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President Barack Obama delivers the University commencement address last May. This month marks Obama’s first full year in office.

Obama’s first year in office examined

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

The first year in the Oval Office has featured the best of times and the worst of times for President Barack Obama.

On the one-year anniversary of his inauguration, Obama is faced with slipping approval ratings and the unforeseen bump in the legislative road after Republican Scott Brown won the vacant Massachusetts Senate seat.

In order to appreciate what lies ahead for America’s first-ever black president, it is important to understand the accomplishments and shortfalls of his first year in office.

Political science professor Peri Arnold said Obama’s first year in office should not be examined through a singular perspective.

“You must assess it through two different lenses, the first being a policy or substance lens, and the second a political lens,” he said. “I would give him a higher grade on the first dimension of the presidency than on the sec-

Arnold said Obama has a “nat-

tural talent for executive leader-

ship and administration” that has helped him in his first year.

“This is arguably one of the most fit people [for the presiden-

ty] we’ve seen in the 20th centu-

ry. He is a very talented, smart, well-educated person,” he said.

The Political science professor David Campbell said while many of Obama’s agenda items are still unfinished, he’s accomplished feats comparable to many of his predecessors.

“It’s easy to get caught up in the moment and say he hasn’t
gotten health care, hasn’t closed Guantanamo Bay, etc., but more importantly, he has done what all presidents need to do, which is assemble a political team,” he said.

The president assembled a fair-

ly moderate administration, which has received criticism from both sides, but has enrolled such as the stimulus package and health care legislation.

Arnold said part of this comes from his desire to make centrist decisions.

“He has an administration that has made good, economic deci-

sions that were very much mid-

dle-of-the-road decisions. This lead to him being attacked by both the right and the left,” he said. “Obama has a propensity to want to center himself in poli-


tics.”

By SCOTT ENGLERT
News Writer

Senators examined two pressing campus issues in its Wednesday night meeting — first in a discussion of a new resolution that calls for an examination of Notre Dame’s policies toward the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and second in examina-

tion of how to provide relief to Haiti.

Resolution SS0910-09, titled “A Resolution Proposing the Review of Notre Dame’s Policies Regarding Homosexual Members of . . . Our Community,” was proposed by Robyn Grant and Patrick Tighe, co-chairman of the Committee on Gender Issues.

In addition to referencing the 96 Catholic universities that already have existing Gay-Straight Alliances, Grant encouraged all Notre Dame students to draw upon their faiths and moral val-

ues to create a more wel-

coming campus for the LGBT community.

“As true Catholics, look beyond sexual orientation,” Grant said. “We should never attract discrimination, harassment or violence.”

By Robyn Grant and Patrick Tighe

Maria Lynch praised the resolution as needed step of action in response to the recent comic published in The Observer.

“We have a tangible event that there’s a problem on our campus,” Lynch said. The “comic was a violent threat against these stu-

dents.”

The resolution also calls for the University to amend its non-discrimination clause to include sexual ori-

entation.

Student body vice presi-

dent in Cynthia Weber expressed the significance that the resolution will not stop at only examining legal issues.

“It has the possibility of addressing cultural issues and other issues outside of legal issues,” Weber said.

The Senate voted — with

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s

ND cancels Innsbruck program

Students disappointed as University announces end to long-standing abroad site

By SARAH MERVOSH
Assistant News Editor

Even before women were allowed to attend Notre Dame, students were studying abroad in Innsbruck, Austria, the University’s first study abroad location.

This spring, 46 years and nearly 1,300 students later, the Innsbruck program enrolled its final class.

“I’m really disappointed in the Office of International Studies’ [OIS] decision,” senior Madelaine Younger said.

“I think Notre Dame is los-

ing out in a really impor-

tant part of its history. Notre Dame stresses the importance of tradition, but this decision is com-

pletely contradictory to the University’s position.”

Notre Dame will continue to provide a German study abroad opportunity at its site in Berlin, which was initiated in 2001, assistant director of OIS Oiv Davidson.

OIS decided to discon-

tinue the Innsbruck program because its popularity decreased over the last decade, to the point where only two students applied for the full-year program, Younger said.

Students in the 2007-2008 Notre Dame Innsbruck program pose along the Inn river. The University is ending the program after this year.

PLS group holds area seminars

By KRISTEN DURBIN
News Writer

As the new semester comes into full swing, a dedicated group of a dozen students in the Program of Liberal Studies (PLS) is preparing for the upcoming short story dis-

cussion sessions they lead at local middle schools in South Bend.

These student volunteers are juniors and seniors who have participated in Great Books seminars during their studies at Notre Dame, and they share and dis-

cuss a wide selection of age-

appropriate short stories by clas-

sic authors with the young stu-

dents they lead.

The current seminar program, which involves students from Brown Intermediate Center, Holy Cross School and St. John the Baptist Middle School, is an extension of a successful Homeless Center Great Books program that has been run by PLS chair Stephen Fallon and PLS professor Clark Power since 1998.

Fallon said.

A primary goal of the program is to provide new and challenging discussion opportunities for chil-

dren who may not receive such intellectual opportunities other-

dise.

This goal reflects PLS’s vision that if the ideas presented in literature are beneficial for everyone, they should be avail-

able to absolutely everyone, including children, Jane Deering, a senior PLS volunteer, said.

During the seminars, after

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During the seminars, after
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**You can laugh...now**

Despite the fact that he calls from the farthest reaches of North Dakota and resonates with any number of different Muppets, Chuck Klosterman is my favorite popular author. Klosterman’s pop culture essays are often so abstract that they leave me puzzled, confused, but ultimately unaffected. However, in his latest book, “Eating the Dinosaur,” Klosterman’s essay railing against laugh tracks in television has left me absolutely furious. It’s something like how turn-of-the-century carnivores must have felt after reading Upton Sinclair’s “The Jungle,” even if the subject is slightly less gross and dangerous to my personal health.

Klosterman’s words were on my mind when I sat down to watch Monday’s episode of “The Big Bang Theory” with my roommate. Is there any convention of media that is as obnoxiously stupid as a sound recording that tells viewers when they should laugh? Hallway through the episode, I found myself uncontrollably laughing at a joke that left my roommates silent, which is not abnormal, as I am a bigger fan of the show than they.

However, the joke also was not accompanied by canned laughter indicating that we were supposed to be laughing. For all intents and purposes, I could have been the only person in the world who was laughing at the joke. My laughter had alienated me not only from my roommates, but also from social convention.

Why should I have felt this way? Amusement is — like sadness, anger, nervousness or jealousy — a very personal matter, which different people will feel varying degrees of. It is that fact which makes a laugh track so inane. The laugh track presupposes that we are too stupid to enjoy the product on our own, so it provides an obvious cue to when the Hollywood honchos feel we should be laughing. Imagine this phenomenon in other facets of life. The sound of a sobbing woman is piped into your dorm room whenever a beloved character dies on “Grey’s Anatomy” or during the climax of the latest show of “The Office.”

The artificial sound of chattering teeth in the latest “Friday the 13th” movie makes sure to let you know that the threat of mutilation by a deranged killer should in fact make us shudder. This is a very purposeful and personal thing.

Amusement is a very personal thing in everything we do. It isn’t right that a TV show can dictate our reactions to things.

**QUESTION OF THE DAY: CAN YOU FINISH THIS SONG LYRIC? THIS IS THE STORY OF A GIRL WHO...**

Bianca Leonardo

“OMG, OMG, rah I love that song! They are playing at Legends on Friday!”

Josh Zavilla

“Was livin’ la vida loca.

Kary Tergler

“Cried a river and drowned the whole world and while she looked so sad in photographs I absolutely love her when she smiles.”

Elissa Gemmicks

“Become so depressed when all she wanted was a nap.”

Mike Castillo

“Became Enrique in Zahn.”

Scott Matthews

“Kicks them to the curb unless they look like Mick Jagger.”

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

**IN BRIEF**

Expanding the Boundaries: Selected Drawings from the Yvonne and Gabriel P. Weisberg Collection” will open at 10 a.m. today. The exhibit will be displayed in the O’Shangnessy Galleries West in the Saint Mary’s College Art Museum.

An exhibit titled “The World of Piranesi” will be held at 10 a.m. today in the Schulz Family Works on Paper Gallery in the Saint Mary’s College Art Museum.

The Lucy Booth will be offered in the Student Center Atrium at Saint Mary’s College at 11 a.m. today.

Daily Mass will be held in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. today.

A lecture titled “Islam and Economic Underdevelopment: Legal Roots of Organizational Stagnation in the Middle East” will be held at 4:15 p.m. The lecture will be held at C-103 in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

“Futurism and the Mathematical Marvelous” will be held at 6 p.m. today. The exhibit will be held at 131 DeBartolo Hall.

Acoustic Cafe will be held at 10 p.m. in the LaFortune Basement tonight.

The Student Union Board will present the movie “Zombieland” at 10 p.m. tonight in 101 DeBartolo Hall. Admission is $3.

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

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu.

