Students notified of study abroad decisions

Office of International Studies accepts 789 applicants; most popular programs include English-speaking locations

Fr. John Jenkins lectures on ethics

Retired history prof. Robert Burns dies Fri.
It ain’t broke, don’t fix it

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” The NCAA needs to adopt this cliché when looking at possible changes to the men’s basketball tournament. There has been a lot of talk recently about a possible expansion of the bracket, and it is completely bewildering why anyone would want to change anything that is so good. I mean seriously, what sports fan doesn’t love March Madness? People, sports writers, fans, the blogging world, have all been talking about expanding the tournament to include another round. Yes, some schools get their shot, give it to them.

The reason the NCAA holds the tournament is to reward those teams that have had quality seasons with a chance to compete for the national championship. Those who have had mediocre seasons have proven themselves contenders. Some might challenge this by saying, “why not just give everyone a shot?”

The answer: everyone does have a shot. Every team (with the exception of the Ivy League and the independents) has a chance to earn an NCAA bid by winning their conference tournament. If an additional round were added, of the 64 additional teams added to the bracket, 60 of those would be crushed in the preliminary round. Sure, there would be some upsets, there always are. But winning the national championship is tough enough as it is. Winning six games in three weeks was the best the teams in the country is a formidable challenge, and only the best teams do so.

A team that’s won 30 games deserves to compete for the title, a team that goes 16-14 with a .500 record in its conference doesn’t.

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Halls to host polar bear plunge

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

Saturday at 2 p.m., Notre Dame students will be braving the ice-cold waters of St. Joseph Lake in the first annual Polar Bear Plunge, organized by Badin and Dillon Halls.

Despite the frigid temperatures, Badin Hall president Taylor Osicek is anticipating a strong turnout from the student body.

“We are hoping for an attendance of at least 250 for our first year. We are hoping that by using two dorms to sponsor the event, we can really generate some enthusiasm for the event,” she said.

“We understand that some people are not familiar with the idea, so we hope to introduce them to the premise this year, and get them to participate next year,” Osicek said.

Participation in the event is relatively straightforward and should be popular with Notre Dame students. Osicek said, “Basically, it’s just running into a body of water in the middle of the winter and running out. It has kind of a cult-like following and mob mentality behind it that we hope will translate to Notre Dame well,” she said.

Osicek said Badin and Dillon drew inspiration for the event from similar fundraisers that occur across major United States cities. She cited Chicago as an example, noting that on New Year’s Day participants run into Lake Michigan. Part of the appeal of the event is that it occurs in the winter.

“Kevin Boyle, the Dillon president, Katie McCabe, Badin’s vice president and I realized there are so much fundraising runs in the fall and spring, but thanks to the lovely South Bend weather, there is a total lag in the winter,” Osicek said. “We thought this would be a creative way to fill the void.”

Osicek said originally the Polar Bear Plunge was meant to raise funds for a local charity, but with recent events that have transpired in Haiti, organizers of the event have changed the focus of the event.

“Initially we were going to raise the money for the Center for the Homeless, but after the disaster in Haiti, we decided to give all the $5 donations from the participants to the fund that student government has started,” she said.

Students can pre-register in both dining halls Wednesday and Thursday or register Saturday before the 2 p.m. start time at St. Joseph Beach. Osicek said the event will entail more than just a swim in the lake.

“By participating, you are automatically entered in a raffle for Notre Dame Snuggies, and gift cards for restaurants at Eddy Street Commons. We will have free hot chocolate, brownies and cookies provided along with some music playing,” she said.

The idea for the Web site was first brought to student body president Grant Schmidt’s attention last year when he attended a college symposium. The need for a property-review Web site was brought up as an issue in the student body elections last spring.

“Basically we want this to be an authentic way for students to review the different housing options they have,” Schmidt said.

Rent.nd.edu creator, sophomore Joey Rich, gave COR members a 10-minute demo about the utility of the site and its current functions.

“Anyone can sign up to make a listing but if you’re a Notre Dame student you get the special privilege of rating the properties,” Rich said.

There is even a section where students can rate the landlords from “best friends” to “rotten people.”

The Web site currently has two categories in which to look for listings and reviews, either under houses or apartment complexes.

Many COR members expressed concerns with this feature as well as with the characteristic that only one person has control over the objective information about a property, such as amenities, number of rooms and pricing.

Rich said once rent.nd.edu is launched and receives more listings, a search feature will be added that will allow for more complex housing searches that include pricing and property features.

“The point of the Web site is not so much about selling your house,” vice president Cynthia Weber said. “It’s about conveying information about a specific area to students.”

Members of COR expressed concerns over monitoring of the Web site and the updating of objective information about the properties that will be listed. One of the major concerns was who would have the control over updating the property listings.

“The information is key on this Web site is the objective information, the reviews and ratings,” said Schmidt.

“Students should always do online research and go to the landlord before they decide on a property,” she said. This Web site will be a double-check.”

Weber also responded to COR members’ worries about the current construction of the Web site.

“Websites evolve and changes are made when you see how the visitors are using the site,” she said. “You can’t make changes for the future until you see how the way they use it evolves.”

The original plan was to launch rent.nd.edu last night, but after the discussion among COR members, Schmidt decided that further work needed to be done on the Web site.

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu
Student government releases benefit CD

By JILL STINCHCOMB
News Writer

Student government recently released “Head Above Water,” a CD containing original music by Notre Dame students whose profits will benefit the Global Water Initiative.

The CD is being sold for $6 at the LaFortune Information Desk and online at the Student Shop ND until April 1. The proceeds will go to the non-profit organization The Water Project via the Global Water Initiative.

“We’ve had a tremendously positive response to the CD. We’ve sold at least 100 CDs, and hope to sell more as it’s a unique opportunity for Notre Dame students to support both their fellow students and a cause,” junior Rachel Roseberry, co-director of the Global Water Initiative said. “We want to sustain the cause and support the musicians right up until April 1.”

Justin Pham, sophomore and co-director of the Global Water Initiative, said, “We want to help my life and I love that something I put so much effort into can help someone else.” Pham said. He added, “I like that this gets exposure for the musical scene at Notre Dame, which can be kind of limited. The benefits are twofold.”

Nicholas Gunty, a sophomore whose song “Winking Prose” is featured on the CD, also said he contributed to support the cause. “I wanted to contribute my talents to something that I thought was a noble cause,” Gunty said. “Everyone should buy the CD. It’s a worthwhile cause to give your money to regardless, and there are definitely some gems on the CD.”

Roseberry said, “This is a worthwhile cause, first of all it helps a lot of people and it doesn’t really take that much from us and just one pint of blood from us could save someone’s life potentially.”

Sophomore Brian Powers, whose song “One Too Many Things” is featured on the CD, also said he participated in the project to help a good cause. “Music is such a huge part of my life and I love that something I put so much effort into can help someone else,” Powers said.

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Global Water Initiative

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co-director
Global Water Initiative

The American Red Cross is always in need of blood and the Office of Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) at Saint Mary’s College contributed to that need by organizing a blood drive Tuesday.

The drive, which took place from noon to 6 p.m. in the Student Center lounge, gave student the opportunity to give to those in need.

Freshman Ali Buckley donated during the drive and cited the importance of saving lives. “I think it’s important because, first of all it helps a lot of people and it doesn’t really take that much from us and just one pint of blood from us could save someone’s life potentially.” Buckley said.

Junior Jennifer Kornexl helped coordinate the event by signing students up during dinner over the past week. Kornexl said students were more likely to donate if their friends gave blood as well, which allowed more blood to be donated the American Red Cross.

“I think it’s something that students do if their friends are doing it. A lot of times at dinner when people are signing up, they will ask their friends nearby to give as well,” she said.

Kornexl said more than 80 people signed up to give blood for this drive, and more than 100 students, faculty and staff members attended the last blood drive. Freshman Sarah Huser said she donated blood because there was a need and she was able to help meet that need. “There are so many people who can’t donate blood, there’s no reason why those of us who can shouldn’t when there are so many people who need it,” she said.

