ND contributes to development off campus

By MADELINE BUCKLEY

Editor's note: This is the first installment of a three-part series examining the development projects occurring near Notre Dame campus.

Notre Dame's "front door" into South Bend has long been dismissed as a deteriorating neighborhood with the absence of a college-town feel, but the University has collaborated with the city on several projects they hope will bring about change, according to Greg Hakanen, director of asset management and real estate development.

The University is currently investing significant funds in three specific projects to develop the neighborhood directly south of campus: The Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Project, the Eddy Street Commons and Innovation Park.

Hakanen said the University has several motivations for developing the neighborhoods surrounding campus.

In part, it affects the perception of the University and in part, it's a safety issue," he said. "At the neighborhood's low point, there were drugs and crime, but that's largely past."

These efforts will help create a vibrant community surrounding campus, which will benefit both students and faculty, as well as community members, Hakanen said.

The three projects involve improving housing and commercial ventures in the neighborhood south of campus and expanding research opportunities for students and faculty.

Regarding the 

see PROJECTS/page 6

Demonstrators support labor unions

By AARON STEINER

Chanting "union welcome" and holding signs with messages saying, "the Pope loves unions, shouldn't you?" over 30 supporters gathered for a demonstration and march Tuesday in support of University employees' right to unionize.

The Campus Labor Action Project (CLAP) organized the event, which began at the steps of Main Building and marched to the Mason Services Center, where Building Services employees check in and out daily.

"Personally, I want the workers to know they're appreciated, and know they have support," she said. "If a union is what they want, let them know it's their choice," she said.

Senior Michael Angulo, an event organizer and member of CLAP, said that the demonstration and march were a result of the group's continued discussions with employees and their fears of

see CLAP/page 4

SMC elects.

Hoffman, Griffin

By LIZ HARTER

Saint Mary's junior Jenny Hoffman and sophomore Meg Griffin were elected the College's next student body president and vice president Monday after running an unprompted campaign.

Hoffman is currently the Board of Governance (BOG) executive secretary and Griffin is the sophomore class president.

Juniors Mallory Price and Katie Lewis were also a part of the race, but dropped out due to personal reasons early Thursday.

see HOFFMAN/page 6

New language center opens

Lounges offer place for conversation, study with group focus

By LAURA MCCRSTAL

Upon entering the new Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures (CSLC), it is common to hear students holding conversations in at least three different foreign languages.

The CSLC, located on the third floor of DeBartolo Hall, opened last month. The center promotes foreign language study through an emphasis on community and interaction, said Lance Akkkelsen, the director of the CSLC.

"We're still in a stage of development," he said. "We're here to develop a community of foreign language learners."

The CSLC's opening marked

see CENTER/page 6

Hesburgh discusses role of laity with group

By MOLLY MADDEN

Last night, a group of 20 students joined University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh in his office in the library named after him to hear him talk about his life and to discuss his views about the laity's changing role in the Church.

The talk was organized by the Orestes Brownson Council, a club that started as a reading group, but has emerged into a discussion society that focuses on discussing documents that deal with Catholicism and American Politics.

Hesburgh began his talk by telling the group about his time at Notre Dame as a seminarian in the 1930s.

"The Seminary was very different in those days," he said. "We were only allowed to talk for one hour after lunch and one hour after supper. For a guy who was used to talking all the time, that was rather tough."

Despite this, Hesburgh said that the lack of communication helped him spiritual...
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**Senior parents weekend?**

So I’m a senior. That much I know for certain. I can see all of the typical signs: I’m writing a thesis, I’m hitting up all those little cafes I swore for three years that I’d visit, and I’m even starting to plan for—gasp!—the future.

I’m also bringing my mom to Junior Parents Weekend. Yep, you read that correctly. By this time on Friday, my super awesome mom and I will be rocking JPW... one year late.

Why? Well, one year ago, I was 4000 miles from life under the Dome. I was spending my semester abroad in London, saying “please-don’t instead of “sorry” so I bumped into passers-by in Tube stations. Museums, theaters, pubs—I was so busy being a Londoner, I didn’t really dwell on most events going on in South Bend. I’ll admit, though, that when I saw my friends’ pictures from JPW last February, I had a funny mixture of feelings. On the one hand, I was happy for them and their parents; few things make me smile like seeing pictures of people trying to swing dance with their moms and dads.

But unlike the parents and kids in my friends’ smiling pictures, my mom and dad were back in New Hampshire, and I was my flat, subsisting on couscous and Jaffa Cakes.

Looking back, it was weird to not attend JPW. I was a junior; I’d helped set up our JPW brunches hosted by my dorm; and—clutch criterion—I had parents. But it came and went with little fanfare last year, and I soon forgot about this college kid’s festival.

Until last semester, when my mom and I decided she would come visit for JPW. I was and am psyched that she’ll be coming to visit—like any kid who’s moved 900 miles from home, I miss my mom. Plus, one of my best sen­ior friends will be attending, as will a slew of juniors that I know. I won’t be lonely! I’ll be enjoying fancy food and spending some quality time with my mom.

But I can’t help thinking of that line from the song “I Wish I Could Go Back to College” from the musical Avenue Q. In that song, Princeton, Kate Monster and Nicky are singing about going back to college, when “life was so simple.” But in the end, Nicky reflects and says, “I’d sit on the quad and think, ‘Oh, my God! These kids are so much younger than me!’”

Okay, they’re not that much younger. Twelve months tops. It’s only a year removed, right? I won’t feel old? Or like I’m cheating the system, going back in time?

So I’m a senior, pretending to be a junior for three days. That much I know for certain.

*The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Analise Lipari at allipi@nd.edu*

**CORRECTIONS**

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

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN NO ONE IS WATCHING?**

Kris Kast  
**Sophomore**  
Carroll

George Pinchock  
**Sophomore**  
Keenan

Teresa McGeeheny  
**Junior**  
Lyons

Dan Lewis  
**Sophomore**  
Keenan

Monica Garcia-Blizzard  
**Senior**  
McGlinn

“I would do the same as Giggy.”

“I talk to myself with an accent and sometimes jump up and down...”

“I listen to Taylor Swift.”

“I have full conversations with my alter ego, Sasha Fierce.”

“I eat obscene amounts of chocolate.”

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**IN BRIEF**

“How the Health Are You?” a health fair open to students, will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center. The event is free and attendees have the chance to win raffle prizes, including a free roundtrip ticket to anywhere in the United States.

The Saint Mary's senior class is hosting “Financial Tips for Recent College Graduates,” a lecture by Professor Susan Vance tonight at 6:30 p.m. in 335 Spes Unica Hall.

Men Against Violence will present “That’s What He Said? Images of Modern Masculinity,” a lecture relaying the TV show “The Office” and the roles of men and women on tonight at 8 p.m. in Carey Auditorium in Hesburgh Library.

Panelists, including students, professors and members of the South Bend community, will debate President Obama’s impact on diversity tonight at 7 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center lounge.

The Class of 2012 presents “Frosh Four Square” Thursday from 6 to 9 p.m. in Stepan Center. The event is free to participate, and $5 for a T-shirt.

David Walker, the president and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, will speak Friday from 10 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in Jordan Auditorium in the Mendoza College of Business. The event is part of the Ten Years Hence lecture series. It is free and open to the public.

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

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**LOCAL WEATHER**

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**IN THE AIR**

Seniors John Siegel, Sam Banina, and Ryan McCune deejay their radio show, which airs on WFIJ.

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**OFFBEAT**

Woman charged selling plucked cats

WILKES-BARRE, Pa. — A Pennsylvania dog groomer has been ordered to stand trial on animal cruelty charges for selling “gothic kittens” with ear, neck and tail piercings.

Holly Crawford’s home outside Wilkes-Barre was raided Dec. 17 after the county Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals got a tip.

A prosecutor says Crawford inflicted pain on the cats, which were listed for sale for hundreds of dollars on the Internet. Crawford’s attorney says state law says nothing about selling cats or docking their tails.

At a preliminary hearing Tuesday for Wilkes-Barre District Judge Paul Hadrick called it a gray area that needs to be decided by a trial judge or jury.

Man holds woman captive, reads her the Bible

TROY, Ohio — A man held a woman captive in handcuffs and an adult diaper for three days while he read Bible passages to the police said.

Troy Bristport, 34, was charged with kidnapping and felonious assault. Bail was set Tuesday at $400,000.

He picked up the woman Wednesday night in Detroit after she told him she had nowhere to stay, and brought her to his home in Toledo, about 55 miles away, police said.

The woman told police that after she fell asleep Bristport handcuffed her wrists and ankles, gagged her, undressed her and put her in an adult diaper, then read Bible passages, said police Capt. Ray Carroll.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members review finances for spring semester

By LIZ O'NEILL

Members of the Council of Representatives (COR) reviewed the Financial Management Board’s (FMB) spring reallocation on Tuesday evening.

Student Union Treasurer Kadeja Gaines said that $23,307.30 was reallocated in the process.

Before in the initial allocation process, awards were given a certain amount of money to use throughout the school year, she said.

Every spring, each campus group takes an estimate of the amount of money they will need to finish out their planned activities. If they are in need, then the various groups request money within the reallocation process.

Other groups, who may have received more money in the initial allocation process than needed for their groups, have their money back, Gaines said. This year, the Judicial Council gave back $1,777.10 of their initial allocation.

About $15,000 went to various clubs and organizations, while the rest of the money went to other student groups who requested the additional funding.

“After reviewing each group’s expenses, we approved the requests on the basis that all had spent their initial allocations wisely and effectively,” Gaines said.

COR members also discussed the effectiveness and accessibility of the College Reallocation Program.

Student body president Bob Reish said Food Feedback from the Council to see whether or not the College Reallocation distribution locations were more easily accessible to the undergraduate student population.

The College Reallocation Program has six distribution centers, which are located in the Mendoza College of Business, North Dining Hall, South Dining Hall, the Hesburgh Library, LaFortune Student Center and the Joyce Center.

COR members suggested looking into the possibility of adding a distribution center in Martello Hall, because there is a large volume of students with class in the building on a daily basis.

Sophomore class president Cynthia Weber asked if there is a way to see how many of the papers are being used on a daily basis in order to finance the program more efficiently.

While most of the papers are being taken, she said that those that have been left untouched are taken off the hill.

“Say for example we ordered 50 copies of the Chicago Tribune on one side of the papers, the extra 10 will be taken off the hill,” said Reish.

While COR members discussed the idea of possibly having a place in the dining halls where used papers could be kept for others to read, the Council decided that some people would rather have the collaborative nature of the newspaper than read one that had been touched.

The three papers included in the College Reallocation Program are the Chicago Tribune, USA Today, and The Chicago Sun Times.

“A survey was taken my freshman year to determine if people want that place there,” said Reish.

“These papers were the best to fit both national and local news, as well as what students were most interested in,” he said.

In Other COR News:

-Members voted to unanimously approve Nick Donna as the new Student Union Vice President.

-Students were asked to participate in the discussion at Tuesday’s meeting.

-This past year, the University Counseling Center, RecSports, Food Services and the Notre Dame Security Police have been running and maintaining the groups on campus that will be participating in the Fair to provide a mix of fun and serious assessments.

