200-plus graduate in January

Students from '07, '08 classes receive degrees

By THERESA CIVANTOS
News Writer

Although most Notre Dame seniors will complete their degrees in May, 224 University students will graduate in January. The number, however, includes graduate students as well as undergraduates, associate registrar Chuck Hurley said.

About half of these students are part of the class of 2008 graduating early, and the other half are class of 2007 students graduating a little late.

January 6, 2008, is the official date of January graduation. There is no graduation ceremony, but January graduates can join in the May commencement ceremonies with the rest of their class.

Students usually walk with their class, Hurley said, which means some January graduates walked in the ceremony last May while others will walk this May. August graduates also have the option of walking in the May ceremony.

Hurley said there are many reasons students graduate in January.

“There are so many special circumstances — everything from financial reasons to someone whose parent had cancer during their senior year so they took off a semester and came back to gradu­ate,” he said. “It’s about what best fits that student.”

NDSP warns of break burglaries

By JOSEPH MCMAHON
News Writer

Local landlords and the Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) are encouraging students to safeguard their valuables as they leave for winter break.

Burglaries and petty crimes on and off campus often increase just as breaks begin, NDSP said in an e-mail sent to the student body on Dec. 6.

“We often experience an increase in thefts just before breaks, especially from Library study areas and the dining halls,” the e-mail said. “Maintain extra vigilance on your laptops, book bags, purses, etc.”

For students who live off campus, NDSP is providing a Christmas storage option. Off-campus students can bring their valuables to the NDSP Investigation Section on the second floor of the Hammes Mowbray Hall on Wednesday or Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Many landlords, meanwhile, have begun hiring their own security teams to patrol their properties and protect students’ valuables. Mark Kramer, who manages more than 150 properties, said there was an attempted break-in on his properties last year during Christmas break.

A door at Lafayette Apartments, a property owned by landlord Mark Kramer, hung askew. Renters are warned to secure residences.

Students interested in Iowa caucuses

Primaries hold national focus; ND groups eventually will support presidential candidates

By KATIE PERALTA and JENN METZ
News Writers

When Notre Dame sopho­more Lindsey Hough and Matthew Callanan return to their homes in Iowa for winter break, they will be tooted right into the center of heated polit­ical races, as Democrats and Republicans battle in the Iowa caucuses on Jan. 3.

The caucuses, the first pri­mary competition in the country for the 2008 presidential candi­dates, have been a focus of national attention for weeks. Caucuses are different from other primary elections in their form. Most primaries are decid­ed by secret-ballot votes, but Iowa has a system that requires voters to assemble at an assigned location, listen to speeches by supporters of dif­ferent candidates and publicly express support and be counted for one person running.

Sen. Barack Obama, a Democrat from Illinois, and for­mer Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican, cur­rently lead their respective par­ties in the state, according to a recent Des Moines Register Iowa poll. Hough, of Shelby County, Iowa, said she plans to partic­i­pate in the caucus in Des Moines.

“Both parties have their own set of caucuses in Iowa, and most of the top-tier candidates will travel around to different locations to speak,” Hough said.

She said she plans to observe candidates before deciding whom she will support.

“I think I want to get a better feel for things, talk to a few peo­ple there [in Des Moines], before making up my mind,” she said.

Callanan, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, also plans to participate in the caucuses.

“It is a project to depend on my work schedule and everything, but I have not had that much time to focus on the candi­dates,” Callanan said. He said it was important to be informed about a candidate before he voted.

“You should know where a candidate stands,” Callanan said.

The Notre Dame College Republicans and College Democrats have been spreading messages about Republican and Democratic themes to the University community.

Each group works to elect members of their own parties to political office by gathering sup­port on campus.

LaFleur to leave Sports Info Dept.

Women’s Soccer SID spent 11 years at ND

By CHRIS KHOREY
News Writer

After 11 years in the Notre Dame Sports Information Department, Pete LaFleur is moving on.

LaFleur, a 1990 graduate of the University, will take a job as the public relations director for Geneva Glen summer camp in Evergreen, Colo.

During his time at the Sports Information Department, LaFleur worked with the hockey, golf, fencing, baseball and women’s soccer teams and — like the rest of the sports informa­tion staff — worked every home football game. He is known among reporters and co-workers for his in-depth game wraps, extensive his­torical knowledge and the little-known statistics that were hallmarks of his notes packages.

LaFleur said that his slogo­gan in life has always been to go the "extra mile."

“That’s kind of been my approach," he said. "I hope I don’t ever seem like I’m over doing it, but I try to give stuff what it deserves, whether it’s writing some-

Team wins, Bookstore discounts

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary’s Editor

A new partnership between the Shaeheen Bookstore and the Saint Mary’s athletic department means that when the Belles’ basketball team wins, the campus benefits.

The Bookstore has teamed up with Saint Mary’s athletic department for Monday Madness, a new fundraiser that discounts Bookstore merchandise the Monday after each home victory for the Belles.

Mike Hicks, director of Merchandise the Monday after each home victory for the Belles, said, "We want to show our support for the Saint Mary’s students purchase items at the Shaeheen Bookstore Monday. The store puts merchandise on sale when SMC basketball wins. students who are interested in Iowa caucuses."

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

Students graduating a little early, and the rest of their class.

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Students purchase items at the Shaeheen Bookstore Monday. The store puts merchandise on sale when SMC basketball wins.
Cover my car

I'm from Michigan. I downgraded in snow when I traveled south to come here for school.

While most of campus freaks out about "South Bend Weather," I worry we only have one measly foot of the white stuff and why whiteout conditions aren't a nightly occurrence.

But there is one part of South Bend winter that I can't stand—wiping snow off my car. Sure, I wiped snow off my car in high school. Every morning, I grabbed the brush from the back seat and knocked off whatever had accumulated.

But at Notre Dame, there's a huge difference: I don't drive every day. So when I go to collect my car from 12, I discover not only the snow from the night before, but the blizzard from last Thursday, the ice storm from two weeks ago, a layer of fossilized hail and the remnants of the tiny snowfall from before Thanksgiving that didn't even stick to the ground but managed to stay on my car.

And that's just on top of the car. Underneath, wrapped and behind it is a layer of light brown sludge that the snow plow has packed in so hard I'm afraid it will dent my bumper if I try to drive through it.

Unlike the simple daily brush-off, removing all of this snow is a solid half-hour job that requires both the brush and scraper ends of my handy snow-removal tool. Sometimes it also requires a shovel. And it's not just the hassle of cleaning off a car covered with a week's worth of snow. That much cold water surround a car is absolutely awful for it. Every car owner knows the the closer the Cold the winter is slowly rushing away.

I have no recourse for this. All of campus parking is wide open to the elements. But it doesn't have to be this way.

The University should cover all of its long-term parking (by which I mean certainly 12 and 16 and probably portions of the C-lot. Its fitting with Notre Dame's long-term plan. In the 12 area, two new dorms are planned. They will take space away from 12 parking. So why not build another level on top of that too? I'm sure the grounds would double the parking, and cover the cars below. Of course, the second level would also need to be covered, so how about a nice-looking roof over the top?

The same thing could be built in 16, next to where the University (eventually) wants to build a hotel. It would provide extra parking for the guests, while allowing students covered parking—and saving us all from having to brush, shovel and scrape snow and ice off our cars.

So, administration, what do you think?

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Khorey at chkhorey@nd.edu

**Questions of the Day:**

**Question 1:** How do you plan to celebrate the last day of classes?

**Eric Petrucci**

Senior

Fisher

"Lighting another candle on my menorah."

**Courtney Hummel**

Junior

Lewis

"Going to the Toschi Station to pick up some power converters."

**Lindsey Hough**

Sophomore

Howard

"Clover Ridge."

**Allison Salmons**

Junior

Lewis

"Dreaming of the Bun Run."

**Shea Streeter**

Senior

Cavanaugh

"Sorry... it wouldn't be Observer appropriate."

**OffBeet**

**Woman allegedly shoots men over decorations**

**HATON ROUGE, La. —** Authorities say a Springfield woman was booked on attempted murder counts for allegedly shooting two men whose dog damaged Christmas decorations at her home. Ethel Shannon McKinney, 28, was booked on two counts of attempted second-degree murder and illegal use of a weapon.

Jason Ard, a spokesman for the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Department, said McKinney and her boyfriend got into an argument, and knocked off whatever had been stuck to the car. The incident happened around 9:30 p.m. Sunday.

**Turkey crashes through window in home**

**TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. —** The noise that Chuck Ritter heard while sitting in his living room was a turkey that crashed through a third-story bedroom window. Ritter, 83, was relaxing Saturday when the uninsured guest arrived. Ritter called Joe Battaglia, the on-call maintenance workers at his Traverse City apartment, and they tried to corral the 25-pound bird as it flapped around on the carpet amid blood and shards of glass.

After about 30 minutes of trying to ease the turkey toward the window with a broomstick and a fishing pole, Ritter cornered the bird, grabbed it by the neck and threw it out the window.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

**In Brief**

**The last day of classes at Notre Dame is today.**

There will be an Advent Pension Service today at 7 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The service will include prayer, music, reflection and Confession.

The ND Celebration Choir, Voices from Campus and Instrumentalists will perform at a benefit concert for Christmas at the first floor lounge, Coleman Morse Center, today at 7:30 p.m. Admission is Free with a donation. All proceeds benefit the Holy Cross Literacy School and Boys Home, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The last day of classes at Saint Mary's will be Wednesday.

A Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Reading days at Notre Dame are tomorrow, Thursday, and Sunday. Reading days at Saint Mary's are Thursday and Sunday.

Exams at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's will take place on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.

Father Jenkins, Father Hesburgh and other Holy Cross Priests will be signing a book compiled by two seminarians Friday in the Hamms Notre Dame Bookstore from 1-4 p.m. The book is "The Cross, Our Only Hope. Daily Reflections in the Holy Cross Tradition."

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

**Weather**

**Today**

Atlanta 78 / 57 Boston 36 / 35 Chicago 35 / 19 Denver 23 / 12 Houston 77 / 65 Los Angeles 66 / 42 Minneapolis 25 / 6 New York 40 / 40 Philadelphia 42 / 42 Phoenix 58 / 41 Seattle 45 / 34 St. Louis 38 / 33 Tampa 63 / 61 Washington 47 / 46

**High**

37

30

33

35

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28

**Low**

27

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23

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18

20

**Correction**

The Observer, the Section featured a picture which was widely circulated of Keith Buckner. The picture in the picture was actually Mason's. The Observer regrets the error.

**Corrections**

The Observer regrets an error in the Dec. 10 edition of The Observer. The Section included a picture which was mistakenly labeled. The picture was actually of Keith Buckner. The Observer regrets the error.

**Local Weather**

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Students have lunch with reformer

Reform addresses SMC community at College's fifth Leadership Luncheon

By KRISTEN EDELEN
News Writer

Libusa Radkova, a reformer in her native country of Slovakia, sat down for lunch Monday with Saint Mary's students, faculty and staff during the Center for Women's Intercultural Leadership's (CWIL) fifth Leadership Luncheon of the semester. Her visit came after a long journey from eastern Europe.

