Students mixed on Weis’ return

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA and JOHN TIERNÉY
News Writers

Despite losing 15 games in two seasons — the most losses for any Notre Dame coach in that time period — Charlie Weis will be retained as the head coach of the Fighting Irish for the 2009 season. The decision has garnered mixed feelings from Notre Dame students. Some feel that impulsively firing Weis would be a mistake, especially if there are no high-caliber coaches available to replace him. "You don’t want to be too quick about this," said Michael Augsberger, a junior. "Look at the coaching market. There’s no one that wants to come here that’s qualified to run the program. It’s not like we can get Urban Meyer." Sophomore Kristin Gales agreed, and said that Weis’ talents in the recruiting arena are perhaps a reason why his job is, for now, safe. "I am disappointed in how this season went, but I understand that there are many factors involved in retaining or dismissing a head coach," Gales said. "Weis has proven to be an excellent recruiter and while that is only one part of the job, it is a relevant part of his job performance and perhaps a reason for optimism in the future." Senior James Butler said Weis’ recruiting prowess is a key reason why he should be retained for another year. The decision has garnered mixed feelings from Notre Dame students. Some feel that impulsively firing Weis would be a mistake, especially if there are no high-caliber coaches available to replace him. "You don’t want to be too quick about this," said Michael Augsberger, a junior. "Look at the coaching market. There’s no one that wants to come here that’s qualified to run the program. It’s not like we can get Urban Meyer." Sophomore Kristin Gales agreed, and said that Weis’ talents in the recruiting arena are perhaps a reason why his job is, for now, safe. "I am disappointed in how this season went, but I understand that there are many factors involved in retaining or dismissing a head coach," Gales said. "Weis has proven to be an excellent recruiter and while that is only one part of the job, it is a relevant part of his job performance and perhaps a reason for optimism in the future." Senior James Butler said Weis’ recruiting prowess is a key reason why he should be retained for another year.

NDSP using cameras in Stadium

Alert posted on scoreboard after the throwing of snowballs, marshmallows during Nov. 22 game

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

If you’re considering throwing a snowball (or something else) at a football game next season — watch out, because you’re probably on camera. Following the throwing of snowballs from the student section onto the field during the Nov. 22 Syracuse-Notre Dame game, the message ‘You are being filmed for future discipline’ was displayed on Stadium scoreboards. This was a surprise to many students, but Bill Kirk, associate vice president for Residence Life, said that the cameras are nothing new. "The Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) Department does employ video cameras for crime prevention, safety and security purposes in the stadium and elsewhere on campus and has done so for many years — since about the early 1990’s," Kirk said. "NDSP controls the use of the cameras." Although NDSP and the Office of Residence Life often work together, the use of video is normally restricted to matters of more serious concern than violation of University Student Senate

Grab ‘N’ Go options discussed

Senators debate dining preferences revealed in recent survey

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The Student Senate discussed the expansion of Grab 'N' Go options in their weekly meeting Wednesday, after receiving the results of a recent survey conducted by the Senate Committee on Residence Life. Senate Committee on Residence Life Chair Joy Hwang said Food Services representatives were adamant that Grab 'N' Go food options would be a mistake, especial-
INSIDE COLUMN

Who is responsible?

Deans of the College of Arts and Letters,
I am a sophomore PLS major who takes his education very seriously. Being a PLS sophomore, but desiring to study abroad next spring, I decided to take two seminars instead of one, the norm for all students in PLS. Each is a four-credit course, putting my credit total at 17 (including three other three-credit classes), the total number that I am allowed as a sophomore in the College of Arts and Letters. However, in preparation for graduate school (i.e., teaching that you have often criticized the PLS department for not doing), Professor Candida Moss, a medieval scholar, generously offered to begin teaching me Biblical Greek, a course which is not offered by the university. In order to do so, I wished to sign up for a direct-reading course with Professor Moss, which would put me at 20 credit hours.

With this goal in mind, I went into your office on Monday to apply for an overload. I spoke to a very nice woman at one of the desks in the main lobby of your office, who listened to an extremely abridged version of my plan for next semester. After hearing my plan, she went to speak to one of you. She returned about twenty-five seconds later with the answer that under no circumstances are sophomores allowed to overload.

Later that day, a fellow Arts and Letters sophomore went to your office with a similar goal in mind. She accepted a job with NO Vision this summer, a program which requires its counselors to take a three-credit trip course in the spring semester before they take the job. If she were to take her normal course load and also take the Vision class, she would have eighteen credit hours, or according to you, an overload. She also described her situation, and was given the same answer. Under no circumstances are sophomores allowed to overload.

What frustrates me about these experiences is that sophomores in the College of Arts and Letters are the only people who cannot overload. Juniors and seniors in the same college can. Sophomores in all other colleges are not allowed to overload. Only sophomores in the College of Arts and Letters are not allowed to cross the apparent pinnacle of a tolerable workload—seventeen credit hours.

What frustrates me even more is the treatment I received in your office. I was not even given the opportunity to speak to you directly in order to plead my case. An important educational decision was decided for me in a matter of five minutes. As I was leaving your office, I noticed a sign on the wall which read, "Students are our first priority." If this is truly the case, then why do you have a rule that is so inflexible and condescending for those who wish to take responsibility for their own education?

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

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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Jealousy a factor in Hudson deaths

Proctor: brother-in-law envious of estranged wife was dating

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The brother-in-law of Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Hudson killed three of her relatives — with a gun stolen from one of the victims — because he was angry his estranged wife, her star sister, was dating another man, prosecutors alleged Wednesday.

William Balfour appeared in court for the first time in connection with the deaths and was denied bond. His attorney said authorities had no forensic evidence linking Balfour to the killings, but prosecutors said witness statements and the suspect’s own lies and threats helped lead them to him.

Balfour was charged with murder Tuesday after being held for weeks on a parole violation. The slightly built man, wearing a yellow jumpsuit, stood quietly Wednesday as prosecutor LuAnn Snow described how he allegedly killed his 7-year-old stepson, Julian King, Hudson’s mother, Darnell Donerson, and Hudson’s brother, Jason Hudson.

Snow said Balfour had been at the Hudsons’ South Side home early Oct. 24 and confronted his estranged wife, Julia Hudson, about a birthday present he believed she had received from a boyfriend.

Balfour, Snow said, also had shown up to Julia Hudson’s workplace earlier in the month to confront her about dating another man.

“She told him at the time that her family would suffer if she saw other men,” Snow said Wednesday’s hearing.

Balfour threatened Julia Hudson again that morning at the home, Snow said, adding that Hudson did not take the threat seriously because he “had not followed through on any of those threats” before.

The two left the home together that morning, with Hudson driving away as she saw Balfour walking toward his own car, according to documents prosecutors filed with the court.

But Balfour’s car broke down and two acquaintances gave him a ride to a gas station — during which time Balfour told them he had a handgun, but had left it in his car, Snow alleged.

In fact, the prosecutor said, the gun belonged to Jason Hudson and Balfour allegedly stole it during the summer. “Several people observed defendant with the gun in the late summer of 2008,” Snow said.

Balfour was taken back to his disabled car after the trip to the gas station, “although he was offered a ride to other locations,” Snow told the court.

In the stark language of a legal document she was reading from, Snow described what allegedly happened next:

“Defendant demanded the home at 7019 S. Yale at gunpoint,” she read. “He shot Darnell Donerson several times while she was in the living room area. He then went into Jason Hudson’s bedroom and shot him two times in the head.”

Jason Hudson, she said, was still alive when he was shot.

Balfour allegedly then took 7-year-old Julian and put him in Jason Hudson’s white SUV.

“Defendant shot Julian King in the head while the 7-year-old was laying behind the front seat of the Suburban,” Snow read. His body was found three days later in the SUV.

Balfour’s attorney, Joshua Katrick, criticized the first-degree murder and home invasion charges against his client, saying no fingerprint, blood or other forensic evidence links the 27-year-old to the slayings.

“There is no direct evidence of Mr. Balfour committing these crimes,” he said, adding that a girlfriend who claims Balfour confessed to her and asked her to provide him with an alibi is “highly suspect.”

Snow said there is evidence linking Balfour to the crimes, including gunshot residue on the steering wheel of the car that had broken down.

Further, she said, Balfour has made statements to authorities that detectives have disproved. For example, while Balfour claimed he used a truck card to ride a train from the Hudson residence to his home, “The card was last used two days before the murders,” Snow said.

Balfour also does not appear on surveillance video of the train station he said he rode to, Snow said.

Cell phone records and gas station surveillance video show Balfour was in the immediate vicinity of the Hudson’s home until shortly after 9 a.m., according to the court documents.

Snow said Balfour claimed he was at his West Side home at 7 a.m. the morning of the killings but cell phone records show he did not return there until just before 1 p.m.

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HCC prof speaks at last Theology onTap

By GUY GREGORY

Mike Griffin, professor of Theology at Holy Cross College, spoke at Legends last night, as part of the final installment of the Theology on Tap series for the semester.