-Students who participate will be able to enjoy a free chair massage from one of the two massage therapists, a prize from Preventive Medicine, a company based in South Bend attending.

-In addition to relaxation, there will also be opportunities for students to test their dance skills.

“Physical Education and Wellness is bringing Dance Dance Revolution to the Fair to provide a mix of fun and serious assessments,” Dickinson said.

“We wanted to provide a mix of fun activities and relaxation, as well as assessments and serious information,” he said.

The University Counseling Center will have a booth set up where students can complete assessments for problems like depression, anxiety and eating disorders. A second table will give students a chance to try some of the happiness and relaxation activities, some of which can be found in the Inner Resources Room at the University Counseling Center.

As incentive to participate in all of the activities the Health Fair offers, raffle tickets will be distributed at each booth for completing an activity or assessment.

“The more activities and assessments you do, the more raffle tickets you get, and the more chances you’ll have to win the prizes,” Dickinson said.

“We aimed for prizes that would be pertinent to students, and because this is right around the time of Spring Break, our big ticket item is one airline ticket to anywhere in the U.S.”

Dickinson named the other items that students can win in the raffle, including gift baskets, gift cards to Starbucks and Timess, and prizes intended to promote wellness, such as a free personal training package.

“Ultimately, we want students to take away from it an awareness well as assess- ments you do, the more raffle tickets you get, and the more chances you’ll have to win the prizes,” Dickinson said.

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Hesburgh continued from page 1

ally. "It was actually a good experience; you really got to think about the presence of the Vatican in your life," he said.

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh University President Emeritus

"I told them if they thought that 99 percent of the Church in the world was not 'serious' they needed to take another look," he said.

"If you're laity, be good laity. You're 99 percent of the Church, so don't just sit there."
Burris tried to help ousted Ill. Gov.  
Senator admits to an unsuccessful attempt to raise money for Blagojevich

**Associated Press**

**SPRINGFIELD, Ill.**—U.S. Sen. Roland Burris now acknowledges attempting to raise money for ousted Gov. Rod Blagojevich — an explosive twist in his story on how he landed a coveted Senate appointment from the man accused of trying to sell the seat.

Burris made the admission to reporters late Monday, after releasing an affidavit over the weekend saying he had more contact with Blagojevich aides about the Senate seat than he had described under oath to the state House panel that recommended Blagojevich’s impeachment. The Democrat also said in the affidavit, but not before the panel, that the governor’s brother asked him for fundraising help.

Though Burris insists he never raised money for Blagojevich while the governor was considering whether to appoint him to the seat President Barack Obama vacated, the revelation that he had attempted to do so is likely to increase calls for “Burriss” resignation and an investigation into whether he committed perjury by not telling the panel.

Illinois Democrats have sent documents related to Burris’ testimony to a county prosecutor for review. In Washington, a good-government group recommended Burris’ expulsion from the Senate if an ethics committee investigation shows he lied to Senate leaders.

Burris, in the midst of a previously scheduled tour of northern and central Illinois cities, would not discuss the attempts to raise funds for Blagojevich, but said he didn’t do anything wrong and encouraged officials to look into the matter.

“I welcome the opportunity to have these more serious investigative bodies ... to answer any questions they may have,” he told reporters in Peoria, before declining to answer questions.

Burris, who declined to address reporters again during a later stop in Bloomington, also said he planned to release later this week “a concise document related to his testimony, but he would not elaborate.

After an event Monday night in Peoria, Burris told reporters that he had reached out to friends after Blagojevich’s brother, Robert, called him before President Barack Obama’s election asking him to raise $10,000 or $15,000 for the governor before the November election.

But Burris said his friends weren’t willing to contribute and suggested that Robert Blagojevich talk to Burriss’ partner about approaching other potential donors.

Burris reiterated that in the end, he raised no money and hosted no fundraiser. He told Robert Blagojevich in a later conversation that he couldn’t raise money because he was interested in the Senate seat. Burris, however, already had indicated his interest in the Senate seat to gubernatorial aides, including Robert Blagojevich, before the November election.

Lawmakers of both parties have said Burris should resign after he admitted over the weekend that he had talked to several aides of the governor before getting the Senate post. During his testimony before the panel, he said he remembered talking only to one aide about the seat and did not say he was hit up for campaign donations.

The new affidavit submitted to the impeachment panel indicated contact not only with Robert Blagojevich, but with Blagojevich’s former chief of staff John Harris and two other close friends — all of whom Burris had been specifically asked about by the committee’s Republican chairman, Sen. Dick Durbin.

“You would think those would be the kind of people you’d remember you had a conversation with,” said Rep. Gary Hannon, a Lifelitch Democrat and a member of the impeachment committee.

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**Court upholds calories-on-menu rule**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK** — A federal appeals court on Tuesday upheld the city’s regulation requiring some chain restaurants to post calories on menus and menu boards, saying the rule is a reasonable effort to curb obesity.

A 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel rejected arguments by a state trade group that federal law pre-empted the rule and that the city had violated the First Amendment by forcing its view on patrons that calories are the most important consideration on a menu.

The three-judge panel ruled that the federal Nutrition Labeling and Education Act was not intended to apply to restaurant food, writing that the city “merely stepped into a sphere that Congress intentionally left open to state and local governments.”

The calorie rule, the court wrote, “mandates a simple factual disclosure of calorie information and is reasonably related to New York City’s goals of combating obesity.”

The court cited research showing consumers typically can’t assess how many calories are in food, “a statement which we do not doubt upon being informed ... that a smoked turkey sandwich at Chili’s contains 930 calories, more than a sirloin steak, which contains 540, or that two jelly-filled doughnuts at Dunkin’ Donuts have fewer calories than a sesame bagel with cream cheese.”

New York City is believed to have been the first U.S. city to enact a regulation requiring calories on menus. Since then, California and Philadelphia have passed similar bills.

The city’s rule applies to restaurants that are part of chains with at least 15 outlets across the country. Health Commissioner Thomas R. Frieden said Tuesday that most chain restaurants have been in compliance since the city began enforcing the rule in July.
Projects

continued from page 1

Revolitlration Project, Hakken said the University, guided by a city and a neighborhood group, buys homes on Notre-Dame Ave., builds homes with a faculty.

Projects

the University

Vice President

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rents them to

housing lots on Notre Dame

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pre-approved aesthetic and

page 6

there had been another

voted, or what percentage of

vote, according to an e-mail the

knew faculty and staff want-

have to be

Executive

Vice President John Affleck-Graves said he estimates the University will purchase about 100 existing homes and build some new property for about 18 years.

We saw it as an opportuni-

ty. Housing had declined in that area, and we knew faculty and staff wanted
ed to be close to campus, so we could play a role in buying up lots."

John Affleck-Graves executive vice president

tore to Kiley Realty, a private

real estate firm from Indianapolis, he said.

Affleck-Graves said the University invested an undis-
closed amount into the proj-

et, but Kiley Realty will pay

back the University as the ven-

ture turns a profit.

"At the end of the day, we will not have any invest-

ment in the project," he said.

The third construction project the University has been a stake in is Inno-

vation Park, which will be located at the corner of Twyckenham Drive and Edison Road.

Innovation Park is a research park that will focus on expanding the research of Notre Dame faculty and stu-

dents by transforming basic, academic research into a viable marketplace venture, according to President and CEO David Brenner.

"Hopefully the park will bring new ideas to the fore-

front and create jobs and economic growth," Brenner said.

Brenner said most major research universities already have a park of this sort, so Notre Dame is acting as the primary sponsor of the proj-

cet. However, Innovation Park is different from what a typical research park is, and the University believes that the park can be a model for other campuses.

It is important to have a research park because it provides an opportunity for students and faculty to work on entrepreneurial ideas and start new companies.

"The University has been building projects like this for several years now that they have been

weeks now that they have been

morning.

Hakken and Griffin received more than 50 percent of the vote, they sent an e-mail the BOC sent to the student body Tuesday. The e-mail did not specify how many students voted, or what percentage of stu-

dents voted to abstain.

"I'm very, very excited [that we won]," Hakken said. "I wish there was another opponent running, but Meg and I are so thrilled.

She said that they plan to work on putting some of their platform ideas into action in the next few weeks now that they have been elected.

"Besides assembling our cabin-

et, we will continue BOC's efforts to extend the Student

Center hours," she said, refer-
ing to an initiative by current student body president and vice president, Mickey Grascinski and Sarah Falvey to keep the Student Center open until midnight Monday through Thursday and until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Currently, the building closes at 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Hakken also said the day will work to get printers installed in every dorm.

"These are student concerns that have already been voiced," she said. "If we address those now, then when we do take office in April, and next fall, we'll be able to address other student concerns.

BOG sent an e-mail reminding stu-

dents in Notre Dame's foreign lan-

guages and cultures in DeBartolo Hall.

The CSLC's main lounge fea-
tures couches and open booths to promote interaction and foreign language learning.

Asklesson said that the lounge area fills up during the day with students who come to study and converse in

several foreign languages.

A multimedia room offers foreign language television and film viewing and serves as a conference room. Future plans for this room include HD streaming video communication with stu-

dents in Notre Dame's foreign lan-

guage study abroad programs, Asklesson said.

A third room in the CSLC can be a classroom or club meeting space.

Foreign language groups can reserve the space, and Asklesson said, such as the Japanese club, which hosted a karaoke night in the space on Friday.

While the CSLC is an inviting study space, it is only available for foreign language students.

"We are making a very con-

scious effort to reserve this space for foreign language study," Asklesson said.

Hakken said the number of students who have made use of the CSLC in the past month is emerging.

"We invite all foreign language students to come in and learn about CSLC services," he said. "I think it's going extremely well."

Asklesson said that while the center receives frequent input from foreign language faculty regarding what students that use the CSLC will also begin to offer constructive criticism.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcclusky@nd.edu

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The Observer ◆ CAMPUS NEWS

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Hoffman

continued from page 1

morning.

Hakken and Griffin received more than 50 percent of the vote, they sent an e-mail the BOC sent to the student body Tuesday. The e-mail did not specify how many students voted, or what percentage of stu-

dents voted to abstain.

"I'm very, very excited [that we won]," Hakken said. "I wish there was another opponent running, but Meg and I are so thrilled.

She said that they plan to work on putting some of their platform ideas into action in the next few weeks now that they have been elected.

"Besides assembling our cabin-

et, we will continue BOC's efforts to extend the Student

Center hours," she said, refer-
ing to an initiative by current student body president and vice president, Mickey Grascinski and Sarah Falvey to keep the Student Center open until midnight Monday through Thursday and until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday.

Currently, the building closes at 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Hakken also said the day will work to get printers installed in every dorm.

"These are student concerns that have already been voiced," she said. "If we address those now, then when we do take office in April, and next fall, we'll be able to address other student concerns.

BOG sent an e-mail reminding stu-

dents in Notre Dame's foreign lan-

guages and cultures in DeBartolo Hall.

The CSLC's main lounge fea-
tures couches and open booths to promote interaction and foreign language learning.

Asklesson said that the lounge area fills up during the day with students who come to study and converse in

several foreign languages.