Radkova decided to travel to Saint Mary's to learn about the CWIL-implemented Bridges Out of Poverty program. She intends to spend time at local nonprofit organizations, such as the Hope Rescue Mission, and witness Bridges Out of Poverty in action — so she can bring ideas from the program back to Slovakia.

"It is very useful to see [social] problems from outside, from a point of different culture," she said. Radkova spoke to 25 to 30 people, the largest audience at a CWIL luncheon yet.

"It is very useful to see [social] problems from outside, from a point of different culture."

Libusa Radkova reformer

Radkova is considered revolutionary because she helped to pioneer social work as a field of study at St. Elisabeth University, which was something original in her country.

Leadership Luncheons will continue next semester as often as once every two weeks. The next speaker will be Paula Downing, the former superintendent of Benton Harbor schools in Michigan, who is a current member on the College's Board of Trustees, Fritzler said.

"But having Libusa, from abroad, was such a great opportunity," she said.

The CWIL and Board of Governance-sponsored Leadership Luncheon series began this semester as an avenue for students at Saint Mary's to interact with women in the community, Fritzler says.

Contact Kristen Edelen at kedelen1@stmarys.edu
LaFleur also takes pictures for the athletic department's Web site, und.com, during sporting events — something he said is "put in my job description," but which, he said, he enjoys.

"If you have the time and creativity to put something in that's going to make a difference to people's memories and their enjoyment, that's something that's always been important to me to try to do as well.

On occasion, LaFleur includes statistics and notes that are comically obscure — to the point they are even noted by posters on Internet message boards. One poster on NDNation.com gives out a list of "Heisler Awards," bestowed after Senior Associate Athletic Director John Heidler, which is given to the strangest or most humorous stat included in that week's football game notes.

But a few jokes haven't stopped LaFleur from looking deep into the annals of Notre Dame athletics history to find tidbits to compare to today, as he did during the 2006 women's soccer season.

Then-sophomore forward Kerri Hart said goals 22 and assists that season, both making her first in the nation. People knew that heading the nation in both categories was extremely rare, but they didn't know how rare until LaFleur looked it up — and found out that the only other college player to ever lead the nation in both categories was future U.S. national team star Mia Hamm.

LaFleur, who is considered by some to be the nation's best women's soccer sports information director, said LaFleur's historical records for women's soccer were not well kept until recently, it was hard work tracing the statistics back through the years.

"Nobody knew that," he said of the Hanks' statistic. "I had to research and turn over a lot of rocks to figure it all out. It really legitimized what Kerri did that season. People were like, "Wow, she did something only the great Mia Hamm had ever done.""

Because of LaFleur's research skills, he is often chosen to write historical features for und.com. He has written several stories for the Web site, including those for former football stars Angelo Bertelli, Leon Harts and Harry Oliver.

He is most proud of the story he wrote for Ryan Shay, the former Notre Dame track star who died during an Olympic marathon trial in New York on Nov. 3. Upon seeing the story on the Web site, Shay's uncle contacted LaFleur to thank him.

"That makes it all worthwhile, when the family says it means something to them," he said.

His hard work has not gone unnoticed. LaFleur has earned several honors for his thorough media guides, including having the 2006 baseball media guide ranked No. 1 in the country by the College Sports Information Directors Association, commonly known as CoSIDA.

But all that hard work has not gone unnoticed. LaFleur has been contacted when his friends come back from campus for football games, he rarely gets to spend much time with them.

"A lot of friends will come back and I get to see them for like hour 10 minutes because I've got a soccer game on Friday, then the football game on Saturday and a soccer game on Sunday," he said.

LaFleur is unmarried and wants the time needed to start a family, said the rigor of his job limit how often he sees his relatives.

"I've had to miss a lot of weddings," he said. "For my nieces and nephews, I've missed a lot of baptisms and stuff.

And because of that, LaFleur is returning to his roots. He attended Geneva Glen in his youth and worked as a creator during the summers in the early 1990s, just after graduating from Notre Dame.

In his new position, the program only applies to the basketball team, but Hicks hopes to expand it to other sports teams, depending on its initial success.

"We have been working on this idea for some time. It is just a coincidence that we ironed out all the issues to the basketball season," he said. "We wanted to make sure that there would not be any problems with the athletic department if we offered a program like this."

Hicks expects the Bookstore to offer discounts to students on all clothing, contingent on the margin of the basketball team's win. A two-point victory would result in a 20 percent discount, for four points, 40 percent. If the team wins by 10 or more, merchandise would be 50 percent off. No discounts will exceed 50 percent.

Students will only be eligible to redeem the discounts the Monday following the game. They must bring a printed copy showing proof of attendance.

"We don't have any worries about losing money if the team does well," Hicks said. "We hope and want the basketball team, as well as all of our SMC teams, to do well. We support Saint Mary's athletics."

The Belles' next home game is on Jan. 19 against Tri-State at 3 p.m.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler1@smcm.edu

The discount program is in a pilot stage, but Hicks expects the program to continue for the whole basketball season, Hicks said.

Hicks hopes the program will encourage more students and faculty members to attend Belles athletic events.

"We feel that cheering on your team to victory is very rewarding," he said. "We hope that this program will encourage others to share in that reward."

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Gore accepts Nobel Peace Prize

Former VP tells big polluters to stand accountable, lead charge to reduce greenhouse gases

Associated Press

OSLO — Saying it "time to make a stand" with the planet, Al Gore accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Monday, calling for a call for humanity to rise up against a looming climate crisis and warning war on the environment.

"The United States and China — the world's leading emitters of greenhouse gases — will ultimately face accountability before history if they don't take the lead in that global challenge," the former vice president said. "Without realising it, we have begun to wage war on the Earth itself," Gore said in his acceptance speech. "Now, we and the Earth's climate are locked in a relationship familiar to war planners: Mutually assured destruction. It is time to make peace with the planet.

Gore awarded the prize for sounding the alarm over global warming and spreading awareness on how to counteract it. His co-winner, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, was represented by panel's leader, Rajendra Pachauri.

They received their Nobel gold medals and diplomas at a gala ceremony at Oslo's city hall, while the Nobel prizes for medicine, chemistry, physics, literature and economics were presented in a separate ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.

Gore urged government officials at a U.N. climate conference in Bali, Indonesia, to prepare for ground negotiations this week on a legally-binding treaty to replace the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

"And Pachauri will leave and I will step off his driveway. Wednesday, "I will urge the delegations to walk tall and move boldly for a treaty," Gore said.

In a speech that quoted Churchill, Gandhi and the Bible, Gore said the world's biggest producers of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases — the United States and China — must stop blaming each other for the stalemate over warming. Instead, they should take the lead in solving a problem for which they bear a large responsibility, he said, or be "accountable before history for their failure to act."

Although Pachauri described the threat largely "as a historic and moral imperative," Gore warned of a grim fate if the world "swamped coastlines, disrupted food supplies, spread disease and loss of biodiversity, and disrupted the ecosystem upon which we depend."

Gore likened the current "planetary emergency" to wartime. "We must quickly mobilise our civilization with the urgency and resolve that has previously been seen only when nations mobilised for war," he said.

Before presenting the award to Gore and Pachauri, the chairman of the Norwegian Nobel awards committee, Ole Danbolt Mjøs, praised them for moving climate to the top of the world agenda.

"We thank you, in the audience with your four children, smiled broadly when he accepted the award, which includes a $1.3 million stipend to be shared equally between the two winners. The audience, including Norway's King Harald V and Queen Sonja, rose for sustained applause.

Winter storm causes havoc across Midwest

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A wintry storm caked the center of the nation with a thick layer of ice Monday, blanking more than 64,000 square miles and businesses, and more icy weather was on the way. At least 15 deaths in Oklahoma and Missouri were blamed on the conditions, with 13 of them linked to the snow blizzard.

A state of emergency was declared for all of Oklahoma, where the sound of branches snapping under the weight of the ice echoed through Oklahoma City.

"You can hear them falling everywhere," Lonnie Compton said Monday as he shoveled ice off his driveway.

The National Weather Service posted ice and winter storm warnings Tuesday for parts of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Illinois. Missouri declared an emergency on Sunday and put the National Guard on alert.

"If you do the math, probably one out of three Oklahomans has no electricity at this point," said Gil Broyles. As a spokesman for Oklahoma Gas & Electric, the state's largest utility, Roughly 11,000 customers were blacked out in southern Illinois and more than 5,000 had no electric heat or lights in Kansas, where Gov. Kathleen Sebelius declared a statewide state of emergency.

At O'Hare International Airport, about 100 flights were canceled by Monday afternoon, with delays of about 45 minutes, said Chicago Department of Aviation spokesman Karen Pride. No flights were canceled at Midwest Airport, but a handful of flights were delayed about an hour, she said.

Ice was as much as an inch thick on tree limbs and power lines in parts of the region.

The winter storm appears to have been an accident:

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Grads
continued from page 1

The biggest reason, Hurley said, is that students are trying to save on tuition. Some students come out of high school with 0 credit, he said, so they can graduate early.

Senior Nicole Crnich, a double major in film, television and theatre and Japanese, will graduate in January. Crnich has applied to the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, and if she is accepted, she will move to Japan to teach English. Crnich wants to spend time with her family before her possible move.

"I love Notre Dame, but I'm really excited to graduate early," she said.

She said deciding to graduate a semester ahead of her classmates was a hard process. "I made this big chart of pros and cons," Crnich said.

"There were so many pros," she said, which helped her tip the balance toward early graduation. "The money I'm saving is definitely a big issue.

"The biggest con for me was bringing so far away from my friends -- because I'll be living in Chicago next semester -- instead of five minutes away," Crnich said. "All of my closest friends are going to be here next semester.

But Crnich said she is ready to graduate.

"I've been studying so hard for so long," she said. "I don't know if I could mentally handle another semester of working as hard as I have been." Crnich still plans to walk at graduation in May.

"I'm very, very happy with my decision," she said. "I'm really satisfied with the time I've spent here at Notre Dame, and it's been enough for me."

Senior Angela Spink, a political science major, has also decided to graduate in January. "It helped when I didn't get an RA position, so I didn't have to be here all year," she said.

Spink also intends to walk in the May ceremony.

Alex Benrfo, a philosophy and Japanese major, will graduate in January, but he admits there are a lot of negatives in missing spring semester of senior year.

"You leave everyone — all your friends — behind," Benrfo said. "You're on a totally different schedule. The things you're worrying about are totally different from the things they're worrying about.

"You feel like you have to tell everybody you're graduating early because you're like a 'special case,'" he joked. "When you tell people you're leaving early, they're like, 'Why would you want to do that?'"

Despite these drawbacks, "I'm kind of ready to get out there, out of the bubble," Benrfo quipped. He said money was the biggest factor in his decision to graduate early.

"It's been a crunch. I felt really rushed this semester," Benrfo said of finishing his last semester at Notre Dame.

"I'm kind of ready to move on," he said.

