Cultural competency discussed

New diversity awareness resolution called ‘vague’

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

A proposal to establish a committee to evaluate and implement cultural competency at Notre Dame was hotly debated at Tuesday’s Faculty Senate meeting, where members said the plan was too "vague" and last-minute for them to make an immediate decision.

Members of the Student Affairs committee, one of the four subcommittees of Faculty Senate, cited the resolution’s inability to present a clear-cut definition of the term "cultural competency" — and how such a practice would be integrated — as well as a lack of time to think over the issue as reasons for postponing action until their next meeting on Feb. 6.

Rhea Boyd, chair of Student Senate’s Minority Affairs committee, said the resolution speaks to Notre Dame’s "biggest initiative" — the question of how to incorporate diversity into campus life. Boyd said the issue is best resolved by making exposure a direct part of the college curriculum.

"The biggest thing is the definition of cultural competency," Boyd said. "As defined by the American Heritage Dictionary, ‘competence’ is a specific range of skill, knowledge and ability. When we proceed that with ‘cultural,’ we hope Notre Dame students will have a knowledge or ability to successfully navigate a complex world." 

see CULTURE/page 6

Students use 11 printers installed in dorms

Student Senate works to monitor program and evaluate pilot run

By KATYLLYN RILEY
News Writer

The test run of the printer program — which brought printers to five dorms last spring to determine their feasibility and necessity in dormitories — was enough to convince Carroll sophomore Josh Kempf that he no longer needed his own personal printer in his dorm room.

"They told us they would have it up and running this year, so I did n’t even bring it back," Kempf said.

Thanks to the success of the pilot program, organized by the student senate last March, the University began the printer program in 11 dorms on campus — Carroll, Dillon, Farley, Lewis, Lyons, O’Neill, Pangborn, Lapierre, South, West, Westin and the lobby connecting Keenan and Stanford. Each of the dorms received one printer at the beginning of the school year.

Mark Seiler, chair of the Student Senate’s residence life committee, and senator Ian Gandy worked with Gordon Wishon, assistant vice president of the Office of Information Technologies, to get printers installed in the dorms.

"The first year for the pilot program was last academic year, and the program went well," Seiler said. "The program indicated that the printers in the dorms were getting ample usage. This academic year a few more printers were added to dorms. As far as I know, the program continues to go well."

see PRINTING/page 4

Professor consults for ‘The Da Vinci Code’

By KATE ANTONACCI
Assistant News Editor

Theology professor Father Richard McBrien is helping "crack the code" — as promotional ads for "The Da Vinci Code" movie say — as a consultant for the film. The article often depicted in art

by KELLY MEESON
News Writer

An unusually long winter break will give students a four-week escape from the rigors of college work, but the return to campus may prove extra challenging for Saint Mary’s students.

The College’s semester classes typically begin on a Tuesday, but this year students will find themselves in the classroom on Monday, Jan. 16.

"I think that starting classes on Monday instead of Tuesday next semester will be a difficult adjustment," junior Lisa DePalma said. "Having that Monday off makes the transition between the long Christmas break and settling back into the routine of classes much easier."

The decision to begin classes on Monday instead of Tuesday was made at the April 18 meeting of the academic affairs council. The council passed a resolution that stated classes would begin on the first Monday of the spring 2006 semester, and every semester thereafter. This change was implemented to narrow the time imbalance that previously existed between classes that convened on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and those that met on Tuesday and Thursday, the council said.

"The resolution really makes sense," communications studies professor Andrea Rogers said. "If we had one Monday, Wednesday, Friday class and one Tuesday, Thursday class that were identical, it would be difficult to balance the work load and remain fair to the students."

College registrar Lorraine Kitchener said the implementation of a study day prior to final week, which resulted in the cancellation of a Friday class, was part of the reasoning behind the resolution.

"Faculty Assembly sent the recommendation to start classes on Monday in the Academic Affairs Council in an attempt to balance the work week," Kitchener said. "Now Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday meeting times are really in the spring semester — making the spring semester much more like the fall semester — but it will bring help close the gap."

Although students will start class a day earlier, they still will not be permitted to return to their residence halls until Sunday, Jan. 15. residence halls director Michelle Hasell said.

Russell said she feels students

see CHANGE/page 6

For more information, contact

473-3300

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2005

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THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s
INSIDE COLUMN

Arizona dreaming

No matter how many papers I have to write, no matter how many finals I have to study, there’s just one thing I can’t stop thinking about: the Fiesta Bowl. But it’s for a different reason than one might think. Despite losing the overzealous football fanatic that I am, Sports Writer and Columnist Tim Kaiser drifts madly between the Irish and the Buckeyes that I’m salivating over, not is it the delicious tortilla chips that will most certainly be eaten at the big event. The reason I’ll be certain to pick up a lottery number today is because the game will be played in a toasty warm Tempe, Ariz.

This is my first Midwestern winter, and while I thought I would be prepared for it, it has still come as a shock to me. What surprised me most was yesterday on the way to breakfast, nothing but snot frozen to the sides of his face. Just thinking that I’d never get to experience the pure elation of a snow day again. Sure enough, I was fortunate to check my e-mail before heading back west again and found that my first class had been cancelled because my professor’s wife had gone into labor that morning, which after a quick congratulatory reply, I was free to relax and enjoy the morning’s winter scenery.

But I have found that this round of snows, accompanied by biting cold and gale-force winds, isn’t so quaint and enjoyable as the first time.

No other time have I been so thankful for my dorm’s close proximity to South Dining Hall, and the occasional excursions to North. I took this fall have been ruled out. Many trips to the library have been forsaken, and don’t expect me to call you back: I don’t get cell phone service in my dorm room expect me to call you back: I don’t get cell phone service in my dorm room. And even if we go, cell phone service in my dorm room isn’t much warmer in January, we can still wallow in something that I’d thought covered with snow.

While I’ll likely be waiting for a lottery number today is because the game will be played in a toasty warm Tempe, Ariz.

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

In an article in the Dec. 2 edition of The Observer a poll query for mistakenly attributed to American Studies major Jennifer Lucero. Political science major Adam Russell was the actual speaker. Lucero also was misrepresented when references to her friends were taken out of context.

The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:

What are you doing for Christmas break?

Beth Hagerty

Molly Dawes

Meghan Newcomb

Katie Palombo

Kaitlin Jensen

Tom Mazzacavallo

Brenn Phillips

Brenn Phillips

Brenn Phillips

Brenn Phillips

Brenn Phillips

Brenn Phillips

"Christmas in the Caribbean and soaking up the sun."

"Moving to Houston and getting in the game."

"Finding an Irish pub where I can watch my Irish beat OSU!"

"Going to Katie Palombo’s house for the game."

"Going to Kate Palombo’s house for the game."

OFFBEAT

Woman allegedly hires hit man for cheese

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — In an unusual case of mistaken identity, a woman who thought a block of white cheese was cocaine is charged with trying to hire a hit man to rob and kill four men. The woman also was mistaken about the hit man. He turned out to be an undercover police officer.

Jessica Sandy Rood, 18, was arrested over the weekend and remains in jail with bond set at $1 million on four charges of attempted murder and four counts of soliciting a murder.

According to police, Rood was in the Memphis home of the four intended victims last week when she mistook a block of queso fresco cheese for cocaine — inspir­ ing the idea to hire someone to break into the home, take the drugs, and kill the men.

An informant described the plot to police, who arranged a meeting between Rood and the undercover officer.

Man jailed after biting head off gecko

PORT JERVIS, N.Y. — A 19-year-old man was behind bars Tuesday after allegedly biting the head off a gecko as part of a bet. Derrick Ford was being held in the Orange County Jail after being charged with felony animal cruelty, police said.

Ford was at a friend’s home Sunday when someone bet him $10 that he wouldn’t bite the head off a gecko, the Times Herald­Record of Middletown reported.

Though Ford won the bet, it wasn’t long before police showed up and placed him under arrest, the newspaper said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

A "Christmas at the CoMo" benefit concert will be held tonight in the Hamms Student Lounge of the Coleman Morse Center from 8 p.m. to 9. ND Celebration and instrumentalists will perform, and the publik is invited to attend.

In anticipation of the film premier of "The Liar, the Witch and the Wardrobe," Father Charles Gordon will give a talk entitled "Anticipating Narnia" Thursday at 8 p.m. in room 102 Doherty Hall.

A panel discussion entitled "The Social Security Puzzle: Dispelling Myths, Discussing Solutions" will take place Friday at 3 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium in Mendoza College of Business. Panellists will objectively examine the government’s economic assistance program, analyze common misconceptions and seek practical solutions. The discussion is open to the general public.

For those students interested in walk-on tryouts for next year’s Notre Dame football team, information sheets are available from the football office in the Guglielmino Athletics Complex. Students interested should fill out the information sheet and return it by Jan. 18. If they are interested in trying out, a meeting will be held on Jan. 23 at 9 p.m. in the Guglielmino Complex for those who turned in the sheets.

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

INFLATABLE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS ARE SET UP OUTSIDE OF STANFORD HALL. STUDENTS HAVE HELPED DECORATE THE OUTSIDE OF THEIR HALLS SINCE RETURNING FROM THANKSGIVING BREAK.
Village planned for musicians
Music center at the hub would offer lessons and show performances

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Singer Harry Connick Jr. and saxophone player Branford Marsalis are working with Habitat for Humanity to create a "village" for New Orleans musicians who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina.

More than $2 million has been raised for the project dreamed up by Connick and Marsalis — a neighborhood built around a music center where musicians can teach and perform, said Jim Pate, executive director of New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity.

The first $1 million came from benefit concerts in New York three weeks after the storm, said Quint Davis, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival producer who helped arrange the concerts.

"The money being used to build these homes for New Orleans musicians was raised by New Orleans musicians. Our pact with them was to help New Orleans' musical community," Davis said at a news conference Tuesday.

In a telephone interview Monday, Connick said he and Marsalis — both honorary members of the New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity — talked to a "village" for New Orleans musicians who lost their homes.

"We'd hope some of our musician partner families could do some of their sweat equity by doing performances or concerts for some of our volunteers who are coming from all over the world," Pate said.

It's a fantastic idea, said Banu Gibson, who sings '20s and '30s jazz.

"So many musicians have moved out of town, and a lot of the good ones, too, which is really depressing," she said.

Gibson is back in her own house, but two of the seven musicians in her band lost homes they had bought in the last couple of years. "All the money they raised to put down as a house payment, $25,000 to $35,000, is gone," she said.

Bassist Peter "Chuck" Rogers, 80, would love to see the dream become reality, and to live in a Habitat home, he'd be tickled to death," said Badie, who's staying at a friend's house after floods destroyed his house in the Lower Ninth Ward. "A village for musicians would be the finest thing. But build it where?"

Habitat cannot reserve houses for a specific group, and non-musicians would also live in the village, Pate said. However, musicians who lost their houses and have no or too little insurance — and will provide labor for a Habitat house — will be asked if they'd like to live there.

"We'd hope some of our musician partner families could do some of their sweat equity by doing performances or concerts for some of our volunteers who are coming from all over the world," Pate said.

Al-Arian, 47, wept after the verdict, and his attorney Linda Moreno hugged him. He will remain jailed until prosecutors decide whether to retry him on the deadlocked counts.

Two co-defendants, Sameeh Hammamdeeh and Ghassan Zayed Ballut, were acquitted of all charges. A third, Haseem Najj Fariz, was found not guilty of 25 counts, and jurors deadlocked on the remaining eight.

"While we respect the jury's verdict, we stand by the evidence we presented in court," Justice Department spokesman Tazin Scobin said.

Al-Arian's wife, Nahla, celebrated with relatives and supporters outside the courthouse. "I'm ecstatic," she said. "My husband is an outspoken Palestinian activist who loved this country, believed in the system, and the system did not fail him."

Moreno said she hoped prosecutors would take into account the "overwhelming number of not-guilty verdicts" against the defendants in deciding whether to retry him again. She said she will ask the court soon to release Al-Arian from jail.

