D'Arcy revisits Obama controversy
Local bishop addresses president's Commencement speech in Aug. 31 magazine article

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

The discussion continues. Notre Dame was thrust into a national spotlight last May when President Barack Obama delivered the Commencement address on campus, with many Catholics protesting the invitation and the decision to award Obama an honorary degree.

Local Bishop John D'Arcy, whose diocese includes the University, is again speaking out about the controversy, this time in an article appearing in the Aug. 31 edition of America Magazine, a Jesuit publication.

In the piece, which was published earlier this week on americamagazine.org, D'Arcy questions the future of Catholic universities and notes "the seriousness of the present moment."

D'Arcy released three statements last spring in response to the controversy, condemning the University's decision, but also later condemning "unseemly" protests.

D'Arcy addresses the role of Catholic universities within the church and the responsibilities of such institutions in the article.

In questioning the relationship between institutions like Notre Dame and the church, he again noted his role as a "teacher" for universities in his

Local Bishop John D'Arcy speaks out again about Notre Dame's Commencement in an Aug. 31 magazine article.

Eddy Street Commons nears completion

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Living in an apartment complex in Eddy Street Commons, junior Matt LaFleur often jokes that he is closer to some campus buildings than his old dorm, O'Neill Hall.

"We have a perfect view of Hesburgh Library," said LaFleur, who lives with two roommates. "It's funny to think about it, but we are now closer to a lot of things on campus."

The complex, one of the first buildings in the Commons to open on Aug. 15, is still to about 70-75 percent of its capacity, according to Gregory Hakanen, director of Asset Management and Real Estate at the University. Another apartment complex will open in 2010.

"The University is very excited that after years of collaborative planning with the city, with local residents and with 1st Reality, that Eddy Street Commons is becoming a reality," Hakanen said.

Although not in time for the home opener on Sept. 5, Hakanen said four retail venues will be ready for business by the second home game: The Follett Notre Dame Bookstore, Chipotle, Outpost Sports and Hot Box Pizza. The Bookstore is tentatively set to open Sept. 19.

Four businesses in the Eddy Street Commons development are slated to open by the second home football game.

Printers installed in residence halls

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Students no longer have to trek across campus in the frigid cold or wait in long lines at Coleman-Morse. They at least not to use a printer, that is.

Over the summer, printers were installed in every undergraduate residence hall on campus, Student Body President Grant Schmidt said.

"It's a huge convenience factor," Schmidt said. "From the student government end, the reason we did it is because people wanted it. People thought they, if I'm running late to class, I don't want to wait in this line in DeBartolo. I want to be able to print it off at 3 a.m. when I finish my paper."

Not only can students send their papers or class readings to printer release stations in their dorms, they can also print their pages to the printers in other dorms.

"I can go to Knott and print off there or I can go to Welsh Farm," Schmidt said.

In order to print from a laptop to a dorm printer, students must download a new print utility software and configure their computer to the printer called ResHalls, Senate Campus Technology Chair Walker Anderson said. "It downloads itself. You download your install utility," Anderson said. "If you download this, you can print to anything."

Freshmen adjust to campus life

After a busy orientation weekend, Class of 2013 settles in at ND

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

After a jam-packed orientation weekend that saw less campus-wide events and more dorm-specific activities than previous years, the Class of 2013 can settle into college life.

"I got to meet a lot of different people at a lot of the different activities at DomerFest," freshman Tom Temmenman said. "Also, the event was so awkward that it was really easy to talk to people about the awkwardness of the whole thing."

Freshmen Orientation, or Frosh-O, occurs each year and is intended to make the transition
INSIDE COLUMN
Where In The World Is...

By junior year, college is easy. You know where every building is on campus. You know which classes in your major are likely to be easy. You know your major (hopefully). After two years at Notre Dame, there is really no excuse to not be completely together.

Still, on the first day of class, I managed to oversleep for my first class of the year and sit down in the wrong classroom for my second class of the year.

But as a junior, I knew my roommate well enough not to be surprised when the recycling bin is overflowing with diet sodas after two days. I knew where to get the best coffee on campus. (And it’s not Starbucks.)

Junior year is easy — with one notable exception: it is the year nearly everyone interested in studying abroad leaves campus.

According to the Office of Undergraduate admissions, over half of the students at Notre Dame study abroad at some point in their time on campus — a statistic the Universitylikes to brag about.

While impressive, I never considered how much this percentage, which ranks Notre Dame the third highest of national colleges and universities in sending students abroad for a semester, affects my life.

I opted not to study abroad for several different reasons, but almost all of my friends with the exception of a few decided to study in France, London, Australia and Mexico. Although I am mostly exiled for them, I am also selfishly resentful that my friends are not necessarily experienced across different continents during the year that everything at Notre Dame is now supposed to be easy and familiar.

But now everyone everywhere, the dorm doesn’t feel the same and campus doesn’t feel the same. The year is fragmented, with several different people from sending random texts from the Associated Press.

Corrections

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

IN BRIEF

The film "Moon" will be shown today at 6:30 p.m. at the Browning Cinema at The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available online at performingarts.nd.edu, or by calling Ticket Office at 574-631-2800.

RecSports will conduct a Swim Lesson Assessment on Friday from 6 until 8 p.m. at the Recknagel Pool. Make-up assessments are scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 2 from 6 until 8 p.m.

The film "Summer Hours" will be shown on Friday at 6:30 p.m. in the Browning Cinema at The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are available online at performingarts.nd.edu, or by calling 574-631-2800.

Notre Dame Women’s Volleyball will play Denver on Friday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. For ticket information, call 574-631-7356.

Notre Dame Women’s Soccer will play against Loyola-Chicago on Friday at 7:30 p.m. at Alumni Field. For ticket information, call 574-631-7356.

RecSports will be hosting a Biathlon at St. Joe’s Beach this Saturday at 10 a.m. The competition will feature a half mile swim and a two mile run. The event is free to enter, but registration is necessary.

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

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT SHOULD RYAN HALL’S NICKNAME/MASCOT BE?

Erlin Scott
sophomore
Welsh Family

"Welsh Fam Wannabes."

Katie Weber
senior
off-campus

"The Ryan Rhinos."

Juliet Jolly
senior
Welsh Family

"Ryan Royalty, because they are beautiful like princesses."

Charlotte Sealy
sophomore

"Duncan’s Dime Pieces."

Campus Ministry hosted an open house in the Coleman-Morse lounge on Wednesday evening with free food and prize raffles.

OFFBEAT

Man arrested for 22nd drunk driving offense

ESPINOLA, N. M. — Police said a man was arrested on Monday for his 22nd drunken driving offense — and his blood-alcohol content tested almost five times higher than New Mexico’s legal limit. State Police Lt. Eric Garcia said an officer pulled up to a car parked along a highway and found a 51-year-old man on the ground near his vehicle.

"He was coherent," Garcia said. "He showed signs of slurred speech, as might be normal for any DWI arrest, which led the officer to believe he might be driving under the influence."

Garcia said the suspect had to be taken by ambulance to Christus St. Vincent hospital in Santa Fe, where a blood-alcohol analysis showed a content level of .393 percent. New Mexico’s limit for pre­sumed intoxication is .08 percent.

Bear gets stuck in skate park

SNOWMASS, Colo. — A bear that wandered into a sunken skateboard park and got stuck was rescued when officials lowered a ladder so it could climb out.

The bear was discovered on Tuesday morning in the Colorado resort town of Snowmass. Officials say it apparently was in the park all night, and couldn’t get out because of the steep concrete sides.

Workers from the Parks and Recreation Department lowered a long ladder. The bear eventually climbed the ladder and wandered away.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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College implements new advising system

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's College installed a new advising system for the 2009-2010 school year, helping students to make academic and career decisions by asking them questions.

The students answer questions such as "Who am I? What is my passion?" "To what am I called?" and "How can I make a positive difference in the world?" to discover more about their hopes for the future.

"On my very first day here, I looked at the possibility of creating a more robust advising system for this fall. The career center had to offer," Fleming said. "They were training since the beginning of last week," Fleming said. "They have been in training for quite some time, learning all kinds of things, including more about the heritage of Saint Mary's College."

The eAdvisor System, designed to give Saint Mary's student's the opportunity to share information with their advisors, is still being tested.

Another feature is the Strength Quest Test, which helps students discover their aptitudes. Open to all students, it can be taken at the Career Crossings Office. The new system is also designed to help students find internships. Internships have become very important. Internships can be very key if they occur in either the sophomore or junior summer in helping students to understand how they can make a difference in the world and where their passions lie," Fleming said.

Students will also have the opportunity to learn how they can work for social justice.

The Career Crossings Office plans to host at least one career information session where students and Indiana employers can meet.

The program is funded by the College, as well as through the Lilly Foundation.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Gameday ritual to change

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

A hospitality village, ticket scanners and public parking on the Notre Dame Golf Course are some of the additions that will be implemented this fall for home football games.

The new game-day initiatives originated from an ad hoc committee study that took place last school year, according to a press release.

"The committee's study ran from the middle of football season last year to late February when the findings were submitted to University President Fr. John Jenkins," Fleming continued.

They reviewed a variety of data collected throughout the fall, including campus interviews, community meetings, and tips received from a feedback website.

Director of Game-Day Operations Mike Seamon said the goal of the research was to gather information from as many sources as possible.

They, who is also the assistant vice president for University events and protocol, was named director of gameday operations in April, after the committee recommended the need for a central person to be in charge of the new initiatives.

"We heard from people the experience could be better," Seamon said. "Fr. John has a continuous improvement model for the university that he took and applied to game-day. We are proud of how we are, but we know we can get better."