A multimedia room offers foreign language television and film viewing and serves as a conference room. Future plans for this room include HD streaming video communication with stu-

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guage study abroad programs, Asklesson said.

A third room in the CSLC can be a classroom or club meeting space.

Foreign language groups can reserve the space, and Asklesson said, such as the Japanese club, which hosted a karaoke night in the space on Friday.

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Center

continued from page 1

the end of a three-year planning process. After the Housing and Resource Center (HRC) in O'Connell Hall opened in 2001, the needs of students at the University expanded.

Current programming offered by the CSLC includes peer tutoring in the Romance Languages, lan-
guages tables and social events.

Asklesson plans to include more lan-
guages.

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B

The Observer

Business

President Barack Obama waves after he signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Tuesday at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science in Denver.

Obama signs $787 billion stimulus

President also reads foreclosure rescue plan, hopes to revive economy

Associated Press

Denver — Raising the country’s economic spiral, President Barack Obama signed the mammoth $787 billion stimulus package into law Tuesday and laid down a new $50 billion foreclosure rescue for lethargic Americans who are in danger of losing their homes.

There was no recovery yet for beleaguered automakers, who were back in Washington for more bailout billion.

General Motors Corp. said it was closing plants, Chrysler LLC said it was cutting vehicle models and both said they were getting rid of leftover junkyard jobs. They made their restructuring cases for $5 billion more for Chrysler and as much as $16.6 billion more for GM. The United Auto Workers union said it had agreed to tentative concessions that could help Detroit’s struggling Big Three.

Anything but reassuring, Wall Street dove lower. The Dow Jones industrials fell 297.81 points, closing less than a point above their lowest level in five and a half years.

Obama focused on the $787 billion stimulus plan, an ambitious package of federal spending and tax cuts designed to revive the economy and save millions of jobs. Most wage-earners will soon see the first paycheck evidence of tax breaks that will total $400 billion for individuals and $500 billion for families.

The stimulus package was a huge victory for Obama less than one month into his presidency. But it had a bitter taste and lower expectations for an immediate turnaround in the severe recession that is well into its second year.

“None of this will be easy,” he said. “The road to recovery will not be straight. We will make progress, and there will be some slippage along the way. Still, he declared, “We have begun the essential work of keeping the American dream alive in our time.”

Underconcerned energy-related investments in the new law, Obama and Vice President Joe Biden flew separately to Denver where the president signed it at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science before roughly 250 people including GM, Chrysler seek more gov’t aid

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On Wednesday, Obama will outline another big piece of his recovery effort — a $50 billion plan to help stem foreclosures — in Arizona, one of the states hardest hit by the mortgage defaults that are at the center of the nation’s economic woes.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner mentioned the housing program last week as he rolled out a wide-ranging financial-sector rescue plan that could send $2 trillion coursing through the financial system. Obama is expected to detail how the administration plans to prod the mortgage industry to do more in modifying the terms of home loans so borrowers have lower monthly payments.

More than 2.3 million homeowners coast-to-coast faced foreclosure proceedings last year, an 81 percent increase from 2007. Analysts say that number could soar as high as 10 million in the coming years, depending on the severity of the recession.

GM, Chrysler seek more gov’t aid

Detroit — General Motors and Chrysler Group said Tuesday their request for federal aid ballooned to a staggering $39 billion — only months after receiving billions in loans — in new plans that envision massive job losses and propose restructuring to survive a deepening recession.

General Motors Corp. presented a survival plan that calls for cutting a total of 70,000 jobs globally and closing five more U.S. factories, a move that represents the largest work force reduction announcement by a U.S. company in the economic meltdown. Chrysler LLC said it will cut 1,000 more jobs and stop producing three vehicle models.

The grim reports came as the United Auto Workers union said it had reached a tentative agreement with GM, Chrysler and Ford Motor Co. on contract changes. Concessions with the union and dealers would be a condition of the government bailout.

GM said it could need up to $30 billion from the Treasury Department, up from a previous estimate of $18 billion. That includes $13.4 billion the company has already received. The world’s largest automaker said it could run out of money by March without new funds and needs $2 billion more for GM. The United Auto Workers union said a new “certifi-
CAMBODIA

PALIN faces fiscal challenges

Former head of torture center charged in trial

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin’s first two years in office have been marked by a tale of milk and honey, when the resource-rich state was flush with oil and gas royalty prices.

The second half of her term isn’t looking so rosy as Palin faces her first major financial challenge.

The rapid decline of oil prices has left the state in a booming budget crisis and a late-entrant in the national recession. And that could have political repercussions for the former Republican vice presidential hopeful, who has signaled an interest in a 2012 presidential run but must stay visible in the Lower 48 to be successful.

“Given these bad times, she’s going to have to show a lot more discipline in budgeting than we’ve seen from her before,” Alaska Republican state Sen. John Coghill, a powerful Capitol money manager, said Wednesday. “She’s got to be very careful about the policies she’s going to pursue.”

Oil prices plummeted to a four-month low of $68 on Monday. They currently sit at about $73, up from $87 but still far below the peak of $117 in 2008.

“Given Alaska’s robust reserves, the state is well-prepared to weather the next two years, Palin said. “We’re more prepared than other states because of the prudent policies that we have.”

The state currently has $6.6 billion in its constitutional budget reserve fund that it could tap into. A few billion dollars more also is available from other pockets, said Juneau economist Gregg Erickson, a longtime Alaska budget watcher.

“Given Alaska’s robust reserves, the state is well-prepared to weather the next two years, Palin said. As to how long reserves will last after that, there are many parties involved to say for sure. “It depends on how much you draw from other places, how fast the budget increases and declines, the earnings rates on reserves that you have,” Erickson said. “And of course, it depends on how high or low oil prices are.”

Baker Ketzler, an Interior Alaska resident, has a hard time envisioning Palin running for a second term as governor. “She’s kind of been moved up a couple notches and I could see her losing the state and getting her profile up even higher on the national political level,” said Ketzler, owner of the Yukan River village of Tanana. “But I think for her to be eligible to run in four years, Obama would really have to screw up.”

Associated Press

The pretrial proceedings will come more than 13 years after the court was established.

Dr. Duch was among those arrested at the Phnom Penh courthouse in 1997 to start the Khmer Rouge tribunal. He is the only defendant to have ever been charged with crimes against humanity. He is the first of five defendants who belonged to a close-knit, ultra-communist regime that ruled Cambodia in the 1970s and turned it into a vast slave labor camp and chamber in which house in which 1.7 million or more people perished.

Duch oversaw the S-21 prison in the capital Phnom Penh — previously a school, now the Tuol Sleng genocide museum — where some 16,000 people, women and children were detained and tortured. Only a handful survived.

Petty also is among the S-21 prisoners who were arrested at the Phnom Penh courthouse in 1997 to start the Khmer Rouge tribunal. He is the only defendant to have ever been charged with crimes against humanity. He is the first of five defendants who belonged to a close-knit, ultra-communist regime that ruled Cambodia in the 1970s and turned it into a vast slave labor camp and chamber in which 1.7 million or more people perished.

Duch’s trial began 13 years after the tribunal was first proposed and nearly three years after the court was inaugurated.

“This is a very significant day for Cambodia and the world,” co-prosecutor Robert Petit told reporters. “Today’s proceedings bode well for the commitment of all parties to seek justice of the Khmer Rouge.”

The tribunal, which incorporates mixed teams of foreign and Cambodian judges, prosecutors and defenders, has drawn sharp criticism. Its proceedings have been plagued by political interference from the Cambodian government, as well as allegations of bias and corruption.

The tribunal is currently investigating allegations of genocide for the first time in Cambodia.

The tribunal recently turned down requests from the international co-prosecutor to try other Khmer Rouge leaders, as many as six according to some reports.

Associated Press

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TV stations switch from analog to digital

Associated Press

NEW YORK — About a quar­ter of the nation’s TV stations are cutting off their analog signals Tuesday, setting off a wave of out­ages and angering viewers who were not prepared for digital tele­vision despite two years of warnings about the transition.

Though most viewers were ready — and people with cable or satellite service were unaffected — some stations and call centers reported a steady stream of questions from frus­trated viewers, including how to get coupons for con­verter boxes that translate digital signals for older TVs — or how to get the devices working.

"It’s kind of an irritation, but I understand that everyone will have a much better picture. As far as I was con­cerned, I had heard all the things they were," said Dorothy Delegard, 67, of Minneapolis, who bought a converter box because a friend gave her a coupon that expires Tuesday.

"One thing that happened was they closed down broadcast stations which at any rate is preparing to withdraw its troops, many of whom worked on infrastructure projects such as rebuilding bridges and roads.

Steinmeier, who met with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other senior officials, told reporters that Germany wants to extend a hand to new Iraq.

"We have seen in the last months important successes in stabilizing the country," he said.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said the visit showed both countries were eager to resume their "histori­cal relations."

"We believe that the situation in Iraq has reached a good phase, and thus there is inter­national confidence in the sta­bility of this country," Zebari told reporters after his talks with Steinmeier.

Those upbeat comments were a far cry from the acrimony of six years ago, when France and Germany spearheaded opposi­tion to the U.S.-led invasion, dividing Europe and damaging relations between Washington and some of its closest European allies.

At the time, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld scoffed at the European critics, branding them "Old Europe" in contrast to a vigorous "New Europe" — former Soviet bloc nations such as Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic which supported the invasion.

Over the years, the heated rhetoric has cooled. New gov­ernments have taken power in France and Germany. And Iraq’s own leadership has gained new legitimacy with the decline in violence and recent provincial elections that took place without major attacks.

Last month, the German for­eign minister wrote in an open letter to President Barack Obama, who also opposed the war, that Germany was ready to help "the people of Iraq" create "a stable and democratic future in Iraq."

The United States has encour­aged other countries to step up their efforts to help rebuild Iraq, as the U.S. military role in this country winds down. The U.S. must withdraw its troops by the end of 2011 according to a security agreement signed with Baghdad last year.

Obama’s administration is considering plans to accelerate the withdrawal to shift military resources to Afghanistan, where al-Qaida and a resurgent Taliban are challenging the U.S.-backed Afghan government.

For their part, the Germans are eager to cash in on millions of dollars in lucrative contracts in a country which has some of the world’s largest petroleum reserves.

Steinmeier arrived with repre­sentatives of German compa­nies and cultural institutions.

The Germans hope to estab­lish an economic office in Baghdad, with a branch in the northern city of Erbil, the cap­i­tal of Iraq’s self-governing Kurdish region.

"The office will contribute to reviving the once-intensive econ­omic relations between Germany and Iraq," German Economy Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg said in a statement. "The office also will serve to overcome the eco­nomic consequences of the war in Iraq and contribute to the country’s economic rebuilding."

Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said the two sides also signed agreements on scientific and cultural coop­eration, technical and training assistance for the Iraqi Electricity Ministry and to build a German-Iraqi university in Iraq.

The visit is a turning point in relations with Germany," said al-Dabbagh.