Al-Arian, a former University of South Florida computer science professor, was considered one of the most important terrorist figures to be brought to trial in the United States since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorism attacks.

ACE goes Latin

Ensenar es car un vece por siempre

Friday, December 9
9PM - 11PM
Legends
Free t-shirts to the first 50 people

D.J. Food Dancing

Former professor is aquitted of charges

Associated Press

TAMPA — For more than five months, jurors in the case of a former professor accused of helping lead a Palestinian terrorist group reviewed hundreds of documents, heard from dozens of witnesses and watched videos in which the defendants appeared to speak glowingly of suicide bombers.

But it wasn't enough. Sami Al-Arian was acquitted Tuesday on nearly half the charges against him, and the jury deadlocked on the rest in a stinging defeat for the federal government. His case was seen as one of the biggest courtroom tests yet of the Patriot Act's expanded search-and-surveillance powers.

Al-Arian and three co-defendants were accused of being the communications arm of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, spreading the word and raising money that went toward suicide attacks that have killed hundreds in Israel.

But the jury could not convict any of the four on the charges laid out in a complex, 51-count indictment. Al-Arian was acquitted of eight of the 17 counts against him, including a key charge of conspiring to mails and murder people overseas.

A male juror, whose name was tickled to death," said Badie, who's staying at a friend's house after floods destroyed his house in the Lower Ninth Ward. "A village for musicians would be the finest thing. But build it where?"
Printing continued from page 1

OIT and the Office of Residence Life and Housing were responsible for overseeing the project, which has been successful thus far, said Farley. "Last spring, OIT conducted a test pilot program to see if the printers would work and to see if students would use them."

All students are responsible for overseeing the project, which has been successful thus far, said Lay. "I don't think there's any way people could do it better," she said.

Lay said there are currently no plans to expand the printer availability into other dorms. "If anyone has a request that they want printing ability expanded, they're in the halls to talk with us (the Office of Residence Life and Housing)," Lay said.

"We tried to do it at various locations where they would be accessible, not all clumped together in one quad," she said.

Lay said she did not know if there has been a significant drop in personal printers since the installation of printers in dorms. If there hasn't been a drop, she said this could be due to the lack of notification that printers would be available in dorms this year.

"I doubt that there would have been a reduction this year," Lay said. "However, there could be a reduction next year with the printers now available.

Pamela Lay, ResNet program manager at OIT.

I'd comment on the novel in an ABC documentary that had been aired several times in the past. It was my original appearance on that documentary two years ago that led the producer of the film to approach me to become a consultant for the film version of the novel.

McBrien wrote two of his weekly columns for the Catholic press about the ABC documentary.

"A mere discussion of such an hypothesis is sufficient to bring some people out of the proverbial woodwork, as reaction to the documentary, even before it was intensely emotional," McBrien said in a Nov. 24, 2003 column.

McBrien said he received reactions "across the religious spectrum" about his appearance in the documentary.

"I think what bothered most critics was the fact that the question [of Jesus being married] was even being raised and that I was open to discussing it," he said in his Dec. 1 column.

McBrien said he did receive positive reactions, as well. While McBrien said in his Nov. 24 column that Jesus could in fact have been married, there is no evidence in the New Testament or in Christian tradition that he was.

In McBrien's Catholicism book, he said there is no evidence that Jesus was married and that "that evidence does exist in the Gospels." He conceded, according to the Dec. 1, 2003 column.

McBrien also said Jesus' divinity still would not be compromised if he had, in fact, been married. "As St. Paul reminded us in the Letter to the Hebrews, Jesus was like us in all things except sin (4:15). The sexual expression of love within marriage is not sinful," McBrien said in the Nov. 24 column.

Brown's book has been on the New York Times Best Seller List for Hardcover Nonfiction for 138 weeks. "The Da Vinci Code" was named book of the year by the British Book Awards in April 2005. In addition to Howard, Oscar-winners Akiva Goldsman (a screenwriter) and Brian Grazer (a producer) are also involved in the film. Actors Tom Hanks, Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen star in the film.

"I won't see the final product until everyone else does when the movie comes out in May," McBrien said.

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonec@nd.edu

Da Vinci continued from page 1

and literature as a prostitute. She is depicted in the Bible, however, as a devoted follower of Jesus and the first witness to Jesus' resurrection.

The film on this book will be in theaters May 19, 2006.


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The Observer.

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The Observer • CAMPUSS NEWS

Wednesday, December 7, 2005

Please recycle
The Observer.
Al-Jazeera broadcasts video of captives
Kidnappings seem intended to coincide with Hussein's trial and upcoming elections

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Al-Jazeera broadcast a video Tuesday claiming insurgents kidnapped a U.S. security consultant, and the militants displayed a blond, Western-looking man sitting with his hands tied behind his back.

The video also bore the logo of the French Army in Iraq and showed a U.S. passport and an identification card.

The authenticity of the video cannot be immediately confirmed.

If true, the man would become the second American taken hostage in the last two weeks. A U.S. citizen was among four Christian peace activists taken hostage on Nov. 27 by a group calling itself the Swords of Righteousness Brigade. Two Canadians and a Briton were also part of that group.

Last week, Al-Jazeera broadcast a videotape and statement in which the Swords of Righteousness Brigade threatened to kill five hostages unless all prisoners in U.S. and Iraqi detention centers were freed by Dec. 8.

The Christian activists — Tom Fox, 54, of Clear Brook, Va.; Norman Kember, 74, of London; James Loney, 41, of Toronto; and Inderjit Singh Oonoon, 32, also of Canada — had been warned by security officials they were taking a grave risk by moving around Baghdad without bodyguards.

A French engineer was also taken hostage in Baghdad on Monday and a German joins a group of Christians abducted near Mosul on Nov. 26.

Police Maj. Falah al-Mohamadawi said Tuesday he didn’t have any new information about the kidnapping of the French engineer, Bernard Planche, but that the interior ministry had distributed Planche’s photo to all the checkpoints around Baghdad.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw on Monday encouraged the kidnappers of the Briton to make contact, saying "We stand ready to hear what they have to say.

"Broadcasting Corp. cited a Western diplomat in Baghdad as saying direct contact had been made with the hostage-takers. It did not name the diplomat."

Iraqui survivors describe response as racist

INDIANAPOLIS — State Sen. Luttie to retire

LOCAL NEWS

Democratic senator Luttie to retire

INDIANAPOLIS — State Sen. Larry Luttie, a Democrat who has represented southwestern Indiana’s Posey and Vanderburgh counties for 16 years, said Tuesday that he will not seek re-election next year.

Luttie, 48, of Evansville, was first elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1983. He was appointed to the Indiana Senate in 1999 to fill the term of Sen. Dennis Neal, who died after the November 1998 election.

Luttie, 67, said in a statement that he was honored to serve Senate District 49, which includes portions of Gibson, Posey and Vanderburgh Counties.

said military troops focused machine gun laser targets on her granddaugh-

ter’s forehead. Others said their families were called racial epithets by police.

"No one is going to tell me it wasn’t a racist issue," New Orleans evacuee Patricia Thompson, 53, who is now living in College Station, Texas, said. "It was an issue of racism and because of one thing; when the city had pretty much been evacuated, the people that were left there mostly was black."

Not all lawmakers seemed persuaded.

"I don’t want to be offensive when they go through such incredible challenges," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn. But referring to some of the victims’ charges, like the gun pointed at the girl, Shays said: "I just don’t frankly believe it."

"You believe what you want," Thompson said.

The hearing was held by a special House committee, chaired by Rep. Tom Davis, R-Va., investigating the govern-

ment’s preparations and response to Katrina. It was requested by Rep. Cynthia McKinney, D-Ga., a member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

"Racism is something we don’t like to talk about, but we have to acknowledg-e it," McKinney said. "And the world saw the effects of American-style racism in the drama as it was out-played by the Katrina survivors."

The five white and two black law-

makers who attended the hearing mostly sat quietly during the two and a half hours of testimony. But tempers flared when evacuees were asked by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., not to compare shelter conditions to a concentration camp.

"About three hours ago I filed a complaint with the police," she said. "They are looking for me. They are looking for me."

"When we heard it, we took it very personally," Luttie said. "Losing a job or losing a house or losing a house, but losing a reputation is much worse."

"I don’t want to be offensive when they go through such incredible challenges," said Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn. But referring to some of the victims’ charges, like the gun pointed at the girl, Shays said: "I just don’t frankly believe it."

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makers who attended the hearing mostly sat quietly during the two and a half hours of testimony. But tempers flared when evacuees were asked by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., not to compare shelter conditions to a concentration camp.
Culture
continued from page 1

gate through cultural experiences or comprehend different cultural people.

Some faculty members expressed concern with the ambiguity of the term, but Boyd said the word "cultural" is meant to be a bit vague — "that’s an issue."

"The Minority Affairs committee does not have the jurisdiction to define what ‘cultural should be,” she said. “We want to leave it up to this [proposed] committee to determine what it should be.”

History professor Gail Bederman said adversity faced when attempting to define such a term transcends the Notre Dame community. “American academics as a whole has been debating this ‘what do you call this’ — diversity, culture ... it seems like we’re chastising the committee for dealing with something that has been [debated] in many universities,” she said.

Marketing professor John Gaski said the term’s vagueness leads to “a lot of assuming.”

“What if the Notre Dame student body is the most culturally competent student body in the country?” he asked. “Isn’t there some kind of measure? Maybe we’ll find out we’re in the 99th percentile — shouldn’t that be investigated?”

But members said it would be difficult — if not impossible — to measure how culturally competent Notre Dame students are currently, and how culturally competent they would presumably be after the proposed institutional improvements were implemented.

East Asian languages and literature professor Xiaoshan Yang said from personal experience, “the majority of Notre Dame students do not have a lot of cultural experiences.”

“If they go abroad, they go Dublin, or to London, they go to Australia,” he said. “My gut feeling is yes, our students are less exposed.”

Student activities committee chair and physics professor Philip Colson said the term cultural competency can be "widen," and therefore difficult to measure.

“If I compare our students to those students who run around at Berkeley, I’d say yes, we are a more homogenous group,” he said. “But a metric is impossible when we don’t say what we mean by it.”

Boyd said questions about the measurability of a cultural competency requirement have been considered by the Minority Affairs committee.

“We really don’t have the authority to [determine] how to evaluate cultural competency,” she said. “We are looking for something every student has to take...[at this point we are not advocating a requirement]. We’re looking to see how the committee thinks it can be done.”

Boyd said the Minority Affairs committee is seeking the help of outside sources — like Faculty Senate — to establish a committee that would assess the feasibility of adding another course to the curriculum and other institutional changes.

Culture
continued from page 1

I’d like to be a fly on the wall of the committee who’s going to determine [what counts],” Gaski said.

Boyd said the “biggest thing” the Minority Affairs committee identified is that every Notre Dame student should in some way be exposed to other cultures. “If you don’t make it available to every student, it’s very possible for students to surround themselves in classes and with people very much like their own backyard,” she said.

Bederman said Notre Dame’s status as a Catholic university is simultaneously a strength and a weakness.

“Our mission as a Catholic university encourages our students to be American, Catholic — and that’s great — but it also limits the number of folks here,” she said. “As a less racially and religiously diverse [institution], it wouldn’t kill us to have a requirement like this.”

Vice President and Associate Provost Jean Ann Linney said one of the problems is that people are “dancing around the issue.”

“As we go away from this or are we going to back away from it? We need students and faculty groups to engage together,” she said. "In [University President Father John Jenkins’] inaugural address, he said diversity is part of our Catholicity — and we need to talk about it more seriously, think about it more and address it more seriously.”

Contact Katie Perry at kperry@nd.edu

Change
continued from page 1

will enjoy their time away from dorm life.

“I think it’s nice for the students because they have a longer winter break to relax or earn money for school,” she said.

The College’s academic calendar is developed from a perpetual calendar established by Notre Dame many years ago, Kitchner said. This year’s calendar allows for an additional week because Christmas falls on a Sunday.

