The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

Notre Dame bound for Bayou, BCS matchup

Irish to face LSU in the Sugar Bowl

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

It will be "local flavor" versus "national flavor" as Notre Dame will face Louisiana State in the Sugar Bowl at the Louisiana Superdome Jan. 3, and Sugar Bowl CEO Paul Hoolahan lauded the matchup as "just what the doctor ordered" for the struggling New Orleans economy.

"If I had written this script, I couldn't have written it any better," Hoolahan said in a teleconference with media Sunday night. "This is going to be a tremendous atmosphere.

The Sugar Bowl was widely expected to select the Irish.

The Tigers earned their bid after Southeastern Conference (SEC) Joe Florida jumped from No. 4 to No. 2 in the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) standings and earned a spot in the BCS National Championship Game against undefeated No. 1 Ohio State. The SEC champion plays in the Sugar Bowl annually except when it makes the national title game.

With its compensatory selection and first-at-large pick, the Sugar Bowl grabbed the local favorites from Baton Rouge and the national powerhouse from South Bend for the first bowl game in the Superdome since Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

We have had some challenges in the past year and a half. We are excited about playing against LSU Sunday night. 'This is going to be a tremendous atmosphere.'

see BOWL/page 6

Aidan Project raises awareness

Sophomore's battle with cancer inspires event to benefit patients, educate ND community

By JENNIFER METZ
News Writer

Diagnosed with cancer on Sept. 25, Notre Dame sophomore Aidan Fitzgerald was forced to miss the majority of the fall semester, but he returned to campus this weekend to take part in an event created in his name to raise awareness about cancer in young adults and youth.

The Aidan Project drew more than 200 participants who sat on the floor of the LaFortune Ballroom from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday to make fleece blankets and hats for a local cancer unit at St. Joseph's Memorial Hospital.

The finished blankets, displayed on a table at the entrance of the ballroom, were tied with a tag that read, "The Aidan Project. This blanket was made with love and with care, for each who receives one, it comes with a prayer." Sophomore Chris Esber, Fitzgerald's roommate, said he and his friends were "shocked" to find out that their 17-year-old friend had cancer. They started the project — which was sponsored by Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 — to raise awareness about cancer, especially cancer that affects young people.

"The situation was definitely on Esber's mind ... he couldn't believe it happened to his roommate," said Jake Teigen, a Circle K member. "We decided we had to do something." Teigen, along with fellow Circle K members Cigi Low and Nicole Koors, helped Esbar organize the Aidan Project.

"We did the blanket project last year with Circle K," Esber said. "This year we've made [the collaboration] bigger, responding to this situation." Koors said organizers put up more than 100 posters in residence halls and LaFortune to publicize the event.

"This is the first time I heard about someone in our age group developing cancer," Teigen said. "This project is all about awareness and prevention."

see AIDAN/page 7

Health Center nears completion

By RYAN SYDLIK
News Writer

University Health Services will return in January to its former location behind the Main Building after a year and a half absence and $9.5 million of renovations.

Throughout the overhaul, Health Services has operated out of the old Security building, where Notre Dame Security/Police was located until it moved to the recently constructed Hammers Mossbray Hall.

Ann Kleva, director of University Health Services, called the renovations to the Student Health Center building "absolutely phenomenal." The updated facility will be more easy to navigate than the old one, Kleva said, and it will have an improved healthcare awareness in the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame communities.

Katus, a pop/punk band from Dayton, Ohio, won the contest and the prize — a recording session with Peak Audio Productions.

The three bands played to a crowd of about 50 students, mostly from Saint Mary's. Katus' connection to Saint Mary's was through one of their member's, who has two sisters at the College. Katus impressed the judges with their performance of their original song.

see BANDS/page 6

Bands compete, raise money for charities

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Three bands took the stage at Saint Mary's Student Center Lounge Saturday night to battle for studio time and raise money.

The Battle of the Bands, organized by the Saint Mary's Dance Marathon Committee, was held to raise funds for Riley Hospital for Children and for the upcoming Dance Marathon in the spring.

Dance Marathon committee leaders said they were proud of the event's success. The committee's co-president, Pauline Kistka, said if they broke even financially, the event had raised some awareness in the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame communities.

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see BANDS/page 6

see SCHOLAR/page 2

Towle tabbed for Marshall

Senior Meg Towle's passion for and dedication to promoting international health as an essential foundation for peace building will take her to the United Kingdom next year as one of the 43 Marshall Scholarship recipients for 2010.

Towle said she will use her all-expenses paid scholarship to pursue a M.S. of humanitarian studies at The Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, associated with the University of Liverpool.

"I like how the program at Liverpool is about — How do we get public health to work on the ground?" Towle said. "I think it will be so cool to be the voice of people from all over the world and to draw from others' experiences. It will definitely be an international learning experience."

She expects to complete the M.S. in one year and said the scholarship allows for some flexibility as to how she will use the second year.

"For now I'm saying I'll probably stay on at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, but I could get there and find some other fabulous program to study," Towle said. She had been selected for the prestigious award on Nov. 8, the same day she was interviewed by a committee in Chicago.

see SCHOLAR/page 2

see NSDMCOBSERVER.COM
All I want for Christmas

What’s that? I’m in college so I’m supposed to love Christmas toys any more? I don’t believe you. But, even if I am too old to sneak over the best merchandiser in the Toys R Us catalogue, I’ve always said that you can never be too old to write a column by the Observer ranking the greatest toys ever. I’ve always said that.

Anyway, let’s get this list started. My list will rank the greatest Christmas toys ever made. Each toy’s ranking is in parentheses. Please understand that toys fall under a huge variety of categories and there’s no way I’ll be able to cover all of your favorites. I’ll try my best though.

Let’s begin with the Christmas mainstays, the toys that seem to have a permanent place under millions of trees every year. There are the Calico Patch Kid dolls (66), G.I. Joe action figures (55), the Pez Stick (111), Barbie dolls (68), LiteBrite (114) and Lego building blocks (17).

Of course, there are also the amusing fake toys that show up for one December month, that didn’t make the list.

Then we have the toys that every kid wants after watching an awesome movie from that day. The list of this group are the Red Rider B.B. gun from “A Christmas Story” (13), although nowadays, this may only be considered a toy south of the Mason Dixon line, the Talkboy voice recorder from “Home Alone” (17), and the tricycle ridden by that little girl in “The Shining” (just kidding, that didn’t make the list). The rest of the list can be considered a hedgehog of great memories from the childhoods of people far and wide.

Creepy Crawlers (19), Nerf balls (18), Polly Pocket (12), Lincoln Logs (10), Lionel trains (4), Hot Wheels cars and trucks (3), and those sweet Nerf guns (2) hold special places in many of our hearts.

You’re welcome if you just gave you a flashback to the glory days.

Note that, in making this list, I disqualified generic toys like bicycles, sleds, video games and board games. Also, I steered clear of educational toys because they generally are not fun to play with. Finally, I don’t believe you. But, even if I am too old to write a column by the Observer ranking the greatest toys ever made, please understand that there’s no way I’ll be able to cover all of your favorites. I’ll try my best though.

The views expressed in the Inside Columns are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Fran Tolan at fttolan@nd.edu

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ND Air Force ROTC spreads holiday cheer

Field Day benefits underprivileged children

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

A Field Day ushered in the Christmas season at Saint Mary's Saturday as underprivileged children visited with Santa Claus and watched performances by the Undertones and the Notre Dame Pum Squad Saturday at Angela Athletic Facility.

Members of the Arnold Air Society (AAS), the service organization associated with Notre Dame Air Force ROTC, and the Silver Wings, the Arnold Air Society's civilian counterpart, hosted the event.

Notre Dame junior Christine Rini, the organizer of the event and an AAS member, said the children came from various "centers" in the area.

"Some were from low-income families that go to after school programs," Rini said. "Others were from homeless shelters, and some came from emotionally disturbed families."

Volunteers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's assisted children with making gingerbread houses, decorating cookies, painting faces and making Popscicle stick reindeers.

The children had the opportunity to take their picture with Santa and then his elves handed out presents, Rini said. The presents the children received came from the Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program. The AAS paid for everything else, including pizza, supplies and transportation. They hired a charter bus to transport children to and from the facility.

Rini said the Field Day had been in existence for approximately the past five years, but said this is only the second year the event was held in Angela Athletic Facility.

In the past, the Field Day was held at the Armory, but Rini said the distance from campus was a problem in getting volunteers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's.

"This location is excellent because the basketball court is a relatively closed-off area and it's easier to get volunteers to come out [to help us]," Rini said.

Contact Liz Harter at charter01@saintmarys.edu

Professor writes book on St. Nick

Story traces modern versions of Santa Claus to medieval roots

Emeritus Father Edward Malloy, who recommended its...
A MEMORIAL MASS
FOR CAITLIN BRANN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2006, 5:15 PM
BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART

CAITLIN M. BRANN
OCTOBER 30, 1984 - NOVEMBER 10, 2006
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

One dead in Islamic religious clash
BEIRUT — Violent clashes broke out Sunday between Shiite and Sunni Muslims in the capital, leaving one man dead from gun-shot wounds and 21 others injured at a time when sectarian tension throughout Lebanon threatens the country’s fragile sectarian and political balance.

Tension has been running high in Lebanon, particularly since Friday when Hezbollah supporters began an operation to clear an army checkpoint in Beirut in an effort to bring down the government of Prime Minister Fuad Siniora.

Siniora, emboldened by Arab and international support for his U.S.-backed government, said Sunday he would stay in office despite the ongoing protests.

Amid the sound of revolutionary and nationalist songs blaring from protesters’ tents set up in the heart of Beirut, a Mass was held at Santiara’s office in memory of Industry Minister Pierre Gemayel, who was assassinated by gunfire in a Beirut suburb last month.

Chavez anticipates election victory
CARACAS — President Hugo Chavez sought another six-year term Sunday in an election that weighs his oil-funded handouts to the poor against fears of increasingly authoritarian rule by one of the Bush administration’s chief overseas opponents.

Chavez anticipated a crushing victory over opposition candidates, who are expected to garner only a fraction of the votes of their oil-funded oldest supporter, who has galvanized the opposition by promising to unseat a man he accuses of edging the country toward totalitarianism.

Voters waited for hours in snaking lines, and election officials predicted a record turnout. An independent AP-Ipsos poll last month gave Chavez a double-digit advantage.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush: Changes, troops needed in Iraq
WASHINGTON — While President Bush acknowledges the need for major changes in Iraq, he will not use this week’s Iraq Study Group report as political cover for bringing troops home, his national security adviser said Sunday.

“We have not failed in Iraq,” Stephen Hadley said as he made the much-anticipated report. “We will fail in Iraq if we pull out our troops before we’re in a position to help the Iraqis succeed. But it is clear that the president understands that we need to have a way forward in Iraq that is meaningful and sustainable.”

The White House readied for an important week in the debate over Iraq: Bush planned a meeting Monday with Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, the leader of Iraq’s largest bloc in its parliament, and awaited the recommendations Wednesday from the bipartisan commission.

Power loss intensifies storm damage
ST. LOUIS — The temperature barely rose into the 20s Sunday as hundreds of thousands waited for the electricity to be restored after it was knocked out in a devastating snow storm.

Tawana Jean Cooper and her family spent Sunday at a Red Cross warming center in St. Louis, which they reached a day earlier from her suburban home after roads were cleared of ice, downed power lines and broken tree limbs.

“They know this is not home. They know this is a disaster,” Cooper said as she cuddled her 5-month-old granddaughter in her arms.

LOCAL NEWS

Prison guard charged with sex crime
FORT WAYNE, Ind. — A female former correctional officer was charged Sunday with felony sexual misconduct after police say she had sex with an inmate at the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility.

