Unusual exam schedule planned

**Divided study days accommodate latest possible semester start; no complaints reported**

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

For upperclassmen at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, the exam schedule at each semester's end has been a constant — reading days Thursday through Sunday, and exams Monday through Friday. This year, due to the late starting day for classes in August, there will be three reading days for Notre Dame, and two for Saint Mary's. Exams for both schools will start Dec. 14, with testing on Friday and Saturday, then Monday through Wednesday.

"It's an odd finish," said Harold Pace, the University registrar. "The reason for the departure from the usual exam timetable dates back to the scheduling arrangements made in 1993, when Notre Dame's Academic Council approved the Perpetual Academic Calendar, Pace said. The rules of the calendar stated that the first class day in the semester would be on the fourth Tuesday in August, meaning dates ranging from Aug. 22 to Aug. 28.

Every few years, as in 2001, 2007 and 2012, the fourth Tuesday of the month falls on Aug. 29. The Academic Council realized, Pace said, that if adjustments were not made to the final exam schedule in those years, then the last day of exams would be Dec. 21 and grades would be due Dec. 24, the day before Christmas.

"We decided... that in those years, we would trim a study day off, and try to get started on exams early, so students could see FINAL$/$page 6

Contraceptives available for medical needs

**ND Health Services prescribes birth control for health reasons, not pregnancy prevention**

By JENN METZ
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame students cannot receive birth control prescriptions or pills at Health Services unless they demonstrate a medical — not contraceptive — need for the medication.

If a student comes in asking for birth control for the purpose of contraception, "we're not going to ask a lot of questions," said Susan Kleva, director of University Health Services. "We'll say point blank, 'We're sorry, we don't supply the services on campus because we abide by the teachings of the Church,'" she said. "We're not here to judge anybody. That's one avenue, one medical practice that we just do not participate in."

Health Services does not refer students to places off campus where birth control can be obtained. Kleva said it's very unlikely a student would not be able to find out the name of a location online, from friends or in a phonebook.

"If they're definite that's what they want, I'm sure they'll find a provider on their own," she said. "If a student has certain medical symptoms, however, birth control pills can be prescribed and provided at Health Services, Kleva said. Such scenarios include patients with irregular or painful menstrual cycles, no menstrual cycle or abdominal pain.

In these cases, physicians can and will prescribe birth control after a complete exam and evaluation if there is justifiable reason," she said. During such an exam, physicians will rule out other abnormalities that could be causing abdominal pain, which could range from "a hot appendix to an ovarian pregnancy," she said.

The hormones necessary to regulate cycles could be packaged in birth control, which Kleva said is "very effective" for that purpose.

Whether the patient on birth control has or will have sex is a conversation that may happen between the doctor and a patient, Kleva said. Questions about sexual activity, like those about the patient's menstrual cycle, are "normal questions to ask a female" during an exam to rule out pregnancy, she said.

Also, Health Services will fill prescriptions for birth control from home physicians if a patient brings in paperwork, she said, but the reason for the treatment must be provided in writing.

see HEALTH$/$page 4

ND, SMC students spread Christmas spirit

**Notre Dame celebrates season with themed events, light displays, holiday concerts**

By JOSEPH McMATHON
News Writer

As the wind swept remnants of the season's first snowfall across the quad, students began to celebrate the Christmas season. All around campus, giant light displays were being erected and Christmas-themed events held, giving students something other than finals to think about.

The Glee Club's annual Christmas concert, to be held Saturday at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, is expected to be sold out. The all-male choral group gave students, faculty and staff a chance to come together for seasonal music.

Christmas decorations such as the nativity scene that stands in the foyer of O'Shaughnessy Hall are scattered throughout campus.

see CONCERT$/$page 6

Annual fundraising event at Saint Mary's to present gift certificates to local families

**By LIZ HARTER**
News Writer

Saint Mary's students have the opportunity to help 12 families and 25 individuals by participating in holiday-themed events during the next week and a half. The annual Days of Christmas event sponsored by the Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) will host fundraising events, with all money going to South Bend-area families that the College "adopted" for the holiday season.

The event began Dec. 1 when students were asked to turn in gifts they had purchased for families and individuals.

see FUNDRAISER$/$page 4
INSIDE COLUMN

Can't buy me love?

Every day I hear about another friend getting a job offer or getting a scholarship interview or sending in a graduate school application. Yet here I am, a senior, with my name on a resumé I feel physically sick at the very thought of a job interview. Whatever shall I do? Companies are not hanging on my door to hire me. Is there no future in sight for someone like myself?

Instead, I will try for the next best thing — mooching off someone who does have a job. So successful men of Notre Dame, listen up. (And women, if you want a super awesome friend to support for the rest of your life, keep reading.) I could be the perfect one for you.

I can do laundry. Since I probably will not have a job, I can do yours, too. Just don’t ask me to separate lights and darks...that’s not how it roll. I am pretty good at folding and putting things in hangers, so that’s a plus. I also have learned some good laundry-related life lessons such as never leaving your laundry basket unattended because someone can steal it right in front of your face. True story. Can you tell I’m still bitter?

I can cook you the best meal (Leah Cuisinie has to offer. I also make a mean plate of scrambled eggs on Saturday morning. Trust me. They blow homemade egg out of the water. Since I will probably have a lot of free time on my hands due to the absence of a job, I can learn how to make all kinds of fancy foods by watching the Food Network. I’m fully prepared to kick it up a notch and use exciting spices such as paprika, sage, rosemary and thyme. I like football. Who here doesn’t? Even better, I actually understand it. Not only that, but I can provide you with hours of entertainment — that’s what she said with my amazing sense of humor. I also know about all the best YouTube videos. Whatever else do you think I do while I’m not looking for a job? If any of you sounds interesting to you, you can look up some shows on Facebook to make sure I am not some psychopath. Maybe I can hang out sometime and talk about the future, such as where you are planning on living and what kind of benefits your company offers for people who live in your house but are not related to you.

Don’t think I’m selfish. For any other females out there who are in my position, I have a friend who just got a job that offers great benefits. His name is Nick. If you love him, you might just get in his good graces by wishing him a happy birthday. I would just mooch off of him myself, but I want to share the wealth.

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

Contact: Julie Grisanti jgrisanti@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to a spacing error, the Dec. 3 issue article “Fresh Grade part of Debutante grand” incorrectly stated the cardinal directions associated with the three. The four surrounding cardinal winds are attributed to the wind of Debutante East and one of Hobie Beach.

Due to an editing error, the photograph accompanying the Dec. 1 article “Tandoori supplements to fast-learning” was incorrectly identified. The photo was provided courtesy of Mark Quintero.

The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What do you want for Christmas?

Christine Wals junior Howard

Amelia Hepp freshman Walsh Family

Heidi Roffe junior Brenee-Phillips

Steven Yonson sophomore Siegfried

Caitlin Pulte freshman Walsh Family

Santo ending poverty on my behalf.

A North Face jacket.

"World pea... who am I kidding? I need an iPhone."

"I really do want world peace. Seriously."

"I just want everyone to remember my name."

"Cowboy boots."

Freshman Francie Love, left, and sophomore Colleen Franke decorate doors in Walsh Family Hall with wrapping paper, Christmas lights and paper stars.

IN BRIEF

A voter registration drive will be held tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Doyley Room of Labor. The event is sponsored by NIVotes ’08 and the Center for Social Concerns.

The Take Ten program will sponsor local children at the Robinson Community Learning Center in a bookmark recognition ceremony at 6 p.m. Thursday. Local school children who participate in the Take Ten program will make bookmarks. The Robinson Center is located at 921 North Eddy Street.

