Students mixed on Weis’ return

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA and JOHN TIERNEY
News Writers

Despite losing 15 games in two seasons — the most losses for any Notre Dame coach in that time period — Charlie Weis will be retained as the head coach of the Fighting Irish for the 2009 season.

The decision has garnered mixed feelings from Notre Dame students. Some feel that impulsively firing Weis would be a mistake, especially if there are no high-caliber coaches available to replace him.

“You don’t want to be too quick about this,” said Michael Augustson '08, a junior. “Look at the coaching market. There’s no one that wants to come here that’s qualified to run the program. It’s not like we can get Urban Meyer.”

Sophomore Kristin Gales '09 agreed, and said that Weis’ talents in the recruiting arena are perhaps a reason why his job is, for now, safe.

“I am disappointed in how this season went, but I understand that there are many factors involved in retaining or dismissing a head coach,” Gales said. “Weis has proven to be an excellent recruiter and while that is only one part of the job, it is a relevant part of his job performance and perhaps a reason for optimism in the future.”

Senior James Butler said Weis’ recruiting prowess is a key reason why he should be retained as the football coach.

Residence Life, said that the student reaction is mixed at the news that Irish coach Charlie Weis will be retained for another year.

NDSP using cameras in Stadium

Alert posted on scoreboard after the throwing of snowballs, marshmallows during Nov. 22 game

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

If you’re considering throwing a snowball (or something else) at a football game next season — watch out, because you’re probably on camera.

Following the throwing of snowballs from the student section onto the field during the Nov. 22 Syracuse-Notre Dame game, the message “You are being filmed for future discipline” was displayed on Stadium scoreboards.

This was a surprise to many students, but Bill Kirk, associate vice president for Residence Life, said that the cameras are nothing new.

"The Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) Department does employ video cameras for crime prevention, safety and security purposes in the stadium and elsewhere on campus and has done so for many years — since about the early 1990s," Kirk said. "NDSP controls the use of the cameras."

Although NDSP and the Office of Residence Life often work together, the use of video is normally restricted to matters of more serious concern than violation of University Student Conduct Rules.

Student body president Bob Reich, left, and vice president Grant Schmitt at Wednesday's Senate meeting.

Student Senate

Grab ‘N’ Go options discussed

Senators debate dining preferences revealed in recent survey

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Managing News Editor

The Student Senate discussed the expansion of Grab ‘N’ Go options in their weekly meeting Wednesday, after receiving the results of a recent survey conducted by the Senate Committee on Residence Life.

Senators in the committee unanimously endorsed Grab ‘N’ Go food options. The majority of students surveyed would like to see more Grab ‘N’ Go food options.

Students throwing marshmallows and snowballs were recorded on video by Notre Dame Security Police during the Nov. 22 game.

Board of Governance

Groups ask Board for trip funding

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

College Republicans attended the Board of Governance (BOG) meeting Wednesday night in search of funds for their upcoming trip to the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

The conference will be held Feb. 26-28, 2009 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington D.C. Seven students, including four executives will be attending the event along with 6,000 other college students from around the country.

Erin Horvath, president of College Republicans, would like to use this opportunity to bring more conservative speakers to campus.

"I don’t think the school does a good job of bringing both sides on campus, and so we are taking that responsibility on ourselves," Horvath said.

She also believes the conference will be a great chance for the students attending to network with other students.
Who is responsible?

Deans of the College of Arts and Letters:

I am a sophomore PLS major who takes his education very seriously. Being a PLS sophomore, but desiring to study abroad next spring, I decided to take two seminars instead of one, the norm for all students in PLS. Each is a four-credit course, putting my credit total at 17 (including three other three-credit classes), the total number that I am allowed as a sophomore in the College of Arts and Letters. However, in preparation for graduate school (something that you have often criticized the PLS department for not doing), Professor Candida Moss, a Bible scholar, generously offered to begin teaching me Biblical Greek, a course which is not offered by the University. In order to do so, I wished to sign up for a directed reading course with Professor Moss, which would put me at 20 credit hours.

With this goal in mind, I went into your office on Monday to apply for an overload. I spoke to a very nice woman at one of the desks in the main lobby of your office, who listened to an extremely abridged version of my plan for next semester. After hearing my plan, she went to speak to one of you. She returned about twenty-five seconds later with the answer that under no circumstances are sophomores allowed to overload.

Later that day, a fellow Arts and Letters sophomore went to your office with a similar goal in mind. She accepted a job with ND Vision this summer, a program which requires its counselors to take a three-credit prep course in the spring semester before they take the job. If she were to take her normal course load and also take the Vision class, she would have eighteen credit hours, or according to you, an overload. She also described her situation, and was given the same answer. Under no circumstances are sophomores allowed to overload.

What frustrates me about these experiences is that sophomores in the College of Arts and Letters are the only people who cannot overload. Juniors and seniors in the same college can. Sophomores in all other colleges can. Freshman, who are in the jurisdiction of the First Year of Studies are able to overload. Only sophomores in the College of Arts and Letters are not allowed to cross the apparent plan of a tolerable workload—seventeen credit hours.

What frustrates me even more is the treatment I received in your office. I was not even given the opportunity to speak to one of you directly in order to plead my case. An important educational decision was made for me in a matter of seconds. As I was leaving your office, I noticed a sign on the wall which read “Students are our first priority.” If this is truly the case, then why do you have a rule that is so inflexible and condescending for those who wish to take responsibility for their own education?

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

Contact Eric Prister at eprioster@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the Dec. 4 article titled "Sources say Weis will remain coach," an unnamed source was quoted as having told The Observer Monday that Charlie Weis would be retained as head coach of the Gridiron team. That source told The Observer this information on Tuesday, not Monday. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: What do you think about Charlie Weis coming back next year?

Alex Korenstra, freshman Keenan

Chris Anderson, freshman Keenan

Dan Damsdill, freshman Alumni

Michael Call, senior Stanford

Michael Rodio, freshman Keenan

“I think he should give him a chance to prove himself.”

“There weren’t any good coaches out there, it would cost too much money to let him go anyways.”

“He deserves another year. He doubled our wins.”

“I think he’ll do a better job.”

“As long as he is recruiting Kerri Hanks as the new quarterback.”

A student sells gifts and trinkets in LaFortune as part of the AVON fundraiser to support the Saint Joseph’s County Spay Neuter Assistance Program.

IN BRIEF

The Silent Night Silent Auction hosted by Pasquerilla East will be held in LaFortune Ballroom tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Proceeds raised at the auction will support Building for Tomorrow.

Community Celebration of the 68th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be held at UAW Local #5 at 1426 S. Main St. south of downtown South Bend. The celebration will take place on Saturday from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please bring a donation for the Food Bank.

Members of Saint Mary’s Women’s Choir will perform at the College’s 36th annual Madrigal Dinners this weekend. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are $40 for even performance, $35 for matinee performances and $15 for children.

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

Notre Dame Women’s Basketball team plays 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, please provide detailed information about an event to obnews@nd.edu.
Jealousy a factor in Hudson deaths

Prosecutor: brother-in-law envious that estranged wife was dating

HCC prof speaks at last Theology on Tap

By GUY GREGORY
News Writer

Mike Griffin, professor of Theology at Holy Cross College, gave the last talk in the 2008 series last night, as part of the final installment of the Theology on Tap series for the semester.

Around 30 students attended the talk, which spotlighted Tom Merton and Dorothy Day, who are both known for being Catholic radicals. Griffin’s main focus was to show what these people have to teach students about the faith.

Griffin’s in-depth analysis of the two started with a brief biography about each.

Griffin said it was interesting that both Day and Merton were not raised to be Catholics but then became important figures in the faith. He said that Merton and Day both questioned certain practices of the church. Day saw the church being used as an instrument of social injustice, an issue Merton’s biggest complaint was the official approval of bishops found in any orthodox Catholic literature.

Day and Merton held similar ideals and were in frequent contact with each other. In fact, Merton wrote stories for “The Catholic Worker,” a newspaper started by Day.

To learn more about Day and Merton, Mr. Griffin recommended two biographies: “Living With Wisdom: The Life of Thomas Merton” and “Love is the Measure: A Biography on Dorothy Day.” Both books are written by Jim Forest.

Theology on Tap occurs about five or six times per semester. Speakers are typically Notre Dame faculty and large enough in one of the first times an outside faculty member was the main speaker.

Griffin is also a member of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, which was founded by Merton.

Due to the cold weather, the editor of the talk urged likely take place at Coleman-Morse Lounge.

Contact Gay Gregory at gggregory@hcc.nd.edu

Griffin again that morning at the home. Snow said, adding that Hudson did not take the threat seriously because he “had not followed through on any of those threats” before.

The two left the home together that morning, with Hudson driving away as she saw Balfour walking towards his own car, according to documents prosecutors filed with the court.

Balfour’s car broke down and two acquaintances gave him a ride to a gas station — during which time Balfour told them he had a handgun, but had left it in his car, Snow alleged.

