Notre Dame community mourns death of Brann

Over 200 present at memorial mass for senior lost in accident

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

Family, friends, classmates and members of the Notre Dame community gathered at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Monday evening for a memorial Mass to remember Caitlin Brann, 22, a senior killed in a car accident Nov. 10. With Brann’s picture displayed beside the altar, senior Adria Helmich shared some of her fondest memories of her friend and fellow Pasquerilla East resident, and in her final memory, Helmich shared how to box.

“She put up her fists and started laughing ... I couldn’t help but think that this was the same girl who dressed up as ‘Kill Bill’ on Halloween,” Helmich said, calling it “a tremendous privilege, honor and blessing” to have been friends with Brann.

“She was the friend you wanted to have,” Helmich said.

University President Father John Jenkins, who presided over the Mass, said although a few weeks have passed since Brann’s death, her loss remains painful for her family and friends. Her death is especially tragic since she died at such a young age, Jenkins said, when she was full of life and hope and making plans for her future.

In her short life, Brann accomplished much and made many good friends, he said, and “we are grateful for the years that she had.”

Even as the community mourns her loss, they look forward to her memory, Jenkins said.

“We remember her today with gratitude for her life and friendship, but we can’t escape the sadness of losing her,” he said.

Caitlin’s parents, brother and sister were present at the Mass. Jenkins said Brann’s father told him that Caitlin had made plans to go to the Notre Dame-USC game Nov. 25.

“She had a plane ticket, but she didn’t have a ticket to the game,” Jenkins said. “But she was a shrewd businesswoman, and she came up with a plan to bring up to four student IDs, and an e-mail sent to the student body, the ticket office is, like last year, holding a lottery to give students the opportunity to buy tickets for the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) bowl game against LSU. The contest will be Notre Dame’s second BCS game in a row.

Students are allowed to bring up to four student IDs, including their own, to Legends on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to get a lottery ticket. If that number is one of the 2,500 numbers randomly chosen, the owner has the opportunity to buy one ticket on Friday at Gate B of the Notre Dame Stadium Ticket Office between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at a cost of $125. Students may bring up to four winning lottery tickets with student IDs. The one-ticket-per-winning-lottery-number limit is a change from last year.

“At the request of the students we reduced the limit from two to one [ticket] per student,” Berlo said.

The list of winning numbers will be available online at see BOWL/page 6

Lottery to grant 2,500 bowl tickets

By JOE PAIRULLI
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame students will be getting their share of the sugar when the Irish play the LSU Tigers Jan. 3.

Of the 17,500 total Sugar Bowl tickets allotted to Notre Dame, 2,500 of those will be made available to students. According to Director of Ticket Operations Josh Berlo and an e-mail sent to the student body, the ticket office is, like last year, holding a lottery to give students the opportunity to buy tickets for the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) bowl game against LSU.

The contest will be Notre Dame’s second BCS game in a row.

Students are allowed to bring up to four student IDs, including their own, to Legends on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to get a lottery ticket. If that number is one of the 2,500 numbers randomly chosen, the owner has the opportunity to buy one ticket on Friday at Gate B of the Notre Dame Stadium Ticket Office between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. at a cost of $125. Students may bring up to four winning lottery tickets with student IDs. The one-ticket-per-winning-lottery-number limit is a change from last year.

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The list of winning numbers will be available online at see BOWL/page 6

Junior Meghan Slenz hands out programs at Caitlin Brann’s memorial service Monday in the Basilica.

ND puts Africa project in motion

Jenkins, select faculty set to visit Uganda

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

University President Father John Jenkins, who will travel to the east African country Jan. 4 for a 10-day trip, said the visit will coincide with the University’s Millennium Development Initiative (NDMDI) trip to Uganda.

“Are you sure you’re not going to bring your own ticket to the game?” Jenkins asked her to teach her how to box.

“Everyone will be able to see the contest will be Notre Dame’s second BCS game in a row.

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University to partner with Ugandan village

By MARCELA BERRIOS
News Writer

Editor’s note: This is the first story in a two-part series examining the goals of the Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative in Uganda, the involvement of the University’s administration, faculty and student body and the international organizations that will contribute to the project.

“God, Planet, Notre Dame” could become the University’s new slogan if it can do as much to change the sphere of its Catholic mission beyond national borders as it has in Africa. Notre Dame will soon see VILLAGE/page 6

Students serve through winter seminars

By EMMA DRISCOUL
News Writer

A few hundred students will trade in some of the free time offered by winter break this year to get involved in social issues through the Center for Social Concerns’ (CSC) winter seminars.

The 316 students — which, according to CSC Urban Programming Director Rebecca Pettit, is an increase from last year — will participate in seminars like the Church and Social Action, Urban Plunge, Organizing, Power and Hope; and the Holy Cross Mission in Phoenix.

The four-week long break between the fall and spring semesters — when final exams are over but new classes have not yet started — are a perfect opportunity for some students, like sophomore Meghan Slenz, to get involved.

“I have more free time to really just enjoy the [seminar],” said Slenz, who plans to take part in a two-day Boston Urban Plunge, “and not have some of the added pressures that maybe a full break or a spring break seminar would have had.”

While many students may see the break as an excellent opportunity to participate in service, many are surprised by the amount of openings in the winter seminars still exist. Pettit noted in an e-mail that “all winter seminars have a limited number of students that can participate due to...
INSIDE COLUMN

Loving Darlene Love

The New York Times once said, “Darlene Love’s thunderous voice is as embedded in the history of Rock-and-Roll as Eric Clapton’s guitar or Bob Dylan’s lyrics.” Everyone knows Dylan and Clapton, but who is Darlene Love? Only the singer of the greatest Christmas song ever: “Christmas (Baby, Please Come Home).”

Darlene Love was in the right place at the right time. While Love was stuck playing second fiddle under Spector’s control, other singers with less talent than Love found success under different producers. Had Love been in a different place during this time, her career could have taken a different direction.

Spector worked with some of the top songwriters of the day, but he did not give Love her better material. Instead, Spector would give Max Neuwell’s “You Lost That Lovin’ Feelin’” to the Righteous Brothers while giving Love songs with less hit potential. Then, as the British invasion hit, Love was stuck singing her heart out for Spector. By the late 1960s, Spector’s records were out of favor and Love found success under different producers. Had Love been in a different place during this time, her career could have taken a different direction.

Nevertheless, Love did manage to make one record under Spector that has been arrested for taking one of the factory’s garbage in lard, “Christmas in Their Home Country.” The event lasts from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and will be held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Main Building.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform its Christmas Concert Friday from 9 to 10:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

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

CORRECTIONS

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

IN BRIEF

Farzad Mashayek, professor of mechanical and industrial engineering at the University of Illinois at Chicago, will be the featured speaker at a seminar called “Can Renewable Liquid Fuels Quench Our Energy Thirst?” today at 3:30 p.m. in 138 DeBartolo.

Jeff Jackson, the head coach of Notre Dame’s hockey team, will discuss the first part of the season and upcoming games at noon Wednesday at Legends.

The Notre Dame women’s basketball team will play Purdue Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

Christmas at the CoMo Benefit Concert by the ND Celebration Choir is Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor Coleman Morse student lounge. International students will provide reflections of Christmas in their home countries. There is no admission charge, but possible offering will be sent to St. Jude’s Primary School, Jinja, Uganda.

