Admissions office reports second-highest number of applicants in history

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

The University was unsure if the struggling economy would cause a decline in the number of applicants for the Class of 2013, but the Office of Undergraduate Admissions was pleased to receive the second-highest number of applications in history, said Dan Saracino, assistant provost for Undergraduate Admissions.

Students pack JACC to cheer on Irish men

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

With football season now over and the winter sports season in full force, even more students have shifted their support of Irish athletics from the field to the court.

Led by last year's Big East Player of the Year, Luke Harangody, the Fighting Irish men's basketball team has started the 2008-2009 season with an impressive 12-4 record.

Fitness classes free for week

Sample period ends Sunday; RecSports online registration starts today

By KAITLYNN REILY
Associate News Editor

Pedaling up hills and down, over straightaways and through to the finish, 20 students completed the Tour de Rock Wednesday.

Though snow covered the ground outside and temperatures stayed in the single digits, in the basement of Rockne Memorial Gym, there was more spandex than sweaters.

Angela Gallagher, a pediatric speech therapist at St. Joseph Medical Center in South Bend by day, teaches three cycling classes at Notre Dame, including the "Cycle N August." She was teaching a flex-tone class at the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center Tuesday.

Activists share stories to begin MLK celebration

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's College Multicultural Services and Student Programs hosted a discussion panel Wednesday in order to begin the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The panelists' discussion focused on the importance of nonviolent protest and community organizations.

The panelists included Paula Ciscomono, who is portrayed in the movie "The Walkout," opening in March 2009, Joanne Bland, co-founder and former director of the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma, Ala., Lynn Coleman, Assistant to the Mayor of South Bend, and Gladys Muhammad, Associate Director of the South Bend Heritage Foundation.

Monica Tetzlaff, facilitator and director of the Civil Rights Heritage Center at Indiana University South Bend, led the discussion by asking the panelists questions.

Part of the presentation included a showing of a trailer for the film "The Walkout," based on Ciscomono's story. In 1966, she led a walkout involving Mexican-American students in the East Los Angeles high schools protesting their substandard education.

Students govt's bodies prepare topics to cover during Spring semester over Winter Break

By JENN NETZ
News Editor

Student body president Bob Reish and student body vice president Grant Schmidt have quite the agenda to complete before their term ends April 1.

Over Winter Break, the two were at work, making lists of what they hope to accomplish in their remaining months in office, including more resolutions passed in the three student government bodies: Campus Life Council (CLC), Council of Representatives (COR) and Student Senate.

"If we get a good majority of those done we'll consider ourselves successful," Reish said.

Reish told The Observer COR members also compiled ideas for what their group will tackle this semester. He said most of the suggestions were not part of the duo's initial campaign.

Potential topics of discussion in COR in the upcoming weeks include a possible increase in the student activities fee to provide funding for a spring concert of lecture series and a reevaluation of the football ticket lottery policies, specifically home game ticket exchanges.

Reish said the student body can expect progress updates from the numerous students who are concerned and invested in the issues.

Student body president Bob Reish, left, and vice president Grant Schmidt, have a few more initiatives to launch before the end of their term in April.

This panel Wednesday was led by Monica Tetzlaff, facilitator and director of the Civil Rights Heritage Center at Indiana University South Bend, and Gladys Muhammad, Associate Director of the South Bend Heritage Foundation.

Activists share stories to begin MLK celebration
SECRET LIFE OF AN ND TEEN

Look for me Mondays at 8 p.m. and you'll find me slopping on my futon partaking in my embarrassing, but completely necessary guilty pleasure: watching "The Secret Life of the American Teenager." Here's a recap for those of you who aren't as unhealthily obsessed as I am (that number is probably smaller than you think).

The show revolves around Amy, a painfully naive high school freshman who gets knocked up one time at band camp. Ben, an equally naive and doubly annoying Freshman, is Amy's boyfriend turned husband, but not the father of Amy's baby. Ricky, the school player, is the father of Amy's baby. He is currently sleeping with the school slut, Adrian while dating Grace, a school player, is the father of Amy's baby. He is currently sleeping with the school slut, Adrian while dating Grace, the ultra-Christian, sworn virgin-until-marriage cheerleader. Oh, the drama.

"The Secret Life" is complete with horrendous acting and hard to believe storyline. It is ABC Family's car accident that I just can't peel my eyes away from. With the start of the second season (How in the world does this happen, or all of us underclassmen will be buying our own beer for this weekend.) I have made a list of the top five most ridiculous moments:

1. When Grace and Ricky are baking cookies together and Ricky seductively对其(ing me in my pathetic addiction.
2. When a guy on the phone with Henry's girlfriend trying to guess who she fantasizes about when she flies solo. (They must be a little indiscriminate, I'll bet that you'll soon be joining me in my pathetic addiction.
3. When every single one of the high school characters goes to get fake IDs, which are being produced out of an empty classroom in the high school by a 16-year-old boy with a license. Each kid gets his or her picture taken through a hole in a large cardboard cutout of the Gal veterinary practice.
4. When Ben confesses his love for Amy after about two weeks of dating. Oh, and he also pictures her in the hallway at school after she drops out hoping it will make her come back... How doesn't she find this freaking creepy is beyond me.
5. When Ben and his best friend, Henry, are on the phone with Henry's girlfriend trying to guess who she fantasizes about when she flies solo. (They think it's Shit Laboove. Turns out, it's really Henry.) Meanwhile, she's in the car with her mom while she is having this conversation... This was at least amusing, but still a ridiculous conversation to be having with your best friend, your girlfriend and your mom.

When every single one of the high school characters goes to get fake IDs, which are being produced out of an empty classroom in the high school by a 16-year-old boy with a license. Each kid gets his or her picture taken through a hole in a large cardboard cutout of the Gal veterinary practice. The statues of the late Fr. Ned Joyce and University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh weren't spared from this week's near constant snowfall.

OFFBEAT

Police say NJ man posed as female veterinarian

VINELAND, N.J. Police say a New Jersey man posed as a female animal doctor, run an illegal veterinary practice and set up a phony rescue agency that may have duped pet lovers out of thousands of dollars. Vineland police arrested 26-year-old Daniel C. Toye on Friday and charged him with practicing medicine without a license. He is being held on $10,000 bail.

Police say he ran a business called South Jersey Small Animal Rescue, falsely identifying himself as Dr. Danielle Smith, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania veterinary school. Police say he solicited pets and offered small animals for adoption for a fee. He also solicited donations, claiming the agency was a nonprofit. Authorities say it was not.

Gun goes off in Utah restroom, shuts down Centerville, Utah — The man escaped with a few cuts to his arm, but the toilet made out much worse.

Police say a man's gun fell out of its holster while he pulled up his pants after using the bathroom at a Carl's Jr. restaurant Tuesday. The gun fired when it hit the floor and shattered the commode.

A few shards of porcelain cut the man's arm, and a woman in an adjacent restroom who was frightened by the noise reported she was having chest pain. Both people were checked at the scene and released. No charges are being filed.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WAS THE BEST THING YOU RECEIVED FOR CHRISTMAS?

Deepali Dodd
Eric Fahrenbach
Michael Chiefe
Richard Roggeveen
Tim Ryan
Second-year law
freshman
Knott
Siegfried
off-campus

"A guitar."
"Notre Dame sunglasses."
"70-degree weather."
"An iPod Touch."
"Trans-Siberian Orchestra tickets."

IN BRIEF

University President Emeritus Emeritus Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh will speak about his friendship with Dr. Martin Luther King and his own experiences in the civil rights movement today at 7 p.m. in the Angkern Auditorium of the Suite Museum of Art.

This week's SUB Movie, "Body of Lies," will be shown tonight at 10 p.m and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. in 101 DeBarallo Hall.

Josh Dorfman, the founder and CEO of Viviavi will deliver a lecture titled "Peering into the Green Future: The Trends and Innovations Forging an Abundant Society in Balance with Nature" Friday from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

The Student Activities Office will host Late Night Karaoke Friday from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. The Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The event is free to Notre Dame students with an ID.

"Brian Brushwood: Bizarre Magic" show, which will take place Saturday from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. in Washington Hall, is free and open to students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross.

RecSports is offering a promotion called "Try it, you'll like it." Fitness classes are free until Sunday.

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

TODAY TONIGHT FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER

Students who tried to head out for 75-cent well drinks at Rum Runner's last night may have been surprised to find a plastic sign reading J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill covering the usual tropical-themed sign.

The Bar and Grill, owned by Shirley and John Witmer of Niles, Mich., which became a Rum Runner's franchise in 2002, is no longer associated with the Raleigh, N.C.-based company.

Shortly after the new year, the Witmer's dropped the brand name, according to a recent article in the South Bend Tribune.

J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill manager Casey Constant was quoted by the Tribune saying the Rum Runner's franchise "required three to four nights a week of [the dueling pianos] to maintain the franchise name."

However, at the 236 S. Michigan St. location, the dueling pianos show only took place on weekends while there was occasionally other local entertainment scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday nights.

"In a major metropolitan area you could do that every night. But we see a lot of regulars who go out every night, so you need to change it up," he told the Tribune.

The restaurant is still going to host a live piano bar show on Saturday and Sunday, with the entertainment starting at 8 p.m. and the doors opening at 5 p.m., according to the voice mail message received when calling the location.

It will also continue to offer 75-cent well drinks on Wednesday nights and Thursday will be $2.50 You-Call-It drinks with no cover charge. There will also be karaoke on both nights.

The location's hours will remain the same: opening at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday with a closing time of 2 a.m. The restaurant is closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night.

A new Web site is under construction according the voice message, but anyone interested in the franchise entertainment, the nearest location is in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Contact Liz Harter at chartel1@ saintmarys.edu

Write news. E-mail Jenn at jmetz@nd.edu

Prof. backs Bush on Iran-Israel

Special to The Observer

The reported decision of President Bush to deny Israel's request for assistance in bomb- ing Iranian nuclear facilities was helpful not only to the stability of the Middle Eastern region, but also to the maintenance of international law, according to Mary Ellen O'Connell, Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law in the Notre Dame Law School.

