Unusual exam schedule planned

Divided study days accommodate latest possible semester start; no complaints reported

By KAITLYN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

For upperclassmen at Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s, the exam schedule at each semester’s end has been a constant — reading days Thursday through Sunday, and exams Monday through Friday.

This year, due to the late starting day for classes in August, there will be three reading days for Notre Dame, and two for Saint Mary’s. Exams for both schools will start Dec. 14, with testing on Friday and Saturday, then Monday through Wednesday.

“It’s an odd finish,” said Harold Pace, the University registrar.

The reason for the departure from the usual exam timetable dates back to the scheduling arrangements made in 1993, when Notre Dame’s Academic Council approved the Perpetual Academic Calendar, Pace said.

The rules of the calendar stated that the first class day in the fall semester would be on the fourth Tuesday in August, meaning dates ranging from Aug. 22 to Aug. 28.

Every few years, as in 2001, 2007 and 2012, the fourth Tuesday of the month falls on Aug. 28. The Academic Council realized, Pace said, that if adjustments were not made to the final exam schedule in those years, then the last day of exams would be Dec. 21 and grades would be due Dec. 24, the day before Christmas.

“We decided...that in those years, we would trim a study day off, and try to get started on exams early, so students could

Contraceptives available for medical needs

ND Health Services prescribes birth control for health reasons, not pregnancy prevention

By JENN METZ
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame students cannot receive birth control prescriptions or pills at Health Services unless they demonstrate a medical — not contraceptive — need for the medication.

If a student comes in asking for birth control for the purpose of contraception, “we’re not going to ask a lot of questions,” said Sun Kleva, director of University Health Services.

“We’ll say point blank, ‘I’m sorry, we don’t supply those...’” Kleva said.

Kleva said that the hormones necessary to regulate cycles could be prescribed and provided at Health Services, Kleva said. Such scenarios include patients with irregular or painful menstrual cycles, no menstrual cycle or abdominal pain.

In these cases, physicians “can and will prescribe birth control after a complete exam and evaluation if there is justifiable reason,” she said.

During such an exam, physicians will rule out other abnormalities that could be causing abdominal pain, which could range from “a hot appendix to an ovarian pregnancy,” she said.

Whether the patient on birth control has or will have sex in a conversation that may happen between the doctor and a patient, Kleva said. Questions about sexual activity, like those about the patient’s menstrual cycle, are “normal questions to ask a female” during an exam to rule out pregnancy, she said.

Also, Health Services will fill prescriptions for birth control from home physicians if a patient brings in paperwork, she said, but the reason for the need for the medication — not contraceptive — must be demonstrated.

ND, SMC students spread Christmas spirit

Notre Dame celebrates season with themed events, light displays, holiday concerts

By JOSEPH McMATHON
News Writer

As the wind swept remnants of the season’s first snowfall across the quad, students began to celebrate the Christmas season. All around campus, giant light displays are being erected and Christmas-themed events held, giving students something other than finals to think about.

The Glee Club’s annual Christmas concert, to be held Saturday at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, is expected to be sold out. The all-male choral group gave students, faculty and

Annual fundraising event at Saint Mary’s to provide presents for local families

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary’s students have the opportunity to help 12 families and 25 individuals by participating in holiday-themed events during the next week and a half.

The annual 12 Days of Christmas event sponsored by the Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE) will host fundraising events, with all money going to South Bend-area families that the College “adopted” for the holiday season.

The event began Dec. 1 when students were asked to turn in gifts they had purchased for families and individuals
INSIDE COLUMN

Can’t buy me love?

Every day I hear about another friend getting a job offer or getting a medical school interview or sending in a graduate school application. Yet here I am, a senior Arts and Letters major who has not even updated her résumé. I feel physically sick at the thought of a job interview. Whatever shall I do? Companies are not hanging on my door to hire me. It seems as if there is no bright future in sight for someone like myself.

Instead, I will try for the next best thing — mooching off of someone who does have a future. So successful men of Notre Dame, listen up. (And women, if you want a super awesome friend to support for the rest of your life, keep reading.) I could be the perfect one for you. I can do laundry. Since I probably will not have a job, I can do yours, too. Just don’t ask me to separate lights and darks...that’s not how I roll. I am pretty good at folding and putting things on hangers, so that’s a plus. I also have learned some good laundry-related life lessons such as never leaving your laundry basket unattended because someone other than I will eat it in front of your face. True story. Can you tell I’m still single?

I can cook you the best meal Lean Cuisine has to offer. Also I make a mean plate of scrambled eggs on Saturday morning. Trust me. They blow dining hall eggs out of the water. Since I will probably have a lot of free time on my hands due to the absence of a job, I can learn how to make all kinds of fancy foods by watching the Food Network. I’m fully prepared to kick it up a notch and use exciting spices such as paprika, sage, rosemary and thyme. I like football. Who here doesn’t? Even better, I actually understand it. Not only that, but I can provide you with hours of entertainment (that’s what she said with my amazing sense of humor). I also know about all the best YouTube videos. Let me know what else you think I do while I’m not looking for a job?

If any of this sounds interesting to you, you can look me up on Facebook to make sure I am not some sort of weirdo. Maybe you can hang out sometime and talk about the future, such as where you are planning to go and all the kind of benefits your company offers for people who live in your house but are not related to you.

Don’t think I’m selfish. For any other females out there who are in my position, I have a friend who just got a job that offers great benefits. His name is Nick. I’d love to show you that I can do yours, too. Just don’t ask me to separate lights and darks...that’s not how I roll. I am pretty good at folding and putting things on hangers, so that’s a plus. I also have learned some good laundry-related life lessons such as never leaving your laundry basket unattended because someone other than I will eat it in front of your face. True story. Can you tell I’m still single?

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Don’t think I’m selfish. For any other females out there who are in my position, I have a friend who just got a job that offers great benefits. His name is Nick. If you find him, you might just get in his good graces by wishing him a happy birthday. I would just mooch off of him myself, but I want to share the wealth.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Julie Grisanti at jgrisant@nd.edu.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

Christine Walls
junior
Howard
Cassie Hepp
freshman
Welsh Family
Adam Steinbach
sophomore
Knott
Heidi Rocha
junior
Brein-Phillips
Steven Yonsei
sophomore
Siegfried
Caitlin Pulte
freshman
Welsh Family

Sandra ending poverty on my behalf.

“A North Face jacket.”

“World peace... who am I kidding? I need an iPhone.”

“I really do want world peace. Seriously.”

“I just want everyone to remember my name.”

“Cowboy boots.”

Freshman Francie Love, left, and sophomore Colleen Franke decorate doors in Welsh Family Hall with wrapping paper, Christmas lights and paper stars.

OFFBEAT

Man accused of stealing plane to impress

LaPORTE, Ind. — A man accused of stealing a twin-engine plane and driving it down the taxiway staged the start while he was drunk to impress his girlfriend, police said.

Michael Santos, 38, was charged Friday with theft, criminal mischief and operating a vehicle after his driving privileges had previously been forfeited for life. Santos, who is being held in the LaPorte County Jail on $2,000 bond, is accused of driving to the LaPorte Municipal Airport despite a lifetime ban on his driving privileges.

According to police reports, Santos was drunk when he took his girlfriend to the airport Sept. 9 to show her how he could fly a plane. They climbed into the plane and were heading down the taxiway when Santos told police, began shaking from the left engine.

He said he turned off all lights and went home, shaved his mustache and changed his clothes, and reported the truck he was driving as stolen.

