Mendoza’s Foresight class still evolving

By KATIE PERALTA
Assistant News Editor

The new Foresight in Business and Society course now required of all business students beginning with the Class of 2011 has taken a turn for the better since its inception last fall, students and faculty say.

Mendoza College of Business Dean Carolyn Woo said the course, which encourages students to examine and evaluate major issues and trends facing society in the future, was generally not well received at first.

“The fall semester feedback was not positive,” Woo said. “I would say 75 percent of students had difficulty with the course.”

Woo said starting in November, Mendoza faculty took feedback from students and began redesigning the course. One big change was the addition of more sections to reduce class sizes.

“I would say more students are in favor of the class than in last semester,” Woo said. “We have made improvements and are seeing higher satisfaction.”

Woo said feedback is always part of the improvement process.

“The fall semester succeeds at the first try,” she said. “In the innovation experience, it is very important to take feedback.”

Woo said Mendoza faculty tend to share her sentiment about the course’s improvement.

“They feel that this semester is going a lot better than last semester,” she said.

Many students shared Woo’s positive outlook on the course’s improvement as well.

“The course has been changed for the better since its inception last year,” said junior Henry Shine, who took the course first semester and is now a teaching assistant. “The course is adapting to fit both students’ wishes and the demands of 21st century businesses in a climate where today’s decisions are influencing life in tomorrow’s world.”

Junior Richard Roggeveen, who began the spring class “as a skeptic,” said although he had never heard anything positive about the course from fellow students, “I have heard reports that the businesses in Eddy Street Commons, which is expected to install four new tenants in the coming months.

Commons a success so far

Eddy Street Commons has continued adding new tenants and expanding since first opening in the fall, a university official said.

The University is extremely pleased with both the project and with Kite Realty Group as the developer,” director of Asset Management and Real Estate Development Gregory Hakanen said. “It is meeting all of the goals envisioned by Notre Dame and by our institutional partners and neighborhood residents as well.”

Hakanen said the Eddy Street Commons project had been successful in “creating a college town where none existed before.”

He also said it has brought “new residences and commercial businesses to a previously deteriorated neighborhood” and created a bridge between the campus and the surrounding community.

Currently, Eddy Street Commons has eight operating tenants — the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, Outpost Sports, Old National Bank, Anytime Fitness, ATM, Chipotle, Five Guys Burgers and Fries and Hot Box Pizza.

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Man
Uggs

As a female Notre Dame student, I am subject to a lot of stereotypes. I’m unattractive. I’m dumb. I have problems interacting with the opposite sex. I’m a clingy girlfriend who has a whole consuming desire to be engaged before I graduate. I dress sloppily, preferring to don sweatpants, Uggs and a North Face.

I will leave judgment of my attractiveness, personality and preferred relationship status up to you, the reader. But there’s one thing I won’t deny. I love sweatpants and Uggs. I feel more at home in them than I ever will in a dress and heels or anything else.

And I don’t apologize for it. I realize that this particular outfit might not be my best chance of attracting male attention, but I’m a female Notre Dame student, so it’s already assumed that my gender relations skills are subpar.

Girls everywhere, however, are often mocked by males for their love of Uggs and their belief in their fashion-saviness. But is there not an equivalent in the male fashion world? Men everywhere will vehemently deny it. However, as my friend Torie aptly pointed out to me recently, they do wear Timberlands (“Tims”).

As I thought about it, the similarities between the two types of shoes are shocking, even though just looking at them, they seem like two completely different types of shoes.

One, their original use has more or less been thrown out the window. Uggs were originally designed for surfers in Australia to keep their feet warm after hours spent in the surf. Timberlands, with their steel toes, were made for construction workers and landcapers to protect their feet from swinging hammers and vicious rototillers.

Personally, I have never been surfing, and I could point out many people at Notre Dame wearing Timberlands who have probably never done a day’s work in construction.

Two, it’s all in the name brand. People spend exponentially more money to buy that pair of Uggs than they would buying a similar pair of Emus, just like they do for Timberlands.

Third, and one of my favorite aspects of Uggs, no tying required! You just slip your feet into your Ugg boot of choice and you are ready to go. And unless you’re using your Timberlands for construction work, there’s no need to tie up those laces. It’s often even preferred not to.

I am not trying to harp on anyone’s footware choices because I’m no fashionista myself, and I’ll never claim to be. I am just pointing out that behind every questionable female fashion trend, you can probably find a similar one on men.

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

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

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INSIDE COLUMN

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The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Mary Claire O’Donnell at madonne@nd.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What should the next theme at Legends be?

Colin Patience
freshman
Keough

"Ska, because of the phat beats!"

Elizabeth Jen
freshman
Welsh Family

"Snuggie Night."

Mark Flanagan
senior
Keough

"Lumberjack night to celebrate spring!"

Sarah Hickman
freshman
Welsh Family

"Jersey Shore and Snooki Night!"

Sean Keeley
freshman
Keough

"Super Smash Brothers, because I won 4th place in the tournament!"

Freshman Brendan Dougherty of the Goofy Hat Gang plays tight defense and blocks a shot put up by a member of The Transfers in a Bookstore Basketball game Monday.

OFFBEAT

Iowa ready for prom in gum wrapper dress

GARNER, Iowa — An Iowa teen is all bubbly over her one-of-a-kind high school prom dress she made out of gum wrappers. Elizabeth Rasmuson made her dress — and matching vest for her date — out of blue and white wrappers from Wrigley’s “5 gum.”

The high school junior says she got the idea after hearing about someone making a dress out of duct tape.

She and her boyfriend began collecting gum wrappers last August. Rasmuson says she quit counting after 200.

Since the wrappers break easily, Rasmuson finished her dress with a vinyl top coat.

 Alleged drunk driver hits judge he faced in 1998

KINGSTON, Md. — A man has been charged with drunk driving and hitting the car of a retired Maryland judge who once spared him jail time in previous drunk driving case.

The suspect, 45, was scheduled to be in court Wednesday to face trial on eight charges related to the August crash where he hit a car being driven by retired Montgomery County District Judge Edwin Collier. Collier, 86, and his wife Ellen Collier, 82, were both injured in the crash.

Collier presided over a case in 1998 in which police charged the man with drunk driving after an officer saw his car idling in a parking lot and gave him a sobriety test. He pleaded guilty in that case, and Collier spared him jail time, even though the man had been arrested on drunk driving charges twice in three months.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies will be hosting a workshop titled “Innovations in the Study of Male Violations of Human Rights” today from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will take place in rooms 210-214 of McKenna Hall.

The exhibition “108 Thoughts on Spirituality” will be held today from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The exhibit will take place in the Suite Museum of Art. The event is free and open to the public.

The English Department will host a series of lectures titled “Towards End” and Spiritual Democracy” today at 4:30 p.m. The lectures will be held in rooms 100-104 of McKenna Hall.

Homosexuality Under the Dome: Past Struggles and Present Solutions,” a panel discussion and seminar, will be held tonight at 7 p.m. The event will be held in Carey Auditorium of Hesburgh Library. The event is free and open to all students, staff and faculty.

The third installment of the Last Lecture Series will be held today at 7:30 p.m. The lecture features Professor James McAdams of the political science department and will be held in the Coleman Morris Lounge.

“Blithe Spirit,” a play by Noel Coward, will be presented tonight at 7:30 p.m. The production will be held in Decio Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The event is ticketed.

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

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CORRECTIONS

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Intellectual environment examined

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

Empty seats at lectures and a lack of academic conversation in residence halls spurred discussion in Campus Life Council (CLC) Monday.

