With the economy at the forefront of most news broadcasts and on front pages of many newspapers, the effects are beginning to reach higher education and raising questions as to whether or not families will be able to send children to expensive colleges and universities.

"Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney responded to this dilemma in a broadcast and on front pages of many newspapers, whether or not families will be able to send children to expensive colleges and universities.

"The biggest difference is that popular history, and there is an enormous amount of money, " said John Kirk, a 1984 graduate of Notre Dame who spoke at Tuesday's discussion, "Academic vs. Popular History," which is charged with educating them, according to associate vice president, Brian Mooney, "the Office of Residence Life's role is not to be sacrificed in some areas."

"Many private institutions, like Saint Mary's, offer scholarships, need based aid, loans, work study, and other solutions. Nearly one-fourth of our operating budget is devoted to making a Saint Mary's education affordable for our families," Mooney said. "The end result is that, for some students, the cost of attending a private college or university is actually lower than that of attending a public university."

"To the perspective posted on the Web site is not the first time Mooney has discussed the subject of the economy. Mooney addressed the current economic situation and the college's response to it with the faculty and staff during a series of talks in early November, Dampe."
Decline a bowl game

It seems to be official. ESPN, WNDU, frisheyes.com and, according to today’s sports section of The Observer, a source close to the administration have confirmed that Charlie Weis will remain as the head football coach at our fair University.

I won’t lie and say I’m not entirely sad that I’ll be graduating at the end of the year and won’t have to sit through another dismal season in the student section. Instead, I’ll most likely be sitting elsewhere in the stands watching a dismal season — let’s face it, I’ll be an Irish fan for life.

That being said, I, like many fans, was disappointed in the Irish’s showing against USC. Obviously, I don’t like that we lost or the fact that it took us almost 45 minutes to get a first down. But what I’m most disappointed in is the lack of passion I saw from our team.

Now, I’ve never written a sports article, nor do I claim to have an extensive knowledge of the sport of football, but I was at USC. I don’t know how much they showed on TV but before the game the players of both teams got into Fight. Then, two players, one from each team, were ejected from the game because of fighting.

After the game, Charlie Weis said that he expects the team to be going somewhere when bowl selection day rolls around.

I want to ask why? Why shouldn’t we go to a bowl game?

We barely beat Navy. We lost to a team that was 2-8. What have we done that shows we deserve to go to a bowl? Sure, we lost to USC, but let’s be honest, who didn’t see that one coming? I’m not saying that we don’t deserve to go to the Sun Bowl or the Poinsettia Bowl just because we lost to a team that we knew was going to be able to beat us into the ground.

I’m saying we don’t deserve to go to a bowl game because the only excitement I saw on the field during the Syracuse game was when Pat Kuenzi got mad because he got hit with a snowball.

Don’t get me wrong, I commend our players for being students and athletes, but really, at the past two games they will do anything.

Personally, I know I would thank you for letting me sit through another Irish football game. Why do I want to watch any more?

I’m sorry that if Notre Dame doesn’t go to a bowl game the senior football players won’t get to play for the Irish again, but maybe it’s just to go best quietly. Congratulations on four years, but please don’t involve me in your goodbye.

I understand that money changes hands when teams are invited to bowl games, and therefore NIL will obviously go to whoever are invited. But seriously, think about sparing us the pain and respectfully decline.

Personally, I know I would thank you for doing so.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Liz Harter at charter1@stmarys.edu

Corrections

Due to a reporting error, Saint Mary’s senior Kristi Pelligrini was incorrectly identified as a Notre Dame student in the article “Irish fans disappointed, embarrassed by USC loss” in the Dec. 2 issue of The Observer. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT’S YOUR FAVORITE PICK UP LINE?

Brent Gill
Senior, off-campus

“Hey, how much does a polar bear weigh?

Luke Stavole
Senior, St. Edwards

I’m from Sted’s.

Monica Garcia-Blizzard
Senior, McClain

“If I could rearrange the alphabet I would put u and i together.”

Tony Ceravolo
Senior, Duncan

“Do you work at Subway? Cuz you’re giving me a footlong.”

Irish dancers perform during halftime at the Notre Dame men’s basketball game Tuesday night.

OFFBEAT

Man accused of throwing Christmas tree at dad

PARRISH, Fla. — Authorities say a west Florida man who lives with his parents has been arrested on a felony assault charge after he used a Christmas tree as a weapon to attack his father.

According to the Manatee County sheriff’s report a 37-year-old man was arrested last week after he threw a four-foot Christmas tree at his father. The tree missed, but the man then tried to use the steel base from the tree to strike his father.

The man was charged with felony assault. He denied, however, to strike his father. The man was charged with felony assault. He denied, however, striking his father.

The investigation began about 4:30 a.m., after a woman reported a loud noise and discovered her 4-foot-tall Santa and snowman had been taken from her yard.

At 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the East Wing of South Dining Hall.

Notre Dame Women’s Basketball team plays at Purdue at 2 p.m. Sunday in the Joyce Center. Call 574-631-7356 for tickets or visit the Athletic Ticket Office Web page.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

HIGH 35 25 35 25 30 30 30 30 30 30 30
LOW 15 25 15 25 15 18 18 20 20 20 20

TODAY


In Brief

Human rights activist Winna LaDue will speak on “The New Energy Economy: Nonviolent strategies of change utilizing indigenous knowledge” tonight at 7 p.m. in the Hesburgh Auditorium in the Hesburgh Library for International Studies.

Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and GreenED are hosting a Green Fashion Show tonight from 8 p.m. to 9 at the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets are $7 and proceeds go to the Majora Carter Sustainable South Bronx.

Members of Saint Mary’s Women’s Choir will perform at the College’s 26th annual Madrigal Dinners this week. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $40 for evening performances, $35 for matinee performances and $15 for children.

Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 will make fleece blankets to donate to cancer patients as part of The Aidan Project. The project will take place from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the East Wing of South Dining Hall.

The Observer, e-mailed detailed information about an event to observers@nd.edu
coming to understand that their actions have consequences," he said.

Kirk is not personally involved in disciplinary hearings, contrary to popular perception, as he is not involved in the day-to-day procedures of OBL, he said. "I supervise the administration of that office." OBL is directly supervised by Jeff Shoup, the Director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing. It is Shoup who runs disciplinary hearings, Kirk said. Kirk said he understands that he and the OBL are not well liked by students, but he said that he hopes that his appearance at the COR meeting will help to clear up some of the misunderstandings about his role at Notre Dame.

Despite his assumed unpopularity among many students, Kirk said it is an "absolute delight to teach and be around" those who, according to Kirk, "embraces, according to Kirk. He received a favorable reaction from most COR members, especially after he was given a chance to articulate his views on the mission of Residence Life. "It's very clear that you have the best interests of the students and the community at heart," sophomore class president Cynthia Weber said.

Kirk said that one of the key roles in Residence Life's educational mission is instilling a sense of community in students. Actions "really do have an impact on the rest of the community," Kirk said. Understanding this reality is important for the idea of living in a community that the University embraces, according to Kirk. "The sense of community is very important" at Notre Dame, he said.

One important disciplinary role filled by OBL, that is often overlooked is in regards to cases of sexual assault. Weber said many members of the sophomore class were most interested in the University's policies in regards to sexual assault, especially in light of the University's ban on premarital sexual intercourse.