A judge on Friday entered a not guilty plea for the former guard, 27, who was fired after he was found to have had an intimate relationship with the inmate in October. Wiley has been charged with felony sexual misconduct and a misdemeanor count of trafficking with an underage person.

Wiley was released from jail on a $3,250 bond and was ordered not to contact the boy. Wiley faces up to four years in prison if she is convicted of the charges.

Chile

Pinochet to face rocky recovery
SANTIAGO — Gen. Augusto Pinochet, whose 17-year dictatorship carried out thousands of political killings and disappearances, was fighting for his life in a Chilean hospital Sunday after a small heart attack. But doctors said his condition was improving after an emergency procedure to restore blood flow to his heart.

Doctors initially said they planned bypass surgery Sunday on the 91-year-old former stronghold but they later ruled it out. Dr. Juan Ignacio Vergara, a member of the team treating Pinochet, said the surgery was not needed after an angioplasty performed in the morning to clear a heart artery obstruction "allowed improvement in his condition.

"No bypass has been performed and we expect no open heart surgery will be necessary," Vergara said on Sunday afternoon, explaining that such surgery was extremely risky for someone of Pinochet’s age.

"There is a trend toward improvement," he said. "He is conscious, he communicates with us and with his family."

But Vergara made clear Pinochet’s condition continues to be serious "and the next 24 to 48 hours will be critical to see whether other complications appear." He said an accumulation of fluid in Pinochet’s lungs "was a secondary problem that has been solved."

Earlier Pinochet’s youngest son, Marco Antonio Pinochet, said his father had been "virtually rescued from death" with the angioplasty. The former leader’s spokesman, retired Gen. Guillermo Garín, last rites had been administered.

"We are now in the hands of God and of the doctors. My father is in very bad condition," the son said at Los Felipe bride Military Hospital. Vergara said earlier in the day that the heart attack was "indeed life threatening," especially because of Pinochet’s age.

CHILE

Pinochet to face rocky recovery

Associated Press

NEW YORK Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton met on Sunday with New York’s Democratic governor-elect to solicit his support for her likely White House bid, the latest indication she is stepping up plans to join a growing field of potential contenders for 2008.

One rival, Indiana Sen. Evan Bayh, announced Sunday he was establishing an exploratory committee to raise money for a possible presidential run. He expects to decide over the Christmas holidays whether to seek his party’s nomination.

A top aide to Clinton said he did not know when the former first lady would decide whether to run in the primary or set up an exploratory committee.

Clinton aides, however, have begun interviewing possible campaign staffers in recent weeks, Howard Wolfson said.

Clinton, who long has topped national polls of Democratic hopefuls, spent two hours with Gov. Elliot Spitzer at his Manhattan home.

"We just had a great, wide-ranging meeting on so many issues that affect the city, the state and the country," Clinton said as she left the meeting.

Last week she contacted leading liberal legislators, including Democratic Reps. Charles Rangel and Nita Lowey, and the state’s public chairman, Denny Farrell, to assess their prospects and seek their support.

Clinton’s Senate colleague, Chuck Schumer of New York, had begun interviewing possible campaign advisers Monday, December 4, 2006

Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., speaks in Denver July 24. Bayh announced his intention Sunday to take the first official step toward a 2008 presidential campaign early next week.
The Observer  -  CAMPUS NEWS

Monday, December 4, 2000

Health continued from page 1

environment.

"The way it's positioned, it's going to be much easier for students to receive services," she said.

University Health Services plans to use the renovated building for both its offices and new health programs. It will house including "Hard to Hide," as well as a cover of a Dave Matthews Band song.

Bowl continued from page 1

half, but we are really excited to bring the Sugar Bowl back to its hometown," Hoosahan said. "We'd rather bring it back than with two teams in the same city of LSU and Notre Dame. ... The two of these teams together in New Orleans is just what the doctor ordered. This is an unusual opportunity that happens here, where we need to go and what has to happen in the future. It's a godsend."

Last season's Sugar Bowl win over LSU helped Hoosahan said past Sugar Bowls have been "incredible in economic impact for the New Orleans area, and past games with national championship implications brought up to $250 million to the city. The conference commissioner Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis said, "We're just delighted to be competing in the Sugar Bowl," Weis said. "To be able to pick LSU in their home state for their locale and Notre Dame for its national flavor, I think this is a perfect setup." Hoosahan said the propensiy to travel was more important than the restaurants and shops in New Orleans when LSU has played occasionally hosted the Superdome overcame concerns about the possibility of LSU fans being too looky for the game.

"I think everybody close to the program is certainly glad to see us playing in New Orleans," LSU coach Les Miles said. "We really enjoy that city. It's beautiful and we can hardly wait to get there.

Hoosahan said the Irish had their own set of benefits, and Weis wasn't surprised. "Notre Dame's ability to attract fans and generate high television ratings has been noteworthy. Hoosahan said Notre Dame's unique position in the BCS, with athletic director Kevin White as a leader, is a member of the BCS board of directors. The football program is a critical part of one university, is a major bonus for the Irish when the bowls make their selections.

"The fact that he's seated at the table and directly involved in the selection of Notre Dame is a unique advantage for us as a conference -- the selection of Notre Dame is something that we're pretty flamboyant about ourselves," Hoosahan said. "We're a big, big crew.

"Having our team selected is just representing one entity," Hoosahan said. "It's a great tribute to the school that they have that one person at the table.

The other members of the II Division I conference commissioners and the representatives of the four traditional bowl games in the BCS. Both the Tigers (No. 4 in the SEC standings) and Irish (No. 11) finished 10-2 with their losses coming to top-10 teams. LSU beat at No. 9 Auburn Sept. 16 and 23-10 in Gainesville to Florida. Notre Dame beat No. 6 Arizona State and No. 2 Mississippi State in the Sugar Bowl.

"I'd like to congratulate Coach Weis on having a great year and a tremendously quality team," Miles said in the teleconference.

While all sides expressed satisfaction in the matchup, the BCS shakeup that left the LSU-Notre Dame pairing without controversy.

"The way it's positioned, it's going to be much easier for students to receive services," said Ann Klevo, director of Health Services.

"The building was completely gutted, the walls, everything," Klevo said. "She said only a few parts of the original building, like the exterior sidewalks, the chimney from the boiler house originally built on the site and the old security building, will be used as new (including the electrical, plumbing and heating), she said."

The William K. Warren Foundation funded the renovation. William K. Warren, a Class 1956 alumni, is a member of the Notre Dame Board of Trustees.

The building will be renamed St. Liam Hall, after St. Liam of York. The name was chosen to honor Warren's father, William K. Warren Sr. St. Liam is the English nickname for William.

"Klevo said the old Security building provided an ideal space and was practical for Health Services as an interim home. It was actually an improvement over the former building, she said, but the newly renovated St. Liam Hall will be a much better location than the current location.

Health Services will start its spring semester Dec. 16, and will be open for students Jan. 15, the beginning of the spring semester.

Contact Ryan Sydlik at rydskl@nd.edu

The Observer  -  CAMPUS NEWS

Monday, December 4, 2000

Band continued from page 1

song "Another Day" and their covers of other bands.

Harper's Valley, a band made up of the students of Will Weicher, Chris Terschue, Chris Urban, Jim Whistle and Chris Doolin played several songs, including "Hard to Hide," as well as a cover of a Dave Matthews Band song.

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Pfizer reacts to rising pressure

Company plans to slash staff after ending development of key cholesterol drug

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Pfizer Inc. will likely slash staff and accelerate merger and licensing deals as the pressure on it to improve its financial performance intensi­fied after the weekend’s announcement that the company ended development of a key drug, analysts said.

Analyzers differed on how much they believed Pfizer would fall when it opened on Monday. Barbara Ryan, an analyst at Deutsche Bank, said she believed the dividend yield of roughly 4 percent would keep shares from a free fall, but another analyst estimated the stock could plunge to $27.87. Pfizer shares closed Friday at $32.87 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The world’s largest drug­maker said Saturday that an independent board was preparing a study for cholesterol treatment torcetrapib that recommended the work end because of an unexpected number of deaths.

The news is devastating to Pfizer, which had been counting on the drug to reviv­alize stagnant sales that have been hurt by numerous patent expirations on key products. It has said it was spending around $800 million a year to develop torcetrapib, which was supposed to fill a floor on 10,000 people in 2008.

Ryan, an analyst at Zacks Independent Research, doesn’t think the news is as big as the market seems to think. He rated the stock a “hold” and predicted it will be expedited because of the loss of torcetrapib although he didn’t give any specifics.

Ryan added that he expects Pfizer to hike its annual dividend from 96 cents to $1.10 per share in the next few weeks in the hopes of put­ting a floor in the stock.

But Jason Napolano, an analyst at Zacks Independent Research, doesn’t think the yield will be enough to prop up the shares. He points out that at the end of last month, Pfizer pulled out of its deal with drugmaker Organon to develop schizophrenia treatment asenapine. Napolano said he expected that drug to add $500 million in sales by 2010 while by that time torcetrapib’s sales would total $3 billion.

“Losing asenapine was a hole in the boat,” said Napolano. Pfizer reiterated it hopes to introduce six new prod­ucts to the market by 2010, but Napolano said its pipeline just doesn’t have another drug which offers the sales potential of torcetrapib.

Ryan and Napolano both expect Pfizer to act swiftly to bring new products into the fold, either through acqui­sition or licensing. But Napolano said that until investors see what those products are, they see little reason to buy the stock. He said he intends to review his “hold” rating on the stock.

Pfizer has other two products in early development to raise HLD, using the same method as torcetrapib. It is too soon to say where they will be affected because it still unclear what caused the patient deaths in the trial.

Pfizer CEO Jeff Kindler speaks at the opening of R&D Analyst meeting presentations in Gorton, Conn., Thursday. Pfizer’s stock is predicted to plunge sharply today.

The Dow is up 13.78 percent so far in volatile trading were shares of manu­facturers like 3M Co., Caterpillar Inc., and United States Steel Corp. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 27.80, or 0.23 percent, to 12,194.13. The Nasdaq composite index fell 18.56, or 0.76 percent, to 2,413.21. The drop does not bode well as Wall Street hopes to finish the final month of the year with double-digit growth. The Dow is up 13.78 percent so far this year, while the S&P 500 has gained 11.89 percent and the Nasdaq is up 9.43 percent.

Niche citrus industry still reeling

JESUIT BEND, La. — Last year’s hurricanes flooded Ben Becnel Sr.’s citrus groves with salt­water, damaged hundreds of orange trees.

“We’ve lost a lot before,” with hurricanes and floods in six years — thanks to exploding busi­ness in the construction, automobile and service indus­tries. Mexico City — As a man who touts creating jobs as the cure­all for Mexico’s ills, President­elect Felipe Calderon couldn’t be taking office at a better time.

The economy is projected to expand by as much as 4.8 percent by year’s end — its fastest growth in six years — thanks to exploding busi­ness in the construction, automobile and service industries. High oil prices have poured money into government coffers, the peso has remained stable, and optimism is on track to create 1 million new jobs this year.

That makes things much easier for Calderon, who took office Friday promising to build an economy that creates enough jobs so that million­aires don’t have to cross into the United States.

“Mexico has all it needs to be a country that recovers from its major economic challenges,” for its people,” Calderon said, voicing optimism in his inaugural address as president.

The vast divide between rich and poor has fed the social tensions that have rippled across Mexico since Calderon won the July 2 election by less than 1 percent.

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Scholar
continued from page 1

"I don't think it really hit me until I called my brother, who's a freshman here (at Notre Dame), and was like 'Well, you can come visit me in England next year,'" Towle said. "It's just been kind of surreal."

She said her application process wasn't an extremely long one; she found out the deadline for the scholarship was Sept. 1 as she was in the process of packing up boxes to go back to school at the end of the summer.

She approached the application with the same energy and spirit that has enabled her to do so much with her time at Notre Dame: she said she dug through some boxes to find her computer and just got to work.

