Mooney: Education more important than cost

Saint Mary's President writes letter to parents of prospective students to encourage consideration of all financial options

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

With the economy at the forefront of most news broadcasts and on front pages of many newspapers, the effects are beginning to reach higher education and raising questions as to whether or not families will be able to send children to expensive colleges and universities.

"Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney responded to this dilemma in a Presidential Perspective posted on the College's external Web site on Monday. "It is the natural reaction in uncertain times to tighten our belts," Mooney said in the perspective. "People are driving less, shopping less, and doing more with less — all wise reactions to an uncertain economic future." However, quality cannot be sacrificed in some areas, Mooney said.

"Even in difficult times, for some things quality is worth the sacrifice," she said. "Some decisions are too important to be left in the hands of the lowest bidder." She encouraged the parents of prospective students — the main target of the external Web site — to explore their financial aid options in these "uncertain times" and reminded parents that the "sticker price" of a college may not be the final price that student will pay because of financial aid.

"Many private institutions, like Saint Mary's, offer scholarships, need based aid, loans, work study, and other solutions. Nearly one-fourth of our operating budget is devoted to making a Saint Mary's education affordable for our families," Mooney said. "... The end result is that, for some students, the cost of attending a private college or university is actually lower than that of attending a public university.

NDSP gives winter driving advice

Students should increase following distance by 3 seconds, heed weather agency warnings

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

Captain Phil Trent, public information officer at the South Bend Police Department, gave some advice to students who plan to drive on wintry roads. "Practice makes perfect. Give yourself a lot of time and distance between you and the cars in front of you." Driving on roads layered by ice and snow is among the adjustments students coming from warmer climates like those found in California and Florida must make in the northern Midwest.

Notre Dame Security Police Major Jeff Korros explained the difference between driving on snow and driving in clear conditions.

"The biggest difference is that you lose traction. The coefficient of friction between the tires and the road surface isn't there," he said. "If you steer, you might end up going in a straight line. When you hit the brakes, you slide because there is no stopping ability."

Korros also pointed to some guidelines for returning to campus in one piece. Drivers should increase their following distance to three seconds, clear all windows beforehand, apply steady brake pressure and in the event that the car loses traction, the driver should release the gas pedal and turn the steering wheel slightly in the direction that the rear end is slipping.

In slippery conditions, "jabbing" at the brakes will cause tires to lock and slide while "overcorrecting" and turning the wheel.

Snow covers cars in a Notre Dame parking lot. Students face increased dangers driving in the winter.

By CATHERINE MILLER
News Writer

There's popular history, and then there's unpopular history, said Thomas Noble, Chair of the Department of History and the first of three panel members to speak at Tuesday's discussion "Academic vs. Popular History," which aimed to differentiate between the two genres of history in today's society.

"One of the obvious differences between popular and academic history is that popular history makes an enormous amount of money," Noble said, as he began the event sponsored by the Department of History and Exploring History Beyond the Classroom, a one credit class designed to encourage intellectual discussion among history scholars.

Enhanced with colorful images and visuals, prominent publishers issue popular historical books, while academic books tend to lack visuals and are usually published by a university. Noble contended, "There is a difference in how the books are prepared.

Once written, an academic book is reviewed by an author's colleagues. For a popular book, no review process is necessary, and editors work more closely with authors. Also, success of a popular historical book is measured by the number of copies sold, instead of the quality of the review necessary for success of an academic book."

"There is one piece of bad news and two pieces of good news about this fact," John McGreevy, O'Shaughnessy Dean of Arts and Letters, said. "There is an enormous amount of bad popular history, he said.

Portions of the History

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The Office of Residence Life (ORL) is charged with educating the community, not with punishing students, nor with punishing them, according to associate vice president of Residence Life Bill Kirk, a 1984 graduate of Notre Dame who spoke at Tuesday's Council of Representatives (COR) meeting at the request of Student Body President Bob Reish.

"ORLI is not about the mini­mal expectations of society, it's not about treating everyone the same," Kirk said. "It is much more about an attempt by the University to try to help in the formation of the students in their education. Our primary role is education."

Much of ORL's role in the educational process is overshadowed by the perception that the office is only focused on discipline, but Kirk said that the office's disciplinary measures serve a greater purpose.

"Quite obviously, they deal with discipline, but it's about educa­tion, it's about formation, it's about trying to assist students in..."
Decline a bowl game

It seems to be official. ESPN, WNYR, Irisheyes.com, and, according to today's sports section of The Observer, a source close to the administration have confirmed that Charlie Weis will remain as the head football coach at our fair University.

I won't lie and say I'm not entirely sad that I'll be graduating at the end of the year and won't have to sit through another dismal season in the student section. Instead, I'll most likely be sitting elsewhere in the student section watching a dismal season — let's face it, I'll be an Irish fan for life.

That being said, I, like many fans, was disappointed in the Irish's showing against USC. Obviously, I don't like the fact that it took us almost 45 minutes to get a first down, but what I'm most disappointed in is the lack of passion I saw from our team.

Now, I've never written a sports article, nor do I claim to have an extensive knowledge of the sport of football, but I was at USC. I don't know how much they showed on TV but before the game the players of both teams got into a fight. Then, two players, one from each team, were ejected from the game because of lighting.

After the game, Charlie Weis said that he expects the team to be going somewhere when bowl selection day rolls around. I want to ask why? Why should we go to a bowl game?

We barely beat Navy. We lost to a team that was 2-8. What have we done that shows that we deserve to go to a bowl? Sure, we lost to USC, but let's be honest, who didn't see that one coming? I'm not saying that we don't deserve to go to the Sun Bowl or the Poinsettia Bowl just because we lost to a team that we knew was going to be able to beat us into the ground.

I'm saying we don't deserve to go to a bowl game because the only excitement I saw on the field during the Syracuse game was when Pat Kusz got mad because he got hit with a snowball. Don't get me wrong. I commend our players for being the best students and athletes, but really, at the past two games they looked tired. They didn't show me anything that made me want to see us play again this season. It's getting to be cruel and unusual punishment watching Notre Dame football games. Why do I want to watch any more?

I'm sorry that if Notre Dame doesn't go to a bowl game the senior football players won't get to wear the Irish again, but maybe it's best to just go quietly. Congratulations on four years, but please don't subject me to your problems.

I understand that money changes hands when fans are invited to bowl games, and therefore NI will obviously go wherever they are invited. But seriously, think about sparing us the pain and respectfully decline.

Personally, I know I would thank you for doing so.

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

Contact Liz Harter at lizhharter@stmarys.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PICK UP LINE?

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<th>BRENT GILLS</th>
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Brent

"How much does a polar bear weigh? Enough to break the ice."

"Did you just wave your pants because I can totally see myself in them."

"If I could rearrange the alphabet I would put U and I together."

"Do you work at Starbucks? Cause you're giving me a footlong."

Offbeat

Man accused of throwing Christmas tree at dad

PARRISH, Fla. — Authorities say a west Florida man who lives with his parents has been arrested on a felony assault charge after he used a Christmas tree as a weapon to attack his father.

According to the Manatee County sheriff's report a 37-year-old man was arrested last week after he threw a 3-foot Christmas tree at his father. The tree missed, but the man then tried to use the steel base from the tree to strike his father. The man was charged with felony assault. He denied trying to strike his father.

Woman accused of stealing decorations

MANCHESTER, Md. — A woman was facing misdemeanor theft charges for allegedly swiping Christmas decorations from her neighbor's lawn. The county sheriff's office said a 51-year-old woman was found Monday in her Manchester home with decorations from at least three area homes.

Authorities said the investigation began about 4:30 a.m. after a woman reported a loud noise and discovered her 4-foot-tall Santa and snowman had been taken from her yard.

After deputies went to her home, another neighbor who was walking her dog reported that she, too, had been targeted.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

Human rights activist Winona LaDuke will speak on "The New Energy Economy: Nonviolent strategies of change utilizing indigenous knowledge" tonight at 7 p.m. in the Hesburgh Auditorium in the Hesburgh Library. LaDuke is a native American and an international expert in sustainable systems.

Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and GreenND are hosting a Green Fashion Show tonight from 8 p.m. to 9 at the LaFortune Ballroom. Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and proceeds go to the Majora Carter Sustainable South Bronx.

