Five student interns to teach for ACE
Seniors committed to program after graduation express passion for Catholic education

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

This year, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program is working with five student interns who have all committed to teach for ACE after graduation. Each of the students expressed a love for the work they are doing with ACE, and seemed excited to extend their internship into teaching jobs in new locations next year.

Senior Laura Wilczek, a resident advisor from Howard Hall is one such student. She is majoring in English with a minor in Education, Schooling and Society and hopes to teach English in Seoul after she finishes her work with ACE. Wilczek hadn’t attended a Catholic school until high school. When she started attending a Catholic school though, she said she began to feel passionate about her faith.

She said she thinks her teachers at her Catholic high school taught from a different perspective than those she had encountered in public schools because they viewed their students as children of God rather than numbers.

“Essentially what I am trying to convey is my own positive experience at a Catholic school, and the belief I have in the Catholic school system is really why I want to dedicate my future to teaching at a Catholic school,” Wilczek said.

Not only will Wilczek be using the education she received at Notre Dame to serve a cause she believes in, but she also thinks her work will bolster her education in ways that would not have been possible just through learning in a college classroom.

“I know that working in the ACE program I will not only be the teacher but the student as well sometimes,” she said.

Kevin Veselik is a former resident of Zahm who now lives off-campus. Like Wilczek, he is passionate about Catholic education.

“Catholic schools are so important to our Church and our world, and ACE offers an opportunity to bring some energy and life to schools that might need it,” he said.

Veselik is a member of the order of Friars Minor.

Kristof speaks on new era of American politics

By JOSEPH McMHAON
Assistant News Editor

Founding editor of the conservative periodical “The Weekly Standard” William Kristol said President-elect Barack Obama’s leadership, if deemed successful by the American people, could lead to a new era in American politics.

“On the other hand, if deemed unsuccessful by the American people, could lead to a new era in American politics in a political situation and predicted where Obama’s leadership would take the country in the future.

Kristol, who is also a regular contributor to Fox News and the editorial page of the “New York Times,” said the November election results were “not so surprising” due to a war in Iraq “judged by a majority of Americans as a mistake” and the current economic crisis.

“In some sense, you could argue it was no big surprise,” he said.

Kristol said the results, however, did not demonstrate an ideological shift for the country.

“Americans remain more moderate than anything else and more conservative than moderate than anything else,” he said.

Her main concern, however, is for student’s personal safety.

NDSP says thefts rise with finals
Stress contributes to student property loss

By KARA COYLE
News Writer

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) said there is an increase in thefts before students go on break.

Students’ stress levels generally increase at this time and they are less prone to pay attention to their belongings, Keri Kei Shibata, an NDSP officer said.

“The bad guys in town know that students at this time are distracted,” she said. “Keep an eye on your property and make sure you are keeping it with you.”

Shibata discussed the different safety measures that students should be aware of during Christmas vacation at a Winter Break Safety Forum sponsored by Student Government on Tuesday.

The University is offering a property storage facility for off-campus students in Hammes-Mowbray Hall, a winter vehicle storage unit and a bike storage unit.

“These are simple things that anyone can do that won’t take a lot of time,” she said. “Be prepared, do the little things.”

Shibata also advised students to register their property. This enables police officers to recover student’s property and return it with greater ease.

Her main concern, however, is for student’s personal safety.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES
Off-campus discounts proposed

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR) discussed the ordering and distribution discount booklets for off-campus eateries for students at their meeting Tuesday. The booklets are expected to be available in early January.

An off-campus company will produce the cards and sell them to student government. Student government will then resell the books to students for $10.

The booklets will contain popular restaurants including Buffalo Wild Wings, Domino’s, Papa John’s, Chik-Gil-A, Studebagels, Nick’s Patio, Krispy Kreme, Taco Bell, Star of India and Tippinaway Place.

T-shirts raise awareness for gender problems

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

In an effort to raise awareness about sexual assault, Student Government’s Gender Issues Committee handed out T-shirts to be worn today by 1,000 Notre Dame students.

Gender Issues paired the distribution of T-shirts with their attempt to pass a resolution to review the University’s sexual assault and rape policy.

The T-shirts, which are teal and a color of the visual awareness month, list the fact that one in four women are survivors of attempted sexual assault or rape, Tiptoe said.

The committee found the one in four statistic in multiple sources including du lac and the U.S. Department of Justice, he said.

That’s why we are getting a thousand shirts, there are roughly 4,000 undergraduate women here at Notre Dame,” said chairwoman Lauren Cummings.

“Just take the number of girls that you know and divide that by four,” she said. “It’s really an eye opening number.”

The T-shirts are free to students who signed up to wear one, and were paid for by the Gender Issues committee. Each dorm had a sign-up sheet for the T-shirts and the committee targeted specific interest groups to wear them, Cummings said.

Both men and women have
Non-sequiturs for finals

I am currently sitting in the library, "working on" the second of four papers I have due this week. Thus, the chance that I will put together a cohesive 400-word essay for you people is equivalent to the chance that anyone will be running through Stonehenge after the Hawaii Bowl.

Tricked you — that wasn’t a prediction that we’ll lose, but a fact because no one will be on campus! Of course, we probably are going to lose. A college football team can’t win without emotion, and we don’t have any. (Bulletin board?)

Anyway, I have spent long hours in the ‘Burgh, as I fondly refer to this lovely building, and have had some meandering thoughts that I’ve decided to share with you.

◆ My roommate officially got together with her boyfriend over Thanksgiving. (They are now "in a relationship" on Facebook — what’s more official than that?) That’s great for her and all, but if she had waited a month that would be less Christmas present she has to give.

◆ I hate movies in which a character says "There’s a storm coming," and then it starts raining and something bad happens, like someone dying or someone getting attacked by Voldemort. I mean, seriously, did the writer pop out of an omelette as well as I do while studying to become a chemist? I think that’s sexist.

◆ When I head to North Dining Hall, I think I should feel bad about that. After the confications, the man was allowed to enter the U.S. and his world was never new and the driver appeared to be in his 70s. WJBK-TV in Detroit}
ACE continued from page 1
Notre Dame's cross country and track teams.
He said he hopes to make a difference in the lives of the students he teaches.
"I'm hoping to meet great people, learn about and live in a new part of country, and grow in my faith through ACE," he said.
Since he plans to teach high school Theology, after ACE, he thinks ACE will allow him to confirm that this profession is right for him.
Jessica Stouffer, a chemical engineering major from Howard, also hopes to gain discernment from her experience in the ACE program.
She said she has "no idea what I want to do long-term, so this gives me a little more time to discern and plan."
"I don't want to pretend that I can predict the ways in which ACE will help and/or change me," she said, "I think I just need to do it, and assess my experience afterwards, to see what I have gained."

For Georphy Mooney, a resident of Alumni with a dual degree in mathematics and theology, his experience as an ACE intern thus far has been very enjoyable.
He said his favorite part of his current work "has definitely been talking up the program and simply being a face for ACE at recruitment events."
"There is a wonderful feeling that comes along with describing the mission and opportunities of ACE both with those who have never heard of the program and those who have wanted to be a part of it for several years," Mooney said. "Whether I'm speaking to a class, at extracurricular group events, or during a career fair, I get to share a piece of what I love and have a passion for with others."
Mooney said he thinks he will still be teaching math next year, but is open to teaching other subjects as well because he hopes to challenge himself.
"He said he is not sure what city he will be teaching in but that he has "total confidence that the Holy Spirit will help make that decision next semester."
Like many of the other interns, Julie Garcia, a former resident of Lewis Hall who now lives off-campus, has been involved with ACE programs and service projects on campus and around South Bend throughout her career at Notre Dame. She is finishing up African Studies with a minor in gender studies. She expressed an excitement with her work that started when she dropped engineering as a freshman and had a realization that she had always wanted to teach. She said she has "seen how great an impact one good mentor can make on a child's life, and I'd love to be able to do that for a living," and she also appreciates the communal lifestyle fostered by the ACE program.
Garcia's advice for students interested in the ACE program is to stop by the ACE office and express interest.
"There are so friendly and love getting to know who you are, even if you don't have any specific questions," she said. "Ask previous ACEers advice. They can really tell you what it will be like. It's not something you've got to get foot in the door."