The Council discussed possibilities for greater engagement outside the classroom and the intellectual environment on campus.

“We are an extremely intelligent campus,” former student body president Grant Schmidt said. “We are very passionate about our studies. How do we expand on that?”

Members of CLC debated how to bring a more intellectual environment to campus life outside of the classroom and the culture of academia on campus.

“Looking at the residential system as a major piece of the puzzle in stimulating the intellectual life on campus is like trying to put out a fire with a water gun,” Sorin Hall director Fr. Jim King said.

“Lack of academic conversation in the residence halls around campus by holding more classes in dorm settings,” former student body vice president Cynthia Weber said.

“Creating more peer academic involvement during freshmen orientation would be a method to introduce this intellectual environment to students immediately,” she said.

Weber suggested that these conversations should “build an opportunity to pursue scholarship” for students at Notre Dame who are looking towards graduate education.

Council members steered away from specifically incorporating academic life in the residence halls into the intellectual environment on campus.

“Making academic events appealing to students is critical to developing an intellectual environment,” members said. The Council identified a lack of interest as a problem rather than a lack of opportunities.

“The value of a forum or of an event like the God Debate is that those stimulate discussion and are not just lectures,” Judicial Council president Ian Secviar said.

Broadcasting important events through television and scheduling programs at more convenient times for students were proposed to engage more of the campus community.

Council members targeted a combination of over-programming and a lack of advertising as the reasons for greater engagement outside the classroom and the intellectual environment on campus.

“I personally can’t save people’s lives, so I feel like this is helping as much as I can,” she said. “I think more people should do it and it’s not as scary as everyone thinks.”

Junior Grace Sadowski also said she believes it is important to donate blood — so important that she has been a donor about 15 times.

“I’ve always given it,” she said. “My little sister was premature and people that gave blood saved her life so I always do.”

Sadowski said she thinks families that do have blood donations and encouraged others to donate.

“I personally can’t save people’s lives, so I feel like this is helping as much as I can,” she said. “I think more people should do it and it’s not as scary as everyone thinks.”

According to a press release from the American Red Cross, the blood drive held Monday was part of the “Stave a Vampire. Donate Blood” campaign.

As part of the campaign, two $50 shopping sprees were given away in a drawing. Those who donated blood were entered.

In addition to the blood drive held Monday, other drives for the campaign will be held in the area. On April 26 and April 27, blood drives will be held in 215 LaFortune Student Center at Notre Dame.

Three $50 shopping sprees will be given away each day during the blood drives held at the University.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@stmarys.edu

Come to Notre Dame's First ever "One Book, One Michiana" event! Sponosred by The Hesburgh Libraries

Hear Law Professor Thomas Shaffer Speak on:

"Atticus Finch: Not Only Gregory Peck But Also Southern Gentleman and Country Seat Lawyer Whose Daughter is a Whiz-Bang."

When: Wednesday April 14, 2010 Where: Geddes Hall Auditorium Time: 4:00 - 5:30

Hesburgh Libraries University of Notre Dame

SMC blood drive sees large turnout

By ALICIA SMITH
Assistant Saint Mary’s Editor

As a way of helping meet the American Red Cross’s need for blood donations, Saint Mary’s College hosted a blood drive Monday.

“Believe it or not, there is always a need for blood,” Olivia Critchlow, assistant director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement, said. “We feel that it’s part of one’s civic duty to donate if possible.”

The drive was held in the College’s Student Center Lounge from noon to 6 p.m., and was one of four blood drives the College offers each academic year.

At Monday’s drive, more than 90 people had signed up to donate blood, Critchlow said. She also said students were able to continue to sign up throughout the drive, and walk-ins were also accepted.

“It is important to donate blood because there is always a need for it in the community,” Critchlow said. “Blood cannot be manufactured, so the only way to fulfill the need for it is through volunteer donations.”

Critchlow said the actual blood donation process takes less than one hour.

Sophomore Katie Cireski donated blood Monday to help fill a need.

“There’s a need for blood and there are so many people that are eligible that don’t donate, so I figured since I am eligible to donate, I might as well,” sophomore Katie Cireski said. “I think it’s something important to do and I think everyone should do it at least once in their life, if not more.”

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“I’ve always given it,” she said. “My little sister was premature and people that gave blood saved her life so I always do.”

Sadowski said she thinks families that do have blood donations and encouraged others to donate.

“I personally can’t save people’s lives, so I feel like this is helping as much as I can,” she said. “I think more people should do it and it’s not as scary as everyone thinks.”

Families that do have blood donated to them are really appreciative.”

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Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@stmarys.edu

Think Green. Recycle. The Observer!
South Bend school repre- sentatives, from an elementary to university level, discussed how inequalities in education negatively affect students. A lecture in a Saint Mary’s College Monday night. The lecture, titled “Equality and Education. The Faces and Facts,” began with Notre Dame professor Maria McKenna, who spoke about the effects of poverty and the education system in the United States today.

There are 73 million children under the age of 17 in this country. Forty-one percent live in low-income families and 19 percent live in poor families, McKenna said. A poor family lives on an income of $22,000 a year, she said.

“Three out of five kids are living in conditions where their food is not secure from day to day, their housing is not secure from day to day, their food is not secure from day to day,” she said. “This has been the most serious challenge, and there is no question that it has affected every student.

“Part of that accountability means that we need to bring students up to their level in one or two years,” she said. “This allows for teachers to be able to teach the children in different ways. We are aware that charter schools have smaller class sizes and are funded by tax dollars. If a charter school is forced to close, it is usually due to financial issues, she said.

“Educational inequality is not something that a small group can change. You need to tell other people and create a large group, and that will be their real change,” Critchlow said.

The event was sponsored by the Center for Social and Policy Analysis, the Office of Social Engagement, of the College of Social Work and the Department of Sociology.

About 50 students attended the event.

“Charter schools in Indiana, due to financial issues, she forced to close, it is usually because their parents do not have the means to provide these things,” Critchlow said.
United States, China strategize on Iran

Obama, Chinese President Hu Jintao discuss nuclear security at summit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid a sudden uprising in relations, President Barack Obama and Chinese President Hu Jintao sought common ground Monday in a summit on Iran, agreeing that a set of potential sanctions should make clear the cost of continued nuclear defiance, a White House official said.

The two leaders, meeting on the sidelines of a U.S.-hosted summit on nuclear proliferation, also discussed a currency dispute between the two nations but without announcing specific progress toward resolving it.

White House national security aide Jeff Bader said Iran was a major topic at the 90-minute session between Obama and his Chinese counterpart. "I'd just say that the president in the meeting made clear the sense of urgency, and the Chinese made clear that they are prepared to work with us," Bader said. He called it another sign of international unity on Iran.

The upbeat assessment reflected a recent warming of U.S.-Chinese diplomatic ties, but the meeting produced no breakthroughs.

Chinese spokesman Ma Zhaoxu did not mention sanctions in a statement on Hu's meeting with Obama.

Ma said China hopes all parties will step up diplomatic efforts and seek ways to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiations.

"China and the United States share the same overall goal on the Iranian nuclear issue," the Chinese statement said.

The U.S. description of the meeting echoed comments from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice and others that the Chinese are now willing to talk turkey on sanctions — although nothing about a specific commitment. They started working on language at the U.S. last week.

Bader said Hu and Obama instructed their aides to work with the group of nations directly overseeing the Iranian nuclear issue and with U.N. officials to come up with a sanctions resolution.