All full-time faculty and staff are invited to the Christmas open house Thursday by University President Patter John Jenkins and officers of the University. The event lasts from 2:30 to 5 p.m., and will be held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Main Building.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform its Christmas Concert Friday from 9 to 10:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.
Board of Governance

Group plans to include Fowlkes at meeting

By Liz HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) members voted to invite chief information officer Keith Fowlkes to their final meeting of the semester Monday night.

Fowlkes wishes to visit BOG to discuss issues that arose when President Carol Ann Mooney held an information session with the Board three weeks ago.

"If we will discuss ResNet and anything at information technology that we have questions about," said Student Body President Susan McEliff.

Fowlkes approached McEliff about speaking to BOG, but the board first had to invite him to a meeting to address the issue.

Technology commissioner Elizabeth Jenkins and D'Aurora announced that she has also talked to Fowlkes about ResNet, and she speculated on some topics that he might address.

"He will probably talk a little bit about the residence hall clusters and why they don't have printers, and what we can do to change that," D'Aurora said. "I think it would be really helpful."

After agreeing to invite Fowlkes to an upcoming meeting, BOG discussed the ongoing "12 Days of Christmas" event. Sponsored by the senior board, the event raises money to purchase presents and decorations for needy families in the South Bend area.

"At the bake sale [held Thursday in LeMans Hall], they sold $400 [worth of baked goods], and we've sold over 100 '12 Days' passes and over 100 ice-cold mugs," senior class president Kat Kuntz said.

"The sophomore board also donated $150 from their dance. It's going well."

In Other BOG News:
- The freshman board is sponsoring an Angel Tree that is set up in the lobby of McCandless Hall.
- Christmas Around the World will take place tomorrow in Reinehardt Lounge in LeMans Hall.
- The annual Late Night Breakfast will take place Monday at 10 p.m. The breakfast is open to all students, including those who live off-campus.
- The DaVinci Code and "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" will be shown in Vander Vennet Theater this weekend.

Contact Liz HARTER at charter01@saintmarys.edu

Jenkins continued from page 1

The "we" Woodward refers to is the group of University representatives accompanying both Jenkins and Woodward to Uganda, including Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shaivers, Director of NDMDI Father Rob Dowd, Assistant Director in the Office of the President Tim Lyden and Africana Studies department chair Richard Pierce.

Woodward said the group is now departing a day later than originally scheduled due to Notre Dame's Sugar Bowl game Jan. 3.

"The group is getting together tomorrow to talk to Dowd, who has been "back for about a week" from his November trip to Uganda, Woodward said.

"I think you'll see a bigger trip in the spring," Woodward said.

"For now, we're really going to Uganda!" Woodward said.

"The first step is always listening to find out what help they need."

In a letter to potential group members, The Observer obtained from the Office of News and Information, Jenkins said the Millennium Village Project (MVP) has four main goals: increasing agricultural productivity, connecting people to markets and information, eradicating preventable disease and expanding access to basic health and education.

"The purpose of the trip is to explore and build relationships in Africa and specifically Uganda; to learn about the region's opportunities and challenges; and to highlight our commitment to the Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative (MDI)," Jenkins said.

"As a reflection of our mission as a Catholic University, we are hopeful that we can expand our knowledge and consider ways to collaborate with those who live and work in Africa."

Jenkins described Uganda as a place of "cultural richness." Slightly smaller than the state of Oregon, Uganda is home to nearly 28 million people, 85 percent of whom are Christian. Forty different languages are spoken throughout the country.

"English is the nation's official language and Luganda is the most widely spoken language."

"Part of Jenkins' goal in traveling to Uganda, however, is to consider ways to address the country's various educational, economic and health-related difficulties."

Despite its cultural richness, Uganda has a 41 percent adult prevalence rate of AIDS/HIV and a life expectancy of 51.68 years for men and 53.69 years for women, Jenkins wrote.

His letter acknowledged some of the additional problems plaguing Uganda that will likely be addressed during "a productive exchange with those who live and work in Uganda."

"Literacy rates lag behind many other countries. Only 87 percent of men above the age of 15 are able to read and write, and only 77 percent of women above the age of 15 are able to read and write," Jenkins said.

"In contrast, in the U.S., 99 percent of both men and women are literate."

According to a tentative itinerary, the group's first event will be attending a celebration of Holy Cross final vows in the country's capital of Kampala. Other noteworthy events include dinner with the Holy Cross community and Notre Dame alumni in Jinja, touring the Holy Cross grounds and meeting with Millennium Village science councilor Fowles, Siriti, the village council and villagers.

"During our trip, we are arranging to meet with various people including leaders of the Ugandan community, members of the Holy Cross community and the leadership team of Uganda Martyrs University," Jenkins said.

Jenkins and the rest of the group will visit the site of the partner village — probably located in the vicinity of Nkol — with Millennium Village Project coordinator for Uganda Johnson Nkusuhe Jan. 9.

Time is also set aside for visitors to our newly renovated building Stan Hill, or if you have any questions, please call or stop in by December 15th.

For further Information:
Visit our website at http://ahs.nd.edu
Or call the Health Center - 574-631-7497
or the Pharmacy: 574-631-6574
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Jared Feeney
Lisa Fetta
Eric Gast
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Jennifer Pehting

Damian Sciavano
Brian P. Sellon
Brian Segobiano
Xiao Yan Su
John Tate
Kathryn Tedder
Peter VanDeventer
Andrea Verney

A special thank you to all of our Notre Dame Alumni who have participated in the campus recruiting season.

Tom Bechert
Jennifer Bezdicek
Bill Bonner
Clare Brophy
Katie Crawford
Dan Delaney
Pam DePierre
Tim Fetter
Susie Gallagher

Zach Gamblin
Andy Horner
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Brazil creates new protected areas

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — A swath of Amazon rain forest the size of New Jersey was placed under permanent protection Monday in a region infamous for violent conflicts among loggers, land grabbers and aggressively armed drug traffickers.

The protected territory totals 57,915 square miles of the Guayana Shield region, an area of Amazon forest stretching across international borders that contains more than 25 percent of the world’s remaining tropical forests and the largest remaining unspoiled freshwater reserves in the American tropics.

The area was home to an existing reserve to form a vast preservation corridor stretching into neighboring Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana. While the entire Guayana Shield corridor is not yet protected, planners hope to expand the protected area to include parts of Venezuela and Brazil.

Blair unveil nuclear arsenal proposal

LONDON — Prime Minister Tony Blair launched plans Monday for a new multibillion-dollar submarine-based nuclear defense system, warning lawmakers the future may hold perilous threats from rogue regimes and state-sponsored terrorists.

In what is expected to be among his last major acts as premier, Blair told the House of Commons that despite the end of the Cold War, potential threats were posed by North Korea, Iran and others.

“In these circumstances, it would be unwise for the House to give any more support to Mr. Rumsfeld’s plans for any of the nuclear powers to give up its independent nuclear deterrent,” he said.

Blair said Britain would cut back on its stock of nuclear warheads from 200 to 160 — more intended to make its arsenal more acceptable to detractors within his own party.

NATIONAL NEWS

Man plead guilty of slaying 5-year-old

SALT LAKE CITY — A man pleaded guilty Monday to kidnapping and killing a 5-year-old girl whose body was found in a chest freezer in the woman’s apartment.