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COR continued from page 1
They will also contain discounts to local restaurants that are not as often frequented by students.
"We want to integrate students in a lot of restaurants they already know, as well as restaurants that they maybe aren't familiar with," student body vice president Grant Schmidt said.
The discount booklet idea originated as a campaign promoted by Schmidt and student body president Bob Reich. Reich made last spring.
Reich said he thinks student interest in the booklets will be high.
"We did our personal survey on our campaign site when we were running," he said.
When Reich presented the discount idea at Tuesday's COR meeting, he initially proposed buying 300 booklets. However, COR members said that student government should order more booklets because rewarding would not be feasible.
Schmidt, who proposed the deal, said he was concerned that the booklets would go unnoticed.
"We didn't want to waste money and have them and them sitting there and then expire," he said.
Student government will sell the booklets for $10. The price will allow student government to make a $5 profit on the books. They will only need to sell half of the booklets that they order and still break even.
COR members were also concerned about the distribution of the booklets. Off-campus president Billy Lyman was concerned about off-campus students' ability to buy booklets if they were sold on-campus. Off-campus students would have an especially difficult time securing a booklet if they were only sold through the dorms.
"You don't have to make it available for off-campus, just give them a fair chance," Lyman said.
Junior class president Kim Kyrouras stressed the importance of advertising the booklets.
"As long as it's advertised enough and off-campus students know enough, they're going to have an equal chance," she said. "As long as 'We' are just spreading the news isn't through the dorms, then you're okay."

In other COR news:
• Reich took time at the end of the meeting to congratulate Lyman for completing the off-campus listserv project. He said that the listserv has already sent two e-mails.
• Reich also delivered COR members a memo that asked for suggested topics for next semester's agenda. Members were to offer the suggestions in writing before the beginning of next semester.
• Schmidt also reminded COR members that the dining halls will be available for study space during exam week. He asked them to make sure that students are aware of this new program.
• Reich announced that they will send a copy of last week's COR minutes to Student Senate President Bill Kirk, who spoke at the meeting.
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Gender
continued from page 1
signed up to wear the T-shirts, and both Tighe and Cummings said there was a significant response from the male dorms to wear them.

"I think it's going to say a lot to women that men are taking a stand and we're saying that we don't want to let this happen," said Tighe, who added that men commit 90 to 95 percent of all rapes. "We're the ones that are perpetrating it and we're not going to let it happen again."

"I think the men don't intend to be rapists, and emphasized that not all men are rapists, but it is important to be aware of what defines rape and sexual assault, and to be aware of what it takes to avoid committing it."

In order to avoid it, men need to change their habits, "especially our drinking habits, the way we party, the way we view women. We really have to start changing our habits," he said.

Tighe sees the men who choose to wear the shirt as "a sign of solidarity and a sign of accountability."

"If a man wearing the shirt is saying, 'I'm wearing this shirt and you can hold me accountable and I will hold other men accountable,' " Tighe said.

The resolution that Gender issues committee hopes to pass tonight will revise rape and sexual assault policies in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the policies and strengthen resources for victims. The resolution cites that of more than 3,000 students surveyed, 61 percent listed sexual assault/rape as one of their top three issues and 18 percent listed it as their top issue.

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Kristol
continued from page 1
liberal," he said.

Kristol said arguments could be made "that [the Republican Party] really stepped back not a great deal, or you could say this was the end of an era."

Kristol called Obama "the liberal Democrat to be elected in modern times," and cited the fact that the president-elect is the first Democrat since 1964 to receive more than 51 percent of the popular vote.

He also said Republicans would have to face the fact that the minority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate after backlash against the Bush administration both in 2006 and 2008 resulted in a Democratic-controlled Congress.

"This is two elections in a row where a comfortable majority has voted Democrat," he said. "It could be the beginning of a new era."

Kristol said furthermore it is highly unlikely that the Republican Party would be able to retake Congress in 2010.

"Obama has at least four years with a Democratic Congress," he said.

However, Kristol said the future would mostly depend on "how Obama governs." He cited the example of Franklin Roosevelt beating Herbert Hoover in the midst of the Great Depression, comparing it to how Obama is taking over for President George W. Bush in the midst of the current recession.

Any Democrat would have beaten Hoover, Kristol said, but Roosevelt was able to govern successfully and thus changed American politics.

"Obama has to change American politics if he governs successfully," he said.

Kristol said Obama is lucky to take over in the middle of a recession, because strategically he cannot receive any blame for having caused the crisis.

"Objectively, honestly, he has a very good hand to play," Kristol said.

Instead, many Americans will blame Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress, which liberal Democrat to be elected in modern times," he said.

Kristol said after Bush's victory over Sen. John Kerry in 2004, the Republican Party reached its "high water mark."

Bush's failure to deliver on his campaign promises of Social Security privatization and immigration reform, as well as the unpopularity of the Iraq War and the gross mismanagement of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, led to Democratic victories in the past two elections, Kristol said.

"The voters now think this is a problem that happened ... due to Republican negligence," he said.

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Kristol said Obama's biggest challenges lie in foreign policy, particularly when it comes to controlling nuclear proliferation in Iran and ending the Iraq War.

Kristol cautioned it is often hard to predict what will happen in the future, and any failure by Obama could result in the Republicans regaining control.

"It's amazing how quickly things can reverse," he said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Greeks still rioting over shooting

All roads and houses marauded through Greek cities for a fourth night Tuesday, in an explosion of rage triggered by a teenager that has unleashed the most violent riots in a quarter century.

The nightly scenes of burning street barricades, looted stores and overturned cars have characterized an increasingly unpopular government, which faces mounting calls for Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis to resign.

Police fired tear gas at protesters following the death of a 17-year-old Grigoropoulos, who was laid to rest in an Athens burial attended by about 6,000 people.

Reactions to Mugabe worsen

President-elect Barack Obama and other U.S. officials criticized against Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe amid a cholera outbreak shows growing international outrage at the situation, but officials stress that his regime will be harder to come by.

Obama, who faces a re-election bid next year, has been more cautious in his criticism of the Mugabe regime, fearing that an open call for him to leave might generate sanctions against Zimbabwe but fail to ensure free and fair elections.

But the report that Mugabe's regime is being tested by the Red Cross reunites families in East Congo

CONGO

Red Cross reunites families in East Congo

Associated Press

GOYA - The Red Cross said Tuesday it has been reuniting children and parents separated in eastern Congo as a result of a quarter of a million people who fled their homes during clashes between rebels and government troops.

"We have not been able to find the parents of 134 young people without guardians have been registered since the start of the conflict," said a Red Cross official.

"People fled in every direction. In the confusion, many people lost sight of their children."

Red Cross workers, who have been working in the Congo since 1994, are conducting a massive search of camps in the east of the country, but only about 40 percent of the displaced have been located.

"It started before the Thanksgiving holiday, then people came back and it just took off," said a Red Cross official.