Around 30 students attend­ed the talk, which spotlighted Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day, who are both known for being Catholic radicals. Griffin’s main focus was to show what these people have to teach students about the faith.

Griffin’s in-depth analysis of the two started with a brief biography about each star.

Griffin said it was interesting that both Day and Merton were not raised to be Catholics but then became important figures in the faith.

He said that Merton and Day both questioned official church teaching but were in opposition to the social unrest.

According to Griffin, the bishop was impressed with how much these people knew about their faith.

Griffin is also a member of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, which was founded by Merton.

Due to the cold weather, the editor of the talk cancelled a likely place at Coleman-Morse Lounge.

Contact Guy Gregory at ggregory@hcc-nd.edu

Professor receives first Huston Smith Prize

Special to The Observer

Bradley Malkovsky, associate professor of comparative theology at the University of Notre Dame, has received the first Huston Smith Publishing Prize from Harvard University.

Malkovsky received the prize, which consists of a $5,000 cash award and a $25,000 advance against royalties, for his manuscript, “God’s Other Children: The Many Religions and the Quest for Understanding in Sacred India.”

The book is an account of an Indian journey and of Malkovsky’s encounters, reflections and conversations with Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists in a country confused by cultural change.

Malkovsky took the “spiritual and theological reflections woven into Malkovsky’s narrative” as his emphasis on “the distinct historical character of each tradition as well as its communalities with other traditions.”

John Cavadini, chair of Notre Dame’s theology department, said that Malkovsky’s colleagues were “thrilled that Brad was able to receive this award for a manuscript contributing to religious understanding. “Brad has the unusual background of training both in Catholic systematic theology, and in the religious thought of other traditions, especially Hinduism, and therefore it is ultimately not surprising that it would be his manuscript that would be judged the best at fostering understanding among religious traditions.”

Malkovsky, who holds degrees from the University of Tubingen, Germany, and has studied Sanskrit, and Hindu thought at the University of Poona in Pune, India, teaches and writes about the doctrinal and spiritual relation of Christianity to other religions, and his principal scholarly specialization is the Hindu-Christian encounter. He is the editor of “New Perspectives on Advaita Vedanta” and the author of “The Heresy of Divine Love in the Soteriology of Sankaracarya.” He also is the editor of the Journal of Hindu-Christian Studies.

The Huston Smith Award is named in honor of the author of the bestselling book “The World’s Religions.”

University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students

Contact: Dr. Maureen Lafferty at plsn@nd.edu

Office of Campus Ministry

(574) 631-6633

http://corecouncil.nd.edu/
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We is

"It's a lot
insists that

"I don't know a lot about football, but I think they should give him a chance to do better. I think the field throwing intercep-

"I definitely will be upset if we lose Indiana two games next year," said Austin Siler, a sophomore. "The talen-
teed group of Michigan State is not the same as the group we have, so I think it's obvi-
sely something wrong with the coaching.

"We agreed, and said that if Notre Dame has a chance to win the championship, then "At this time next year, we will all be talking about who the next coach is going to be."

"We made plenty of meals it shouldn't "It's
we're

"We are

"I thought of all the blame for the Irish's disappointing sea-

"If we're given 14 meals it shouldn't matter when we use them," Brehlentrin said. "We have 14 meals at the same time, but student body vice president Grant Schmidt, dining hall representative told him "there was no room for improvement on that one."

"I don't think of all the blame for the Irish's disappointing season as funds for

"It's a good reason to keep the University's Dining Hall improvements, which were so helpful and

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russia to send warship down Canal

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Russia said Wednesday it is sending a warship through the Panama Canal for the first time since World War II, a short journey loaded with symbolic weight: the destroyer will dock at a former U.S. naval base, showcasing Russia's growing influence in the region.

Russia appears to be relishing the idea of stopping at what was long a symbol of U.S. global power; the Russian Navy announced it would "visit the Rodman naval base" — a name that the host nation, Panama, has not used since the United States returned the base from the United States in 1999.

The destroyer Admiral Chabanenko is scheduled to enter the Panama Canal on Friday morning and arrive late in the day at the Panama Canal calls the Balboa Naval Base.

"It is a sort of tit-for-tat for Russia's perception of U.S. influence in Guatemala, Georgia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe," and has little military purpose, said Adam Bacoe, an analyst for the Washington-based Center for International Policy.

Bombs found in Mumbai train station

MUMBAI, India — Police searching a mound of luggage abandoned amid the carnival of the attack on Mumbai's main train station found two bombs Wednesday — nearly a week after they were left there by gunmen — in a stunning new example of the terror group's mounting prowess.

The discovery came as Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India is "determined to act decisively" following the attacks, saying the country's economy has yield from Pakistan and their handlers are still there.

National News

Six children seized from compound

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Officials seized six more children Wednesday from theTony Alamo Christian Ministries as authorities in California visited another church compound, officials said.

Julie Munsell, a spokeswoman for the Arkansas Department of Human Services, declined to say where or how the children were taken.

"I believe they are all in general good health. just like the others were," Munsell told The Associated Press.

With Wednesday's operation, state officials have seized 10 children in Arkansas as an investigation into the jailed evangelist's ministries over stories of alleged beatings and sexual abuse. Alamo, 74, faces court in California when he is expected to testify that he took children across state lines for sex.

New church branch formed

NEW YORK — Theological conservatives upset by liberal views of U.S. Episcopalians and Canadian Anglicans formed a rival North American province Wednesday, in a long-developing rift over the Bible that erupted when Episcopalians consecrated the first openly gay bishop.

The announcement represents a new challenge to the already splintering, 77-million-member world Anglican fellowship and the authority of its spiritual leader, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

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Local News

Soldiers sue over chemical exposure

INDIANAPOLIS — Sixteen Indiana National Guard soldiers are suing a private defense contractor KBR Inc. on Wednesday, saying they were exposed to toxic chemicals in Iraq five years ago.

The federal suit filed in U.S. District Court seeks unspecified damages from a Tell City-based unit exposed to a carcinogen while protecting an Iraqi water pumping plant shortly after the U.S. invasion in 2003.

Canada

Prime minister faces political crisis

TORONTO — Push has come to shove for Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

With a confidence vote set for Monday, Harper faces the possibility of a parliamentary defeat that would send him scrambling toward a new election or give his opponents a chance to form a coalition government.

So the Conservative prime minister was taking his case to the Canadian public Wednesday night, and a cabinet minister suggested he would take the unprecedented step of asking Governor General Michaelle Jean to suspend Parliament until next month — giving him needed time to develop a stimulus package.

Harper said his Conservative party is pursuing all legal means of stopping the opposition from toppling his minority government and forming a coalition government.

Harper's Conservative Party was re-elected Oct. 14 with a strengthened minority government, but the opposition has united to topple Harper because he has failed to present a plan for dealing with the global economic crisis.

The move against him was also fueled by a proposal to scrap public subsidies for political parties, something the opposition groups rely on more than the Conservatives. Analysts have called the proposal a colossal mistake that unified the opposition against him.

Although that proposal was scrapped, the opposition has continued to seek his ouster by saying he had lost the trust and confidence of the 308-seat Parliament.

Jean, who is the representative of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, holds a mostly ceremonial position. But it will be her decision on whether to suspend Parliament.
Boy held captive escapes
17-year-old climbs out window after year of alleged imprisonment

Associated Press

TRACY, Calif. — After being held captive for about a year, an emancipated and shackled 17-year-old boy climbed out a window in the home of his captor, walked and was in the custody of Child Protective Services, Tracy police spokesman Matt Robinson said.

Law enforcement officials also were trying to determine how the aunt and one-time guardian of the teen knew the couple accused of holding him against his will for nearly a year.

Caren Ramirez was arrested Tuesday in Berkeley, a day after the boy walked into a gym and begged managers to hide him. He was covered in soot, had a chain on his foot and was wearing only boxer briefs.

Police arrested a couple who lived near the gym in Tracy and booked them on suspicion of torture, kidnaping and child abuse. Ramirez is about 56 miles east of San Francisco.

Hobinson said the boy was placed in a group home, which he fled in late 2007, police said.

This is the Tracy, Calif. home where police believe Kelly Layne Lau and Michael Schumacher held a 17-year-old boy captive.

Since then, the boy's whereabouts were unknown until Monday, when he entered the fitness center.

Police had said there were conflicting reports about how the boy ended up at the gym. The boy told investigators he had been chained inside a sport utility vehicle that pulled up to the home. After going inside the house, he climbed through a rear window and jumped the fence between the backyard and a fitness center, the boy reported.

"He found his opportunity and he took it. It's basically luck that this all occurred," Robinson said. He also said police officers were traumatized by the boy's condition and that a chaplain was brought in to counsel them.

Kelly Layne Lau, 30, and Michael Schumacher, 34, were arrested earlier Tuesday and were jailed in lieu of bail set at nearly $1 million each.

They were set to appear in court Thursday. Authorities said neither they nor Ramirez had attorneys.

Schumacher and Lau turned down interview requests from The Associated Press. Ramirez was still being questioned by police.