"My first loves are Latin America and Africa," Towle said, and she hopes her study in England will contribute to her ultimate goal of working in international health.

She said she is especially interested in studying HIV and AIDS in conflict-ridden areas and looking at healthcare for refugees and displaced populations, "especially women's health."

Towle said her passion for international health was sparked in high school after she traveled to La Paz, Bolivia as part of a medical mission trip with a team of doctors from Kansas, her home state.

She said her dad, who was traveling as part of the mission, told her that he thought it sounded like a wonderful opportunity and if she could fundraise the money for the trip, she should get on board.

In Bolivia, she said she watched numerous reconstructive surgeries performed — "children with cleft lips and horrible burn victims, for example."

Towle came to Notre Dame intending to major in pre-med, but decided after her freshman year to double major in anthropology and international peace studies.

"I was more interested in the health of communities than of individuals," she said.

An honors student, Towle has earned a spot on the Dean's List every semester. She was also named one of only 20 Presidential Scholars at Notre Dame when she was a freshman. According to Notre Dame's Office of News and Information, the Presidential Scholars are "recognized as top academic students and potential leaders" in the Notre Dame community.

Outside of the classroom, Towle's activism in international health issues and community education and empowerment has been evident.

During her freshman year, Towle and fellow classmate Steve Cartwright founded LeadND, a program that promotes leadership development and service learning among local middle school students.

Now in four local schools, LeadND relies on a large number of "wonderful volunteers" from Notre Dame and members of the local community who have supported the vision of the program, she said.

Towle said being involved with LeadND has been one of the best things about her time at Notre Dame. "It's been like a full-time job for me these past few years," Towle said.

She and Cartwright joke that we are the grandma and grandpa of the program ... we are currently in the process of transitioning the leadership," she said.

Other formative experiences during her undergraduate career include time spent studying abroad in Mexico, spring and researching and working in the African nation of Lesotho last summer, Towle said.

While in Mexico, Towle taught global health to middle school students and did a research project on how globalization has affected HIV/AIDS in Mexico, especially the migrant population.

During her time in Lesotho, she did research on community-based health and worked at Touching Tiny Lives (TTL), a child's safe home and HIV/AIDS outreach program founded by a Notre Dame graduate impacted by his Peace Corps service there, Towle said.

TTL is not an orphanage; the whole goal of the program is to reunify (children with their families)," she said.

She said she was especially interested in exploring how transmission of HIV from mother to child might be prevented.

Conducting research in Lesotho was especially exciting for Towle as she was instrumental in founding the Touching Tiny Lives Foundation, a non-profit with a mission of "ensuring the health and reclaiming the dignity of children impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Lesotho."

Towle said the Foundation "does a lot of fundraising and there is a big effort in furthering education about issues that affect Lesotho."

Towle said she would love to see similar foundations based on the Touching Tiny Lives model directed at supporting other countries.

Despite all of her academic accomplishments and involve-ment in the local and international communities, Towle is humble about being chosen for a Marshall Scholarship.

"This is the effort and support of so many people and a sign of how awesome of a place Notre Dame is," Towle said. "I'm thankful for that."

Marshall Scholarships were established in 1953 by an Act of Parliament to enable future American leaders to study in the United Kingdom, to promote an understanding and appreciation of Britain and to contribute to intellectual development in a variety of fields and to motivate scholars to serve as ambassadors from the United States to the United Kingdom and vice versa.

Contact Meghan Wons at mwons@nd.edu
topline for release Monday. "I was trying to walk the talk, not just talking the talk," said Dr. Sarah Barlow, pediatrician at the University of Southern California. "I think it's a healthy food and nutrition campaign." Students were encouraged to eat snacks from the Snack Shack and exercise to prevent obesity.

The study found that 56 percent of students at Children's Memorial had fast food in their rooms, compared with 29 percent at Ronald McDonald's and 33 percent at the University of Chicago. Most at all three hospitals had fast food that was available for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. McDonald's has restaurants in schools and health care facilities that must continue to address the problem, she said. "It's not just a healthy diet for kids.

Pediatricians criticize advertising targeted at children

Associated Press

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Pediatricians criticize advertising targeted at children
Animal nature shouldn't be denied

It may be in everyone's interest to take a step back from the debate sparked by Daniel Amir's thought-provoking Letter to the Editor on human nature ("Encourage chastity, not free talk," Nov. 21) and in true Catholic fashion treat it on a university.

That being established, and with all due respect to Pope John Paul II, I must assert that his words should be taken within the frame-work of his overall religious philosophy. If I may be so bold as to use a decidedly non-religious source, I humbly submit this quote from Wikipedia.org for the consideration of all interested parties: "Humans, or human beings, are bipolar apes belonging to the mammalian species Homo sapiens (Latin for "wise man" or "knowing man") under the family Hominidae, known as the great apes."

My reflection upon this passage is that while we possess the mental capacity to reflect and improve upon our spiritual nature, we should also respect the diversity in the animal nature we also possess.

Niki Hairs
junior
off campus 1

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Each Zahm resident unique

I would like to compliment The Observer for running the two-part series of stories investigating some of the changes which have taken place in Zahm Hall over the past couple years.

Before I attended Notre Dame, an aged alum told me, "The only thing better than going to Notre Dame is having graduated from Notre Dame!" And despite all of the ill-fated fun I had there as an undergrad, despite all of the playful jibe I received as a Zahm resident and despite of all the times I had to stand in front of the Office of Residence Life and justify my way through, I grew from the experience and now can enjoy the best part — being a Notre Dame graduate.

Alums of Zahm or any other dorm gather and shout the bull about "why" or "crazy" their college days were — right up to the often touted Regis Philbin. I recall his visit to campus clearly, when I was a freshman in Zahm in fall 2001, when, in front of all the lights and cameras, he barged into my former room, 222, jumped in the loft and told all those present what a "crazy" time he had in that room, breaking all the old, silly rules.

People love to reminisce and tell stories about old traditions or "how things used to be done," mostly because it's a way of reminding themselves without actually doing them. Here are two suggestions regarding "stories": 1) they are probably exaggerations, and 2) nothing in the present, in reality, can top those memories.

So what does this mean for the current men of Zahm? Enjoy the elevated status which goes with having a resident in the House. Some will call it a "bad boy" or "whipping boy" image or claim that "it really worries the parents." If you actually believe those things, then you are taking college, and the whole living situation at Notre Dame, way too seriously. Guys living with guys, girls living with girls — the two allegedly not enjoying each other and staying the night together — now that is a joke the rest of the young people in America laugh at (and are extremely puz-

Animal's words can be manipulated

David Spellman ("We are not animals," Nov. 28) recently joined the debate sparked by Amir ("Encourage chastity, not free talk," Nov. 21) and Berven ("Stealing the obvious?" Nov. 29) on the nature of mankind. While Spellman's point is certainly stated in most proper Catholic Doctrine, I must ask him this: if the late pope did in fact state that mankind are, or never will be animals while he (the pope) was most seriously ill and disabled in the exercise of his highest function, then could we not argue that he was very much out of position to make such a judgement, as he himself was benefited of his highest function, which he can only assume an another word for reason? But this is almost beside the point of my argument, which is one that I lone, one can quote from and extrapolate on the word of the pope in such a way as to make it seem that almost anything is true. For example, on Oct. 29, 1994, the pope made a statement in the Pontifical Academy of Sciences launching research on the Human Genome. The pope, Dr. Holms John Paul II, said that it is "an accepted fact that for all living species including man, DNA is the vehicle for hereditary characteristics and their transmission to successive generations," the key being "all living species, including man." In other words, as said by the Holy Father, a species. That he said this is uncontroversially true. Let us now turn to the Oxford English Dictionary, that bastion of our great mother tongue. According to the OED, a species is a "group of class of animals or plants (usually constituting a subdivision of a genus) having certain common and permanent characteristics which clearly distinguish it from other groups." A species is a group or class of animals or plants. If we apply that most chief among our human faculties, reason, we can see that if (1) mankind constitutes a species and (2) a species is hereditary, then mankind must be either animals or plants. We have already seen in the section above that mankind is neither a plant nor an animal. Considering the quote from the pope provided by Spellman, namely that "a man, even if he be disabled or invalid in the exercise of his highest function, is and always shall be a man, and he will never become a "vegetable" or an "animal," animals are eliminated and we are left with only one option for the nature of mankind: non-vegetative animals. Neither a vertebrate nor an archanid nor a cephalopod, neither a brococolis nor a rutegebicula nor a tomatoradicula, mankind is left to the domain of sea algae and mushrooms.

Chad Lavimoniere
junior
off campus 1
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Parents deserve tickets

With respect to the new football ticket policies, it is unnecessary that the University punish parents of students due to the high demand of requested football tickets. Understandably, the alumni are a major source of funding for the University and its football program, and as such, they deserve access to the games. That access, though, should not come at the expense of parents who have supported the University and its football team for many years.

Alumni are required to donate money to our University to be eligible for tickets, and it is difficult to overlook this fact in the new ticketing policies. Alumni who donate a predetermined amount of money are eligible for tickets, and as demand indicators, many donors from more alumni is being donated each year. Intuitively, it appears that the new policies create a more open market for football tickets.

I believe that the University is well aware of the demand for football tickets. They are making daily sacrifices to give their children the chance to see the Fighting Irish perform in person.

**Chris Mosler**

junior

Siegfried Hall

Nov. 30

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Starbucks needs Fair Trade coffee

While large coffee companies such as Starbucks earn millions per day, coffee beans are grown on the backs of farmers, one of the most underpaid professions. The coffee beans purchased may not be produced fairly, and there is an opportunity to improve the lives of these people through Fair Trade coffee.

For people who care about the well-being of others, it is important to consider the ethical implications of their actions. Starbucks, as a company, has an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of coffee farmers and their families.

I hope that Starbucks will consider the ethical implications of its actions and choose to use Fair Trade coffee in its stores.

**Jonathan Lee**

junior

Kerrigan Hall

Nov. 30

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Band funding not so simple

I truly hope that I am one of many people responding to Joe Anderson’s Letter to the Editor (“Band overlooked,” Nov. 30). This letter was a blatant insult to the band and I am sure that this is not the first time it came from one of the ushers, for whom I hold nothing but respect.

Your letter was disrespectful of the planning and effort that goes into bands and Notre Dame games. Do you think that the band does not want to support our team at every game? If those are indeed your thoughts, you disregard the fact that we are part of the Band of the Fighting Irish.

I must remind you that we have lunch schedules, we are a big band, and a large member band. This includes, as all those who traveled to USC can attest, airfare, hotel fees, transportation for large instruments and many, many more behind the scenes fees that few in the band, much less the general public, will ever know about. In order to travel to bowl games, some of the money from the bowl is set aside for the band. This is not the case for USC.

My point is simply this: Robertson should not point fingers at a band who "should understand their responsibility." We understand our responsibilities as well, but they are only human and need funds as well as the resources to undertake a trip as large as USC. This year we had, thank God, Walter Enns, enough resources for 75 band members. Maybe in future years there will be more. Perhaps, in order to assist in the band traveling, Robertson would like to make a donation?

**Liz Wharen**

sophomore

Upper Hall

Nov. 30

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True point lost in semantics

I am writing regarding Alex Renfa’s Letter to the Editor (“Stating the obvious?” Nov. 29) and Ryan Bravo’s letter (“An attempt at resolution,” Dec. 1). I write because of how disappointed I am that individuals who are presumably representative of others who agree with the issues found it necessary to comment on Dan Amir’s assertion, in his well-written exhortation to the Catholic practice of charity, that “we are not animals.”

We are mammals, which are a class of vertebrates, which are a phylum of animals. I can’t believe I’m writing this letter. To pull out a dictionary in this context indicates a severely hyper-inflated ego, as does introducing a letter with “I can’t believe I’m writing this letter.”