"We are still receiving reports of children and parents being separated. There are hundreds of thousands of people who have flown by planes, trains and cars to reach the capital of Kinshasa and to the north of the country, where theyupports support breakdown. Gen. Laurent Nkunda launched an offensive in eastern Congo on Aug. 28. The fighting is the latest round in years of conflict that began when Rwanda's genocidal Hutu fighters fled over the border and into the Congolese forest after a 1994 massacre."

"There was panic when the guns started to fire," said Prosper Sebahure, the Goma-based manager of the new camp.

"People fled in every direction. In the confusion, many people lost sight of their children."

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Thank you for using the Associated Press line. Have a great day.

[END]
BLAGOJEVIĆ CONVERSATIONS SHOCK OFFICIALS

Former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich is facing multiple charges related to attempts to profit from his position, including attempted extortion, bribery, and wire fraud. The latest charges involve allegations of using his influence to sell a U.S. Senate seat for personal gain.

In a series of conversations recorded between Blagojevich and associates, he is said to have offered the Senate seat to Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. for $10 million, and to have discussed plans to sell the position to Tom Menino for $25 million. Blagojevich is also accused of attempting to pressure Democrats to avoid primarying him in the Illinois Senate race.

The governor's defense team has denied any knowledge of these conversations, calling the tapes misleading and inadmissible. They argue that any evidence obtained through illegal wiretaps must be excluded from the trial.

The stakes are high for Blagojevich, with possible imprisonment and disbarment hanging over his head. The Illinois Supreme Court has already removed him from office, and a special prosecutor is investigating similar cases across the state.

In the meantime, Illinois voters are left to wonder how Blagojevich's actions have impacted their state, and what the future holds for the officials implicated in these conversations.
And fall ‘08 went...where?

It's become more and more noticeable recently, and it continues to be a little frightening that, for me at least, and likely for many of you, a year is just not as long as it used to be. Events that used to entail a hugely long period of waiting, now race up and slip by before we can so much as touch them. Once one's birthday was a day whose immensity was worth dancing over and whose passing was the source of momentous disappointment. Now it's, "What? Seriously, I'm no longer a teenager? When did this happen?"

Christmas, too, or its season celebra-

tory parallel, came around once in a very great while. The one (or eight, or 121 day celebration itself seemed almost an impossibility, and the other 364, an eternity. Now, it's "Wow. Is it really a whole year that I've had my iPod? Since Uncle Moe was "cleaning" Grandpa's liquor cabinet and found that unopened bottle of mint gin from Nixon's first term? Since sis-
ter Moe broke down sobbing at the end of Mass during 'O Holy Night', and said she believed it, she really did, and she could only hope she'd be half happy when the baby came in summer? And is baby Zooks really six months old already?"

Of course, the answer is "yes," though it may not feel that way. Because almost a year has by since last Christmas. And likewise, almost a semester has by since, or, the beginning of last semester. Which is, in its own way, pretty huge.

Focusing on the passage of a semes-
ter could very well involve the harm-
ful sustaining of the oldest, classiest, intellectualist "college" mindset. Still, there's no denying that while one is involved with any kind of educational program, on the giving or receiving end, the semester is a significant unit of time. So here we are (again, only quicker) at the end of one. For some of you at Trnemi, this may signify the beginning of the end, or, for you early (or late) graduates, the end (more accurately: an end). For others, it's the time to leave the new place they've only just managed to adjust to, and for those abroad in the spring, it'll soon be time to start adjusting (those of us in year-long programs will have our own adjustment issues come next fall).

Freshmen, on the other hand, whether you've had the kind of semester about which an outraged, aging journalist could write the Very Long Novel, or whether your most shocking escapade was stumbling upon the taxidermy display in Galvin (hint: second floor, next to the service elevator), you've still reached a major milestone in your life, and it's defi-

nitely something to be proud of. Even if you wind up transferring, or even if your life plans change drastically and you wind up, as did my friend Penelope, taking a year off to teach English in Uganda, you will never again live through a first semester of college. Congratulations. And I, too, have now finished a first semester of my own. I hope I've learned enough from the first half of my time at Trinity to make the most of the second. It's not necessarily easy, though, to know which direction to turn once our semester driven life comes to an abrupt pause and what the rest of the world knows as "real" life starts up for us again. So, once the semester's truly ended — once exams are over, once you've consumed your last 2 a.m. breakfast of a grande iced Americano and fully condenmed quarter dog, once the Irish Studies major down the hall has stopped saying "There's no more painkiller, only turnips! Today will be a happy day!" random intervals, and once you can safely declare that you need never think about math, French, English, or philosophy ever again — be sure that you're mind doesn't shut down completely.

The Christmas season is after all a time for birth and rebirth, or at least a time to reboot. Much of the world will be taking a day off "normal" life, but it's never a bad thing to be ready for normal life when it gets back on course. Especially as, once it is on course, it'll only start racing faster. Enjoy your break, and use it well. Because before you know it, I'll be Christmas again. Little Zooks will be walking, Uncle Moe will be pouring you a legal shot of mint gin this time, you'll think of Nyquill, and, believe you me, you'll find yourself a whole lot older than you were. Good luck. I'll see you in 2009.

And let me be the first to ask: how was your break?

Katherine Khorey

Both Sides Now

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THE OBSERVER

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"THIS IS REALLY HARD TO SWALLOW!"

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tion."
The best women's soccer

When your team loses a tight game, it can be a tough pill to swallow. But when you are the best team and you lose the one game you thought mattered, it can be almost impossible to believe.

This weekend, Notre Dame’s women's soccer team lost a game that could have easily gone their way with one more break or one more call. Even though they lost, I cannot express how great of a team they are and how proud they make me to be a Dodmer. When Hockey won its first CCHA Championship, when Football went to two straight BCS Bowls, even when Women’s Soccer appeared in the Finals two years ago — none of these com­pared to what this team has done.

This is a team that trailed less than five minutes the whole season featuring a starting lineup balanced between freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. When North Carolina scored the winning goal, these players did not give up. They worked hard until the last seconds — even apparently draw­
ing a free kick that was never called. On the sidelines after the game as a couple of the players periodically returned to the benches you could see on their faces how much they had wanted that game, but they did not hang their heads. Nor should they. The 2008 women’s soccer team is easily the greatest team in any sport that I have seen in my four years at Notre Dame and they are a legend for this university. They have represented us well this year, not only by their play, but by their character and class. The best team does not always win and that was the case on Sunday. Even so, this team was just as great in defeat as they have been in victory.

Congratulations to Kerri, Brittanly, Carre, Elize, Rebecca, and Kerry for leading the 2008 Fighting Irish to a truly great season!

Justin Queen
Senior
Kervan Hall
Dec. 8

What are we fighting for?

What are we fighting for... To be hated again? I have read with interest the various articles, blogs, viewpoints over the past several weeks with great fervor. Articles about snowballs, coaches and bowl games have captivated my attention even as an alumnus many miles from the university. I, like many, had my moments of angst and frustration with the recent events surrounding the football program. Why so many? Why so interested? Whether we like it or not, the football program gives America a glimpse of what Notre Dame is all about.

Notre Dame football does not define the University to those of us who know it and love it. But for good or bad, college football is a passion that brings us together and challenges us on how we examine many aspects of our university. The national media also love to hate Notre Dame which only fuels our passion too.

Notre Dame is a football to the window to the world, on what Notre Dames stands for. And right now, with these recent events, the media coverage and our national ego­

hampering losses, bowl game chasers and the reaction of the Notre Dame community all make me wonder where humility and wisdom have gone among us who love Notre Dame. Maybe we should take this opportunity to learn from those who dislike this pro­

mography. Snowballs, humiliating losses, bowl game chasers and the reaction of the Notre Dame community all make me wonder where humility and wisdom have gone among us who love Notre Dame. Maybe we should take this opportunity to learn from those who dislike this program so much, the Notre Dame haters.