**Corrections**

The Observer regrets island 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 631-5454 so we can correct our error.
By MEGHAN PRICE
News Writer

At last night’s meeting, the Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) discussed possible ways in which the school could provide aid for the people of Haiti.

There are currently “Help for Haiti” change jars around campus, including at the front desk of the student center. The money collected will be sent to assist various groups in need, Katrina Mesina, SGA chief of staff said.

Carissa Salvador, president of the Student Diversity Board, informed other members of the Board of another ongoing relief project.

Bettina Spencer, assistant professor of psychology at Saint Mary’s, is the faculty advisor for a program that is collecting extra T-shirts from past events at Saint Mary’s and sending them to victims of last Tuesday’s earthquake.

“We would like all the clubs to donate what they can,” Salvador said. “Students can also donate their old T-shirts. Every one can help.”

The Board also brainstormed other ideas like a Donate a Meal fundraiser, a canned food drive and a Chipotle Night in which proceeds would go to relief in Haiti.

The Board plans on accepting more suggestions and voting on the issue at their next meeting.

In other SGA news:

- Megan Griffin, SGA vice president, presented a petition from the Political Science Club, asking for funding for a special funding program in Indianapolis in mid-February. The petition, she said, is a selective learning opportunity for 18 college students, two of which will be Saint Mary’s students.

- Griffin explained that the program was very important to Saint Mary’s because it lobbied the state Senate and House for more funding for private colleges and universities.

- “This is our chance to show that funding is really important for private schools as well,” Griffin said, “a lot of grant money is in danger of being cut, which would affect all of us, especially students from Indiana.”

- The Board awarded the club the funds needed for two students’ hotel room and transportation throughout Indianapolis during the program.

- Griffin said this was an issue that they would be involved in beyond the three-day program. She said this was an issue to which both the club and College president Carol Ann Mooney were dedicated.

Contact Meghan Price at mprice02@saintmarys.edu

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CLEAN COVER CONTAIN

Holy Cross gives hope to earthquake victims

Special to The Observer

The nearly unimaginable catastrophe of Haiti confronts any person of faith with the reality and paradox of the Cross, but for the brothers, sisters and priests of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the confrontation has been particularly intimate during the last few days.

Since 1944, when Holy Cross missionaries first went to Haiti, the congregation, the same religious order which founded Saint Mary’s, has established numerous educational, social and parochial ministries throughout Haiti. Holy Cross community is now organized there as the Province of Notre-Dame du Perpetuel Secours.

The Holy Cross community has worked in Haiti for a century earlier, and has been involved in sending funds to help Haiti. The congregation, the same religious order which founded Saint Mary’s, has established numerous educational, social and parochial ministries throughout Haiti.

Blair: bomber should have been terror detainee

WASHINGTON — The nation’s intelligence chief said Wednesday that the Christmas Day airline bombing suspect should have been treated as a terrorism detainee when the plane landed. That would have meant having special interrogators question him before deciding whether to place him in the civilian court system or the military.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was interviewed by FBI agents when Northwest Flight 253 landed in Detroit after he allegedly tried to detonate a homemade bomb sneaked through airport security in Nigeria and Amsterdam. Abdulmutallab is being held in a prison about 50 miles outside of Detroit.

Critics assert that the government should have at least considered whether to delay placing him in the civilian court system in order to press him for any useful intelligence before he gained the legal protections of a lawyer.

Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair told the Senate Homeland Security Committee that he was not consulted about Abdulmutallab should be questioned by the recently created High-Value Detainee Interrogation Group, or HIG, and charged in federal court.

“[T]hat unit was created exactly for this purpose,” Blair said. “We did not invoke the HIG in this case. We should have.”

The interrogation group cited by Blair was created by the Obama administration last year to handle high-value terror suspects, but it was envisioned for use with suspects caught overseas, not in the U.S. The group, to be led by FBI interrogators and including experts from a range of agencies, is still being assembled and has not been deployed yet.

Blair said the decision to file criminal charges against the suspect in federal court was made “on the scene.”

“Seemed logical to the people there, but it should have been taken using this HIG format at a higher level,” Blair said.

Under questioning by Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, Blair and Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said they were not consulted when the decision was made to not use the high-value detainee interrogation group. Also, Michael Leiter, chief of the National Counterterrorism Center, said he was not consulted.

“That is very troubling,” Collins said. “It appears to me that we lost an opportunity to secure some very useful intelligence information, and that the process that Director Blair described should have been implemented in this case. And I think it’s very troubling because it was not, and that three key intelligence officials were not asked their opinion.

Blair also said criteria for using people who are already under a government’s “no fly” list was too legalistic. And he said that in recent years there has been pressure to shrink rather than expand the list because of a cascade of complaints from people getting “hassled” by authorities.

“When you are searching grandmothers,” was a too-common refrain, he said. “Shame on us on that that pressure,” Blair said. Since the Christmas episode, the list has been expanded, he said.

In a separate hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee, FBI Director Robert Mueller said al-Qa'ida and its
Several complaints from students, faculty and staff alike recently have sparked e-mails about enforcing Notre Dame’s smoking policy, the acting director of Risk Management and Safety, said.

The e-mails, sent to the student body last Wednesday, reminded students, staff and faculty that smoking is not allowed within 25 feet of a building.

"I think that the opportunity to remind University personnel periodically, just like we had been sent to University faculty and staff, we were encouraged to send several e-mails to remind students of the policy," McCauslin said.

According to the policy, smoking guidelines were revised on April 10, 2006 to reflect St. Joseph County’s smoking ordinance.

"The most recent change to the policy was in August 2008, when the University incorporated the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) requirements into the building. The minimum distance from a buildings perimeter of 25 feet," McCauslin said.

This distance from the perimeter stops smoke from entering ventilation systems, according to the policy.

McCauslin said Risk Management and Safety received few complaints about students smoking in violation of the policy, and the complaints involving staff usually came from those entering the buildings in which they work.

"Among other things, we feel a large part of the change was the added variety of study abroad destinations," he said.

Four students said those very actions, particularly the addition of the semester option, actually decreased Innsbruck’s popularity.

"I think that OIS kind of shot themselves in the foot, so to speak," Ambrus said. "It’s basically their own fault that there was a lack of demand, as they put it, because they cut down the Innsbruck program into a semester-long program." 

Seven students said they spent their sophomore year in Innsbruck, said the year-long program was an asset to the Innsbruck program. "My year was the first year that they did a semester program and the semester program really was a lot more structured than the Berlin program," Smith said.

Another benefit of the Innsbruck program was the housing: students live in dorms with European students during the week, and American families on the weekends. "It’s a very different culture you are immersed within the Austrian culture in the form of having your own family. They teach you more about the Austrian culture," Smith said.

In the Berlin program, students have a choice where they will live, Younger said. "During the pre-session, the students begin to search for housing in the city for the duration of the semester," he said. "Some students may choose to stay in a German dormitory, find roommates or even stay with a host family."

Ambrus said the housing setup in Innsbruck contributed to her feeling of community while abroad. "It is very important for us to keep Blessed Basil Moreau’s vision of Christian education alive as we learn more about the mission and vision of the Sisters of the Holy Cross," Fean said.

"It is very important for us to keep Blessed Basil Moreau’s vision of Christian education alive as we learn more about the mission and vision of the Sisters of the Holy Cross," Fean said.

"Basically the sense of community that was present in Innsbruck is going to be completely different if they replace it with the Berlin program," Younger said. "The students were designed to be a large part of the Sisters of the Holy Cross."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Afghans plan increase in security

KABUL — The Afghan government and its international partners agreed Wednesday to significantly increase the country’s security forces and outlined plans to lure Taliban militants from the fight in a bid to turn the tide of the war.

The decision comes ahead of a Jan. 28 conference in London, which is aimed at boosting international support for Afghanistan in the face of a resurgent Taliban and complaints about runarow corruption in President Hamid Karzai’s government.

Vietnam convicts democracy activists

HO CHI MINH CITY — Vietnam convicted four democracy activists of trying to overthrow the communist government on Wednesday and sentenced them to up to 16 years in prison for promoting multiparty democracy.

The most well known of the four defendants, U.S.-trained human rights attorney Le Cong Dinh, received a relatively light five-year sentence after judges at the Ho Chi Minh City People’s Court deliberated in just a half-hour. The court apparently showed leniency because Dinh acknowledged breaking the law during his testimony.

"From the bottom of my heart, I myself and these three other defendants had no intention to overthrow the government," Dinh told the court.

NATIONAL NEWS

Worker sues for same-sex benefits

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal employee in California is suing the Obama administration to force it to provide health benefits to her same-sex partner.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management told Karen Golinski that it was refusing to extend benefits to her wife because federal law prohibits the government from recognizing gay marriage.

The office made its decision over the objections of 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, who called the move illegal discrimination.

Golinski, a lawyer for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco, said when he gave up.

Authorities remained tightlipped on most details surrounding the slayings, including any possible motive. Nor did they immediately identify any of the victims or their relationships to the suspect. Investigators would say only that he knew his victims.

