nation's top pitching recruits after averaging almost 12 strikeouts per nine innings in his junior campaign at Regis Jesuit.

"Andrew really could have gone to just about any school he wanted to in the country," Mainieri said. "For us to land him was a real major coup."

Mainieri compared Scheid to former Irish star Brad Lidge, another tall right-hander from Denver.

He saved a more recent comparison for Bockford, a Glen Ellyn, Ill. native.

"Billy really reminds me a lot of Jeff Samardzija on the mound," Mainieri said. "He's just a real confident, competitive kid that is fearless. I just think he's going to contribute a big way to our program and be a real natural leader to our team."

Mainieri said while Bockford and Scheid bring confidence, Mazur brings fire to the Irish.

"Mazur throws a little bit harder than Scheid," Minieri said. "Steven is, I think the best way to describe him is he's a bulldog on the mound. When I watched him pitch, I just saw a guy who attacked the hitters."

Notre Dame added quality pitchers to its roster, but Mainieri said that the Irish recruits at the daily positions are just as good as the pitchers.

"It was really critical for us to replace position players because on our team in 2006 we could have as many as six seniors in our everyday starting lineup," he said. "So it was really important for us to bring in some quality position players, particularly in the outfield."

The Irish signed four outfielders in the class, including two speedy lefthies.

David Mills, a versatile 5-foot-10 player from Battle Creek, Mich., and 5-foot-7 Michael Wright of Lockhart, Texas give Notre Dame a dimension of basepath speed it has been lack­ing in previous years.

"We brought in two little speed guys, which I felt that we were in badly need of some speed into our program," Mainieri said. "Both (Mills and Wright) are the prototypical left-handed spray hitter that can really run." The power hitter of the outfielders is Austin Pearlce of Lake Oswego, Ore. The 6-foot-2, 210-lb. switch hitter has the most explosive bat of the 10 Irish signees, Mainieri said.

"He's another kid that's just full of a lot of enthusiasm, and he can really hit," Mainieri said.

Other Irish signees were heavy-lifting outfielders Hayden Ashdown of Tuscon, Ariz., and speedy infielders Ryne Intlekofer (Moorpark, Calif.) and A.J. Pollock (Helen, Conn.).

"This class may rank as high as any in the overall enthusiasm in the players," Mainieri said. "All of the kids are very outgoing personalities that are tremendously thrilled about being at Notre Dame. ... We couldn't be more pleased with the group that we finally signed and will see next August."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

**Irish Basketball**

vs. Florida International

**December 10 - 7:05pm**

Free Chick-Fil-A for Students (while supplies last).

Troop ND to perform at halftime.

**Student Christmas Party**

**Wednesday, December 7th**

Special Appearance from "Santa and His Helpers"

Doors at 10 ~ Drink Specials

University Hair Stylist

Located in the LaFortune Center

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**The Observer • SPORTS**

Tuesday, December 6, 2005
Observer in your home. The Observer an indispensable link to the Observer is a vital source of information on... Tuesday, December 6, 2005 CROISSANT WORLD

JocKULAR

Jennifer High

Will you go to the dance with me?

High School

I enjoy dancing with you almost as much as reading the tea.

Home Games

Running Late? Get Quarter Soup.

ALEC WHITE AND ERIK POWERS

Crossworld

AdAM FAIRHOLM

Jumble

I don't think I'll ever get used to the subway, employee run run.

Henni Arnold Mike Agron

That scrambled word game by Henni Arnold and Mike Agron

Horoscope

Eugenia Last

Celebrities born on this day: Frankie Mance, 20; John Racybn, 42; Morgan D. 17; Little Richard, 73.

Happy Birthday: The better equipped you are to adapt and think on your feet, the more you will enjoy your upcoming year. You can make great strides if you aren't rigid and are willing to put in the hours to think what you want. Separate your personal and professional lives, and you will do well in both areas. Your numbers are 8, 13, 15, 22, 35, 39.

Aries (March 21-April 19): You can do anything you set your mind to. Make a point of letting the people in your life know how much you are a fan and what your intentions are. A financial opportunity looks promising.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Don't be too sure the people around you are on your side. You will find that you stand alone if you try to push your views. It may not be the best time to engage in something you know little about.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): You won't have time to think today, but if you act on your instincts, you are likely to make positive happenings. You will be able to come up with unique ideas that will grab the attention of someone you've been trying to interest in your plans.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Someone very unusual will surround you. Take a closer look and decide whether you can sort out anything that doesn't look quite right. Avoid getting involved in a joint venture.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel a little confused in emotional matters or affairs of the heart. Don't let this stop your generosity for personality affecting others. Don't overspend or take on more than you can handle.***

Virgo (August 23-Sept. 22): A colleague or peer may make you feel insecure. Peruse until you get past any of the obstacles placed in your way. Sudden changes regarding your personal life will put you in the driver's seat.***

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Everyone will look to you for advice. Your wide variety of answers will put you in a category by yourself. Money can be made if you put a new spin on something you have been doing for some time.***

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be direct if you want to get things done right. You can expect someone to give you a hard time. Don't let a little mutiny turn into a fiasco. Control whatever situation you face and make the best.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may impress some of the people you encounter, but someone who can make a difference to your future may not be that particular. Make sure you have your facts straight. Preparation will lead to success.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone you thought might help you about is not likely to come through for you today. Work on your own and plan; you don't need the help that is not there.***

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have plenty on your mind, but if you neglect the people you are faced with, you will lose even greater difficulties. An older relative will need your help and your advice. Do your best, but don't let this become an argument.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Dealing with institutions will be difficult and best left until a later date or impossible. You won't get the satisfaction you are looking for through work or business communications. Focus on the little things that best suit you.***

Today's Jumble: Poker Fidel Martyr Parade

Answer: The price, earn, learn, can form the sentence "freedom."
FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Notre Dame hot on tight end Reuland's recruiting trail

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis has made national waves while leading Notre Dame to a BCS bowl bid. And Mission Viejo, Calif. tight end Konrad Reuland, one of the nation's top recruits, has taken notice.