"The resolution will make clear the costs of pursuing a nuclear program that violates Iran's obligations and responsibilities," he said.

China — as do the United States, Russia, Britain and France — holds veto power on the U.N. Security Council. So it could block any sanctions proposal it does not like. In the past, both China and Russia have expressed reservations with some of the proposals issued by the United States.

On the currency dispute, Bader said Obama reiterated his view that there needs to be "a more market-oriented exchange rate." U.S. manufacturers claim China keeps its currency pegged to the dollar to make its exports cheaper. And Obama has publicly called on China to let its currency rise.

Analysts suggest China doesn't want to be seen as bowing to U.S. pressure. Still, there have been recent signs that China is moving on its own toward allowing its currency to rise with market conditions.

The White House official called it a "positive and constructive" meeting, a "meeting without talking points" involving leaders who are "familiar and comfortable with each other." He said the two leaders did break for a moment of silence to remember the deaths of 29 U.S. miners in the worst U.S. coal mining disaster since 1970.

The meeting came during a recent thaw in diplomatic exchanges between the two countries after a period of rising tensions aggravated by China's rigid currency policies, U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, Obama's meeting with the Dalai Lama at the White House and U.S. tariffs on Chinese tires.

Investigators: human error caused crash

WARSAW — Russian investigators suggested human error may have been to blame in the plane crash that killed 96 people, including Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others, saying Monday there were no technical problems with the Soviet-made plane.

The Tu-154 went down Saturday while trying to land in dense fog near a Smolensk airport in western Russia. All aboard were killed, including President Lech Kaczynski and dozens of Polish political, military and religious leaders.

They had been traveling in the plane crash in the nearby Katyn forest for thousands of Polish military officers executed 70 years ago by Josef Stalin's secret police.

The pilot had been warned of bad weather in Smolensk, and was advised by traffic controllers to land elsewhere — which would have delayed the Katyn observances.

He was identified as Capt. Arkadiusz Protauskis, 36, and the co-pilot as Maj. Robert Gryzyna, 36. Also in the cockpit were Ensign Andrzejj Michalak, 36, and Lt. Artur Zietek, 31.

In Warsaw, there was concern the pilots may have been asked by someone in the plane to land at Smolensk instead of diverting to Minsk or Moscow, in part to avoid missing the ceremonies.

Polish Prosecutor General Andrzej Seremet said Polish investigators talked to the flight controller and flight supervisor and "concluded that there were no conditions for landing."

"The tower was advising against the landing," Seremet said.

The plane was equipped with an instrument landing system, or ILS, said Col. Wieslaw Grzegorzewski of the Polish Defense Ministry.

"I can confirm the pilots were preparing for landing without the ILS system," he said. "The airport didn't have the ILS system."
Mine blast probe awaits recovery of final bodies

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W. Va., — Federal investigators arrived Monday at the West Virginia mine where 29 miners died in an explosion last week to begin picking together what caused the worst U.S. coal mining disaster since 1970.

Thirty miles to the north, hundreds of mourners including the governor observed a moment of silence at the state Capitol, during a wreath-laying ceremony at the foot of a statue honoring the state's miners. Karen Barker was among scores of state workers who attended.

My dad was a miner and my great-uncle was a miner. I have no idea how these people feel about losing their family member, but I can imagine,” Barker, 46, of Charleston. The investigation into the Upper Big Branch mine explosion was underway among estimates that more than 250,000 people have come to the state’s capital to observe the moment of silence. He restored $750,000 in funding for mine safety inspections in Virginia to the state’s strained budget, saying that the tragedy in West Virginia was a wakeup call.

“Beneath a sunny sky, several hundred people held hands and prayed aloud during the ceremony. Four black-ribboned wreaths were placed at the memorial, as more than a dozen family members of those killed looked on. The largest bore white roses for each miner killed, and two yellow roses for the injured. Twenty-nine yellow helmets were lined up in front of the statue, a black ribbon on each.

“It happened real fast,” he said. “It was a real brief touch-and-go.”

A bell rang 29 times for each of the fallen miners. During a moment of silence that followed, sob could be heard from both the family and the crowd thronged around them with heads bowed.

“Our goal is to have the safest workplace in America,”民办人 said. “Someone who’s willing to work hard and represent everything on the line to provide for themselves and their family. They should expect to come home safely.”

Sols attended the ceremony and read a letter that accompanied the company’s response to the incident, which included an apology to the family.

“No miner should ever lose his life in order to provide for his family,” Solis said. “I will do everything in my power to ensure that we prevent these kinds of tragedies.”

Orcas seen in rare attack

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Whale watchers in Puget Sound caught a rare and dramatic sight from their tourist boat: a pod of orcas speeding by in attack mode and then ramming a gray whale underwater.

After the gray whale dove beneath the water Sunday, the pod of attacking transient killer whales followed suit.

“Everything was quiet for a minute,” said Monte Hughes, captain of the Anacortes-based Mystic Sea Charters. “Then the water went into a frenzy. ... You could see the movement of the gray whale being hit underneath the water.”

A short time later the gray whale surfaced, belly up, and jerked upward two or three times as it was being hit from below, he said. The killer whales then took off, and the gray whale floundered for a time, but eventually swam toward shallow waters.

Howard Garrett, director of the Orca Network, said there have been three other reports of transient orcas attacking gray whales in Puget Sound. The first sighting was March 22.

Garrett said the gray whale was spotted Monday swimming with other gray whales and appeared to be OK. The whale, a male named “Patch,” has frequented the Puget Sound for the past 19 years, he said.

Transient orcas are different from the three pods of endangered Puget Sound orcas that feed on salmon. These whales typically eat marine mammals such as sea lions, porpoises, dolphins and gray whales.

Robin Baird, a marine biologist with the Olympia, Wash.-based Cascadia Research Collective, said it’s not unusual for transients to attack gray whales but most of the attacks have occurred in California or Alaska, in areas where the grays are particularly vulnerable.

“I have not heard of them attacking gray whales before,” Baird said in an e-mail from Hawaii, where he was doing field work.

Whale observers said they’re not sure why the attacks happened.

“It doesn’t fit the usual textbook wildlife behavior,” Garrett said. “They usually pass by each other and pay no mind.”

Hughes said he hasn’t seen anything like the attack during his 20 years operating whale-watching tours.

“Usually they leave the beach. ... You see on a National Geographic Channel. After the first group of seven orcas attacked the gray whale and left, another pair of orcas approached the gray whale.

Hughes said he positioned the boat near the gray whale to deter another attack.

“I think we were able to deter that hopefully,” he said, noting that the whale got its breath and very slowly started heading for the beach.

Erick Petison, a captain with Puget Sound Express, witnessed another encounter while hosting 30 passengers on a whale-watching tour March 30. He said four transient orcas circled three gray whales not far from the boat. One male transient rammed up against a gray whale, and there was no sign of splashing before the orca took off.

“It happened real fast,” he said. “It was a real brief touch-and-go.”
China's oil shopping spree continues

NEW YORK — China's not done shopping the globe for oil. On Monday, a Beijing-backed oil producer announced the country's largest deal yet in North America, paying Canpar Corp. $4.65 billion for its minority stake in a Canadian oil sands project.

Oil is a primary target for China, given the country's huge appetite for energy. The agreement with Canpar/Phillips continues a trend of aggressive buying by the Chinese for energy resources, said Pali Ghoti, analyst with Oppenheimer & Co.

