Playing drums with their feet

McKenna's tap class entertains crowds with dance numbers in South Dining Hall

By KAITLYNN RILEY
Associate News Editor

The ball where students normally sit and eat was transformed into a song and dance concert stage Wednesday night, as the 72 members of Professor James McKenna's tap dance class performed in the east wing of the newly renovated Student Center. McKenna told the audience, "90 percent of the students had never even seen a pair of tap shoes before, let alone performed a dance."

"It's so funny, every semester at the beginning of the course, I show the students the dances they will learn," he said, sitting in his office a few hours before the recital. "And they all laugh and say, "Oh right, we're going to learn that.'" But he reassures them that three months from the start of class, they will know the songs. "And it's true," he said. "They all learn it."

Professor James McKenna leads his tap class in a rendition of Soulja Boy at Wednesday's recital.

Holiday lights increase energy usage

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

'Tis the season for the sounds of Christmas songs and the smell of Christmas cookies. And 'tis the season for Christmas decorations to adorn campus buildings. But with strands of lights hanging in dorm hallways, individual dorm rooms and dining halls, it should come as no surprise that the Christmas season is also one of increased energy use. While in the grand scheme of things, Christmas lights are not significantly high-energy users, there are a few ways to decrease the amount of energy used during the Christmas season, said senior Lourdes Long, president of GreeND and an intern in the Office of Sustainability. Long suggested two main ways to decrease energy use regarding Christmas lights — unplugging Christmas lights when they are not in use, and using Light-emitting diode (LED) lights, which are much more energy efficient. "Just like the normal light bulb is no longer efficient, the same is true for Christmas lights. LED lights might be a little more expensive but they are sort of the next wave technology wise," Long said.

Scully receives medal from White House

By KAITLYNN RILEY
Associate News Editor

Dr. Tim Scully, former executive vice president of the University and current director of the Institute for Educational Initiatives, received the Presidential Citizens Medal at a ceremony in the Oval Office Wednesday. The award, according to a University press release, is the second-highest award the president gives to a civilian, behind the Medal of Freedom. Scully was among 24 recipients of this year's award. Scully, who is a political science professor and a fellow and trustee of the University was given the award for "committing his life to strengthening communities through faith-based education that prepares individuals for a lifetime of achievement, service and compassion," according to a White House statement quoted in the University release. Scully is also co-founder of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program, which provides Catholic schoolteachers to underserved schools across the country. Scully focuses his research on political institutions, political parties and democratic government. Scully served as an executive vice president from 2000 to 2003 and was vice president and senior associate provost from 1994 to 2000.

ND frosh awarded $100K

By TESS CIVANTOS
News Writer

Freshman Kevin McKenna plans to quit his dining hall job, now that he won a $100,000 scholarship — by throwing footballs into a giant Dr Pepper can.

The scholarship was part of the Dr Pepper half-time scholarship challenge. Six grand-prize-winning college students each received a trip for two to either the ACC championship game, the SEC championship game or the Big XII championship game. Two of the six Grand Prize winners attended each game where they competed for the scholarship money at half-time.

McKenna chose the Dec. 6 Big XII Championship game, and took his older brother with him. "We each had an eight-foot-high Dr Pepper can five yards away, and we each had 10 footballs — 10 shots each," McKenna said. "It was pretty nerve-wracking," McKenna said. "But it was really cold in Kansas City, so it was hard to get really excited."

He chose the Big XII game because it sounded like the most exciting game out of his options, he said. "My brother was really mad at me for picking Kansas City over Tampa Bay," McKenna said, laugh­ ing.

McKenna chose to enter the contest on a whim. "I saw a promotion on the Dr Pepper Web site for the half-time throw. I figured I could use the money, so why not give it a try?"

Student Senate Committee passes resolution

Group to evaluate Notre Dame sexual assault policies, resources

By JOSEPH MCAHON
Assistant News Editor

The student senate unanimously passed a resolution proposing the creation of a committee to work with the Office of Student Affairs to evaluate the University's policies concerning sexual assault, during their final meeting this semester.

The resolution was the first ever proposed by the Senate Gender Issues Committee, student body vice president Grant Schmidt said.

Student body president Bob Reich, left, and vice president Grant Schmidt wear "Stop the Violence" T-shirts at Wednesday's senate.
INSIDE COLUMN

The revised X-mas playlist

On Monday, Analise Lipari published a list of the best Christmas songs. Now, Analise is a really nice person. She's always super positive, and she was the only Observer staffer who voted for my niece for Cleveland's cutest baby. She's also very knowledgeable in all things Seence. However, she really dropped the ball-shaped ornament on this one.

Not only did she leave out some seri­ously classic, but her Bing Crosby and Amy Grant choices were positively absurd. I just couldn't let her version stand as the official list. Plus, I figure a lot more people will see this one than saw hers, because no one really turns to the Seence page. That sounds mean, but it's not because Sports is just way better. On to the new Top 10 (or however many my word count allows):

1. "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" — I'll give her that one. The "Gloria" part is really fun to sing.
3. "Grown Up Christmas List" by Amy Grant — I agree that Grant's Christmas album is a staple, and most of the songs are absolutely beautiful. This one is by far the best for the idealistic college student.
4. "(Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire) — Actually, it's just not my family Christmas even.
5. "The Christmas Song" (Christmas Time is Here) — Don't think this one needs explaining.
6. "Mary, Did You Know?" — I don't think this one has a chance.
7. "The Christmas Song (Christmas Time is Here)" by the Bellamy Brothers — "It appears to kids from one to 92. This song has been covered well over 100 times, and after some exhaustive Buhapody-ing, I decided that Nat King Cole's original is still the best.
8. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" by Bing Crosby — I don't think this one has a chance.
9. "The Christmas Song (Christmas Time is Here)" by Bing Crosby — I don't think this one needs explaining.
10. "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" — I'll give her that one. The "Gloria" part is really fun to sing.

I hope this helps. The Music Dept. needs some love.

Chris Toups
freshman Duncan
"Going to the beach.
"Not having to worry about anything.
"Sleeping.
"Roasting chestnuts on my open fire hearth.

Laura Myers
Sports Writer

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY: WHAT IS GOING TO BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CHRISTMAS BREAK?

Chris Toups
freshman Duncan
"Going to the beach.

Keith Hetrick
freshman Keenan
"Not having to worry about anything.

Laura McCarty
sophomore McGinn
"Sleeping.

Paul Hotovy
sophomore Keenan
"Roasting chestnuts on my open fire hearth.

Soren Palumbo
sophomore Sortn
"Relief from South Bend weather.

IN BRIEF

The special lecture "What and When was the Christmas Star? An astrophysics perspective" will be given by Grant Mathews, professor of physics, in the Jordan Hall of Science Digital Imaging Laboratory, Thursday, December 11, at 5 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students and proceeds will benefit the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will host Cathy Mattea's Christmas concert Sunday at 2 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall. Come celebrate the holidays with the one and only Kathy Mattea. USA Today described Mattea as "one of Nashville's most spiritual singers, and the songs she sings about love lost and humility are as fine as any she has recorded." Mattea's Christmas good performance includes her well-known holiday songs such as "Mary Did You Know?" among others.

Saint Mary's will host the annual Finals Week Night Breakfast Monday from 10 to 11 p.m. in the Noble Family Dining Hall. All Saint Mary's College students are invited. No meal plan is needed, and guests are welcome.

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

OFFBEAT

Calif. KFC workers bathe in sinks

ANDERSON, Calif. — Three employees of a Kentucky Fried Chicken have been suspended for bathing in a deep sink used to clean dishes. The prank was discovered after one of the young women posted a photo on a social networking site of the trio posing and cavorting in the steaming water in their underwear and swimwear.

The photos were filed in a gallery called "KFC moments." Captions included "haha KFC showered" and "haha we turned on the jet."

A manager of the fast-food restaurant said the three were reprimanded and suspended Tuesday. She said an manager was on duty when the photos were taken as the three had closed the restaurant for the night.

Cat bites Santa during photo shoot at NJ store

HAMILTON TOWN­SHIP, N.J. — Santa Claus posed with a very large kitty on his lap — and now, unfortunately, he might need rashes shots. Jonathan Bebbington was playing the jolly old elf during a PetsMart store when he was bitten Sunday on the wrist and hand. The event was to raise money for Penny Angel's Beagle Rescue group.

The cat and Santa disappeared after the incident. At least one person thought it was a bobcat, said Joan Kerr, president of Penny Angel's. "It had absolutely huge paws, like 3 inches around," Kerr said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

The Celebration Choir sings Christmas songs in Coleman-Morse Lounge Wednesday night as part of its concert for Haiti.
Jewish club celebrates Hanukkah

Event included traditional foods, teaching of feast's historical roots

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

During the holiday season, it's important to remember that Christmas is not the only celebration that is taking place during this time of year. For this reason, the Jewish Club of Notre Dame hosted a party that celebrated the Jewish feast of Hanukkah at Welsh Family Hall on Wednesday evening.

"With this event we hope to establish the story of Hanukkah," Jenna Zigman, Jewish club president, said. "Part of our mission is to expose Catholics to Jewish tradition and history.

The event included traditional Hanukkah food as well as the teaching of the story of Hanukkah.

The Feast of Hanukkah commemorates a rebellion of Jews against the Syrian king Antiochus IV in 175 BC. King Antiochus tried to stifle the Jewish religious practices to such a degree that the Jews, led by the Maccabees family, created a successful revolt that drove the Syrians out of Judea.

After the rebellion, the Jews needed to reconsecrate their Holy Temple, which had been defiled by the Syrians. Most importantly, the Jews needed to rededicate the everlasting light in the temple. There was only enough oil to burn the flame for one day. However, the flame stayed lit for eight whole days.