Lau and Schumacher's four young children, two of whom were home when police arrived, were taken into protective custody, authorities said.

Gym manager Chuck Ellis said the teen was scared someone was going to come after him and asked to be hidden.

The boy said he had been held captive for nearly a year, said Ellis, adding that he looked as if he was only 10 to 12 years old.

Ellis said the Schumachers requested during the summer to raise the height of the wall separating their home from the gym. They complained that teenagers were sneaking through their yard to the gym to play basketball, he said.

BOG continued from page 1

work.
"There will be several speakers, very notable ones," President Reagan has spoken there in the past, Sarah Palin will likely be in attendance this year," Wirth said.

Also discussed during the meeting was a co-sponsorship for Phi Beta Epilon, the honor society for the math department, who is also planning a trip to a math conference in Washington D.C. from Jan. 5-8, 2009.

They will be attending lectures and conferences as well as networking with other mathematicians, Courtney Perry, president of the honor society, said.

She said she hopes to have a lecture sometime next semester to relate what the group learned while on the trip.

Edna's Nefnarii taught Wednesday's meeting to ask for funds for the National Black Leadership Student Divest Conference they hope to attend.

The conference, running Jan. 9-11, 2008 in Washington D.C., will be an intensive interactive three-day leadership experience with other students and leaders, said LaQuay Boone, president of the club, said.

Once the students return from the conference, they plan to have a workshop, panel, or event in order to relate what the group has learned, Boone said.

In other BOG news:

• Elections commissioner Francesca Johnson announced that she will propose changes to the student government election process at next week's meeting.

She would like to move elections back a few weeks from the second week of the semester to February.

If so, Mugs will be sold in the Student Center Atrium during lunch and dinner hours today and tomorrow, Sarah Falvey, student body vice president, said. Mugs will be sold for $8 or two for $15, and can be used to carry drinks out of the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Contact Ashley Chanley at acham01@siaintmarys.edu
**MARKET Recap**

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**Commodities**

- **Treasuries**
  - 10-YEAR NOTE: -0.32
  - 20-YEAR BOND: -0.18
  - 30-YEAR BOND: -0.05

- **Exchange Rates**
  - YEN: 93.1850
  - EURO: 0.7986
  - CANADIAN DOLLAR: 1.2666
  - BRITISH POUND: 0.6769

**ULTRA YEN LIGHT PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)**

- Wal-Mart issued a statement saying it would cooperate with local law enforcement officials to develop stronger safety measures for the future.

- **GM CEO Rick Wagoner exits his car on Wednesday after driving from Detroit to Washington to testify at Congressional hearings about the auto bailout.**

**IN BRIEF**

- **UAW makes concessions to Big Three**
  - **DETROIT** — Worried about their jobs and warned that the cost of failure could be a depression, hundreds of leaders of the United Auto Workers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to make concessions to the struggling Detroit Three, including all but ending a much-delayed program that let laid-off workers collect up to 95 percent of their salaries.

- **Union leaders also agreed to let the cash-starved automakers delay billions of dollars in payments to a union-administered trust set to take over health care for blue-collar retirees starting in 2010.**

- In addition, they decided to let the Detroit leadership begin renegotiating elements of landmark contracts signed with the automakers last year, a move that could lead to wage concessions.

- **The vote came on the eve of congressional hearings on as much as $34 billion in loans that General Motors and Chrysler say are critical to their survival. Ford has said it may be able to hang on through 2009 without additional credit.**

- **Trumpled man's family sue Wal-Mart**
  - **GARDEN CITY, N.Y.** — The family of a work­er trampled to death in a “Black Friday” crush of bargain hunters at a Long Island Wal-Mart store filed suit Wednesday, saying the company knew in advance what to expect and did little to prevent the disaster.

- Wal-Mart “engaged in specific marketing and advertising techniques to specifically attract a large crowd and create an environment of frenzy and mayhem and was otherwise careless, reckless and negligent.”

- Wal-Mart issued a statement saying it would cooperate with local law enforcement officials to develop stronger safety measures for the future.

**US automakers plead to Congress**

**Big Three executives argue case for $34 billion aid plan, but votes lacking**

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON — Imperialized automakers and their union shook with fear Monday by Wednesday to sell a skeptical Congress on a $34 billion aid plan, promising labor concessions and restructuring. Senate Majority Leader Reid said there still weren’t enough votes to tap the $700 billion financial bailout fund to prop up theering Big Three.

One day before the chiefs of the auto companies return to Capitol Hill to make their urgent cases for loans, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the Senate was unlikely to come from the Wall Street rescue fund. “I just don’t think we have the votes to do that now,” Reid told The Associated Press in an interview.

The White House called the timing of its conference call “interesting” coming on the eve of high-stakes congressional hearings Democrats demanded.

“It’s not hospital,” said Dana Perino, the White House press secretary.

In Capitol Hill meetings, industry officials said the collapse of one or more of the Big Three carmakers could greatly worsen the nation’s recession and undermine the companies’ ability to survive.

“We’re on the brink with the U.S. auto manufacturing industry. We’ve down 18 to 21 months left,” Chrysler’s vice chairman, Jim Press, told the AP in a separate interview. “If we have a catastrophic failure of one of these car companies, in this tender environment for the economy, it’s a huge blow. It could trigger a depression.”

The United Auto Workers union, scrambling to preserve jobs and benefits, agreed at an emergency meeting in Detroit to allow the companies to delay payments to a multimillion-dollar, union-run health-care trust and to settle long-term health-care jobs bank in which laid-off workers are paid most of their wages. The concessions could help mollify some lawmakers who have criticized the union’s benefits as too rich when compared with those of workers at foreign-brand auto plants in the U.S.

The Bush administration and auto-state Republicans and Democrats are pushing to help the automakers with aid from a different source: a previously approved $25 billion program that’s supposed to be used to help them produce more environmentally advanced vehicles.

Environmentalists — and a number of powerful friends in Congress — are vigorously opposing that idea.

Reid said the administration could act unilaterally to use a portion of the Wall Street bailout program for loans to the automakers, but the White House has consistently resisted that approach.

“There’s talk going around now that the Bush White House may ask for the second $350 billion installment of the $700 billion financial industry rescue fund, Reid said.

But if Bush’s team doesn’t act, he said, “I don’t think we’re probably going to have to try to do something” in Congress.

Reid said he would rely on Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, to determine what kind of legislation would be appropriate.

The automakers’ concessions are “a step in the right direction,” he said.

“I think it’s too bad that negotiated contracts between labor and management are going to have to be changed,” Reid said. “But it’s obvious to everyone — as strong of a union guy as I am — it’s obvious that there has to be some changes made.”

Experimental cotton poses no risks

**WASHINGTON** — An unauthorized strain of genetically modified cotton was conclusively mixed in with other harvested cotton in Texas last month, but government officials said Wednesday they do not believe the incident poses serious concerns.

About a quarter ton of the experimental cotton grain, which was processed into about 60 tons of commercial cotton, appeared nearby, said Eric Flamm, a senior adviser at the Food and Drug Administration.

The mixture was then stored along with 20,000 tons of commercial cotton seed in a warehouse. Nearly half the crop was processed into cottonseed oil and cotton meal to use as animal feed before officials at Monsanto Co., which grows the experimental cotton on a test plot, realized the mistake.

“We’re talking about a very small amount, but nevertheless, a material that contains a pesticidal substance and has not been authorized for food or feed use,” Flamm said on a conference call with reporters.

Flamm said most of the contaminated crop that was processed into animal feed had already been consumed at cattle feed lots. Some of the contaminated crop was delivered to Mexico, and U.S. officials have notified that country.

The FDA, Environmental Protection Agency and Agriculture Department are all investigating the incident to determine what enforcement action is warranted against Monsanto.

Monsanto spokesman Lee Quarles said the crop was mistakenly harvested on Oct. 31, and the company learned about it eight days later when field researchers went to check on it and discovered it was not there. It is grown in a research plot adjacent to other cotton and separated by border rows.

“We’ve taken responsibility for this release and we’re actively working to resolve it in a manner that’s satisfactory with the USDA and other agencies,” Quarles said.

Quarles said the protein has been determined to pose no threat to humans and approved for use in corn, but not yet in cotton.

But one food safety group said the incident shows the need for stricter government regulation over experimental crops.
Today I logged on to Facebook. I was kindly informed by the truly inva
sive Facebook feed that my 600 or so
friends had added 48 new photo albums in the past week. Wow. That’s a lot of
pictures. I sup
posed that I
shouldn’t be too
surprised; The
Facebook statistics
page notes that
fortyseven million
photos are
uploaded daily.

Generally speak
ing, I am all for
technology Who
isn’t? If something
can be made more
efficient or more
easily accom
plished, go for it. However, I am starting
to see why the things are better tell
outside the grasp of technology.

Photography is one of them.