Perhaps, then, it should not have been written.

Both Renfa and Bravo knew exactly what was meant by Amir’s statement and their subsequent need to pedant the rest of us with their “enlightened” views on what it means to be human is, in short, disheartening.

**James Weicher**

senior

Siegfried Hall

Dec. 3

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Zahm should promote free thinking

I am disappointed to hear of the shift toward a more dogmatic and unduly narrow way of thinking early in the year. I believe that the “genuine philosopher lives ‘un-philosophically’ and ‘unwisely,’ above all imprudently.” The Zahm I knew believed that philosophy, which now appears to be repressed and/or misunderstood.

Individuality, creativity, fearlessness and a willingness to question dominant values are qualities that I hope Notre Dame values. Zahm, as I experienced it, was a place that encouraged those qualities. When your neighbors come to the table and talk, I expect them to build a floor above them that values self-expression. When your neighbors come to the table and talk, I want to hear that values self-expression. When your neighbors come to the table and talk, I expect to hear that values self-expression. I also want to hear that values self-expression. When your neighbors come to the table and talk, I expect to hear that values self-expression. There is a problem with the way we think about the benefits of Fair Trade coffee.

For people who care about the well-being of others, it is important to consider the ethical implications of their actions. I hope that Starbucks will consider the ethical implications of its actions and choose to use Fair Trade coffee in its stores.

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**J. Weicher**

senior

Siegfried Hall

Dec. 3

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Dr. C. Prescott Sobel

Author

Class of 1994

Dec. 3

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Compliance lookout (the Notre Dame Bookstore catalog with maturity and intellectual growth. If a university is to create leaders and free thinkers — and Zahm unquestionably did that — it must encourage them to take risks, to be unreliable and imprudent, and on occasion, publicly nude.
Incubus explodes creatively with ‘Light Grenades’

By CHRIS McGrady

Perhaps there is such a thing as audio nicotine, and this album will have the listener either smoking two packs a day or chowing down enough Nicorette to choke a horse. Incubus’ newest effort, “Light Grenades,” is perhaps the closest Incubus gets to this amphetamine rush. The album opens with the piano-centered “9 Crimes,” recently heard on the Nov. 23 episode of “Grey’s Anatomy.” “9 Crimes” features Rice’s faithful vocal accompanist, Lisa Hannigan, and the contrast between their voices is even more hauntingly somber than the song to a higher level of beauty. The lyrics, which set the tone thematically for the majority of “9,” are deeply love-laden and heartbreaking. Lines such as the opening, “Leave me out with the waste/This is not what I do/It’s the wrong kind of place/To be thinking of you,” immediately engender feelings of bitterness — feelings that the Rice of each song is unable (or unwilling) to move beyond.

The words, while hardly ham-fisted, are in the same passive-aggressive heartbeat mode that Rice can’t seem to shake, Noel Murray said in a recent review with online publication The Onion’s A.V. Club.

The stagnancy of that bitterness, then, is one of the main complaints listeners have about the band. Original tracks devolve into somewhat excessive explorations of Rice’s being the wronged one in his relationships.

In particular, “Rootless Tree,” with its explosive, heavy chorus, is an exercise in Rice’s frustration that reaches a plateau of near annoyance. Listeners can accept a lot when it comes to an artist’s anger and unhappiness, but the chorus’s repetitive nature is altogether unnerving, and in a way that detracts from Rice’s aesthetic of love and solemnity.

“Me, My Yoke” and “Mine” function in the same way. Normally, the raw quality of Rice’s voice adds to the overall effect of his music. With this song in particular, the formerly deliciously desperate vocals become unnecessary whining.

Rice characteristicizes himself throughout “9” with both whispers and yawns, as heard in particular in “Dogs,” the album’s fifth track. “Dogs” exemplifies Rice’s ability to create an uncommon intimacy with his listeners, and the closeness of his feelings and expressions benefit “9” as a whole.

Other strengths of the album include “Coconut Skins,” with its wryly dirty lyrics and welcome acoustic guitar, and “Grey Room,” which returns triumphantly to Rice’s earlier musings on love’s disappointments. These two tracks depart musically from others like “Me, My Yoke” and “Mine” and use Rice’s talents to emphasize his overall themes. “Accidental Babies” is also a highlight, with its seemingly airy, airy lines of questions that ultimately create a sense of formless longing.

“9” is an album ridden with its own troubles. Its strengths, which stem from the appeal of Rice’s raw earnestness, override its frustrating weaknesses. By the peacefully lengthy final track, “Sleep Don’t Weep,” Rice has drawn in his willing listeners with intoxicating tales of bitter loss, and with that, he succeeds.

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Damien Rice relies heavily on convention in his latest album, “9,” but still produces a solid effort. Rice sings with raw emotion that is missing from the Top 40 today.

By ANALISE Lipari

Incubus continues to change its sound, and has done so since its beginning. The band, originally formed in 1991 (while the members were in 10th grade), consisted of Brandon Boyd, Mike Einziger (guitar), Alex Katunich (drums), Dirk Lance, bassist) and Jose P asillas (drums). Later they added DJ Lyfe Gavin Koppel. Then since, the only things that have changed are the presence of Katunich, who has since been replaced by Ben Kenney and the replacement of DJ Lyfe with DJ K Bhro (Chris Kilmore).

For the first four years of its existence, Incubus spent most of its time touring and recording, building a name for itself, honing a sound from the likelihood of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Korn, and the Deftones. With the release of “Fungus Amongus,” Incubus departed from the musical homogeneity of the pop-rock scene and found its own niche in a crowded genre. At times sounding like metal, at times like fluid pop and at other times funk, Incubus stretches its musical identities to the max, and “Light Grenades” proves this can be deftly done.

It’s evident early on the album is going to be good. It opens with the song “Quicksand,” a vaguely electronic, emotive track that features Rice’s voice synthesized as if off in the distance. This song mutes and fades into track two, “A Kiss To Send Us Off,” which quickly ups the energy and evokes tracks from early in Incubus’ career. The next song, “Dig,” is one of the most addictive on the album and begs to be put on repeat. Don’t be surprised to see this song released as a single and climb up both the Alt-Rock and Pop billboards.

Coming on the third track, “Anna Molly,” is a sound reminiscent of songs from Incubus’ previous work “A Crow Left of the Murder,” and it showcases Boyd’s vocal abilities as well as the musical capabilities of the other members of the band. Other album highlights include “Love Hurts,” a semi-romantic ballad, and “Earth To Bella (Part II)” and “Earth To Bella (Part III).” Both parts of “Earth To Bella” successfully blend acoustic strumming and electric rock guitar to a David-esque perfection, proving artistry extends beyond the realm of sculp­ ture and paint and right into the genre of music.

The diversity of sound and the talent of Incubus gives “Light Grenades” a fighting chance for album of the year, and can easily be considered in the same breath as “Same’s Town” by The Killers and “Stadium Arcadium” by the Red Hot Chili Peppers. The tracks are addictive, intriguing, cut­ting-edge, and beautiful. Incubus has done it again — providing an album that will never fall into the depths of auditory anonymity.

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Incubus explodes creatively with ‘Light Grenades’
North Carolina midfielder Nikki Washington, right, beats Notre Dame forward Amanda Cinalli to a ball Sunday in the NCAA championship game in Cary, N.C. The Tar Heels won 2-1.

Waldrum said, "But that first goal, the way it happened, took the wind out of our sails a little bit.

The Tar Heels almost added to their lead with 15 minutes left in the half on a shot from just outside the box by forward Whitney Engen, but Karas made a diving save to keep Notre Dame in the game.

North Carolina continued to press the Irish net, forcing Karas to make another diving save with one minute left before halftime. Forward Sterling Smith beat Irish defender Kim Lorenzen and got a shot off, but once again Karas made the play to keep the deficit at one.

Notre Dame had a solid chance to score just before the half, when forward Brittany Bock flicked on a free kick with her head but midfielder Amanda Cinalli couldn't get it to before Tar Heel keeper Anna Rodenbough smothered the ball. At halftime, North Carolina had outshot the Irish 10-2. Immediately after, the Tar Heels scored again. Forward Casey Noguera streaked into the box and headed a perfect cross from Engen into the net for a 2-0 lead with 43 minutes left.

Notre Dame made a game of it in the last 10 minutes, scoring with nine minutes left to play. Sophomore forward and Hermann Award winner Kerri Hanks luffed the ball into the box, where Bock emerged from a crowd to head it into the net and cut the lead to one.

"Getting a goal gave us some confidence," Cinalli said. "Unfortunately, we couldn't get in another one."

After the score, the Irish went into an all-out attack mode, sending nearly every player forward and generating several more chances.

"Sometimes you play better when you have nothing to lose," Waldrum said.

The best Irish opportunity after the goal came with eight minutes left. A flip throw-in by freshman Michele Weissenhoffer bounced around in the box, but Rodenbough managed to coral it and end the threat.

Hanks also had one last effort for Notre Dame, earning a free kick just outside the box with one minute remaining, but her shot flew just to the right of the net. "It was really close," Cinalli said. "It just barely missed."

While Waldrum was pleased with the late rally, he was bothered by what the Tar Heels had done in the first half, especially considering Karas' play.

"I thought we responded to being down okay," Waldrum said. "But we shouldn't have gone down. That's the first place.

The Irish were denied their second National Championship in three years, while North Carolina won its 18th NCAA title and its first since 2003.

Notre Dame finished its season 25-1-1, while the Tar Heels set a school record for wins with 27 against one loss.

Early in the game, an attempted goal of over 8,000 was clad mostly in Carolina blue and the Tar Heels even took a 1-0 lead after 25 minutes, with 27 against one loss.

In the last 10 minutes, score, the Tar Heels scored twice in less than two minutes late in the first half, then held off a furious Florida State comeback attempt to win 2-1 thriller Friday to advance in the final against the Tar Heels.

Notre Dame scored twice in less than two minutes late in the first half, then held off a furious Florida State comeback attempt to win 2-1 thriller Friday to advance in the final against the Tar Heels.

Notre Dame freshman midfielder Courtney Rosen put the Irish up 1-0 with nine minutes left in the first half. Rosen, who had come into the game for Weissenhoffer five minutes before, took a pass on the right flank, jacked a defender and rocked a shot past Florida State goalie All-Miss.

"I heard (Mimi) was a little tentative with the ball in the air, " Rosen said. "So I was like, 'why not?' and I let it fly."

The goal was Rosen's second of her career.

The Irish scored again barely two minutes later, with a corner kick by Hanks landing right in front of Bock, who knocked the ball toward senior midfielder Krivacek. Krivacek and a Seminole defender both went for the ball, which went off the Florida State player and into the net.

Krivacek was credited with the goal.

"It was right there and I had good enough position that whichever of us touched it, it was probably going in the net," Krivacek said. "But she was the one who headed it, not me."

The Seminoles (18-4-4) had controlled possession for most of the first half, but were unable to generate many chances. Florida State had more corner kicks than Notre Dame, 6-1, and were outshot 9-2.

The game was almost over.

"I like our intensity in the last fifteen minutes," he said. "But we should have played like that for the entire game."

Notre Dame, Florida State 1. Notre Dame scored twice in less than two minutes late in the first half, then held off a furious Florida State comeback attempt to win 2-1 thriller Friday to advance in the final against the Tar Heels.

Ten minutes later, the Seminoles had a two-on-one break down the right flank, but Notre Dame freshman defender Amanda Clark, the only Irish player left on that side, managed to clear the ball.

The Irish counter-attacked after the clear and junior forward Susan Piek at second, herself running free behind Gianeskis, who had moved up almost to midfield. Gianeskis recovered just in time to harass Piek's shot, which was ruled just wide of the open net.