Notre Dame football has many haters. Notre Dame is hated and often perceived as arrogant. In the past, the foot­

ball program won despite having high academic standards, turned down bowl games because they interfered with finals or Christmas, never failed to recog­
nize those who came before and under­
stood that the Lady on the Dome is what they were fighting for. This was humili­
ating arrogance. Humbling would have been a win in the dome. Since we have gone among us who love Notre Dame. Maybe we should take this opportunity to learn from those who dislike this program so much, the Notre Dame haters.

Notre Dame football has many haters. There is a view that sports teams should not be associated with a university. That is an absurd view of sports and athletics. Are we fighting for that? Because that isn’t a view that is shared by the Notre Dame community. The focus is on counselor and their desire to return so to get ready for NFL scouts in senior bowl games.

However, wisdom should come from those who understand the history of sports and our university. The wis­

dom to see the difficulty of leaving behind their classmates (especially the band) and their families who will not be able to attend; to not consider the past history of not playing on Christmas. Vale the holidays, but the need to practice during final exams, picking a later bowl game that would allow more practice which was the reason for accepting a bowl bid in the first place. That is the hard field when there is a huge need for a win for ND. Fighting for a bowl game that hasn’t won a bowl game since many of the players were in kindergarten. Where is the wisdom in this bowl decision?

BCS consideration is important but not nearly as important as Notre Dame seeking the humility and wisdom which has separ­
rated us from every other football pro­

gram in the country. What are we fight­
ing for? To be hated again?

Mick Connors
Senior
Dec. 8

A new student government

I ran for student senate my sopho­more year. My platform in a nutshell was this: “the only reason to run for senate was that I did not want to lose and I need that the most.”

While I was disappointed in not win­ning, I felt better after reading story after story about the Senate in The Observer. It seemed like they could do was pass resolutions suggesting the University to do one thing or another. My favorite story is one that would have been a good outcome of the above: I met the senate one spent a good chunk of time discussing the different options the University could take on a particu­lar issue, despite the fact that the University had already decided and acted on it. In time it’s time we call the university what it really is: a democrati­
cally elected suggestion box.

So before we let yet another fresh group of people claim they had leader­
ship positions in their job interviews because they managed to get 15 peo­ple to vote for them in their dorm. I suggest that we restructure student government by simply eliminating the middleman and create an online campus-wide suggestion box. Just abolish the senate, and set up a Web site simi­lar to the Facebook causes page where students can create an join groups that support the issues they care about. To increase awareness, The Observer can publish a list of the to­
gens that generate most support on the Web site, and get the remainder of the Student Government to create issue­

Jose Duarte
Senior
Kervan Hall
Dec. 9

Don’t waste paper

E-mail a Letter to the Editor to viewpoint@nd.edu

Question of the day

Our campus is in the midst of a cri­sis. The crisis I speak of is worse than the steady replacement of pants by leggings. Worse than the disorient­
ance of cheese fries from Reckers. And yes, even worse than Dave Casto’s offensive and vulgar excuse for a comic. Notre Dame is in the grip of a monster. And this monster’s name is discrimination.

Allow me to explain. I love the ques­
tion of the day. In fact, unless some­body has recently insulted a SMC Chick or the Vagina Monologues are coming up meaning a bitter and pointless viewpoint war is raging) the question of the day is pretty much the only thing I read. Each morning, I eagerly grab my copy of The Observer, throw out the middle section, ignore the front page and turn to see which lucky students were selected to rise to the top of campus fame and glory.


After reading such intriguing answers, I scroll to my classes, hoping the answers to the question of the day will help me think of ways to approach my chemistry exam.

Anne Porter
Senior
Dec. 8
Have yourself a recessionista Christmas

It's the most wonderful time of the year, right? Yet, a lot of us are finding ourselves backed into a corner this season with too many people to send gifts to and not enough money to live up to retailers' standards. This perspective makes for a dismal outlook on Christmas, but what is supposed to be a season of endless cheeriness and love that will soothe the soul like a nice cup of hot chocolate, so Scene has come up with a way to keep that happiness at an all-time high by eliminating the monetary pressures giving the gifts usually come with. There's no need to stress this season, here are gift ideas that will fit into a minimal budget:

For the easy-going significant other: A mixed CD

This gift costs virtually nothing but at the same time can be truly touching. Load a CD with songs that remind you of your significant other and your blossoming relationship, and you'll be sure to get a loving thank-you in response. Also be comforted by the fact that every time your boyfriend or girlfriend hears one of those songs on the radio, they'll forever be reminded of you.

For the green gal: Organic aloe vera peace soaps

If your girl is hippie-chic, she'll love this gift. Made with organic aloe vera juice, these soaps will emanate a soothing fresh mint and herbal scent and come in a cute lime green shape with the word "Pea" printed on one side and a peace sign on the other and cost only $8. Visit midnightfarm.net for details.

For the Budding Fashionista: A Magazine Subscription

Sometimes it's easy to lose touch with the fashion world as a Notre Dame student, especially when so much time is devoted to schoolwork and virtually the only place to get a magazine is the bookstore. Make life easy for your fashion frenzied friends by buying them a subscription to a fashion magazine. InStyle has a going rate of two subscriptions for the low price of $29.95.

For the smartypants: "100 Words to Make You Sound Smart"

This book, costing only $5.95 and provided by Urban Outfitters, promises to enrich people's vocabulary by providing them with words that will fill those awkward gaps, entertain avid listeners, and impress that picky boss. Useful words of just one syllable (ex: glib), popular catch phrases from modern-day culture (Catch-22), classical terms (stoic), and words derived from the names of influential people (Machiavellian) are all defined and grouped together just for you.

For the TV Junkie: TV Show T-Shirts

For the Dwight-lover or a Serenna-wannabe in your life and gain a fan of your gift-giving skills for life.

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

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

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Adriana Pratt
Scene Writer

Spike the Ultra Dinosaur

Spike the Ultra Dinosaur is worth a trip to Target or Wal Mart to check out his display. He walks, stands on his hind legs, growls, and even eats a rock. Spike is one of those kid's toys you're dying to play with yourself. $129.99

Eye-Fi

Eye-Fi is an SD memory card that makes your camera wireless, re­moniting the need to now plug it into your computer. The card also locates nearby Wi-Fi spots while you take pictures and records your location, recording the data and tagging it to your pictures. $74.99 $99.99
**Gift Guide**

**DVDs, toys and gadgets**

**"20Qs and Heartbreak"**  -  Kanye West

Kanye returns in his fourth album, titled after the Roland TR-808 drum machine he uses in various tracks and the heartbreak he experienced after the death of his mother and his breakup with his fiancée. Tying for a more pop-oriented sound, the album concentrates on West's emotions and lyrics, using simple beats and Auto-Tune. Although it might not suit the hip hop lovers on your list, it will no doubt appeal to many others.

**"Chinese Democracy"**  -  Guns N' Roses

For those who enjoyed Guns N' Roses' most recent album 15 years ago, you will be glad to hear that this latest attempt will probably not be their last. For a week surrounded by controversy, several lawsuits, and an inflated budget, the final product has been received relatively favorably. Though Guns N' Roses fans are less prominent these days, there are likely some hard rock fans in your family that will make this an excellent investment.

**"Day and Age"**  -  The Killers

The third album by the Las Vegas band, "Day and Age" is the Killers' entry into the pop-rock realm of music. Filled with songs that sound like a mouthful of candy, the fans will no doubt be thrilled by the catchy hooks on the album. Though few songs stand out and remain memorable, there are plenty of the hard fans who will take whatever they can get from the captivating Brandon Flowers.