The annual football banquet will be held Friday at 5:45 p.m. in the Joyce Center Monogram Room. The featured speaker will be 1993 graduate Aaron Taylor, a two-year All-American Offensive Tackle and Lombardi Award winner. Tickets can be purchased through the Notre Dame Ticket Office, 574-631-7356.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observer@nd.edu.
Task force leaders discuss second-semester goals

By JENN METZ  Assistant News Editor

Student body president Liz Brown encouraged all task forces to make recommendations to the Office of Student Affairs requesting support for tasks force initiatives Monday at the last meeting of the Campus Life Council this semester.

The reports should be delivered to the Executive Assistant to the president by Wednesday.

"We hope to improve gender relations for students from their start at Notre Dame," Braun said. 

"Chad and I are working through the details," Braun said.

"We have a new Strategic Plan that has been finalized. The plan details the administration's hopes to enact during the next five years," said Kim Hodges, student body president.

Braun encouraged all task forces, also in the brainstorming stage, to make recommendations to Student Affairs about ways to improve community relations.

The recommendations, "still in the brainstorming stage," will most likely contain a three- to five-year plan, he said.

Braun said he is in discussions to produce a Notre Dame-specific version of the "Good Neighbor Guide" produced by the University of Virginia.

Brown's comment came after Gus Gari, chair of the Task Force on Gender Relations for Students from their start at Notre Dame, said the committee had discussed holding an awareness week about the Honor Code.

"We hope to improve gender relations for students from their start at Notre Dame," she said.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

BOG continued from page 1

only stories about positive relationship experiences, she said.

Student trustee Cate Cetta said the new Strategic Plan is finished. The plan details changes the administration hopes to enact during the next five years, she said.

The students had an important voice in creating the plan, said Kim Hodges, student body president.

"It's for us and by us," she said.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) will support a local family during the Christmas season, said Cassie Quaglia, RHA president.

Each residence hall will sponsor one of the family's four children. Every student is asked to donate so the halls can buy the children presents, Quaglia said.

The Office for Civil and Social Engagement is sponsoring the 12 Days of Christmas at SMC. There are different festivities every day. The Junior Board will sell candygrams Wednesday through Friday in the atrium of the Student Center.

Quaglia said there will be a spaghetti tournament in Regina Hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 13.

The freshman formal will be held Jan. 26, said Emma Charnley, president of the Class of 2011.

Contact Ashley Charnley at scharn@smc.edu
Nazarah said she is not that worried about exams, but thought she preferred the exam schedule the way it is this year.

"If I had four days in a row to study for five tests, I think I'd feel like a one-eyed person," she said.

The regular exam schedule, with four study days and then five examination days of finals, will be used at the end of the spring semester. The exam schedule in place this fall will not be repeated in 2012, the next time Aug. 21-27 to Aug. 24-28, is the fourth Tuesday of August, Pare said.

"We've had comments from first-year and upperclassmen saying that they kind of like the mixing of study days and final exams days," Pare said.

Harold Pace
University registrar

"We're not recommending this," Pare added of the exam schedule later than at Notre Dame.

"The exam schedule is set by Notre Dame officials, and we follow it," said Lorraine Kitcher, the college’s registrar.

Pace said he has also heard not any complaints from students about the exam schedule for the final exam schedule, or to the reduction in the number of study days.

"I think everyone's settled into it," he said.

In the fall of 2011, the last time classes started on Aug. 28, caus ing exams to go until Dec. 19, Pace said he heard positive reviews about the exam timetable.

"We've had comments from faculty, parents, and students saying that they kind of like the mixing of study days and final exams days," he said.

Junior Brock Stoffel said he liked the typical Monday through Friday exam schedule better, but said it was OK to have the change for a semester.

Stoffel has exams on Friday, one on Saturday and one on Tuesday.

With a study day on Sunday and no exams on Monday, he said he can put studying for his Tuesday exam off until he finishes his other exams.

Freshman Sandra Nazarah will be taking her first set of exams as a Notre Dame student in a week and so she didn't know this exam schedule is slightly out of the ordinary.

Several families or individuals who are brought to us by internal referrals — people who work at Saint Mary’s or are related to the College in some way.

Money will also be raised through events such as the Holiday Bazaar, which took place in the Student Center atrium Monday.

The Bazaar featured bracelets, dolls, jewelry, scarves and baked goods.

The 12 Days of Christmas event will also include ornamental decorating, Christmas carol-making for children in the cancer ward at Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis and the selling of candy grams to buy gifts for the families and individuals.

"We have a raffle for which you can buy tickets through this week and next," Call said. "The drawing will be held at the late night breakfast ion Dec. 17. This includes things like iTunes gift cards, money, last SMC stained glass mirror and an athletic jacket."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. holds global warming talks

BALI, Indonesia — Delegates and scientists from around the world opened the biggest-ever climate change conference Monday, risking their reputations to boost rapid progress in building a new international pact to contain global warming — or risk economic and environmental disaster.

Some 100,000 conference-goers, activists and journalists from nearly 190 countries gathered on the resort island of Bali for two weeks of U.N.-led talks that follow a series of scientific reports this year concluding that the world has the technology to slow global warming, but must act now.

The Bali meeting will be the first major climate change conference since former Vice President Al Gore, a tireless advocate of the cause, warned in his Academy Award-winning film "An Inconvenient Truth" that the world faces "enormous" risks if no action is taken.

British teacher pardoned in Evel Knievel settlement

LONDON — A British teacher jailed for more than a year for her environmental work, fueling the growing sense of urgency as ice-caps melt, oceans rise and extreme weather increases.

Megan Phillips, 28, was sent to prison in 2004 for driving through the West and paparazzi who had written about the motorcycle daredevil had booked her an overnight trip to the desert. The case has become an international outlier and angered many modem-Moslims.

The incident was the latest in a tense relationship between the West and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government has let the United Nations' top legal advisor to the country's war-hardened Darfur region.

Gillian Gibbons, jailed for more than a week, was freed after two Muslim members of Britain's House of Lords met with the teacher and the teacher sent the president a statement saying she didn't mean to offend anyone with her class project.

NATIONAL NEWS

None charged in MySpace suicide

WASHINGTON — People who sent cruel Internet messages to a 13-year-old girl before she committed suicide won't face criminal charges, a suburban St. Louis prosecutor announced Monday.

St. Louis County prosecutor Jack Ransus said that while he understands the public outrage over Megan Meier's death, he couldn't find any statutes allowing him to charge anyone in the case.

"We were certainly hopeful that there was going to be some sort of prosecution, but I'm certainly not surprised," said Megan's mother, Tina Meier.

Evel Knievel settlement still pending

LOS ANGELES — Of all the bones Evel Knievel broke over the years, the coolest may have been the left arm of a PR man by the name of Shelly Saltman.

Saltman won $12.75 million in damages against Knievel after the motorcycle daredevil attacked him with a baseball bat in 1977 in a rage over a book Saltman had written about the showman.

With interest, the still-uncollected sum has grown more than $100 million by Saltman's estimate, and he intends to try to collect it.

"We are going hot and heavy after his estate," Saltman told The Associated Press after Knievel died Friday at 69. "What he tried to do to me and how it hurt my family, I'm owed that."

LOCAL NEWS

Teen pleads guilty to sniper shootings

HIBBING, Minn. — A teenager pleaded guilty Monday to the deaths of two Minnesota highway sniper shootings that left one man dead and another wounded.

Zachary Thomas Blanton, 18, of Hibbing, had been scheduled to stand trial next week on charges of murder, kidnapping, assault and criminal reckless-ness. He pleaded guilty in Jackson Circuit Court to lesser charges of voluntary manslaughter with a deadly weapon and criminal recklessness.

A judge must still approve Blanton's deal with prosecutors. Sentencing is set for Dec. 27, and Blanton is facing anywhere between 20 years and 50 years in prison.

VENEZUELA

Country chooses to stay democratic

Voters narrowly defeat Chavez's constitutional referendum to move toward a socialist state

Associated Press

CARACAS — Hailed by his first electoral defeat ever, President Hugo Chavez said Monday he may have been too ambitious in asking voters to let him stand indefinitely for re-election and endorse a huge leap to a socialist state.