Don’t think that I am some sort of
photography snob. I don’t have the
fa
test idea how to develop photos or
how a dark room is actually red. In
fact, I didn’t even own a camera until
this summer when my parents bought
me a cheap Nikon to take abroad. But,
as far as I can tell, buying a Nikon did
n’t make me a photographer; it just
made me a Nikon owner. However, I
can tell the difference between a good pic
ture and a bad one, a picture that actu
ally does (as the cliché good tell a thou
sand words and one that doesn’t. I’m
afraid that Facebook and digital cam
eras have led to far more of the latter
and left more people unable or unwilling
to look at their own or other’s pho
tographs with any sort of critical eye.

This is not good for two reasons. The
first is pragmatic. The second is more
philosophical, if a business major daren
to venture there.

Practically speaking, spending time
uploading all of those photos actually
takes quite a while. First, you have to
plot them off the computer onto the com
puter. Then, you have to load each of
them to Facebook. Then, if you are feel
ing particularly ambitious, you have to
to think of a fun, witty, interesting descrip
tion for each one, mostly trying to
explain how this picture is different than
the last one. This part usually
involves a number of exclamation points.
Finally, you have to tag each
person in each picture. After all, if you
didn’t do that, nobody would look at
them, and what would be the point?

Let’s be serious; most people are only
really looking at albums they are in
anyways. Spending all of this time put
ing hundreds of photos that are more
or less the same poses, the same peo
ple, in different dorm rooms, houses,
and apartments just doesn’t seem a
totally fulfilling way of spending time or
expressing what’s important in your life
to others.

This brings me to my second point.
The unlimited storage of digital cam
eras and Facebook servers have caused
people to lose feeling for what the
moments that really should be pho
tographed are. They mistake every
moment a photo op. Instead of find
ning the one moment in a party that truly
defines an evening (almost always when
Journey comes on), kids are just taking
pictures and hoping one of them
really does capture the essence of
something; its tough to truly enjoy the
party if you are too busy checking the
photo you just took to see if it is good
enough, or whether someone wasn’t
looking and you need to take another.

Using the camera to take a few choice
photos to remember or show off the
experience is wonderful; taking photos
instead of being in the experience is
not. No matter how great an experi
ence, viewing it entirely through a 2.5
by 2.0 inch LCD screen will completely
diminish it. The famous photographer
W. Eugene Smith commented, “The
world just does not fit conveniently into
the format of a 35 MM camera.” If a
man who took famous pictures for Life
magazine of WWII atrocities was sure that
he couldn’t capture the essence of
life, who are we to be able to fit our life
in a 128 MB memory card.

My advice for kicking this photo habit:
set a limit and buy a disposable camera.
I know this sounds completely stupid,
but it’s not. Consider that each camera
has about 24 pictures. Each time you
take a picture, you know you only have
so many more. This forces one to really
look for a moment worth remembering.
For the price of one digital camera, you
could purchase almost fifteen high qual
ity Kodak single use cameras.

Considering how often cameras are
broken, this isn’t a bad prospect.
Furthermore, with digital CDS these
days, it is not hard to get them on your
computer, and it makes the prospect
of developing them much more exciting
and special. With some practice, it
might even make you a better photogra
pher.

Imagine Facebook without serial
photo albums. Each person loads an
album of just 24 pictures covering a few
weeks or months. The pictures are spe
cial and specific, focused on the best
moments. These are the photos I would
love to look at, even if I’m not in them.

Jason Coleman is a junior majoring in
management. He can be contacted at
coleman.790md.edu.

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

This past weekend, I got a ticket, headed out to Los Angeles, but was not prepared for the unprompted attack I would suffer minutes before this game.

While tailgating outside the stadium, I enjoyed an adult beverage while the USC “Band” marched on the roadway outside the Coliseum next to the tailgate I was attending. I watched the supposed band march past playing one of the two songs they know, held up my adult beverage, and yelled “Go Irish.”

The adult juice box in my hand exploded on me as the party group consisting of broken glass doused in tears poured over me. The party group responsible for this travesty was not me, but a member of the USC marching band. I was stunned to say the least. I couldn’t move and was thankfully frozen and prevented from facing said band due to hitting the sorry excuse for a trombone player in his stupid sunglasses that he was wearing for a night game.

It became even more obvious to me that our band is superior to any other band in the country. In no way are we considered fanatics, but everyone is a fanatical Notre Dame band member.

The band was the subject of the following. The supposed band march past us the next to the Coliseum is the subject of the marching band.

Declining a bowl bid

I would hope that ND will seriously consider declining any bowl bid this year. The only argument for accepting a bowl bid are additional revenues, recent experiments suggest a reward for a job well done. The unspoken argument for accepting a bowl bid is more media exposure.

Notre Dame does not need the money or the media exposure. The mediocrity displayed throughout the six and six season falls well short of the most tentative expectations of a job well done.

I am not convinced that the 20 practices in December have a tremendous carryover effect to the following fall, especially since the seniors will no longer be with us. To our seniors, I say thank you for your dedication. To the underclassmen, I hope that two years without attending a bowl will be used as a campaign for the tenacious bowl bid of your Notre Dame career.

The Notre Dame standards of intelligence and hard work will not be served by accepting a bowl bid. I am certain that Notre Dame has declined bowls in the past. This will not be setting a precedent.

Paul McDonnell

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It’s not arrogance, it’s pride

In response to the Dec. 3 column titled, “Notre Dame Arrogance,” I completely disagree with such a classification. I am surprised that a fellow alum would take a stance that so often is mischaracterized by people outside of the extended Notre Dame family.

To me the culture is one of tremendous pride, not arrogance. Going to Notre Dame fulfilled a lifelong dream that goes for academics, athletics or life itself. What few might call arrogance I still believe is a proud heritage. Notre Dame is something I will always be proud of, not arrogant. Going to Notre Dame be it from growing up with Notre Dame fans, current Notre Dame alums, or even even pastors. I don’t think our arrogance is driven to the forefront but rather a desire to succeed. This “football spectacle” was created by a desire to one day be relevant in a passion that many cherish.

What few might call arrogance I still hold to be pride. I am proud to be part of a university that would sent us 0-12 or 12-0 in football and believe that it should be a lot to turn that this University has achieved.

Mark Connolly

The same football

I am writing in response to yet another alum who is unhappy with the institution they no longer attend on a daily basis. While Mr. Gillen accuses the Notre Dame administration of "prostituting the entire football experience" to NBC without even mentioning the exponential benefits that the University reaps from the media deal.

I have no experience or inside knowledge of the contract my school has with NBC, but after checking the Notre Dame alumnus website, I have found the following: the Notre Dame Football program is lid on by an NBC-affiliated team in college football ($101 million); the football program contributes $21 million towards academics at Notre Dame (equal to the next 5 programs on the list combined in their contributions to academics at their respective institutions); and Notre Dame is able to keep all $9 million earned from the television revenue from NBC (Forbes 2007).

What I gather from this is that the NBC deal has not only allowed Notre Dame far more exposure than any other college program in the nation, but it has also allowed Notre Dame to grow academically as well as athletically in any number of areas. As for the games being “annoying-ly stretched into a marathon,” and losing media exposure, that is an advantage due to a televised game; I tend I hope and assume many others as this has never been the case with being given the opportunity to stay an extra 1-2 hours at Notre Dame Stadium on a couple Saturdays each Fall. Each “annoying-ly” TV timeout allows the best band, student section, and alumni network in the country more of an opportunity to play songs, cheer loud, and be recognized for their accomplishments in these years.

While Mr. Gillen wants the admin istration to "protect home football games for those who love them." I’m simply grateful that the administration is looking out for the financial, academic and athletic interest of the entire University; and if I have to sit through an annoying marathon games and receive a world class education in small part because of a TV deal, I guess I can manage that.

John Whitby

The Observer
By JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor

The title, "Australia," is about as vague as they come, and yet it’s painstakingly difficult to come up with an apt title for this epic film. Filmed in Australia, it’s famous for the over the top "Moulin Rouge" with its glittery depictions and musical numbers. But "Australia" is memorable in quite a different way. Losing his typically gaudy approach, Baz Luhrmann takes on the daunting task of cinematically addressing a marathon love story, racism, the pre-World War II. That’s an awful lot of ground to cover, even within a 145 minute running time.

But with the breathtaking backdrop of the Australian outback, somehow the multitude of subject matters and the myriad of characters each get their due. This is a film that you definitely get your money’s worth for, both in terms of its entertainment value and its artful length.

"Australia" follows Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), a snooty British aristocrat who journeys to the outback to investigate her husband’s suspicious cattle business, which she suspects to be a cover for his extra-marital affairs. Her guide to Australia is Drover (Hugh Jackman), an unorthodox cattle herder, who’s more than rough around the edges. Upon reaching the ranch, Far-Away Downs, Sarah finds her husband murdered, allegedly by an aboriginal voodoo king, and her business in shambles. Nathula (Brandon Walters), a half-aboriginal, half-white boy, lives on the ranch with his mother, a worker on the farm. He reveals to Sarah that Fletcher, the ranch’s manager, is ruining the business intentionally to help Carlo, the ranch’s rival cattle business.

