By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

As one of the first moves of his presidency, President Barack Obama hailed prosecutions at Guantanamo Bay, and the Associated Press reported that Obama would sign an executive order Thursday closing detention facility in Cuba within a year.

Professor Mary Ellen O’Connell, a Notre Dame professor of international law and a specialist on the law of war, said she was pleased with the action.

“Now... a very good news, very good news indeed. The military commissions process that was set up at Guantanamo Bay is widely considered to have been seriously flawed, very defective — so halting those commissions proceedings was a very important move by the president to get the United States back into good standing with the rest of the world,” O’Connell said.

Senior Catherine McKinney, the president of Human Rights-ND, was extremely pleased with the announcement as well.

“It’s a big step in the right direction on the road to close Guantanamo,” McKinney said.

President Obama has signaled that he will consider closing the U.S. military detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

“Obama and the White House have been signaling for months that they want to shut down the Guantanamo facility, and that’s not just because of the human rights implications,” said Weis. “It’s also because of the financial implications.”

According to the White House, the administration will place an offer to close the facility by the end of the year.

Scullly given presidential medal for ACE work

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

Sitting in his office last semester, Fr. Tim Scully, received an interesting phone call — from the White House.

A member of President George W. Bush’s staff called to inform Scully he had been chosen as a recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal.

“I was struck by complete surprise,” Scully said.

He went to Washington, D.C. on Dec. 10 to receive the award, one of the highest medals a civilian can receive in the United States, second only to the Medal of Freedom.

According to the White House, the award is given in recognition of the recipient’s “exemplary deeds of service for their country or for their fellow citizen.”

Scully and three of his closest friends — fellow Holy Cross priests — traveled to the nation’s capital together. Fr. Richard Warner, who lives a floor below Scully in Fisher Hall, as well as his longtime friend Fr. Lou DelFra, and Fr. Sean McGraw, a priest at Harvard University with whom Scully co-founded the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program were there with Scully when he received the award.

“The four of us went to the White House and it was very beautiful and just very moving,” Scully said.

At the White House, Bush asked Scully to accompany him to his desk in the Oval Office, where he presented Scully with the medal.

Scully has had a profound impact on Notre Dame. He served as executive chancellor for several prominent universities, has agreed to make the trip to Notre Dame. Scull Student Government has received responses from University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Purdue University and Washington University in St. Louis, he said.

Another project the Senate will be working on this semester is creating a forum to educate students about their legal rights off campus, Reish said.

Nine seniors given scholarships

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

During the first Student Senate meeting of the semester, the group reviewed work done over break, including a resolution to get printers in every dorm, and discussed committee agendas for the spring semester.

The resolution that requested printers in every dorm on campus was passed with a three-to-one vote by the Campus Life Council and was approved by Fr. Mark Pomeroy, vice president for Student Affairs, over break, student body president Rob Reish said.

“By the time you get back to school next fall, there will be printers in every dorm,” Reish said.

Reish also updated the Senate on the progress of the Midwest Collegiate Council, an idea that originated in Reish and student body vice president Grant Schmidt’s campaign.

“Ad

Within a year.

The nine students from high school seniors who hail from California, Michigan, Texas, Washington, Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, Illinois and Ohio.

Woodberry said the application process was like any other college application, asking for basic information for admittance.

“The theater is to create a lasting, shared experience that will be remembered,” he said.

He related that definition to the inauguration of President Barack Obama, saying that just as the inauguration united humanity in hope and possibility, theater should have the same effect, he said.

Robbins gave a lecture called “Theater as Community” in the DeLatture Performing Arts Center to students, faculty and staff.

“By nature is unique and more relevant when it involves community. It does not work if you pretend community isn’t there,” Robbins said.

He illustrated the definition of community by singing “Mary
INSIDE COLUMN

Change of plan

Tuesday was all about change for a lot of people. During the afternoon, I was sitting on my futon, innocently checking my e-mails, and found out that I got a job offer. Instead of being relieved and excited to prove to every single relative I have that my English major was in fact worth something, I immediately burst into tears. I'm not typically a crier, but something about the moment completely overwhelmed me and I felt inexplicably trapped. So there I was sobbing, I felt so ridiculous because I had no idea why I was so sad and I felt like I should have been more grateful to have a potential option.

The longer I sat there, the more I realized that it wasn't the strange city or any surprises about the job itself that had upset me. It was the fact that I may have found a plan, and the plan would include a lot of changes: moving away from Notre Dame, away from friends, away from everything that I have spent the last three and half years building.

As much as I have stressed out over the last three and a half years about finding a plan, I think I always secretly thrived on the fact that I didn't have one. For me, options and ambiguity are kind of comforting and plans have always felt limiting.

But after casually (and even proudly) proclaiming "I have no idea what I want to do with my life" thousands of times, I may have arrived at something. I've always known that the future was coming, but it seemed so far away. Suddenly, it is getting real.

All of my pre-med friends who spent countless hours in the library and religiously attended MCAT classes will no longer be trying to get into med school. They will be in med school, and soon they will be doctors and surgeons. My business major friends are no longer seeking temporary summer internships to help move on to something more permanent. They are looking for something permanent.

Those considering graduate school may soon be the inspiring professors—the ones that everybody knows of and talks about—in just a few years.

People who have always talked about doing service abroad or teaching abroad will actually be living abroad. With these life changing, or really progressions—are so obvious, they didn't seem quite as real to me until Tuesday.

Maybe there is just too much emphasis on the idea of a plan. All of the plans that I have ever made have been thwarted in some huge way that frustrated me at the time, but then ultimately lead me to the very best parts of my life. Things tend to have a way of working out.

As for me—regardless of whether or not I take this job—I plan to make the most of the rest of my senior year (and we still have a lot of time). I'll be by The Fan, soaking in views of the dome and spending as much time as possible with the people that have made college a truly unforgettable experience for me. The future may be doctors and surgeons, but the present feels so much better.

We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY:

If you were president, what would you do on your first day in office?

Dillon Bailey
sophomore
Stanford
“’What would Bill Clinton do?’!”

Casey Larkin
sophomore
Pasquerilla West
“Pull a Bill Clinton.”

Bri Krafick
sophomore
McGinn
“Order everything on the White House menu.”

Leslie Hung
senior
off campus
“I would make Paul Down king.”

Michael Windling
sophomore
Alumni
“I would jump off a building.”

OFFBEAT

Man loses car in river on search for dog

PORT HURON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A man driven to find his lost dog also lost his car after he drove onto the frozen Black River in St. Clair County, locked himself out of the idling vehicle, then watched as heat from the 1994 Buick’s exhaust pipe melted the ice beneath it.

WHIN-AM, the Detroit Free Press and the Times Herald in Port Huron reported that a police dive team were expected Wednesday to help pull the car from the frigid river off Port Huron Township, about 55 miles northeast of Detroit. The newspapers said the Buick was a loaner while the man’s vehicle is being repaired at a collision shop.

Woman forced to use iPod to pay cable

NEW YORK — The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is investigating an incident where a California woman said she was forced to use her iPod as payment for a cab ride.

Natalio Lenhart, 20, of Sacramento, took a cab to the airport in early November, but her credit card was declined.

The driver called 911, and Port Authority police responded. Lenhart was told she had to give the driver some compensation, so she turned over the iPod.

A spokeswoman for the Port Authority said the incident was being investigated by the internal affairs office. The story was first reported by the New York Post.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival will take place today, Friday and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at Browning Cinema in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The festival will show 20 student films. Tickets can be purchased at performingarts.nd.edu.

John Smart, president of the Acceleration Studies Foundation will give his lecture entitled “Forgetting Development in a World of Acceleration: Thoughts from an Evo Devo Futurist” in the Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business as part of the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series. This event will be held on Friday at from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

There will be a panel discussion entitled “Pornucopia: Living in a Pornified Culture.” It will be held in Room 100, Hesburgh Center Auditorium on Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with a reception to follow in the Great Hall. This event is sponsored by Gender Relations Center (GRC), Gender Studies, Ethics & Culture, Philosophy Dept., Phys Ed Wellness, Campus Ministry, and IINDD.

Tim Robbins’ The Actor’s Gang will present “1984” Saturday at 2 p.m. at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The play is an adaptation of George Orwell’s classic novel.

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY

LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH

18 20 22 20 16 18 13 12 10 18 12 6

TODAY TONIGHT FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY

LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH LOW HIGH

18 20 22 20 16 18 13 12 10 18 12 6

SMC offers conditioning classes

Course offers student athletes opportunity to stay in shape during off season

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Editor, Observer

Saint Mary’s College is offering students the opportunity to keep their New Year’s resolutions to get in shape with open conditioning classes.