Seamon said the addition he is most excited about is the addition of "Rally on the Green," a new hospitality village that will be located on Irish Green. It will feature live music and kid-friendly entertainment.

"People will feel it," Seamon said. "It's something you can't necessarily describe."

Also new for this fall will be the implementation of a communication system to help people provide feedback about their game-day experiences. Included in a new text-messaging system that allows fans to contact the University to report unruly conduct.

Seamon said he visited several NFL teams and "cherry picked" the best practices of what they did and applied them here. He said Notre Dame is not trying to become like an NFL team, but rather trying to apply the best ideas from professional football to Notre Dame's game-day experience.

"We can only get better when people tell us what's going on," he said.

Other additions for this fall include the opening of the North End of Notre Dame Stadium from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. for fans to walk down the tunnel and onto the field for photo opportunities.

Seamon said they will be asking for feedback through the website gameaday.nd.edu as well as through a toll-free phone number 800-ND-FANS. Both hardcopy and e-mail surveys will be available towards the end of the season as well.

"This is a continuous process that is just beginning," he said. "We will be constantly tweaking the improvements that we have already made."

Contact Lio O'Donnell at eodonnel@nd.edu

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vocation.nd.edu
D'Arcy wrote that he was not consulted before the decision to award Obama an honorary degree was made. Although he was not consulted in the decision, he was not surprised by the decision. "I believe the board ... must take up its responsibility for the sake of increased church prosperity," D'Arcy wrote.

"The diocesan bishop must ask whether a Catholic institution compromises its obligation to give public witness by placing prestige over truth," he said.

D'Arcy raised a final, "fundamental" question in the piece about his concerns over the future of Catholic universities. "Where will the great Catholic universities search for a guiding light in the days of apostasy? Will it be the Land O'Lakes Statement or the Ex-Clerical Crescent," he wrote, placing the two documents related to roles of Catholic universities in contrast to one another.

The Land O'Lakes Statement was authored in 1967 by Catholic educators, including University President Fr. Theodore Hesburgh. The document added to the issues of academic freedom and the role of colleges in the United States. It was an apostolic constitution written by Pope John Paul II in 1990 and has been quoted by administrators as a regulation of the Land O'Lakes Statement. Though interpretations vary widely, some view the document as increasing the original auton- omy for the sake of increased church prosperity.

On this question—and others regarding the role of the local bishop and the responsibility of universities to bear witness to the faith — "rests the future of Catholic higher education in this country and so much else," D'Arcy wrote.

D'Arcy also chided the University Board of Trustees for not engaging in controversy, saying that when the board met one month prior to Commencement "they said nothing."

"I believe that the board ... must take up its responsibility afresh, with appropriateundy prayer," D'Arcy wrote. "They must also understand the seriu­ousness of the present moment."

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Printers continued from page 1

A main concern with putting printers in every dorm is sustainability, Anderson said. In order to make printing more ge­nial friendly to the environ­ment, the desktops in comput­ers, along with Windows laptops, now default to double­sided printing and recycling bins have been placed in every dorm computer.

Macintosh laptops have not yet defaulted to double-sided printing. Mac users must con­figure their computers to print double sided, Technology Enhanced Learning Spaces Manager Brian Burchett said.

"We're working on it. We just need a little more time to do double sided printing by default," Burchett said. In addition to helping to make campus more sustain­able, students have another incentive to print double sided — it essentially doubles their print quota.

"Two pages printed on one sheet of paper would cost the same as one page printed on one sheet of paper," Burchett said. "If you do double sided, you should be able to stretch the (1,500 sheets) and double your quota. So there is a real incentive there for students to get double sided printing to save energy.

"We are trying to use power savings on the printers to reduce energy consumption when printers are not being used," he said. Overall, there have only been minor technical difficulties that should be solved soon, Burchett said.

"The only problem that I have been told about is that students who are running Microsoft Vista Home Edition, if it's the 64 bit version of the operation system, then the process to get that thing up is more complicated," Burchett said.

Schmidt said the response has been positive so far from students he has talked to.

"People have been pumped," he said. "Everyone has said it was a great resource to have in the dorms."

Senior Shawnen Baurer said she appreciated the new additions to residence halls.

"I think it's helpful, not so much now when you can walk outside, but when it's snowing you don't have to walk to LoMo or DeBartalo to print," she said. "That will be great."

Contact Sarah Mercovich at smercovich@nd.edu

Commons continued from page 1

and the other three, Sept. 18.

"Later in the year, a 24-hour fitness center, a salon, a bank, a breakfast restaurant, Five Guys Burgers and two other restaurants — Doc Magrognon's Oyster House and Kildare's Irish Pub — are expected to open. The estimated opening date for all three spots is late from September to January.

Hakken said Eddy Street, which has been closed for about 14 months, is expected to open Monday Aug. 31, allowing foot and motor traffic through the Commons.

"I think it will be a real addi­tion for students living on cam­pus," he said. Most colleges and universities have a college town where you can leave your dorm and walk to stores and restaurants. Notre Dame has not yet decided on a plan.

Hakken said the Eddy Street Commons apartments are not geared toward student housing. Some graduate students live in the complex, but only a handful of undergraduates are currently living there.

"We were far and away one of the first groups to go talk to them. There was no building yet. It was just a hole in the ground," he said. "If we waited even four months, I don't think we would be living here.

But the early deposit was more than worth it.

"The apartments are awesome. Everything is top-notch," LaFleur said. "We have a gym and a private theater.

LaFleur said he generally describes the theater — a com­mon area for residents of the complex — to his friends as similar to a college Union Center lounge but with two 30­inch televisions, a Blu-ray play­er and an Xbox 360.

"There's also this screen that's maybe two times the size of the screens in DeBartalo that lives in the theater," he said. "You can bring it down to watch DVDs or play Xbox.

LaFleur said the apartment complex's proximity to campus was a major part of the deci­sion process to live there.

"The big thing is that I don't have a car," he said. "There aren't too many options for me. I also have a lot of wheels, so this is perfect.

"I was really excited for all the retail to open up.

Hakken said the venues in the Commons are about what third­comers expected.

"With an active football sea­son and all the people coming for that, I am confident that these will be able to lease the rest of the space in a pretty short amount of time," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Frosh-O page continued from page 1
to college life easier for bonding events that help students get to know each other and become familiar with the campus.

Many freshmen students embraced the Frosh-O events that took place within their dorms.

"We got to actually talk to one another at the smaller events," freshman Kelly Brakora said. "It was easy to get to know people.

Freshman Dan Finan said his favorite orientation event was Alumni's "Dawg Run," named for the dorm's mascot, which gives freshmen a chance to run around campus.

"The run was definitely the coolest event because before the run we were puppies and after the run we were dawgs," Finan said.

Stephanie Bonaroti of Howard Hall said the smaller events helped her know people in her dorm.

"We had a night where we talked in the ceiling," she said. "If you were living like traditions and I really felt like I knew the people in my dorm, "she said.

Bonaroti, however, expressed disappointment that she did not have more opportunities to become acquainted with students from other dorms.

"When we did do things with other dorms it was always in a situation where you were thrown together and you didn't get to really know the other people or really even know their names," she said. Freshman Rachel Palumbo of Lyons said while she felt like she didn't get to meet many freshmen outside of her dorm, she isn't too concerned.

"The girls I met during Frosh-O were all pretty much in my hall but I'm not worried about it," Palumbo said. "I know the people I'm living with and I'll get to know the others in class.

Because freshmen in smaller groups it was much more of a pressure-free environment, she said. "There were so many of the big events where social interaction was forced that it got tiring."

Bonaroti said she feels relief now that orientation is over.

"I felt isolated as a freshmen during Frosh-O," Bonaroti said. "Now I feel more part of the school."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden39@nd.edu
Iraqi violence puts off plan for seminary

Muslim family dream to teach both Islam and ways of the West is put on hold

Associated Press

DETOUR — It took years for a family of prominent American Shiite scholars to build a specialized seminary that would train American Muslims and Europeans to lead mosques in the West.

The founders chose a location in the holy Shiite city of Karbala, where the students would have access to many of the best teachers.

Private groups had set up, a custom curriculum developed and housing secured for the first class of 25 students. The scholars, members of the al-Qazwini family, who traced their roots to the Prophet Muhammad's family, were finally taking concrete steps toward easing the desperate shortage of imams in the West.

But violence once again erupted in Iraq, and the al-Qazwini had to put their dream on hold, dropping their plan to open their school this year.

"It was extremely disappointing. I was waiting so long for this program to start and unfortunately I had to call it off personally," said Imam Hamza Yusuf al-Qazwini, a Karbala scholar who is the al-Qazwini family's founder and director. "Being American citizens or European citizens, it wasn't like someone will take them as ransom. Coming from the U.S., from Europe, maybe they will think they have money." As Muslims try to establish communities in the West, they have been struggling with how they can educate the new imams to fill a leadership vacuum in local mosques.

There are no full-fledged Muslim seminaries in the U.S. for Shiites or Sunnis. Imam Hamza Yusuf al-Qazwini, born in the Islamic Educational Center in Orange County, Calif., said al-Qazwini is the imam of the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, one of America's largest mosques.

He said the idea of sending Westerners to study in Iraq is not too far-fetched for Muslims. Traveling for study has always been part of Islamic learning. Scholars in Karbala and Qom, Iran, attract Shiite students from around the globe. For Sunnis, who comprise the majority of Muslims, students from around the world flock to the prominent Al-Azhar University in Cairo.

But although Western students at foreign seminaries are encouraged to dive deep into the local culture.
"I'm trying to get to know as many girls as possible on all different levels," Broderick said. "There's just one of me. I wish I could multiply myself."

The new rectors share similar goals.

