Hesburgh speaks on Civil Rights, MLK

Panel examined current race relations in the United States, reflected on King's contribution to the movement

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

As University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh prepared to tell an audience about his role in the Civil Rights movement Thursday night, he shared a revealing thought about the movement’s prominent leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. “I often wish that Martin had lived not just to bring his message to people but to see that his message has finally gotten through,” Hesburgh said, asserting the successes of the movement. Hesburgh spoke in a panel discussion called “Winning to a Movement” in the Annenberg Auditorium, at the Snite Museum of Art. The panel also included Dr. Richard Pierce, associate professor of history, and Sophomore Franco Zamara, law student Jessica Kim and Dina Harris, Indiana University-South Bend director of Foundation Relations.

Hesburgh commented on the present state of race relations while also recounting the role he took in the movement that eventually brought him side-by-side with King. A famous photograph of the duo during a rally at Soldier Field in Chicago in 1964 is now part of the Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery.

Hesburgh’s experiences with the Civil Rights movement date back to 1957, when he was appointed to the Civil Rights Commission to help recommend legislative solutions to racial problems. According to Hesburgh, the Commission, which included two black members, often met resistance when traveling through the South, as many businesses turned them away. He noted that the legislation recommended by the panel included the Civil Rights Act of 1964, was successful due to Lyndon Johnson’s determination to

The Web site renovation project began with the formation of the Web Presence Improvement Team in 2005. The latest renovation to the Web site took approximately two years to complete since the Web site’s first renovation in 2003. "The library had redesigned its Web site back in 2003, and that was the second generation of the site," she said. "We started to accumulate a few electronic resources just as a basic list,” she said. "It met our needs for a while but as we
INSIDE COLUMN

Townie's Lament

I spent most of my life in South Bend hating it. I was born in Prague, and I've lived in two other states besides Indiana. Every time we moved, it seemed like a huge downgrade over the place we lived in before. South Bend, however, was the absolute worst. We moved here in March, which falls under the huge part of the calendar that is considered South Bend's "cold season.

Also, we were supposed to move to Galveston, Texas, instead. After actually arriving in South Bend and experiencing the cold, I must have thought my parents were the dumbest people alive, even at the tender age of six.

No matter how good of a job Notre Dame was giving my dad, how could they possibly have picked this place over Texas? Texas was warm.

As I grew older, my complaints about the city multiplied. There was nothing to do, the mall in Chicago was better, the people weren't as nice as the people in other places, and so on. I developed an immediate dislike of anything that had to do with Indiana — sports teams, cities we traveled to— basically, nothing in the state was safe from my scorn.

I didn't want to go to college here, either. I had many other places in mind, but my parents finally laid down the law ("You're going here. It's free.").

And to be honest, by the time senior year rolled around, I had pretty much given up on college here. It could always have been worse. I had many other places in mind, while (it's pretty hard to live in South Bend, could always have been better.

I had liked Notre Dame football for a while it's pretty hard to live in South Bend and not get caught up in all of it, the campus was pretty nice too. The city itself wasn't bad either.

I decided that even though South Bend wasn't the most action-packed place, it could have been worse.

However, this isn't an admission that South Bend is a remotely exciting place to live. I had to compile a list of potential places to move to when (if) I graduate and get a job, South Bend wouldn't even crack the top 10.

But it has grown on me enough that I get somewhat offended when my college friends make fun of it. An anonymous Notre Dame athlete once told me, "Any bowl game we go to would be better than the South Bend bowl."

People complain about the weather, the lack of things to do (although I hear Fever is pretty fun), the residents, and pretty much every other aspect of life here.

Just like I did when I was younger. I used to just roll my eyes and laugh it off, but I have to admit that I kind of got annoyed. I mean, no one forced them to come here.

So the next time you want to complain about whatever in South Bend is annoying you today, think about this: at least you get to leave during breaks.

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

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professorial publication and stresses for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-5451 so we can correct our error.

The Observer strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times.

Also, we were...
Christian Smith received a $5 million dollar grant to fund the research

Prof. explores science of generosity
Christian Smith received a $5 million dollar grant to fund the research project from the John Templeton Foundation.

"The goal of the project is to increase generosity and charitable giving through the science of generosity," said Smith.

The project will be led by Smith and his team of researchers from the University of Notre Dame, the University of Virginia, and the University of Chicago.

The project will also include partnerships with a variety of organizations, including the Ford Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

"We are excited to be a part of this important project," said Smith.

The project will focus on understanding the causes and effects of generosity, as well as the mechanisms that drive charitable giving.

The grant is the largest ever received by a faculty member in Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters.

"This is a truly important project," said Notre Dame President Rev. John I.怡heodore Hesburgh, S.J.

"It is critical that we understand the science of generosity if we are to encourage more people to give back to their communities."
The Notre Dame family and the Congregation of Holy Cross join in an annual celebration of the feast day for Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., and his legacy, including joy in community, faith and hope in the Cross of Christ, and excellence in education of both the mind and the heart.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 19**

**Vigil Prayer Service**
Gather to pray through the intercession of Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., on the eve of his feast. Our prayers include his canonization as a saint of the Church and vocations to the Congregation of Holy Cross.
President: Rev. Jim King, C.S.C.
Source Hall
8:00 p.m.
Lady Chapel, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20**

**Mass for the Feast of Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.**
The Holy Cross community joins hands with the Notre Dame family in observing this feast.
President: Rev. David Tyson, C.S.C.
Provincial Superior, Indiana Province
5:15 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20**

**Men in Black: Inspirations and Reflections**
A panel of Holy Cross priests offers casual recollections and conversation about their life and work—a chance to get to know Holy Cross better.
Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C.
Rev. Robert David, C.S.C.
Rev. Bill Ley, C.S.C.
Rev. Peter McCormick, C.S.C.
7:30 p.m.
Washington Hall

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 22**

The Blessed Basil Moreau Lecture: Prof. John conserv.
The chair of Notre Dame’s Department of Theology offers insights on daily life and Holy Cross spirituality in a lecture. "The Cross Our Only Hope: Two Views of Suffering in the Christian Tradition."
Prof. Mary Ellen O’Connell of the Notre Dame Law School, an expert on Christian values in international affairs, will offer comments for discussion.
7:30 p.m.
Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuela seeks help with oil industry

CAIACA - Venezuela - Squeezed by slumping crude prices, Venezuela is reaching out to the multinational oil companies it once denounced as imperialist profiteers.

Venezuela is soliciting bids from the world’s major oil companies to extract heavy crude from vast deposits in its Orinoco River region. Despite President Hugo Chavez’s criticism of U.S.-style capitalism, it has become clear that state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela SA needs both the cash and expertise of Big Oil.

These international oil companies have made windfall profits in recent years, but analysts doubt many will want to invest again given Chavez’s history of seizing foreign oil assets.

Division growing in Russian politics

MOSCOW - Russia’s President Dmitry Medvedev has twice rebuffed the government led by his predecessor Vladimir Putin in the past couple of weeks, raising questions of whether a rift is developing between the powerful former Kremlin leader and the man he chose to replace him.

On both occasions, Medvedev criticized the government for not doing enough to help the oil industry and business cope with the global financial crisis, which has hit Russia hard.

“The planned measures are being fulfilled slower than we counted on, and most important, slower than the current situation demands,” Medvedev said during a visit Sunday to an engine plant outside Moscow with government ministers.