In fact, the prosecutor said, the gun belonged to Jason Hudson and Balfour allegedly stole it during the summer. “Several people observed this in the late summer of 2008,” Snow said.

Balfour was taken back to his disabled car after the trip to the gas station, “although he was offered a ride from other people,” Snow told the court.

In the stark language of a legal document, he was reading, from Snow described what allegedly happened next.

“Defendant then entered the home at 7019 S. Yale at gunpoint,” she said. “He shot Dannel Denoson several times while she was in the living room. He then went into Jason Hudson’s bedroom and shot him twice in the head.”

“Jason Hudson, she said, was still in bed when he was shot. Balfour allegedly then shot 7-year-old Julian and put him to Jason Hudson’s while SUV.

“Defendant shot Julian King in the head while the 7-year-old was laying behind the front seat of the Suburban,” Snow read. His body was found three days later in the SUV.

Balfour’s attorney, Joshua Katnick, criticized the first-degree murder and home invasion charges against his client, saying no fingerprint, blood or other forensic evidence links the 27-year-old to the slayings.

“There is no direct evidence of Mr. Balfour committing these crimes,” he said, adding that a girlfriend who claims Balfour confessed to her and asked her to provide him with an alibi is “highly suspect.”

Snow said there is evidence linking Balfour to the crimes, including gunshot residue on the steering wheel of the car that had broken down.

Further, she said, Balfour has made statements to authorities that detectives have disputed. For example, while Balfour claimed he used a transit card to ride a train from the Hudson residence to his home, “the card was last used two days before the murders,” Snow said.

Balfour also does not appear on security video of the train station he said he rode to, Snow said.

Witness records and gas station surveillance video show Balfour was in the immediate vicinity of the Hudson’s home until shortly after 9 a.m., according to the court documents. Snow said Balfour claimed he was at his West Side home at 10 a.m. the morning of the killings but cell phone records show he did not return there until just before 1 p.m.

Associated Press

Chicagoland community wants to see end to international gay violence

JOHN CARLTON, Associated Press

A Chicagoland community is demanding the end to violence against gay and lesbian people.

The Chicago-based Community Council for Gay and Lesbian Students said, “in the 1990s, the community has seen a rise in violence against gay and lesbian people.”

The council said it is demanding the end to violence against gay and lesbian people.

University Resources for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students

The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students

University Counseling Center

Dr. Maureen Lafferty at ndaffert@nd.edu

Office of Campus Ministry

Contact: Dr. Sue Dunn, OP, 1-8550, or Edwin Wilczak at ewilczak@hcc.nd.edu

University Counseling Center

Contact: Dr. Martin Lafferty at mlafferty@hcc.nd.edu

Visit our web site at

http://corecouncil.nd.edu/
Senate

continued from page 1

did not replace the dining halls as students' primary food source, but it did offer suggestions for improvement. They said they wanted to find more vegan and vegetarian options. Hwang also said it was unreasonable to accept extra-grant options at the same time as the food plan.

Hwang said the survey results showed students wanted healthier options, but their top suggestions for new items were frozen yogurt and grilled chicken.

Mass President Bryan Schmid dining hall representative told him "there was no room for improvement on that one."

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Corry said dining hall representatives wouldn't allow students to go multiple meals at the same time, but student body president Greg Siler said dining hall representative told him "there was no room for improvement on that one."

Siler said that students only plan for the first meal, and they don't always have the same amount of money, so they're not able to go multiple meals at the same time.

"We will never have make-your-own sandwiches because we're one long line and they don't have enough space," she said.

In a letter Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students would abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"We have make-your-own sandwiches, but they're not as good as the regular dining halls," he said.

Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.

Brenlenstein in Services and Academic Affairs Committee chair Ryan Breilenthien said students should abuse the dining halls because they provide a community atmosphere.

"If we're given 14 meals they shouldn't use them," Breilenthien said.
Russia to send warship down Canal

PALM CITY, Panama — Russia said Wednesday it is sending a warship through what Panama calls the Balboa Naval Base, stopping at what was long a symbol of U.S. former U.S. naval base, showcasing Russia's symbolic weight: the destroyer will dock at a came from Pakistan and their handlers are name that the host nation, Panama has not station found two bombs Wednesday — mound of baggage abandoned amid the cargo since the three-day siege. The discovery came as Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India is "determined going the evidence was clear the gunmen the Washington-based Center for Exception of U.S. meddling in Georgia, Ukraine Thursday, December 4, 2008 COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES page 5

Employment act.

Bombs found in Mumbai train station

MUMBAI, India — Police searching a mound of baggage abandoned amid the cargo of the attack on Mumbai's main train station found two bombs Wednesday — nearly a week after they were left there by gunmen — in a stunning new example of theبوسمنت Security that has been a major issue in India since the three-day siege.

The discovery came as Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India is "determined going the evidence was clear the gunmen the Washington-based Center for Exception of U.S. meddling in Georgia, Ukraine Thursday, December 4, 2008 COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES page 5

Employment act.

Bombs found in Mumbai train station

MUMBAI, India — Police searching a mound of baggage abandoned amid the cargo of the attack on Mumbai's main train station found two bombs Wednesday — nearly a week after they were left there by gunmen — in a stunning new example of theبوسمنت Security that has been a major issue in India since the three-day siege.

The discovery came as Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India is "determined going the evidence was clear the gunmen the Washington-based Center for Exception of U.S. meddling in Georgia, Ukraine Thursday, December 4, 2008 COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES page 5

Employment act.

Bombs found in Mumbai train station

MUMBAI, India — Police searching a mound of baggage abandoned amid the cargo of the attack on Mumbai's main train station found two bombs Wednesday — nearly a week after they were left there by gunmen — in a stunning new example of theبوسمنت Security that has been a major issue in India since the three-day siege.

The discovery came as Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said India is "determined going the evidence was clear the gunmen the Washington-based Center for Exception of U.S. meddling in Georgia, Ukraine Thursday, December 4, 2008 COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES page 5

Employment act.
Boy held, captive escapes  
17-year-old climbs out window after year of alleged imprisonment

Associated Press   

TRACY, Calif. — After being held captive for about a year, an emancipated and shackled 17-year-old boy climbed out a window in the home of his captors and walked into a nearby gym in search of help, police said Wednesday.

Authorities were still investigating the boy's alleged imprisonment and abuse by a California couple, but details of his escape were becoming clearer, police said.

The boy has been released from a hospital and was in the custody of Child Protective Services, Tracy police spokesman Matt Robinson said.

Law enforcement officers also were trying to determine how the aunt and one-time guardian of the boy accused of holding him against his will for nearly a year.

Caren Ramirez was arrested Tuesday in Berkeley, a day after the boy walked into a gym and begged managers to hide him. He was covered in soot, had a chain on his foot and was wearing only boxer briefs.

Police arrested a couple who live near the gym in Tracy and booked them on suspicion of torture, kidnapping and child abuse. Tracy is about 60 miles east of San Francisco.

Ramirez, 43, had been the teen's guardian after child-welfare officials took him from his abusive father three or four years ago, police said. Ramirez himself was later arrested for allegedly abusing the boy, and he was placed in a foster home, which he fled in late 2007, police said.

BOG continued from page 1

work. "There will be several speakers, very notable ones. President Reagan has spoken there in the past. Sarah Palin will likely be in attendance this year," Hurvath said.

Also discussed during the meeting was a co-sponsorship for Phi Beta Epsilon, the honor society for the math department, who is also planning a trip to a math conference in Washington D.C. from Jan. 5-8, 2009.

They will be attending lectures and conferences as well as networking with other mathematicians, Courtney Perry, president of the honor society, said.

She said she hopes to have a lecture sometime next semester to relate what the group learned while on the trip.

The Sowers of Soteriati attend
ed Wednesday's meeting to ask for funds for the National Black Leadership Student Diverse Conference they hope to attend.

The conference, running Jan. 9-11, 2008 in Washington D.C., will be an intensive interactive three-day leadership experience with other students and leaders, said LaQuay Boone, president of the club. "

Once the students return from the conference, they plan to have a workshop, panel, or event in order to relate what the group has learned, Boone said.

In other BOG news:

♦ Elections commissioner Francesca Johnson announced that she will propose changes to the student government election process at next week's meeting. She would like to move elections back a few weeks from the second week of the semester to February.

To-go Mugs will be sold in the Student Center Atrium during lunch and dinner hours today and tomorrow, Sarah Falvey, student body vice president, said. Mugs will be one for $8 or two for $15, and can be used to carry drinks out of the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Contact Ashley Chaney at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

MY PARTY PLATTERS  
MAKE CATERING  
SO EASY, YOU'LL WANT TO CALL THEM SMARTY PLATTERS!

AMERICA'S SANDWICH DELIVERY EXPERTS!