The classes, held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Angela Athletic Facility, are open to all students.

“These classes are especially geared towards students that are interested in becoming better soccer and volleyball players, but are open to anyone interested in a solid conditioning program this semester,” said Saint Mary’s athletic director Julie Schroeder-Biek, in an e-mail sent to the student body on Sunday.

Due to Div. III restrictions, athletes cannot be required to practice year round. These sessions give athletes the opportunity to stay in shape during the off season.

The class was held in the fall and many of Saint Mary’s basketball players took advantage, strength and conditioning coach Matt Young said.

However, all students are welcome to come to the class.

“Our goal is to make the athletes more athletic,” Young said.

The classes focus on a wide variety of exercises including balance, vertical power and speed.

The classes will contain drills to increase range of motion of muscles and the joints, challenge the proprioception and balance, and incorporate movements that will help reduce the chance of knee injuries,” Schroeder-Biek said.

The coaches for the sports that are featured in the classes will also be in attendance at some of the sessions.

“This is a great opportunity for athletes to come to work with coaches,” Young said.

The classes started on Monday and the turnout is looking good.

Young said they expect around 25 girls to participate in these sessions.

Dale Henry, a senior and participant in the class, said she enjoys the guidance she receives.

“I’m the type of person where I need someone to tell me what to do and when to do it to stay motivated,” Henry said.

Many of the Saint Mary’s soccer team members were in attendance at Wednesday’s class and said they appreciate the opportunity to stay conditioned in the off-season.

“We prepare for our season and we work on specifics that will help prevent injuries,” Mickey Hedinger, SMC junior said.

Mickey Hedinger, SMC junior in attendance at Wednesday’s class and said they appreciate the opportunity to stay conditioned in the off-season.

“We prepare for our season and we work on specifics that will help prevent injuries,” Mickey Hedinger, a junior soccer player, said.

One of the goals is to make the athletes quicker and more explosive by the end of the semester, Young said.

“I would love to encourage all athletes to come and participate from all sports,” he said.

Classes run from 6 p.m. to 7:15 on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 4 p.m. to 5:15 on Fridays.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn61@stmarys.edu

College celebrates history this week

By SARAH MAYER
Editor, Observer

Saint Mary’s students have the chance to reflect on over 150 years of history at the College during the annual Heritage Week events, which began Monday.

Heritage Week replaced Pride Week almost four years ago. The event seeks to unite the College and educate students about its rich background.

Coinciding with the feast day of Blessed Basil Moreau on Jan. 20, Board of Governance Chief of Staff Lauren Theiss has organized the events throughout the week.

“Heritage Week is a time for students to learn about the history of Saint Mary’s and to be able to appreciate the wonderful college that we attend,” Theiss said.

While the event runs for a week in late January, the planning has been going on since November and continued over Christmas break.

Remaining events during the week — open to everyone on campus — include Bingo with the Sisters on Thursday in the convent and a reading of the poetry of Saint Mary’s President Emeritus Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, known as Sister Madeleva, in the Reidering House on Friday.

Keeping up with the tradition, tours of the Reidering House, where Saint Mary’s students once went to learn traditional etiquette, will be available on Friday. This House is where alumni stay when they return to campus and is only open a few times during the academic year.

On Wednesday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., Heritage Week T-shirts were passed out in the Student Center.

“The front left corner of the shirt has the SMC script and says Heritage Week 2009. The back has a picture of the avenue with the quote, ’It is not the honor you take with you, but the heritage you leave behind,’ ” Theiss, said.

The culmination of Heritage Week is the gathering Friday night.

“The highlight for the week will be the Heritage Dinner on Friday night,” said Theiss. “The Sisters, administrators and students gather for dinner in Stapleton Lounge and exchange stories and experiences shared at Saint Mary’s.

Saint Mary’s first-year Alexandra Lowe picked up a free shirt and said she is excited about Friday’s Heritage Week events.

“I live in Holy Cross Hall so I pass the Reidering House multiple times a day. I am excited to finally see what it looks like inside,” Lowe said.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@stmarys.edu

The Observer is now accepting applications for the position of

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Position is for the 2009-2010 term.

Applicants for Editor-in-Chief should demonstrate strong journalistic and management skills. Also, experience with aspects of newspaper production is essential, including skills in Microsoft Word, Quark XPress and Photoshop.

Applications should include a 15-page paper detailing the applicant’s qualifications and goals and should be submitted to Chris Hine before the end of next week in The Observer offices in the basement of South Dining Hall. Please direct questions about the applications to Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.
Students say it is slower than printing from ND-secure still from the LaFortune box office, he said. "This is just a program in its infancy," he said. "It gives me the passion and the creativity of the students to take it back or it is not going to happen at all," Robbins said.

Robbins also spoke about the role of theater in moments of human rights and how it seems this is the most affected the Notre Dame community is the establishment of the Social Concerns Committee. Placing graduates from Notre Dame in under-funded Catholic schools around the country in under-funded Catholic schools, the ACE program has come a long way since its first budget of $5,000 chosen by University President Father Edward "Mulloy" Malloy’s office, he said. "The Holy Spirit really wanted this to happen and ACE has become kind of a juggernaut," O'Connell said. "It is important that we move on with the evidence against them, and that we cannot conclude that they are not guilty of a crime. Not in our system."

In situations where credible evidence cannot be found against a detained person, 0% of those people must be released back into the United States. "The only solution I see for individuals in that category is to return them to their home countries in the United States. It will be very bitter for some people to contemplate, but I believe we need to do what is right for the people at stake, you may be giving the president the wrong advice or inadequate advice. If the Obama administration does dismantle the detention center, it will need to consider detained Gitmo Homo sapiens who are currently detained. Approximately 250 people are currently detained at Guantanamo Bay — down from a peak of about 700 in 2002. Some of these people do not have any charges or evidence against them, O'Connell said.

"We simply have been unable to convince their home countries or the places we took them from to take them back or it is not safe for them to be returned," O'Connell said. "Some of the evidence against people detained at Guantanamo has been obtained from "unlawful -belligerents," who are not being tried in courts, O'Connell said. "If we have deliberately used illegal evidence against them, we cannot conclude that they are guilty of a crime. Not in our system."
President Barack Obama speaks to his senior staff on Wednesday at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building

Economy, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, among others at the top of his to-do list

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a first-day whirlwind, President Barack Obama showcased efforts to revive the economy on Wednesday, summoned top military leaders to Europe for a new course in Iraq and eased into his thicket of Middle East diplomacy.

"What an opportunity we have to change this country," said the 47-year-old chief executive, who also issued new ethics rules for his administration and hosted a reception at the presidential mansion for 200 inauguration volunteers and guests selected by an Internet lottery.

After dancing at inaugural balls with first lady Michelle Obama past midnight, Obama entered the Oval Office for the first time as president in early morning. He read a good luck note left behind by President George W. Bush, then began breaking cleanly with his predecessor's policies.

Aides circulated a draft of an executive order that would close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, within a year and halt all war crimes trials in the meantime.

Closing the site "would further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and the interests of justice," read the draft prepared for the new president's signature. A copy was obtained by The Associated Press.

Some of the 245 detainees currently at Guantanamo would be released, while others would be transferred elsewhere and later put on trial under terms to be determined.

Obama's Cabinet was moving closer to completion.

At the Capitol, the Senate confirmed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state after a one-day delay forced by Republicans. The vote was 94-2, and spectators seated in the galleries erupted in applause when it was announced.

"Fidel believes in Obama," Cristina Fernandez said.

The meeting with Fernandez, just before she ended a four-day visit to Cuba, dispelled persistent rumors that the 82-year-old Castro had suffered a stroke or lapsed into a coma recently.

"I was with Fidel about an hour or more," she told reporters at the airport as she left. "We were chatting, conversing. He looked good."

Fernandez said Castro wore the track suit that has become his trademark since he fell ill in July 2006 and vanished from public view. A spokesman said the two met alone.

"He told me he had followed the inauguration of Barack Obama very closely, that he had watched the inauguration on television all day," Fernandez said. "He said he had a very good perception of President Obama."

Fernandez said Castro called Obama "a man who seems absolutely sincere," who believes strongly in his ideas "and who hopefully can carry them out."

Baul Castro, who took over the presidency from his brother, appeared with Fernandez, scoffing at the rumors about his brother's health.

"Do you think if he were really gravely ill that I'd be smiling here?" Baul Castro said. "Soon I'm going to take a trip to Europe. You guys think I could leave here if Fidel were really in grave condition?"

Castro, 77, said his older brother spends his days "thinking a lot, reading a lot, advising me, helping me."

Fidel Castro says Obama is 'sincere'
Living in a Pornified Culture

40 million Americans view pornography on a regular basis.