Coneaut Township police said they stopped Robert Sadlon, 50, for a broken taillight on Thanksgiving night and he ran off. Later, the same officer went to Sadlon’s home near Stoustown to investigate the reported theft. There, he found a just-shaven Sadlon in different clothes. Sadlon is charged with drunken driving, escape and related charges.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A voter registration drive will be held tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Boyles Room of LaFortune. The event is sponsored by NDVotes’08 and the Center for Social Concerns.

Campus Ministry is hosting a celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Prayer services held to obtain special graces are being held in St. Edward’s Hall Chapel at 9 p.m. each night through Sunday. The celebration is cosponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies, La Salle and OLA.

There will be NASDA training sessions tomorrow from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Eck Visitors’ Center. The event is available to students only. Wednesday’s topic is “Defining Your Customer Market and Competition.”

The Take Ten program will sponsor local children at the Robinson Community Learning Center in a bookmark recognition ceremony at 6 p.m. Thursday. Local school children who participate in the Take Ten program will make bookmarks. The Robinson Center is located at North Eddy Street.

The annual football banquet will be held Friday at 5:45 p.m. in the Joyce Center Monogram Room. The featured speaker will be 1993 graduate Aaron Taylor, a two-year All-American Offensive Tackle and Lombardi Award winner. Tickets can be purchased through the Notre Dame Ticket Office. 574-631-7356.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
Task force leaders discuss second-semester goals

By JENN METZ

Student body president Liz Brown encouraged all task forces to make recommendations to Student Affairs about ways to improve community relations.

"These recommendations, "still in the brainstorming stage," will most likely contain a three-to-five-year plan," Gari said. She is in discussions to create a Notre Dame-specific version of the "Good Neighbor Guide" produced by the University of South Bend. Common Council members cited the USA guide during hearings about the event permit ordinance passed earlier this semester.

Next semester, the task force will focus on transportation to and from campus, Gari said.

Chief executive assistant Sherna Plamoottil and student body vice president Maris Braun, leaders of the other two task forces, also presented their groups' goals for next semester.

"Our goal is to create a more formal process for gender relations for students from their start at Notre Dame, " said Braun, chair of the Task Force on Student Development. She said the third of a series of green seminars will be held early next semester. The summit will consist of a dinner and small group sessions of seven or eight to discuss environmental issues.

"Invitations "should be ongoing," she said. "This will be more formal,"

Braun said the committee "has similar ideas and more programs" to make it better suited to organize events and address awareness of the Honor Code.

"The initiative's more naturally fit with a committee under the provost's office than a task force on student development," she said.

Next semester Braun's task force will focus on gender issues at Freshman Orientation activities.

"We hope to improve gender relations for students from their start at Notre Dame," she said.

Contact Jenn Metz at
jmetz@nd.edu

BOG
continued from page 1

only stories about positive relationship experiences, she said.

Student trustee Cate Getta said the new Strategic Plan is finished. The plan changes the administration hopes to enact during the next five years, she said.

"The students have an important voice in creating the plan," said Kim Hodges, student body president. "It's for us by and us," she said.

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) will support a local family during the Christmas season, said Cassie Quaglia, RHA president.

Each residence hall will sponsor one of the family's four children. Every student is asked to donate so the halls can buy the children presents, Quaglia said.

The Office for Civil and Social Engagement is sponsoring the 12 Days of Christmas at SMH. There are different festivities every day. The Junior Board will sell candygrams Wednesday through Friday in the atrium of the Student Center.

Quaglia said there will be a spoons tournament in Regina Hall from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dec. 13.

The freshman formal will be held Jan. 26, said Emma Hoffman, president of the Class of 2011.

Contact Ashley Charsley at
uschart@nd.edu

"YOUR MOM WANTS YOU TO EAT AT JIMMY JOHN’S!"
Health
continued from page 1
prescription has to be given.

We need a letter from the doctor's office faced to us
directly telling us why it was
prescribed if in fact it was
prescribed for non-contraceptive
purposes," Kleva said.

Prescriptions for birth control
and other medications can be
transferred from the home
pharmacy to the pharmacist at
Health Services, Kleva said.

Only government-regulated
medications, like narcotics,
cannot cross state borders, she
said.

While Health Services does
does not direct students to source
for birth control, patients will
be directed to counseling serv-
ces, Campus Ministry or the
Gender Relations Center if they
have other questions, she said.

"If they need help with a rela-
tionship situation, we will
show them where to get coun-
seling," Kleva said.

Notre Dame's practices in the
prevention of birth control are
similar to those at other
Catholic institutions.

Elaine Wetter, administrator of the
Health Center at Georgetown
University, D.C., said that
birth control is provided if it is
"medically necessary.

"If the doctor orders the pre-
scription, it will be filled," she
said.

Unlike at Notre Dame, the
Health Center at Georgetown
does not fill prescriptions from
outside physicians.

The Boston College Web site
states its health services does
not "provide materials for the
purpose of preventing concep-
tion" because of "the moral val-
ues that Boston College espous-
es." The director and adminis-
trator of Boston College Health
Services, the staff is concerned
about symptoms, Kleva said.

"We offer guidance and edu-
cation," she said. "You have to
look at how we address the
issues. [...] We certainly don't
want a woman to feel ostra-
ized. We will do anything to
protect these women.

Gynecological care
There are four physicians,
two male and two female, at
Health Services that are "board
certified, all capable of per-
ferring (gynecological) exams
on campus," Kleva said.

Patients seeking gynecol-
ogical care can specify if they
prefer a male or female physi-
cian, she said.

Health Services does not offer
definite classes about sexually
transmitted infections, but
doc-
tors are available to provide
education and counseling on
the topic, Kleva said.

Health Services also provides
a nationally cir-
culated brochure from the
American College Health
Association about symptoms
and treatment options for sexu-
ally transmitted infections.

"The first sentence says the
only true way to prevent the
spread of these infections is to
abstain from risky behavior,
" she said.

Health Services keeps in
stock Gardasil, the vaccine for
human papillomavirus, com-
nonly referred to as HPV. The
vaccine is administered in a
series of three injections over
six months and may help guard
cancer against cervical cancer.

Contact Jess Metz
at jmetz@nd.edu

Fundraiser
continued from page 1
through a giving tree-type sys-
tem. Gifts can be turned in
Dec. 12 to the Madeleva Family
treasure, Library foyer,
Student Center Atrium and 161
Regenstein.

Students can still pick up
slips from various offices
around campus that will contain
t a name, age and gift ideas
for the families.

The College provides food
and gifts in two ways — indi-
viduals can pick up slips and
purchase the gifts themselves,
or the office staff takes money
and buys gifts directly, said
Carrie Call, director of the
Office of Development.

The College’s adopted fami-
lies are recommended through
the Salvation Army, Title IV
schools and other organizations
that have ties to Saint Mary's,
Call said. The Mental Health
Coalition and Resources for
Empowerment, Family and
Adult Living Services of South Bend (REAL)
recommended the individuals.

"We always keep room for a
few families or individuals who
are brought to us by internal
referrals — people who work
at Saint Mary's or are
related to the College in some
way," Call said.

Money will also be raised
through events such as the
Holiday Bazaar, which took
place in the Student Cen-
ter Monday morning.

The Bazaar featured bracelets,
dolls, jewelry, scarves and
baked goods.

The 12 Days of Christmas
fundraising event will also
include the most
teresting decorating, Christmas
card-making for children in
the senior ward at Riley Children's
Hospital in Indianapolis and
the selling of candy grams to
give to the families for a gift.

"We have a raffle for
which you can buy tickets
trough this week and next," Call said.

The drawing will be held at
the late night breakfast on
Dec. 17. This includes the
like iTunes gift cards, lunch
money, Chan SMC stained glass
mirror and an athletic jacket.