Notre Dame registrar Harold Pace said the University’s academic calendar rules dictate that the fall semester always begins on the fourth Tuesday in August and that the spring semester commences on the second or third Tuesday in January — based on the fact that graduation will fall on the third Sunday of May.

These are the same calendar regulations that Saint Mary’s follows, but the College now begins semesters on Monday, has one fewer study day during finals week and holds commencement on the third Saturday of May.

“I am really excited for the long break. It has been a tough semester and I think all the students should be able to take advantage of it,” Saint Mary’s junior resident advisor Brenda Harley said. “As an RA, I am not so happy about the school starting on Monday because it is just going to be a mad rush around Thanksgiving with the students only being able to return on Sunday (Jan. 15).

Saint Mary’s junior Bridget Green agreed and said she typically takes advantage of the class free Monday to register, purchase books and look up additional information on her classes.

“I know that, like most people, I return to campus Sunday night,” Green said. “I usually have Monday to get back in the swing of things. I just think now there will be lots of confusion on campus.”

Contact Kelly Meenan at kmeehan@stmarys.edu

Assistant Rector Applications for Undergraduate Residence Halls and Fischer O’Hara Grace Graduate Residences are now available Office of Student Affairs 316 Main Building

For more information call the Office of Student Affairs at 631-6144 or go to http://osa.nd.edu for eligibility requirements and to download the application

Completed applications must be submitted by February 10, 2006

Where will you be for break??
If in Columbus, Philadelphia or Boston, be sure to catch... The University of Notre Dame Liturgical Choir 2006 Winter Tour Sharing Sacred Music from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart with Audiences in the Midwest and Northeast

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Ford polls some ads from gay publications

NEW YORK — Ford Motor Co. said Tuesday it's lining up its luxury Jaguar and Land Rover brands for a longer advertising presence in gay publications, but the nation's second-largest automaker denied that it made the decision under pressure from conservative Christian groups.

"There was no discussion with regard to advertising as a business decision," Ford spokesman Mike Moran said. He said the company would continue advertising in gay publications. Ford has not advertised its Ford, Lincoln and Mercury brands in those publications, Moran added.

Moran said Jaguar and Land Rover, which are part of Ford's luxury-money-losing Premier Automotive Group, have decided to cut back on their advertising everywhere because of difficult market conditions. The Premier Automotive Group reported a pretax loss of $108 million in the third quarter.

"They feel pressure on their marketing budgets, so they decided to streamline marketing across the board," Moran said. "They're not supporting as many publications and events as before in 2006."

Submarine builder to cut 2,400 jobs

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Submarine builder Electric Boat will cut up to 2,400 jobs next year, the company said Monday, as it said it could eliminate half of its work force in coming years as it faces a dwindling submarine market and a Navy policy to protect work to its own shipyards.

President John Casey said the decision to cut up to 20 percent of its work force next year was a "painful decision" but said the future of the company is at stake.

Most jobs will be at the Connecticut shipyard in Groton, but between 500 and 600 will be eliminated from its Rhode Island facility.

Electric Boat, a division of General Dynamics Corp., employs 11,800 people.

After 2006, company spokesman Bob Hamilton said, the numbers got murky, but he said company projections include a 50 percent reduction if new contracts aren't awarded.

That would mean a work force of about 6,000 in a region where submarine building is a way of life.

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Storin continued from page 1

said of addressing fears that Notre Dame had "lost its way in terms of its Catholic character.

"The great thing about Notre Dame is that everyone wants the university to be his or her Notre Dame — in other words, as he or she idealizes it," Storin said.

"Sometimes you're dealing with very passionate and articulate people. It's always interesting, but sometimes frustrating.

That same passion — and plenty of national scrutiny — surfaced last winter when the University fired then-Assistant Coach Tyron Willingham, who had been Notre Dame's first black head coaching hire in any sport. Facing heated allegations of racism from various critics, Notre Dame was hard pressed to explain its choice and wants Notre Dame to be his or her Notre Dame — in other words, as he or she idealizes it," Storin said.

"Sometimes you're dealing with very passionate and articulate people. It's always interesting, but sometimes frustrating.

"With I'd say the exception of some of the coverage of the Willehmingham episodes, I've had very good experiences with the reporters here. I've had a least of which were frequently the reporters from The Observer," he said.

"Generally they knew more about Notre Dame to start with, and honor the course, in all honesty, stud-

"That's probably the best decision I've made in my career.

"The thing I enjoyed being editor of the Boston Globe, was working with young reporters, so here I've been able to do a little bit of that. And it's very, very important that students of the Information Department understand Notre Dame enter the field of journalism.

"Speaking of Notre Dame was not always easy, Storin said.

In addition to heading the News and Information Department and responding to campus, local and national media, he also regularly corresponded with national news organizations concerned about the direction the university was taking amidst the recent national culture wars — a delicate and often trying task.

"That was the most wearing aspect of the job," Storin said.

Professor to lecture on star

Grant J. Mathews, director of the Center for Astrophysics at Notre Dame, will present a lecture titled "What and When was the Christmas Star?" at 7 p.m. Friday in the DeNaples Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library. The lecture is free and open to the public.

The Gospel of Matthew records a peculiar astronomical event that occurred at the birth of Christ. For centuries, astronomers and theologians have debated the nature of the Biblical light that led the Magi to the newborn Jesus. Some have suggested it was a nova or a supernova, others suggest some other transient stellar burst.

Mathews will review the many astronomical postulates for the Christmas star and discuss recent evidence that points toward likely answers as to the nature and time of appearance of this special event. He also will discuss if his recent evidence may shed new light on the Christmas story.

The lecture is part of the Department of Physics' observance of the World Year of Physics, a global celebration of physics and its importance in our everyday lives. The observance celebrates the 100th anniversary of Albert Einstein's "miraculous year" in which he published three revolutionary papers on special relativity, the photoelectric effect and Brownian motion.

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AUSTRIA

Israeli institute pays tribute to Austrians

85 people recognized for helping the Jews in the Holocaust

Associated Press

VIENNA – Israel’s Yad Vashem institute paid tribute Tuesday to 85 Austrians who risked their lives to save their Jewish friends and neighbors during the Holocaust.

Among those recognized for their courage in defying the Nazis were Hermine Pins, who hid a Jewish woman in her Vienna home between 1942 and 1945, and Danuta and Ewald Kleisinger who saved the lives of several Jews by giving them sanctuary in their Warsaw home.

Biss was honored posthumously with the title “Righteous Among The Nations” — joining the Kleisingers and 82 other Austrians already so recognized. The Kleisingers were additionally given honorary memorial Israeli citizenship, an honor Danuta Kleisinger accepted from Israeli Ambassador Dan Ashbel on behalf of herself and her late husband.

Austrian President Heinz Fischer emphasized the significance of the event in a ceremony held at the Vienna Jewish Community building. He linked it to the long process that finally replaced decades of denial with the recognition commonly held today that Austrians shared responsibility for the Holocaust.

“We have moved away from a one-sided theory of being victims,” he said, alluding to the long-held claim by Austrian officialdom that the country was the first nation to fall to Adolf Hitler’s Germany through annexation in 1938. Instead, said Fischer, Austrians have “learned to see things more honestly and properly and to arrive at the public acknowledgment that there were victims and aggressors, aggressors and victims under the Austrians.”

Ashbel, alluding to Monday’s suicide bombing in the Israeli town of Netanya, condemned those exploiting “hate [and] anti-Semitism to reach their goal of creating a ‘Jew-free’ region and maybe even a ‘Jew-free world.’”

The 85 Austrians are among the 20,757 non-Jews recognized as “Righteous Among the Nations” by the foundation.

Want to write for News? Call 1-5323.
Fallen police officer mourned in New York

NEW YORK — An estimated 20,000 police officers, some from as far away as Hawaii and Japan, turned a Brooklyn neighborhood into an ocean of blue Tuesday in a tribute to a slain New York police officer.

“It was simply his nature to want to help others,” Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said of 35-year-old Dillon Stewart.

Stewart, shot though the heart during a Nov. 28 traffic stop, was remembered as an extraordinary man who made an extraordinary decision to quit his accounting job and join the NYPD at age 30.

“I feel truly blessed and honored to have married such a wonderful man. His life was just begun,” Stewart’s widow Leslyn said of her 5-month-old Samantha, sat with friends.

Kelly was joined by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who hailed Stewart for his dedication to both family and job.

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**ROMANIA**

**Rice secures new rights for base**

**German Chancellor claims U.S. admitted detention mistake**

Associated Press

BUCHAREST — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice tried Tuesday to allay European suspicions about U.S. practices in the pursuit of terrorists, even as she secured new rights for American use of a military base suspected to have housed a secret CIA prison.

She refused to say whether the base ever served as a clandestine holding pen or interrogation center for terror suspects, and she stepped carefully around questions about a German citizen who sued the CIA on Tuesday over his seizure and detention by U.S. authorities.

She also would not address an AIB News report that prisoners were whisked away from the Mihail Kogalniceanu base in Romania shortly before Rice arrived in the country.

"I am not going to talk about whether such activities take place," Rice said when asked about the Romanian base. "To do so would clearly be to get into a realm of discussion about supposed or purported intelligence activities and I simply won't do that."

Romanian President Traian Basescu insisted, as he has done repeatedly since the CIA prisons allegations surfaced in news reports last month, that Romania never hosted such a site.

Allegations that the United States violated human rights and European law by running clandestine jails in Europe to interrogate suspected terrorists have clouded a diplomatic trip to European capitals this week.

Rice began her trip Monday with a lengthy defense of U.S. terrorism policies that she contended had saved European lives as well as American.

Before traveling to Romania on Tuesday, she said in Berlin that it is important that "friends be able to talk about issues of concern."

"It is also important, though, that any debate have a healthy respect for the challenge that we face when we face an enemy that operates from within our societies and is intent on killing innocent civilians," she added.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the United States has admitted that Khalid al-Maabri's detention was a mistake, but Rice would not say so outright.

U.S. officials said they cannot discuss the German's case in detail because it is in court.

"I did say to the chancellor that when and if mistakes were made we will work very hard and as quickly as possible to rectify them," Rice said.

As for secret prisons, suspicion fell on Romania's Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base near the Black Sea and Poland's Sygamy Airport after Human Rights Watch said it had flight records indicating that aircraft with links to the CIA landed repeatedly at both facilities in 2001-2004.

The Romanian base, which was heavily used by U.S. forces after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks for operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, was among several installations covered in a defense cooperation pact signed Tuesday by Rice and Foreign Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu.

Officials opened the base to AP journalists last month, and the sprawling base appeared virtually deserted.

Romania's military and the Pentagon say U.S. forces, which at one point numbered about 3,500 at the base, were withdrawn in June 2003 and since have returned only briefly for training exercises, most recently in September.

Yet some officials acknowledged that parts of the installation were off-limits to Romanian authorities, and the country's main intelligence service, SRI, has said it had no jurisdiction there.

"There were some bases we put at the Americans' disposal. We can't know what happened there," former Prime Minister Adrian Nastase, who served 2001-2004.

He added: "For us, it's clear there was no secret agreement" allowing covert U.S. activity.

**IRAQ**

**Hussein vows not to return to next trial**

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein sat stone-faced and silent as a woman accused his agents of beatings, torture and sexual humiliation. But after hours of testimony and another two witnesses, the caged defendant who once dominated Iraq finally exploded in anger.

Waving a finger and pounding his desk, Saddam told the judges to "go to hell" and vowed not to return to court Wednesday.

Dressed again in a dark suit and white shirt and clutching a Quran, Saddam complained that he and the seven other defendants were tired and had been deprived of opportunities to shower, have a change of clothes, exercise or go for a smoke.

"This is terrorism," he declared.

Throughout the trial, which began Oct. 19, Saddam has repeatedly staged confrontations with the court and attempted to take control of the proceedings with dramatic rhetorical flourishes.

Saddam and the others are charged in the deaths of more than 140 Shiite Muslims in retaliation for an assassination attempt against him in the town of Dujail in 1982. Saddam accused Iran of ordering the attempt on his life.