Contact Theresa Civanto at tcivanto@nd.edu

Security
continued from page 1

Kramer decided he needed to increase the security around his properties this year when tenants experienced car break-ins. "We take every precaution that we possibly can, and that includes hiring a private security company," Kramer said.

The Majestic Security Company patrols all of Kramer's properties from the evening until the early morning. Kramer Properties sent tenants an e-mail encouraging them to contact local police departments to request daytime house patrols during winter break.

"Plus the maintenance staff and myself always keep an eye on it," he said. After each student leaves for Christmas break, Kramer said either he or a member of his staff will go to the property to ensure that the doors and windows are locked and the alarm is activated.

"That itself probably prevents 99 percent of crime," Kramer said.

Kramer is not the only landlord to use a private security force. Judy Logan, the property manager for Castle Point Apartments, regularly has three night watchmen on duty. In addition, a local police officer lives in each neighborhood section of the large complex.

"We don't have a lot of crime," Logan said. "But we don't want to become vulnerable, so we take every precaution.

Although both landlords have faith in their security systems, they agree that ultimately it is the students that can best protect themselves by taking simple precautions. For example, Kramer encourages students to place all their valuables, such as a television, in a bedroom and then deadbolt the door shut. Logan said the best thing students can do is to avoid becoming vulnerable.

"We are living in the wild, wild West," Logan said. "Everyone needs to lock their doors and make sure their balconies and patios are locked."

For students who want to protect their bikes from theft and from the elements, NISP is holding its Annual NSPP Bike Rack Storage on Thursday and Sunday. Students can bring their bikes to the Notre Dame Stadium between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Thursday and between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday.

"Everyone needs to lock their doors and make sure their balconies and patios are locked," Judy Logan, property manager, said.

Castle Point Apartments

DeBartolo Hall

STUDY TIME

DeBartolo Hall
STUDY DATES AND TIMES:
Dec 12: 7am to 3:00am
Dec 13: 7am to 3:00am
Dec 16: 7am to 3:00am

Finals Week: Dec 14, 15, 17, 18, 19: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.
Dec 19: DeBartolo Hall closes 30 minutes after last exam scheduled by the Registrar's Office.
Midnight Snacks available only during Study days.
See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs: Room 105, 106.

Coleman-Morse: Dec 12-19:
1st Floor: 7:00am-4:00am
2nd Floor: 7:00am-3:00am
3rd Floor: 7:00am-12am

See Building Support Person Room 101 if you have a specific need.

O'Shaughnessy: Rooms available for open study except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.
Dec 12, 13, 16 : 8:00am to 1:00am
Dec 14, 15, 16-19: 6pm to 3:00am Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Good Luck with Finals
Special thanks to Business Operations, Campus Ministry and the Student Union Board.

O'Shaughnessy: Rooms available for open study except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

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Institute of Psychological Sciences

a Catholic graduate school of psychology

www.ics.edu
**Market Recap**

**Stocks**

| Dow Jones | 13,727.03 | +101.45 |

**Commodities**

| Light crude (NYSE) | +0.02 | 87.86 |
| Dollar (NY) | +0.06 | 82.15 |
| Pork Belly (contracts) | +1.15 | 92.48 |

**Futures**

| Yen | 113.030 |
| Euro | 0.679 |
| Canadian dollar | 1.0061 |
| British pound | 0.4885 |

**Treasuries**

| 10-year note | +0.70 | -0.029 | -4.19 |
| 13-week bill | -1.06 | -0.80 | 2.70 |
| 30-year bond | +0.65 | -0.030 | 6.16 |
| 5-year note | +0.28 | -0.031 | 5.39 |

**In Brief**

**Ecuador threatens to drill in reserve**

QUITO, Ecuador — Ecuador will open bidding for oil exploration near a jungle sacred to the Indians in June if the poor Andean country does not receive international funding to abandon the project, Ecuador's petroleum minister said Monday.

The government is seeking a minimum of $350 million a year from the international community for 10 years to stop drilling in the Balsas-Tiputini-Tamborcocha fields located in Yasuni National Park, in Ecuador's northern jungle.

That's true for Keller, whose core business of remodeling stores has held steady, but construction work on once-abandoned condominiums has all but dried up.

**UBS loses $10 billion from subprimes**

ZURICH, Switzerland — UBS AG will write off a further $10 billion in losses from the U.S. subprime lending market, the Swiss bank said Monday, and raise billions in capital through the prime lending market, the Swiss bank said Monday.

**Nervous public blamed for sluggish car sales; workers forced to cope with changes**

DETROIT — The N. Keller Keller Group Inc. of Lovelace, Texas, probably should replace its 7-year-old Ford Econoline Super Duty van.

**Auto industry hit by slow market**

Nervous public blamed for sluggish car sales; workers forced to cope with changes

UBS, which had predicted a profit for the fourth quarter despite ongoing speculation about its subprime holdings.

**Newspaper mogul Black gets 78 months**

Chicago — Former newspaper mogul Conrad Black was sentenced Monday to 6 1/2 years in prison, far less than sought by prosecutors, for swindling shareholders in his Hollinger media empire out of $6 million.

"Mr. Black, you have violated your duty to Hollinger's international shareholders," U.S. District Judge Amy J. St. Eve said.

"You probably could afford to replace it now, they are too wary of the future to borrow the money. 'You don't want to take on an additional payment because you don't know where you're going to be six months from now,' she said. 'We're still doing OK, but we're smart enough to look at everyone else around us.'

**In the Stock Market**

In the week ended Dec. 8, the Dow Jones industrials ended the week at 11,955.20, up 51.73 points or 0.43 percent from the previous week. The Dow was up 1.45 percent from the same week in 2006. The Dow hit an intraday high of 11,986.94 on Dec. 10, the highest since 2000.

The Nasdaq composite index ended the week at 2,332.25, up 32.43 points or 1.40 percent from the previous week. The Nasdaq was up 6.6 percent from the same week in 2006. The Nasdaq hit an intraday high of 2,343.19 on Dec. 12, the highest since 2000.

The S&P 500 ended the week at 1,279.86, up 4.61 points or 0.36 percent from the previous week. The S&P 500 was up 3.9 percent from the same week in 2006. The S&P 500 hit an intraday high of 1,292.82 on Dec. 12, the highest since 2000.

The Nasdaq 100 ended the week at 1,357.66, up 7.39 points or 0.55 percent from the previous week. The Nasdaq 100 was up 3.8 percent from the same week in 2006. The Nasdaq 100 hit an intraday high of 1,365.78 on Dec. 12, the highest since 2000.

The Russell 2000 ended the week at 502.25, up 5.63 points or 1.13 percent from the previous week. The Russell 2000 was up 4.3 percent from the same week in 2006. The Russell 2000 hit an intraday high of 503.61 on Dec. 12, the highest since 2000.
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, weighing in on an issue with racial undertones, ruled Monday that federal judges have broad leeway to impose shorter prison terms for crack cocaine in a case that bolsters the argument for reducing the difference in sentences for crack and powder cocaine.

The court, by 7-2 votes in the crack case and one other involving drugs, upheld measures the sentences imposed by judges who rejected federal sentencing guidelines as too harsh.

The decision was announced ahead of a vote scheduled for Tuesday by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, which sets the guidelines, that could cut prison time for as many as 19,500 federal inmates convicted of crack crimes.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, writing for the majority in the crack case, said a 15-year sentence given to Derrick Kimbrough was acceptable, even though federal sentencing guidelines called for Kimbrough to receive 19 to 22 years.

"In making that determination, the judge may consider the disparity between the guidelines' treatment of crack and powder cocaine offenses," Ginsburg said.

Kimbrough, a veteran of the first Gulf War, is black, as are more than 80 percent of federal defendants sentenced in crack cases. By contrast, just over a quarter of those convicted of powder cocaine crimes last year were black.

The Sentencing Commission recently changed the guidelines to reduce the disparity in prison time for the two crimes. New guidelines took effect Nov. 1 after Congress took no action to overturn the change. Tuesday's vote is whether to apply the guidelines retroactively.

Monday's Supreme Court ruling grew out of a decision three years ago in which the justices ruled that judges need not strictly follow the sentencing guidelines. Instead, appellate courts would review sentences prudently, although the court has since struggled to define what it meant by that term.

The guidelines were established by the Sentencing Commission, at Congress' direction, in the mid-1980s to produce uniform punishments for similar crimes.

Justice Samuel Alito, who with Justice Clarence Thomas dissented in both cases, said that after Monday's decisions, "sentencing disparities will gradually increase in fairness.

The second case decided by the court did not involve cocaine. The justices upheld a sentence of probation for Brian Gall for his role in a conspiracy to sell 10,000 pills of ecstasy.

U.S. District Judge Robert Pratt of Des Moines, Iowa, determined that Gall had voluntarily quit selling drugs several years before he was implicated, stopped drinking, graduated from college and built a successful business. The guidelines said Gall should have been sent to prison for 30 to 37 months.

"The sentence imposed by the experienced district judge in this case was reasonable," Justice John Paul Stevens said in his majority opinion.

Stevens cautioned federal appeals courts to step in only when judges abuse their discretion.

Appeals courts in both cases tossed out the lesser sentences imposed by the judges. The Bush administration urged the Supreme Court of fellow suit and order tougher sentences.

Monday's rulings could embolden trial judges to vary their sentences from the guidelines more frequently and diminish the chances that appeals courts will overturn those sentences, said Douglas Berman, a sentencing expert at the Ohio State University law school.

Kimbrough's case, though, did not present the justices with the ultimate question of the fairness of the disparity in crack and powder cocaine sentences. Congress wrote the harsher treatment for crack into a law that sets a mandatory minimum five-year prison sentence for trafficking in 5 grams of crack cocaine or 100 times as much cocaine powder. The law also sets maximum terms.
Hayden called to explain CIA tapes

White House stays silent as Congress presses for answers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress summoned CIA Director Gen. Michael Hayden to Capitol Hill to explain his agency's destruction of videotapes, as multiple investigations began into who knew about and approved the decision.

Hayden is to testify in a closed session Tuesday before the Senate Intelligence Committee, and on Wednesday before the House Intelligence Committee.

Among the questions he'll face is whether Congress was notified about the tapes' destruction. The chairman of the House panel, Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, said Hayden's assertion last week that lawmakers were informed "does not appear to be true."

Hayden told CIA employees on Thursday that the CIA had taped the interrogations of two terrorist suspects in 2002. He said Congress was notified in 2003 both of the tapes' existence and the CIA's intent to destroy them.

The tapes were destroyed in 2005 but Congress was not told until this summer, Reyes said.

The House Intelligence Committee did not learn of the tapes' destruction until March 2007, and then indirectly in a general briefing about the CIA's interrogation program, Reyes said.

The tapes spanned hundreds of hours but "only a small fraction" showed the actual interrogation of the two men, a counterterrorism official said Wednesday.

Most of the tapes of one suspect, Abu Zubaydah, were to document his medical treatment, said the official, who was on condition of anonymity because the tapes are classified. Zubaydah came into CIA custody with a gunshot wound and the CIA wanted to prove it gave him proper medical care in the event he died, the official said.