Contact Liz Harter at
lharter@stmarys.edu

Students can still pick up
slips from various offices
around campus that will contain
a name, age and gift ideas
for the families.

"We've had comments from
student and upperclassmen
saying that they kind of
like the mix of study days and
final exams days," Harold Pace
University registrar
said.

"For a semester. Stoffel has two
study days and one on Tuesday.

"I had four days in a row to
study for five tests, I think I'd
feel a little overwhelmed," he
said.

Pace said that the typical
Monday through Friday study
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. holds global warming talks

BALI, Indonesia — Delegates and scientists from around the world opened the biggest-ever global climate conference Monday, urging rapid progress in building a new international pact by 2009 to combat global warming — or risk economic and environmental disaster.

Some 10,000 delegates, activists and journalists from nearly 200 countries gathered on the resort island of Bali for two weeks of U.N.-led talks that follow a series of scientific reports this year concluding that the world has the technology to slow global warming, but must act now.

The Bali meeting will be the first major climate change conference since former Vice President Al Gore — and a U.N. scientific council won the Nobel Peace Prize in October for their environmental work, fueling the growing sense of urgency among top policy-makers, nations and individuals.

British teacher pardoned in Sudan

Khartoum, Sudan — A British teacher jailed Monday after being pardoned — ending a case that set off an international outcry and angered many moderate Muslims.

The incident was the latest in a tense relationship between the West and Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, an Islamic hard-liner who has been urged by the United Nations to pull his feet on the deployment of peacekeepers to the country’s war-torn Darfur region.

British officials had said in hopes of striking a deal for the British woman’s release that al-Bashir would pardon her Monday after two Muslim members of Britain’s House of Lords met with al-Bashir and the teacher sent the president a statement saying she didn’t mean to offend anyone with her class program.

None charged in MySpace suicide

ST. LOUIS — People who sent cruel Internet messages to a 13-year-old girl before she committed suicide won’t face criminal charges, a judge said Monday after Knievel died Friday at 69. "What he tried to do to me and how it hurt my family, I’m grateful," said a 13-year-old girl before she committed suicide last month.

State officials said they had previously been notified of the messages to the girl but did not have enough evidence to charge anyone.

Evel Knievel settlment still pending

LOS ANGELES — Of all the bones Evel Knievel broke over the years, the costliest may have been the left arm of a PR man by the name of Shelly Saltman.

Saltman won $12.75 million in damages against Knievel after the motorcycle daredevil attacked him with a baseball bat in 1972 in a rage over a book Saltman had written about the showman.

With interest, the still-uncollected sum has grown to more than $100 million by Saltman’s estimate, and he intends to try to collect it.

"We are going hot and heavy after his estate," Saltman told The Associated Press after Knievel died Friday at 69. "What he tried to do to me and how it hurt my family, I’m owed that."

LOCAL NEWS

Teen pleads guilty to sniper shootings

BROWNSTOWN, Ind. — A teenager pleaded guilty Monday to sniper-style shootings in Indiana highway sniper shootings that left one man dead and another wounded.

Zachary D. Blanton, 18, of Tacon, was scheduled to stand trial next week on charges of murder and attempted murder following a 15-day manhunt. He pleaded guilty in Jackson Circuit Court to lesser charges of voluntary manslaughter with a deadly weapon and criminal recklessness.

A judge must still approve Blanton’s deal with prosecutors. Sentencing is set for Dec. 27, and Blanton will spend anything between 20 years and 50 years in prison.

U.S. report reverses nuclear findings

WASHINGTON — A new U.S. intelligence report concludes that Iran’s nuclear weapons development program has been halted since the fall of 2003 because of international pressure — a stark contrast to the conclusions of U.S. spy agencies just two years ago.

The finding is part of a National Intelligence Estimate on Iran that also cautions that Tehran continues to enrich uranium and still could develop a bomb between 2010 and 2015 if it decided to do so.

The conclusion that Iran’s weapons program was still frozen, through at least mid-2007, represents a sharp turnaround from the previous intelligence assessment in 2002. Then, two intelligence agencies believed Iran was trying to develop a nuclear weapon.

The new report says Tehran’s decision to halt its nuclear weapons program suggests it is less determined to develop nuclear weapons than we have been judging since 2002,” says the unclassified summary of the secret report. The findings come at a time of escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, which President Bush has labeled an axis of evil, with Iran and North Korea.

Associated Press

VENEZUELA

Country chooses to stay democratic

Opposition members celebrate Monday in Caracas after learning that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez lost a referendum to stand indefinitely for re-election.

"We were certainly hopeful that there was a victory for the country’s citizens who want to prevent Chavez from having unchecked power," Chavez told reporters in Singapore. "In a country that wants to be a democracy, the people spoke, and the people spoke for democracy and against unlimited presidential power.

Chavez, who was briefly ousted in a failed 2002 coup, is now one of the world’s most popular leaders, but Chavez has not abandoned states of emergency.

"We felt that this referendum would make Chavez president for life, and that’s not ever a welcome development," Burns told reporters in Singapore. "In a country that wants to be a democracy, the people spoke, and the people spoke for democracy and against unlimited presidential power.

Nelly Hernandez, a 37-year-old street vendor, cried as she wandered outside the presidential palace early Monday amid broken beer bottles as government workers took apart a stage mounted earlier for a victory rally.

"It’s difficult to accept this, but Chavez has not abandoned us, he’ll still be there for us," she said between sobs.

A close ally of Cauda Fidel Castro, Chavez has redistributed more oil wealth than past Venezuelan leaders, and also has aided Latin American allies — including Bolivia, Ecuador and Nicaragua — that have followed Venezuela’s turn to the left.

"He is a man who feels for the people, a man who has suffered, a man who comes from below," Carlos Orlando Vega, a 47-year-old carpenter’s assistant, said outside a polling station in a Caracas slum on Sunday.

Associated Press

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area resident of what is to come Monday at the O’Shaughnessy Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the Great Hall, singing traditional favorites such as “White Christmas” and “Carol of the Bells” in addition to some Spanish and Caribbean songs. According to Glee Club vice president senior Peter McCormick, Saturday’s concert will include carols from around the world.

All proceeds from this year’s event will benefit Kesem, a nationwide support organization for children with cancer and their families. The project was a chance to raise money for the community, a chance to come together, and a chance to sing carols for something for the entire campus, not an event segregated by grade level.

Tickets will be available at the door. The Student Senate’s Saturday’s concert, the Undertones, an a cappella group composed of ten members of the Glee Club, will perform Dec. 12 at Washington Hall. The show will include a mix of Christmas pop and Christmas songs, Grothaus said.

Tickets are available for $5 at the LaFortune Box Office.
Ford plans to offer full lineup in 2020

DETROIT, Mich. — Ford Motor Co. plans to offer a full line of vehicles, including trucks and sport utility vehicles, in 2020 despite tougher federal fuel economy regulations likely to take effect that year, Chief Executive Alan Mulally said Monday.

The auto industry's fleet of new cars, sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks and vans will have to average 35 miles per gallon combined city and highway driving by 2020, according to the agreement that congressional negotiators announced late Friday. That compares with the 2008 requirement of 27.5 mpg average for cars and 22.5 mpg for light trucks, which was the first increase ordered by Congress in three decades.

The commitment may be difficult for Ford, which doesn't have a single vehicle in its 2008 model year lineup that meets the new standards.