Today, the Hanukkah celebration lasts for eight days to commemorate the eight days that the everlasting light remained lit. Attendees at the party learned that on each night of Hanukkah, one candle is lit on a special candelabrum called a menorah.

Despite the importance of Hanukkah, partygoers on Wednesday were told that it is a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar when compared to major days such as Passover and Yom Kippur. The holiday increased in importance mainly because it gave Jews something to celebrate at the same time that Christians were celebrating Christmas.

Today, Jews exchange gifts every night of the eight-day feast. This gift-giving is also mainly a result of the proximity of Hanukkah to Christmas. "One of the reasons this event is important is because it is right around Christmas time," Zigman said.

The Jewish Club served traditional Hanukkah food such as potato pancakes, known as latkes, and jelly doughnuts. The food for Hanukkah is traditional—items that are cooked in grease to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

The main purpose of the event was to bring greater awareness to a holiday that many students might not know too much about. "I hope that students will gain a greater appreciation of the Jewish faith," Zigman said. "At Catholic University, it is important to know about Jewish traditions because Jewish history has such a large impact on Catholicism. I also think it is nice for Catholics to learn about Judaism because learning about another religion can help one strengthen his own religion."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden@bc.edu

Ringing in 2009 with #1 Irish Hockey!

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's College will be hosting the Christmas Craft Show and Sale Dec. 12 in the Reignbeaux Lounge from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Show will host over 40 local artists including work from Saint Mary's own students. Carrie Call, director for the Office Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) at Saint Mary's said the Art Department will have five tables to sell ceramics and other art pieces at the event.

Saint Mary's Junior and Art Club President Megan Magee told The Observer she will be selling some pieces from her studio art classes at the sale.

"It is a little nerve-wracking because as a seller you are afraid to name that price," Magee said. "The potential buyers do not always understand why an artist would price what they find to be high, and not necessarily see all the work and money for supplies to make that print or ceramic piece."

The Show will contain a variety of crafts including fiber arts, crochet, woodworking, quilting, gourmet food, jewelry, pottery, and photography.

Magee said she is selling "five lithography prints, but multiple copies of each of the prints. Also, I have a handmade look made from a studio last semester."

All of the art is 100 percent handcrafted and designed by the artists, Call said.

"All of the crafters are required to confirm that their work is 100 percent handcrafted, designed by them, no commercial products or representatives," she said.

"Some Saint Mary's students will be selling T-shirts at the sale.

The Show will benefit the OCSE's 12 Days of Christmas project, which began Dec. 1. "The artists each pay $25 to have a table," Call said. "This money goes directly to the 12 Days of Christmas project. The money that the artists make is theirs to keep. We will ask them to make further donation if they wish at the end of the day."

The event is in its second year, and "this year's show is much, much larger," Call said.

Magee added, "I am very excited. It is always fun to see who stops by to look and ends up buying certain pieces that a student may have worked on or worked around all semester, and see it leave the studio for good."

The Christmas Craft Show and Sale is open to everyone.

A piece of art is always a great gift to give someone for Christmas," Magee said. "It is different than buying something from a general store."

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Christmas sale to display local artists

ND STUDENTS: Purchase special discount tickets for $10. Available online only @ SearsCentre.com/Promotions & Enter Promo Code: "NDST"
Lessons and Carols 'to be held at Church

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writers

The true meaning behind the Christmas holiday is not forgotten at Saint Mary's College. The annual Lessons and Carols service will take place in the Church of Loreto Dec. 14 at 7 p.m.

Lessons and Carols is traditionally a Christmas five service that originated in the Anglican Church to commemorate the season. Saint Mary's has been hosting an adapted version of this service since 1961.

The Saint Mary's Campus Ministry department, the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees and the Liturgy Office of the Society of the Holy Cross have worked together to co-sponsor the event.

Up to 500 to 550 people are expected to attend on Sunday, including students and sisters.

"The Church is full to over-flowing with community members, all of whom partici-pated by their reverent listening and heartfelt singing of the carols of the Advent and Christmas Seasons," said Sister Betty Smoyer, who is working to put the service together.

During Lessons and Carols, core by Scripture readings, carols, psalms and liturgical dancing all by the light of candles.

The purpose of this service is to gather the Saint Mary's College and Convvent community in an ecumenical celebration of the Advent and Christmas seasons," Smoyer said.

Students and Sisters of the same leged to participate in this service as

The employee development program wins Dept. of Defense award

Executive education team partners with NSWC Corona to design career plan

Program wins Dept. of Defense award

Associated Press

The Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) in Corona, Calif., announced Wednesday that more than 900 scientists, engineers and support staff, as well as 800 plus contractors, in the critical task of gauging the F IVB's capabilities of the U.S. Navy's ships and aircraft.

Yet, three years ago, the center's leadership realized that it needed a system in place to identify and train the next generation of future executive leaders. Promotions had been based primarily on technical, not business, skills. And for the long-term strength of the organization, employees would need a strategic way to achieve their career goals.

Enter the Executive Education Program at the University of Notre Dame. A team from the program partnered with NSWC Corona to design an innovative employee development program that mapped career paths with the requisite skills, knowledge and abilities, and provided for a leadership succession plan, among other goals.

Now, the U.S. Department of the Navy has honored that collaborative program with the Silver Awards Program, Award for 2006, The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Workforce Development Award.

"We're delighted that the Department of Defense is recognizing this important work and we commend the NSWC Corona leadership for its vision and commitment to implementing this program," said Sharon E. Keane, director of Executive Programs.
Blue diamond sells for $24.3 million

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Guantanamo’s commander believes that the prison on this base won’t close anytime soon after President-elect Barack Obama takes office.

Rear Adm. David Thomas said he expects “rigorous debate” in America before lawmakers decide whether to close the prison. The defense department is flown out, pouring cold water on speculation that it could close soon. Thomas said the prison might close within days after Obama is sworn in on Jan. 20.

“The hard part, the important part to get ready is where you’re going to put the detainees, and the legal process that you intend to use to continue any sort of prosecution or resolution of their cases,” Thomas told reporters Tuesday night. “The easy part is taking them from JTF-Guantanamo and putting them on an airplane.

Those are good, important decisions that will be made after, I’m certain, rigorous debate back in the United States.”

Thomas, who took command six months ago of the Joint Task Force that runs the prison camps, said no member of Obama’s transition team has visited the base or is scheduled to do so.

“We have an order to close it, we will close it,” Thomas said in a discussion with U.S. and foreign reporters on the base for pretrial hearings for five men charged with carrying out the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The defendants wrote a letter on Nov. 4 — the day Obama was elected president — saying they wanted to confess, presumably to plead guilty and face the death penalty.

At least two of the men, including the self-described mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, have said they want to be executed by the United States to achieve martyrdom. Many observers at the hearing say the defendants may be rushing toward a death sentence before Obama takes office and shut down the war-crimes trials, as the president-elect has vowed to do.

commander predicts Gitmo won’t close

Associated Press

CHICAGO — His career in shreds, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich clung defiantly to power Wednesday, ignoring a call to step down from the Senate seat he was trying to offer Wednesday to Barack Obama and a warning that Senate Democrats will not let him appoint a new senator from the state.

"Everyone is calling for his head," said Barbara Flynn Currie, a leader in the Illinois General Assembly and the governor's Democrat. One day after Blagojevich's arrest, fellow Illinois politicians sought to avoid the taunt of scandal-by-association.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. said at a news conference in Washington that he was Senate President and is the government's criminal investigator. Blagojevich was secretly recorded as saying he would offer a seat to Obama. "There's no way I'm going to allow a gain appointment to Obama's vacant Senate seat," Jackson said. The governor had been assured by prosecutors he was not a subject of the investigation, and he emphatically said he had not engaged "whatever it is in any wrongdoing."

Other Democrats in Washington edged away from calls for a special election to fill Obama's place in the Senate, hoping that Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn would not become governor and fill the vacancy on his own. The militia would allow the party of holding the seat, and on a far faster timetable than any other Democratic state could have bargained for. The party has 92 senators, including 80 from states with electoral votes.

Incentconced in his downtown office, Blagojevich gave no sign he was contemplating resignation and dispatched his spokes­worker, who said it was business as usual in his 16th-Floor suite. Blagojevich is a few blocks from Obama's transition headquarters.

"At the end of the day, the top priority for our office is to serve the people and we have not lost sight of that, nor will we lose sight of that," Quinn said.

One day earlier, federal prosecutors released a thick document that included excerpts of wiretapped conversations in which the governor allegedly schemed to enforce himself by offering to sell Obama's Senate seat for campaign cash or a lucrative job inside or outside government.

Blagojevich, whose 52nd birthday was Wednesday, is charged with conspiracy and solicitation to commit bribery, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and 10 years, respectively. More than 24 hours after the arrest, Obama joined other prominent Democrats in his state in calling for Blagojevich's resignation.

"The president-elect agrees with Lt. Gov. Quinn and many other that under the current circumstances it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people of Illinois," Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said in response to questions asked whether Obama supports a special election, Gibbs said Obama believes the Illinois General Assembly should consider how to fill the Senate seat and "put in place a process to select a new senator that will have the trust and confidence of the people of Illinois." Top Senate Democrats were more pointed in a letter circulated among the rank and file for signatures.

Blagojevich's resignation, followed by an appointment made by a new governor, would create the most expensive expeditionary war for a new senator to be chosen and seated in a manner that would earn the confidence of the people of Illinois and all Americans," wrote Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and the party's second-ranking leader, Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois.

They added that if Blagojevich chose to "ignore the request of the Democratic Senate Caucus and make an appointment we would be forced to exercise our constitutional authority... to determine whether such a person should be seated."
Lights continued from page 1

However, junior Will Staruck, who is in charge of decorating Norin College for Christmas, said that he wanted to switch to LED lights this year for efficiency reasons, but the cost played a factor.