The Justice Department and the CIA said last week that the internal watchdogs are conducting a joint inquiry into the matter to determine whether a full investigation is warranted.

Zubaydah was the subject of an ongoing FBI investigation, and White House counsel's office has instructed White House press secretary Dana Perino not to get into details with reporters.

"I think that that's appropriate, and I'll adhere to it," Perino said Monday. She said her previous statement remains accurate — that President Bush has no recollection of hearing the tapes' existence or their destruction before being briefed about it last Thursday.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday she has no memory of the CIA videotapes.

Former Deputy House counsel Harriet Miers did know about them, and recommended to the CIA in 2005 that the tapes not be destroyed, according to an official familiar with the probe. The office said on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak about the inquiry.

White House employees have been directed by the counsel's office to preserve all documents and e-mails related to the tapes, Perino said.

Attorneys for one detainee who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was classified.

Murray's relatives said they were grief-stricken and baffled by the magnitude of their grief for the victims and families of this tragedy. On behalf of our family, and our son, we ask for forgiveness.

We cannot understand why this has happened," they said in a statement read by the gunman's uncle, Fr. Abyeta, who fought back tears.

In a statement, the training center said health problems kept Murray from finishing the program. It did not elaborate. Murray did not complete the course phase or a field assignment as part of a 12-week program. With Youths Mission.

"The program directors felt that issues with his health made it inappropriate for him to finish," it said.

Police gave no immediate details on the hate mail. And the training center said that Murray left in 2002 — five years ago, not three — and that no one can recall any visits or other communication from him since then.

Earlier Monday, a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity said that Murray had been kicked out of the program and-or its parent church. The official with the probe. The official with the probe. The official with the probe.

"Murray's use of that word is a matter of public record," the official said.

The Hocky Mountain Multiple Sclerosis Center in Engwood, Colo.

Matthew Murray lived there along with his brother, Christopher, 21, a student at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla.

A neighbor, Cody Askeland, 19, said the brothers were home-schooled, describing the whole family as "very, very religious." Christopher studied for a semester at Colorado Christian University before transferring to Oral Roberts, said Ronald Rex, dean of admissions and marketing at Colorado Christian. He said Murray spent time in jail and had been in contact with school officials this summer about attending the school but decided he wasn't interested because he thought the school was too expensive.

Police said Murray's only previous brush with the law was a traffic ticket earlier this year.

Senior Pastor Brady Boyd of New Life Church said the gunman had no connection to the church.

"We don't know this shooter," Boyd said. "He showed up at a very busy day, with a gun with the intention of hurting people, and he did."

The gunman opened fire at 12:30 a.m. at the Youth With a Mission center. Witnesses said the man asked to spend the night there and opened fire with a handgun when he was turned down. They described him as a young man, perhaps 20, in a dark jacket and cap.

Later at New Life Church, a gunman wearing a trench coat and carrying a high-powered rifle opened fire in the parking lot and later walked into the church as a service was letting out.

Congressman called to explain CIA tapes

Shooter had history at school

Megachurch gunman was former student of missionary training center
Compass of dissent

This past weekend saw the theatrical debut of another children's fantasy book adaptation, "The Golden Compass," based on the first volume in Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" trilogy. The movie has garnered a healthy share of media attention recently due to its controversy by various Christian organizations.

The groups point to the blatant anti-Christian, even anti-religious, tone of the book and movie. Some of these critiques make the mistake of trying to contain art rather than seeing it speak for itself, good or bad, a missip we can all appreciate here on campus. The movie certainly held much water.

Pullman has described his books as being "about killing God" with the express purpose of undermining the basis of Christian belief. The trilogy is a modern rendition of "Paradise Lost" in which the characters celebrate rather than mourn their independence from the divine, a riff on the plot of Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound." Pullman is an outspoken, bellicose atheist who sees evil in all organized religions and regularly speaks out against ecumenical hierarchy.

The funny thing is, "The Golden Compass" and its sequels actually do a better job than Pullman ever could for humanism or atheism than they do attacking religious institutions — which would seem the easier target. The book promotes free human action and virtue without any divine reverence and makes serious, ardent ideological arguments for atheism. Its attacks against the Church, however, are laughable. Pullman uses priests in the book as cookie-cutter villains who pursue and harass the protagonists, but he demonizes them so unequivocally that his puerile characterizations of their institution cannot be taken seriously.

The Church clergy who make up the film version's evil antagonists — here referred to as "Magisterium" — are even more laughable as a mass-produced pastiche. They sit in their tower plotting how to capture children and suppress the world's freedom. Sinister music accompanies their few brief scenes and Christopher Lee, legendary cinema villain, takes profits a short appearance as the token plotting mastermind.

In case you're wondering, the movie is an average flick overall. Director Christopher Weitz has watered down the anti-religious message considerably. The film moves quickly from one goal-oriented action scene to another without giving the characters much time to develop any of the book's philosophical themes, played down in this version. In short, the books are better.

Given the ardent virulancy of "His Dark Materials," one can see why the Catholic League, an American anti-deification organization, finds the movie upsetting. They say the film is a bait vessel into buying the books for their children. Valid point, but their strategy for countering the book and film's message calls for a boycott of the movie.

Unfortunately, the League does not understand that calling for this boycott only brightens the spotlight on the film. Perhaps "any news is good news" goes too far, but calling for a boycott on a film or book is like asking for a host of media attention. The Catholic League hopes the film's box office take will disappoint because of their efforts. Instead, you can bet all the attention they give it will only spike profits, no matter their relation to projections.

The trilogy is profoundly anti-Catholic and anti-religious, even stoically so. Nevertheless, there are elements in the books that make for a good story and a good tale — and many even make a good moral message. The plot is well paced and Pullman turns the book's universal themes into beautiful writing, particularly towards the trilogy's end. The Catholic League fails to recognize this redeeming content, but other groups do not.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops responded differently — and, as I see it, much more intelligently. It acknowledges the bounty of offensive material in the book but notes its dramatic reduction in this adaptation. The bishops' Film and Broadcasting Office even gives the film a positive review and calls it "an exiting adventure story with, at its core, a traditional struggle between good and evil and a generalized rejection of authoritarianism." They cite the heresies and self-sacrifices exhibited by the film's astral characters. Moreover, they welcome the potential pedagogical value to be had in an honest inquiry of the book's content.

"Rather than bashing the movie or books, parents might instead take the opportunity to talk through any throaty philosophical issues with their teens," they advise. The film's varied responses from Christians should provide a lesson on how to deal with material that any group finds threatening or irreverent. Trying to control the media realm should be abandoned in favor of allowing art to speak for itself. The message applies to everyone from governments keen on suppressing dissenters to colleges questioning the academic validity of performance art. Notre Dame itself hopefully learned a lesson when it questioned the place of "The Vagina Monologues" here on campus. That doesn't mean art is free to do whatever it wants scort-free, but you cannot clamp down on it from an authoritarian position. Instead of the "don't touch," hands-off approach that the Catholic League advocates, we should adopt the constructive hands-on approach of the bishops. We must be willing to engage with different questions and grapple with provocative themes. We must welcome dissent.

James Dechant will be spending his Christmas in the tropical paradise of western Kansas. Heretical and blasphemous readings material can be sent to him at jdechant@nd.edu.

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

While I agree with Pat McHugh that "Flour is an overlooked desert option" ("Dining hall menu needs adjusting," Dec. 7), I must comment that the pie offered at the South Food Market is subpar, mediocre at best. McHugh would like to rectify this perceived "lack of pie" with more of the same. This is simply not the correct path to take. Rather, South Food Market should seek out new vendors in an aggressive campaign to improve the quality of pie offered.

Only then should we begin to ask, "What is up with the Oriental line?"

Scott Vinter
sophomore
Alumni Hall
Dec. 9

EDITORIAL CARTOON

WHERE'D WE LOSE OUR WAY AS THE PART OF THE PEOPLE AND YOU ARE GOING TO FINISH THAT FLEET MIGNON?

HELl YES!

Scott Vinter
sophomore
Alumni Hall
Dec. 9

U-WIRE

Putting the 'can' back in 'candidate'

By the time classes resume for the spring semester, voting in the 2008 election will have already gotten underway. With the Iowa caucuses and the New Hampshire primary in the very near future (Jan. 3 and 8, respectively) the Daily would like to take this last opportunity to offer some parting reflections.

We're excited about the upcoming election for several reasons. Eight years of an administration that refused to face realities, both in the Middle East and at home, subverted the Constitution and never admitted its failings, was eight years too many. A new face in the White House is long overdue. It has also been nice to see the concrete proposals that have been coming out of primary races thus far. Instead of spewing nebulous promises to end the war in Iraq and to fund universal health care coverage, campaigns have put forth specific timetables for withdrawal and precise health care plans.

In short, we are hopeful that the next year will bring fruitful debate and a truly new direction for the country. But there is one aspect of the political process that we hope won't be too prevalent in the coming months: Attempts from candidates to appear folksy, down-to-earth, and just like the Average Joe are not welcome, especially after nearly eight years of President Bush. Bush represented the worst of this anti-intellectual streak. Although he comes from the most privileged of backgrounds, his feeble attempts at scholarship in school seemed to be a personal way of rebelling against the elitist Ivy Tower.

A summa cum laude degree from Yale shouldn't be a prerequisite for presidency, but it sure doesn't hurt. What's most bothersome about Bush is his persistent lack of intellectual curiosity, manifested in the fact that he doesn't read daily papers and didn't seem interested in succeeding in higher education.

We aren't looking for a president with whom we can sit down and drink a beer. We don't want an Average Joe ascending to one of the most powerful positions in the Western World; we want to see a leader who jumps at intellectual and political challenges and who can relate to the population without reaching to the lowest common denominator.

A candidate who promises to be just like the rest of us isn't a leader at all, and being in tune with the needs of Americans does not equalize with the entertainment and lifestyle choices of the rest of the country.

We hope that the coming months will feature rich debates that go beyond the clothing choice of candidates and instead serve as forums for nationwide discussions.

With any luck, the election will be held in exactly that direction as we take up our books again in January.

This article originally appeared in the Dec. 10 issue of the Tufts Daily, the daily publication of Tufts University. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
By TAE ANDREWS  
Scene Editor

The Notre Dame Celebration Choir puts on its “Christmas at the CoMo” concert tonight at 7:30 in the Main Lounge's Coleman Center. “This show is very similar to our previous shows in format,” said also Christine Gage, who has also sung as a tenor in past shows. The choir will perform a variety of Christmas music, including both a cappella favorites and less common carols. Some of the tried-and-true pieces include “O Holy Night” and “Hark the Herald Angels Sing,” while an excerpt from songs that or altos and sopranos to sing Carolyn Shivers, director of the choir, said. “Messiah,” Celebration Choir to form a part of Christmas carols. The choir will sing not only is it new but it’s also limited rehearsal time. The choir will also perform a few pieces that stretch us as a choir,” Gage said. The group will perform a movement from Handel’s Messiah,” (“And the Glory of the Lord”) in addition to Gounod’s Ave Maria and Puccini’s “O Mio Babbino Caro.” “These are our more technically complicated pieces,” Gage said. “I would have to say that all pieces have their difficulties.” The performance will feature a variety of pieces, including a Holy Cross mission in disaster areas of Bangladesh and new tunes (Christine Shivers) concert. Leon Perkins, who has also sung with Jens for most beautiful record, every song is different, some jarring and some whisper soft, but all breathtaking.  