United Arab Emirates

OPEC debates a hike in oil production

ABU DHABI — With oil prices backing away from record levels but nervous traders poised to bid them up, OPEC oil ministers will call Wednesday on whether to crank up production. Up to a few days ago, the markets were bracing that OPEC decision-makers would opt to increase output at a rate of 500,000 barrels a day. But OPEC Secretary-General Abdalla Salem El-Badri said on Monday that OPEC members boosted production by 250,000 barrels a day in November, and announced an additional increase of 350,000 barrels a day for December.

However, for OPEC producers such as Saudi Arabia to increase production, they would have to reduce output in the rest of the OPEC members. OPEC producers depend on oil revenues to fund their economies and social programs, and are reluctant to cut output if they believe it will depress global energy prices.
Abortion and gender

"If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament," said Rosalind O'Donnell, in one of her final displays of ignorance and tastelessness before leaving the intellectual scene. As "The View" this past summer. What occasioned that particularly fit was the recent Supreme Court decision upholding a ban on an especially impolite method of abortion. O'Donnell also drew omenous conclusions from the fact that the five justices in the majority were all Catholic men. But of course — they voted to permit the ban not because abortion isn't even vaguely hinted at in the Constitution, but because they're misogynist Vatican robots!

I'd seen that comment before. Back when I was an undergrad, the Viewpoint editor printed it once at the section's quota of the day. I'm not sure why it was attributed to me. I assumed the point was valid, that the conflict in America over abortion is largely a conflict between men and women. Yes, I've always known women who were death-set against it, and men who are very grateful for its easy availability, but in many ways, subtle or not-so-subtle, our society reinforces the idea that the fight against abortion is a matter of men telling women what to do. Having been voted to "most gallicable" in high school, I was always able to accept conventional wisdom.

Recently, a study has come out claiming women are more eager to express their opinion on the issue than have been on the pro-abortion side.

So I was surprised by a Washington Times article back in July 2003 titled "Pro-life Women Shift in Majority," by Grant Schulte. According to a survey conducted at the request of a pro-abortion advocacy group, 17 percent of American women think abortion should be illegal altogether. 54 percent more think it should be outlawed except in cases of rape, incest or moral danger to the mother; those cases account for about one percent of abortions performed in America. So a slim majority of American women would ban 99 percent of abortions. Strangely, the New York Times, which claims to print "all the news that's fit to print," didn't report on the story. Then again, such a story must be deeply embarrassing to an outfit that consistently editorializes in favor of unlimited abortion access under the euphemism "women's rights." New York Times Magazine did indis­ cover the story, however, printing an extended distaste by a feminist angered by the survey results, telling her fellow women to get their thumbs out of their mouths (her metaphor, not mine).

A different survey conducted around the same time showed that men lean the other way, but by a larger margin, which makes the population as a whole slightly pro-choice. And according to the keynote speaker at the state Rally for Life two years ago, there's a similar dynamic here in Maryland: the public leans pro-choice, but the women lean pro-life. So it's true. There is a gender gap on abortion. But it's not very big, and it's opposite to the one I assumed we would have based on conventional wisdom.

My first reaction to these results was that once again, women are demonstrably morally superior to men, which is what I already believed anyway. Just look at a list of serious sins — anger, lust, greed, dishonesty, drunkenness, isn't it like decorum the Beethoven thought, "If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament." But when I looked at the results more closely, I realized the gender gap is much smaller than it seems at first glance. The survey results are deeply opposite to the one I assumed we would have based on conventional wisdom.

One possibility of turning aside toward evil and nothingness was as real for Mother Teresa as it is for me, though I haven't already done so. But I guess the lesson could just be, don't listen to Rosalind O'Donnell and don't believe everything in Viewpoint. And be nice to those poor women — it must be extremely galling for them to rely on men for their most cherished right. Maybe that's why they're so mad. Cheers, girls!

Greg Yatorala graduated from Notre Dame in 1999. With the foresight of cynicism, he supports it is just a matter of time before we find a way for men to get pregnant. He hopes he's dead by then. While he's not, he can be reached at gregy@hot mail.com. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Custodial staff deserves fair treatment

When I was first hired at Notre Dame, I was ecstatic. I felt that I had secured employment with a future. But four years later, I find myself disillusioned and unappreciated. I felt that I had secured employment with a future. But four years later, I find myself disillusioned and unappreciated.

The first area of concern is the salary and benefit package. People are usually impressed when I tell them I work at Notre Dame as it carries a certain prestige — along with the assumption that the salary would be adequate. Nothing could be further from the truth. After four years of employment, I have received a total salary increase of $5 per hour. My wages are less than the established federal poverty level for my family of five. As if this weren't difficult enough, there is a hefty deductible from every paycheck for health insurance. Heaven help us if we become ill because there isn't enough money left to pay the co-pay for a doctor's visit.

I am certainly willing to work hard for my salary, but the custodial staff at Notre Dame is fully over-worked. There is often more work than can be done in an eight-hour shift. There exists an inequality in job assignments, and if one employee calls in sick, it is up to the rest of us to take up the slack. Also, several employees have sustained job-related injuries and experienced other health issues as a result of working on campus. And yet, we are often forced to return to work before they have fully recovered.

Everybody needs to feel valued and appreciated, but the custodial staff at Notre Dame seems to be a forgotten asset. The phrase, "The staff is the backbone of this university," has been heard around for years, but I don't see that respect. For example, when the Jordan Hall of Music was firebombed, there was no recognition or respect shown for our ties — after months of extra work assignments during the inquiry, almost never does one hear members of the administration administration asking for is a fair salary, a fair workload, and a little respect.

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While grad school does open the door to opportunities or lawyers (no matter how many times our relatives tell us we are). Maybe I'm just bitter because finals are due, but let's be real here. One's motivation towards life, family background and work ethic have significantly more to do with shaping a person's future than the field of study. If I'm the consequence of irresponsible drinking, why doesn't the current policy not simply time-shift this behavior a little further down the line?

All in all, this is a complex problem that does not have a simple solution. It is up to the rest of us to take up the slack. Also, several employees have sustained job-related injuries and experienced other health issues as a result of working on campus. And yet, we are often forced to return to work before they have fully recovered.

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One hundred and thirty years ago the end all be all of college, and look at him. All right, bad examiners — after that comes some sort of graduate diploma, those with bachelor's degrees and those with master's degrees. Those with a bachelor's, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, are supposed to make about $20,000 per year on top of that (averaging $62,000 per year).

But let's be real here. One's motivation towards life, family background and work ethic have significantly more to do with shaping a person's future than the field of study. If I'm the consequence of irresponsible drinking, why doesn't the current policy not simply time-shift this behavior a little further down the line?

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When one of the captains bellows out “Six inches,” you’d better say a quick “Hail Mary” and keep praying that nobody drops his legs.

While you may not be able to hit your professor or his final with a right hook, know that your studies are strengthening your mind so that someday you may nourish others.

Down! With the strength I shouldn’t have left, I slowly lower myself down to the floor and back up again.

Practice is only two hours a day, but what’s lacking in time is easily made up in intensity. For the first two weeks I went to bed so exhaused from the hundreds of sit ups, pushups, arm circles and endless calisthenics that not even the worst lion’s roar of my roommate’s snoring could keep me awake.

Like the other novices, I’ve learned to dread certain exercises. When one of the captains bellows out “Six inches,” you’d better say a quick “Hail Mary” and keep praying that nobody drops his legs. After that I’m not sure which is worse: hearing a captain yell “Get it bouncing” when there’s still 15 minutes left in practice, or being asked if anyone knows a good joke while holding push-up position at the end of a set. Neither usually ends very well.

But for all this bodily punishment, sometimes it’s best to examine the larger picture.

The motto of Bengal Bouts is “Strong bodies fight that weak bodies may be nourished.” The words are valiant, the cause even more so. Each year the fights raise tens of thousands of dollars for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. And this season, as much as any season before, Bangladesh needs the contribution.