Notre Dame senior midfield Kian Krikorian moved up front after Florida State fell behind 2-0. It was Trotter's eighth goal of the year, second on the season.

"We thought we had some major opportunities for the factories that would work for us, and I guess they did," Krikorian said.

Soon after the goal, Trotter moved back to defense, a move which "relieved" Waldrum.

"India Trotter is a great athlete, and she was really creating some have against us," he said.

Florida State had a golden chance to tie the game with 23 seconds left on a free kick from near the goal line. The goal kicked into the box and was headed toward the net. Karas missed it, but it hit the cross bar and bounced to the ground, where the Irish keeper knocked it out of bounds.

Florida State got two shots off on the ensuing corner kick, but both were deflected.

"We were under a lot of pressure," Notre Dame defender Christie Shaner said. "We had to get it back, and people were running free."

Late in the game, Krikorian removed Mims and put a goalie jersey on junior defender Libby Gordon in order to get a quicker, more offensive lineup into the game.

"We've been working on that for a few weeks," Krikorian said. "We've been in a situation where we need a goal, this was usually what we go to. There's no difference to me between losing two to one and these two being two to one.

The strategy almost paid off, with the Seminoles getting two major scoring chances with less than 15 minutes to play.

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Note: Hanks, Bock, and Krivacek were named to All-Tournament team from Notre Dame.

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Senior class leaves behind impressive legacy

By TIM DOUGHERTY
Spokes Writer

CAIRY, N.C. - Some day, as they wander through the halls of their alma mater, the Notre Dame seniors will tell their grandchildren about the 2-1 semifinal victory over Florida State last Sunday in the NCAA Tournament at Alumni Field. For the seniors, it was a great way to leave Alumni Field, knocking out the No. 8 Penn State 4-0 in front of their home crowd.

“Unfortunately we didn’t win, but it was a very good Carolina team,” said Krivacek, who has no regrets.

“Carolina in our four years and we never had [another] loss at Alumni. I think what we took pride in as a senior class is we had a great team.”

Krivacek said that at the end of the game, the long journey of the seniors just began to come into focus.

“Everything at that moment seemed to flash before us — for me at least,” Krivacek said. “The four years playing with my best friends and the friendships that we developed, the National Championship in 2004, and I think now we have a little better perspective. But it’ll be a few years from now that we really realize that it was a great four years.”

In addition to the 2004 title, Krivacek said one of the great legacies left by the seniors is their dominance at Alumni Field, where they posted a 53-2-1 record and had not lost since Michigan beat them 1-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament during their freshman year.

“Senior forward Molly Barlow and I were talking about this [Saturday night],” she said. “That we felt for the girls who had to go off on a loss losing at home at Alumni. I think what we took pride in as a senior class is we never had [another] loss at Alumni Field in our four years. We protected our home field.”

The seniors dominated in their showing at Alumni Field, knocking off No. 8 Penn State 4-0 in front of their home crowd.

“That game against Penn State was a great way to leave Alumni Field,” Krivacek said. Even after stumbling in their final act, Krivacek has no regrets.

“We had seven years playing North Carolina in our four years and there’s no other way to go out than to play Carolina,” she said. “Unfortunately we didn’t win, but it was a very good Carolina team.”

It was also a very good Notre Dame team, one that carried a No. 1 ranking and its accompanying hubbub almost the entire season. It was the type of team that elicited these same kinds of remarks from the teams the Irish brought down on the way to Cary. When the Irish beat Colorado 3-0 at home in the Sweet 16, Buffaloes midfielder Katie Griffin was thankful for the opportunity to go out against No. 1 Notre Dame.

“If you have to lose to somebody you might as well go out to the number one team in the nation. We’ve never played Notre Dame before.”

When someone finally pulls the plug on the torch atop Grace, there is nothing anyone can do to extinguish the legacy of these seniors. Fluorescent light or not, when it comes to ranking the all-time Notre Dame women’s soccer classes, Krivacek, larock, Chrste Shaner, Kim Lorenzen, Lizzie Reed, Claire Galanano and Nikki Westfall are No. 1.

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Notre Dame senior midfielder Jill Krivacek, right, intercepts a pass intended for North Carolina’s Whitney Engen Sunday.
Despite a rare slump, the undefeated Irish finally emerged from a pile of fallen bodies to lay her head on the fallow ground.Because she had her shot to tie in the 89th minute, but her free kick from 20 yards out sailed right of the goal, beyond diving Tar Heel keeper Anna Roodenberg. In the end, Notre Dame spent too much time just fighting. "I was really proud of the fact that we came back and made it a game at the end," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "You feel that we showed that kind of heart. You find the positives in a big game like that. I just wished we could've done a little better in the end." The Irish faced more pressure than they had seen all year. Tar Heels forwards were suffocating Irish players and preventing them from establishing an offensive rhythm until the end of the second half. North Carolina outscored Notre Dame for the first time all year, 20-9. That's a hard deficit to overcome, especially to North Carolina. "I was honestly shocked that we didn't come out and have that kind of intensity that we had the last 15 minutes," Waldrum said. Though junior goalkeeper Lauren Karas might like a do-over on the first goal, she kept her team within striking distance by laying out in the air and on the ground for two breathtaking saves. Notre Dame brought a lot Sunday, but when you play Carolina, a lot isn't good enough. You have to bring everything you have, and then find something extra before it's too late. Unfortunately for the Irish, time ran out before they could find it.

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

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Hanks, Lapira each win Hermann trophy

Notre Dame first to have both men's and women's honoroe

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Across the board, Notre Dame took home a considerable amount of hardware this weekend.

Sophomore forward Kerri Hanks won the Missouri Athletic Club Hermann Trophy Award for the best Division I women's college soccer player, and junior forward Empress Lapira took home the same award on the men's side. Together, they helped Notre Dame become the first ever school to have players win both the men and women's Hermann Trophy Award in the same season. "I think it's pretty well known that Notre Dame has one of the best programs in the country, but this certainly reinforces that," Irish men's coach Bobby Clark said.

As a sophomore, Hanks became the youngest player, male or female, to win the Hermann Trophy Award. She becomes the second player under current men's soccer coach Tim Wallace to win the award. Wallace is Irish forward Charlie O'Donnell who won the award overall for the Tar Heel forwards in the fall and a host of other awards. Hanks left the world with last Wednesday's victory against Indiana. Earlier in the season, the junior scored 11 goals in a seven game stretch, including one assist in Notre Dame's 3-2 victory against the Hoosiers.

"This was arguably the best season that Notre Dame has ever put together." 

Joseph Lapira Irish forward

"I've spent 20 plus years playing college soccer, and I've never had one of my players win player of the year, so this is a very special moment for this program," Clark said. The Virginia native led the Irish in both goals (22) and points (51) this season. Irish senior defender Jay Needham added, "It's been a very special year for me and my teammates. Without them, I would not be close to getting this award."

Through her first two seasons at Notre Dame, Hanks has tallied 33 goals—only former SMU player Lisa Cole (147) and former UC Santa Barbara standout Carin Jennings (147) had more in their first two respective seasons.

This past season, Hanks led the nation in both goals (22) and assists (21) becoming only the eleventh player in NCAA history to break 20 goals and 20 assists in both categories. Hanks joins former UNC and UCLA team star Mia Hamm as the only players to ever lead the nation in both goals and assists, and Hanks hopes that the comparisons between the two players won't end there.

"It's always been my goal to play for the national team," Hanks said. "My time is not yet but hopefully it will come later. I think more about the team now than individually. To be the best player in the world is not something I am too worried about." The Irish forward also became the first ever player in the history of Notre Dame men's soccer to ever win the award. Lapira beat out junior attacker Amanda Davies of Boston College and SMU senior defender Jay Needham.

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Too little, too late

Notre Dame’s matchup with North Carolina pitted the then-No. 1 Irish against the perennial powerhouse Tar Heels. After surrendering goals to Heather O’Reilly and Casey Nogueira, the Irish attempted to pull off a late game comeback. Forward Jill Krivacek’s goal in the 81st minute cut the North Carolina lead to one, but Notre Dame couldn’t find the equalizer before time ran out on the game and its season.
Perennial Christmas favorites foster holiday spirit

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Craig:

The Chicago production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" is a hilarious show that loves its audience. Whether it's about their simple animation and spirit of the classic Christmas movies, stories make them appealing year in and year out. The music of "Putnam County Spelling Bee" isn't afraid to interact with its audience. Before the show, audience members are interviewed and four are selected to actually perform as spellers in the show. The rest of the audience is then treated not as a theatre audience, but as the audience of the spelling bee. In the beginning, the host walks through the crowd welcoming the audience to the bee, certain members are pointed out as character's "family," and the first character to be eliminated is then exiled to work for booster club selling candy. The character rebuffs by throwing candy and chips out at the audience. The interactive element of "Putnam County Spelling Bee" keeps the attention of viewers involved and makes every show different.

Though at first glance "Putnam County Spelling Bee" seems to be solely a comedy, the musical has real depth. The central theme can be summed up in the lyric "the best spellers don't necessarily win." "Putnam County Spelling Bee" zeroes in on what the characters are thinking and packs a lot of comedy. The musical is perfectly timed with the snowy and cozy Christmas feeling, so it's included anyway. "Little Women" is the perfect story of family love (set among some great snow scenes) that inspires you to spend more time with your own.

5. "The Santa Clause" — "Starring Tim Allen, this is one of the funniest Christmas movies and definitely one of the best in recent years. The story of what happens when Santa gets replaced by a middle schooler of men. "The Santa Clause" will warm your heart either from sincerity or laughter.

6. "The Small One" — I've yet to find anyone else who remembers this one, but I can't resist including the movie I had practically memorized as a child. Olive Ostrovsky's "The Small One" tells the story of a boy who must part with his pet donkey, but the only one who wants to keep the fatty. When all hope seems lost, a man offers a Christmas tree so that he can bring his pregnant wife to Bethlehem.

7. "Little Women" — All right. It isn't really a Christmas movie, but it's one that inspires you to spend more time with your own. It's a Christmastime classic enjoyed each year. It is one of several Christmas movies that signify the spirit of the holidays.

8. "Miracle on 34th Street" — I remember watching both versions of this movie from my own childhood. It's a Christmas classic enjoyed each year before Christmas. "A Miracle on 34th Street" tells the story of a child who is adopted by a woman (One of the best spellers) and a man who learns to love her. The film is a delightful Christmas story that will warm your heart.

9. "The Day After Christmas" — It's a Christmas movie that could be included solely because it is the replacement of the song "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," sung by Judy Garland, but its sweet love stories make it the all the better.

10. "It's a Wonderful Life" — There can't be a Christmas movie list without this Frank Capra film starring James Stewart. The touching story reminds us of the importance of life, pure and simple.

THEATER REVIEW
‘Putnam’ fuses music, comedy, spelling bees

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
Drury Lane Theatre Water Tower

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Scene Craig:

"Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer" is a stop-motion Christmas classic enjoyed each year. It is one of several Christmas movies that signify the spirit of the holidays.

3. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — Your head may not be screwed on just right if you can resist the original animated version. Dr. Seuss' unforgettable story of the mean and cynical Grinch, who sets out to destroy Christmas for the Whos helps us remember that it can come without "packages, boxes, or bags."

4. "A Christmas Carol" — Whether it stars Alastair Sim, Patrick Stewart or the Muppets, you can't go through the Christmas season without watching some version of Dickens' classic tale. "A Charlie Brown Christmas" — In my favorite, Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the rest of the gang get past the commercialism of Christmas and find out, as Linus says, what "Christmas is all about." This movie is the epitome of everything Christmas. It's a childhood memory, it's sweet and funny and it reminds us that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Have a Merry Christmas!