International support comes at a critical time for Iraq, which is only now emerging from nearly six years of vicious war. But U.S. officials have repet­itively warned that the improve­ments in security are fragile because major power-sharing groups remain unre­solved.
I have become my own life's hero. I have accomplished a feat so great, so bold, so mighty I no longer consider my self merely mortal. I have transcended this world into the ethereal sphere and conquered the foe heretofore indomitable.

I have removed the bench from the pond. On Saturday night I went over to a friend's house to enjoy an evening of good old-fashioned fun. The get-together was proceeding along normally with a top-40 radio inspired playlist and multiple small circles being formed in various locations: the family room, the close-in porch, the room next to the kitchen. It was while standing in the small circle in between the porch and the kitchen that my fellow columnist Brad Blomstrom and I had individual yet complete. Brad had found, lassoed the bench, and pulled the bench out of the pond. With our friends all watching in eager anticipation that we would fall into the icy cold water, Brad and I triumphantly heaved-loc-h and our mission was complete.

Critics, cynics — all proven wrong. That night that bench was removed from that pond.

Bench of joy rang out from the bells that watched us in our victory. "These men have done it! Clearly they are superior to us!" One of Christine's roommates thanked us profusely and everyone I knew at the get-together gave me a firm handshake and a knowing head-nod. Saturday night was my night. And Brad's.

So I reiterate: I have become my own life's hero. And I think I've proved it through this (slightly) exaggerated account of my Saturday evening. But what does this anecdote say about life more specifically my life? That is of any interest to The Observer readership? Well, it's a complicated matter but I truly believe that the primary reason any of us does anything is ultimately due to some innate desire to prove our own worth.

A mixture of self-glorification is sometimes overlooked as selfish or downright mean. People think those who are self-serving are detestable human beings. Overt ambition is derided by popular culture because of the tendency of it to engender excessive pride, particularly in the modern era as ambition has led to some of the greatest follies known to man from the invention of the Segway to George Lucas unleashing Jar Jar Binks on the world of cinema. Pride leads to a distorted view of reality in which only the individual in question matters. Such blatant disregard for the actual circumstances of the world, then, not only degrades people with whom this individual interacts but the individual himself.

But let's think about pride in a different way. Isn't being proud just a fancy way of saying, "I want something good to happen?" If George Washington had not been proud would he have crossed the Delaware? If Harriet Beecher Stowe had not been proud would she have written "Uncle Tom's Cabin?" If Shaward had not been proud would we have see Alaska as a state?

Pride, and more specifically being proud of one's actions, is the essence of the American ethos. Without acknowledg-ement of the greatness of one's own person, the American Dream would fall: a man could not socially thrust himself upward without initially believing himself to be the greatest man of all time.

So I rescued that bench from that pond because I believe in the American Dream, I believe that all men first act out of self-interest and that such selfish behavior is in fact the most American of all behaviors. I had no choice but to get the bench out of the pond. Not doing so would have meant I had defected from the very ideals that were instilled in me at an early age. And I will only ever act in a way to promote my own conception of my greatness and my genius. That's probably the reason I applied for this columnist position.

With love, this column is dedicated to my friend and host Christine earlier in the kitchen that my fellow columnist Brad Blomstrom and I had individual yet complete. Christine, Morgan, Heidi, Becca, Emily, Kahki and, of course, Brad. My name is Andrew Miller and I am a senior English major. I can be contacted at andrewmiller1986@gmail.com

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

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QUOTE OF THE DAY
"When we ask for advice, we are usually looking for an accomplice.
Marquis de la Grange
author

Bench in pond

Andrew Miller
The Roads Scholar

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Reviewer of the Day
Sarah AssT.
A Christian acceptance

Brad Duffy in his Feb. 17 letter "A Catholic university" exactly performs the "gay-bashing" that Notre Dame and other Catholic institutions have the world profess to abhor. His response is a clear gut reaction to the topic of the mere discussion homoseXuality at Notre Dame. Perhaps he didn't read the first vanguard of students initiated to the Second Paragraph. No doubt this was a form letter response to attack the innumerable Virginia Monologues Viewpoint essay that was written and massive cover-up of the Priest abuse scandal. The list goes on and on. If everyone can pretty much agree those were bad things, why will no one recognize that perhaps their teachings today aren't necessarily infallible.

I consider myself Catholic, but more so Christian, and let us look back to the head honcho of this Christian thing, Jesus Christ welcomed with open arms those outcasts of society that the Pharisees (read Catholic church here) abhorred and ostracized. If they practiced acceptance of prostitutes — the Gentiles, etc. — then a mixture of current pop and modern romance, but I was most interested in this year I, along with every other freshman, was required to attend a forum on accepting people of varying sexual orientations. Not only was the event very informative but it also offered the opportunity for us to discuss our own experiences and feelings concerning the topic.

From speaking to my friends, who go to other colleges and universities, this seems to be a program unique to Notre Dame. Notre Dame clearly does not promote or agitate prejudice but instead creates informed students in a politically correct atmosphere as Fr. Hesburgh and Fr. Jenkins strive for.

Why don't we date?

Everyone is searching for love and companionship, everyone also views relationships and dating as a much too serious form of romantic expression. So we always thought that people at Notre Dame didn't date for fear that they would end up married, but maybe it's just a nod at our generation. It's much easier to hook up and hang out, than actually put in the time and effort to date and fall in love; just as it is much easier to search on the internet than actually read a book from the library. This is not to say, however, that the college generation doesn't date; but it does generally seem that our interpretation of "the relationship" is much different from those of the past. I have often heard people saying "she was cool until she got a boyfriend" or "he never goes out now because his girlfriend." Since when did the idea of wanting to share love and closeness with a person become so hard? I'm not advocating for a change, I am just saying that we don't have to worry about finding a guy to date. I am only commenting on the exorbitant time and effort that anything, it could possibly mean for the future, for example, was a rampart. Also, the main point is not those condemnations, if taken literally, are condemnations of acts, and not the mere discussion of them, which is the point of the Queer Film Festival. Also, the term Catholic University implies one must balance the Catholic nature of this institution with the other part of the title, university, which demands academic discussions relevant to knowledge of the world.

Therefore, I implore Notre Dame as a Catholic University to offer students an opportunity to discuss these alternative lifestyles.

Steven Delaurentis

Festival is dearly missed

In his Feb. 17 letter "A Catholic University," Mr. Duffy's claim that the Queer Film Festival was killed off without causing any ripples in the pond, and that it "is not misguided." I'd like to beg to differ; the Queer Film Festival was actually one of the main reasons in my decision to attend this school in the first place. As a true high school senior, I remember passing posters advertising the upcoming festival and feeling extremely lonesome that I was not a part of choosing a Catholic school. As a gay Catholic, I was definitely still struggling with reconciling these two identities. Having visual proof that Notre Dame was soTipo-catholic made my experience at Notre Dame without feeling like a walking contradiction. And really, Brad Duffy is right— Notre Dame isn't anti-gay. Having visual proof that Notre Dame was one of the tipping points in my decision to attend this school, this Queer Film Festival, as a vehicle for discussion and se­riously weighing the importance of these crucial issues that make you uncomfortable, or examining— not mindlessly swallow of these teachings as a Catholic, I was definitely still struggling to understand and examine — not mindlessly swallow their religion's teachings. The Queer Film Festival (not just the Queer Film Festival), then we truly aren't following the teachings of the Church. I respect Brad Duffy's right to hold his own views; I am also entitled to my own views. As a gay Catholic, I was definitely still struggling with reconciling these two identities.

I know the issue of 'the responsibili­ties of a Catholic university' is a horse that has already been sewn up tightly in the viewpoint, but I honestly think any religious person must reflect on these things at least for a fee­dible amount of time. I have the strange desire to Google the words "gay" and "lesbian" to see if I have found search results displayed on my computer to everything from grouping with a person become a bad thing? It's much easier to hook up and hang out, than actually put in the time and effort to date and fall in love; just as it is much easier to search on the internet than actually read a book from the library. This is not to say, however, that the college generation doesn't date; but it does generally seem that our interpretation of "the relationship" is much different from those of the past. I have often heard people saying "she was cool until she got a boyfriend" or "he never goes out now because his girlfriend." Since when did the idea of wanting to share love and closeness with a person become so hard? I'm not advocating for a change, I am just saying that we don't have to worry about finding a guy to date. I am only commenting on the exorbitant time and effort that anything, it could possibly mean for the future, for example, was a rampart. Also, the main point is not those condemnations, if taken literally, are condemnations of acts, and not the mere discussion of them, which is the point of the Queer Film Festival. Also, the term Catholic University implies one must balance the Catholic nature of this institution with the other part of the title, university, which demands academic discussions relevant to knowledge of the world.

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LATTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Steven Delaurentis

Festival is dearly missed

In his Feb. 17 letter "A Catholic University," Mr. Duffy's claim that the Queer Film Festival was killed off without causing any ripples in the pond, and that it "is not misguided." I'd like to beg to differ; the Queer Film Festival was actually one of the main reasons in my decision to attend this school in the first place. As a true high school senior, I remember passing posters advertising the upcoming festival and feeling extremely lonesome that I was not a part of choosing a Catholic school. As a gay Catholic, I was definitely still struggling with reconciling these two identities. Having visual proof that Notre Dame was soTipo-catholic made my experience at Notre Dame without feeling like a walking contradiction. And really, Brad Duffy is right— Notre Dame isn't anti-gay. Having visual proof that Notre Dame was one of the tipping points in my decision to attend this school, this Queer Film Festival, as a vehicle for discussion and se­riously weighing the importance of these crucial issues that make you uncomfortable, or examining— not mindlessly swallow their religion's teachings. The Queer Film Festival (not just the Queer Film Festival), then we truly aren't following the teachings of the Church. I respect Brad Duffy's right to hold his own views; I am also entitled to my own views. As a gay Catholic, I was definitely still struggling with reconciling these two identities.

I know the issue of 'the responsibili­ties of a Catholic university' is a horse that has already been sewn up tightly in the viewpoint, but I honestly think any religious person must reflect on these things at least for a fee­dible amount of time. I have the strange desire to Google the words "gay" and "lesbian" to see if I have found search results displayed on my computer to everything from grouping with a person become a bad thing? It's much easier to hook up and hang out, than actually put in the time and effort to date and fall in love; just as it is much easier to search on the internet than actually read a book from the library. This is not to say, however, that the college generation doesn't date; but it does generally seem that our interpretation of "the relationship" is much different from those of the past. I have often heard people saying "she was cool until she got a boyfriend" or "he never goes out now because his girlfriend." Since when did the idea of wanting to share love and closeness with a person become so hard? I'm not advocating for a change, I am just saying that we don't have to worry about finding a guy to date. I am only commenting on the exorbitant time and effort that anything, it could possibly mean for the future, for example, was a rampart. Also, the main point is not those condemnations, if taken literally, are condemnations of acts, and not the mere discussion of them, which is the point of the Queer Film Festival. Also, the term Catholic University implies one must balance the Catholic nature of this institution with the other part of the title, university, which demands academic discussions relevant to knowledge of the world.

Therefore, I implore Notre Dame as a Catholic University to offer students an opportunity to discuss these alternative lifestyles.