Five women — two women and three men — testified Tuesday in the fourth session of the trial, all of them hidden from the public view and with their voices disguised to protect their identities.

The most compelling testimony came from the woman identified only as "Witness A," who was a 16-year-old girl at the time of the crackdown. Her voice breaking with emotion, she told the court of beatings and electric shocks by the former president's agents.

"I was forced to take off my clothes, and I raised my legs up and tied my hands. He continued administering electric shocks and whipping me and telling me to speak," Witness A said of Vadah al-Sheik, an Iraqi intelligence officer who died of cancer last month while in American custody.

The woman, speaking from behind a beige curtain, broke down several times as she struggled to maintain her composure.

"God is great. Oh, my Lord!" she said, moaning.
What makes a good Viewpoint?

This is the latest edition of The Observer that will be published this calendar year. Therefore, despite the fact that there are several issues of significance that could (and should, and in the case of the Vatican News, absolutely should) be given in one week's time, will be drawing my attention, I have opted instead to set aside the tablecloth and pursue a little end-of-the-year reflection.

After only a few weeks of reading The Observer, it is not difficult to tell that every columnist's paper has a slightly different methodology when it comes to choosing topics. It is possible, however, to lump us into a couple of general categories.

There are the reactionary columnists, who get most of their material from watching CNN or parsing the opinions of others, and who try to ride the wild waves of anger or interest that surround a piece of breaking news. The value of this type of writing is measured by the number of people who begin to care about such issues, or at least react to, the issue in question. However, the biggest problem with this tactic is that the ultimate value of a columnist's words depends largely on factors beyond her control. It is easy to miss your mark while riding the waves of public opinion.

At the polar opposite of this style lie the static columnists. They pick a single, narrow area, such as politics, ethics or liberal shock proclamations, and over the course of a year proceed to pound it to death. Static columnists, I think, view themselves more as preachers than anything, but from the point of view of most everyone else they are just really, really irritating. The hallmark of this style is a column that emerges from nowhere, and has almost nothing to do with either contemporary issues or the present state of campus, and indeed is useless to almost everyone.

Behind each of these schools of thought lies a distinct perception of what an opinion column is supposed to be. Static columnists write forensically for themselves (or their ideologies), to express their own views and moreover to sway people to them. Reactionary columnists write in the hopes of stirring up a hornet's nest of replies and thereby gaining some notoriety, or at least a sense of accomplishment.

Unfortunately neither of these styles provides any real value to the column's readers, who, especially in an intellectually and politically charged environment such as Notre Dame, cannot be hoped to be bored like sheep. Indeed, both of these styles ultimately do a disservice to the community of readers and to the community of writers.

If the columnist recognizes the flaws in these, the two most popular schools of thought, then, I think, she must provide an opinion column for herself, and more so uncovering those actual services - only that she, through her words, is in a position to provide. For the columnist, almost all else, must serve her readers by giving them something that stark journalism, however valuable, can never supply.

There can be many faces to this service. Some of the most significant are the columnist's honesty (which is a great weapon, for many people do not know how to deal with it), her perspective and her unique pool of human experiences, though all of these must be mitigated by the firm realization that the vast majority of her opinions are, in fact, only of interest to her and to her bedfellow.

This is a disappointing but unavoidable truth, and a sign of maturity as a writer to recognize it.

Above all else, the columnist who understands these things realizes that she is in the privileged position of expressing humanity, articulated and yet naked, to those who may have forgotten what it looks like, and thus has the difficult but critical job of saying not what she wishes to say, but rather that which must be said. Thus, the columnist who serves the reader is persuasive, but only insofar as the truth itself is persuasive, and is mocking, but only as implied as perspective shows something that deserves being mocked and is emotional, but only insofar as experience shows that emotion is essential.

As one professor once explained to me, discussion — honest, open, brutal, intimate, truthful and painful — is the origin of all change. It is also the seat of all empathy. It is a great honor, therefore, to be able to serve discussion for its own sake, and to lead you further into it.

Lance Gallop is a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame. More of his work can be found at www.tidewaterblues.com. He can be contacted at comments@tidewaterblues.com. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Maintain clarity about academic freedom

Tuesday's story about Fr. Jenkins' appointment of a special committee to examine the relationship of the principles of academic freedom generally accepted by American Universities to the special conditions associated with the articulate expression of opinions that concur with the mission of a Catholic University provided most faculty with their first notice of the existence of that committee.

A key issue raised by Bishop D'Arcy's letter to the South Bend Tribune on related topics last February is that of the distinction of academic freedom as it is generally understood by universities in the United States, and the religious freedom of institutions such as Notre Dame. The distinction is familiar, clear and standing. The University will not be well served if the distinction is blurred or ignored in the course of constructing local academic policy. Our peer institutions, who not only include other Catholic Universities, will not be spared in their critique of our efforts if we are designed to avoid controversy or to obey ecclesiastical authority at the expense of well-settled professional standards.
Letters to the Editor

Revisiting ‘deep-rooted tendencies’

Christian Hoeftel(1) “Close reading elicits positive responses to the Church’s 1986 Instruction. I am grateful for the document carefully and that I am guided by emotion rather than "theological fact," which, is needless to say, a category with which I am more or less familiar.” (As with any argumentative, I must say that it is Christian who seems not to have read the document closely, and I only bother to say this because I think the interpretation of what is meant by "deep-rooted homosexual tendencies" is the focal point to which I would also wish to return.)

I gave, in my last letter, an interpretation of the phrase "deep-rooted homosexual tendencies" when used there has usually been interpreted to refer to what is commonly called a "homosexual" or "homosexual tendencies" as opposed to a person of the same sex. Thus, we get the important Catholic distinction between acts and orientation, though the Vatican still seems unwilling to use the word, for it would imply a natural, unchosen state that one cannot change — thus censuring a rather despairing view on the Church’s arguments against homosexual acts based upon natural law. And since Hoeftel argues that one does agree with this non-dogmatic, non-infallible teaching is, nonetheless, "heretical." I would like to go deeper into this issue but, alas, due to space constraints I cannot.

Thus, I would like to offer what I believe to be the clear meaning of "deep-rooted homosexual tendencies" as defined within the text of the Instruction itself, particularly in light of extensive footnote No. 8. Footnote section dealing with exactly what "deep-rooted homosexual tendencies" are, the document cites the following from the earlier magisterial document "Humanae Vitae": "...in order to follow homosexual orientation that Hoeftel describes will fit into none of these categories as he describes them. Where is this person that addressed in Catholic teaching, since even the Vatican speaks only of acts and those with "transitory tendencies"? Why do they single out those with "transitory tendencies" as being outside homosexual orientation? Hoeftel" (Well, let’s take a look at the matter Hoeftel describes! It seems to me that Ocean’s Razor would apply here: the simplest answer to all these questions is that the mentality homosexual, who Hoeftel describes and affirms is included in this document under those with "deep-rooted homosexual tendencies" and is therefore banned from ordination"

Let me be clear: I do not write this simply to establish that I am right on this. Nor am I. I write this to make the conclusions I come to. If anyone can give me a convincing analysis of and from the text itself demonstrates my Seniority rules

In my four yours — well, more like three and three-quarters — at the University of Notre Dame, I have been part of many a fracas (see: life File (Gabinet" “It”)). But I have never been part of a ticket debacle like the one we are about to encounter at 6 p.m. this evening. Apparently, the Fordia Bowl has decided that it will take the 73,000 seats in Sun Devil Stadium, there will only be 15,000 tickets allotted to Notre Dame students, alumni, etc. From those 15,000 tickets, the University is only entering the bowl the seniors who are getting lottery tickets. So for all of you who also grew up watching breakfast-time PBS programming, this letter is brought to you by the number 1,250.

After a quick comparison between our featured number and the Notre Dame student body, I have one response, "Underclassmen (I’m trying to stick to ticketing terms here), please refrain from picking up lottery numbers today."

Let me break it down for you a little bit.

Juniors, do you remember coming into Notre Dame with a new head coach and going 8-0 only to drop a 14-6 loss to Boston College (all teams), get CRUSHED by Southern Cal in the final game and then embarrass ourselves against N.C. State in the Gator Bowl? No.

Sophomores, do you remember wanting a ticket in overtime against Washington State only to be blown out by Michigan (shotout), USC and Florida State (shotout) by a score of 101-0? No.

Let me mention going 5-7 with losses to B.C., Purdue, Syracuse and almost ending the season that way.

Do you even know what Syracuse’s record is this year? Well, let’s just say Oregon’s win over Division 1-AA Montana probably does not count for the Putting schedule more than our win over Syracuse this year.

Finally, Dear Freshmen people that call this “PC" stills we own us one. It is we seniors who have taught you the ropes so that you know your way to Clover fudge, seeing as we have the wealth of maturity and good times in Turtle Creek. It is we who have hosted and hosted you, depending on whether it was your turn for a Diet-Cherry-Vanilla-Dr. Pepper-Stand, in our homes, even if we had to kick one gender out at midnight, "wink"

Yet, it is also we seniors who will not be able to watch Mr. Weis (yes, you should call him Mister, as well, from that atrociously golden section ever again. I would probably say that Mark May be the godfather in my first child for one more year of Weis’ football, seeing as even you juniors have a legitimate shot at the title next year.

So since the University, who will be seeing about as many donations from the Class of 2006 after this farce as from the re-gilded-home-loving Class of 2005, can’t seem to give us priority, we’re calling on you, underclassmen, to give us seniority.

End Pitts III

Bowl ticket allotment unfair

On behalf of the Notre Dame student body, I would like to tender my heartfelt thanks to the University for their incredibly generous allocation of 1,250 ticket winners for the 2006 Fordia Bowl. Not only does this move show your continuing commitment to putting our best foot forward in the priorities of the University but it is a positive move for those detractors who claim that you do not concern yourselves with the welfare of the average student.

Far be it from me to question leaders who are obviously more concerned with the mone of the University and that image’s revenue-generating power, than they are with any and all of the students. And to think not as if those students have invested their hearts and souls in support of the University’s, our team, and the many endeavors of the University. As we all know, the University has absolutely no need for the students. All the University needs is the loyalty of various corpora-

It is perfectly obvious that Notre Dame continues to honor its well-documented, though utterly pragmatic commitment to its undergraduates. Rest assured that when I am gainfully employed the University will not have free of any of its donation-assumed ticket packages for me.

Jamie Holland

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Seniority rules

In my four yours — well, more like three and three-quarters — at the University of Notre Dame, I have been part of a fracas (see: life File (Gabinet" “It”). But I have never been part of a ticket debacle like the one we are about to encounter at 6 p.m. this evening. Apparently, the Fordia Bowl has decided that it will take the 73,000 seats in Sun Devil Stadium, there will only be 15,000 tickets allotted to Notre Dame students, alumni, etc. From those 15,000 tickets, the University is only entering the bowl the seniors who are getting lottery tickets. So for all of you who also grew up watching breakfast-time PBS programming, this letter is brought to you by the number 1,250.

After a quick comparison between our featured number and the Notre Dame student body, I have one response, "Underclassmen (I’m trying to stick to ticketing terms here), please refrain from picking up lottery numbers today."

Let me break it down for you a little bit.

Juniors, do you remember coming into Notre Dame with a new head coach and going 8-0 only to drop a 14-6 loss to Boston College (all teams), get CRUSHED by Southern Cal in the final game and then embarrass ourselves against N.C. State in the Gator Bowl? No.

Sophomores, do you remember wanting a ticket in overtime against Washington State only to be blown out by Michigan (shotout), USC and Florida State (shotout) by a score of 101-0? No.

Let me mention going 5-7 with losses to B.C., Purdue, Syracuse and almost ending the season that way.

Do you even know what Syracuse’s record is this year? Well, let’s just say Oregon’s win over Division 1-AA Montana probably does not count for the Putting schedule more than our win over Syracuse this year.