Craig Gregerson, 20, gave no explanation of his crimes but offered a letter of apology Monday to kidnapping and murder. The 5-year-old girl, Milli Papi, was found in the basement of a house that was being searched in a child pornography investigation.

Destiny had been missing for eight days before police found her body stuffed in a plastic storage box in Gregerson’s cellar.

Authorities believe Destiny died within an hour of her disappearance July 16.

E. coli outbreak linked to Taco Bell

SOUTH PLAINFIELD, N.J. — An E. coli outbreak that has sickened at least 22 people — two of them seriously — is linked by health investigators Monday to three Taco Bell restaurants in New Jersey.

All but two of the people who fell ill had eaten at one of the fast-food restaurants between Nov. 17 and Nov. 28, authorities said. Both of the two people who lived in the area said they were healthy.

“I have to send the food they all had in common,” said David Papi, director of health for Middlesex County.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana home to become bank branch

GEORGETOWN, Ind. — A 174-year-old home in rural Indiana will be restored and turned into a bank branch.

First Harrison Bank announced plans to purchase the home near Georgetown, about 10 miles west of Louisville, Ky., restore it and build an office addition and a drive-through.

“We try to be community minded,” Sam Uhl, First Harrison’s president and chief executive officer, said Friday. “It’s an excellent location for a branch, plus we’re preserving a historical landmark.”

The two-story brick house is on Indiana 64, west of the Interstate 64 exit to Georgetown.

Bush meets with Shiite leader

President not satisfied with Iraqi efforts to curb extremist violence

WASHINGTON — President not satisfied with Iraqi efforts to curb extremist violence said U.S. troops need to stay in Iraq to help deal with growing violence. He also told Bush that Iraq welcomes help from other nations, including those in the Middle East, so long as they don’t bypass Iraq’s political process.

“Iraq should be in a position to solve its problems,” al-Hakim told Bush after their meeting in the Oval Office for more than an hour.

Some consider al-Hakim, who lived in exile in Iran for years, a more powerful political figure than Iraq’s Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Al-Hakim heads the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the largest Shiite bloc in Iraq’s parliament. His party also is backed by the Badr Brigade militia blamed for sectarian killings.

The meeting was evidence that Bush, under pressure to find a new blueprint for his war strategy, is actively involved in the political legitimizing of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds.

“I told him that we’re not satisfied with the progress in Iraq, and that we want to continue to work with the sovereign government of Iraq,” Bush said.

He said that the young Iraqi government needs to be given more capability as quickly as possible to secure the country from extremists and murderers.

Bush is meeting on Thursday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair — a day after the bipartisan Iraq Study Group issued its long-awaited recommendations. Bush also plans to meet next month with Iraq’s Sunni Vice President Tarig al-Hashemi. Last week, he met in Jordan with al-Maliki.

Maliki aides and a third person close to al-Hakim said the cleric was expected to try to persuade Bush to enlist Iran’s help in quelling violence in Iraq.

Bush spoke with al-Hakim directly about Iran and Syria and the critical need for them to respect Iraqi sovereignty and stop destructive activity that undermines Iraq’s unity government, a senior administration official said.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to divulge details of the meeting.

The official said it wasn’t known whether al-Hakim specifically asked Bush to enlist Iran’s assistance. Al-Hakim told reporters that he vehemently opposes any regional or international effort to solve Iraq’s problems that goes around the unity government in Baghdad.

“I reject any attempts to have a regional or international role in solving the Iraq issue,” the cleric, who speaks Arabic, said through a translator. “We cannot bypass the political process. Iraq should be in a position to solve Iraq’s problems.”

Later, in a speech at the U.S. Institute of Peace in Washington, al-Hakim said Iraq is interested in creating good relations with all neighboring nations, including Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Syria and Jordan.

But he said: “We do not want to distribute shares of power to neighboring countries, but rather we want balanced relations.”

Al-Hakim said he talked with Bush about equipment, including arms, that the Iraqi security forces need. He pledged that the govern­ment would deal with all forms of terrorism, no matter where they originate.

Bolton to leave as U.N. ambassador

WASHINGTON — Lacking the votes to keep his job, embattled U.N. Ambassador John Bolton said Monday he would resign, a defeat for a president who had clung to hopes of his credit in the Senate.

Bush got the position in August 2006 after the Senate confirmed his nomination.

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Mass
continued from page 1

strengths of the Notre Dame
community in times like this is
that we do come together to
remember, to pray and to com­
ment to God someone we are
carried away by our spirits.
Jenkins says there are no
sides in the conflict, just
short, but suggested that those
who knew her use the
Eucharistic prayer — the part
of the Mass when the priest con­
crates the bread and wine and
also prays for those who have
died.
This way, every Mass will be a
prayer of remembrance for her.
"Cathy is not with us, but we
pray for her. We know that,
God, she remains with us as
well, in a different way," he
said.
He also said that Cathy is
those who die live on in the memories of the people who
loved her.
"I hope we all remember how
loved and how much we loved Cathy, gave us," Helrich
said.

Bowl
continued from page 1

demand for Notre Dame's
17,500 tickets will be very
high.
"I'm not sure how you can go
to the Rose Bowl and not
get tickets," he said. "Certainly,
we've got a pretty substantial
ticket base, and we would
expect to use every bit of
the allocation."

Last year, Notre Dame was
initially allocated 15,000
tickets, but the final num­
ber was higher.

This year's allotments this
year and last year are actu­
ally the same, which depends on the bowl and the number of
tickets the bowl has available.

The fact that Notre Dame
was not selected more than the
initial allocation last year
does not necessarily mean that
any tickets will be available this
year, Berlo said.
"It's less likely with the
Sugar Bowl to be able to
duplicate the ticket situation
we had with the Fiesta
[Bowl]," he said. "Each bowl is a little
bit different in how they allocate their tickets.

According to the LSU
website, the tickets that were
to the University have been
sold to season ticket holders
tickets, and students may still
request tickets online.

The ticket allotment is
different and has its own
distribution of tickets," Berlo
said.

Notre Dame's distribution
ensures that students will
check with the University's
Office of Student Affairs
Jan. 3.

"Basically our philosophy is
not necessarily let us
purchase tickets available to
students, Berlo said.

Contact Joe Piazzali at
jpiazzali@nd.edu

Want to write for news?
Call 574-631-5323.
Wall Street rallies despite Pfizer shares fall by 12 percent after the company stopped the development of the cholesterol drug torcetrapib because of deaths and cardiovascular problems of the drug because of deaths and cardiovascular problems among people taking the drug during clinical trials. The stock was also downgraded by several Wall Street analysts on concern that Pfizer’s revenue growth will now weaken.

The news was offset by several merger announcements that reinforced the belief that companies are optimistic about the economy and therefore are willing to take some risks. Leading them was Bank of New York’s $16.5 billion deal to buy rival Mellon Financial Corp. to create an asset management powerhouse.

Calderon faces healthy job market Some risks. Leading them was Bank of New York.