SOUTH BEND - 54570 N. IRONWOOD - 574.277.8500
SOUTH BEND - 1290 E. IRELAND - 574.251.1900
SOUTH BEND - 138 S. MICHIGAN - 574.246.1020
MISHAWAKA - 5343 N. MAIN ST. - 574.988.4600

Please recycle

The Observer  

www.theteambus.com

574-256-9956
1-877-EZ-TOUR BUS

Athletic/Academic Groups  
Fraternity/Sorority Groups  
Group/Company Outings  
Charters/Tours  
Theater/Concerts/Sporting Events  
Churches/School Groups

Convenient. Safe. Reliable.
In Brief

UAW makes concessions to Big Three

DETROIT — Worried about their jobs and wages, hundreds of leaders of the United Auto Workers voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to make concessions to the struggling Detroit Three, including all but ending a much-decried program that let laid-off workers collect up to 95 percent of their salaries.

"Everybody has to give a little," said Richard Bennett, an official for Local 122 in Twinsburg, Ohio, representing Chrysler workers. "We've made concessions. We really feel we're doing our part." Union leaders also agreed to let the cash-starved automakers delay billions of dollars in payments to a union-administered trust set up to take over health care for blue-collar retirees starting in 2010.

In addition, they decided to let the Detroit leadership begin renegotiating elements of landmark contracts signed with the automakers last year, a move that could lead to wage concessions.

The vote came on the eve of congressional hearings on whether to extend the government bailout fund to prop up the companies to delay payments to a union-administered trust set to take over health care for blue-collar retirees starting in 2010.

Starved automakers delay billions of dollars in payments to a union-administered trust set to take over health care for blue-collar retirees starting in 2010, a move that could lead to wage concessions.

Experimenting with genetically modified crops has the potential to improve the environment and increase food production, but it also raises concerns about the safety of these novel organisms.

One of the most controversial aspects of genetically modified crops is the potential for "gene flow," where genetic material from a modified crop escapes into the environment. This can have unintended consequences, such as the introduction of traits that are undesirable or harmful to other plants, animals, or the environment.

To address these concerns, regulatory bodies have established guidelines and policies. Many countries require field trials of genetically modified crops to be conducted under controlled conditions, and the results of these trials are rigorously monitored and evaluated.

A significant concern with genetically modified crops is the potential for unintended environmental impacts. For example, the use of genetically modified crops that are resistant to herbicides can lead to the development of "superweeds" that are more difficult to control. It is important to monitor these crops closely and ensure that they do not pose a risk to the environment.

In addition, genetically modified crops can have unintended effects on non-target organisms. The expression of new protein in crops can affect the natural predators and competitors of the crop, potentially disrupting the balance of the ecosystem.

Therefore, it is crucial to conduct thorough risk assessments and monitoring programs to ensure the safety and environmental impact of genetically modified crops. This approach helps to mitigate potential risks and promote the responsible development and deployment of genetic technologies.

The Bush administration will provide the government's final decision on the proposed release of genetically modified crops on Sept. 17. The decision follows a two-year review of the issue, during which concerns were raised about the potential impacts on the environment and the health of consumers.

The decision will likely have implications for the global trade of genetically modified crops, as countries may require additional safety certifications or labeling requirements for these products.

The Bush administration has faced criticism from environmental groups and some farmers who believe that the proposed release of genetically modified crops is premature and that more research is needed. However, it is believed that the Bush administration is committed to promoting the responsible use of genetically modified crops and will take into account the findings of the review process in making its final decision.

The decision to release genetically modified crops is a complex issue that involves considerations of both economic and environmental impacts. It is important to balance the potential benefits of these crops, such as increased crop yields and reduced use of pesticides, with the need to ensure the safety and well-being of consumers and the environment.

Therefore, the Bush administration's decision on the proposed release of genetically modified crops will likely have significant implications for the future development and deployment of these technologies.
Today I logged on to Facebook. I was kindly informed by the truly non-invasive Facebook feed that my 600 or so friends had added 48 new photo albums in the past week. Wow. That's a lot of pictures. I suppose that I shouldn't be too surprised; The Facebook statistics page notes that fourteen million photos are uploaded daily. Generally speaking, I am all for technology. Who isn't? If something can be made more efficient or more easily accomplished, go for it. However, I am starting to see why some things are better left outside the grasp of technology. Photography is one of them.

Don't think that I am some sort of photography snob. I don't have the faintest idea how a photo is developed or why a dark room is actually red. In fact, I didn't even own a camera until this summer when my parents bought me a cheap Nikon to take abroad. But, as far as I can tell, buying a Nikon didn't make me a photographer; it just made me a Nikon owner. However, I can tell the difference between a good picture and a bad one, a picture that actually does (as the cliché goes) tell a thousand words and one that doesn't. I'm afraid that Facebook and digital cameras have led to far more of the latter and left mere people unable or unwilling to look at their own or other's photographs with any sort of critical eye.

This is not good for two reasons. The first is pragmatic. The second is more philosophical, if a business major dares venture there. Practically speaking, spending time uploading all of those photos actually takes a while. First, you have to put them off the camera onto the computer. Then, you have to load each of them to Facebook. Then, if you are feeling particularly ambitious, you have to think of a fun, witty, interesting description for each one, mostly trying to explain how this picture is different from the last one. This part really involves a number of examination points. Finally, you have to tag each person in each picture. After all, if you didn't do that, nobody would look at them, and what would be the point? Let's be serious, most people are not really looking at albums they are in anyways. Spending all of this time putting hundreds of photos that are more or less the same poses, the same people, in different dorm rooms, houses, and apartments just doesn't seem a totally fulfilling way of spending time or expressing what's important in your life to others.

This brings me to my second point. The unlimited storage of digital cameras and Facebook servers has caused people to lose feeling for what the moments that really should be photographed are. Instead of finding the one moment in a party that truly defines an evening (almost always when Journey comes on), kids are just taking 40 pictures and hoping one of them really does capture the essence of something. Its tough to truly enjoy the party if you are too busy checking the photo you just took to see if it is good enough, or whether someone wasn't looking and you need to take another.

Using the camera to take a few choice photos to remember or show off the experience is wonderful; taking photos to remember or show off the photos themselves is not. No matter how great an experience, viewing it entirely through a 2.5 by 2.0 inch LCD screen will completely diminish it. The famous photographer, W. Eugene Smith commented, "The world just does not fit conveniently into the format of a 35 MM camera." If a man who took famous pictures for Life magazine of WWII atrocities was sure that he couldn't capture the essence of life, who are we to be able to fit our life on a 128 MB memory card?

My advice for kicking this photo habit set a limit and buy a disposable camera. I know this sounds completely stupid, but it's not. Consider that each camera has about 24 pictures. Each time you take a picture, you know you only have so many more. This forces one to really look for a moment worth remembering. For the price of one digital camera, you could purchase almost fifteen high quality Kodak single use cameras. Considering how often cameras are broken, this isn't a bad prospect. Furthermore, with digital CIBs these days, it is not hard to get them on your computer, and it makes the prospect of developing them much more exciting and special. With some practice, it might even make you a better photographer.

Imagine Facebook without serial photo albums. Each person loads an album of just 24 pictures covering a few weeks or months. The pictures are special and specific, focused on the best moments. These are the photos I would love to look at, even if I'm not in them.

Jason Coleman is a junior majoring in management. He can be contacted at coleman.70@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Thanksgiving break is over and we are caught up once again in a new season. Days are not as short and gray as folks scurry from one activity to another across the frozen campus. The tone of this new season is different, and everything and everyone seems to have changed.

The Church calls this season Advent. It is a time to slow down, collect oneself and prepare for the coming of Christ in our renewed celebration of his first coming into our world as a babe in a manger, and when he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

This semifinal time is titled, "Notre Dame Arrogance," I complained, "Wait," and "I'll prepared." I groveled, "Awake!" because this season has always meant one thing to me, "Gadzooks! The semester's almost over and there is far too much work to be done!"

The Church calls this season Advent. It is a time to slow down, collect oneself and prepare for the coming of Christ in our renewed celebration of his first coming into our world as a babe in a manger, and when he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. As a lifelong procrastinator, I have always called this season Ptsie. While I love the idea of Advent, my mind is too often directed to other things.

"Love the idea of Advent, my mind is too often directed to other things."

As a lifelong procrastinator, I have always called this season Ptsie. While I love the idea of Advent, my mind is too often directed to other things. I never look at myself as better than anyone else based on where I graduated or the college I attended. I humbly thought that I could be a part of something that I regarded as special. There will always be the bickering and the scant few create a negative reputation based on their actions and force others to believe that this is representative of the entire group (snowballs anyone?).

I am writing in response to yet another alum who is unhappy with the institution they no longer attend on a daily basis. What few might call arrogance I still feel our Notre Dame administration of "prostituting the entire football experience" to the NCAA without even mentioning the exponential benefits that the University reaps from the media deal.

I have no experience or inside knowledge of the contract my school has with NBC, but after checking the Notre Dame Football Information Web site, I know the following: the Notre Dame football program is losing money or the recruiting exposure. The money or the recruiting exposure. The money or the recruiting exposure. The money or the recruiting exposure.