40% of Americans have viewed pornography.

Boys are first exposed to porn at age 11.

Catered reception to follow in the great hall.

Thursday, January 22, 2009
7:00 - 8:30 PM

SPONSORED BY:
GENDER RELATIONS CENTER, GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM, NOTRE DAME CENTER FOR ETHICS AND CULTURE, PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS INSTRUCTION, CAMPUS MINISTRY, IDENTITY PROJECT OF NOTRE DAME
NEW YORK — Toyota Motor Corp. sold more cars and trucks worldwide than any other automaker last year, seizing the crown General Motors Corp. held for 77 years. But with its overall volume down by nearly 20 percent for the first time in 30 years and the entire industry mired in a slump, GM doesn't have as large of a presence.

GM said Wednesday it sold 8,355,947 cars and trucks around the world in 2008, falling about 616,000 vehicles short of the 8,972 million Toyota announced Tuesday. GM said the shortfall was mainly because of the economic downturns in the U.S. and Europe that slashed vehicle sales in those major markets, where Toyota doesn't have as large a presence.

Mike DiGiovanni, GM's executive director of worldwide marketing and industry analysis, downplayed the significance of the drop to No. 2, saying that the automaker is focused on profitability rather than sales volume. "I don't think being No. 1 in vehicle sales means much at all to the American consumer," DiGiovanni said in a conference call with reporters and analysts. "I think what matters most to the consumer is strong brands and strong products."

And the key thing right now with what the industry is going through now is viability and profitability.

Detroit-based GM, which has closed plants and laid off workers, is the only one of the Big Three U.S. auto market in more than 25 years, received a $13.4 billion lifeline from the federal government last month. But industry analysts require GM to submit a plan for long-term viability, and the loan may be called back if the government hasn't determined by March 31 that the plan can succeed.

DiGiovanni said all automakers are currently facing risks and challenges not seen since the Great Depression, and he pointed out that even Toyota expects to post an operating loss for the current fiscal year — its first in 70 years.

Toyota's overall global sales fell 4 percent for 2008, marking that automaker's first decline in a decade. The Japanese automaker has cut production in both North America and Japan to align its product offerings with slowing consumer demand. GM posted an 11 percent drop in global sales, including a 24 percent drop in North America. GM Europe sales fell 6.5 percent, including a 23 percent plunge in the fourth quarter as the global economy melted down.

Those declines were partially offset by a 3.2 percent increase in sales at GM's Latin America, Africa, Middle East region, and 2.7 percent growth in Asia-Pacific sales. Sales outside of the U.S. accounted for 64 percent of GM's global sales in 2008, up from 59 percent the year before.

Toyota's move into the top sales spot wasn't unexpected. Those declines were partially offset by a 3.2 percent increase in sales at GM's Latin America, Africa, Middle East region, and 2.7 percent growth in Asia-Pacific sales. Sales outside of the U.S. accounted for 64 percent of GM's global sales in 2008, up from 59 percent the year before.

Toyota's move into the top sales spot wasn't unexpected. Those declines were partially offset by a 3.2 percent increase in sales at GM's Latin America, Africa, Middle East region, and 2.7 percent growth in Asia-Pacific sales. Sales outside of the U.S. accounted for 64 percent of GM's global sales in 2008, up from 59 percent the year before.

Toyota's move into the top sales spot wasn't unexpected. Those declines were partially offset by a 3.2 percent increase in sales at GM's Latin America, Africa, Middle East region, and 2.7 percent growth in Asia-Pacific sales. Sales outside of the U.S. accounted for 64 percent of GM's global sales in 2008, up from 59 percent the year before.
Inauguration

Liberals aren’t supposed to be religious. They’re not supposed to buy into a young senator who espouses onto the stage. They’re not supposed to wake up to join together and sing and chant and, yes, worship.

The first and only time I saw Barack Obama speak live was at American University last spring, when Sen. Kennedy, Rep. Kennedy, and maybe-senator-to-be Kennedy endorsed the new President.

It was the sort of thing that probably won’t go down in history — endorsements, as a rule, do not — but at the time, it mattered. It legitimized Obama/Kennedy comparisons, and it legitimized Obama’s experience in Washington vis-a-vis Hillary.

But for the people at the rally — like the people at most Obama rallies — it was something more. The room had an energy and excitement I usually only experience on six or seven fall Saturdays each year.

Liberals aren’t supposed to be religious, but this was a religious experience. We yelled about being fired up. We marched in response to a new level, everybody drank the Obama Kool-Aid that day.

When he asked for an amen, we gave him an amen. Everybody at the rally would have gone to war for Barack by the end.

As George W. Bush took office in 2001, David Brooks called the typical college student today “The Organization Kid.” He wrote, “The new elite does not protest. Young achievers vaguely know that they are supposed to feel guilty about not marching in the street for some cause. . . . Today’s elite college students don’t live in that age of rebellion and alienation.”

The reason we didn’t rebel or protest, people said, is because our generation was apathetic. Passive. We didn’t care enough.

But Barack — sorry, President Obama — was supposed to make us loud. He was supposed to energize us to be politically and socially active the way others have been in the past. He was supposed to make us more like our parents: rallying, protesting, and actively working for change. Revival-style rallies were supposed to show that we were more political than ever before.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the Inauguration. People had it all wrong. For all his rallying during the campaign, Obama turned out to be pragmatic at heart. He isn’t an ideologue. He is a liberal who acknowledges that relative energy and excitement I usually only experience on six or seven fall Saturdays each year.

Liberals aren’t supposed to be religious, but this was a religious experience. We yelled about being fired up and ready to go. We chanted that yes, we could. We wanted to be part of something.

And, sure enough, it felt like a movement was taking hold. This was a tent revival for young liberals.

Obama asked the crowd into a political frenzy. To take the religious implication to a new level, everybody drank the Obama Kool-Aid that day. When he asked for an amen, we gave him an amen. Everybody at the rally would have gone to war for Barack by the end.

Andrew Nesi

Spicy Sea

Nuggets

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“An onion can make people cry, but there has never been a vegetable invented to make them laugh.”

Will Rogers

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value.”

Albert Einstein

physicist
A week of reasons to hope

President Obama was all of two years old at the time of King’s speech. We probably all have to agree that now, two days ago on Jan. 20, when the new president gave his inaugural address facing the very monument from which King spoke, many of the “jangling discords of our nation” have not been transformed. We aren’t free today, though what binds us has less to do with the race and ethnic prejudices not yet fully healed, war threats, and the generally careful and despair hover around us as we hear story after story of layoffs, foreclosures, and generally, in the great jargon of a culture that refers to us as all simple “consumers.”

Tuesday’s address, a mix of realism and hope, as well as all the events of Inauguration Day, reminded us that we are citizens, not merely consumers, a distinction which implies giving of ourselves rather than merely being consumed. From our country.

There is also the distinct possibility that I am guessing that it is to conclude this letter that it is so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our country.

While I’m not sure Mr. Bush’s appointments of faculty candidates of his time in office, I’m not entirely sure how the “magical” aspects of King’s speech will judge you on the future. We may find much hope for the future in his words and the person of Barack Obama, and in taking note of how far we’ve come since Martin Luther King, Jr. told the nation and the world that he had a dream. We can’t risk forgetting, however, that all our hopes will only truly come to fruition as we seek together to follow the person and example of Jesus Christ.

This week’s Faithpoint is written by Kate Barrett. Kate Barre is the director of the Emmanuel program in Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu.

Just as any other recurring event, the transition and inauguration are fraught with tradition. There are those dictated by the Constitution: the time and manner in which a new president is to be handed power, dating back to George Washington. And there are those that are much more informal, such as the precedent set by Martin Todd Lincoln wearing of a white gown to the Inaugural Ball.

There are few traditions that are more beloved than the tradition of the inaugural address, to which the American people are heir as well. This is a tradition, depending on the position, dating back to the founding of our country.

The newest, and perhaps my favorite inscription, in the great economic downturn begins this cycle when the Bush twins penned a letter of advice for the incoming Obama girls, Sasha and Malia. speculation is not necessary for this letter, it was quickly reported and published along with some of the highlights. The girls wanted that over time people will come to understand differently, sometimes for the better, sometimes for who your father is, not the sketch or image in the newspapers. They emphasized the “magical” aspects of the White House. I’m not entirely sure how the “magical” aspects of the speech will carry and go to college at inauguration, wholly relate to 7 year old Sasha and 10 year old Malia, but I’m sure they have something to offer. They emphasized the importance of first daughter experiences, such as sitting “down the barrel of the solarmont ...and playing saditines on the White House lawn.” I actually also heard there was an unpublished poem or essay, which Artie will catch the bar scene. With a full secret service escort, you’ll draw some attention.