Kornexl and others in the OSCE worked diligently to prepare for the drive. Students were able to volunteer to either donate blood or if they were unable to, they could donate their time by helping check people in.

“I really enjoy getting people excited about giving blood and seeing the outcomes of the blood drive. It’s always great to see how much Saint Mary’s is willing to give,” Kornexl said.

Saint Mary’s College offers four blood drives a year. Two are held each semester, Kornexl said.

“There is always need for blood, so if you’re healthy enough to give, we strongly encourage students to consider this opportunity to save lives,” she said.

Kornexl said the blood drives are not just open to students and the entire community is invited to share the gift of life.

The next blood drive will be held on April 12 from noon to 6 p.m. Kornexl urged students and community members to visit RedCrossBlood.org and use the sponsor code ‘smmd’ to schedule an appointment to donate blood.

Contact Jill Stinchcomb at jstinchc@nd.edu

College holds blood drive

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

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Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Haitian man found alive in rubble

PORT-AU-PRINCE — University of Miami doctors working in Haiti are treating a man who, according to two other Haitians, had been trapped under the rubble since the Jan. 12 earthquake, but who may have been provided food and water during his reported ordeal.

The two Haitians' account could be confirmed by doctors at a university field hospital or at a Salvation Army medical center in Port-au-Prince, where the man, emaciated and suffering from dehydration, was first brought by the two men Wednesday.

Nery Ynclan, a University of Miami media officer in Haiti, said the patient was in stable condition Tuesday and being treated for dehydration and malnutrition. The man identified himself as Evans Monsignare, 28, she said, adding that his family told doctors varying accounts of his ordeal.

Sri Lankan parliament dissolved

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka's president dissolved parliament to make way for spring elections a day after authorities arrested a key opposition leader, crippling the only serious threat to the ruling party's grip on power.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa's move Tuesday to call parliamentary elections follows his sweeping victory at the polls last month over his former army chief Gen. Sarath Fonseka, who had defected to the opposition after helping to end the country's quarter-century civil war. Fonseka was arrested by the military on Monday on sedition charges.

Mudslides threaten L.A. foothills

LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE, Calif. — Forecasters warned Wednesday that heavy rain in the region could trigger mudslides threatening foothill towns as well as the LA River, which has already overflowed its banks.

The two Haitians' account could not be confirmed by doctors working in Haiti. The two men said they were still waiting to see the details.

National News

Senate Dems unveil jobs package

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats circulated a jobs bill Tuesday that's light on new initiatives on boosting hiring and job creation with provisions sought by lobbyists for business groups, doctors and the satellite broadcasting industry.

Senate Democrats were working to round up Republican support, but more snow in the nation's capital made it unlikely the Senate could pass it this week and hand President Barack Obama a quick, badly needed political victory. Republicans are willing partners, though because much of the bill is made up of tax breaks and subsidies for heavy industries, senators said they were still waiting to see the details.

LOCAL NEWS

Democrats plan new job legislation

INDIANAPOLIS — Look for Democrats in the Indiana General Assembly to introduce legislation in the coming days that they say will be a significant response to the state's high unemployment.

Democratic House Speaker Patrick Bauer of South Bend says job creation will be on the agenda for the first session in the second half of the legislative session.

He says he hopes to get bipartisan support to pass legislation that puts people back to work, assists small businesses and holds companies accountable for the promises they make to create jobs.

Iran

Iranian nuclear program advances

TEHRAN — Iranian nuclear technicians set dozens of centrifuges spinning Tuesday to begin enriching uranium stocks to a significantly higher level, prompting President Barack Obama to warn of a "significant regime of sanctions."

Iran's acceleration in its enrichment program was a defiant step that puts weapons-grade uranium in closer reach, should Tehran choose to go after the bomb. It was also another in a series of mixed messages that appeared calculated to boost Iran's leverage in negotiations with world powers on limiting its nuclear program.

Only days ago, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran was ready to send its stockpiled uranium currently enriched to a lower, very low level — to Russia and France for processing into fuel rods to power a research reactor. That was proposed last year in a U.N.-drafted plan aimed at eliminating Iran's ability to enrich those stocks to higher levels needed for making warheads.

Obama, speaking at a surprise appearance at the White house briefing room, said the sanctions process is moving along quickly, but he gave no specific timeline.

In his most extensive remarks on Iran in some time, Obama said Iran appeared to have expanded its offer of engagement.

But even announcing its latest step, Iran was careful to leave the door open to a negotiated solution, saying it would stop the work if the West found a way to provide it with fuel for the research reactor, which makes radioisotopes for use in cancer treatment.

"Whenever they provide the fuel, we will halt production of 20 percent," Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's nuclear program, told state TV late Monday.

He was referring to the level of enrichment necessary for the Tehran reactor. Iran's current stockpile has been spun to a level of 3.5 percent, suitable for use in fueling power plants, which is Iran's primary stated aim for its enrichment program.

The United States and its allies in Europe suspect Iran is using such civilian work to mask an effort to develop a weapons capability. Central to their concern is uranium enrichment, which at levels of 90 percent provides a possible pathway to nuclear arms production.

Iran denies it wants to produce weapons but has defied U.N. resolutions demanding it halt enrichment as a way of easing the concerns.

Even before the announcement, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he believed the U.N. should slap new sanctions on Iran in "weeks, not months," according to his spokesman.

France also said Iran's action left no choice but to push harder for a fourth set of U.N. Security Council sanctions to punish Iran's nuclear defiance.

Even Russia, which has friendly ties with Iran and has opposed new sanctions, appeared to edge closer to other Security Council members supporting harder penalties, saying the enrichment work has raised new suspicions.

"Iran says it doesn't want to have nuclear weapons. But its actions, including its decision to enrich uranium to 20 percent, have raised doubts among other nations, and these doubts are quite well-founded," said Nikolai Patrushev, the chief of Russia's Security Council.

Senior diplomats from the six major powers — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — held a conference call last Friday to discuss a U.S.-proposed list of possible new sanctions. U.N. diplomats briefed on the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were private, said no decisions were made.

Diplomats say China holds the key to new sanctions and Tuesday's statement from its Foreign Ministry calling for more talks indicates that Beijing is not yet ready to impose tough new measures.

In this April 2008 file photo Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, left, inspects a project at Natanz Uranium Enrichment, 200 miles south of Tehran.

Associated Press

Scandalized N.Y. gov. refuses to quit race

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Gov. David Paterson, defying calls from even fellow Democrats to drop out of the race for a full term, said Tuesday that he would leave only if the voters turn him out on Nov. 2 by voting for the ballot box, or "in a box."

Paterson spoke to reporters after several days of rumors swirling that state Capitol about carousing in the governor's mansion, all of which Paterson strongly denied.

Since Paterson took over from his predecessor, who resigned in a prosti- tution scandal, his popularity has plummeted and many Democrats have voiced their preference that Attorney General Andrew Cuomo run for governor when Paterson's term is up.

That infighting and the recent rumormongering have further frac- tured state Democrats and added a decidedly weird edge to the national party's struggle to maintain ground it gained in the last election.

Facing challenges from coast to coast amid voter frustration with incumbents of both parties, Democrats in particular are girding for losses that could see states' chief executives go into Republican hands.

New York, a traditionally Democratic-leaning state, would be a devastating blow to a party that just two years ago saw a landslide aside the election of Obama.

Paterson appeared to take heart from an interview earlier in the day with The New York Times, which had been widely anticipated to be prepar- ing a story dealing with his personal conduct. He said that in the interview he was not asked about drug use in the governor's mansion or partying with women.

"The only way I'm not going to be governor next year is in the ballot box, and the only way that I will be leaving the office before is in a box," Paterson said during a news confer- ence.

Associated Press
Jenkins continued from page 1
day-to-day decisions you make ... living an ethical life is about developing habits. If you develop good habits, they’re called virtues.

Jenkins touched on how one should ethically approach especially difficult and complex decisions.

Some of the toughest decisions aren’t habitual,” Jenkins said.