Members of Saint Mary’s Women’s Choir will perform at the College’s 36th annual Madrigal Dinners this weekend. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $40 for evening performances, $35 for matinee performances and $15 for children.

Circle K, Knot Hall and the Clarke House have made fleece blankets to donate to cancer patients as part of The Alumni Program. The project will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the East Wing of South Dining Hall.

Notre Dame Women’s Basketball team plays Purdue at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Joyce Center. Call 574-631-7356 for tickets or visit the Athletic Ticket Office Web page.

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

Corrections

Due to a reporting error, Saint Mary’s senior Krisi Pelligrini was incorrectly identified as a Notre Dame student in the article "Irish fans disappointed, embarrassed by USC loss" in the Dec. 2 issue of The Observer. The Observer regrets this error.

Local weather

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coming to understand that their actions have consequences," he said.

Kirk is not personally involved in disciplinary hearings, contrary to popular perception, as he is not involved in the day-to-day procedures of ORL, he said. "I supervise the administration of that office," he said. ORL is directed by Jeff Shoup, the Director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing. It is Shoup who runs disciplinary hearings, Kirk said.

Kirk said he understands that he and the ORL are not well liked by students, but he said that he hopes that his appearance at the COR meeting will help to clear up some of the misunderstandings about his role at Notre Dame. Despite his assumed unpopularity among many students, Kirk said it is an "absolute delight to teach and be around" students.

He received a favorable reaction from most COR members, especially after he was given a chance to articulate his view of the mission of Residence Life. "It's very clear that you have the best interests of the students and the university at heart," one sophomore class president Cynthia Weber said.

Kirk said that one of the key roles in Residence Life's educational mission is instilling a sense that actions have consequences in students. Actions "really do have an impact on the rest of the community," Kirk said.

"The sense of community is very important" at Notre Dame, he said. One important disciplinary role filled by ORL, that is often over-looked is in regards to cases of sexual assault. Weber said many members of the sophomore class were most interested in the University's policies in regards to sexual assault, especially in light of the University's ban on premarital sexual intercourse.

Kirk said that the University has two unrelated rules. "One deals with sexual misconduct and the ways that you can be charged with sexual assault," while the other is concerned with premarital intercourse, he said.

"When an allegation of sexual assault is raised, the University says 'we're going to deal with that really important allegation,'" Kirk said.

The University will not punish either party for premarital intercourse if an allegation of assault is raised, even if the individuals are engaged in consensual intercourse prior to the alleged incident of assault, he said.

Cases of sexual assault are incidents in which the University often believes that further educational outreach to the perpetrator is impossible. "If someone sexually assaults someone, that's a person we believe we can educate any way," he said.

He said it is often difficult to establish the truth in an alleged sexual assault incident, unlike in most cases that Residence Life hears, which often regard alcohol-related offenses.

"Getting to what happened in cases of alleged sexual assault is very difficult," Kirk said. "It's not a situation where anyone is ever going to be happy." In cases that are not related to sexual assault, the facts of the case are generally clear-cut, he said. "There are very few circumstances where there's ever a question of what actually happened," he said. "Virtualiy all of our reports are recognized by the students in the room that they engaged in this behavior, but there's almost always disagreement as to what the appropriate response is." He said that reasonable people can disagree whether (Residence Life's sanctions) are effective, whether they do what we want them to do," Kirk said.

Off-campus safety was an important topic in COR's discussion with Kirk. Kirk said off-campus security is the responsibility of South Bend Police, not of the University.

Kirk said the Office of Security Police's jurisdiction only extends on campus and "on roads that run through and around campus," he said. Therefore, NDPSP is unable to "go and do police and law enforcement things elsewhere in the county," he said. This jurisdiction is set by Indiana state law.

Kirk said that contrary to perception, South Bend police are "remarkably student-friendly." They treat students with great respect and restraint, especially when the students they're dealing with generally have some level of intoxication, he said.

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Fashion continued from page 1

Bronx is an organization that pursues environmental justice through innovative projects, and was founded in 2001 by Majora Carter. Carter served as a panelist Notre Dame’s 2008 Forum on Sustainable Energy where she discussed the impact of environmental issues on poorer areas of the United States. "We were trying to find some kind of organization that was green. This year’s forum was on sustainable energy, and we thought that Majora Carter’s fund would be a good tie in because she was a pan­elist," event coordinator Laura Moore-Shay, a junior at the University, said. "[The Sustainable South Bronx] also includes an aspect of social justice, which many Notre Dame students are interested in."

Moore-Shay has been involved in several environ­mental activism groups during her two and a half years at Notre Dame. A member of GreenND, Students for Environmental Action and the Energy Center’s Advisory Board, Moore-Shay came up with the idea last spring as she was recycling some clothes of her own. She then recruited junior Lindsay Sena and senior Ann Kelley, the president of EarthIA, to assist her in planning the event. "I’ve always loved fashion and art," Moore-Shay said. "I came up with the idea for this new event last spring at an advisory board meeting while cutting up an old Recy cilin’ Irish T-shirt. I thought that an environmentally friendly fash­ion show could be a new inno­vative event, so I pitched the proposal to GreenND and they liked it."

The fashion event will feature both pieces purchased from resale stores and stu­dent-designed outfits made from recyclable material. Student volunteers will model 96 environmentally friendly outfits with the accompani­ment of professional hair and makeup. Origins, a hair care company that features an organic line, and Salon Nouveau, a local Salon, will do the models’ hair and makeup, respectively. The secondhand pieces will com­prise one part of the hour­long event. "Since we were able to find a cute skirt or sweater and not head-to-toe cohesive out­fits, the models will be wear­ing some of their own clothes, but it will be clear which article we are showcasing," junior Sena said. "While people mainly associate recycling with bottles and cans, clothing also can be recycled. So many pieces of clothing are produced each year, but they are also thrown away each year. So instead of always purchasing or brand new clothes, we encourage people to try shopping at a second­hand store."

Another part of the event will showcase "recycled couture" outfits. These clothing articles, made out of recycla­ble materials and meant to have a high fashion look, were made by several design stu­dents. The Film, Television, and Theater costume depart­ment loaned the show several coutures made out of eco­ friendly material to exhibit during the event. "These outfits are really creative. We have one dress made entirely of coffee filters and a skirt made out of maga­zine papers," Sena said. "The outfits are meant to inspire the audience; people would never think to wear these materials, but maybe after the show, they’ll look at their recycled materials in a differ­ent light."

Throughout the event, a slideshow that displays pic­tures and offers tips about energy, conserva­tion and the environment will play on a projection screen. Immediately following the event, there will be a small reception and silent auction to bid on the clothing pieces shown on the runway to bene­fit the Sustainable Bronx Fund. "I hope that students who value fashion but maybe aren’t interested in the environment, will appreciate the idea of recycling and conserving more," Moore-Shay said. "We want to get people involved who aren’t normally interest­ed. A lot of the environmental things have been academic, but this fashion show will offer a different and artsy look at being green."

"Trash to Class: A Green Fashion Event" takes place tonight at 8 p.m. in the La Fortune Ballroom. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the LaFortune box office.

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Concern rises over detainees in Iraq

The United Nations expressed concern Tuesday about the rights situation in Iraq and called on the U.N. Security Council to take action to protect detainees in the country under a new security pact that would end the U.S. mission here by 2012. The pact, approved last week by Iraq’s parliament, calls for American forces to transfer all detainees believed to be in their hands to the Iraqi government and to release the rest "in a safe and orderly manner."

But as overall violence declines in the country, the U.N.'s 13th report on the human rights situation in Iraq casts doubt on whether the Iraqis will be ready to take custody of more detainees properly.

**Russian warships train with Chavez in Venezuela**

Russian warships have ended training exercises with Venezuela's navy in Moscow's first such air attack in years.

The exercises that ended late Monday with a fireworks display included an air defense exercise and joint actions to spot, pursue and detain an intruding vessel, Russian navy spokesman Maj. Piotr Polyakov said.

The Russian ships arrived in Venezuela last week in an operation widely seen as a show of Kremlin anger over the U.S. decision to have its ships follow that country's conflict with Guyana.

The exercises ended training exercises with Venezuela's navy in Moscow's first such air attack since the Cold War.