Speight, who was jailed while awaiting charges, owned and lived in the home where some of the bodies were found.

Reporters were allowed to see the home Wednesday. The two-story house had a big patio, where there was furniture, a children’s hoop and a plastic basketball hoop. The yard was landscaped and well-manicured.

Neighbor Monte W. Mays said Speight’s mother deed- ed the house to Speight and his sister in 2006, shortly before she died of brain cancer.

Mays, the county’s retired commissioner of accounts, said Speight was a good neighbor. They waved as they passed each other on the road and sent their dogs out to play with one another.

“All the dealings I’ve ever had with him have been cordial and polite,” Mays said. “We got along fine.”

Speight had long been a gun enthusiast and enjoyed target shooting at a range on his property, Mays said. But the shooting recently became a daily occurrence, with Speight firing what Mays said were high-powered rifles.

Then we noticed he was doing it at nightime,” and the gunfire started going deeper into the woods, Mays said.

“I thought he was going to wear a trench in it,” chloride Anderson, who also works at the market, said he recently discussed a personal family problem with Speight, and Speight told him “don’t let you emo- tions get the best of you.”

Reynolds said Speight was not married and had no children.

Police were alerted to the bloodbath when they found the wounded man on the side of a road. Then sher- iff’s deputies discovered seven more bodies — three inside the house and four just outside.

When officers converged on the area, the suspected shooter fired at a state police helicopter, rupturing its gas tank and forcing it to land.

The shots revealed his location, and more than 100 police swarmed into the woods until Speight gave up the following morn-

HAITI

Aftershock terrifies desperate Haitians

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE — A frightening new aftershock Wednesday forced more earthquake survivors to live on the capital’s embankments or streets in an attempt to get to- gether even worse conditions in the coun- tryside.

A flotilla of rescue vessels, meanwhile, led by the U.S. hospital ship Comfort, converged on the capital. They are helping fill gaps in still lagging global efforts to bring water, food and med- ical help to hundreds of thousands of people who are surviving in makeshift tents or simply on blankets or plastic sheets under the tropical sun.

The strongest tremor since Haiti’s cata- lysmic Jan. 12 earthquake struck at 6:03 a.m., just before sunrise while many were still sleeping. From the teeming plaza near the collapsed presidential palace to a hillside tent city, the 5.9-magnitude aftershock lasted only a few seconds but panicked thousands of Haitians.

“Jesu” they cried as rubble tumbled and dust rose anew from government buildings around the plaza. Parents gathered up children and ran.

Up in the hills, where U.S. troops were helping thousands of homeless people bolted screaming from their tents. Jaijote Ricarde, 24, came run- ning from his house, fearing its col- lapse.

“Afghanest will go to their house now,” he said, as he sought a tent of his own. “It’s chaos, for real.”

A slow vibration intensified into side- to-side shaking that lasted eight seconds — compared to last week’s far stronger initial quake that seemed to go on for 30 seconds.

Throats again sought small, ramshackle “tapi-tapi” huts to take them away from the city. On Port-au-Prince’s beaches, more than 20,000 people looked for boats to carry them down the coast, the local Signal FM radio report- ed.

But the desperation may actually be deeper outside the capital, closer to last week’s quake epicenter.
Obama

desire to reach out and give America a better image to the rest of the world than the administration prioritized. Obama’s success in his first year in office enabled the president to become the first current U.S. president to win the Nobel Peace Prize since Woodrow Wilson in 1919. With Tuesday’s turnover of Ted Kennedy’s Senate seat, however, Obama will have greater difficulty completing health care reform, an area that has garnered arguably the most attention of any issue on his agenda.

“Health care hasn’t gone the way President Obama was hoping, but I would be willing to bet at the beginning of the administration this was one of the scenarios they planned for.”

David Campbell
political science professor

“Fine stories are enduring and may even be too, sometimes.”

Late last month, Obama’s administration issued a self-report card, where they awarded themselves a “B” for his first year in office.

Campbell said this was an appropriate grade given his accomplishments. From a political perspective, that was the right answer, he said. “You don’t want to give yourself an ‘A’ because he has accomplished a decent amount. You also don’t want to come off arrogant by giving yourself an ‘A-’.”

Despite the comments of his critics, however, both Arnold and Campbell said they thought Obama’s expedient passage of the economic stimulus bill was one of his greatest achievements this year.

“By and large people genuinely agreed that we were on the brink of disaster and the stimulus bill pulled us back from it,” Arnold said. “We avoided the cataclysm economically.”

Campbell also said Obama’s jobs are still a number of ways for Obama to pull up his waning popularity in the polls.

With approval ratings below 50 percent, which is not different from Ronald Reagan’s first year in office, some of it is recession-related, Arnold said. “That said, Obama could have done a better job shifting the blame of the recent economic status. His moderation and coolness have led him to be less powerfully aggressive and is making him sell himself less than he could have.”

Campbell said critics of Obama who have said he’s “washed up” already are wrong in their assessment. “People are wrong who say he’s washed up already,” he said. “It doesn’t mean he’ll recover, but it also doesn’t mean he won’t recover.”

Contact Liz O’Donnell at codonne1@nd.edu

PLS

continued from page 1

reading the short stories, middle-school students engage in dialogue with Notre Dame PLS students about themes, metaphors and ideas they have about what they read. Doering said.

PLS works in full coordination with the middle-school curricula, coordinating volunteers in each school to incorporate the short story seminars into the children’s school day. Jane Doering, executive coordinator of the discussion program, said.

“We could accommodate more than the 12 student volunteers we have, but we have to coordinate when the volunteers are free and when the teachers can fit the seminars into their schedules because the tight middle-school curriculum,” Doering said.

Doering also said middle-school teachers are enthusiastic about the program because short stories are not usually incorporated into their curricula. Because the stories can be read in a short period of time, she said, students have more opportunities to discuss what they have read with their college counterparts.

Senior Kate D’Ambrose said she is often pleasantly surprised by the level of understanding of the middle-school students despite the high level of literature presented by writers like Oscar Wilde, John Updike and Langston Hughes, among others.

“It’s really interesting to see what the students get out of stories and what they think.”

D’Ambrose said. “The kids can get pretty deep with the metaphors in the stories.”

Kate D’Ambrose
PLS senior

“The kids can get pretty deep with the metaphors in the stories.”

D’Ambrose said. “The kids can get pretty deep with the metaphors in the stories.”

D’Ambrose said discussing the stories in an environment that fosters respect for the young students and their abilities allows for a great deal of learning by both the middle-school students and the PLS volunteers alike.

“It’s a very different situation for the kids,” Doering said. “It challenges them and gives them room to grow instead of learning in the structured environment they’re used to.”

D’Ambrose said. “It also helps me become a better learner because you have to be creative and express yourself in different ways if the students don’t understand something.”

In addition to the educational benefits of the seminars, D’Ambrose said the children also benefit from having role models with whom they can converse on a more equal level.

Many of the students, she said, didn’t consider college as an option for the future.

Doering agrees that exposing children to fine literature enriches their lives as well as their intellect because literature, she said, speaks to the human condition.

“Fine stories are enduring works dealing with fundamental questions of human existence that have the capacity to engage the whole person in terms of the imagination as well as the intellect,” Doering said. “It is important that these ideas are accessible to everyone.”

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

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Times to charge online readers

Paper to institute fees for full Web site access beginning next year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Times plans to charge readers for full access to its Web site next year, reviving an idea that fizzled twice for the newspaper.

This time it’s betting that it will work because it plans to wring more revenue from readers without crimping its Internet ad sales.

Under the plan outlined Wednesday, the Times will adopt a “metered” system that will allow readers to click on a certain number of stories for free each month before fees kick in. A metered system is designed to draw casual readers with free articles while getting fees from people who want to dig deeper on the site.

The fees won’t be imposed until next year, giving Times executives more time to build the system and figure out the details that are likely to dictate whether the gamble pays off. The pivotal issues include determining how much to charge and how many stories will be free each month.

The only certainty for now is that subscribers to the printed version of the Times will still get unlimited free access to the Web site. That could help the Times sell more subscriptions to the printed newspaper among a portion of Internet readers who figure they may as well get the newspaper delivered to their home or office, too, as long as they have to pay for reading online.

The newspaper also indicated it will meter up other material it makes available on other online channels, such as through mobile phones, e-books and other digital readers and tablet computers. No further details were provided.

The metered approach has worked well for The Financial Times, a more specialized newspaper that caters to an upscale audience interested primarily in news about the stock market, the economy and businesses.

Some newspaper analysts and executives have questioned whether Internet fees make as much sense for more mainstream newspapers such as the Times, whose stories span many of the political, business, sports and cultural topics that are covered by other news outlets that don’t charge for Web access.

That raises the chances that hordes of fee-averse readers will flock to free news sites, a scenario that could also drive away Internet advertisers interested in reaching the biggest possible audience.

Any downturn in Internet advertising — one of newspapers’ few areas of growth in recent years — could make it less any benefit from reader fees.

The Internet currently generates between 10 percent and 15 percent of newspaper ad sales now, and the figure is expected to rise as more marketing budgets shift from print to the Web.