During the question and answer session following the lecture, conversation quickly turned to Jenkins highlighting the traverdal decision to invite President Obama to present the main address at the 2009 Commencement ceremony. “This president is pro-choice, there’s no doubt about it, and that’s significant,” he said. “It’s about revisiting the office.

“I know people seriously disagree and I respect that... you must have to decide what you think is right.”

The session concluded with questions regarding the future and the challenges it presents. The University is a place of higher education and moral formation.

“It’s always difficult to be different. I think there’s a gravitational pull towards acting like others... I think we’ve resisted that,” Jenkins said, citing the University’s unique incorporation of morality, faith and service into academics and student life.

“In the end, it’s people who are committed to being different, to living an ethical life. That difference is sometimes the greatest challenge.”

Contact John Cameron at jcamero2@nd.edu

Abroad continued from page 1

Rome and Toledo, she said. “The English language programs tend to be strong,” she said.

Sophomore Kelly Kraus, who was accepted into the London Program for Spring 2011, said, “she’s never traveled abroad and is very excited.

“I have never been abroad before so it will definitely be a new experience for me,” she said. “I hope to also visit Ireland, France and Spain, among other places.”

For students who were waitlisted, O’Malley said, “I always look to hear on the number of available slots at the school.

“Some programs we’re restricted in the number of students we can send and that sets off the number of total acceptances,” she said. “For example in the Hong Kong program, even if we have 50 terrific applicants, we can only send four students.”

O’Malley said movement on the wait list usually happens between now and April, but it does continue over the summer.

Contact Liz O’Donnell at LODONEL1@nd.edu

Professor continued from page 1

Burns as a teacher who “really cared about, and kept in touch with his students.”

“Bob was an affable and humorous man both in and out of the classroom,” Schlereth said in a press release. “I will always think of him as a story broker. He always had an engaging story to tell, and he always expected an engaging story in return.”

Phillip Gleason, a Notre Dame historian and colleague of Burns, described him as “extraordinary in his adaptability, generosity and willingness to take on other duties in service to the University.”

Burns served the University beyond his teaching and scholarship by taking on a variety of administrative duties. He was acting editor of the University’s Review of Politics, Notre Dame’s journal of political philosophy, from 1967 to 1968.

He also directed a year-long program to train high school history teachers in 1967 and served as dean of Notre Dame’s summer session from 1969 to 1971.

Burns was an associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters from 1971 to 1981 and served as acting dean from 1981 to 1983.

“The accomplishment in which Bob took the greatest pride while in the dean’s office was his initiative of Notre Dame’s highly successful London program for juniors in Arts and Letters, which provided both students and faculty in the college an incomparably enriching experience,” Gleason said in the release.

Burns retired from Notre Dame in 1995.

“Bob was heartily devoted to Notre Dame and served her in a great variety of ways,” Gleason said. “Perhaps the most lasting testimony to his love for the University is represented by his ‘Notre Dame Story.’

“He will be missed by his many friends, and the memory of Robert E. Burns should be long cherished here.”

Contact Liz O’Donnell at LODONEL1@nd.edu

Rhoades continued from page 1

For Notre Dame, in particular, Rhoades said he hoped that the University would uphold its Catholic heritage.

“This is my prayer for the University of Notre Dame — that it may always be faithful to its Catholic mission by constantly growing in its commitment and witness to truth and charity,” Rhoades said.

“That our Catholic ideals, attitudes and principles pervade all aspects of University life — teaching, research, curricular and extracurricular activities.”

Rhoades also recognized his reception from the Notre Dame community,

“In the past few months, I have received an incredibly warm welcome from Fr. Jenkins and the whole Notre Dame community, including the priests and the resident students at Siegfried Hall and Morrissey Manor, [where] I celebrated dorm mass last week,” he said.

At the end of mass, Jenkins presented Rhoades with a bishop’s staff depicting Our Lady of Guadalupe, drawn by a member of the art department. The image had particular significance for Rhoades, who was ordained as bishop on the feast of Juan Diego, to whom our Lady of Guadalupe appeared.

In an interview with The Observer during a reception following the mass, Rhoades said he looks forward to integrating into the Notre Dame community.

“I am looking forward to having a lot of opportunities to be here on campus to celebrate liturgy and to really be a part of the community,” Rhoades said. “As Pope John Paul said and I said in my homily, the bishop shouldn’t be seen as an external agent, but as a real part of the community and that’s my hope and my prayer.”

Contact Karyl Smi at kmsmi3@nd.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

Inter-meeting the planet. Please recycle. The Observer.
The Observer

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

MARKET RECAP

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BOND YIELDS RISE WITH RETURN TO STOCKS

Global markets bounce back. Reports that European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet is changing his travel schedule to attend a meeting of EU officials Thursday where the Greek debt crisis will be discussed.

Toyota recalls 437,000 hybrids

The Japanese automaker issues additional recall on its popular Prius, among others

**MARKET RECAP**

**BRIEF**

Private colleges look to rein in aid

In the last year, the nation’s private colleges have laid off staff, shelved construction projects, slashed sports teams and turned down thermostats to cut costs. But student financial aid has kept flowing. Now the weak economy is forcing some institutions to limit their generosity after many middle-class students will have to take packages that allow students of any income level to access aid.

Toyota recalls 437,000 hybrids

The Japanese automaker issues additional recall on its popular Prius, among others

**Associated Press**

**IN BRIEF**

Private colleges look to rein in aid

In the last year, the nation’s private colleges have laid off staff, shelved construction projects, slashed sports teams and turned down thermostats to cut costs. But student financial aid has kept flowing. Now the weak economy is forcing some institutions to limit their generosity after many of them doubled or even tripled financial aid in the last decade to attract more applicants and reduce student debt.

Toyota recalls 437,000 hybrids

The Japanese automaker issues additional recall on its popular Prius, among others

**Associated Press**

**MARKET RECAP**

**Stocks**

| Dow Jones | 10,058.64 | +150.25 |
| Ups | 2,949 | 105 | 888 |
| Downs | 1,850 | 888 | 820 |
| AHEAD | 1,293.37 | +27.33 |
| NASDAQ | +21.87 | 24.92 |
| NYSE | 6,835.16 | +121.29 |
| S&P 500 | 1,070.52 | +13.78 |
| NIKKEI (Tokyo) | 10,019.46 | +86.56 |
| FTSE 100 (London) | 5,111.84 | +19.51 |

**BRIEF**

Private colleges look to rein in aid

In the last year, the nation’s private colleges have laid off staff, shelved construction projects, slashed sports teams and turned down thermostats to cut costs. But student financial aid has kept flowing. Now the weak economy is forcing some institutions to limit their generosity after many middle-class students will have to take packages that allow students of any income level to access aid.

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**Associated Press**
In 1983, U.S. News & World Report published their first-ever college rankings. It seemed an innocent enough way to gain some new readers, while potentially providing insight to prospective college students. As to exactly which schools were very considered “the best.”

After all, this was more than a decade before use of the Internet proliferated, which would make this kind of data extremely easy to find for future generations. Little did they know, however, that this simple list would ignite a firestorm in the academic community and create an entirely new line of thinking for high school students, parents, and counselors.

The very concept of listing which college is “the best” is a completely inane concept, and it is an exercise in futility. Different colleges have different missions and each one has unique qualities about them. Even with just we wish to compare major research universities (or just liberal arts colleges, etc.) the range of schools is so broad, and many of the philosophies and cultures are so different, it is nearly impossible even to guess at their relative merit.

The whole ranking system treats college education as a commodity, almost like a commodity system. Though every school provides essentially the same experience, and that these higher ranked schools are “better” than the other ones ranked below them on the list, with complete disregard for any subjective, non-quantifiable considerations. The whole concept is so American, and it feeds off of the culture of competition that exists in this country.

Americans always want to be better than their neighbor at everything, and Americans always want to be better academically than Notre Dame, such as Ivy League schools, or more than a decade before use of the USN&WR rankings have become a phenomenon. Without knowing too much about college, we just compare them. The term is usually applied to schools that are perceived to be “better” academically than Notre Dame, such as Northwestern, Duke and Stanford, and it seems as though we are craving for them to accept us as peers. Why don’t we just focus on making Notre Dame the best it can possibly be? I’m obviously supportive of the school continuing to improve itself, but that can be a mutually exclusive line of thinking.