What I gather from this is the NBC deal has not allowed Notre Dame far more exposure than any other college program in the nation, but it has also allowed Notre Dame to grow academically as well as athletically in any number of areas. As for the games being "annoying-ly stretched into a marathon," and losing the opportunity to play songs, cheer loud, and be recognized for their accomplishments in between plays. While Mr. Gillen wants the administration to "protect home football games for those who love them." I simply am grateful that the administration is looking out for the financial, academic and athletic interest of the entire University; and if I have to sit through annoying marathon games and receive a world class education in small part because of a TV deal, I guess I can manage that.

I am writing in response to yet another alum who is unhappy with the institution they no longer attend on a daily basis. What few might call arrogance I still feel our Notre Dame administration of "prostituting the entire football experience" to the NCAA without even mentioning the exponential benefits that the University reaps from the media deal.

What I gather from this is the NBC deal has not allowed Notre Dame far more exposure than any other college program in the nation, but it has also allowed Notre Dame to grow academically as well as athletically in any number of areas. As for the games being "annoy­ ing-ly stretched into a marathon," and losing the opportunity to play songs, cheer loud, and be recognized for their accomplishments in between plays. While Mr. Gillen wants the administration to "protect home football games for those who love them." I simply am grateful that the administration is looking out for the financial, academic and athletic interest of the entire University; and if I have to sit through annoying marathon games and receive a world class education in small part because of a TV deal, I guess I can manage that.

This past weekend, I got a ticket, headed out to Los Angeles, but was not prepared for the unprovoked attack I would suffer minutes before the kickoff.

While tailgating outside the stadium, I enjoyed an adult beverage while the USC "Band" marched on the road outside the Coliseum next to the tailgate I was attending. I watched the supposed band march past us playing one of the two songs they knew, belting my adult beverage, and yelled "Go Irish!"

The adult juice box in my hand energized on a group of broken glass doused in tears pouring down my face. The pain responsible for this travesty was not me, but the USC marching band. I was stunned to say the least. I couldn't move and was thankful frozen and prevented from facing suicide by chugging the sorrow excuse for a trombone player in his stupid sunglasses that he was wearing for a night game. It became even more obvious to me that our band is superior to any other band hack in the country. Would any other opposing fan ever have a trombone player or any other band member attack them? Would the Band of the Fighting Irish stoop to the level of spilling precious adult beverages just to embarrass an opposing fan? No.

This sunglasses wearing, slow marching, and two song playing sorry excuse for a band member could never match our glorious individuals, so I can't blame him, but he did not have to stoop to the level of spilling my beer. My only way of surviving the awkward situation was to simply ignore him. In this, I salute our band for their every effort, but this one is the one that will ever address the primacy of the Band of the Fighting Irish. A Slightly Drunk Mike Smith Senior, Dec. 3

The same football: Declining a bowl bid

I would hope that ND will seriously consider declining any bowl bid this year. The oft quoted argument for accepting a bowl bid are additional proceeds, recruitment exposure and a reward for a job well done. The unspoken argument for accepting a bowl bid is more money or the recruiting exposure. The money or the recruiting exposure. The money or the recruiting exposure.

Notre Dame does not need the money or the recruiting exposure. The mediocrity displayed by the team during the six and six season falls short of even the most lenient expression of a job well done.

I am not convinced that the 20 practices in December have a tremendous carryover effect to the following fall, especially since the seniors will no longer be with us. To our seniors, I say thank you for your dedication. To the underclassmen, I hope that two years without attending a bowl will be used as a motivating factor for the duration of your Notre Dame career. The Notre Dame standards of intelligence, ability and character will not be served by accepting a bowl bid. The Notre Dame logo has died for a bowl in the past. This will be setting a precedent.
By JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor
The title, "Australia," is about as vague as they come, and yet it's painstakingly difficult to come up with an apt title for this epic film. As the Ostrich family is famous for the over the top "Moulin Rouge!" with its gritty depictions of modern numbers. But "Australia" is memorable in quite a different way. Losing his typically gaudy approach "Australia" takes on the daunting task of cinematically addressing a marathon love story, racism, the plight of the aborigines, robber barons of Australian cattle herding and World War II. That's an awful lot of ground to cover, even within a 165 minute running time.

But with the breathtaking backdrop of the Australian outback, somehow the multitude of subject matters and the myriad of characters each get their due. This is a film that you definitely get your money's worth for, both in terms of its entertainment value and its typical length.

"Australia" follows Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman), a snotty racist aristocrat who journeys to the outback to investigate her husband's suspicious cattle business, which she suspects to be a cover for his extra-marital affairs. Her guide to Australia is Drover (Hugh Jackman), an unshod cattle herder, who's more than rough around the edges.

Upon reaching the ranch, Far-Away Downs, Sarah finds her husband murdered, allegedly by an aboriginal voodoo king, and her business in shambles. Nullah (Brandon Walters), a half-aboriginal, half-white boy, lives on the ranch with his mother, a worker on the farm. He reveals to Sarah that Fletcher, the ranch's manager, is running the business intentionally to help Carnegie, the ranch's rival cattle business.

Upon firing the under-handed Fletcher, Sarah, Drover, and Nullah become a sort of platonic family. Together, they lead an epic cattle drive across the outback to restore Far-Away Downs to its full glory. And of course, along the way they find love, hope, and adventure. Their story continues after their hefty driving, following their "family" through the trials and tribulations of shady cattle business dealings and WWII.

Full of twists and turns, tragedy and success, the story is almost as expansive as its location. Most analogous to "Gone with the Wind," Australia" manages to cover tons of territory, while still following a core cast. The film could have used a bit more editing, but "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King," there were about three endings to the story.

Overall the story remains controlled. The characters remain consistent throughout, while not being static. Additionally, Luhmann creates a unique formality and cohesion with his distinctive artistic touch that utilizes themes of love, music, and social elitism.

There was little to complain about concerning the casting. Appropriately, all the cast members, aboriginal and white alike, are native Australians. Headlining superstars, Kidman and Jackman, fill the lead roles well, though there is nothing exceptional in their portrayals of Sarah and Drover. In fact, these complex, compelling characters would have been just as good in the one hand of the aborigines. Nicole Kidman brought little to the roles outside of her star power. The truly great performance comes from new comer, Brandon Walters. His portrayal of Nullah was simple and brilliantly effective. His character and his talent are the heart and soul of the film.

While the story is detailed and lengthy, it is not difficult to follow. It's easy to become emotionally attached to the characters, and this is perhaps the most appealing aspect of the film. Additionally, the amazing scenery and cinematography contribute to create a delightful work. Though viewers should be forewarned of the film's length, it's an appealing epic that's worth every penny to see on the big screen.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffel@nd.edu.

---

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer
As the spirit of Christmas begins to blanket campus, one of Notre Dame's most diverse vocal groups offers a limited time performance of classical holiday celebration. This weekend, the Notre Dame Chamber Choirs in their Christmas season with Handel's "Messiah." The piece that the Choir will perform on Friday and Saturday is Handel's most renowned masterpiece. It was composed in the summer of 1741, during the Baroque period. The German-born composer wrote the oratorio (a musical piece composed of vocal and orchestral arrangements) in the image of a libretto by Charles Jennens. "The Messiah" documents the life and the Christian significance of Jesus Christ, focusing especially on the passion. Though the oratorio was written during the Catholic season of Lent, it has become tradition to perform Handel's masterpiece during Advent. "The Messiah" is divided into three portions, each focusing on a separate aspect of Christ's life. The first portion describes the traditional Advent and Christmas stories. The second depicts the passion, resurrection, ascension and spread of Jesus' work. Finally, the oratorio is a summation of the Revelation of St. John.

The Notre Dame Choir has chosen about fifteen separate songs from "The Messiah" to perform. The performance will last about an hour and a half, culminating with the celebrated "Hallelujah" chorus. This piece concludes the second of the three parts of the oratorio, but has been chosen to close the performance because of its fame.

The Choir enthusiastically presents this show as an ideal introduction into the Christmas season. Featuring multiple student solos, the concert appears to be an excellent showcase of musical expertise. "Singing Handel's 'Messia' puts me in high Christmas spirits," sophomore Choir member Steve Santay said. "There are few feelings that can compare to when you hear the Choir singing the "Hallelujah" chorus."

A sellout is expected for the second of the Choir's three annual concerts. Though the music comes first, and the recognition of the club's determination and talent is paramount, the ticket sales are also of notable concern to the vocal group.

Revenue from ticket purchases funds the Choir's domestic and international tours. Having completed a summer tour of New Zealand and Hawaii, the Choir is currently planning their annual winter break tour. This year, the club will travel to the Southern and Eastern United States, stopping in Memphis, St. Louis, Washington D.C., and Atlanta for performances.