Finally, Dear Freshmen people that call this “PC” stills we own us one. It is we seniors who have taught you the ropes so that you know your way to Clover fudge, seeing as we have the wealth of maturity and good times in Turtle Creek. It is we who have hosted and hosted you, depending on whether it was your turn for a Diet-Cherry-Vanilla-Dr-Pepper-Stand, in our homes, even if we had to kick one gender out at midnight, "wink"

Yet, it is also we seniors who will not be able to watch Mr. Weis (yes, you should call him Mister, as well, from that atrociously golden section ever again. I would probably say that Mark May be the godfather in my first child for one more year of Weis’ football, seeing as even you juniors have a legitimate shot at the title next year.

So since the University, who will be seeing about as many donations from the Class of 2006 after this farce as from the re-gilded-home-loving Class of 2005, can’t seem to give us priority, we’re calling on you, underclassmen, to give us seniority.
The juxtaposition of red high heels against the sterile backdrop of a hospital room during the opening credits tells it all. From the first moments of the show's unconventional title sequence, it is clear "Grey's Anatomy" isn't just another high-adrenaline doctor drama.

Sure, Seattle Grace Hospital employs a small cadre of Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) — provides its staff with their share of heart-pounding, race-against-the-time type situations. But it also is the perfect backdrop for the lust and love triangles that audiences love to watch.

When the show (10 p.m. Sundays) first aired last March, viewers watched as Grey, scrubbed in on her first surgery, struggled to adjust to new roommates and succumbed to an illicit romance with Dr. Derek Shepard (Patrick Dempsey). While meeting the strenuous demands of the hospital's protocol, the weight of her emotions bares itself when she takes the time to reflect on the various experiences, she continues to try to survive her complicated personal life which is marked by the strenuous demands of the hospital's protocol.

Surprisingly, even set among illness and death, hilarity often emerges. The show's witty dialogue, constant stream of zany patients and a number of humiliating (but humorous) situations keep the show from plummeting into the potentially depressing world of medical TV.

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Likewise, "Grey's Anatomy" satisfies by feeding the audience's appetite for scandal with a steady diet of one-night stands, sexual tension and even a mysterious case of syphilis that strikes Seattle Grace. The show also has to offer its own popular (and quotable) voiceover wisdom, which assigns each episode a theme that subtly unfolds across the characters' various storylines. The brief monologues that air over the opening and closing of the show are both witty and salient. Here, the viewer has the opportunity to identify with Grey and some of her sentiments —

"Intimacy is a four-syllable word for, 'here's my heart and soul, please grind them into hamburger, and eat.'"

But it's more than Grey's clever words of wisdom that have captivated so many viewers. The characters act as a virtual iron lung for the show, preserving its vibrancy with the way in which they complement and collide with each other.

So far, the cast has proven itself worthy of embodying the quirky and complex staff of Seattle Grace. Particularly notable performances have been given by Sandra Oh (who starred in last year's "Sideways") as the hilarious Cristina and T.R. Knight as the humorous but adorable, George O'Malley.

Pompeo also holds her own as the protagonist who suffers under the weight of her emotions but resolutely tries to fulfill her professional aspirations.

Another defining feature on "Grey's Anatomy" is its soundtrack. The ultra-dramatic compositions created out of heart-monitor beeps and shouts for the show's official soundtrack, "Grey's Anatomy" features a synopsis of every episode's music as well as "Grey's Anatomy"'s soundtrack. The show's impressive consistency and talented cast, have turned "Grey's Anatomy" into a bonafide smash hit, especially here at Notre Dame.

"I never miss an episode," said Anna Rodriguez, a junior P.S. major. "If I can't be home to watch it, I make sure my roommate tapes it for me."

What is it about "Grey's Anatomy" that sets it apart from similarly themed medical shows?

"You have those other medical shows, like 'E.R.' and 'Scrubs,'" said Caitlin Hildebrand, a freshman pre-professional studies major. "But 'E.R.' is really serious and 'Scrubs' is really funny, 'Grey's Anatomy' finds a happy medium."

Unlike shows like the long-running series "General Hospital" and "E.R.," "Grey's Anatomy" depends on its solid cast and charismatic characters. Though Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) is nominally the show's star, the intertwining storylines and ensemble cast theatricals contribute a great deal to the program's popularity. Like many great television shows, "Grey's Anatomy" relies heavily on its strong characterizations. The show boasts a wealth of talent that includes Sandra Oh ("Sideways"), Ellen Pompeo ("Law and Order") and Isaiah Washington ("Exit Wounds"), all of whom have substantial acting chops and experience.

"Hey, if you think they do a better job than a lot of other doctor shows out there."

"Obviously, it's not completely accurate," Hildebrand said. "Every episode has to have some dramatic medical cases to appeal to audiences and get people to watch, but they do a good job of presenting the medicine aspect of the show. I think they do a better job than a lot of other doctor shows out there."

"Whether or not "Grey's Anatomy" is capable of maintaining the momentum and popularity it has garnered thus far, it remains to be seen, but so long as the cast and writers continue their high level of excellence, the show should remain a Sunday night cornerstone."

"I think word gets around when there's a good show," says Hildebrand. "'Grey's Anatomy' is really good and will probably get more popular as more people find out about it."

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu
"Grey's Anatomy" is part of a long tradition of medical television dramas and comedies. The human drama of life in hospitals is appealing to both networks and viewers alike. The shows vary in how realistically they portray medical life — as well as in their focus on humor or drama — but their huge popularity reveals how the intense and emotional lives of doctors are great fodder for television.

Some shows, while set in hospitals, focus very little on actual medicine. One long-running example is the soap opera "General Hospital," which is technically about doctors, but in which their external dramas are much more central.

Medicine often seems like a deeply serious specialty, but some shows manage to show a humorous side of this solemn profession. A classic example is "M*A*S*H," which managed not only to find humor in medicine but also in war.

The series focused on a group of nurses and surgeons who were part of the Medical Army Surgical Hospital and in the midst of the Korean Conflict. They used humor and pranks to cope with the difficulties and tragedies that surrounded them. "M*A*S*H," which ran from 1972 to 1983, actually lasted longer than the Korean Conflict — which lasted from 1950 to 1953 — that inspired it.

A more recent show that combines humor and medicine is "Scrubs," which focuses on a group of interns at the Sacred Heart Hospital. Zack Braff plays Dr. "J.D." (John), and the show follows his introduction to life as a doctor through his awkward beginnings and sometimes slapstick manner. Most medical series usually fall to dark humor, if they show any at all, because of the seriousness of the subject they deal with. "Scrubs" uniquely approaches medicine with a sense of levity, and this separates it from the pack of shows about doctors.

"M*A*S*H" and "Scrubs" are the exception rather than the rule when it comes to medical shows. However, there's an interesting approach about medicine focus on the natural drama that hospitals contain, and many of them also focus on the relationships that various hospital staff members have with one another.

"St. Elsewhere" was set in a decaying urban hospital, and it was one of the first medical shows to reveal the grittier side of medicine and the imperfect natures of many doctors. It contained its share of controversial moments — it was the first networks show to feature an AIDS patient, it showed a doctor's naked backside long before "NYPD Blue" made it "do rigerue" and five main characters died unexpectedly during the show's 1983-1988 run. The show established its realistic style interlocking stories and conscious effort to break traditions that would become the staple of most medical dramas.

The David E. Kelly drama "Chicago Hope" ran from 1994 to 2000 on CBS. The show focused on surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Geiger and his surgical colleagues, and it presented their personal and professional problems. The show suffered from cast and producer reshuffling, as well as competition from another medical drama — "ER." The pilot episode of "Chicago Hope" debuted the day before "ER," and for a brief time the two shows were in a competing time slot before "Chicago Hope" was moved.

NBC's "ER" is the most famous medical show in recent memory. It was created by Michael Grossman, best known for novels like "Jurassic Park," and produced by John Wells, who also worked on "The West Wing." Each episode follows a day in a Chicago-area emergency room, and reveals the life-and-death decisions they must make in the hospital and in their own lives. The show, which started in 1994 and is still on over a decade later (even on television time) is known for its rotating cast. It made actors like George Clooney, Noah Wyle and Anthony Edwards famous, and has featured roles like William H. Macy, Marc Winkling and "M*A*S*H" alumnus Alan Alda. The current cast of doctors includes Mekhi Phifer ("J 8 Mile"), Parminder K. Saga ("Bend It Like Beckham") and Shane West ("A Walk to Remember").

Two recent medical shows, "House" and "Grey's Anatomy," seek to balance the tragic and comic elements in medicine, rather than focusing almost exclusively on humor or on reality.

Fox's "House" follows the adventures of Dr. House, played by Hugh Laurie, who has almost no bedside manner to speak of and suffers from his own constant pain. While his antisocial tendencies make him difficult to deal with, his extensive ability to diagnose diseases makes him respected. The cases he solves are often bizarre and sometimes comical, but the show presents the notoriously tricky diagnostic side of medicine as an integral part of saving lives.

"Grey's Anatomy" combines the humor and pathos of medicine in a Seattle hospital. The show combines personal drama, professional competitiveness and unusual medical cases while trying to balance the humor and tragedy.

The world of hospitals is natural fodder for television. Medicine deals with the balance between life and death, and hospital cases can run the gamut from tragic to humorous. Doctors, at least on TV, usually have intense personalities and must balance life with their consuming careers. Medical shows have been a part of television since its beginnings, and new shows will continue to find new ways to express this difficult and respected profession with unique twists.

Contact Molly Griffin at mollygriff@nd.edu

"Grey's Anatomy," the latest in a long line of television medical dramas, is anchored by a veteran ensemble cast. Strong characterization and solid writing have made the show a genuine hit. It airs on ABC on Sunday evenings.

Characters

Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) — When Grey enters her first year at Seattle Grace, she is known as the daughter of renowned surgeon Ellis Grey, author of the renowned (fictional) medical text "Grey's Anatomy." Before long, she becomes romantically involved with Dr. Shepherd, who breaks her heart. Her sincerity and empathy allow her to make connections with her patients.

Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh) — Cristina is bold, commitment-phobic and unapologetic, who has recently complicated her romance with Dr. Burke. The witty cracks that come from her mouth, even at the bedside of her patients, are flawlessly entertaining.

Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) — Izzie hails from humble, small-town beginnings, and managed to pay her way through medical school by modeling lingerie. At the hospital she is extremely driven, but encounters some trouble in the form of Alex, her quasi-boyfriend.

Alex Karev (Justin Chambers) — The other interns were initially slow to warm to Alex and his arrogant front. He is the resident playbook of the group, which has recently complicated his relationship with Izzie. While he usually manages well, he constantly gets himself in trouble in and out of the hospital.

George O Malley (T.R. Knight) — George is both awkward and endearing. He manages to perform well in the hospital, but suffers from the weight of his silent crush on Meredith.

Derek Shepard (Patrick Dempsey) — known to fans as "Dr. McDreamy," Dr. Shepard, the hotshot doctor from NYC, clearly clinches the roll as the show's heartthrob. Formerly involved with Meredith, Shepard is now attempting to make amends with his estranged wife.
Cameron Crowe is a director of modern pleasures. His filmography — full of low-key melodramas ("Jerry Maguire," "Almost Famous") and rock-centric Woody Allen's 1988 teen classic "Say Anything") — has established him as one of Hollywood's most acute and upbeat storytellers. "Almost Famous" (2000) may be his best movie to date, an archetypal, film, an intensely personal low-key coming-of-age melodrama about a teenager drummer coming-of-age in the seedy world of 70's rock and roll.