"God called me to Notre Dame to send women into leadership," D'Amelio said. "My gifts and my experience in my life led me this way."

Broderick models her goals after the University's teachings.

"I want to build a community, and help install the Holy Cross care-ism," Broderick said. "I want to educate the heart and mind."

Both want to stress the idea of "home" in the dorms.

"This is home, it is comfortable and fun to be here," D'Amelio said. "We'll always be welcoming and just be there for the girls!"

"They can come in here and feel safe," Broderick said. "Not just security safe—that can let their guard down and be honored and loved because of who they are.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray36@nd.edu

Good memories with Freshman Orientation, including winning her own rubber duck at trivia night in the Oak Room.

"The Frosh-0 team was great!" she said.

Sr. Cindy Broderick, Off. f. room Pasquerilla East, said she had a positive Freshman Orientation and move-in experience.

"I'm surprised at how smooth move-in went," Broderick said. "During staff training, we spent a lot of time together. This extra time helped when it came to working together.

Broderick is also adjusting well to her new schedule.

"I'm more of a night person any way," Broderick said. "I think I'm adjusting well.

"I was ready for a change," Broderick said. "I had a good friend at work that went to Notre Dame who said it'd be perfect."

One of the biggest challenges is dealing with the size of her dorm, Broderick said.

"Many girls as possible on all different levels," Broderick said. "There's just one of me. I wish I could multiply myself."

Among other events, the rectors have also been instrumental in helping students get started in their studies.

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Contact Amanda Gray at agray36@nd.edu

Rectors

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Thursday, August 27, 2009

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Teen-lit books promote self-esteem

Associated Press

Like never before, teen lit is alive with plus-size characters who take on their school tormenters and get the guy, soaking up self-esteem as football heroes and big-girl models.

While fat may not be the new vampire, the uptick comes at just the right time for young readers. Childhood obesity is epic while a large, loud and proud fat acceptance movement advocates good health at any size over doomed diets, food obsessions and body shame.

In titles that include "Look", "Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies" and "This Book Has Fat, It's Fabulous", young people with meat on their bones are front and center in at least two dozen new books out since last year, rather than the usual ugly-fuckling best friend or neighbor. Many of the stories conclude without significant weight loss, a huge breakthrough for some young fans.

"There weren't many characters I could relate to when I was younger," said Elizabeth Sterling, an 18-year-old nursing student who writes a blog called Diary of a Fat Teenager. "The message that would come across to my young insecure brain would be, 'In order to do what the hell, you need to look like them.'"

Allen Zadoff's September release "Food, Girls and Other Things I Can't Have" relies on wit and cutting dialogue to tell the story of a rare overweight boy protagonist. Zadoff, 42, said he was obese growing up like his 15-year-old Andrew Zansky.

"I was not just overweight. I was struggling with an eating disorder. I got larger and larger over time. No amount of dieting would fix the problem for me. I would lose weight and then gain it all back," Zadoff said.

Out of his struggle came his acclaimed adult memoir in 2007, "Hungry: Lessons Learned on the Journey from Fat to Thin."

The upcoming book, his first for young readers, features Andrew, a high school sophomore who weighs 306.4 pounds. He dreads squeezing into his classroom desk and rubs off the very public size 48 lettering on the outer waist of Levi's he can barely zip. He lusts for an insider's life and makes it up a joke, only to readjust his priorities.

"When I was in my sophomore year in high school, the coach came up to me and asked me if I had ever considered playing football," Zadoff said. "At the time I was insulated. I knew I was just asking me because I was big, so I said no. Andrew says yes. As a result, his life path takes a radical turn. I wrote the book to kind of explore how would my life have been different if I had said yes instead of no."

In C. Leigh Portill's "All About Vee", hold and bright 18-year-old Veronica May also says yes — to life, love and adventure.

Veronica is a big (217 pounds) and talented star in the community theatre scene in her tiny border town of Chester, Ariz., where she grows frustrated with the life path of her equally large father. Then she heads to Hollywood to make it as an actor, contending for the first time with competition from the size zeros.

After some ups and downs, she gets the hunk while staying true to herself.

"Too many books have the girls as overweight, then they go to fat camp or they become the beautiful person by dieting, by losing weight," Portill said. "There always seemed to be this losing weight element that was key to their happiness. I just wanted my characters to be representative of a lot of people out there."

Skyanne Fisher, a book blogger and 14-year-old of size 48 in the small northeastern Pennsylvania town of Wyalusing, said she's a fan for precisely those reasons.

"It was one of the books that I really connected to — I loved how she made her own way, had friends and got the boy without forcing herself to lose weight," she said. "It's totally possible to be happy as you are."

In addition to Vee, there's eighth-grader Celeste Harris, happy living in oversized hoodies under her middle school's social radar until a meddling aunt enters her in the Miss HiskyPeach Modeling Challenge in Erin Dionne's "Models Don't Eat Chocolate Cookies."
Plus-sized fashion market sees sale dips

Nokia announces plans for new laptop

MIAMI — The American waistline may be expanding, but plus-size shoppers are tightening their belts. People aren’t buying plus-size clothing at the rate they used to. Apparel in general — being a discretionary purchase — is suffering because of the economy. Bigger sizes have been particularly hard hit.

According to the NPD Group, a market research company, the overall women’s apparel business is down about five percent and plus-size is down almost 10 percent from the 12 months ending in May 2009 compared to the same time the year before. It’s hard to account for the dip at a time when more than half of American women are estimated to wear plus-sizes, generally costing $14 and up, but analysts have some theories.

“The stigma still continues despite the majority of the population is overweight,” said Marshal Cohen, chief retail analyst at NPD. The stigma means some retailers don’t want to lure overweight customers and send out the “wrong” image, experts say. Some customers themselves may feel put off by many stores. According to the NPD, women’s plus-size sales have dropped out of the plus-size category by two percent.

Several years ago, stores had made an effort to expand the plus-size market, but they have basically abandoned that strategy because of the recession, Cohen said.

“They’ve made feeble attempts at this, but now that business is challenged, it is first thing knocked out of the store.”

RVDIN — Even though they built it, this was not a bold dream of the retailer.”

And there’s also the uncomfortable connection between obesity and lower incomes, which might help explain the dip. A study of nationally representative data on American workers by two professors at Stanford University found that obese workers at the same level of job experience, education and gender earned less than their thinner colleagues.

For women, there was a statistically significant difference in wages of $2.64 per hour. For men it was 2.57 cents per hour, which was statistically significant.

“The recession has hit workers hard, obese (workers) are hit particularly hard,” said Jay Bhattacharya, associate professor of medicine at Stanford University.

Christie L. Nordhielm, associate professor of marketing at the University of Michigan, said that if over-weight people are paid less, it would make sense that they would cut down on buying clothes.

“If they are stressed about paying their mortgage, they are not going to be in a clothing store getting this year’s hot new look,” she said.

Still, several brands are reaching out to plus-size customers. Lane Bryant is launching a new plus-size line called the icon Collection by Lane Bryant in September, while Forever 21 has launched a plus-size line called Faith 21.

In BRIEF

New York — Nokia Corp., the world’s largest maker of cell phones, said Monday that it will start making a small, light laptop, similar to ones PC manufacturers are already selling through wireless carriers around the world.

The Finnish company says the Nokia Booklet 3G will run Microsoft XP and expand the plus-size market.

Plus size brands, like these sold at J.C. Penny, are aiming to create sexy and sleek apparel. However, some people are not sure about the rate they tried to.

Owners take advantage of tax deadlines

NEW YORK — With a pair of tax deadlines approaching, small business owners have a chance to turn some bureaucratic requirements into a planning opportunity for the remainder of the year.

Sept. 15 is the day companies must make quarterly estimated tax payments, and Oct. 15 is the due date for corporations to submit 2008 tax returns if they obtained extensions of time to file in March.

And Oct. 15 is the due date for sole proprietors, who got extensions of the April 15 deadline.

The tax calendar always offers businesses owners a chance to look at their books, assess how their companies are doing and plot their strategy. In an economy that now looks like it’s healing, many owners might want to reconsider some of the decisions they made during the recession.

There are some immediate tax decisions to be made. John Evans, a partner with the accounting firm BDO Siedman in New York, noted that the government’s economic stimulus measures allowed businesses that incurred net operating losses in 2008 to carry them back five years instead of the usual two.

That means they could apply those losses against taxes paid in the past and obtain refunds. Companies that got extensions of the filing deadlines can still take advantage of this tax break.

The IRS home page, www.irs.gov, has a link to information about the carryback provision and other tax benefits under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as the stimulus law is officially known. One of the other benefits of the act is the expanded Section 179 deduction, which allows small businesses to deduct up-front rather than depreciate the cost of equipment such as computers, furniture, manufacturing machines and vehicles, up to $250,000. Yet another benefit is the bonus depreciation measure that increases the portion of a purchase price that can be deducted for the first year.

Evans, who noted that small businesses can take advantage of both of these tax benefits, said companies might feel they’re in a better position now than they were a few months ago and consider some big capital expenditures.
Chicken-keeping popular in Portland

Associated Press

PORTLAND — North Williams Avenue is a street with a sound-track like most any other in the neighborhoods of Portland. There’s the swishing of bikes, the rustling of leaves, the whirring of motors.

But then there’s something else under those familiar notes: a tiny warble of clucks coming from a chicken coop set in a front yard.

Newspapers across the country have been splashing urban and suburban chicken-keeping across their front pages. It’s the latest thing, they say. But in Portland, it’s old hat. For the past few years, chicken-keeping has found its place here.

It seems odd at first; a background beat added to the wrong track like most any other in the neighborhood. It’s the Sixth Annual Tour de Coop, fast as the nurseries in North Portland have dedicated blogs to their chickens.