Steven Delaurentis
By DECLAN SULLIVAN

If you think Mom and Dad are ready for a night of gut-busting laughter, Washington Hall will be bursting at the seams with top-notch comedy when the Student Union Board hosts The Second City this Friday night.

The Second City comedy troupe is a legendary ensemble based primarily in the Windy City. The group began in the 1960s in Chicago, when several University of Chicago students interested in comedy and theater first created their own brand of improvisational comedy. Throughout the group's more than five decades of history, it has released multiple comedic recordings, produced films, traveled on national tours and performed for sold-out audiences. The troupe has expanded to several cities since its inception, including Los Angeles. However, its primary and best-known groups remain in Chicago and Toronto.

The format of a typical Second City show has remained constant since the 1960s. The first half of the program consists of scripted and half-improvised scenes, while the second showcases fully improvised scenes based on audience suggestions — think "Whose Line is It Anyway?" Another staple of the Second City formula is live, improvised music that accompanies the sketches.

The Chicago-based group has its own distinguished history. It eventually expanded to a sketch-comedy show called "SCTV" ("Second City Television") that was broadcast in Canada from 1976-1984. The program went on to win several awards for broadcasting, while also launching the careers of such actors as Harold Ramis, Gilda Radner and John Candy.

Second City gained national renown as a kind of training ground for many of the initial and subsequent cast members of "Saturday Night Live." Among the slow of high-profile alumni of Second City, including both the Toronto and Chicago ensembles, to reach the stage of "SNL" are the Belushi brothers, Bill Murray, Dan Akroyd, Mike Myers, Tina Fey and Chris Farley.

The Second City's strengths lie in more than simply its actors and writers, however. The group also has inspired much of the writing and directorial talent that has produced some of Hollywood's greatest comedies of the past forty years. Examples include "Animal House," "Caddyshack," "Ghostbusters," "Groundhog Day" and "Anchorman." Tos in the voice of the "Tonight Show's" Jim Henson Simpson (Dan Castellaneta), a few Academy Award and Emmy-winning actors, and the stars of two of the most highly rated shows on television today — Steve Carrell, from "The Office," and Stephen Colbert, from "The Colbert Report" — and the reputation is definitely well earned.

The Second City Comedy Troupe
6:30 and 9:30 pm
Washington Hall
Tickets $15.75 for students
$20.75 for adults

One tip: Arrive earlier in the day when possible, as live music on most weekends will often invite a larger crowd on Friday and Saturday nights.

Mom and Dad coming to town for Junior Parents Weekend? While the University provides some solid attractions for your visit, there’s more to the story of your college education than bricks and mortar. Let the writers of Scene give you a glimpse into these entertainment and dining options, you can’t go wrong.

By ANALISE LIPARI

To all you juniors whose parents will be visiting campus this weekend, take heart: There are dining options for you and your parents beyond solely North and South. While football weekend brunches are frenzied and fun, it’s worthwhile to show Mom and Dad more of South Bend than Angela and Edison, especially when you’re looking for places to eat.

The range of restaurants in the South Bend — Mishawaka area is impressive, and different dining establishments will vary in terms of price. Some are definitely student-wallet-friendly, such as Fiddler’s Hearth on North Main Street. Others, like Tippecanoe on West Washington Street, are more likely to necessitate Mom or Dad’s wallet instead. If you find yourselves hunting for other dining options, let Scene be your guide to a few local restaurants that you and your parents can enjoy.

Fiddler’s Hearth (127 N. Main, South Bend)
Fiddler’s is, first and foremost, one of the best Irish pubs in town. The decor of the place alone lends it a homey, old-country feel, with Guinness advertisements and images of hometown people and places on the walls. On the subject of Guinness and all its friends, the bar and drink menu include an impressive number of irish, English and Scottish ales and beers. The pub also offers a full soft drink menu for patrons who aren’t quite of legal age.

While dining may not seem like your first priority when heading out to a pub, rest assured that the menu at Fiddler’s does not disappoint. Options run from standard American pub fare like hamburgers, to more traditional Irish dishes, including the Molly Malone stew and the menu’s various types of boxty, a.k.a. Ireland’s pseudo-equivalent to savory crepes that deserve praise in their own right. If you’re in the mood to be adventurous, get Mom or Dad to order a plate of curry fries or a Ploughman’s Lunch — the smell of the cheeses alone is worth its low price.

If you find yourselves hunting for other dining options, let Scene be your guide to a few local restaurants that you and your parents can enjoy.

One highlight included:

Tippecanoe Place Restaurant (620 E. Washington Street, South Bend)

If you land a reservation at Tippecanoe, you and your parents will really be in for a treat. The building itself is a beautiful old mansion built by none other than Cleve Studebaker himself in 1889, and the menu is equally high-end and traditional.

The dining options at Tippecanoe range in price from $15 to $25 per entrée, with the Lobster tail depending on market prices. Highlights on the menu include charbroiled lamb chops, served with currant bell peppers and onions; their “House Specialty,” the prime rib of beef, with the Classic, Traditional and Studebaker cuts made available; roasted Indiana duckling, served with a sauce of raspberries and dried cherries; and charbroiled Ah tuna, topped with a basil pesto.

Some other highlights include:

Trios Restaurant and Jazz Club (129 N. Michigan St, South Bend)
Open for both lunch and dinner, Trios offers a sophisticated atmosphere for those looking to experience a different kind of night out. Highlights from the dinner menu include chicken Saltimbocca, blackened beet tenderloin medallions, and St. Louis-style barbecue pork ribs.

Also, this weekend’s scheduled jazz performances at Trios include the Billy Nichols Quartet, a traditional jazz organ combo scheduled for Friday, and the Chris Greene Quartet, a jazz combo headlining on Saturday.

Note: The Trio’s Web site can take reservations for dinner.

Macci’s Italian Bakery & Restaurant and Carmela’s Restaurant (254 N. Niles Ave, South Bend)
Recently reviewed in The Observer, Macci’s offers its customers a fun, casual dining experience. Options include traditional savory Italian items, deli sandwiches, salads, and a variety of baked goods and Italian pastries. First time and returning visitors should try the Italian Grinders and Sicilian Turkey sandwiches, two of the most popular menu items.

Carmela's is a somewhat more upscale bistro attached to Macci's, featuring its own menu of traditional and new Italian classics.

Note: Making a reservation at Carmela’s is recommended, but there’s no need to call ahead to Macri’s itself.

Lula’s Cafe (1631, Edison Rd, South Bend)
Also recently reviewed in The Observer, Lula’s is a fun, funky coffeehouse-style dining experience. Students looking to grab a quick, casual bite to eat with Mom and Dad would do well to bring the folks to Lula’s, which is within easy walking distance of the Notre Dame campus. Highlights from the menu include their hummus, served with warm pita and blue corn chips; the menu’s varied soups and sandwiches; and the new Lagniappe menu, with several wrap and salad options.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu
Scene Writer

This Saturday, parents of the Class of 2010 can treat their ears to the exciting sounds of the Notre Dame Concert and Jazz Bands at the groups’ annual performance during Junior Parents Weekend (JPW).

Several accomplished conductors helped prepare over two hundred musicians for the upcoming performance, including Alison Thigpen, one of the Assistant Band Directors and a Co-Conductor of the Symphonic Band. Composed of the collective efforts of the New Orleans Jazz band, the Symphonic Band and the Symphonic Winds, the program promises to be an excellent way for both students and parents to experience the exceptional musical talent Notre Dame has to offer.

“[JPW] is a great opportunity for the parents of juniors to see their son or daughter perform in the band,” Thigpen said.

This year’s show, “Around the World with the Notre Dame Band,” includes musical pieces hailing from various foreign countries. The night’s musical numbers will include works from “Italy, Spain, Ireland and America, with of course some Notre Dame favorites,” Thigpen said.

Specific pieces include Rossini’s “William Tell Overture” and jazz tunes by Duke Ellington and Herbie Hancock.

Thigpen promised that the Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band will combine to perform “several pieces together,” including a number with the Notre Dame Trombone Choir. The performance concludes with combined musical chorus of the Notre Dame Victory March, bound to be a pleaser for students and alumni.

Thigpen encouraged audience members to look out for junior trumpeter Andrew Thomas as he takes the lead in “La Virgen de la Macarena.” Other notable soloists to watch for will include trumpet players Dave Condon and Tony Pawlowski, trombonist Anthony Parrish and bass trombonist Noah Franske.

In addition to the concert this Saturday evening, the Symphonic Band and Symphonic Winds will be performing in their annual spring concert on April 19. On Thursday, Feb. 26, the New Orleans Jazz Band will perform at the 51st annual College Jazz Festival.

Undoubtedly, the performance of the Symphonic Winds, Symphonic Band and Jazz Band is certainly a show bound to impress and entertain audience members this Junior Parents Weekend.

The annual Junior Parents Weekend concert is but one example of the impressive history of concert performance at the University.

“In addition to having one of the finest collegiate marching bands ... Notre Dame has a long and rich tradition of concert performance,” Thigpen said.

Over 200 students participate in the three fall and three spring performances each year. Although the bands have traditionally been showcased in Washington Hall, they have found a new home in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC) since it first opened in 2004.

In addition to on-campus performances, the Symphonic Winds and Symphonic Band tours various parts of the country in the springtime, including Chicago, Detroit and Pittsburgh. This year, the musicians will be making a trip to Canada. In the past, Notre Dame musicians have been fortunate enough to visit various countries overseas, including Ireland, Sweden, Austria and England.

One of the ensemble’s most high-profile tours in recent years was their trip to China and Japan in the summer of 2008. The Concert Bands performed several pieces, including original compositions written by Dr. Kenneth Ivey in honor of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

This year’s Notre Dame Concert and Jazz Bands Junior Parents Weekend Concert will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. in the Leighton Hall of DPAC. Tickets are $5 for general admission and faculty and $3 for students. Visit performingarts.nd.edu for more information.

Contact Emily LeStrange at elestran@nd.edu
BENGAL BOUTS

Deaf defeats Cure in three round split decision upset

Lorenz advances with semifinal technical knockout over Hockett in first round as he tries to defend his 2008 title

By MOLLY SAMMON, DOUGLAS FARMER, CHRIS MASON and JAMES MICHALSKI

Sporo Writers

170 Pounds

Matt "The Abominable Snowman" Paletta def. Joe Langenfeld

Paletta started the first round with a quick shot to the head of Langenfeld. While Langenfeld tried to counter, Paletta continued to pummel him with an effective left hook. Early in the second round, Langenfeld landed a combo that knocked Paletta off his feet. Paletta responded with a powerful right hook, followed by a big combo that put Langenfeld on the defensive for the rest of the fight. Paletta won in a unanimous decision.

Bernardo Garcia def. Vincent Keneally

Keneally started the first round with a quick shot to the head of Garcia. Garcia retaliated with a quick shot to Keneally's head and body. Keneally answered with a quick shot to Garcia's head. Garcia landed a combo that put Keneally on the defensive before the round ended. Garcia won in a unanimous decision.

Andres Villalba def. Michael Urcioli

Urcioli chased the senior captain against the ropes in the opening seconds, but Villalba's quickness helped get him out of trouble. The fight continued to be one of amazing athleticism from both fighters, with Urcioli connecting on several powerful combinations.