For ConocoPhillips, the sale of its 9.03 percent stake to Sinopec, which is the international division of China Petroleum & Chemical Corp., is part of a push to sell out about $10 billion in assets by late 2011. The company is paring back an expansionist campaign undertaken in the middle of last decade.

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I was talking with my dad this past weekend about that, during a 6-1 game on the Sunday New York Times entitled “One Man, Two Courts,” by Linda Greenhouse. My Dad said, “If you were to tell me 34 years ago that when John Paul Stevens retired from the Supreme Court, he would be hailed as the leader of liberal wing, I would never thought you were crazy.” I don’t believe that’s an isolated opinion. As Greenhouse had explained, Stevens, a moderate Republican from Chicago, was nominated in 1970 by Richard Nixon to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1975 by President Gerald Ford. When asked in an interview in 2007 if he considers himself to be liberal or conservative, Stevens stated “I don’t think of myself as a liberal at all. I think as part of my general politics, I’m pretty darn conservative.” How on earth then did a twice Republican-nominated judge become the voice of the liberal wing in the Supreme Court? The simple answer is that the Supreme Court has shifted, and as a result, the Court, not unlike this country, has become increasingly more conservative.

Stevens was the first justice nominated to the Supreme Court after the Court’s 1973 affirmative action decision which he was originally opposed. Within 19 days, Stevens was confirmed by a Democrat-controlled Senate. The vote was 98-0. In retrospect, it is easy to understand why the issue of abortion was never even discussed. It was not until 1980 that the Republican Party called for the nomination of judges who opposed abortions. In fact, a Gallup poll before the summer before the Court announced its decision in 1973 showed that more Republicans than Democrats were in favor of leaving the decision up to the woman and her doctor.

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I spent the last summer away from home. The completion of the term sent me down and back up again through the country, living for various reasons, with 11 different host families, nights beneath 11 alien roofs.

During those hot and sunny months, I became acutely aware of my distance from places and people familiar. This awareness was not a shock or a burden, but an amazement at the distances to which I was now connected by virtue of the presence of my friends and acquaintances. To be honest, I liked the feeling that accompanied the knowledge that a code or the jurisdiction of a city no longer defined my world. Perhaps, then, my interest in composing and mailing enveloped letters was motivated by a desire to indulge this impression of worldliness, a desire to not choose the instant gratification of emailed correspondence, a desire to comprehend the distances of the people to whom I was attached, distances measured in postage marks and days between my writing and delivery.

So I wrote. Handwrote, dated, scrawled out three lines of names and numbers, smooth a colorful sticker onto the corner and, with nothing more than the action of opening and closing the mouth of an oddly-shaped, blue box, your little parcel arrives in the hands of the person to whom I寄送了 how captivates me. And usually in pretty good time, too. I found that purely mind-boggling.

Or maybe it is the wealth of historical significance that stands behind each letter that I send that truly captivates me. My father worked as a mail-carrier during his college summers and would regale me with anecdotes of trucks with steering wheels adjustable for both sides of the car, uniform pith helmets, and the joy that came with spraying an overly aggressive dog. But I connect with more than just family tradition when I seal up the envelope. Each stamp I press is a shadow, a vestige of the galloping fury of American ingenuity and determination — the Pony Express. And that’s just romantic.

But no, what drives me the most to compose letters is the possibility that they embody. A good friend began work in a third-world country after her graduation last spring. True, her inability to rely on consistent internet access dictated the appropriateness of snail-mailing, but, whether it was the extreme distance (and thus time) that would burden each letter or the absolute separation that such a letter would span, something about the situation illuminated the wonderful brilliance of the line of communication established by the post.

The two of us are separated by three years, by too many faces to paint, by a lifetime again of experiences and a thousand miles. Yet, what we hold in our correspondence is an opportunity at a channel of pure thought, a conversation between two minds. Admittedly, hints at lives, guesses at answers, but safety, certainty in the seal of the postage stamp and the knowledge that the addressed will read voraciously, and cherish and ponder, and bear the addresser through the day’s labor in echoey pen strokes on foreign paper.

In our case, a letter in the mailbox represents so much more than greetings and anecdotes. It embodies a dialogue completely denuded of any boredom or moodiness or annoyance that so often can burden the communiqués of our thoughts between those with whom we live. In the letters, we can choose our words carefully and depict ourselves patiently, as we picture ourselves and as we wish to be perceived by those around us. It is an ideal completely impractical in the physical world, in the relationship face to face, but it is a happy ideal afforded by some magic held within the seal of the back flap of an envelope.

William Stewart is a sophomore majoring in the Program of Liberal Studies. He can be contacted at William.J.Stewart.99@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
It's what writer Noël Coward called a "farce in three acts." It's the story of a séance that actually went right, then went horribly wrong. It's the story of a violent love triangle. It's the comic play being put on by the Department of Film, Television and Theatre at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC) tonight through Sunday.

Jay Skelton, an assistant professor in the Department, is the director of this witty British comedy, "Blithe Spirit," in which novelist Charles Condomine, played by Ryan Belock, wishes to learn about the occult for his latest project. He and his wife invite friends and a quirky psychic to their home to hold a séance. Hilarity ensues when eccentric medium Madame Arcati, played by Shay Thornton, actually manages to bring Charles's first wife Elvira, played by Sloan Thacker, back from the dead. It's bad news for current wife Ruth, played by Clare Cooney, who finds herself beset by an invisible nemesis, still jealous though she no longer holds human form.

The comedic journey through this world and the next is a comedy classic. The play appeals to a broad range of audiences and promises to be an enjoyable evening for all. From its beginning in 1941, the play provoked controversy.

Coward wrote the play during the Second World War in an attempt to lighten the hearts and minds of the beleaguered Brits, but many thought he might be making fun of death at the height of the war. Objections, however, quickly fell to the wayside as the play went on to set British box-office records. Its run of 1,997 consecutive performances set a record for non-musical plays in the West End, held intact until "Boeing Boeing" in the 1970s.

The actors in this performance said they had a great time putting on the play, which helps bring extra emotion and zeal to their already marvelous performance.

Belock, who plays protagonist Charles, said he found this production one of the "most rewarding theatre experiences." "We adopted a new vocabulary, a new accent and a new look," he said.

All of this is evident in the cast's beautiful performance, complete with zinging lines and upbeat humor.

"Clara Riger plays gossiping dinner guest Mrs. Bradman. She said she also enjoyed working with the "stellar cast" of the play, a statement echoed by Thornton, portrait of Madame Arcati.

Riger said she loves that Coward "poured humanity into his characters, which is not usually what you'd expect in a farce."

You're able to laugh at the sheer absurdity of the plot and utter truth of the situation," she said.

It's the humanity in the play that really helps to draw in the viewer, helping them relate to the characters while keeping them hooked with the comic aspect.

Director Jay Skelton was also instrumental in making this comedic masterpiece come to fruition. Over the last 18 years, Skelton has directed, written or produced more than 90 plays, musicals or operas in the Chicago, New York and Boston areas, and it is an honor to have such an esteemed thespian at Notre Dame.

Belock and the other actors had nothing but glowing compliments for Skelton, saying that he has worked incredibly hard to "fully capture the sophisticated world of this play."

We may finally be leaving winter behind us, but we could all still use some laughs in our lives this week, and the play promises to deliver quite a few hearty chuckles and more, in British accents nonetheless. So make your way to DPAC to enjoy the fantastic work that the Film, Television and Theatre department is doing. The play is at 7:30 p.m. tonight through Saturday, and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Deico Mainstage. Tickets are $15 for regular admission, $12 for faculty, staff and seniors and $10 for students.