**Indiana flunks college study**

INDIANA - An independent report on American education that was released Tuesday before the Shrouded bodies of the Jewish Chabad-Lubavitch movement's Israel headquarters, to

The six died when gunmen on a deadly five-day rampage attacked the Jewish Chabad House, the movement's Israel headquarters, to

The crowd of thousands at their funeral for Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg, remained seated at the High ...for assistance with budget deficits at home because of the recession, sat at desks in the hall, with no separation by party. They included former and possibly future political rivals, such as GOP Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Sarah Palin of Alaska, the party's vice presidential nominee this year.

In his brief public comments, Obama called the meeting the start of a partnership, and said he will go beyond asking governors to implement the economic plan that will include tax cuts for "hard-pressed middle class families" and increased federal spending.

"I'm going to be interested in you helping to draft the shape that economic plan."}

Gov. of Pennsylvania, Ed Rendell, at podium, and Governors from across the country take questions from members of the media during a news conference on Tuesday.

**Jews mourn victims of Mumbai attack**

Jews prayed and wept as they gathered at Kfar Chabad, the movement's Israel headquarters, to

The couple left a 2-year-old son, Moshe, who was rescued by his Indian nanny.

Their small son, who returned to Israel after his Jan. 29 flight, was repeatedly broadcast on Israeli TV.

"We're going to review all that," Emanuel said.

The measure is expected to boost money for those priorities with tax cuts, a temporary increase in food stamp payments, as well as investments in renewable energy projects and other "green jobs" initiatives.

Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden spoke to the bipartisan group of governors at historic Congress Hall.

Republican and Democratic governors, nearly all of whom are struggling with budget deficits at home because of the recession, sat at desks in the hall, with no separation by party. They included former and possibly future political rivals, such as GOP Gov. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Sarah Palin of Alaska, the party's vice presidential nominee this year.

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"I'm going to be interested in you helping to draft the shape that economic plan."
ZIMBABWE

Country faces water cuts, cholera crisis

Associated Press

HARARE — As children played near cesspools, their parents shook water bottles, and a service announcement drifted over the radio Tuesday, it urged people to boil water before drinking it.

It sounded like a taunt in a country where water and electricity are cut off far more than they are on authority.

Authorities turned off the taps in Zimbabwe's capital again this week because they had run out of purifying chemicals — even as a cholera epidemic threatened the country, claiming hundreds of lives in the first four months of August.

The crisis is the latest in the collapse in the once-vibrant economy of the nation that has blamed the US sanctions, but which has ruled for more than 30 years.

Doctors say the death toll is now 3,000, or 1 per cent of the population, and it is expected to rise as medical care is overwhelmed with patients.

All the country's main public hospitals have been on strike and their patients are being treated in makeshift clinics.

Zimbabwe’s government, normally hostile to international aid organizations, is calling on the US to help with the emergency and try to ensure the water supply.

The retention rate of mid-career sailors and aircrews is far more than they have not elaborated.

They would not say. for example, of the 28,000 South Africans who were shot and one died. As the Army, you’re earning an average of $5 an hour. If I do get a truck-driving job, I can get a truck-driving job.

The Marine Corps had not released any comparative figures on reenlistments.

In fact, the Pentagon just certified a recruiting year in four years.

We do benefit when things look less positive in civil society,” said David Williams, the highest total suffered by the country.

“The President’s new assignment will take him to Germany, where he will serve as a truck driver, though it is not clear what he would be sent back into combat.

“The only way to stop the killing, but difficult economic times give us, I think, is an opening to take our case to people who we might not otherwise have,” said the retention rate of early-career soldiers in the Army has risen steadily over the past four years, the Marine Corps had not released any comparative figures on reenlistments.

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MARKET RECAP

U.S. automakers ground jets for trip

Some in Congress have pounced on what they view as the hypocrisy of auto executives flying on corporate jets to Washington to ask for public help.

Fed extends key credit programs

The Federal Reserve has extended the life of key programs aimed at helping auto manufacturers through credit and reconditioning loans that were made to the industry in a desperate attempt to keep it afloat during the financial crisis.

The Fed's decision to extend the life of its key programs comes one day after the Bush administration announced plans to send a very clear message that the nation is committed to overcoming the worst economic crisis since the 1930s.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke on Monday said he stood ready to lower interest rates again.

Many analysts expect the Fed to cut its key short-term rate for the seventh time this year on Tuesday in a signal that it is ready to do whatever is necessary to stimulate the economy.

The Fed's key rate now stands at 1 percent — a level seen only once before in the past half-century. The Fed can also cut its key rate only so far — to zero — to try to stimulate economic activity. Given that, Bernanke said the central bank was exploring other ways to revive the moribund economy.

"Economic activity appears to have downshifted further after financial conditions took a turn for the worse in September, Bernanke observed Monday.

The overall demand for financial services is difficult to gauge, and thus the uncertainty surrounding the economic outlook is unusually large," he said. "But even if the functioning of financial markets continues to improve, economic conditions will probably remain weak for a time."
It's a Christmas miracle

Andrew Miller
The Roads Scholar

This is that time of year again: the proverbial "most wonderful time of the year." I, however, disagree with this statement. I want to make it publicly known that, much like Santa Claus, I hate Christmas. I have never understood why. Christmas is such a happy and cheerful holiday for people. So many of my childhood memories have been spoiled and disturbed by such very different events and occurrences that have come to have no faith or trust in this ostensible day of warmth and family love. For instance... I believed in Santa Claus for a very long time. My innocence was taken from me at a much later age than you would expect based on my current cynicism and bitterness. It was when I was eight, during a routine early December game of hide-and-seek with my sister Katie, that I stumbled upon a set of gifts that looked like it could be for me. At first I was incredulous. Why would my mom buy gifts for my cousins that she knew I would like and why would she put them in the storage space that I clearly was going to use as my hiding place? How dare she be so inconsiderate? I stormed back upstairs, ended the game, and demanded answers from my mother. "Well, Andrew, those are not actually for your cousins."

I needed to know why they could possibly be for me and if for the cousins I had assumed... "Those are your Christmas gifts."

When on Christmas morning, I went to open the gifts labeled "From Santa" and saw that they were the very gifts that my cousin Lisa had "hidden" in the storage space, I finally knew that Santa did not exist. Christmas ruined. I was so disappointed.

My sister Maureen always used to joke around with me about what she was getting me for Christmas. "This year I'm going to you a whole sock full of rocks, Andrew." But she never got me any rocks. "This year I'm going to you a push down the stairs, Andrew." But push never came. "This year I'm going to you a big box of nothing, Andrew." But on Christmas morning, as always, there was a legitimate present under the tree to me from my dear sister Maureen. Then the next year, the motif of the "box of nothing" became a running gag in my family. Maureen, Katie and I would light-heartedly threaten on birthdays, anniversaries and any gift-giving celebration that the "box of nothing" would rear its intangible and depressing head. Maureen, more so than either Katie or I, loved talking about how one of these days she would give me the "box of nothing." Finally as school started in September the joke became tired and we all moved on with our lives.

Around Advent-time that year, I developed a cane fascination that has stuck with me to this day. I wanted a cane so badly that the only thing on my Christmas list was a gentleman's walking stick. As soon as the tree went up, Maureen put a present under it labeled from her to me. I looked at it confused but then she told me that she had bought me a collapsible cane. It didn't matter if it wasn't exactly a gentleman's walking stick — it was a cane! On Christmas morning I rushed to open this gift, tore off the wrapping paper, and there inside the pipe cleaners spelling out N-O-T-H-I-N-G was a literal box of nothing. I cried.

Third Instance: In 15th grade. I was known to have a prescription for a cane. It's not a sap-filled crap-fest. Andrew Miller is a senior English major. He can be contacted at amiller15@nd.edu
Aiming at the wrong target

ND students should be extremely unhappy and the snowballs are indicative of this frustration. However, the misguided idiots who hurled the snowballs at cameramen are aiming at the wrong target.

Mounting frustration (not snowballs) should be directed at administration. Home football games are something this school is supposed to hold sacred.

Many students choose to attend the school in large part because they want to be a part of the ND football experience (I did in 1988). For many students, home games are highlights of the school year (once again, true of me).