The New York Times reported on Jan. 10 that President Bush had denied a secret request by Israel last year for specialized bombs to be used for an attack on Iran's main nuclear complex.

"The reports say the president acted out of concern that bombing would further destabilize the Middle East," O'Connell said. "It is important to note that such behavior would also violate international law. The U.S. issue with Iran is over violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. "We have been telling Iran it has serious obligations under international law. But there is no obligation more serious than the prohibition on the use of force. Supporting that obligation is the surest way to a more stable Middle East. "President acted wisely," she concluded.

O'Connell, author of "The Power and Purpose of International Law," has written and lectured on international legal regulation of the use of force and conflict and dispute resolution, especially peaceful resolution of disputes prior to an escalation to armed conflict. Particularly interested in the possibility of a classical revival in international law, she has been active in the American Society of International Law, the International Institute for Humanitarian Law, the International Law Association, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

In Honor of MLK
Witness to a Movement:
The story behind the Smithsonian photo of MLK and Father Hesburgh

Witness an intimate conversation between President Emeritus Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. and a panel of ND and MSM faculty and students as he reflects on his experience with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

Thursday, January 15, 2009
7:00 PM
Snite Museum of Art
Annenberg Auditorium

For more information, please call Nicky Magness at (574) 631-6841
Admission

continued from page 1

found that there were 200 more students that we wanted to admit," he said. "It is pleasing to work with the early action applicants."

The average ACT score was 33 and the average SAT score, composed of the combined critical reading and math scores, was 1,451. Saracino said these averages are basically the same as the previous year.

The students accepted under early action represent a wide range of ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds, he said.

Saracino estimated that the average SAT score for the accepted regular action students will be about 20 points lower.

"We don't want to admit too many students and then find out in May 1 that we have too many students," he said.

Despite the economy though, the Office of Financial Aid still guarantees that they will meet the demonstrated need of every student, so, Admissions Office can assure admitted students that their need will be met, which will hopefully keep the yield rate up, Saracino said.

Saracino said many colleges and universities throughout the country are accepting more students as a way to increase the college's revenue, but Notre Dame has no plans to increase the student body, despite the construction of new dormitories on campus.

"My understanding is that the additional housing spaces will be used to create more comfortable situations rather than residence halls," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu.

Irish

continued from page 1

For the rest of the regular season, the Irish are set to face a challenging schedule of opponents including many from the Big East, one of the nation's premier college basketball conferences.

With the team's ranking staying consistently in the top 15, the campus atmosphere is hyped with excitement from the team's success.

"Our team is amazing," freshman Nathan Feldpausch said. "Almost all of the kids are giving it their all."

The student section has been packed to capacity, with the eager fans cramming into the Joyce Center from courthouse to the upper balconies.

"It's really exciting to go to the games," winny Hu said. "The team is doing well."

Along with the normal cheers that students chant during football games, an array of other cheer routines are also involved at basketball games.

"You get a cheer sheet that has information on players on the other team," Feldpausch said. "It's usually pretty funny."

Along with the success of this year's team, the Irish currently hold the longest home winning streak in men's college basketball (44 games), a fact that contributes to high attendance at the games.

"It feels like more and more students and fans show up each game, maybe to be a part of history," freshman Garrett Campbell said.

Currently there are three Big East teams in the top 10 of AP Top 25 poll. While the Irish will face two of these teams on the road, including first-ranked Pittsburgh, the Irish have quality opponents who will make the trek to the Joyce Center.

These teams include fifth-ranked Connecticut, who comes to town on the Jan. 24. ESPN will broadcast the UConn game on College Gameday from the Joyce Center beginning at 11 a.m.

With seven remaining home games, it appears that the attendance at the games will only increase.

"The fans are intense and filled with energy," said Campbell. "The student body is there for the team and everyone's prepared to let them know it."

Contact Liz O'Donnell at odonne1@nd.edu.

RecSports

continued from page 1

Sculpt class offered Wednesday afternoon.

"It's the most effective workout that I've ever done," Gallagher said after the hour-long class had finished. She taught the cycling class last semester for the first time, but has taught other fitness classes at Notre Dame for the past eight years.

The center, one of over 50 fitness classes offered by RecSports, took the group of 20, mostly women, up three "mountains" in a former racquetball court that has been renovated with fans, a sound system and pictures of bikers and nature scenes on the walls.

RecSports has invited Notre Dame students to sample all the courses it offers for free through Sunday. Students can sign up to take a class for the semester starting today at 7:30 a.m.

Jennie Phillips, the assistant director for Fitness and Facilities in the Office of Recreational Sports, said the University has offered students fitness classes since the mid-1980s.

Between May 2007 and April 2008, about 3,000 people participated in fitness classes.

People come to the classes for the quality facilities, the enthusiastic instructors and a positive environment.

Campbell will come to the classes because they are seeing that the classes are effective and they are having fun, Phillips said.

The worklong free trial period gives people a chance to experiment with classes like "Zumba," "Triple Threat," Yoga and "Cardio Funk," Phillips said.

This semester RecSports added an "Aquas Drills" class, which consists of exercises in the deep end of the pool at Rockne Memorial.

The popularity of fitness classes tends to increase in the spring, Phillips said.

"Usually second semester we see a great number of participants because people have New Year's resolutions, they are getting ready for spring break and you can't really go outside. The big indoor sports like football are over," she said.

The most popular classes last year were tennis classes, like "Body Sculpt" or "Flex N Tone," Yoga was also a popular class, Phillips said.

Classes like "Cycle N Sculpt" help students manage stress and keep up their overall health, including managing weight, Gallagher said.

Most students at Notre Dame spend long hours sitting and studying, she said, and taking time off to work out helps the brain function better.

The regular fitness sched­ ule begins Monday and most classes will end April 29. For the past five years, RecSports has offered a variety of free fitness classes during study days and final exam week at the end of the semester, Phillips said.

Online registration begins today at 7:30 a.m. through recsports.nd.edu. Visa and Mastercard are accepted, and cash and checks are accepted at the Rolfs Sports Recreational Center front desk.

Contact Kaitlyn Riedy at kriely@nd.edu.

RecSports fitness classes, like Cardio Boxing shown above, are free for students to sample through Sunday.

RecSports

Applications

MUST BE SUBMITTED BY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

APPICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT: o RLH.N D.EDU

OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING

305 Main Building | Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Deadline: Jan 15, 2009

Please recycle The Observer.

2009-2010 Resident Assistant Applications

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ORLH.ND.EDU

office of residence life and housing

305 main building | Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

Deadline: Jan 15, 2009

Please recycle The Observer.
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Vatican secret confession opens up to the public**

ROME — One of the Vatican’s most secret shrines is being opened to the public, as the papal offices announced Wednesday that one of its tribunals, which handles confessions of sins so grave only the pope can grant absolution, is giving the faithful a peek into their sins to a priest.

The Vatican has long lamented that fewer and fewer Catholics are going to confession, the sacrament in which the faithful can receive forgiveness if they sincerely confess their sins to a priest.

To combat the decline, the so-called “tribunal of conscience” invited the public into the frescoed halls of its imposing 16th-century palazzo for a two-day conference that ended Wednesday.

**Venezuela severs ties with Israel**

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela broke off diplomatic relations Wednesday to protest its military offensive in Gaza, the foreign ministry announced.

The decision by President Hugo Chavez’s socialist government comes about a week after it expelled the Israeli ambassador in Caracas and seven embassy staff members to protest the Jewish state’s actions in Gaza.

Venezuela “has decided to break off diplomatic relations with the state of Israel given the inhuman persecution of the Palestinian people,” the foreign ministry said.

Israel launched the offensive on Dec. 27, seeking to force the ruling Hamas militant group to stop rocket attacks into southern Israel. Palestinian authorities say strikes have killed more than 1,000 of their people. Thirteen Israelis have been killed, four by rocket fire from Gaza.

**National News**

**Obama’s stimulus now $850 billion**

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama’s economic recovery bill has grown to $850 billion after negotiations with his Democratic allies in Congress, who have rewritten some of the president-elect’s tax proposals and may drive the price tag even higher.

For starters, Capitol Hill Democrats are trying to use the economic recovery bill to extend a tax cut for middle- to upper-income taxpayers despite concerns from Obama’s transition team that it won’t boost the economy.

**Apple CEO takes medical leave**

SEATTLE — Apple Inc. co-founder and CEO Steve Jobs, who announced Wednesday he is taking a medical leave until June, said he was being treated to assure investors and employees his recent weight loss was caused by an easily treatable hormone deficiency.

Apple’s stock dropped 7 percent.

Jobs, 53, said in a letter last week that he would remain at Apple’s helm despite the hormone problem, and that he had already begun a “relatively simple and straightforward” treatment. But in an e-mail to employees Wednesday, Jobs backtracked.

“During the past week I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought,” he wrote.

**Local News**

**Man must serve for decapitation**

INDIANAPOLIS — A former racing mechanic convicted of murdering and decapitating her to make her body hard to identify must serve the 60 years to which he was sentenced.

The Indiana Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

Michael Albrecht had appealed after a Marion Superior Court judge refused to reverse his sentence or grant him a new trial in the 1992 murder of 31-year-old Cynthia L. Albrecht. Both Albrechts had been employed by different owners in the now-defunct Championship Auto Racing Teams.

**BIN LADEN MESSAGE NOT SEEN AS THREAT**

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday that a tape believed to carry a message from Osama bin Laden reflects the “isolation” of the al-Qaida leader whose influence over the terrorist network has waned.

“He is there, he is in a deep hole,” Vice President Dick Cheney said in an impromptu Wednesday meeting with PBS’ “The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer.” “He does not have much impact on the organization as best we can tell.”

In a new message aimed at harnessing anger in the Midwest over the Gaza offensive, bin Laden urges Muslims to launch a jihad, or holy war, against Israel and condemned Arab governments as allies of the Jewish state.

The audiotape, posted on Islamic militant Web sites, was bin Laden’s first since May and came nearly three weeks after Israel started its campaign against Gaza’s militant Hamas rulers.

“It appears this tape demonstrates his isolation and continued attempts to remain relevant at a time when al­Qaida’s ideology, mission and agenda are being questioned and challenged throughout the Muslim world,” said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House.