And late last month, hun­dreds of people turned out for the setup just off North Williams Avenue.

The yard looked like a water-color painting. Greens and reds and yellows and pinks folded in on each other. Sunflowers taller than the visitors shot up from the tilled ground. Raised beds offered up produce. Bees and butterflies shot through the air, using wildflowers as landing pads. And at the center of the garden was one of Portland’s most impressive coops.

There was a roost, a run, a tower for lounging and a sign out front in the shape of an egg. “This for Obama,” it read.

On that warm Sunday, Coplin said, there’d been songs at the local Kmart last Christmas as the economy soured and again this past sum­mer to furnish her 8-year-old daughter’s bedroom.

The yard was a sight. In the past, we’re told, there was a roost, a run, a tower for lounging and a sign out front in the shape of an egg. “This for Obama,” it read.

On that warm Sunday, Coplin said, there’d been songs at the local Kmart last Christmas as the economy soured and again this past sum­mer to furnish her 8-year-old daughter’s bedroom.

But then there’s something else under those familiar notes:

The word “layaway” had more than double the interest among U.S. consumers in August 2009 than it had in August 2008, according to Google Insights for Search.

Retailers that don’t offer lay­away are seeing financially strapped shoppers keep buying smaller amounts and using more credit cards to pay.

“It just tells you that con­sumers see layaway as something they can’t afford,” said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Retail Research group.

Layaway has its roots in the Great Depression. It became passe in the past two decades with the rise of credit cards. But the recession and finan­cial crisis have caused banks to raise rates, pare credit limits and close accounts. For some consumers, layaway is the best option to budget for purchases.

Buying a little at a time and other signs of stress are casting a dark cloud over the holiday season, which accounts for as much as 40 percent of annual sales for many retailers.

Many economists expect to see another holiday season of sales declines, on top of last year’s Christmas period, the weakest in several decades. That’s raising more doubts about an economic recovery because consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of eco­nomic activity.

Kmart’s Travis predicts this Christmas will be a “record-set­ting” layaway season.

The worries about a weak Christmas come amid a back­to-school season that the National Retail Federation expects will see families cut 8 percent of spending from last year.

Tracey Chandler of Rocky Mountain, N.C., started using lay­away at the local Kmart last Christmas as the economy soured and again this past sum­mer to furnish her 8-year-old daughter’s bedroom.

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World economy improving

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Turnabouts in European and Asian economies, along with recession in the U.S., are raising hopes that the worldwide recession is drawing to a close. That’s not to say the coast is clear.

The brightening outlook in Europe and Asia and the improvement in U.S. credit markets and indicators reflect heavier government stimulus spending. Many analysts question whether the top economies can sustain recoveries after stimulus spending. Many foreign investors fled the markets and indicators have also reported rebounds but with generally improved figures over late 2008 and early 2009.

China, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea have been reporting rebounds as government stimulus efforts across the globe have begun to show results.

Russia, among the hardest hit of major economies as oil prices slumped and many foreign investors fled the country, appeared to be stabilizing.

Meanwhile, in the United States, the Federal Reserve said the world’s largest economy appeared to be “leveling out” and many economists see a second-half rebound.

It all adds up to an improving picture ahead of an economic summit that will take place in Pittsburgh of the region’s top leaders to discuss how best to stabilize and developing economies.

It is the third such meeting in the last 10 months by major economic players, after one convened by former President George W. Bush in November in Washington, and one held earlier this year in London.

It is the first to be held recently as economies are continuing to be in the way of a quick rebound.

While acknowledging “we have a long way to go,” he notes that most forecasts for GDP growth in the second half of this year are now positive.

“World leaders are aware that we need to do more,” said the agency’s for­mulation finger of climate change, “as megatons of that waiting to be burned continue to mount.”

Scientists say, the warming of the Arctic — in Alaska, across Siberia, in northernmost Europe, and the Yukon and elsewhere in northern Canada — is outside the shadow of the Arctic ice cap and thawing permafrost, the female bores into the tree first, followed by the 7.5-millimeter (0.3-inch) larva. Then the hatched larvae, just beneath the outer bark, then feed via perpendicular galleries beneath the outer bark. then feed via perpendicular galleries, then the larval exuviae are released. The beetle-ravaged Alsek Valley, with mid­summer mercury spiking even higher. And “eight of the last 10 summers,” he said, “have been extreme wildfire seasons in Siberia.”

American researcher Amber J. Soja pointed out by telephone from central Siberia.

“Most economists and analysts seem to agree.”

Thursday, August 27, 2009

The Observer ◆ NEWS page 9

Beetles pose threat in Yukon Territory

Haines Junction — A veil of smoke settled over the forest in the shadow of the St. Elias Mountains, in a wilderness whose pine trees stood tall last fall, a grayly gray even in the greenheart of a Yukon summer.

“As far as the eye can see, it’s as far as the eye can see,” forestier Rob Legare said, looking out over the thick woods of the Alsek River valley.

Beetles and fire, twin plagues, are consuming northern forests in what scientists say is a preview of the future, in a century growing warmer, as the land grows drier, trees grow weaker and pests, abetted by milder winters, grow stronger.

Dying, burning forests would then only add to the warming. It’s here in the sub-Arctic and Arctic — in Alaska, across Siberia, in northernmost Europe, and the Yukon and elsewhere in northern Canada — that Earth’s climate is changing most rapidly. While average temperatures globally rose 0.74 degrees Celsius (1.3 degrees Fahrenheit) in the past century, the far north experienced warming at twice that rate or greater.

In Russia’s frigid east, some average temperatures have risen more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), with mid­summer mercury spiking even higher. And “eight of the last 10 summers,” he said, “have been extreme wildfire seasons in Siberia.”

American researcher Amber J. Soja pointed out by telephone from central Siberia.

“Most economists and analysts seem to agree.”

Want to write News?
E-mail Madeline at mbuckleyst@gmail.com or attend
The Observer Open House
Sunday, August 30, 2009
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Ben Gibbard famously opened his breakthrough album "Transatlanticism" with "So this is the New Year! And I don't feel any different. "Much like Gibbard, we upperclassmen face a brand new year. Unlike Gibbard, we upperclassmen are not putting out magnificent recordings to whine about it. But the contrast goes deeper than relative success of indie rock albums. For many of us, upperclassmen do feel different, because this new year represents a golden opportunity. Specifically, for the male juniors and seniors, this new year represents a golden opportunity to score with the hot and insecure freshman girls before they realize we are skeevy.

Now many of my fellow juniors and seniors are salivating at this opportunity. But I am one of the lucky few blessed with a huge captive audience: Viewpoint readers. So cordially invite my fellow Y-chromosomes to sack it, because I got what you can only dream of: unprecedented access to the heartstrings of all the fly ladies. The best part of having power is being able to abuse it. "Hold on now, youngsters," I can hear some of my readers saying, "I can see quite a few logical fallacies in the above paragraphs. First of all, it is a truth universally acknowledged that writers don't get any."

Second of all, your statement of purpose reveals that you are a soulless d-bag, which is counterproductive. Third of all, many people may read your prose, but what makes you suppose that they will act as you propose?

To all my haters I set forth the following point-by-point counter. In the style of my spiritual antecedent, St. Thomas Aquinas:

1. Counter 1. Finally, to the unfair stereotype that "writers don't get any," I direct the scholar to the curious case of Lord Byron. In 1808, the poet wrote his first book, "English Literature," which was a towering great of English literature, was also a towering great of being a pimp. His lengthy, firm prose, dressing gowns, and all-around badassery made him a favorite with the fairer sex. "Mad, bad and dangerous to know," enthused one of his many conquests, and not without reason.

2. Counter 2. Being a soulless d-bag is far from counterproductive with the ladies. In fact, I would argue that it is the opposite of counterproductive. (Double negative bonus!) But what is really at issue is that I have broken with good form and admitted that my personality is atrocious. Even in this there is scholarly precedent once you consider the hamartia utterance of Lady紅: "Forget about game. Ima spit the truth." The verse continued, "I won't stop till I put em in they biddy suits." Words to live by.

3. Counter 3. The point is getting your name out there. News flash: Woody Allen's success with the ladies wasn't based on charisma or looks, folks.

Having thus handily disposed of my rivals, I am faced with by far the biggest challenge of all: overcoming my previous reputation.

"I am a tender lover who will "buy you presents on your birthday. They may even tell you "his column in the Observer was a joke." These people are liars who want to turn you against me."

"Let me tell you about my true personality. I am an a-hole. I am a d-bag. I am a cad of the first water. I solemnly pledge that I will break your heart, promise to flirt with, and later hook up with, your best friends and/or sisters. Make no mistake, I will leave you unsatisfied with me in every way. And I solemnly swear to lead you to shamelessly offer your ring by spring. Don't worry—I'll only leave you at the altar after all other opportunities to break up and salvage some dignity have passed by.

"I will guarantee you an experience that guys in dorms like Zahn only claim to deliver. You will be happy about your first college relationship. I am more than excited to be your first ever purely physical, dead-end, go-nowhere "friend with benefits." Leaving emotional scars that will take months or years to heal and require many sleepless nights spent listening to "Transatlanticism."

I can already tell you want me."

Brooks Smith is a junior Math and English major at Notre Dame. He can be contacted at brooks26@nd.edu
In what began as a joyful and prayerful celebration to begin the school year, I was on the verge of tears with my blood boiling as Thatcher during the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's speech praising Minnow Minister shows otherwise.

Somehow tied in to a speech praising Thatcher in Scotland.

Unemployment rates soared and power of trade and labor unions.