Contact Mary Claire O’Donnell at modonne5@nd.edu
European Symphonic Metal

by Stephanie DePrez

1. "Amaranth" - Nightwish
2. "Angels" - Within Temptation
3. "Spellbound" - Lacuna Coil
4. "Grace" - Apocalyptica
5. "Stand My Ground" - Within Temptation
6. "Nemo" - Nightwish
7. "I Don’t Care" - Apocalyptica
8. "Bye Bye Beautiful" - Nightwish
9. "Our Truth" - Lacuna Coil
10. "The Howling" - Within Temptation
11. "Senzafino" - Lacuna Coil
12. "Ghost Love Score" - Nightwish

This week’s installment features metal bands from across the pond. These bands especially feature symphonic metal touches, utilizing classical symphonic instruments to create interesting new sounds. From the Netherlands to Finland, these top tracks from Europe’s top metal groups promise to provide epic, inventive music for connoisseurs and casual listeners alike.

You can find the whole playlist on The Observer Web Site at www.ndsmobserver.edu

By STEPHANIE DePREZ
Scene Writer

Have you ever been in a conversation with someone who has name-dropped a metal band and you’ve nodded emphatically, agreeing that said band is so good/cool/innovative, only to completely forget its name the minute you walk away?

Fear no more, because here is a list of some of the most note-worthy music out there today, with a focus on bands that are successful but that you may not have listened to yet. Did I unforgivably ignore your favorite? E-mail me and maybe I’ll include it in the next list. Thanks to all the feedback I’ve received so far. Look for your suggestions when I write up their appropriate genres.

Under the tutelage of acts like Black Sabbath and Iron Maiden, heavy metal made its way to the mainstream in the late 70s and early 80s. Bands got louder and the music got, well, heavier. This hasn’t stopped, though it has fractured a bit. Nowadays there are so many genres of metal and so many bands that cross-pollination can be heard. (It helps that the lead female singer Cristina Scabbia is dating a member of Slipknot). Lacuna Coil survives not so much on interesting orchestration as it does providing basic metal music that is inventive enough to keep the ear of a connoisseur.

Tracks to tap: “Spellbound,” “Our Truth,” “Senzafino”

Nightwish

This is the great-granddaddy group of symphonic metal. Direct from Finland, this five-part, female-fronted metal royalty manages to marry pumping guitars and heavy bass lines with symphonic instrumentation (we’re talking horns and violins) and soprano vocals. With lyrics that are as ethereal as they are operatic, this band has earned its spot as the golden standard of successful European metal. Dashing effortlessly from an orchestral interlude into a speedy guitar solo (often layered on top of the classical instruments), this is the most epic music you will find on iTunes. If the Fellowship of the Ring were a band, they would be Nightwish.

Tracks to tap: “Amaranth,” “Nemo,” “Ghost Love Score,” “Bye Bye Beautiful”

Within Temptation

Another European super-group, this female-fronted band from the Netherlands has a massive world following. These guys don’t just do metal and orchestra, but often like to throw a choir in the background (just check out their 2008 live album “Black Symphonia,” which features electric guitar, bass, drums, and … a choir and 60-piece orchestra). The usual themes of lost love and unrequited passion are present in nearly every song, but Within Temptation maintains a sound that is so accessible one might even call them the “pop group” of the symphonic metal scene. If you fear the word “metal” for thoughts of silver spikes and over-extended tongues, let the cower-unertaking soprano of Sharon den Adel charm your mind. Plebs, start here.

Tracks to tap: “Angels,” “Stand My Ground,” “The Howling”

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Placido Polanco hit a go-ahead single, Chase Utley had a three-run homer and the Philadelphia Phillies overcame an early deficit to beat the Washington Nationals 7-4 in their home opener on Tuesday.

The two-time defending NL champions are off to a 6-1 start, their best since opening 7-0 in 1993 pennant-winning season 7-1.

Cole Hamels (2-0) earned the win despite another so-so effort. He allowed four runs and six hits in 5 2-3 innings. The lanky left-hander is trying to bounce back following an inconsistent year after a dominant postseason in 2008.

Phillies skipper without Jimmy Rollins, a late scratch after stripping his right calf, the Phillies continued their torrid hitting. They’re averaging 7.1 runs and 11 hits per game.

The Phillies celebrated the franchise’s seventh pennant since 2001, capturing the title in 2008, then won their first home opener since 2005.

Led by the Phanatic, their furry green mascot, players entered the field from Citizens Bank Park through a tunnel that stretched from the warning track to the outfield during pregame introductions. The third career save throwing fastballs in the ninth, but he allowed a single to Cristian Guzman and escaped trouble after giving up a two-run single to Scott Rolen to load the bases.

Polanco hit a go-ahead single, Utley walked and Ryan Howard hit an RBI single.

The two-time defending NL champions are off to a 6-1 start, their best since opening 7-0 in 1993 pennant-winning season 7-1.

Michael Young hit a three-run homer and an RBI single for the Rangers.

One day after blowing a two-run lead in the ninth in a loss at Detroit, Cleveland’s fill-in closer Chris Perez loaded the bases in the ninth without getting an out. He threw three straight balls before giving up a double to Jaquelin Arias.

The Indians are 9-1 against Cleveland this season.

Texas is 9-1 against Cleveland this season.

The Rangers’ 1-0 lead held in the lead in the first with his second home run of the year, his second in a row, and Texas took a lead in the 10th inning of their win against the Nationals Monday.

Wright wasn’t so fortunate in the 10th as Chris Perez helped the Rangers improve to 2-9 in road openers since 2000.

Texas’ LaPorta’s single. Hafner barreled the ball into a double play, the Rangers kept it tied when center fielder Julio Borbon threw out Hafner trying to score on Young’s two-out RBI single.

Choo said the Indians’ 1-0 lead in the first with his second home run of the season, connecting on a 90-mph fastball from Cleveland right-hander Fausto Carmona. Carmona loaded the bases with one out in the bottom half, and Wright bounced into a double play, the Rangers kept it tied when center fielder Julio Borbon threw out Hafner trying to score on Young’s two-out RBI single.

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With 41,306 fans on hand for Wrigley Field on a 58-degree Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The Hilton Garden Inn is ideally located 10 blocks from Wrigley Field. The hotel is centrally located in the heart of Chicago’s Loop.

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**Women's Division I Softball
ESPN.com/USA Softball Poll**

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**NBL**

**Jets’ Holmes suspended for first four games**

NEW YORK — Newly acquired Jets wide receiver Santonio Holmes was suspended Monday without pay by the NFL for the first four regular-season games for violating the league’s substance abuse policy.

The league announced the suspension a day after the Jets acquired the talented but troubled Holmes from the Pittsburgh Steelers for a fifth-round pick in this month’s draft.

“We understood that was part of it, but we just felt like even with that, it was worth it,” general manager Mike Tannenbaum said. “Obviously, a guy with his production and at 26 years old, he would not have been available if these indiscretions didn’t happen and obviously the suspension. But, with that said, we just felt like the risk and the price was reasonable for us.”

Holmes, the 2009 Super Bowl MVP, is eligible to participate in the team’s offseason program and in all pre-season practices and games. He would be suspended for an entire season if he violates the league’s policy again.

“Obviously, there’s been some bumps in the road in the past and hopefully he’s learned from that,” Tannenbaum said. “We understood that there’s risks, significant risks. ... We understand that there have been some significant issues in the past and we’re going to move forward together.”