"It has LED lights in my personal room but they are too expensive to use on a dorm-wide level," said Staruck.

Although he could not purchase LED lights for the dorm, Norin did reuse the decorations from last year and he said that the residence hall unglam the Christmas lights during the day.

Carla McDonald, manager at North Dining Hall, estimated that there are slightly under 60 strands of lights that decorate the dining hall, which stay on for about 18 hours a day.

"We turn them on at 5 a.m., and turn them off around 11 p.m. when we leave," said McDonald, who believes the lights are unplugged overnight.

Senate continued from page 1

Gender Issues Committee co-chair Lauren Cummings said she had been approached by multiple students who had been sexually assaulted but had no access to resources when dealing with the Office of Residence Life and Housing.

"The University's current resources for victims and disciplinary options often do not satisfy the needs of the survivors, according to the resolution," Cummings said about these students' complaints presented to the Senate Committee co-chair Amanda Speno, who together with Cummings and Committee co-chair Lauren Cummings wished to begin examining the University's policies on sexual assault.

Speno said he and Cummings eventually decided student government should create a committee to evaluate the policies. The committee would be composed of a wide variety of students from inside and outside of student government.

"I think it's a really productive way," Speno said.

The resolution also calls for members of Student Affairs, the Office of Residence Life and Housing, the Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention and the Gender Relations Center to "review and evaluate the effectiveness of the University's sexual assault, rape and sexual misconduct policy, resources for victims of sexual assault and the University's disciplinary options available to victims of sexual assault."

Cummings said the student response to the issue should prompt all of the groups to seriously examine the issues.

"We're saying this is an issue we can't ignore," she said. "We're asking them to put it on the table, she said.

The resolution was passed on the same day as the Stop the Violence in Violence Campaign. The vast majority of students wore black T-shirts bearing the statistic that a nearly one-in-four college women suffer rape or attempted rape. Cummings said the statistic was first uncovered by a study done in 1987 and was recently confirmed by the United States Department of Justice study in 2006. The University also uses the statistic on its Web site.

In other Senate news:

◆ The University unanimously passed an amendment redrafting the composition of the Club Council Coordination (CCCC), which oversaw several positions. CCCC president John Burke said his group had evolved over the past eight years, but the Student Constitution had not been updated. This amendment, he said, would simply update the Constitution so that the document would accurately reflect the CCCC.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jcmh009@nd.edu

Recital continued from page 1

McKenna, conversely, cannot remember a time when he did not know how to tap dance. He said it seemed innate to him.

"My mother swears this is true, and I guess I've heard it long enough to believe her," he said. "Every time she looked over at me, whether I was in the crib or when I was first learning to walk or just standing, there was always music on."

"I was tap dancing," McKenna said just last spring, keeping beat with my feet in whatever capacity I could.

McKenna revealed his first pair of tap shoes when he was four years old. He said he would watch tap dancing movies, like ones with Fred Astaire, Gene Kelly or Ray Bolger, and watch the steps they would do and try to imitate them.

"It just came out of me," he said. "I think of it as a way of playing the drums with your feet."

When he was 10 or 11, his parents decided to get him formal tap dancing lessons. He took the lessons for about five years, he said, and learned a lot of great steps, but did not like tapping in the formal way the instructors taught because, for him, tap dancing was an expression of how he was feeling.

He kept dancing after his lessons were over, but said he never had any desire to become a professional tap dancer.

"It was already part of my life," he said, "I was just integrated in. And here I am. I just turned 16 years old and I still tap dance."

McKenna came to Notre Dame in 1997 from Pomona College, where he had spent five years teaching in the dance department, as well as performing in several productions and special events.

Upon arriving at Notre Dame, McKenna was told that there was no tap dancing class offered. He decided to start one and, added that he had the regular teaching duties in the anthropology department. Since the fall of 1999, McKenna has taught a class in tap each semester.

"I don't eat any­

light for the dorm," McKenna said. "I thought everyone did a good job.

But the tap recital would not be the end of their tapping days, Flanagan joked.

"We're going to be doing improv spots," she said.

McKenna did his own improv promos show Wednesday night in solo that he said he decided to do at the last minute.

"The next thing about tap dancing is no matter how stressed you are, the minute you put your tap shoes on, you just can't be upright anymore," Flanagan said. The Observer a few hours before the recital.

"There's something very relaxing and emotionally liberating about listening to the music and dancing,

He laughed when asked if he'd ever been compared to Fred Astaire.

"I can hold my own," he said.

Contact Kaitlynn Richy at kajly@nd.edu

McShane continued from page 1

McShane said that "I entered my application on the Web site, and I got a call in November that I had won the trip." McShane worked to win by practicing his throwing accuracy.

"I practiced a lot over Thanksgiving break, since I had a lot of time," he said. "We also had a chance to practice on the field right before the trip."

McShane's favorite part of the trip was "spending time with retired Dallas Cowboy Marcellus Wiley, who helped host the challenge."

"He was really funny, taking you not sure since she does not work at night. Director of Utilities Paul Kempf, said he does not notice an increase in the electrical bill during the Christmas season.

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Emergency auto bailout in peril

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal government ran a record budget deficit in November, putting Uncle Sam on track to post an all-time high annual shortfall of $1 trillion or more.

In just the first two months of the budget year, which ended Oct. 1, the deficit totaled $404.6 billion, nearly matching the record high of $433 billion posted for all of last year, according to Treasury Department data released Wednesday.

If the deficit does top $1 trillion for the current budget year, it also would be a record, though Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Wednesday he did not expect it to.

The increased red ink stems from both lower tax revenue and increased spending that is a result of the economic crisis. The government is receiving less in personal income taxes while spending more on programs such as unemployment insurance and food stamps.

Elsewhere, emergency aid for the nation’s imperiled auto industry was thrown into jeopardy Wednesday as some Republicans opposed against a hard-fought deal between Democrats and the Bush White House to speed $14 billion to ailing carmakers.

Then there’s the $700 billion bank rescue program. The Treasury report showed that the government spent $76.5 billion from the program in November and $191.2 billion over the past two months.

A congressional oversight panel on Wednesday questioned whether Treasury is following a clear strategy in its use of those funds. The panel, which includes academic and labor representatives, also asked in a report whether the rescue effort has helped any homeowners avoid foreclosure.

The 37-page oversight report offers no specific conclusions, but the questions suggest sharp disagreements with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson’s stewardship of the program and echo some of the criticism raised in a Government Accountability Office report last week.

Many Democrats in Congress have criticized Treasury for not using the funds to help homeowners.

The department said Wednesday that the gap between the government’s revenue collections and what it paid out last month totaled $164.4 billion, the largest deficit ever recorded for the month of November. The deficit was $98.2 billion in November 2007.

An annual deficit of $1 trillion would equal 6.7 percent of the gross domestic product, the economy’s total output in a single year. That would surpass the previous postwar record in GDP terms of 6 percent set in 1938 when Ronald Reagan was president.

In Brief

F.D.A. deadlocked over asthma drug risks

WASHINGTON — Deadlocked over the risks of long-acting asthma drugs, government health officials Wednesday asked outside advisers if four medications used by millions of patients should remain on the market.

An unusually large panel of some 30 medical and scientific advisers will vote Thursday on whether the risks of Advair, Foradil, Seretide and Symbicort — outweigh the benefits. The Food and Drug Administration, whose advisers are at odds, sought the advice in making a final decision.

Doctors who treat adults and children with asthma strongly urged the FDA not to ban the drugs. It would only trigger a dangerous surge in cases of uncontrolled asthma, they warned.

Some of the F.D.A. advisers expressed frustration Wednesday over a lack of fresh clinical data on medications to use for a decade or longer. “I think this is an impossible task you are asking us to do,” said Dr. Judith Kramer, who teaches medicine at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C.

Bush gives up on easing coal rules

WASHINGTON — Six weeks before leaving office, the Bush administration is giving up on an eight-year effort to ease restrictions on pollution from coal-burning power plants, a key plank of its original energy agenda and one that put the president and others at environmentalists’ entire tenure in the White House.

President George W. Bush had hoped to make both changes to coal pollution regulations final before leaving office on Jan. 20. In the midst of a coal-fired power plant construction boom, the rules would have made it easier for energy companies to expand existing facilities and build new power plants in areas of the country that meet air-quality standards.

But the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday conceded that it didn’t have enough time to complete the rules changes, which were undermined by a federal court decision earlier this year that scrapped a signature component of Bush’s clean-air policies.

Deficit on pace to reach record high

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**UNITED KINGDOM**

**Assisted suicide televised in Britain**

*Broadcast shows terminally-ill American during his last moments at Swiss clinic*

Associated Press

LONDON — The scene is difficult to watch, even for viewers inured to the subject of dying by a steady diet of violent Hollywood and television fare.

Craig Ewert, a former computer scientist from Chicago, is shown lying in bed with his wife at his side while he takes barbiturates. He asks for a glass of apple juice to mask the bad taste and help him swallow. Then he uses his teeth to turn off his ventilator — and dies on camera.

Britain's obsession with reality television reached new heights Wednesday — the broadcast unleashed a taboo, even for no-holds-barred debate on an issue that strongly divides public opinion.

Photographs of Ewert's final moments dominated Britain's newspaper front pages Wednesday — "SUICIDE" screamed one tabloid — and prompted a debate in Parliament, where Prime Minister Gordon Brown was quizzed about the propriety of the decision to air the program.

Before he died, Ewert said taking his own life would mean less suffering for himself and his family. "If I go through with it, I die as I must at some point," he says in the documentary, which chronicles his 2006 decision to take his own life after being diagnosed with degenerative motor neuron disease. "If I don't go through with it, my choice is essentially to suffer, and to inflict suffering on my family, and then die."