If you were a new indie rock band that made a stunning debut in the past five years, you put out another album in 2007 (The Arcade Fire, Iron & Wine, The Shins, LCD Soundsystem, Feist, Beirut). If you were an already established indie rock band with a long string of albums (Wilco, Ted Leo, Bright Eyes, White Stripes), you also put out an album in 2007. As such, top-10 lists already creep onto online and in these lists are bound to be weighted down by the big names. However, none of these bands’ musicians made their top 10 list. How come? While each put out pretty solid albums, they weren’t phenomenal. To be blunt, it is the music, not the typical band anonymously over-used statement, “Well, I liked their early stuff better.” But it’s true — mostly these bands’ records hover very heavily from the amazing albums they put out in the past few years. Arcade Fire’s each — shattering self-titled, Iron & Wine’s memorable collaboration with Caetano Veloso, Neutish’s exploratory Soviet sound, The Shins folksy Simon & Garfunkel style. They each have added some new complexities, and were even remarkable, but just not top of the pile. Others have stuck pretty much entirely in the same sound we’re used to — Ted Leo, Wilco, etc. Good music, all of it, but too static, too safe, and we demand something new, something we haven’t heard. In summary, excitement and freshness was found outside the big names. Six of the following are brand new artists, on their first album. These new faces put out career defining debut records that can be likened to little else this year, full of compelling, captivating and enigmatic sounds.

1. Jens Lekman, “Night Falls Over Kortedala.” Possibly the most beautiful release of the year, while still remaining lighthearted, as inspiring or more so than the first time you heard Sufjan Stevens take on one of the best live acts of the year. 2. Fiery Furnaces, “Widow City.” The brother-sister duo add some tough rock & roll elements to their quirky, literary and downright weird sound. You might even think the guitars resemble 70s rock, or grunge, but they are as inventive as ever, especially on the standout track “eunuch of the seven devils.” 3. Ryan Adams, “Easy Tiger.” His most refined and consistent album by far (of course, that is not saying much, this latest in a long line of records blends the bare elements of Heartbreaker with his unhaffected country twang. There is both the soul bearing honesty of Joni Mitchell and the cocky rock n’ roll. 4. Chromatics, “Night Drive.” Everything goes without a hitch. The album is distilled and redefined for a brighter and slightly more fun generation of young music lovers. Vaguely sinister, but also lovely. 5. St. Vincent, “Marry Me.” Competing with Jens for most beautiful record, every song is different, some jarring and some whisper soft, but all breathtaking. 6. Panda Bear, “Person Pitch.” One of the first great records of the year, its cheery optimism is still getting played and talked about eight months later. 7. The 1990s, “Cold & Kind” For fans of Belle and Sebastian with a slightly country rock feel, very young and lively. Along with the Fiery Furnaces, this group is from Chicago, so you may get to see them soon. 8. Bat For Lashes, “Fur and Gold.” Rather creepy at first with a slightly Arabian nights feel, dark and atmospheric, honest but confusing, easy to get lost in, etc. 9. Kate Nash, “Made of Bricks.” Alternately fun/spunky, endearingly innocent and earnest/heartfelt, she replaces Lily Allen as my favorite British girl singer. 10. Battles, “Mirrored.” Weird, innovative, difficult, mind bending, CRAZY. And another phenomenal live show. Some congratulations are in order, of course, for all the bands listed in the first paragraph for continuing their fine careers — they certainly have not slacked off. Particularly fun were the White Stripes, The Shins, Feist, Wilco, LCD, Beck and the Animal Collective. Also fantastic, although not albums proper, were the following: the stark and moving Young Neil Young “Live at Massey Hall 1971;” the sleek, dark and sexy “After Dark” compilation of artists on the Italians Do It Better imprint (see the Chromatics); the noise — rock self-titled EP from Health. Finally, complements to MIA and Justice for my two favorite songs of fall 2007, “Paper Planes” and “D — A — N — C — E.”

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Sean Hoban at shoban@nd.edu
The year is coming to an end and the top ten albums on every music lover’s mind is: The Best Album Lists of 2007. Whether you read them on the Internet, refer to magazines, or just ask around, The Best Album list is a fun way to wrap up the year and see what new developments have occurred (or not) in music. The WFUV Music Committee offer you our favorites to read while taking a break from bio-chemistry chapters and crunching accounting problems.

This year in top album lists there seems to be a disparity between actually quality records and what the industry thinks they need to acknowledge to keep their music-cred flowing. Abysmal lists from several print magazines (Filter, Harp, Uncut) as well as trusted music blogs (My Old Kentucky Blog, seem to signal a need for reinvention).

After the top 10 there seems to be nothing more than a game of the best indie artists of the last few years, leaving up the rest of the amazingly long top albums lists. If a band made a fantastic album five years ago why is that an invitation for its mediocre album to invade 2007’s lists? Is there a need for a top 10 if only 1-57 are actually deserving of any recognition? And why in the world is The Good, The Bad and the Queen getting into the top five? We get it, you all miss the Gorillaz. However, TCBTATQ are not them, and even if Haimian is heading up the project, gold does not flow from his fingertips.

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Sixers continue surge with win over Rockets

Smith’s monster game leads Hawks to third straight win while dealing Magic first losing streak of season

**Associated Press**

PHILADELPHIA — Andre Iguodala and the suddenly successful Philadelphia 76ers gave one of the largest crowds of the season their money’s worth for once.

The Sixers’ only worry this week has been learning how to play with a huge lead instead of trying to rally against one.

”We’ve got to keep this up,” Iguodala said. “We can’t lay down, Iguodala said. Tracy McGrady scored 12 points for the Rockets before leaving the game in the second half with a sprained ankle. Bonzi Wells scored 24 points, Luther Head had 18 and Yao Ming 12. The Rockets played without Rafer Alston, out with a groin injury.

”They were quicker in every phase,” Rockets coach Rick Adelman said. ”We didn’t have any energy. We’ll look at it and evaluate it. Everybody has to evaluate how they can do better.”

Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks said he planned to stick with his new game plan of expanding beyond an eight-man rotation, an idea that blossomed shortly after Stefanski was hired, and almost everyone played at least 10 minutes.

Yes, the score was one reason for the improved defense, but the 76ers also took more shots early to get quality shots — they contested shots better than anybody we’ve played against,” coach Stan Van Gundy said.

”We’ve got great, great quickness as a team, and good length. I thought they made us very, very difficult on us to get quality shots — they contested shots better than anybody that we’ve played against,” Coach Mike Woodson said.

”They made a couple, but I thought we defended the 3-point line well tonight," coach Mike Woodson said. "We just had a total 48-minute blackout that was right on the money."
Cameron faces questions after 0-13 record

Vick sentenced on charges of dogfighting, lying

NBA

NHL

Cameron faces questions after 0-13 record

Two hopeful Dolphins fans invoke St. Nick's help Sunday during Miami's 38-17 loss to Buffalo. The loss dropped the Dolphins to 0-13, causing worries about Miami coach Cam Cameron's job security.

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — When Cam Cameron began his first training camp as an NFL head coach in late July, he said he was unfazed by the many challenges facing the Miami Dolphins.

"I'm not a worrier," he said. "I don't go down that road."

Maybe that's why Cameron appeared remarkably relaxed Monday. He even cracked a hint of a smile a couple of times.

Most coaches would be ready to explode or implode. An 0-13 record tends to have that effect. But Cameron calmly repeated the pledge to per- serve regardless of how bad it becomes.

"We've said it all along: We're not in the position we want to be in," he said. "But we have to face it. We have to deal with it. We need to attack it."

The clock is running. Cameron has been on the job nearly 11 months and still seeks his first victory, which raises the question: How much longer does he have with the Dolphins?

His job may be in jeopardy after only one season if he becomes the first coach to go 0-16. "We are all in this thing together," Cameron said.

But his future may hinge on his players, a scary proposition because the team that may be remembered as the most woeful in NFL history seems to be getting worse.

The Dolphins have lost their past two games by a combined 78-30. In Sunday's 38-17 loss at snowy Buffalo, Miami had a franchise record eight fumbles and tied a team record by giving up 24 points in the first quarter. The defeat was Miami's 16th in a row — a season's worst.

"Obviously it hasn't gotten easier," Cameron said.

The Dolphins are last and least in the league by such a wide margin they're already virtually assured of the No. 1 pick in the NFL draft for first time. Owner Wayne Huizenga last spoke to the media in October, when he said Cameron had done a "great job" keeping the team together and the atmosphere positive despite an 0-7 start. But Huizenga must be alarmed by the direction of a fran- chise that has become a national punch line.

Tibet barred from forming own Olympic team

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — The International Olympic Committee has rejected an attempt by Tibet to field its own team at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

More than 100 Tibet supporters — including some Buddhist monks — waved banners and Tibetan flags outside the IOC headquarters Monday, as delegates from the unof ficial Tibetan National Olympic Committee met with the organization's officials to discuss the request.

"The IOC is not in a position to accept our application," said Wangpo Tethong, a president of the Tibetan group.

Michel Fillián, a senior IOC official who took part in the meeting, said a rule change in 1996 meant only national committees from countries recognized by the international community can take part in the Olympics.

Roysal's Guillen backed by Union in steroids case

NEW YORK — The players' association filed a grievance Monday to over turn the 15-day suspension given to Kansas City Royals outfielder Jose Guillen for violating baseball's drug program. Guillen and Baltimore's Jay Gibbons were suspended last Thursday by commis sioner Bud Selig following media reports that they received human growth hormone after January 2005, when it was banned by baseball. Gibbons chose not to contest his penal ty.

Arbitrator Shyam Das will decide whether Selig's suspension of Guillen was proper. The penalty is to be served at the start of next season.

Guliten has not been charged by the government with a crime, and he is not known to have failed a drug test.

IN BRIEF

Vick sentenced on charges of dogfighting, lying

RICHMOND, Va. — Michael Vick was sentenced to prison Monday for running a dogfighting operation and will stay there longer than two co-defendants, up to 23 months, because he lied about his involve ment when he was supposed to be coming clean to the judge who would decide his fate.

The disgraced NFL star received a harsher sentence than the others in the federal conspiracy case because of "less than truthful" statements about killing pit bulls.

"Vick said he accepted responsibility for his actions, but U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson said he wasn't so sure.

"I'm not convinced you've fully accepted responsibility," Hudson told Vick, who arrived in court wearing the black-and-white striped prison uniform he was issued when he vol untarily surrendered Nov. 19 to begin serving his sentence early.
NFFL

Tampa Bay's QB expected to return

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — For the first time in three weeks, there's definitive word on Jeff Garcia's sore back.

The Tampa Bay quarterback is expected to return to the lineup this week after missing two games with a lower back bruise that has kept opposing teams guessing about his availability.