Upon firing the underhanded Fletcher, Sarah, Drover, and Nathula become a sort of platoon family. Together, they lead an epic cattle drive across the outback to restore Far-Away Downs to its full glory. And of course, along the way they find love, hope, and adventure. Their story continues after their hefty endings, though the trials and tribulations of shady cattle business dealings and WWII loom of twists and turns, tragedy and success, the story is almost as expansive as its location. Most analogous to "Gone with the Wind," "Australia" manages to cover tons of territory, while still following a core cast. The film could have used a bit more editing, but "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King" fashion, there were about three endings to the story.

Overall the story remains controlled. The characters remain consistent throughout, while not being static. Additionally, Luhrmann creates a uniformity and cohesiveness with his distinctive artistic touch that utilizes themes of love, music, and social elitism. There was little to complain about concerning the casting. Appropriately, all the cast members, aboriginal and white alike, are native Australians. Headlining superstars, Kidman and Jackman, fill the lead roles well, though there is nothing exceptional in their portrayals of Sarah and Drover. In fact, these complex, compelling characters would have been just as good in one color’s hands.

Kidman and Jackman brought little to the roles outside of their star power. The truly great performances come from new comer, Brandon Walters. His portrayal of Nathula was simple and brilliantly genuine. His character and his infatuation with the film, are heart and soul of the film.

While the story is detailed and lengthy, it is not difficult to follow. It’s easy to become emotionally attached to the characters, and this is perhaps the most appealing aspect of the film. Additionally, the amazing scenery and cinematography contribute to create a delightful work. Though viewers should be forewarned of the film’s length, it’s an appealing epic that’s worth every penny to see on the big screen.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu.

Notre Dame Chorale
Ushers in Christmas Season with Handel’s "Messiah"

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

As the spirit of Christmas begins to blanket campus, one of Notre Dame’s most diverse vocal groups offers a limited time performance of classical holiday celebration. This weekend, the Notre Dame Chorale ushers in Christmas season with their performance of George Frederic Handel’s "Messiah."

Composed of fifty-five members, both men and women, the Chorale is the official concert choir of the University. With student participants ranging in age from freshmen to graduate students, the ensemble is one of the most diverse on campus. Under the direction of Dr. Alexander Blachly, the Chorale focuses on the vocal compositions ranging from the Renaissance period to modern times.

The vocal company is accompanied by Notre Dame’s Chamber Orchestra. This select ensemble feature one or two advanced musicians at each orchestral instrument. This weekend, the orchestra will offer its representation of "The Messiah" to its patrons.

The piece that the Chorale will perform on Friday and Saturday is Handel’s most renowned masterpiece. It was composed in the summer of 1741, during the Baroque period. The German-born composer wrote the oratorio (a musical piece comprised of vocal and orchestral arrangements) in the image of a libretto by Charles Jennens. "The Messiah" documents the life and the Christian significance of Jesus Christ, focusing especially on the passion. Though the oratorio was written during the Catholic season of Lent, it has become tradition to perform Handell’s masterpiece during Advent.

"The Messiah" is divided into three portions, each focusing on a separate aspect of Christ’s life. The first portion describes the traditional Advent and Christmas stories. The second depicts the passion, resurrection, ascension and spread of Jesus’ word. Finally, the oratorio is a summation of the Revelation of St. John.

The Notre Dame Chorale has chosen fifteen separate songs from "The Messiah" to perform. The performance will last about an hour and a half, culminating with the celebrated "Hallelujah" chorus. This piece concludes the second of the three parts of the oratorio, but has been chosen to close the Chorale’s performance because of its fame. The Chorale enthusiastically presents this show as an ideal introduction into the Christmas season. Featuring multiple student solos, the concert appears to be an excellent showcase of musical expertise. "Singing Handel’s ‘Messiah’ gets me in high Christmas spirits," sophomore Chorale member Steve Santay said.

There are few feelings that can compare to when you hear the Chorale singing the "Hallelujah’s chorus.” A sellout is expected for the second of the Chorale’s three annual concerts. Though the music comes first, and the recognition of the club’s determination and talent is paramount, the ticket sales are of notable concern to the vocal group.

Revenue from ticket purchases funds the Chorale’s domestic and international tours. The group completed a summer tour of New Zealand and Hawaii, the Chorale is currently planning their annual winter break tour. This year, the club will travel to the Southern and Eastern United States, stopping in Memphis, St. Louis, Washington D.C., and Atlanta for performances.

The Chorale, accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra, performs at 8:00 p.m. on both nights in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $7 Adults, $5 Students, $8 Staff.

Contact Patrick Griffin at pgriffi3@nd.edu.
By MICHELLE FORDICE
Assistant Scene Editor

Finals week is gearing up. We aren't quite there yet, but suddenly our to-do lists are filled with the last papers and exams or the semester. And we'll all need good fuel to make it through! Here are some recipes to fight off the hunger and hopefully give you a tasty break from the rush.

This week's recipes:

Lemon Alfredo Pasta
You've probably noticed that lemon wedges are a frequent ingredient in these dining hall recipes. They are a good way to give a quick dash of flavor or balance out other ingredients, but in this pasta dish lemon takes on the starring roll. Mixed with a creamy Alfredo sauce and parmesan, lemon creates a tart, pleasant and flavorful pasta. Pick up three or four lemon wedges and a grilled chicken breast.

Fill a bowl with short pasta and a ladle-full or two of the dining hall's Alfredo sauce. Add a dash of red pepper flakes and a bunch of parmesan cheese from the pizza bar. Shred the chicken breast and mix it into the pasta.

Squeeze the lemon wedges over the pasta and chicken. Add a dash of salt and a bunch of pepper. Mix.

Lemon Alfredo Pasta
The Coen Brother's follow up their gritty Academy Award winning "No Country For Old Men" with this farcical story of stolen CIA information, infidelity, mistaken killings and a lot of buffoonery. Former CIA analyst and author Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich) finds his personal files copied off his computer by his divorce-seeking wife Katie Cox (Tilda Swinton) who gives them to her lawyer. When the lawyer's receptionist leaves them at the gym Hardbodies, the disc of files finds its way into the hands of employee Chad Feldheimer (Reid Pitt) who mistakenly takes it for highly classified information. He teams up with another employee Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) and they attempt to blackmail Osbourne. What results is hilarious and calamitous. Tickets are $3.

Bread Dipped in Olive Oil
Whenever you eat out at a good Italian restaurant, they always offer bread with the meal. Why not make it yourself? Here are some recipes to fight off the hunger and hopefully give you a tasty break from the rush. These directions are on the extraordinarily easy side, but it will help jazz up your dinner.

Pick up a hunk of good Italian bread. Fill a bowl with olive oil and a couple dashes of balsamic vinegar. If you are in South, head to the spice rack and add a couple dashes of Italian seasoning and garlic powder.

Dip and enjoy!

Brownie Sundaes
This is a simple concept, but one that is hard to beat. Warm brownies melting your cold ice cream ... what could be better?

Pick up your favorite type of brownie, whether nut filled or M&M topped. Heat of the brownie in the microwave. Top with your favorite ice cream — traditional vanilla and mint are good options. Top with whipped cream, nuts and jam if you like them and of course a cherry!

Quick Tip
Check out the waffle bar if it is open for extra ice cream toppings. Sometimes it will offer toppings like whipped cream, nuts and syrupy fruits that don’t make it out to the ice cream area, especially at South.

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.
Cavaliers extend home streak against Knicks

Trail Blazers ride Roy's hot shooting to win; Rondo earns first career triple-double in Celtics win vs. Pacers

Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson goes up for a layup against Knicks forward Anthony Robinson during Cleveland's 110-92 win.

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Cavaliers have never been better at home.

LeBron James scored 21 points and then grabbed an early seat on the bench as the Cavs improved to 10-0 in their own floor for the first time in franchise history with their 14th win in 15 games, 118-82 over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Wearing replica win-and-gold uniforms from their 1970 expansion season, when they played at dingy Cleveland Arena, the Cavaliers built a 42-point lead in the second half and breezed to their sixth straight win. They also remained the Eastern Conference's only unbeaten team at home.

Cleveland opened 9-0 at home in both the 1976-77 and 1991-92 seasons at Biddleson Coliseum.

The 36-point margin of victory was the Cavaliers' largest in 171 games against New York.

With another blowout win, the Cavs, who have won their last nine games by at least 11 points, improved to 5-3 and continued the streak had never ever ended. Right now, it doesn't matter who you play.

"They're really good everywhere," Knocks first-year coach Mike D'Antoni said before his team was rocked by Cleveland for the second straight time. "Whoever they play, Mo Williams added 16 points, Zydrunas, who had criticized Marbury after

James didn't even play in the first half, was really good everywhere, who had scored 16 points, hitting a 21-foot jumper with 47 seconds left to pull Washington within 45-43 at the break.

He opened the second half with a 20-footer to tie it at 45, part of a second-half binge that kept the Wizards close. Still, the visitors took a 77-72 lead into the final period thanks in part to Fernandez's three-point play.