They may probably the most prudent advice of all.

Jason Coleman is a junior majoring in management. He can be contacted at jcoleman@nd.edu.

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

To whom it may concern

President Obama was all of two years old at the time of King’s speech. We probably all have to agree that now, two days ago on Jan. 20, when the new president gave his inaugural address facing the very monument from which King spoke, many of the “jangling discords of our nation” have not been transformed. We aren’t free today, though what binds us has less to do with the race and ethnic prejudices not yet fully healed, war threats, and the generally careful and despair hover around us as we hear story after story of layoffs, foreclosures, and generally, in the great jargon of a culture that refers to us as all simple “consumers.”

Tuesday’s address, a mix of realism and hope, as well as all the events of Inauguration Day, reminded us that we are citizens, not merely consumers, a distinction which implies giving of ourselves rather than merely being consumed. From our country.

While I’m not sure Mr. Bush’s appointments of faculty candidates of his time in office, I’m not entirely sure how the “magical” aspects of King’s speech will judge you on the future. We may find much hope for the future in his words and the person of Barack Obama, and in taking note of how far we’ve come since Martin Luther King, Jr. told the nation and the world that he had a dream. We can’t risk forgetting, however, that all our hopes will only truly come to fruition as we seek together to follow the person and example of Jesus Christ.

Charles Rice’s editorial on “Catholic identity” and Notre Dame arrive, by a coincidence to have the country’s leading Catholic university become of academic credibility. Rice’s proposal is most unwarranted. It is also unwarranted. Rice seems determined to please Notre Dame’s commitment to excellence as a research university for various ills, including driving up the cost of undergraduates. One does not wonders costs have risen comparably at good private colleges, without graduate student advocacy. Unless one believes that it is in the interest of the Church in America to have the country’s leading Catholic university become of academic credibility. Rice’s proposal is most unwarranted. It is also unwarranted.

Rice seems determined to please Notre Dame’s commitment to excellence as a research university for various ills, including driving up the cost of undergraduates. One does not wonders costs have risen comparably at good private colleges, without graduate student advocacy. Unless one believes that it is in the interest of the Church in America to have the country’s leading Catholic university become of academic credibility. Rice’s proposal is most unwarranted. It is also unwarranted.

Charles Rice’s editorial on “Catholic identity” and Notre Dame arrive, by a coincidence to have the country’s leading Catholic university become of academic credibility. Rice’s proposal is most unwarranted. It is also unwarranted.

Rice seems determined to please Notre Dame’s commitment to excellence as a research university for various ills, including driving up the cost of undergraduates. One does not wonders costs have risen comparably at good private colleges, without graduate student advocacy. Unless one believes that it is in the interest of the Church in America to have the country’s leading Catholic university become of academic credibility. Rice’s proposal is most unwarranted. It is also unwarranted.

Rice seems determined to please Notre Dame’s commitment to excellence as a research university for various ills, including driving up the cost of undergraduates. One does not wonders costs have risen comparably at good private colleges, without graduate student advocacy. Unless one believes that it is in the interest of the Church in America to have the country’s leading Catholic university become of academic credibility. Rice’s proposal is most unwarranted. It is also unwarranted.
20th ANNIVERSARY NOTRE DAME STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL’09

dana benford begay, macarena ivanissewich

A Native American student struggles to acclimate to life at the University of Notre Dame.

our lady's bouncers
danielle sclafani, christina marzo, katie dare

A transfer student discovers that getting accepted to Notre Dame is easier than getting past the infamous security gate guards.

believe in you
mark weber, ian cooney

The John Conroy Band freshens things up with a music video along the Lake Michigan coastline.

our lady’s bouncers
The saga of trying to get your past a Notre Dame Security booth, and “Dana,” a documentary piece about a Native American student adapting to student life in the Midwest after growing up on a Navajo reservation.

the birthday wish
daniel clark, elise yahner

Everything changes with a birthday wish.

prologue
joe piauzzi, dan milan

A teenage boy reconstructs the events of a night in which his best friend was raped, a rape he could have prevented.

STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL celebrates 20 years

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

For two decades, students studying film and film production at Notre Dame have had the chance to showcase their films at the annual Student Film Festival. This year, the Film, Television and Theatre department is celebrating the festival’s 20th anniversary, starting tomorrow.

Ted Mandell, a professor in the FTT department and a 1986 graduate of the University, started the film festival in 1990. Back then, Mandell said in a recent interview with The Observer, the setting was hardly as dressed up as its current residence, the Browning Cinema in the Hesburgh Performing Arts Center.

“The festival then was more like a public screening,” Mandell said. “We had about 50 people show up, and it was down in the basement of the Center for Continuing Education.”

Currently, the festival is an opportunity for students in any of the department’s production courses to showcase preselected sampling of their best work. “It’s not a competition,” Mandell said, “but it’s more of a showcase of their work and the types of work that our students are doing.”

In its early days, Mandell says, the Festival was much less formally structured.

“It was a screening of any student film they wanted to put up there,” he said. “We had maybe two production courses then, and the students who wanted their films shown put them all together and put them on screen.” In those days, the festival featured a little less than three hours of material.

Now, Mandell said, “it’s changed, and it’s grown into the best student work over the past year.”

Mandell also notes that the Festival is a rare opportunity for film students to air their films “to a larger audience,” both within the University and in the greater South Bend community.

This year’s crop of films, ranging from documentaries to period pieces, is a varied one. Highlights of the selections include “Our Lady’s Bouncers,” the saga of trying to get your past a Notre Dame Security booth, and “Dana,” a documentary piece about a Native American student adapting to student life in the Midwest after growing up on a Navajo reservation.

“It’s a wide variety,” Mandell said, noting that students can check out descriptions of each film on the film, television and theatre department’s Web site. “There are films about being at a party on a weekend, to being stuck at home by yourself on your birthday, to following a number of Opus Dei.”

An impressive number of students who’ve participated in the Festival in past years have gone on to careers in the larger film and entertainment industry. Mandell notes that Stephen Susco, a professional screenwriter who wrote the American adaptation of “The Grudge,” is a former Domer, and other alumni have gone on to work for HBO, the NFL network and EA Sports.

While the success may come later, tough production schedules and tight deadlines can characterize these students’ learning experiences, for better and for worse.

Mandell recalled a memorable episode in one of the early years of the Festival that brought procrastination to a humorous new level.

“One time when we were showing the Festival, there was one student who had finished his film while the Festival was actually running. He was doing his final edit, and the film was supposed to show 60 minutes into the screening. He put it done five minutes ahead of time,” he said.

To Mandell, it’s this organized chaos that characterizes what he calls “the filmmaking age,” and that his students can experience each time they go behind the camera. “It’s about problem solving, writing the script, finding the actor, figuring out what’s wrong with the battery power, and staying up 24 hours to try and edit films. It’s a lengthy and very rewarding process.”

What makes this year’s festival unique is its impressive anniversary. Twenty years of student films are being celebrated as the department features its students’ work, and two decades of memories are packed into each night’s showing.

To Mandell, however, the real legacy of the Festival comes when we watch the fruits of these students’ labors unscorn and beyond.

“Honestly, the real satisfying thing is to see the students bring their films to the festival, then go out in the real world using the skills and experience they’ve learned. When they say, ‘We learned a lot here, so we can do a lot of things out in the world — documentaries, features, etcetera — that’s the most satisfying thing,’” he said.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu
Turkey and Blue Cheese Sandwich

This sandwich has a good bite to it—the red wine vinegar cuts through the blue cheese and savory turkey nicely and the red onion adds a nice spice. Remember to go for the nicer bread. It will make the sandwich that much better.

1. Pick up two slices of good wheat bread.
2. Spread a thin layer of mayonnaise on one side of bread.
3. Toss some spinach in red wine vinegar, oil and a touch of salt. Place on sandwich
4. Place slices of red onion and turkey (don’t forget to check if they are carving turkey that day) on sandwich.
5. Crumble on blue cheese and top with the other side of bread.
6. Serve with apple slices or a quick salad.

Open Faced Turkey Sandwich

This is usually a post-Thanksgiving meal, but with the dining hall’s regular serving of things like stuffing and mashed potatoes, you can have it whenever you want. It’s a fun take on a sandwich too, so smothered with gravy you need a knife and fork.

Sadly, the dining hall doesn’t have cranberries that often, but you can always try to substitute a glass of cranberry juice.

1. Pick up one slice of good white bread.
2. Top with a layer of stuffing and slices of turkey (again, don’t forget to see if they are carving turkey that day).
3. Ladle gravy over the top.
4. Serve with mashed potatoes.