Without knowing too much about Notre Dame before my experiences here, I chose to attend Notre Dame because it was the most complete fit for me, personally. I did it not because it was the most highly ranked school I was accepted by, but because I considered the location, student body, unique culture, academic mission, and my personal experiences with the atmosphere on campus, and then decided that it was the best fit. I would urge anyone who has looked at an arbitrary list (who made USN&WR the authority on college, anyway?) and found the best college according to you, not a magazine.

Andy Zicarelli wants everyone to come out and support the Bengal Bouts this Saturday. Bonus points will be awarded to anyone who knows the origin of his nickname. Andy is a junior majoring in civil engineering and can be reached at azicarelli@nd.edu.

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

A new perspective

Julian and I want to thank all our supporters. We ran the race and we battled until the end but the other team came out on top. Our campaign has come to an end, but what we stand for has not. That is why I know that “A New Perspective.” It will live on through the voice and the experience of every person who has the willpower to make a difference. “A New Perspective” is not a set of promises, but a set of challenges. It sums up not only the intention of what “A New Perspective” will offer, but also what “A New Perspective” will ask. These calls for our support around the tables in our dorms, our dining halls, our classrooms and any other place where we can meet to explore unknown solutions that will give way to a future that rains down on us with opportunity.

As long as there are unsolved problems, there will be unknown solutions. There will be risks that we will have to take and there will be trials that we will have to persevere. We will not be complacent and turn to the relativi-
ty of the past for answers, but instead we will have courage and press forward into the feature where “A New Perspective” is being waited to be found.

Congratulations to Soler and Bell and I wish them the best in the future.

Sincerely, your classmates,
Eras Noel III and Julian Corona

Liz Christian, enemy of the passive voice, who rocked some jaunty hats

My writing teacher and friend Elizabeth Christian, who wore a spiffy new overcoat every day of every semester and was one of the finest humans ever, died last week at age 80. It is cer-
est, I am completely at a loss for words.

Miss Christian, professor emeritus of American stud-
ies at the University of Notre Dame, was a literary agent in New York who read “The Catcher in the Rye” when it was still in manuscript form, and once took Agatha Christie shopping for a bathing suit. But that was before she went back to school at the unheard of age of 52, to pursue a doctorate and a dream — to teach young idealists how to change the world with their words.

Writer of notes and wearer of pearls, she was a framed picture of Flannery O’Connor in her kitchen and a rosary on her nightstand. She taught Trollope well into her 80s, and while sensible in the extreme, also had the most contagious sense of occasion.

Although I will not succeed in com-
municating her awesome Liz-ness to those whom I do not know her, I can at least tell you what she told me: The passive voice is the enemy. There will be time enough for a discussion of the most endearing of all life’s pleasures. Deciding what you want is the difficult part; the rest is just hard work. No extraneous words. “Midtermarch” is the best book written in English. Writers, you can’t just tell them you won a contest! I think we should have a glass of wine, of course, but I leave nothing but gratitude for the universities that took a chance on me and the colleagues who welcomed me into their fortunate circles. Leaving these circles, I take with me the memo-
ry of charmed years. ... Those golden September campuses can’t fade or fray.

This column first ran in the Feb. 8 edition of Politics Daily.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not neces-
sarily those of The Observer.

Kevin Murphy
junior
Washington Daily
Wed. Feb. 9

Kevin Murphy, the column’s author, is a junior at Washington Daily.

Liz Christian, enemy of the passive voice, who rocked some jaunty hats

Politics Daily

Liz Christian, enemy of the passive voice, who rocked some jaunty hats

Melinda Henneberger

Politics Daily

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There is an egregious travesty happening every day, every minute in our little Notre Dame bubble. In our dining halls. In our dorm rooms. In our on- and off-campus eateries. It is overlooked and under-advocated. That’s right, I’m talking about the merciless slaughter and consumption of alarming amounts of vegetables.

But the tragedy is not just the over-consumption and thoughtless killing. These vegetables are oppressed and belied their whole vitamin-enriched lives.

Think about it. Vegetables are given a bad rap, kids turn their noses at them, choosing instead to munch on brightly colored fruits like apples or peaches, or deliciously cheesy snacks like Cheez-Its. Vegetables are associated with mashed-up baby food.

From then on, children are turned off by the mere mention of peas, broccoli or carrots. The whole food group is relegated to the position of punishment for children, a food that must be eaten, pushed around on a plate or shovelled under chair cushions before a scrun- tious, gooey chocolate chip cookie can be eaten.

By adolescence and young adulthood, the stigma surrounding vegetables lessens, but it is replaced with another problem: consumption at alarming rates. Carrots are ruthlessly pulled from their cozy, earthen homes, peas torn from their snug pods and corn ripped from its stalks. No thought is given to the heartlessness of these acts. In fact, the recent hypnosis of vegetarianism only exacerbates the problem.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of cornstalks were mown down to create those crop circles. Destruction and devastation reigned in those corn communities, those crop circles. Destruction and devastation. But it is not hip or trendy, not to the vegetable families hurt by these acts.

People are even taking the destruction of vegetables to the next level, using it in popular culture for entertainment. If you have seen the movie “Signs,” you know what I am talking about.

Now it is “cool” to massacre innocent rutabagas, watercress or chili peppers. But it is not hip or trendy, not to the vegetable families hurt by these acts.

These problems are not the only ones facing vegetables these days. Not only are they plagued by a disease like E-coli, which ruined poor spinach’s reputation, they face themselves second-class citizens when making breathers that more often than not go unnoticed except for the occasional talking gecko, are as much a hobby of watching.

At Super Bowl Sunday, the largest annual event on the planet, most of the commercials are just money-making exercises. Companies to create elaborate, interactive commercials — the same commercials that we’ve seen before, but Monster’s 30-second tale out from the rest during the triumphant Saints win (sorry Colts fans, you don’t touch my mama. Two, you don’t touch my Doritos.” The cold stare that followed was priceless.

But still, fruits are given the top spot that vegetables deserve. It is always “fruits and vegetables,” but why can’t it be “vegetables and fruits?” What do they have that veggies lack? It can’t be an alphabetical order thing, because it’s always “Sonny and Cher,” and last I checked, “c” came before “s” in the alphabet.

And why are fruits always the choice for decoration or gift baskets? It’s always a fruit bowl in the middle of the table, or a fruit basket sent as a “Get Well Soon” gift. Are vegetables not pretty enough for use as decoration? Sure, apples and pears are shiny and bright, but have you ever seen the deep purple color of a ripe eggplant? That’s the color of royalty right there. Sure, pumpkins and gourds are used at Thanksgiving, but that holiday only comes once a year. And shouldn’t vegetables be sent to people recovering from illnesses? The vitamins would probably greatly help the healing process, without all the sugar naturally found in fruit.

This is on behalf of the poor vegetables, persecuted and belied their whole life here and there. These vegetables have no voice. When they are slaughtered, they cannot express their pain in human terms. So, from now on, let’s all be Equal Opportunity Eaters, Decorators and Gifters. Don’t let the vegetables go under中国制造 for any longer.

By SHANE STEINBERG

Commercials, normally just money-making breakers that more often than not go unnoticed except for the occasional talking gecko, are as much the life-blood of the Super Bowl as touchdowns and fourth quarter nail-biting.

Chips and different kinds of dip neatly laid out on the table, we all sit there, our eyes glued to the television screen, as millions and millions of dollars are (wisely or unwisely?) spent for the mere chance to capture the widest television audience of the year. And it’s that golden chance to not merely advertise but have a lasting effect on consumers that pushes company’s ad success.

While Sunday’s pickings still vivid, here are 10 commercials that stood out from the rest during the triumphant Saints win (sorry Colts fans, had to rub it in).

1. E-Trade Baby (girlfriend)

E-trade has quickly become one of the staple ad campaigns of the Super Bowl with its hit baby commercial and this year’s follow-up only added to the company’s ad success.