“This also looks to be an effort to raise money as part of their ongoing propaganda campaign. The United States promises an alternative, hopeful ideology while continuing to partner with over 90 countries to pursue terrorists wherever they are,” Johndroe said.

The al-Qaida leader also vowed that the terror network would open “new fronts” against the United States and its allies beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

He said President-elect Barack Obama has received a “heavy inheritance” from President George W. Bush — two wars and “the collapse of the econ­omy,” which bin Laden said will render the United States unable to sustain a long fight against the mujahedeen, or holy warriors.

**EGYPT**

Ceasefire negotiations intensify

Death toll exceeds 1,000 as Egypt, Hamas work towards a 10-day ceasefire deal

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt and Hamas are close to a deal for a 10­day ceasefire between the Islamic militant group and the Palestinian militant group in Gaza, where the death toll has exceeded 1,000, officials said Wednesday.

Egyptian and Hamas officials expressed optimism that an agreement for a temporary halt in fighting could be sealed soon and presented to Israel. But even if all sides sign on, further talks will be needed to resolve contentious disputes over policing the Gaza’s borders and ensure a longer­term truce.

“We’re working with Hamas and we’re working with the Israeli side. We hope to reach an outcome soon,” Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Yaki, a British Broadcasting Corp.

Nine Egyptian human rights groups accused the army of endangering Gazan civilians and called for a war crimes investigation. The groups wrote to Israeli leaders that the Gaza campaign has left civilians with nowhere to flee. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said Israel supports freedom of expression, even if an opinion is not based on any solid evidence and even if it is “deliberately wishful thinking.”

Guerrillas in Lebanon sent rockets crashing into northern Israeli territory Wednesday for the second time in a week, drawing an Israeli artillery barrage and threatening to drag the Jewish state into a second front.

Egyptian and Hamas officials held intensive talks in Cairo. Late Wednesday, Salah al-Bardawil, a Gaza­based Hamas spokesman, said the two sides “have agreed on the core of the ceasefire proposals,” but told reporters that they “submitted our points of view” on the proposed deal, adding.

“We hope that this Egyptian effort will succeed.”

Ghazi Hamad, another Gaza­based Hamas official, told the BBC, “I am optim­istic now because I think there is no other choice for us. This kind of agreement can be done now, and I think now there is good progress in Egypt. We hope that now Egypt will contact Israel and talk about all issues.”

But there were signs Hamas’ leadership­in­exile had reservations. Osama Hamdan, a leading Hamas official in Beirut, said there were still points Hamas had not agreed to. “We do not agree with the initiative as it stands now,” he told Al­Jazeera TV.

The contradictory com­ments were the latest sign of cracks between Hamas leaders under fire in Gaza and the leadership­in­exile, which is largely based in Syria and is seen as more hard­line. Hamas officials, however, insist that the movement is unified, and it was not clear if Hamdan’s tougher tone was a negoti­ating tactic or a sign of division.

Israel launched its offen­sive Dec. 27 to halt years of Palestinian rocket attacks. It has said it will press forward, until Hamas halts the rocket fire and rescues guerrillas for which Hamas will stop smuggling weapons into Gaza through the porous Egyptian border.

The offensive has killed at least 1,018 Palestinians, about half of them civilians, including 300 children and teenagers, said Dr. Mea’ia Hassannah of the Gaza Health Ministry. The toll included 68 Palestinians who were killed or died of wounds Wednesday. More than 4,500 Palestinians have been wounded, medical oficials said. Thirteen Israelis have also been killed, four by rocket fire from Gaza.

Jakob Kellenberger, head of the International Red Cross, welcomed the three­hour lull in the fighting set by Israelis to let groups send in aid and assist the wounded in Gaza, but he said more time was needed.

“You must have access to any time to people who are wounded,” he said.

An explosion from an Israeli airstrike is seen on the outskirts of Gaza City on Wednesday. Israel showed no signs of letting up, striking some 60 targets.

**Compiled From The Observer’s Wire Services**
Panel

continued from page 1

Another film clip, "Bridge to Freedom," showed the American ideal of freedom of speech and religion and the rights and segregation in Selma. Ali Vail, a junior from Maryland, said that although African Americans did not have the right to vote in 1965 in Selma, and faced discrimination in other areas of their lives, "As a child, you've got to do what your parents do," Bland said. "My grandmother always told me to go to school. And she called the Dallas County Voters League." Crisostimo followed in the footsteps of her parents. Her mother was active in the Civil Rights Movement, and her grandmother joined an organization in her club meetings and her parents activities. "She started taking me with her to her church meetings and her FBI meetings, and then she started introducing me to people who were also active. Pretty soon I was part of a youth group, and in the beginning we just wanted to do something better - to come, you know, get involved," Crisostimo said. "Growing up in South Bend. Unlike Crisostimo and Bland, his parents were never involved in activism, and he set his own path.

"One thing, you don't get a chance to choose your career. Your career chooses you," he said. "I was born and raised in South Bend, but saw the violence against minorities and the flight movement on television growing up.

Even with the Israeli offensive going full throttle, the international community is starting to tackle the formulate a possible postwar condition. Four fundraisers for the Palestinians — the foreign ministers of France and Germany, the European Union external relations commission and the interna­
tional community — are holding a meeting in Paris on Thursday to discuss the implementation and the possibility of holding a new donor's confer­
ence.

The last one, held in September 2006, renewed Mideast peace hopes, secured promises of $7.7 billion in aid to Palestinians, and set May 2010 as the current global financial crisis. Another concern is whether a cease-fire deal will lift the blockade Israel and Egypt imposed on Gaza after Hamas seized the coastal strip in June 2007 and ousted the Fatah-dominated Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who now controls only the West Bank.

"You cannot rebuild Gaza with a green border," said Tor Wennesland, the top Norwegian diplomat in the Palestinian territories.

Yet ending Gaza's lockdown will require compromises that seemed impossible before the Israeli offensive.

Hamas now have to relinquish some control by allowing a buffer force to deploy in the Strip, opening new international monitors, allowing food aid, and gatekeepers Egypt and Israel say there's no way they'll agree to give Hamas, viewed as a violent Iraqi terrorist group, a say over what and enters and leaves Gaza. But if they accept a limited role, some observers, who would it be worth it in the wake of the Islamic militan­
tes rule over Gaza.

In any arrangement, rivals Abbas and Hamas must find a way to work jointly, not just to run the crossings but to overhaul reconciliation projects. The two have been unable to reach a power-sharing formula since Hamas defeated Abbas' Fatah movement in the 2006 elections.

What a lot of countries are working on is that they want to do what they can to help, but they don't want to make a commitment that's the same commitment that they're making to Abbas or that they're making to Hamas and that's the kind of thing that would make it very difficult for other countries to get involved.

Tens of thousands of buses have been displaced and the vast majority of Gazans depend on food handouts. Power cuts are frequent and at least 250,000 Gazans have been without electricity since Israel launched its offensive, aimed at halting Hamas rocket fire. Hamas defenders had claimed to have killed 1,000 Israelis.

Israel says Hamas is using civilians as human shields and hiding weapons in civilian areas. But the humanitarian crisis is becoming more pressing every day, according to the U.N. and human rights groups.

Reish continued from page 1

government committees, as well as updates from the ad­
hoc committee created by University President Dr. John Jenkins earlier in the year. Reish is the representative on that commis­sion.

Issues that will be raised in upcoming CMC meetings include the p o s s i b l e l e t t e r implementation of a Good Samaritan Policy at the University.

"We've got­
ten advice from other university presidents on the policy," Reish said. The CMC will also work to establish clearer rules and guidelines for students living off-campus.

Discount booklets for busi­

nesses in the South Bend area, one of the pair's cam­
paign platforms, have been ordered and should arrive this week, Schmidt said. Students' guidebook was over 800 pages and contained numerous book­
lets, but has yet to decide how to sell them.

Church members can be heard by students, former student
director of student affairs and current student advisor in the University's student affairs office.

Student
government over 800 discount book­
lets, but has yet to decide how to sell or distribute them to students, Schmidt said.

Contact Alicia Smith at

smithal@nd.edu

Associated Press

WEST BANK — Israel's fierce assault on Gaza's Hamas rulers has destroyed at least 1,74 billion dollars' worth of buildings, roads, pipes, power lines and other infrastructure in already impoverished terri­
yory, Palestinian surveyors estimate.

Arab and Western countries will soon determine how much of the bill to rebuild — which Palestinian economists say could amount to $2 billion or more.

The Israeli military says it targeted over 2,500 Hamas-linked targets since Dec. 27, including 250 tun­nels, eight bridges and over 500 rocket launchers.

Even with the Israeli offensive going full throttle, the international community is starting to tackle the formulate a possible postwar condition. Four fundraisers for the Palestinians — the foreign ministers of France and Germany, the European Union external relations commission and the interna­
tional community — are holding a meeting in Paris on Thursday to discuss the implementation and the possibility of holding a new donor's confer­
ence.

The last one, held in September 2006, renewed Mideast peace hopes, secured promises of $7.7 billion in aid to Palestinians, and set May 2010 as the current global financial crisis. Another concern is whether a cease-fire deal will lift the blockade Israel and Egypt imposed on Gaza after Hamas seized the coastal strip in June 2007 and ousted the Fatah-dominated Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who now controls only the West Bank.

"You cannot rebuild Gaza with a green border," said Tor Wennesland, the top Norwegian diplomat in the Palestinian territories.

Yet ending Gaza's lockdown will require compromises that seemed impossible before the Israeli offensive.

Hamas now have to relinquish some control by allowing a buffer force to deploy in the Strip, opening new international monitors, allowing food aid, and gatekeepers Egypt and Israel say there's no way they'll agree to give Hamas, viewed as a violent Iraqi terrorist group, a say over what and enters and leaves Gaza. But if they accept a limited role, some observers, who would it be worth it in the wake of the Islamic militan­
tes rule over Gaza.

In any arrangement, rivals Abbas and Hamas must find a way to work jointly, not just to run the crossings but to overhaul reconciliation projects. The two have been unable to reach a power-sharing formula since Hamas defeated Abbas' Fatah movement in the 2006 elections.