**"Kung Fu Panda"**

A cute animated film by DreamWorks animation studio, "Kung Fu Panda" presents the story of, well, a panda that learns Kung Fu. Many other valuable lessons are learned in the course of the film, which features great voice acting, including Jackie Black. With enough slapstick and gags to keep a three-year-old's attention and enough humor for everyone else, "Kung Fu Panda" is a great buy for any age.

**"Tropic Thunder"**

One of the most publicized comedies of recent memory, "Tropic Thunder" made more laugh and offended a great many followers. Finely directed by Ted Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr., the movie quickly finds its chemistry and simply works. The cameo are fantastic and a treat for Siller's fans. A great buy for the viewpoint writer in your family.

**"Wanted"**

The film with bullets inscribed with crazy sayings, loons of fate, and Morgan Freeman turned into one of the big action surprises of the year. Based on a comic book series, "Wanted" stars Angelina Jolie as a female assassin and James McAvoy as an average Joe who is a bit too buff to actually be average. Together they keep the audience enthralled throughout. Bullet curve, bloody violence reigns and action fans love entertainments.

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**20Qs**

Initially an experiment in artificial intelligence, the 20Q games play 20 questions with the player until it guesses what the player is thinking, guessing correctly 80 percent of the time (98 percent of the time if it is given 25 questions). The 20Q line continues to grow as it releases games that specialize in certain topics. This year's releases include a Harry Potter Edition (shaped like the Golden Snitch, including removable wings) and a Simpson's edition (shaped like a donut). Best yet, at www.20q.net, you can help train the next line of 20Q by playing for free. $26.99

**Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" Barbie Doll**

Introduced to Mattel's Barbie Collector Black Label line for 2008, this Barbie features, yes, the iconic scene from Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" where the heroine is attacked by vicious birds. It is a great gift for anyone on your list with a quirky sense of humor. $40

**Wii Fit Board**

The Wii Fit concept is great in itself, turning the fun of the Wii's mobility into a way to exercise, but the board will soon be reinvented straight across the gaming side. Royzen, Donkey Kong, Barbie, Tetris and many more figures are appearing in games built for the board (or will be in the coming months). $128.99 (without console)

**Garmin 405**

Nike+ has gotten more attention in recent memory, but serious runners know where to turn for the best in running watches: Garmin. Garmin's Forerunner series offers speed-and-distance trackers with increasingly sensitive GPS systems that are exceptionally accurate. Furthermore, Garmin doesn't force you to reprogram your running shoes with a new pair of running shoes with a special slot for their device, like Nike. Better yet, the 405 is Garmin's sleekest model yet. Garmin 405 $219.99

**Amazon Kindle**

The Amazon Kindle is a e-book reader that can hold about 200 non-illustrated titles. Users can download books from nearly anywhere with its high-speed EVDO antenna that does not even require a WiFi hotspot. Because it does not need a backlit it only draws power when the reader loads a new page, allowing it to last for hours, and its display technology, called electronic paper, is very crisp for reading. The device includes a limited web-browser, the ability to play MP3s, and a dictionary. $329.99

**Flip Mino**

Pure Digital Technology's iPod for the world of camcorders, Flip Video features the smallest camcorders that can record in HD. Flip Video's family of camcorders use USB connectors, instead of videotapes and memory cards, to relay their data directly to the computer, charge through the computer, remove the need for batteries, can be uniquely designed and are simple to use. Flip Mino HD $229.99, Flip Mino $179.99
NBA

Butler's 33 leads strides Wizards over Pistons

Timberwolves lose McHale's debut with poor free-throw shooting; Cavs continue to roll with blowout of Raptors

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Surely there was no way this was happening again. The Washington Wizards, just as they did at the bottom of the Eastern Conference, were down 17 in the second quarter at home and showing no life whatsoever.

It was enough to make a coach start panicking.

"I just walked down and said, 'We're better than we're playing,'" coach Flip Saunders said.

"And, 'We need to bring more energy, more effort.' It's just what we're doing. You can't expect to walk between possessions, walk during timeouts, and then all of a sudden 'fire up.' We've just got to get our energy moving."

So Saunders turned to his subs, and they responded. Caron Butler and Kwame Brown were supplemented by a season-high 16 from Juan Dixon and 12 from Dontaye DOES the Wizards rallied for a 107-94 victory Tuesday night over the redesigned lineup of the Detroit Pistons.

Songaila, Dixon (seven assists), Dominic McGuire (three-for-three, six points), Andray Blatche (eight blocks), Shelden Williams (nine points) all provided inspired play off the bench, a nearly-given-away victory.

The Wizards starters not named Butler combined to score only 15 points.

"Sometimes the five guys who come off the bench are the ones who do it for themselves," said Songaila, who was 4-for-5 with a big momentum-swinging backdoor layup when the Pistons were trying to make a late run.

"And I think today was a perfect example of coming off the bench, bringing some energy, knocking down shots, making hustle plays. It was an opportunity for us and we took it."

The Wizards improved to 3-5 under interim coach Tapscott, while the Pistons have lost four of five. They lost in Cleveland on Monday night and have been outscored by 32 points in the last two games.

Washington traded 36-19 in the second quarter, but Butler and Songaila led a 15-7 run that cut the deficit to 46-43 at the half. Tapscott rewarded Songaila and Dixon by starting them in the second half in place of Kwame McGee and Dee Brown.

Jazz 99, Timberwolves 96

Kevin McHale insinuated some much-needed energy and heart into his down-and-out Timberwolves in his first game as coach.

Next on his agenda should be coaching the Timberwolves on how to make free throws.

Dellavedova Okur hit the go-ahead shot with 1.7 seconds to play and the Utah Jazz capitalized on 16 missed free throws by Minnesota to rally for a victory on Tuesday night.

Al Jefferson led Minnesota with 21 points. The Timberwolves led Jazz with 26.2-5 in play, but rookie Kevin Love missed four straight free throws to allow the Jazz to hang on.

Kyle Korver buried a 3-pointer with 36.3 seconds to play to give Utah a 90-84 lead with 54 seconds to go. After two more free throws from Randy Foye gave the Wolves a 94-89 lead again with 7.8 seconds left, Okur switched a fastaway jumper from 11 feet to put the Jazz on top for good.

Andrea Bargnani scored 25 points for the Jazz on the 20th anniversary of the Maddox promotion to the team’s head coach.

After watching his team, which was expected to show some improvement after a 22-60 season, get off to a 4-15 start and lose to the dysfunctional Clippers by 23 points at home on Saturday night, owner Glen Taylor had seen enough.

He fired Randy Wittman, relieved McHale of his vice president of basketball operations duties and installed the 7-foot former Famer as coach.

It was the 223rd coaching change in the NBA since Sloan became coach of the Jazz on Dec. 9, 1988. Since that time, Sloan has enjoyed an unprecedented level of job security in a league where the last four winners of the coach of the year award have been either fired or pushed out the door.

The match-up provided quite the organizational juxtaposition for McHale’s first game as coach against a franchise that is the very definition of stability.

Sloan celebrated the unprecedented achievement the way he did most of his accomplishments, with a humble shrug and a dismissive wave.

"Anybody could be in this position," Sloan said before the game. "I’ve had good players."

McHale has actually been the coach of the Timberwolves twice now during Sloan’s tenure in Utah. He took over for the fired Flip Saunders in 2005 and led the Wolves to a 19-12 finish.

He spent most of his time encouraging and prodding a young team that he said looked "beaten down" with a "black cloud hanging over it" after losing by a combined 52 points in the previous two games.

Love finished with eight points and 15 rebounds, but went 2-for-9 from the free throw line.