2. Doritos (boy slapping man)

A little boy slaps his mom’s date and counts down “One, you don’t touch my Doritos.” The cold stare that followed was priceless.

3. Doritos (snack-attack samurai)

This was probably the most hilari- ous moment of the night. It consists of a man dressed in a Doritos-samurai outfit. It’s got the quirkiest weirdness of a Skittles commercial and the punch of a spicy chip.

4. Volkswagen (punch buggy)

Volkswagen’s cheesy, simple punch buggy-athon capped off by Steve Wonder getting Tracy Morgan was a nice little laugh. Add to that one of the year’s great songs in the background. “Two Weeks” by Grizzly Bear.

5. Monster (beaver violinist)

Yeah, it has kind of been done before, but Monster’s 30-second tale of a beaver whose simple passion for violin eventually lands him a spot as a premiere violinist is memorable in its own right and spells out the company’s mission in a perfectly clear way.

6. Bud Light (Autotune)

This was probably the most hilari- ous moment of the night. It consists of a man dressed in a Doritos-samurai outfit. It’s got the quirkiest weirdness of a Skittles commercial and the punch of a spicy chip.

With “Lost” coming to an end this season it seems only fitting that one of the great Super Bowl advertisers would spoof the castaway’s first moments after the crash.

Hyundai (Brett Favre)

An easy one, yes, but a good point nonetheless. Not to mention one that, at this rate anyway, might come true. Maybe Hyundai is right — maybe Brett Favre will win the 2020 MVP Award — but until then, let’s just stick it out for another 10 retirements.

Bud Light (Autotune)

Bud Light struck comedic gold numerous times throughout the night. This commercial, filled with none other than the Autotune, was a great one. Not to mention T-Pain’s cameo at the end of the commercial (What would he be without the Autotune?).

Bud Light (house made of beer)

A house — made entirely out of beer cans. Enough said.

Contact Shane Steinberg at siteinb20@nd.edu
In the unexplored reaches of the Internet lie untold riches in amusing videos, amazing songs and amicable, unwitting participants. A great source of these entertaining ways to put off work is the Interweb behemoth YouTube. Now, rather than expounding at great length about the sheer variety of majestic moving pictures at your fingertips, I would like to direct your attention to the “drive-through sing your order” scene. It is one lush with variety and charming personalities on both sides of the order screens and is inspiring to all those who view it.

There is something surpassingly pure about being able to communicate your most heartfelt desires to people around the world through song. Only the greatest singers throughout history have been able to do it: Johnny Cash in “Ring of Fire,” Elvis Presley in “Blue Christmas,” Daniel Powter in “Bad Day” and 50 Cent in “Candy Shop.” But only in these Internet sensations the subject is one we all can get excited about and share the desire for: food. Be it McDonald’s or Taco Bell, in rap or folk song, these musical orders strike a chord in your very soul that resonates long after you have left that small Internet screen behind. The characters become friends that you shared an emotional journey with through trial and tribulation, misunderstanding and reordering, taking step after begrudging step towards the ultimate goal, fast food satisfaction.

Every time that I watch these videos I am struck by the desire to go out and to follow in these brave men’s footsteps. Those who came before have paved the way for us who stand on the shoulders of giants. I have begun the long and arduous process of composing a musical number worthy of the drive through speaker at Wendy’s on U.S. 30, and so too I challenge you reader. Watch these videos, take detailed notes and study the style, rhythm, rhyme and flow of these masters of the culinary musical art.

Add this goal to your bucket list, to-do list, procrastination list, grocery list, any list your want as long as it is on there and progress is being made. Don’t let your fear of singing in public stand in your way. Those around you are sure to be just as impressed as you were when you first heard dulcet tones streaming forth from your speakers, crooning out the need for a Big Mac. This is not a journey for the faint of heart but I have faith that you and I together can make a difference in one late night drive-through worker’s life. That being said, these videos are a great source of idle entertainment. They are perfect for that 10 minutes you have before you really should buckle down on your homework but you can still get away with puttering around on the Intranets. It is sure to bring a smile, or at least the hint of a smile to your face even on the bitterest of bitter cold days here in South Bend, where even polar bears would complain of nasty weather. At the very least it brings up comforting images of delicious fast food fantasies sure to make the most stone cold of palates water. So happy hunting everyone, enjoy the songs, enjoy the videos and enjoy some fast food.

Matt Brown can be reached at mbrown14@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Observer.
No. 22 Vanderbilt upsets No. 12 Tennessee

Aminu, McFarland lead Demon Deacons’ victory over Eagles; Illini defeat Badgers, ending Badgers’ home win streak

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jeffery Taylor scored 16 of his career-high 26 points in the first half, and No. 22 Vanderbilt never trailed Tuesday night in routing No. 12 Tennessee 90-71. The Commodores (18-5, 7-2) grabbed sole possession of second place in the Southeastern Conference’s Eastern Division, one loss behind No. 3 Kentucky. They also swept the season series against their in-state rival for the first time since 2004-05 — the season before coach Bruce Pearl took over Tennessee.

Tennessee (18-5, 6-3) had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Jernard Beal scored 20 points and A.J. Ogilvy had 11 for Vanderbilt, which didn’t miss reserve John Jenkins. The freshman who had been averaging 10.4 points was snapped.

Bruce Pearl took over the Commodores’ control.

The Commodores needed this game, the first of five of six in Memorial Gym, and they were coming off an ugly 72-58 loss at Georgia.


The freshman who had been averaging 10.4 points was

For more information, visit Notre Dame’s website: http://www.nd.edu.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 604 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for non-classified ads is 1 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit classifieds for content without issuing refunds. The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 604 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit classifieds for content without issuing refunds. Do not go it alone.
**NCAA Division I Women’s Basketball Coaches AP Poll**

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**NCAA Division I Men’s Ice Hockey USCHO Poll**

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**NFL**

**Nevada casinos win $7 million on Super Bowl**

**Associated Press**

LAS VEGAS — Nevada casinos won almost $6.9 million on this year’s Super Bowl as bettors wagered $82.7 million on the NFL title game, gambling regulators said Tuesday.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board said the win was $179,000 more than sports books won last year, on $1.21 million more in bets.

The underdog New Orleans Saints beat the favored Indianapolis Colts 31-17 in the Sunday game.

Indianapolis started as a four-point favorite when the matchup was set, according to Las Vegas Sports Consultants, a firm that provides betting lines to about 90 percent of the state’s 182 sports books. The Colts were a 4½-point favorite in the Grantz-Culver line, with the over-under at 55½ points.

Jay Kornegay, executive director of the race and sports book at the Las Vegas Hilton, said results were hurt by bad weather in the northeastern United States, which prevented some gamblers from making planned trips to bet on the game in Sin City. But he said the bets taken on the game were indicative of today’s struggles for casinos in Las Vegas.

“We thought the Super Bowl was a great measuring stick of the economy and we think the economy is just a little better than what it was last year,” Kornegay said.

Kornegay said his sports book accepted 14 percent more wagers than it did last year, but average bets were lower.

Nevada’s biggest Super Bowl win in the last 10 years was in 2005, when the New England Patriots toppled the Philadelphia Eagles and casinos won $13.4 million. Bettors wagered the most in 2006, when $19.5 million was bet on the Pittsburgh Steelers victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

Nevada casinos lost almost $2.6 million in 2008, when the New York Giants beat the favored Patriots.

Kornegay said the Hilton lost money on the game in part because it lost money on normally lucrative proposition wagers. Casinos usually profit by offering long odds on unusual circumstances players like to bet on — a successful 2-point conversion, for example.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees threw a 2-point conversion pass to Lance Moore in the fourth quarter that was initially ruled incomplete, but was overturned by referees following a Saints challenge.

Other unsuccessful proposition bets for the Hilton included an interception returned for a touchdown, which bettors won when the Saints’ Tracy Porter intercepted a pass from Colts quarterback Peyton Manning and returned it 74 yards for a touchdown to clinch the game.