What a lot of countries are working on is that they want to do what they can to help, but they don't want to make a commitment that's the same commitment that they're making to Abbas or that they're making to Hamas and that's the kind of thing that would make it very difficult for other countries to get involved.

Tens of thousands of buses have been displaced and the vast majority of Gazans depend on food handouts. Power cuts are frequent and at least 250,000 Gazans have been without electricity since Israel launched its offensive, aimed at halting Hamas rocket fire. Hamas defenders had claimed to have killed 1,000 Israelis.

Israel says Hamas is using civilians as human shields and hiding weapons in civilian areas. But the humanitarian crisis is becoming more pressing every day, according to the U.N. and human rights groups.

Reish said two more installments of the popular "Last Lecture" series are in the works, with one tenta­tively planned for February. The dates and speakers will be announced later in the semester.

Over Spring Break, student government plans to involve a second student census after Reish's success on their survey sent out to stu­

"We're going to keep the site going. We want to keep it going and make sure that it's accessible to everyone," Bob Reish said. The site is for students, faculty and others who are interested in learning more about the legalities of off-campus partying and off-campus living.

"A lot of students are often mistakenly about the legalities of off-campus parties and off-campus living.

Bob Reish

student body president

An issue many students have expressed concern over, Reish said, is that of off-campus safety. A student government ad hoc committee will address the topic in the coming semester, with hopes of making the legalities pertaining to off­
campus living.

"A lot of students are often misinformed about the legalities of off-campus parties and off-campus living," Reish said.

Schmidt told The Observer their main goal is raising awareness about the laws of the state of Indiana and the City of South Bend, as well as

As University regulations outlined in "dude: A Guide to Student Life.

Plans for the realization of one of Reish's projects — a colloquium with other college and college student government — are in the works for a late March or early April event.

He said many other student government officials who have shown interest in coming to Notre Dame to "forge a relation­ship" with the site, he is still working with the specifics of the conference.

Some Reish-Schmidt camp­

aign promises, like a com­
plete online syllabus database, were too ambitious to complete in only one term.

"We hope to leave April with a firm outline of the online syllabus database. We realized it would take much longer time than just one year to develop a sustain­
able, online database," Reish said.

Another initiative that will be left to their successors is plans for an International Showcase, that will most likely take place in Fall. The Showcase would offer student clubs the chance to perform together in one venue.

The Observer a number of groups have already committed to particip­
ing in the event.

Contact Jenn Metz at

jmctt@nd.edu

Damage in Gaza totals $1.4 billion after Israel attacks

Palestinians sit on the rubble of a destroyed building Wednesday. Violence in Gaza has led to billions of dollars in damage to buildings, water pipes, roads and other structures.

A Guide

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The Observer • NEWS

Associated Press

Israelis destroy the homes and infrastructure." Heish said.

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A Guide
In Brief

Dismal holiday sales continue into ‘09

WASHINGTON — After the worst holiday season in 40 years, retailers face more sales declines in the months ahead as the recession deepens, job losses mount, and consumers retrench further.

Retail sales plunged 2.7 percent in December since record sixth straight monthly fall, and the first annual drop on govern­ment records dating to 1992, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Last month’s weakness — more than dou­ble the economic slowdown that had extended into the new year with bank­ruptcy filings, store closings and more lay­offs.

“Consumers are in deep hibernation, and there is no sign that they will wake up this spring or that the retail outlook will pick up anytime soon,” said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America’s Research Group, a consumer research firm in Charleston, S.C.

Oil prices rise to $39 a barrel in Asia

SINGAPORE — Oil prices rose to near $39 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said a stimu­lus package could help revitalize the ailing economy since the 1930s. The stimulus pack­age was needed to combat the worst eco­nomic recession since World War II. The recession, which just entered its second year, already is the longest since World War II and luxury department store retailer Neiman Marcus Group Inc. said it would file for bankruptcy. (C)

In an unprecedented move last month, the Fed ratcheted down its rate to hover between zero and 0.25 percent. The Fed will keep rates in that range at its next meeting on Jan. 27-28 and probably for much longer, Bernanke said Tuesday that a shot of business conditions nation­wide, released Wednesday, suggested the country’s economic picture has not improved. (C)

Bailiffs target,% of debtors' assets that are never stated on the court records, and the secu­rities fraud case against Madoff appears laden with secrets.

Experts say prosecutors may want him in jail to increase pressure on him to cooperate or to reach a plea deal more quickly. Or they might want him out for not cooperating enough, while increasing the pressure to make an example out of one of the most vilified men in America since he confessed to stealing $50 billion last month in what may be the largest Ponzi scheme ever.

The scandal has touched every corner of the world, wiping out life fortunes, decimating charities and pretty much anyone ever involved in investment deals.

So angry that authorities have taken measures to protect investor’s life, guards and video surveil­lance is putting in place are more than $1 million in guar­dians of any suspicions.

He is also under the con­stant watch of armed guards and video surveil­lance in case he tries to flee. Madoff did not speak or show much emotion during the hearing, although he privately confessed with his lawyers. He left the court­house and returned to home arrest in his $7 mil­lion upper East Side pent­house after a judge upheld an earlier ruling that Madoff can remain on bail.

Judge Lawrence M. McKenna did not make Madoff’s visit with his parents or lawyers to the fancy apartment called “The Mansions at 52nd Street” by him.

The Mansions at 52nd Street have Madoff and his lawyer’s every move watched by guards.

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“Expectations” about sales in the next quarter, appear to be the longest downturn in a quarter-century and appears Goody’s Family Clothing, discount clothing chain that was on the verge of bankruptcy, re­ported in the Boston and Dallas districts expected contin­ued weakness or sluggish sales, the report said. “Expectations were mixed in the Cleveland district, and retailers in the Boston district were watched.”

Bernard Madoff, who confessed to stealing $50 billion, is able to turn to the dilapidated house and returned to court in New York, Wednesday.

“The means of communi­cating in the modern world are endless and there’s no restrictions on any of it,” said Litt.

But defense lawyer Ira Sorokin accused the govern­ment of engaging in “inflammatory rhetoric and hyperbole,” saying he is being held under such extreme restrictions that it would be impossible for him to fly or send more valuables.

The defense and prosecu­tion have been waging an increasingly bitter battle over the bail package — initially proposed by the court’s perceived lack of coopera­tion.

Oil prices rise to $39 a barrel in Asia

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The Mansions at 52nd Street have Madoff and his lawyer’s every move watched by guards.
Perfecting a playoff

Sometimes the simplest solution is difficult to embrace or understand, especially when crowning a college football national champion. For more than half a century, an elite group of college football teams ranked coaches and journalists "selected" the champions through the AP, USA Today Coaches, and various polls. Yet frequently they could not agree at season's end.

Barry did the top two ranked teams play with other on New Year's Day. The system was repulsed with regional prejudices, closed-minded traditions and excuses.

Most egregiously though, deserving teams were willfully slighted. Such were the 1968, 1969 and 1973 undefeated Penn State teams. Only after years and enough sports writers lavished impiousness upon Penn State, did undefeated Joe Paterno teams finally translate into championships. Ironically, in December 1973, the top three ranked teams were unbeaten although half of them had a tie on their records. Sports writers then, like their counterparts today, incessantly explained away their prejudices with the subjective excuse - lower ranked teams would now play head-to-head to determine the champion, more teams vying to play the championship a week later in the Orange Bowl. Bowl participation would be upgraded and expanded. The goal to employ is to expand participation before championship play in the least disruptive manner. The BCP accomplishes that objective. The new BCP could also correct current deficiencies. First, undefeated teams like Boise State or Utah with a so-called "lesser" schedule might play the fourth ranked team in December to determine the fourth place seed in the playoff. No undefeated team should suffer the indignity of being perceived as less than worthy, especially when they win every game of their season. Secondly, the BCP should require that a conference present only one eligible team for the top four rankings at season's end. That way, four separate conferences and/or independent teams could participate in the two-week playoff. Who can contradict the assertion that given this year's bowl results, the PAC 10 may have had the strongest conference and best team with USC by New Year's Day? The system was repulsed with regional prejudices, closed-minded traditions and excuses. Who can contradict the assertion that given this year's bowl results, the PAC 10 may have had the strongest conference and best team with USC by New Year's Day?
ND a good employer?

In Dec., Notre Dame received the 2008 Business of the Year Award from the Michigan Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Those in the administration, at the Office of Human Resources, Bob McQuade and members of the Notre Dame family around the world had reason to celebrate.

Celebration ... we celebrate the victory for our union contracts and the blacklisting of Notre Dame employees for "unfair labor practices among other things, its staff development and affirmative action programs." For this, Notre Dame has reason to be proud and to celebrate.

However, for just one moment, we must remember, according to Pope Pius XI, "in the first place, the worker must be paid a wage sufficient to support him [her] and his [her] family." Beyond health care, beyond staff development, Pixi X1 tells us, first, the worker must be able to support himself/herself and his/her family. Hence, when workers work mopping floors in office buildings downtown by day and at some building on our campus by night just to eat, they are not earning enough from their work at our University alone to support a family. When mothers barely spend a waking moment with their children because they work the night shift in our academic buildings and spend the day standing in lines with food stamps and sleeping when they can, we are not paying attention to the worker as a person.

Pope John Paul II demands (making this not an optional choice), "We must pay more attention to the one who works to what the worker as is..." The self-realization of the human person is the measure of what is right and wrong." The question remains then does health care (while necessary and important) make up for the lack of a wage sufficient to support the family? Hence, Congratulations Notre Dame, for being the Business of the Year of 2008, we are quite proud of you. It is our prayer and hope to the God of the powerful and of those who have not yet realized the power within themselves that in the coming year you might see what those workers you employ actually live through and experience on a daily basis outside of your grand buildings, floors perfectly carpeted and walls freshly painted before accepting such an honor.

We are ND, and are called to a higher standard than this. We may not settle for less than our best when the quality and dignity of human lives are at stake.

Alicia Quiros
junior
Jan. 14

U-Wire

File sharing helps more than it hurts

The thousands of students who illegally download music off the Internet should be feeling a little more secure. That’s because last month, the Recording Industries Association of America — a trade group representing the major recording labels in the music industry — announced an end to its relentless campaign of filing expensive lawsuits against college students who engage in online file-sharing. Since 2003, the RIAA has specifically targeted college students because they are unlikely to fight the charges in court and will instead settle out of court for $3,000 per case.