Quick Tip

Of course, there’s nothing wrong with traditional! You can always jazz up the basic version of a turkey sandwich with a couple of condiments. Try hot sauce, a dash of salt and a little mayo. Don’t forget the pickle!
Hokies hand No. 1 Wake first loss of season

Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Virginia Tech made sure there are no unbeaten teams left in Division 1.

Malcolm Delaney scored 21 points and the Hokies built on a 14-point lead at halftime before fouling out with 1:17 remaining for Wake Forest (16-1, 3-1), which was playing as the nation's top-ranked team for the first time since November 2004. The Hokies have dropped three of five, with all the losses to fellow ranked teams in the Big East.

Monday's 5-0 start in the Big Ten was the best Big Ten action since 1977-78, when the Spartans opened with seven straight wins.

But Delaney hit two free throws 7.8 seconds later and the Hokies allowed one field goal after that to clinch one of the biggest victories in school history, according to Virginia Tech improved to 7-1 against the Demon Deacons. The Hokies have won five of their last six meetings with Wake Forest.

The Demon Deacons' school-record 20-game winning streak ended because of the Hokies' physical defense took the Demon Deacons out of their game. Virginia Tech erased its only lead of the half by outscoring them 23-9 over the 11-minute span, going up 30-14 on Victor Davila's layup with 4:18 remaining.

With Tuesday's victory, because the Hokies physical defense took the Demon Deacons out of their game. Virginia Tech erased its only lead of the half by outscoring them 23-9 over the 11-minute span, going up 30-14 on Victor Davila's layup with 4:18 remaining.

With Tuesday's victory, because the Hokies physical defense took the Demon Deacons out of their game. Virginia Tech erased its only lead of the half by outscoring them 23-9 over the 11-minute span, going up 30-14 on Victor Davila's layup with 4:18 remaining.

But Delaney hit two free throws 7.8 seconds later and the Hokies allowed one field goal after that to clinch one of the biggest victories in school history, according to Virginia Tech improved to 7-1 against the Demon Deacons. The Hokies have won five of their last six meetings with Wake Forest.

The Demon Deacons' school-record 20-game winning streak ended because of the Hokies' physical defense took the Demon Deacons out of their game. Virginia Tech erased its only lead of the half by outscoring them 23-9 over the 11-minute span, going up 30-14 on Victor Davila's layup with 4:18 remaining.

But Delaney hit two free throws 7.8 seconds later and the Hokies allowed one field goal after that to clinch one of the biggest victories in school history, according to Virginia Tech improved to 7-1 against the Demon Deacons. The Hokies have won five of their last six meetings with Wake Forest.

The Demon Deacons' school-record 20-game winning streak ended because of the Hokies' physical defense took the Demon Deacons out of their game. Virginia Tech erased its only lead of the half by outscoring them 23-9 over the 11-minute span, going up 30-14 on Victor Davila's layup with 4:18 remaining.

But Delaney hit two free throws 7.8 seconds later and the Hokies allowed one field goal after that to clinch one of the biggest victories in school history, according to Virginia Tech improved to 7-1 against the Demon Deacons. The Hokies have won five of their last six meetings with Wake Forest.
Thursday, January 22, 2009

AROUND THE NATION

Compiled from THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Page 13

Olympic

Thursday, January 22,
around the dial

NBA

Division I Men's Basketball

AP Top 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>points</th>
<th>record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wake Forest</td>
<td>1793</td>
<td>16-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke (R)</td>
<td>1771</td>
<td>16-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>1599</td>
<td>16-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>1589</td>
<td>16-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>1518</td>
<td>19-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>1498</td>
<td>17-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan St.</td>
<td>1394</td>
<td>15-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syracuse</td>
<td>1184</td>
<td>17-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>1134</td>
<td>12-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clemson</td>
<td>1043</td>
<td>16-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marquette</td>
<td>1033</td>
<td>16-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>1079</td>
<td>12-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>14-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>958</td>
<td>13-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>15-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butler</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>14-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona St.</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>15-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purdue</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>14-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada (DCA)</td>
<td>469</td>
<td>12-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villanova</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>14-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>18-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memphis</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>14-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonzaga</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>12-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>16-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>15-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Division I Women's Track and Field Preseason Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>points</th>
<th>record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>148</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>127</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>119</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>117</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florida State</td>
<td>109</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Tech</td>
<td>84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Tech</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>56</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami (Fla.)</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee (N)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Tech</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisville</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MIAA Women's Basketball Rankings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>team</th>
<th>points</th>
<th>record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAINT MARY'S</td>
<td>7-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hope</td>
<td>7-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albion</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albion (Res)</td>
<td>6-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trine</td>
<td>4-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin</td>
<td>4-4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alma</td>
<td>3-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivet</td>
<td>2-6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kalamazoo</td>
<td>0-8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North Carolina routs Clemson

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - Wayne Ellington had another big game against Clemson, and No. 5 North Carolina added another year of misery to the 10th-ranked Tigers' streak of futility in Chapel Hill.

Ellington had 25 points to help the Tar Heels beat the Tigers 94-70 on Wednesday night, keeping North Carolina perfect in 54 home games against Clemson.

Tyler Hansbrough added 20 points for the Tar Heels (17-2, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), whose 54-0 run against the Tigers here is an NCAA record for the longest home winning streak against one opponent. North Carolina took control late in the first half and used a 24-4 run spanning the break to build an 18-point lead early in the second half.

Clemson (16-2, 2-2) never got closer than 13 points in the way of the victory and trailed by as many as 27 points. It was the Tigers' second consecutive defeat after a 16-0 start, following Saturday's home loss to Wake Forest that propelled the Demon Deacons to the No. 1 ranking this week.

Ellington was coming off a 23-point performance last weekend against Miami in which he hit eight straight shots in the second half, seven from behind the arc, after a slow start to the season. He followed that by picking up where he left off in last year's season-long terror of the Tigers.

Ellington averaged 29 points in three meetings against Clemson last season, including a career-high 36 and the last-second 3-pointer on the road for the win in the first meeting. This time, he finished 9-for-15 from the field to go with a career-high seven assists and six rebounds.

It marked the first time in his career that he's had consecutive 20-point games.

With Ellington rediscovering his shot, North Carolina's offense looked about as sharp as it has in weeks despite Hansbrough being relatively quietly relating against Clemson's physical front line until the game was in hand. North Carolina shot 53 percent for the game, while Deon Thompson - after failing to reach double figures in the first four conference games - had 15 points.

IN BRIEF

Jeff Kent to announce retirement at 40

LOS ANGELES - Jeff Kent plans to announce his retirement from baseball on Thursday at Dodger Stadium.

Kent spent 17 years in the major leagues and leaves as the career home run leader among second basemen with 351, 74 more than Ryne Sandberg.

He spent the last four seasons with the Dodgers, hitting .291 with 122 doubles, 75 homers and 311 RBIs. Los Angeles issued a statement Wednesday announcing the news conference.

A free-time All-Star and the 2000 NL MVP, Kent hit .253 during the first half of last season, improved to .353 in August, then injured his knee on Aug. 29 and had surgery four days later. He returned to make the postseason roster, but was relegated to a bench role. He went a combined 0-for-9 with four strikeouts during the two playoff series and became a free agent in November.

He'll be replaced at second base by Blake DeWitt, who took over when Kent was sidelined.

Olympic champion Dementieva into 3rd round

MELBOURNE, Australia - Olympic champion Elena Dementieva improved her 2009 winning streak to 12 matches on Thursday, beating Ivetta Benesova 6-4, 6-1 to reach the third round of the Australian Open.

Dementieva, who won titles at Auckland and Sydney before the season's first major, struggled with her serve early but recovered to finish the match in 72 minutes.

The 27-year-old Dementieva reached the French Open and U.S. Open finals in 2004, beaten both times by fellow Russians, and has not returned to the championship of a Grand Slam tournament since.

Her highlight last year was a win over fellow Russian Dinara Safina in the gold medal match at the Beijing Olympics. She was ousted in the semifinals at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open in 2008 and has never advanced beyond the fourth round at Melbourne Park.

Fight between Pacquiao and Hatton off for now

LAS VEGAS - Manny Pacquiao's refusal to accept terms already agreed to by his promoter has apparently scuttled the planned May 2 fight between him and British fighter Ricky Hatton.

Promoters for both fighters said Wednesday the fight is off, with little chance of it being revived.

"You never say never, but right now it's off," said Bob Arum, who promotes Pacquiao. "Hatton's shopping around for a new opponent now."