The Times could face an especially painful backlash because it has one of the largest newspaper followings on the Web, with 12.4 million visitors last month, according to the research firm comScore Inc. By comparison, The Washington Post’s Web site attracted 9.2 million and USA Today drew 8.6 million.

Reflecting the stakes riding on its decision, the Times spent more than six months assessing the logic of charging for its Web site.

More newspaper publishers are likely to take the leap too, now that one of the world’s best known newspapers has taken the plunge, said Greg Harmon, chief executive of Belde Interactive, which consults with publishers about Internet fees.

“This is like the industry is being given the permission to charge, almost like in a papal sense,” Harmon said.
The perfect 80s song would just be God. Wait. Let me start over. I am, technically, a child of the 1980s, born alongside Music Television and the Macintosh. I took my place within a society of high tops, leggings and mullets, of hair bands, synthesizers and cellular phones, of Rocky, Rambo and Indiana Jones, of Reagan, Thatcher and Magnum P.I. It was Morning in America, and it seemed for a while as if that morning might very well last forever.

Yet the champions of freedom were, it seems, a bit too zealous in fighting their Cold War, for the 1980s ended prematurely in those final days of 1991 with the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Francis Fukuyama suggested that 1991 marked not just the end of the 1980s but also the end of history, with democratic capitalism standing victorious atop the ashes of 500 years of ideological struggle. In a certain sense, I suppose, he was right — it was the end of history, at least according to his impoverished conception of it — so it is ironic that the event marks my first historical conception of it — so it is ironic that the event marks my first historical memory: even now, I can see the statue of Lenin — cold, hard, and colossal — toppled by an angry mob of thousands. I was 6: I did not know what it meant, but I knew that it meant something.

I mention this in order to make a confession: I have no memory of the 1980s. While the story of the statue is true, I just looked up the rest on Wikipedia. I am, technically, a child of the 1980s, but I did not realize it until it was too late. I remember only the event that marked the end of that decade — and, subsequently, the derision of the 1980s as ten solid years of cultural fatigue.

And here I make another confession, one far more personal: I miss the 1980s, miss it as an orphan misses the parents he never knew. Few knew of this: when my generation has laughed at its origins, I have laughed with them as best I can, I hiding my longing for what I missed. Music Television! The Macintosh! High tops, leggings and mullets! Hair bands, synthesizers and cellular phones! Rocky! Rambo! Indiana Jones! Reagan! Thatcher! Magnum P.I. Anyone who hears of these things and feels nothing, I contend, is beyond recovery. To me, one who came of age during Evening in America, they signify the adventure of a time when to be young was very heaven.

We’re getting to God. Don’t worry. There is, of course, an element of irony to all of this — as there must be, given that we are talking about the 1980s. I know, deep down, that I didn’t really miss much. I know, deep down, that the object of my longing is something of a falsification, a form empty of real content. And yet even this seems appropriate — indeed, this seems to be the defining trait of the culture of that decade. The 1980s were a time when, after exhausting itself in 20 years of struggle over culture, America sought to lose itself in pure form. To me, one who came of age during Evening in America, they signify the adventure of a time when to be young was very heaven.

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The Obsever

Thursday, January 21, 2010

What we can do together

Fr. Lou DelFra, Director of Bible Studies
Faith Point

The obsequious cartoon

We commend the Editorial Staff's intention to apologize for including "The Mobile Party" in your Jan. 13 edition. As you note, the publication of the cartoon was, indeed, an "egregious error in judgment," and your apology, therefore, also constitutes a genuine apology to the readers of the newspaper. Referring to what you claim to be the regrettable acts of others, especially that of the Irish and the French who have committed unspeakable atrocities, we are commissioned to make every effort to make the people understand the reality of their sin, and to dehumanize every act of violence. The Catholic Church has always sought to condemn such actions, and the Holy Spirit has been urging us to treat our fellow human beings with respect and dignity. The apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians, "all the parts of the body were an eye, where would the body be?" This is also something that we must keep in mind as we consider the negative impact of this cartoon.

The Observer seeks to move forward. Dropping "The Mobile Party" and accepting the resignation of one of your staff members are first steps. Your problematic apology and your failure to deal with the historical harm caused by violence do not seem to be genuine apologies, but rather an attempt to avoid responsibility.

The Observer, in an effort to continue to be a voice for justice and reconciliation, will now focus on the opportunity to take full responsibility for its actions. But what is now lacking is the Observer's pro-active leadership to ensure that Notre Dame is no longer a meeting place for intolerance and discrimination.

Martin Luther King, a man who knew great hate and discrimination, explained "discrimination is a hell of a gasoline in every waking moment of their lives to remind them that the lie of their inferiority is accepted as truth. The university must be followed by concrete actions that remind us of the lie of their inferiority is accepted as truth.

As a Catholic, a father, and a gay man, I was deeply troubled to see "The Mobile Party" cartoon printed in The Observer on Jan. 13. My faith is an important part of my life. As a Catholic, I have always cherished our tradition of promoting peace and kindness to all people. Jesus taught us that, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Our society has a long history of hatred and violence, and we must continue to follow our faith with respect. Sadly, this cartoon did not live up to this teaching.

In America today there are still far too many cases of anti-gay violence, and the moral conscience of the church is being challenged. GLAAD's condemnation of this cartoon is a step in the right direction. Let us hope that this will be the beginning of a new conversation about the importance of treating all people with respect and dignity.

We must continue to see and hear the reports from Haiti. We know that the suffering is real and that we must take action to help. The Catholic Church has always sought to treat our fellow human beings with respect and dignity. The apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians, "It is not the parts that make up the body, but the whole body, one and the same, that make up the body. And let us work together to overcome the hatred and discrimination that continue to divide us.

If we do not do so separately, for we can do it together.

This week's Faith Point was written by Fr. Lou DelFra, Director of Bible Studies and AСЕ chaplain. He can be reached at delfra.29m@nd.edu

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

The Spirit still missing

Letters to the Editor

More needed

Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, has been hit by a massive earthquake, affecting millions of people. Americans have already generously donated millions of dollars to help, but more help is still greatly needed. At this point, it is important to remember to give money to trusted organizations with a history of transparency and accountability to truly aid Haitians who need help the most.

Oxfam America was rated a top charity by the American Institute of Philanthropy and focuses currently on helping Haiti recover. Additionally, the government of Haiti has said that it is ready to be a partner in these conversations.

As a Catholic, in foxholes. Even the most ardent non-believers in foxholes. Even the most ardent non-believers...
By SHANE STEINBERG
Some Winter

With 2009’s Palm d’Or winner, “White Ribbon,” director Michael Haneke has turned himself as not only one of the world’s premier directors but one of the most uncompromised social critics in the industry while wrought with controversy. In a small town in Austria, the film deliberately paves ture of force is a movie in us here at least, and at that same time also manage to delve deep into the corners of both our black and white world — more specifically into the death of innocence and the manifestation of evil.

A deliberately paced masterful allegory that defines simplicity, and for that reason alone it works. The pacing of this Russian language film, the best from that nation this decade, is one in a way rarely seen in the medium, and the acting, of those meant to be scared, coupled with those doing the scaring, is enough to send cool shivers down the spine throughout the film’s runtime.

Folk singers/songwriters and first time actors Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova share the screen in the most touching love story to grace the silver screen in quite some time. The music will grab you and never let you go, for Hansard sings as though he’s exposing his bare soul to the world. It crosses with us, and with the world. The answer is “Once,” if ever.

A paradox of a film, this animat documentary about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the 1980’s is a marvel in every way of the world it will. It will at once tug and tear at your insides forcing you to want to look away in anguish, only to fail because the animation draws you in and doesn’t let you escape its other-worldly allure.

17. Antichrist (2009)
Costas Charlotte Gainsbourg and Willem Dafoe do their entire selves and then some unto director Lars von Trier’s har- a s - b o n e s , uncompromis- ingly bleak view of human nature. The self-pro- claimed “best director in the world” and the film undoubtedly benefits from it, as it crosses into rare- ter.

Touching on everything from Thomas Hobbes to the relationship between music and nature, Bela Tarr’s unapproachable but unfor- giveable philosophical drama is one of the greatest hidden gems of the decade. It feels like a classic even as you watch it for the first time, and despite the difficulty in discerning the film’s meaning, or even its plot really, it’s a few heart-stopping moments, shots suspended in time — washed in nearly unequilad grace that make this at-will trip worthwhile.

Borat really does have it all — crude, distasteful, offensive, up all of the traces in — but only of the naked wrestling and drunken Pamela Anderson-ogling, to slap it. Borat’s urgency and social criticism voiced as comedy is pure brilliance. Whether that brilliance is consummately well or just sum- bled upon is the big question, but to that end, the viewer of what Cohen has managed to do here, the Soviet Union exhausted billions of dollars and countless resources in an effort to paint America as a stupid, racist, hypocritical farce of a country, but failed. In two hours of relentless stu- diousness, Borat succeeds at what a once superpower could not.