Kirk said that the University has two unrelated rules. "One deals with sexual misconduct and the ways that you can be charged with sexual assault," while the other is concerned with premarital intercourse, he said.

"When an allegation of sexual assault is raised, the University says we're going to deal with that really important allegation," Kirk said.

Kirk said the University will not punish either party for premarital intercourse if an allegation of assault is raised, even if the individuals engaged in consensual intercourse prior to the alleged incident of assault, he said. Cases of sexual assault are incidents in which the University often believes that further education of the perpetrator is impossible.

"If someone sexually assaults someone, then the University believes we can educate any more," he said.

Kirk said it is often difficult to establish the truth in an alleged sexual assault incident, unlike in most cases that Residence Life hears, which often regard alcohol-related offenses. "Getting to what happened, in cases of sexual assault, is going to be very difficult," Kirk said. "It's not a situation where anyone is ever going to be happy." In cases that are not related to sexual assault, the facts of the case are generally clear-cut, he said. "There are very few circumstances where there's ever a question of what actually happened," he said. "Virtualy all of the cases that are receiving, according to Kirk, the "The sense of community is very important" at Notre Dame, he said.

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Fashion
continued from page 1

Bronx is an organization that pursues environmental justice through innovative projects and was founded in 2001 by Majora Carter. Carter served as a panelist Notre Dame's 2008 Forum on Sustainable Energy where she discussed the impact of environmental issues on poorer areas of the United States.

"We were trying to find some kind of organization that was green. This year's forum was on sustainable energy, and we thought that Majora Carter's fund would be a good tie in because she was a panelist," event coordinator Laura Moore-Shay, a junior at the University, said. "[The Sustainable South Bronx] also includes an aspect of social justice, which many Notre Dame students are interested in."

Moore-Shay has been involved in several environmental activism groups during her two and a half years at Notre Dame. A member of GreeND, Students for Environmental Action and the Students for a Sustainable Environment, Moore-Shay has been recycling some of her own clothes. She then recruited Junior Lindsay Sena and senior Ann Kelley, the president of SIA, to assist her in planning the event.

"I've always loved fashion and art," Moore-Shay said. "I came up with the idea for this event last spring at an advisory board meeting while cutting up an old Recyclin' Irisa suit. I thought an environmentally friendly fashion show could be a new innovative event, so I pitched the proposal to GreeND and they liked it."

The fashion event will feature both pieces purchased from resale stores and student-designed outfits made from recyclable material. Student volunteers will model 96 environmentally friendly outfits with the accompaniment of professional hair and makeup. Origin, a hair care company that features an organic line, and Salon Nouveau, a local salon, will do the models' hair and makeup, respectively. The secondhand pieces will comprise one part of the hour-long event.

"Since we were able to find a cute skirt or sweater and not head-to-toe cohesive outfits, the models will be wearing some of their own clothes, but it will be clear which article we are showcasing," junior Sena said. "I thought that an mainly associate recycling with bottles and cans, clothing can also be recycled. So many pieces of clothing are produced each year, but they are also thrown away each year. So instead of always purchasing brand new clothes, we encourage people to try shopping at a second hand store."

Another part of the event will showcase "recycled couture" outfits. These clothing articles, made out of recyclable materials and meant to have a high fashion look, were made by several design students. The Film, Television, and Theater costume department loaned the show several costumes made out of eco-friendly material to exhibit during the event.

"These outfits are really creative. We have one dress made entirely of coffee filters and a skirt made out of magazine pages," Sena said. "The outfits are meant to inspire the audience; people would never think to wear these materials, but maybe after the show, they'll look at their recycled materials in a different light."

Throughout the event, a slideshow that displays pictures and offers tips about energy, conservation and the environment will play on a projection screen. Immediately following the event, there will be a small reception and silent auction to bid on the clothing pieces shown on the runway to benefit the Sustainable Bronx Fund.

"I hope that students who like fashion but maybe aren't interested in the environment, will appreciate the idea of recycling and conserving more." Moore-Shay said. "We want to get people involved who aren't normally interested. A lot of the environmental things have been academic, but this fashion show will offer a different and artsy look at being green."

"Trash to Class: A Green Fashion Event" takes places tonight at 8 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at the LaFortune box office.

Contact Elysa Michalak at emichalak@nd.edu

Snow
continued from page 1

Wheel too far can cause the car to fishtail out of control, Korros said.

Korros added that students planning a trip off campus must be wary of sudden drops in temperature, as roads that were previously wet can quickly turn to ice.

Korros and Trent both advised people, especially students who lack experience with icy conditions, to avoid driving when weather agencies deem conditions dangerous.

"If there's a winter weather advisory put out and the Indiana State Police say that the roads are closed, then you should heed those warnings put out by the weather agencies," Korros said. "It's certainly a judgment call," Trent said. "I would say that if you're not used to driving in conditions like that, I would alter my plans when it's suggested by the national weather service."

Trent warned that the most dangerous roads during the winter months are the ones with the thickest traffic, usually in major retail areas.

"The most dangerous intersections are always intersections that are most heavily traveled," he said. "If you're going up by the mall, they tend to have multiple intersections. They have more than their share of accidents."

While slick roads cause accidents to rise in South Bend during the winter months, fatalities and serious injuries do not account for most of the increase, Trent said.

"Serious injury accidents don't increase that much," he said. "Fender bender accidents probably increase. 80 percent of our minor accidents occur after it snows."

While not as dangerous as losing control of your vehicle, dead batteries and frozen fuel lines can be major inconveniences during the winter.

Trent recommended that people make sure that their cars pass those kinds of general maintenance tests.

"Make sure that you have a winter survival kit and a blanket and flashlight," he said. "Dead batteries and frozen gas lines tend to be the major problems."

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Concern rises over detainees

BAGHDAD — The United Nations expressed concern Tuesday about overcrowding and "grave human rights violations" of detainees in Iraqi custody — in one case, 123 men crammed into a single cell.

The warning comes as the U.S. prepares to turn over control to the Iraqis of thousands of detainees in its custody under a new security pact that would end the U.S. mission here by 2012. The pact, approved last week by Iraq's parliament, calls for American forces to transfer all detainees before the end of 2011.

The experiments that ended late Monday with a fireworks display included an air defense exercise and joint actions to spot, pursue and detain an intruding vessel, Russian navy spokesman Rear Adm. Igor Dygalo said.

Bush touts mentoring program

GREENSBORO, N.C. — President George W. Bush, trying to reduce the so-called "brain drain" of American workers to Russia's navy in Moscow's first such Caribbean deployment since the Cold War, Russian television on Tuesday showed images of a Venezuelan-operated Sukhoi fighter jet swooping low over Russian warships in a simulated air attack.

The exercises, which have involved an estimated 800 U.S. troops and a couple of navy ships, are part of a national initiative, championed by Bush, that has provided mentors to more than 110,000 children.

Gov. of Pennsylvania, Ed Rendell, at podium, and Governors from across the country take questions from members of the media during a news conference on Tuesday.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana flunks college study

INDIANA — An independent report on American higher education flunks all but one state when it comes to affording and preparing students. The report, which has worked with Youth Focus Inc., a nonprofit agency — to match 220 children of prisoners with adult mentors. The program is a part of a national initiative, championed by Bush, that has provided mentors to more than 110,000 children.