The Choir, accompanied by the Chamber Orchestra, performs at 8:00 p.m. on both nights in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased online, at the box office or by calling 574-631-2800. Prices are $3 for students, $8 for staff and $10 for adults.

Contact Patrick Griffin at pgriffin@nd.edu.
Winter Boutique. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. South Bend Museum of Art.

Looking for the perfect gift this holiday season for your mom, dad, sibling or significant other? Stop by the third annual Winter Boutique sale at Martin's Super Markets at Heritage Square. The Coen Brother's follow up their gritty Academy Award winning "No Country For Old Men" with this farcical story of stolen CIA information, infidelity, mistaken killings and a lot of audiotape. Former CIA analyst and alcoholic Osborne Cox (John Malkovich) has his personal files copied off his computer by his divorce-seeking wife Kate Cox (Tilda Swinton) who gives them to her lawyer. When the lawyer's receptionist loses them at the gym Handbodies, the disc of files finds its way into the hands of employee Chad Feldshomer (Brad Pitt) who mistakes it for highly classified information. He teams up with another employee Linda Litzke (Frances McDormand) and they attempt to blackmail Osbourne. What results is hilarious and calamitous. Tickets are $1.

**Lemon Alfredo Pasta**

You've probably noticed that lemon wedges are a frequent ingredient in these dining hall recipes. They are a good way to give a quick dash of flavor or balance out other ingredients, but in this pasta dish lemon takes on the starring roll. Mixed with a creamy Alfredo sauce and parmesan, lemon creates a tart, pleasant and flavorful paste. Pick up three or four lemon wedges and a grilled chicken breast.

Fill a bowl with short pasta and a ladle-full or two of the dining hall's Alfredo sauce. Add a dash of red pepper flakes and a bunch of parmesan cheese from the pizza bar. Shred the chicken breast and mix it into the pasta.

Squeeze the lemon wedges over the pasta and chicken.

Add in a dash of salt and a bunch of pepper and M&M topped.

**Bread Dipped in Olive Oil**

Wherever you eat out at a good Italian restaurant, they always offer bread with the meal. Why not provide it for yourself in the dining hall? These directions are on the extraordinarily easy side, but it will help jazz up your dinner.

Pick up a hunk of good Italian bread.

Fill a bowl with olive oil and a couple dashes of balsamic vinegar. If you are in South, head to the spice rack and add a couple dashes of Italian seasoning and garlic powder.

Dip and enjoy!

**Brownie Sundae**

This is a simple concept, but one that is hard to beat. Warm brownies melting your cold ice cream ... what could be better?

Pick up your favorite type of brownie, whether nut filled or M&M topped.

Heat of the brownie in the microwave.

Top with your favorite ice cream — traditional vanilla and mint are good options.

Top with whipped cream, but funfetti is best (if you like them!) and of course a cherry!

**Quick Tip**

Check out the waffle bar if it is open for extra ice cream toppings. Sometimes it will offer toppings like whipped cream, nuts and syrupy fruits that don’t make it out to the ice cream area, especially at South.

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail mfordice@nd.edu.
Cavaliers extend home streak against Knicks

Trail Blazers ride Roy's hot shooting to win; Rondo earns first career triple-double in Celtics win vs. Pacers

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Cavaliers have never been better at home.

Lefty James scored 21 points and then grabbed an early seat on the bench as the Cavs improved to 10-0 on their own floor for the first time in franchise history with their 14th win in 15 games, 118-82 over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

Wearing replica wine-and-gold uniforms from their 1970 expansion season, when they played at dingy Cleveland Arena, the Cavaliers built a 42-point lead in the second half and breezed to their sixth straight win. They also remained the Eastern Conference's only unbeaten team at home.

Cleveland opened 9-0 at home in both the 1976-77 and 1991-92 seasons at Richfield Coliseum.

The 36-point margin of victory was Cleveland's largest in 171 games against New York.

With another blowout win, the Cavs, who have won their last nine games by at least 11 points, improved to 16-3 and continued the hot streak they've had all year.

Right now, it doesn't matter where they play.

"They're really good everyone." Knick's first-year coach Mike D'Antoni said before his team was rocked by Cleveland for a second time in a week.

Mo Williams added 16 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and none of Cleveland's starters played more than 28 minutes.

Al Harrington scored 20 points, Anthony Roberson had 19 and David Lee added 16 points with 16 rebounds for the Knicks, who shot 39 percent and made 28 turnovers.

The Cavs were so efficient, James didn't even play in the fourth quarter. He was pulled with 2:23 left in the third quarter after committing six assists, five rebounds, five steals and made 10 of 10 free throws before kicking back and cheering on Cleveland's backcourt, who man-handled New York, too.

The Knicks, eying James as a free agent in two years, must be wishing they could jump in a time machine and transport themselves back to 2010. Along with injuries and the circus surrounding guard Stephon Marbury's dismissal from the New York team, the Knicks scored the second half without starting guard Quentin Richardson.

Late in the first half, Richardson was slapped with two quick technicals and ejected by referee Rodney Mott.

Somewhere, assuming he was watching, Marbury must have smiled at seeing Richardson get tossed.

After all, it was Richardson who had criticized Marbury after a recent game in Detroit, when with Marbury in street clothes, the Knicks were forced to play short-handed.

"I don't look at him as a teammate because teammates don't do that," Richardson said.

The only moment of concern for the Cavs came in the third quarter when James was pulled down by Harrington on a breakaway.

Trail Blazers 98, Wizards 92

Brandon Roy took over down the stretch Wednesday night, scoring 12 of his 22 points in the final six minutes to help Portland beat the Washington Wizards and extend the Trail Blazers winning streak to six games.

The well-balanced Blazers put five players in double-figures as they led for most of the game. Forward LaMarcus Aldridge, Rudy Fernandez andとの rookie center who missed all of last season, finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds for his sixth double-double in the past 12 games.

Darius Songaila, with 14 points and 10 rebounds for his sixth double-double in the past 12 games.

Jamison's basket with 52 seconds left pulled the Wizards within 10, 84-74, but the Blazers responded, late and forcing the Wizards to re-think the team's starting five.

Buscher, the other All-Star who leads Washington in scoring, had 14 points and 10 rebounds for his sixth double-double in the past 12 games.

"It's fierce," Wizards interim coach Ed Tapscott said before Rip Hamilton and Bruce Bowen were too bad.

Butler, the two-time All-Star who leads Washington in scoring, missed a jumper at the buzzer to miss an 18-point lead and fouled, and the fans headed for the door.

Until the final minute of the first half, Butler didn't score at all against Portland until the final minute of the first half.

The Blazers started with a 20-foother to tie it at 45, part of a seven-point first quarter that kept the Wizards close.

While the visitors took a 77-72 lead into the final period thanks in part to Fernadez's three-pointer that tied it at 72.

Washington began the fourth quarter with a 9-0 spurt capped by Songaila's jumper,扩大ing the lead to 96-81.

The Wizards beat the Celtics on Wednesday night, scoring 9-for-19 in the final four minutes and four assists to a 4th-place tie.

Celtics 114, Pacers 96

Rajon Rondo notched his first career triple-double and Ray Allen scored 31 points, leading the Boston Celtics over the Indiana Pacers, on Wednesday night for their 10th straight victory.

Rondo scored 16 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and handed out a career-high 17 assists. Kevin Garnett added 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Celtics, who matched their longest winning streak since their 2007-08 championship season, a 10-game run from Feb. 24-March 12.

Boston broke open the game in the third quarter with a 26-6 run over the first nine minutes, with Garnett and Allen combining for 15 points in the run.

Danny Granger led the Pacers with 20 points, while Troy Murphy chipped in with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Rondo, who also added three steals, secured his triple-double with 10.32 remaining in the third quarter after he grabbed two offensive rebounds and finished with a silky pass to Garnett for an easy layup.

The Pacers chipped away at an 85-61 deficit with 2:44 remaining in the third quarter after Granger nailed a pair of 3-pointers and Murphy completed three-point play to cap off a 21-point run, cutting the lead to 90-88 with 8:54 remaining in the fourth.

Boston responded with a 10-0 run to put the game out of reach as Indiana fell to a second-place Eastern Conference victory over the NBA's top two teams. The Pacers edged the Los Angeles Lakers 118-117 Tuesday.

The Celtics beat the Colts on Nov. 1, handing Boston one of its two losses while forcing the Celtics into a season-low 24.6 percent shooting and a season-high 24 turnovers. The Celtics' other two losses since then came at home to Denver on Nov. 14.

Wade did the majority of his damage in the first half with 10 points, eight rebounds and nine assists, leading Boston to a 57-51 halftime lead.

Trailing by seven, Boston closed it to four, 50-46, with 6:42 left in the fourth quarter before going on a 14-5 run to take a 54-51 lead with 3:06 left.

Rondo hit a triple of his own to extend the lead to 63-51, and the Pacers never recovered.

Spalding, Indiana, which has dropped eight of 11, travels to Cleveland on Friday with a 28-7 record. The Celtics are 14-6 in seven home games.