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The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
UCLA crushes USC's title hopes; Florida wins SEC crown
Trojans 13-9 loss to Bruins opens door for Gators to play Ohio State in BCS National Championship Game

Associated Press

Several Florida Gators gather around knockout Chris Leak after his 9-yard touchdown run in the SEC championship game Saturday. Florida defeated Arkansas 38-28.

It wasn't to be, even though USC came in averaging 32.3 points a game. Besides having their national championship hopes ended, the Trojans (10-2, 7-2 Pac-10) had their NCAA-record streak of 63 games in which they had scored 20 or more points snapped.

And a lot of the credit goes to UCLA's first-year defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker, a former Washington Redskins assistant. It was his schemes the Trojans were unable to solve.

"I didn't believe it until the clock hit zero," UCLA coach Karl Dorrell said. "All we wanted to do was stay close and get a chance to win. I knew how important this win is for the Bruin family, I know that it's a long time."

Since 1998, to be exact. The Trojans had beaten the Bruins seven straight times. Before that, UCLA beat USC right in the middle.

The Bruins only sacked USC quarterback John David Booty twice, but they had him on the run throughout and forced him to throw several balls away. And they held Trojans star Dwayne Jarrett to four catches for 68 yards.

"We gave them a lot of different looks," Walker said. "If we confused Booty, that would take care of Jarrett."

The strategy worked to perfection.

"Their offensive line was real wide-eyed," UCLA defensive end Bruce Davis said. "People said we're small, that's all. We were big enough to knock Booty off the ground."

Florida 38, Arkansas 28
As silver confetti blew all around them, the Florida Gators celebrated their first Southeastern Conference title with the "Fun 'n' Gun" days.

The party didn't last long, though.

It was time to start lobbying for a chance to play for the biggest title of all.

Making their pitch for a trip to the desert, the Gators got an unexpected assist from the West Coast, held on for a 1-yard victory over Arkansas and quickly deemed themselves the most worthy opponent to face top-ranked Ohio State in the BCS championship game.

"We're going to tell a group of young men who just went 12-1 with the most difficult schedule against six ranked opponents that they don't have a chance to go for national championship," Florida coach Urban Meyer asked incredulously. "I'm going to need help with that one."

His players agreed, of course, feeling the No. 4 Gators are more deserving of a shot at the Buckeyes than third-ranked Michigan, which lost to Ohio State two weeks ago in their regular-season finale.

"Michigan already had its chance," said freshman Perry Harvey, who was MVP of the Gators' 38-28 win over No. 8 Arkansas on Saturday. "I think we deserve a chance."

One team Florida doesn't have to worry about: Southern California. The No. 2 Trojans were knocked out by a 13-9 loss to UCLA, which started its stunning upset win over the Trojans in the locker room at halftime.

It was definitely motivating," Harrah said. "We wanted to go out and finish off the game that they did."

Harvin scored two touchdowns and Florida put up two more scores off a blocked punt and a botched return, winning its first SEC crown since 1993.

The Gators trailed Michigan in last week's BCS standings but hope they did enough to leapfrog the Wolverines in the one that really matters. The media, coaches and computers will answer that question Sunday night.

When everything is settled — and no matter what happens, there will be plenty of griping — Florida either heads to Arizona for the Jan. 8 BCS championship game or settles for a spot in the Sugar Bowl.

West Virginia 41, Rutgers 39
Florida's West Virginia defensive play was far from perfect. They allowed Scarlet Knights to gain 45 yards, giving up nine touchdowns that counted out to be the game-winner.

Brown ran for one touchdown and threw for another in his first career start to help No. 15 West Virginia (10-2, 5-2 Big East) cap the most successful season for Pat Brown since 2000.

Brown started for Pat White, who missed the game because of a sore ankle.


The ending was a peculiar finish to what was probably the most improbable regular season for No. 13 Rutgers (10-2, 5-2). A loser for so long, the Scarlet Knights were suddenly leading the No. 2 Sugar Bowl-bound Sugar Bowl.

When everything is settled — and no matter what happens, there will be plenty of griping — Florida either heads to Arizona for the Jan. 8 BCS championship game or settles for a spot in the Sugar Bowl. No. 4 Florida (11-1, 7-1 SEC) is hoping to return to the biggest bowl game in school history.

Riley Skinner followed Swanson's pick with long, quick throw, setting up Sam Swank's final two field goals that gave No. 16 Tennessee a 38-28 victory over 23rd-ranked Georgia Tech in the ACC title game on a rain-soaked Saturday.

"When you get your backs against the wall, the middle kids probably react," West Virginia coach Jim Grobe said.

Shenkar, who grew up in Jacksonvile, finished 14-for-25 for 201 yards in his homecoming — and may have had the biggest cheering section in the half-century stadium. He struggled most of the game, and was sacked four times, but he came up big when the Demon Deacons needed it most.

He hooked up with John Tereshinski for a 39-yard gain on third-and-10, setting up Swank's second field goal, a 33-yarder with 8:27 to play. The kick tied the game at 6.

On the next possession, Skinner found Willie Idlette for a 19-yard gain on third-and-4, setting up a 22-yard that couldn't go off the field for the game-winner.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 504 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next week's deadline is 7 p.m. All classifieds must be typed. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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Do not go it alone.

RIPPLE EFFECTS

The Observer • CLASSIFIEDS
Monday, December 4, 2006
Florida players celebrate with the SEC Championship trophy Saturday after a 38-28 win over Arkansas. The Gators came from behind to edge out Michigan in the rankings and face Ohio State in the BCS Championship Game.

Gators to play Buckeyes in title game

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Florida beat Michigan on Sunday in the only game that mattered.

The Gators, who spoiled hard for this victory, were picked to play No. 1 Ohio State for college football’s Tostitos BCS Championship Game, ending any chance for the Wolverines to get the rematch they so desired and thought they deserved.

After the numbers were crunched, it was Florida — barely. The Gators had a BCS average of .944, and the Wolverines were close behind at .934. The teams were tied in the computer rating, but Florida had a 3-point lead in the Harris poll and a 26-point advantage in the coaches’ poll.

The close selection was sure to set off renewed calls to scrap the Bowl Championship Series and go to a playoff.

Tiger Woods said Sunday he will go to a playoff.

"It’s an imperfect system," said Meyer of the BCS. "If you want a true national championship, the only way to do it is on the field." Ohio State coach Jim Tressel, however, is not in favor of a playoff.

Florida coach Urban Meyer was pretty scared," Safin said. "It was pretty tough to control the match. Everything worked out." Safin lost his opening singles match against Jose Acasuso for its second Davis Cup crown. Friday, blaming the indoor carpet at Olympic Stadium. But neither the surface war lingering knee injuries stopped him this time. "This is probably the most important win in the last two years," Safin said. "I was under pressure and I was pretty scared," Safin said.

Safin victory clinches Davis Cup for Russia

Tiger to build his first golf course in Dubai

Dubai, United Arab Emirates — Tiger Woods said Sunday he will develop his first golf course in Dubai, an oil-rich city that hosts two European Tour events and has seen a recent rise in golf course construction.

The Tiger Woods Dubai will feature a 7,700-yard, par-72 course, a golf academy, 330 exclusive villas and a boutique hotel with 80 suites.

"I look at this project not only as an opportunity, but also as a great responsibility," Woods said.

Dubai already has eight golf courses, including the Emirates Golf Club, which hosts the Dubai Desert Classic. Woods won the tournament earlier this year in a playoff over Ernie Els. Woods lost in Dubai five years ago when he made double bogey on the final hole to finish two strokes behind Thomas Bjorn.

In Brief

UC-Santa Barbara men's soccer takes championship

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Nick Perera had a goal and an assist as UC-Santa Barbara beat UCLA 2-1 Sunday to win the program's first national title and second championship in school history.

Perera hanged the Gauchos' first shot off the left post and into the UCLA goal to make it 1-0 less than 3 minutes into the game. Tyler Rowenthal carried the ball deep into the box before passing it back to an unmarked Perera, who had plenty of time to settle it and take the shot.

The Gauchos (13-7-1) took a 2-0 lead in the second half. Perera collected a pass in the UCLA box from Bryan Byrne and flicked the ball to an open Eric Avila, who slid it into the bottom left corner of the goal.

The UC-Santa Barbara victory came less than a day after it played 110 scoreless minutes in its semifinal victory over Wake Forest.

NFL

around the dial

Carolina at Philadelphia 8:30 p.m., EST

NCAA BASKETBALL

USC at Kansas 9 p.m., ESPN2
Steelers finally find stride against Tampa Bay

Pittsburgh dominates; Titans victorious on late 60-yard field goal

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers saw last week what happens when a hurried quarterback has no time to make throws, set up in the pocket or get any rhythm going.

Too bad for them it waited until it was too late in the season to figure out how to do the same.

The Steelers didn’t do much on offense for the second week in a row, but it didn’t make much difference as they capitalized on repeated mistakes by Tampa Bay.

Roethlisberger bounced back from one of the worst games of his three-season career to throw touchdown passes to tight ends Jerame Tuman and Heath Miller both times after the Bucs (3-9) turned passes to ends.

Bush tied Joe Horn’s franchise record by scoring all four of the Saints’ touchdowns and gained 168 total yards as New Orleans beat the San Francisco 49ers 34–10.

The victory helped New Orleans (8-4) remain alone in first place in the NFC South, while reducing the 49ers’ (5-7) playoff hopes.

Most of Bush’s gains were modest, but his stunning acrobatic, fancy footwork and leaping ability were evident in all of his touchdowns and numerous drive-sustaining plays. He finished with 131 yards on nine receptions and 37 yards on 10 rushes.

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Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was sacked nine times and threw two interceptions last week in a 27-0 loss to Baltimore that effectively ended any chance the Super Bowl champion Steelers had of repeating.

He wasn’t that much better against Tampa Bay, completing fewer than half of his 25 passes against one of the league’s weakest pass defenses, but did throw scoring passes of 16 yards to Miller and 2 to Tuman. He also was sacked only once.

The Bucs avoided their second shutout when Matt Bryant kicked a 27-yard field goal on the final play, prompting coach Jon Gruden to say, “I probably will get criticized for it.”

There’s kind of an unwritten rule against it, but if I had been them, I probably would have kicked it, too,” Steelers linebacker Joey Porter said.

Roethlisberger (12-of-25 for 198 yards) threw his league-high 20th interception less than four minutes in, making him the first Steelers quarterback since Cliff Stoudt in 1983 to throw that many. Stoudt had 21 in his one and only Steelers career, since so many elements were a 49ers fan growing up.

San Francisco 10, New Orleans 3

The 49ers returned to San Francisco for the first time since their son turned pro, wearing Bush’s No. 25 Saints jersey. Bush delighted his parents and everyone else who showed up at the game and bush said he needed an outlet after watching his school, Southern California, lose its chance for a national title by falling to rival UCLA a night earlier.

"I was sick last night. I wanted to throw up. I couldn’t believe they lost," Bush said. “I had a little extra aggression and I wanted to take it out on the 49ers.”

Tennessee 20, Indianapolis 17

Magic is in the air around the Tennessee Titans. Just ask Rob Bironas.

Bironas kicked a 60-yard field goal — the franchise’s longest ever — with 7 seconds left, and the Titans upset Indianapolis for their first victory over the Colts since December 2002 and their second straight amazing comeback.

The team that tied for the NFL’s second-biggest comeback in the final 10 minutes last week against the New York Giants struck again Sunday against the Colts (11-2), who had lost only four of their previous 36 games. With the wind at his back, Bironas needed every gust to lift the longest field goal in his short career over the crossbar for his second consecutive game-winning kick.

He became the sixth kicker in NFL history to connect from 60 yards or better.

“I needed that wind behind me,” Bironas said. “It was all at my back ... I let the wind take it the rest of the way.”

Peyton Manning said the wind was a big factor for the Titans in the fourth quarter, and never bigger than on Bironas’ field goal.