"I understand and accept that the proposal I made was quite huge," he said after voters narrowly rejected constitutional reforms that would allow him to retain power for life.

Opposition activists were ecstatic as the results were announced shortly after midnight — with 56 percent of the vote counted, the trend was declared irreversible by elections council chief Tibisay Lucena.

Some shed tears. Others began chanting: "And now he's going away!"

Without the overhaul, Chavez will be barred from running again in 2012.

Foes of the reform effort — including rich business leaders, media freedom groups, human rights groups and prominent business leaders — said it would have granted Chavez unchecked power and imperiled basic rights.

Chavez told reporters at the presidential palace that the outcome of Sunday's ballot was "a most grave and sensitive" verdict and that it "shocked and hurts" to see people vote against him. "Venezuelan democracy is maturing," he asserted, "proves he is a true democratic leader.

"From this moment on, let's be calm," he proposed, asking for an end to more street violence like the clashes that marked recent protests.

"There is no dictatorship here!"

The White House took note of Chavez's setback.

"We congratulate the people of Venezuela on their election and their continued desire to live in freedom and democracy," National Security Council spokesman Gordon J. Blakely said.

"Our concern is that the proposals could result in more political terror and attack. We are concerned that they could undermine political stability and the rule of law in Venezuela.

Chavez, who was briefly put in jail in 2002, accused the U.S. of trying to weaken him with economic sanctions.

Opposition members celebrate Monday in Caracas after learning that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez lost a referendum to stand indefinitely for re-election.

Associated Press

Voters narrowly defeat Chavez's constitutional referendum to move toward a socialist state

Opposition members celebrate Monday in Caracas after learning that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez lost a referendum to stand indefinitely for re-election.

It's difficult to accept this, but Chavez has not abandoned us, he'll still be there for us," she said between sobs.

A close ally of Cuba's Fidel Castro, Chavez has redistributed more oil wealth than past Venezuelan leaders, and also has aided Latin American allies — including Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua — that have followed Venezuela's turn to the left.

"He is a man who feels for the people, a man who has suffered, a man who comes from below," Carlos Orlando Vega, a 74-year-old carpenter's assistant, said outside a polling station in a Caracas shanty on Sunday.

U.S. report reverse nuclear findings

WASHINGTON — A new U.S. intelligence report concludes that Iran's nuclear program is unlikely to develop a bomb within five years — a stark contrast to the conclusions by the United States and Britain.

The finding is part of a National Intelligence Estimate, a government document that also cautions that Tehran continues to enrich uranium and could develop a bomb between 2010 and 2015 if it decided to do so.

The conclusion that Iran's weapons program was still frozen, though, at least mid-2007, represents a sharp turnaround from the previous intelligence estimates in 2002. Then, intelligence agencies believed Tehran was determined to develop a nuclear weapons capability and was continuing its weapons development program. The new report concludes that Iran's decisions are rational and pragmatic, and that Tehran is more susceptible to international and financial pressure than previously thought.

"A Tehran's decision to halt its nuclear weapons program suggests it is less determined to develop nuclear weapons than we have been judging since 2005," says the unclassified summary of the secret report.

"The findings come as a time of escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, which President Bush has labeled part of an "axis of evil," along with Iraq and North Korea. At an Oct. 17 news conference, Bush said, "If you're interested in avoiding World War III, it seems like you ought to be interested in preventing those from happening (Iran) from having the knowledge necessary to make a nuclear weapon."

Rand Beers, who resigned from Bush's National Security Council just before the Iraq war, said the report should derail any appetite for war on the administration's part, and should reinstitute regional diplomacy. The "new NIE throws cold water on the efforts of those urging military confrontation with Iran," he said.

"The defeated reform package would have created new types of communal property, let Chavez handpick local leaders under a reformed political map and suspended civil liberties during extended states of emergency.

Other changes would have shortened the workday from eight hours to six, created a social security fund for millions of informal laborers and promoted communal councils where residents decide how to spend government funds.

Nelly Hernandez, a 37-year-old street vendor, cried as she wandered outside the presidential palace early Monday amid broken beer bottles as government workers took apart a stage mounted earlier for a victory fête.

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Some text content extracted from the document...
Home retailers join winter sales rush

Businesses add holiday items in attempt to recover from slump in consumer spending

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Amid the paint, power tools and 100-piece wreath and ratchet sets, the aisles at Home Depot are filled with holiday wrapping paper, snow villages and artificial Christmas trees.

“I was a little surprised when I walked in,” said Alice Yoder, of Charlotte, Home Depot, circular in hand, as she scanned the holiday section for a pre-Christmas winter wreath advertised for $59.99. “I knew Home Depot had a huge selection of lights and small trees, but the Santas, and other home decor that didn’t expect.”

The nation’s beleaguered home retailers — many of which have been hit by declining consumer confidence and sagging housing sales, tighter credit standards and rising fuel prices — are fighting to attract Yoder and others in a last-minute rush of customers to help make up for what's been a tough year.

“Customers still want to feel good about their homes,” said Craig Mensear, executive vice president of merchandising for Home Depot. “We took a bigger swing in holiday items this year because we know that when times are more difficult, consumers want to take care of their homes.”

Retailers generally expect this holiday season to be a nail-biter, with most expecting gains in sales volumes compared with last year. It's even worse for the home retailers — consumers nationwide are expected to spend only around $94 on home and holiday furnishings this season, down from last year's $100.

At Home Depot's Web site, customers can watch comedian and actor Steve Harvey talk about ways to prepare their home for the holidays, from floor installation to holiday decor. The store's offering is backed with a full marketing campaign, complete with print and electronic media, online and direct mail advertising.

United Arab Emirates

OPEC debates a hike in oil production

Associated Press

ABU DHABI — With oil prices backing away from record levels but nervous traders poised to bid them up, OPEC oil ministers will start a two-day meeting in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday to decide whether to crank up production.

Up to a few days ago, the markets were bracing for OPEC decision-makers would opt to increase output at the summit in Abu Dhabi in attempts to cool red-hot prices that closed at a record $98.18 on Nov. 29.

Comments from OPEC members boosted such sentiment. Iraq Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani told Dow Jones Newswires last week that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will limit an expected 7.5 million barrels-a-day production boost in Abu Dhabi.

Unnamed OPEC officials have told Dow Jones an even higher 750,000 barrel-a-day hike could be in the cards.

Oil prices tumbled in anticipation of such a move, along with fears for the health of the U.S. economy, leaving prices down by nearly $10 by Friday — the biggest correction ever in nominal terms.

Two days ahead of the OPEC meeting, the price of light, sweet crude for January delivery fell $1.17 to $87.45 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Also pressuring prices downward are reduced demand growth forecasts from both OPEC and the International Energy Agency. And a half-a-million barrel OPEC production hike from last month is starting to kick in, alongside with expectations of increased output from the United Arab Emirates with the end of refinery maintenance.

Such developments support arguments by key OPEC ministers that the market is well-supplied and has been driven higher by speculation. Amid the mixed signals, ministers will want to tread carefully — they remember the disastrous fallout from their decision to raise output just before the 1997 Asian financial crisis only to see oil prices plummet from $20 to $12 a barrel.
Abortion and gender

“If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament,” said Rosie O'Donnell, in one of her final displays of ignorance and tastelessness before leaving the intelligent community known as “The View” this past summer. What occasioned that particular fit was the recent Supreme Court decision upholding a ban on an especially impulsive method of abortion. O'Donnell also drew ominous conclusions from the fact that the five justices in the majority were all Catholic men. But of course — they voted to permit the ban not because abortion isn't even vaguely hinted at in the Constitution, but because they're misogynist Vatican robots!