CSPA/SEBASTIANZARITSKY

CARE NOT KILLING, an anti-euthanasia group aligned with the Catholic Church and other religious organizations in Britain, denounced the broadcast as "a cynical attempt to boost television ratings" and persuaded Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. "There is a growing appetite from the British public for increasingly bizarre reality shows," said the group's director, Peter Saunders. "We'd see it as a new milestone. It glorifies assisted dying when there is a very active campaign by the pro-suicide lobby to get the issue back into Parliament."

Mary Ewert wrote in the British press Wednesday that her husband had been enthusiastic about having his final moments televised. "He was keen to have it shown because when death is hidden and private, people don't face their fears about it," she said, adding that he wanted viewers to understand that assisted suicide allowed him to die comfortably rather than enduring a long, drawn out and painful demise.

The documentary by Oscar-nominated director John Zaritsky has previously been shown on Canadian and Swiss TV and at numerous film festivals, where it provoked little controversy. But it struck a raw nerve in Britain, where the divisive debate over assisted suicide remains unresolved.

Zaritsky said it would have been "less than honest" to make the film without showing the actual suicide because it would have left viewers wondering if the death was unpleasant, cruel, or carried out against Ewert's will. "By putting it out there, and putting it out there in its entirety, people can judge for themselves," he said, adding that the documentary gives viewers an insight into how assisted suicide would work if it was legalized in more places. Originally called "The Suicide Tourist," the film was renamed "Right to Die?" for its British broadcast on Sky TV's Real Lives digital channel, which draws far fewer viewers than the network's myriad news, sports or movie shows, but still generated enormous publicity, with clips shown throughout the day on Sky News and rival channels.

The televised suicide in Britain follows a well-publicized case in Florida, where a teenager killed himself on camera last month and broadcast the chilling images live on an Internet site.

Ewert, who was living in Britain when he became ill, went abroad to end his life because assisted suicide is illegal in Britain.

In the film, he says he wanted to take action before the disease, which destroys cells that control essential muscle activity such as speaking, walking, breathing and swallowing, left him completely incapacitated.

As you are undoubtedly aware, the status of the economy will mean a difficult job market as you approach graduation in May. The Career Center is working closely with students and employers to identify career opportunities to help you move forward during the upcoming months.

The website below will provide in-depth information regarding a number of initiatives that we are undertaking to assist you in finding career opportunities. Our multifaceted approach includes individual career advising, career fairs, employer information sessions, alumni networking and more. Please take a moment to review the site and don't hesitate to contact us at (574) 631-5200 for further assistance.

http://careercenter.nd.edu/movingforward

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Please recycle The Observer.
Senators urge probe of fighter jet crash.

Associated Press
SAN DIEGO — California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer called for the review of the Marine Corps to investigate the possible problems after a fiery crash killed two young girls, their mother, and their grandmother.

In a joint letter Wednesday, the two senators asked Gen. James Conway, Marines commandant, to quickly complete the investigation of Monday's crash and make the results public.

"We can all agree that in urban areas like San Diego County, where the military and civilian populations closely coexist, it is absolutely vital that all precautionary steps are taken to ensure the safety of both our civilian and military residents," the letter read.

Marine spokesman Maj. David Nevers had no immediate comment on the request.

Initial reports suggest the jet may have suffered engine failure on a training exercise after takeoff from the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln about two miles from Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, the ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, previously called on the Marine Corps to release the maintenance records of its F/A-18D Hornet fighters.

The crash was probably unrelated to the previous discovery of cracks in hinges on the wings of more than a dozen of the $57 million aircraft, the San Diego-area congressman said.

Boxer and Feinstein also urged the Marines to assist people affected by the crash, particularly Dong Yun Yoon, a Korean immigrant whose family perished when the plane hit his home near the base.

Yoon had asked for guidance from people who have suffered "more terrible things," a news conference Tuesday. His appearance at the news conference was interrupted by a military jet flying overhead.

His church had identified his daughter Grace, 15 months; his son, Suk Im Kim, 60; her daughter, Young Mi Yoon, 36; her daughters Grace, 15 months, and her mother, Suk Im Kim, 60. Kim was visiting from South Korea to help her daughter move across town and adjust to the arrival of her second child.

Associated Press

Variation in gene could cause obesity

NEW YORK — Scientists may have figured out one reason some people reach for the french fries instead of an apple.

It could be a gene that's been linked to an increased risk of obesity.

A study of children found those with a common variation of the gene tend to overeat high-calorie foods. They ate 100 extra calories per meal, which over the long term can put on weight, said Colin Palmer, who led the study at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

The findings don't mean that everyone with that version of the gene will eat too much and become obese, he said. They just might have a tendency to eat more fattening foods.

"It's still your choice," he said. "This gene will not make you overweight if you do not overeat."

Palmer said the results support the theory that childhood obesity today could be connected to the widespread availability and cost of high-calorie foods. The research is published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Last year, scientists discovered the gene, named FTO, was linked to obesity but they didn't know why. Most of the other genes thought to affect body weight influence appetite.

"The only thing we could find was the fact that they were eating much richer foods," said Palmer.

On average, those with the gene variant ate 100 calories more than those without it.

Dr. Rudolph Leibel, an obesity researcher at Columbia University in New York, said getting good measurements of how much someone eats is difficult, but the Scottish study did it in a closely controlled manner.

He said the overeating may be driven more by the need for calories than a preference for fatty foods. Fat is just a good way to get those extra calories.

"Bite for bite, there are more calories in a Big Mac than there are in an apple," said Leibel, who wrote an editorial that accompanied the study in the journal.

A recent study in the Amish suggested the variant's effects could be blunted with hours of physical activity. The lead author of that study, Evadine Rampersaud of the University of Miami, noted that only 76 Scottish children completed all three meal tests.

"While the results are intriguing, larger studies are needed to fully explore this hypothesis," she said in an e-mail.

Palmer, the Scottish researcher, said there's no practical reason to screen people for the gene variation; there's likely to be many genes that affect obesity.
The greatest gift of all

Twas the night before finals when all thru the JACC,
Not a creature was stirring, not even K-Mac.
The setting was strung from the hoops with great care,
In hopes that the Legion soon would be there.
The freshmen were studying all quiet in CoMo,
While visions of plane flights started to grow.
And profs with their coffee, some with their tea,
Were writing the finals we all wished to see.
When out at the Gug there arose such a clatter,
Coach Weis had just realized that losses do matter.
Away to the window he limped very slow,
The swelling on his knee was starting to grow.
Looking out on the fields where they practiced all year,
A loss to the Warriors he started to fear.
He texted his boss, already in bed,
These sleepless nights were going to his head.
At that very moment in the library basement,
Writing feverishly I was not yet complacent.
A Christmas Poem I wanted to write,
To bring joy to all, as well as delight.
My thoughts were still racing about my exam,
And those horrible meals when the BH serves ham.
My focus was gone, my mind had no might,
I realized I needed was a smooth Keystone Light.
So out to my car I moved very quick,
A grin on my face, like the smile of St. Nick.
As I got in my Buick, the ice turned me blue,
Back home I did go to drink a quick brew.
With the car running smooth I arrived in a flash,
Not ice nor Snow could make this GM crash.
As I walked up my steps, and turned the bright key,
I couldn't contain my emotional glee.

I entered the house while my roommate did say,
"We're doos to the Warriors on the Eve of Christmas Day!"
Embarrassed I was with the madness of that,
I symbolically threw down my Notre Dame hat.
As I entered the kitchen and found a cookie,
I picked up my phone and called my bookie.
They'll cover the spread, I said almost laughing,
Willingly, but at least I'm not rapping.
I opened the fridge looking for my tasty stone.
A problem I saw, our fridge was dry to the bone.
I went right outside in the snow to our neighbors.
But they only had Bud, not the smooth Keystone flavors.
To the stores I thought, to buy me a rack.
It's Sunday, I recalled, openness they lack.
With no options left, I drank some hot cocoa.
A house without Keystone is driving me loco.
I retired to my room all ready for bed,
Clouds of disappointment danced through my head.
Finals were coming, and I couldn't quite think,
I desperately needed that light and smooth drink.
In the morning I'd wake and go back to my work,
Because tests and papers continued to lurk.
And in the darkness, yet another clatter,
Of what was the matter? He tossed me a stone with a gleam in his eye,
Speechless I was, I almost did cry.
The blue on the can so bright and magical,
It must have been a Christmas Miracle.
Santa did come, he told me with joy,
With eyes wide open like a nine-year-old boy.
The reins I heard, upon the rooftop.
Not even the gunshots could cause them to stop.
As he left the room and walked out of sight,
I said Merry Christmas. Have a good night.
Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics.
You can contact him at rkeister@nd.edu.
Letter to the Editor

Dropping the bowl

To whom it may concern,

Thank you so much for choosing to accept a bid to the Hawaii Bowl on Dec. 24. To quote our outstanding senior head coach and captain David Grimes, "Nice weather, beautiful women." ... sounds great to me.

It is so smart that you chose such a convenient bowl for Notre Dame fans to attend. First of all, there is a convenience to Hawaii. The trip is really cheap, the trip takes no time at all, and I know that the hotels there are relatively inexpensive.

Also, I know that hardly anyone at this University celebrates Christmas. I would never expect members of the Notre Dame family to have already made plans for Christmas Eve. Further, the Band of the Fighting Irish will not be in attendance at this bowl game. I know we love tradition here at Notre Dame, so I totally understand why.