Florian Henckel von Donnersmark not only impresses, but amazes with his first feature length film. It stole the Best Foreign Language Film Oscar from right under “Panza’s Labyrinth” nose and rightly so, as this story of a couple under the surveillance of the Stasi during the final hours of East Germany’s existence is a pitch-per- fect thriller that at once will leave you shocked and hate its main char- acter, the Stasi man tasked with the surveillance (Ulrich Muehle in a perfect, and I mean perfect, performance), and then feel for him, and instead hate the system as he begins to turn against it.

The laughs and oftentimes purelyJean-Dominique Bauby, filmmaker and au- tor-in-chief of French “Elle.” Its is the subject of Julian Schnabel’s aesthet- ically wonderful, masterfully-shot film about the late editor’s life after being diagnosed with a degenerative and painful Syndrome. Paralyzed from head-to- toe by a stroke and able only to use one eye, Bauby undertook a tremendous journey of self-discover- ry and overcame his condition to the point that he dictated an entire book that shares the title with this film. He was a truly inspiring person through and through his one eye, we see the world from his p e r s p e c t i v e , unable to go our own way or do anything but blink and stare, but through that one eye, we see a world filled with breathtaking.

An awe-inspiring tour de force of a film, Darren Aronofsky’s master- piece is so deeply penetrating, that it becomes a sort of beautiful requiem. Mickey Rourke’s performance as an over-the-hill wrestler trying to hold onto the false hope that he can overcome a comeback is iconic at the least and deserves placement alongside the great screen performances of all time.

A supremely crafted get-in-your-head-and-stay-there psychological thriller. Christopher Nolan’s most critically acclaimed film is audacious in everything from its structure to its ingenuity pacing. This is edge-of-your- seat stuff, and works with the most meticulous films of our time, or any time for that matter. The film is, in essence, perfectly captivati- ng and stimulating, and rare one at that. It is a tour de force filled with palpitating, intense pacing. Is it, it manages to completely tie the two up in a neat bow at end with painstaking precision.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu
For a band whose American debut album was slotted as one of the top-10 releases in 2009 by Rolling Stone magazine in the Dec. 17 edition, The xx surprisingly are not megastars in the states yet. Consider yourselves warned. The quartet is poised to recreate The xx’s spacey style.

The xx is Next British Sensation to Woo the States

Legends, 10 p.m. Joze Valdez and the Mambo Allstars

Joze Valdez and the Mambo Allstars will be performing at Legends Saturday night. The band is known for their combination of classical and modern Latin beats, encompassing many popular forms of Latin dance including salsa, merengue and cha-cha among others. They have performed at many well-known venues including the Taste of Chicago, Summerdance at Grant Park and the Adler Planetarium. This energetic dance music is sure to get your blood pumping and your toes tapping. Even better, it will put you in the mood for Salsa Night, which starts at midnight. Be sure to bring your friends and embrace your inner, or outer, Latin dancer.

Legends, 10 p.m. Nine Days Concert

The 21st Annual Student Film Festival premiers tonight at the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It comprises films produced by Notre Dame students, many made for a variety of film classes offered on campus. The student film festival is always a very popular event, highlighting the extraordinary talent of the Notre Dame student body. Each film lasts between three and 15 minutes and provides an opportunity for students and faculty alike. The festival will continue on Friday and Saturday evenings at the same time, so there are plenty of opportunities to attend. This event always sells out quickly, so be sure to get tickets ahead of time.

The xx

Currently, the band is touring internationally, and is already billed to play at this spring’s Coachella Music and Arts Festival. The band’s sound is simplistic, yet unique. Featuring his and hers vocalists, a reverb-laden, staccatoed guitar, profound synthesizers and mod beats, “xx” creates a smoky room aura of spooky and mystifying atmospheres to be created in the music. As an album, “xx” flows brilliantly from the introductory track to its 11th and final song. The xx set a deep drone and Croft’s breathy utterances is, at times, like witnessing an exchange between embattled loved ones. Thus even in the simplicity of “xx,” each song can be interpreted as dramatic, realistic and personally telling. For all of the musical effort put into “xx,” what stands out about the Brits’ debut is its simplicity. The xx do not overwhelm listeners with showy instrumentation or addicting vocals. Rather, the xx set a mood — one that is open to audience interpretation. Perhaps it is the band’s tendency to err on the side of minimalism that allows for spooky and mystifying atmospheres to be created in the music.
NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Georgetown upsets Pittsburgh in Big East battle

Wake Forest hands Tar Heels their first three-game losing streak under Williams; Temple holds off Xavier

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Chris Wright scored 27 points and No. 12 Georgetown held No. 9 Pittsburgh scoreless for four minutes while taking control with a late 9-0 run and the Hoyas ended the Panthers’ eight-game winning streak with a 74-66 victory Wednesday night.

Austin Freeman and Greg Monroe added 13 points each, and Monroe fed Julius Vaughan inside for a key basket that made it 66-56 with 3:50 remaining after Vaughan put in a free throw to complete the three-point play. Vaughan scored 11 points.

Gilbert Brown scored a career-high 20 points for Pitt, but the Hoyas (14-3, 5-2 in Big East) ended Pitt’s 31-game home winning streak a season after the Panthers stopped Georgetown’s 29-game run at home by winning 70-54.

Pitt (15-3, 5-1) missed a chance to go 6-0 in the Big East for the first time and lost for only the third time in 13 home games against ranked opponents since the Petersen Events Center opened in 2002.

Pittsburgh led 56-54 on Jermaine Dixon’s 3-pointer with 7:48 remaining, but the Hoyas didn’t score again until Brown made a free throw with 3:48 remaining that cut the Hoyas’ lead to 63-58.

Wright hit a 3-pointer that put the Hoyas ahead for good at 59-58 with 7:48 remaining, but the Panthers opened in 2002.

The Tar Heels made it a one-point game shortly after halftime before Washington State hit 8 of 11 from the field — and Smith and the Demon Deacons shot 45.6 percent.

“Julio, you’re out!, Doni, you’re in!”

The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit what else? — a 3-pointer about what else? — 5 cents for all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.
Manning and Colts hope for revenge

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning looks to pass in a game against Jacksonville Dec. 17. Manning will lead his team in a rematch against the Jets in the AFC championship game, seeking to come out on top this time around.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning is on a simple mission this week. Strike fast, stay on the field and take the Colts back to Miami.

The four-time MVP and his Colts teammates can’t wait for the journey to begin.

Nearly a month after the then-undefeated Indianapolis set off a national firestorm by yanking its starters early against the New York Jets, Manning & Co. will get another at them in this weekend’s AFC championship game — even if nobody lets them forget what happened the first time.

“Do you expect to play all four quarters this week?” Manning was asked jokingly before he could even settle in at the podium Wednesday. “I do, yeah,” Manning said. “But in Indianapolis, this is no laughing matter.”

Furious fans deluged local radio talk shows following Indy’s 29-15 loss in Week 16, and fans weren’t the only ones upset.

After the game, four-time Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday said he understood why Indy’s home fans booed, other players seemed surprised by coach Jim Caldwell’s decision to pull players early and Manning insisted nothing should be read into his body language even though he uncharacteristically kept his helmet on for most of the final 20 minutes that day.

Since then, players and coaches have reached a consensus that they may not be playing in their third AFC title game since 2003 had they not done it this way.

“We’re not playing in Indy,” Caldwell said. “Really, we’ve tried to focus in on the things that we thought were in the best interest of our team to get us into the position we are right now.”

Caldwell said the Colts (15-2) had a little longer to convince the fans.

Three weeks ago, Manning jump-started the reconciliation process after another loss at Buffalo by explaining nothing could be changed. He said it was time to move forward and that he hoped fans would forgive the Colts and provide a united front in the playoffs. The message resonated.

While other players and team president Bill Polian continued making their pitches, fans responded Saturday night by hitting the highest decibel-level in the two years Lucas Oil Stadium has been the Colts’ home.

The result: Indy 20, Baltimore 3 — the Colts’ first postseason victory since Manning was named Super Bowl MVP in February 2007.

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The result: Indy 20, Baltimore 3 — the Colts’ first postseason victory since Manning was named Super Bowl MVP in February 2007.
**NFL Vikings mum on status of defensive end’s knee**

Kevin Williams and Pat Williams are much bigger names with a longer list of accomplishments than Edwards, who the Vikings drafted in the first round out of Purdue in 2006. He became a full-time starter in his second year, before a four-game suspension for violating the NFL’s policy on performance-enhancing substances. He claimed a mistake in not checking the list of the league’s banned workout supplements.

Edwards came back in 2008 and, buoyed by the offseason acquisition of Allen, boldly professed a goal of breaking the all-time single-season sack record for sacks. It was tough talk for a guy who had a total of just eight sacks in his first four years.

“I looked at him and I was like, ‘What?’” his agent, Doug Hendrickson, said this week. “But I think Ray believes he can be one of the best defensive ends in the league, and I don’t see why not.”