I've seen that comment before. Back when I was an undergrad, the Viewpoint editor printed it once on the section's quote of the day. I'm not sure whom it was attributed to. I assumed the point was valid, that the conflict in America over abortion is largely a conflict between men and women. Yes, I've always known women who were dead-against it, and men who are very qualified for its easy availability, but in many ways, subtle or not-so-subtle, our society reinforces the idea that the fight against abortion is a matter of men telling women what to do. Having been voted “most gullible” in high school, I was always one to accept conventional wisdom. But now, the first thing I'd immediately express my opinion on the issue had been heavily on the pro-abortion side.

So I was surprised by a Washington Times article back in July 2003 titled “Pro-Life Women Should Make Their Majority.” By Grant Schulte. According to a survey conducted at the request of a pro-abortion advocacy group, 17 percent of American women think abortion should be illegal altogether. 34 percent more think it should be outlawed except in cases of rape, incest or mortal danger to the mother; these cases account for about one percent of abortions performed in America. So a slim majority of American women would ban 99 percent of abortions. Strangely, the New York Times, which claims to print “all the news that's fit to print,” didn't report the story. Then again, such a story must be deeply embarrassing to an outfit that consistently editorializes in favor of unlimited abortion access under the euphemism “women's rights.”

New York Times Magazine did indirectly cover the story, however, printing an extended diatribe by a feminist angered by the survey results, telling her fellow women to get their thumbs out of their mouths (her metaphor, not mine).

A different survey conducted around the same time showed that men lean the other way, but by a larger margin, which makes the population as a whole slightly pro-choice. And according to the keynote speaker at the state Rally for Life two years ago, there's a similar dynamic here in Maryland — the public leans pro-choice, but the women lean pro-life. So it's true: There is a gender gap on abortion. But it's not very big, and it's opposite to the one I knew, and the rest would have us believe. My first reaction to these results was that once again, women are demonstrably more superior to men, which is what I already believed anyway. Just look at a list of serious sins — anger, lust, greed, dishonesty, drunkenness, isn't it like decoding the Y chromosome? But the data can't clearly deny its support such a broad generalization of female superiority. It's not like women are overwhelmingly against abortion and men overwhelmingly for. Actually, I'm disappointed the gap isn't bigger, seeing as how men have the problem of having to decimate in general, criminals, enemy combatants, are less fond of babies, and are more interested in promiscuity — and make no mistake, the right to abortion is ultimately about the ability to be promiscuous. Moreover, women know, in a way men never can, that “uterine contents” (a favorite New York Times term for “baby”) is a word, not a what. And if you remove from the comparison those men who do openly desire abortion and would ban it but who have been so morally gelded that they sincerely believe they don't even have the right to tell women not to destroy their children — the kind of men, good-hearted but gullible, who let their wives keep their maiden names, and who say “We're pro­­—” then the gap shrinks even more, even maybe vanishes.

What then are we to conclude? Maybe just what Sallibayre wrote. The line separating good from evil doesn't divide one class from another, one race from another, Christians from non-Christians, or women from men. The line between good and evil goes right down the middle of every human heart. Yes, I'd still rather have the next passerby a woman, if I were dying along the side of the road, and I'd rather be at the mercy of someone raised in a Christian home than in San Francisco, but goodness isn't a function of genes or upbringing. The possibility of turning aside toward evil and nothingness was as real for Mother Teresa as it is for Steve in Heaven's Gate. It doesn't even need to be so. I guess the lesson could just be, don't leave to Rosie O'Donnell and don't believe everything in Viewpoint. And be nice to those poor feminazis — it must be extremely galling for them to rely on their brains for the first time in their right lives.

Greg Yatrollo
Dome and Donor

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

The Observer
The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame in the College of Arts and Letters. The Observer serves the right in other publications based on content. The Observer is accurate and as possible. Unsubsidized groups are the opinion of the majority of the Editors. The Observer is a publication of the Student Publishing Association, a non-profit, non-profit, and not-for-profit corporation. The Observer is not authorized to represent the views of the students and not necessarily those of The Observer. The Observer is published twice a week (one issue a week), Student Publishing Association, a non-profit, non-profit, and not-for-profit corporation. The Observer is not authorized to represent the views of the students and not necessarily those of The Observer. The Observer is published on the third floor of Benet Hall. The Observer is available online at www.ndsmcobserver.com.

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NEWS
Karen Lanephey | Maureen Mullen | Nikki Taylor | Gregory Mutti Hudson

SPORTS
Dan Murphy | Greg Aragosta | Meghan Veselik | Analise Lipari

VIEWPOINT
Meaghan Veselik | Karen Lanephey

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

“One should absorb the color of life, but one should never remember its details. Details are always vulgar.”

Oscar Wilde

quote of the day

E-mail it to viewpoint.1@nd.edu
See it in the paper.
Custodial staff deserves fair treatment

When I was first hired at Notre Dame, I was ecstatic. I felt that I had secured employment with a future. But four years later, I find myself disillusioned and disappointed. There are several issues I think the University needs to address. The compensation package for the custodial staff is shamefully lacking, we are over-worked and the University shows us little respect.

The first area of concern is the salary and benefit package. People are usually impressed when I tell them I work at Notre Dame as it carries a certain prestige — along with the assumption that the salary would be adequate. Nothing could be further from the truth. After four years of employment, I have received a total salary increase of $50 per hour. My wages are far less than the established federal poverty level for my family of five. If this wasn’t difficult enough, there is a hefty deductible from every paycheck for health insurance. Heaven help us if we become ill because there isn’t enough money left to pay the co-pay for a doctor’s visit.

I am certainly willing to work hard for my salary, but the custodial staff at Notre Dame is fully overworked. There is often more work than can be done in an eight-hour shift. There exists an inequality in job assignments, and if one employee calls in sick, it is usually the custodial staff that is forced to take on the extra work. Also, several employees have sustained job-related injuries and experienced other health issues as a result of their employment at Notre Dame. They are often forced to return to work before they have fully recovered.

Everybody needs to feel valued and appreciated, but the custodial staff at Notre Dame seems to receive little respect and recognition. The phrase, “The staff is the backbone of this university,” has been tossed around for years, but I don’t see that respect. For example, when the Jordan Hall of Science was dedicated, the custodial staff was told we needed to leave the building during these festivities — after months of extra work assignments during the construction phase to get the building ready. There was no recognition or respect shown for our extra hours of hard work.

The custodial staff makes a contribution to this university that cannot be paid in cash. The most institution has a debt to us that needs to be paid. All we are asking for is a fair salary, a fair workload, and a little respect and appreciation. If that is asking too much, I don’t know what is.

If you would like to help address these labor issues at Notre Dame, please send an email to the Campus Labor Action Project at ndlabor@gmail.com

Donna Broemling
Building Services Staff
Dec. 3

U-Wire

Alcohol orthodoxy goes unchallenged

As I sat at my desk this weekend, only a few weeks before final exams, I have literally millions of vocabulary words, dates, times and places of different events in U.S. history, Spanish phrases, math formulas and literary devices flying restlessly around my brain. And through the fog of one solitary thought I cannot help but be preoccupied: “Has there got to be a better way?”

I looked at some of my friends this weekend: who were killing themselves to learn and absorb every last piece of information possible, and then I looked at some of my friends who were at the movies and then out to dinner and then to parties. Ultimately we know that people who don’t study for finals historically don’t do well on them. These people probably won’t get into great graduate schools straight out of college.

But is this so bad about that?

All my life I have been conditioned to think that after high school comes college and after that comes some sort of graduate school, just the same as one moves from second to third grade without any questions asked. But now I really am forced to examine my life and what I want to do with it, I have to ask myself: Why graduate school?

There is an interesting social shift at play here. Twenty years ago the end all be all of education was simply a college degree. It was not uncommon for young people to go to vocational schools right out of high school, never making it to college at all. Today many people think of a bachelor's degree as no better than a high school diploma and consider graduate school not a possibility, but a reality.

There are plenty of professions that make money with no graduate schooling whatsoever. Even if I wanted to be a journalist, work on a political campaign, start my own company or any number of respectable professions, I could begin within the next few years.