**NHL**

Six NHL teams will open the 2010-11 season in Europe

NEW YORK — The NHL is sending more teams across the pond. The league and its players’ association announced Tuesday that six clubs will open the 2010-11 season in Europe, the fourth straight year the NHL will begin play overseas.

The Boston Bruins, Carolina Hurricanes, Columbus Blue Jackets, Minnesota Wild, Phoenix Coyotes and San Jose Sharks will combine to play a total of six games in Europe at the start of next season.

The Hurricanes and Wild will meet in a pair of games in Helsinki on Oct. 7-8, Columbus plays San Jose in Stockholm on Oct. 8-9; and the Bruins and Coyotes face off in Prague on Oct. 9-10.

“We are extremely pleased that six teams — more than ever — will open their season in Europe,” NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement.

**Men’s NCAA Basketball**

**Complied from The Observer’s Wire Services**

**In Brief**

**Astros’ Lyon undergoes minor shoulder surgery**

HOUSTON — Astros reliever Brandon Lyon had surgery to drain a small cyst in his pitching shoulder but is expected to be ready for spring training.

The team said in a statement Tuesday that Lyon had the cyst drained two weeks ago and has been throwing without discomfort since.

The right-hander is expected to begin workouts with his new club Feb. 20, when pitchers and catchers report to spring training in Kissimmee, Fla.

He might be about 10 days behind in his throwing program, the Astros said.

Houston signed Lyon as a free agent in December to a $15 million, three-year contract.

“I can’t move to play. Can’t go,” he said, adding he would be a game-time decision Wednesday at Denver. “If I’m ready to go, I’ll play.”

Bryant missed his second consecutive game Monday night against San Antonio, which lost to the Los Angeles Lakers 101-99.

“If I’m not able to play, I won’t play. But I’m healthy, I will,” he said.

“Bryant said he can’t push off on his left foot.

“But I’m healthy, I will,” he said.

Bryant said he can’t push off on his left foot.

“I don’t know what it’s going to look like on Sunday. I’m not chairman,” he said, laughing.

**NFL**

**Kobe not sure if he will play in NBA All Star Game**

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant isn’t sure if he’ll play in this weekend’s NBA All-Star game in Dallas because of his sore left ankle.

Bryant missed his second consecutive game Monday night against San Antonio, which lost to the Los Angeles Lakers 101-99.

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“I can’t move to play. Can’t go,” he said, adding he would be a game-time decision Wednesday at Utah. “If I’m ready to go, I’ll play.”

Lakers trainer Gary Vitti would like Bryant to rest through All-Star weekend, capped by Sunday’s game.

Bryant said he couldn’t commit either way.

“Don’t know what it’s going to look like on Sunday. I’m not chairman,” he said, laughing.

**Browns**

**Kenny Britt suspended for violating team rules**

Cleveland Browns wide receiver Kenny Britt, who has been suspended indefinitely for violating team rules.

Browns coach Eric Mangini said Tuesday that the wide receiver was suspended for breaking team rules.

“I didn’t know what it’s going to look like on Sunday. I’m not chairman,” he said, laughing.

**Brandon Bryant**

**Bryant suspended indefinitely for violating team rules**

Cleveland Browns coach Eric Mangini suspended wide receiver Kenny Britt for violating team rules.

Mangini didn’t provide details on the violation, but said Britt will miss Thursday’s practice.

“We understand the message and we are going to continue to move forward,” Mangini said.

Brandon Bryant

**Brandon Bryant**

**Bryant suspended indefinitely for violating team rules**

Cleveland Browns coach Eric Mangini suspended wide receiver Kenny Britt for violating team rules.

Mangini didn’t provide details on the violation, but said Britt will miss Thursday’s practice.

“We understand the message and we are going to continue to move forward,” Mangini said.

Brandon Bryant
Peppers considers fresh start

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Julius Peppers no longer wants a long-term contract with Carolina, saying the Panthers have ignored him this offseason.

In an interview aired Tuesday morning on Charlotte radio station WFNZ-AM, the five-time Pro Bowl defensive end indicated he's irritated by the team's "silence" and has changed his stance on whether he wants to continue his career in Carolina.

"Last year, at the time, that was the option that I wanted most," Peppers said. "Now it's not."

While agent Carl Carey said last week he believes the Panthers aren't interested in retaining Peppers, Carolina's career sacks leader, team officials haven't announced their plans for the impending free agent. General manager Marty Hurney didn't immediately return a phone message Tuesday.

"How can you say you want to be somewhere when you're not really sure if they want you there because they're not even talking to you?" Peppers said.

It's another twist in a long-running saga between the two sides.

After being held to a career-low 2½ sacks in 2007, the Panthers still offered to make Peppers the NFL's highest-paid defensive player. Peppers on Tuesday provided conflicting reasons on why he rejected the contract.

"That deal was to make me the highest-paid defensive player, but slightly, very slightly," Peppers said. "I didn't really feel the sincerity behind that deal."

But later in the rambling answer during the radio phone interview, Peppers also indicated he wasn't worthy of such a deal.

I had 2½ sacks that season and they're coming to offer me being the highest-paid defensive player. Like, I can't even accept that," Peppers said. "I'm not deserving of that.

Peppers bounced back with a career-high 14½ sacks in 2008, then announced he wanted to play elsewhere and pleaded with the Panthers to let him leave in free agency. He said Tuesday he wanted out because he was upset with the team's direction under then-defensive coordinator Mike Trgovac.

"In my eyes I didn't see us getting any better on that side of the ball," Peppers said. "I felt like it was time to try somewhere else, do something else. But things changed. They brought in new people."

Trgovac and defensive line coach Sal Sunseri left. Ron Meeks took over the defense and Brian Baker replaced Sunseri. At the same time, the Panthers placed the restrictive franchise tag on Peppers, limiting his options in free agency.

"I never felt that they did that with the intent to keep me here," Peppers said. "I felt like they did that in attempt to send me off somewhere to get compensation, draft picks or whatever."

There was no deal and Peppers eventually changed his tune, beginning negotiations on a long-term contract. But a deal couldn't be reached and Peppers played under the one-year tender worth an NFL-high $16.7 million. After recording 10.5 sacks, Peppers made the Pro Bowl and earned a $1.5 million bonus.

Funeral mass held for Burke's son

Associated Press

CANTON, Mass. — Brendan Burke, the son of Toronto Maple Leafs general manager Brian Burke and an advocate for gay rights, was remembered Tuesday morning on Charlotte radio station WFNZ-AM, the five-time Pro Bowl defensive end indicated he's irritated by the team's "silence" and has changed his stance on whether he wants to continue his career in Carolina.

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Noel gets used to new interim coaching position

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Since becoming the interim head coach of the Columbus Blue Jackets a week ago, Claude Noel has received over 1,000 calls, texts and e-mails offering congratulations.

Some are from folks back home in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, or from players and coaches dating back to his long career beating the bushes of the AHL, ECHL and practically every other HL. Others? He’s not so sure.

“You know what’s wild? People send me texts with the number but no name — and I don’t know who it is!” Noel said, laughing at himself. “There might be 20 percent that are just numbers.”

It’s a vintage Claude (rhymes with “cake”) moment. As an assistant under Ken Hitchcock, who was fired after the Blue Jackets got off to a miserable 22-27-9 start this season, the players really liked Noel. He joked with them, acted up, played around and also worked hard with them. He has his own way of saying things. He refers to players as “stallions.” He is constantly talking about letting go and “freeing the mind.” Offensive players aren’t forwards, wings or centers; they’re “shoetoms.”

But in the Noel dictionary, the most important word is among the shortest.

“That’s his big word — joy. He’s been saying it all year long,” goalie Steve Mason said.

Now he’s saying it as the head man, at least for the remaining 22 games this season. He’s off to a 2-0 start heading into Wednesday night’s game against San Jose, the top team in the Western Conference.

“He’s kind of serious with us,” captain Rick Nash said. “When he was an assistant coach he was a bit more fun. Now he’s more serious, and he has to be. In here, he’s all business.”