Boston hosts Portland on Wednesday.

The Trail Blazers come in with a six-game winning streak, Indian, which has dropped 11 of 13, travels to Cleveland on Friday with a 28-7 record. The Celtics are 14-6 in seven home games.

Boston hosts Portland on Wednesday.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 574 South Dining Hall. Deadline for the classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

The charge is 5 cents per character per line, including spaces. The Observer requires the right of edi-

classifieds without assigning ownership.

FOR RENT

HOUSES FOR LEASE 09-10 SCHOOL YEAR

2-10 BEDROOMS AVAILABLE. CONTACT KRAMER PROPERTIES 574-234-8346 OR KRAMERHOUSE-
ES.COM

Affordable Graduate and Faculty On-Campus Housing. Call or email for availability. (574)232-2818 or 574-278-6118.

Classifieds


The Observer classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 574 South Dining Hall. Deadline for the classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

The charge is 5 cents per character per line, including spaces. The Observer requires the right of edi-

classifieds without assigning ownership.

FOR RENT

HOUSES FOR LEASE 09-10 SCHOOL YEAR

2-10 BEDROOMS AVAILABLE. CONTACT KRAMER PROPERTIES 574-234-8346 OR KRAMERHOUSE-
ES.COM

Affordable Graduate and Faculty On-Campus Housing. Call or email for availability. (574)232-2818 or 574-278-6118.

Classifieds

NFC

MVP Pedroia earns new contract

Associated Press

BOSTON — Dustin Pedroia has a Rookie of the Year award, an MVP, a Gold Glove and Silver Slugger, and, of course, a World Series ring.

And now he's got the big-bucks contract befitting one of the most decorated young players in baseball.

The Red Sox second baseman, who earned $457,000 last season while winning the AL Most Valuable Player award, agreed Wednesday to a $40.5 million, six-year contract that could keep in Boston through at least 2014.

"I wanted to be here a long time," Pedroia said at Fenway Park news conference. "Hopefully in the next six years we can win some championships.

Heading into his third year in the majors, the 5-foot-9 second baseman has already joined Cal Ripken Jr. and Ryan Howard as the only players in baseball history to follow a rookie award with an MVP.

Pedroia led the AL with 213 hits, 118 runs and 54 doubles while batting .326 with 17 home runs, 83 RBIs, 20 stolen bases.

He is the first AL second baseman to win the MVP award since Nellie Fox in 1959 with the Chicago White Sox.

And the Red Sox have reached the postseason in both of his years with the club.

"He embodies just about everything we look for in a Red Sox player, and that makes this a great day for the organization," general manager Theo Epstein said.

"Dustin plays hard, first and foremost, all the time. He plays to win. He plays for his teammates, not himself.

"What's not to like? If we had 25 guys like him, we'd be in good shape. I don't think we'd be the Red Sox right now without Dustin Pedroia.

The club effectively bought out Pedroia's arbitration years and his first two years of free agency (2013-14), there is also a club option for 2015 that is vested if he's traded.

Although negotiations began during the summer, the Red Sox expected Pedroia to be in contention for the MVP award and made their offer knowing that arbitration awards for MVP winners can be expensive.

At 25, Pedroia sacrificed actually postponed the chance for a free agent jackpot for an average annual salary of around $7 million and the chance to stay with the organization that picked him in the second round of the 2004 draft. He would be 32 when the contract expires, if the Red Sox pick up the option.

In Brief

Leach negotiating new deal with Texas Tech

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Tech athletic director Gerald Myers says the school is negotiating a contract extension with Mike Leach, amid reports that the Red Raiders coach has met with the University of Washington about the Huskies' top job.

Myers couldn't confirm newspaper reports that Leach was in Seattle this week to talk to UW officials. Myers said Leach, named Big 12 coach of the year on Tuesday, didn't seek permission for an interview and that he hadn't been contacted by Washington.

Leach didn't return a call seeking comment Wednesday. A person who answered the phone Wednesday at IMG and identified himself as one of Leach's agents disputed that Myers has offered a contract extension. He declined to give his name and hung up.

Raptors dismiss head coach

TAMPA - The Toronto Raptors fired coach Sam Mitchell on Wednesday and replaced him with assistant Jay Triano, one day after an embarrassing loss at Denver.

Mitchell led the Raptors to the playoffs in each of the last two seasons and was honored as the NBA's coach of the year for 2006-07. Toronto was off to a sluggish 8-9 start, due in part to injuries.

General manager Bryan Colangelo said Tuesday night's 132-93 loss to the Nuggets was the final straw. Toronto allowed Denver to shoot 60 percent from the field and the Nuggets' 37 assists were the most by an NBA team in regulation this season. The 39-point difference marked the fifth-worst loss in franchise history.

"Obviously, last night's game was just an absolute kick to the gut," Colangelo said. "When you look back, it's a culmination of things. Expectations are high. We want to win."
**N.F.L.**

Burress done for season, play-offs

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants expect Antonio Pierce to play in Sunday's game against Philadelphia while the team gathers information on the linebacker's involvement in a shooting that led to the season-ending suspension of star receiver Plaxico Burress.

Coach Tom Coughlin said Pierce will practice Wednesday with the Super Bowl champions.

"Each case is different, each is separate," Coughlin said when asked about the detective action the Giants took against Burress on Tuesday — fining and suspending him for four games, the rest of the regular season.

The team also placed Burress on the reserve non-football injury list for conduct detrimental to the team, which means he won't be back for the play-offs, either.

Coughlin said there currently is no need to consider potential punishment of Pierce, the Giants' leader of defense.

"There is no doubt we'll do the right thing," Coughlin added, "and that's no threat to the players, they know that."

The Giants punished Burress a day after he was charged with two counts of illegal weapons possession. He shot himself in the right thigh at a Manhattan nightclub early Saturday morning.

Pierce, who was with Burress, has not talked to police about his involvement in the shooting.

Coughlin said Wednesday that 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.

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 soon.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again about the case Tuesday, saying he talked to Giants president John Mara and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. He told them the law "does not apply to a shooting. That's the thing you should do."

Police also plan to interview the people at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center who treated Burress and did not report the shooting, as required by law.

Dr. Jooyun Abisaab was suspended for not reporting Burress injury. She apparently arrived at the hospital at 2 a.m. to treat him, but it's not clear why she was called.

Giant's spokesman Pat Hanlon said the team has no tie-in with Abisaab.

"She is not...we have no relationship with her...we do not know her," Hanlon said Wednesday.

Abisaab could not be reached for comment. She graduated from the University of Rochester School of Medicine and has no history of state disciplinary action. She is affiliated with the hospital and specializes in internal and emergency medicine.

---

**THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT**

Celebrate the Holy Cross tradition with this rich, vibrant, daily meditation book.

"The Cross, Our Only Hope...encapsulates so many hopes and dreams about the work of Holy Cross."

THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C.
President Emeritus, The University of Notre Dame

Join Us for a

SPECIAL HOLIDAY

BOOK SIGNING

by some of the contributors

Friday, December 5, 2008

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore

Books also available at Ave Maria Press

located across from Moreau Seminary.

---

**Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore & the Varsity Shops I & II**

Cordially invites you to our Annual Faculty and Staff Event to celebrate our partnership

Thursday, December 4th & Friday, December 5th

9:00 am - 10:00 pm

Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore

In the Eck Center

Joyce Athletic Center

574.631.6316

Refreshments will be served at all locations

Lecture: How to get your manuscript published with Jim Langford, editor, Corby Publishing

5:15 pm - 6:15 pm

Free tail coffee* available from Irish Ink Cafe

Lecture and coffee available only at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore location

As a token of our appreciation, during the event we will be extending a 30% total discount on select merchandise*

*Faculty/Staff ID required. Valid during event on select items in store only. See store for details.

---

**Recycle The Observer.**
Minnesota judge blocks Viking suspensions

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked the NFL’s suspension of Vikings stars Kevin and Pat Williams for violating the league’s anti-doping policy, but the players’ status for Sunday’s game at Detroit remained uncertain.

Hennepin County District Judge Gary Larson issued the temporary restraining order at the players’ request, saying he wanted more time to hear arguments in the case. No further hearing date immediately was set.

The Williams among six players suspended for four games for testing positive for a diuretic that can be used as a masking agent for steroids. They have argued that the substance containing the diuretic didn’t list all its ingredients, and that league scientists and lawyers had information about the substance but withheld it from players.

The NFL argues that the league’s policy on banned substances is collectively bargained with the players’ association and players are responsible for what is in their bodies.

“This is by one of the more difficult cases I’ve had in 23 years,” Larson said before signing the order. “If I make a mistake, I’ve got to make a decision. Given that judgment, the only way we can make the mistake is to hold it from players. The NFL argues that the league’s policy on banned substances is collectively bargained with the players’ association and players are responsible for what is in their bodies.”