Undoubtedly sometime in high school we were all shown that pie chart depicting the average salary of those with high school diplomas, those with bachelor's degrees and those with master's degrees. Those with a bachelor's, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, are supposed to make about $20,000 more per year than high school graduates. Those with a master's are supposed to make almost $30,000 per year on top of that (averaging $62,000 per year).

But let’s be real here. One’s motivation towards life, family background and work ethic have significantly more to do with your salary than does the number of years of college you completed. Surely, it is essentially impossible to be a doctor or a lawyer without going to medical or law school. But let’s face it: We’re not all cut out to be doctors or lawyers (no matter how many times our relatives tell us we are). While graduate school does open the door to careers not available to those without those coveted master’s degrees, think of all the people who would have to go back to do their undergraduate degree.

This article originally appeared in the Dec. 3 edition of The Observer, the weekly publication of The Observer: The Student Newspaper at the University of Notre Dame. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
When one of the captains bel lows out "Six inches," you'd better say a quick "Hail Mary" and keep praying that nobody drops his legs.

Strong Bodies Fight

The Observer

ND Boxers Answer a Different Call

By MARK WITTE
Scene Winner

Down! With the strength I should n't have left, I slowly lower myself down to the floor and back up again. 48! Before either I or the sweat coursing over my eyelids have a chance to recover, it's back... Down! My arms plead with me now. 49! The sweat pours off my face, running for its life. Down! Why does my sweat taste salty? 50! Thank God! I spring to my feet and look at the clock. I blink once or twice. This can't be right, only 4:45... I blink again. The leg hand hasn't moved. My head sags. More sweat escapes, cascading to the floor. It's only been 15 minutes.

To be honest, I am not really sure why I signed up for Bengal Bouts. Perhaps I felt compelled to follow in my father's footsteps — he participated in Bengal Bouts as a junior way back in '94. But he did insist that I not feel compelled to do the same. Perhaps it was because, now that I'm 21, I could sign my own form even if my mother gave me that sinister look of disapproval. But then again, she signed the form anyway. Perhaps it was because, when a veteran stopped me at Activities Night and asked if I wanted to fight, my manhood felt a call to duty. Or maybe, as my uncle insists — and this seems the most logical of all the explanations — I'm just stupid. And maybe I am.

Practice is only two hours a day, but what's lacking in time is easily made up in intensity. For the first two weeks I went to bed so exhausted from the hundreds of sit-ups, pushups, arm circles and endless calculations that not even the worst lion's roar of my roommate's snoring could keep me awake.

Like the other novices, I've learned to dread certain exercises. When one of the captains bel lows out "Six inches," you'd better say a quick "Hail Mary" and keep praying that nobody drops his legs. After that I'm not sure which is worse: hearing a captain yell "Get it booming" when there's still 15 minutes left in practice, or being asked if anyone knows a good joke while holding push-up position at the end of a set. Neither usually ends very well. But for all this bodily punishment, sometimes it's best to examine the larger picture.

The motto of Bengal Bouts is "Strong bodies fight that weak bodies may be nourished." The words are valiant, the cause even more so. Each year the fights raise tens of thousands of dollars for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. And this season, as much as any season before, Bangladesh needs the contribution.

On Nov. 15, Bangladesh was rocked by a category 4 cyclone. More than 4,000 people were left dead by the 150 mph winds and enormous tidal waves. An estimated 3.5 million were homeless or displaced, and the country's economic growth will likely take quite a blow.

At a Mass he gave Sunday in the Dillon Hall Chapel, Father Lou Del Fra stressed the importance of feeding ways in our future or current endeavors to serve and help others. He pointed out that if we work only for ourselves, we'll eventually run out of reasons to get out of bed in the morning. Now that finals are fast approaching with the usual assault of papers, projects and all-nighters, Father Del Fra's words provide new incentive to keep fighting.

While you may not be able to hit your professor or his final with a right hook, know that your studies are strengthening your mind so that someday you may nourish others. I know that next time I'm at practice, feeling exhausted, clenched tightly in the plank position and fighting tooth and nail to keep my knees from touching the floor, it's not any personal glory or thought of winning that will keep me up.

I know what got me out of bed this morning. Maybe I'm not that stupid after all.

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

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu
Leerone adds flair to indie genre

By STEPHANIE DePREZ
Scene Writer

Leerone is the latest indie-chick to come banting across the music scene. She carries with her a bag of lyrical tricks just persuasive enough to convince you her melodies aren’t juvenile and yields piano skills just subtle enough to trick you into thinking that you aren’t listening to Tori Amos lite.

Leerone would like you to believe that she is the real deal, or maybe the next P.J. Harvey in suspenders. Her appeal is in the weirdness, as most indie bands today have found: Instead of finding a niche, create your own.

Her appeal is in the weirdness, as most indie bands today have found: Instead of finding a niche, create your own.

To play this album and ignore it is hardly doing it justice — it’s worthy of at least one sitting.

Imaginary Biographies
Leerone
Label: Fussy Music
Recommended Tracks: “To Fill the Void” and “Care For Some Whiskey”

Drama Prairie Dog
An oldie but a goodie.

Can you win an Oscar at 3 months old? Check this out for an impressive preemie performance.

Star Wars Trumpet Solo
Fashion nightmare + interpretive dance + Star Wars = awesome.

One Semester of Spanish - Love Song

Learn to romance your love with such classic pick-up lines as “What time is it?”

Contact Stephanie DePrez
at sdeprez@nd.edu
Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA — The young, high-flying Atlanta Hawks are maturing rapidly.
Josh Smith scored 22 points, Marvin Williams and Josh Childress both added 16 and the Hawks snapped a seven-game losing streak at Philadelphia with an 89-79 victory for the 76ers on Monday night.
Joe Johnson scored 15 points and Al Horford had 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks (7-9), who last won at Philadelphia on March 21, 2007.
Atlanta improved to 3-5 on the road this season and 28-104 overall under coach Mike Woodson.
"When you're talking about making the playoffs, it's very important to win on the road," Woodson said.
The Hawks haven't been in the playoffs since the 1998-99 season.
For now, it was a positive step just to win a road game in an arena where they have struggled for several years.
"I've been an Atlanta hawk, we haven't won here in three years," Smith said. "It feels real good because it's a tough place to play with a difficult environment."
Willie Green scored a season-high 23 points while Andre Iguodala added 16 for the Sixers (5-12), who lost for the 10th time in their last 13 games. Andre Iguodala and Kyle Korver scored 11 points each while Evan Turner and Samuel Dalembert both had 10 rebounds.
"I thought it was kind of a flat game in the beginning," Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks said.
Philadelphia was 2-0-11 from 3-point range. Over the last three games, the Sixers have combined 55 of 56 3-pointers, including an 11-14 effort in last Friday's one-point win over Washington.
"We've got to find a way to put the ball in the hoop," Korver said. "We're just not able to get good shots."
The Hawks led 66-62 after the third quarter and extended their lead to nine on several occasions.
Atlanta led 79-72 before Childress hit a 3-pointer from the baseline and Johnson converted a three-point play for an 85-72 lead with 1:41 remaining.
Woodson pointed to his team's defense during the key-6:07 stretch.
"We've been playing good defense in the fourth quarters," he said. "Tonight we made a stance in the third quarter and it carried over into the fourth."
Green was 7-for-7 from the field in the second quarter and scored 16 points, as the Sixers overcame a seven-point deficit to take a 46-45 haltime lead.
Smith's 3-pointer at the buzzer had given the Hawks a 24-17 lead after the first quarter.
Raptors 98, Bobcats 79
Toronto's best players were out with injuries. It didn't seem to bother the Raptors.
Charlotte's best players couldn't shoot straight. It proved costly to the Bobcats.
Kris Humphries and Carlos Delfino both scored 17 points, Joey Graham added 13 and the Raptors shrugged off injuries to throw three players to hand the Bobcats their sixth straight loss on Monday night.
Toronto played without forwards Chris Bosh (strained groin) and Andrea Bargnani (hyper-extended left knee) and guard T.J. Ford (left thumb).
It didn't matter to the Raptors, who got 12 points and nine assists from Jason Richardson and double-digit scoring from five others to post their fourth straight home win.
"The guys who needed to step up, stepped up," Raptors coach Sam Mitchell said. "The guys who played, played well. The defense was good. We did the things we wanted to do.
"The same could not be said of the Bobcats, who failed to overcome poor shooting performances by Raymond Felton (0-for-9), Jason Richardson (0-for-7) and Gerald Wallace (4-for-13).
"When that group is 7-for-38, then we don't have a chance," Charlotte coach Sam Vincent said. "Our core players, who have to provide us with some scoring punch, just couldn't get it going. We don't have the depth for two or three of our core guys to not perform."
The Bobcats missed nine of their first 11 field goal attempts and were 12-for-43 (28 percent) in the opening half.
"I just had a bad game tonight," said Richardson, who was 0-for-6 in the first half. "Being one of the top guys on the team, I've got to show up every night, but nights like that are going to happen sometimes where you just can't find your stroke.
Wallace scored 19 points and rookie Jared Dudley had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte, which has lost the six straight after a 4-6 start, the best in the team's four-year history.
Raptors guard Carlos Delfino, right, drives to the basket as Bobcats guard Derek Anderson attempts to stop him. Delfino had 17 points in Toronto's 98-79 win over Charlotte Monday.