Arum said the original agreement was for the two fighters to split their shares 50-50, with Pacquiao having a $12 million guarantee. That deal fell through when Pacquiao demanded the bigger percentage, and a new agreement called for him to get 52 percent of the purse.

around the dial

NBA

Celtics at Magic
8:00 p.m., TNT

Wizards at Lakers
10:30 p.m., TNT
No matter what you like, we've got it this weekend.

10PM
The Music of...

JOHNNY ZACHMAN

CHICKEN JACKSON

THU 1/22 Poker League 12AM

10PM

ROBERT KELLY

W/ SPECIAL GUEST

JULIAN McCULLOUGH

FRI 1/23 90S NIGHT

WITH JD DYSLEX 12AM

10PM

the ultimate MICHAEL JACKSON cover band

WHO'S BAD? SAT 1/24 80’S NIGHT

WITH DJ KATE 12AM

LEGENDS OF NOTRE DAME NO COVER

ND, SMC, HCC ID REQ'D

legends.nd.edu
New York Jets coach Rex Ryan, center, poses with Jets general manager Mike Tannenbaum, left, and Jets owner Woody Johnson during a news conference Wednesday at the Jets' training facility.

Rex Ryan promises Jets a much brighter future

Rex Ryan will replace Eric Mangini as the New York Jets' head coach after four seasons as a defensive coordinator.

Making one bold declaration and a White House visit. Whoa! Talk about putting pressure on yourself. After all, this is a franchise that hasn't been to a Super Bowl since his father, Buddy, was an assistant on the 1969 champions.

"I'm not afraid of expectations," the 46-year-old Ryan said. "My goal is to win a Super Bowl. It's not to just win X number of games." And that sounded like the perfect game plan to an excited Woody Johnson.

"Why else are we here?" the Jets owner asked. "Vee-baw! That's good." Ryan, Baltimore's defensive coordinator the last four seasons, said all the right things in meeting with the media for the first time since being hired Monday to replace the fired Eric Mangini.

"We want to be known as the best defensive team in the NFL," Ryan said. "The players will have each other's backs, and if you take a swipe at one of ours, we'll take a swipe at two of yours."

More big statements from the big man now in charge of turning around a franchise that's punched for a title.

"You know, I think we'll get to meet the President in the next couple years anyway."

Rex Ryan
Jets coach

Before
moments

Wednesday, moments

Jets: a

win X number of

coordinator the last four

seasons, said all the right

coaching staff, including corner

back Darrelle Revis and wide

receiver Jerricho Cotchery,

who wanted to get a first

look at their new coach.

"He's relaxed and he's not
tense," Revis said when

asked to compare Ryan with

Mangini. "This is exciting

and you can just tell he's going
to bring a lot of stuff over here

that we'll like."

Whether Favre is a part of this

team remains uncertain.

The 39-year-old quarterback

was mulling retirement again

after tearing a biceps muscle

and throwing nine interceptions

in the Jets' last five games.

"I would think anybody

would want him as their

quarterback," Ryan said,

adding that he planned to

speak to each one of the

players during the next sev-

eral days, including Favre.

"If someone signs a four-

year deal reportedly worth

$116 million, has already

started assembling his

coaching staff, announcing

the hired Ravens outside

linebackers coach Mike

Petitine is his

defensive coordinator. Peti-

time as an assistant in

Baltimore, will replace

Bob Sutton.

Offensive

line coach Bill Callahan and special

teams coordinator Mike

Westhoff will be retained, and

Ryan hopes to have

offensive coordinator Brian

Schottenheimer on his staff.

Both Callahan and Schotten-

heimer were beaten

out for the job by Ryan in a

lengthy interviewing process

with the Jets. Ryan said he

would meet with Schottenheimer
during the next few days.

It became apparent Ryan

was at the top of the Jets' list of candidates when sev-

eral other teams filled

coaching vacancies and New

York's remained open. The

Jets needed Baltimore's sea-

son to end — which hap-

pened Sunday with a 23-14

loss to the Steelers — before

offering him the job.

"If this was the first time

you saw a coach that was

very comfortable in his own

skin," Johnson said.

Ryan sat with beat writers

in a conference room after

the introductory news con-

ference for more than a half-

hour, answering questions,

cracking jokes and showing

off an impressive PowerPoint

presentation detailing the

team's goals and philosophy.

He also talked about how he

still sometimes seeks advice

from his father, a longtime

NFL assistant who had head

coaching jobs with

Philadelphia and Arizona.

"I know my dad is known

as one of the best defensive

coaches in the history of this

league," Ryan said. "I want

to be a better head coach than

my father."

Buddy Ryan had some advice for Rex.

"I told him the Jets were

my team, just to keep them

up," Buddy Ryan said during

a phone interview with

The Associated Press.

The 74-year-old Ryan, now retired

and living in Kentucky, said he doesn't expect it to
take long for his son to put his own stamp on the team.

"It's qualified and certi-

fied," Buddy Ryan said.

"They did themselves a good

favor by hiring him. He's

happy with the job, that's

what he wanted."

Rex Ryan, the twin brother of Cleveland defensive coor-

dinator Bob Ryan, has no

history of this

league, many say, and
even more time.

"It's not a one-hit wonder," Ryan said. "When you look at

my background, I think I've

been successful at all stops

along the way. I know the

kind of responsibility it takes
to be a head football coach.

Again, you get the right guy

and I plan on proving that

each and every week."
NBA

Villanueva, Bucks run over Mavericks

Prince's strong third quarter leads Pistons to win

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Charlie Villanueva had 32 points and 10 rebounds, lifting the Milwaukee Bucks to a 133-99 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night and snapping a two-game losing streak.

The Bucks didn't have Andrew Bogut, playing in the fourth straight game due to back spasms. But after a 1-2 West Coast trip, they didn't need his physical presence or rebounding at home.

Milwaukee shot 69 percent for the final three quarters on route to a season-best 133 points and had 33 assists. Dallas had a 19-2 run in the first quarter of the Mavericks' two-game losing streak.

Detroit gained midway through the fourth quarter, with coach Rick Carlisle taking out both Jason Kidd, who finished with 18 points, and Dirk Nowitzki, who went 7-of-16 from the field and 16-of-17 from the free-throw line with 10 points. The duo even walked onto the court toward the locker room before Kidd headed back to the bench.

Jason Sessions added 21 points and Richard Jefferson scored 15 for Milwaukee.

Villanueva added 10 points to his team-high 25 points, including his seventh straight game with at least one three-pointer.

Detroit 95, Toronto 76

Rodney Stuckey scored 17 points, Jason Maxiell had season-high 13 rebounds (11), Tucker scored 11 and Rodney Stuckey had 10 points and eight rebounds.

Rajon Rondo had seven scores in his first game off the bench since Feb. 1, 2002, when he was playing for the Washington Wizards. The following offseason, they traded him to Detroit for Jerry Stackhouse.

Toronto's Andrea Bargnani scored 16 points, including his first 611 games, including 11 of his last 13 games. O'Neal has been slowed by a sore right knee. The slumping Raptors got off to a solid start, leading 22-17 after the first quarter and trailing by three at halftime.

Philippe Prince scored 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Nowitzki, who had his left meniscus, not a tear in his meniscus, just a sprain, during the Steelers' last Super Bowl.

"It's a sprained knee is a relatively low term, especially with the braces they have now, the technology," Starkes said. "He might not be able to move as fast but, knowing Hines, I can't see him not playing. Maybe if somebody had a big tear, but to have a sprain you're not too wrenched, most guys can usually come back from that."

NPF

Ward ready for Super Bowl

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Hines Ward has a certain look in his eyes.

"I was always asking questions to this day. He's a great student of the game and he's got tons of talent," Fitzgerald said.

Rodney Stuckey scored 17 points, Jason Maxiell had season-high 13 rebounds (11), Tucker scored 11 and Rodney Stuckey had 10 points and eight rebounds.

Ward was injured during the first quarter of the championship game against Baltimore on Sunday and did not play most of the final three quarters.

"It was a poor start for the Panthers," said Stojakovic. "He's always asking me stuff, I don't know how good the young receiver was."

Ward wasn't the only big receiver who regu­larly bumped into Fitzgerald in the practice facility the

Steelers share with Pitt. "He asks me questions to this day. He'll text me and ask me about certain offensive backs and what not. His left meniscus, not a tear in his meniscus, just a sprain, during the Steelers' last Super Bowl.

"Just have to wait for the swelling to go down," Ward said. "But 11 should be ready to go. I'll be OK. It feels good, it feels better than it did yesterday."
The Observer  ▶  SPORTS

NHL

Blues top host Blackhawks

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chris Mason and the St. Louis Blues put it all together for a night. Mason made 21 saves for his second shutout of the season, and Jeff Woywitka and Keith Tkachuk scored in the Blues’ 2-0 victory over Chicago on Wednesday night.