But we're not going to go. It is the first bowl game Notre Dame has ever declined to attend. It is the first bowl game that does not do that. They never expect members of the Notre Dame Band to attend. First of all, airfare to Hawaii is already taking away their grades, taking away the highlight of their marching season is also another great idea. I know that none of our school's songs or cheers are important to the Notre Dame fans, and I know the football team hates when the band shows up at away games. Even ask Charlie, he hates the band. So, I hope that our football team, their families and our administrators have a great time in Hawaii. Enjoy yourselves, wear lots of suntan lotion, and don't get too discouraged by the lack of sunshine and cold in the stands at the game. I hope Santa finds you all in Hawaii,Exports So Irish, and have a Merry Christmas.

Happy Holidays,

Mark Babcock
junior
Dec. 10

Band missing out on bowl

I would like to start by saying how horrid I am to be a part of the Notre Dame Marching Band Tradition. I have faithfully practiced, performed and cheered on the Irish for four years. Not everyone makes the trip, but I was entitled to nothing. Being part of a tradition larger than myself that truly matters.

The most amazing part of this year was our sold-out trip to USC. It took a lot of donations and a lot of manpower in planning the trip, and I am forever in debt to all those who put energy into it. I am awe-some. The band lived up to expectations and beyond: we outperformed and out-classed the USC band without question. After a long weekend, we were exhausted. And the Irish fans, in a foreign stadium, appreciated it.

What, then, am I upset about? How clueless our team was. I was embar-rassed about the fight before the game even started, and even more embarrassed by the lack of cohesionlessness our players demonstrated on the field. But yet, the band never quit. We kept on cheering. The worst part is that I didn't even know this was going to be my last time in uniform; or all, and if the band means so much to Notre Dame Tradition, as I'm constantly told by alumni, I imagine we could raise some money together to send us to cheer the team. But we're not going to. It is the first time in the band's history that it will not follow the team to a bowl game.

I was so upset, I was willing to spend $20 million to fire Weis. We are now sending our team to Hawaii. Sure, we all know that the band has never done any services to this University. After already taking away their grades, taking away the highlight of their marching season is also another great idea. I know that none of our school's songs or cheers are important to the Notre Dame fans, and I know the football team hates when the band shows up at away games. Even ask Charlie, he hates the band. So, I hope that our football team, their families and our administrators have a great time in Hawaii. Enjoy yourselves, wear lots of suntan lotion, and don't get too discouraged by the lack of sunshine and cold in the stands at the game. I hope Santa finds you all in Hawaii,Exports So Irish, and have a Merry Christmas. Happy Holidays.

Band alumna
Dec. 10

Religion and football

I am writing in response to the Viewpoint letter "Comments on Weis" by Peter Helenas. In his letter, Helenas covers such topics as his high school football days, his cable TV show, Weis' obscurity, Vince Lombardi and a "dumb spirit called Tolkien." I wasn't sure what the point was, but at some stage it seemed like he was saying Weis' failure to become a spiritual role model has something to do with the football team losing.

As much as you'd like it to, Catholicism has nothing to do with winning football games.

Kevin Sullivan
senior
Stapled Field
Dec. 9

Good luck with exams!

Valerie A. Allen
off campus
Dec. 9

More praise for ND soccer

To the women's soccer team:

"Football" is known as the beauti­ful game ... I never understood what that meant until I saw the way you played this year. Having attended all but one of your home games and travelled to NC for the College Cup, I can barely express in words how amazing it was to witness your magi­cal season.

When I look back, I remember the seemingly endless good times and amazing moments. I remember the countless young soccer players who watched in awe and dreamed of slipping up for the Irish one day. I remember the die-hard local fans who made it out to every game and cheered you by name until the voices were gone. I remember a packed house against Minnesota during the coldest night. I can remember, with our students going crazy for all 90-plus minutes of an overtime thriller.

Most of all, I remember how you brought the same fire to every game, how you played with genuine pride and excitement and how you lived every moment. I have never seen a team like this before in any sport. The way you carried yourselves could not be paral­leled, and the inspiration you gener­ated can not be surpassed. During a time when we all tend to lose sight of what playing for Notre Dame is all about, you showed us that sports can still be pure.

To the coaching staff, the trainers, and the entire team:

Thanks for keeping the magic alive. Go Irish!

Daniel C. Collins
Alumni Hall
Dec. 9
\section*{Scene}

\subsection*{Kanye Shows Flexibility Despite Mainstream Criticism}

\begin{center}
\begin{quote}
\textbf{By JESS SHAFFER}

Ancient Scene Editor

Hip hop may not be for everyone, though Kanye West seems to be the persistent exception to this rule.

While a lot of listeners are skeptical of rap's "listenability," nevertheless, the genre's radio hits blare at parties, dances, and Logic's Hip Hop Night. Undoubtedly, anyone with media access, ears, or a pulse knows Kanye West. After hits like "Gold Digger" and "Novacaine," West's celebrity is ubiquitous in the entertainment business.

His most recent release, "808s & Heartbreak," is another excellent addition to his wildly successful discography that includes "The College Dropout" and "Late Registration."

This new album rises to the daunting challenge of satisfying previous hits while also appealing to an even wider selection of music listeners. Focusing more on hip-hop and hip-hop than his previous releases, "808s & Heartbreak" continues to display West's undeniable musical talent and genuine ability to blend what can only be called poetry with an extensive mix of musical influences.

"808s & Heartbreak" displays West's vocal capabilities, which is often overlooked because of his compelling rap. Vocal and secure, West's voice has a subtle power, complicated by his repetitive use of simple, clean-cut sounds like strings, piano videogame beeping, tribal drumming and, vary chorus singing. This combination of reusing similar music and his smooth vocals creates a new sound not typical of Kanye. This artistic growth displays maturity and flexibility that is consistent with his past talent and proof of his potential for continued growth.

West's fourth studio album is aptly titled, focusing mostly on what else heartbreak. While heartbreak may typically be indicative of heartbreak breakups, West handles the experience of heartbreak with sensitivity and depth. The album naturally unfolds the complexities of emotions and the experience of heartbreak with awareness to textured emotions and experiences. The album also allows West a welcome glimpse into West's personality and past, up to a concert recording board for his lyrics. His commentary and observations, as always, provide both an investigation into his celebrity and also a sharp and understanding of suffering.

It's exceedingly difficult to select album highlights. In fact, the entire work merits appreciation. "Love Lockdown" and "Heartless" have already become regulars on radio. Both tracks are characterized by their staccato, accented blend of tribal rawness and processed, mechanical beats.

There is something both controlled and passionate in these and other songs on the album. But while the two better-known tracks only show one facet of the album, the other songs highlight other musical elements, such as the drumming and beeping, which persist subtly throughout all the tracks. Additionally, airy chorus chanting and beautiful videography are frequent in the tracks. "RoboCop" about a "spoiled little LA girl" utilizes the string backup subtly. "Paranoid" has a 1980s pop style that is both passé and simultaneously musically relevant and likeable. Overall, the subtle instrumental elements and West's distinctive diction and vocals, unto the varying experiments in sound and emotions, which is backed up by many other memorable artists, including Young Jeezy, Kid Cudi, and Lil Wayne, who display artists provide rapping, which flow some break from West's singing. Lil Wayne's and Young Jeezy's gritty twang provide an intriguing contrast to West's usual style.

While rap may typically seem abrasive musically, West's approach is with his smooth vocals that envelope insightful, poignant lyrics. On the whole, "808s & Heartbreak" is eloquent, simple and rich. It might be a new facet of Kanye West's personality and style, but his compelling style that fans fell in love with is still distinctively present. As usual, West uses his musical genius and flexible talent to take his craft to the next level, to the benefit of the entertainment and music industry and listeners alike.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu
\end{quote}
\end{center}

\subsection*{808s & Heartbreak}

\textbf{Kanye West}

\begin{center}
\textbf{Label: Roc-A-Fella Records}
Recommended Tracks: "Love Lockdown," RoboCop, and "See You In My Nightmares"
\end{center}

\subsection*{Undertones Warm-Up for Christmas Tour with Friday Concert}

\begin{center}
\textbf{By JORDAN GAMBLE}

Scene Writer

On Friday, a break from "studying" for whatever happens on study days) to check out the winter concert of the Undertones. Notre Dame's men's a cappella group. Scene talked to sophomore Griffin Dassatti about this weekend's concert and other upcoming events for the Undertones.

Scene: What is the Undertones' winter concert like?

Dassatti: The winter concert is one of our favorite events of the year, and we've been preparing for it basically since our last concert in late December. We'll be doing a lot of our traditional stuff, along with a few new numbers and, of course, some Christmas music just in time for the season. So far the response has been pretty good. I guess a lot of people like the idea of taking a break from studying Friday night.

Dassatti: What is the process like for arranging a cappella performances?

Dassatti: We arrange all of our own music, and some of the stuff we'll sing on Friday was done by guys currently in the group, while other songs were taken from years past. As for how we arrange, I'd say there are two basic methods we tend to follow. Sometimes we'll get a copy of the sheet music and directly transpose the notes the instruments are playing, meaning we're literally doing the song a cappella. With other songs though, we might use that method as a basis and then add our own flare to it.

Scene: Who else is in the Undertones?

Dassatti: There are 12 of us in the group. 11 currently here. We have two sophomores (myself and Kyle Neiman), five juniors (Dominic Go, Mike Flattery, Tom Ronan, Mike Mahoney, and Chris Meister) and four seniors (Brian Green, Tim Cummings, Ben Willis, and Robert Curry). One other junior, Scott Robertson, is in London this semester but he'll switch places with Meister, who leaves in the spring for Cairo.

As for leadership, it kind of depends on what you're looking for. Brian is our musical director, Chris is the business manager — I'm in charge of organizing concerts/events/ et cetera — and Robert is the tour manager.