Despite this, the administration willingly and openly prostituted the entire football experience by selling it to NBC. Football games should not last 4.5 hours. If a game is more than three hours, it lacks rhythm and flow. The constant, extended commercial interruptions greatly diminish the experience for the students, the players and the fans across the country. Also, the team loses a big part of its home-field advantage when these long breaks drain much of the emotion in the stadium. As the game is so annoyingly stretched into a marathon, it is difficult for fans to maintain their enthusiasm and for players to feed off of it.

The administration needs to protect home football games for those who love them instead of selling it to those who seek only profit. Yes, the NBC contract ensures that I can see every home game on tv; however, I will take the sanctity of football Saturday at ND over that assurance in a heartbeat. I love ND football. I will find a way to watch it when the NBC debacle ends and I will enjoy it so much more.

James Gillen
alumnus
date of '88
Nov. 26

Rules for selecting head coaches

It's been 20 years since our last national title. In the two decades between 1966 and 1988 we won four. What makes the most recent twenty years so empty?

Compare the head coaches. Ara Parseghian, Dan Devine and Lou Holtz had 13 or more years of head coaching experience and winning percentages of .644 or greater prior to arriving at Notre Dame. Lou and Dan also won big bowl games during their successful years at Arkansas and Missouri. Ara and Lou turned around horrible Big Ten teams (Northwestern and Minnesota).

I could keep going, but the point is, all three had extremely successful and impressive head coaching resumes before being hired by ND. Irish Dave and Charlie Weis had zero head coaching experience. George O'Leary with only a few years of experience shouldn't be chosen to fly Air Force One. The President's surgeon shouldn't be chosen to coach Notre Dame.

The President's surgeon didn't last 4.5 hours. If a game is more than three hours, it lacks rhythm and flow. The constant, extended commercial interruptions greatly diminish the experience for the students, the players and the fans across the country. Also, the team loses a big part of its home-field advantage when these long breaks drain much of the emotion in the stadium. As the game is so annoyingly stretched into a marathon, it is difficult for fans to maintain their enthusiasm and for players to feed off of it.

The administration needs to protect home football games for those who love them instead of selling it to those who seek only profit. Yes, the NBC contract ensures that I can see every home game on tv; however, I will take the sanctity of football Saturday at ND over that assurance in a heartbeat. I love ND football. I will find a way to watch it when the NBC debacle ends and I will enjoy it so much more.

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Notre Dame arrogance

The recent football spectacle created by Charlie Weis ought to be used as an opportunity for the entire University to reassess an unfortunate culture that has developed over the years at Notre Dame. And that is Notre Dame arrogance.

Arrogance is embedded in all environments at Notre Dame: the students, the alumni, the faculty, athletics, probably even the subway alums. It overwhelmed me when I walked on to campus in the fall of 1994.

For example, I had a professor that told me he knew that the reason I left my home state and came to Notre Dame was so that I could get a real education. My senior year, we were embarrassed ourselves in the final week before the bowl game and the selection of our graduation speaker. One little girl commented that even the University of Oklahoma got Margaret Thatcher.

Now, Weis has thrust Notre Dame arrogance into the national media. What is sad about arrogance is it is counterproductive to the goals and ideals that are Notre Dame. We should and often do boast about our commitment to academics, especially with our student athletes. What we have done by not compromising our academic integrity with our athletics, when almost every other university in today's world does, is a true accomplishment.

The arrogance of Notre Dame tarnishes, if not overshadows, this fantastic accomplishment. We have a lot to be proud of at Notre Dame. I am proud to be a Notre Dame alum. But we would be well-served if we used this Charlie Weis spectacle as an opportunity to be introspective and reassess the culture of arrogance that has developed at Notre Dame throughout the years.

Todd Meador

Nov. 30

Letters to the Editor

Catholic schools should support all children

It is easy to read not only the outrage, but the pain in Liz Frohleft's letter on Nov. 17 in the context of the issue of Ignorance. We share that pain. At the same time, please allow me to respond to Liz's challenge regarding Catholic schools as a Catholic educator as well as a lifelong advocate of all students with learning and behavioral issues.

The Nov. 17 Observer came to my office just as twenty Catholic school educators from Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Michigan, Illinois, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland and the District of Columbia were deep in conversation in the next room discussing the knowledge and skills needed by Catholic school educators to ensure that "all Catholic schools are prepared to educate the children of God regardless of special needs to acquire academic, social, emotional behavior, or social economic status" (ACE position statement on Inclusion, 2008). Are these teachers and educators the exception? Not at all. Catholic schools across the country are accepting children with special needs. In a survey of our ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) teachers just last month, 98 percent reported having children with learning and behavioral issues in their classrooms, including children with Down's Syndrome and Autism.

It is clear that we need the resources and knowledge so that the special gifts of persons with disabilities can be included within our nation's classrooms. To that end, ACE has three initiatives under way. First, we are educating Catholic educators, such as those here this week, to become trainers for Catholic dioceses across the country in the strategies needed to help Catholic schoolteachers meet the individual learning needs of the "differently abled." Many of those being trained are graduates of the ACE program who have remained teaching in Catholic schools and are committed to this vision.

Secondly, through our new office of ACE Consulting, we are providing workshops to diocesan superintendents on the opportunities for accessing federal dollars to support the services for children with special needs whose parents choose to place them in Catholic schools. Lastly, the ACE faculty, just this week, reviewed a proposal for a new ACE certification program in Mild Disabilities for Catholic schoolteachers.

We understand that at present, teachers in Catholic schools are typically unequipped to face the challenges of helping diverse learners reach their God-given potential. These initiatives, therefore, are built upon a core belief that every baptized child has a right to a Catholic education. We seek to provide within our nation's Catholic schools a more welcoming and inclusive—and indeed effective—learning environment for children with diverse educational abilities. With the help of the Holy Spirit, ACE might continue in the same way to assist schools in accommodating the richly diverse learning needs of all God's children.

Joyce Johnstone
ACE Consultant
Alliance for Catholic Education
Nov. 19

The Observer

This newspaper is wasted paper. Save trees. Submit a letter.
www.ndsmcobserver.com
Top ten Christmas movies

1) It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
This classic (the American Film Institute named it the number one American inspirational film) is essentially a revamped version of "A Christmas Carol." On Christmas Eve, James Stewart's George Bailey has Jordan Gamble to see what the world would be like if he'd never been born to realize the value of his own life.

2) White Christmas (1954)
In this musical, two army buddies from World War II, now song-and-dance men, try to woo a sister act while the four of them put on a stage show to save a failing winter resort.

3) A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)
The half-hour television special, the first with Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" characters, denounces the materialism of Christmas, with Charlie Brown getting a wilting tree instead of an aluminum one and Linus bringing it all to a crescendo when he recites the Nativity story from the Gospel of Luke.

4) The Santa Clause (1994)
The original TV special, adapted from Dr. Seuss's book, continues in the same vein of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," with the realizations that Christmas is more than "packages, boxes, or bags!"

5) How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966)
The Grinch realizes that Christmas is more than "packages, boxes, or bags!"

6) Home Alone (1990)
Macaulay Culkin's character gets left behind on Christmas, and must fend off boredom, insecurity and burglars until his parents make it home. Insanity ensues. This movie was the top grossing movie of the 90s, until Titanic came along.

7) A Christmas Story (1983)
In December in 1940s northern Indiana and all Ralphie wants for Christmas is a Red Ryder BB gun. "A Christmas Story" turns 25 years old this year, but the sight gags of Ralphie's friend's tongue frozen to the flag pole, the bunny suit and the leg lamp probably won't get old anytime soon.

8) Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)
Of all the stop-motion specials produced by Rankin and Bass, Rudolph has endured the longest. It's got memorable characters in misfit reindeer, an elf who longs to be a dentist, a gold miner named Yukon Cornelius, and of course, Santa and candy cane music, from the title song to "Holly Jolly Christmas."

Intriguing at least nine different love stories, this movie is a must for anyone experiencing the holiday blues. Sure, there are some downbeat parts, but when the little girl collects her toys from Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" at the end, you'd have to be a real Scrooge to resist the Christmas cheer.

The 6-foot tall Buddy (Will Ferrell), clad in an elf ensemble straight out of "Hudolph," discovers he is actually a human adopted by the North Pole, and sets out to reconnect with his real father. Ferrell is both convincing and hilarious in a movie that generated such catchphrases as "Santa! I know him!"