My young pen told her story and identified her turning point in life when her young pen pal died when she was a "naive" girl. Thatcher herself must have been naive in believing this. This is the same Thatcher who cold-bloodedly let 10 Irishmen, including one elected member of her own parliament, starve to death as they protested the poor conditions of prison and lack of classification as political prisoners. She let be a member of her own government die without intervening!

So, despite Notre Dame being known as a school with many students of Irish background, and despite having arguably the best Irish studies program in this country, our Provost praised not just one of the most hated figures of Irish republicans in recent history, but one of the most hated politicians in the world's recent history. (There are no less than 42 Facebook groups planning parties for when Thatcher dies.) Such a controversial figure should not be praised anywhere, especially in the sacred sanctuary of a heavily populated Catholic Mass. Provost Thomas Burish surely could have spoken about many other key figures for Darners to draw inspiration from as they begin the school year!

Edward O'Driscoll Upham mixes Duncan Hall Aug. 25

Wrongful Praise

Who Boycott Berkeley classes taught by ‘torture mem’ lawyer

I add my voice to the growing chorus of UC Berkeley faculty, staff, and alumni who are opposed by UC Berkeley law professor John Yoo's twisted views of the law to those who promote torture and abuses of power. Yoo has blood on his hands. He may not have directly tortured people himself, but as research on torture and other atrocities shows, legal apologists such as Yoo who surround the top of the chain of command play a critical role in carrying out such evil.

Through this work, Yoo has not only published in actual instances of torture (however remotely); he has also made it more dangerous for military personnel and other Americans traveling overseas. In addition to denying human rights, is why military leaders and lawyers reject Yoo's position on torture. The use of torture by the U.S. has also probably made it easier to recruit terrorists against us.

The well-publicized shoddiness of Yoo's work in the "torture memos" is a symptom of scholarship brought into the service of ideology (Yoo's success quickly published when due to the weakness of their legal reasoning). Personally, I see Yoo and his warmongering ilk in the Bush administration not as strong, brave leaders (as they likely envision themselves), but rather as frightened cowards fearful of making the legal right which makes it easier to recruit terrorists against us.

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Don't be surprised if you begin hearing people talk about Passion Pit, an indie electronic band on the rise who has been compared to MGMT but certainly has the creativity, geniality and charm to create its own distinct sound. With the high-pitched and passionate falsetto of the lead vocals, munkie-like backup vocals, insightful yet concise, reliable and fairly accessible lyrics, exuberant upbeat music that mixes electronic synth pop with a ples, Jeff Apruzzese on bass and Nate Hultquist on keyboards and guitar, the band appealing to 80's pop, indie rock, disco, electronic and modern pop fans alike.

"Manners" opens with the keyboard-ridden "Make Light," which may not be the strongest track on the album but still has the lively drums, warm synth effects and key board riffs to create a dance rock atmosphere. The synth pop tune "Little Secrets," has a sharp bass line and displays some of Passion Pit's insightful yet accessible lyrics: "Let this be our little secret/ No one needs to know we're fighting higher and higher... But I feel alive and I feel it in me/Up and up I keep on climbing/Higher and higher and higher..." They double up on the "higher and higher..." part of the chorus, involving an elementary school choir in the mix. The kid's choir may be considered behind the curve but certainly makes the band sound more endearing in its fusion.

"Mobile's," another subdued track, has a more grainy atmos phere, which had been compared to U2 and contains more acoustic instruments as well as synth piano chords. The album's first single, "The Reeling," is a great party-ready dance number and proves in its face that underneath Passion Pit's upbeat sound often lies a darker message: "Now I pray that somebody will quickly..." "Let There Be Light," opens with the keyboard riffs and guitar chords. The album's strongest track is "The Reeling," proving that they have the indie band's first hit from their debut album.

One might confuse "Tyes As Candles" for an 80's pop tune until the distinctive falsetto of lead singer Angelakos comes in, as the song is a sort of melody than the others and brings back dancing, synth piano and a soft drum beat for the intro. Nonetheless, the band includes many electronic sound effects more characteristic of the year 2009, letting its audience know that they are in the correct era. "Swimming in the Pool" has a much slower beat and a smoother sound, adding variety to the album. "Fads in Your Hands" brings the focus back to the dance floor and has synth riffs that might remind one of French alternative band Phoenix, who similarly borrows much of their sound from 80's pop. "To Kingdom Come" has more of a 80's rock sound, complete with guitar, drums and horns, which is a wide array of instrumental resources that Angelakos utilizes throughout the album.

For the new album, the band made "Sleepyhead," which was the indie band's first hit from their 2008 debut EP "Crash: A Night." The result is a song complete with overly distant synth riffs, hypere motional and high-pitched lead vocals, munkie-like backup vocals and incomprehensible poetic lyrics: "And you said it was light fire around the bedburning sad light..." You were one inch from the edge of this bed/ You dragged you back a sleephead..." While the components of "Sleepyhead" may not sound ideal, the combination of these qualities manages to work in its favor.

"Manners" may borrow much of its sound from 80's pop and indie rock, but "Clash" magazine has a dif ferent take on the LC saying that: "At its most adventurous, "Manners" sounds like Little else-- a pop record that exists in a world of its own, carv­ ing a sub-genre niche which only fits their expansive, totally decadent material."

Not only does Passion Pit know how to produce a well-orchestrated creative album, but they also know how to deliver energetic, well performed and cool performances and have opened for such bands as Death Cab for Cutie and Girl Talk. The electro pop band performed at Lollapalooza this summer with good reviews, proving that they could excel in a fest ival setting.

Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at skilpar@nd.edu

The Observer
Thursday, August 27, 2009

By ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK
Assistant Scene Editor

Passion Pit creates memorable indie rock in their debut album "Manners"

By MARTHA KARAM
Scene Writer

Vogue draws Fall Fashion
influences from the '40's and '80's

Manners
Passion Pit
Released by: Frenchkiss Records
Best Tracks: "Little Secrets," "The Reeling," "Sleepyhead"

scene of 2009, Vogue searched music festivals such as Lollapalooza and All Points West Festival and it became clear that the "hipper than thou" feature on style.com, Vogue online, defined Summer 2009 fashion. The site now claims that autumn 2009 can be summed up into these cutout categories: "Biker Brigade."
It's wildly audacious, merrily insensitive, insane and, at times, so over-the-top that it's safe to say that it'll alienate half of its audience. But goddam it, it's downright glorious: a grand spectacle of a film that could only come from a man of cinema as big as his very best.

Quentin Tarantino's much-anticipated genre thriller veiled as a war-picture, "Inglourious Basterds" is a nearly indescribable manifestation of cinematic storytelling. Using his keen eye for dialogue, flexing his love for gore and tension-filled action and somehow managing to walk the line between quirkily comical genre and dark, sensitive storytelling, Tarantino sticks to his guns and brings to life a story that is uniquely his, and could only be as successful as it is under his direction.

Payback is the name of the game in this revisionist fantasy of a World War II film. And payback has never been so sweet. Set in Nazi-occupied France, "Inglourious Basterds" is the tale of a group of Jewish-American soldiers led by the ruthless Lt. Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt) who are sent into France as Raine says, "For one thing, and one thing only: Killing Nazis." The lot of them run through the ranks of the S.S., for tales of their methods of execution strike fear into the heart of even Hitler himself. Known only as "The Basterds," we find them rampaging through France, bustling skulls with non-stop guts, cutting off Nazi scalps for sport, shooting first and never stopping to ask any questions or, in rare instances of compassion, carving off the heads of prisoners. Their actions, so barbary, so unrelenting, are ultimately萆 wrong, if only as the audience sits in awe and watches with wide, open eyes, it didn't feel so right.

Tarantino ingeniously weaves the storyline of the Basterds with that of Shoshanna Dreyfus, a young Jewish woman who witnesses the murder of her entire family at the hands of Nazi Colonel Hans Landa (Christopher Waltz, who rightfully won best actor at the Cannes Film Festival for this role), who stumbles upon a chance at ultimate revenge on the Nazis. The owner of a local cinema, she is presented with the opportunity to host a premiere of a new film from Germany's premier director, to which many high-ranking members of Nazi command will attend. And thus she plots to eliminate the Basterds go about theirs. The film is infused in references to old cinema — everything from the carefully crafted soundtrack, to the set locations, to elements of the dialogue — all pay homage to old cinema, which is a new trick in Tarantino's bag. There's no revolutionary status to this film like there was with "Pulp Fiction." Instead, Tarantino has made a film that is as uniquely "Tarantino" as could be, while also being a modern-day homage to the trademark Tarantino as he's ever been.

Watch closely and you'll see his brainchild, but watch closely and you'll see that dialogue has changed, and if there was any Hollywood in him for the off-half but for the duration of the film's runtime. There's no black and white, no cheese-like conversations or round-table discussions like in the opening scene in "Reservoir Dogs," and there are no rules here, or Hollywood boundaries. It has a style all to its own, a uniquely unacceptable style that can best be described as a strangely refreshing breath of fresh air.

Some will be annoyed, and others enthralled by just how "disrespectfully" he whacked out on the mortal Tarantino's Nazi-killing machine of a film. Is it a film that will find its way into the canon? No. Is it a film that can be taken to the Academy Awards? No. But for those who have enough patience and resilience to just take this so seriously as it's meant to be taken, this is a rare joy ride of a film that's so enjoyable, you just can't help but grin from ear-to-toe once the credits roll. It isn't "Pulp Fiction" and it's no masterpiece per se, but it may just be the most swaggeringly, selfishly delightful film of the year. And once we find them rampaging through France, cutting off Nazi heads for sport, we find ourselves wishing there was any Hollywood in it for the off-half but for the duration of the film's runtime. The film is infused in references to old cinema — all pay homage to old cinema, which is a new trick in Tarantino's bag. There's no revolutionary status to this film like there was with "Pulp Fiction." Instead, Tarantino has made a film that is as uniquely "Tarantino" as could be, while also being a modern-day homage to the trademark Tarantino as he's ever been.