The referees called for a quick break due to an apparent injury to Villalba, who came back a different boxer after a few moments in his corner. Villalba's relentless attacks on Urcioli's stomach prevented the sophomore from maintaining any kind of sense of control. Urcioli almost got Villalba against the ropes, but he was fatigued and couldn't do much damage before the judges awarded Villalba the unanimous victory.

Alex Kissinger def. Scott Jarvie

Kissinger's powerful right hook sent his opponent to the floor in the opening round. Jarvie got back up and went on the offensive, but Kissinger answered with several combos near the ropes. In the second, Kissinger again used his quickness to avoid the few attacks Jarvie was able to mount, and after a few more combos, Kissinger sent Jarvie to the mat again.

Kissinger dominated the third round en route to a unanimous victory.

175 Pounds

Jim Hasson def. Joe Hagmann

Hagmann began the match with a quick left jab to Hasson, but Hasson responded with a right of his own. In the second round, Hasson took control of the match by landing a series of combos to Hagmann's head, causing his headgear to malfunction. Hagmann fought back for much of the third round, and it caused the officials to momentarily stop the match.

Hasson landed combos against Hagmann with little resistance in the end to win by a unanimous decision.

Mike Doran def. Joseph "Money" Meares

From the start of this bout, Doran's advantage in reach made itself evident, as he used it to LLP (left lead punch) Meares' attacks throughout the round. Yet neither fighter fazed the other in the opening round.

Meares came out aggressive in the second round, blasting past Doran's long arms with multiple attacks. Doran was able to parry these attacks as he threw eight right hooks from Meares.

As the fight neared its conclusion, the effort to get Doran's reach wore Meares out. Before long, Doran had bloodied Meares' nose with repeated jabs. When the final bell rang, Doran received a unanimous decision.

Bill Straccia def. Pat O'Connor

Straccia was patient in the opening round, waiting for O'Connor to make his move, but sealed his unanimous victory with a strong third round.

Both fighters waited for their opportunity to make a connection in the opening round. Neither fighter landed anything of note, and the round ended as a draw.

In the second round, Straccia was looking to land a number of body shots before Murphy could get up to his feet. Straccia's body shots got the job, and the referee stopped the match.

O'Connor made a connection in the third round, but O'Connor couldn't do much damage before the judges awarded Straccia the unanimous decision.


In the opening exchange, Tchoula landed a right hook to Smith's head, and Tchoula used his reach to back up Smith. By the end of the round, Tchoula used a series of left jabs to set up his right hook.

Smith's right hook dropped Tchoula in the early part of the round, but Lee got back up to grab a hold of Smith on the ropes.

In the second round, Lee landed a few combos while avoiding any major damaging blows. Smith connected on his patented double-jab combo to wear down Goebel while scoring valuable points. Goebel landed a few powerful combos, but Lee scored an effective right uppercut and an effective left hook.

Smith's actions proved effective again in the third round of his unanimous victory.

185 Pounds

Rafael Diaz def. Brian O'Connor

In a close match, Diaz used his aggressiveness and quickness to defeat O'Connor.

Diaz started out on the offense, deflecting O'Connor's jabs and initiating each set of blows. Neither fighter dominated the round, but Diaz connected on many solid combinations with his powerful right hand.

Diaz took a different approach in the second round. His reflexes were off from the opening, and O'Connor's jabs caught him off guard, forcing the ref to order a break.

Diaz showed off his power in the third round, using jabs to defeat the fatigued O'Connor.

Chris Hapak def. Dan "The Dane" Jackson

From the opening bell, the two fighters displayed contrasting styles. While Jackson fought with controlled aggression, Hapak's body was an unstoppable powerhouse.

Both fighters waited for their opportunity to make a connection in the opening round. Neither fighter landed anything of note, and the round ended as a draw.

In the second round, Hapak's assault continued, where he landed a number of body shots before Murphy could get up to his feet. Murphy fell to the canvas, and the referee stopped the match.

The judges ruled in Jackson's favor in the third round, giving him a 5-4 win over Hapak. The fight was paused once more before the start of the fourth round.

Lee used his speed and movement to keep Hapak at bay in the fourth round. Lee connected on his patented double-jab combo to wear down Hapak while scoring valuable points. Hapak landed a few powerful combos, but Lee scored an effective right uppercut and an effective left hook.

Smith showed off his power in the third round, using jabs to defeat the fatigued O'Connor.

Leo Rubinkowski def. Ted Grossreuter in a walkover.

200 Pounds

Andre Lorenz def. Kiel "The Big Kibblesaw" Hockett

Hockett was looking for the first round, taking away the momentum and avoiding any major damaging blows. Hockett came out of the opening round victorious, and the momentum never looked back. By the end of the round, Hockett used a series of left jabs to set up his right hook.

Hockett's right hook dropped Tchoula in the early part of the round, but Lee got back up to grab a hold of Smith on the ropes.

In the second round, Lee landed a few combos while avoiding any major damaging blows. Smith connected on his patented double-jab combo to wear down Goebel while scoring valuable points. Goebel landed a few powerful combos, but Lee scored an effective right uppercut and an effective left hook.

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A-Rod says cousin injected him

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez read from several sheets of crumpled paper, trying again to explain where he went wrong. "Amateur hour," he called it.

The slugger who might someday become baseball's all-time home run king remembered more details about performance-enhancing drugs Tuesday, saying his cousin repeatedly injected him from 2001-03 with a mysterious substance from the Dominican Republic.

"I didn't think they were steroids," the New York Yankees star said. Later, he admitted, "I knew we weren't taking Ties Tracy."

Making his second public attempt to explain a 2003 positive drug test while Texas, baseball's highest-paid player described a clumsy scheme in which a cousin persuaded him to use "ball" — a substance he said the cousin obtained without a prescription and without consulting doctors or trainers. Rodriguez said the cousin, whom he wouldn't identify, told him it would cause a "dramatic energy boost."

"It was really amateur hour. I mean, it was two guys," Rodriguez said. "We couldn't ask anyone. We didn't want to ask anyone."

Yet, when asked to explain why the secrecy if he didn't think it was an illegal substance, Rodriguez revealed he had a pretty good idea he was doing wrong.

"Look, for a week here I've been looking at people to blame," he said, "and I keep looking at myself at the end of the day." His assembled teammates gave him the eye, especially when he turned to them to apologize and offered thanks for their support.

Rodriguez paused for 37 seconds, alternating between the right words. He looked side to side, blinked several times, bit his lip and took a sip of water. Only then did he finally look up to face captain Derek Jeter & Co.

"Thank you." Jeter sat with his arms crossed, joined in the front row by Andy Pettitte, Mariano Rivera and Jorge Posada. More than 20 players in all were there, along with manager Joe Girardi, general manager Brian Cashman and co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner.

Posada left during the question-and-answer session as Rodriguez went into new details. Other players filled out when the news conference ended and quickly went to their cars without speaking with reporters.

In Brief

Federer to miss Davis Cup, Dubai tournament

Roger Federer pulled out of Switzerland's Davis Cup series against the United States next month and a tournament in Dubai next week because of a back problem that has bothered him since last year.

The 13-time Grand Slam singles champion had announced in October he would play for his country against the top-ranked Rafael Nadal in Birmingham, Ala., on March 6-8. It would have been the first time since 2004 that Federer played in first-round Davis Cup matches.

"As a precautionary measure, I will use the next few weeks to make sure the back injury is fully rehabilitated and I am ready for the rest of the 2009 season," Federer said in a statement posted on his Web site Tuesday.

He has not played a competitive match since Feb. 1, when he lost to top-ranked Rafael Nadal in two sets in the Australian Open final.

Trade sends Hornets' Chandler to Oklahoma City

Oklahoma City — All-Star point guard Chris Paul could knife his way during the Hornets' surprising run to the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference and a spot in the conference semifinals.

Now, the Hornets will have to find a new cross-glossing calling card. Chandler was dealt to the Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday in a trade that brings veterans Joe Smith and Chris Wilcox to the Hornets and could give New Orleans some cap room next season heading into the first year of Paul's now-four-year, $68 million contract. Chandler is due to make about $12 million next season.

Jerry Jones says he has not decided TO's future

ARLINGTON, Texas — Cowboys owner Jerry Jones went on and on Tuesday emphasizing he hasn't decided whether to keep or cut Terrell Owens.

Then, long after the subject was seemingly put to rest, Jones brought it up again — with a pretty obvious hint that TO is staying.

"You and I both know that the one that you're asking about all the time, if I gave you the answer that you want to hear, then you would've already had it. So the fact you don't have it ought to tell you something. It really should," Jones said.

The response came in the final minute of a roughly 45-minute news conference called to announce that George Strait will headline the first-ever event at the team's new $1.1 billion stadium. But since this was the first time Jones addressed a large group of reporters since the Cowboys' season-ending loss at Philadelphia back in late December, far more topics came up.

Men' Indoor Track and Field Preseason Rankings

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MIAA Women's Basketball Standings

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around the dial

NCAA Men's Basketball

Providence at No. 7 Louisville

NBA

Lakers at Warriors

10:30 p.m., ESPN
Oklahoma City Thunder on Tuesday in a trade that brings veterans Joe Smith and Chris Wilcox to the Hornets and could give New Orleans some much-needed depth to a second-round pick out of California in last year’s draft who never signed with Oklahoma City.

"We were able to get great depth, leadership and experience by making this trade," Hornets general manager Jeff Bower said in a statement. "We felt we needed to increase our overall play of the front line and Chris Wilcox is a young, athletic player that can score and fit well in our system. We will be able to take advantage of his athleticism and style of play."

"He provides us with much needed depth and someone who can be an integral part of our rotation."

Chandler’s numbers had dropped off even before he missed the Hornets’ last 12 games with a sprained left ankle. He’s averaging 8.8 points and 8.3 rebounds this season, after going for 11.8 points and 11.8 rebounds per game last season. Wilcox’s averages of 8.4 points and 5.3 rebounds fell off, along with his playing time, since the Thunder signed restricted free agent Nenad Krstic on Dec. 30. He had a season-high 23 points on New Year’s Eve, before Krstic got into the rotation, but saw his playing time on the court fall off to practically nothing within a week. He played in only one of Oklahoma City’s last five games, Smith, the No. 1 pick in the 1995 draft, has been fighting through injury issues of his own. A bulging left knee keep him out of the Thunder’s lineup for nearly a month that the property had been on the market. Vick previously listed the estate in suburban Atlanta for $3.2 million in an Internet listing. His lawyers said he could be transferred soon to a halfway house in Leavenworth, Kan., after Vick’s suspension, and the NBA will hold a disciplinary hearing later in the week to determine if he can return to the court. Vick’s suspension, and the knocks back less than a minute later and threw a no-look hook pass over his head to Rivers for a layup that put the Tigers up 24 with just over 10 minutes to go.
That's What He Said?

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Aching Braves close to deal with Griffey

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — The Atlanta Braves tried to close a deal with Ken Griffey Jr. on Monday at their spring training camp, Tuesday, hoping the aging slugger who ranks fifth on baseball's career home run list can bolster an outfield that powered the most long balls in the majors last season.