Two weeks earlier, Medvedev characterized the government’s anti-crisis program as “well-balanced but not ideal.”

National News

Blagoevich’s fundraising documented

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. - Gov. Rod Blagojevich took a taxpayer-funded flight to southern Illinois where he attended an unscheduled meeting and raised $42,000 from contributors that included the family of a man he had recently appointed to a university board, records show.

The governor took the trip as a public event in Mount Vernon on Nov. 20, Blagojevich attended an economic development conference in Illinois hosted by a family that had contributed large sums to his campaign fund. He came away with 14 checks ranging from $500 to $20,000, according to interviews and records released Tuesday by the Illinois State Board of Elections.

Police officer charged with murder

OAKLAND, Calif. - A former transit police officer has been charged with murder for the fatal slaying of an unarmed and allegedly restrained black man in a racially charged case that has outraged residents and community leaders and set off violent protests.

Newly released court documents allege that Joseph Wehrle, who was charged Tuesday, shot 22-year-old Oscar Grant while Grant had his hands behind his back and another officer was kneeling on his neck.

Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff said Wehrle faces a probable cause hearing on a probable cause hearing on a file a murder charge against a police officer for an on-duty incident.

Local News

Two dead, two injured in crash

Two people from Illinois were killed and two others were injured when their car struck the rear of a school bus Friday morning on Interstate 70 in eastern Indiana on Thursday.

Two people from Illinois were killed and two others were injured when their car struck the rear of a school bus leaving a school near New Lenox, Ill., on Thursday.

The bus, carrying 24 students, was making its way north along the interstate when it struck the car, which had been traveling south, police said.

One of the passengers, a 16-year-old boy, was pronounced dead at the scene, police said. The other two, a 19-year-old woman and a 21-year-old man, were taken to a hospital in Columbus, Ind., police said.

Two others, a 4-year-old girl and a 6-year-old boy, were taken to a hospital in Springfield, Ill., police said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, police said.

Plane crashes into the Hudson River

All passengers, crew members on flight with severe injuries

Associated Press

NEW YORK - With both engines out, a cool-headed pilot maneuvered his crowded jetliner over New York Harbor, ditched it in the frigid Hudson River on Thursday, and all 155 on board were pulled to safety as the plane slowly sank.

It was, the governor said, “a miracle on the Hudson.”

One victim suffered two broken legs, a paramedic said, but there were no other reports of serious injuries.

The US Airways Airbus A320 hounded for Charlotte, N.C., struck a flock of birds during takeoff minutes earlier at LaGuardia Airport, apparently disabling the engines.

The pilot, identified as Chesley R. Sullenberger III of Danville, Calif., “was phenomenal,” passengers said.

Hart said, “I landed it - I tell you what - the impact wasn’t a whole lot more than a rear-end collision. It thumbed itself into the seat ahead of you.”

Both engines cut out and he actually floated into the river,” he added.

In a city still wounded from the aerial attack on the World Trade Center, authorities were quick to assure the public that terrorism wasn’t involved.

The plane was submerged up to its windows in the river by the time rescuers arrived. Coast Guard vessels and ferries brought some passengers to water up to their knees, standing on the wing of the plane and waiting for help.

People divers had to rescue some of the passengers from underwater.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, “Among those on board was one infant who appeared to be fine, the mayor said.

Helen Rodriguez, a paramedic who was among the first to arrive at the scene, said she saw one woman with two broken legs. Fire officials said others were evaluated for hypothermia, bruises and other minor injuries.

“We had a miracle on 34th Street,” Bloomberg said.

The crash took place on a 20-degree day, one of the coldest of the season in New York. The water temperature was 36 degrees, Coast Guard Lt. Commander Moore said.

He estimated that hypothermia can hit within five to eight minutes at that temperature.

The captain said, “Brace for impact because we’re going down,” passenger Jeff Kolodjay said.

He said passengers put their heads in their laps and started praying. He said the plane hit the water pretty hard, but he was fine.

“It was intense. It was intense. You’ve got to give it to the pilot,” Kolodjay said.

The plane hit the water, Paramedics treated at least 78 patients, fire officials said. Coast Guard boats rescued 35 people who were immersed in the frigid water and ferried them to shore. Some of the rescued were shivering and wrapped in white blankets, their feet and legs soaked.

One commuter ferry, the Thomas Jefferson of the company NY Waterway, arrived within minutes of the crash, and some of its own riders grabbed life vests and lines of rope and tossed them to plane passengers in the water.

U.N. Headquarters hit by Israeli fire

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli artillery shells struck the U.N. headquarters in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, setting a food warehouse ablaze and drawing a protest from the visiting U.N. chief who called it an “outrage.” A mother told Israeli bombing killed Hamas’ head of security.

The Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was departing Thursday night for Washington to discuss a Gaza cease-fire with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The United States and Egypt have been working to forge an agreement to end 20 days of bitter fighting.

The U.N. compound, made up of workshops and warehouses as well as offices, was struck about a half dozen times over a roughly two-hour period while more than 700 civilians were sheltering there, said John Ging, head of Gaza operations for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

The civilians were huddling in the compound’s vocational training center when it was struck by a tank round or an artillery shell, causing the three injuries, Ging said. Throughout this time, he said, U.N. officials were frantically contacting Israeli officials to urge an end to the firing on the U.N. compound.
Abroad

continued from page 1

SMC

continued from page 1

Laemmle. "The Irish are so relaxed about everything and life was very enjoyable."

The pace was not the only disparity in lifestyle that affected Laemmle, who found it difficult to fit back into her structured life back in the United States.

"It was really hard to readjust when I first got home," said Laemmle.

"I'd been living in an apartment with four Irish students while abroad.

"We were totally on our own in the apartments, so you could come and go as you pleased or make as much noise as you wanted and no one minded. I feel like my independence has been taken away since moving back to America because I have to follow so many rules now," she said.

Junior Allison Caterina may be having the hardest time with the adjustment. She recently returned from two semesters abroad, one in Italy and one in Spain. Although she is glad to be back, Caterina, a double major in Italian and Spanish, is going through withdrawal from being overseas for so long.

"I was really looking forward to being back at Saint Mary's because I had been abroad for a whole year and was beginning to really miss normal life on campus. But now I really miss both Spain and Rome," she said. "I already miss being able to discover something exotic locales.

"I went to Inner Mongolia with three friends during our week-long break," Yuen said. "It was definitely the calmest thing I have done in my life so far."

Like most student, Karam enjoyed the relaxed workload she had while abroad and she's confident that she will be able to get back into her normal academic routine now that she has returned to Notre Dame.

Most classes were easier than those at Notre Dame," Karam said. "I had one that was pretty challenging, though, so it shouldn't be too difficult to adjust back to the ND workload."

Miller is also certain he can readjust to Notre Dame's coursework. He said he is happy to be back, although he does miss life in Toledo.

"Honestly, I wouldn't mind being in Spain right now. It isn't even a little, " Miller said. "However, it is fantastic to see friends and familiar faces that I've missed for the past six months."

Yuen echoed Miller's sentiments, and said life back in the United States will take a little getting used to.

"It is a very bittersweet moment to be back. I missed all of my friends back here at ND, but I definitely miss China," Yuen said. "The weather, food, culture, and people are all so different; it will take a little while to adjust back."