Washington began the fourth quarter with a 9-0 spurt capped by a three-pointer from Gilbert that put the Wizards ahead 81-79. Portland shot 0-for-6 in that stretch and was outscored 12-0 in that quarter until nearly 4½ minutes had elapsed.

But that's when Roy really began to assert himself, scoring seven points in a 9-2 run by the Blazers as they took an 86-83 lead.

Rondo was honored Monday as Western Conference Player of the Week for his work from Nov. 24-30, when he averaged 20 points, 5.3 rebounds and six assists while shooting 51 percent on field-goal attempts.

He pretty much kept up that pace across the board Wednesday, shooting 9-for-19 from the field, 8-for-8 from the line and making all six free throws. He also added 10 assists and five steals to his stats line.

Celtics 114, Pacers 96

Rajon Rondo notched his first career triple-double and Ray Allen scored 33 points, leading the Boston Celtics over the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night for their 10th straight victory.

Rondo scored 16 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and handed out a career-high 17 assists. Kevin Garnett added 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who matched their longest winning streak since their 2007-08 championship season, a 19-game run from Feb. 24 through March 2.

Boston broke open the game in the third quarter with a 28-6 run over the first nine minutes, with Garnett and Allen combining for 16 points.

Danny Granger led the Pacers with 20 points, while Troy Murphy chipped in with 10 points and 10 rebounds. Rondo, who also added three steals, secured his triple-double with 10.32 remaining in the third quarter after he grabbed two offensive rebounds and followed them with a silky pass to Garnett for an easy layup.

The Pacers chipped away at an 85-61 deficit with 2:44 remaining in the third quarter after Granger nailed a pair of three-pointers and Murphy completed three-point play to cap a 21-5 run, cutting the lead to 90-82 with 8:54 remaining in the fourth.

Boston responded with a 10-0 run to put the game out of reach as Indiana failed to post consecutive victories over the NBA's last two teams. The Pacers edged the Los Angeles Lakers 118-117 Tuesday.

The Celtics beat the Cavs on Nov. 1, handing Cleveland one of its two losses while forcing the Celtics into a season-low 26.6 percent shooting and a season-high 24 turnovers. The Celtics' only other loss since then came at home to Denver on Nov. 14.

Rondo did the majority of his damage in the first half with 10 points, eight rebounds and nine assists, leading Boston to a 57-31 halftime lead.

Trailing by seven, Boston closed the third quarter with a 14-0 run for a 28-27 lead. The Celtics dominated the Cavs in Indiana for the sixth time in seven home games.

Boston hosted Portland on Friday. The Trail Blazers come in with a six-game winning streak. Indiana, which has dropped eight of 11, travels to Cleveland on Friday with a rematch with the Celtics on Sunday, finishing what appears to be its toughest stretch of the season.

The observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oxnard office.

122 South Oxnard Blvd. Deadline for ads classified is 7 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per centimeter per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without assigning blame.

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Thursday, December 4, 2008

FOOTBALL

Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson goes up for a layup against Knicks forward Anthony Robinson during Cleveland's 110-92 win.

-associated press

Boise State guard Rajon Rondo goes up for a rebound against Indiana's Troy Murphy during the Celtics' 114-96.

-- greg ibsen

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**AROUND THE NATION**

**COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES**

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**USCHO.com**

**Hockey Top 20**

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Notre Dame (48)</td>
<td>10-3-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Boston College</td>
<td>9-4-1</td>
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<td>3. Minnesota (2)</td>
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<td>4. Miami (OH) (2)</td>
<td>8-3-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Colorado College</td>
<td>9-4-3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Northeastern</td>
<td>10-3-2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Boston University(1)</td>
<td>9-4-0</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>8. Denver (1)</td>
<td>9-5-1</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>9. Princeton</td>
<td>9-2-0</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>10. Air Force</td>
<td>13-2-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Minnesota State</td>
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<td>12. Vermont</td>
<td>9-2-2</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Cornell</td>
<td>5-1-2</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Michigan</td>
<td>7-0-2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Alaska-Anchorage</td>
<td>7-2-2</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**USA Today Hockey**

**Top 15**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>Previous</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Notre Dame (38)</td>
<td>10-3-2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Minnesota (1)</td>
<td>7-3-1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Boston College</td>
<td>9-4-1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Miami (OH)</td>
<td>8-3-3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Rutgers University</td>
<td>9-4-0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Colorado College</td>
<td>9-4-3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Denver</td>
<td>9-6-1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Northeastern</td>
<td>10-3-2</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>9. Princeton</td>
<td>9-3-8</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>10. Air Force</td>
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<td>11. Minnesota State</td>
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<td>12. Vermont</td>
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<td>13. Cornell</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Michigan</td>
<td>7-2-2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. New Hampshire</td>
<td>5-6-3</td>
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</tr>
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**NCAA Basketball**

**AP Top 25**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Previous</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. North Carolina</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Connecticut</td>
<td>1,373</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pittsburgh</td>
<td>1,382</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Duke</td>
<td>1,376</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Kansas</td>
<td>1,409</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Oklahoma</td>
<td>1,427</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Notre Dame (1)</td>
<td>1,359</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>8. Texas</td>
<td>1,231</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Purdue</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Tennessee</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. LSU</td>
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<td>12. UCLA</td>
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<td>13. Michigan</td>
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<td>14. Xavier</td>
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<td>15. Wake Forest</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>16. Syracuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. Villanova</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Arizona State</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. Georgetown</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>21</td>
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<tr>
<td>21. Miami (FL)</td>
<td>360</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Davidson</td>
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<td>23. Florida</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. Baylor</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25. Marquette</td>
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**NFL**

**Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia fields a ground ball during Game Three of the American League Division Series. Pedroia won the American League MVP award on Nov. 18.**

**MVP Pedroia earns new contract**

Associated Press

**BOSTON — Dustin Pedroia has a Rookie of the Year award, an MVP, a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger and, of course, a World Series ring.**

And now he’s got the big-bucks contract befitting one of the most decorated young players in baseball.

The Red Sox second baseman, who earned $457,000 last season while winning the AL Most Valuable Player award, agreed Wednesday to a $40.5 million, six-year contract that could keep in Boston through at least 2014.

"I wanted to be here a long time," Pedroia said at Fenway Park news conference. "Hopefully in the next six years we can win some championships."

Heading into his third year in the majors, the 5-foot-9 second baseman has already joined Cal Ripken Jr. and Ryan Howard as the only players in baseball history to follow a rookie award with an MVP. Pedroia led the AL with 213 hits, 118 runs and 84 doubles while batting .317 with 17 home runs, 83 RBIs and 20 stolen bases.

He is the first AL second baseman to win the MVP award since Nellie Fox in 1959 with the Chicago White Sox. And the Red Sox have reached the postsea-son in both of his years with the club.

"He embodies just about everything we look for in a Red Sox player, and that makes this a great day for the organization," general manager Theo Epstein said. "Dustin plays hard, first and foremost, all the time. He plays to win. He plays for his teammates, not himself."

"That’s not to say if we had 25 guys like him, we’d be in good shape. I don’t think we’d be the Red Sox right now without Dustin Pedroia."

The club effectively bought out Pedroia’s arbitration years and his first two years of free agency (2013-14), there is also a club option for 2015 that is voided if he’s traded.

Although negotiations began during the summer, the Red Sox expected Pedroia to be in contention for the MVP award and made their offer knowing that arbitration awards for MVP winners can be expensive.

At 25, Pedroia sacrificed — actually, postponed — the chance for a free agent jackpot for an average annual salary of around $3 million and the chance to stay with the organization that picked him in the second round of the 2004 draft. He would be 32 when the contract expires, if the Red Sox pick up the option.

**Raptors dismiss head coach Sam Mitchell**

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors fired coach Sam Mitchell on Wednesday and replaced him with assistant Jay Triano, one day after an embarrassing loss at Denver.

Mitchell led the Raptors to the play-offs in each of the last two seasons and was honored as the NBA’s coach of the year for 2006-07. Toronto was off to a sluggish 8-9 start, due in part to injuries.

General manager Bryan Colangelo said Tuesday night’s 132-93 loss to the Nuggets was the final straw. Toronto allowed Denver to shoot 60 percent from the field and the Nuggets’ 37 assists were the most by an NBA team in regulation this season. The 39-point difference marked the fifth-worst loss in franchise history.

"Obviously, last night’s game was just an absolute kick to the gut," Colangelo said. "When you look back, it’s a culmination of things. Expectations are high. We want to win."
Burrus done for season, playoffs

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants expect Antonio Pierce to play in Sunday’s game against Philadelphia while the team gathers information on the linebacker’s involvement in a shooting that led to the season-ending suspension of star receiver Plaxico Burress.

Coach Tom Coughlin said Pierce would practice Wednesday with the Super Bowl champions.

“If this is different, each is separate,” Coughlin said when asked about the decisive action the Giants took against Burress on Tuesday — fining and suspending him for four games, the rest of the regular season.

The team also placed Burress on the reserve non-football injury list for conduct detrimental to the team, which means he won’t be back for the playoffs, either.