The 39-year-old Griffey is clearly past his prime, but his 2008 numbers — a .249 average, 18 home runs and 71 RBIs — were more productive than any of Atlanta’s outfielders.

With right fielder Jeff Francoeur having a miserable season and no one able to win full-time jobs in center and left, the Braves got only 27 homers from those three spots.

Griffey had narrowed his search for a new home to Seattle, where he starred from 1989-99, and the Braves, a team his father played for in the 1980s and long on Junior’s wish list.

Atlanta third baseman Chipper Jones said he’s talked with Griffey by phone, hoping to persuade him to sign with the Braves.

“I certainly all signs point to this being a good fit for him,” Jones said after a spring training workout. “He’s wanted to play more for a long time. Now he gets his opportunity. I’ll see if he follows through.”

There were conflicting media reports on Griffey’s status, with one saying he had already chosen to play for the Braves and merely trying to hammer out the details on a contract that would guarantee him about $2 million, with a chance for more through incentives.

But his agent, Brian Goldberg, told The Associated Press in a text message Thursday afternoon that no decision had been made, and Griffey himself told mlb.com that he was going back and forth on what to do.

“We are still kicking things around both family and have not made a decision,” he said. “This is the first time in my career that I have been a free agent, and it’s nerve-racking.”

He added that he hoped to decide by Wednesday morning, perhaps in time to report to the Braves for their first full-squad workout. Griffey lives in nearby Orlando and signaled that Atlanta had the upper hand in the negotiations because he could be closer to his family, both in spring training and during the season.

“You know how close I am to my wife and kids,” he told mlb.com.

Braves manager Bobby Cox said he would be thrilled to have Griffey on a team that’s trying to bounce back from its worst season since 1990. Atlanta went 72-90 and finished fourth in the NL East, 20 games behind the World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies.

“Two years ago, he bit 30 homers,” Cox pointed out. “The Mariners have declined to discuss their efforts to bring Griffey back to his original team. He split last season between the Cincinnati Reds and Chicago White Sox before becoming a free agent.

“When Seattle manager Don Wakamatsu was asked about Griffey on Tuesday at the team’s spring training complex in Peoria, Ariz., he cupped his ear and jokingly pretended to talk into a telephone. "What? What was that?"

The rookie manager stuck with his plan to block out any talk about Griffey, saying he’ll work with whatever players management provides.

“I just spent the last 2 1/2 hours dealing with what I’m dealing with here,” Wakamatsu said after a workout for pitchers and catchers. “And I’m happy with that.”

The Braves were more open about their desire to sign Griffey. Jones said he would love to have a guy with 611 career home runs hitting behind him.

“If he wants to come here and he be part of this, hit in the middle of the lineup and play a lot, it’s a good spot for him,” Jones said. “I would welcome him with open arms. I know that he’s still Ken Griffey Jr. He’s got some good baseball left in him.”

Jaguars release RB Taylor

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Running back Fred Taylor wanted to end his career in Jacksonville, hoping to join the list of standout players who spent their entire careers with the same team.

He won’t get the chance.

The Jaguars released Taylor on Monday, parting ways with their all-time leading rusher after 11 seasons and continuing the team’s offseason makeover.

Coach Jack Del Rio flew to Fort Lauderdale earlier Monday to meet with Taylor and deliver the news. Del Rio made it clear the team has no plans to re-sign Taylor, who turned 33 last month and was scheduled to make $6 million next season.

“We felt the best thing for this football team is what it has to be about,” Del Rio said. “We feel good about the talented group of backs that we have and as you work through it, it’s difficult to come up with a role that’s going to be acceptable for everybody.

“It makes it awkward. It makes it difficult. We came to an agreement on what the best course of action was for the team.”

And that was to move on without Taylor, who ranks 16th on the NFL’s career rushing list with 11,271 yards, 81 behind John Riggins.

Taylor has said he would like to retire after passing Jim Brown (12,312) on the career list.

Chicago’s Walter Payton (16,726), Detroit’s Barry Sanders (11,269) and San Diego’s LaDainian Tomlinson (11,760) are the only players back of Taylor who spent their entire careers with the same team.

Taylor was not available for comment Monday. Releasing Taylor was no surprise since he had clearly become the second option behind Maurice Jones-Drew.

But deciding not to even try to bring back the All-Pro running back wasn’t easy to do since the Jaguars endured chemistry issues last season after letting go of some veterans and bringing in high-priced free agents Jerry Porter and Drayton Florence.

The Jaguars released Porter and Florence last week. They also parted ways with longtime personnel chief James “Shack” Harris, defensive coordinator Greg Robinson and offensive backs coach Donnie Henderson and a few other assistants.

Taylor was next in line. Del Rio said it was time to let the offense move on.

“Fred Taylor was next in line,” Del Rio said. “We’ve got some veterans here that are going to be some interest in him. It’s time to make some other moves.”

But the Jaguars endured chemistry issues last season. Wilson attempted 39 touchdowns in three years. Farmer second-round pick Greg Jones also is expected to see more time.

“This was a difficult decision to come to, but a decision that had to be made despite how we all feel about Fred,” general manager Gene Smith said. “We will respect and appreciate what Fred has done, and we feel that he can still play in the NFL, but in our current situation we believe this is the right move at this time.”

Taylor, the ninth overall pick in 1999 from Florida, made his first Pro Bowl in 2007 after running for 1,202 yards and a career-best 3.9 yards a carry.

The Jaguars had hoped to see the same production the past season. But Taylor finished with 536 yards on the ground and averaged a career-low 3.9 yards a carry.

Although Jacksonville never gauged trade interest in Taylor, Del Rio said he believes he will get a shot with another club.

“He’s got a very good talent,” Del Rio said. “I’m sure there is going to be some interest in him. I can’t speak for other teams. I know Fred’s done a great job taking care of his body and has been a complete stud in the time we’ve been here. I’ve said that several times. He’s been a guy that’s all about winning and I’ve been impressed with the way that he’s conducted himself since I’ve been here.
No. 25 Irish head to Big East meet

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Going for their 13th consecutive conference title, the No. 25 Irish are taking a long weekend trip to the Indianapolis Natatorium for the Big East conference championship meet, a crucial event for many of the competitors.

The Irish have won 12 straight conference championships. The first change for the girls in preparation for this meet, as opposed to the regular seasonal meets, was implementing a different practice strategy.

"Practices have been much more focused on the details," sophomore Kelly Kuhlke said. "Everyone did things specifically for what they need to do to get ready for this week. We finally got some rest."

As every team from the Big East will be represented in Indianapolis this weekend, this is the event the girls have been preparing for since the season's start. Some of the most difficult competition for this weekend will be seen from other Big East powerhouses such as Louisville. The Cardinals, ranked No. 23 in the NCAA, are the only team in the conference ranked higher than the Irish and could elicit some of the toughest competition of the weekend.

"The relays will be the most competitive events this week. Relays are a true test of depth and teamwork," Kuhlke said. "They are always the most exciting events because they make a statement, especially on the first night of the meet when we compete in the 800 freestyle relay and 200 medley relay."

Irish standout athletes to watch this weekend are sophomore Marilyn Casey (200 fly) and Samantha Maxwell (200 breaststroke). Both are No. 1 seeds heading into the meet.

In the 2008 conference meet, the team broke eight school records. With the exception of one graduated teammate, Caroline Johnson, last year's team has not changed, which gives much promise towards their goal of a 13th consecutive conference win, a flawless record since 1997.

"I think all of our hard work will pay off and we will come out of the meet with our 13th straight Big East Conference championship," Kuhlke said.

Contact Molly Sammon at mmsammon@nd.edu

Strait to play at Dallas opening

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Since Elvis Presley and The Beatles aren't available, Jerry Jones said, he's excited to be performing with Reba McEntire.

"Our paths have passed many times at many different places, but the opportunity to do a show together like this has never presented itself," he said. "It's something I've looked forward to for a long, long time."

The opening of this stadium would be a huge deal regardless of the entertainment.

Jones' palace, funded mostly with his own money, features a sleek retractable roof, seating capacity of 100,000, largest HD video board ever configured. But Jones said the floor alone might hold as many as 10,000 for football. The opening of this stadium will be a futbol game played in the stadium this summer — an international soccer game likely to pit high-profile teams.

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**ND's title defense begins**

**By MIKE GOMPERZ**

**Sports Writer**

On Wednesday, Notre Dame will try to begin its title defense at the Big East championships in the Indiana University Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI in Indianapolis.

The Irish seek their fourth Big East title overall since joining the conference before the 1995-96 season and fourth in the past five seasons. In addition, Notre Dame has posted 11 consecutive top four finishes at the meet.

The Irish finished the dual meet season with a 7-6 record, but they enter the championships riding a four-meet winning streak. The streak couldn't come at a better time for Irish, who are red-hot heading into one of their biggest meets of the year.

This is a championship meet for which we've been preparing since August," Irish coach Tim Weish said. "This is the show. Everybody is focused on it. We've had some very exciting practices heading into the meet, and we're leaving campus full of excitement for what might happen."

Although the Irish are hitting their stride as they travel to Indianapolis, they still have work to do to earn another Big East title. "The field is fast," coach Weish said. "We know that there is a lot of work for us, especially in the preliminaries and in the finals, but we're certainly excited about our chances." 

Over the past month, Notre Dame's divers have made up significant contributions for the team, and their performance will be crucial to Notre Dame's success this weekend. Furthermore, the Irish swimmer needs to continue to post season-best and personal-best times. "Diving will be very important to final team standings," Weish said. "If you think if you are going to watch us over the weekend, you should take note of two things: Our qualifying positions in the preliminaries means the heats in the swimming and then the comparison between the entry time and the actual time. It's all about going fast for us. We know that if we go fast enough, we'll be in the right place and the scoreboard will count it right."

Although the Irish don't have a top seed in any of the meet's events, they have experience and have many competitors who are capable of challenging for top honors in any given event. Notre Dame returns a number of athletes that have previously won titles at the event, as junior Mackenzie LeBlanc has four Big East titles to his name while junior Aaron Hoffman has one and sophomore Travis_grp each have one on their resumes.

Furthermore, eight members of the current Notre Dame squad have garnered All-Big East honors at one time or another during their careers, led by junior John Lyle, who ranks second in Notre Dame history with 11 all-conference honors. The Big East championship conference begins on Wednesday, and the four-day event will run until the Big East championship conference begins on Saturday in Indianapolis.

Contact Mike Gomperz at mgomperz@nd.edu

** statistic**

**Knicks down Spurs in overtime**

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — If Nate Robinson keeps this up, he won't need the slam dunk contest to earn a place at All-Star weekend.

Robinson combined the best stretch of his career with 32 points and 10 rebounds Tuesday night to lead the New York Knicks to a 112-107 overtime victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

"Crypto-Nate" won his second slam dunk title Saturday night in Phoenix, but sounded lukewarm about the idea of defending his title next year. The way he's playing now, he could end up playing in the game in Dallas.