Kevin Williams is part of the issue “as quickly as you’d like me to hear it,” he also said he expected lawyers for the NFL, who participated in the hearing by phone, would seek a hearing by federal court in Minneapolis to get the suspensions reinstated.

“There is no merit to this lawsuit and we will promptly seek to have the order reversed,” the NFL said in a statement.

Both Kevin and Pat Williams, who are not related, sat in the courtroom with their lawyers for Wednesday’s hearing, which lasted more than two hours. He declined comment afterward.

NFL Statement

“Judge Gary Larson of the Fourth Judicial District in Hennepin County issued a temporary restraining order blocking the multi-week suspension of Kevin and Pat Williams, who are members of the Minnesota Vikings. The order will remain in effect pending further court action.”

NFL’s suspension was for four games, meaning the Williams would miss games against Seattle, Arizona, Detroit and Carolina.

On Thursday, Larson told the Associated Press that he had decided to block the NFL’s suspension as quickly as possible.

“Judge Larson made a decision, he made a statement to the world,” said Dan O’Sullivan, the NFL’s senior vice president of labor counsel. “This was an issue over a four-game period. We continue to have full confidence in the decision and the process.”

The NFL said it would appeal Larson’s order, as it did with what a federal judge did in a similar case last week.

“I think there’s a need for us to go back to the decision and the order,” O’Sullivan said.

Associated Press

Their attorney, Peter Ginsberg, didn’t claim victory, instead saying “It’s a long hard road. It’s going to take a long time for them to reclaim their reputations.”

A message left by The Associated Press seeking reaction from the Vikings was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Dan Nash, an attorney for the NFL, told Larson before he issued the order that granting it would be unprecendented and create a sideshow, disrupting the Vikings team and sending a message to other suspended players that they could file similar lawsuits.

“This program (governing banned substances) would be thrown into disarray,” Nash said.

But Ginsberg said his clients’ case is unique and they should be given the benefit of the doubt. He also said that even playing until the issues are resolved, the Vikings could reach the playoffs.

The Vikings are 7-5 and in first place in the NFC North, with the Williamses a big part of their success.

The two Pro Bowl tackles are the foundation of one of the league’s top run defenses and leaders of a unit that has played a big role in the Vikings ascending to sole possession of first place in the division for the first time in four years.

“They are the first two guys here every morning at 7 o’clock working out,” said Ellis Wyms, the backup to Kevin Williams. “You see the dedication that those two guys have to this team and this game.

“It’s not that way around the league with a lot of guys. A lot of times in their position would be able to take days off and chill out. Those guys have unbelievable dedication in what they do.

“The ruling gives the Vikings a newfound hope that they may have the Williams Wall intact, at least for the immediate future, while they try to sew up the division title.

“They’ll get back and get their playbooks and start focusing on Detroit,” Ginsberg said.

Quality Off-Campus Housing

Multi-bedroom houses with appliances, security, maintenance and much more!

Now leasing for 2009 - 2010 school years.

(574)234-2436

Kramer Properties

www.kramerhouses.com

Write Sports. E-mail Bill at wbrink@nd.edu.
Weis
continued from page 20
Brian went off somewhere in the bowels of the sporting world and we all dug our claws in and hung on for dear life. After nearly two weeks of unbridled Weis Watch, we are finally right back where we started. Some people are happy, some are sad, and Charlie Weis is the head football coach at Notre Dame.

If you thought the attention and public outcry was bad when his job was in jeopardy, imagine what it will be like now that it is secure again. Before the thousands of screaming parrots break out of their cages once again, threatening to throw themselves into a wood chipper at the thought of another season with Charlie at the helm, let’s take a deeper look.

Anyone who knows who Rudy is can tell you that the past two seasons have been the worst stretch in the program’s history. They’ll tell you about his inability to make adjustments or motivate his team. Some even complain about his arrogance. Would you really want a coach to tell you he thinks his players don’t stand a chance? Show me any person in sports who doesn’t think he’s the best, and I’ll show you someone who will be.

The Irish have fallen on tough times, but it didn’t come out of nowhere. Last year after Notre Dame’s 38-0 drubbing against USC, Pete Carroll told the press that he saw this down year coming three years ago — while Weis was still collecting jewelry in New York. After almost two weeks of rimming in your dorm rooms or in your classrooms, remember he too probably knows a thing or two that you and I don’t.

Take for example the end of regulation against Pittsburgh. With just over a minute to go and the ball near midfield Weis was faced with fourth-and-1. Instead of safely punting the ball away or sniping up the middle, the Irish called a play action fade route to Golden Tate. The pass was incomplete and suddenly your four years of play-calling on Madden Football might weigh his expertise. However, Weis has a habit of pissing in something he’s been known to do, Notre Dame would gain a possession at least drive into field goal range and win the game. Then it would have been good of Charlie — our favorite offensive coordinator.

In gauge real improvement, judgments can’t be based on a few missed plays or bounces that didn’t go the right way. Perspective is key. Last year Weis took a dismal 3-9 team and a strong recruiting class to 6-6. With a mediocre 6-6 team and another outstanding recruiting class on the way, who knows what 2009 will bring. I’m willing to find out; luckily, so is Notre Dame.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Staying
continued from page 20
same priorities, do we see the same things that need to be fixed?

Weis led the Irish to a 4-1 start this year before Notre Dame lost four of its last five to finish 6-6. He has a 28-21 record in his four years at Notre Dame. He coached the team to the bowl against USC in the BCS and the NFL, he said. "If we’re presented with a situation that we think that’s a great thing. I don’t pay attention to it substantively, I don’t look at it for advice or good ideas, we don’t survey it to see how it’s running."

Swarbrick also said the possibility of a bowl bid did not impact the process, but he expected Notre Dame to go to a bowl, though he did not know where.

"If we’re presented with a situation that we think is right for the student athletes, that’s consistent with providing a great experience for them, not conflicting with finals, et cetera, then we’ll be eager to do it," he said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Notre Dame will offer faculty-led programs in:
Cape Town, South Africa
Dublin, Ireland
Paris, France
Toledo, Spain
Vienna, Austria

Please recycle
The Observer.

STUDY ABROAD THIS SUMMER THROUGH NOTRE DAME!

The Observer • SPORTS
Thursday, December 4, 2008

Weis
continued from page 20
from 9-3 this season. A pick six on the first throw of the second half against North Carolina can’t be blamed on Weis. With a bum knee, he couldn’t have thrown an interception even if he tried to. Neither can a blown coverage on the record 15 games in the next season. A pick six on the first throw of the second half against Syracuse or an overthrow in overtime against Pittsburgh. If the guys on the field make those plays, we would all be whining a very different tune.

A head coach is a lot like a president. People are going to criticize him anytime anything goes wrong. Just look at Mr. Bush. At first glance it would seem that the man probably still wears velcro shoes. He does have a degree from Yale and somehow managed to take residence on Pennsylvania Ave., he probably knows a thing or two that you and I don’t.

The same goes for Charlie. So, as you spend the next few weeks ranting in your dorm rooms or at the dinner table or in your classrooms, remember he too probably knows a thing or two that you and I don’t.

Weis would be the head coach. Tuesday meeting with Weis that Swarbrick knew at the end of that meeting not to ask anyone else to talk to him.

Swarbrick also said the possibility of a bowl bid did not impact the process, but he expected Notre Dame to go to a bowl, though he did not know where.

"If we’re presented with a situation that we think is right for the student athletes, that’s consistent with providing a great experience for them, not conflicting with finals, et cetera, then we’ll be eager to do it," he said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Notre Dame will offer faculty-led programs in:
Cape Town, South Africa
Dublin, Ireland
Paris, France
Toledo, Spain
Vienna, Austria

Please recycle
The Observer.

STUDY ABROAD THIS SUMMER THROUGH NOTRE DAME!

The Observer • SPORTS
Thursday, December 4, 2008
THIS WEEKEND @ LEGENDS

THURSDAY @ 10PM

Best of

Acousticafe

FRIDAY @ 10PM

TODD GLASS

SATURDAY @ 10PM

margot & the nuclear so and so's

@ MIDNIGHT

TAVERN GAMES

SENIOR NIGHT

(everyone else can come too)

@ MIDNIGHT

Christmas rollerskating party

@ MIDNIGHT

HIP HOP NIGHTCLUB
**Senior guard Kyle McAlarney drives to the basket for a layup in Notre Dame’s 102-76 win over South Dakota Tuesday.**

Big East continued from page 20

per set with 2.81, despite playing in only 64 sets on the season.

“Shes tough,” Brown said. “And that’s the reason she was in there as the libero for us the entire 2007 season due to injury. Her freshman year, Kaelin posted 318 kills but only a .188 hitting percentage. “I think Christina Kaelin came back from her surgery and was very good,” Brown said.

**Bearded Assassin**

continued from page 20

Alumni Field.