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

Information Session
for those interested in the position of
Assistant Rector
for University Residences

Monday, January 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Fischer Community Center
(at Fischer O'Hara Grace Graduate Residences)

Light refreshments served

For further information visit http://osa.nd.edu/

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Please recycle The Observer.
House unveils economic recovery bill

Unprecedented $825 billion legislation predicted to affect 95% of workers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats unveiled an $825 billion economic recovery bill Thursday, unprecedented in its scale and reach, that would provide an enormous infusion of public spending in hopes of kick-starting the sagging economy.

The legislation — twothirds two-thirds two-thirds — would provide for the poor and unemployed and hand out huge grants for local schools and state governments, among its many provisions.

President-elect Barack Obama said it would fulfill his promise of creating or preserving more than 3 million jobs. But Republicans calculated that would equal as much as $725,000 per job.

Virtually everyone living in the United States would be affected by the plan. A $500 tax cut would reach 95 percent of workers and the Medicaid budgets collapse — to the tune of $120 billion over the next two years. States would get $87 billion worth of help with their Medicare budgets over the next two years.

There’s also money for fresh sod for the National Mall and millions of $40 coupons to help people adapt their old televisions for digital signals, raising questions about how efficient the legislation would be in creating jobs.

Even bill drafters such as Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis., admits that much of the legislation would be required.

Whatever doubts there may be about how effective the plan would be, it’s on a fast track through Congress in hopes of reaching Obama’s desk within a month.

“It is about job creation,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said. “It is about clean, efficient energy in America to transform our economy through investments in science and technology. … It is about modernizing our roads, bridges, education for the 21st century that cuts that make work pay and create jobs.”

At the same time, the measure helps the poor, unemployed and people who have lost their health insurance. Food stamp allotments would increase 13 percent, or about $20 a month, while the unemployed would see their benefits extended and increased by $25 a week.

People who lost their jobs after Sept. 1, 2008, could have the government pay almost two-thirds of their health insurance premiums under the COBRA law. Poorer people who have been fired recently could get health coverage through the Medicaid program.

The measure also contains about $90 billion for traditional infrastructure projects such as road and bridge repair and construction, modernizing federal buildings, clean water and flood control projects, and rail and mass transit construction.

That failure to impress Terence O’Sullivan, general president of the Laborers International Union of North America, who said it “falls far short.”

And AARP complained that the measure doesn’t do much for senior citizens.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats introduced an $825 billion recovery bill aimed at stimulating the dismal economy.

Wall Street rebounds after poor start

NEW YORK — Wall Street pulled off a big turnaround Thursday, rebounding from a steep early drop to finish modestly higher.

Weaker investors who began the day worrying about a revival of the banking crisis grew optimistic during the session as news of government aid will again help the financial industry.

The selloff, which followed news that Bank of America Corp. needed another government bailout, had the Dow Jones industrials heading for a seventh straight loss.

But investors awaiting a Senate vote authorizing the second $350 billion from the government’s financial bailout fund became more upbeat as the day wore on. They were hoping additional money from Washington will help stabilize banks, lawmakers approved the money after the market closed.

Late Thursday, Bank of America and the Treasury Department were near an agreement that would provide $150 billion to $200 billion in new government support to the banking giant, a source close to the discussions said.

The market’s zigzag Thursday was reminiscent of the enormous volatility seen in September and October, when warnings about mounting troubles at banks and the collapse of brokerage Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. pulverized Wall Street.

The market’s succeeding weeks were filled with terrorizing cuts at Dow industrials but felt almost commonplace. Wall Street has shown relative tranquility since late November but still remains in a bear market, which can produce sharp turns.

Some analysts attributed the comeback to the market’s own dynamics.

Joe Saluzzi, co-head of equity trading at Themis Trading LLC, said he saw the recovery in stocks was overdue given a 10 percent slide in the market in about a week, and he said traders were looking for any reason to rally. Saluzzi said investors might ultimately be disappointed by the government’s efforts to boost the economy but that headlines about broad spending were enough to prod the market.

“That’s the spark on top of the timber. That gets it going,” he said, referring to Washington’s plans. “I think, bottom line, it’s an oversold bounce. We’ll see if it lasts.”
Bowling for Obama

Last week college football fans were treated to a BCS Championship game that unequivocally named the Florida Gators the champions of the 2008 college football season. Or did it?

Before the game even started, teams from Salt Lake City, Alabama, and Compton were claiming that they deserved the honor of being named champions, and many writers agreed with them. Despite the fact that I felt asleep during the second quarter of a game that was almost as boring as Benjamin Button (key word: almost) I believe the Gators deserve the National Championship that has been presented to them, and that the other teams should just admit they weren't good enough.

Not everybody agrees with me. Most notably, our President-elect has been outspoken in his requests for a college football playoff to determine the national champion. This is most interesting because we have no evidence that Barack Obama is a college football fan. He talks about being a White Sox fan, he appeared on a Bears Monday Night Football game in 2006, and he talks often about his love of baseball, but how could a person who went to Occidental, Columbia, and Harvard possibly know what the biggest college football fans actually want?

Does his plea for a playoff come from his belief that a playoff would be the best sport for the sport? Or is it simply to appeal to the media hounds that love to talk about a playoff. Or is this logic just coming from his Hollywood connections, or is he just trying to appear to the fans of college football that it shouldn't be so clear about the fact that the big college football fans actually want a playoff?

The most common argument against a playoff is that it deviates the regular season. This year, games that were incredibly exciting because of their BCS implications included Texas – Texas Tech, Alabama – Florida, USC – Oregon State, and Penn State – Iowa. If there was a playoff, these games would have only been important for seeds, but the BCS eliminated the losers of all these games making the stakes higher than most every regular season NFL game.

More interestingly, however, is the fact that a playoff system would also deviate the other bowl games that currently exist. Already we have seen bowls such as the Cotton Bowl and the Sugar Bowl formerly known as the Citrus Bowl become less important because they landed on the outside of the BCS. If a playoff was instituted, all the non-playoff bowl games would become a sideshow much like the NFL's Pro Bowl or the UFEA Cup. While somebody who is not a fan of college football (or more importantly, a specific team) might see no purpose to these other bowl games, college football fans know that they are the heart and soul of our sport.

This year's other bowl games gave Ole Miss the chance to prove that its win over Florida was no fluke. They gave TCU the opportunity to prove that they are a top team. They gave Utah the opportunity to enter into the National Championship conversation, and they gave Virginia fans something they haven't seen in their lifetime, a bowl victory. Most importantly, while this year's lesser bowl games gave us Notre Dame fans something to cheer about after two of our most promising seasons.

Five weeks ago I wrote in this paper about how disappointing the past four years of Notre Dame Football had been. Things had gotten so bad that even most Notre Dame fans didn't think that our team could beat lowly Hawaii. This game gave us something to look forward to for the future, as well as something to be happy about in the present. If it wasn't for our lesser bowls, I would have never been able to proudly wear my Kyle Rudolph/Ethan Johnson [sorry Zelly] jersey to midnight mass on Christmas Eve.