Chained teen shows up at gym

NYC — A 17-year-old boy and his 17-year-old girlfriend were arrested after an exasperated, terrified and nearly naked 17-year-old showed up at a gym with a chain locked to his ankle, saying he had just fled his captors, authorities said Tuesday. Police were also seeking the boy's aunt and had obtained a warrant for her arrest for an earlier alleged assault against the teen.

The boy, who authorities said ran away from a Sacramento foster home last year, came into the In-Shape Sports Club in Tracy on Monday wearing only briefs and covered in what appeared to be soot. gym manager Chuck Ellis said. Tracy is about 70 miles south of Sacramento.

Israel

Jews mourn victims of Mumbai attack

Associated Press

KMF CHABAD — Thousands of grief-stricken Orthodox Jews prayed and wept Tuesday over the shrouded bodies of Israelis killed in Mumbai, joining the nation indicating in a solemn broadcast on TV and attended by Israeli leaders.

One of three gunmen who killed 166 people in a Mumbai terror binge was a Palestinian who went by the name of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri said in a video statement released online.

He added that the Chabad house had changed hands after it was bought by Indian Jews in 2003.

The Islamic call to prayer was heard across the city.

"This will not just set Mumbai back, this will set the whole of India back," said a resident.

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the Islamic extremist group that Domitian acted as a leader, claimed responsibility for the attack.
ZIMBABWE

Country faces water costs, cholera crisis

Associated Press

The lawsuit filed with the High Court describes "large pools of raw sewage" in the streets of the town of 300,000, where the first cholera cases were reported in mid-October.

Like most of Zimbabwe's main cities and towns, Chitungwiza once had functioning sewage and water delivery systems, but authorities have made no repairs for years.

Harare is the epicenter of the cholera epidemic, which has rapidly spread across the country. Chitungwiza, about three hours' drive from the capital, has turned the city into a playground for rats that threaten to spread the disease to the rest of the country.

The crisis is the latest in the collapse of Zimbabwe's once-vibrant agricultural economy, which has been battered by years of drought, hyperinflation, and political instability. The crisis has left many Zimbabweans without access to clean water, leading to the spread of cholera.

In a statement on Wednesday, the government urged people to stop shaking hands, as the disease is spread through contaminated hands and objects. The government also advised people to practice good hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water, using public toilets, and avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

The government has also warned people to avoid crowded places, such as markets, hospitals, and schools, where the disease is easily transmitted.

In law charged with murder

The Observer

Cecilia Hudson, a 37-year-old Zimbabwean woman, was charged with murder Tuesday in the shooting death of her 18-month-old son, who was found dead in a neighbor's home.

Hudson, who is believed to be the boy's biological mother, was arrested Monday after police found the child's body in a freezer in her home. She has not yet entered a plea, and her initial appearance is scheduled for Friday.

Hudson's attorney, lawyer Sarah Mupfumira, said she has not yet seen the charges but that she is confident her client will be found not guilty.

Mupfumira said Hudson is a single mother who has been struggling to make ends meet in recent years. She has three other children and is currently unemployed.

The shooting occurred in a densely populated township in Harare, where many residents live in overcrowded homes and lack basic amenities such as running water and electricity. The police have not yet released any details about the motive for the shooting or whether it was a case of domestic violence.

The country's cholera epidemic has been declared a national emergency, and the government has been working to provide clean water and sanitation to affected areas. However, the crisis has been exacerbated by a lack of resources and a lack of coordination between government agencies and international aid groups.

The government has been under pressure to provide more resources to combat the epidemic, which has already claimed the lives of hundreds of people and has infected thousands more. The United Nations has called the cholera epidemic a "humanitarian disaster."
Some in Congress have pounced on what they view as the hypocrisy of auto executives flying on corporate jets to Washington to ask for public help.

Ford CEO Alan Mulally last month said that it was "a delicious irony" to see the executives arrive on private jets, "with tin cups in their hands." In response, the automakers top executives need to fly on corporate planes for security reasons. They also pointed out that taking commercial flights risked delays or cancellations, a chance the executives would not want to take when scheduled to testify in front of Congress.

In an effort to curb bad publicity, Ford Motor Corp. and General Motors Corp. said their CEOs would take the wheel for at least part of the roughly nine-hour trip. Ford also announced Tuesday that it will sell its five corporate jets, and GM said it would close its corporate jets operation on Jan. 1 and try to sell the remainder of the lease time on its seven aircraft.

Chrysler spokesperson Lori McTavish said the company rents two corporate aircraft, an on-an-need basis from an aircraft company and does not own any jets. The image of seeking help from the taxpayers while flying corporate jets will take a long time to live down. The executives were parodied on "Saturday Night Live" and pilloried on radio, TV and Web sites.

"The idea of a CEO flying in on a jet to ask for a loan—that's something that today's media will absolutely seize upon," Mendelsohn said.

Mutually, in an interview from the road Tuesday, acknowledged the symbolism of flying. "We need to demonstrate that we heard their concerns and show we are willing to change," he said in an e-mail. "This is a small way of showing that." Mutually drove part of the way and did business by tele­phone, but not while behind the wheel, he said.

**Fed extends key credit programs**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve has extended the life of key programs aimed at easing through credit strains and restoring stability to financial markets.

The Federal Reserve on Tuesday that the programs, originally slated to last through Jan. 30, will be extended through April 30. The Fed said it was extending those actions "to continue to support credit conditions and to reduce the costs of funding for a time."

The Fed's emergency lending facilities, which allow banks to borrow from the Fed on a short-term basis, have also been extended.

The central bank's arsenal of such programs has proven invaluable to its strategy to battle the worst financial crisis since the 1930s.

The Fed's decision to extend the life of its key programs comes one day after the national Bureau of Economic Research declared that the country has been in a recession since December.

To help ease the damage from the recession, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke on Monday said he stood ready to lower interest rates again.

Many analysts expect the Fed to cut its key rate when it meets next on Dec. 15-16. The Fed's key rate now stands at 1 percent—a level seen only once before the past half-century. The Fed can act if interest rates fall to zero because of problems with the credit markets.

The Fed's key rate now stands at 1 percent—a level seen only once before the past half-century. The Fed can act if interest rates fall to zero because of problems with the credit markets.
It's a Christmas miracle

Andrew Miller
The Roads Scholar

Christmas ruined.
Second time was a charm.
My sister Maureen always used to joke around with me about what she was getting me for Christmas. "This year I'm going to get you a whole sock full of rocks, Anders." But she never got me any rocks. "This year I'm going to give you a push down the stairs, Andrew. And I won't push harder than I did last year." "This year I'm going to give you a big box of nothing, Anders." But on Christmas morning, as always, there was a legitimate present under the tree from me to my dear sister Maureen.

Then the next year, the motif of the "box of nothing" became a running gag in my family. Maureen, Katie and I would light-heartedly threaten on birthdays, anniversaries and any giving celebration that the "box of nothing" would rear its intangible and depressing head. Maureen, more so than either Katie or I, loved talking about how one of these days she would give me the "box of nothing." Finally as school started in September the joke became tired and we all moved on with our lives.