Edwards is one of the 212 NFL players who would lose their restricted free agency status, and instead become a restricted free agent, if the league and the union can’t agree on a new labor contract and save the salary cap for the 2010 season.

Hendrickson said he’s had some discussions with the Vikings about an extension for Edwards. There’s no question there’s an uncertainty of the collective bargaining agreement complicates any negotiations.

Edwards said he’s not concerned about those talks, strictly on-field focus he hasn’t always had. The sack-record declaration was one example of how he let himself be distracted in this early stage of his career.

“Last year was a learning experience,” he said. “I was trying to do too many things. My personal life was kind of bogging me down a little bit. You just learn from stuff and hopefully don’t make those mistakes again. I don’t plan to. You just learn and keep growing.”

Edwards, who left the Boilermakers after his junior season, lasted just three weeks.

“I think the one thing people forget is that when Ray came in the league he was one of the youngest players in the draft,” Hendrickson said. “He finished his fourth year at 24 years old. There’s rookies that come in the league at 23. He’s always been very mature, but I think it takes awhile for anyone to kind of figure everything out.”

On Sunday against New Orleans, Edwards will go searching for another former Purdue player. Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

“Just to say hello,” Edwards said. “I love his football.”

**NFL Raiders interview coaches**

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis has started interviewing potential assistants for next season even while he continues to mull the fate of coach Tom Cable.

ESPN.com reported the Raiders interviewed Baltimore Ravens quarterback coach Hue Jackson about becoming the team’s offensive coordinator.

Fassel told Sirius XM Radio that he has not interviewed for the job.

“I think if a coach is in place you don’t start calling somebody and seeing if the job is open or not,” Fassel said. “Tom Cable is the coach. I follow the Raiders pretty closely because my son is coaching there and I coached there at one time. But, no, I’m not lobbying for any job. I’m not lobbying for the Raiders job. I have never in my life rooted for a coach to be let go so there’s an opening. I never have. ‘I’m in the same fraternity. I just got my nose to the grindstone. I’m down here in Vegas working on getting situated down here and that’s where I am. Nobody’s reached out to me.”

Trestman, who was offensive coordinator in Oakland in 2002-03, has spent the past two seasons coaching the Montreal Alouettes in the Canadian Football League. He took the Alouettes to the Grey Cup final in his first season and won it this past year.

Cable’s status is in question after he went 5-11 in his first full season as coach and failed to develop JaMarcus Russell into a legitimate NFL quarterback. Cable is 9-19 since replacing Lane Kiffin early in the 2008 season, leading the Raiders to their NFL-worst seventh straight season with at least 11 losses.

Cable has pointed to the team’s improvement after Russell’s mid-season benching as proof that he deserves another year to get the Raiders back to the playoffs.

Herrera said Davis and Cable have talked extensively since the season ended, with many of those discussions coming by phone.

“Most of the characteristics of Al Davis’ meetings with the head coach being short or brief are not true either,” Herrera said. “Mr. Davis has had meetings with the head coach with length and depth. There have been meetings and meetings of substance.”

Raiders owner Al Davis has interviewed Jim Fassel and Marc Trestman as potential coaching candidates.

**Raiders executive John Herrera**

“A lot of people have called inquiring about coaching positions,” senior executive John Herrera said.

Both Jackson and Waufler worked on the staff at California with Cable in the 1990s, and Jackson was offensive coordinator at Southern California under current Raiders quarterbacks coach Paul Hackett.

Herrera denied a report in the San Francisco Chronicle that Davis has interviewed Jim Fassel and Marc Trestman as potential coaching candidates.

**Multiple interviews**

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the home team. Hiram Bithorn hosted 22 Montreal Expos home games in each of the 2003 and 2004 seasons before the franchise relocated to Washington and was renamed the Nationals. Average attendance dropped from 14,000 in 2003 to 10,000 in 2004.

In addition, the ballpark also hosted the 2001 season opener between Texas and Toronto, and it was the site of games during the World Baseball Classic in 2006 and 2009. The Dodgers have been among the major league teams most interested in international play. Two years ago, they traveled to Beijing for a pair of March exhibition games against the San Diego Padres. Their spring training trip is to be announced Friday at a news conference in Taiwan.

NBA

Friday, January 21, 2010 page 15

RENTON, Wash. — Pat McPherson is leaving Denver to coach tight ends with the St. Louis Rams, a move that most recently held with the Broncos. Jedd Fisch will be the Rams' offensive coordinator, spending one season at the coaching level with Minnesota. Fisch worked on the Broncos staff with Bates and McPherson.

Carroll will interview Sherman Smith on Thursday for one of Seattle's new running backs and in some 6-foot-7-year-old Smith’s Washington’s offensive coordinator during Jim Zorn’s brief tenure coaching the Redskins. Zorn and Smith, a former NFL running back, announced their resignations on the original Seahawks of 1976 staff.

Last week, new Redskins coach Mike Shanahan informed Smith he won’t be back. Shanahan is bringing in new Defensive coordinator Ken Norton Jr. as linebackers coach, while his Washington’s offensive coordinator. Smith coached running backs at the college level following a 13-year NFL career with San Francisco and Dallas. Norton previously handled the special team, rather than vice president; "And Pete will have his approach, Leiweke said. "But that's not an issue, we're having a good two weeks from Day One saying 'We have a special coach and we're going to build the team around the philosophy of this coach.'"

Leiweke also clarified that salary cap and contract issues, handled by returning administration president Tod Leiweke, will be under Schneider's control. Previously, Schneider began his NFL career as a college intern who basically staked Ron Wolf in 1992 before Wolf gave him a job. He has been the Packers' director of football operations since May 2008. He was the top personnel assistant to Green Bay general manager Ted Thompson was used to operations working.

Yet Schneider considered the credentials of Seattle's coach, the fact Carroll would have equal or more authority than the general manager on personnel issues — and he just shrugged. The buylish-faced, 38-year-old native of rural Wisconsin signed as a first-time GM anyway.

"When this thing went down with Coach Carroll I had a moment where I thought ‘Oh my God, what was different?’ But that’s how they had to do it to get a guy of his caliber," Schneider said. "And he was interested in coming here in the first place.

"I’m really pumped up about Gus. We’ve been working late at night here to put our thoughts together," Carroll said. "And the background between Gus and Monte Kiffin and myself is really unique, and were very fortunate."

Also joining Seattle’s defensive staff is Jerry Gray, who is leaving the Redskins after four seasons as their secondary coach. Gray was previously the defensive coordinator during Jimmy Johnson’s last coach at the University of Miami.

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Leiweke, who said he was going to build the team around the philosophy of this coach, was not disappointed.

"But that's not an issue, we're having a good relationship," Leiweke said, noting to Carroll, "Pete wins the coin toss."

Carroll is also seeking a new wide receivers coach in Seattle.

MLB

League nears deal for series in Puerto Rico

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Pete Schneider has been named as the Seattle Seahawks' new GM, giving the team a dynamic, experienced figure at the helm.

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Carroll fills coaching staff

Associated Press

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Looking for a new GM anyway, the Seattle Seahawks were picking a top-flight executive from among four finalists. Team CEO Tod Leiweke said the immediate connection between Carroll and Schneider in last week’s interview was vital in the final decision.

"Most compelling for me is the amazing energy I saw between the man to my right, and the man to my left," Leiweke said, sitting between Carroll and Schneider. "They connected, they saw eye to eye and they had a similar philosophy on how they wanted to do this.

Schneider replaces Tim Ruskell. The long-time forced Ruskell to resign as GM and president last month as Seattle was finishing 5-11 and losing its last four games by a combined 123-37.

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NFL

Seahawks introduce new GM

Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — John Schneider was already a candidate for the Seattle Seahawks’ general manager position prior to the team being sold from the NFL last week and hiring former Cal football coach Petes Carroll as their new head coach.

"I'm really pumped up about Gus. We've been working late at night here to put our thoughts together," Carroll said. "And the background between Gus and Monte Kiffin and myself is really unique, and were very fortunate."

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**Saints’ Sharper ready to face old teammates**

Associated Press

METAIRIE, La. — Darren Sharper loves a good story, even more so when it involves him.

The NFL’s active interception king, the leader of only one of the Super Bowl appearance of his 13-year career. To get there, he was the only leader of only one of the New Orleans teams, the team that let him go, had the league’s top defensive coordinator Gregg Williams.

Sharper was an NFL record for most interception return yards in a season with 376.

“Physically, he looks as good as he’s ever looked,” Favre said. “But his instincts, those things you can’t coach. He makes a lot of plays. The thought is from people when you play a play like Sharp is you can trick him to get big plays. "In all honesty, you really can’t say it’s his last hurrah. "Not really. I just want you not to fold that book up in Chapter 5. You want to continue to read it until the end and that ending hopefully will be a good ending for us.”

Darren Sharper Saints defensive back

"You want to continue to read it until the end and that ending hopefully will be a good ending." - Darren Sharper

"I was just comfortable." - Shane Bertsch Professional golfer

**Bertsch earns win at Hope**

Associated Press

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Shane Bertsch hopped out of his RV and excelled on a course he hadn’t seen in over 10 years, opening with a 10-under 62 Wednesday at the Hope Classic for a two-stroke lead over Alex Prugh and Jeff Quinney.