On Nov. 15, Bangladesh was rocked by a category 4 cyclone. More than 4,000 people were left dead by the 130 mph winds and enormous tidal waves. An estimated 5.5 million were homeless or displaced, and the country’s economic growth will likely take quite a blow.

At a Mass he gave Sunday in the Dillon Hall Chapel, Father Lou Del Fra stressed the importance of finding ways in our future or current endeavors to serve and help others. He pointed out that if we work only for ourselves, we’ll eventually run out of reasons to get out of bed in the morning. Now that finals are fast approaching with the usual assault of papers, projects and all-nighters, Father Del Fra’s words provide new incentive to keep fighting.

While you may not be able to hit your professor or his final with a right hook, know that your studies are strengthening your mind so that someday you may nourish others.

I know what got me out of bed this morning, after all.

Maybe I’m not that stupid.
Leerone adds flair to indie genre

By STEPHANIE DePREZ
Scene Writer

Leerone is the latest indie-chick to come bantering across the music scene. She carries with her a bag of lyrical tricks just persuasive enough to convince you her melodies aren’t juvenile and wields piano skills just subtle enough to trick you into thinking that you aren’t listening to Tori Amos Lite.

Leerone would like you to believe that she is the real deal, or maybe the next P.J. Harvey in suspenders. Her appeal is in the weirdness, as most indie bands today have found: Instead of finding a niche, create your own. Unfortunately, if everyone is doing it, it’s no longer fun for us, the listener. It is possible, though, to ignore the fact that Leerone might be trying just a bit too hard to look like she isn’t trying at all, and to simply enjoy her music.

She would also like you to believe that her new album, “Imaginary Biographies,” is every-thing you’ve been yearning for and all the quirki-ness you’ve been missing. And to a point, she’s right. Though her music may never be able to break out of the indie role it’s so clearly slated for, it tends to jump politely between a reverent tribute to the great pioneer of female singer/songwriters, Tori Amos, and the irreverent disgust of the very audience-specific Dresden Dolls. Leerone has moments so soft and terrific that it seems like you’ve drifted into a Vanessa Carlton album. She also provides the motivation that will have you swearing she’s a “Riot Grrl!” who’s kept this album locked tight somewhere for the past 15 years.

The biggest draw in Leerone’s music is her lyrics. “Plant, tend, pick and share the love you have/Ingest the love you are given/Then, recycle and distribute again/It’s love, in motion...Kinetic love,” she sings. The melodies become subservient to her hopeful criticism of life today. The song “Junk/Peace of Mind” opens with a very low-key piano riff that meanders aimlessly until she begins to explain. “I don’t care too much for Golden Globes! I don’t care what People magazine has to say about its top hats or the rhetoric of stardom,” Leerone sings, making you wonder if she’s serious.

Lyrics like this wander in and out of the album, broken up by heartfelt observations and matter-of-fact whining. The music has moments of jarring clarity. “Care For Some Whiskey?” is an instant trip to some eastern European bar with jabbing chords — and an accordion — that give every other beat a satisfying punctuation. Certain tracks could have been lifted straight from a failed Off-Broadway show, like “Bring It On,” and others, like “Rosie Lee,” are deceivingly sweet with haunting lyrics.

In its entirety, “Imaginary Biographies” is a strange excursion into indie-rock’s future. It’s not radio music, because it’s made for active listening. This also isn’t music for the casual listener.

To play this album and ignore it is hardly doing it justice — it’s worthy of at least one sitting. To play this album and ignore it is hardly doing it justice — it’s worthy of at least one sitting.

Imaginary Biographies
Leerone
Label: Fussy Music
Recommended Tracks: “To Fill the Void” and “Care For Some Whiskey”

Contact Stephanie DePrez
at sdeprez@nd.edu

One of so lo a r tist Leerone’s clea r influences is pianist Tori Amos.

Leerone’s style is also influenced by indie artists like P.J. Harvey.

CONTACTS

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An oldie but a goodie.

Mad Happy Baby Actor

Can you win an Oscar at 3 months old? Check this out for an impressive preemie performance.

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Fashion nightmare + interpretive dance + Star Wars = awesome.

One Semester of Spanish - Love Song

Learn to romance your love with such classic pick-up lines as “What time is it?”
Hawks end seven-game losing streak in Philly

Despite missing Ford, Bosh and Bargnani, Raptors deal Bobcats their sixth-straight loss in 98-79 victory

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - The young, deep and high-flying Atlanta Hawks are maturing rapidly.

Josh Smith scored 22 points, Marvin Williams and Josh Childress both added 16 and the Hawks snapped a seven-game losing streak at Philadelphia with an 89-79 victory over the 76ers on Monday night.

Jose Johnson scored 15 points and Al Horford had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Hawks (7-11), who last won at Philadelphia on March 21, 2003.

Atlanta improved to 3-5 on the road this season and 28-104 overall under coach Mike Woodson.

"When you're talking about making the playoffs, it's very important to win on the road," Horford said.

The Hawks haven't been in the playoffs since the 1998-99 season.

For now, it was a positive step just to win a road game in an arena where they have struggled for several years.

With the loss, the Hawks are still the only team in the NBA without an Atlanta win.

Hawks guard Willie Green goes for a layup during Atlanta's 98-79 win over Philadelphia on Monday.

Sixers guard Willie Green goes for a layup during Atlanta's 98-79 win over Philadelphia on Monday.

Raptors guard Carlos Delfino, right, drives to the basket as Bobcats guard Derek Anderson attempts to stop him. Delfino had 17 points in Toronto's 98-79 win over Charlotte Monday.

Toronto's best players were out with injuries. It didn't seem to bother the Raptors.

Charlotte's best players couldn't shoot straight. It proved costly to the Bobcats.

Kris Humphries and Carlos Delfino both scored 17 points, Joey Graham added 13 and the Raptors shrugged off injuries to throw three players to fund the Bobcats their sixth straight loss on Monday night.

Toronto played without forwards Chris Bosh (strained groin) and Andrea Bargnani (hyper-extended left knee) and point guard T.J. Ford (left thumb) for the first time.

"Tonight we made a statement in the third quarter and it carried over into the fourth." Green was 7-for-7 from the field in the second quarter and scored 16 points, as the Hawks overcame a seven-point deficit to take a 46-45 halftime lead.

Smith's three-pointer at the buzzer had given the Hawks a 24-17 lead after the first quarter.

Raptors 98, Bobcats 79

Toronto's first 11 field goal attempts were 12-for-43 (28 percent) in the opening half.

"I just had a bad game tonight," said Richardson, who was 0-for-6 in the first half.

"Being one of the guys on the team, I got to shoot every night, but nights like that are going to happen sometimes where you can't get a shot." Wallace scored 19 points and rookie Jared Dudley had 16 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte, which has lost six straight after a 4-6 start, the best in the team's four-year history.

Wiley Green scored a season-high 27 points while Andre Miller added 18 for the Sixers (5-12), who lost for the 10th time in the last 13 games. Andre Iguodala and Kyle Korver scored 11 points each while Reggie Evans and Samuel Dalembert both had 10 rebounds.

"I thought it was kind of a flat game in the beginning," Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks said.

Philadelphia was 2-of-11 from three-point range. Over the last three games, the Sixers have hit just 5-of-37 3-pointers, including an 0-for-14 effort in last Friday's one-point win over Washington.

"We've got to find a way to put the ball in the hoop," Korver said. "We're just not able to get good shots."

The Hawks led 66-62 after the third quarter and extended their lead to nine on several occasions.