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TOP STORY - STANFORD SB bas- ketball team predicted to win inter- NCAA title despite losing two best players.

TOP STORY - STANFORD SB basketball team predicted to win national title despite losing two best players.

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TOP STORY - STANFORD SB basketball team predicted to win national title despite losing two best players.
## CCHA Conference Standings

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## NCAA Men's Basketball

### Notre Dame vs. Kansas State

**Notre Dame** vs. **Kansas State**

- **Score:** 78-71

**Notre Dame**

- Kyle Kurtz: 15 points, 11 rebounds
- Denzel Valentine: 13 points, 8 rebounds
- Steve Vasturia: 10 points, 3 rebounds
- Pat Connaughton: 10 points, 7 rebounds

**Kansas State**

- **Score:** 69-80
- **Top Scorers:** Marcus Foster (15 points), Barry Brown Jr. (14 points)
- **Top Rebounders:** Austin Davis (7 rebounds), Dean Wade (5 rebounds)

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## NCAA Men's Hockey Poll

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## NCAA Men's Hockey

### Andy Pettitte

Andy Pettitte, 35, told New York Yankees teammates Sunday that he will pitch in the 2008 season and put off retirement. The left-handed pitcher went 15-9 with a 4.05 ERA this year for the Yankees.

Pettitte's agent, Randy Hendricks, said Monday that the 35-year-old left-hander had started telling teammates on Sunday. Hendricks then informed Yankees general manager Brian Cashman of the news.

Hendricks said Yankees captain Derek Jeter and catcher Jorge Posada had lobbied Pettitte to return, and the pitcher consulted his wife.

"Players such as Jeter and Posada told him how much they needed him back, as did Brian Cashman and Joe Girardi," Hendricks said. "Andy decided this weekend that he didn't want to keep the Yankees on hold as they sought to determine their team for next year."

The decision came as the Yankees set a Monday deadline for the Minnesota Twins to decide whether they will trade them two-time AL Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana for pitcher Phil Hughes, center fielder Melky Cabrera and a midlevel prospect.

Pettitte had declined a $16 million option last month, saying he needed more time, and Posada said last week that Pettitte was leaning toward retirement. The pitcher had said late in the season that it had become increasingly difficult to be away from his family during the season.

Pettitte was 15-9 with a 4.05 ERA this year in his return to the Yankees following three seasons with his hometown Houston Astros. He went 11-3 after the All-Star break and was New York's most effective starter during the first-round playoff loss to Cleveland, pitching 6 1-3 scoreless innings in Game 2.

New York's projected rotation now includes Pettitte, Chen-Ming Wang, Mike Mussina, Hughes and Joe Chamberlain, with Ian Kennedy in reserve. But Yankees senior vice president Hank Steinbrenner said Sunday his preference was to make the deal for Santana, which would give New York a stronger ace as it competes to regain the AL East title from the World Series champion Boston Red Sox.

### In Brief

#### UCLA fires head football coach Dorrell

**Los Angeles** — UCLA coach Karl Dorrell was fired Monday, a day after the Bruins accepted a bowl bid and two days after a loss to cross-town rival Southern California.

Dorrell was let go despite leading the Bruins to a postseason game in each of his five seasons at UCLA, which had an outside chance to reach the Rose Bowl before its 24-7 defeat by USC over the weekend.

The 43-year-old Dorrell, a former UCLA player who previously had not held a head coaching job, had a 35-27 record.

The Bruins (6-6) will play BYU (10-2) in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 22. UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero said Dorrell will decide whether he wants to coach that game and, if not, defensive coordina tor DeWayne Walker will serve as interim coach.

### Demsey back on PGA tour after 10-year absence

**WINTER GARDEN, Fla.** — After a 10-year absence and two surgeries to remove a brain tumor the size of a golf ball, Todd Demsey finally made it back to the PGA Tour on Monday with perhaps the most significant round of his career.

Demsey, a former NCAA champion and amateur teammate of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson, closed with an 8-under 64 in the sixth and final round of Q-school to earn one of 26 full-exempt cards next year in the big leagues.

Frank Lickliter II, who opened with consecutive 62s, completed a wire-to-wire week at Orange County National and finished as the medalist at 29-under 403. He won by four shots over Brett Rumford of Australia.

The day belonged to Demsey, 35, who played bogey-free on the Crooked Cat course and was carried along by an amazing cull.

### Oilers top struggling Ducks to complete sweep

**ANAHEIM, Calif.** — Dustin Penner showed the struggling Anaheim Ducks what the defending Stanley Cup champions are missing.

Penner, allowed to go to Edmonton in the offseason, scored against his former team in the first period as the Oilers beat the Ducks 4-0 Sunday to complete a sweep of the teams’ home-and-home series.

It was Penner’s second appearance in Anaheim after signing a five-year, $21.3 million offer sheet with the Ducks in August which the Oilers refused to match. The second-year forward had 29 goals for the Ducks last season, second only to Teemu Selanne.

Without Penner and Selanne, who is not playing while he contemplates retirement, the Ducks continue to search for consistent scoring.

### Around the Dial

#### NCAA Men’s Basketball

**Notre Dame vs. Kansas State**

- **Score:** 78-71
- **Top Scorers:** Kyle Kurtz (15 points), Denzel Valentine (13 points), Steve Vasturia (10 points), Pat Connaughton (10 points)
- **Top Rebounders:** Denzel Valentine (11 rebounds), Kyle Kurtz (9 rebounds)

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**North Carolina at Pennsylvania**

- **Score:** 76-71
- **Top Scorers:** Miles Bridges (22 points), Coby White (18 points), Brice Johnson (16 points)
- **Top Rebounders:** De’Andre Hunter (11 rebounds), Matt Jones (9 rebounds)
Vikings manage to right the ship

After blowout loss to Packers, Minnesota has won three straight

Associated Press

ED HUANGRAH, Minn. — When the Minnesota Vikings trudged off the turf at Lambeau Field last month following a 34-0 rout at the hands of Green Bay, there were few in the Metrodome who thought they could return to victory lane.

They were 3-6 after being thoroughly dominated by the Packers and others in their division. And in a sport where even a winning streak is often deemed lucky, the Vikings two games into the season were still searching for their identity.

"You don't like to play that way and it was not a happy locker room after that game," said Brad Childress, Vikings coach.

"I don't think anybody in that room was particularly happy with themselves," Childress said, "or with what we had done as a team." He knew they needed to change things, but it was his first game as interim coach.