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu.
gathering around the school. And the snow on the ground has been lit, certainly beginning something more cheery. Times, the snow on the last snowfall. We'll all be trying to make it through the last few weeks of papers and exams. There are more important things than just making it through the last few weeks of the season are the chance to celebrate Christmas with the friends that have become our family away from home. - 

All of these Christmas preparations and celebrations remind us of the spiritual side of Notre Dame. The first advent candle has been lit in the Basilica and chapels across campus, the grotto, the Dome and O'Shaughnessy. Hymns like “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” fill us with anticipation, and the nativity scenes set up at the nativity scenes set up at the heart of Notre Dame is about something more. So take time to breathe in the crisp air and practice your figure skating. These early Christmastime carols will remind us of the story of the Glee Club’s more unconventional stories as 11 year-old Ralphie Parker dreams of a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Even if you'll “shoot your eye out”, you can’t pass up this Christmas production. The story, which takes place in Indiana, was first brought to the stage in 2000. 

The views expressed in Scene and Scene Writer are not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu. 

Christmas season events on and off campus

By ANALISE LIPARI Scene Editor

Ice-skating at Howard Park
Hours can be found at: www.sbpark.org/skate/iceskate.htm
Sure, it's fun to skate in the Joyce Center whenever the rink's open, cruising along the ice with your friends and dormmates. Why not give it a try off-campus? South Bend's park system deserves a second look, especially this time of year, when Howard Park offers an outdoor skating rink for wintertime fun. Practice your figure eights and smooth moves at this local park — it's less than two miles from campus, so you've got no excuse. Admission costs $4 with a skate rental included. If you've got your own pair of skates, the rink will sharpen them for $4.

Christmas at the Movies
This holiday season should prove like any other at the movies, with a slew of holiday fare hitting the big screen. “Four Christmases,” starring comedy high-roller Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon, took the top spot at the box office last weekend. Another Christmas release, “Nothing Like the Holidays,” is due in theaters Dec. 12, and should also prove to be a welcome holiday distraction from the busy of finals week.

“A Christmas Story” at the South Bend Civic Theater Performances continue to December 20th.

The South Bend Civic Theater has brought this 1983 classic Christmas film to life on the stage. Join this local theater community in celebrating one of the holiday season’s more unconventional stories as 11 year-old Ralphie Parker dreams of a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Even if you'll “shoot your eye out”, you can’t pass up this Christmas production. The story, which takes place in Indiana, was first brought to the stage in 2000.

South Bend Symphony Orchestra performs “Home for the Holidays”
Sunday Dec. 7, 3 p.m.
If you're in the mood for some holiday cheer, check out the South Bend Symphony Orchestra this Sunday at the Morris Performing Arts Center. In addition to the orchestra itself, this popular concert will feature performances by soprano Diane Penning and the South Bend High School Festival Choir, a group comprised of students from Adams, Riley, Clay and Washington High Schools. Supposedly Kris Kringle himself will make an appearance at the show, so you better watch out!

“The Nutcracker” at the Morris Performing Arts Center
Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.
Christmas in South Bend wouldn’t be the same without the local production of this beloved holiday tradition. Watch and wonder as young Clara experiences a night of enchantment, drama and mystery, scored by Tchaikovsky’s beautiful music and performed by a local dance company, the Southbend Dance Theater. 

Glee Club Christmas Concert at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
An absolute must, this annual concert is one of the Glee Club’s finest offerings each academic year. The men of the Glee Club will perform a variety of holiday tunes, traditional carols, contemporary selections and more. “Kathy Mattea’s Christmas” at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
Dec. 14, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
This country artist has two Grammy Awards and three Country Music Association Awards under her belt, and will be coming to the Leighton Concert Hall for a unique Christmas performance. Called “one of Nashville’s most spiritual singers” by USA Today, Mattea will perform Christmas standards as well as some of her own holiday tracks, including “Mary, Did You Know?”

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu.
Murphy's tip-in helps Pacers shock Lakers
Washington outrace New Jersey 35-12 in the third quarter cruising to first win over Eastern conference opponent

Associated Press
INDIANAPOLIS — Troy Murphy and Danny Granger spent most of Tuesday night working to keep the Pacers close to the Lakers. They spent those final few seconds like everyone else in Conseco Fieldhouse — watching, waiting and wondering if Murphy's tantalizing tip would actually drop through the net.

It did — just as the buzzer sounded. Murphy's game-winner completed an improbable comeback and gave the Pacers a desperately needed 118-117 victory after replay reviews confirmed the basket was good.

"That's purely unbelievable. Troy is a monster on the boards. He gobbles up so many rebounds, and I'm glad he got it because I couldn't get to it."

Danny Granger Pacers forward

Los Angeles guard Kobe Bryant, left, goes up for a lay-up as Indiana forward Danny Granger attempts to block his shot. Bryant had 26 points during the Lakers' 119-117 loss to Indiana Tuesday.

The Pacers were down by as many as 14 points in the third quarter. They then went on a 17-0 run to take a 101-86 lead, which seemed as if the Lakers were destined for yet another rout.

Granger, who scored 32 points, and Murphy, who had 16 points and 17 rebounds, methodically led their teammates back by making big baskets and getting the ball to open teammates. The Pacers (7-10) also allowed just 16 points over the final 12 minutes.

The combination, and Murphy's ability to get his hands on a battered ball, bailed them out.

"There was some luck involved, but that's the way basketball is," Pacers coach Larry Bird said. "If you don't take care of business, you can't win."

"It was a dramatic shift for the Pacers, who had lost five of six, including their last two home games in overtime. They play six of their next seven on the road.

"The Lakers jumped ahead repeatedly against Indiana, but the Pacers kept rallying. When reigning MVP Kobe Bryant scored the Lakers' final nine points of the first half to give Los Angeles a 16-65 lead, Granger caught Murphy's long inbounds pass, spun and hit a 17-foot jumper to make it 66-61 at halftime.

"When Bryant opened the second half by scoring the Lakers' first seven points, Granger did everything he could to keep it close. And when Los Angeles put together its big run at the end of the third, Granger and Murphy returned the favor by igniting a 10-0 spurt early in the fourth to get the Pacers within seven.

Bryant finished with 28 points, becoming the second-fastest player in league history to reach 22,000 career points. Will Chamberlain was one day younger than Bryant when he reached that milestone.

"They did a great job on the offensive boards and our turnovers created momentum for them," Bryant said. "Their 3-point shooting kept them in the game."

Granger's fourth 3, with 1:42 left, closed the margin to 112-114 and Marquis Daniels made two free throws on Indiana's next possession to put the Pacers in front.

B r y a n t answered with a pull-up 21-footer before missing an 18-footer at the buzzer to make it 115-114 at halftime.

Although it didn't work, Daniels broke free on the baseline, put up a short shot that bounced off the rim and got batted around before Murphy charged in and tipped it toward the basket. After bouncing off both sides of the rim and into the air, it finally dropped and sent Pacers players running toward their sideline.

"It looked like it sat on there forever. But I'm happy it finally went down."

Troy Murphy Pacers forward

The Pacers wore black uniforms to match the Nets' white. The Lakers were led by Devin Harris, who had 18 points, but only three after halftime, and Vince Carter, who had 16 points.

After a closely contested first half, the Wizards blew the game open, outscoring New Jersey 35-12 in the third period.

The Wizards led 51-50 at halftime, outscored the Nets 14-3 over the first 4:54 of the second half to take a commanding 65-53 lead. Butler and Antawn Jamison (22 points each) scored four points in the game-deciding run.