Bowl games give half the country something awesome to cheer about and make lasting memories for the fans of the schools that come out victorious. Barack Obama says that a playoff system would be best for the sport because he is seemingly not a fan of the sport and has probably never even attended a bowl game. He wasn't the Ole Miss Senior who cheered victoriously as the Cotton Bowl trophy was hoisted feet away from him. He wasn't the Utah Senior who celebrated New Year's Eve on Bourbon Street, undoubtedly being taunted and outnumbered by Alabama fans, only to experience the sheer ecstasy of the Tide's victory. He wasn't the Notre Dame Senior that wore a Football jersey to midnight mass and, I will probably continue to tell people the story for a long time. In fact, I will probably tell my great nephews the story years from now when I am telling them memories of my Notre Dame years. The bowl system made a memory for me over this year even though I never considered traveling out to Hawaii. Barack Obama has none of these memories because he never attended a school with a DI football program, and because of this he should stop thinking he knows what is best for a sport he can't possibly understand. As he brings change to this country starting next week, I just hope that he focuses more on important issues that he more fully understands and does not waste his time trying to change my bowl system.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. You can contact him at kessler@nd.edu

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

Christmas, 2004. I had just been ordained a priest and was heading home. My family was excited I was going to say Christmas Mass at my home. My younger brother pointed out that, after six years in the seminary, he was finally starting to reap some benefits from my vocation. (When I had told him I was becoming a priest, his first words were, "Does this mean I don't have to get out of my pajamas on Christmas morning to go to Mass?"

As a new priest, I confess that I was pretty skittish about saying Christmas mass in the living room in which I grew up, my parents and brother and nieces and nephews all around. I was intent on leading my family into a deeper appreciation of the spiritual side of Christmas.

We would gather for mass two days in a row, as Christmas was on a Saturday, and the Feast of the Holy Family was the next day. So, newly ordained saint that I was, during my Christmas homily I suggested to my nieces and nephews that when they returned for mass the next day, they should bring one toy they had received from Santa Clause to the poor. As my chest swelled at how holy I was making my family, I heard these words from the back of the living room, spat out by my 14-year old nephew -- "This sucks!" (Gotta love the East Coast.

Growing up, my parents and brother and I were, pretty stoked about saying "yes!" to that new word from my vocations. As a new priest, I confess that I was, thinking about the things that are our hearts most deeply desire -- when we were young, it was toys; now, it is to be loved, to be whole, to be healed, to be one with our God -- all these things are given to us, while we sleep in darkness.

What kids experience when they turn the corner of their living room and see their gifts, that's how we are called to experience our lives and that fills them; with wonder and gratitude -- "I can't believe this has happened!"

So, what if some mean uncle came up to you, and said that now you had to give this gift away. What would you say to that?

As we begin a new semester, hold on to Christmas. This semester, and all it holds -- it's all a gift. Try to step into it with wonder, expectation, and deep thanks.

This week's column is written by Fr. Lou DeFra, CSC, director of Bible Study and chaplain at ACE. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Academy Award nominee who won herself two 

Titanic Phenomenon and what my face became the young male lead in 

The film, a special effects-laden retelling of the fated 1912 ocean liner, plucked these two leads from pseudo-obscenity. The male lead was an alum of sitcoms ("Growing Pains") and a few critical successes ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape," "This Boy's Life"). The female lead, a British actress, had even fewer high-profile credentials under her belt (Peter Jackson's "Heavenly Creatures"). In 1997, "Titanic," was an astronomical success. A critical and box office smash, it went on to win 11 Academy Awards while grossing more than $1.8 billion dollars worldwide.

And these two little-known actors? Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award for "Titanic," went on to become two of contemporary Hollywood's highest-profile actors.

The paths of their careers have wound and twisted in surprising ways. DiCaprio has emerged from his post-"Titanic" teen idol status to play with Hollywood's Big players: Russell Crowe, Tom Hanks, and Martin Scorsese, a working relationship often likened to that between Scorcese and Robert De Niro two decades prior. Winslet, called the best English-speaking film actress of her generation" by David Edelstein of "The New Yorker," is a five-time Academy Award nominee who won herself two Golden Globe awards Sunday.

While several of his other roles, particularly that of the young male lead in "This Boy's Life," may have led DiCaprio to critical success at the beginning of his career, it was his portrayal of Jack Dawson in "Titanic" that gave birth to the Leo-Mania phenomenon.

Yet DiCaprio didn't see himself grasping the cover of "Tiger Beat" for life; he told Time magazine in 2000 that "I have no connection with me during that whole Titanic Phenomenon and what my face became around the world. I'll never reach that state of popularity again ... It's not something I'm going to try to achieve either."

His films that followed, such as "The Man in the Iron Mask" (1998), may have benefited from his heartthrob status. But it was his later projects that would cement DiCaprio as one of the top American actors of his generation.

In 2002, he starred in the Scorsese-directed film "Gangs of New York" alongside Cameron Diaz and Daniel Day-Lewis, as well as the Steven Spielberg helmed "Catch Me If You Can." The chain of films that followed reads like a laundry list of the new millennium's most critically acclaimed releases: 2004's "The Aviator," 2006's "The Departed," which won him the Oscar for Best Picture, and 2006's "Blood Diamond." "Revolutionary Road" is only the latest building block of his career; upcoming projects of DiCaprio's include Scorsese's "Shine," "Asheville," and his future role as Atari and Chuck E. Cheese's founder Nolan Bushnell in a yet-untilled project.

Winslet has rarely backed down from challenging projects in the years since her first collaboration with DiCaprio, taking on quirksier or more difficult projects than most actresses of her age. In 2001, she starred in the biopic "Irish" as Irish novelist Irish Murdoch. Three years later, she played Clementine Kruczynski in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," portraying a woman who chooses to have all memories of her former lover (Jim Carrey) erased.

Winslet would tackle suburban complexity first in 2006 as Sarah Pierce in "Little Children," a role for which she was nominated another Academy Award nomination. Several of her other projects have included her role as Sylvia Llewelyn Davies in "Finding Neverland" (2004), the lovelorn Irish Simplex in the 2006 rom-com "The Holiday," and her recent portrayal of former Nazi concentration camp describer Schmitz in "The Reader." Both "The Reader" and "Revolutionary Road" won Winslet Golden Globe awards this year, and her path towards winning an Oscar seems a sure one.

DiCaprio and Winslet have come a long way since they were first matched as the ill-fated Rose and Jack in Cameron's "Titanic." With the production of "Revolutionary Road" now behind them and awards season ahead, audiences and fans wait in anticipation of what might come next.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu
from the
ary Road

Revolutionary Road

Directed by: Sam Mendes
Written by: Justin Haythe & Richard Yates
Starring: Kate Winslet & Leonardo DiCaprio

Frank wants to find his calling, but like so many of us, isn't willing to take the risk, while April is searching for something not even she can understand — and therein lies the tragedy.

Their search for the life that eludes them both doesn't take much to see that Winslet and DiCaprio are together in their quest to live the picturesque life, falling into every sense of normalcy that comes with the lifestyle. Under the surface, however, lies a different story.

Right off the bat we are privy to the fact that the Wheelers have a rocky marriage, always arguing, but about what? There in lies the substance of the film.

Look closer and you'll find that although this is a film about social issues and gender stereotypes facing Americans in the 1950s, about a marriage on the brink of collapse because of these issues, it is just as much, if not more, about the struggle to retain an identity amidst the delusion that when one settles down, life automatically rescinds itself and is replaced by a numb existence.

Look even closer and you'll find that although this film is built around couples, it is actually about individuals — individuals who choose to live the delusion and either convince themselves that life inevitably becomes anesthetized and there's nothing that can be done about it, or simply don't realize their frozenness at all. Individuals like Frank, and especially April, who so boldly choose to refuse the delusion, try to grab a hold of life again.

Look a little more deeply and you will see that even among those who desire change, there is a weakness too powerful and too restricting — reality.