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Conservative action: not an oxymoron

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Letters to the Editor

Claims regarding Zahm Hall unfounded

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Katherine Leahy's Nov. 21 Viewpoint article "Legal Aid Clinic exists to help the poor" expressed concerns about the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, which she claims remains one of Notre Dame's most significant, yet least known, community outreach programs. This semester, thirty law students and four on-campus volunteers, along with several members of the UND community outside the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the Notre Dame Legal Aid Clinic and the Robinson Center, are providing services to those persons in the legal system. As part of their work in the clinic, the students also present public education programs on areas of the law that they have developed themselves. This semester, the students made presentations at the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill quarterly meeting at Madison Center and the Robinson Center. In addition, at the request of Student Government, and as reported in The Observer, our students made a presentation on land tenure-law to undergraduate students at an off-campus housing event.

Katherine Leahy apparently mistook this last presentation as an indication that the Clinic now represents the concerns of the land tenure-law student group. The Clinic has not lessened its commitment to serving the poor (we have not). The Clinic does attempt to be responsive to the needs of the community, however, and has previously accepted invitations to speak to employees of "off-campus life" institutions and as international students about housing issues.

With respect to Ms. Leahy's concerns regarding the notes of immigrants, it is true that the Clinic's capacity for immigration work has been reduced this year by the departure of one of its faculty members. I am happy to report, however, that the Law School is in the process of hiring a new clinical faculty member who will focus exclusively on immigration law beginning next fall.

Earlier this year, Clinic students attended the last classroom session of the fall semester. I invited the students to share with one another what they have accomplished for their clients this term. Two students recorded lists of accomplishments on the white board for twenty minutes without pausing. Our students saved people from foreclosures, helped immigrants obtain legal status, helped reform a nursing home, secured recoveries for disabled consumers, arranged guardianships for mentally ill clients, helped a terminally ill young mother prepare to provide care for her surviving children, recovered security deposits wrongfully withheld by landlords from poor tenants, helped elderly clients prepare wills, health care powers, and other end-of-life instruments, secured benefits for disabled children and adults, pushed for better community living opportunities for the developmentally disabled and worked to end illegal debt collection practices. This is the beginning of the best of the best. Notre Dame can be proud of the service that the Clinic provides.

Band does its best

As a band alumnus, I was a bit upset when I read the Nov. 29 letter to the editor titled "Band. Why is that?" Truthfully, the line that upset me the most was, "If the band was not a "must-do Notre Dame experience" then I do not think the band should understand their responsibility." Being a devout Notre Dame football and band fan, I understand the sentiment that was portrayed in the article, but I believe this statement crossed the line.

Based on personal experience, I know that all the band members wish that they could travel to all the away games—and especially the big games—but the money is just not there to support such big trips across the country. With over 350 members in the band, it would be a huge financial burden on the band program to support this costly trip to Los Angeles since the funding is not provided by the football program, but by donors and "fundraisers" like selling CDs, T-shirts and the like. Usually, the band only has enough funds to travel to one away game. Some years, the band is lucky enough to travel to two games, but one is always a close game like Michigan, Michigan State or Purdue. When I was a student, the only away trips, other than bowl games, that we traveled to were Pittsburgh and Florida State, both of which we drove to by bus.

The band knows their responsibility and they show their loyalty by volunteering hours of their time every week, spending over ten hours every football Saturday preparing for the game and supporting the team and fans. Band members do not do what they do for money or credits, but for the love of music and Notre Dame football. They do not receive any scholarships and only receive one credit for their time and effort. Therefore, before you blame the administration or the band for not traveling to every big game, please keep in mind that the band is the best to travel to as many trips as finances allow them to and that the band takes its responsibility to the team and to the fans very seriously.

Clara Park
junior
Pampaña East
Nov. 29

Keeping ticket policy

While I am not a student at Notre Dame, for various reasons, I follow the news at the University. In following the story on the updated ticket policy "The "underclassmen remain unsold" article and the feedback carried in The Observer, I offer only a few brief remarks. As a student at the University of Texas at Austin, the idea of anyone having guaranteed tickets amazes me. It makes sense with the size of Notre Dame compared to the size of the Stadium, but, still be thankful for the accessibility of tickets. That being said, please do keep complaining to Notre Dame athletics. The more noise made, the more Notre Dame athletics must make some sort of response. I hope that if a change in policy were made, a student advisory board is given a voice in the issue. Good luck on a policy reversal.

Brendan Kraft
University of Texas at Austin
Dec. 4
The Observer

Monday, December 5, 2006

MOVIE REVIEWS

‘Happy Feet’ can’t quite blend cute critters, issues

By ANALISE LIPARI
Assistant Scene Editor

Tap-dancing penguins? Who on earth would bet on seeing penguins for 90 minutes?

The premise of “Happy Feet,” such a question could be asked with a legitimate level of incredulity. After “Happy Feet,” however, such questions seem unfounded.

Having remained the top grossing film at the box office since its release, it’s safe to say that “Happy Feet” has at least found financial success with its blend of “be yourself” beliefs and environmental advocacy.

The issue with the film lies in that blending — something that, unfortunately, the film does not do as well as it should have. “Happy Feet” is essentially two films — the first being a positive-reinforcement message of self-acceptance and the latter being a cautionary tale of human errors, especially the environment. The film leaves you rapidly shrinking in ice cold.

“Happy Feet” has been solely tuned rather effectively advertised as a children’s movie featuring adorable penguin named Mumble (Elijah Wood). Mumble’s society of Emperor penguins (last made famous on the big screen in the wildly successful 2005 documentary “March of the Penguins”) finds their males through their heart songs, meaning the vocalized essence of their penguin souls. Their life-long partners are those whose heart songs mesh perfectly with their own. What makes Mumble unique, however, is his “heart song” — Mumble cannot sing. Instead, Mumble tap dances.

The overall message of the first half deals with Mumble’s differences, as seen by his surrounding community and our ability to accept the differences of those around us — not an uncommon moral in modern children’s films.

The cuteness factor of “Happy Feet” is very high, and, especially, finding moments in wide-eyed wonder of a young audience. Having remained the top grossing film at the box office since its release, it’s safe to say that “Happy Feet” is a timely one — however for “Happy Feet,” it proves to be too much for the film to handle.

Ultimately, if the film succeeds is in its attempt to widen the normal thematic scope of a holiday children’s movie. The message of preservation and protection is a timely one — however for “Happy Feet,” it proves to be too much for the film to handle.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

DiCaprio’s latest highlights conflict diamonds

By ERIN McGNN
Assistant Scene Editor

For many movies these days, it isn’t enough to simply be an adventure movie, a comedy or a romance. Often when movies try to tackle too many ideas and genres, it makes families and audiences think nothing at all. “Blood Diamond” most succeed at trying to be everything all at once. “Blood Diamond” is an “awareness” movie that desires to educate about the trade of “conflict” diamonds in Africa, a typically violent action movie and finally a drama about a father trying to reunite his family. Although its scope is large — and at times seems too much for the film to handle — the final product is an interesting movie that is on the edge of Hollywood and reality.

“Blood Diamond” is set in 1999 during the civil war in Sierra Leone and centers on the exploits of Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio). Danny is a mercenary from Zimbabwe and diamond smuggler. Early on in the film he meets with Solomon (Andy Dwyer Hobin), a local fisherman. Although both are native Africans, they have led very different lives — lives whose sole point in common is the search for a rare pink diamond. Solomon, having been taken from his family by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), is forced to work in the country’s diamond fields. Solomon furtively discovers the pink diamond and hides it. But finding that diamond once again with Archer is the only way for Solomon to reunite himself with his family and save his daughter from also becoming a child soldier with the RUF.