After dozens of lawsuits brought the RIAA had press, including cases where the organization was found to be without evidence, the RIAA is now Settlements with students who have not computers, the RIAA has finally changed its tune and is now using “individual” Internet service providers to do the policing themselves. But just because the RIAA is doing what it’s supposed to do doesn’t mean that file-sharing is illegal. It’s still possible to get in trouble with Internet service providers because they have the power to shut down Internet access for those who are downloading.

And that’s a problem because file-sharing shouldn’t be illegal, anymore.

It’s an easy philosophical argument. Stealing music over the Internet just isn’t really stealing. Music is only information, and information can’t be stolen in such a way that the original information is no longer available. If you take the disc — the physical disc that the information is on — then you’ve stolen because the owner no longer has access to that specific disk.

But just downloading a song online isn’t technically stealing because you haven’t prevented anyone else from accessing that information. What you did was essentially produce a copy — a copy that is the same as the original in every single way, but is still available to everyone else.

In response to this line of thinking comes a deluge of criticism that all boil down to this: the artists aren’t getting credit for their music and they won’t be able to make a living anymore, resulting in the demise of the industry. But this fear is unfounded. Despite what the RIAA claims, record sales have not diminished substantially because of illegal downloads.

The RIAA contends that every illegally downloaded song is lost revenue, but just because you downloaded a song doesn’t mean you would have purchased it. A 2004 study conducted by economists entitled “The Effect of File Sharing on Record Sales” concluded that “downloads have an effect on sales which is statistically insignificantly zero.” It may even be true that file-sharing is good for the music industry. The online community is a great place for new artists to gain exposure. You may not be willing to buy a CD by a band you’ve never heard of, but you’re more likely to download it and listen to it — and then maybe you’ll purchase a CD by this band to support them and their music. Aside from the possible benefits of file-sharing, another good indication that downloading shouldn’t be illegal is that so many people are doing it and very few people think it’s wrong. The vast majority of American society does not think downloading is immoral, and if downloading is immoral the laws are proba- bly means the laws are flawed, not the people. A study conducted by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in 2003 found that 38 percent of college students downloaded copyrighted songs. A survey by the Pew Internet & American Life Project in 2005 found that 38 percent of college students downloaded copyrighted songs. A survey by that percentage is not at all encouraging.

But the RIAA is still fighting back. In October 2005, the RIAA announced that it had hired a new law firm to focus on file-sharing lawsuits. Even if the RIAA wins, the cases are going to be expensive for the record companies and their lawyers.

They are still not going to win. The RIAA is still fighting a losing battle. And the battle has already been won.

Robert Soave
University of Michigan Daily

We are not suggesting that downloading music illegally is the way to go. We are only pointing out that downloading music is not illegal and that it is a socially acceptable way to consume music.

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

This column first appeared in the Jan. 13, 2003 edition of The Michigan Daily, the daily paper of the University of Michigan.

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

Letter submitted to the Editor.

Dear Mr. Miller,

Your article in Wednesday’s Observer (“A simple plea,” Jan. 14) piqued my interest. You see, like your friend Paul, I, too, am an avid listener of heavy metal. And while I agree that there is a cancer growing on the music industry, your characterization of it is wholly inaccurate. The reason there were not a demand for it. Hawthorne Heights would not write songs like Ohio Is For Lovers (arguably the worst musical abortion ever foisted upon innocent radio listeners) were it not for the fact that there are thousands of black-wearing, MySpace-utilizing, poetry-reading Tim Burton-imitating emo fans.

My second point is this: you say that "genre-fixation" is artificial. It may be in some mainstream music, but certainly not in metal. The reason there are so many metal genres is because of the style’s rich history and divergent musical paths. A well-versed jazz listener can tell you the difference between early, middle and late-period John Coltrane records, and can discuss the particulars of the subtle musical arrangements on Miles Davis’ "Kind of Blue." Likewise, an educated metalhead can discuss at length on the variations in style between Cannibal Corpse’s early “Tomb of the Mutilated” and the more recent (and succinctly titled) “Kill.” The worst examples of industry-based "genre-fixation" in metal are insignificant compared to the revelatory qualities of American Idol and any given song on pop radio stations.

At the very worst, you’ll hear people at concerts discussing whether a band is deathcore or death metal, or perhaps you’ll find a sticker on a CD that demands you purchase it if you were "Slyer, Lamb of God and Mastodon?" Compare this to the last 20 years of pop radio, which have largely been based upon bands saying, “Hey, remember that Nirvana song with the four chords? Let’s do that for 12 tracks!”

The greatest sin of metalheads is to ever use the word "genre." If you find an example of "genre-fixation," avert your eyes from metal and stare into the deep, dark recesses of the pop and rap music industries. Oh, and as for metal being the "most annoying form of music out there," I submit to you every Akon song ever written, which you can frequently hear being blared at 4 a.m. out of the dorm room next to mine.

Now I’ll go back to listening to The Bellingham Escape Plan (mathcore — yes, it’s a genre). Opeth (progressive death metal) and Decapitated (technical death metal).

Patrick Hernandez
freshman
Dille Hall
Jan. 14

HELP WANTED

Submit a letter to the Editor.
domestef@pnt@gmail.com
By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

January's offerings at the DelBartolo Performing Arts Center are off to a strong start tonight at 7 when the David Dorfman Dance opens a three-night run of its latest program, "underground." First performed at the 2006 American Dance Festival, "underground" takes its cues from the turbulence of 1960s politics.

Black, white and shades of gray in American activism inspire a variety of activities of the Weathermen. The program explores the context and activities of the Weather Underground with an energetic rock-heavy score and exuberant choreography. "underground," through the medium of dance, seeks to ask questions about where the lines blur between activism and terrorism. Does an idealized political end justify violent means? The New York Times has called the program "a brave, ambitious departure from the norm, and it is sure to excite and intrigue audiences in the Decio Mainstage Theatre tonight.

"underground" will engage a variety of media throughout the performance. With a score by Jonathan Bepler, a video design by Jacob Pinholster (whose credits include "Wicked" and "Spartamolot"), and frequent use of integrated text, dialogue and protest footage, "underground" reflects the company's love of cross-disciplinary, collaborative performance art.

Surprisingly, these diverging elements work together to form a cohesive whole. "They don't feel like artsy indulgences," Jay Johower wrote in the New York Sun after the November 2006 premiere of "underground."

"Underground,"" is a statement to the company's Web site, Dorfman recalls being a young teenager during the Weather Underground's high profile series of riots, the "Days of Rage" in Chicago. "Although I was only 13," he says, "I'm going to protest in the Catholic churches, I remember being awed by the audacity of the Weathermen."

It is in the legacy of the group, however — in its "principles, and also in its foibles and failures," that Dorfman finds inspiration for "underground." "[The program] will explore the inside world of political activism, linking the struggle when activism becomes terrorism... and it conditioned or endorsed killing/destruction over justified?"

With a score by Jonathan Bepler, a video design by Jacob Pinholster (whose credits include "Wicked" and "Spartamolot"), and frequent use of integrated text, dialogue and protest footage, "underground" reflects the company's love of cross-disciplinary, collaborative performance art.

The show's run at the Decio Mainstage will also feature a "talk-back" session with Dorfman about the audience's reaction to "underground."

Audience members will have the chance to speak to Dorfman himself about the substance and style of "underground" in what will likely be a question-answer format. David Dorfman Dance will have no doubt challenge, engage, and be fun!

Founded in 1969, the Weather Underground was an activist-turned-terrorist offshoot of the Students for a Democratic Society. The Weathermen, who took their name from a line in the Bob Dylan song "Subterranean Homesick Blues," are best known for a series of bombings and riots that lasted until the mid 1970s.

The group resurfaced in the media in the early 80s after a series of bombings and riots. They would go on to stage, which ranges from movies to video games. They are the actor's counterpart to the storyline of a character which Hollywood last year with a strike and left us lacking a Golden Globes ceremony. Like the White's Guild of America (WGA) had been threatening to go on strike for pretty much the same reasons as WGA did last year, with internet rights and compensation for their work. So far there has been no strike, but SAG is not yet content, and with good reason. Keep your eyes on these guys, and we're sure that we get our resolutions nicely so we won't have another bleak season of new- ending reruns.

The SAG awards are voted on by over 100,000 members. This is, for all intents and purpose, the most democratic awards ceremony. It is for actors by actors. It includes fifty little categories like Best stunt Ensemble. It also has my personally favorite categories: Best Comedy Series Ensemble, Best Drama Series Ensemble and Best Motion Picture Cast. These will air Sunday, January 25th. As the year goes on, more and more people will be watching for the Academy Awards. The Academy of Motion pictures and Sciences, these categories are historically the most significant and the ones people dream of winning. This is the Academy awards ceremony of its own broadcast, the most important ceremony of the season.

Next week's coverage will be Jan. 22 at 8:30a.m. The Academy Awards will be held February 22.

The Academy was founded in 1927 by a bunch of Hollywood big wigs, and has about 6,000 members of producers, directors, actors, art directors and cinematographers. These guys are the cream of the crop in the industry. They have a legacy longer than the US itself, and therefore command the most respect when they decide to dole out awards. Their awards are strictly motion picture oriented, so sorry, Tina, you can't pick up anything here. Unless of course they invent a category called We Thought Tina Fey Needed Another Award, which is always possible. But the real question is, why are they called the Oscars? Well, legend has it Margaret Herrick, Executive Secretary of the Academy back in the day, saw one of the first statuettes and said it reminded her of her Uncle Oscar.

So there you have it, awards season enthusiasm. So far, so good, and with knowledgeably, root fervently and back delightfully in all the gizmo and glamour of the next two months.

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu
Welcome back! Yes, it's time to put our noses to the grindstone and carry on with the rest of the year. Soon the work is going to be piling up like the snow outside, so make sure you get your vegetables, plus you can pull off in the dining hall. For another twist, add cheddar cheese on top of the refried beans and tortilla. Melt it in the microwave before wrapping it around the shell.