Coach Jon Gruden said Monday that despite vague statements he made about Garcia's status leading up to games against New Orleans and Houston, he never planned to play him against the Saints or Texans.

"I just don't think the opponent needs to know exactly who to prepare for," Gruden said, emphasizing he's confident the 37-year-old now has had adequate time to recover from the injury and will play Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals.

"I don't believe I should apologize, but I don't feel like we have to divulge everything and let everyone know exactly what's going on in terms of the timetable for Jeff. We felt it was a two-week injury. ... We felt we did the right thing, the only thing to let the injury get better.

Garcia, injured Nov. 25 on the first play of a victory over Washington in Seattle, missed the past two games. The Saints are 2-0 without Garcia, who has a big day passing and led a last-minute TD drive to beat the Saints two weeks ago, but was not nearly as sharp against the Texans.

"Cleary there were seven or eight plays in the game that weren't as good as the others, but I'm real happy with what he's done," Gruden said.

"There's still plenty of room to grow, but I think what we all see is a big, athletic guy that has promise and potential to be outstanding."

Garcia may be back, but receiver Ike Hilliard's status remains less certain. He left Sunday's game with what Gruden described as an upper back injury that trainers were still evaluating Monday.

Without the sure-handed Hilliard, who has a team-leading 58 catches for 663 yards and is the Bucs' most effective receiver on third downs, the Bucs converted just 3-of-11 third-down plays.

I just don't think the opponent needs to know exactly who to prepare for.

Jon Gruden

Buccaneers coach

NCAA Football

FSU coach will stay another season

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Jimbo Fisher will succeed Bobby Bowden as Florida State's next football coach — someday.

President T.K. Wetherell designated offensive coordinator Fisher as "head coach-in-waiting," but skipped out of a somewhat unusual news conference Monday without answering questions about the contracts that are not yet finalized.

Bowden, major college football's winningest coach, agreed to return for a 33rd season with options to stay longer.

"Every year I'll just re-sign it and tell 'em if I want to coach another year," Bowden said. "I couldn't ask for anything better than that."

Bowden, Fisher and interim athletic director Bill Proctor all skirted questions about what Proctor described as "agreement(s) in principle" that give "stability to our program."

Bowden, 78, said he supported the plan brought to him last week by the president and Proctor, who have both known the coach since the early 1960s.

"It's a great plan," Bowden said. "I've, you got 78 years of age, it's hard to say how you're feeling, but I've got a plan. It kind of all started with my contract."

Bowden, whose present five-year deal with the school expires in three weeks, made just over $2 million in 2006, state records show.

"My position hasn't changed. As long as I'm healthy," he said, "I think I can win enough games."

"It's the fall off in wins in recent years that has increased focus on Bowen's age."

"I do have an obligation to the university to win enough ball games," said Bowden, who is 14-11 the past two seasons heading into a Dec. 31 Music City Bowl game against Kentucky.

Fisher, a disciple of the Bowden coaching family who played and coached for Terry Bowden, spent much of his time praising the family patriarch and avoiding details on what exactly he agreed to.

"This gives me some peace," said Fisher, who has not been a head coach before. "I'm content to wait for it."

Terry Bowden, who has been out of coaching for a decade since being fired at Auburn, helped persuade Fisher to take the offensive coordinator's job earlier this year. The job opened when younger brother Jeff Bowden was bought out by dissatisfied boosters late in the 2006 season.

A West Virginia native, Fisher was paid roughly $420,000 as offensive coordinator this year.

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden speaks at a news conference Monday. Bowden will coach again in 2008.

Notre Dame Football

Annual Walk-On Tryouts

The Notre Dame Football Program will be holding walk-on tryouts at the beginning of the spring semester.

If you are interested: Pick-up/Fill-out & Return:

Information Form & Medical Forms

Forms to be filled out are at the Reception Desk at the Football Office in the Guglielmino Complex.

You must have the forms filled out and returned by January 18, 2007.

Following our receipt of all information & medical forms, we will have an informational meeting and a series of tryouts/workouts.
Chargers star linebacker sprains left knee ligament

Associated Press

SANDIEGO — "Lights Out" is going to be on the shelf for at least one game, maybe longer.

Star outside linebacker Shawne Merriman will miss San Diego's home game against Detroit because of a sprained ligament in his left knee. The Associated Press on

Merriman said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on

"I'll be back to dominating in no time."

Coach Norv Turner said Merriman's injury isn't season-ending.

"I'm not going to speculate, but it could be a couple of weeks," Turner said.

Both Merriman and Rivers were hurt in the second quarter of San Diego's 23-17 overtime win at Tennessee, a hard-hitting game in which several players were hurt.

The team refused to give more details about the injury. Rivers either didn't want to be specific about his injury or was told not to discuss it with the media.

"I'll leave that up to the coach and the trainer as far as giving you the information," he said. "I don't try to get caught up in all the scientific words that are used."

Rivers wore a knee brace to his news conference on

Brad Mayfield.

"It was pretty sore this morning, but it shouldn't be anything that I can't manage and get better during the week," Rivers said.

With three games to go, the Chargers (8-5) lead the AFC West by two games over Denver. The Chargers can win the division for the second straight season if they beat the Lions and the Broncos lose to the Houston Texans on Thursday night.

Merriman had two sacks Sunday before he was hurt, pushing his season total to 11 1/2. Nicknamed "Lights Out" for his punishing hits, Merriman is the sixth player in

last season in 12 games. He was suspended four games

for his punishing hits, but it shouldn't be any different." Rivers said.

"I think sometimes we forget it's football and guys before us played the game harder than the way we play it now. There are so many rules; you can't do this, you can't do that. And so when things like yesterday happen, people always say, 'Well it was a dirty game, dirty play.' I don't know. It's behind us now. This ain't the only time we're going to get played like that. We're going to have to face it again."

Rivers limped off the field after taking a blow from defensive end Antwan Odom in the second quarter.

Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers is in a little better shape, saying he expects to play against the Lions even though he, too, has a sprained left knee.

"It will be at least one game," Merriman said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on

"Lights Out." That's the way the game was played a long time ago, when guys like Deacon Jones played," Tomlinson said.

"It was as physical of a game I've been involved with."

Rivers handed the ball to Tomlinson, rolled out and was clipped to the ground. He tried to walk off the field, nearly falling on his way to the sideline.

Rivers headed to the locker room, and was replaced by Billy Volek. But he was back for San Diego's opening series of the third quarter.

"I think it was one of those freak accidents, really," Rivers said. "It was as physical of a game I've been involved with."

Rivers returned for the start of the second half and played well down the stretch. He threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Gates with 9 seconds left to send the game into overtime, when Tomlinson won it with a 16-yard run.
NFL

After scandal, Jets will play Patriots

Associated Press

FOXBORO, Mass. — Bill Belichick was giddy Saturday after the video tape of the New York Jets — the kind that won’t cost him Super Bowl ring.

The kind that could help his Patriots stay unbeaten next Sunday by beating the team that turned him in for having an on-field camera snipe on the sideline.

In preparing for Sunday’s 34-13 win over Pittsburgh, Belichick studied tape of a game three weeks earlier when the Jets upset the Steelers 19-16 in overtime.

“My impression of them was the Pittsburgh game they played very well. And they beat Pittsburgh,” he said Monday. “They have some outstanding players.”

Belichick didn’t mention Jets coach Eric Mangini, his former defensive coordinator who blew the whistle on him after New England’s 38-14 season-opening win over New York — the first in a string of 13 wins that leaves the Patriots just three short of a perfect regular season.

“Not the way we’ve done all of them. Come in, look at the film, get together a game plan, try to figure out the best way to attack and defend them. Try to win,”

Whether Belichick or his players reveal their true feelings, the complaint about the camera should be made in advance. It did when New England crushed San Diego 38-14 three days after Goodell slapped the Patriots and their coach for the shenanigans.

“After everything that went on this week, we wanted to do our best for Belichick,” Tom Brady said after the win over the Chargers.

And just last week, they used Pittsburgh safety Anthony Smith’s guarantee of a victory to fire themselves up.

“We look at it as a challenge. We were going to come out here and show them what we had,” said Jarah Gaffney, who burned Smith for a 5-yard touchdown reception.

Even Belichick, who rarely criticizes opponents, took a public swipe at Smith after the game.

“We’ve played against a lot better safeties than him,” Belichick said.

But he was back in his bland mode Monday. “There’s no points for any quotes that were or weren’t in the paper. (The) plans that we executed well, we gained yards on. The plays that we didn’t, we didn’t gain yards on and thus the difference of both.

The Patriots had pulled out their previous two games by three points each with fourth-quarter comebacks against losing teams. Then they dominated the Steelers, as they did most of their first 10 opponents, when their average victory margin was 25.4 points.

Tom Brady threw for 399 yards and four touchdowns and wasn’t sacked by a defense that had allowed the fewest yards in the NFL.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Illini go to Rose Bowl for fifth time

Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — The Illini went to halftime was 56-3. Most of Penn State’s starters went to the second half parked on the bench, and by the time the score finally ended, Illinois had given up the most points in Memorial Stadium history.

Even for a program used to mediocrity, that loss in October 2003 was a debacle.

“During the game, I said, ‘I’ve never been here before.’ We were getting killed,” Illinois coach Ron Zook recalled. “I said, ‘fellas, this is as bad as it’s going to get. It will never be any worse than it is tonight.’

In the silence and humiliation of that awful night, the seeds for a turnaround were planted. Two years later, the Illini are one of the biggest surprises in college football. Their 9-3 record is a seven-game improvement from last year, and earned them an unexpect­ed Rose Bowl date with USC.

It is only the fifth time in school history — and first since 1983 — that Illinois will go to Pasadena.

“I expected to be in a bowl game,” junior linebacker Brit Miller said. “But to end up in the Rose Bowl was not expected at all. If someone would have told us we’d end up in the Rose Bowl in camp, we probably would have looked at them a little differently.”

Doing things differently is what Zuki set out to do when he arrived three years ago, six weeks after being fired at Florida.

Illinois was hardly a Big Ten power when Zook arrived. Reality, at least, not in the last 50 years. The Illini would usu­ally put together one impressive season a decade, but records of 4-6, 6-5 and 5-5 were more typical. After Illinois went to the Sugar Bowl after the 2001 season, five los­ing seasons followed.

“You don’t go to college say­ing, ‘I want to be on a losing team. Everybody wants to win,’” said linebacker J. Leman, who won only eight games his first four years at Illinois. “To go 2-3 in your own confer­ence, where you’re supposed to be competitive, at a school like Illinois, that’s not some­thing to be very proud of at all.”

Perhaps worst were the expectations. Or lack thereof. While a 7-5 season would be a disappointment at Ohio State or Michigan, that was consid­ered a great year at Illinois.

And those when the Illini went 2-9 or 6-11? Well, basketball season was right around the corner.

“I remember two years ago, it was the last game of the year, we came out against Northwestern and there were like 20,000 people,” Miller said. “It felt like we were back in high school again.”