Bertsch was the last player to register for the five-day, four-course tournament after a comically difficult travel path from Hawaii to the Palm Springs area, yet he still posted the best round of his PGA Tour career.

Bertsch had 10 birdies without a bogey even while helping line up puts for his pro-am playing partners under intermittent rain and wind.

“I was just comfortable.”

Bertsch said: “I always like these formats, because I help the guys out, and it keeps me maybe not so focused on myself until it’s time to go out and hit.”

J.P. Hayes, George McNeill, Joe Ogilvie and Garrett Willis were three strokes back. Heath Slocum, who skipped last week’s Sony Open while his wife gave birth, was in a large group at 6 under.

The rain pelting Southern California this week didn’t really cause trouble until later Wednesday, with many players beginning the day wearing nothing thicker than golf shirts before the wind and moisture whipped up.

“Was Palm Springs golf — not a lot of wind starting to warm up,” Slocum said. “And then all of a sudden when the wind made the turn, it definitely kicked right back up. The wind started blowing, and it cooled off. I put the sweater back on, and obviously golf is a little more difficult.”

For Bertsch — although after missing just two greens and three fairways in a sizzling-25 putts round, he realized he certainly couldn’t chalk up his career day to rest or preparation.

He was stuck in Hawaii for a day following the Sony Open, when he finished an encouraging 2-under with his wife and dog, and his agers when their red-eye flight was canceled. They eventually flew Monday night from Hawaii to Phoenix, where the Packers bubble burst up his RV and drove across the desert to blustery Palm Springs, arriving late Tuesday afternoon.

Quinney, Bertsch and the 25-year-old Prugh all played the idiosyncratic Nicklaus course and were considered among the easiest on tour — but Bertsch hadn’t visited it since qualifying school in the 1990s. Thanks to his travel woes, he didn’t even get a refreshor look before teeing it up.

“It was like a new adventure over every hill,” Bertsch said. “I didn’t know really what to expect. It was one of our courses I just didn’t remember a lot about.”

Yet Bertsch is no stranger to difficult paths through golf. His entire career has been one big challenge.

He was off the tour from 1997 until 2006, when his comeback was derailed by a bout of vertigo, which side-lined him for most of 2007. He got a medical exemption to play in 2008, but finished 120th on the money list after sitting out late-season tournaments when he mistakenly thought his card for 2009 was safe.

Bertsch then he broke his right hip when slipping on the stairs at his home in late 2008, limiting him to two PGA Tour events and four Nationwide Tour stops last year.

“A solid performance in Nationwide Tour stops last year. A solid performance in the Sony Open, followed by missing the cut in Hawaii, then going to Phoenix to be in the running for us,” Vilma said. “We knew we had a good quarterback and a good running back, but we didn’t really need to have. It’s probably more in anticipation of what might come than what was today.”

**Unplanned Pregnancy?**

Don’t go it alone.

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said. “We were surprised when we played our game,” Palmieri could beat those teams as long as Latvia, we kind of knew we games against Slovakia and turning point for his team. Palmieri called the game a route to a 5-4 shootout win. 

Early lead, Canada rallied en Eve. The team’s only blemish was a loss in the preliminaries. The U.S. team found itself trailing early in the championship, but when you win one for your country, you know the meaning behind it. It’s the ultimate team.”

The tournament marked Palmieri’s second opportunity to wear the red, white and blue after being a member of the U.S. National Under-18 team prior to coming to Notre Dame. “It was such a honor to play, and it was incredible to put the U.S. jersey on again,” Palmieri said. “It’s definitely up there as one of the top moments in my life. I was proud to represent my country and, obviously, to win a gold medal for us.”

In seven games for the U.S. team, Palmieri finished third on the team in points with eight assists and a goal as the U.S. rolled to a 6-1-0 record. The team’s only blemish was a loss in the preliminaries against Canada on New Year’s Eve. “I wanted to start the second half [of the season] strong,” Palmieri said. “I had a weak first half in my opinion, and I wanted to bring the energy back from the World Juniors and be productive in the second half.”

Palmieri said the rest of the Irish will travel to Sauli Ste. Marie, Mich., this weekend for a pair of games against Michigan State. Palmieri felt the experience would energize him for Notre Dame’s push to make ground in the CCHA. “I needed to start the second half of the season strong,” Palmieri said. “I had a weak first half in my opinion, and I wanted to bring the energy back from the World Juniors and be productive in the second half.”

Palmieri and the rest of the Irish will travel to Sauli Ste. Marie, Mich., this weekend for a pair of games against conference foe Lake Superior State. After months of timeless practice and anticipation, the Irish look to make a statement to the fencing world with the start of intercollegiate play this weekend in New York City. In spite of stiff competition the Irish are confident that they can meet and hopefully exceed the lofty standards set by previous squads. Under the leadership of head coach Janusz Bednarsi — former coach of the Polish Olympic team — they have won two NCAA titles since 2003 and have been the defending runner-up in team competition for the last two years, second only to Penn State.

In a sport that often doesn’t receive the level of exposure as the likes of football and basketball, the Irish have a reputation in the fencing world as a consistent dominant program, boasting two former Olympians — senior Kelly Hurley on the women’s team and sophomore Gerek Meinhardt on the men’s. Others who have a presence in the world cup circuit include juniors Zach Avery and Barron Nydam, forces to be reckoned with in the men’s saber, plus sophomore Courtney Hurley with four gold medals in the women’s jacket.

In addition to the aforementioned, Bednarsi is thrilled with other members of the team, freshman and veteran alike, who have stepped up throughout the year. “Haylee Reese in women’s foil will be showing up [this weekend], her silver medal in the last national championship was not an accident, she is growing as an athlete,” Bednarsi said. “We have some new freshmen who are very talented such as James Kaull and Jason Choy in saber and Enzo Castellani.”

However, the tide may have already turned as Irish fencers bested their Nittany Lion rivals in just about every event last weekend in individual competition at the USFA North America Qualifier in San Jose, Calif., with six fencers taking top-10 spots compared to just one for Penn State. “It’s a surreal moment,” Jackson said. “I had a weak first half in my opinion, and I wanted to bring the energy back from the World Juniors and be productive in the second half.”

Palmieri tied the game at 1-1. “I had a weak first half in my opinion, and I wanted to bring the energy back from the World Juniors and be productive in the second half.”

Fences in an emerging sport, like soccer, it became more and more important for some colleges especially who want to get more individual sports into the program,” Bednarsi said. For now, the Irish will set their sights on the weekend and use the experience to gauge themselves off of others in order to continue their quest for their first championship since 2005, and continue to be one of the most successful athletic programs at Notre Dame.

“It is better to compete as underdogs but we have to look behind us because other teams are so close that there will be a lot of competition,” Bednarsi said. Contact Kevin Baldwin at kbaldwin@nd.edu
Hinton continued from page 24

to Ohio State for two years before beginning his head coaching career in the high school ranks. Shortly afterward, he spent three years at Ohio University before spending more than a decade as head coach at Marion Harding High School in Marion, Ohio, where he enjoyed sustained success.

In 2004, Hinton moved to Cincinnati to coach under Mark Dantonio, who had taken his spot on the coaching staff under Kelly, Dantonio’s successor.

Throughout his coaching career, he has served in such myriad roles as wide receivers, linebackers, defensive line and running backs coach, as well as recruiting coordinator for Cincinnati last year.

“The mindset from an offensive standpoint is that we want to be aggressive,” Kelly said. “It’s not about anything else but scoring points.”

To that end, Kelly and offensive coordinator Charlie Molnar will install the same spread offense they implemented at Cincinnati. The spread does not rely much on a traditional power running attack, but rather on a much more versatile attack, according to Hinton, who says he will coach and develop three distinct areas of play.

“One, it’s what God gave you and that’s running the ball, Hinton said. “Every running back wants to carry the ball and will carry the ball, even in the spread offense. Two … their ability to run as a wide receiver and catch the ball. [Three], the area that no one likes to talk about — you better be a great pass protector.

To that end, Hinton will recruit running backs based on three characteristics that relate to the three areas identified: explosiveness, catching ability and toughness. Although he says that body type does not necessarily matter, it seems that the running backs of the near future at Notre Dame will look more like Armando Allen than Robert Hughes.

In addition to focusing on the pass-catching abilities of the running backs, Hinton will also focus on another major aspect of the spread offense: the read option. An integral part of Molnar’s attack, the read option will be new to most of the running backs on the roster; teaching it will be one of Hinton’s foremost responsibilities.

Hinton has not studied the current running back corp (led by senior Allen, junior Hughes and sophomore Theo Riddick) beyond what he has seen on television due to the frenzy of the recruiting season.

“I’ve told them all, I’m going to give them a clean slate,” Alford said. “I’m not really listening to what people are telling me about every kid, and I’m not going to watch a ton of film.”