Atlanta led 79-72 before Childress hit a 3-pointer from the baseline and Johnson converted a three-point play for an 85-72 lead with 1:41 remaining.

Woodson pointed to his team's defense as the key to the win.

"We've been playing good defense in the fourth quarters," he said. "Tonight we made a statement in the third quarter and it carried over into the fourth."

The same could not be said of the Bobcats, who failed to overcome poor shooting performances by Raymond Felton (6-for-11, Jason Richardson (4-for-17) and Gerald Wallace (4-for-13).

"When that group is 7-for-38, then we don't have a chance," Charlotte coach Sam Vincent said. "Our core players, who have to provide us with some scoring punch, just couldn't get it going. We don't have the depth for two or three of our core guys to not perform."

The Bobcats missed nine of their first 11 field goal attempts and were 12-for-43 (28 percent) in the opening half.

The Bobcats missed nine of their first 11 field goal attempts and were 12-for-43 (28 percent) in the opening half.

"We're digging ourselves into the Grand Canyon right now and it's too much to come back," Wallace said.

The Raptors began the second quarter with a 10-3 run and a tip-in by Humphries gave Toronto a 54-33 halftime lead.

Toronto is 2-1 in the three games it has played without Bosh, who leads the team with 18.8 points and 7.9 rebounds.

Calderon said Toronto pulled together with its top in the season.

"When Andrea, without Chris and J.L. everybody plays together," Calderon said. "Today, Kris Humphries and Joey Graham had a good game. We need everybody to win games."

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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit: http://osa.nd.edu/departments/rape.shtml

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARY CLAIRE! WE LOVE YOU!

 Wishskitchen needs anger management classes.

TOP STORY - Stanford BB basketball team predicted to win every game despite losing two key players.

![classifieds](http://classifieds.example.com/some-classifieds.jpg)
NCAA Men's Hockey
USCHO.com/CSTV Division I Poll

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MLB
Petitte to return as Yankees pitcher in 2008

Associated Press
NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Andy Pettitte decided to pitch for the New York Yankees in 2008 and put off retirement.

Pettitte's agent, Randy Hendricks, said Monday that the 35-year-old left-hander had started telling teammates on Sunday that he wanted to return, and the pitcher consulted his wife.

"Players such as Jeter and Posada told him how much they needed him back, as did Brian Cashman and Joe Girardi," Hendricks said. "Andy decided this weekend that he didn't want to keep the Yankees on hold as they sought to determine their team for next year."

The decision came as the Yankees set a Monday deadline for the Minnesota Twins to decide whether they will trade them two-time AL Cy Young Award winner Johan Santana for pitcher Phil Hughes, center fielder Melky Cabrera and a midlevel prospect.

Pettitte had declined a $16 million option last month, saying he needed more time, and Posada said last week that Pettitte was leaning toward retirement. The pitcher had said late in the season that it had become increasingly difficult to be away from his family during the season.

Pettitte was 15-9 with a 4.05 ERA this year in his 10-year absence and two surgeries to missing.

His decision now includes Pettitte, Chien-Ming Wang, Mike Mussina, Hughes and Jaretto Chamberlain, with Ian Kennedy in reserve. But Yankees senior vice president Hank Steinbrenner said Sunday his preference was to make the deal for Santana, which would give New York a stronger ace as it competes to regain the AL East title from the World Series champion Boston Red Sox.

Chyna

NCAA Women's Soccer
NSCAA/adidas Poll

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UCLA fires head football coach Dorrell

LOS ANGELES — UCLA coach Karl Dorrell was fired Monday, a day after the Bruins accepted a bowl bid and two days after a loss to cross-town rival Southern California.

Dorrell was let go despite leading the Bruins to a postseason game in each of his five seasons at UCLA, which had an outside chance to reach the Rose Bowl before its 24-7 defeat by USC over the weekend.

The 43-year-old Dorrell, a former UCLA player who previously had not held a head coaching job, had started telling teammates on Sunday that it had become increasingly difficult to be away from his family during the season.

Dorrell, a former UCLA player who previously had not held a head coaching job, had a 35-27 record.

The Bruins (6-6) will play BYU (10-2) in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 23. UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero said Dorrell would decide whether he wants to coach that game and, if not, defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker will serve as interim coach.

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Busch struggles in second season

**Associated Press**

METAIRIE, La. — There was no need for Minnesota Vikings quarterback Tarvaris Jackson to apologize for taking a direct hit to the head.

"I would say that nothing has changed in the locker room now," Vikings coach Brad Childress said Monday. "It was as grim as it could get.

"I don't think anybody in that room was particularly happy to see who got hit," Childress said. 

But in the NFL, the team's dynamic backfield duo — Peterson and Jackson — are showing no signs of fatigue. The Vikings have outscored their opponents in a way that hasn't been seen since Childress took over as head coach three weeks ago.

"Well, I don't know if you'd call it a change," Childress said. "I would say it back in the days of Tarvaris, the one thing you couldn't give Tarvaris was the turns, the experience.

On defense, the team's embattled secondary finally appears to be coming together as well. The Vikings have allowed only eight touchdowns against the run, but opposing quarterbacks have had little difficulty moving the ball down the field through the air against the league's lowest-rated pass defense.

"That has changed in the last two weeks," the Vikings intercepted Eli Manning four times — the New York quarterback for three touchdowns — in a 41-17 victory. "In the second game, they allowed just one touchdown down the field for the first time this season.

"I think they are playing off each other very well, and I think we're doing some different things," Childress said. "I think the guys on the back end are doing a great job of holding looks until the last moment, the linebackers the best that I've seen.

"In broader terms, it's a completely different atmosphere in the locker room now as compared to the Monday after the Green Bay debacle.

"We're more of a confident team than we were those three weeks ago, but we also know where our focus needs to be," Childress said.

With games remaining at San Francisco (3-9), home against Chicago (5-7) and Washington (5-7) in the NFC East, the defending NFC North champions are in a solid position to make the playoffs.

"We need to be able to handle the exchange or block it just how you want," Childress said. "Fear is realized when you don't handle the exchange or block it just how you want."

"It's my fault for putting us in that position in that game." Speaking generally, however, Payton and Busch need to improve in the areas of ball security and pass blocking.

"There have been other off-field distractions. The NCAA and Pac-10 are still investigating whether Bush or his family received improper benefits from agents while he was still in college. Busch has said repeatedly he did nothing wrong and his lawyer has said the Bush's are simply being extorted by criminals.

Busch is also named in a civil lawsuit filed by a fledgling marketing agent who claims to have given the Bush family money. Busch could lose his Heisman if he's found to have violated NCAA rules.

Still, Bush has never been accused of anything illegal, and his NFL career in New Orleans would not be affected. And his attorney insists that the case has not distracted him on the field.

Brees said Busch benefited as a rookie from the presence of veteran running back Deuce McAllister, who went out for the rest of the season after a knee injury in Week 3.

"Reggie is still a young player in this league, and like I said, I think a young back absolutely needs mentoring in this league from a guy like Deuce," Brees said. "It has been tough (McAllister has) been hurt and isn't here like he was last year for him. So that's tough and I think it is just learning how to be a professional player.

"There's definitely a learning curve, and keep in mind the tremendous expectations for Reggie Bush from the moment he stepped foot in this league," Brees continued. "So I think that every one expects him to go out and be Superman all the time and that is not the case, especially in this league."
WORLD VIEW IS AN INITIATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ABOUT ISSUES OF RACE, CLASS, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, AND GENDER THROUGH THE ARTS.

All the Invisible Children is a set of powerful stories that deal with the most pressing and important of social issues—the neglect and exclusion of children and their deprivation of childhood. It comprises seven different segments by seven directors, each one representing a different country or region of the world.