Noel, 54, said he hasn’t changed personalities. Perhaps his new position means he’s not the players’ best buddy anymore, but that doesn’t mean he’s not the same person.

“I can still be that way, but not to the level they saw me as an assistant,” he said, sipping a bottle of water in his office after Tuesday’s workout. “They’ll see that again. They might not see that level again in this hockey arena. Maybe at the end of the season.

His boss didn’t hire him because he was popular with the players. Noel, a veteran coach in the minors, also knows what he’s doing behind the bench and in the dressing room.

“I didn’t know about ‘joy’ and ‘free the mind’ and all the other phrases he’s grown fond of using,” general manager Scott Howson said on the day he promoted Noel. “I just knew that he was a good coach who had tremendous success at the AHL level. It was more his track record and the people I know who knew him well along the way.

At the end of the season, Howson will evaluate Noel’s performance and will consider whether to knock the “interim” off his job title. If the Blue Jackets keep playing the way they have the last two games, winning by a combined 6-1 over Dallas and Buffalo, Noel will make Howson’s decision a difficult one.

Noel grew up in a small Ontario town, the son of a miner and a housewife who raised Claude, a brother and two sisters. He still gets emotional when he thinks back to the day in 1981 when he was playing for the NHL. Hershey Bears and his then-coach Bryan Murray (now GM of the Ottawa Senators) broke the news that Noel’s father had died.

“The flight home was gut-wrenching,” Noel said, his voice cracking almost three decades later.

As a player, he battled for remote outposts before finally getting a taste of the NHL, playing seven games with the Washington Capitals in 1980. He never played much, spending much of the next 10 years plying his trade before eventually starting as a coach on the bottom rungs of the pro ladder.
NHL

Devils struggle in week before Olympics

NEWARK, N.J. — Jacques Lemaire wants to describe his 20-minute, on-ice discussion with the New Jersey Devils as a pep talk.

It was just a coach stating the obvious: at practice on Wednesday to a team that has lost four of its last five games, 10 of 14.

There was no shouting. No wild gestures. Maybe a couple of taps on the ice with his stick.

"Sometimes it was about winning battles, competing for pucks, being harder on pucks, working on the power play," forward Zach Parise said. "Just things when you are going on stretches like this, what's causing it. There are just areas of our game to sharpen up."

If you've watched the Devils in the past week or so, there are inexplicable periods where the team makes a couple of costly mistakes.

In a 3-2 loss to the Flyers in Philadelphia on Monday night, the Devils squandered a 2-0 lead in the first 12 minutes of the second period.

Against the Rangers in New York on Saturday night, New Jersey gave up three goals in a three-minute span in the second period in a 3-1 loss.

The string of four losses in five games started with the Kings scoring twice in the final 1:46 in a 3-2 win a little more than a week ago.

"It's just like being brain dead for a little bit, and we are paying the price for it," goaltender Martin Brodeur said.

With three games left before the Olympic break, the Devils have seen their lead in the Atlantic Division dwindle to two points over the Pittsburgh Penguins, who have played one more game than New Jersey.

The Devils have led the Atlantic Division since Dec. 18. The Pittsburgh Penguins, who have dwindled to two points over the Devils in the Atlantic Division lead in the Atlantic Division since Dec. 18.

The Devils will be without defensemen Anssi Salmela and Andy Greene for Wednesday's game. Greene took an awkward shot of the head on Tuesday night in a 3-2 loss to the Senators. Greene did not practice Tuesday and Lemaire said there was no way he would play Wednesday.

Lemaire spent a lot of time on Wednesday having his team work on the power play. New Jersey was 1-7 with the extra man on Monday night and they will be facing the Flyers again on Wednesday at the Prudential Center.

Raymond Felton hit a fade-away 12-footer with 1:9 seconds left and the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Washington Wizards 94-92 on Tuesday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

After Antawn Jamison missed a scoop shot in the lane, the Bobcats got the rebound and didn't call a timeout. Charlotte's play broke down, and Felton drove to the left of the lane and let go a shot over Randy Foye's outstretched arms that swished through.

Jamison missed another scoop shot in the paint at the buzzer for the Wizards, ending their unexpected and bizarre weeklong trip — even if they were likely to be stranded in Charlotte overnight because of another mid-Atlantic snowstorm.

Stephen Jackson scored 22 points for Charlotte.

Caron Butler had 23 for the Wizards, who rallied from a seven-point deficit early in the fourth quarter to nearly beat another Eastern Conference playoff contender on the road.

The Wizards surprised the Magic in Orlando on Friday, then were scheduled to fly to Washington after the game and face Atlanta on Saturday. They never got there because of the first winter storm and the Hawks game was postponed. Butler ended up staying in Orlando for three more days until flying to Charlotte on Monday.

Butler was the hero in the comeback win at Orlando, and he got hot early in the fourth quarter to erase Charlotte's 87-74 lead. Butler hit two jumpers, a 3-pointer and a mid-range jumper as the Wizards took an 85-83 lead with 5:11 left.

After Jackson was called for traveling, Mike Miller hit a 3-pointer at the other end with 47.2 seconds left to put Washington ahead 92-91.

Flip Murray's crossover dribble got him to the hoop and he was fouled. But he hit only 1 of 2 free throws with 33 seconds left.

Despite playing on a tender ankle that he injured in a 50-minute, one-sided practice Monday and forced him to sit out Tuesday's shootaround. Felton came through for Charlotte as it again reached .500.

All-Star Gerald Wallace added 17 points and 13 rebounds. Murray and Boris Diaw added 16 points apiece and Felton scored 11 for the Bobcats trying to win their third game in a row and to end a two-game skid.

Chandler didn't start, but was effective in a 7-minute stretch in the first half. He had an alley-oop dunk, hit 3 of 4 free throws and had five points and four rebounds, but Charlotte trailed 37-32 when he went back to the bench.

The Bobcats rallied to take a 50-49 halftime lead on Diaw's 3-pointer with 2 seconds left.

Chandler didn't play in the third quarter, when Charlotte built a 73-66 lead before the Wizards scored the final four points.

He started the fourth and was replaced after 3 minutes as the Wizards rallied back short.

Team officials were told the latest storm would likely mean they wouldn't be able to get back to Washington late Tuesday night. But since this was the Wizards' final game before the All-Star break, several players were scheduled to stay in Charlotte and then fly to their homes or vacation spots on Wednesday.

Mike Miller had 19 points, Jamison 16 and Andray Blatche 15 for Washington, which fell to 0-2 against the Bobcats this season.

Associated Press

Florida Panthers goalie Tomas Vokoun makes a save as New Jersey Devil Brian Rolston attempts to score on Jan. 20.

Bobcats end Wizards’ streak

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Ciobanu continued from page 20

bless the doing us anywhere they can.

Ciobanu’s accomplishments on the tennis court are just as impressive. A three-year starter, she builds an overall record of 185-7 in matches. In her career, she has been ranked as high as No. 31 in single and No. 39 in doubles. Last year she helped the Irish to their first ever NCAA Semifinal appearance, the best performance in program history.

This year, Ciobanu is trying to slow everything down and truly appreciate her last season.

“It’s nice to know that the late nights of studying and the tiring practices and workouts have paid off, and it’s even nicer to be able to look back on it and realize that it was all worth it,” Ciobanu said.

But also bittersweet. Knowing how fast in-season goes by, I’ve just been trying to appreciate every single moment — all the great times, the laughs, the hard-fought matches, the ups and downs — really, just all of it.

“For me, being a leader so far this year has been more about having no regrets — holding on tight to each other and taking advantage of every opportunity we have this semester,” I feel really blessed to be able to appreciate something so incredible as it’s happening, and to know that every moment spent with my teammates of these last few months I have left at Notre Dame is incredibly precious.

Contact John Helms at jhelms@nd.edu

Irish continued from page 20

Championship in 1982. Tennessee and Connecticut have appeared in 19 of the 28 championships played. Tennessee is 8-5 all-time in the Big East, while Connecticut is a perfect 6-0. This year Tennessee’s record of 23-2 has the Lady Volunteers ranked fifth, while the Huskies’ perfect mark of 23-0 and the pursuit of their own consecutive-wins record makes them the undisputed No. 1 team in the country.