Around Advent-time that year, I developed a cane-fascination that has stuck with me to this day. I wanted a cane so badly that the only thing on my Christmas list was a gentleman's walking stick. As soon as the tree went up, Maureen put a present under it labeled "box of nothing." Finally as school started in September the "box of nothing" became a running gag in my family. Maureen, more so than either Katie or I, loved talking about how one of these days she would give me the "box of nothing." Finally as school started in September the joke became tired and we all moved on with our lives.

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Aiming at the wrong target

It is easy to read not only the outrage, but the pain in Liz Froehlke's letter on Nov. 17 ("Lack of Acceptance an Issue of Ignorance"). We share that pain. At the same time, please allow me to respond to Liz's challenge regarding Catholic schools as a Catholic educator as well as a lifelong advocate of all students' learning and behavioral issues.

This Nov. 17 Observer came to my office just as twenty Catholic school educators from Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Michigan, Illinois, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland and the District of Columbia were deep in conversation in the next room discussing the knowledge and skills needed by Catholic school administrators to ensure that Catholic schools are prepared to educate the children of God regardless of special needs in language acquisition, learning behavior, or social economic status (ACE position statement on Inclusion, 2008). Are these teachers and educators the exception? Not at all. Catholic schools across the country are accepting children with special needs. In a survey of our ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) teachers just last month, 98 percent reported having children with special needs whose parents choose to place them in our Catholic schools. Lastly, the ACE faculty, just this week, reviewed a proposal for a new ACE certification program in Mild Disabilities for Catholic schoolteachers.

We understand that at present, teachers in Catholic schools are typically unprepared to face the challenges of helping diverse learners reach their God-given potential. These initiatives, therefore, are built upon a core belief that every baptized child has a right to a Catholic education. We seek to provide within our nation's Catholic schools a more welcoming and inclusive — and indeed effective — learning environment for children with diverse educational abilities. With the help of the Holy Spirit, ACE might contribute in some small way to assist schools in accommodating the richly diverse learning needs of all God's children.

Joyce Johnstone
ACE

Notre Dame arrogance

The recent football spectacle created by Charlie Weis ought to be used as an opportunity for the entire University to reassess an unfortunate culture that has developed over the years at Notre Dame. And that is Notre Dame arrogance.

Arrogance is embedded in all environments at Notre Dame: the student, the alumnus, the faculty, athletics, probably even the subway subways. It overwhelmed me when I walked on to campus in the fall of 1994.

For example, I had a professor that told me that he knew that the reason I left my home state and came to Notre Dame was so that I could get a real education. My senior year, our class embarrassed ourselves in the final weeks before graduation as we criticized the selection of our graduation speaker. One little girl commented that even the University of Oklahoma got Margaret Thatcher.

Now, Weis has thrust Notre Dame arrogance into the national media. What is sad about arrogance is it is counter-productive to the goals and ideals that are Notre Dame. We should and often do boast about our commitment to academics, especially with our student athletes. What we have done by not compromising our academic integrity with our athletics, when almost every other university in today's world does, is a true accomplishment.

The arrogance of Notre Dame tarnishes, if not overshadows, this fantastic accomplishment. We have a lot to be proud of at Notre Dame. It is hard to believe that to be a Notre Dame alum. But we would be well-served if we used this Charlie Weis spectacle as an opportunity to be introspective and reassess the culture of arrogance that has developed at Notre Dame throughout the years.

Todd Meader
ACE
Top ten Christmas movies

1) It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
   The film was a flop in its original theatrical run, not even breaking even at the box office. Only after it began airing on television in the 1970s and 1980s did it become a cultural icon.

2) White Christmas (1954)
   In this musical, two army buddies from World War II, now song-and-dance men, try to woo a sister act while the four of them put on a stage show to save a failing winter resort.

3) A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)
   Some of the child actors voicing the characters couldn't read yet, so they had to be fed their lines a few words at a time, which created the halting style of the dialogue now identified with the "Peanuts" specials.

4) The Santa Clause (1994)
   Tim Allen, the elf who designs all of the gadgets for Tim Allen's Santa, is a nod to the character Q, also a technology master, from the James Bond movies.

5) How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966)
   Actor Billingsley, who also starred as Ralphie in "A Christmas Story.

6) Home Alone (1990)
   Macaulay Culkin's character gets left behind on Christmas, and must fend off boredom, insecurity and burglars until his parents make it home. Hilarity ensues. This movie was the top grossing movie of the 90s, until "Titanic" came along.

7) A Christmas Story (1983)
   It's December in 1940s northern Indiana and all Ralphie wants for Christmas is Red Ryder BB gun. "A Christmas Story" turns 25 years old this year, but the sight gags of Ralphie's friend's longue frozen to the flag pole, the bunny suit and the leg lamp probably won't get old anytime soon.

8) Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)
   Of all the stop-motion specials produced by Rankin and Bass, Rudolph has endured the longest. It's got memorable characters (a misfit reindeer, an elf who longs to be a dentist, a gold miner named Yukon Cornelius, and of course, Santa) and catchy music, from the title song to "Holly Jolly Christmas."

   Intertwining at least nine different love stories, this movie is a must for anyone experiencing the holiday blues. Sure, there are some downbeat parts, but when the little girl belts out Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" at the end, you'd have to be a real Scrooge to resist the Christmas cheer.

    The 6-foot tall Buddy (Will Ferrell), clad in an elf ensemble straight out of "Rudolph," discovers he is actually a human adopted by the North Pole, and sets out to reconnect with his real father. Ferrell is both convincing and hilarious in a movie that generated such catchphrases as "Santa! I know him!"

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu
Christmas season events on and off campus

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

Ice-skating at Howard Park
Hours can be found at:
www.sbpark.org/akate/iceskate.htm

Sure, it's fun to skate in the Joyce Center whenever the rink's open, cruising along the ice with your friends and dormmates. Why not give it a try off-campus? South Bend's park system deserves a second look, especially this time of year, when Howard Park offers an outdoor skating rink for wintertime fun. Practice your figure eights and smooth moves at this local park. It's less than two miles from campus, so you've got no excuse. Admission costs $4 with a skate rental included. If you've got your own pair of skates, the rink will sharpen them for $4.

Christmas at the Movies
This holiday season should prove like any other at the movies, with a slew of holiday fare hitting the big screen. "Four Christmases," starring comedic high elephant Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon, took the top spot at the box office last weekend. Another Christmas release, "Nothing Like the Holidays," is due in theaters Dec. 12, and should also prove to be a welcome holiday distraction from the joys of finals week.

"A Christmas Story" at the South Bend Civic Theater
Performances continue to December 20th. The South Bend Civic Theater has brought this 1983 classic Christmas film to life on the stage. Join this local theater community in celebrating one of the holiday season's more unconventional stories as 11 year-old Ralphie Parker dreams of a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. Even if you'll "shoot your eye out," you can't pass up this Christmastime production. The story, which takes place in Indiana, was first brought to the stage in 2000.

South Bend Symphony Orchestra performs "Home for the Holidays"
Sunday Dec. 7, 3 p.m.
If you're in the mood for some holiday cheer, check out the South Bend Symphony Orchestra this Sunday at the Morris Performing Arts Center. In addition to the orchestra itself, this popular concert will feature performances by soprano Diane Penning and the South Bend High School Festival Choir, a group comprised of students from Adams, Riley, Clay and Washington High Schools.