Tannenbaum said conversations with Pittsburgh about a possible deal started late Saturday night, and into early Sunday morning. He added that coach Rex Ryan was excited about the opportunity to acquire a player who “Rex will tell you cost him a Super Bowl ring” while Ryan was an assistant at Baltimore.

Holmes is coming off his best season, with 79 catches for 1,248 yards and five touchdowns. He is also facing a lawsuit in Florida from a woman who claims he threw a glass at her, cutting her above the eye, in an Orlando nightclub. A witness has since taken responsibility, according to Holmes’ lawyer.

The Jets appeared unfazed by the off-field issues, adding a game-breaking player to an offense that already included second-year quarterback Mark Sanchez, wide receivers Braylon Edwards and Jerricho Cotchery, tight end Dustin Keller, running backs Shonn Greene, Leon Washington and the recently signed Labryan Tomlinson.

“Hey’s known by members of the team,” owner Woody Johnson said of Holmes at a news conference in Cortland, N.Y., to announce the Jets’ training camp plans. “Everybody has a lot of respect for him. He’s tough. He’s a clutch receiver. I don’t think pressure gets to him in a game.”

**In Brief**

**Bulls take a one-game lead for 8th spot in the East**

Chicago locker room read: “How bad do we want it?” The way Joakim Noah played, it was easy to tell.

Derrick Rose scored 26 points, Noah had 18 points, 19 rebounds and matched a career-high with seven assists and the Bulls beat Toronto 104-88 on Sunday night to take a one-game lead over the Raptors for the final Eastern Conference playoff spot.

“I knew it was a really important game, I was really focused,” Noah said. “I just wanted to go out there and impose my will as much as I could, just be aggressive offensively and defensively. It was a huge win and I just wanted to make sure that our team played harder than their team.”

Luol Deng scored 14 points, Taj Gibson had 11 and Donald Murray and Hakim Warrick each scored 10 points for the Bulls, who led by 25 points.

**Wisconsin cuts ties with Nike because of factory concerns**

MADISON — The University of Wisconsin is cutting ties with Nike because the company has failed to address its concerns related to the closing of two factories in Honduras.

Chancellor Biddy Martin said Friday the shoemaker has not developed “meaningful ways of addressing the plight of displaced workers and their families in Honduras” or plans to address similar situations in the future.

Workers at two factories that were under contract to produce Nike apparel have not received severance after they were abruptly closed in January 2009.

Nike did not own the factories, but the university’s code of conduct makes companies licensed to use its logos responsible for the actions of subcontractors.

The Nike deal generated $49,000 in royalties for the university last year.

**Watson receives exemption to play in the U.S. Open**

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Tom Watson received a special exemption Monday to play in the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, where he won his only U.S. Open in 1982 with a memorable chip-in to beat Jack Nicklaus. The exemption was announced a day after the 60-year-old Watson turned in another impressive performance at a major, tying for 18th at the Masters.

In his previous major, he lost in a playoff to Stewart Cink in the British Open at Turnberry.

The U.S. Open returns for the fifth time to Pebble Beach on June 17-20. It was last played there in 2000, when Tiger Woods was the only player to finish under par and won by a record 15 shots.

Watson will be the only player to have competed in every U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, dating to the first one in 1972.
Chiefs sign Jones as new addition

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — If Thomas Jones is worried about sharing the ball with Jamaal Charles, he’s not saying it.

The newest addition to a suddenly crowded Kansas City backfield insisted Monday that personal numbers are not uppermost in his mind.

“I signed here to help the team win,” said Jones, who agreed to a two-year, $5 million free agent contract last month.

“If I get five carries, I get five carries. If I get 25 carries,” he said. “All I can do at this point is prepare for the season like I’ve always done. That’s how I’ve been all my career.”

With the New York Jets last year, Jones got 331 carries in the regular season and wound up, counting the post-season, with 14 touchdowns and a career-best 1,402 yards. He was a key component in the Jets making it all the way to the AFC championship game.

But soon to be 32, he’s almost nine years older than Charles, a blazing fast runner on a team but if there’s no perfect number of carries. It’s what winners do. It’s what the cheers were so important.

They put him at ease from the start, and he felt more comfortable as the week went on, even as his swing got worse.

“Overall, it was a good week,” Woods said Sunday after he tied for fourth.

The next step?

Woods didn’t say when he would play again. He said he needed to “take a little time off and kind of re-evaluate things.” If he sticks to a normal schedule, Woods could show up at Quail Hollow or The Players Championship. He’s a key component in the Chiefs making it all the way to the AFC championship game.

If so, it’s a rule that Jones says he would accept.

“I think going through a 16-game season you need two or three running backs,” he said. “It’s a physical game. Especially if you have two change-of-pace guys with different running styles, it makes it harder for the defense to adjust. It makes it tougher for them to prepare for you all week.”

Over the last eight games of the Chiefs’ 12-season, Charles rolled up 968 yards rushing, second only to the 1,047 yards of Tennessee’s Chris Johnson.

His emergence was hailed by Todd Haley as the greatest single development in his first year as head coach. Presumably, the Chiefs will go into camp figuring Charles as their first option.

“I think he’s a great back,” said Jones. “He’s got great quickness, great speed, great balance. He’s tough. And he’s got a lot of heart.”

“It’s the first time in franchise history the Chiefs will open camp with two running backs coming off 1,000-yard seasons. Jones said he’s not worried about whatever role the Chiefs might have in mind for him.

“I’ve always been a team guy,” he said. “For me, the more good players you have the better your chance of winning. There is no perfect number of carries. It’s what you do with the numbers you have.”

Jones will no doubt be asked to provide locker room leadership. Where Charles is quiet and sticks to himself, Jones was twice voted by the Jets players as their most inspirational teammate.

“It’s all about a team coming together,” Jones said. “You can have a lot of good players on a team but if there’s no chemistry, in those close games you’re not going to be able to come together and find a way to win.”

Running back Thomas Jones carries the ball during the AFC Championship against the Colts with the Jets Jan. 24.

Wood gets support, but no jacket

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Except for watching Phil Mickelson slip into another green jacket, Tiger Woods should have few complaints about his week at the Masters.

He tied a tournament record by making four eagles. He was never out of the top 10 from the opening round. He had his best 72-hole score at Augusta National in five years.

None of that might have been possible without a spontaneous and warm reception on the first tee Thursday.

Woods might have looked like the same player, but he wasn’t the same person. The fans who came to watch his golf could not ignore the sor- did lifestyle that kept him away from the game in the first place.

That’s why the cheers were so important.

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Page 14 The Observer • SPORTS Tuesday, April 13, 2010

This could be a long year.

The Masters might have looked like the start, but for Woods, it was more like spring training.
MONACO — Two-time champ-
ion Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain
easily defeated countryman
Marcel Granollers 6-0, 6-3 on
Monday in the first round of
the Monte Carlo Masters.

The ninth-seeded Ferrero,
who was the Monte Carlo champ-
ion in 2002 and ’03, broke serve
twice overall and saved the only
break point he faced. Ferrero
will face Germany’s Benjamin
Becker in the second round.

Tenth-seeded Tomas Berdych
of the Czech Republic dropped
his serve before defeating Spain’s
Feliciano Lopez 6-3, 6-1. Berdych
will face France’s Richard Gasquet, who beat qual-
ifier Daniel Gimeno-Traver of
Spain 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, one week
after losing to Andy Roddick in
the final of the Sony Ericsson
Open.