The final player is Maddy Bowen (Jennifer Connelly), an American journalist for Vanity Fair with a penchant for crisis situations. She meets with Archer in Sierra Leone while working to uncover the truth of the conflict.

Hobin agrees to help Archer and Vandy seek the diamond in exchange for information on the diamond dealers.

Unfortunately, the film is about discovering what is important and valuable in the life of each individual. To accomplish this, director Edward Zwick structures the movie as a journey for each of the characters in which they grow from having selfish goals to sacrificing their desires in order to help others.

While raising concern regarding the conflict diamonds and their effect on Africa, “Blood Diamond” hauntingly highlights another world-crisis — that of child soldiers. Solomon’s son, Dia, is captured by the RUF, allowing the audience to witness the process by which children are brain-washed and forced to commit horrible acts of violence. One of the film’s most powerful images depicts a boy soldier blindfolded and forced to shoot a man against a wall.

Director Edward Zwick is familiar with the “action with a message” genre, having directed “Gangs of New York,” “Glory” and “The Last Samurai.” While “Blood Diamond” is politically relevant and noteworthy for bringing a new topic to the movie screen, its efforts to jump between issues and genres hinders its strength as a whole. Its weakest aspect is the script, written by Charles Leavitt (“K-19”).

Fortunately, the mediocre writing is counter-balanced by the outstanding performances delivered by all of the major actors. Once the audience moves past DiCaprio’s forced accent, it is easy to see that his performance in “Blood Diamond” will be remembered as one of his best so far.

Much like the topical diamonds, “Blood Diamond” certainly has its flaws. However, these flaws are far outweighed by the performances and heart, easily making the film one to see.

Contact Erin McGNN at emcginn@nd.edu

MOVIES

Tapping into the market of family friendly entertainment, Steven Soderbergh’s “Blood Diamond” explores the controversial use of diamonds to finance violent political movements.

Leonardo DiCaprio, left, and Jennifer Connelly star in “Blood Diamond.” The film explores the controversial use of diamonds to finance violent political movements.

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com
Older television shows find new life this fall

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Associate Scene Editor

"A Piece of My Heart," written by Shirley Lauro and directed by London Vale, tells the story of six women involved in the Vietnam War. The play focuses on different women during the Vietnam War, and the show was well performed, with a simple yet effective lighting design.

The flexible nature of the play was suited well to the versatile space of the Lab Theatre. Vale's part. Most of the male parts were simplistic, but Joe Vittoria handled all of them well. The group of actors involved was excellent, but Jennifer Melillo and Jennifer Betancourt were the strongest of an already talented cast. Their portrayals of Sissy and Rosie were emotional and provided the backbone of the play. Also, contributing noteworthy performances were Megan O'Toole and Holly Kosh, who were both very good as Red Cross nurses. Stephanie Elise Newsome put in perhaps the most enthusiastic performance as Army intelligence member Steele. All of the actors performed very well and each had their own strengths, creating a cohesive whole and producing a very moving and affecting performance.

On the technical side, the lighting design by Joe Melillo and Sarah Mhairan was simple but very effective. Washes of orange and red were used at appropriate times, while the general lighting scheme served the production well.

Maura Gahr, Ashley Ceneceros and London Vale designed the sound, choosing the right sound effects for each scene.

The play focuses on six different women during the Vietnam War. From left, Joe Vittoria, Jennifer Betancourt and Jennifer Melillo star in "A Piece of My Heart." The play focuses on six different women during the Vietnam War.

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The play focuses on six different women during the Vietnam War. From left, Joe Vittoria, Jennifer Betancourt and Jennifer Melillo star in "A Piece of My Heart." The play focuses on six different women during the Vietnam War.

"A Piece of My Heart" was an excellent show, indicating that the future of the St. Edward's Hall Players is in good hands. For student theatre, it was a fine production. The topics explored in the play are valid issues that apply to the present day. Films and theatre related to war usually explore the male aspect of the situation, but Lauro skillfully takes a stab at examining what effect the Vietnam War had on the female members of the armed forces. Overall "A Piece of My Heart" was an excellent show, indicating that the future of the St. Edward's Hall Players is in good hands. For student theatre, it was a fine production. The topics explored in the play are valid issues that apply to the present day. Films and theatre related to war usually explore the male aspect of the situation, but Lauro skillfully takes a stab at examining what effect the Vietnam War had on the female members of the armed forces. Overall "A Piece of My Heart" was an excellent show, indicating that the future of the St. Edward's Hall Players is in good hands. For student theatre, it was a fine production. The topics explored in the play are valid issues that apply to the present day. Films and theatre related to war usually explore the male aspect of the situation, but Lauro skillfully takes a stab at examining what effect the Vietnam War had on the female members of the armed forces.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mshcroel@nd.edu
THE OBSEVER * CLASSIFIEDS

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Wizards end Mavs' 12-game winning streak

Arenas scores 38 as Washington holds on to beat Dallas

WASHINGTON — Gilbert Arenas had 38 points and eight assists as the Wizards beat the Mavericks, 123-114, Tuesday night to end the Mavs' 12-game winning streak with a 106-97 victory on Monday night.

All five of Washington's starters scored in double figures in the first three quarters. Only once had the team accomplished that in a full game this season.

Antawn Jamison had 20 points in their last seven meetings with the Mavericks, who built leads of 20 points in the first half and 31 in the third.

Dirk Nowitzki, who led Dallas with 27 points, capped a 19-6 run with a 3-pointer that pulled the Mavericks to within 102-95 with 1:17 remaining. Harris crashed nine points during the spurt and finished with seven rebounds.

Paul Pierce scored a season-low eight points for Boston, which has lost three straight and five of six. Eight in the NBA averaging 26.9 points a game.

In the period, combined 9-of-12 in the first and 8-of-13 in the second.

The Wizards won on a 17-4 run to open the game, capped by Jarvis Hayes' 3-pointer for a 7-0 lead with 2:24 left in the first.

A sequence earlier in the period epitomized the game. Arenas banked a 3-pointer off the glass.

Rashard Lewis banked a jumper extended the Wizards' lead to 21, 1-28 remaining in the half.

Jamison and Arenas shot a combined 9-of-12 in the first quarter and the Wizards, who shot 71 percent in the period, took a 31-23 lead.

Bulls 100, Celtics 82

Andres Nocioni scored 20 points, and the Bulls won their 11th in a row, pulling away early on their way to a 100-82 victory over the Boston Celtics on Monday night.

Up 17-14 in the first quarter, the Bulls went on a 13-point run.

They were ahead 53-35 at halftime and led by as many as 30 in the third quarter.

After scoring a career-high 31 on Friday against New Orleans and 24 the following night against Washington, Nocioni was 9-for-15 from the field and grabbed seven rebounds on Monday.

Pierce shot 4-of-13 after brushing his right elbow in the closing minutes. The Knicks never trailed.

With Curry and Lee getting numerous easy chances right under the basket, the Knicks scored 12-of-17 (71 percent) in the second quarter.

The lead grew to 17 after Marbury scored five straight points, but Memphis clawed back and cut it to 35-46 at halftime under Miller and Chucky Atkins knocked down late three-pointers.

New York made its first three shots in the third quarter, pushing the lead back to 15, and wasn't threatened again until midway through the final period.