The Nutcracker" at the Morris Performing Arts Center
Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
Christmas in South Bend wouldn't be the same without the local production of this beloved holiday tradition. Watch and wonder as young Clara experiences a night of enchantment, drama and mystery, scored by Tchaikovsky's beautiful music and performed by a local dance company, the Southold Dance Theater.

Glee Club Christmas Concert at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.
This country artist has two Grammy Awards and three Country Music Association Awards under her belt, and will be coming to the Leighton Concert Hall for a unique Christmastime performance. Called "one of Nashville's most spiritual singers" by USA Today, Mattea will perform Christmas standards as well as some of her own holiday tracks, including "Mary, Did You Know?"

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu.

Winter's at the Joyce Center: A "Christmas in St. Nicholas"

Scene Writer
Michelle Fordice

All of these Christmas preparations and celebrations remind us of the spiritual side of Notre Dame. The first advent candle has been lit in the Basilica and chapels across campus, hymns like "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" fill us with anticipation, and the nativity scenes set up at the grotto, the Dome and O'Shaughnessy become a visual reminder of why we celebrate Christmas. We start to think about giving back as service projects and donation drives abound, reminding us to care for the people that are not guaranteed a good Christmas.

The heart of Notre Dame is about considering what matters most, you can find a good education at many universities, but Christmastime is just one reminder that Notre Dame is about something more.

So take time to breathe in the crisp winter air, back in the glow of Christmas lights, and remember that there are more important things than just making it through the last few weeks of papers and exams. Celebrate the spirit of Christmas a little bit each day, along with the rest of our Notre Dame family.

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact: Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu
NBA

Murphy’s tip-in helps Pacers shock Lakers

Washington outscores New Jersey 35-12 in the third quarter cruising to first win over Eastern conference opponent

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Troy Murphy and Danny Granger spent most of Tuesday night working to keep the Pacers close to the Lakers. They spent those final few seconds like everyone else in Conseco Fieldhouse — watching, waiting and wondering if Murphy’s tantalizing tip would actually drop through the net.

It did — just as the buzzer sounded.

Murphy’s game-winner completed an improbable comeback and gave the Pacers a desperately needed 118-117 victory after replay reviews confirmed the basket was good.

“That’s purely unbelievable,” Granger said. “Troy is a monster on the boards. He gobbles up so many rebounds, and I’m glad he got it because I couldn’t get to it.”

Danny Granger

Pacers forward

final nine points of the first half to give Los Angeles a 66-59 lead. Granger caught Murphy’s long inbound pass, spun and hit a 17-footer at the buzzer to make it 66-61 at halftime.

When Bryant opened the second half by scoring the Lakers first seven points, Granger did everything he could to keep it close.

And when Los Angeles put together its big run at the end of the third, Granger and Murphy returned the favor by igniting a 10-0 spurt early in the fourth to get the Pacers within seven.

Bryant finished with 28 points, becoming the second-fastest player in league history to reach 22,000 career points. Will Chamberlain was one day younger than Bryant when he reached that milestone.

“They did a great job on the offensive boards and our turnovers created a momentum for them,” Bryant said. “Their 3-point shooting kept them in the game.”

Granger’s fourth 3, with 1:42 left, closed the margin to 115-114 and Marquis Daniels made two free throws on Indiana’s next possession to put the Pacers in front.

Bryant answered with a pull-up 21-footer before missing an 18-footer that gave Indiana a chance to call timeout and set up one last play.

Although it didn’t work, Daniels broke free on the baseline, put up a short shot that bounced off the rim and got batted around before Murphy charged in and tipped it toward the basket. After bouncing off both sides of the rim and into the air, it finally dropped and sent Pacers players running toward their sideline.

“It looked like it sat on the backboard. But I’m happy it finally went down,” Murphy said.

Wizards 108, Nets 88

Caron Butler had 22 points and 10 assists, and DeShawn Stevenson added 21 to lead the Washington Wizards to an easy victory over the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday night.

The victory was the first road win of the season for the Wizards (4-12) and their first win over an Eastern Conference opponent after 11 straight losses.

The loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the Nets (9-8), who won all three contests on the road. The Nets were led by Devin Harris, who had 18 points, but only three after halftime, and Vince Carter, who had 16 points. Keyon Dooling added 14 off the bench for the Nets.

After a closely contested first half, the Wizards blew the game open, outscoring New Jersey 35-12 in the third period.

The Wizards led 51-50 at halftime, then outscored the Nets 14-3 over the first 4:54 of the second half to take a commanding 65-53 lead.

Butler and Antawn Jamison (22 points) each scored four points in the game-deciding run.

The Nets cut the lead to 70-60 on a three-point play by Carter. Butler and Jamison went on a 16-1 run over the next 3 minutes and coasted from there.

# Classifieds

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 214 South Dancing Hall. Deadlines for naysay classifieds is 5 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The change is $5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content withoutrefund.
**A Round the Nation**

**Thursday, December 3, 2008**

**COMPiled FROM THE OBSERVER’S WIRE SERVICES**

### Men's Basketball AP Top 25

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### Women's Basketball AP Top 25

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### Big East Women's Volleyball Conference Standings

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<td>10 Selon Hall</td>
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**NFL**

**Viking Defensive Tackles Kevin Williams, left, and Pat Williams stand during a break in their Nov. 9 game against Green Bay. Both were suspended Tuesday by the NFL for doping violations.**

### NFt suspends six for doping

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Six players, including the heart of the Minnesota Vikings' stout defensive line, were suspended for four games without pay by the NFL on Tuesday for violating the league's anti-doping policy.

All six were punished for using a diuretic, which can serve as a masking agent for steroids.

The suspended players were running back Deuce McAllister and defensive linemen Charles Grant and John Henderson, plus defensive linemen Kevin Williams and Pat Williams of Minnesota; and long snapper Bryan Pittman of Houston.

A seventh player, Atlanta's Grady Jackson, was not suspended.

NFL spokesman Greg6 Afio said league chief counsel Jeff Pash had asked for additional information from Jackson.

The punishment is an especially harsh blow to Minnesota, which leads the NFC North and relies heavily on the two Williams in its run defense, which ranks second in the league.

Angelo Wright, the agent for Pat and Kevin Williams, said he would file a motion in federal court Wednesday morning, presumably to put off the suspensions.

If a player's team makes the playoffs, the player will be eligible to return to the active roster on Dec. 29.

 Asked about the latest scheduling of the suspensions, Adolpho Birch, the NFL's vice president of legal and labor policy, said the timing was "a function of a lot of factors."

"I think if you ask most coaches, every game is important. I don't think they'd differentiate between the first and the last," Birch said in a conference call.

"We do have things in place to get them done as quickly as possible. But we had to deal with the number of players involved and adjust travel scheduals. We have to fit it around the players' ability to attend."

David Cornell, the lawyer for the three Saints, called the decisions "unconcious with the objectives of the steroid policy.

"Due to NFL and Charles did not try to enhance their performance with steroids, nor did they knowingly expose themselves to the adverse health risks of a diuretic," Cornell said in an e-mail. "They took a weight loss supplement that they had every reason to believe was safe."