No. 11 David Ferrer of Spain
and No. 14 Juan Monaco of
Argentina also progressed to
the second round. Ferrer won 6-2, 6-4 against Peter Luczak of
Australia, while Monaco beat
Finland’s Jarkko Nieminen 7-5, 7-5 after breaking his opponent
for the sixth time to seal victory.

David Nalbandian of Argentina
served eight aces to defeat
Andreas Beck of Germany 6-3, 6-
1, while Germany’s Philipp
Kohlschreiber labored to beat
Thibault Beauclercq of Brazil 2-6, 6-
3, 7-6 (3) in a tense match where
both players dropped serve six
times.

Kohlschreiber will play third-
seeded Andy Murray on
Wednesday.

“He’s talented. He’s given
the top guys a lot of good matches
over the last couple of years,”
Murray said. “Very good clay-
court player, and I need to play
well to beat him.”

In other matches, Latvia’s
Ernestis Gulbis beat Marco
Chiodinielli 6-3, 6-2, Andrey
Golubev of Kazakhstan beat
Jeremy Chardy 6-2, 7-6 (2),
Spain’s Nicolas Almagro defeated
Simon Greul 6-1, 6-1, Julien
Beneteau of France beat
Oleksandr Dolgopolov Jr. 6-4, 5-
7, 6-2, and Germany’s Philipp
Petzschner won 6-3, 2-6, 6-2
against Guillermo Garcia-Lopez.

Five-time defending champion
Rafael Nadal plays Edouard
Schwank or Thiemo de Bakker
in the second round Wednesday.
The third-ranked Nadal, seeded
second at Monte Carlo behind
No. 2-ranked Novak Djokovic of
Serbia, is seeking his first title
this year.

“If I don’t have a good result
here, in Rome or Madrid, my
chances (at) Roland Garros or
Wimbledon will be less,” Nadal
said Monday. “I never felt I am
certain to win a big event. I want
to win a big event at the end of
the season. I want to win the
French Open, but I am not yet
certain.”

Ferrero at Monte Carlo: “I didn’t
lose the game, I just didn’t
make enough points to
win,” Ferrero said.

Nadal at Monte Carlo: “I have
a good feeling. I am playing
very well,” Nadal said.

— Associated Press
To borrow an NHL slogan from seasons past, the biggest questions facing the Pittsburgh Penguins give other teams a chance to play for the Stanley Cup?

If so, will the San Jose Sharks finally step up in the Western Conference and live up to their lofty regular-season expectations? Or might another surprise start Chicago Blackhawks or surprising Phoenix Coyotes unseat the Red Wings, who won the Cup in 2008 against the Penguins and then fell in seven games a year ago?

The answers will begin to unfold Wednesday night when the 16-team Stanley Cup tournament gets under way with four first-round games. Three other series will start Thursday, and Friday night's Central Division champion Blackhawks will host the Nashville Predators on the same day in 1 of 1 that Western matchup.

San Jose finished first in the Western Conference and knocked out the No. 8 Atlanta Thrashers (51-20-11) finished on top again with 113 points and will play the eighth-seeded Colorado Avalanche, back in the playoffs after a one-year absence.

The Red Wings, who play at any numbers because for the past three years had the most points but have parity had a chance to come out and win the hockey championship. With the sweep, we can get away from all those talks.

If the Sharks do get past the Avalanche, they could face Detroit in the second round.

"It's a great, great trophy. It's the summer of your life when you get to touch that thing and have your picture taken and get to put on that thing and share it with your family. It's a prize worth working for. It's hard to win, which makes it so special," Red Wings coach Mike Babcock has said. 

"The Red Wings will face the Coyotes in the first round. Phoenix hasn't been in the playoffs since 2002, joining the Rangers and Kings for the longest gap between guarantees for this year's qualification. The No. 2 Coyotes meet the No. 3 Vancouver Canucks, who won the Northwest Division.

The Penguins should face second-round challenge. They begin their quest for a third straight trip to the finals. The most obvious threat to fourth-seeded Pittsburgh on paper appears to be the Presidents' Trophy-winning Washington Capitals, who posted an NHL-best 121 points.

Pittsburgh entered the final weekend of the regular season with a chance to win the Atlantic Division and the No. 2 seed, but a loss also to the New York Islanders Saturday finished those hopes. Now the Penguins are assured of overtime for the first time in the season's first game against the Ottawa Senators.

"We just know what is expected of each other," said Penguins' captain Sidney Crosby, who scored a career-high 51 goals this season. "Everyone gets a pretty good idea when you go through those games and adversity and all those things together. The expectations are high in this room, and having that familiarity with what we need to do is important.

Don't write off the Penguins just yet. Pittsburgh was the No. 4 seed in 2009 and took out No. 2 Washington in the second round for the first time in eight years.

"I'm certainly not looking forward to playing them," Capitals' coach Bruce Boudreau said. "I hope they lose in the first round. If we have to play them, we will play them. I think the Red Wings have to go through them. They're the champions. No reason to think they can't do it again. They got a lot of cast of characters."

Capitals' captain Alex Ovechkin ended his hold on the Maurice Richard Trophy, given each season to the NHL's top goal scorer, after a two-year reign. Ovechkin, the league MVP the past two seasons, finished one goal behind Calgary's Jarome Iginla and Tampa Bay's Steven Stamkos.

Ovechkin's long road to the Stanley Cup and an Olympic gold medal, along with two things that have eluded the Russian star.

"I think he's like any other player, he gets excited for the playoffs and will ramp it up a little bit," Boudreau said of Ovechkin.

With a loaded offensive lineup that includes high-flying sniper Nicklas Backstrom and Alexander Semin, and top-scoring defenceman Mike Green, Washington is primed to make a long run. The Capitals' path starts Thursday against the No. 8 Montreal Canadiens, who are seeking a playoff spot until Saturday.

The final three places in the East weren't decided until the last two days of the season. The Boston Bruins, last year's top-seeded team, nabbed sixth place on Saturday and earned a first-round meeting with the Northeast Division-winning Buffalo Sabres.

The No. 7 Philadelphia needed even more time — a shootout win on Sunday over the New York Rangers in win or go home game. The Flyers had to win or go home and into a first-round match-up with the second-seeded New Jersey Devils, who edged the Philadelphia Flyers in the Atlantic.

The Devils are in the playoffs for the 13th straight season, third-longest current streak in the league to Detroit's 19 consecutive appearances.

Philadelphia played poorly down the stretch and nearly missed the playoffs after being considered an early Stanley Cup contender. The Flyers should carry confidence and momentum into the series with the Devils, a team they beat in five of six meetings this season.

"We're going to have to pay attention and look at the tape to see how they gave us such a tough time," Devils goalie Martin Brodeur said Monday.

A loss to Buffalo on Sunday would have dropped New Jersey into the second-longest current streak into a first-round matchup with Boston. The Devils won nine of their last 10 heading into that game.

"As you can tell, we don't pick the teams," Devils' coach Jacques Lemaire, the most experienced and winningest postseason coach, said. "It's going to be a battle because we struggled against (the Flyers) all year."

Injuries keep stars out of competition

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Caroline Wozniacki and Alona Bondarenko both won straight sets Monday at the Family Circle Cup, which is missing the usual top star power because of injuries to several high-profile players.

The top eight seeds had the most star power because of injuries to several high-profile players. The top seeds had the familiar look and feel of times past.

The No. 2 seed Jelena Jankovic, who won the French Open last year, was not in Charleston, where Osterloh took a 6-3 lead, but she couldn't close out the set. Wozniacki came back with three straight points and the twotrad-ed winners until Wozniak won the last three points of the match on long rallies.