Mason was not heavily tested in earning his 14th career shutout as the injury-depleted Blues outworked Chicago and limited the Blackhawks’ chances.

"In order for us to be successful, we have to work very hard and we did that tonight," Mason said. "We did a great job in our zone, did a great job on the penalty kill and did what it took tonight."

"They let me see the shots, cleared the rebounds, were tough in front of the net, they were tough in the corners, they cleared the puck. We just battled hard and we’re starting the see the results," Mason said.

The Blues have the fewest points in the Western Conference — and seven players on injured reserve, including forwards Paul Kariya and Andy McDonald, and defensemen Eric Brewer and Erik Johnson. On Wednesday night, they made up for it with consistent effort and close checking.

"Tonight I thought we played smart, took their shots away," St. Louis coach Andy Murray said. "We wanted to come into this building (the United Center), which has a great deal of energy, and wanted to suck it up."

Cristobal Huet made 27 saves for Chicago, shut out at home — and before a 23rd sellout crowd in 23 games this season — for the first time since March 12, 2008. The Blackhawks have lost two straight games at United Center in regulation to drop to 14-4-5 at home.

Mason made one of his few tough saves just 2:45 into the first, stopping Andrew Ladd from the edge of the crease. The goalie needed to be alert during goalmouth scrambles a few times in the second and third, but Chicago generated little sustained pressure.

The Blackhawks entered the game averaging 3.45 goals, but have scored just five in their last four. After going 10-1-1 in December, they’re 5-5-1 in January.

"We didn’t come out playing the way we should have for consecutive nights," Chicago captain Jonathan Toews said. "We know what kind of team we are, we showed it in December. We want to keep going down that path."

On Wednesday, the Blackhawks were clearly outmatched. "We’re disappointed with tonight’s effort," Chicago coach Joel Quenneville said. "You can use a lot of different words to describe tonight’s game. Bad would be one."

"I think we’re getting sick and tired of people telling us how good we are instead of how hard we worked," he added. "I think that’s what’s going to get us out of it." Thanks to three power-play chances — including a 5-minute advantage set up by a major penalty to Chicago’s Cam Barker for a hit on David Backes — the Blues outshot the Blackhawks 16-3 in the first period. However, they led only 1-0 after 20 minutes.

The Blues didn’t beat Huet until Woywitka scored a power-play goal on his 16th shot with 1:55 left in the first. Woywitka’s drive from the point slid over Huet’s left pad and into the net.

Following a scoreless second, Chicago’s Matt Walker poked a rebound of his own shot under Mason and into the net at 2:46 of the third. The goal was not allowed, however, because one of the referees had whisked the play dead when Mason covered the original shot with his pad.

Tkachuk made it 2-0 during a 4-on-4 at 7:28 of the third. From the edge of the crease, he stuffed a shot between Huet’s pads. A shot by Chicago’s Martin Havlat hit the post at 10:33 of the third. Mason made a point-blank save on Dave Bolland during a Chicago power-play with 4:25 left.

Defence

continued from page 17

struggle with finding their game defensively against St. John’s last Saturday, playing an accordion-style game where they could not put the Red Storm away, despite an 11-point second half lead.

After that game, the remarks centered on the ability of the team to "fight" to stay alive in that game.

"We have the fight and the drive and we just kept pushing today," guard Ashley Barlow said in the post-game news conference.

"We had to keep fighting, and if we wouldn’t have fought, it definitely wouldn’t have been pretty," freshman forward Erica Mason said.

"It is easy to say that the Irish have that fighting spirit — and even easier after a gutsy victory like the one Saturday — but the real question is "Why wasn’t it there earlier in the game?" The younger players need to understand quickly that you can’t stand quickly that you can’t have the fight and the defensive energy and intensity."

"The freshmen all have a killer instinct," she said. "It’s just a matter of it coming at the right time and each person having the confidence to just know it’s game time and we have to get that win no matter what," she said. But on a team as young and injured as the Irish are (having one senior and last two players to ACL injuries), they will need to find that quickly for the team to survive the upcoming conference schedule.

Waiting around for the younger players to realize when they need to play hard will lead to more nailbiters — and not all of them can fall Notre Dame’s way.

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

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa@nd.edu.
CCHA continued from page 20
next night.

Notre Dame (32 pts, 19-3-3, 6-0-0 CCHA) What more can you say? The Irish are pretty good.

Riding a school-record 20-game unbeaten streak, Notre Dame is clearly the team to beat in the CCHA. Senior Christian Hanson and sophomore Calle Ridderwall are the top two in the conference in points scored, and senior netminder Jordan Pearce is second in goals-against average.

The only quality wins during the 20-game run, however, have been a Nov. 7 win at Boston College and a home sweep of Alaska Jan. 9-10. Jeff Jackson's squad will be tested over the next two weeks, with a home-and-home against rival Michigan and a series at fourth-place Ohio State.

Miami (Ohio) (25 pts, 13-8-3, 11-5-2-1) Despite Notre Dame's 20-game run, the RedHawks have given the Irish little room to breathe or the standings.

Sophomore Carter Camper leads the squad with 14 goals and 30 points, and the freshman goaltending duo of Konor Knapp and Cody Reichard have provided a solid backing to the RedHawk defense that leads the CCHA in goals against.

Despite their hot start, Miami has struggled recently, going 1-4 over their last six games, with a Jan. 17 win over Michigan State as the lone bright spot. The road doesn't get any easier going forward, with a road series against fifth-place Nebraska-Omaha this weekend.

Alaska (25 pts, 11-6-5, 9-5-4-1) Picked to finish 11th in the conference by both the coaches and the media, the Nanooks have been the surprise of the CCHA so far. Alaska has played two more games than both teams ahead of them, but could still find itself in contention for a top-four spot, with two road games at Ohio State the only real test remaining on the schedule.

What more can you say? The Irish are pretty good. Riding a school-record 20-game unbeaten streak, Notre Dame is clearly the team to beat in the CCHA.

First year coach Dallas Ferguson's squad has gotten the job done with an air-tight defense that leads the CCHA, giving up only 1.55 goals per game, and goalie Chad Jackson leads the league in both GAA and save percentage.

A top-four spot would be especially advantageous for the Nanooks, as it would require their second-round CCHA playoff opponent to travel all the way to Fairbanks for their series.

Ohio State (22 pts, 16-6-2, 9-5-2-2) The Buckeyes have also surpassed the league this season, after finishing last year in 11th place.

Riding a 10-game unbeaten streak, Ohio State is second in the conference in scoring, netting 3.31 goals per game. Having played at least two fewer games than all three teams above them, the only question is whether a Buckeye team with only four upperclassmen can withstand the pressures of late-season conference games.

The road isn't easy either, with two games each against Notre Dame, Miami, Michigan, and Alaska.

Nebraska-Omaha (22 pts, 13-8-4, 8-4-4-2) The Mavericks have also taken advantage of a relatively easy early-season schedule to propel to the top of the conference.

Without a win against a top-four team this season, Nebraska-Omaha will be tested in upcoming matchups against Miami, Michigan, and Notre Dame.

Michigan (20 pts, 16-8-0, 10-8-0) Casual college hockey fans may be surprised to see the Wolverines this low in the standings, but after losing some key players from last year's Frozen Four team, Red Berenson's team has undergone some understandable growing pains. However, after back-to-back wins against Miami on Jan. 10 and 11, the Maize and Blue appear ready to make a late-season push. Games against Notre Dame, Nebraska-Omaha, and Ohio State stand out as potential roadblocks to Michigan's quest for a second consecutive CCHA title.

Ferris State (17 pts, 10-11-5, 7-8-3-4) With a relatively easy schedule the rest of the way, the Bulldogs seem poised to make a run towards a top-four spot. Only a final-weekend series against Michigan could pose a problem. With their defensive trapping style of play, Ferris State has the potential to take down any team in the CCHA playoffs.

Lake Superior State (13 pts, 9-10, 3-7-6-1; Michigan State (12 pts, 7-4-3, 4-10-2)) The Lakers and disappointing Spartans, picked to finish fifth in the CCHA by the coaches, are fighting for the eighth seed and the right to host a first-round CCHA playoff series.

Bowling Green (11 pts, 8-13-3, 5-10-1-0); Northern Michigan (11 pts, 6-13-3, 3-10-2-2); Western Michigan (11 pts, 6-13-6, 3-9-4-1) While anything can happen in the conference tournament, the Falcons, Wildcats, and Broncos appear to pose little threat to any of the top teams. The season has been especially disappointing for Northern Michigan, who were picked to finish fourth in the CCHA after a third-place showing in last year's tournament.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Youngsters

compete now with the best collegiate teams in the nation," Bednar said. "We are probably not the No. 1 team, but we will challenge any other team in this conference and the nation, so we're not here to lose."