Southwestern Chicken Salad
Some sort of southwestern chicken salad is featured on a lot of menus in restaurants. Here's one you can pull off in the dining hall.

1. Head to the Mexican bar and select a taco shell and one of the small flour tortillas.
2. Fill it up with your favorite ingredients: beef or chicken, cheese, lettuce, tomato, salsa and beans. If you want to make it a bit healthier, try using beans from the salad bar rather than the refried beans (though they are pretty delicious.).
3. Spread a thin layer of refried beans onto the tortilla.
4. Wrap the tortilla around the taco shell. For another twist, add cheddar cheese on top of the

This is an easy way to diversify your trip to the Mexican bar. Popularized by the ever-present Taco Bell chain, double-decker tacos are a fairly successful attempt to jazz up the tried and true entrée. Thanks to Charlie Vogelheim for submitting this idea.

1. Break down 12-year-old Eli into a few apple slices, but a New Year's resolution to eat a little healthier? Use them as a topping to a salad. You'll get to enjoy them while getting your vegetables, plus you won't need as many or the sauces.

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu.

Quick Tip
Crave those chicken poppers but made a New Year's resolution to eat a little healthier? Use those chicken poppers but made a New Year's resolution to eat a little healthier? Use them as a topping to a salad. You'll get to enjoy them while getting your vegetables, plus you won't need as many or the sauces.

1. Fill a bowl with romaine lettuce, chicken (either use the dijon chicken from the Mexican bar or shred your own from some of the grilled chicken breasts), corn, romaine lettuce, black beans, cheddar cheese and bell peppers (you may have to dice these.)
2. Select a few apple slices, dice them up, and add them to the salad.

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Assistant Scene Editor

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Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu.
After delay, Pitt holds on to No. 1 at home

Spartans survive scare from upset-minded Nittany Lions; Duke overcomes poor shooting to beat Georgia Tech

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The game started without the fans, for the third time in four days, so did top-ranked Pittsburgh.

Tyrell Biggs was Pitt's leading scorer the first time in his career with 16 points, and the Panthers struggled early for the second time in as many games since reaching No. 1 before pulling away to beat South Florida 75-62 on Wednesday night.

"Teams are going to play us tough," said point guard Levance Fields, who had 13 points and 13 assists. "Everybody expects us to win by 20 or 30 points, but the Big East conference just isn't like that.

Sam Young scored 14 points and DeJuan Blair had 13 points and 18 rebounds to help Pittsburgh (16-0, 4-0) achieve its third-best start in school history. The 1927-28 team and coach Jamie Dixon's Panthers were nationally ranked, starting 18-0 in the first season.

"We looked a little laid back — no more of them late starts," Blair said, smiling. "You've got to get out on time or something. They came out shooting good and our defense was sluggish.

"We did the same thing against St. John's on Sunday, leading 41-36 at halftime before getting scooped out.

With Blair constantly helping them get second-chance points, the Panthers shot 29-59 (49.2 percent) — 10 of 18 (55.6 percent) from 3-point range after they came in shooting 34.1 percent. Blair, the nation's leading offensive rebounder, has 20 rebounds in his last three games — an average of more than 6 per game.

"I've been waiting for us to get that going, the 3-point shooting," Dixon said. "We're not going to lead the nation in it, but we're getting better.

Dominique Jones and Augustus Gilchrist scored 22 points each and Chris Howard had 13 for South Florida (4-18, 1-10), which repeatedly had trouble getting more than two points in a possession while being outrebounded 37-25.

The Bulls, playing No. 1 for the third time in school history, might have gotten a burst of confidence from an 80-64 win at DePaul on Saturday — only their second Big East road win. But they couldn't sustain several comebacks and finally fell behind by as many as 17.

"They taught a lesson in how to rebound," coach Stan Heath said. "We would get a defensive stop, you'd think we were in good shape, but Blair would go get it.

South Florida's other games against No. 1 teams were a 79-69 loss to North Carolina on Dec. 12, 1985, and an 89-72 loss to Cincinnati on Jan. 29, 2000. The Bulls have lost 24 consecutive road games.

Pitt's next five games against teams that are or recently have been nationally ranked, starting with 10th-ranked South Carolina at home on Saturday.

The start was delayed 20 minutes by a rush-hour snowstorm that closed city streets and caused South Florida's bus and the game officials to arrive late. DeJuan got hung up within two blocks of the Panthers Events Center, sat for 30 minutes and finally parked because of the standstill traffic.

"I like the way we shot from the perimeter, for sure," coach Tom Izzo said. "We didn't make them anything, but we had our hands full."

Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "We were lucky to win, but we take this game without any problems.

"Both Battle and Lucas are lightening-up shoes that I rally from deficits of 7-0, 16-7 and 30-22 to keep the game close, the kind of shots that I could have had in 41-39 in the second half — causing a few nervous faces in the late-arriving crowd of 12,508 to wonder when the real Panthers would show up.

That happened when Pitt went up 15-4 to run a stretch of 24-44 lead into a more comfortable 62-48 advantage with 8:51 remaining. Fields hit a 3-pointer with 15:18 remaining to make it 50-44 and Muggs scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half, leading 41-34 at the half.

"It was a great win for our team, said coach DeChellis was a little more subdued after the game.

"I don't know what word we used, but I just wasn't happy with our defense in the first half," he said. "I thought we were playing against them instead of them playing against us.

"We played dreadful affairs of interior defense midway through the game, before clamping down in the second half, opposite our tense closing minutes against the Spartans.

"Battle hit a jumper to close the deficit to four with 3:33 left. Then he darted into the lane before hitting Corley for an open layup to get within 69-67 with about 2:30 left.

"Izzo said his team suffered from offensive hiccups, and got frustrated by Battle down the stretch.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed we're still not finished," Izzo said. "We have to do a better job of finishing." (6-10, 1-3), which repeated back to back to beat Georgia Tech's limited offensive skills.

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"But Lucas had a little more help, as DePaul hit a 3-pointer with 15:18 remaining to make it 50-44 and Muggs scored 17 of his 22 points in the second half, leading 41-34 at the half.

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Bradford staying at Oklahoma

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. - Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford wasn't ready to give up the life of a college quarterback - not without a national championship.

The third-year sophomore quarterback will return to Oklahoma next season, passing on a chance to be a high NFL draft pick.

"I've dreamed about playing at Oklahoma since I was little, and my three years here have been probably three of the best years of my life, and I really feel that there's no need to cut this experience short," Bradford said Wednesday at a news conference.

"I'm really looking forward to coming back and competing for a fourth straight Big 12 championship and another opportunity at a national championship." Bradford's return also means another shot at a Heisman Trophy. Archie Griffin is the only player from Ohio State to win the award twice and he's the only Heisman winner to return for another Heisman opportunity in the Heisman Trophy voting this season.

For the first time, the top-three vote-getters for the Heisman Trophy will return to college football.

Associated Press

Bradford announced his intentions Sunday and Texas quarterback Colt McCoy said he'd be back for his senior season long before the Longhorns won the Fiesta Bowl.

Bradford led the nation with 59 touchdown passes and a quarterback rating of 180.8. He likely would have been one of the first 10 quarterbacks taken in April's draft.

Instead, Bradford will take another run at a national championship with Oklahoma. The record-breaking quarterback led the Sooners to the BCS championship game this season, but they lost 24-14 to Florida.

"Obviously it's frustrating to end with a loss and I want to come back and finish my career the right way: on a win," Bradford said. "I would say it had a little bit of an influence on my decision, but I really tried to keep that out of my mind because I think that could have limited myself to making the best decision for me." Bradford also let it slip that tight end Jermaine Gresham and offensive lineman Trent Williams also decided not to enter the draft early. Defensive tackle Gerald McCoy has also said he'll be back for another season with the Sooners.

In Brief

Jury sides with Burress on damage to borrowed car

LEBANON, Pa. - A Pennsylvania jury has sided with Plaxico Burress in a dispute over how much the New York Giants star should pay in damages for a car he borrowed that ended up getting impounded by New York City police.

A jury in Lebanon County civil court decided Wednesday that Burress owes $1,700 in damages, far less than the $19,000 sought by the dealer who loaned the car to Burress.

Burress declined to comment afterward and was followed by a small crowd of fans seeking autographs.

Burress testified that his agent arranged for the Chevrolet Avalanche in 2005. Burress disputed that he had agreed to make personal appearances for the dealership.

New York police later impounded the truck after it was connected to a shooting incident.

Mets' Santana unsure if he'll pitch in WBC

NEW YORK - Johan Santana is unsure he'll be able to pitch in the World Baseball Classic following offseason knee surgery.

"I'm feeling good," said Santana Wednesday. "I'm using some exercises and everything is going well. I'm not having pain."

The Mets' left-handed ace went 13-10 with a 2.57 earned-run average and 248 strikeouts last season. He will undergo surgery at a New York hospital, but the Mets have not announced the date.

Irvins calmly chats with gunman about Cowboys

Irvins says he began talking with the man about the team's disappointing 9-7 season and Dallas not making it to the Super Bowl.

"Obviously it's frustrating to end with a loss and I want to come back and finish my career the right way: on a win," Bradford said. "I would say it had a little bit of an influence on my decision, but I really tried to keep that out of my mind because I think that could have limited myself to making the best decision for me." Bradford also let it slip that tight end Jermaine Gresham and offensive lineman Trent Williams also decided not to enter the draft early. Defensive tackle Gerald McCoy has also said he'll be back for another season with the Sooners.
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Pats’ Pioli hired as Chiefs GM
Architect of New England dynasty hopes to resurrect 2-14 team

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Scott Pioli, who helped build and then dismantle the Patriots in New England, is now in charge of a Kansas City franchise that hasn’t won a playoff game in 14 years. The 51-year-old Pioli will be introduced on Wednesday as the Chiefs’ general manager, replacing Carl Peterson.

"He has complete charge of football operations," Ryan Berkoff, a spokesman for Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt, told The Associated Press. "We will report only to Clark."

The fate of coach Herm Edwards and his staff was not immediately known.

Pioli, who became vice president of player personnel for the Patriots in 2002 and spent nine years working with head coach Bill Belichick, also interviewed for the general manager vacancy in Cleveland.