The reality is that Frank and April are together in their quest to live again for different reasons: Frank wants to find his calling, but like so many of us, isn't willing to take the risk, while April is searching for something not even she can understand — and therein lies the tragedy.

Their search for the life that eludes them both is both a love search, one conjured up by dreams failed to wake up and realize that reality isn't so kind.

It doesn't take much to see that Winslet and DiCaprio are nothing short of brilliant, or that Sam Mendes is in top form in his return to showcasing the rather dark side of suburban life, but it does take a connection with the characters to really take in just how remarkable "Revolutionary Road" is.

Many will watch it from the-outside-looking-in and find it a gloomy, perhaps even dull film, but for those who can look through the window and into April Wheeler's eyes and see the emptiness of fake existence, this is one of the real gems of the year.

Contact Shane Steinberg at steinb2@nd.edu

By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

Eleven years and eight Oscar nominations after becoming household names for their roles in "Titanic," Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio are sharing the same screen once again, in the film "Revolutionary Road." Cast arguably the best actor and actress of this generation under a ter-
ritic director in Sam Mendes ("American Beauty") and you've got an equation that screams Oscars. And a winning equation it most certainly turns out to be.

Frank and April Wheeler are a young married couple who have recently settled down, started a family and made a home for themselves in a seemingly perfect, innocent suburban town in Connecticut.

They are living the picturesque 1950s life, falling into every sense of normalcy that comes with the lifestyle. Under the surface, however, lies a different story.

Right off the bat we are privy to the fact that the Wheelers have a rocky marriage, always arguing, but about what? There in lies the substance of the film.

Look closer and you'll find that although this is a film about social issues and gender stereotypes facing Americans in the 1950s, about a marriage on the brink of collapse because of these issues, it is just as much, if not more, about the struggle to retain an identity amidst the delusion that when one settles down, life automatically rescinds itself and is replaced by a numb existence.

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Contact Shane Steinberg at steinb2@nd.edu

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
Scene Writer

Despite the sub-zero weather and the snow-blanketing campus, Legends will be heating things up this Friday night with the Chicago-based Latin group Banda Rika and Saturday night with DJ Kidscratch. Banda Rika is composed of a 10-person orchestra and a two-person front line, combining the styles of Merengue, Cumbia, Boleros, and Bachata to create a distinctive Latin flavor. The band uses a variety of instruments including brass, bongos, bass and piano, along with other backup instruments.

Banda Rika was formed in 1999, based out of Chicago’s western suburb, and originally opened for the Puerto Rican show "Grandes de Kaos." For their second gig, they competed in the "Batalla de Merengue," a contest to become the best Merengue band of the year.

Although they did not win the contest, they grabbed the attention of the Chicago’s hottest mixtapes, and making him a favorite of the Chicago club and party scene. In 2003, Chicago’s WGCI radio station featured him on a weekend mix show. Only one year after winning Rookie DJ of the Year and he has even shared the stage with stars like DMX, Kanye West, Do or Die, Shabba & Mjg, Twista and Common.

DJ Kidscratch will be spinning the tunes on Friday night, Legends will feature DJ Kidscratch at 8pm on Friday night and DJ Legends at 10pm on Saturday night.

Banda Rika first came to Notre Dame in the win-
ter of 2005 and is one of Chicago’s premier Latin bands. They will perform at 10 pm on Friday.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsens@nd.edu

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Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mark Sanchez made his own call.

Coming off a record-setting Rose Bowl, the Southern California quarterback will skip his senior season to enter the NFL draft — going against the advice of coach Pete Carroll.

Sanchez, a four-year junior, announced his plans at a campus news conference Thursday. He met the deadline for underclassmen to declare for the draft.

"We lost three stars who played quarterback at USC under Carroll stayed for their senior seasons, and the former NFL coach thought Sanchez should do the same.,

Carroll tried to convince Sanchez that another year of college experience would help him in the pro game, but Sanchez said he had carefully weighed all the considerations before deciding to leave.

"It has been my dream since I was a little kid to play in the NFL and thanks to my great academic institution and football program, I have the opportunity to pursue that dream," said Sanchez, dapperly dressed in a business suit.

"It was with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to this university that I call home a lot and trying to do the best for my family." Sanchez added.

Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart, along with John David Booty, all returned for their final year of eligibility with the Trojans. Palmer was the first overall pick in the 2002 NFL draft and Leinart was selected 10th in 2005.

Carroll said he consid­ers Sanchez as talented as any of those three, discussed the pros and cons with him.

"We've talked at great depth and great length. We've covered this from A to Z... until late until last night," Carroll said. "I don't see this decision the same. (But) I'm thrilled for Mark. For any of our kids to live the dream and do what they want to do with what they have, that's a great place to do this.

"Because 2008 Heisman win­ner Sam Bradford of Oklahoma, 2007 Heisman win­ner Tim Tebow of Florida and Texas star Colt McCoy all plan to return to school next season, Sanchez and Georgia's Matthew Stafford — another junior coming out early — likely will be the top quarterback prospects in the draft.

"It had been a couple of years for the disabled list with a weakened shoulder, has recovered from offseason surgery to the point where he will begin a hitting program next week in Arizona — his first real cuts since December.

"I'm chopping at the bit," he said Thursday.

By all accounts, Hafner has been eating at the team's cafeteria this semester. Return was forced at buy at the bookstore this semester. Return was forced at buy at the bookstore this semester.

"As a parent, I'd like for him to stay in school for another 10 years," he said. "But it's great to see a young man trying to live his dream."

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Observer office, 605 South Deering Ave. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $5 per character per day, including spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit classifieds for content without notice referring.
Jim Schwartz insisted Friday, January 16, around the dial 7 Connecticut 4 6892 7 Minnesota 674 10-5-5 8 Vermont 656 24-3 9 Miami (Ohio) 525 12-7-3 10 Maryland 510 13-6-0 11 Colorado St. 483 12-7-5 12 Boston College 474 9-6-3 13 New Hampshire 425 11-6-6 14 Ohio State 380 15-6-1 15 Air Force 360 12-9-3 16 Wisconsin 325 9-7-10 17 North Dakota 173 13-10-1 18 Dartmouth 161 10-6-0 19 Yale 114 11-4-6 20 Bob-Odom 100 13-3-7 21 St. Cloud State 48 13-9-1 22 Minnesota State 30 15-10-1 23 Quinnipiac 24 11-7-2 24 Alaska 21 10-8-4 25 Maine 15 15-8-2

Men’s Hockey

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Big East Conference

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MLB

ATLANTA — The Braves finalized their $60 million, four-year contract with Derek Lowe on Thursday after the right-hander passed a physical.

Lowe went 14-11 with a 3.24 ERA for the Los Angeles Dodgers last season. He likely will become the top starter in Atlanta’s restructured rotation, joined by fellow newcomers Javier Vazquez and Kenshin Kawakami.

The 35-year-old Lowe will be introduced at Turner Field on Friday, capping a comeback week for the Braves after long-time starter John Smoltz signed with the Boston Red Sox, stirring up bitter complaints by fans and even star third baseman Chipper Jones about the direction of the team.

"This has been a very slow-developing offseason. I think the economy probably has a lot to do with that," general manager Frank Wren said. "I can understand people getting a little impatient. We were wanting to do it. We were getting a little impatient. They have a much better idea now.