“The guy made a heck of a kick,” Manning said.

The Titans (3-7) didn’t trail by 21 this time, but they were down 14-0 in the first half before starting this comeback with 10 points just before halftime. They intercepted Manning twice, and Vince Young threw for two touchdowns and used his legs to help keep the ball away from the two-time NFL MVP.

Indianapolis needed a victory to clinch the division for a club record fourth straight year and its seventh playoff berth in eight years. Seemingly easy enough for a franchise that had won 12 straight divisional games coming into Sunday.

Instead, the Colts blew a 14-point lead for the first time coach Tony Dungy could remember and lost to the Titans for the first time in eight games.

“They made a 60-yard field goal, and you take your hat off to them. We put ourselves in that position where a field goal beats you, and it did,” Dungy said.

Health Services

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The Health Center Pharmacy will CLOSE on Friday, December 15th at 6 PM.

The Health Center and Pharmacy will RE-OPEN on Monday, January 15th at 8am

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Or call the Health Center - 574-631-7497

or the Pharmacy: 574-631-6574
Arizona easily tops struggling St. Louis

Cardinals win 34-20; Cowboys defeat NFC East rivals New York; Patriots edge Detroit

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The normally soft-spoken Marc Bulger had to speak up: St. Louis had just lost to the Arizona Cardinals at home, and the Rams' mistakes made it obvious to the quarterback that some of his teammates are no longer committed.

"I know there's some guys in here who don't care," Bulger said after a loss to Arizona that ended off a flurry of finger-pointing.

Prized by his coaches for his calm demeanor, the quarterback kept his voice down and didn't single out anyone after the Rams (5-7) were whitelined for a season-high 126 yards in penalties that eats at Bulger, he said, is the repeated mistakes throughout the season.

"There's more than one guy in this locker room that could care less that we're losing, or thinks it's OK to make mistakes," he said. "When we got embarrassed and you think it's OK and keep making the same mistakes, it's not OK."

Everything seemed OK for Arizona (9-3) on Sunday. Marcel Shipp scored three touchdowns, Edgerrin James had 117 yards rushing and Matt Leinart won for the second time in seven starts for the Rams, who made the most of the Rams' mistakes to win for the first time on the road this season.

"I think we're getting better every week," said Leinart, who was 13-for-24 for 186 yards and no touchdowns. "I think we're getting better every week." He added, "We're getting better every week."

James, who had 94 yards in the first meeting against the Rams in the third week of the season, didn't mind his teammates leaving off drives.

"I had an opportunity to go in, and I said, 'No, let Shipp go in,'" James said. "Because they've been so supportive of me in practice and everything.""

New England 28, Detroit 21

The Patriots know how to finish games. The Lions just finish themselves off.

Corey Dillon scored two of his three touchdowns in the first 8:35, Detroit turned the ball over on its last three possessions and New England avoided a stunning upset with a victory.

Dillon gave the Patriots their first lead of the second half with a 3-yard scoring run with 2:33 left, backing up Tom Brady's 2-yard TD pass from the Giants, wearing their red jerseys for the first and only time this season, had tied the game at 20-all on a 5-yard TD pass from Eli Manning to Plaxico Burress.

Gramatica, who also kicked field goals of 41 and 35 yards, was signed last week after the Cowboys cut Vanderjagt, who had received a three-year, $1.3 million contract in the offseason.

But being the new guy didn't keep Gramatica from bursting into one of his over-the-top celebrations: The diminutive kicker leaped into the arms of his teammates, while coach Bill Parcells broke into a wide smile on the sidelines as the ball sailed through.

"Gramatica made me look good," Parcells said with a smile. "For a first game back in the league, you can't get any more pressure than that for the division lead.""
When the Bruins encounter an open shot, UCLA's favorite way to play. So the team was making the most of an extended stay at home to start the season.

A.J. Price scored 20 points, Hasheem Thabeet tied the全校 highest record with 10 blocked shots and the 20th-ranked Huskies blew out Texas Southern 105-55 to win their 26th straight home game.

The Huskies open the season with 11 games in either Storrs or Hartford, none against a Big East or Top 25 team. "We are a coaching staff that have got to do things, hopefully, in reality," coach Calhoun said. "Today you didn't beat Carolina or Pittsburgh or Rutgers or anyone else. You beat Texas Southern. We are going to have to be good enough to have better players than, on our home court, and we did it through hard defense." Thabeet, the Huskies' 7-foot-3 center, tied the blocks record held by Emeka Okafor. He also had seven points and four rebounds. "I can see everyday, I play better defense," said Thabeet, a freshman from Tanzania who has been playing organized basketball for just three years. "I belong here. I know I am thinking, I am playing defense, I am playing hard." Four other Huskies scored in double figures. Jeremy Dyson had 19 points, Doug Wiggins had 17 and Marcus Johnson and Jeff Adrien each added nine rebounds for UConn. Price also had seven assists. "He knows when to feed guys and when not to," Calhoun said of Price, a 6-5 senior point guard. "I just thought he looked like he had some spring and he played with a lot of energy." Leonta Matthews had 10 points to lead Texas Southern 60-51.

UCF 61, UC Riverside 38

Tearing up and down the court is UCF's favorite way to play. So when the Knights encounter an opponent that slows things down with frustration sets in and their fans nearly go to sleep, Aaron Affalo scored 13 points to help the top-ranked Bruins beat UC Riverside Sunday, giving them a 6-0 record for the first time since they won the 1999 national championship.

"We got a lot of aggressive guys on this team that want to get up and down and try to play," Calhoun said. "It's pretty difficult to (play slow)."

Luc Richard Mbah a Moute had 12 points and 12 rebounds in the Bruins' second consecutive victory that ended their first week as the nation's top-ranked team in 11 years. They beat Long Beach State by 30 points last Tuesday night. Josh Smith and Lorenzo Mata added 10 points each.

"We're a fast-breaking team," point guard Darren Collison said. "It's real difficult for us, but we did a good job in the second half standing our ground. We're the No. 1 team and everyone is trying to beat us, and they're going to do what it takes.

Henrik Thomsen scored eight points for the Highlanders (5-3), who played a top-ranked team for the second time ever. In 1998, UConn stunned No. 1 Iowa 110-92 in the Chocolate Christmas Classic. The Highlanders controlled a slow tempo in the first half and were down 10 at the break.

"We were a little anxious," UCLA coach Ben Howland said. "We got some shots from 3-point range. That was a tough game because they were very patient on offense." UCR was limited to four points over the final 7 1/2 minutes on baskets by Justin Bell and Michael Creppy.

The Highlanders shot 30 percent for the game and committed 12 turnovers — under their 20.2 average.

"Some of those guys haven't been getting a lot of playing time," UCR interim coach Vonn Webb said. "We got some stops, but then we turned it over, gave up some easy baskets and those kind of things break you down.

The Bruins were messy, too, with 13 turnovers, but they shot 68 percent from the floor in the second half and got to the free throw line nine more times than UCR.

Florida State 70, Florida 66

Al Thornton is so important to Florida State that Seminoles coach Leonard Hamilton almost feels guilty about it.

Still, Hamilton isn't shy about going to his team's biggest strength.

Thornton scored 28 points including two free throws with 4 seconds left, and Florida State upset No. 4 Florida.
Saint Mary’s falls to 1-5 after loss

Team hopes to rebound against Carthage in tonight’s home game

By DAN COOPER and BILL BRINK
Sports Writers

In another close game, the Belles came up short Saturday night, losing to Washington University 66-62 at home.

The win improved the Bears record to 3-3 while the Belles dropped to 1-5, extending their losing streak to three.

“We just need to get out and play and get a win,” guard Allison Kessler said. “We need to focus on the next game.”

The Bears jumped to an early lead due to the play of forward Rebecca Parker who scored nine of Washington’s first 15 points. Washington would maintain control of the game throughout the first half.

With 23 seconds left in the first half, senior guard Bridget Lipke hit a jumper to pull the Belles within five, sending the Belles into the locker room down 29-34 at halftime.

Despite trailing for the first 35 minutes, the Belles surged to a 20-10 run and took the lead, 56-55, with 4:55 to go.

Saint Mary’s matched the Bears in forced turnovers (15) and points scored off turnovers (17), but were out-rebounded (38-32) and shot a lower rate from the field (42 percent compared to Washington’s 66%).

Washington regained the lead with an 8-2 run and held on for the win.

Junior Allison Kessler was near-automatic from the charity stripe, making 12 of her 15 free throw attempts as the Belles out shot the Bears from the line (66%-60%).

Recent struggles were “not due to anything we haven’t been doing,” Kessler said. “[We need to] get better at what we’re doing right.”

Saint Mary’s will hit the court tonight at Carthage (2-2) which has dropped its last two games. In those contests, Carthage has averaged 56 points per game, down from 70.5 in its first two.

The Lady Bears utilize their bench greatly — no starter averages over 29.5 minutes.

Forward Katie Jarger leads the team with 14 points and 8.8 rebounds per game.

The Lady Bears have a plus-3.3 turnover margin per game.

“Allison Kessler Belles guard

“We just need to get out and play and get a win. [We need to focus on the next game.]”

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@nd.edu and Bill Brink at bbrink@nd.edu

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**ND VOLLEYBALL**

Badgers overcome Notre Dame again

Wisconsin knocks the Irish out of NCAA Tournament for third consecutive season

By DEVIN PRESTON
Sports Writer

Wisconsin had knocked the Irish out of the NCAA tournament two consecutive times.

This weekend, the Badgers made it three, beating the Irish 34-26, 26-30, 21-30 at UW Fieldhouse in Madison, Wis. Although the Irish strung together some impressive plays, they were not able to keep their season alive against the superior Badgers.

Before the game, Irish captain Adrianna Stassiak said that the history between the Irish and the Badgers gave the Irish an “edge” of motivation. But that edge didn’t overcome the talent of 16th-seeded Wisconsin.

Notre Dame’s offense was led by Slaski who tallied 12 kills. Wisconsin freshman Brittany Dolgner dominated with 21 kills at a hitting percentage of .545.

The Badgers outhit the Irish .324 to .204.

A well-balanced offense was key for Wisconsin. The three Badgers with the highest kill counts all had hitting percentages above .294 — higher than Notre Dame’s team leader Kim Krisoff.

Senior libero Danielle Horneman led all players with 17 digs, playing a big role in keeping her team’s hopes of an upset alive.

“They’re all aggressive, and they’re scrappy, and their defense was great, especially in the first game they were out-digging us by five or six,” said Wisconsin coach Pete Waite.

The scrappy play from Notre Dame forced Wisconsin to seven game points before they were finally able to put the Irish away. “We played really well,” said setter Janell Nicholus. “We executed our game plan and fought for every point.”

Although Notre Dame was able to tie the score with Wisconsin late in the game, needing only two points to take the game, they were unable to win the battle for momentum and fell behind Wisconsin later in the match.

“It would have helped to win,” Nicholas said, “but it didn’t set us back at all. We came out playing just as hard in the second game.”

Wisconsin opened the second game in dominant fashion with a 6-2 run. The Irish were able to go on a 7-2 run out of a timeout and take their first lead at 9-8. The team did not allow the Badgers to gain more than a two-point lead until late, when a service error from Krisoff preceded Wisconsin’s 8-2 run to put the Badgers ahead 24-22.

After a timeout, Wisconsin was able to win its second game of the night off a kill from junior Audra Jeffers.

Notre Dame lost stride early in the third game with Wisconsin taking a four-point lead until the end of the match. The Irish made an attempt to regain control of the match with a kill from Mallorie Cradock kicking off five consecutive points to narrow the match to lead 15-13.

But the Irish were unable to overcome the Badgers, falling 21-30 after another Jeffers kill sealed the match.