Coughlin said there currently is no need to consider potential punishment of Pierce, the Giants’ leader of defense.

“There is no doubt we’ll do the right thing,” Coughlin added, “and that’s no different with the players, they know that.”

The Giants punished a Burruss a day after he was charged with two counts of illegal weapons possession. He shot himself in the right thigh at a Manhattan night club early Saturday morning.

Pierce, who was with Burress, has not talked to police about his involvement since the incident. Authorities are trying to determine whether he tried to cover up the shooting. Investigators impounded Pierce’s Cadillac Escalade and are searching it for any blood or gun residue.

He might face potential charges and a possible suspension if he did.

Coughlin said Wednesday that he used two words in discussing the Burruss’ situation with the team — disappointment and sadness.

“That sums it all up,” Coughlin said. “I had a conversation with Plaxico. He was very humble. He was remorseful. Obviously that doesn’t change anything. But you have to understand that he is part of our team and our concern is with he and his family’s well being, and the ability of him to get through this circumstance and be healthy again.

The Giants handed down their decision on Burruss after Dr. Scott Bradshaw, a team physician, examined Burruss and told them the gunshot wound would sideline the 31-year-old player for 4-to-6 weeks.

The Giants (11-1) are deep at wide receiver, however, with players such as Domenik Hixon and Nanaire Moss who can replace the man who caught the game-winning pass in the 17-14 Super Bowl win over the New England Patriots.

It would be much harder to replace Pierce.

Pierce smiled but declined to speak to The Associated Press on Wednesday morning when he reported to Giants Stadium about 8 a.m.

Running back Ahmad Bradshaw was also in the club, but not near the other two players, his attorney said.

Following the shooting, police say Pierce drove Burress to the hospital and returned to New Jersey with Burress’ gun in the glove compartment of his black Cadillac Escalade.

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 he hasn’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.

Bradshaw’s attorney, Charles Stacy, said his client wasn’t suspected of any wrongdoing.

Both players said they were planning to speak with the district attorney’s office soon.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again about the case Tuesday, saying he talked to Giants president John 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.”

Police 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.

Dr. Joseph Ablaad was suspended for not reporting Burress injury. She apparently arrived at the hospital at 2 a.m. to treat him, but it’s not clear why she was called.

Giants spokesman Pat Hanlon said the team has no tie-in with Ablaad.

“She is not...we have no relationship with her...we do not know her,” Hanlon said Wednesday.

Ablaad could not be reached for comment. She graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and has no history of state disciplinary action. She is affiliated with the hospital and specializes in internal and emergency medicine.
Minnesota judge blocks Viking suspensions

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked the NFL's suspension of Vikings stars Kevin and Pat Williams for violating the league's anti-doping policy, but the players' status for Sunday's game at Detroit remained uncertain.

Hennepin County District Judge Gary Larson issued the temporary restraining order at the players' request, saying he wanted more time to hear arguments in the case.

No further hearing date immediately was set.

The Williams were among six players suspended for four games for testing positive for a diuretic that can be used as a masking agent for steroids. They have argued that the substance containing the diuretic didn't list all its ingredients, and that league scientists and lawyers had information about the substance but withheld it from players.

The NFL argues that the league's policy on banned substances is collectively bargained with the players' association and players are responsible for what is in their bodies.

"This is one of the more difficult cases I've had in 23 years," Larson said before signing the order. "If I make a mistake, I've got to decide on a temporary basis which side I'm able to make the announcement." Larson said he would make himself available to reconsider the issue "as quickly as you'd like me to hear it." He also said he expected lawyers for the NFL, who participated in the hearing by phone, would take the issue to federal court in Minneapolis to get the suspensions reinstated.

"There is no merit to this lawsuit and we will promptly seek to have the order reversed," the NFL said in a statement.

Both Kevin and Pat Williams, who are not related, sat in the courtroom with their lawyers for Wednesday's hearing, which lasted more than two hours, before the judge declined comment afterward.

Their attorney, Peter Ginsberg, didn't claim victory, instead saying, "It's a long hard road. It's going to take a long time for them to reclaim their reputations.

A message left by The Associated Press seeking reaction from the Vikings was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Dan Nash, an attorney for the NFL, said Larson before he issued the order that granting it would be unprecedented.

"This program (governing banned substances) would be thrown into disarray," Nash said. But Ginsberg said his clients' case is unique and they should be given the benefit of the doubt.

"A lot of guys in their position are playing until the issues are fully addressed," Nash said.

The Vikings are 7-5 and in first place in the NFC North, with the Williamses a big part of their success.

The two Pro Bowl tackles are the foundation of one of the league's top run defenses and leaders of a unit that has played a big role in the Vikings ascending to sole possession of first place in the division for the first time in four years.

"They're the first two guys here every morning at 7 a.m. working out," said Ellis Wyms, the backup to Kevin Williams. "You see the dedication that these two guys have to this team and this game.

"It's not that way around the league with a lot of guys. A lot of guys in their position would be able to take days off and chill out. Those guys have unbelievable dedication in what they do.

The ruling gives the Vikings a newfound hope that they may have the Williams Wall intact, at least for the immediate future, while they try to sew up the division title.

"They'll get back and get their playbook and start focusing on Detroit," Ginsberg said.

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Elmo Makes Music
Children's Show

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Thur.-Sat, Jan. 1-4

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South Bend Symphony
Sunday, Dec. 7

Jim Brickman
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Pianist & Composer
Monday, Dec. 15

Michael McDonald
Christmas Concert
Former Doobie Brothers
Tuesday, Dec. 16

Sesame Street Live!
Elmo Makes Music
Children's Show
Thur.-Sun, Jan. 1-4

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Saturday-Sunday
Dec. 13-14

The Nutcracker Ballet
Southhold Dance Theater

Tuesday-Sunday
January 6-11

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January 24

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Write Sports. E-mail Bill at wbrink@nd.edu.
Weis

continued from page 20

Alarm went off somewhere in the bowels of the sporting world and we all dug our claws in and hung on for dear life. After nearly two weeks of unabridged Weis Watch, we are finally right back where we started. Some people are happy; some are sad, and Charlie Weis is the head football coach at Notre Dame. If you thought the attention and public outcry was bad when his job was in jeopardy, imagine it now that it is secure.

The Irish have fallen on tough times, but it didn’t come out of nowhere. Last year after Notre Dame’s 38-0 drubbing against USC, Pete Carroll told the press that he saw this team down coming three years ago — while Weis was still busy collecting jewelry in New England.

The naysayers say Weis can’t develop talent. Every facet of the 2008 team was stronger and better prepared than in 2007. The defense gave up an average of one less touchdown per game this season, and the offense averaged one more touchdown per game.

If they make the same improvements next season, and that’s a big if, I think they wouldn’t, the Irish would win three of the games they lost this year. 9-3 isn’t too shabby.

Actually, the Irish were less than a handful of plays away from 9-3 this season. A pick six on the first throw of the second half against North Carolina can’t be blamed on Weis. With a bum knee, he couldn’t have thrown an interception even if he tried to.

Neither can a blown coverage on the final drive against Syracuse or an overthrow in overtime against Pittsburgh. If the guys on the field make those plays, we would all be whistling a very different tune.

A head coach is a lot like a president. People are going to criticize him anytime anything goes wrong. Just look at Mr. Bush! At first glance it would seem that the man probably still wears shoes.

He does have a degree from Yale and somehow managed to take residence on Pennsylvania Ave., he probably knows a thing or two that you and I don’t.

The same goes for Charlie. No, as you spend the next few weeks raking in your dorm rooms, at the dinner table or in your classrooms, remember he too probably knows a thing or two that you and I don’t.

Take for example the end of regulation against Pittsburgh. With just over a minute to go and the ball near midfield Weis was faced with a fourth and one. Instead of safely punting the ball away or sneaking up the middle, the Irish called a play action fade route to Golden Tate. The pass was incomplete and suddenly your team was greatly out of the game.

With just over a minute to go and the ball near midfield Weis was faced with a fourth and one. Instead of safely punting the ball away or sneaking up the middle, the Irish called a play action fade route to Golden Tate. Tate had a 23-21 record in his four years at Notre Dame. He coached the team to two BCS bowls in his first two seasons, but then lost a school-record 15 games in the next two.

Swarbrick described a two-step process used to evaluate the program. First, determine how closely Weis’ priorities matched his. Should the two differ drastically, he said, he would decide whether the differences could be resolved.

"But we didn’t. We never did," Swarbrick said. "My list and his list were remarkably similar, and our views with where we need to go forward were very much in sync. In that sense, it wasn’t a dispute." Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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TODD GLASS

SATURDAY @ 10PM

margot & the nuclear so and so's

@ MIDNIGHT

TAVERN GAMES

SENIOR NIGHT

(everyone else can come too)

@ MIDNIGHT

Christmas rollerskating party

@ MIDNIGHT

Hiphop Nightclub
**Big East**

continued from page 20

per set with 2.81, despite playing in only 84 sets on the season.