On Tuesday, the Braves announced the signing of Kawakami, a Japanese league all-star, and Lowe fills out a rotation that was devastated by injuries a year ago. Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Tim Hudson all underwent season-ending surgeries.

Lowe will receive $15 million a year in a contract that runs through 2012. Most enticing for the Braves, he’s never been on the disabled list, making him one of only three current players (along with Livan Hernandez and Brad Ausmus) to play at least 12 years without ever going down with an injury.

The 42-year-old Glavine had hoped to start throwing off a mound this week, but had to push back those plans as he continues his slow recovery from elbow surgery. The Braves have said they’ll hold on to offering him a contract until they know more about his health, and the 300-game winner has said he’ll retire if he’s not pitching in Atlanta.

Hudson, who underwent ligament replacement surgery on his elbow, isn’t expected back until August, sending the Braves into the offseason with only one healthy starter under contract who had at least 10 wins in 2008.

Braves sign Lowe for $60 million

Associated Press

IN BRIEF

Lions hire Titans assistant Schwartz as head coach

DETROIT — Jim Schwartz insisted he has no ego challenges.

"Well, he’s got one."

The Detroit Lions, the NFL’s first 0-16 team, agreed Thursday on a four-year deal with Schwartz to make him their next coach.

The former Tennessee Titans defensive coordinator will be introduced at a Friday news conference at Ford Field, where Detroit lost its home games last year by an average of 21.4 points to break another dubious league record.

The 42-year-old Schwartz just finished his eighth season as the Titans’ defensive coordinator and his 10th on their staff. He interviewed for a second time with the Lions on Monday.

"After an extensive search that included several highly qualified coaches, we are thrilled that Jim Schwartz will become our team’s head coach," team president Tom Lewand said in a statement.

Harvin takes speed to the NFL draft one year early

GAITHERSBURG, Fla. — Florida star Percy Harvin is taking his speed, elusiveness and durability concerns to the NFL.

The junior playmaker said Thursday he is leaving school early to turn pro, but Gators wide receiver Brandon Spikes will return for his senior season.

Both players announced their intentions hours before the deadline for underclassmen to declare for the NFL draft.

Even without Harvin, the Gators likely will be the preseason favorite to win a third national championship in four years. But there’s little doubt Florida will miss its do-it-all receiver.

A 5-foot-11, 195-pound dynamo from Aiken, S.C., Harvin led the team in receiving and was second in rushing. He caught 44 passes for 644 yards and seven touchdowns, and ran for 660 yards and 10 scores.

He missed five games in three seasons because of injury and was limited in several more, an issue that could keep him from being a top 10 pick in April.

Colon rejoins White Sox pitching staff for one year

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox hope Bartolo Colon can stay healthy long enough to help their rotation, perhaps as the No. 4 starter.

Colon returned to the White Sox for a second stint Thursday when he agreed to a $1 million, one-year contract. The 2005 AL Cy Young Award winner could earn an additional $2 million in performance bonuses based on innings.

"I think everyone knows what Bartolo can do when he’s healthy," Chicago general manager Ken Williams said during a conference call.

Williams said after gathering information from Dr. James Andrews and the team’s medical staff, the White Sox are convinced Colon "was on the other side of the issues that have derailed him in his career the last few years."

A two-time All-Star and 20-game winner, the 35-year-old Colon has made only 36 appearances in the last three seasons, mainly because of injuries.
Leaves blow lead, top ‘Canes anyway

Wild dominate from onset in win over Oilers

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Toronto Maple Leafs spent the first two periods building a huge lead only to watch the Carolina Hurricanes erase it in minutes.

Fortunately, the Maple Leafs found a way to avoid a humbling loss.

Tomas Kaberle scored on a power play late in the third period, and Jason Blake had a five-point night to help the Leafs shake off a blown-four-goal lead and beat the Hurricanes 6-4 on Thursday night.

Blake had three goals and two assists for Toronto, which ended a four-game losing streak. Ian White and Niklas Hagman also scored, and Vesa Toskala made 28 saves.

After leading 4-0 late in the second period, the Leafs watched Carolina score four goals in 10 minutes to tie it midway through the third. But Kaberle came through with a one-timer that bounced off Cam Ward’s glove and into the net with 5:25 left to retake the lead, and Blake added an empty-net score in the final seconds to seal it.

“We didn’t put our heads down,” Kaberle said. “It doesn’t mean that (when) it’s 4-4, you’re going to lose the game. It was a good attitude on the bench and it’s a learning process.”

Not exactly a textbook way to win, but Toronto could have used any bit of good fortune considering its struggles this month.

“I don’t know if there is any bitterness for us,” coach Ron Wilson said, “but yeah, we found a way to win. We never should have put ourselves in that position, but we did.”

The Hurricanes could have said the same thing — at least, about falling behind 4-0 with that woeful first 40 minutes. Matt Cullen, Tuomo Ruutu, Eric Staal and Scott Walker scored in Carolina’s desperate rally only to see it come up short.

Carolina, which had won four straight games earlier this month, has now lost four straight.

“We need to win. We need to stay in the hunt,” Staal said. “It was a good third period, but in the end it doesn’t matter because we didn’t get the win.”

It was the first game for Carolina coach Paul Maurice against his former team since returning to the Hurricanes’ bench in early December.

Maurice won 76 games in two seasons with the Maple Leafs before being fired after last season.

For the first two periods, the Maple Leafs — who had won just once in 2009 and lost right of 10 — were the only ones playing like they had something crucial on the line.

After White’s goal gave Toronto the 1-0 lead after the first, Blake pushed the lead to 2-0 when he pushed past Joni Pitkanen as he skated in on Ward and scored a wrasuprong goal lefts than 2 minutes into the period.

The Leafs kept the pressure on, with Hagman scoring on a short putaway and a diving Blake beating Ward to a pass from Dominic Moore to make it 4-0 at 15:07 of the second.

Cullen scored a goal in the final 90 seconds of the period to give Carolina hope for a comeback, and the Hurricanes spent the rest of the game making it reality.

Hagman scored at 1:21 of the third, then Staal buried his own shot from the right side on a 5-on-3 power play to pull Carolina to further charge a home crowd that had offered scattered boos only a half-hour earlier.

Finally, Walker completed the comeback by setting up at the top of the crease and putting a rebound past Toskala to make it 4-4 at 8:40 of the third.

“We got lazy and we took some penalties,” Blake said. “They’ve got a lot of offensive skill over there and they took advantage of it. We just obviously wanted to put the foot on the pedal and keep doing what we were doing.”

When asked what he told his team between the second and third period that led to the comeback, Maurice responded, “Nothing that you can print.”

“I was pleased with the way they responded,” he said, “but not very pleased that we had to respond to that matter (of being down 4-0).”

Wild, Oilers 3

Journeymen Krys Kolanos and scraper Cal Clutterbuck gave the Minnesota Wild an early lead with first-period goals, and Niklas Backstrom stayed perfect in goal against the Edmonton Oilers with a victory Thursday night.

Pierre-Marc Bouchard and Brent Burns scored in the third period against former teammate Dwayne Roloson to stretch the lead. Mikko Koivu sliced through two Oilers defenders to set up Burns with 4:41 left, and Eric Belanger scored with 45.7 seconds remaining.

Backstrom has now lost to Edmonton, lifting his career record to 10-0 in 12 appearances with 20 saves. The Oilers have lost eight straight games at Xcel Energy Center; they’ve been outscored 29-9 in those contests.