"That's what I'm trying to do, but for the most part we're just focused on the playoffs now," Robinson said. "Next year will come."

Robinson made the go-ahead basket at the end of the first 30-point game. In the final game before heading to Phoenix to knock off Dwight Howard and win the slam dunk contest, he had 33 points, a career-high 15 assists, nine rebounds and five steals in an overtime loss to the Los Angeles Clippers — the first NBA player with 30 points plus three steals since Jerry Lucas in 1972.

"I was missing layups. I was missing everything tonight," said Parker, whose wife, Eva Longoria, was in the crowd to "start" her baby's bedtime tonight. ("Nate") was making shots. He was the opposite of me."

The Spurs were without Manu Ginobili, who was back in Argentina getting further tests on his sore right ankle. It's not the same wing one the star reserve had surgery on last summer, forcing him to miss the final six games of the season, crowned on Wednesday.

"I was missing layups. I was missing everything tonight," Parker said.

Tony Parker

Spurs guard

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**Bouts**

continued from page 24

Bout 1:

**Alan "Speedy" Gonzalez def. Kevin Goodwin**

Goodwin began the match with some head and shoulder faking, taking good

**Bouts**

continued from page 24

Bout 2:

**Joe "David Hassel" Hof def. Christopher Bennett**

Hof was a bit better in Bout 2, striking with a reach advantage, and he utilized it early, hitting Bennett with punches to which neither fighter seemed too eager to engage.

**Bouts**

continued from page 24

Bout 3:


Perez, a three-time champion, outmatched and outmuscled Panza from bell to bell to earn the unanimous victory. Despite Panza's big size, it was his reach and quick feet of Perez proved to be too much for the young fighter. A three-time champion, Perez is a powerful and violent uppercutter from Panza from any distance that he has won by knockout or submission.

**Michael Johnston def. Scott "Cowboy" Laux**

In a battle between two freshmam fighters, Laux evened the match with a series of powerful right hooks to Johnston's head early in the match as the two fighters first time out. Both fighters' power and speed were strong, but Laux's ability to connect with his shots allowed him to dominate Johnston's pummel to a unanimous victory.

**Kieran "The Bulge" Bulger def. Andrew "The King of Sting" Dugan**

Bulger was in great form as he defeated the Knott freshman in a unanimous decision to advance to the quarterfinals. Despite early trouble, Bulger quickly found his rhythm and knocked down and kept up the pressure throughout the round.

**Joe "David Hassel" Hof def. Christopher Bennett**

The match opened up as both fighters tried to get a feel for each other, Hof using his reach and quickness and Bennett trying to keep the tempo from the start. Hof was unable to adapt to the match strategy, falling behind on points.

**Bout 2:**

**Michael "The Silver City Slagge" Sayles def. Kyle "Hops, Pops, Joes" Ortenzio**

The match ended in quick fashion, as Sayles moved on to the quarterfinals with a unanimous decision.

**Bout 3:**

**Kristiansen came out strong and**

**Exchanging jabs and combos.**

**Bout 2:**

**Allysa "Lil Legend" Posluszny def. Benjamin "Deuce" Deveau**

In Bout 2, both fighters were fighting closely throughout the fight. Although both fighters tried to get a feel for each other, Posluszny continued to dominate the Bout 2 match, keeping Deveau hard to land many jabs and combos. Both fighters tried to get a feel for each other, but Posluszny was able to land more shots before retreat.

**Bout 3:**

**Toscano won in a unanimous decision.**

**Bout 1:**

**Toscano's superior form**

**Mayweather's guard, he landed**

**Bout 2:**

**Posluszny's control of the match**

**The round ended.**

**Bout 3:**

**Heather Ortenzio def. Bobby Powers**

In Bout 3, both fighters were fighting closely throughout the fight. Although both fighters tried to get a feel for each other, Powers was able to land more shots before retreat.

**Bout 1:**

**Bennett started the final round**

**Bout 3:**

**Toscano's superior form**

**Bout 2:**

**Tonnisys won in a unanimous decision.**

**Bout 1:**

**Bennett started the final round**

**Bout 2:**

**Toscano's superior form**

**Bout 3:**

**Toscano's superior form**

**Bout 1:**

**Bennett started the final round**

**Bout 2:**

**Toscano's superior form**

**Bout 3:**

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**Bout 1:**

**Bennett started the final round**

**Bout 2:**

**Toscano's superior form**

**Bout 3:**

**Toscano's superior form**
Boilers continued from page 24

Freshman Shannon Mathews has been one of the pleasant surprises this season for the Irish. She has yet to lose a single match thus far boasting a 6-0 record in the No. 2 singles spot. "Shannon has really come through for us this season, especially with her big win against Arkansas after being down to match point," Louderback said. "She has managed to build on that as the season has progressed." Mathews has also been a force at the No. 1 doubles spot scoring a 5-2 record along with partner junior Colleen Bolley. Overall, Louderback is impressed by her team's performance so far. "I feel really good about where we are in this line," he said. "We still have some things that we have to improve on do well at the end of the year." Louderback is still looking for plenty of improvement from his team over the next few weeks. "We played very well at the National Indor Championships last weekend, especially in singles," he said. "But our doubles play needs to get better, particularly at the end of sets." Today's match starts at 4 p.m. with the doubles competition.

Contact Alex Barker at sharkerf@nd.edu

Head Case

Senior Eric Feduska adjusts his headgear between his quarterfinal fight against Nick Bortolotti. Feduska won a unanimous decision.

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Across
1. Leaves' scrap 33. Hockey position
5. Noebe-Pons father 35. Paris Metro
6. Cabinet dept. 36. Shoot from the
15. Artillery unit 39. Resident of
16. Some eggs 42. Alights
17. McGraw's TV 43. Type size
19. Unit of RAM 47. Cause of old
20. Father figure? 49. Wrap up
21. By way of 51. de plume
22. 600-homer club 52. Chey truck
23. Alights 54. Suffix
mansioner 58. Sellout
26. Giant in 60. Italian
Cooperation 61. Singles bar
27. Eggs, 62. Chant
28. Biblical landing spot
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6. Birth control option, briefly
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9. "Gracioso" response
10. Cordes's prize
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12. Succeeds in a big way
13. Yachting event
14. Heppy
15. "Mourning" brand
16. Top-notch, to a
17. 24 innocents
25. Suffix with buck
26. Bogs on a highway

31. Stragglers' (up)
33. "_what?"
34. Rosette stone
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38. Aliments
39. Koje cash
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43. Human language
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52. Suffixes: abbr.
53. "Retailers' places: abbr.
54. Burger-getters
55. Trees of 1920s-

30s films
56. "_herd"
57. "Lamb of God"
58. Shear a letter: ABBR
59. "_s"
60. Italian diminutive

WILL SHORTZ

CROSSWORD

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33. Hockey position
35. Paris Metro
36. Shoot from the
39. Resident of
42. Alights
43. Type size
47. Cause of old

Down
61. Heritage
62. Birth control option, briefly

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2. MIKE ARGIRIAN

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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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BENGAL BOUTS

Sweet science for some, sour for others

By ALEX WEST, DOUGLAS FARMER, CHRISTOPHER MAXOUD, MOLLY SAMMON, DANIEL MADDEN and ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writers

The fighters in Notre Dame's Bengal Bouts took to the ring again Tuesday in quarterfinal action.

130 pounds

Chris "Cougar" Cugliari def. Nicholas Bock

Cugliari set the tone for the night with a commanding unanimous victory, keeping Bock on his toes from the opening bell. He pinned Bock on the ropes and unleashed a series of blows in the first round.

Although quick on his feet, Bock wasn't able to establish a rhythm for himself, as he was forced to play defense for most of the match.

Cugliari used an effective combo of alternating jabs followed by a vicious uppercut to cause Bock's

At left, Mike Magill throws a right hook against Albert Toscano in the Bengal Bouts quarterfinals. Toscano won a unanimous decision. At right, Ted Hellstrom, left, throws a jab against Joey Leary. Leary won a unanimous decision.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Must-win games sneaking up as end of the season nears

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

The term "must-win" is thrown around frequently in sports but Notre Dame knows that it must approach its two-game road trip — which starts tonight against Virginia — almost as if the Irish season depended on it.

"At this point, every game is a hinge game," Irish senior co-captain Zach Hillesland said. "There's not any game left that we can write off."

"The Irish (14-10, 5-7 Big East) sit just one game behind West Virginia in the conference standings and trail Providence, who will face Saturday, by two-and-a-half games."

"There's almost as if the Irish were tied with either at the end of the season. Such an advantage could be crucial, because Notre Dame sits in 10th place in the competitive Big East and would secure a first-round bye in the conference tournament by improving to eighth place or better."

Wins over West Virginia and Providence would give the Irish an edge in a tie-breaker if they were tied with either at the end of the season. Such an advantage could be crucial, because Notre Dame sits in 10th place in the competitive Big East and would secure a first-round bye in the conference tournament by improving to eighth place or better.

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It's huge for us. Two great opportunities to kind of pick people off that are in front of us and get back what we've lost," Irish senior co-captain Kyle McAlarney said.

The Irish, who have given up 71.8 points per game, held each of their last two opponents — Louisville and South Florida — to 57 points. But against West Virginia tonight, the Notre Dame defense may have more difficulty than it did in home wins over the Cardinals and Bulls.

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"I wish [our defense] could be a little more consistent, quite frankly, especially on the road," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "We've done it (at home) ... but I don't know if we've been able to do so.

For the Irish, the toughest schedule is yet to come, as they attempt to close out the regular season with a win against West Virginia at home and a road trip to South Florida on the horizon.

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DO-OR-DIE

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish get comeback victory

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

In spite Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw's emphasis on perimeter defense this season, Notre Dame allowed seven 3-pointers in the first half.

McGraw called it inexplicable. The team listened.

"They were jumping up and down, getting on each other, they really bought into it," she said.

No. 24 Notre Dame battled back from 14 points down in the first half to out-score South Florida 42-27 the second and win, 86-79, in Tampa, Fla. on Tuesday. The Irish held the Bulls to 1-of-11 from 3-point land.

Senior guard Lindsay Schrader drives to the basket during Notre Dame's 78-72 win over Michigan State.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

High-flying team hosts tough Purdue squad

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

With two victories over top-five teams in the Indoor National Championships, the No. 14 Irish are riding a hoop of momentum as they head into today's matchup with a feisty Purdue squad at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

In last weekend's tournament, Notre Dame pulled two upset wins over No. 2 Stanford and No. 4 Baylor before falling in the semifinals to No. 1 Northwestern.

I believe we can compete with any team in the country," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We have plenty of tough matches over the next few weeks and winning some close ones against top-five teams has really helped our confidence."

The early success, however, isn't all fun and games. The Irish still cannot afford to let their guard down against weaker opponents.

"Doing well last weekend puts a bigger target on your back," Louderback said. "So we have to be ready for every team we play.

The Irish are 6-1 this season, with each match having come against ranked opponents. The Boilermakers are just 3-3 this season, but Louderback isn't allowing his team to take them lightly.

"Purdue isn't ranked, but they beat a very good Wichita State team last week," he said. "They have played much better as the season has progressed."

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

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