"We had a talk at the end of the game," Childress said. "I said it back to the players, back through the air, so it was the experience of the team's most recent pass."

In defense, the team's embattled secondary finally found itself playing together as a group. The Vikings allowed just one touchdown in their first two games, and in their third game against the Panthers, they allowed just one.

"I think we're playing off each other very well, and I think we're doing some different things," Childress said. "I think the guys on the back end are doing a great job of holding looks until the last moment, the line backers, the line." He said.

In broader terms, it's a team that has completely different atmospheres in the locker room now compared to the Monday after the Green Bay defeat.

"We're more of a confident team that has been through the last three weeks, but we also know where our focus needs to be," Childress said.

With games remaining at San Francisco (3-9), home against Chicago (5-7) and Washington (6-6), and one against Denver (5-7), that newfound confidence appears to be justified.

"I would say that nothing has really changed," Childress said. "We build on it, whether it is offense, defense or special teams and they all play off each other. ... It's a little bit like adding a little hop in your step."
WORLD VIEW IS AN INITIATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ABOUT ISSUES OF RACE, CLASS, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, AND GENDER THROUGH THE ARTS.

All the Invisible Children is a set of powerful stories that deal with the most pressing and important of social issues—the neglect and exclusion of children and their deprivation of childhood. It comprises seven different segments by seven directors, each one representing a different country or region of the world.

Brazilian-born director Katia Lund will be present to discuss the film and her segment, Bluí e João. Lund’s work in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro has raised social consciousness in Brazil and around the world. Her most notable work has been as co-director of City of God. Joining her will be writer and actor Eduardo Gutemberg dos Reis, who co-wrote Bluí e João. Born in Rocinha, one of the largest favelas in South America, Gutemberg dos Reis most recently co-wrote a feature film titled Rice and Beans, which will be directed by Lund.

Saturday, December 8 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Katia Lund and Eduardo Gutemberg do Reis will present and answer questions from the audience at 9 p.m.

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- **Miss Navajo** • January 18 • Director Billy Luther will discuss his film
- **Desert Bayou** • February 22 • Director Alex LeMay will discuss his film
- **The Kite Runner** • March 14
- **Blood Diamond** • April 3 • Co-sponsored with Center for Social Concerns
Tears and memories highlight Taylor’s funeral

Friends, family and former teammates gather to find closure and pay tribute to former Redskins safety

Associated Press

MIAMI — The little girl entered the big gymnasium in a stroller, asleep and oblivious to the 3,000 people on hand to pay last respects to her father, Sean Taylor.

Later, 18-month-old Jackie Taylor was wide awake and running wind sprints past the hugs and towering arrangements in the front of the stage. Wearing a red dress, she stood and applauded with the rest of the audience following the introduction of her father’s team, the Washington Redskins. She waved a milk bottle, sucked on a pacifier and went up and down the front row hugging grieving relatives.

There were plenty of tears at Taylor’s three-hour funeral Monday, but also ripples of laughter and words of inspiration.

"Let me hear you scream!" shouted the Rev. Jesse Jackson, urging the audience to cheer Taylor’s memory. "One more time! This is a celebration!"

The 24-year-old Taylor died last Tuesday, barely 24 hours after he was shot in a Miami Gardens home by a gunman who said he was a victim of a botched burglary, and four young children have been charged with unpredmeditated murder.

Three of the suspects were transported from Lee County jail to Miami-Dade County jail Monday evening, said Lou Mitchell, 19, and Venjah Hunte, 28, were expected to appear in court Tuesday morning.

The fourth suspect, Eric Rivera, 17, would be processed at a juvenile detention center in Miami-Dade County, Hall said.

A lawyer for one suspect said a fifth suspect was being sought.

"It’s times like this that all of us struggle to find meaning in life," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell told mourners.

"Man, I miss you," said LaVar Arrington, wiping tears away after he recalled his two years as Taylor’s teammate with the Redskins. "I’ll get through it. We’ll all get through it."

The funeral sought closure through prayers, tributes and gospel music. One singer expended so much emotion she collapsed into a chair upon leaving the stage and was carried away in it as the service continued.

Eulogies by family, friends and dignitaries praised Taylor’s baby face, shy smile, kindness, warmth, faith and extraordinary athletic skills.

"Many times God must have looked down and said, "Man, I made a great football player," Redskins coach Joe Gibbs said.

Michael Ditka recalled the start of his nephew’s football career as a 6-year-old with the Homestead Hurricanes. Young Sean was assigned No. 66 and a place on the defense line.

"He asked me, ‘Uncle Michael, what do I do? I told him, ‘Hit the guy with the ball.’ That’s what he did, over and over,”’ said Gibbs.

Taylor grew into a hard-hitting safety. He helped the Hurricanes win the 2001 national championship, became a first-round NFL draft pick in 2004 and led the NFC in interceptions this season when a knee injury sidelined him last month.

"It’s times like this that all of us struggle to find meaning in life.”

Roger Goodell
NFL commissioner

LaVar Arrington, a former Redskins teammate of Sean Taylor, speaks at Taylor’s funeral Monday held at Florida International University in Miami.

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Irish nab second place in Invite

Special to The Observer
Notre Dame's men's volleyball hosted seven teams from around the Midwest Saturday in the Irish Invitational at Rolfs Athletic Center. The Irish opened pool play against Grand Valley State-B in the first match of the day. While the Irish struggled at first, they hung on for the victory in three games, 25-22, 22-25, 15-12 with great defense from freshman Peter Balestracci and senior Frank Dax, who was playing in his last tournament with the team. Notre Dame also defeated Michigan State in two games, 25-17, 25-21, for the third victory in pool play. The Irish finished pool play in their tournament 3-0 for the third straight time.

Women's hockey
The Irish traveled to Iowa this week to play the Quad City Blueliners for Notre Dame's season-opening series. The weekend proved fairly successful overall. The Irish out-shot Quad Cities 26-15 Saturday night, despite the unwinding line of penalties issued to both teams. The Blueliners' goalie kept the Irish to a goal from Yoshinaga and a fast break, but center Melissa D'Amico stonewalled the Irish attack and forced the drive underneath the basket by the Blueliners. The Irish out-shot the Blueliners 13-10 and got away with few penalties than the night before.

In the second period, the Blueliners' goalie kept the Irish to a goal from Yoshinaga and a fast break, but center Melissa D'Amico stonewalled the Irish attack and forced the drive underneath the basket by the Blueliners. The Irish out-shot the Blueliners 13-10 and got away with few penalties than the night before.

With 13 minutes to play, Barlow intercepted a pass and fed it to Schrader. Schrader penetrated the lane before throwing a no-look pass behind her back to Gaines, who made an easy layup. Part of the reason why the Irish can play such a fast-paced athletic game is that they can sub often. "We like to rebound and run, and that's what we did on the road."

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Defensive coordinator Don常年 Murphy said, "I think that's what got us going early, her in the middle of the press creating havoc with Michigan. I think she's doing absolutely everything we could ask of in a point guard." Minutes later, guard Ashley Charel passed the ball out of bounds, and junior guard Ashley Charel took the ball out of bounds, and junior guard Ashley Charel took the ball to the three-point line. While the ball was being played, the Irish struggled at first, they hung on for the victory in three games, 25-22, 22-25, 15-12 with great defense from freshman Peter Balestracci and senior Frank Dax, who was playing in his last tournament with the team. Notre Dame also defeated Michigan State in two games, 25-17, 25-21, for the third victory in pool play. The Irish finished pool play in their tournament 3-0 for the third straight time.

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Weis continued from page 20
thing to do, so we did that." 
After last week's 24-14 win over Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif., on Nov. 24, Weis met with his team and its offensive coordinator Mike Haywood, who is from Houston, has, in the last couple of years, become the face of Notre Dame football. The Irish were trying to keep up with the team's "tough road" schedule. The team's next game is Saturday against Eastern Michigan at the Joyce Center on Saturday.