The film follows 15-year-old William Miller (Patrick Fugit) as he follows the fictional rock band Stillwater as a Rolling Stone journalist in 1973. Despite the apprehension of his mother Elaine (Frances McDormand), who at one point claims "rock stars have killed my son," William falls under the spell of guitarist Russell Hammond (Billy Crudup) and groupie Penny Lane (Kate Hudson). Along the way, he witnesses the band's collapse, relationships collapse and his own life start to fall into shambles. That William emerges from the chaos still a good kid is a minor miracle unto itself, but Crowe's well-honed insight lends the entire plot a surprising credibili

Almost Famous

What: Brew and View
Where: Legends
When: Thursday, midnight

Cameron Crowe gets strong performances throughout "Almost Famous." Patrick Fugit is appropriately starry-eyed as the naive young journalist William, Frances McDormand is commanding as ever as William's overbearing but loving mother, Kate Hudson is bewitchingly charming as the enigmatic groupie Penny Lane, Billy Crudup is boldly charismatic as the rock star Russell and Philip Seymour Hoffman lends a world in which "teen-movie" means raunchy fare like "American Pie" and "Old School," a sweety sentimental picture like "Almost Famous" is a rarity. At once nostalgic and insightful, the film achieved all its goals and then some. Cameron Crowe has made some pretty bad movies over the years ("Vanilla Sky," anyone?). "Almost Famous" solidifies his talents as a good filmmaker and an observant commentorian on what it means to be 15.

"Almost Famous" will be shown on Thursday as part of Legends' "Brew and View" series.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

Movie Review

Latest 'Pride and Prejudice' adaptation is a winner

By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" opened with the line, "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that aingle man in possession of a good fortune, " and closed with "and they lived happily ever after." The 1995 film adaptation of the book keeps that central focus on marriage, but it adds a fantastic cast, gorgeous scenery and costumes and an emotional heart that brings new fans and wins over new ones. Among many of Jane Austen's novels, "Pride and Prejudice" deals with the business of marriage and the trials of love. The five Bennet sisters — the lovely Jane (Rosamund Pike), the studious Mary (Talulah Riley), the clever Elizabeth (Keira Knightley), the immature Kitty (Carey Mulligan) and the wild Lydia (Jena Malone) — are the heart of the novel. Mrs. Bennet (Brenda Blethyn) works constantly to make advantage of marriage — not for her daughters, but her efforts increase when the family learns that the wealthy bachelor who moves into a nearby country estate, begins the always rocky road to love and marriage that exists in Austen's books.

Bingley and Jane mutually fall for one another, but Elizabeth doesn't get off on the right foot with his friend, Mr. Darcy (Matthew Macfadyen). They're clearly meant for each other, but life throws a number of complications into the mix before they're allowed to find happiness. Elizabeth meets a dashing soldier, Lt. Wickham (Rupert Friend), and in particular focus on marriage, but it adds a fantastic cast, gorgeous scenery and costumes and an emotional heart that brings new fans and wins over new ones. Among many of Jane Austen's novels, "Pride and Prejudice" deals with the business of marriage and the trials of love. The five Bennet sisters — the lovely Jane (Rosamund Pike), the studious Mary (Talulah Riley), the clever Elizabeth (Keira Knightley), the immature Kitty (Carey Mulligan) and the wild Lydia (Jena Malone) — are the heart of the novel. Mrs. Bennet (Brenda Blethyn) works constantly to make advantage of marriage — not for her daughters, but her efforts increase when the family learns that the wealthy bachelor who moves into a nearby country estate, begins the always rocky road to love and marriage that exists in Austen's books.

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Nowitzki's double-double too much for Pacers

Bryant regains shooting form, hits 14-of-24 as Lakers beat up on the Bucks

INDIANAPOLIS — Dirk Nowitzki had 31 points and 11 rebounds and the Dallas Mavericks pulled away in the closing minutes for a victory over the Indiana Pacers.

The Pacers, playing their first game at home after a five-game trip out west, cut a 14-point deficit in the opening quarter to lead by two, but the Mavericks responded with a 23-12 run. Nowitzki finished the scoring for the Pacers with a pair of free throws.

Devin Harris added 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Mavericks, and after a basket by Indiana's Ron Artest, Nowitzki put the game out of reach with a 3-pointer with 58 seconds remaining. Sarunas Jasikevicius added 14 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for his first career double-double.

Chris Bosh scored 27 points, and Morrison's Peterson had 21 for the Raptors, who were trying to build a three-game winning streak midway through the fourth period. But the Mavericks never led and managed only one tie, went more than six minutes without a field goal and missed his first five attempts.

Indiana shot 40 percent early in the second period, but a fast-break basket and free throw by Harris and two more points by Peterson pushed the Mavericks' lead to 33-23.

WASHINGTON 129, Toronto 111

Jarvis Hayes broke out of a scoring slump with 19 points, scoring 16 of his 37 in the final 12 1/2 minutes to lead the Wizards over the Toronto Raptors.

Hayes didn't score in the Wizards' loss to Milwaukee on Friday, and he had gone 4-for-24 from the field in his last five games, but he started the game with three jumpers and made two more in the extra period. He finished 8-for-15 with a season-high eight rebounds and made two key defensive plays in overtime, including a steal with 37 seconds remaining when the Raptors were trying to set up a game-tying shot.

Arenas went 13-24 from the field and had nine assists. He was the force in a close fourth quarter as the up-and-down Wizards survived an uptempo street-ball-paced game. Washington's record is now 5-5, 6-7 and 7-7, and now 8-8.

Antawn Jamison added 26 points, 14 rebounds and seven assists for the Wizards, and Jared Jeffries had 14 points and 10 rebounds for his first career double-double.

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During the 2002-03 season, DALLAS — The Toronto Blue Jays kept up their spending spree on Tuesday by agreeing to terms with starter A.J. Burnett on a five-year, $55 million contract.

The deal was announced at baseball’s winter meetings, just hours after the Blue Jays gave general manager J.P. Ricciardi a three-year contract extension. The Blue Jays, who previously agreed to terms with B.J. Ryan on the richest contract ever for a reliever, then reeled in Burnett, the best starter on the market.

Burnett, 28, gets a $9 million salary, $15 million signing bonus, and $3 million signing bonus. The total contract amount is $55 million, according to Major League Baseball.com.

Burnett was also willing to make a one-time gift of $2 million to charity if he’s traded to the Blue Jays.

Associated Press

**NHL**

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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Western Conference, Northwest Division

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Western Conference, Pacific Division

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Men’s Swimming Coaches Poll

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**MLB**

Toronto Blue Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi, left, and team president and CEO Paul Godfrey present pitcher A.J. Burnett with his team jersey during a press conference at the baseball winter meetings on Tuesday.

Toronto signs ex-Marlins Burnett to deal

In Brief

Former Boston manager Little hired by Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Former Boston Red Sox manager Grady Little was hired Tuesday to manage the Los Angeles Dodgers, who had been without a field boss for more than two months.

The 55-year-old Little beat out Jim Fregosi, John McLaren, Manny Acta and Joel Skinner for the job. He succeeds Jim Tracy, who parted ways with the Dodgers on Oct. 3—the day after the club completed its second-worst season since moving west from Brooklyn in 1958.

Little managed the Red Sox from 2002-03, compiling a 188-136 record. He was second-guessed for leaving starting pitcher Pedro Martinez in too long in Game 7 of the 2003 AL championship series, which the New York Yankees won in 11 innings.

In the fallout, Little’s contract was not renewed. But Red Sox president Larry Lucchino was glad that didn’t prevent Little from getting another job.

“I think that’s terrific for Grady, and wish him great good luck,” Lucchino said at the winter meetings in Las Vegas.

Virginia coordinator Golden in as head coach at Temple

PHILADELPHIA — Al Golden is used to winning seasons, sellout crowds and bowl games. One victory would be progress for Temple.

Golden, who spent the past five years as defensive coordinator at Virginia, was hired by Temple on Tuesday to lead its forlorn football program, ending a search that began two months ago when head coach Bobby Wallace said he wouldn’t return to the school.

“I don’t care what’s transpired in the past,” Golden said, addressing the players gathered at his news conference. “When we meet, we’re going to start a new era, you guys are going to start with a clean slate.”

The 36-year-old Golden has a difficult task trying to turn around decades of futility. Temple went 0-11 this year, its first winless season on the field since 1959.

Temple was 19-71 during Wallace’s eight years as coach, and was booted out of the Big East Conference.

“Tost the States came within a point Tuesday of being one of the seeded teams for next year’s World Cup.”

Under the draw procedure approved by the FIFA World Cup Organizing Committee, the U.S. team wound up just behind Argentina and Italy.

U.S. coach Bruce Arena wasn’t surprised to miss out.

“I thought all along the draw is going to be difficult. The field is extremely strong,” he said. “I think it’s considerably stronger than what we saw in 2002.”

The Americans can’t meet a team from Asia in the first round of next year’s tournament in Germany. There’s a good chance they will get two European opponents.

around the dial

Men’s NCAA Basketball

NOTRE DAME at Alabama

6:00 p.m., ESPN

St. Louis at North Carolina

9:00 p.m., ESPNU

NBA

Miami at San Antonio

8:00 p.m., ESPN

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER’S WIRE SERVICES

Wednesday, December 7, 2005
AUSTIN, Texas — Seventh-grader Vince Young toiledd away in his yard, raking leaves and piling them in bags. Each time he finished, his mother would dump them out and tell him to do it again.

It was his punishment for participating in a gang fight, and it was torture.

Felicia Young wanted him to hate it. Having struggled with drugs and alcohol for years, and with Vince's father's in jail most of her son's life, she was trying to scare the kid straight.

"When I was raking those leaves, I thought about that," he said. "I started really working on football and school more, and that was that."

"That" became the unleashing of an elusive, strong-armed quarterback who became a local legend in a city as big as Houston and has become an even bigger star at the University of Texas. Young has led the No. 2 Longhorns to 11 straight wins and a Rose Bowl showdown with No. 1 Southern California for the national championship. He's done it in such a spectacular way that on Saturday he'll likely be in New York as a finalist for the Heisman Trophy, trying to join ESPN's list of the finest athletes I've ever been on the field with," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said afterward.

As a passer, Young silenced his critics with 2,769 yards and 26 touchdowns this season. His pass efficiency rating is 168.6, the best in the nation.

"We take for granted now what he does," Brown said. "He does whatever he needs to do to win." Young's breakout game was the last Rose Bowl when he ran for 20, 60, 10 and 23 touchdowns and threw for another in Texas' 38-37 win over Michigan.

"Vince Young is the finest athlete I've ever been on the field with." - Lloyd Carr

"Vince is the finest athlete who set the standard for Texas quarterbacking. He's accounted for 78 touchdowns this season, a school record. As a passer, Young silenced his critics with 2,769 yards and 26 touchdowns this season. His pass efficiency rating is 168.6, the best in the nation. The Longhorns haven't lost since.

Young's breakout game was the last Rose Bowl when he ran for 20, 60, 10 and 23 touchdowns and threw for another in Texas' 38-37 win over Michigan.

"Vince Young is the finest athlete I've ever been on the field with," Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said afterward.

As a passer, Young silenced his critics with 2,769 yards and 26 touchdowns this season. His pass efficiency rating is 168.6, the best in the nation.

"We take for granted now what he does," Brown said. "He does whatever he needs to do to win." Young's arm got Texas its biggest win of the season, a 25-22 victory at Ohio State, with a late-game touchdown pass to Limas Sweed.

Then the season really started rolling.

Texas ended five years of frustration against Oklahoma. Young was the center of the post-game celebration, leading thousands of fans in singing the " Eyes of Texas."

Three weeks later, he saved Texas' season with 506 total yards — 267 on the ground, 239 through the air — in a 47-38 win at Oklahoma State. Texas trailed 28-9 in the second quarter and Young's 90-yard touchdown run at the start of the third turned the game.

"When the chips are down, he can pull something from nowhere," offensive tackle Justin Blalock said.

Young is just as important a leader off the field as on it. He leads the pre-game, behind-the-scenes "flow sessions" of music and dancing that keep the players and coaches loose. To get in better touch with his players, Young downloaded hours of hip-hop music into his i-Pod.

"I was telling him [Brown] sometimes what 50 Cent be say­ ing, it's similar to some of our guys' lives," Young said. "We talk to each other like we're best friends. I know our relationship would be good, but not like it is now. We've been together a long long time. It's like me grow into a man."

Since midseason, Young has maintained that he plans to return for a senior season, even if his family could use the riches of an NFL contract.

"It's my decision and right now my decision is to come back to school," he said before Texas beat Colorado for the Big 12 title. 