Scene: What kind of practice or meeting schedule do you have leading up to a concert?

Dassatti: Our practice schedule is usually Monday and Wednesday nights for an hour and a half or so, and we tend to do more practice before a concert, but because Glee Club has been so busy these last few weeks with Christmas obligations it's been interesting trying to get everything together in time. Still, I think we'll be OK.

Scene: What other concerts do you put on during the school year?

Dassatti: Aside from a lot of small University events, we have four major concerts planned for this year. The first one was back in September, when we released our latest album, "Stranded." We've got our traditional semester concerts — this Friday's and one in the spring — and we've also planned an Undertones Reunion concert for Feb. 28. There will be a lot of "Tunes" alumni coming back to sing for that one, and it'll be a really great time.

Scene: What is the Undertones winter tour going to be like?

Dassatti: We'll be touring for the second half of Christmas Break. We'll start in Indianapolis and then spend a little over a week down south with stops in Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana. Tours in general are a great time because you get to go around the country, meeting a lot of really cool alumni and just singing for people, which we love.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu
\end{center}
By MICHELLE FORDICE
Sudanese Scene Editor

The race is coming to an end! Classes taper off today and we only have finals week left to survive. Soon we'll be home with mom's cooking, or at least a well-stocked pantry, welcoming us back. So look forward to the indulgences of the holiday season and don't forget to take some time to mess around in the kitchen. Until then, here are a couple of recipes to get you through that push to winter break.

This week's recipes:

**English muffin pizzas**

These are an easy and tasty option whether you're at home, in the dorm or in the dining hall. Pizza on demand. This will let you skip the long lines at North's pizza bar, while still letting you choose some of your own ingredients.

1. Toast an English muffin in the microwave until the cheese is melted. 
2. Ladle some marinara sauce over each half of the English muffin. 
3. Top with cheese, vegetables and meats. There are options all over the dining hall. Look to the salad bar for bell peppers, shredded mozzarella and cheddar, red onion, banana peppers and mushrooms. Use the Mexican Bar for black olives and sliced chicken. Try the pasta bar for meatballs you can cut in half. Want to get more creative? Replace the marinara with other ingredients like barbeque sauce, which is great when paired with chicken and cheddar cheese. You can even make a white pizza, topping it with a little olive oil, feta, black olives and mushrooms. 
4. Heat your entire pizza in the microwave until the cheese melts.

Feta, tomato, and corn bread salad

Corn bread is delicious, but it rarely serves as more than the bread to go with the rest of your meal. This recipe mixes it with other ingredients to make a savory salad. Sadly, corn bread is not offered every day in the dining hall, but it does pop up just a bit. Here's a recipe for submitting this recipe. We would love to feature your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.

3. Break up the corn bread into bite-sized pieces and mix together with the tomatoes and crumbled feta cheese. 
4. Pour some of the honey mixture over the cornbread, toma­toes and feta to give the salad a touch of sweetness and mois­ture.

Quick Tip

Make tortellini in brodo! Head to Italy and you will find that they often serve their tortellini in broth. To simulate it in the din­ ing hall, take a ladle of Chicken broth in the Pot broth (avoiding the other ingredients) and then toss in some tortellini from the pasta bar. Thanks to Charlie Vogelheim for submitting this recipe.

**Frida: Madeline's Christmas, 7:30 p.m., Elco Performing Arts Center**

In this sweet performance, which will take you on a trip down memory lane, the story of Madeline's Christmas Adventure is brought to life, recalling the tale so many of us grew up loving. When Madeline's peers come down with a bad bout of the flu just before Christmas, she is forced with the tough decision of sticking around to care for her friend or heading home for the familial holiday. She is overcome with compassion and decides to stay in Paris to comfort her bed-ridden pal. An adventure ensues when a rug merchant with some magical rugs shows up at the "old house in Paris that was covered with vines." The performance will take place at the Elco Performing Arts Center. See www.care­ everywhere.com for details.

**Sun: Nature Photography by David Hachen and Pottery by Jane Pelleouchaud, Opening Reception 2 - 4 p.m., Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley**

Explore the opening reception of one of Notre Dame's very own premier photographers, David Hachen, and the pottery of Jane Pelleouchaud, an artist and DJ for WVIK radio. The gallery will open at the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley and the artists will be available for a meet and greet on Sunday. This free event will help stimulate the right side of your brain, just in time for Monday's finals! The Gallery will be open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu
NCAA Football

Tebow goes for second straight Heisman

Oklahoma's Bradford and Texas' McCoy to join Tebow as Heisman Trophy finalists in New York City this weekend

Associated Press

Tebow will go for two, coach says

Tim Tebow will go for two, according to Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops. Tebow has been named a Heisman Trophy finalist for the second straight year.

"He's excited and he wants to win," Stoops said Wednesday after Oklahoma's practice. "Tim has the desire to try to win. He wants to win.

That's why he's the team's leader and the chance to hold that crystal ball." Tebow has been named a Heisman finalist in each of his final two seasons.

"I'm thinking they may put him out this year," said Tebow'sTim coach Urban Meyer during a news conference in South Florida with Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops to promote the national title game against Alabama last Saturday.

"If you're going to play quarterback in our league, you better be able to put a lot of points on the board," McCoy said. "There is just so many good offenses in this league."

That victory wasn't enough to get McCoy and Texas into the big 12 or national championship game instead of the Fiesta Bowl.

Heisman organizers generally invite three to five players, based on vote totals.

Florida quarterback Tim Tebow poses after being named the Heisman Trophy winner at a ceremony Dec. 8, 2007 in New York City.

Florida quarterback Tim Tebow poses after being named the Heisman Trophy winner at a ceremony Dec. 8, 2007 in New York City. (ASSOCIATED PRESS)
Men's Basketball
AP Top 25

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Women's Basketball
AP Top 25

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MIAA Basketball Conference Standings
team | conference record
1 Hope | 2-0
2 Saint Mary's | 2-0
3 Adrian | 1-0
4 Cal | 1-1
5 Trine | 1-1
6 Olivet | 0-0
7 Alma | 0-1
8 Albion | 0-2
9 Kalamazoo | 0-2

MLB

Yankees, Sabathia reach agreement

Associated Press

LAS VIGAS — There is no recession for the New York Yankees.

Flexing the economic muscle of their new billion-dollar ballpark and ignoring industries-wide nervousness over big-money deals, the Yankees landed the top free-agent pitcher when they agreed Wednesday to the framework of a $161 million, seven-year contract with CC Sabathia.

The amount is a record for a pitcher and the fourth-highest ever in baseball. It signaled a new willingness by the Yankees to spend in an attempt to regain dominance and win the World Series for the first time since 2000.

"I'm sure every team in baseball would love to have him. He's a guy who's an intimidating factor on the mound," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said at the winter meetings.

Sabathia's contract figure seems quite appropriate — in February the Yankees moved 161st Street in the Bronx to their monumental $1.3 billion palace, where ticket-cost up to $2,500, fans can watch games at a marbel bar and the clubhouse contains a swimming pool, hot tub and every imaginable convenience. The way the schedule lines up, there's a good chance Sabathia would pitch the opener there April 16 against Cleveland — which traded him to Milwaukee last July.

"It illustrates that baseball is a very different economic model than the real world," said Scott Boras, the agent for Manny Ramirez, Mark Teixeira and other free agents also seeking big deals.

The Yankees and Sabathia's agents still need to work out all the details and the pitcher must pass a physical, a baseball official familiar with the talks told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal has not been completed.

Sabathia even has the right to opt out after three seasons and become a free agent again.

"I think it's a great deal for him and a great deal for the Yankees," Cincinnati Reds manager Dusty Baker said. "I'm sure he's going to help them win." The two New York teams have made the biggest splashes in the slow-moving free-agent market. The Mets, moving into $880 million Grit Field, finalized their $37 million, three-year contract with closer Francisco Rodriguez on Wednesday.

In Brief

Cassel leaves Patriots after father's death

SAN JOSE, Calif. — New England Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel left the team Wednesday to join his family following the death of his father earlier in the week.

"Our thoughts are with him and his family during this time," Coach Bill Belichick said before practice. "Right now we're just taking it day to day. He's going to take care of what he has to do." Belichick said that Greg Cassel died Monday night and Matt has left the team to be with his family in Southern California. Belichick said he didn't know when Cassel would rejoin the team or whether he would be able to start Sunday against the Oakland Raiders.

The Patriots are practicing this week in San Jose. They stayed on the West Coast after last Sunday's 24-21 win in Seattle.

Matt Cassel is from Northridge in the Los Angeles area and his father and mother Barbara divorced when he was 14. Greg Cassel was a script writer.

NBA

around the dial

Celtics at Wizards 8:00 p.m., TNT
Trail Blazers at Jazz 10:30 p.m., TNT

Owner says AFL could call off 2009 season

NEW YORK — The Arena Football League is poised to call off its 2009 season, the owner of its Los Angeles franchise told a newspaper.

Avengers owner Casey Wasserman told a story posted on the Los Angeles Times' Web site Wednesday that the AFL needs to take the time to become more efficient because of the poor economy.

Wasserman is a former league chairman and one of the AFL's major power brokers.

Avengers spokesman John Tamanaha confirmed to The Associated Press that the team expects the 2009 season to be canceled. Wasserman told the newspaper the decision was not official, but he expected owners to vote to approve it this week.

The 16-team league has repeatedly delayed the start of free agency and the release of its 2009 schedule after an offseason of uncertainty.
Mullen named next MSU coach

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen will be the new football coach at Mississippi State, moving from the Southeastern Conference champions to one of the league’s perennial cellar dwellers.

Mullen arrived in Starkville on Wednesday afternoon and will be introduced at a news conference Thursday morning. He leaves Gainesville as the top-ranked Gators are preparing to play for their second national title in three years.