He will, however, utilize more wide receivers coach Alford, who coached this group previously, especially for motivational purposes.

Hinton will also be involved in recruiting, especially in Ohio and Florida, where he has a significant amount of experience.

Above all, he is excited to be at Notre Dame and work toward his stated goal of making Kelly the nation’s best coach.

“This is a great place,” he said. “It’s a dream come true.”

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

Alford continued from page 20

more difficult than the decision to stay with the Irish, Alford said, and the right one for himself and for the team.

“I don’t know what to say [when Kelly asked],” Alford said. “I thought it over, talked to a lot of people who are very close to me … and I think it’s in the best interest of the football team. It’s selfish, I think it’s a good move. It will expand my knowledge base and resume, if you will, for the things I want to accomplish in my career.

“At the same time, I believe that if Coach Kelly didn’t believe this would be in the best interest of the football team, he wouldn’t do it.”

In his time at Notre Dame Alford has also had a hand in recruiting, something Kelly emphasized as one of Alford’s strengths.

For the Class of 2010, he has recruited four-star running back commitment Giovanni Bernard, four-star defensive tackle commitment Louis Nix and four-star wide receiver and early enrollee Tifer-Jones, among others.

“He understands what it takes from my end to recruit,” Kelly said. “He’s a tireless recruiter, outstanding in the homes … he does a terrific job.

“Though Alford is excited about the amount of talent he will work with in the fall, he began coaching the wide receivers, he said he has not looked far ahead.

“I’ve been busy recruiting, and trying to finalize this class,” he said. “That’s really what this is about, developing them from freshman year to senior year.”

This will be Elston’s 12th year as an assistant in the NCAA’s Football Bowl Subdivision. Before he joined Kelly at Central Michigan, he spent three years as an assistant at Eastern Michigan. First as a defensive ends coach in 2001 and then as defensive line coach and recruiting coordinator in 2002-03. Before that, he spent two years as a graduate assistant at the University of Michigan, his alma mater, where he had been a three-year letter winner as an outside linebacker.

Elston served as assistant to the football camp director prior to becoming a graduate assistant, and was in this role in 1997 when the Wolverines won 12-0 and won a National Championship.

Kelly said the two had addressed Elston’s possible loyalties to Michigan.

“He does have one thing going against him, so we worked on that, cleaned that up quite a bit,” he said.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

Minor continued from page 20

has completely dedicated herself to making this year her year. She stayed in South Bend this summer taking classes and training at the Irish facilities.

She said this summer was hard this summer and came into the fall with an unbelievably positive attitude focused on what she wants to accomplish,” Garnham said.

Although her coaches had set specific goals for her to accomplish this year, Minor holds herself to a much higher standard than even her coaches demand.

“I know my goals for her, we have spoken about them,” Garnham said. “I believe she can achieve some higher goals than what I was thinking.”

In order to achieve those goals, Minor has been hitting the track, gym and weight room hard to get to the level at which she needs to be to compete for Big East titles.

“In the weight room, she straight gets after it,” Garnham said.

Aside from her personal achievements, Minor has shown strong leadership on and off the track.

“(Her teammates] look up to her for her leadership,” Garnham said.

Minor has always been a jumper, and has competed in the long and triple jumps the past three seasons.

This season, she has added the 60-meter dash to her résumé to help her work on runway speed. Minor has also competed in the 100- and 200-meters in the past.

As good as the past has been and the present is for Minor right now, the future looks brighter than ever, especially in her featured event.

“It has been a pleasure to work with her,” Garnham said. “She is a very talented athlete who I believe is just beginning to scratch the surface in the triple jump.”

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

Elston continued from page 20

the country in 2009 with 28.5 yards per return and were fourth with three returns for a touchdown.

“He’s just done a great job for us, developing our players,” Kelly said. “That’s really what this is about, developing them from freshman year to senior year.”

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Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

Running backs coach Tim Hinton addresses the Notre Dame media on Jan. 15. He will take over the role from Tony Alford.

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

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Page 18 Thursday, January 21, 2010
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**FOOTBALL**

**New boss, new job? No problem**

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Tony Alford may have a different post on the new Notre Dame staff, but some things will never change. “I’m going to yell at [Armando Allen] every day,” he said. “Armando will never get too far away.”

Alford, the only constant from the staff of former coach Charlie Weis, has spent all 15 years of his coaching career teaching running backs. However, he will move to wide receivers coach this season.

“When you take a coach that’s only coached that position, he becomes almost a specialist in one area,” Irish coach Brian Kelly said at a press conference Friday. “I don’t want specialists. I want great teachers and great educators that can communicate across the board.”

Alford admitted that he will have some studying to do in order to make a successful switch. However, he said his approach is no different from before. “You roll your sleeves up and you go to work,” he said. “I like to pride myself and think I’m a good teacher. I want to lead the men the right way. At the end of the day it still comes out to working hard, putting in a good day’s work.”

Weis hired Alford as running backs coach in 2009 after he had spent two years in that position at Louisville. Before that, he had also coached running backs at Iowa State, Washington, Kent State and Mount Union.

The Kent, Ohio, native had a different post on the new Notre Dame staff, but some things will help as the new staff transition out those special relationships with the current players already in place and kind of grows from there.”

The decision to switch to coaching wide receivers was made in order to make a successful transition out those special teams, it won’t be for another year,” Kelly said.

Elston had to work with a young defensive line in 2009, having to replace all of his young defensive line in 2009, as well as the players knowing who I am, as far as expectations,” he said. “For the most part it’s just about having a previous relationship with the players already in place and kind of grows from there.”

**Elston to guide defensive line**

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

New Irish defensive line coach Mike Elston is used to having plenty of responsibilities under coach Brian Kelly. This year should be no exception.

Elston, who has coached with Kelly since 2004, served as assistant head coach, defensive line coach and special teams coordinator at Cincinnati during the 2009 season while also functioning as a top recruiter.

With the Irish, he will continue to coordinate special teams along with his defensive duties.

“Elston has been on offense and defense and he also takes charge of special teams,” Kelly said in a press conference Friday. “He does a terrific job.”

Under Kelly at Central Michigan, Elston coached the defensive line in 2004-05 and linebackers there in 2006. He spent time as co-defensive coordinator in 2005 and special teams coordinator in 2006.

Elston then made the move to Cincinnati with Kelly in 2007. In his first two years there, he served as tight ends coach, special teams coordinator and recruiting coordinator.

Kelly said Elston would replace Tony Alford as running backs coach in 2009 after he had spent two years in that position at Louisville. Before that, he had also coached running backs at Iowa State, Washington, Kent State and Mount Union.

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**Hinton ready to lead pack of backs**

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

“You know, he’s just a good ball coach.”

So said Irish head coach Brian Kelly when introducing his new running backs coach Tim Hinton, with whom Kelly has worked since 2007.

Hinton is one of nine assistant coaches on the staff, one of five on the offensive side of the ball, and one of four who came to Notre Dame from Cincinnati alongside Kelly. He replaces Tony Alford as running backs coach, who has moved to wide receivers coach.

Hinton, a south-central Ohio native, hails from a family of coaching brothers. His brother Ron is one of the winningest active high school coaches in Ohio, long considered one of the most competitive states in the nation.

Hinton began his coaching career at Wilmington College, where he started off as a graduate assistant coach in 1981 before moving to tight ends and wide receivers coaches from 1982-84. He then moved to football.

**HOCKEY**

**Golden break for Palmieri**

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

While most of the Irish were home with family over winter break, one player was skating in the biggest game of his life.

Notre Dame wing Kyle Palmieri was a key member of the U.S. World Junior team’s magical run to the gold in Saskatchewan, defeating Team Canada in a dramatic 6-5 overtime championship game on Jan. 5. The freshman was one of 11 Division I players on the team and the 13th Irish player in team history to be selected for the U.S. World Junior team.

Irish coach Jeff Jackson, who guided the 1997 U.S. World Junior team to a silver medal, expressed his joy to a make a serious run at the Big East again in the long jump, triple jump and 60-meter dash.

Minor had an impressive performance to start the season at the Blue and Gold Meet with a fourth place finish in the 60-meter dash, a second place finish in the long jump and set a Big East qualifying mark at 11.30 meters in the triple jump, winning the event. In the Notre Dame Indoor Opener, Minor finished sixth in the 60-meter dash and fourth in the long jump. But in her best event, the triple jump, Minor captures first with a Big East qualifying mark with a jump of 11.38 meters.

To get to this point, Minor

**TRACK AND FIELD**

**Minor jumping for senior season goals**

By MATTHEW ROBISON
Sports Writer

Senior jumper Jaime Minor is starting her senior season on the right foot. Always a determined athlete, Minor has stepped it up a notch in her final year.

“Jaime has made a huge turn around since I have come to Notre Dame,” Irish jumping coach Jim Garnham said. “With her training, work ethic and her entire attitude toward track and field.”

A three-time Big East championships competitor in the triple jump, twice indoor and once outdoor, Minor has been working hard to make steady progress over the years. This year, she is in position

**see MINOR/page 18**