One last goal awaits Young in Pasadena
Houston native overcame a tough childhood to lead the Longhorns back to the Rose Bowl
Associated Press

FUll story: http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20051206/SPORTS/512060333/1094

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please let me know! 😊
Bengal blues have disappeared in Cincinnati

Lewis’s 9-3 Bengals can clinch a playoff berth with a win

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The usual December question around these parts — how low can the Bengals go? — has been replaced by one from a bygone era: This year, everyone is wondering: How deep can the Bengals go in the playoffs? At 9-3, the Bengals are all but certain to win the AFC North. They’re two games ahead of Pittsburgh and can clinch their first playoff appearance since 1990 with a victory Sunday over Cleveland and a Steelers loss to the Bears.

Even if the Steelers win the rest of the way, the Bengals can clinch the title by beating the Browns (4-8) and the Lions (4-8) in the next two weeks. Cincinnati would have the tiebreaker over the Steelers.

Then what? “You ride it as hard as you can, as fast as you can, and see where we get at the end of things,” defensive end Justin Smith said.

There are three reasons to think that Cincinnati’s long-awaited return to the playoffs could be more than a one-and-done deal.

1. The offense has Carson. Quarterback Carson Palmer has surpassed all expectations, developing into one of the NFL’s best passers in only his second season and running the offense. He leads the league in completion rate (68.7 percent) and touchdowns (26) and is second to Peyton Manning with a 106.6 passer rating.

These days, he resembles Manning in more than just the numbers. The Bengals have relied on their no-huddle offense in the last three games. With Palmer calling plays at the line the way Manning does, Cincinnati has piled up 37, 42 and 38 points against respected defenses — Indianapolis, Baltimore and Pittsburgh.

Even with screaming Steelers fans doing their best to disrupt Palmer’s calls, the Bengals stayed with the no-huddle last Sunday and prevented Pittsburgh from substituting an extra defensive back or pass rusher.

The Steelers were coming off a 26-7 loss to Indianapolis and had practiced against the no-huddle for two weeks, so they were well-prepared. It didn’t matter — they gave up 36 points for the first time all season.

Even the defense can have problems keeping up with an unfamiliar, fast-paced approach.

“We’re tired, but we always know that they’re three times more tired than we are because they’re chasing the football,” offensive tackle Willie Anderson said. “It speaks the game up.”

2. The defense has a craving for turnovers.

The defense held the Bengals back the last two years, forcing them to settle for 3-8 finishes. This year, it has found a way to overcome its shortcomings.

Interceptions. The Bengals lead the NFL with 26 interceptions, 10 more than anyone else and eight shy of the franchise record. Cornerback Deltha O’Neil leads the league with eight, rookie middle linebacker Odell Thurman has five, and corner­back Ty Law has four.

The defense gives up a lot of yards (ranked 28th this week) and a lot of points (105 in the last three games), but it has gotten turnovers that set up the high-scoring offense.

“For us this year, it seems they’ve been coming in bunches,” linebacker Brian Simmons said. “Once one happens, two or three more are soon to follow. For whatever reason, that’s kind of how it’s going for us this year.”

Which brings up the third point:

3. The tiger stripes have good karma this year.

The Bengals have gotten plenty of breaks — and make no mistake, those matter in how things turn out.

A couple of significant injuries can knock a team out of contention. Think Pittsburgh isn’t wondering where it would be if Ben Roethlisberger hadn’t messed up both knees and the thumb on his passing hand? What could Green Bay have done if Brett Favre didn’t lose his top two running backs and three receivers to injuries?

The Bengals have been fortunate that way. Safety Madieu Williams has been the most significant loss on defense. The offense has stayed intact, playing through the bruises and the cross that crop up with every team.

Golf

Woods wins player of the year award, again

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods won the PGA Tour player of the year award Tuesday for the seventh time in his nine full seasons, the final prize in a year that featured two major championships among his six tour titles.

It was the fifth time Woods has swept the major awards, the first win in a year that featured two major championships among his six tour titles.

It was the fifth time Woods has swept the major awards, the first win in a year that featured two major championships among his six tour titles.

IT’S not about winning player of the year awards,” Woods said at the Target World Challenge. “It’s about winning tournaments that allow you to get these awards.

Wood previously won player of the year from the PGA of America, which is based on points. The tour’s award is a vote of the players, although tour officials have refused to release vote totals.

Dana Quigley, who won the money title on the 50-and-older circuit, won the Champions Tour player of the year, while Ken Gore was the Nationwide Tour player of the year having won three times to earn an instant promotion to the big leagues.

Sean O’Hair was voted PGA Tour rookie of the year. He earned his card at Q-school, won the John Deere Classic in July and finished his season at 18th on the money list with more than $2.4 million. Woods is having one of his best seasons, his second in a row.

In his second season, his first full season, Woods won the WGC-Matchplay and Quiksilver in April and U.S. Open and Players Championship. Woods’ season ended with a victory in the British Open.

He started this year with a victory in the Buick Invitational, outlasted Phil Mickelson in a tense third playoff before winning his fourth major title with a playoff victory over Chris DiMarco in the Masters. He essentially clinched the award with a wire-to-wire victory in the British Open.

Woods said the award was a product of winning, but his first player of the year was far more significant. That was in 1997, when his four victories included a 12-shot win in the Masters.
Colts's face tough challenge in Jags

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS - History can wait for the Indianapolis Colts. Sure, they're one of only five NFL teams to go 12-0 and are getting deluged daily with questions about staying undefeated. But this week, the Colts insist, there are more pressing concerns.

A win over their toughest AFC South rival, Jacksonville, would wrap up the division title, give them a first-round bye, possibly even home-field advantage through the playoffs. Coach Tony Dungy has instructed his players to forget about anything else.

"We definitely want that bye because that's not something we've had since I've been here," said Dungy, in his fourth season with Indianapolis. "Those are big things for us, things we started thinking about before the season began.

This week's message is simple: Focus on the short-term and let others worry about Indy's quest over the final month to match the 1972 Miami Dolphins' unbeaten record.

At least that's the company line.

Outside the Colts complex, the Colts can't avoid talk of their unbeaten record.

Everyone wants to know who, or if, one of the remaining teams on Indy's schedule can end this remarkable run. No team has been unbeaten this late in the season since the 1998 Denver Broncos, and the Colts have given no indication that they're about to trip now.

Seven of their past nine wins have come by at least 17 points. They lead the NFL in scoring, averaging more than 35 points over the past nine weeks, and have yielded the second-fewest points in the league. Only three teams - Cincinnati, St. Louis and New England - have scored more than two touchdowns against the Colts all season.

Conventional wisdom suggests the Colts are unlikely to lose at home, where it still plays San Diego and Arizona. That leaves games at Jacksonville and two weeks later at Seattle, in what will likely be hyped as a Super Bowl preview. The Colts' quarterback Peyton Manning calls out a play in Sunday's win over the Titans, which extended Indianapolis's streak to 12.

Jacksonville does have a history against the Colts. The teams have split the last two season series, and the Jaguars have traditionally given Indianapolis more trouble than most opponents.

The Colts' 10-3 victory in this season's first meeting was the only time this year the Colts trailed in the fourth quarter. So Dungy might not have to do much to keep his players' attention.

"They've played us as well as anybody in the division, and they're as hot as anybody," Dungy said. "We always play close games, so we're expecting a great game with a lot of intensity. It should be great for the NFL.

But the Jaguars also are playing with a backup quarterback, David Garrard, and the Colts have been equally as proficient on the road as at home. Under Dungy, the Colts are 23-7 in the RCA Dome and 23-7 on the road.

All the Colts want to do, with the ongoing circus around their complex, is keep things in perspective.

"We get the opportunity next week to go down there and win the division," two-time MVP Peyton Manning said after Sunday's latest rout. "It's nice to secure a playoff spot, but now we want to go try to win the division."

While Dungy will let others talk about a perfect season, he believes the Colts do have the perfect combination.

"There's Manning, the studious quarterback who has never missed a start and almost never misses a read. With his mastery of this offense and keen ability to adapt to any defensive formation, the Colts rarely lose yardage."

"There's Edgerrin James, the two-time NFL rushing champ who has become the Colts' sledgehammer. He's carried the ball 275 times already this season, has the most runs of between 5 and 9 yards in the NFL, and has shown no sign of slowing down. Besides, he wants to prove he's worthy of a long-term contract since he could become an unrestricted free agent next year."

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Saints, Texans keep promise to Katrina victim

Four NFL players visit contest-winning third grader Paul Kohlke in Houston

Associated Press

HOUSTON — If New Orleans' famed French Quarter had a kids club, this is likely how it would look. The scene made third-grader Paul Kohlke, displaced by Hurricane Katrina, feel at home, if only for a moment.

Children with multicolored Mardi Gras beads around their necks joined a duo of New Orleans Saints dancing wildly to the pulsing beat of a Zydeco band in between bites of beignets and king cake Tuesday at Houston's Fay School.

"This is so cool," said Paul. "I can't believe it. It reminds me of home." Paul, who loves the Saints, won the "NFL Take a Player to School" contest this summer. But when his name was drawn, Katrina had already ravaged New Orleans, and the NFL couldn't find him. The Kohlke family, who relocated to Houston, eventually returned to check on their home in the Uptown section of the city and found the package announcing the good news.

Instead of waiting until Paul could return home, the NFL, Saints and Houston Texans decided to throw an early Mardi Gras celebration for him at his new school.

Saints defensive ends Tony Bryant and Charles Grant, wearing T-shirts that read "The Saint," escorted Paul and his brother James, 11, to school in a lime. Quiet and shy, Paul, clad in Grant's No. 94 jersey, waited several minutes before haltingly asking the players a question.

"Who is the hardest quarterback to sack?" asked Paul. Paul has been able to quickly mesh with his classmates and get on track at his new school. His teacher, Laurie Dreyfuss, said he's a great student and is conscientious that when told to wear a Saints jersey to school on Tuesday, he worried that he'd get in trouble for violating the school's dress code.

Bryant applauded Paul for adjusting to his new school and said changing schools was his biggest fear as a child.

"I thought the worst thing that could happen was to go to another school and have to make new friends," Bryant said. "It was kind of hard at first." Paul said, "But I did it." During the ride, Bryant and Grant chatted with Paul, James and their mother, Beth Kohlke, about how they missed the food and flavor New Orleans. Paul told the players about his football team winning a championship after slight prodding from his mother.

Beth Kohlke said the family will likely have to stay in their cramped apartment in Houston until the spring when repairs to their house in New Orleans should be finished. Her husband has been commuting from Houston to New Orleans for his real estate job.

"I wish my friends in New Orleans could see this," said Paul. "I haven't been winning very much." The 7-year-old said changing schools was his biggest fear as a child.

"It's been hard for them to adjust," his mother looked wistful as they got up on stage and played the washboard with their classmates. "I wish my friends in New Orleans could see this," Paul said, chest puffed up, as he got out of the lime with Bryant and Charles at the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In."

Paul introduced the players to his classmates and was surprised when Travis Johnson, a receiver for the Saints, and Barry Sanders, a running back, signed autographs for him.

"I've never been winning very much," Paul said weakly.

Paul had stood gawking at the 6-foot-3, 290-pound Grant as the easygoing player talked to the crowd while resting a huge hand on Paul's slight shoulder. "You opened your arms to Paul," Grant told the students. "Helping people builds character, leadership, family America needs a lot of family and friends. Without family and friends, America wouldn't turn the way it turns."

Morgan, a receiver for Houston, related to Paul because his family was also displaced from New Orleans by Katrina. The Texans organization helped his family members find housing in Houston after the storm.

"I've been through the experience, and I think how important it is to have support," he said. "My teammates were there for me."

The players asked if anyone had questions and quickly learned that these third-through fifth-graders weren't afraid to ask anything.

"Y'all haven't been winning very much," 7-year-old Ben Kraasoff said, sending the players running for cover. "What are you going to do this year?"

Later they tossed footballs and ran around outside with the children while Grant implored his group to start a chant of "Stay in school!"