"A lot of people get in this profession and when you have head coaching opportunities, they're very rare," Urban Meyer said at the conference in Hollywood, Fla. "Head coaching opportunities in the Southeastern Conference at a young age is a great honor. So (Tim) Tebow had the same exact reaction that I did: Doggone it, but we wish you well."

The 36-year-old has been an assistant coach for 14 years and spent the last eight with Urban Meyer at Bowling Green, Utah and Florida.

Florida won the SEC with a dominant offense and will play No. 2 Oklahoma for the BCS national championship next month. Meyer told reporters he was not sure if Mullen would be staying through the season.

"Mullen replaces Greg Croom left the program Nov. 29 after the Bulldogs suffered a humiliating 45-0 loss to archrival Mississippi. He said in a recent television interview that he was prepared to make changes to his coaching staff in order to please fans, boosters and Byrne, but that Byrne wanted to head in a new direction.

While Croom was credited with improving the overall talent at Mississippi State despite NCAA sanctions he inherited, the former NFL assistant coach and All-American center at Alabama could never get his complicated and conservative run-first version of the West Coast offense into gear.

The Bulldogs never cracked the top 10 under Croom and finished 113th out of 119 Bowl Subdivision teams with 274.9 yards per game of total offense and 115th in scoring with 15.3 points per game this season.

Byrne said he was looking for a coach who could jettison that woeful offense and get him. Mullen led the Gators to a team record for points in a season this year and has Tebow in the running for a second Heisman Trophy.

He also helped develop quarterback Alex Smith into a No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft as quarterbacks coach at Utah.

The Gators led the nation in scoring last year and are third this season with 45.5 points per game. Mullen directs the nation's No. 18 offense (442.4 yards per game) and No. 11 rushing offense (229.7 ypg).

The Gators run a spread option offense, the kind of attack that would match the skills of incoming quarterback Tyler Russell of Meridian, the Bulldogs' top recruit who has left his nonbinding oral commitment to Mississippi State in place despite Croom's departure.

Mullen is expected to begin recruiting immediately in an attempt to hold together the promising class Croom put together before resigning.

Mississippi State's new coach spent two seasons apiece as wide receivers coach at Wagner and Columbia from 1994-97 after graduating from Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa., where he played tight end.

He then spent three seasons as a graduate assistant at Syracuse and Notre Dame, where he met Meyer and later followed him to Bowling Green.

"He's a great coach," Meyer said. "I made a comment when someone wrote an article about us and I said, 'Boy, his resume is pretty good.'" Meyer said. "When you work with a guy, you don't realize it. He's been with me as a graduate assistant at Notre Dame, we went together to Bowling Green, developed Josh Harris, went from there to Alex Smith at Utah, and then came here and Chris Leak and Tim. So the resume is pretty strong and I wish him all the best."
**STUDY TIME**

DeBartolo Hall

**STUDY DATES AND TIMES:**
December 12, 13, 14: 7am to 3:00am  
Midnight Snacks!

Exam Dates: December 15-18: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar’s office.

December 19: DeBartolo Hall closes at 5:30pm.

See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs: Room 103 or 104.

Coleman-Morse: December 12-18:

Finals Week: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar’s office.

December 19: Coleman - Morse closes at 5:30 pm
1st Floor: 7:00am-4:00am  
2nd floor: 7:00am-3:00am  
3rd Floor: 7:00am-12am
See Building Support Person Room 101 if you have a specific need.

O'Shaughnessy: December 12, 13, 14: 7am to 3:00am

*Finals Week: December 15-18: 7am to 3:00am

204, 206, 207, 208, 209, 242, 338, and 345: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar’s office.

Good Luck with Finals

**NCAA FOOTBALL**

**UT's Orakpo wins Lombardi Award**

Associated Press  

HOUSTON — Texas defensive end Brian Orakpo won the Rotary Lombardi Award on Wednesday night, the first Longhorn to take home the trophy in 24 years.

Orakpo is the first Houston native to win the Lombardi, awarded by the city’s Rotary Club to the nation’s top college lineman or linebacker. He’s the third Texas player to win it, and the first since offensive tackle Tony Degrate in 1984. Texas defensive tackle Kenneth Sims won it in 1981.

The 6-foot-4, 260-pound Orakpo already won the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, awarded by the Charlotte Touchdown Club to the nation’s top defensive player, and was the Big 12’s Defensive Player of the Year. Orakpo finished the regular season with 10.5 sacks, 15.5 tackles for loss and four forced fumbles.

Orakpo beat out Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis, Southern Cal linebacker Rey Maualuga and Alabama offensive lineman Andre Smith. At a banquet before the announcement, the other finalists practically conceded the award to Orakpo, who played at nearby Lamar High School.

"They’ve been saying, 'Give the award to ‘Rak’ already,’” Orakpo said. “It’s just fun to be out here. I started my career here in Houston and for a major collegiate award to be presented in Houston, it’s a 1-2 combo. You can’t beat that.”

The Longhorns (11-1) face the Buckeyes (10-2) in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 5, but Orakpo said he’s still upset that Texas won’t get to play for the national championship three days later. The Longhorns beat Oklahoma earlier in the season, but the Sooners will face Florida for the title because they finished ahead of Texas in the Bowl Championship Series standings.

“It was very unfortunate, but we have to move on,” Orakpo said.

Maualuga can relate. An early loss to Oregon State ruined Southern Cal’s championship hopes and the Trojans (11-1) will play Penn State (11-1) in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.

“We can’t show how good we are when we can’t play teams like Florida or Alabama or Texas,” said Maualuga, the Pac-10’s Defensive Player of the Year. “Hopefully, down the line, there’s a playoff system. As for now, we’re just happy we get to play in the Rose Bowl.”

**RING IN 2009 WITH #1 IRISH HOCKEY!**

**Jan. 2:**

**MINNESOTA-DULUTH vs. UMass-Lowell (5:05 p.m. CT)**

**NOTRE DAME vs. UNION (8:05 p.m. CT)**

**Jan. 3:**

**UNION vs. UMD or UMass-Lowell (4:05 p.m. CT)**

**NOTRE DAME vs. UMD or UMass-Lowell (7:05 p.m. CT)**

**ND Students:**

**Purchase Special Discount Tickets for $10, Available Online Only @ SearsCentre.com/Promotions & Enter Promo Code: “NDST”**

For questions call the Sears Centre @ 888-SEARSTIX
Griffin, Sooners overwhelm Maine

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Blake Griffin had another double-double and Oklahoma remained undefeated.

The 6-foot-10 sophomore had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead the fifth-ranked Sooners to a 70-52 victory over Maine on Wednesday night.

Griffin made his first six shots and finished 11-of-13 from the field in recording his seventh double-double of the season. He played 22 minutes and 14 of his points came on dunks.

Oklahoma (3-0) is off to its best start since the 2003-04 team opened with 10 straight wins.

"Hopefully we can keep it going all season," Griffin said. "It goes back to not taking anyone lightly. We can't stop there. We can't be satisfied with what we do in nine or 10 games."

Freshman Willie Warren added 19 points and reserve Hay Willis had 17 points for the Sooners, who shared the spotlight with the Oklahoma football team.

At halftime, the football Sooners were given a rousing ovation as they celebrated their third straight Big 12 championship. No. 2 Oklahoma faces top-ranked Florida on Jan. 8 in the BCS championship game.

Mark S窥dy had 10 points to lead the Black Bears (5-3), who shot 29 percent from the field and had 20 turnovers.

"We knew we had our work cut out coming in here," Maine coach Ted Woodward said. "They have a tremendous player in Blake Griffin. We were a little bit physically overmatched."

Griffin, who had 15 or more rebounds in a game six times this season, had three blocks, three assists and two steals. He left the game for good with 5:54 to play and the Sooners had 71-40.

Oklahoma led by as many as 16 points in the first half and was ahead by as many as 32 in the second. The Sooners had 28 points off turnovers while committing only nine themselves.

Tony Cracker had 10 points for Oklahoma, which shot 45 percent from the field, but was 7-of-28 from 3-point range.

"I'm pleased with the win," Oklahoma coach Jeff Capel said. "Our athleticism overwhelmed them a little bit. There's not a lot of people who can match up with him (Griffin) physically."
NFL

Plaxico loses one million from NY

The New York Giants have refused to pay suspended receiver Plaxico Burress a $1 million portion of a signing bonus from a contract signed in September.

N.F.L. Players Association union spokesman Carl Francis confirmed Wednesday evening that the Super Bowl champions decided not to make the payment, which was due Wednesday.

"We will file a claim in the appropriate forum to enforce his right to receive and keep the money entitled to him under his player contract," Francis said in an e-mail.

Giants general manager Jerry Reese waved his hands earlier in the day when asked whether the team would make the payment.

The union on Tuesday filed a grievance challenging the Giants' decision to suspend and fine Burress last week, just days after the Super Bowl hero accidentally shot himself in a Manhattan nightclub on Nov. 29.

The union said the team violated the collective bargaining agreement placing Burress on the reserve-non football injury list, suspending him for the final four games of the regular season and fining him an additional week's salary for conduct detrimental to the team.

Burress faces charges of criminal possession of a weapon relating to the shooting. He pleaded not guilty. He is due back in court on March 31.

The focus of the investigation in the past week has been on the role of Giants middle linebacker Antonio Pierce. He talked to investigators on Friday about the shooting. Neither Pierce's attorney nor the police would reveal what was said.

Associated Press

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Associated Press
GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!

During the month of December, students have been enjoying FREE pizza and soda compliments of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, Papa John’s, Coca-Cola and these participating Notre Dame clubs.