If you do the math, there is a 70 percent chance that one of the two programs appears in the national championship game (19 divided by 28, carry the 8, round up, anyway). The real chance Tennessee or Connecticut makes it to the national championship? One hundred percent. If you’ve taken fundamentals of arithmetic and you don’t believe me, turn on ESPNU and watch just one of their games.

Senior guards Ashley Barlow, Lindsay Schrader and Delisha Lechlinder couldn’t care less about the numbers I just rolled off. Winning is winning, and if they have a shot of making it to title game, they know they will have to knock off Tennessee or UConn in what will likely be portrayed as a stunning upset.

Unlike the men’s game, my problem is the absolute lack of parity in women’s basketball.

Men’s basketball still has its traditional powerhouse homes in UCLA, Kentucky, North Carolina, Duke and others, but only North Carolina has won more than three championships in the past 30 years. March Madness is exciting because of the inevitable upset, the Cinderella story, not the dominance of one or two teams every year. No one is denying that men’s basketball is a completely different animal than women’s. It has more viewer-ship, more fans and most importantly, more coverage.

But why do the media have to portray two teams as defining the entire women’s game instead of six, seven or eight? Connecticut and Tennessee have the most championships and they deserve all the respect and attention that comes with that accomplishment.

No one is denying that Notre Dame is one of the best programs in the country, but the national record of 21-2 has the Lady Irish on the outside of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in 18 years. I believe this team can win a national championship. I want it to be our fourth, or fifth, or sixth title, but I’ll take it. Rome wasn’t built in a single day, but another Irish title is another step to eliminating the disparity in a sport that deserves better.

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

Contact Chris Massad at cmasaad@nd.edu

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SMC BASKETBALL

Wade makes impact with passing, defense

By TIM SINGLER
Staff Writer

Despite only being in her junior year, Liz Wade has left her mark on the Saint Mary's program both on and off the court.

Throughout this season, Wade has been a terrific team leader for the Belles, playing tough on offense and defense every game. "She has done the game every possible way at both ends of the court," Belles coach Jennifer Henley said.

One of Wade's specialties is turning defense into points. She enters Thursday night's game third on the Belles' all-time steals list with 214 in her career. She needs 60 more to tie the record and for that, her mark may not be too much more.

Wade ended last season with 86 steals, quite a feat for the sophomore player. Not only does the ability to create turnovers pose a defensive threat, but the Belles' offense has many more opportunities to score.

Wade not only gives the Belles more opportunities on offense with her steals, she also sets up her teammates to score. Wade has recorded 82 assists on the year.

Wade does not put forth all of her efforts on the defensive end alone. She also provides leadership on offense by setting up the offense as the team's general on the floor. "Liz Wade is a very talented point guard," Henley said.

Not only are her skills on the court noticed by her teammates, her leadership ability has been noted as well. Wade leads by example on the court and through this she allows other players to mimic her playing style.

"She was voted as one of the captains this season as a junior which speaks volumes as to how her teammates respect her," Henley said.

The impact that Wade left on the team from last season continued into this season as her teammates selected her as a captain. Last season was a remarkable one for Wade, as she became the youngest player to earn the Defensive Player of the Year award in the MIAA conference.

Even through this season Wade has not let up the intensity that she played with last season. She continues to lead the Belles and contributes greatly to the team's success.

Contact Tim Singler at tsingler@nd.edu

LeBron leads Cavs to 12th straight victory

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 32 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to their 12th straight win Tuesday night, a 104-97 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

The win gives Cleveland the NBA's worst record and has lost 11 games in a row. The Cleveland Cavaliers to their 12th straight win Tuesday night, a 104-97 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

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The win moved the Irish up to second place in the Big East standings, placing them ahead of No. 9 West Virginia (23-1, 8-2 Big East) and No. 16 Georgetown (19-3; 8-1 Big East). The Irish still trail undefeated No. 1 Connecticut in the standings (23-0; 10-0 Big East).

Notre Dame will next take the court against DePaul (16-8; 5-5 Big East) in the year's Pink Zone Game to benefit research into breast cancer. Tip-off will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

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"Today was exception-

al, it was a career high," Wade said. "The game got off to a fast start for Notre Dame (22-1, 9-1 Big East), as after Cincinnati (10-12, 5-7 Big East) scored the first two points of the game, the Irish never trailed the rest of the way. The Irish used an 11-0 run in the first half to extend their lead out to 30-16 with a minute to go in the first half. The second half score stood at 32-18, but McGraw was not pleased overall with the first half effort, as she did not believe the offense played up to its potential.

"Offensively we did not shoot the ball all that well," McGraw said.

Notre Dame extended the lead out as far as 20 points to start the second half, but that was when the Bearcats began to make their comeback bid. Utilizing an 11-2 run midway through the second half, Cincinnati was able to reduce the lead to 44-35 with 9:30 left to go in the game.

That deficit was as close as the Bearcats would get, as junior guard Lindsay Schrader decided to turn it on. Schrader was dominant on the low post throughout the second half, finishing with a team-high 16 points to go along with three steals and four rebounds. Also playing well offensively for the Irish was junior forward Brecca Brunswik, who managed 14 points and 8 rebounds.

Notre Dame quashed the comeback attempt from Cincinnati with a renewed defensive intensity and cruised to the final whistle keeping the Bearcats at a safe distance.

"We played all man-to-man and we got up to pressure the ball," McGraw said. "In the backcourt we really got up and pressured the ball and I was really pleased with that." The Irish won the rebounding battle 35-32, but McGraw would have liked to see the first half rebounding performance extend across the entire game.

"We outrebounded them sig-

ificantly in the first half, and then in the second half both teams shot the ball really well, so they had an edge in the second half," McGraw said. "I was not particularly pleased with the rebounding in the second half."
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FENCING

Team prepares for regionals after perfect regular season

By KEVIN BALDWIN
Sports Writer

Irish fencers may well be on their way for a return to nationals as they get ready to host the Midwest conference championship on March 6. Both the men’s and women’s teams just turned in an undefeated performance at the Notre Dame Duals this past weekend, concluding their perfect regular season.

"Right now the team’s fencing really well — everyone’s confident, everyone’s been training really hard at practice and it’s really good to start seeing things pay off," junior foilist Zach Schiritz said. "We’ve got the conference tournament coming up and the NCAA and I think we’ll be a strong team in both of those tournaments. Standing at 33-0 and 35-0, respectively, the men’s and women’s fencing teams, described by Irish coach Janusz Bednarski as "one of the best in the history of the program" also feature the strongest rosters in recent memory, touting numerous All-Americans in addition to two members of the U.S. National team.

"Standing at that level of talent, it is little wonder that many members of the team’s large freshman class have risen quickly into nationally recognized competitors," Bednarski said.

"I think the upperclassmen are doing a good job of shaping the freshmen, we’ve got a very young team, the upperclassmen have shown some of the freshmen the ropes and the freshmen have really taken on to that and come out and do really well," Schiritz said.

With only three weeks until the start of the postseason, the Irish are certain to see some heated competition as many teams, including No. 5 Northwestern, will be out for redemption after the swift defeats the Irish doled out last weekend.

"Expectations are good but how it will happen, you never know its always a mystery how it will happen, you never know until you’re there," Bednarski said.

Contact Kevin Baldwin at kbalw2@nd.edu

FOOTBALL

Kelly moves walk-on tryouts to fall semester

Observer Staff Report

Irish coach Brian Kelly will not do away with Notre Dame’s longstanding walk-on tradition, but he will change the timetable during which new players try out for the team, Director of Football Media Relations Brian Hardin said Tuesday.

"The walk-on program will not discontinue under coach Kelly, we’re simply moving the tryouts from spring until fall. That’s when coach Kelly has always had walk-on tryouts," Hardin said. "The primary reason is so that our coaches can spend as much time evaluating the current roster as it stands right now."

Hardin said 25 walk-on players are currently working out with the team, and their status will not be affected by the change.