Cavaliers 114, Raptors 94

The NBA has never seen anything like these Cleveland Cavaliers.

On a night when their top two players set franchise records, the Cavs broke a league mark with a romp over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday.

LeBron James scored 31 points and became Cleveland’s career steals leader and Zydrunas ilgauskas moved atop the Cavs’ rebounding chart as Cleveland improved to 12-0 at home with its latest rout.

In winning their ninth straight by at least 12 points, the Cavaliers, now 17-1 since Nov. 3, are the first team in league histo­ry to win nine consecutive games in one season so far. Cleveland came in tied with Portland (1996-97), Detroit (2003-04) and Houston (2007-08).


"That’s unbelievable," James said. "Knowing the history of some of the other teams, the Chicago Bulls team that went 72-10, the Celtics teams, the Lakers teams and the Piston teams, it’s unbelievable for our franchise to accomplish something like that."

And the way they’re playing, it doesn’t look like the Cavs have any intention of slowing down. They’ve won their nine games in their streak by an average of 21.5 points.

"We treat everybody the same," ilgauskas said. "We respect everybody, but we fear nobody."

James hit a 3-pointer at the halftine horn as the Cavs, who were assessed several technicals in the second quarter, went to the locker room leading only 59-51.

It was still a game — then it wasn’t.

Cleveland opened the third quarter with a 23-2 run, high­lighted by two breakaway dunks from James, who threw one down left-handed in the first half and added some style points by posing with his left hand behind his neck on his next right-handed smash in the third quar­ter.

In opening minute, James passed Mark Price (374) for the club’s steals mark. He added five rebounds, four assists and three steals in just 30 minutes. The superstar sat out the fourth quar­ter with six assists, six steals and five in 10, 2008.
Around the Nation

Final NCAA Women's Soccer Rankings

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NCAA Men's Hockey USA Today Top 20

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CCHA Hockey Conference Standings

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MLB

Francisco Rodriguez throws a pitch during last season’s playoffs. Last season, Rodriguez saved 62 games for the Angels, a Major League Baseball record. He signed a $37 million contract with the New York Mets Tuesday.

Mets sign K-Rod to three-year deal

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Record-setting closer Francisco Rodriguez and the New York Mets reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday on a $37 million, three-year contract.

The sides still have to work out a written agreement and the pitcher must pass a physical, two people familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract had not yet been completed.

K-Rod recorded 62 saves for the Los Angeles Angels this year, five more than the previous big league mark set by Bobby Thigpen of the Chicago White Sox in 1990, and then filed for free agency. His agent, Paul Kinzer, had hoped to get a five-year contract, possibly equaling the $15 million average salary Mariano Rivera is earning from the New York Yankees.

But with baseball executives worried about the national recession, Kinzer accepted a more modest deal.

With the agreement, the Mets are closing negotiations with Brian Fuentes and career saves leader Trevor Hoffman, two other free-agent closers, one of the people said. Rodriguez’s contract will contain an option for 2012 that could become guaranteed based on his performance, the person said.

A three-time All-Star who turns 27 next month, Rodriguez was regarded as the top closer on the market. While some teams were worried about his violent pitching motion and drop in velocity last season, he developed an outstanding curveball to go along with his other pitches.

Rodriguez and Kinzer arrived in Las Vegas last weekend and dined Sunday night with general manager Omar Minaya, chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and other team officials at a steakhouse.

In a slow free-agent market, Rodriguez was the first of the top-tier free agents to reach an agreement. Pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, first baseman Mark Teixeira and outfielder Manny Ramirez are among the high-profile players still searching for deals.

The Mets were seeking a closer to replace Billy Wagner, who is likely will miss all of next season following elbow ligament-replacement surgery. Rodriguez’s market value was depressed because several closers were free agents and most big market teams were set with the back end of their bullpens.

In Brief

NFL cuts 150 league jobs
due to economic struggles

NEW YORK — The NFL pays its players billions of dollars a year and runs 32 franchises that it says make a profit every year. After eliminating about 150 of its staff of 1,100 in New York, NFL Films in New Jersey, and television and Internet production facilities in Los Angeles.

"These are difficult and painful steps," he wrote in the memo. "But they are necessary in the current economic environment. I would like to be able to report that we are immune to the troubles around us, but we are not. Properly managed, I am confident the NFL will emerge stronger, more efficient and poised to pursue long-term growth opportunities.

NFLPA files grievance on behalf of Burress

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The NFL Players Association filed a grievance on Tuesday challenging the suspension and fine given to Plaxico Burress by the New York Giants after the receiver accidentally shot himself in a nightclub more than a week ago.

The union said that the team was ceasing negotiations with Burress by the New York Mets Tuesday.

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O.J. Simpson affiliates receive reduced sentences

LAS VEGAS — Four men who pleaded guilty to reduced charges in exchange for testifying against O.J. Simpson at his robbery-kidnapping trial were sentenced Tuesday to probation, drawing a loud protest from a sports memorabilia dealer they held at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room.

"We’re goin’ to be kiddling me!" Bruce Fromm said of Frommng. He did not let Frommng address the court before sentencing. Frommng sentenced Michael McClintoch to eight years’ probation. McClintoch, 50, testified that he supplied two guns and branched one during the Sept. 13, 2007, confrontation.

"Get him out of the building," Glass exclaimed at Frommng, who did not let Frommng address the court before sentencing.

Glass lectured the four defendants but accepted a state recommendation that they serve no incarceration. He handed probation terms of six years to Charles Cashmore, four years to Walter Alexander, four years to Bruce Ehrlich, four years to Walter Alexander.

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SMC SWIMMING

Underclassmen helping lead the way for Belles

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

Underclassmen have shined so far this year for Saint Mary's, and freshmen Audrey Dalrymple and Eva Cavadini have led that movement. The two have combined for 13 first-place finishes through six meets and have recorded impressive times throughout the year. But according to Belles coach Ran Dombkowski, neither swimmer has reached her full potential, which gives hope to the Belles for both this season and the next three years.

"Both of these two first-year swimmers come in with times that would be at or near some NCAA qualifying standards," Dombkowski said. "They have been getting used to the balance of college academics and athletics, but we are starting to figure out that balance a little."

Dombkowski attributes Cavadini's success to her excellent work ethic. "Eva is probably one of the hardest workers on the team from the start until the finish of practice," Dombkowski said. "She hasn't been quite as fast as I think both she and I would like, but...once she settles into a little more comfort level with balancing her schedule...we'll see some impressive time drops next semester."

Times drops would be impressive for Cavadini, who has recorded seven first-place times so far this season, in a combination of freestyle, individual and relay events, along with two first-place finishes in the 200-yd butterfly.

Dalrymple has also put on a strong showing so far this season, with six first-place finishes, including two firsts in the 200-yd medley relay and two firsts in the 100-yd breaststroke.

Because of the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday, Dombkowski says, he hasn't had a chance to rest his swimmers as much as he would like. Dalrymple's strong performances, especially at the end of this semester, give the Belles coach hope of great things to come.

"Audrey's performances last time Carthage/TVR invitationals in the 100 and 200 breaststroke were both less than a second off our school records and just a couple of seconds from NCAA consideration," Dombkowski said. "To be at those times at an unrested invite only halfway through the season is very encouraging. I look for big things from Audrey next semester."

Dalrymple herself agrees with Dombkowski, believing that more success is still to come.

"Individually I am pleased with my performance at so far this season, but I have set my goals high and will continue to work toward them," Dalrymple freshman said. "Every performance I am pleased where I am at so far this season, but I have set my goals high and will continue to work toward them."

Dalrymple and Cavadini's success to her hardest workers on the team and the next potential, which gives hope to the Belles for both this season and the next three years.