Ann Arbor ~ Aurora Fox Valley ~ Austin ~ Belgium ~ CA Ctrl Coast ~ Canton
Cape Cod ~ Cedar Rapids/Iowa City ~ Central California ~ Central Illinois
Central Missouri ~ Charleston ~ Charlotte ~ Chattanooga ~ Cincinatti ~ Cleveland
Colorado Springs ~ Columbus ~ Delaware ~ Denver ~ Des Moines ~ Dubuque
East Africa ~ Eastern Montana~ El Paso ~ Emerald Coast ~ Erie
Eugene/Southern Oregon ~ Fairfield County ~ Fort Worth ~ Germany ~ Gettysburg
Greater Boston ~ Greater Orlando ~ Greater Sarasota ~ Greater Tampa Bay
Greensburg/Uniontown ~ Hanover Township ~ Harrisburg ~ Houston ~ Idaho
Jersey Shore ~ Kalamazoo ~ Kokomo ~ Lansing ~ Laredo ~ Las Vegas
Lee County ~ Long Island ~ Lorain County ~ Mahoning & Shenango Valley
Marion ~ Maryland ~ McHenry County ~ Memphis ~ Mid Hudson Valley ~ Nashville
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Ventura County ~ Vermont ~ Vero Beach ~ West Central Ohio
Western Carolinas ~ Western Montana ~ Wichita
Skra
continued from page 24

was forced to foul. Michigan made three of its four foul shots to seal the win.
The offensive rebounds hurt Notre Dame’s chances, even though they didn’t result in points, McGraw said.
“I took time even though they didn’t score,” she said. “I took time we needed at the end.”

Irish guard Brittany Mallory landed awkwardly on her leg when jumping to break up a pass and fell to the court in pain. She was helped off the court. McGraw said she didn’t know the extent of the injury and that Mallory will see the doctor tomorrow.

Irish guard Ashley Barlow didn’t start the game, but scored 14 points on 7-of-13 shooting in 37 minutes off the bench. She had been battling a concussion she suffered against Michigan State on Nov. 29 and had not played since then.

“She played well, she did a lot of good things.” McGraw said. “She defended well, she rebounded well. I thought actually she had the best game of anyone.”

Muffett McGraw Irish coach

“[Ashley Barlow] played well, she did a lot of good things. She defended well. She rebounded well. I thought actually she had the best game of anyone.”

Muffett McGraw Irish coach

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Half
continued from page 24

an unbeaten streak that includes 10 conference wins (two in shootouts). With a home-and-home series with Bowling Green this weekend — in Ohio Friday, at the Joyce Center at 7 p.m. Saturday — the Irish will have a chance to over-take Miami, who they trail by three points with two games in hand, in the conference standings.

“We have a tough road schedule and even our home games are going to be challenging.”

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

important for us. One of our objectives is to finish in the top four of the standings, so we put a little bit for emphasis on that than the national standings,” senior goalender Jordan Pearce said.

Pearce has been a big part of the Irish defense keeping opponents to 1.36 goals per game throughout the past month.

Two of those wins came in impressive fashion against this weekend’s opponent, the Falcons. Bowling Green is 4-5-1-0 (8-3, 4-5-1-0 CHA) left to the Irish 5-1 and 9-1 on Nov. 21-22. Bowling Green hasn’t won since sweeping a series with struggling Northern Michigan on Nov. 14-15, but that doesn’t make the Falcons any less of a formidable opponent, Jackson said.

After this weekend’s games, Notre Dame will have a three-week break before starting the daunting second half of their schedule. The Irish face two-three game series with Michigan, Nebraska-Omaha and Alaska, all three of whom are in the Top 25.

“Our second half is just like last year. People wonder why we went into a little bit of a slump last year and part of it was our schedule,” Jackson said. “We have a tough road schedule and even our home games are going to be challenging.”

Notre Dame’s power play has been dominant at times — it was against the Falcons, when the Irish went 8-for-18 over the two nights — and has become a major factor in the Irish dominance of late. Special teams were a major concern a year ago, and Jackson said they could separate this team from the last.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

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Terriers
continued from page 24

Then the real fun starts for the Irish — they begin Big East play on New Year’s Eve at DuPaul before squaring off against four more conference opponents before classes resume.

"Every time this time of year comes around, it's exciting for me and for us as a team because it's all basketball," McAiarney said. "School, especially around this time of year, can be a big distraction, so having finals over with leading up to Big East season will be good for us."

Kyle McAiarney
Irish senior

"School, especially around this time of year, can be a big distraction, so having finals over with leading up to Big East season will be good for us."

"I would be lying if I said we're not looking forward to Big East play but you've still got to take these games seriously," Harangody said. "We've still got a lot of things to do, to clean some things up in these games. That's what's nice about these games. And with Boston University coming in — they're a good team and it should be a good challenge for us."

Harangody said the team did not play well on Saturday and deserved to drop in the rankings.

"We didn't deserve that top-10 ranking and we know that," he said. "We realize that rankings don't really mean anything right now so we're not really thinking about that."

Still, Harangody said the Irish are capable of performing much better than they did against Ohio State. They will get their first chance to prove it against Boston University.

"Everyone's hungry to get back on the court and prove we're that top team," Harangody said. "I think we'll be ready Saturday."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Frosh
continued from page 24

people want to bring me down," Follow Olympian Kelley Hurley and her sister Courtney lead the women's epee division, while Ashley Sorrette anchors the women's saber.

After posting very successful individual accomplishments in the fall, the Irish face their first test as a team January 24 and 25 when they compete at St. John's and New York University. Columbia, Northwestern, and reigning national champion Ohio State will all be at the invitation- al as well.

"It's very hard for coaches to predict," Bednarski said. "I've been in this business for so long. There are so many factors we can't control, especially on such a young team. But anything can happen if we make it to the Bloody Four."

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Belles
continued from page 24

at 30-30 heading into halftime. The Belles would lead most of the second half. However, Manchester shooters got hot down the stretch making over 60 percent of their field goals in the second half.

Erin Newsom continued her strong on-court performance for the Belles finishing with a team high 14 points and 12 rebounds. Murphy added 13 points coming off the bench, including going 7- for-8 from the charity stripe.

Contact Alex West at awest@hbc-md.edu

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**ND Women’s Basketball**

**Down to the Wire**

Irish suffer overtime loss to the Wolverines

By BILL BRINK

Once Michigan guard Jessica Minnfield forced overtime, the Wolverines forward Stephanie Skrba took full advantage of it. Back-to-back layups from Skrba gave Michigan a one-point lead, and the Wolverines hung on to beat No. 8 Notre Dame 63-59 in overtime in Ann Arbor, Mich. Wednesday night.

The Irish unbroken streak ends at seven, while Michigan moves to 2-2 against ranked teams.

Skrba lit up Notre Dame’s history to win a national title in his first season and win multiple national titles in fewer than five seasons. Although laden with talent, the team features 14 freshmen and will miss the support of a very strong senior cast from 2008. Bednarski believes the experience of Olympians Gerek Meinhardt and Kelley Hurley will play an important role in the team’s success.

“Experience in the Olympic games shows two things,” Bednarski said. “First, it shows that you are a good defender who can play at the highest level of professional fencing. Second, it shows that you can fight on the big stage in front of all the cameras. This will bring calm to our minds and really move on and bounce back for the tournament.”

After the game against the Terriers, Notre Dame will have another week off before taking on Delaware State and Savannah State.

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**Fencing**

Bednarski is confident in potential of very young squad

14 freshmen replace talented senior class

By CHRIS MASOUD

Led by sixth-year head coach Janusz Bednarski, members of the Irish fencing team are sharpening their blades as they eagerly await the start of intercollegiate play. Following a season that saw the Irish achieve second place at the NCAA Fencing Championships, the fighters have high hopes for the 2009 season.

“We have a very strong team,” Bednarski said. “Maybe not the strongest in the nation, but we can fight anybody.”

Bednarski is the only coach in Notre Dame’s history to win a national title in his first season and win multiple national titles — a record that he plans to break this year.

SMC BasketBall

**Belles finish just short in loss to Manchester**

By ALEX WEST

Saint Mary’s came up just short Wednesday afternoon, losing to cross-state rival Manchester 70-66. The Belles (4-4) watched an eight-point lead with 3:50 to play in the game disappear as they failed to make a field goal for the rest of the game.

“Any loss is hard to swallow but it was especially tough because we know we should have come out with the win,” freshman Maggie Ronan said. “We had a good lead down the stretch of the game and let them come back in the end.”

Kelly McElhinny who finished with 16 points for Manchester made the go-ahead jump shot to make the score 67-66 with just 21 seconds left on the clock.

“Cruel possessions were lost because of turnovers and a lack of rebounding,” Ronan said. “We only scored in the last three minutes of the game and they did.” Freshman Kelley Murphy said.

Manchester got the ball back and hit two foul shots to stretch their lead. Ronan had a chance to tie the game in the final moments but her shot came up just short.

Manchester’s Kristen Lancaster tacked on a free throw to put the game at 70-66 with 1 second to play.

The game was neck-and-neck throughout with the score tied.

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**Men’s Basketball**

Terriers are next, Big East looms

By FRAN TOLAN

By the time the game takes the court against Boston University Saturday, Notre Dame will have had exactly a week to think about its 67-62 loss to Ohio State. The Irish, who dropped from No. 7 in the AP and ESPN/USA Today polls to No. 12/13, respectively, are eager to get back on the court.

“We had a few days off which we kind of needed to get our energy level back up and we can learn from this loss a lot of ways,” Irish co-captain Kyle McAlarney said. “But I also think it’s important for us to put it in the back of our minds and really move on and bounce back for the tournament.”

After the game against the Terriers, Notre Dame will have another week off before taking on Delaware State and Savannah State.