Brazilian-born director Katia Lund will be present to discuss the film and her segment, Bii e Joao. Lund’s work in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro has raised social consciousness in Brazil and around the world. Her most notable work has been as co-director of City of God. Joining her will be writer and actor Eduardo Gutemberg dos Reis, who co-wrote Bii e Joao. Born in Rocinha, one of the largest favelas in South America, Gutemberg dos Reis most recently co-wrote a feature film titled Rice and Beans, which will be directed by Lund.

Saturday, December 8 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Katia Lund and Eduardo Gutemberg do Reis will present and answer questions from the audience at 9 p.m.

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Tears and memories highlight Taylor’s funeral

Friends, family and former teammates gather to find closure and pay tribute to former Redskins safety

Associated Press

MIAMI — The little girl entered the big gymnasium in a stroller, asleep and oblivious to the 3,000 people on hand to pay last respects to her father, Sean Taylor.

Later, 18-month-old Jackie Taylor was wide awake and running wind写字楼 post past the huge flower arrangements in front of the stage. Wearing a red dress, she stood and applauded with the rest of the audience following the intruder of her father’s team, the Washington Redskins. She waved a milk bottle, stuck on a pacifier and went up and down in the front row hugging grieving relatives.

There were plenty of tears at Taylor’s three-hour funeral Monday, but also ripples of laughter and words of inspiration.

“Let me hear you scream!” shouted the Rev. Jesse Jackson, urging the audience to cheer Taylor’s memory. “One more time! This is a celebration!”

The 24-year-old Taylor died last Tuesday, barely 24 hours after he was shot in the bedroom of his home a few miles from Redskins Park. Police say he was a victim of a botched burglary, and four young men have been charged with unpremeditated murder.

Taylor and the suspects were transported from Lee County jail to Miami-Dade County jail Monday morning. Said handle Hall, a spokeswoman for Miami-Dade County jail: Charles Wardlow, 18, Jason Rivera, 17, and Venjah Mitchell, 19, and Jeremy Shockey. Former Redskins coach Randy Shannon.

Carter said after the funeral. “We were happy to be here now,” defensive end Andre Carter said after the funeral. “We were happy to be here and pay for the relatives of those who look for the way the media portrayed Taylor’s past in the wake of his violent death.”

“Despair what happened yesterday, it doesn’t matter now,” defensive end Andre Carter said after the funeral. “We were happy to be here and pay for the relatives of those who look for the way the media portrayed Taylor’s past in the wake of his violent death.”

“One of the things that I hope comes out of this tragedy is that the media get a small lesson in grace and humility,” said Florida City mayor Otis Wallace, a friend of the Taylor family. “For those who took the liberty of recklessly speculating that this young man’s death was caused by the way he lived, all I can say is they should be ashamed.”

The audience responded with a standing ovation.

On the other side of the state, in Fort Myers, the four young men charged in Taylor’s death sat in jail cells. Ed Griffith, a spokesman for the Miami-Dade County State Attorney’s Office, said they could be in court as early as Tuesday morning.

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Rivera, Wardlow, Mitchell and Hunte face charges of unpremeditated murder, armed burglary and home invasion with a firearm or another deadly weapon.
Senior defender Ryan Miller dribbles downfield during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Oakland at Alumni Field on Nov. 28.

Seniors continued from page 20

"Alright, I guess I'll start hanging out with him," Lapira said, "but I don't think Coach liked it too much." Irish coach Bobby Clark said the guys had a little too much fun living together and he had to pull in the reins a bit. "We were almost like evil twins. When we would get together we would just feed off each other," Yoshinaga said. "Since then we've toned it down a little bit." Clark agreed and said he has enjoyed watching both players progress as athletes and students during their four years. Lapira, Yoshinaga and the other Irish seniors are now at the end of their careers with a chance to do something no Notre Dame team has done before — make it to the Final Four with a win over Wake Forest this weekend.

The senior class has played a large part in getting Notre Dame to where it is now. "There is no question that the leadership has been one of the reasons that the team has done well," Clark said. "In a season there will always be hard times and setbacks and that's the time when you need strong leadership." Notre Dame (14-4-5) has not had many hard times or set­backs this year. However, it was a goal from Yoshinaga and a shutout from senior Chris Galligher that pulled the Irish out of a three-game wireless streak in mid-October.

Senior defender Ryan Miller said the success was due to a great work ethic in the offsea­son. "If you were around in the spring, you would have seen how hard guys were working. I've never seen that in my four or five years here," Miller said.

The team started working together the day after its quarter­final loss in last year's tour­nament to Virginia. "I think the team likes hanging around with one another. It's one of the nice things about this team," Clark said. "You don't need everybody on the team to be boom buddies, but it is good that they get a good laugh together." Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy60@nd.edu

Club Sports

Irish nab second place in Invite

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame men's volleyball had a chance to do something no other team has done in the Midwest Saturday in the Irish Invitational at Rolfs Athletic Center. The Irish reached the finals before falling to Indiana in a rematch of a game earlier in the day.

The Hoosiers got their revenge in the championship match in three hard fought games, 25-21, 22-25, 15-10.

The very young Irish team, playing in its first tournament of the season, struggled to gain momentum going in the second and third games of its fifth match of the day, despite the outstanding play of senior Tim McGraw and junior John Nejedly. Notre Dame finished with a 4-4 record on the day. The Irish reached the finals by defeating Ball State in two games in the semifinal, 25-20, 25-22. Senior outside hitter Dan Zibton and sophomore Alex Lewis led the offense, while sen­ior libero John Tible anchored the Irish defense. To reach the top bracket, the Irish knocked off the Hoosiers 25-20, 25-21 to what proved to be a showcase of young talent for Notre Dame. Freshman set­ter Mark tandolo and right side hitter Jason Healy led the team to victory, including multiple assists from Healy while tandolo finished the game with a double-double.

Notre Dame opened pool play against Grand Valley State-U in the first match of the day. While the Irish struggled at first, they hung on for the victory in three games, 22-20, 25-22, 15-12 with great defense from freshman Peter Bialaebracty and senior Frank Dax, who was playing in his last tournament with the team. Notre Dame also defeated Michigan State in two games, 25-17, 25-21, for the third victory in pool play. The Irish fin­ished pool play in their home tournament 3-0 for the third straight time.

Women's hockey

The Irish traveled to Iowa this weekend to play the Quad City Bluehens for Notre Dame's sea­son-opening series.

The weekend proved fairly successful overall. The Irish out­shoot Quad Cities 26-15 Saturday night, despite the unending line of penalties issued to both teams. The Bluehiners' goalie kept the Irish on defense as she saw lots of great shots from senior Kandie Gross, freshman Kelly Allsop and their linemates. Notre Dame lost the game 5-1 with its only goal coming in the third period scored by junior Amy Wilhelmy. Freshman Casey Kral picked up the assist.

On Sunday, the Irish took another shot at the Bluehens as the team's play was notably better. The Irish went on to win 27-13 and got away with fewer penalties than the night before.

In the first period, the Irish were down 1-0, but made an out­standing comeback throughout the second period. Junior Lauren Beuke scored an unas­sisted game-tying goal, and then in the third period, Chappell assisted another goal scored by Beuke, putting the Irish ahead 3-1.

The second period ended with another power play goal from Chappell. The Bluehiners scored one last time, leaving the final score at 4-2 for the Irish.

First year goalie Julia Gragtmans steadily improved over her first weekend of hock­ey.