In their appeals, some players said the banned substance Bumetanide, was not listed as an ingredient in StartCaps, an over-the-counter weight-loss pill.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Kelly says he'll remain head coach at Cincinnati**

CINCINNATI — Coach Brian Kelly tried to end speculation Tuesday that he's leaving No. 13 Cincinnati, saying that he's happy with the football program's development and he plans to stay.

He was upbeat Tuesday following a meeting with the school's president, Ali and the head of the board of trustees to get an update on plans to expand the Bearcats' small football stadium and to improve their practice fields.

Kelly acknowledged that other schools had expressed an interest in him, but said he's not interested in leaving.

"All I can say is that with all the speculation and all the jobs that have been out there, sooner or later "no means go,"" Kelly said. ""Again, no one can ever speak in terms of forever and ever, but what I can tell you is there's been a lot of interest in my services, and I want to be here at the University of Cincinnati because of the right reasons."

McGrady to miss three weeks with knee injury

HOUSTON — Houston guard Tracy McGrady will miss three weeks to rehabilitate his sore left knee, another blow to an injury-plagued season for the Rockets.

McGrady visited renowned orthopedic surgeon Thomas T. McAllister and the Houston Rockets' medical staff after starting the team's first 15 games after starting the first 15. He had arthroscopic surgery on May 6, but turned his finger fixed.

After being held out of Friday's victory over Milwaukee, McGrady is expected to miss a minimum of 21 games, an injury-plagued season for the Rockets.

Quinn to have season-ending finger surgery

CLEVELAND — Brady Quinn has decided to get his fractured finger fixed.

After weighing his options over the past week, Cleveland's quarterback has elected to have surgery on his right index finger, which he initially broke on Nov. 17 at Buffalo and then made worse by playing in the Browns' game a week later against Houston.

The team said that Quinn's operation will be performed on Wednesday in Birmingham, Ala., by hand specialist Dr. Thomas Hunt.

The procedure, which will likely involve a pin being inserted in Quinn's finger to stabilize the bone and damaged tendon, will require up to 10 weeks of recovery time.

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**around the dial**

**NCAAB**

Indiana at (17) Wake Forest
7:15 p.m., ESPN

(1) North Carolina at (12) Michigan State
9:15 p.m., ESPN
NFL

Plaxico done for year, suspended for 4 games

After Burress accidentally shoots himself in leg, Giants suspend wide receiver for conduct detrimental to the team

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress is done for the year.

The New York Giants fined and suspended wide receiver Burress Tuesday for four games — the rest of the regular season — after he accidentally shot himself in the right thigh over the weekend at a Manhattan nightclub.

The team also placed him on the reserve non-football injury list, which means the wide receiver couldn’t come back for playoffs, either.

The team punished Burress a day after he was charged by police with illegal weapons possession, which carries a penalty of 3 and 1/2 to 15 years in prison if he’s convicted. Burress is due back in court again on March 31, unless he reaches a plea agreement.

Burress arrived Tuesday morning at Giants Stadium, and he was greeted by Giants president John Mara, general manager Jerry Reese and coach Tom Coughlin. He left for a medical test and returned in the afternoon for another brief session with team officials.

Even as they suspended him for the rest of the season to the team, Giants officials expressed concern for Burress, who caught a touchdown pass from Eli Manning that gave the Giants a 17-14 Super Bowl win over New England in February.

"As we have said since Saturday morning, our concern is for Plaxico’s health and well-being," John Mara, Giants president, said Tuesday. "He had two conversations with Plaxico today, and it was obvious that he understood the magnitude of this situation," Reese said Tuesday. "I hope that we are here to support him and help him get healthy." It is the second time this season the Giants have suspended Burress since Saturday morning. He missed the Oct. 2 game against Seattle for missing a team meeting. He also has been fined dozens of times since 2005 for violating team rules and he was hit with a $45,000 fine by the league this season for abusing an official and throwing a ball into the stands during a game.

"Our concern all along has been for Plaxico the person, not Plaxico the player," team chairman Steve Tisch said. "We are here to support him and his family as he recovers from his wound and deals with some serious issues." Burress is fourth on the team with 35 catches for 454 yards and four touchdowns. He has caught 244 passes for 3,681 yards and 33 touchdowns since joining the team in 2005 as a free agent.

"When you lose a player of Plaxico’s ability, it is incumbent that everybody step up and fill the void," said Coughlin, whose team is 11-1 and a win away from clinching the NFC East. "In the last two seasons, this team has done an outstanding job of that. We made it clear to Plaxico that today we are here to support him in any way possible." Fines in the NFL typically mean the player loses a paycheck for each game he misses. In Burress’ case, that would mean roughly $206,000 per regular season game. He also was due to receive $1 million from his signing bonus on Dec. 10. It was not immediately clear whether the team still had to make the payment.

The player’s latest woes began in the wee hours of Saturday morning when he shot himself in the VIP section of a club called the Latin Quarter.

"I had two conversations with Plaxico today, and it was obvious that he understood the magnitude of this situation." Jerry Reese, Giants general manager

Pierce’s lawyer said Tuesday he contacted prosecutors as soon as he was hired by the linebacker on Monday.

"After the events in question, Mr. Pierce did what any other reasonable person would do under the circumstances, he hired counsel," attorney Michael Bachner said. He said he hasn’t been notified that Pierce will be charged.

"Mr. Pierce, given the extraordinary circumstances of that evening, acted responsibly in trying to save what could have been the life of a friend," Bachner said.

The episode has frustrated police from the start. Officers said they were promised by NFL officials Monday that Pierce would appear for questioning, but he still hasn’t.

Police said Tuesday that the Giants did send two trainees and an official who deals with player issues, who provided information about the shooting.

That team included Charles Way, the team’s director of player development, and trainer Ronnie Barnes. But police are still waiting to speak to more informed witnesses.

Pierce declined to answer questions about the shooting on his regular Tuesday afternoon spot on Sirius NFL Radio. "It’s not appropriate with the police being involved. ... I’ve got to be strong," he said.

Bradshaw’s attorney, Charles Stacy, said his client wasn’t suspected of any wrongdoing.

Both players said they were planning to speak with the district attorney’s office in the near future.

Authorities are also upset that the hospital didn’t report the shooting. Hospital officials said "take this very seriously, and are conducting a thorough investigation into why this gunshot wound was not reported to the police department in a timely fashion.

Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Robinson said Tuesday an individual has been suspended in connection with the case, but would not say if the person was a doctor or hospital staff member.

A person familiar with the case said a doctor who was not a staff member came to the hospital shortly after Burress arrived around 2 a.m. and treated him. The doctor’s privileges to work out of the hospital have been suspended, according to the person. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again Tuesday, saying he talked to Mara and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. He told them (the law says “you see something, you got to call the cops. That’s the thing you should do.” The Giants say they have been cooperating with authorities since they learned about the shooting.

University of Notre Dame

Irish Choral Society

Annual Performance of

Handel’s "Messiah"

8:00 PM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2008 LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL DPAC GENERAL ADMISSION $10 STUDENT TICKETS $5
The Observer

The Observer

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

The Observer

Eastern

continued from page 20

Lecliner added 15.

Schroeder's second half really took control of the game offensively," McGraw said.