Magic 92, Kings 89

Jumper Nelson hit a 3-pointer with 1.7 seconds left, and the Orlando Magic snatched an 11-point lead in the closing minutes to put away the Sacramento Kings in overtime, 92-89.

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WASHINGTON shooting guard Gilbert Arenas shoots over Dallas center Erick Dampier during the Wizards' 106-97 victory Monday. With Curry and Lee getting numerous easy chances right under the basket, the Knicks scored 12-of-17 (71 percent) in the second quarter.

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USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Men's Hockey

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Inside College Hockey Power Rankings

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Stanford coach out after two seasons

Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Stanford opened the football season full of optimism based on a renovated stadium, an offense that returned nearly intact and progress that was made in Walt Harris' first year as head coach.

That quickly ended when the stadium was often half-empty, the skill players went down with injuries and the Cardinal finished with their worst record in more than four decades.

All of that played into the decision Monday to fire Harris after his second season and begin the search for a new coach who can win under the difficult circumstances at Stanford.

"This has been a tough year," athletic director Bob Bowlsby said. "In some measure this decision was not made as a result of being 1-11 as much as it was a result of not seeing the progress in some of the critical areas we would have hoped for after two years."

Harris finished his two-year stint with a 6-17 record after losing 26-17 in the Big Game to California on Saturday. He had the shortest tenure of any Stanford coach since Rod Bowhower left after one season in 1979 with a 5-5-1 record.

The Cardinal finished with the most losses in school history and the worst record since an 0-10 mark in 1960. Stanford has struggled mightily since Tyrone Willingham left for Notre Dame following the 2001 season. They have not had a winning season in five years under Buddy Toevens and Harris, going just 16-40.

Bowlsby admitted it might not be "fair" to fire Harris after only two seasons but that he had to do what was best for the school.

"I think the most critical assessment I had to make was doing investing another year of coach with the possibility of making substantial improvement," he said. "If I couldn't answer that affirmatively, which I ultimately didn't, it felt it was better to make the change now than wait more time."

Harris was a disciplinarian who clashed with some players, including linebacker Michael Okwo, who briefly quit the team in November. Players complained of a communication gap with the coaching staff.

"It was maybe just a bad fit," receiver Mark Bradford said. "Maybe we didn't respond to the way that was his style of coaching."

IN BRIEF

Mariners strengthen outfield, sign Guillen to one-year deal

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Jose Guillen and Ichiro Suzuki in the same outfield — Seattle manager Mike Hargrove has never had two arms so strong side-by-side.

The Mariners and Guillen agreed on a one-year, $5.5 million contract Monday with a $9 million mutual option for 2008, giving Seattle a starting right fielder and a dangerous bat in the middle of the order.

The deal was the formal signing of the four-day baseball winter meetings that began Monday. Guillen missed much of the 2006 season following reconstructive surgery on his right elbow. The Mariners hope his addition is only a start because they want to upgrade their starting rotation.

"I'm just looking forward to this opportunity to try to get back on board and have the success that I've had before," Guillen said.

Staten Island speedway plans halt as New York waits for track

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — International Speedway Corp. scrapped plans Monday to build a track on Staten Island, stalling NASCAR's dream to bring a race to the New York area.

"While we are disappointed that we could not complete the speedway development on Staten Island, our enthusiasm for the metropolitan New York market is in no way dampened," ISC president Lesa France Kennedy said. "We continue to view the region as a prime location for a major motorsports facility."

France Kennedy heads ISC, the publicly traded sister company of NASCAR — which was founded by her grandfather and currently chaired by her brother, Brian France.

Both companies badly want to expand NASCAR into the New York metropolitan area.

NCAA appoints broker to handle Final Four ticket re-sales

INDIANAPOLIS — Final Four ticket holders will now have the option of reselling tickets to an officially sanctioned NCAA broker.

The governing body announced Monday that RazorGator Experiences will be the official ticket, hospitality and hotel package provider.

Besides creating travel packages, fans can now negotiate with the company to resell unused tickets. Previously, fans whose team lost in the national semifinals resettled primarily to ticket scalping to sell unwanted seats.

"RazorGator Experiences has the expertise and the resources to help the NCAA significantly reduce activities that taint the Men's Final Four, such as the unauthorized sale of NCAA event tickets, which not only limit revenue for student-athlete programs, but also put our fans at risk," NCAA senior vice president Greg Shashoua said in a written statement.
NCAA FOOTBALL

Schiano says he will remain with Rutgers

Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — After weeks of speculation about his future, Rutgers coach Greg Schiano decided to spend at least the foreseeable part of it right where he is.

In response to rumors he was poised to take over the troubled University of Miami program, Schiano said Monday he had told Hurricanes athletic director Paul Dee to take his name off a list of candidates.

"Rutgers is where I am going to be and Rutgers is where I want to be. I am not a candidate for that job and I won't be a candidate for that job," Schiano said Monday.

Schiano, a New Jersey native who was Miami's defensive coordinator in 1999 and 2000, said he told Dee on Monday not to consider him for the job.

Miami coach Larry Coker was fired after going 6-6 in the regular season. Schiano has orchestrated No. 16 Rutgers' rise from one of the nation's lowliest programs in the past six seasons, and led the team to its first bowl appearance in 27 years in 2005.

At 10-2 (6-2 Big East) this season after winning their first nine games, the Scarlet Knights are headed to a Texas Bowl matchup against Kansas State. Rutgers narrowly missed the Bowl Championship Series and a likely Orange Bowl appearance by losing Saturday night in triple overtime at West Virginia.

As Rutgers continued to win this season and Coker's position became more tenuous, speculation grew that Schiano was one of the top candidates, perhaps even No. 1, for the Hurricanes job.

Schiano never wavered from the message that he was happy at Rutgers and looking forward to the program's continued growth — yet he never explicitly said he would stay at the school.

"That only fueled more rumors, which persisted through the West Virginia game and into Monday," "People kept asking if it was a distraction for the players during the season, but I knew once Saturday came that we needed to address it and that's exactly what happened," Schiano said.

Schiano said Monday he had not signed a new contract with Rutgers, but said his agent is in discussions with Rutgers officials. He made $191,000 last year before athletic director Robert Mulcahy gave him a seven-year extension that maxes out at $330,000 by 2012.

The extension raised Schiano's annual income from private sources from $325,000 to $625,000. With incentives, his total compensation is in the $1 million range. Coker, meanwhile, had three seasons left on a contract that paid him about $2 million annually.

"He's maintained all along that this is where he wanted to be and this is where he's going to be. He's a man of principle and there's really no more to say about it," Mulcahy said.

Schiano had previously hinted that money issues were secondary to Rutgers' committing to make the upgrades necessary to field a top-10 caliber team.

At the top of his current wish list is an expansion of 41,500-seat Rutgers Stadium.

Several home games were sellouts this season, including the final two games in which temporary bleachers added 2,000 seats to the south end zone. Season-ticket sales have already increased by 5,000 for next season, Schiano said.

He added that school officials "are all on the same page with what we want to build here."
Lunch and Conversation
For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Thursday, December 7
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal lunch at the Co-Mo. Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.

Lunch will be served.

SMC CROSS COUNTRY

Gray finishes 133rd in NCAA Championship

This article was supposed to run three weeks ago but did not due to an editing error.