"Weis has turned a program around in a year from an average team to a powerhouse team," Reuland said in a phone interview with The Observer Monday night. "With just the way he carries himself, his self-confidence, it just seems like you know and he knows that he's going to get it done."

"They are going to be a dominant team over the next couple of years."

Reuland said he has developed a close relationship with Weis and special team coach Brian Pollan, the Notre Dame assistant in charge of recruiting. The two Irish coaches visited Reuland at his home on Nov. 27.

"It went well. We had a really good time," Reuland said of the visit. "Weis stayed over for a while and had dinner. It was really a good time. I enjoyed it, and I think he did, too."

Reuland has narrowed his list of college choices to Notre Dame, Southern California and UCLA. The Mission Viejo High product plans on announcing his verbal commitment in the near future — possibly as early as this weekend, he said, but definitely by the U.S. Army All-American Bowl on Jan. 7.

Receivers cannot sign letters of intent until February, but Mike Frank of Insideusports.com thinks the Irish have an excellent shot

see REULAND/page 14

HOCKEY

Changing the pace

Irish travel to Minnesota State tonight for pivotal road contest after streak-snapping win over Western Michigan

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's routine is to practice all week and play Friday and Saturday games. But the Irish will be jolted from their routine by today's trip to Mankato, Minn., for a game against Minnesota State.

The Irish last played Saturday in a 3-0 win over Western Michigan at the Joyce Center. The three-day turnaround between contests is the fastest of the season.

Notre Dame heads into its game against the Mavericks riding a 17-game road winless streak that dates back to last season.

Irish defensiveman Wes O'Neill said he is actually excited to play a midweek game as a change of pace.

"It's back to the junior [level] days where you played every other day," he said. "It's a little tough during exams, but we prepare all year for weeks like this."

Every player on the Irish roster played junior-level hockey before coming to South Bend. Most competed in the United States Hockey League, while three player — right wing Michael Bartlett, left wing Josh Sciba and left wing Tim Wallace — played for the U.S. Under-18 National Team.

Minnesota State, which plays in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA), will be the first non-conference game for the Irish since Princeton on Oct. 29. Notre Dame is 4-9-1 this season and 3-6-1 in the CCHA.

After rotating goalies junior Dave Brown and freshman Jordan Pearce early in the season, Irish head coach Kevin Haar and his assistant Terry Rooney, the recruiting coordinator, and Cliff Godwin, the new assistant coach, ... the effort that they put in is where the credit is due for the success of this recruiting class."

The Irish signed ten players to its 2005-06 squad and the possibility of multiple juniors being drafted for this season, the 11th-year head coach had to reload Notre Dame's position and pitching weapons with a strong incoming class.

"It's a tremendous challenge for us this year because we have such an inordinately large senior class," Maimieri said. "We feel that there's a chance that we could lose two to three of our junior class also, so that's a big group to replace in one year."

BASEBALL RECRUITING

Irish ink ten recruits during signing period

By JASON GALVAN
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's and women's track and field teams got their first taste of competition this season at the BlueGold Invitational Saturday in the Loftus Sports Center.

With eight seniors on the 2005-06 squad and the possibility of multiple juniors being drafted for this season, the 11th-year head coach had to reload Notre Dame's position and pitching weapons with a strong incoming class.

"It's a tremendous challenge for us this year because we have such an inordinately large senior class," Maimieri said. "We feel that there's a chance that we could lose two to three of our junior class also, so that's a big group to replace in one year."

His coaching staff delivered, nabbing top prospects from California to Connecticut and Michigan to Maryland.

"We feel like we have a great recruiting class," Maimieri said. "Our coaching staff, [especially] Terry Rooney, the recruiting coordinator, and Cliff Godwin, our new assistant coach, ... the effort that they put in is where the credit is due for the success of this recruiting class."

The Irish signed ten players to scholarships during the signing period, and Maimieri said Notre Dame's most important pickup was likely Ryan Smith, Smith, a 6-foot-2 catcher from Waldorf, Md., who will be thrust into the

see BADGERS/page 18

see SIGNINGS/page 18

ND TRACK AND FIELD

Irish declare first meet a success

Team qualifies several members for Big East Championship in May

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Paul Mainieri knows he needed a top-flight recruiting class. With eight seniors on the 2005-06 squad and the possibility of multiple juniors being drafted for this season, the 11th-year head coach had to reload Notre Dame's position and pitching weapons with a strong incoming class.

"It's a tremendous challenge for us this year because we have such an inordinately large senior class," Maimieri said. "We feel that there's a chance that we could lose two to three of our junior class also, so that's a big group to replace in one year."

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TEAM images