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The Royals got a run in the first inning on Mark Teahen’s sacrifice fly, another in the third on a double by Miguel Olivo.

Asdrubal Cabrera had a run-scoring fielder’s choice in the first for Cleveland. Shin-Soo Choo added some excitement with a run-scoring double to left-center in the third, a play that ended with Carroll getting thrown out by three steps at the plate. Then there were scenes set for a home on a wild pitch in the fifth, a play the Royals avoided in the sixth, drawing cheers from a handful of fans and some paper mental.

In between: Lots of lazy popups, routine grounders, a few strikeouts, the occasional grounder through the infield. Hunting? Maybe a little, especially after what Greinke did the night before, but it worked.

“It was different, but that’s the big leagues and you handle any atmosphere you’re in,” Wedge said. “It doesn’t mean you have to raise your level of play.”

Huff started off his day with a jolt, one of nine Indians players on the bases when it was a hit by a car on the way to the stadium. No one was hurt.

On the field, the lefty didn’t let the Royals get the barrel on too many pitches, inducing plenty of soft grounders and sleepy fly balls. Huff allowed two runs and seven hits after lasting just 3-1 innings his last start.

“I don’t want to say when guys are swinging at pitches,” Huff said. “It’s one of those things where you throw something offspeed, they think it’s fast and hopefully they just roll it over.”

Hochvar had a second decent outing on the heels of four shaky ones, working through traffic to allow three earned runs and seven hits in 1-3 innings. The right-han­der lost his chance to end a six-game winless streak with the wild pitch and hopeful­ly they just roll it over.

Huff claimed he threw a tantrum on Wednesday. “I’m not going to go out and put the Indians up 4-2. I’m going to the field: ‘Hey, let’s do this again tomorrow.’”

Huff got to the field: “It’s always helps when guys to ground out in one pitch, two pitches. Three of those were reached base four times after a day off after the Royals had a run-scoring fielder’s choice in the first, a play that ended with Carroll getting thrown out by three steps at the plate. Then there were scenes set for a home on a wild pitch in the fifth, a play the Royals avoided in the sixth, drawing cheers from a handful of fans and some paper mental.

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“I’m not going to go out and strike out a bunch of guys,” said Huff, 6-3 on the road.

“My arm was free, and I just let it go. … I look back on (the struggles) and say I should have done this a little earlier, but it’s my fault. Hopefully if it ever happens again, I’ll keep on step and say something.”

Kendry Morales and Chone Figgins added run-scoring hits for the Angels, who avoided being swept at home for the fir­st time since June 2007 and prevented Detroit’s first road sweep of the Angels since August 1993. Manufacturing runs with their usual mix of hits, walks and sharp baserunning, Los Angeles capitalized on Detroit’s high leg kick to steal five bases, matching a season high.

“They got a couple of runs early with the home run, then they got two bloopers to get another run on me,” said Jackson, who yielded eight hits and four walks in 6-1-3 innings during his first loss in seven starts since July 19.

“Just trying to find our way, but we were able to capitalize on their mistakes.”

Hunter’s first-inning shot off Edwin Jackson (10-16), his 18th of the season, provided a valuable cushion for Saunders, who looked good after a 2-1/2 week regime of massage, electrotherapy and a cortisone shot to get some life back in his sore shoulder.

“I think that early home run helped Joe relax,” Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. “That’s certainly the most consistent velocity I’ve seen all year from Joe.”

Saunders (10-7) was cool in his 70-degree Orange County heat while making his first start since Aug. 7, after which he went on the disabled list.

“The left-hander had struggled for a over month before his DL stint, but the Angels’ opening day starter allowed four hits while striking out six.

“It was nice to be able to throw the ball without any aspect of tightness,” Saunders said.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 524 South Dining Hall. Deadline for same-day classifieds is 3 p.m. all classifieds must be prepaid.

The charge is $5 per column inches per item, including all space. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without written refusal.
NGCA Women's Golf Division I Coaches Poll

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Golf World/NIKE Men's Division I Coaches Poll

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Cardinals running back Edgerrin James, right, still-arms Eagles safety Quintin Demps during the first half of the NFC Championship game in Glendale, Arizona on Jan. 18.

Seahawks improve running game

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Edgerrin James signed with Seattle in an effort to revitalize his career while the Seahawks are just desperate to improve a running game that ranked near the bottom in the NFL last season.

James, who agreed to a free-agent contract Tuesday, said Wednesday that he's not in Seattle to compete with starter Julius Jones but to work with him.

"It's a cool situation to come in and play with Julius," James said Wednesday after his first practice with the Seahawks. "In this day and age in the NFL, everything is pretty much two backs. I'm not here to compete with Julius, I'm here to complement him, to come in here and work together. I just want to win." James is the league's active leading rusher and is 11th on the NFL rushing list with 12,121 yards. But he was benched for the first time in his career last season by Arizona.

His resurgence during the playoffs gave Arizona the running game it had lacked and sparked the team to James' only Super Bowl, in which he had 53 yards in a 27-23 loss to Pittsburgh.

"That's what we based it on, that and his history of being a tough runner that's durable. He doesn't take losses," Mora said. "When we watched him on film, he still looked like that guy." James also is 31, an age at which running backs are historically on the decline.

"You have to consider his age. It's irresponsible if you don't," Mora said. "We talked about it at length. The fact is he's going to be a complementary back to Julius. Julius is going to be our workhorse, our lead dog. To be able to get a guy of Edgerrin's caliber, his personality and pedigree to come in here and do what he's going to do is bonus for us."

Brent Russell/Seattle Times

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers guard Mike Dunleavy says he could return from a severe knee injury sooner than expected.

Dunleavy says he can do everything except have physical contact, and he expects that to change within weeks. Pacers coach Jim O'Brien has said he didn't expect Dunleavy to be available until at least January 2010.

He had surgery in March to remove a bone spur from the patella tendon on his right knee.

But Dunleavy is back on the court running. Though there is work ahead, he says he's "as a good place right now."

"If it goes pretty well, yeah, I could be back pretty early in the season," Dunleavy said. "There's still a lot of time for that to happen."

His teammates say they like what they've seen.

The Pacers, who released Dunleavy back to the organization arguing his case.

around the dial

NFL

Miamia at Tampa Bay 8 p.m., FOX
New England at Washington 8 p.m., CBS

Pacers' Dunleavy to return sooner than expected

IN BRIEF

Louisville quarterback Burke named starter

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville coach Steve Kragthorpe has named junior Justin Burke the starter for the season opener against Indiana State on Sept. 5.

Kragthorpe said Burke's consistency during training camp earned him the nod over Adam Fream and Zack Stoutt.

Burke sat out last season after transferring from North Carolina State. Kragthorpe said Burke's intelligence and ability to grasp the offense quickly helped him win the job.

Fream, a junior college transfer, had been Burke's strongest competition but has been slowed by a shoulder injury over the last week that forced him to miss last Saturday's scrimmage.

The start will be Burke's first since his senior year at Lexington Catholic, where he threw for a then-record 62 touchdowns.

IN BRIEF

The Sears, who released running back T.J. Duckett to pave the way for James, signed him to support Jones.

"I'm just going to take it day by day and let the coaches decide how they feel I'm coming along," James said. "I'm not going to try to force nothing. I'm just going to try to do everything I can do."

Coach Jim Mora said that when considering James he watched videos of his last four games last season, including the Super Bowl, in which he had 53 yards in a 27-23 loss to Pittsburgh.

"That's what we based it on, that and his history of being a tough runner that's durable. He doesn't take losses," Mora said. "When we watched him on film, he still looked like that guy." James also is 31, an age at which running backs are historically on the decline.

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Sanchez wins QB job over Clemens

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — The future is now for the new face of the New York Jets, Mark Sanchez.

Sanchez was selected as the team's starting quarterback by coach Rex Ryan on Wednesday, making him the first rookie slated to open a season under center for the Jets.

"This comes with a lot of responsibility," a beaming Sanchez said. "As happy as I am, I know that this is just the beginning and I'm just excited, really excited, to get to play with such great players."

The fifth overall draft pick out of Southern California beat out Kellen Clemens for the job and will make his regular-season debut at Houston on Sept. 13.

"This is something I've always wanted to do and dreams are coming true now," Sanchez said. "It's a special opportunity."

Ryan, who made the announcement at practice, said early in training camp he "like[d] to make a decision on a starter by the Jets' third preseason game."

"I think Mark gives us the best opportunity to win," Ryan said. "I think that's what I owe to our fans and our players."

The Jets' next preseason game is Friday night against the Giants. Sanchez replaces Brett Favre as the starter after generally showing poise and solid decision-making skills during training camp.

Ryan met with Sanchez and Clemens on Wednesday morning and told them of his choice.

"I'm glad the decision was made earlier rather than later," said Clemens, who added he thought the competition was fair.

"It's Mark's job and I'll support him moving forward."

Kellen Clemens
Jets quarterback

Sanchez was already being tutored as the new face of the franchise and it appeared it was his job to lose after that.

Sanchez didn't have his test by being just as good as the rookie, but not clearly better than him.

It was expected if the competition was close, the organization would move forward with Sanchez.

Ryan made it clear after the team drafted Sanchez that he wouldn't be afraid to start a rookie quarterback, particularly after watching Joe Flacco lead the Ravens to the AFC championship last season.
NBA

Ricky Rubio remains with DKV Joventut

The Timberwolves can only contribute $500,000 toward the buyout under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement, meaning Rubio would be responsible for paying the balance himself. Rubio is understandably hesitant to commit to another career spanning $7.5 million in the hole.