Contact Devin Preston at dprestol@nd.edu

Irish middle blocker Tara Enwezor attempts to spike the ball in a 3-0 win over West Virginia Nov. 12.
The Observer • SPORTS
Monday, December 4, 2006

Bowl
continued from page 24

"We want to stop answering questions about Notre Dame not winning bowl games," said captain and strong safety Tom Zbikowski. With that goal that began at 6 a.m. today when Notre Dame was scheduled to hold its first practice after learning its opponent.

Irish coach Charlie Weiss said Sunday that much of Sugar Bowl will center on lining up "good guys against good guys." We'll spend the next few weeks with the No. 1 offensive unit practicing against the No. 1 defensive unit," he said, in an effort to simulate game competition during their likely bowl playoff before the game.

The Irish allowed 404 total yards and 12 points, offense against USC — including 132 passing yards and three touchdowns catches by Trojans without Dwayne Jarrett — which prompted many in the media to question Notre Dame's speed. The team wasn't so sure. "T"USC made more plays than us," Thomas said. "But I don't see speed as the reason.

"That will be a tough task, given that the Sugar Bowl will be in front of a New Orleans crowd, just 80 miles from the Tigers' Baton Rouge home. Still, Notre Dame said Sunday that it's confident in its abilities.

"It's not like we don't have talent and can't match up with these guys," Thomas said.

Notes:
- Both Wells and LSU coach Les Miles disclosed who they voted No. 2 in the coaches poll released Sunday, Wells, citing the Wolverines' win at Notre Dame in September, put Michigan in the second spot behind Ohio State. Miles, despite losing two Michigan graduate and former Notre Dame commit Mike Arbor for several years, voted Florida No. 1 because it won the SEC title. Florida finished No. 2 in the both the AP, coaches and BCS standings and will face Ohio State in the National Championship Game Jan. 8.

Irish quarterback Brady Quinn is upended by two USC defenders in Notre Dame's 44-24 loss to the Trojans Nov. 25. The Irish found out Sunday night they will play No. 4 LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

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Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Irishquarterback Brady Quinn is upended by two USC defenders in Notre Dame's 44-24 loss to the Trojans Nov. 25. The Irish found out Sunday night they will play No. 4 LSU in the Sugar Bowl.

Finally, offensive guard Dan Santucci took home the Knute Rockne Student-Athlete Award from the Notre Dame Club of St. Joseph Valley and tight end John Carlson won the Westside of State Farm Student Athlete of the Year Award.

Editor's Note: The Sugar Bowl is sponsored by Allstate.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Prospective recruits see team perform well

By BILL BRINK Sports Writer

Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth scored 48 of Saint Mary's 238 points en route to a sixth-place finish at the DePauw Invitational Friday and Saturday.

Bergen won the 1, 650-yard freestyle event, winning the 200 free, 200 back, 500 free and 1:08.24.

"There were a couple recruits at this meet and it's great for them to see Saint Mary's swimmers winning events and moving in the right direction." — Ryan Dombkowski Belles coach

"Both our A and B relay teams swim at the end of the meet, Dombkowski said. "They showed a lot of heart and determination in the last two days of the meet."

The days were long indeed. The team left at 5 a.m. Friday and drove four hours to the meet, arriving in time for morning warm-ups. It was the first time the freshmen had swam a same-day prelim-final meet.

"It was tough," Dombkowski said. "The prelims were very early in the morning and the finals in the evening. It was an energetically taxing day on the entire team."

Several other Belles, although not part of the scoring, posted new season bests. Tighe, Niemann, Carroll,Songsomre Jennifer Nicolle, sophomore Leah Beley and senior Sarah Hill all lowered their best times on the season.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Gerbeth leads Belles to sixth place at DePauw Invitational
Revenge
continued from page 24
defenseman Kyle Lawson (goal, assist).
Irish goalie Dave Brown made 38 saves in two games, surrendering just three goals.
The two teams combined for only 16 penalties in two games despite a first period dominat-
ed by big checks and numerous scrums in front of the nets.
Can you imagine college football teams playing Saturday and Sunday nights?" Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "Hockey is an emotional, physical sport and Saturday nights are usually toned down from Friday nights.
In the first game, three quick goals midway through the third period gave the Irish a 3-1 victory.
Thang got the scoring started with a shorthand-
ed goal at 9:14. Junior Michael Bartlett hit Thang with a pass at center ice and the freshman skated down the right side of the ice, muscled past an open Alaska defenseman and slipped the puck through Johnson's pads.
The goal, Notre Dame's fourth short-handed tally of the season, gave the team a much needed spark as it powered in two more in the next two minutes.
Thirty seconds later defense-
man Brett Blatchford secured his first collegiate goal when he put a wrist shot past Johnson's blocker side. Center Garrett Regan picked up this assist, his third of the year.
The final goal came when Van Guild
took control of the puck in the Nanooks zone. The junior right wing skated towards the middle and got off a shot as he was being tripped up. The goal ended Van Guild's four game scoring drought, which went back to a 4-0 win over Bowling Green Nov. 11.
"It takes a lot of pressure off, it was pretty nice to get one tonight and hopefully we can keep it going," Van Guild said.
Despite outshooting the Nanooks 34-22, the Irish trailed for most of the game as Alaska picked up an early goal 10 minutes into the contest. Sophomore Ryan Muspratt rocketed a shot that bounced off Brown's mask and rang the inside of the crossbar. Defender Matt Shegos initially waved the goal off but when Notre Dame scrambled up and scored on the ensuing odd-man rush, the call was reviewed and reversed.
"On the bench we all thought the Alaska shot had gone in," Jackson said. "That's why we have instant replay." Alaska held on to the lead for two periods before the Irish offense exploded in the third.
Notre Dame was able to come from behind by physically wear-
ing down the Nanooks and beating them to the loose pucks late in the game.
"I'm sick of watching guys stand around and fish for pucks. Too many guys stand there like they're holding a hoe — get a shovel."
Tavis MacMillan
Alaska coach

Lunch and Conversation
For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Thursday, December 7
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

Contact Dan Murphy at
d murphy@nd.edu and
Kyle Cassily at
casilly@nd.edu

Recycle The Observer.
Upset
continued from page 24

tions like that tonight (were) making plays," guard Colin Falls said. "We really grew up tonight and I think it's a great confidence builder for us to continue on our non-conference schedule."

Notre Dame had four players in double figures. McAleary led all scorers, followed by forward Rub Kurz (16 points), Falls (14 points) and guard Russell Carter (13 points). Sophomore Zach Hillesland made his first career start and contributed with eight points, nine rebounds and four assists.

The Irish trailed the Terrapins 32-29 at the half after guard Eric Hayes nailed a 3-pointer to take the lead into the break. The teams traded baskets evenly in the second half until McAleary took over. Tied at 49, the sophomore scored eight consecutive points - two 3-pointers and one layup - to take an eight point lead and force Maryland coach Gary Williams to call a timeout with 9:18 remaining.

"This was a big stage and I'm not the type to back down from anyone," McAleary said. "Obviously I'm really proud of the way I played but all our guys tonight really stepped up.

Out of the timeout, Notre Dame guard Colin Falls nailed a 3-pointer coming off an 11-0 run from which Maryland would not recover. The Irish scored 22 second half points, including a stretch where they made 11 consecutive field goals from 13:58 to 7:23 left in the game.

"We just stayed really poised in an away atmosphere, they have all the fans and everything," McAleary said. "Sometimes it's tough. It's hard to get past because they have such momentum but we just stayed real poised, put good pressure and we just controlled the tempo. And we just knocked down shots."

Notre Dame limited Maryland's production on the offensive end after it got up 40-49 relying on a combination of zone and man-to-man defenses. The Terrapins cut the lead to six points after guard Greivis Vasquez nailed two points on 4-of-15 shooting. A second timeout by 5:30 remaining, but would never pull any closer. "If we can defend, we're going to be a dangerous basketball team," Falls said. "We're an NCAA Tournament team if we defend and rebound. I'll stick to that and in the years past if we had defended and rebounded better, we would have been in the NCAA Tournament.

Notre Dame controlled the tempo from the beginning of the game, jumping out to a quick 7-2 lead heading into the media timeout with 15:55 left in the first half. Kurz had five points in that stretch - the first two baskets of the game. Maryland would respond with a 10-2 run of its own to tie the game at 22 with 5:20 remaining in the first half.

"We really grew up tonight and I think it's a great confidence builder for us to continue on our non-conference schedule."

"This was a big stage and I'm not the type to back down from anyone."

Kyle McAleary
Irish guard

Write Sports.
Call Ken at 631-4543.

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Irish earn date with No. 4 LSU in Sugar Bowl

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame was selected to face LSU in next month's Sugar Bowl after bowl pairings were announced that the January trip to New Orleans will be more about business than pleasure.

The Irish (12-3-1, 7-2-1) have struggled in their last three games against marquee opponents—falling 34-20 to Ohio State in last year's Fiesta Bowl, 47-21 to Michigan on Sept. 16 and 44-24 at Southern California Nov. 25. "We need to get off to a fast start in the Jan. 3 matchup with the Tigers (10-2)," said Notre Dame guard Kyle Quinn. "Any time you get behind by two or three scores— you almost get desperate." That might also be a good way to describe Notre Dame's feeling toward winning a bowl game—a feat the program hasn't accomplished since the 1994 Cotton Bowl against Texas A&M. Since then, Notre Dame has played in eight bowl games, and lost them all.

Not that the statistic will hamper the Irish, said captain and linebacker Travis Thomas. "I think morale is strong," he said. "We obviously want to end that streak of not winning bowl games...you almost get desperate."}

ND Women's Basketball

Team goes 1-1 against Big Ten foes

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame split two games against Big Ten teams this weekend, beating Michigan on the road 61-58 Friday before falling to Indiana 54-51 Sunday.

The games were both close to the finish, marked by tough defense and strong play down the stretch. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it was only able to pull out one win.

"I thought that was a really disappointing loss [to Indiana] especially in light of how we came out and played our last game [at Michigan]," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought we had the game in hand and just really beat ourselves."

Indiana 54, Notre Dame 51

With only six seconds in the game, Irish guard Charee Allen lost her dribble with the Irish down three, leading to a steal from Hoosiers forward Whitney Thomas to cement Indiana's 54-51 win.

After the steal, the Irish fouled Hoosier guard Kim Roberson. Roberson missed the free throw attempt, but the Irish could not get a last-second shot off, ending the game. Going into the final seconds, Notre Dame and Indiana had traded leads throughout the second half, but a turnover by Allen gave the Hoosiers the ball back, letting Indiana guard Nikki Smith nail a jump-shot to push the Hoosier lead to three.

On the possession following the Smith jumper, the Irish could not find the look they

Hockey

ND shows no patience for Nanooks

By DAN MURPHY and KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writers

No. 5 Notre Dame got a polar-bear-sized load off its back and swept No. 14 Alaska in a two-game series at the Joyce Center this weekend—the same Nanooks team that beat the Irish in three straight meetings to close out last season, including two losses to knock them from the CCHA playoffs.

The Irish (12-3-1, 7-2-1 CCHA) defeated the Nanooks (6-4-4, 4-3-3 CCHA) 3-1 and 2-0 to move out of a tie for third place with Alaska in the league standings and three points behind league-leading No. 4 Miami.

"A whole lot faster, a whole lot bigger, a whole lot stronger, a whole lot better coached, a whole lot better goaltending—a whole lot of everything," Alaska coach Tavis MacMillan said of Notre Dame's play in comparison to the Nanooks on the weekend.

The Irish were led by junior right wing Mark Van Guildier, who regained the scoring touch he had lost the previous two weekends and beat Nanooks goaltender Chad Johnson three times in two games, and left wing Ryan Thang (two goals) and Irish forward Luke Zeller defends against Maryland's Bambai Osby in the first half of Notre Dame's 83-74 win over Maryland Sunday in Washington D.C.