Before the party died down, Paul got up on stage and grabbed a huge handful of cards and signed them, "Paul." He then began to look around, "I love hearing the music," he said. "But it makes me homesick."
Belles look for MIAA wins before Christmas

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will take on Adrian College tonight in the Belles' last home game of 2005. The Belles (1-5) are coming off of a narrow defeat to North Park University, and will look to get back on track with a win against the Lady Bulldogs (2-3).

The Belles know they beat Saint Mary's will take on

"We're watching film tomorrow, about a half an hour before game," said senior captain Bridget Boyce. "All we know is they tend to go to the basket, and playing as a team," Boyce said.

"Definitely the freshmen, as well as upperclassmen but especially freshmen, are looking forward to spending time with family," Boyce said. "We have a few practices during finals, then a week to a week and a half off, and then on the 26th, we go to the Clark Tournament in Iowa. Then we get New Year's off, and a few days after that.

But the Belles won't let Christmas or finals distract them from their game. They feel they are prepared and ready to win. "Our focus is taking the ball to the basket, and playing as a team," Boyce said. "We've really taken our mistakes to heart and learned from them. We've gotten better from more experience, and now we're taking things in stride, working more as a unit."

After tonight's game, Saint Mary's will take on Alma College to one man advantage goal on seven chances.

With well under a minute left in the game and the score knotted at 2-2, T.J. Jindra won the faceoff in the Mavericks' zone and drew the puck back to Wes O'Neill on the point, O'Neill slid the puck over to Trick on the high left side and Trick let it.

"We held the fort, we had a couple of penalty kills to kill off," Jackson said of the third period after MSU tied the game. "The PK made the difference, Jindra and [Mark] Van Guilder were outstanding on PK in the third. They gave us a chance to win it on the last faceoff."

Condra got his second goal of the year and the Irish on the board first with a power play tally at 7:00 into the first period on a rebound assisted by O'Neill and Seba. The Mavericks cancelled the Irish lead only four minutes later when Rob frankin tucked the puck past Irish goaltender Dave Brown for the 1-1 tie.

Zacharias was solid in net for Minnesota State with 19 saves as he held off the potent Irish attack. Brown stopped 27 out of 29 Maverick shots on the game and secured his second straight win between the pipes, including last Saturday's 3-0 shutout of Western Michigan. Rankin's first period goal snapped a 91:20 shutout streak for Brown that dates back to the second period of the Nov. 26 loss to Ohio State.

"He was instrumental in the PK being as effective as it was," Jackson said of Brown's performance. "He made some key saves at important times. It was a big part of our success."

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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Fencing

continued from page 28

...individuals not connected to any collegiate team. "Whether they go to the meet is up to the fencers," Bednarski said. "I will go as an observer, just to see how they compete."

Several of the 17 Irish fencers expected to compete in the tournament are favorites to place highly. Bednarski mentioned women's saber competitors Mariel Zagunis and Valerie Provodenza as two of the top-ranked Notre Dame fencers traveling to Philadelphia.

"For some, like Zagunis (a 2004 Olympic gold medalist), they will fight to be winners," Bednarski said. "For some others they will fight for higher rankings."

Irish fencers competing in the tournament on the men's side will be Greg Howard, Patrick Gettings and Jesse Lancurich in the epee; Frank Bontempo and Mark Kubik in the foil; and Bill Thanhausen, Patrick Ghatas, Matt Neary and Nicolas D'Acou in saber.

For the women, Zagunis and Provodenza will compete in saber. Adrienni Nott in foil and Amy Orlando, Rebecca Chimahusky and Kimberly Montoya in epee.

The Irish individuals entered the national competition after a strong team performance in the Northwestern Duals held Nov. 20 in Evanston, Ill. Both squads finished with 6-0 records, headlined by the women's 21-6 victory over the host Wildcats, who Bednarski considers one of the better squads in the nation.

"We were very, very surprised by how quickly we demolished the Northwestern team," Bednarski said. "That was a very good year. We very quickly got a head and very quickly finished off the competition."

Zagunis and foilist Emilie Prot swept through the duals without a loss as the Notre Dame women won 84 percent of their bouts in wins over Johns Hopkins (22-1), Stanford (22-5), 21-6 over Northwestern and California-San Diego and 23-4 over both North Carolina and Cal State Fullerton.

The men were equally impressive in the duals, winning 77 percent of their matches. Howard, Ghatas and Stearns combined for a record of 37-7 in wins over Northwestern (22-2), North Carolina (22-5), Stanford (15-12), California-San Diego (21-6), Johns Hopkins (18-9) and Cal State Fullerton (24-3).

Notre Dame's next team event will be the NYU Duals in New York City on Jan. 22. By then, the national standings should be out and the Irish expect to be highly ranked.

"We have a lot of hard workers and a lot of very talented kids," Bednarski said. "We're very excited for the season."

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

Tourney

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Brown said. "It's not a false confidence. It's an earned confidence."

The Irish will need to be confident in their seventh all-time meeting with Wisconsin, which entered the tournament leading the all-time series with Notre Dame 5-1. The Badgers swept the Irish 3-0 in last season's NCAA Tournament. They also knocked off the Irish the last time the team advanced to the Sweet 16, winning in four games in the 1997 NCAA Tournament.

However, the Irish have thrived in big games this season.

"We've stepped up in big matches and made big plays and had some really solid wins," Brown said. Those wins include a sweep against eighth-seeded Florida (32-2), a five-game triumph over Texas (24-5) and a four-game victory over 12th-seeded Southern California (17-11).

A l t h o u g h Wisconsin is a formidable challenge, the other side of the College Station bracket isn't any easier. It includes third-seeded Washington (28-1) and 14th-seeded Purdue (25-8). The two will square off at 8 p.m. Friday in the opener at G. Rollie White Coliseum on the campus of Texas A&M University, where the Irish are 1-1 this year. They swept Tulane and fell to Louisiana State in five games in the Nokia Sugar Bowl Classic.

The Friday winners will clash Saturday at 6 p.m. for a berth in the Final Four, which will also take place in Texas — Dec. 15-17 in the Alamodome in San Antonio. Overall, in Texas, the Irish are 4-1 this season. They are 0-0 in the Alamodome, where they won the University of Texas San Antonio's Dome Rally. This has helped add to the attitude the Irish are taking with them to Texas.

"Everyone has more confidence," outside hitter Adrianna Stasiuk said, comparing this year's team with last year's, which lost 34-36, 16-30, 16-30 to the Badgers in Madison, Wisc. "To put the ball away or do certain things."

Senior All-American Lauren Browner agreed this year's team is different.

"We know we can do it," she said. "We've done it before."

Last year's squad didn't have quite the resume this year's group has. Last year, the Irish lost twice to a solid Nebraska team. One was a five-game loss after leading 2-0.

"Everyone has more confidence," Stasiuk said.

Adrianna Stasiuk Irish outside hitter

Contact Tom Dorwart at tdorwart@nd.edu

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Bama continued from page 28

improve game-by-game with the goal of containing the Crimson Tide's rebounding and inside scoring.

Irish coach Mike Brey said Tuesday it is crucial that his team controls rebounds against Alabama, whose starting frontcourt of power forward Chuck Davis and center Jermaine Davidson averages 32 points and 17.4 rebounds combined per game.

"We gave up two put-backs late in the game against Michigan," Brey said, referring to a pair of Graham Brown field goals late in the Wolverines' 71-67 victory. "And Alabama's strength is on the backcourt ... we've got to have a very well-rounded defensive attack if we are going to be in this game."

Notre Dame will be playing its second road game against a Big Ten opponent in the past four days. The Irish edged Wisconsin Sunday in Madison thanks in large part to the play of senior captain Megan Duffy, who scored 20 points and dished out five assists in the game. Duffy has been coming up big for the Irish all year, averaging 18 points and 4.8 assists per game.

Notre Dame has never won a game at the Mackey Arena in seven chances.

Notes:

- Duffy and freshman guard Lindsay Schrader were both selected to the Big East Conference Weekly Honor Roll Monday for their performance against Wisconsin, Duffy recorded 23 points and five assists against Iona Nov. 29. Schrader, who is the first freshman Irish player to be named to the Honor Roll, averaged 13.5 points and four rebounds in the two games.

Contact Kevin Brennan at kbrennan@nd.edu

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The other finalists were Maryland's Vernon Davis and Notre Dame's Anthony Fasano. The Mackey award will be presented by The Naasuni County Sports Commission in May.

Northwestern's Torin Francis more in the receiving the ball down the sideline. 

Crimson Tide's rebounding and inside strength is on the backboard ... we've got to pressure and not let them play volleyball on the backcourt." 

The Irish are currently out-rebounding opponents 38.8 to 32.2, but the Crimson Tide (4-1) are cause for concern inside the lane.

"I think we definitely improved from the Michigan game," the co-captain said. "We moved the ball a lot better. It's just hard sometimes to see the improvements when you lose."

Brey, Quinn and shooting guard Colin Falls all admitted to tinkering with the offense following the Michigan game to free Falls up for more open looks at the hoop.

"We put in some different screening looks," Falls said. "I think our offense got so repetitive sometimes, teams knew what we were doing." 

Nick Zagory, the Irish coach, said the team was back in full strength Wednesday for practice from making just 6-of-20 from behind the arc.

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Wednesday, December 7, 2005
Confident ND squad fears no one in Texas

By TOM DORWART
Sports Writer

When the sixth-seeded Irish head to College Station, Texas later this week for their Friday Sweet 16 match against 11th-seeded Wisconsin (25-6), they'll be loose and confident — certainly not intimidated by the team that eliminated them in last year's tournament.

"It comes from the wins that we have," Irish coach Debbie Score said.

"It's going to be a tough challenge for us to go down there and play a ranked Big Ten opponent in their place." The Irish might be without head coach Muffett McGraw again tonight. McGraw has missed the past two games with an undisclosed illness. Washington, who has served as head coach in McGraw's absence, said Monday that McGraw is day-to-day.

"There's no questions she's getting better. It's just a matter of her getting her strength up and being able to handle the rigors of coaching," Washington added.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team faces tough in-state showdown

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

No. 10 Notre Dame (6-0) will take its undefeated record on the road tonight to face No. 20 Purdue (4-2) at 2 p.m. at the Mackey Arena in West Lafayette.

Notre Dame assistant head coach Coquese Washington said her team is excited to square off with one of its top rivals, but acknowledged the Irish must be prepared for a very difficult game.

"This is one of our biggest rivals. We always have very good games," Washington said.

"It's going to be a tough challenge for us to go down there and play a ranked Big Ten opponent in their place." The Irish might be without head coach Muffett McGraw again tonight. McGraw has missed the past two games with an undisclosed illness. Washington, who has served as head coach in McGraw's absence, said Monday that McGraw is day-to-day.

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FENCING

Team has high hopes for USFA tournament

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

Notre Dame's best fencers will venture out of the realm of collegiate competition this weekend when they travel to Pittsburgh for the United States Fencing Association (USFA) North American Cup.

The meet, beginning Friday at 10 a.m. at the Lawrence Convention Center, features a field of the top national competitors looking for a spot on the USFA national team.

"This tournament is very important because they will fence against the best in America," Notre Dame coach Janusz Bednarski said. "It's a very high class tournament, it's a step up in their experience."

Since the tournament is run by the USFA and not the NCAA, Irish fencers have to pay their own way and are competing as individuals.

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HOCKEY

Irish snap road streak in victory

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

It was Irish trickery at its finest.

After two blown leads, Chris Trick's goal gave the team a 3-2 victory over Minnesota State Tuesday to end its road losing streak that dated back to last season. Trick pocketed the lone Irish even-strength, and winning, goal with .09 left in the game to help Notre Dame match last season's win total of five, boosting its overall record to 5-9-1.

The last-second victory erased a 17-game road winless streak (0-15-2) for the Irish that dated to Nov. 26, 2004 when the Irish beat Alaska-Fairbanks by an identical 3-2 score.

"Maybe the only way to get over that hump is to get out of that kind of situation," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "I think the only way to get over that hump is to get out of that kind of situation..."

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