"She's tough." Brown said. "And that's the reason she was in there as the libero for us at the end of the year."

Kaelin paced the team with 367 kills on the season and a .258 hitting percentage. Kaelin was coming back after missing the entire 2007 season due to injury. Her freshman year, Kaelin posted 318 kills but only a .188 hitting percentage.

"I think Christina Kaelin came back from her surgery and was very good," Brown said. "Certainly [she was] a much better player statistically than she was her freshman year."

Brown said that she was currently meeting with each player individually to go over this season, but that the team would soon turn it's focus to 2009.

"We're evaluating the season," she said. "It's not like we haven't looked to next season at all, but I think while it's still fresh in our minds we're going over what we did this year."

With only Cruad and senior Justine Stremick graduating, the future certainly looks bright.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

**Seniors**

continued from page 20

Alumni Field.

"Even though they were disappointed, they handled it very well, they handled it like sportmen," Clark said. "Their legacy may be that they helped next year's team. I know it's going to happen — there's going to be a team that before very long will make it to the Final Four. I don't know when, but I know it'll happen sooner than later."

Not all was lost, however, for a team Clark had often called his best at Notre Dame. The Irish captured the Big East regular-season title for the second straight year, a first in the program's history.

"They played very nice soccer — as nice a playing team as I've ever had," Clark said. "They're a great group, and I don't know what we can do as we head into our conference games. The Belles are coming off of a successful Thanksgiving break that saw them earn one victory and a tough one-point loss in the Anderson College Tip-Off Tournament."

"I think that Wheaton win was great for us," Beier said. "It was frustrating losing another close game but I think that we are moving in the right direction. The games over break have helped us prepare well for our upcoming conference games."

The Belles were able to defeat Wheaton at home on Nov. 25 by a score of 81-78. Newsom was a force in the game against Wheaton as well, notching her first double-double of the season. She and Beier combined for 35 points, with Beier coming off the bench in the game.

"These guys are just all terrific boys and they have been fantastic," Clark said. "I just can't say enough positive things about them."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

**Bearded Assassin**

Senior guard Kyle McAinarney drives to the basket for a layup in Notre Dame's 102-76 win over South Dakota Tuesday.

**Belles**

continued from page 20

Trine, Murphy also pulled down two rebounds.

Fellow freshman Patsy Mahoney hit a key three pointer in the first half and had a total of nine points in the game.

The freshmen will have to help the team overcome the loss of Alison Kessler to graduation. Beier said, "Alison was a good player but we have seven new players this year," Beier said. "I think that we are a very different team and I can't wait to see what we can do as we head into our conference games."

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Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

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BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PAT GARTLAND

CROSSWORD

Across
1 Play pace
2 Ballroom dance
3 Early 11th-century
13 Mountaineer's tool
16 ET's ride Voyager
17 Play follower
32 Circulatory burger topper
37 Loofah
47 Computer that
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

THE JUMBLE

HENDI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PROOD

LALIV

PEMEXT

NORIPS

THIS CAN HAPPEN TO "MODELRS.

Print answer here: ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ ___________ 

Yesterdays Jumble: HARDLY AWAY REDUCE MYOPIC

Answer: When the generator went to pieces, he became part of THE IN CROWD

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Benol, 27; Anne Chynoweth, 28; Bruno Campos, 43; Holly Marie Combs, 35

Singer's Birthday: You may be itching to shake up the status quo around you. It's time to make a change, even if it's a small one. This is a good time to start something new.

Puzzle by Ken Artwash

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JUMBLE

THIS SCRAMBLED WORD GAME BY

Saunders Word Services, Inc.

NORIPS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumble: HARDLY AWAY REDUCE MYOPIC

Answer: When the generator went to pieces, he became part of THE IN CROWD

Soror's Birthday: You are inventive, imaginative and intellectual. You set goals and go after them. You pick sides and fight for your beliefs or ideas.****
FOOTBALL

It's official: Weis to return

Swarbrick met with Weis Tuesday in Calif.

By BILL BRINK
Sport Writer

Charlie Weis will remain the head coach of the football team, athletic director Jack Swarbrick announced Wednesday. Swarbrick and Weis met in California Tuesday to discuss the season and the future of the football program. Swarbrick said the decision came as a result of a review of the football program, not directly regarding Weis' job status.

"The issue becomes, the outcome of that analysis for me, is the things that I see that we ought to focus on, are they consistent with the coach's view?" Swarbrick said in a phone interview with The Observer. "Are we on the same page, do we see the

VOLLEYBALL

Big East run highlights season that featured ups and downs

By SAM WERNER
Sport Writer

For Notre Dame coach Debbie Brown, the 2008 season has just been a series of ups and downs.

"It was a little bit of a rollercoaster ride," she said. "Certainly we had some high points, but we also had some low points too. We'd have liked to have been more consistent than we was."

Brown said the highest point of the Irish season was the team's Big East tournament run, when it beat Connecticut and top-seeded St. John's before falling to Louisville in the final by a score of 3-1 (25-23, 28-26, 15-25, 25-22).

"We finished strong, and that's definitely an important thing," Brown said. "Even though we came only a couple of points shy of winning the Big East tournament, we certainly made strides in getting there. I felt that in our last couple of matches, we just played a much higher level of volleyball."

The rollercoaster ride started early for Notre Dame, who participated in four early season tournaments in Notre Dame, Minneapolis and Moscow, Idaho. The Irish went 5-7 in these matches, with one of their losses being a five-set thriller to then-No. 9 California.

The Irish proceeded to go 9-5 in the Big East, good enough for fifth place in the conference, but five-set struggles continued to haunt Notre Dame all year. The squad finished 2-5 in matches that went the distance, and just 3-7 in four-set matches. In tilts that went the minimum three sets, though, the Irish were 12-2.

"I think that was probably a coincidence," Brown said of her team's struggles in the fifth set. "I don't think it was the fact that it was a five-game match. Certainly I don't think it was conditioning or fatigue."

Brown did say, though, that senior Mallorie Cruz would have helped the Irish in those long matches. Cruz went down with an ankle injury in the spring of her sophomore year, and was hampered past the past two years. The senior outside hitter played her last match in Notre Dame's Oct. 21 loss to Long Beach State this season.

"(Croal) would have made a huge difference," Brown said. "She's somebody that has big game experience, she's very poised, and she makes players around her better. In close games she's somebody that wants the ball." Even without Croal, Brown said she saw several bright spots on this year's team, specifically freshman outside hitter Kristen Dealy, sophomore libero Megan Dunne, and junior outside hitter Christina Kaelin.

Dealy played in 116 out of 117 sets this year and led the team in aces with 30. Brown praised Dealy's all-around play, specifically her passing game.

"We were hoping that she'd be able to come in and do that," Brown said. "But the fact that she did, and just the load that she carried, especially the passing load, was big for us."

Dunne led the team in digs

SMC BASKETBALL

Squad takes first home and conference victory

By KATELYN GRABAREK
Sport Writer

Saint Mary's defeated Trine for its first home and MIAA Conference victory of the season to bring their record 3-11-4. "Our goal for this year is to win conference," senior Nicole Beier said. "We want to make it to the finals of the conference tournament."

Each of the last two seasons the Belles have reached the semifinals of the MIAA tournament. This season the Belles took a step toward that goal with their 80-72 victory.

The Belles spread the scoring around in the game against Trine, with senior Erin Newsom leading the way with 20 points, and nine rebounds.

Junior Anna Kamprath also chipped in 10 points and eight rebounds for the night.

"Our freshmen need to learn our program and what we are trying to establish," Belles coach Jen Henley said. "We have a very talented young group that will have the opportunity to contribute early for us."

Some of that young group have had the opportunity to get their feet wet early this season.

Freshman Kelley Murphy scored six points, and made three key free throws down the stretch for the Belles against

see BELLES/page 18

see STAYING/page 16

MEN'S SOCCER

Seniors suffer heartbreak

By MATT GAMBER
Assistant Sport Editor

For a senior class that had reached the NCAA Sweet 16 in each of its first three seasons, a Nov. 25 season-ending loss to Northwestern in the tournament's second round was both shocking and shattering.

"The group of seniors really set their hearts on the Final Four," Irish coach Bobby Clark. "I just feel so sorry for the seniors. I don't know if I've ever seen a locker room more disappointed after game."

The loss was the first — and only — at home for Notre Dame (12-7-2) after a regular season during which the Irish posted a 9-0-1 record at

see SENIORS/page 18

Despite struggles, not all blame falls on Weis

He's staying.
You may now resume the conversations that you most likely dropped mid-sentence 12 days ago.

Even before Notre Dame's embattled coach met with The Observer on Nov. 22, there were calls for Charlie Weis' head. After the loss, there were calls for his head.

The Notre Dame Crisis

see WEIS/page 16

PHOTOS/THE OBSERVER

Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis looks at the action during Notre Dame's 27-21 victory over Navy on Nov. 15.

PHOTO/THE OBSERVER

Senior defender Matt Besler deflects the ball during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Georgetown on Oct. 29.