The Nets cut the lead to 70-69 on a three-point play by Carter. But the Wizards went on a 16-1 run over the next 3 minutes and coasted from there.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 224 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for next-day classifieds is 5 pm. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without incurring refunds.
AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

Men's Basketball
AP Top 25

team   points   record
1 North Carolina (72) 1800  7-0
2 UConn       1773  6-0
3 Pittsburgh  1690  7-0
4 Drake       1528  7-0
5 Georgia     1499  7-0
6 Louisville  1437  6-0
7 Notre Dame  1350  5-1
8 Texas       1231  9-1
9 Purdue      1166  5-1
10 Tennessee  1100  5-1
11 Louisville  1083  2-1
12 UCLA       966  4-1
13 Michigan State  946  3-1
14 Xavier     902  6-0
15 Wake Forest  876  6-0
16 Syracuse   868  5-0
17 Villanova  857  6-0
18 Memphis    825  4-1
19 Arizona State  801  5-1
20 Wisconsin  779  6-0
21 Miami      750  4-1
22 Davidson   746  5-1
23 Florida    719  7-1
24 Baylor     722  6-1
25 Marquette  705  9-1

Women's Basketball
AP Top 25

team   points   prev
1 Connecticut (45) 1125  1
2 North Carolina 1073  2
3 California    1059  3
4 Stanford     973  5
5 Texas A&M    969  6
6 Oklahoma     945  4
7 Oregon       937  7
8 Maryland     781  10
9 Texas        740  11
10 Baylor      677  8
11 Notre Dame  666  14
12 Duke        742  12
13 Louisville  623  7
14 Auburn      578  15
15 Rutgers     556  13
16 Vanderbilt  547  17
17 Penn State  487  9
18 Ohio State  403  25
19 Connecticut 397  23
20 Virginia    380  16
21 Michigan State 358  24
22 LSU         346  27
23 Xavier      326  20
24 Iowa        304  5-0
25 Arizona State 281  21

Big East Women's Volleyball
Conference Standings

Team   Conf Record
1 St. John's 12-2
2 Cincinnati 12-2
3 Georgetown 11-3
4 Connecticut 10-4
5 Notre Dame 9-5
6 Syracuse 8-6
7 Pittsburgh 8-6
8 USF 7-7
9 Georgetown 7-7
10 Seton Hall 9-6

NFL

Viking Defensive Tackles Kevin Williams, left, and Pat Williams stand during a break in their Nov. 9 game against Green Bay. Both were suspended Tuesday by the NFL for doping violations.

NFL suspends six for doping

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Six players, including the heart of the Minnesota Vikings' stout defensive line, were suspended for four games without pay by the NFL on Tuesday for violating the league's anti-doping policy.

All six were punished for using a diuretic, which can serve as a masking agent for steroids.

The suspended players were running back Deuce McAllister and defensive linemen Charles Grant and Will Williams of New Orleans; defensive linemen Kevin and Pat Williams of Minnesota; and long snapper Bryan Pittman of Houston.

A seventh player, Atlanta's Grady Jackson, was not suspended. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said league chief counsel Jeff Pash had asked for additional information from Jackson.

The punishment is an especially harsh blow to Minnesota, which leads the NFC North and relies heavily on the two Williams in its run defense, which ranks second in the league.

Angelo Wright, the agent for Pat and Kevin Williams, said he would file a motion in federal court Wednesday morning, presumably to put off the suspensions.

If a player's team makes the playoffs, the player will be eligible to return to the active roster on Dec. 29.

 Asked about the late scheduling of the suspensions, Adolpho Birch, the NFL's vice president of labor and labor policy, said the timing was "a function of a lot of factors."

"I think if you ask most coaches, every game is important. I don't think they'd differentiate between the first and the last," Birch said in a conference call.

"We do have things in place to get them done as quickly as possible. But we had to deal with the number of players involved and adjust travel schedules. We have to fit it around the players' ability to attend."

David Cowser, the lawyer for the three Saints, called the decisions "inconsistent with the objectives of the steroid policy."

"These, Will, and Charles did not try to enhance their performance with steroids, nor did they knowingly expose themselves to the adverse health risks of a diuretic," Goss said in an e-mail. "They took a weight loss supplement that they had every reason to believe was safe.

In their appeals, some players said the banned substance bumetanide was not listed as an ingredient in StartCaps, an over-the-counter weight-loss pill.

IN BRIEF

Kelly says he'll remain head coach at Cincinnati

CINCINNATI — Coach Brian Kelly tried to end speculation Tuesday that he's leaving No. 13 Cincinnati, saying that he's happy with the football program's development and he plans to stay.

He was upbeat Tuesday following a meeting with the school's president, All and the head of its board of trustees to get an update on plans to expand the Bearcats' small football stadium and to improve their practice fields.

Kelly acknowledged that other schools had expressed an interest in him, but said he's not interested in leaving.

"All I can say is that with all the speculation and all the jobs that have been out there, sooner or later no 'no,'" Kelly said. "Again, no one can ever speak in terms of forever and ever, but what I can tell you is there's been a lot of interest in my services, and I want to be here at the University of Cincinnati because of the right reasons."

McGrady to miss three weeks with knee injury

HOUSTON — Houston guard Tracy McGrady will miss three weeks to rehabilitate his new left knee, another blow to an injury-plagued season for the Rockets.

McGrady sat out Houston's last three games after starting the first 15. He had arthroscopic surgery on May 6, but said Tuesday that doctors have told him that the knee is not healed.

"Obviously, I came back a little bit too early," said McGrady, who was averaging 15.6 points. "I'm just not ready."

McGrady visited renowned orthopedist James Andrews on Monday. The team said Andrews confirmed the initial medical assessment by tumor doctor Tom Clanton that McGrady is suffering from general soreness in the knee.

Saturday will mark seven months since the surgery, and McGrady said doctors told him that his knee would require 4 to 6 months to heal. He said Andrews reassured him that he won't need more surgery.

IN BRIEF

Quinn to have season-ending finger surgery

CLEVELAND — Brady Quinn has decided to get his fractured finger fixed.

After weighing his options over the past week, Cleveland's quarterback has elected to have surgery on his right index finger, which he initially broke on Nov. 17 at Buffalo and then made worse by playing in the Browns' game a week later against Houston.

The team said Quinn's operation will be performed on Wednesday in Birmingham, Ala., by hand specialist Dr. Thomas Hunt.

The procedure, which will likely involve a pin being inserted in Quinn's finger to stabilize the bone and damaged tendon, will require up to 10 weeks of recovery time.

around the dial

IACAB

Indiana at (17) Wake Forest 7:15 p.m., ESPN

(1) North Carolina at (12) Michigan State 9:15 p.m., ESPN
Plaxico done for year, suspended for 4 games

After Burress accidentally shoots himself in leg, Giants suspend wide receiver for conduct detrimental to the team

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants fined and suspended receiver Plaxico Burress for one game Tuesday for four games — the rest of the regular season — after he accidentally shot himself in the right thigh over the weekend at a Manhattan nightclub.

The team also placed him on the reserve/non-football injury list, which means the wide receiver couldn't come back for playoffs, either.

The team punished Burress a day after he was charged with illegal weapons possession, which carries a penalty of 3 and 1/2 years in prison if he's convicted. Burress is due back in court again on March 1/2 to 15 years in prison if he's convicted.

Neither Burress nor his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, was immediately available for comment.

"As we have said since Saturday morning, our concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being," John Mara president.

"I had two conversations with Plaxico today, and it was obvious that he understood the magnitude of this situation," Reese said Tuesday. "He knows that we are here to support him and help him get healthy." The second the time the Giants have suspended the troubled receiver this season. He missed the Oct. 2 game against Seattle for missing a team meeting. He also has been fined dozens of times since 2005 for violating team rules, and he was hit with a $45,000 fine by the league this season for abusing an official and throwing a ball into the stands during a game.

"Our concern all along has been for Plaxico the person, not Plaxico the player," team chairman Steve Tisch said. "We are here to support him and his family as he recovers from his wound and deals with some serious issues."

Burress is fourth on the team with 35 catches for 454 yards and four touchdowns. He has caught 244 passes for 3,681 yards and 33 touchdowns since joining the team in 2005 as a free agent.

"When you lose a player of Plaxico's ability, it is incumbent that everybody step up and fill the void," said Coughlin, whose team is 11-1 and a win away from clinching the NFC East. "In the last two seasons, this team has done an outstanding job of that." We made it clear to Plax today that we are here to support him in any way possible." Fines in the NFL, typically mean a player loses a paycheck for each game he misses. In Burress' case, that would mean roughly $206,000 per regular season game. He also was due to receive $1 million from his signing bonus on Dec. 10. It was not immediately clear whether the team still had to make the payment.

The player's latest woes began in the wee hours of Saturday morning when he shot himself in the VIP section of a club called The Latin Quarter, where he went with two teammates.