But Zook saw potential at Illinois. He already had established himself as one of the country’s best recruiters — he recruited most of Florida’s national championship team last year — and despite his struggles with the Gators, he was confident he was a good coach. He and his staff just needed the right setting, the right players and time for their system to take hold.

Illini quarterback Juice Williams escapes Northwest­ern’s linebacker Adam Kadael during Illinois’ 41-22 win on Nov. 17.

Thursday, December 11 • 7:00 PM

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orihnd.edu
Colts could set NFL win record

Indianapolis Tony Dungy spent nearly two decades trying to get to 12 wins in a season as a coach. In Indianapolis, it has become part of the Colts’ annual routine.

After wrapping up their eighth playoff appearance in nine years Sunday and all but clinching their fifth straight AFC South title, the Colts stand on the precipice of another historic achievement. By winning just one of its final three regular-season games, Indy will become the first team in league history with five straight 12-win seasons — something even the perfect Patriots can’t claim.

"I was wondering about it," the Colts coach said Monday, a day after winning in Baltimore. "It’s not easy to do. Before I got here, I had never coached on a team that won 12 games. I played on a team in Pittsburgh that won 14 once, but it’s hard to do year in and year out."

Especially in today’s challenging environment of salary cap restrictions, tougher schedules and, of course, the propensity for season-altering injuries. None of those potential obstacles, however, has derailed the Colts (11-2).

Only one other team, the Dallas Cowboys from 1992-95, won 12 times in four straight years. The Colts can break that mark Sunday at Oakland or by winning either of their final two home games.

Given the way Indy has performed over the past month, the milestone seems a lock.

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning walks off the field after Indianapolis’ 44-20 win over the Ravens on Sunday.

"It’s not easy to do. We’ve had contributions from everybody on this 53-man unit. That’s what you try to do when you go to training camp is develop a 53-man roster in which everyone contributes," Dungy said.

In the Colts’ case, Dungy truly means everyone.

Of the nine defensive linemen listed on the active roster, eight have at least one sack. Nine players have interceptions and eight offensive players, including such previously anonymous names as Luke Watson and Keston Keith, have scored touchdowns.

Yet they’ve won seven games by at least 18 points and have overcome a grueling schedule.

Colts welcome back James and Varejao

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James’ injured finger passed the first practice test. It’s game time.

James, who has missed Cleveland’s past five games — all losses — with a sprained left index finger, is expected to be back in the lineup on Tuesday night when the Cavaliers host the Indiana Pacers.

"We’re going to leave it as a game-time decision," said James, the NBA’s leading scorer.

LeBron James, Cleveland’s forward, is going back in the lineup on Tuesday, December 11, after missing two days of contact. The Cavaliers’ megastar sounded confident that he would dress for the Pacers.

"We’re going to leave it as a game-time decision," he said. "I’ve been through two contact practices OK. We’ll see what happens.

James has been wearing a protective glove over the knuckle on his finger, which was injured on Nov. 28 when Detroit forward Nazr Mohammed whacked his hand while he was driving for a shot in a loss to the Pistons.

"It’s better than it was a week and half ago," James said. "The pain is going away little by little. It’s not 100 percent at all right now and it probably won’t be until the offseason, and I don’t have an off-season until 2009.

He will play for the United States in the Beijing Olympics this summer.

James, the NBA’s leading scorer who was playing some of the best ball of his career when he got hurt, was surprised the Cavs played so poorly without him.

"It’s not as much as, defensively we struggled," he said. "You have mental lapses defensively, but you can’t have those defensively no matter who is playing. We had a couple games where we just didn’t give effort."

Along with James, the Cavaliers may welcome back forward Anderson Varejao on Tuesday. Varejao, who ended a contract holdout by signing a three-year, $17 million deal last week, was in Canada getting his work visa.

If the Brazilian gets back in the lineup, Cavs coach Mike Brown said he would likely play him against the Pacers.

Varejao’s return, along with guard Larry Hughes being back after missing time with a leg bruise, has renewed confidence for the Cavaliers, the defending Eastern Conference champions who are off to a 9-12 start.

"It’s starting to feel good around here, especially the last couple days of practice," James said. "Everyone is back now so we’re ready to start playing winning basketball again."

James, who had never missed more than four games in a season, said not being able to play has been frustrating.

"It’s not good for me," he said. "It’s not like I’m learning anything from watching; I don’t learn nothing from watching. It’s tiring. I could really fall asleep on the bench if I wanted to."

"I’m very impressed each morn, especially the last three or four days of practice," Brown said.

It’s not like I’m learning anything from watching; I don’t learn nothing from watching. It’s tiring. I could really fall asleep on the bench if I wanted to."
NHL

Capitals upset breaks Devils unbeaten streak

Auld makes 44 saves as Bruins beat Sabres; Wings top Predators

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It seemed like another mismatch. The New Jersey Devils, who hadn’t lost in regulation in 11 games against the team with the lowest points in the NHL, hadn’t lost since an overtime win in Philadelphia.

Instead, it was the Washington Capitals, who won the teams’ game on Nov. 22, that snapped the Devils’ point streak at 10 on Monday night.

Daniel Schultz, who had just one goal in his first 59 NHL games, scored for the second straight game. Quintin Laing, stuck inucky obscurity, netted his first overall.

Schultz and Laing are a great match for coach Bruce Boudreau, who knocked around the bushes for decades, since Boudreau was promoted from the AHL’s Hershey Bears to succeed Glen Hanlon on Nov. 22.

The Capitals have improved — going 5-3-1.

One of those losses was last Friday against New Jersey, and Boudreau blasted his team for its slow start. On Monday, Boudreau joked about the sudden absence of press room.

“It’s getting ridiculous,” he laughed.

A handful of the players he coached in Hershey — Schultz and Laing were suddenly stars, Boudreau was especially pleased for the 28-year-old Laing, playing just his eighth NHL game — his fifth with Washington.

Boudreau who’s toiled for most of his life [in] the low minors. To score the winning goal in an important game for us, that’s a really cool thing,” Boudreau said.

Laing scored the final goal for the Capitals on a rebound of John Erskine’s shot at 18:08 of the second period to give them a 3-1 lead — and he plans for the puck.

“I won’t let it out of my sight,” Laing said.

“It was kind of a harmless shot … I would have liked it to have been the insurance goal, but the game-winner I’ll take,” Schultz, with whom he played at Hershey, is suddenly turning into a scorer.

“Evidently, but I never would have thought it,” Boudreau said.

The Devils lost for the second consecutive night after winning nine straight. They earned one point Sunday during a 1-0 over-time defeat in New York against the Rangers. New Jersey hadn’t been beaten in regulation since another 1-0 loss on Nov. 16 to the New York Islanders.

The Devils took a 3-0 lead when John Madden scored at 2:56 of the first period. He flicked the puck to the left of goalie Olie Kolzig for his eighth goal of the season. Brian Gionta sent a pass to Madden from behind the net.

With the Capitals on a power play, Nicklas Backstrom slickly maneuvered through two Devils defenders and scored the tying goal through the pads of Kevin Weekes, who started in goal for the first time since Nov. 12.

Victor Kozlov won a pass from just behind the net to Backstrom.

Schultz, who didn’t have a goal in 38 games last season, fired a shot from the right circle that beat Weekes and gave the Capitals a 1-1 lead. Alex Ovechkin had an assist, giving him nine points (four goals and five assists) in five games.

Bruins 4, Sabres 1

Alex Auld is quickly earning the respect of his Boston teammates.

Auld made 44 saves in his second start since being acquired from Phoenix on Thursday, and Marc Savard had a goal and assist to lift the Bruins to a win over the Buffalo Sabres on Monday night.

Auld was spectacular in his second straight win, and made several scintillating saves in the second and third periods when Boston was outshot by a 33-15 margin.

“When he played for Florida last year he had our number, so I knew he was a good goaltender,” Savard said. “Phoenix had a lot of goals, so their loss is our gain right now for sure.”

The 26-year-old Auld was just 3-6-1 with a 3.54 goals-against average and one shutout in nine games with the Coyotes this season before being assigned to San Antonio of the AHL. He made 25 saves in his Boston debut Saturday at Toronto, a 2-1 Bruins win.

“I have a lot of confidence in what I can do, but at the same time you don’t want to get too ahead of yourself,” Auld said. “I feel I can play in this league and I feel it’s where I belong.”

Despite Auld’s play, Boston coach Claude Julien said Tim Thomas will continue to be Boston’s starter when he fully recovers from a groin injury sustained last week. Still, Julien praised Auld’s showing against the Sabres.

Red Wings 2, Predators 1

Tomas Kopecky and Valtteri Filppula scored and the Detroit Red Wings won their seventh straight, over the Nashville Predators.

Martin Gulin scored for Nashville.

Kopecky opened the scoring 7:10 into the game, firing a one-time from inside the right circle that found the net between goalie Dan Ellis and the left post.

At 15:06, Filppula was awarded a penalty shot after he was tripped by Jerred Smithson while he skated toward the net. Ellis went low to block the shot, and Filppula shot it over the goalie.

The Predators cut the Detroit lead to 2-1 with 24 seconds left in the second period. After failing to score on three power-play attempts in the period, the Predators got a short-handed goal. David Legwand was skating in on a breakaway and lost the puck.

Celebrate the season!

We at Notre Dame Federal Credit Union wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

Notre Dame Club of Saint Joseph Valley

presents…

The 2007 Heuburgh Lecture

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2007
Warren Golf Course Club House

The Idea of a Catholic University

6:15 PM Hors d’Oeuvres & Cash Bar

7:00 PM Lecture

This event is FREE and open to the public. A dessert reception and open conversation on the topic will follow.

For more information call the Notre Dame Federal Credit Union at 574-631-8222.
Tuesday, December 11, 2007

ND SWIMMING AND DIVING

Athletes to train in Florida

By JARED JEDICK, CHRIS DOYEN and SAMANTHA LEONARD

The most important part of the season is here for the men's and women's squads as the teams put in hard work that they hope will pay off down the road.

The women get a much-needed break and are permitted to return home for Christmas. Irish women's assistant coach Joel White said time the swimmers spend with their families is key for establishing the mental and physical endurance necessary for their difficult upcoming training schedule.

"The girls get to go home for seven days, the most ever," White said. "They need the rest to be ready for the remainder of a really long season that lasts until July and the Olympic trials.

The men will take a break from swimming until Dec. 28. Once training resumes, the squad's intensity level will pick up considerably.

"We'll want to recuperate from exams, and we want everyone to be with their families for Christmas, but once we get back, we have a few weeks where we'll be training with great intensity," meet director Tim Welch said. "The schedule goes straight on to the Big East Championship and February."

Following the almost month-long break from competitive action, the men will head to Boca Raton, Fla. to train beginning on Dec. 30. The athletes will then travel to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for their first-ever dual meet with Louisiana State on New Year's Day. The Irish will look to build on a solid showing at the Ohio State Invitational and hope to see improvements based on their rigorous training.

The men, who are 2-3 in dual meets, will face an LSU squad that has been dealt losses by national power Florida on Nov. 22 and conference foe Georgia. Most recently, the Tigers were runners-up to Florida State, finishing a convincing second at the Georgia Tech Invitational.