Contact Christopher Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Want more inside information on ND and SMC sports? Check out The Casual Observer at observersportsblog.wordpress.com.
I can't believe it finally happened, I feel like we've been waiting so long.

Yes.

I just hope we don't get disappointed, expectations are so high right now.

I know.

I'm just so happy Lost is back.

Me too, it made my week.

WWW.BLACKDOGCOMIC.COM

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PATRICK GARTLAND

Crossword

Across

1. "Hummity" eerie English jelly
4. Bearded
9. In ___ (quickly)
14. Where to go in Greenway?
15. It may be tragic
16. They start in the middle
17. Keeper of confidential information
20. Noodle
21. Sneaking
22. Keeper of
23. The Observer an indispensable link to the
24. People and events in the Notre Dame and Saint
27. Stack of papers
28. ingredients
30. "Numb3rs"
32. Rest stop sight
33. Prized
34. Fruit used in
35. Slippery one
36. Harasses
37. Like the sun
38. Davy Jones's locker, with the
39. Down
41. Sitting in a high-school yearbook
42. Something to do
43. Cause of a score
44. Donyale Flower
46. With 50-Across, what is a keeper of confidential information might say
50. Leeway
51. Uncoupled
52. Scammer's skill
55. Certain
56. Purist's home in a popular tale
60. See 46-Across
63. Bring out
65. Slippery one
66. Harasses
67. Like the sun
68. Davy Jones's locker, with the

Down

1. A slip of tune sauce
2. Process
3. Rinse or drink order
4. A pear, in a way
5. A slip of tune sauce
6. A slip of tune sauce
7. A slip of tune sauce
8. A slip of tune sauce
9. With French, one of two official languages of Chad
10. Porsche alternatives
11. Day of destiny
12. Numerologist's classification
13. They may be thrown
16. Plastic, often
24. Gets to
25. Part of a famous sequel
26. Stack of papers
27. "Numb3rs"
28. "Yippee!"
29. Lift up

25. Certain qualifiers
26. Donyale Flower
27. With 50-Across, what is a keeper of confidential information might say
50. Leeway
51. Uncoupled
52. Scammer's skill
55. Certain
56. Purist's home in a popular tale
60. See 46-Across
63. Bring out
65. Slippery one
66. Harasses
67. Like the sun
68. Davy Jones's locker, with the

Puzzle by Michael Viau

30. Singer-Songwriter
31. Sophomores.
32. Root top sight
33. Wear away, on a metallic surface
38. Factor in a wine rating
39. Bad feeling?

For answers, call 1-800-995-5505, 8:49 a.m. or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-6554.

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download more information.

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzles and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crossword for more information.

KIDS: Online subscriptions: Today's puzzles and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crossword ($36.50 a year)

Share tips: nytimes.com/crossword

Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learningwords

WILL SHORTZ

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

CROSSWORD

Across

1. "Hummity" eerie English jelly
4. Bearded
9. In ___ (quickly)
14. Where to go in Greenway?
15. It may be tragic
16. They start in the middle
17. Keeper of confidential information
20. Noodle
21. Sneaking
22. Keeper of
23. The Observer an indispensable link to the
24. People and events in the Notre Dame and Saint
27. Stack of papers
28. ingredients
30. "Numb3rs"
32. Rest stop sight
33. Prized
34. Fruit used in
35. Slippery one
36. Harasses
37. Like the sun
38. Davy Jones's locker, with the
39. Down
41. Sitting in a high-school yearbook
42. Something to do
43. Cause of a score
44. Donyale Flower
46. With 50-Across, what is a keeper of confidential information might say
50. Leeway
51. Un-

Down

1. A slip of tune sauce
2. Process
3. Rinse or drink order
4. A pear, in a way
5. A slip of tune sauce
6. A slip of tune sauce
7. A slip of tune sauce
8. A slip of tune sauce
9. With French, one of two official languages of Chad
10. Porsche alternatives
11. Day of destiny
12. Numerologist's classification
13. They may be thrown
16. Plastic, often
24. Gets to
25. Part of a famous sequel
26. Stack of papers
27. "Numb3rs"
28. "Yippee!"
29. Lift up

25. Certain qualifiers
26. Donyale Flower
27. With 50-Across, what is a keeper of confidential information might say
50. Leeway
51. Uncoupled
52. Scammer's skill
55. Certain
56. Purist's home in a popular tale
60. See 46-Across
63. Bring out
65. Slippery one
66. Harasses
67. Like the sun
68. Davy Jones's locker, with the

Puzzle by Michael Viau

30. Singer-Songwriter
31. Sophomores.
32. Root top sight
33. Wear away, on a metallic surface
38. Factor in a wine rating
39. Bad feeling?

For answers, call 1-800-995-5505, 8:49 a.m. or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-6554.

Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS.

AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download more information.

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzles and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crossword for more information.

KIDS: Online subscriptions: Today's puzzles and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crossword ($36.50 a year)

Share tips: nytimes.com/crossword

Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learningwords

WILL SHORTZ

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.
Irish lead CCHA, but plenty of games to play

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

With only a third of the season remaining in CCHA play, the conference standings are beginning to take shape. The important cutoffs are between fourth and fifth place and eighth and ninth place. The top four teams receive a first-round bye and host a second-round series in the CCHA playoffs, and the next four seeds host a first-round conference playoff series.

The CCHA tournament's first round is set for the weekend of March 6-8, and the second round follows the next weekend. The first two rounds consist of a best-of-three series. The Final Four will travel to Detroit, where the semifinals will be held on March 20 at Joe Louis Arena — home of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings. The CCHA tournament championship game will be played the following weekend.

Underclassmen helping young squad to strong start

By CHRISTOPHER MASOUD
Sports Writer

After yet another impressive performance at the North American Cup D last weekend, the talented squad of freshmen and sophomores is emerging as the backbone of the promising Irish squad. Led by sophomore Avery Zuck and freshmen Gerek Meinhardt and Courtney Hurley, the Irish took home three gold medals and a combined five top-five finishes at the competition held in Kentucky.

"We never had such a good result like this year," seventh-year coach Janusz Bednarski said of last weekend's tournament. "We won a lot of medals, that's a positive of this competition. I believe that it was one of the best starts in national tryouts for the Irish." The Irish were successful in both the open and junior categories in the men's epee and men's foil respectively. Meinhardt, an Olympic in Beijing, is coming off a recent knee surgery that sidelined him for the greater part of the pre-season. "After competing in the Olympic Games, it's natural to be off for a couple of weeks in the pre-season," Bednarski said. "Others are already in the middle of the run and they have to catch up. But on the men's side, Gerek Meinhardt is one of the best." Equally impressive was Hurley's performance, the younger sister of Olympian Kelley Hurley. Bednarski's young stars still have a long way to go before the 2012 Olympics in London, but they appear ready for the start of intercollegiate play.

"They are positioning themselves well for the national team, but we are ready to play at the World Cup in London.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

Defense will determine course of team's season

If Notre Dame wants to stay near the top of the Big East, it will need to find its defensive rhythm. The Irish have only two losses so far this season, but in their last two games they have played lackluster at times under their own basket. The team's first loss in the Big East came at Marquette on Jan. 13, in a game in which Irish coach Muffet McGraw said her team played without a solid effort. "I think we lost our commitment to the defensive end of the floor. We did not play our normal game defensively. They got a lot of easy shots and that was disappointing," McGraw said in an interview Jan. 14. But the Irish continued to

SMC BASKETBALL

MIAA leaders win again

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's started its four-game road trip the right way Wednesday night, cruising to a 81-63 road victory over Western New England. Senior forward Eric Newson and freshman guard Patsy Mahoney each scored 14 points to help the Belles 9-7, 7-1 MIAA stay atop the conference standings.

The Belles jumped out to a 17-4 lead after just five minutes and never trailed. The Hornets were able to cut the lead to eight with six minutes to play in the first half, but the Belles responded with a 15-8 run to take a 44-29 halftime lead. In the second half, the Belles put the game away early, leading by 23 with 14 minutes to play in the contest. The Hornets never cut the gap closer than 18 points for the rest of the contest. Offense wasn't a problem for the Belles with four players scoring in double figures. Liz Wade also added seven assists and recorded six steals to help out defensively. The Hornets' Andrea Bedway led all scorers with 22 points. The Belles followed through on head coach Jenn Hedley's promise to focus on defense, holding the Hornets to shoot less than 40 percent from the field. The Belles also forced 36 turnovers in the game.

The Belles play their second game of their road trip Saturday at Trine. Saint Mary's next home contest is Feb. 4 against Olivet.