Police want to know what Pierce did moments after the shooting and whether he took part in a cover-up. They also plan to interview the people at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, who treated Burress and did not report the shooting, as required by law.

PIerce's lawyer said Tuesday he contacted prosecutors as soon as he was hired by the linebacker on Monday: "After the events in question. Mr. Pierce did what any other reasonable person would do under the circumstances, he hired counsel," attorney Michael Bachner said. He said Pierce wasn't been notified that Pierce will be charged.

"Mr. Pierce, given the extraordinary circumstances of that evening, acted responsibly in trying to save what could have been the life of a friend," Bachner said.

The episode has frustrated police from the start. Officers said they were promised by NFL officials Monday that Pierce would appear for questioning, but he still hasn't.

"I had two conversations with Plaxico today, and it was obvious that he understood the magnitude of this situation." Jerry Reese Giants general manager

The Giants did not send two trainers and an official who deals with player issues, who provided information about the shooting. This includes Charles Way, the team's director of player development, and trainer Barnes. But police are still waiting to speak to more informed witnesses.

Pierce declined to answer questions about the shooting on Sirius NFL Radio. "It's not appropriate with the police being involved. ... I've got to be strong," he said.

Bradshaw's attorney, Charles Stark, said his client wasn't suspected of any wrongdoing.

Both players said they were planning to speak with the district attorney's office in the near future.

Authorities are also upset that the hospital didn't report the shooting. Hospital officials said "take this very seriously, and are conducting a thorough investigation into why this gunshot wound was not reported to the police department in a timely fashion."

Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Robinson said Tuesday an individual has been suspended in connection with the case, but would not say if the person was a doctor or hospital staff member.

A person familiar with the case said a doctor who was not a staff member came to the hospital shortly after Burress arrived there around 2 a.m. and treated him. The doctor's privileges to work out of the hospital have been suspended, according to the person. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again Tuesday, saying he talked to Mara and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. He told them the law says "you see something, you got to call the cops. That's the thing you should do."

The Giants say they have been cooperating with authorities since they learned about the shooting.
Miller's 28 help end 76ers skid

Billups tallies double-double in win; Barea's three sees Dallas comeback

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Andre Miller scored nine of his season-high 28 points in overtime Tuesday night and the Philadelphia 76ers ended their four-game losing streak with a 103-95 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Andre Iguodala added 25 points and Elton Brand had 22 points and 14 rebounds as the Sixers avenged a loss to the Bulls two days ago in Philadelphia.

Derrick Rose led Chicago with 24 points and Ben Gordon added 18. Tyrus Thomas had 14 points and 13 boards.

Thomas' thunderous followup dunk tied the game at 90 with 17.6 seconds left in regulation.

The Sixers had the last shot, but after holding the ball and running down the clock, Iguodala drove the lane and fed in the corner to Miller, whose shot was short.

But in overtime Miller took over. He had a three-point play and then a soft jumper to give Philadelphia a 99-92 lead.

Philadelphia, which led by 15 Sunday before losing to the Bulls 102-92, had a 16-point cushion Tuesday and was ahead by nine in the fourth quarter before Chicago rallied.

But this time the Sixers held on.

Brand's jump hook gave the Sixers a 79-70 lead in regulation. Iguodala's drive along the baseline dunk kept the lead at seven with three minutes remaining.

Rose drove for a bank shot and Drew Gooden's two free throws tied the game. Iguodala had 19 points and 14 rebounds, AI Thornton added 18 and Brand's two free throws with 24.8 seconds remaining gave Philadelphia a 99-92 lead.

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But over time Miller took control of the game, really took control of the game offensively," McGraw said. "The friction with her eight rebounds, were Eastern Michigan's second half put the game out of reach for the Sixers.

Iguodala's three-point play and then steal and dunk in the final seconds of the third quarter highlighted a strong 12-2 finish for the 76ers as they took a 67-61 lead.

Looking flat after a seven-game road trip that ended with the victory over the Sixers in Philly, the Bulls fell behind by 10 after a lidless first quarter in which they had eight turnovers and shot 33 percent.

Philadelphia went up 30-14 in the second quarter. But the Bulls chopped away and after a rally that saw them shoot 58 percent in the second period, they actually had a chance for the ballgame lead before Andre Nocioni's baseline jumper was long and two with about a half minute left. Iguodala's banked put Philadelphia up three at the half.

Nuggets 132, Raptors 93

Thanks to Chauncey Billups, Carmelo Anthony doesn't have to worry about the Denver Nuggets' offense while grappling with an ailing right elbow.

Billups had 24 points and 14 assists in Denver's rout of the Toronto Raptors Thursday night in a game that was out of reach by halftime.

Jrue Holiday returned from a sprained left ankle that had cost him three games and he even had 12 points, 10 rebounds and two of their bench players.

Lechlitner's jump hook gave the Nuggets a 79-70 lead in regulation. Iguodala's drive along the baseline dunk kept the lead at seven with three minutes remaining.

Rozier's jumper cut the game to 96-94 with 1:15 left.

But a driving Iguodala lost the ball under the basket with 23.9 seconds to go and the Bulls had a last chance. After a timeout Rose, drove the basket and missed but Thomas followed it up with a slam to tie the game with 17.6 seconds to go.

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Calle
continued from page 20
Ridderwall's overtime game-winner against Michigan in last year's national semifinal didn't grant him reprieve from his teammates' teasing, but maybe the CCHA offensive player of the week award he earned over the weekend will.
"It's awesome," Ridderwall said of the award. "It's one of those things that shows all the work you've been putting in is paying off. It's good to get awards, but a lot of it is also because of my teammates. We've been clicking these last couple games here."
Ridderwall, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, scored five points (two goals, three assists) in two games against Western Michigan over the weekend. He has tallied 14 points over a five-game point streak that includes a pair of four-point outings.
Ridderwall's 18 points (seven goals, 11 assists) tie him for the team lead, and his five goals and 11 assists on the power play are also team highs.
"Calle's been playing well for a while now, but this is the first real opportunity to show the offensive skills and the scoring skills we felt he had when we recruited him," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "I think part of it was [freshman winger] Kevin Deeth. It's just his teammates liked him a lot and his offensive skills and the scoring I think helped him win a couple games himself."
"My coach Jeff Jackson said, "I needed a longer adjustment period, having kind of a slow freshman year, so I think last year was more a learning experience than a productive year when it comes to hockey."
Jackson noted what kind of player he's got that down.
"We're a pretty close team and we're all friends," Ridderwall said. "Whenever there's something I don't really get or something I don't understand, I always have a teammate to help me out. But when you get out there on the ice, it's not that different."
Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Ayers
continued from page 20
Notre Dame's previous two games against Penn State and Michigan State, and 27 points. In all, the Irish hit 19 three-pointers in 37 attempts, setting a Notre Dame and Joyce Center record for three-pointers made.
"I should've bought a ticket tonight," Irish coach Mike Brey said with a laugh after the game. "All I did was sub guys off."
The onslaught began on Notre Dame's first possession, when forward Luke Zeller, who finished with eight points and six rebounds, spotted up outside against South Dakota's 2-3 zone and knocked down a three. Ayers followed with a corner jumper — one of the rare two-pointers that he took. Then McAlarney hit a three and Ayers hit his first from beyond the arc. The Irish led 11-0, forcing South Dakota to take a timeout — all within the first two minutes of the game.
"Usually you see teams make adjustments [defensively] as guys hit one or two [three-pointers], but that didn't really happen until they hit his second," said senior forward Zach Tillellesand, who finished with six points and nine rebounds.
At this point, Ayers and McAlarney had just gotten warmed up. Ayers hit another three on Notre Dame's first trip down the floor following the timeout. Zeller then dropped his second and Ayers followed with a corner three to put the Irish up 24-8 at the end of the first half.
"As soon as we learned about their zone we were drooling," Hillesland said. "Because we learn in the right mind would want to zone such a prolific shooting team as we have. You have arguably the best shooter in the country [in McAlarney] and we don't think Ryan's that far behind. You have a big guy like Luke Zeller and you bring in guys off the bench that can hit threes. Pick your poison. If you play zone, you're going to have to leave one of them open."
Ayers drained still another three following the media timeout with 15:46 left in the half. McAlarney followed with three treys to put the Irish up 36-13 with 10:31 left in the half.
Ayers would spread out his next three from beyond the arc the rest of the half as Notre Dame took a 60-30 lead into the half.
South Dakota cut the lead to 78-59 in the second half, at which point Brey but his starters back in the game. On Notre Dame's next trip down the floor, Ayers knocked down another three to stem the Coyotes' run. Notre Dame quickly went on another run of its own, and went up 89-59 seemingly in the blink of an eye. Ayers had a chance to tie McAlarney's program record of 10 3-pointers in one game, which McAlarney set last week against North Carolina, but his attempt from the left wing missed. Then Brey took him and the other starters out of the game the rest of the way.
Junior guard Tory Jackson finished with 10 assists in the three-point exhibition.