Kahn has traveled to Spain this week to negotiate a deal with DKV Joventut. Rubio's team, DKV Joventut, for $5.3 million. The report said Rubio's representatives would be responsible for paying the buyout amount, but a statement saying no deal has been reached was released.

"Based on the information I have attained today, no team in the NBA is willing to deal with DKV Joventut concerning Ricky's buyout, which must be accomplished before Rubio is released from his contract with DKV Joventut, the statement read.

That means that Rubio's saga will continue as the Wolves and new coach Kurt Rambis get closer to training camp.

The Timberwolves selected Rubio with the fifth pick in the June draft, knowing full well Rubio's free-agency buyout agreement with DKV Joventut. Rubio is under contract for a two-year deal worth $8 million buyout.

"He's going to be a good coach," Cutler told Denver reporters in a conference call Wednesday. "I think their offense is going to be fine. I think Kyle's going to be fine. (McDaniels) is an offensive mind.

"Just the brief amount of time he spent with McDaniels he could tell I think this latest disciple was an offensive mastermind. Cutler said the Broncos are in good hands with McDaniels and quarterback Jay Cutler.

"It's no secret that we've been separated for five years," Cutler said. "We've still see in a preseason game at Invesco Field this weekend.

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Unplanned Pregnancy?

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- Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, Student Affairs, 631-7819
- Ann Firth, Student Affairs, 631-2685
- Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasachor, Counseling Ctr., 631-3365
- Ann LaKleva, Health Services, 631-8286

South Bend Community Resources:

- Women’s Care Center: 231-0363
- Catholic Charities: 231-3111

Visit our website at:
http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu
Ninth-inning home run carries Red Sox past Chicago; Phillips win in extra innings thanks to Howard's bomb
Positions
continued from page 24
first two years with the Bulldogs.
Clausen, though, still has work to do to match Stafford, who was picked number one overall in the NFL Draft in April. Irish quarterbacks coach Ron Powlus said that he didn’t have any specific goals in mind for Clausen in terms of statistics, but was pleased with his progress thus far.
“I think he’s where we hoped he’d be,” Powlus said. “I have full confidence in Jimmy’s knowledge in our offense.”
One thing Clausen has going for him heading into 2009 is offseason momentum. While there is no such thing as a ‘perfect game’ for a quarterback, Clausen came close against Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl last December, completing 22 of 26 passes for 401 yards and five touchdowns, with no interceptions. Not only did Clausen set records in virtually every Irish bowl game category for quarterbacks, but he also engineered the end of Notre Dame’s infamous bowl losing streak.
It may seem a long way removed from the quarterback who came in during the fourth quarter of a blowout loss to Georgia Tech in 2007. Even from the beginning of last season, when the offense sputtered against San Diego State, Clausen says he can feel a difference.
“The last couple of years, I didn’t quite know what I was doing from a mental standpoint,” he said in a press conference Tuesday. “You know, it’s night and day even from last year.”
Clausen said one aspect that has helped him improve his game from a mental aspect was working with Irish head coach Charlie Weis breaking down game film.
“I like going in the film room,” Clausen said. “Watching a lot of film and getting the game plan ready to go.”
Backups Clausen will be working with this season, though, are Dayne Clausen, who hasn’t seen any game action last year in order to preserve a potential fifth year. This year, Weis said Clausen will be preparing the same way Clausen does, and will be ready to be the starter if Clausen goes down.
“You’ve got to prepare that way with Dayne,” Powlus said. “When you’re in the role Dayne’s in, you’re a snap away.”
Powlus added that while Dayne may not be as mentally mature as Clausen in terms of his knowledge of the offense, the coaching staff would make sure that he would be able to compete if put in a game situation.
“They’re at different developmental stages, so the meetings certainly go a little differently,” Powlus said. “But the goal is to get Dayne ready to go play.”
The third quarterback in line is fifth-year senior Evan Sharpley, who only decided over the summer to postpone his baseball career for one more season with the Irish. Sharpley’s main role the next two weeks will be to imitate Nevada’s Colin Kaepernick in practice in preparation for Notre Dame’s season opener against the WolfPack Sept. 5. While Sharpley may not exactly match Kaepernick’s running ability, Powlus said Sharpley was doing well so far.
“Sharpley’s athletic, moves around a lot, he throws well. He is going to do a really good job helping prepare our defense.”
No matter who’s under center, though, Powlus said the goal remains the same.
“Jimmy’s goal — our goal is to get wins.”

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

MLB

Howard’s wild pitch caps Tampa Bay rally over Tampa Bay

Associated Press
TORONTO — Marco Scutaro scored the winning run on a wild pitch after Rays closer J.P. Howell loaded the bases with three walks, and the Toronto Blue Jays rallied to beat Tampa Bay 3-2 on Wednesday night in a game in which two umpires were injured.
Rod Barajas hit a tying pinch-hit homer off Howell (6-4) with one out in the ninth. After walking three and with rookie Randy Ruiz up, Howell uncorked a wild pitch that bounced high and away from catcher Gregg Zaun, allowing Scutaro to score without a play.
It was Howell’s seventh blown save.
Brandon League (2-5) worked one inning for the win.
It was a tough night to be a home plate umpire. Crew chief Jerry Crawford took a foul ball off his face mask and left after two innings while his replacement, Tom Hallion, was struck in the chest by a pitch from Rays lefty Scott Kazmir in the sixth.
Hallion was knocked backward when Travis Snider swung and missed at a two-strike pitch that seemed to cross up Rays catcher Zaun, slamming straight into Hallion’s side and waiving a cart onto the field. Hallion eventually stood up and walked off without assistance.
After a 21-minute delay, the game resumed with Hallion at third base. First base umpire Brian O’Nora moved behind the plate and Scott Barry moved from third to first.

Bullpen reliever R.J. Hensley, who has inherited the ninth inning, has been good to go.
Hensley has allowed one run and four hits in six innings. He walked one and struck out a season-high 10. It’s the 16th time in his career Hensley has fanned at least 10.
Rays reliever Josh Smith has been dealing with a high pitch count, the rook­ie’s shutout bid ended on the very next batter when Gabe Kapler homered into the left field bullpen, his fifth.
Rzepczynski allowed two runs and three hits in six innings. He walked a season-high five and struck out seven.
Toronto cut the deficit in half in the bottom half on an RBI double by Jose Bautista.

MASSAGES FOR OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS

Once again this year, Notre Dame Security Police will permit off-campus students to drive onto Campus on Sunday night in order to be able to attend Mass in their former residence halls. The Bookstore lot will be open for students attending Mass in nearby residence halls.

Little Flower Parish, which is located next door to or near some new student residences, invites students to join them for a Parish Fair on Sunday, August 30, after all the Masses (8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am). The parish has a strong social justice and service orientation.
Want an inside look at ND or SMC?

The Observer

News Writers • Sports Writers • Scene Writers

The Observer will be hosting an open house this Sunday (August 30) from 3-5 p.m. Meet the Editors and find out about getting involved with the Independent Newspaper serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

Contact Us

Name: Madeline Buckley mbuckley@nd.edu
Sports: Matt Gamber mgamber@nd.edu
Scene: Jess Shaffer jshaffer@nd.edu
Photo: Jan Gavlick igavlick@nd.edu
Graphics: Andrea Archer amarcher@nd.edu
Viewpoint: Michelle Maitz mmaitz@nd.edu
Advertising: Mary Clare Rodriguez mmrodriguez@nd.edu
SMC News: Theresa Bea tbe@nd.edu

The Observer is also now hiring Photographers.

Photographers are paid. Past experience is helpful. Contact Photo Editor Ian Gavlick at igavlick@nd.edu for more information.
Soccer
continued from page 24

this year’s squad is capable of
more. "It's obviously nice to go to the
Tournament, but it would nice to
go further," Clark said. "I'm not
hiding that, and the boys feel the
same way. It's obviously a goal of
ours to make it to the Final Four, but
why not a National Championship? This
group is more than capable of it."

Notre Dame looked sharp in
an exhibition win over No. 9
Northwestern Monday, but the
Irish have a long, difficult sea-
son ahead of them. After
Tuesday’s season opener
against Michigan, Notre
Dame travels to Bloomington, ind., to take
on No. 3 Wake Forest and No. 5 Saint
John's at the Addidas/U Credit
Union Classic.

"We may get a little
spice, a little sugar,
from the freshmen,
but anything from
them is a bonus."
Bobby Clark
Irish coach

Tennis
continued from page 24

replace Helgeson in the No. 1
spot, will be the biggest returning
commitment for talent for Notre
Dame. Havens was 10-15 last season
playing in the No. 2 singles spot.

"On paper that will be the
biggest challenge facing us this year ...
... to find someone capable of
productivity (in the No. 1 singles
position). Last year, Havens at
times played like that player, but
he needs to demonstrate the
match-to-match consistency that
was missing a year ago," Bayliss
said. "Certainly he has the ball
striking ability to win at the top.
Adding a stronger presence at the
net will give him a chance to see
just how good he can become."

Our team was deep in talent this year,
and I think we have
a good team last
year, now it's time to see if we
have a great team, which is
the expectation here at Notre
Dame."

Seniors
continued from page 24

at the Big East, something the
seniors have learned is easier
than done. But both cap-
tains established the confer-
ence championship as a clear
goal for the season.

"We need to come out and
prove ourselves again," Nicholas
said. "We're really looking to re-name ourselves in
the Big East, to win the title for
sure. We want to get back on
track with the winning tradition
at Notre Dame."