Only one went to overtime, and the last victory was two years ago.

Liam Reddox scored Edmonton’s only goal.

Given the tight state of the Western Conference in today’s lose-in-overtime-but-still-pick-up-a-standings-point NHL, it’s not a stretch to suggest the winner of the Oilers-Wild season series will have a clear edge over the other in the competition for one of the final playoff spots. Edmonton coach Craig MacTavish essentially said as much before the game.

This was their first of six meetings.

These teams entered the game in a three-way tie with fellow Northwest Division foe Colorado for ninth place, just four points out of fifth slightly past the season’s midpoint. The Wild started their second half with a flourish, beating Phoenix 6-3 with a badly needed breakthrough offensive game for their struggling top two lines.

The grinders picked up the slack in this one, giving Minnesota a couple more five-on-five scores to move out of last place in the league in that category.

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20TH ANNIVERSARY
NOTRE DAME
STUDENT FILM
FESTIVAL’09

thursday, friday, saturday
January 22, 23, 24
becoming cinema 6:30 and 9:30 pm
delirious performing arts center
tickets: $8, $6 faculty/staff, $5 seniors, $10 students
for tickets: 952-3000 or visit performance.nd.edu

BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

Masses celebrating
Blessed Basile-Antoine-Marie Moreau, CSC
1799-1873

January 17-18, 2009

All weekend Masses
in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart
and throughout campus

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Feast of Blessed Fr. Moreau, CSC
Special University Celebration with the Holy Cross Community at the 5:15 Mass
Men's Tennis

Irish face former champs in opener

By KATELYN GRABAREK
Sports Writer

No. 30 Notre Dame opens its season today by hosting 2006 NCAA Champion No. 14 Pepperdine indoors at the Eck Center — a fact that shouldn't be overlooked.

"Pepperdine is certainly a difficult challenge for us, particularly as an opener," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Our biggest advantage is playing here and inside. Malibu has lots going for it, but indoor tennis is not one of its perks."

Like the Irish, Pepperdine is led by a star at No. 1 singles in junior Bassam Bedjas. "Bassam Bedjas can beat anyone in the country," Bayliss said. "Irish senior Bret Helgeson will have his hands full. Last year we both finalist teams in the Pacific Coast Doubles. We will have to be at our best to be competitive."

The Irish are young this year, with many brand new players in the lineup or playing different positions from last year, Bayliss noted.

With a relatively young and inexperienced squad, Bayliss said his team's two-a-day practices from Jan. 5-11 were crucial to determining the opening day lineup.

"The biggest surprise (from pre-season workouts) has been Sam Keeton," Bayliss said of the freshman. "He missed the entire fall semester with a broken right wrist but has quickly made up for lost time."

As a whole, Bayliss said the freshman class is talented but untested. Casey Watt and Niall Fitzgerald showed their talent throughout the fall season, he said.

Helgeson will maintain his No. 1 singles spot that he held much of last season and is currently ranked No. 20 by the ITA. After that, though, the lineup is subject to constant change.

"At this point it looks like No. 2 by committee," Bayliss said. "In particular, Stephen Havens, Dan Stahl and Casey Watt all seem like they are playing at a level where each will have a chance to post wins there. Each has unique talents that make him special."

Havens played No. 4 singles for the Irish for much of last season, but with the graduation of Sheva Parthu and Andrew Roth, there are some holes to fill in the lineup. Bayliss also said that his No. 2 through No. 10 slots in the lineup will likely be made up of freshmen and sophomores.

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SMC Swimming

Belles to swim twice in 24 hours

Squad will host Wabash then swim against Albion at Rolf's

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

After a week off, the Belles will dive right back into action with two meets in less than 24 hours this weekend, traveling to Indianapolis Friday before returning home.

The University of Indianapolis will host Saint Mary's and Wabash at 6 p.m. today, and the Belles will take on Albion at Notre Dame's Rolfs Aquatic Center at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Belles enter the weekend with a 3-3 record in head-to-head meets, including a loss in last weekend's meet against No. 8 Hope College, two fourth-place finishes and a fifth-place finish in invitational finals.

The Belles have been led all season by the stellar performances of their young swimmers, especially sophomore Maggie Williams and freshmen Audrey Dalrymple and Eva Cavadini.

The Belles' last two meets were at Albion.

Williams, who had seven victories before the winter break, has yet to finish this season.

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Fencing

ND students compete in Hungary

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

As the rest of the student body was enjoying a relaxing winter break, members of the Irish squad competed in a Junior World Cup event held in Budapest, Hungary.

Fencers Ewa Nelim, Barron Nydam and Avery Zuck added four points to their point totals after a successful tournament from Jan. 3-5.

Despite being loaded with talent, the team enters the 2009 season full of questions regarding the experience and depth of its young cast. But after a successful performance in Budapest, the answers are becoming clearer.

"We have a very strong team," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "There are so many factors we can't control on such a young team. But anything can happen."

Nelim, who competed in the women's epee division, earned a bronze medal in Budapest and added 20 points to her FIE ranking, the international fencing's ranking system.

Initially seeded No. 14 in the 64-person tournament, the sophomore out-touched the competition to reach the semifinals but had to settle for third place after a loss to silver medalist Erika Kirpus of Estonia.

The No. 22-ranked Nydam also flourished in the tournament, finishing in second and recording 26 points toward his FIE ranking.

Competing in the men's epee division, Nydam cruised past the competition to the finals where he settled for his second silver medal of the season after dropping the final to Hungarian native Aron Szlazag.

Zuck added four points to his ranking after finishing in 47th, supplementing his top-five finish in the Junior World Cup in Germany.

Nelim, Nydam and Zuck are just three of a talented core of freshman and sophomores eager to begin Big East play on Jan. 24, when the Irish travel to Queens, N.Y., for a dual meet with St. John's.

Fencing freshman Courtney Hurley will play a key role for the women's epee class, while her older sister Kelley brings experience as the reigning NCAA champion.

Bednarski said the Olympic experience of Kelley Hurley and freshman Gerek Meinhardt will bring poise and calmness to a maturing team.

Meinhardt, the youngest male U.S. Olympian in Beijing, still believes he has more to learn from his teammates and coaches.

"It's a mutual relationship," Meinhardt said. "We both gain a lot from practicing with each other."

Several Notre Dame team members will travel to Louisville, Ky., for the North American Cup this weekend, a four-day event.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Notre Dame Football

Annual Walk-On Tryouts

The Notre Dame Football Program will be holding walk-on tryouts at the beginning of the spring semester.

If you are interested:
Pick-up/Fill-out & Return:
Information Form & Medical Forms

Forms to be filled out are at the Reception Desk at the Football Office in the Guglielmino Complex.

You must have the forms filled out and returned by Monday January 19, 2009.

Following our receipt of all information & medical forms, we will have an informational meeting and a series of tryouts/workouts.

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ND TRACK & FIELD
Squad ready for Indoor Opener

By ALEX BARKER and CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writers

Notre Dame will try to bring its home success into the new year today when it hosts the Indoor Opener, its first home meet of 2009. Both the men's and women's teams have brought home strong results in their first two meets.

The team has qualified over 50 athletes for Indoor March's Big East Championships after just two competitions. In their first meet of the season, Notre Dame's Blue and Gold Invitational, the women brought home several event titles, top-five finishes in every event and one NCAA Championship meet qualifier.

On the men's side, freshman Jordan Bincon is off to an especially hot start this year, winning an event in both meets.