He will inherit a team coming off a 2-14 season, but is stepping into a situation that was ripe for a quick turnaround. The franchise is loyal, though receptive, and the team will be playing next year in a $325 million, state-of-the-art new stadium, Arrowhead, which opens this fall. The franchise is notorious for being loud and rough on visiting teams, is under a $325 million renovation, which includes new locker rooms, expanded concourses and enhanced amenities in addition to an enlarged indoor field and a brand new state-of-the-art head coach’s office.

"Scott is a great evaluator of talent ... He has played an important role in building a championship tradition with players that I am proud to call Patriots," Robert Kraft, owner of the New England Patriots said.

"Pioli, the son-in-law of former Patriots owner Bill Parcells, has been honored many times for his contributions to the Patriots’ three Super Bowl championships. With Pioli working with the team, the Patriots used an effective mix-and-match system that enabled them to sign key players to long-term deals, a move that bolstered the 2002 team."

Pioli’s NFL career started when Belichick hired him as a pro personnel assistant for the Browns in 1992.

"I’m proud to call the Chiefs an NFL team that is a perfect fit for me, and I believe I can bring the necessary resources and leadership to help the Chiefs develop into a championship franchise," Pioli said.

"As we move into the future, I am excited about the potential for this franchise and the opportunity to help this team become a consistent winner in the NFL," Pioli added.

"We are very excited to welcome Scott to the Chiefs," Hunt said in a statement. "With his proven track record of success, Scott is the finest player personnel executive in the NFL, and we look forward to his leadership in building a championship organization.""

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ND Women’s Swimming

No sophomore slump for Maxwell

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Swimming against the top competition in the country is nothing new for sophomore Samantha Maxwell, who has picked up right where she left off after her stellar freshman season.

A native of Chicago, Maxwell finished the Big East record in the 200-yard breaststroke and swimming at the Big East Championship, Maxwell has led the Irish with her time in both the 100-yard breaststroke, and has become a central factor on the 200 and 400-medley relays.

Nationally ranked while swimming for her high school team in Chandler, Ariz., Maxwell was a four-time regional champion and a two-time National record holder in the 50-yard breaststroke, and earned All-American honors in each of her four high school seasons.

In her freshman season at Notre Dame, Maxwell’s talents did not go unnoticed by her coaches and teammates as she went on to set the 100 and 200-breaststroke, (2:00 and 4:00 respectively) and according to Maxwell, her parents put him in swimming because I was awful at every other sport I tried,” Maxwell said. “When I started swimming I hated it, so I bribed my parents to make me just swim once a week and after a year of swimming I really started to enjoy it.”

Maxwell’s parents weren’t the only ones pushing Maxwell to pursue her abilities in the pool. She recalls a coach from the local YMCA being the most influential person of whom she swam under, and who fulfilled the role as her mentor as well as her coach.

“When I was younger, Dave was my first coach,” Maxwell said. “He was always very encouraging and helped me learn how to swim and he always was so positive about swimming and always supported me.”

Maxwell has shown no signs of slowing down. In the Ohio State Invitational in December, she broke her own school records in the 100 and 200-breaststroke, posting times of 1:01.57 and 2:12.46, respectively.

Maxwell has proved that she is a force that competitors should look out for this season, and in future seasons on the Irish team as she has swum against the best, and only hopes to improve. “My goals for this season are to go to the NCAA championships and really try to make an impact there. Last year I didn’t do well enough to make it back for any swims. This year I would like to be more competitive at that meet and make it back to the finals heats at nationals.”

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@ndmails.com

NCAA Football

Pitt’s McCoy will enter ‘09 NFL draft

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Record-setting Pittsburgh running back LeSean McCoy is putting up his final two seasons of eligibility to enter the NFL draft.

McCoy broke several of Tony Dorsett’s school records while leading the Panthers in a 9-4 record and into the Sun Bowl.

McCoy told coach Dave Wannstedt of his decision in a phone call Wednesday. The two met last Friday, but a tearful-eyed McCoy couldn’t make up his mind. He delayed the decision again Monday.

“I have frequently played both choices in my mind. I have considered my alternatives and I have prayed,” McCoy said in a statement issued by the school. “I have made my final decision and will forego my junior season.”

NFL scouts project the 5-foot, 112-pound McCoy as a late first-round to early second-round pick.

“Courting McCoy is a major setback to Pitt, which played in its first bowl game and had its first winning record in four decades largely because of his running and a strong defense.”

“When you have exceptionally gifted players, you realize the NFL can be a reality sooner rather than later,” said Wannstedt, the former Bears and Dolphins coach. “Certainly that is the case with LeSean and we worked to make sure he had all the information needed to make the best decision about his pro prospects.”

McCoy rushed for 1,488 yards and 21 touchdowns this season, and in two seasons, or more yardage and touchdowns than former Heisman Trophy winner Dorsett had in his first two Pitt seasons.

This season, McCoy’s top games included 183 yards against West Virginia, 169 against Notre Dame, 156 against Navy and 149 against Syracuse.

McCoy had 331 yards in two games against the Mountaineers, including 145 in Pitt’s 13-9 upset win in 2007 that kept West Virginia out of the BCS title game.

“Of one of my goals in coming here was to help my teammates and coaches bring Pitt back to its rightful place among the prominent teams in college football,” McCoy said.

In late November, McCoy said he would return to Pitt because he felt he needed more time to mature and had more to accomplish.

McCoy changed his mind following a 3-0 bowl game loss to Oregon State on Dec. 31, apparently after talking to former Pitt receiver Larry Fitzgerald of the Arizona Cardinals, a former Helsman Trophy runner-up, also left Pitt after two seasons.

Pitt’s staff believes McCoy began leaning toward leaving when he got away from his teammates and coaches and returned to his home in Harrisburg, Pa. The team’s poor performance — the lowest- scoring bowl in 50 years — apparently did not influence his decision. He ran for 85 yards in the loss.

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Associated Press
Thursday, January 15, 2009

Granger scored 24 points and ended the game losing streak. Wallace added 17 points and had 23 points, and Rasheed made the tying shot late in regulation in the Indiana Pacers' 110-106 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday night.

Pacers' 110-106 overtime win in five tries this season.

The injury-plagued Wizards have been without Gilbert Arenas and Brendan Haywood all season and then recently lost DeShawn Stevenson (back) and Etan Thomas (torn ligament in his left knee). But that's meant more time for Young, who was 13-of-17.

Both teams had improved recently, but were back to their old bad habits in this one. The Wizards shot 61 percent and the Knicks 59.2 percent in the first half, which ended with New York leading 67-66 behind 21 points from Granger.

Knicks forward David Lee goes up for a dunk during New York's 129-122 win over Washington Wednesday.

The Heat improved to 3-0 on a seven-game trip even as Wade struggled, starting 0-for-6 from the field, but contributing by distributing the ball.

It looked to be easy even without the NBA's leading scorer adding his 29.1 average when the Heat took an 84-74 lead with 10:57 to play. But the Bucks came back thanks to 25 points by Luke Ridnour and 16 by Michael Redd.

Wade, revered in this town, was fouled, and was issued a technical. Iverson missed the technical, Iverson followed with a 3-pointer to make it 119-111 with 1.25 remaining.

Lee, among the league leaders in rebounding and field goal percentage, added six assists. He was coming off a 24-point performance in the Knicks' surprising victory at New Orleans on Monday.

Washington's Nick Young scored 23 points, establishing a career high for the third time in four games, and Caron Butler added 23. Mike James had 20 points, but the Wizards stumbled when he had to go to the free-throw line with five fouls.

The Pacers, Knicks, Heat, Bucks and Wizards are against each other three times this season and can pile up the points in their two earlier victories.

The Heat overcame a 5-for-20 shooting stretch where the Heat went 26 points for the Knicks, who had improved recently, but were back to their old bad habits in this one. The Wizards shot 61 percent and the Knicks 59.2 percent in the first half, which ended with New York leading 67-66 behind 21 points from Granger.

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Rincon continued from page 20

run together in practice, along with two upperclassmen.
"Our group is really competitive," Rincon said. "We all practice and push each other.

"We've visited Rincon's visit to campus last spring, and he said they made the transition to campus for him.

Rincon said the 400-meter race is one of the most grueling events in track.

"You can't pace yourself like you would over the half mile, or you can't burn out the first 200," he said. "It really takes strength and endurance and everything, so it's pretty tough.

Just like when he runs the event, Rincon is determined not to give up too early in the season.

"I want to win the Big East in the 400," he said. "It's lofty, and it will be tough, but that's what you have to do if you want to win in the Big East.

Boards continued from page 20

rebonding team. We've been completely beat and punished but it's been beaten up too much there.

Then came Louisville, who put up a season-high 39 in an 87-73 Cardinals overtime win.

"I think we held our own through the first 20 minutes, didn't out-rebound them, but it was kind of a draw. But it didn't beat us. The defensive board beat us at St. John's and Ohio State. That's the right way to do it, and that was really the culprit of it all.

Louisville grabbed 16 offensive boards, but some of those came as a result of long rebounds or as second rebounds after a missed shot. Twice in the second half, Notre Dame was trying to build on its lead, only to see those rebounds help set up three-pointers from Andre McGeorge and Jerian Grant that cut into the Irish advantage.

"Sometimes you do the job to be in position to rebound the basket and you don't get a good boxout," Brey said. "And then you've got to scramble out and match up and do your job and not just be living off of offensive rebound threes.

When it happens to us, I can relate. Hopefully, it doesn't happen too much.

"It's not bad luck. We still need to grab loose balls because that's a different type of rebound," Brey said because a couple of those loose balls they grabbed and then sold them.

Hill also added: "You've got to rebound as a team and it can be tough because sometimes you're instinct natural on the person who's out of position when a guy puts in a shot instead of blocking him out you want to go back in where you think the action's going to be, which is inside. But a lot of times you come out of there and those can be backbreaking plays on the road when a team can get an offensive rebound and knock down a three.

"So the coaching here on the board side for the Irish has been Harangody, whether he's grabbing long or short rebounds.

"If you can't do it, that's okay," Brey said. "I think we've had some tough times in the midseason.