Note: Brey said that he will take things "day-to-day" with junior forward Luke Harangody, who has sat out Notre Dame's last two games because of pneumonia. His status for Saturday's game against Ohio State is undetermined.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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Please remember to recycle The Observer.
Amongst the league leaders in all major categories, Cavaliers off to best start in franchise history at 14-3

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — While LeBron James and his current team have become an NBA powerhouse, their star player has struggled to stay healthy. James' current contract expires in 2010 when he will headline a star-studded free-agent class, and his willingness to engage in discussions about his free-agent future, media and desperate Knicks fans have been frustrated.

James was asked if he had heard back from Sir Charles. "No more, that's when they're real close to being done," said James. His answers are prepared. "I'm happy with the organization. There's nothing more for me to say."

"They (the questions) are going to come," he said. "As soon as I say I'm not going to talk about it, no more, that's when they're really going to keep coming. I'm going to answer them and just move on like I've been doing.

"I'm willing to engage in talk about his future prompted harsh criticism from former NBA star Charles Barkley, who said James should "shut the hell up." Barkley was anyone expected."

"When you're one of Anishnaabeg, LaDuke was asked if he had heard heard back from Sir Charles. "For what?" he wondered. "I said what I had heard, and there was nothing more."

"The needless chatter has detracted from Cleveland's impressive start. The Cavs are on pace to shatter the club record for wins (57) in a season, but their record has been padded by victories over some inferior teams. Of Cleveland's 14 wins, only five have come against teams with winning marks. Still, that's a positive because the Cavs of the past had a tendency to play down to their competition."

This season, they've pounded the lesser teams, winning their last eight games by an average of 11 points. "It's not just about the wins. It's about the way he once did with the Pistons."

"We're not concerned," Williams said. "We haven't won the division. We haven't won the conference. There's really nothing to be proud of, to be honest with you. For us, we have bigger goals. We want to be playing in June. Anything other than a championship for this group is a failure."

James values his future decision will be based on where he can win multiple titles — not one, but several. He can't quiet the speculation about where he might be headed on July 1, 2010, so keep those questions coming. His teammates don't care if he continues to talk about his plans, either. He's with them now."

"In Cleveland. Not New York. We're not concerned," Williams said. "Believe it or not, that's a long time from now. A lot of this can happen in those two years. We have a lot of goals in those two years. We're not concerned about what's happening there."

Winona LaDuke

World Renowned Human Rights Activist

Winona LaDuke

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Wednesday, December 3, 2008

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Wednesday, December 3, 2008
The Observer ♦ TODAY

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FOOTBALL

University sources say Weis will remain head coach

By BILL BRINK

Sports Editor

Charlie Weis will remain the head football coach next season, a source close to the administration told The Observer Wednesday.

WSBT, WNDU and Fox Sports also quoted unnamed sources "close to the football team" as saying that Weis had been informed of the decision to keep him as the coach and told to continue recruiting. Scout.com reported that Athletic Director Jack Swarbrick would make an announcement today regarding Weis' status.

Neither Swarbrick nor Weis said anything official as of last night. Swarbrick said he and Weis would likely meet next Monday, when both he and Weis were back on campus.

Weis has a 28-21 record in four seasons as the Irish head coach. He took the team to two BCS bowls in his first two seasons, then lost a school-record 15 games in the next two. He is 4-10 against ranked opponents and his teams have lost to USC by a combined 76-3 in the past two seasons.

A close call against Navy and a final-minute loss to Syracuse at home turned many students and alumni against him.

His recruiting, however, remains impressive despite the records. Scout.com ranked the 2006 recruiting class as No. 5 in the country, 2007 as No. 11 and 2008 as No. 2. Two five-star recruits from the class of 2009, running back Cierre Wood and offensive guard Chris Watt, have both given Notre Dame verbal commitments.

Weis is in the third year of a 10-year contract that he signed midway through his first season.

Chris Heine contributed to this report.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lighting it up

Ayers drops 35 points in rout of South Dakota

By CHRIS HINE

Editor-in-Chief

The Irish sent a warning shot across the bow of each of their opponents with their 102-76 win over South Dakota — play a zone and Ryan Ayers or Kyle McAlarney will burn you.

That's exactly what the two housemates did to the Coyotes in the first half Tuesday night at the Joyce Center.

Ayers hit 7-of-10 treys in the first half, 9-of-14 for the game, on his way to scoring a career-high 35 points.

I just felt a little more relaxed, more calm. My teammates got me the ball and once I hit one shot, I just kept rolling...I had a great feel, every time I followed through I knew it was going in." A bearded McAlarney continued his hot shooting — he hit a combined 19 three-pointers in the game.

Ayers was named MVP of the game.

"I still felt more relaxed, more calm. My teammates got me the ball and once I hit one shot, I just kept rolling...I had a great feel, every time I followed through I knew it was going in." A bearded McAlarney continued his hot shooting — he hit a combined 19 three-pointers in the game.

Ayers has scored a career-high 35 points in the game. He is averaging 20.2 points per game.

The Belles dropped two conference opponents, the Belles will look for their third win of the season Wednesday against Trine University.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Four in double-digits as ND rolls over EMU

By BILL BRINK

Sports Editor

In the absence of two key players, the Irish bench filled the gap.

Freshmen Natalie Novosel and Erica Solomon scored 18 and 12 points, respectively off the bench and No. 11 Notre Dame beat Eastern Michigan 83-63 on the road Tuesday.

The Irish, who lost forward Devereaux Peters for the season and missed guard Ashley Barlow in this game because of a concussion she suffered against Michigan State, needed production off the bench and got it.

"Natalie was a huge lift off the bench for us, she really played well the whole game but gave us a great spark in the first half," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Guard Lighty Schrader had 17 points and 10 rebounds and guard Melissa Devereaux Peters contributed to the Irish victory.

HOCKEY

Ridderwall on a hot streak

By MATT GAMBER

Associate Sports Editor

He scored arguably the biggest goal in Irish hockey history, but sophomore left wing Calle Ridderwall's Swedish accent and fashion sense is still the butt of constant jokes from linemate Kevin Deeth.

"I always impersonate his accent — I can't talk to him without talking in his accent anymore, which is ridiculous," Deeth said with a laugh. "His haircut and his style is so 'Euro', he just takes it to the next extent. He'll wear the tightest jeans ever and these ultra-metro polos that you'd never, ever wear...It's hilarious."

Ridderwall scored the winning goal in Notre Dame's 5-4 overtime win over Michigan on Friday.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles welcome Trine to open conference slate

By ALEX BARKER

Sports Writer

After a tough start to the season that piled Saint Mary's against a number of strong non-conference opponents, the Belles will open MIAA play against Trine University Wednesday night at the Angela Athletic Center.

Saint Mary's rode its strong offensive attack to a fourth-place finish in the conference last season with an 8-8 record. The Belles will look for a fast start against the Thunder, who finished eighth last season with a 3-15 record.

The Belles got the ball rolling this season with a couple of quality wins. In the first game of the season, they had no trouble finding their shot in a 70-60 victory over Ohio Wesleyan in the first round of the Anderson College Tip-off tournament. In the championship game, they took on a solid Oberlin Morris team and were edged out on the final possession, 65-64.

It didn't take long for the Belles to bounce back. In their next game, Saint Mary's broke a 10-game losing streak against Wheaton College by narrowly defeating the Thunder, 81-78.

The Belles dropped two contests in the Thanksgiving classic against Otterbein College, the eventual tournament champion, and No. 21 University of Chicago.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker@nd.edu