The most recent CSCAA national rankings indicate the meet should be competitive. LSU is ranked 21st with 92 points, while Notre Dame is only two points behind in 22nd.

Following the holiday showdown with the Tigers, the Irish will stay in the Sunshine State and travel to Boca Raton for the Saint Andrew's Invitational on Jan. 5.

The women, meanwhile, will head to Miami to train as well as a dual meet is over on Dec. 27.

The team will follow a rigorous schedule of training for a few days, then competing in a meet against LSU on Jan. 2. After that event comes several more days of training before the squad finishes up with a meet against the University of Miami.

"It's our last push," women's head coach Carrie Nixon said. "The girls are only able to get through it based on their great dedication and their support for one another."

The training is not easy, as the men will be putting in days of intense physical conditioning: more than four hours of swimming practice every day in combination with dry-land circuits, weight training, cardio and yoga.

The team hopes this last stretch of training will be well prepared for the postseason. The men and women want to take this time and focus on building on their rigorously condensed training and their tempo for the upcoming Big East final.

The women will return to competition in South Bend against Michigan, Indiana and Illinois on Jan. 10. The Irish hope to earn as many NCAA national championship automatic qualifications as they can.

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Busy continued from page 24

the Otterbein Club Tournament and games against Kenyon (3-5) on Dec. 25 and either Franklin (4-1) or host Otterbein (4-4) on Dec. 27.

The Belles will visit Alma (3-4, 1-0) on Jan. 5 and Albion (6-1) on Jan. 9 before classes resume on Jan. 14.

Saturday's 82-68 victory at Tri-City gave Saint Mary's its first conference win and marked the sixth straight games on the road for the Belles. The team has yet to win a competitive game and has struggled with in-game consistency, especially during second halves of contests.

The Belles have led at halftime in six of their seven games, outscoring opponents 240-178 in the opening period. But the team has been outscored 246-227 following intermission.

Carrie Nixon
Irish women's head coach

"The girls are able to get through it based on their great dedication and support for one another."

Henley said her squad has to display better fundamentals in order to reach a more consistent level of performance.

"We need to continue to improve on our team defense and shutting down our opponents in the paint, and we also need to focus on limiting turnovers and taking away second shot opportunities from opponents," the coach said.

Despite the Belles' early struggles, Henley is encouraged by her team's efforts, especially the senior guard Alison Kessler and the junior forwards Samantha Leonard, junior forward Erin Newcomb (11.6 points, MIAA high 9.7 rebounds) andomore forward Anna Kammrath (10.7 points, 8.1 rebounds).

"At this point in the season, and there's no time more than one can really score a lot of points and that our transition game is pretty good," Henley said.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Unlikely Pitino still looking for 500th career win

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Rick Pitino isn't much on nostalgia.

The game ball from his first win as a college head coach, a 75-71 win by Boston University over St. Peters as a freshmen coach in 1981, isn't likely to make his shelf anytime soon.

"I don't have much of a collection," his agent Rick Pitino said. "I have no idea where most of them are, probably in storage somewhere," he said.

That's fine, Pitino would be well for the ball Pitino will be handed after claiming his 500th victory as a college head coach. His first shot at joining the 500-win club came Saturday when the 14th-ranked Cardinals lost 70-65 to Dayton.

His next opportunity will come against Purdue in the John Wooden Tradition next Saturday in Indianapolis.

Reaching 500 wins is ratified with assurance, but there's still a whiff of missed opportunity for the only coach in NCAA history to win 500 games in less than five years.

Pitino spent eight years coaching in the NBA during two stints with the New York Knicks and one with the Boston Celtics. If he'd been in the college ranks those years, adding the 23.5 wins he averaged in 21 years as a college coach, he'd have the cusp of 700 wins by now.

The number rises considerably if you bump the wins per year to 30.8 — what Kentucky averages under Pitino across five years before he bolted for the Celtics in 1997. It was a benchmark that could have put him in the 55-60 years on track to surpass 1,000 career victories.

Month after month, where is Pitino's garbage? In the NBA, his coach's jargons in the NBA might have come with a second coach to help his basketball winningest coach, and he admitted there were times he sacrificed by leaving the comfort of the college circuit.

"From the standpoint of missing on some golden years at the college level, there's no doubt I did that," he said.

How golden? He's younger than almost all of the 16 active Division I coaches ahead of him in career wins, none of them spent nearly a decade living in the NBA, and he admits there are times he looks back at the brush young coach who kept one eye on the court and the other looking for the next opportunity and wishes he could have been in it.

"At Providence I was enjoying it. At Kentucky we had it rolling. I don't think there was a person in the country who thought we could lose," Pitino said.

He's never know. By '97 he had restored the Celtics to championship calibre, growing up in the Northeast watching the battles between the Knicks and the Celtics. Pitino couldn't resist the opportunities for the NBA's most storied franchise.

"I thought that type of situation would be fun, it's what gets you going," he said.

It ended up not going anywhere. After declining the Michigan coaching offer, he never fully translated the success to the college game, something he learned with the Knicks and the Celtics made him a better coach.

"It made me more mature, much more understanding of why you win and why you lose," Pitino said. "Although we lost and there were some rough times, I wouldn't trade the adversity.

Lunch and Conversation

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, December 13
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The Notre Dame Campus Center for Gay and Lesbian Students involves gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender members of the Notre Dame community. The mission of the center is to provide an enriched lunch at the GCAC.

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.
**FOOTBALL**

**Weis to sign autographs**

**Special to the Observer**

Our Dame coach Charlie Weis will be available to autograph up to two items for Friday any student, faculty or staff member at Notre Dame, Notre Dame's 6th Holy Cross. Weis will sign at 8 a.m. in the Guglielmino Auditorium.

"There have been numerous inquiries regarding whether I'd be available to sign potential Christmas gifts for people this year," Weis said in a statement. "As opposed to having people try to catch me early in the morning or late in the evening outside the Gug, I thought it would be best to set up an organized signing period. Therefore, I'll get off the road from recruiting Thursday night and will sign for everyone who shows up Friday morning."
Tuesday, December 11, 2007

BLACK DOG

Micheal Mikuska

TASTES LIKE FAILURE

Rich Protiva & Andy Spangler

CROSSWORD

Will Shortz

HOROSCOPE

Eugenia Last

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Henri Arnold & Mike Argirion

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THE OBSERVER
ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

What break?

Squad prepares for busy schedule after first semester ends

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Classes may be ending, but for Notre Dame, the work is not.

Valparaiso will come to South Bend to face the No. 17 Irish (9-11) Wednesday in Notre Dame’s final game before winter break. Notre Dame has six games over the holiday, including contests against Tennessee, Louisville and West Virginia after Christmas Day.

Notre Dame defeated Valparaiso by one point last season when then-senior guard Brenna Gray hit a free throw to give the Irish the win with one second remaining.

“We’re definitely not taking them lightly,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said of the Crusaders.

Valparaiso has won its last three games. In each,guard Agniouka Kulaiga has led the team in scoring with 21,18 and 23 points. Her season scoring average is also a team-best at 13.8 points per game.

“The Crusaders are just going to keep getting better as they go,” McGraw said. “Now they’re playing much better than they were at the beginning of the season.”

Irish senior guard Charle Allen dribbles past a Western Kentucky defender during Notre Dame’s 78-59 win on Nov. 13. The No. 17 Irish will play Valparaiso Wednesday at the Joyce Center.

SMC BASKETBALL

Team set for busy few weeks

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s (3-4, 1-1 MIAA) will have to keep its momentum up as it enters the holiday break from classes, so maintaining its focus will be key.

The Bellas coach Jennifer Henley said, “There are no bad teams in the MIAA, just bad records. You have to be prepared every night you step on the court to play, and you can never overlook an opponent.”

The Bellas will play Hope College (7-0, 1-0) to open the Hope Classic in Holland, Mich., on Dec. 21. That game will count toward the MIAA standings. Saint Mary’s will face either North Park (0-6) or Hanover (4-2) in the second round of the tournament the next day.

Saint Mary’s will then travel to Westerville, Ohio, for BUSY.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Irish gear up for league play

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

He’d like to play every night. But right now, Notre Dame guard Kyle McAlarney has other things on his mind. It’s finals week.

“I have a couple of papers and my exams started Monday,” said McAlarney, who already took his first exam — for a half-semester course.

The Irish (7-2) don’t play again until Dec. 22 against San Francisco and didn’t hold full team practice Monday, and will not practice today or Wednesday.

“We have to focus on academics,” McAlarney said.

While the players study, coach Mike Brey is out recruiting. Brey is working Monday and will return Wednesday, and is focusing his sales pitches mainly on high school juniors.

“With a few weeks off, it puts me in a position to get on the road for about four days,” Brey said. “It gives me a chance to get out and see some key kids.”

Scouts cannot comment on specific recruits under NCAA rules.

Brey said he’s been out with Brey off the town, the players will still be in the gym, though not as a complete unit. They will work out every day, and, in position groups of three or four, they will work on individual skills with assistant coaches.

“We usually get in an hour or so per day,” junior guard Ryan Ayers said. “We go in and lift and get some conditioning in.

With two weeks of downtime before the next game, Ayers said the Irish will try to work on fundamentals.

“We want to use this as a chance to get better as a team,” he said. “We’ll be antsy, but it’ll be a good time for us.”

When Notre Dame does replay the court in its uniforms, the Irish will have three non-conference games and then begin their Big East slate.

Overall, the team has six games during Christmas break — live at the Joyce Center and one on the road.

Jackson will not play ‘patsies’ during break

By DAN MURPHY
Assistant Sports Editor

As the college hockey world enters its annual three-week hibernation, No. 6 Notre Dame finds itself in a very familiar position.

At the onset of the break, the Irish (16-4) have a virtually identical record and ranking to last year’s 16-3-1 team. After starting 4-3, coach Jeff Jackson has pulled together his young and talented squad to win 12 of its last 13 games against some of the country’s top teams. Two of the team’s four losses have come against top-five teams in pair of 3-1 losses to No. 2 Miami and No. 4 Denver.

“I think we started this year with a lot more questions than last year ... but once we got those answered we started to show we could be a pretty good team,” Jackson said. “I think we are as far if not further ahead than we were last year.”

But the second half of the season will bring plenty of obstacles for Notre Dame. The Irish are slated for two-game series with both No. 1 Michigan and No. 5 Michigan State in January.

Notre Dame’s next game will be on Dec. 29 against No. 9 Massachusetts at the Lightning College Hockey Classic in St. Petersburg, Fla. If they beat the Minutemen, the Irish will play the following night in the championship game against either No. 3 Colorado College or No. 16 Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

The Irish won the first-ever Lightning Classic last season in a 3-2 overtime win over University of Notre Dame.

The third-year coach has played a big role in setting up the tournament and increasing the talent level during his time at Notre Dame. Jackson has a personal connection with one of the members of the Tampa Bay Lightning ownership group, and the pair has worked together to see LIGHTNING/ page 22