By BECKI DORNER
Sports Writer

Megan Gray ended her record-breaking season Nov. 18 at the NCAA Division III National Championships, finishing 133rd overall with a time of 25:14 in the 6K event at the Voice of America Park in Wilmington College. Middlebury College took the team championship with 144 points against a field of 32 teams. Willamette junior Sarah Zerzan finished first in the field of 279 runners with a time of 22:31.

"The times were slow across the board due to the mud," Belles coach Jackie Bauters said.

The rainy conditions at the event slowed down Saint Mary's only representative in the event. But Gray remained optimistic despite the rain-affected time.

"It was a tough day to run, but it was an honor to be able to run in the National meet and while I felt I could have run a better race, I was lucky to have teammates, coaches, friends and family there to support me," Gray said.

Despite the conditions, Bauters was still impressed with the finish of her only runner in the race.

"[Gray] looked good when I saw her right before the [first] mile, as though she was progressing well and in a good position," Bauters said.

But due in part to the course conditions, Gray fell just after the one mile mark.

"I think it kind of knocked her mental game a little bit," Bauters said. "While she didn't really slow down at this point, she usually starts gaining ground throughout the race and was not able to.

Nine of Gray's teammates made the trip to show their support, helping Gray realize the tremendous accomplishment of even making it to the national level.

"They helped me realized (and) remember that I was running with the best runners in the entire country—it was an honor," Gray said.

Gray's accomplishments were indeed record-breaking for the Belles this season. The junior was the leading runner for the Belles in all nine races she ran in during the 2006 season. It was a season of firsts for Saint Mary's and Gray as she became the first Belle runner to earn First-team MIAA honors after placing sixth in the conference's championship race three weeks ago.

In addition, she became the first Saint Mary's runner to win an overall individual title when she crossed the finish line first with a time of 18:42 at the Manchester Invitational. Finally, she became the first Belle runner to qualify for nationals after her 10th place finish at the Great Lake Regional Championships, where she ran the 6K course in 22:52.

"I'm very proud of her and all her accomplishments this season. I think it gave her a good idea of what to look for next year, and another trip to the NCAA Championships." Jackie Bauters
Belles coach

Contact Becki Dorner at rdorner1@nd.edu

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Irish skaters perform despite technical glitch

When the ordinals were placed first at the conference this weekend, the Irish seemed to have taken the first game comfortably with 32 to a single-elimination program without music due to a technical difficulty. The young women, who were looking to keep smiles on their faces, and to have the program right away.

However, the women found themselves in a must-win match versus Northwestern. The Irish were in the second and a second more comfortable. The technical difficulty had thrown them off. Without a coach, the team's morale was low, and they seemed to have to attempt the program right away.

But with an entire minute remaining, the women were determined to prove themselves this season. After a few setbacks this season, the women wanted to be ranked as one of the top teams in the country. After going through the entire program at full speed, the women were able to keep their composure and Zagorski jumped on their backs.
Irish
continued from page 20

Notre Dame was unable to submit a proposed schedule to the faculty board for athletics months. And Notre Dame still hasn't posted an official schedule.

Notre Dame eventually hired Gia Kvaratskhelia, but not until events were fast approaching. And in the midst of it all, the Irish stayed at the top of the fencing landscape. At the Penn State Open, the premier national preseaon individual duals held the first week of November, Notre Dame captured second-place finishes in all three women's divisions and finished in the top-10 of their events.

Senior sabreist Valerie Provenza, who entered as the No. 2 seed, went 15-0 in the two rounds of double-elimination competition and topped standout Penn State senior Sophie Hils along the way to the final. There, Provenza fell to Ohio's junior Sophie Byrne 15-10.

Provenza, a senior from Beaverton, Ore., captured the 2004 NCAA Sabre Championship with a win over Hils in the final and won the Junior Olympics title in that discipline the same year.

"Finishing second was nice, although if I had been on top of myself I should have won," Provenza said. "I lost to my friend, but it was still disappointing to know I could have won, but didn't."

Competing with a strained muscle, Provenza said she was happy with her performance.

"I wouldn't have been happy unless I made it to the top two, and after I did that, I just fenced as well as I could at that time," she said. "The day drags on and you get tired, so all you can do is try to focus and fence the bout at that minute.


Nottingham was the unhappy star of the Open for Notre Dame. Seeded 11th entering the tournament, the freshman went 12-1 in her double-elimination bouts to surge to the No. 4 seed for the final four rounds. Not then reached the final, where she lost to 2005 NCAA champion Emily Cross, a junior from Harvard.

On the other side, Irish senior epeeist Aaron Adjemian went from the 15th seed entering the tournament to a third-place finish. Adjemian lost his semifinal bout 10-12 to Wayne State senior Marek Peterson, who was the 2005 NCAA runner-up and turned 25 years old in January. Adjemian beat Penn State junior 15-13 in the consolation bout to finish in the top-3.

Notre Dame senior foilist Mark Kukib entered as the No. 4 seed and finished the tournament in that spot. Kukib finished 12-2 in pool bouts and beat the No. 2 seed, Harvard sophomore Kai Isami-Kinter, 15-10 in the quarterfinals.

Warch, who took third Patrick Ghantas and junior epeeist Jakub Jedrzkowski each took seventh in his discipline. Irish senior Matt Starns finished eighth in the men's fencing.

"We were all really tired that day but did our best," Provenza said. "The day drags on and you get tired, so all you can do is try to focus and fence the bout at that minute."

While Notre Dame's Gold Medal sabreist, junior Mariel Zagunis, didn't participate in the Penn State Open, she made her mark a month earlier at the World Championships in Toronto in an all-American final.

Zagunis lost 15-11 to 16-year-old training partner Becca Ward in the sabre championship in Toronto in an all-American final. Zagunis made a medal in the World Championship.

But the meeting was nothing new for either Zagunis or Warch, who train together at the Oregon Fencing Alliance in Portland, Ore.

Zagunis, a three-time American Saber champion, Betta Ward in the sabre champion-

ship finals before taking on Ward in the championship bout.

And all of that was without Bednarski, who guided the Irish to national titles in 2001 — his first year — and 2003. But with Bednarski back at practices — along with Kvaratskhelia — for Notre Dame, the Irish are looking forward to whatever lies ahead.

"It was very strange not to have Janusz at practice, but our new coach Glra really stepped up and took over," Provenza said. "Practice definitely felt different for me when Janusz wasn't there. We were all very happy to have him return."

"We're just taking it one practice at a time, preparing for whichever tournament comes next,"
Welsh said.

Tallman said.

in and worked his tail

Irish guard

Dame's 93-87 win over Lehigh Nov. 27.

season.

savvy and he's been getting

times on the team in the

respective events.

has posted top team times in

events. Wood posted several top times in dual meet against Texas A&M, leading to event wins in the 100 and 200.

One thing Jeff has contributed, along with his backstroke, is that competitive drive to win," Welsh said.

Not only does the future look bright for these swimmers in their individual events, but their performances in the relays also are an important part of the team's overall success. Both Wood and Lyle have five relay wins this season and finished fifth along with Pendergast and senior Tim Kegelman at the Ohio State Invitational in the 400-medley relay.

"Out of 20 relay spots available, more than half are taken up by freshman," Tallman said. "This proves the depth of the class and shows how they have contributed to the team."

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SPACE JAM

Irish guard Russell Carter finishes a layup during Notre Dame's 93-87 win over Lehigh Nov. 27.