"Even though they were disappointed, they handled it very well, they handled it like sportsmen," Clark said. “Their legacy may be that they helped next year’s team. I know it’s going to happen — there’s not going to be a team that before very long will make it to the Final Four. I don’t know when, but I know it’ll happen sooner than later.”

Not all was lost, however, for a team Clark had often called his best at Notre Dame. The Irish captured the Big East regular-season title for the second straight year, a first in the program’s history. They played very nice soccer as nice a playing team as I’ve ever had,” Clark said. “They’re a great group, and I don’t know when I’ve had a group with such a great attitude... All my teams have been very good, but in many ways they were a special group. They all came in very fit and worked their tails off.”

Walk-on defender Terry Lee epitomized the work ethic of the senior class, Clark said. He called the 5-foot-9, 155-pound senior “one of the inspirations behind this team” because of the effort he brought to practice on a daily basis.

After back-to-back Big East selections, senior defender Matt Besler was named a Preseason All-American heading into this year. He didn’t disappoint, earning individual weekly conference and national honors several times throughout the season while starting every game for the Irish.

“Without question he’ll be in the MLS combine and have a fair chance of being drafted,” Clark said of Besler. “We know he’s an All-American, and I’d say he’s got a good chance at being an All-American as well — terrific senior year, but a terrific four years as well.”

**Belles continued from page 20**

Trine. Murphy also pulled down two rebounds. Fellow freshman Patsy Mahoney hit a key three pointer in the first half and had a total of nine points in the game.

The freshmen will have to help the team overcome the loss of Alison Kessler to graduation.

“Alison was a good player but we have seven new players this year,” Beier said. “I think that we are a very different team and I can’t wait to see what we can do as we head into our conference games. The Belles are coming off of a successful Thanksgiving break that saw them earn one victory and a tough one-point loss in the Anderson College Tip-Off tournament.

“I think that Wheaton win was great for us,” Beier said. “It was frustrating losing another close game but I think that we are moving in the right direction. The games over break have helped us prepare well for our upcoming conference games.”

The Belles were able to defeat Wheaton at home on Nov 25 by a score of 81-78. Newsom was a force in the game against Wheaton as well, notching her first double-double of the season. She and Beier combined for 35 points, with Beier coming off the bench in the game.

“I expect us to have more depth in our program this year,” Henley said. “We need to improve our overall team defense, and be more balanced in our offense from last season.”

The Belles will look to keep up their winning ways when they host inter-conference foe Calvin on Saturday. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m.

Contact Katelyn Grabarek at kgabarek@nd.edu

**Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu**

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

“With their behind the head, one-size-fits-all design, our collapsible, adjustable ear warmers are perfect, whether you’re in the game or cheering from the sidelines. There’s no better way to face the cold.”

**Show the world *** YOU’VE *** **GOT A BAR**

**180s.com/FightingIrish**

*Commercial © 2006 180s Inc. All rights reserved. The photographs used in this advertisement are the property of these respective companies.*

Thursday, December 4, 2008
THE OBSERVER

THE OBSERVER Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

Make checks payable to:
and mail to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
Notre Dame, IN 46556

☐ Enclosed is $120 for one academic year
☐ Enclosed is $65 for one semester

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:

THE FORBIDDEN DONUTH

Black Dog
Michael Mikuska

WILL SHORTZ

Jumble

Jr. Arnold Mike Argirion

Crossword

Horoscope


HOROSCOPE

Celebrities Born on This Day: Brian Benson, 27; Anna Chlumsky, 28; Branka Kusamo, 32; Holly Marie Combs, 35.

Happy Birthday: Your ability to detach yourself from the past and the negative will be your best asset for getting ahead this year. There are gaps to be made and, although some of these may be the result of others, it's due to make that decision. Your numbers are 4, 13, 24, 37, 40, 54.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Help others and, in the end, you will get something you trust most in return. Ingenious action will not get jobs done quickly. If you have to push others to help, you should do things on your own.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Everything has a price tag, so don't think someone is going to give you anything for nothing. Make plans early or you may not be present at an enjoyable evening with someone special.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let people know what you have to offer and pursue your projects, skills and ideas. You will get interesting responses that can help you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You have to set a budget that will allow you to feel in control. Don't know what you have to work hard to remember. Remember to look at the positive side of your life, as well. ♦ ♦ ♦

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your ability to put things together; concrete or abstract; to do things on a line level will be great. A relationship will need nurturing. You'll make progress if you're open and more than willing to listen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can get ahead enough to feel comfortable about taking full hold of the world. Someone that you help will get things done faster.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do what needs to be done and go on with your life. Not everyone will agree with you but that's OK, as long as you base your decisions on what matters most to you. ♦ ♦ ♦

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can do great work and feel content about taking full hold of the world. Someone that you help will get things done faster.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Do your research before you go shopping. Kneeling on the floor and looking for a sale is not the best way to find the best price. Make sure you get the look. You will feel content about taking full hold of the world. Someone that you help will get things done faster.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This week will be your best week. You will do great work and feel content about taking full hold of the world. Someone that you help will get things done faster.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Help is a great deal long as you don't let your students cloud your vision and stop from accepting what you need to move the world. Finding a benefit or a way to help an individual position in the world.

PIECES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't do the one to one surprise. This will lead to arguments; so keep your beliefs, a secret for now. Make personal changes in your life to try to make someone else. ♦ ♦ ♦

Birthday Bible: You are inventive, imaginative and intellectual. You set goals and go after them. You pick sides and fight for your beliefs with resolve.


Answer: When the gangster went to prison, he

| Puzzle by Alan Aronovitz |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |

For answers, call 1-800-285-5504, $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card: 1-860-814-5504.

| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |

| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |

| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
| 31 | 34 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 42 |
Big East run highlights season that featured ups and downs

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

For Notre Dame coach Debbie Brown, the 2008 season has just been a series of ups and downs. "It was a little bit of a roller-coaster ride," she said. "Certainly we had some high points but we also had some low points too. We'd have like to have been more consistent than it was."

Brown said the highest point of the Irish season was the team's Big East tournament run, when it beat Connecticut and top-seeded St. John's before falling to Louisville in the semi-finals.

"We finished strong, and that's definitely an important thing," Brown said. "Even though we came only a couple of points shy of winning the Big East tournament, we certainly made strides in getting there. I felt that in our last couple of matches, we just played a much higher level of volleyball."

The rollercoaster ride started early for Notre Dame, who participated in four early season tournaments in Notre Dame, Minneapolis and Moscow, Idaho. The Irish went 5-7 in these matches, with one of their losses being a five-set thriller to then-No. 4 California. The Irish proceeded to go 9-5 in the Big East, good enough for fifth place in the conference, but fifth-set struggles continued to haunt Notre Dame all year. The squad finished 2-5 in matches that went the distance, and just 3-7 in four-set matches. In tilts that went the minimum three sets, though, the Irish were 12-2.

"I think that was probably a coincidence," Brown said of her team's struggles in the fifth set. "I don't think it was the fact that it was a five-game match. Certainly I don't think it was conditioning or fatigue."

Brown did say, though, that senior Mallorie Crael would have helped the Irish in those long matches. Crael went down with an ankle injury in the spring of her sophomore year, and was hampered by the past two years. The senior outside hitter played her last match in Notre Dame's Oct. 21 loss to Long Beach State this season. "If Mallorie would have made a huge difference," Brown said. "She's somebody that has big game experience, she's very poised, and she makes players around her better. In close games she's somebody that wants the ball."

Even without Crael, Brown said she saw several bright spots on this year's team, specifically freshman outside hitter Kristen Dealy, sophomore-libbers Megan Dunne, and junior outside hitter Christina Kaelin. Dealy played in 116 out of 117 sets this year and led the team in aces with 30. Brown praised Dealy's all-around play, specifically her passing game. "We were hoping that she'd be able to come in and do that," Brown said. "But the fact that she did, and just the load that she carried, especially the passing load, was big for us."

Dunne led the team in digs despite struggles, not all blame falls on Weis

He's staying. You may now resume the conversations that you most likely dropped mid-sentence 12 days ago. Even before Notre Dame's embarrassment 24-23 loss to Syracuse on Nov. 22, there were calls for Charlie Weis' head. After the loss, there were calls for his head. The Notre Dame Crisis

Despite struggles, not all blame falls on Weis

He's staying. You may now resume the conversations that you most likely dropped mid-sentence 12 days ago. Even before Notre Dame's embarrassment 24-23 loss to Syracuse on Nov. 22, there were calls for Charlie Weis' head. After the loss, there were calls for his head. The Notre Dame Crisis

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Charlie Weis will remain the head coach of the football team, athletic director Jack Swarbrick announced Wednesday.

Swarbrick and Weis met in California Tuesday to discuss the season and the future of the football program. Swarbrick said the decision came as a result of a review of the football program, not directly regarding Weis' job status.

"The issue becomes, the outcome of that analysis for me, is the things that I see that we ought to focus on, are they consistent with the coach's view?" Swarbrick said in a phone interview with The Observer. "Are we on the same page, do we see the..."