Haywood up for Houston job
No offense, but Haywood is a local to South Bend, moving intermittently from west to east, making the transition from a small town to a big city a bit of a challenge. Weis asked if there was a final decision about his membership on the team.

"I think that some-" 

coaching or t h e r e ' s "

a times that" 

play and, the two teams ahead of you, I think that you move up." 

Charlie Weis Irish coach

Weis, who stressed that he will not analyze the Irish's performance as a whole until he finishes a round of recruiting duties on Dec. 17, said he will see five or more than a dozen recruits this weekend. Weis and his recruiting coordinator will attend the men's basketball game against Northern Illinois Saturday, at which Mike Brey's squad will try for a school-record 25th consecutive home victory.

"We're going to go break this record on Saturday night, so we're going to be a part of that," Weis said. "We're rooting for Coach Brey and the basketball team." 

Hear no evil...
When asked about David Grinnell's suspension against Stanford that Big East officials ruled a collision on the play that led to the Fac-10 replay official overturned, Weis was vague and declined to mention the Par-10 by name.

"I think that we've had a very good relationship with the Big East officials this year so far," Weis said. "We don't have used the Par-10 as much as we have the Fac-10. I think that they do a very good job of keeping us informed on things that happen," Weis said. "And we'll just kind of leave it at that." 

Weis, who has been using the Big East officials as the field referee for all of his teams' games, said he is pleased with the way things have gone this season. But Weis also added that he will continue to look at ways to improve the officiating. The Irish have played road games with Big Ten offici- ing crews.

More on coaches
If Weis initiates any changes in his coaching staff, it will not be until February — after recruits sign their national letters of intent. But Weis did say he would change the team's current special teams coaching paradigm, under which all coaches contribute to different parts of the operation. Notre Dame's kicking game struggled mightily, along with its kickoff return blocking. Its punt coverage, however, was a bright spot this season.

"It has to be changed," Weis said. "I was not pleased with the way it went." 

Before including the entire staff in the team operations, Brian Polian was the team's special teams coach. Along with Brian Polian officially became the inside line- back coach this year, he also directed special teams assignments on the sideline.

Weis did not rule out maintaining a multiple-coach special teams setup, but said he could envision a slot with a special teams coach if the Irish were to play a six- or eight-man special teams setup.

Musings on next season
Notre Dame begins the 2008 season with a few changes from last year's NCAA's official opening day and has only one, instead of two, weeks' worth of the schedule to defend. But Weis said he was not concerned with that.

"I mean, it's just when you're starting," Weis said. "It's just like anything else, the schedule is the way it is. We still have a bye week during the year. Would you rather have two bye weeks during the season? I think there is maybe one bye week, and ... to have a bye week right at the mid-point of the year I think is almost an ideal situation or the proper time to heal some bumps and bruises and give you a midseason evaluation point." 

Notre Dame has a week off after its sixth of 12 games seen between road contests with North Carolina and Washington.

Weis sticks to BCS opinions
Weis once again argued that teams should not jump in the polls over teams who do not play on a given weekend.

Asked about Louisiana State's vaunt up the BCS's earlier rating, Weis said that he thought Georgia should have gotten one of the two spots in the game after No. 1 Missouri and No. 2 West Virginia lost Saturday.

"I ended up voting Ohio State over Georgia at No. 2 because that's where they were on the line," Weis said. "They are 4 and 4, and I'm a big fan of Ohio State or Georgia or anyone else, but if you're not in line and you don't play, and the two teams ahead of you lose, I think that you move up. I just don't know how you get penalized for not playing."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowlerl@nd.edu

KSU continued from page 20
East season begins after Christmas
"We can make our name out here and let everyone know who we are," sophomore guard Tony Jackson said.

The Irish have reeled off three wins in a row since losing back-to-back games at the Paradise Island Invitational in the Virgin Islands, but the Wildcats (4-2) represent a major step up in competition.

"All these teams (we've played) are good, but we play Kansas State at the Garden, that's a different level," Notre Dame guard Mike McNair said. "I think everyone's going to bring a higher energy to the game."

The task of guarding Beasley will probably fall on Ayers or fellow Notre Dame small forward Zach Hillislad. Both theoretically have the length and quickness to cover the 6-foot-10, 230-pounder.

Whether they will actually be able to stop him from scoring, however, remains to be seen. Irish players said what is most important to them is whether Beasley makes shots, but what happens after he misses.

"As long as we rebound and get the offensive stops, we'll be good," Ayers said.

Rebounding has been an Achilles' heel for Notre Dame this season. The Irish were out-rebound in both of their losses and only beat Eastern Michigan on the boards by two on Saturday.

"When we rebound the ball well, we're great because we can get out of the zone and get back to our game," McNair said. "But sometimes we forget to box out or don't do the little things."

Tonight's game is a homecoming for McNair, who grew up in Staton Island. And since the junior missed last season's Big East tournament after being suspended, he said he can't wait to play in the Garden.

"I'm excited to see some familiar faces in the crowd," he said.

After a slow start to the season, McNair has rocketed up the Notre Dame scoring chart. In the last three games, he has averaged 23 points per game and is shooting 63 percent from behind the three-point arc.

"It's almost an ideal situation or a non-conference game," McNair said. "If you can get out of the zone and get back to our game, we're good."
TASTES LIKE FAILURE
RICH PROTIVA & ANDY SPANGLER

CONVERSATIONS THAT MIGHT OR LESS END UP TOOK PLACE IN REAL LIFE... PART 2...

Across

1. Play on a beach
2. Dance lancers
3. Chat topper
4. Sign on spring
5. Mountainier's tool
6. It's ride
7. Play follower, usually
8. Urnly do
9. Amateurs
10. "... economy is always beauty," Henry James
11. Buggy rider
12. Leif, e.g.
13. 108-card game
14. Start the pot
15. Pest control brand
16. Spok
17. Blenkinsop's suffix
18. Tippler
19. Circulatory system flaw

66. Slate of Ali's Rumble in the Jungle
69. Salon job
70. Cuts and paste
71. TV awards
72. Down
73. Amoristic
74. Play about Capote
75. Shoot-em-up
76. Harmony, briefly
77. Clock, biblically
78. Dukie's sports org.
79. "Read Across America" grp.
80. Guy's partner
81. Sanyan's novel, "The"

WILL SHORTZ

Puzzle by Alex Atrodelt

Across

31. Commotion
34. Red Sox div. 36. Old Dodge
38. Old Dodge 40. Singer of the 1960's "The Wunderer"
42. Guinness Book suffix
44. Tools for making twiny cuts
46. "Beat it!"

Down

1. Barnard grads
4. Red hot, like dykes
6. Suffered from
8. "Dead or No"
10. "Dead or No"
12. Fake, as an
14. Washington's asset
15. Leave alone
17. "Beat it!"

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Hailed by the Chief

Weis invited to join disability commission

By KEN FOWLER

Senior class leads club to Elite 8

Friendship of Lapira and Yoshinaga creates success on the pitch

By DAN MURPHY

ND Women's Basketball
‘D’ carries team in Michigan victory

Depth allows Irish to shut down Wolverines

By BILL BRINK

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Irish need to contain Beasley

ND takes on K. State in crucial showdown

By CHRIS KHOREY

Before Notre Dame even started watching film on Kansas State, the Irish knew who they needed to stop.

Wildcats freshman forward Michael Beasley, who averages 25.7 points and 15.0 rebounds per game, is already considered a surefire top pick in next summer's NBA draft.

"He's been doing great, getting a double-double every game," Notre Dame forward Byron Ayers said. "I think our defensive position will be very important against him.

The contest with Kansas State tonight at 7 at Madison Square Garden in New York is the biggest game of the season so far for the Irish (11-2). The game, which will be televised live on ESPN, is Notre Dame's last chance to defeat a "power" conference team before the Big