Novosel's 18 points, along with her eight rebounds, were a career high. Notre Dame out-rebounded Eastern Michigan 60-44. In addition to Novosel's 10, Bruszewski had six and guard Mary Lawson had five.

Notre Dame (6-0) led 50-33 with 14 minutes remaining in the second half, but Eastern Michigan (2-5) closed the gap to seven with 9:14 remaining.

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Schrock finished with 16 points and 14 rebounds. Schrock's 15-foot jumper shot only 3-for-31 from the floor. She got her points from the foul line, where she made 10 of 14 free throws. Both teams went to the foul line often in the game. Notre Dame made 25 of its 40 free throws, and Eastern Michigan made 12 of 29.

"I thought we played okay defensively in the first half but we just fouled too much. That was not a good disciplined effort," McGraw said.

Mary Lawson scored 14 points and hit 4-of-12 shots from 3-point range. Aside from Lawson, however, the Irish defended the 3-point line well. The Eagles made only 5-of-20 3-point attempts.

"We're getting better at it," McGraw said. "We have to figure out how to learn how to find one person."

The advantage on the glass resulted partially from Notre Dame's size advantage. Three of Notre Dame's five starters are five footers, and two of their bench players are over six feet tall.

"The Irish turned the ball over 18 times, three more than the Eagles. The turnover deficit was unusual for Notre Dame, who usually leads in the turnover department."

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Notre Dame Jr

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NBA

Miller's 28 help end 76ers skid

Billups allies double-double in win; Barea's three caps Dallas comeback

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Andre Miller scored nine of his season-high 28 points in overtime Tuesday night and the Philadelphia 76ers ended their four-game losing streak with a 103-95 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Andre Iguodala added 25 points and Elton Brand had 22 points and 14 rebounds as the Sixers avenged a loss to the Bulls two days ago in Philadelphia.

Derrick Rose led Chicago with 24 points and Ben Gordon added 18. Tyrus Thomas had 14 points and 13 boards.

Thomas' thunderous followup dunk tied it at 90 with 17.6 seconds left in regulation.

The Sixers had the last shot, but then a foul was called on participación. The ball was out of bounds, but the Sixers kept the lead at seven with 1.6 seconds left.

Philadelphia went up 10-14 in the second quarter. But the Bulls chopped away and after a rally that saw them shoot 54 percent in the second period, they actually had a chance for the halftime lead before Andres Nocioni's baseline jumper was long with about half a minute left.

Igudala's bank shot put Philadelphia up three at the half.

Nuggets 132, Raptors 93

Thanks to Chauncey Billups. Carmelo Anthony doesn't have to shoulder the Denver Nuggets' offense while grappling with an all right elbow.

Jose Barea hit a go-ahead 3-pointer in the final minute, Dirk Nowitzki's game-high 23 points and the Dallas Mavericks ralied from a 15-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night.

Dallas led by 12 points against Los Angeles' closing the game. Nowitzki finished with 23 points 48 hours after scoring just one bucket in 14 agonizing minutes against Houston, which snapped his NBA-best double-digit streak at 222 games.

Jaromír Jágr returned from a sprained left ankle that had cost him three games and he helped the Mavericks rout the Lakers 112-90.

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Lecliner added 15.

Schroeder's second half really took control of the game offensively," McGraw said.

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**Calle continued from page 20**

Ridderwall’s overtime game-winner against Michigan in last year’s national semifinal didn’t grant him reprieve from his teammates’ teasing, but maybe the CCHA offensive player of the week award he earned over the weekend will.

“It’s awesome,” Ridderwall said of the award. “It’s one of those things that shows all the work you’ve been putting in is paying off. It’s good to get awards, but a lot of it is also because of my linemates. We’ve been clicking these last couple games here.”

Ridderwall, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, scored five points two goals, three assists in two games against Western Michigan this weekend. He has now tallied 14 points over a five-game point streak that includes a pair of four-point outings.

Ridderwall’s 18 points (seven goals, 11 assists) on the power play are also team highs.

“Calle’s been playing well for a while now, but this is the first real opportunity to show the offensive skills and the scoring skills we felt he had when we recruited him,” Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. “I think part of it was our own fault. Calle has been a player we’ve given too much responsibility in his freshman year, but he’s always a good kid, he’s always got a great attitude, and we’ve never complained about him. It’s just a matter of him getting second opportunities at power play and penalty kill units."

“Calle fit right in. He’s a guy who always wants to see a smile on his face, and I think his linemates liked him a lot as a freshman,” Jackson said. “The biggest problem was that we knew what kind of player he could be, and I gave him too much and he kind of struggled with it."

When he reduced Ridderwall’s role, Jackson said the freshman’s confidence suffered for a period of time — but Ridderwall put it all behind him, he showed why his future looked so bright in the first place.

“We expected him to be a pretty exciting player for us, and it didn’t happen right away,” Jackson said. “Once he got back in (the lineup) near the end of (last) year, he started to show some real improvement in his understanding of the game ... Now it’s not even the concern of mine. He’s done a really good job of learning to play the system.”

That learning experience has been vital to his success early in his sophomore season, Ridderwall said.

“I needed a longer adjustment period, having kind of a slow freshman year, so I think last year was more a learning experience into the half of the year when it comes to hockey,” Ridderwall said. “I think freshman year has definitely helped me in (terms of) confidence and getting play time ... Now, it feels awesome when you have a little bit of confidence from the coaching staff and you can play your own game, make a mistake and still play and it’s not a huge part of success.”

But Ridderwall is a different player than he was a year ago from a physical standpoint as the end of (last) year, he started a physical standpoint and began scoring at a higher rate.

“We always knew he had a high shot and really good puck skills,” Jackson said. “The biggest thing for him coming into college hockey, I don’t think he was strong enough physically ... The additional strength has helped him win a lot more of those battles for loose pucks and rebounds, and getting second opportunities as he keeps helping you score goals.”

As much as he gets the ribbing from his teammates, Ridderwall knows it’s all in good fun.

“As for that hockey thing? He’s got that down. We’re a pretty close team and we’re all friends,” Ridderwall said.

“Whenever there’s something I don’t really get or something I don’t understand, I always have a teammate or a coach to help me out. But when you get out there on the ice, it’s not that different.”

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

**Ayers continued from page 20**

Notre Dame’s previous two games were both with seven or fewer goals and 27 points. In all, the Irish hit 19 three-pointers in 37 attempts, setting a Notre Dame and Joyce Center record for three-pointers made.

“I should’ve bought a ticket tonight,” Irish coach Mike Brey said with a laugh after the game. “All I did was sub guys.”

The onslaught began on Notre Dame’s first possession, when forward Luke Zeller, who finished with eight points and six rebounds, spotted up outside against South Dakota’s 2-3 zone and knocked down a three. Ayers followed with a corner jumper — one of the rare two-pointers that he took.

Then McAlarney hit a three and Ayers hit his first from beyond the arc. The Irish led 11-0, forcing South Dakota to take a timeout — all within the first two minutes of the game.

“Usually you see teams make adjustments after like three guys hit one or two (three-pointers), but that didn’t really happen until Ryan hit seven,” said senior forward Zach Hillesland, who finished with six points and nine rebounds.

At this point, Ayers and McAlarney were just getting warmed up.

Ayers hit another three on Notre Dame’s first trip down the floor following the timeout. Zeller then downed his second and Ayers followed with a corner three to put the Irish up 22-1 in the half.