Contact Laura Myers at
lmyers2@nd.edu

Ferguson
continued from page 24

"We would like to have a
good showing at the NCAA
meet, where the past three
years we have just been trying
to make it there," Ferguson
said. In her junior season, Ferguson finished in the top
fifteen at both the Big East Conference meet and the
NCAA Great Lakes Regional and placed first at the
National Catholic Invitational.

"The biggest key for her to
be able to get to that next level
will be to stay healthy," Connelly
said. "Last spring she was
really fit and running
great, then she suffered a
nous injury that, while it did
save her from running
completely, really compro-
mised her training and in the
end kept her from accomplish-
ing what she had hoped to
accomplish."

Despite last season's set-
back, Ferguson and the rest of the
team have a full schedule that
hopefully will yield new
records and new personal
bests.

"Like Lindsey, I think that
the rest of the team is very
motivated and excited for the
year of running," Connelly
said. "They know that we have
we were a good team last
year, now it's time to see if we
have a great team, which is
the expectation here at Notre
Dame."

Contact Molly Salmon at
msammon@nd.edu

Contact Kate Grabarek at
kgrabarek@nd.edu

Faith, hope, and love
and forgiveness, vulnerability
and truth? The English
Literature class that will impact
us immediately and return nine of our top
ten players back from a year
ago. Last year we showed the
ability to beat top 10 teams like
Texas A&M and Illinois, but lost
seven or eight matches to teams that
were in a position to beat them.
This is what happens to teams
that start five out of six players
who are freshmen and sopho-

ners." Bayliss noted that both
Blas Moros and Michael Moore have
had success in Futures events and
Junior Nationals respectively
together all summer.

The Irish will kick off their full
season when they compete in the
Illini Invitational in
mid-September.

Contact Michael Blasco at
mblasco@nd.edu

New Course!

Between Religion and Literature:
Meaning, Vulnerability and Human Existence

LLRO 40107. Crosslist: RLT 40241, ENGL 40157, THEO 40837, LIT 73970

Vittorio Montemaggi

FALL 2009

TR 12:30-1:45

Taught in English, this course explores how theology and literature can combine to
enrich our understanding. Focusing on the work of Augustine, Aquinas, Dante, Primo
Levi, Dostoevsky and Shakespeare, students will address questions such as:
"How does the way we use language bear upon our notions of truth?"; "How are the
intellect and imagination engaged by literary texts?"; "Does all the stuff we
think about God, human nature, and the relationship between them?" Such questions
will be addressed, in particular, by reflecting on how the texts studied invite us to
think about love, forgiveness, vulnerability and creativity.

Vittorio Montemaggi has been appointed by the College of Arts and Letters as the
new Assistant Professor of Religion and Literature. He joins Notre Dame from the
University of Cambridge, where he received a BA in Theology and Religious Studies,
an MPhil in European Literature and a PhD in Theology, and where he held research
and teaching positions in the two fields.
CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Macaulay Culkin, 29; Chris Blake, 44; Breckin Meyer, 40; Gena Rowlands, 82; Sharon Stone, 50.

Happy Birthday: Don't dwell on the things that are impossible when you have so much to do. Your focus is on what you are capable of accomplishing. If your plans to get things going instead of taking a wait and see attitude. Your numbers are 3, 15, 23, 25, 32, 33.

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Planning chores will tend to monopolize for the bulk of what needs to be done on your end now. They may bring you greater attention and respect. A little fun tossed into your schedule will help you find peace of mind.

TAURUS (April 21-May 20): Your reserved approach will give you the inside scoop and help you make a very critical, later decision. A partnership that has been up in the air can now be developed. Be patient and willing to wait long.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Not everything is too top priority issue, even if someone is trying to push you in your face. Consider what suits you best and you will find a way to make your dreams come true. ***

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Don't force fun or back away because you think someone can change. Believe in yourself and what you have to offer and you will everyone around you. Share information and ask for suggestions. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional matters will flare up, having to do with a determinate position that you have previously held. Don't bring anyone to the limelight. Consider what suits you best and you will find a way to make your dreams come true. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your comment into love and romance and you will find future results. Your decision is a cause you believe in; will enhance your position as a group you belong to and bring about a very interesting and prosperous period. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stick to the game plan you laid out or you will have to face opposition and complaints. Your knowledge and expertise will pay off now if you can simply trust some of the lessons you have learned in the past. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Lay your cards on the table and discuss matters you feel close to, because all hell will break loose. Good is of better form to everyone something that will be hard to win and will create some excitement among your peers. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Dig deep and get to the bottom of any situation you face before you make a hasty decision. Love is in the air, social opportunities will abound. If you cannot make up your mind about a connection you have to your past, face matters head on. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't lose sight of what group needs around you. Someone may try to通讯员 you in a group something that rightfully belongs to you. The price you pay for a mistake will affect your own future and others. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Before you start searching what you are doing, look around you. It may be someone that you have known forever. Adjust your way of thinking and stop being so fickle with someone who is taking advantage of you. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Find out the real deal before you snap up something that you may lose, try to make the most of any potential work. Love returns may be positive person ally but don't let influence the way you do business. ***

Birthday Baby: You are distinguished; modest and loyal. You are imaginative and were nice. You stick to the line, but you don't tolerate anyone.

This grey box is not creative, funny or topical.

Are you?

If you have an idea for a comic strip, e-mail Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

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

Senior leaders prepare for final chance at Big East title

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has won nine conference titles in its 15 years as a member of the Big East — but no current players can attribute their titles to themselves.

The Irish captured their last Big East crown in 2005, when captains Christina Kaelin and Jamal Nicholas, as well as the four other seniors on the team, were no more than recruits. But the women still have one more chance, and the captains agreed that they plan to make the most of it.

"We still have one more chance, and the caps agreed that they plan to make the most of it.

FOOTBALL

Take three

‘Smarter’ Clausen poised for breakout

By SAM WERNER
Associate Sports Editor

While the quarterback position may not have the uncertainty of some other spots on the field — linebacker, for example — it still holds just as many questions as Jimmy Clausen prepares for his third season under center for the Irish.

Clausen finished last season with 3,172 passing yards, 25 touchdowns and 17 interceptions, giving him career totals of 4,456 yards with 32 touchdowns and 23 interceptions. Optimists are quick to point out that those numbers are better than former Georgia quarterback Matthew Stafford had in his first season. But key injuries and a couple heartbreaking losses have stopped the Irish from living up to their potential.

"It's a new or never kind of attitude," Nicholas said. "We're all pumped about it. We're playing with a chip on our shoulder to go out there and get it done."

The seniors came to Notre Dame in 2006 as a recruiting class named one of the best in the nation by Volleyball Magazine. But key injuries and a couple heartbreaking losses have stopped the Irish from living up to their potential.

"We've come so close, but so far we haven't been able to come away with a big championship," said Kaelin, who sat out her sophomore season because of a torn labrum.

Because of her injury, Kaelin could do nothing but watch while Notre Dame fell to Louisville in the semifinals of the NCAA Tournament.

"It was definitely tough to sit on the sideline and not contribute to the team," said Kaelin, who led the team in several categories and earned a second team all-East honor along with fellow senior Serenity Phillips and junior Kellee Siacra.

"I learned to be able to analyze the game, and I think that helped me out last year," Kaelin said. "I'm not one to think about strategy or technical stuff, so I think being out helped me think about different shots."

In 2008, Notre Dame once again lost to Louisville in the Big East tournament, this time in the final round.

Kaelin said the seniors are especially ready to make a run at the conference again this season.

"We definitely want to prove ourselves, that we weren't just highly touted high school players," she said. "We want to prove that we can come together and win at the next level."

Men's Tennis

ND reloads for NCAA tourney bid

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

After the graduation of Brett Helgeson, the Irish are looking to build on last season's success with up-and-coming talent.

"Brett Helgeson brought a level of experience that no one on our current team will have. He was a known nationally elite player and we certainly benefited from his talent and experience," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "This group does not have a player of his achievements returning, but that does not mean that someone will not be able to be productive at No. 1 singles."

Junior Stephen Havens, likely to see action at No. 2, has been a solid player for the Irish in the past.

ND CROSS COUNTRY

Ferguson has high hopes for Irish in '09

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Senior cross country star Lindsey Ferguson has a personal goal that extends past the expectations of her team going into the 2009 season.

"It is the last time I am ever going to run cross country, so I would like to go out with a bang," Ferguson said.

Ferguson has an excellent chance of being named a 2009 NCAA All-American and anticipates training all season to be one of the 40 athletes to garner the title of All-American in the NCAA meet.

"As a runner, the best word that I can use to describe her is tough," Irish coach Tom Comnelly said. "She is one of those people who goes out and runs as hard as she can from the gun."

Ferguson, who boasts a personal best mile time of 4:50, and the rest of the girls have been working hard with previously dictated training schedules during the past summer months.

"Our coach and weight trainer send us a training schedule for the entire summer, so I just follow that to stay in shape," Ferguson said.

This season consists of three major events for both the men's and women's teams. The Irish will compete in the Big East Championships on the NCAA Great Lakes regional competition, and hope to qualify as an NCAA team. They will not compete in the NCAA Nationals meet in Terre Haute, Ind. in late November.

MEN'S SOCCER

Team eyes postseason run

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

The Irish have reached the NCAA Tournament a program-record eight consecutive years, but the team has just two quarterfinals appearances to show for their efforts. This year, Notre Dame has the bar a little higher — an NCAA championship.

The No. 12 Irish, who have claimed Big East regular season titles in each of the last three years, were bounced from the NCAA tournament in the second round in 2008 after consecutive quarterfinals appearances in 2006 and 2007. Ninth-year Irish coach Randy Waldrum is not belittling his team's impressive streak of Tournament appearances, said he thinks