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**All students or employees must have valid identification verifying their affiliation with Notre Dame, Saint Mary's or Holy Cross and enter through the west door of the Guglielmino Athletics Complex by 8:00 a.m. on Thursday morning.
Ballesteros was released after surgery on tumor

Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Seve Ballesteros thanked doctors and staff for giving him the chance to play the "mulligan of my life" on Tuesday when he was released from the hospital more than two months after brain surgery to remove a malignant tumor.

Ballesteros, one of Spain's best known sports personalities, was admitted Oct. 6 after fainting at Madrid's international airport before boarding a flight to Germany. Since then, he has undergone four separate operations, including a 6½-hour procedure Oct. 24 to remove the brain tumor and reduce swelling around the brain. That was his third operation in eight days.

"Thanks to them I will be able to play the mulligan of my life," Ballesteros said.

Ballesteros, 51, was released Wednesday - the first time he had been out of danger since his initial operation Oct. 15. "Occasionally I was a rebel patient and therefore I ask them to forgive me and thank everyone for all the care received," Ballesteros said.

"There is a long recovery time ahead and I shall keep fighting with patience and determination against the brain tumor that was detected at the beginning of October," Ballesteros said. "I was a rebel and therefore I ask them to forgive me and thank everyone for all the care received," Ballesteros said.

"Thanks to them I will be able to play the mulligan of my life." Seve Ballesteros PGA Golfer

Ballesteros was released from intensive care last Wednesday — the first time he had been out of danger since his initial operation Oct. 15. "Occasionally I was a rebel patient and therefore I ask them to forgive me and thank everyone for all the care received," Ballesteros said. "I am a believer and will continue thinking positively to defeat the illness I suffer and encourage those who are going through something similar to do it with the same determination as myself," Ballesteros said.

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“Be still and know that I am God.” —Ps 46:10

Silent Directed Retreat

January 5-11, 2009 at Moreau Seminary

(Open to all students, faculty and staff)

Applications available online: campusministry.nd.edu or in 114 Coleman-Morse. Deadline is December 17. Questions? Contact Tami Schmitz (tschmitz@nd.edu)
Red-hot Curry leads Davidson past West Virginia

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stephen Curry kept missing. His teammates kept telling him to shoot.

Not a bad idea.

Curry, the nation's leading scorer and one of the most popular college basketball players of this generation, fought off a terrible shooting start and turned the final 5 minutes to lead No. 23 Davidson to a 68-65 victory over West Virginia on Tuesday night in the Jimmy V Classic.

"I was frustrated but my teammates kept telling me to keep shooting," said Curry, who missed 12 of his first 13 3-point attempts before making the last three and scoring 13 of the Wildcats' last 15 points of the game. "I was trying to get some motion, but their defense with their long arms took that away."

That didn't matter to Andrew Lovedale, whose 15 points were second to Curry's 27.

"We knew he had a dry period where he couldn't make any shots," Lovedale said, "but I walked up to him at a timeout and said 'Keep shooting. We'll get you the ball.'"

Curry got his teammates the ball as well, finishing with 8 assists, although he did have eight turnovers. He finished 4.3 points below his average, but his defense was 9-of-27 from the field and 40.9 percent from behind the arc.

"It doesn't happen a lot," Curry said, when asked about the tough shooting night. "I got a little down on myself early in the second half because I had a fresh start and continued to go bad."

"We all had our heads hanging a little bit because we couldn't get defensive rebounds, but as a whole, we energized and pulled together down the stretch, which is what we have learned to do over the last two years."

The last of Curry's late 3's gave the Wildcats (7-1) the lead for good at 64-62 with 39 seconds to play.

"He made two incredibly hard shots at the end," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said. "The first one was a really, really hard shot where he was fading and got his feet down and we guarded that well. I hoped our length would bother him and we kept running guys at him so he couldn't get settled with one guy on him."

The crowd was back on his side and he didn't let them down.

"He is never flustered or frustrated by any adversity that faces him," Davidson coach Bob McKillop said. "I don't know how he does it, but that prevents him from having many shooting nights like he did tonight."

Da'Sean Butler had a career-high 24 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for West Virginia, while freshman Devin Ebanks had 13 points and 17 rebounds.

The Mountaineers finished with a 58-32 rebound advantage, 40-22 on the offensive end.

West Virginia didn't have second-leading scorer Alex Ruoff, who injured his shoulder in its win over Cleveland State last week, and Joe Mazzulla, the other starting guard, reinjured his shoulder early against Davidson and played only six minutes.

"Take any team and take away its two starting guards and see how they do against Davidson, and we had a chance to win the game," Huggins said. "If we get something that goes the way it did the last couple of weeks, I don't know. We had a hard time scoring at the end of the game."

Davidson played without senior guard Max Paulhus Gosselin, the team's best defender, who was suspended for one game by the Southern Conference after he was charged with a flagrant foul in a weekend victory over North Carolina State.

That meant Curry had to play all 40 minutes.

"We missed Max because he was good with the rotation I usually don't play 40 minutes," Curry said. "This was a special situation, but it worked on my endurance over the summer."

Curry had 44 points in that win over the Wolfpack, which followed his scoreless game against the junk defense of Loyola (Md).

This was Davidson's first appearance in Madison Square Garden since the 1972 NIT.
Boxers continued from page 20
we had a lot of young guys, my guys. A lot of blue-liners were freshmen and sophomores. Our seniors have a lot more confidence and experience.

Jackson agreed that the biggest change in Pearce's game was playing throughout the starting duties at the start of last season has been his confidence. Since taking over the leader in each of the last four years at Notre Dame backing up Senior guard Muffet McGraw, Weis and his staff have focused on getting recruits personal attention with in-home visits.

"Coach McGraw has been very good at making sure a guy can stay on the sidelines when it comes to recruiting," Frank said. "He works extremely hard. He's probably the hardest working coach I've ever seen at Notre Dame. When it comes to recruiting, I think his motto is 'Hey, I wouldn't ask anybody to do something that I wasn't willing to do,' and I think that that has been his philosophy toward all of us. He's really got position with some of the elite guys and to get the job getting up a large flag across the country to see just one guy."

Although the 2008 Notre Dame season certainly won't be labeled as anything near ideal status, there is one thing the Irish can do to make at least a small stride on the recruiting trail — a big one. "I think it's really important," Frank said. "For the 2009 kids to see Notre Dame bounce back from a rough stretch and get some victories is going to give us a lot of intensity and will carry over into how those games face on the road in hopes of keeping their winning streak alive.

The Belles will head to Olivet Saturday for their third MIAA contest.

Contact Kate Grabarek at
lgrabak@saintmarys.edu

BELLES continued from page 20
the Belles freshmen. Also in our last five games, the nine Belles all totaled at least five points.

"We are a completely different team this season," Newsum said. "Especially with the addition of a large freshman class. I don't even think the two seasons are comparable. We definitely miss having her, but we have learned other ways to be a successful team." 

Henley also noted that Manchester will be a tough team for the Belles. The Manchester will be a tough team for the Belles. The Belles will need to come out with a lot of intensity and work their faces on the road in hopes of keeping their winning streak alive.

Recruits continued from page 20
expect because there will be plenty of negative recruiting from other programs.

MISSED

Two campuses.