The Irish have been dominant in the pole vault as well, taking the first five spots at the Blue-Gold meet. Junior Matt Schipper won that event, and also finished tied for third in last year's Indoor Opener. Freshman Kevin Schipper finished second, followed by senior Tray Morgan, sophomore Justin Schneider, and sophomore Andrew Kolbeck.

Several of Notre Dame's returners have showed marked improvement, accounting for much of the team's early success. Junior Eric Quick has made strides in the long jump, finishing second at the Indiana Opener after a sixth-place showing in last year's Indoor Opener.

For the women at the Blue and Gold Invitational, senior pole-vaulter Mary Saxer recorded a four-meter mark to solidify an automatic bid into the NCAA National Championships later this spring.

Freshman Maddie Buttinger and junior Jaime Minor took first in the high jump and triple jump, respectively.

In the throwing events, senior thrower Anna Weber dominated the shot put and weight throw competitions coating to victories in each.

In the 60-meter hurdles, the Irish claimed the top three spots led by freshman Sasha Blanchard who finished with a time of 9.14 seconds.

The Irish look to continue improving their results as they head into their second meet on Wednesday, January 21.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu and Chris Michalski at jmichal2@nd.edu

NCAA BASKETBALL
No. 4 Connecticut defeats St. John's

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Freshman guard Kemba Walker scored 21 points and senior forward Jeff Adrien added 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead No. 4 Connecticut to a workmanlike 67-55 victory over St. John's on Thursday night.

The win was the fourth straight for the Huskies (15-1, 4-1 Big East) since they lost their conference opener at home to Georgetown.

This was the last of a three-game trip for Connecticut, the ninth time the Huskies have had that long a stretch under coach Jim Calhoun and this was the first time they won all three.

Sophomore guard Paris Horne had a career-high 24 points for the Red Storm (10-6, 1-3), who lost for the fifth time in six games with the lone win over then-No. 7 Notre Dame. This was St. John's third game against a top 10 team in the last 13 days as it fell 90-67 at No. 1 Pittsburgh on Sunday.

Horne's jumper with 16:08 to play had St. John's within 37-36 but the Red Storm struggled against Connecticut's zone defense and the Huskies were able to pull away at Madison Square Garden.

Walker, a native of New York City, scored the last six points of a 7-0 run that gave Connecticut a 51-38 lead with 9:33 to go. He hit his only 3-pointer of the game — a bank shot — to cap the run. Walker finished 8-of-12 from the field, many of his field goals coming on layups and driving shots as he used his speed to get ahead of the play after a St. John's missed shot.
Wednesday, the Syracuse's four Big East wins determine whether or not on the boards, and he said teams are the ones that give team the way they're how to play have come against teams cur­

Dome with a win will be diffi­

Currently at Georgetown. They
decision will be made in a late three-point play in the Pepsi Center, which ranks 37 fourth-quarter points as Portland 13 of 19 shots, rookie Brooke Ingles added 17 points, Bobby Simmons 14 andugue. On November 30, 2003, Prrybyll, who had 11 reb­

McGraw said she has a "fighter attitude," referring to the practice, which she said she expressed to carry over into the game. The defense will get an imme­

Bayless then drove the base­

Bayless was also perfect on 11 free

If either Notre Dame or

The play most people will

After facing the Wildcats, Notre Dame will hit the road to travel to Notre Dame University to face off against the Grizzlies on Saturday afternoon. The Irish and Grizzlies swap against each other, but we're excited for this kind of challenge and want to put our team to be able to play more
defined by the way they're playing. They can pass and catch and shoot. They know who their weapon is, they know how to play together. They're de­

McGraw said she was thrilled

Bayless scored a career-high

Bayless tied a hight of the day's score, the Portland Trail Blazers’ rookie took advantage against the New York Knicks.

Bayless was also perfect on 11 free

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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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HOCKEY

Record unbeaten streak alive as Irish head north

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

The top-ranked Irish will put their school-record 18-game unbeaten run to the test this weekend at Lake Superior State - the team that two months ago threatened the streak at four.

The Lakers (6-9-7, 3-6-5-1 CCHA) played host Notre Dame (18-3-2, 12-2-2-2 CCHA) to a 3-3 draw on Nov. 14 before the Irish won their first-ever shootout. Notre Dame handled the Lakers 5-2 the next night, and the Irish have won 11 of 12 since.

"We've played fairly consistently ever since the third week of the season," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "We've had different types of games - some more defensively-minded, like last week against Alaska, some with more goals being scored, like against Bowling Green. Our team's adjusted pretty well ... and we've reached a certain level of consistency defensively and with our goaltending and special teams."

The Lakers use a similar recipe for success, Jackson said, and are led by sophomore goaltender Brian Mahoney-Wilson, who boasts a .927 save percentage.

"We'll have to play smart," Jackson said. "They've got good goaltending and they play a system where it's tough to generate much offense against them ... We're going to try to generate one power-play goal a night to be successful." The Irish went 2-for-12 on the power play against Lake Superior State in their two games earlier this season, but Notre Dame is just 1-for-14 with the man-advantage over its last three games.

Despite their sub-.500 conference record, the Lakers have remained in eighth place in the CCHA standings because they have gained at least one point in eight of their 14 conference games.

"They're going to be a home-ice team in the [CCHA] playoffs," Jackson said. "They get fairly balanced scoring from their top three lines and they're real solid defensively." The Irish went 2-for-12 on the power play against Lake Superior State in their two games earlier this season, but Notre Dame is just 1-for-14 with the man-advantage over its last three games.

ND looks to rebound at Syracuse as Big East challenges continue

By GREG ARROGAST
Sports Writer

It's not often that playing at the No. 8 team in the country could be considered the least difficult game of a three-game stretch, but such is life in the 2009 Big East.

Sandwiched between a road game against pre-season No. 5 Louisville and a home game against current No. 12 Notre Dame travels to No. 8 Syracuse for a noon game Saturday.

The Orange owe their high ranking largely to a 16-1 record entering the week, but it's unclear whether or not Syracuse is as-good as the polls see. see ORANGE/Page 18

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Another ranked foe awaits young squad

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

After a commanding victory over Toledo and a loss to No. 21 Northwestern, the Irish will travel to No. 20 Louisville Saturday for a Big East meet.

"This is a team that we match up very closely with," Irish coach Brian Barnes said. "While the long-term goal is setting times that will be competitive at the national championships, we are always competing to win." The Irish have never lost to Louisville in the teams' four all-time meetings, but the Cardinals present a threat to Notre Dame's 3-1 season record.

Sophomores Samantha Maxwell, Amywren Miller and Lauren Sylvester, and juniors Megan Farrell and Maggie Behrens will be the main cogs for a young but deep Irish squad that has gotten off to a fast start.

"Team depth is going to be the difference in this match," Barnes said. "When you can only race four events per person, it's about winning what you can, but more important, getting those second, third, fourth and fifth places consistently." see DEFENSE/Page 18

ND MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rugged road


ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team refocusing on defense

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's main focus will be reestablishing its defensive intensity when it takes on St. John's Saturday, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Thursday.

This emphasis is a direct result of Notre Dame's second loss of the season, a 75-65 defeat at Marquette on Tuesday, which McGraw attributed to a lack of commitment on the defensive side of the court.

"We did not play our normal game defensively," McGraw said. "They got a lot of shots - a lot of easy shots. We had a letdown defensively."