Dealing with a new coaching staff and a new goaltender, first year coach Conor Brennan was proud of the team's performance and progress. When the weekend was over the team definitively showed that it was our first game together on the ice. We definitely showed that it was our first game together on the ice. We definitely showed that it was our first game together on the ice. We definitely showed that it was our first game together on the ice.

The Irish use their quick­ness and athleticism on defense. "We like to rebound and run, and that's what we did on the ice," McGraw said.

With 13 minutes to play, Irish senior presenter 22 turnovers. McGraw, how­ever, said our defense was as good of the depth we can sub more," McGraw said. "When someone looks tired, we can take them out and they can rest up a lit­tle bit before we put them back in. I think they play harder while they're in there. They play five or six minutes at a stretch because they know they can get out and rest."

Notre Dame held Michigan to just six points in the game and assists in the game and forced 22 turnovers. Young goalie Frank Dax, who came on for the first time, said the defense can play better.

"I think when we watch the film I think we'll see that we weren't as intense on the defense so we need to make a little bit better," she said. "I didn't think that our defense was as good as the score indicates."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Defense continued from page 20

"I think that's what got us going early, her in the middle of the press creating havoc with Michigan. I think she's doing absolutely everything we could ask of in a point guard."

Minutes later, guard Ashley Barlow came off the back line in the 2-3 zone to help with a double-team near the elbow. When the ball went into the corner, Barlow made it back in time to throw a hand in the shooter's face.

"She's just so unafraid. She's fearless, she's relentless, she's determined, and she'll do anything, absolutely anything it takes for us to win," McGraw said of Barlow.

One minute after that, guard Melissa Lechlitner got her 5th point of the game. Barlow had the fast break offense, guard Charel Schrader. Schrader penetrated the lane underneath the basket by the baseline. By that time, Gaines was a force in the post as good of the depth we can sub more," McGraw said. "When someone looks tired, we can take them out and they can rest up a little bit before we put them back in. I think they play harder while they're in there. They play five or six minutes at a stretch because they know they can get out and rest."

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Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu
Weis continued from page 20

thing to do, so we did that.

All told, the Irish (21-14) finished 9-9 in the ACC.

"It was a great way to end the year for me," Weis said. "It was a great year for me, so we'll be happy to see the New Year.

Waywood up for Houston job

Notre Dame athletics director Mike Waywood, who is in his second year at the

university, has interviewed for the job at the University of Houston.

"I'm not going to comment on that," Weis said. "I'm going to concentrate on what we have to do in the next week.

"We're going to go into the game with a lot of confidence," Weis said. "We're going to go out and play our best game.

More on coaches

If Weis initiates any changes to his coaching staff, it will not be until February -- after recruits sign their national letters of intent.

Weis did say he would change the team's current special teams coaching paradigm, under which all coaches contribute to different parts of special teams operations. "Our goal is to make our kicking game stronger," he said. "We're going to work on it this week.

"We have to be different," Weis said. "I was not pleased with the way we went.

"If all these teams we've played are good, but we win Kansas State at the Garden, that's a different level," Notre Dame coach Kyle McAlarney said. "I think everyone's just going to bring a higher energy to the game.

The task of guarding Beasley will probably fall on Ayers or fellow Notre Dame small forward Zach Hillesland. Both theoretically have the length and quickness to cover the 6-foot, 10-300-pounder.

"They're really good, so we're going to have to have a multiple-coach special teams setup," Weis said.

Weis did not rule out using a multiple-coach special teams setup, but he said he could envision a scenario with a single special teams coach "if it were the right person.

Musings on next season

Notre Dame begins the 2008 season with a higher ranking than the NCAA's official opening day and has only one, instead of the previous two, straights wins.

"We're going to try to have a multiple-coach special teams setup," Weis said. "We're going to have a multiple-coach special teams setup."
CONVERSATIONS THAT MORE OR LESS TOOK PLACE IN REAL LIFE — PART 2

No matter what your story, his is always better

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

DEUCES MANOR

MATT HUDSON, ANDY MANZA & PAUL TASSINARI

TASTES LIKE FAILURE

RICH PROTIVA & ANDY SPANGLER

CROSSWORD

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52 "I'm kidding!"
53 Leave alone

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FOOTBALL

Hailed by the Chief

Weis invited to join disability commission

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Wire

Charlie Weis met with President Bush, whom he called "the Big Boss," on Nov. 29 to discuss a possible appointment to a White House commission for Americans with disabilities.

Weis revealed the meeting during his season wrap-up news conference Monday morning in the recruiting lounge of the Guglielmino Athletics Complex.

"About six months ago the White House had sent a representative out to meet with me," Weis said. "They have a commission for people with disabilities in the country that has 31 people on it. They had sent a guy out to ask my wife and I — they wanted to ask me, but on behalf of what we do — whether I'd be interested in being on that commission.

"They had asked us if we would be interested in having a little visit with the Big Boss. I would be interested, but on behalf of what we do, I think if we can keep our hand in the game, it would probably be a good thing for me." See WEIS/page 18

MEN'S SOCCER

Senior class leads club to Elite 8

Friendship of Lapira and Yoshinaga creates success on the pitch

By DAN MURPHY
Associate Sports Editor

Seniors Joseph Lapira and Alex Yoshinaga have hooked up for big goals in each of Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament wins so far this year, but that is nothing new for the Irish.

In their first Big East game of the season, sophomore Paddy Mullen during warm-ups before Notre Dame's 31-10 loss to Penn State on Sept. 8 in State College, Penn.

Senior defender Alex Yoshinaga controls the ball during Notre Dame's 1-0 win over St. John's on Nov. 11 at Alumni Field.

see SENIORS/page 17

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

'D' carries team in Michigan victory

Depth allows Irish to shut down Wolverines

By BILL BRINK
Sports Wire

Michigan head coach Kevin Borseth summarized Notre Dame's defensive prowess this season with one sentence.

"I just feel like a wounded fish in shark-infested waters," Borseth said after Notre Dame's defense shredded Michigan in its 77-46 win over the Wolverines Sunday.

Borseth wrote off Michigan's offensive stagnancy to lack of execution, but anyone watching could see a disparity between his explanation and the actual goings-on of the game. The Irish pressed the Wolverines deep in their zone, played tight defense on the perimeter, and utilized double-teams effectively.

Michigan had a size advantage over the Irish, most notably in 6-foot-6 center Krista Phillips. But what they lacked, and what Notre Dame has used to its advantage this season, were quickness and athleticism.

Notre Dame got a hand or body in the way of numerous passes or shots in the game. The Irish full-court press kept Michigan in its zone for extended periods of time, and when the Wolverines did set up its half-court offense, Notre Dame could double-team players and still have time to get back in position after a pass.

The Irish alternated between man-to-man and zone defense, something coach Muffet McGraw said helped keep the Wolverines guessing.

"I think we kept them off balance a little bit," McGraw said after the game. "When we press we like to fall back into man-to-man, and I also like the man-to-man, so I think if we can keep switching it on and off it will help keep us a little bit more balanced." See DEFENSE/page 17

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish need to contain Beasley

ND takes on K. State in crucial showdown

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

Before Notre Dame even started watching film on Kansas State, the Irish knew who they needed to stop.

Wildcats forward Michael Beasley, who is averaging 25.7 points and 15.0 rebounds per game, is already considered a surefire top pick in next summer's NBA draft.

"He's been doing great, getting a double-double every game," Notre Dame forward Ryan Ayers said. "I think our defensive position will be very important against him.

The contest with Kansas State tonight at 7 at Madison Square Garden in New York is the biggest game of the season so far for the Irish (11-2). The game, which will be televised live on ESPN, is Notre Dame's last chance to defeat a "power" conference team before the Big