The Dome Piece

David Cavadinni

Crossword

Across
1. Started a cigarette
3. Tel. to the world
6. Nail... (progress slightly)
10. Rodgers
15. Gumbos
16. Track shape
17. Abolition of hardship units?
20. Parks who pioneered in every rights
21. Took the blue ribbons
22. Room to maneuver
24. Nuclear power apparatus
27. Top 10 tunes
28. Hair-punning tool
29. Stinger cigar

33. Prefix with salad
34. Comic name of X-Men
35. Greek H's
36. Prefix with false
37. Empire
38. Equine-looking animal
39. Japanese P.M.
40. Studied
41. Take a siesta
42. Sign
43. zipper
44. Tennis great Arthur
45. '52 Studebaker
46. Mold
47. Name
48. Furrowed part of fur
49. Fishing; winter
50. Fishing
51. Dr. Zhivago's love
52. Paid out
53. Villains
54. Fur winder
55. Fur
56. Preacher's sky-high feeling
60. Tasteful cookie
61. Turn at roulette
62. Defeat bond
63. Give an alert
64. Director of shirk
65. Sticky problem

Down
1. Heady brew
2. Jim Carrey supporter
3. Kingdom east of Sodom
4. Milk for all it's worth
5. Play.../view
6. Travel by car
8. Closely related to
9. Sign a settlement
10. Binet s'mores' measurements
11. TV channel for golfers?
12. State frankly
13. Shuttle launching crop
14. Murder
15. Delinquent G.I.
16. Greek id's
17. Pasta-and-potato-loving county
18. Former mayor of Atlanta
19. Sale place
20. Moccasins
21. Director Kazan
22. Claim on property
23. Pizza
24. Split soup
25. Scors's capes
26. Coup'd.
27. Japanese P.M. during W.W. II
28. Mantle
29. Equine-looking fish
30. Furred part of the head
31. Take a siesta
32. Prefix with dynamic
33. Scorsese's capes
34. Fishing the winter
35. Minted... during W.W. II
36. Mantle
37. Scorsese's capes
38. Furred part of the head
39. Eastem "why"

Answer to previous puzzle

1. Sand
2. Sand
3. Baseball
4. Count
5. Count
6. Baseball
7. Count
8. Count
9. Baseball

For answer, call 1-900-285-5656, $1.40 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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The Observer

Black Dog

Michael Mikuska

LUCY

The name bonds on my tonnage. Line battery acid. Like life,化学家, and infinitely, to explore.

I'll never forget when you hit me.

The Dome Piece

David Cavadinni

Across
1. Started a cigarette
3. Tel. to the world
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Recruits happy to learn that Weis will continue to coach ND

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Among the chaos and confusion that a potential coaching change brings, one thing was made certain about Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis during perhaps his moment of greatest adversity in his four-year career — despite his struggles on the field, Weis can recruit.

After the disappointing Irish loss at the hands of Southern California, Weis and the rest of the coaching staff hit the recruiting trail to attempt and convince potential commits that the program was in sure hands. With the uncertainty surrounding the head coaching position, most of the high-school prospects currently committed to Notre Dame were hearing recruiting pitches from rival programs. Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame football for scout.com, knows that Irish commits were bombarded with these sorts of comments.

"I think, originally, they were hearing a bunch of things," Frank said. "Stuff like, 'Coach Weis is not going to be back, he's not going to be coaching them,' and I think the big thing was when Notre Dame finally came out and said something, it made a lot of people more comfortable with their situation." Frank said he feels that this is the nature of high school recruiting — especially when a season doesn't quite live up to expectations.

"Well kids are going to be hearing things from other schools whether you have a 6-6 record or a 9-3 record or even a 11-0 record," Frank said. "That's the nature of the beast. I can't remember too many recruiting classes that have gone by where Notre Dame didn't lose one of their committed players at one point, but they usually gain some guy that nobody knows about as well." Despite all the other programs attempts to get in the committed players' ears, the Irish coaching staff can restore the

"The big thing is, I think you have to battle it from the word go and say, look, here's what people are going to be saying about us and what's happening here and here's why what they're saying is not true," so I think you have to battle it head on and let people know what is coming," Frank said. "The big thing is staying on top of recruits that they have committed and let them know what to see RECRUITS/page 18

HOCKEY

Lucky charms

Senior netminder earns CCHA honors in wins over Ferris St.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

When Notre Dame arrived at Ferris State for a pair of games last weekend goaltender Jordan Pearce realized that he forgot a key piece of equipment — his lucky boxers.

"I forgot the boxers this weekend so I was like, 'Oh, darn,' but I didn't really let it bother me," Pearce said. Apparently it didn't. Pearce stopped 55 of the Bulldogs' 56 shots to pick up two more wins, and his second shutout of the season on Saturday night, so much for the luck of the Irish.

"If I was really superstitious I would have been so worried about that I might not have gotten ready the same way," he said.

Pearce was named the CCHA Goaltender of the Week for his performance at Ferris State. According to Irish coach Jeff Jackson, the award is a good recognition of how well the senior netminder has been playing all year. Pearce is currently second in the CCHA in both goals against average (1.66) and save percentage (.937). Only Alaska's Chad Johnson has slightly better numbers.

"Right now he's playing really well," Jackson said. "I just don't want him to get distracted by the awards or attention, but he's a pretty humble kid."

The Alaska native had a red hot month of November. His 1.36 goals against average helped the No. 1 Irish a 12-game win streak, which is currently the longest in the country. The streak includes two shootout victories featuring game-saving stops from Pearce.

For his efforts, he was named the RBC Financial Group's CCHA Goaltender of the Month.

"You get confidence the more you play," Pearce said. "Last year

see BOXERS/page 18

BASKETBALL

Ohio State tough vs. Irish attack

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

With under 10 seconds to play Saturday against Ohio State and Notre Dame needing a three-pointer to play the game, Kyle McAlarney fired away from at least six feet behind the 3-point line.

It was probably the best shot he was going to get.

The Buckeyes stifled Notre Dame's high-powered offense, especially McAlarney and the Irish's 3-point shooting, like no other Irish opponent this season. McAlarney, who entered Saturday's game having hit 10, nine and seven treys in his previous three games, missed all six of his 3-point attempts on Saturday.

see DEFENSE/page 18

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team hopes to regain scoring touch vs. UM

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to find its jumbotron after shooting only 34.4 percent its last time out against Saint Mary's. The Irish face another tough test in the Wolverines, Michigan, who entered this season with a 58.1 points per game average on a 38.3 shooting percentage.

They're a really good defensive team. If you look at what they're doing defensive-ly, holding teams down, they kind of pick it in and kind of force you to shoot jumpers," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Michigan has surrendered more than 66 points only once this season. The Wolverines are 81-53 loss at USC on Dec. 2.

The points per game is even more impressive considering Michigan's schedule so far this season. Notre Dame will be the fourth top-15 team the Wolverines have played, and the third in conference play — 2-2 in those games.

Michigan lost to then-No. 12 Texas A&M 59-56 and beat then-No. 13 Vanderbilt 64-60 in the previous two games. The Wolverines are 11-0 record,

see MICHIGAN/page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles set to face Manchester

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Coming off a pair of home wins, the Belles travel to Manchester tonight a 7 p.m. looking for a non-conference victory.

"I think we are making progress as a team," Belles coach Jen Henley said. "We need to continue to work on the defensive end of the game and develop consistency." The Belles are turning to seniors Newsom and Newsom to help replace the loss of Newsom, the Belles will turn to seniors like Nicole Beier, Megan County and Katie Rashid to help improve on their fourth place finish in the conference from last year.

The Belles took a big step in the right direction with their two MIAA wins last week.

The Belles freshmen are also getting plenty of playing time early this season to help replace the loss of Newsom. Kessler to graduation.

"I think our freshmen class is adjusting well," Henley said. "Our returning players are doing an outstanding job in welcoming them to our team and making sure they don't get lost along the way.

Freshman Paisly Mahoney was able to rack up 10 points in the win over Calvin on Saturday leading

see BELLES/page 18