Kessler continued from page 20

Even though the Belles came out strong offensively in the second half, they still only shot 34.4 percent. The difference, however, was in their defense. Saint Mary's was able to stifle the Lady Red shooters, forcing them to shoot only 34.4 percent in the second half.

"We stopped up the D, caused more turnovers and ran the floor well" guard Allison Kessler said.

Kessler, who scored 18 points and was 11-of-13 from the charity stripe, noticed a transformation between the Belles of the first half and the Belles in the second half.

Freshman center Anna Kammrath was a huge presence in the paint, grabbing 17 boards and scoring 10 points to give Saint Mary's its first lead of the night at 51-50. Lipke played 38 minutes in the contest and notched 13 points and six assists in the box. "We had to dig, dig, dig to get out of the hole we dug," Henley said. "All mental game is where we're at right now. We've been playing some tough games on the road."

But Carthage responded with a 10-1 run to retake command of the game. Lipke kept the team close after the Lady Red run, but missed on a game-tying attempt at the buzzer.

The Belles travel to Albion, Mich. tomorrow to face Adrian College at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Dan Cooper at
dcoopere1@nd.edu

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Tuesday, December 5, 2006

The Observer  THE TODAY

page 19

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

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ENGUINA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tya Banks, 32; Markie Trolle, 41; Jon Savich, 42; Jeff Bridges, 56

Happy Birthday: Take a chance this year by getting involved in something totally different. This is a perfect year for a partnership that will compliment you personally or professionally. This is a year of growth and expansion. Your numbers are 6, 12, 23, 29, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take a position that will put you in the driver’s seat. Use your energy wisely and begin making some of the changes you’ve been planning in your life. Leave time for socialization. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stay active today. Downtime will lead to dissatisfaction. Visiting friends, or attending an interesting exhibit will stimulate ideas. A relationship with someone special will take an interesting turn. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put a little extra push on a pending deal. The more you do to please yourself, the better. An opportunity will develop through someone you need to work with. Temporal matters can be dealt with. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your emotions will take over. Making a decision will be difficult. Think twice before you make any changes.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may find yourself thinking more about someone you met through work. Don’t miss out on an opportunity because you don’t know how to approach this person. Your determination will bring good results. (***)

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Much will evolve from the conversations and interactions you have with others today. Get involved in community events or social activities that interest people from all different backgrounds. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will be temped to try something that is not good for you. Think before you take a chance that could ruin your reputation, relationship or even your health. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You owe it to yourself and the one you love to give your energy wisely and begin making some of the changes you’ve been wanting to make. (((**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): In your personal life will take you by surprise, but will also help you make a decision you have been putting off. Secrets may be revealed, giving you a much better understanding. A partnership will evolve.****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what’s best for you today. Doing things for someone else will leave you feeling cheated and may ruin the connection you have in person. Get out and meet new people. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Nothing will be out of the way or made available for you to see. You will have to act on your own instincts, especially in relationships. Be observant and listen to what someone else has to say. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You’ll have plenty of opportunities when it comes to love, friendship or even business partnerships. Money is coming in your direction but not for the reason you expect. A fast reaction may be requited. ****

Birthday Rugby: You are solid and stable, with charm, insight and a thought process that made you see. You will have to act on your own instincts, especially in relationships. Be observant and listen to what someone else has to say. **

Answer for Wednesday: 86 Letters: "Willa Wasn't" (Answers tomorrow)
MEN'S BASKETBALL

Coming of age

Notre Dame guard Colin Falls' basketball IQ proves more important than career point total

By BOB GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

"If there's any way to do it, that's the way to do it," guard Kyle McAlarney said about Falls' point milestone coming on a free throw. "It's great for him, he's a great player, he's always been a great player for four years and I'm happy for him. Falls, now with 1,017 points after scoring 14 in an upset victory over then No. 19/23 Maryland Sunday, has been Mr. Reliable for Notre Dame in his four seasons — becoming one of the most recognizable shooters in college basketball. But Falls has taken on different responsibilities this season separate from hitting long-range jumpers, even though it might be more comfortable for the senior to rely on his bread and butter — shooting.

Left, Irish guard Colin Falls shoots a 3-pointer during Notre Dame's 90-45 win against Winston-Salem State Nov. 29. Right, Falls dribbles against the Rams in the Irish victory.

see FALLS/page 17

ND SWIMMING

Notre Dame freshmen contribute to team's early success

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

The men's swimming and diving team lost 10 seniors from last year's Big East Championship team. The loss of such key team members could cause some squads in struggle while the younger recruits develop into top-tier swimmers, but not for Notre Dame.

A talented freshman class and the addition of transfer sophomore Jeff Wood have led the Irish to a 4-0 dual meet record and a No. 16 ranking in the College Swim Coaches Association of America (SCCAA) Poll — the highest in the program's history.

Everybody has assumed the roles we've expected them to fill during recruiting," associate head coach Milt Tallman said. "Nobody has done less than expected." The highlight of the year for the new recruits occurred this past weekend at the Ohio State Invitational when freshman MacKenzie LeBlanc set a pool record in the 200-yard butterfly with a time of 1:48.36. "Mac is a very talented, versatile, and fast swimmer," head coach Tim Welsh said. "That was out team's only win at that meet, and it was quite and accomplishment for him."

LeBlanc is part of a handful of freshmen that have already qualified for the 2008 Olympic trials, even before they came to Notre Dame. Freshmen Ray Toomey (second on the team in the 100 breast) and Kyle McAlarney (third on the team in the 50 fly) have already qualified for the 2008 Olympic trials.

see FRESHMEN/page 18

FENCING

Irish win despite ill coach

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

In the depths of the Joyce Center, national champions wait for the opportunity to prove themselves again.

Notre Dame went months without a definitive set of events, but this year scheduling is the last of its concerns. Earlier this semester, Irish coach Jamusz Bednarski had an emergency appendectomy that limited his work at a time when Notre Dame was in transition.

His old assistant coach, Zoltan Dudas, took the head job at Princeton after four seasons at Bednarski's side.

see IRISH/page 17

SMC BASKETBALL

Kessler scores 18 in Belles loss at Carthage

By DAN COOPER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's (1-6) traveled to play Carthage (3-2) last night and returned home early this morning after suffering a 63-61 defeat at the hands of the Lady Reds.

With the loss, the Belles have now lost six games by a total of only 12 points.

Saint Mary's came out sluggish after a long bus ride to Kenosha, Wis., allowing Carthage to jump to an early 18-2 lead. The Lady Reds would lead by as much as 21 in the first half and sent the Belles into the locker room with a 38-25 deficit at intermission.

For the Lady Reds in the first half, everything seemed to go right. The team shot 46.4 percent from the floor, but were able to hold the Belles to only 25.9 percent shooting. Leading the Carthage offense was forward Katie Jarger, whose 18 points was most for her team. A different Saint Mary's team took the court to start the second half. For the first twenty minutes of the second half the Belles outplayed the Lady Reds to the tone of a 26-12 run.

see KESSLER/page 18

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

See page 16

BASKETBALL

see page 14

FOOTBALL (NCAA)

see page 14

FOOTBALL (NCAA)

see page 14

SQUAD LIST

See page 15

MCBASKETBALL

see page 18

Irish figure skaters performed their routine despite having technical issues with their music.