As soon as we learned about their zone, we were drooling,” Hillesland said.

Ayers drained still another three following the media timeout with 1:46 left the half. McAlarney followed with three treys to put the Irish up 36-13 with 10:31 left in the half.

Ayers would spread out his next three from beyond the arc the rest of the half as Notre Dame took a 60-30 lead into the half.

South Dakota cut the lead to 75-59 in the second half, at which point Brey but his starters back in the game. On Notre Dame’s next trip down the floor, Ayers knocked down another three to stem the Coyotes’ run. Notre Dame quickly went on another run of their own, and went up 89-59 seemingly in the blink of an eye.

Ayers had a chance to tie McAlarney’s program record of 10 three-pointers in one game, which McAlarney set last week against North Carolina, but his attempt from the left wing missed. Then Brey took him and the other starters out of the game the rest of the way.

Junior guard Tory Jackson finished with 10 assists in the three-point exhibition.

**Note:**

• They said that he will take things “day-to-day” with junior forward Luke Harangody, who has sat out Notre Dame’s last two games because of pneumonia. His status for Saturday’s game against Ohio State is undetermined.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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Wednesday, December 3, 2008

The Observer  •  SPORTS

NBA

2008-2009 Cleveland squad fit for a king

Amongst the league leaders in all major categories, Cavaliers off to best start in franchise history at 14-3

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — While he teases New York’s voracious media and desperate Knicks fans about his free-agent future, LeBron James and his current team have become an NBA powerhouse.

The Cleveland Cavaliers are rolling like never before. At 14-3, they’re off to the best start in franchise history. Undaunted through nine home games, the Cavs have won 13 of 14 — their best stretch since 1989 — and are blowing out teams with stunning regularity. They’re ranked among the league leaders in every important statistical team category, and although it’s their defense that defines them, the Cavs have offensive firepower more befitting a Western Conference squad.

And James, surrounded by the best supporting cast of his career, is playing with an intensity he has only shown in glimpses previous­ly. He is positioned to win his first NBA title — in Cleveland.

Spike Lee, your thoughts?

The What-will-LeBron-do-in-Cleveland-of-the-2010-wheel will get another spin on Wednesday when the Cavaliers, riding a five-game winning streak, host the Knicks. Last week, Cleveland beat New York by 18 points during the LeBron Lovefest at Madison Square Garden. James, whose current contract expires in 2010 when he will headline a star-studded free-agent class, knows he’ll get another round of questions from New York reporters looking to discuss something other than Stephan Marbury’s ugly separa­tion from the Knicks.

His answers are prepared. “I’m happy with the fans here,” James said after practices on Monday. “I’m happy with the organization. There’s nothing more for me to say.”

So, why doesn’t he stop?

James could easily end the flirtation he seems to enjoy by saying he’s done discussing it. But he figures that would be no use.

“They (the questions) are going to come,” he said. “As soon as I say I’m not going to talk about it anymore, that’s when they’re really going to keep coming: I’m going to answer them and just move on like I’ve been doing.”

James’ willingness to engage in talk about his future prompted harsh criticism from former NBA star Charles Barkley, who said James should “shut the hell up.”

James countered by saying Barkley was “stupid.”

James was asked if he had heard back from Sir Charles. “I think we’re capable. We’ve been injury-free. We have everything in place right now, everything is flowing.”

It has come together faster than anyone expected.

After they lost to Boston in seven games in the Eastern Conference semifinals last season, the Cavs, who were torn up inside by a six-player trade last February, had a quiet summer. General manager Danny Ferry traded for point guard Mo Williams, who has brought Cleveland backcourt stability and taken some of the scoring burden off James.

Williams (15.7 points per game) along with Delonte West (11.4 points) and Zydrunas Ilgauskas (15.6) give coach Mike Brown another offensive option to complement James, who is attacking the rim more than ever. Cleveland’s bench is not only deep but diverse as Daniel Gibson, Anderson Varejao, Wally Szczerbiak and Sasha Pavlovic have all contributed to wins.

But Cleveland’s calling card has become its defense. It took some time, but the Cavs, who are hold­ing opponents to 42 percent shooting, have finally embraced Brown’s defense-first philosophy.

Ben Wallace, a four-time defensive player of the year with Detroit, is patrolling the lane the way he once did with the Pistons.

It’s a matter of going out and getting it done. We have what it takes to win a championship, we just have to stay healthy and have a little luck.”

Ben Wallace

Cavaliers forward

2008-2009 Cleveland squad fit for a king

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

7:00 PM

Hesburgh Auditorium

Hesburgh Center For International Studies

Winona LaDuke

On

“The New Energy Economy”

Nonviolent Strategies of Change Utilizing Indigenous Knowledge

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The Observer apologizes for the absence of Black Dog. It will return tomorrow.
FOOTBALL

University sources say Weis will remain head coach

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Charlie Weis will remain the head football coach next season, a source close to the administration told The Observer Monday.

WSBT, WNDU and FOX Sports all quoted unnamed sources "close to the football team" as saying that Weis had been informed of the decision to keep him as the coach and told to continue recruiting. Scout.com reported that Athletic Director Jack Swarbrick would make an announcement today regarding Weis' status.

Neither Swarbrick nor Weis said anything official as of last night. Swarbrick said he and Weis would likely meet next Monday, when both he and Weis were back on campus.

Weis has a 28-21 record in four seasons as the Irish head coach. He took the team to two BCS bowls in his first two seasons, then lost a school-record 15 games in the next two. He is 4-10 against ranked opponents and his teams have lost to USC by a combined 76-3 in the past two seasons. A close call against Navy and a final-minute loss to Syracuse at home turned many students and alumni against him.

His recruiting, however, remains impressive despite the records. Scout.com ranked the 2006 recruiting class as No. 5 in the country. 2007 as No. 11 and 2008 as No. 2. Two five-star recruits from the class of 2009, running back Cierre Wood and offensive guard Chris Watt, have both given Notre Dame verbal commitments.

Weis is in the third year of a 10-year contract that he signed midway through his first season.

Chris Heine contributed to this report.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Four in double-digits as ND rolls over EMU

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

In the absence of two key players, the Irish bench filled the gap.

Freshmen Natalie Novosel and Eraca Solomon scored 18 and 12 points, respectively off the bench and No. 11 Notre Dame beat Eastern Michigan 83-63 on the road Tuesday.

The Irish, who lost forward Devereaux Peters for the season and missed guard Ashley Barlow in this game because of a concussion she suffered against Michigan State, needed production off the bench and got it.

"Natalie was a huge lift off the bench for us, she really played well the whole game but gave us a great spark in the first half," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Guard Lindsay Schrader had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the season with an 8-8 record. Saint Mary's broke a 10-game losing streak against Michigan State on the road Saturday.

"It didn't take long for the Belles to bounce back. In their next game, Saint Mary's broke a 10-game losing streak against Wheaton College with a 72-58 win over the Bears in the Anderson College Tip-off tournament. In the championship game, they took on a solid Robert Morris team and were edged out on the final possession. 66-64.

The Belles dropped two contests in a row against the nation's top teams. They lost to the nation's top-10 team and head coach Chris Watt, have both given Notre Dame verbal commitments.

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