"When you go through something like that, you really find out what kind of team you are.

On Wednesday, the Celtics' new coach Stevanovic pointed to the Boston Celtics' record of 32-9, two fewer wins than they had midway through last season when they finished 66-16 and won the NBA title.

"I thought we had a really big bump in the road these last couple of weeks with consistency," Phoenix said, "sometimes that 100 percent isn't there. Maybe it's something we needed to give us a gut check.

"When you go through something like that, you really find out what kind of team you are.

On Wednesday the Celtics' new coach Stevanovic pointed to the Boston Celtics' 7-29 start in NBA history as they posted their third most lopsided win of the season.

"I think we had a really good game," Phoenix said. "I think we had a great defensive game and (definitely) altered our shots.

Pierce led Boston with 22 points two nights after getting a season-high 29 in an overtime victory over the Miami Heat.

The Nets also won in overtime that night, beating Oklahoma City. "It's really high on my list," he said.

"I think it's impressive for five seasons and also the fans and the community here at Notre Dame," he said.

"My family had season tickets since the 40s. I've gone to games since I was five.

"I was up early in the morning to come and watch those games," he said. "My family has had season tickets since the 40s. I've gone to games since I was five.

"It was easy, then, to agree to the Notre Dame fan his entire life.

"When I run the ball, I run the ball as a point guard and be tough because sometimes you're instinct natural on the person who's out of position when a guy puts in a shot instead of blocking him out you want to go back in where you think the action's going to be, which is inside. But a lot of times you come out of there and those can be backbreaking plays on the road when a team can get an offensive rebound and knock down a three.

"So the coaching here on the board side for the Irish has been Harangody, whether he's grabbing long or short rebounds.

"If you can't do it, that's okay," Brey said. "I think we've had some tough times in the midseason.

"When you go through something like that, you really find out what kind of team you are.

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**The Forbidden Doughnut**

PAT CARTLAND

No date. I heard you got a girlfriend over Christmas break.

Yeah. She's from Cancun.

That's pretty convenient.

Toy bikes are expensive.


---

**JUMBLE**

By Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

YAILG

CLUID

GATNIC

GUJAR

---

**Crossword**

Across
1. Part of a pay- es- you- go plan? 
3. Set to "Mode Off.
5. She's "always have Pants."
15. "Mighty" things.
19. Memorial, as a road.
20. That over there.
21. Author of "Speaking Wisely The Way Comes."
23. Inventor depicted in "The Proposal."
25. Long ago.
27. Show of 1950s TV.
28. Walk down the aisle.
31. Supplicate.
33. Revenge comes.

Down
1. Fully equipped and ready to go.
2. Kitchen light
3. Emmy and Tony nominee Ryan.
5. Equips.
7. Tiny bit
10. Winter vehicle.
16. “Go ahead.”
19. Lock with no key.
22. Airport.
24. Where the Berkshire meets.
27. Be a cast member.
28. Cry from.
31. Region of god being approached.
33. Landmark of Caesar's.

WILL SHORTZ

**Horoscope**

EUGENIA LAST

***CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:*** LL Cool J, 41; Emily Watson, 42; Perez Hilton, 26; Andy Borowitz, 43; Mike Argirion, 43.

Happy Birthday: A wish comes true. Some time over the years you have been wishing to see, to hear or to do something and for one reason or another it never came true. You will find that today a wish of yours will be fulfilled. It may be small and not so important but it will be something you have been seeking for a long time and now you will get it. Getting it will be a joyful moment in your life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you are willing to stick to your plan and not allow anything to stop you in the process, you will succeed. You must be strict and stick to a checklist. You will do it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Don't be definitive. You idea is not wrong. It is just that you need to refactor your plan a bit. You will make the move if you let your heart decide.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be patient. You are waiting for the right person. You will make the right decisions. You will make the best decisions. You will have the right information.

LION (July 23-Aug., 22): Interpersonal responses will be given to you. You will get help. You will get guidance. You will get what you need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be up and down and emotionally erratic if you don't put things through perspective. Help is on your way if you put through these different situations.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Someone will help you. Someone will guide you. You will clear up any uncertainty, everything will work out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will help you. Someone will guide you. You will have the right information. You will get the right help.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 22): Someone will guide you. Someone will help you. You will have the right information.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone will guide you. Someone will help you. You will have the right information.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Someone will guide you. Someone will help you. You will have the right information.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Someone will guide you. Someone will help you. You will have the right information.

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**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE**

WILL SHORTZ

ANSWERS: "GET THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME!"

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**The Observer**

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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**THE ACCOUNTANT WARRED HER RICH CLIENT BECAUSE SHE WAS—**

[Answers tomorrow]

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Love you,

Mick
FOOTBALL

Team signs Frank Verducci as new offensive line coach

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Notre Dame announced yesterday that veteran Frank Verducci will be taking over as the new offensive line coach for the Irish. Verducci, who has coached for several colleges and NFL teams in the past 27 years, will replace former line coach John Latina who resigned after four years with the Irish.

Verducci comes to South Bend from the Cleveland Browns where he was an offensive line coach for the past two seasons. He will replace Latina who left the Irish to become offensive line coach at the University of Michigan.

Verducci has spent much of his career in the Midwest coaching offensive lines for several college programs in the Big Ten and Big East conferences. He has also coached in the NFL for the Cleveland Browns, where he won two Super Bowl championships.

Verducci is entering his 21st season as a college coach and has spent time at several colleges and NFL teams in the past 27 years. He is a proven offensive line coach who has helped build successful programs at both the college and NFL levels.

Verducci is a native of New Jersey and attended Seton Hall University, where he played center for the Pirates.

Verducci joins a Notre Dame football program that is hoping to improve its offensive line play this season. The Irish finished 8-6 overall and 4-4 in the Big East.

The Irish are looking to improve their offensive line play after finishing 27th in the Big East in rushing yards per game. Verducci will be tasked with helping to improve the Irish offensive line and helping to improve Notre Dame's scoring output.

Verducci is a respected coach in the college football community and his addition to the Notre Dame staff is expected to be a significant boost to the program.

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SPORTS

Thursday, January 15, 2009

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Irish work to improve under the boards against league foes

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

When Rob Kurz graduated last spring, he took his 7.3 rebounds per game with him. Kurz, along with forward Luke Harangody, helped the Irish attain the fourth-best rebounding margin in conference play.

Last season, the Irish outrebounded Big East opponents by just over three boards per game. This season, Notre Dame is tenth in the league.

Since Kurz's departure, the Irish have tried to replace his presence on the glass at both ends of the floor, but at times, they have struggled despite having the league's leading rebounder in Harangody (14.0 per Big East game).

The Irish lost two games this season that could have been avoided with better rebounding performances — a 71-65 loss to St. John's and a 67-62 loss to Ohio State. In each game, the Irish were out-rebounded, and dug themselves into a hole by allowing crucial offensive boards at pivotal moments in the second half.

"The loss to St. John's was just not paying attention to details," senior Zach Hillesland said. "The rebounding was the big thing there. They got to the offensive boards a lot and they got a lot of confidence because of that."

After the St. John's loss, Notre Dame recommitted itself to rebounding and saw some improvement. The Irish went toe-to-toe on the glass with Georgetown in a win at the Joyce Center and demolished Seton Hall on the boards in another victory.

"We're not going to be a team where you go, 'We're on the glass,'" Irish coach Mike Brey said. "The most part since I've been here, we've just not been this crushing on the boards."

Irish junior forward Luke Harangody pulls down a rebound in Notre Dame's 86-79 win over Seton Hall Saturday. The Irish are tenth in the Big East in rebounding margin.

---

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On the rebound

Irish work to improve under the boards against league foes

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

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MEN'S TRACK

Rincon excels in first season at Notre Dame

Middle-distance runner has won two wins

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Jordan Rincon is off to a fast start — and middle, and finish. The Irish freshman middle-distance runner has won an event at both of the team's meets so far, outrunning several of his upperclassmen teammates.

"I'm happy with the early success," Rincon said. "I didn't really expect it, but I'm really competitive and I'm a sore loser. I don't like to lose. I push myself at practice all the time."

At the Blue and Gold Meet on Dec. 5, Rincon easily won the men's 400-meter race with a time of 48.34, a full second-and-a-half better than the mark needed to qualify for the Big East Championships.

Rincon followed that with a close win in the 600-meter contest Saturday at the Indiana State Open. The Irish defeated Illinois state by 4.5 points, led by senior Billy Buzaid by 4 seconds to take the top spot. Buzaid finished second.

Rincon said he and Buzaid are ranked No. 20 in the country in the 400-meter, slightly ahead of the fullback at Albion.

Along with Newsom and Mahoney, senior Nicolle Beier and freshman Kelsee Murphy scored in double figures for Saint Mary's.

The Belles remain a half-game ahead of Hope for first place in the MIAA standings, and will look to rebound next weekend when they travel to take on Kalamazoo.

---

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles fall to Albion, 77-72

Squad suffers first MIAA loss at the hands of the rival Brits

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's dropped a league contest for the first time Wednesday night as the host Belles fell 77-72 to Albion.

Saint Mary's went on an 11-1 run midway through the second half to take a 48-47 lead. But the Belles couldn't maintain the advantage. Albion took the lead on its next possession and didn't trail for the remainder of the game.

With the loss, the Belles fell to 6-7 overall, including a 6-1 mark in MIAA action. The Brits, meanwhile, improved to 8-6 overall and 3-3 against conference opponents.

Albion built a nine-point lead late in the first half after going on a 14-4 run. But the Belles answered shortly before halftime.

Seniors Meghan Conaty and Erin Newsom both converted layups before intermission to cut the Albion lead to six.

But the Brits came out firing after halftime and took a commanding 46-37 advantage.

Newsom led the Belles with 18 points and eight rebounds. Freshman guard Patsy Mahoney added 16 points on 6-of-9 field goal shooting but it was not enough.

Albion had a big advantage from the foul line as they made 20 free throws to the Belles' 12. The Brits made 33.5 percent of their attempts from the line while Saint Mary's converted just 60 percent.

Along with Newsom and Mahoney, senior Nicolle Beier and freshman Kelsee Murphy scored in double figures for Saint Mary's.