Ninth-seeded Bondarenko of the Ukraine lost more time advancing to the next round, beating unseeded American Julie Ditty 6-4, 6-2. Bondarenko had her serve broken only once. It came in the first set after she broke Ditty. Bonda-renko won the last three points of the match on long rallies.

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SMC TENNIS

Belles gain experience in loss to No. 3 Chicago

By MATT ROBISON Sports Writer

No. 3 Chicago demonstrated why its one of the top teams in the country by blanking the Belles, 9-0, in non-conference play Monday.

Despite satisfactory performances in the doubles competition, the Saint Mary's (8-5, 2-1) was simply overmatched on the court, Belles coach Dale Campbell said.

"Chicago was just playing at a really high level," Campbell said. "Their back-court hurt us with strong, aggressive ground strokes. Getting into the match-up with the Maroons, the Maroons had won six straight, their longest streak of the season.

With stiff competition ahead, Saint Mary's should be able to draw from this loss both the physical improvements that need to be made as well as the emotional drive that usually follows from a tough defeat.

"This is good training for our best competition in the MIAA," Campbell said.

The Belles are in order to enhance their training for our best competition in the MIAA.

"We're going to learn a lot from this match. It really shows us we have to work really hard to compete at this level," Dale Campbell Belles coach

Greek

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The Belles lost 9-0 in the doubles competition, the first of a two-day, four-game weekend for the Belles. It's one of the top teams in the country by blanking the Belles, 9-0, in non-conference play Monday.

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Practice

continued from page 20

braxton Cave delivered the first snap to Crist, with sophomore Zack Martin in position at left tackle and senior Taylor Dever at right guard.

"I think we get closer [to picking the top five linemen] every day, but it's going to be a never-ending process and it may even go into the season," Molnar said. "I know Coach Kelly would love to settle us down into five main guys, but as this is too early to say that we found our five for the season."

The movement in the depth chart and the grasping of Kelly's spread offense coincided with the removing of tape from each player's helmet, bearing his respective name.

"It was symbolic. We're progressing into a team," Crist said. "Now we're playing for the gold helmets and the trophy. I think even those little things, paying attention to detail, are symbolic of how we're growing as a team and progressing as a team."

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

NHL

Erratic Penguins enter playoffs

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins are heading into the playoffs as the fourth seed in the Eastern Conference, just as they did winning the Stanley Cup last season.

Again, they usually win when Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin show up constantly on the scoresheet, and often lose when they don't. Dan Bylsma said it's still behind the bench. Marc-Andre Fleury remains in net.

"I like our guys in terms of being playoff tested and playoff proven," Bylsma said. "We've had four games in two days at two different fields before facing the Grizzlies.

"Six games in three days was definitely physically and mentally exhausting," Sullivan said. "But I was battling with some lineup changes on Sunday and it just wasn't our day."

But the final two games were not all bad news.

Junior Hayley Bojorquez finished off the sweep of Albion on the road and will then travel to face Kalamazoo on Saturday.

"We played Albion close last year, but we've got a big home match against Kalamazoo," Campbell said. "These are two of the very good teams in the MIAA."

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Contact Matt Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu
**SMC Golf**

**Belles sweep weekend matches against Trine**

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

No. 5 Saint Mary's faced off against MIAA and in-state rival Trine University this past weekend, winning once in South Bend and once in Angola.

The first dual match was held at the par-72 South Bend Country Club in windy conditions that made low numbers hard to come by and made the round in course management. The Belles were able to come away with a 353-396 victory, led by junior Ross O'Connors' 87.

Sophomore Natalie Matuszak shot an 87, while junior Mary Kate Boyce finished with an 88. No Thunder player finished within the top three individual performances, while senior Belles captain Perri Hamma fired a 94 to close out the scoring four for Saint Marys.

Belles coach Mark Hamilton had a mixed opinion of the day overall, saying, "Saturday was tough conditions and a tough golf course," he said. "There were some glimpses of good, but it wasn't quite there."

On Sunday, the Belles traveled to Angola to play in another dual meet with the Thunder on Trine's Zeller Golf Course. Saint Mary's took advantage of more favorable conditions and played aggressive, resulting in a 22-stroke victory. The Belles finished with a score of 321 strokes to Trine's 343.

Boyce led Saint Mary's by carding the day's best round, a 74. O'Connor shot a 79, Hamma shot an 83 — with a 39 on the back nine — while Matuszak was the second shooter at an 89. "[Sunday] we played really well," Hamilton said. "We did better on Sunday.

Hamilton said he was especially pleased with the fact that the pair of dual wins came heading into the first NCAA qualifier Wednesday. "That's really what we needed to make it," added coach Hamilton. "It's what we needed to make it_by and made the most of dual wins coming into the weekend." The Belles finished with a score of 321 strokes to Trine's 343.

"We showed the rest of the country that we've got what it takes to make it," said Mark Hamilton. "It's what we needed to make this season." The Belles finished with a score of 321 strokes to Trine’s 343.

**Bookstore**

**Continued from page 20**

game at 11-8. The second half was fiercely competitive. Both teams battled for every loose ball, every layup was strongly contested and the game got very choppy, even stopping briefly midway through the second half for a minor verbal disagreement.

The physical nature of the second half played into the Bulldog's hands, however. They opened the second half with a 4-0 run to take a lead they would not relinquish. Continuing to pound the ball inside, Highlight started seeing its layups drop down while Trill started cooling off from outside.

Trill fought hard but simply couldn't get its jumpers to fall late, as Highlight moved on to the next round in a 28-2 victory.

"We're really working on eliminating big numbers and staying in every hole," he said. "The focus was what improved over the weekend, allowing us to perform up to the ability that we're capable of."

The Belles look to improve on Wednesday at Medalist Golf Club in Marshall, Mich., in the first NCAA qualifier.

Contact Allian Joseph at ajeoseph2@nd.edu and Andrew Owens at aowens1@nd.edu

**Rebound**

**continued from page 20**

host Notre Dame today before traveling on the road for a three-game series, with conference rival Seton Hall.

The guys are feeling snake bitten, according to Dave Schrage said after the loss. "I can understand that. We need something good to happen to build off of, and we're still waiting for it. As a coach you've got to keep positive and get to keep them thinking they're going to win."

Senior pitcher Eric Maust earned no decision in his eight innings of work and gave up five runs. Maust had two strikeouts and did not throw to the walk.

"Baseball is a game of a lot of ups and downs," Maust said of the team's inconsistency. "Our goal for each day this coming week is to key in on the things we can control.

While the Irish have struggled through a tough start to their season, their problems seem trivial compared to those of Chicago State. The Cougars will travel to Frank Eck Stadium with a 1-22 record, including 19 straight losses on the road. The Irish lineup, which scored 19 runs against Rutgers, could have a big day against their visiting team.

Senior first baseman Casey Martin and senior outfielder Ryan Conroy have led the Notre Dame offense, with each hitting .354 on the season. Conroy leads the team with six home runs and 21 RBIs, and senior outfielder David Mills has driven in 20 runs on the year with a .350 average.

The weak Cougars offense will also be a welcome sight. Notre Dame pitchers after a rough weekend against the Scarlet Knights. The issues on the mound continued Saturday, when Rutgers roughed up Irish pitchers for 25 runs in a 25-5 pounding.

First pitch today against the Cougars will be at 6:05 p.m. at Eck Stadium.
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