Reish helps develop new Web site

Social network collegegovs.com opens lines of communication between 118 student governments

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Student body president Bob Reish opened lines of communication between 118 student governments of national universities through an online social networking forum.

Reish said the project began when he contacted Princeton's student government president, Josh Weinstein, also then-student government vice-president. Reish, who had the idea to create a social networking site for student body presidents, the two collaborated to create the site collegegovs.com.

"We only met because of that instance. We both had a shared vision for our student governments," Reish said. "We started brainstorming and the social networking site started."

Weinstein, now Princeton's student government president, said he had considered the idea, but did not formulate plans until he and Reish started the project.

"Bob and I actually both came up with very similar ideas at different times but neither of us moved forward with it until we were contacted by the other," Weinstein said.

New study space available for finals

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

The Career Center's interview rooms in Flanner Hall, as well as North Dining Hall and South Dining Hall, will be available as study space for the first time during finals week this semester.

The opening of these rooms is a response to student concerns about a lack of guaranteed group study spaces, student body vice president Grant Schmidt said.

"From what I understand, a lot of students are excited about this availability. I definitely believe that it will be useful," he said. "Our goal is simply to provide students with the best accommodations for their study plans during the exam schedule."

Schmidt and Academic Affairs Committee Chair Ryan Brelenthal worked with the Academic Affairs Committee on the Career Center.

"We wanted to strive for a location, particularly during exam week, for students to be able to get together to prepare as a group," Schmidt said.

Schmidt met with Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Ann Firth and the Career Center Director to come up with a strategy.

Hall hosts Christmas celebration

Carroll's annual event spreads holiday cheer

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Students, faculty and community members will gather outside Carroll Hall tonight for the 11th annual "A Carroll Christmas," the dorm's signature event.

"The goal of this event is to spread Christmas cheer by singing loud and clear for all to hear," Carroll Hall president Kevin Jakopchek said.

With the organizers of "A Carroll Christmas" anticipating the largest crowd ever, the event's budget was increased 50 percent this year, from $2,000 to $3,000.

Among the reasons for the increase in budget was the addition of a heated tent on the Carroll lawn.

"Due to ever expanding attendance we needed to add a heated tent for more space," Jakopchek said.

The ceremony includes the blessing and lighting of Carroll's Christmas tree, along with a five-song set by the a cappella group Big Yellow Taxi.

Following the outside portion of the evening, students are invited into the dorm to partake in more festivities.

"After the lighting ceremony, the party will move inside," Jakopchek said.

Notre Dame effort helps 'poorest of poor'

Collected items totaling 2,000 pounds transported via airlift to Dominican Republic, Haiti

By JENN METZ
News Editor

Two United States Air Force C-130s took off from Youngstown, Ohio, today, headed for the Dominican Republic.

Their cargo: 50,000 pounds of clothing, in part collected by students, faculty, staff and alumni of the University, to help the 'poorest of the poor' in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The Notre Dame effort, coordinated as part of a project called "Poorest of the Poor: A Call to Solidarity -- Round Table Discussions and A Clothing Drive for Haiti," contributed 300 boxes of clothing, totaling 2,000 pounds, senior Greg Podolej, a member of the Haiti Working Group, said.

The drive began Sept. 30 and lasted until Nov. 9, when student volunteers helped sort and load the clothing onto a truck headed for Youngstown, home of Dr. Paul Wright, a 1972 Notre Dame graduate.

The drive was organized as part of a University-wide fundraising effort, "The Notre Dame effort, helped the 'poorest of poor' in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as part of the Haiti Working Group, said.

Waller explains financial crisis

Professor says subprime mortgage mess will be hard to resolve

By KAITLYNN REILY
Associate News Editor

The Montgomery Auditorium in LaFortune was filled to the brim Thursday night with people interested to hear Notre Dame economics professor Christopher Waller explain the subprime mortgage mess and financial crisis or, as he wrote on a PowerPoint slide, "what in the hell just happened."

Waller, the Gilbert F. Schaefer Chair in Economics, will be joining the Federal Reserve in St. Louis as senior vice president and director of research next summer. He spoke for nearly an hour, and he ended by saying that the current financial crisis was an "exercise in futility" and that he is "definitely believe that it will be useful," he said. "Our goal is to provide students with the best accommodations for their study plans during the exam schedule."

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To Chevy, with love

I got the news Thursday morning that one of the longest relationships of my life was coming to an end. A friend sent me the link to the Washington Post article, and my heart sunk as I read of your imminent end. Your own website had no such announcement, and so far I have been unable to reach you. It’s all too overwhelming for me to announce yourself that you are leaving me. The article said your was not comment.

The Post’s headline — “Capitol One to buy local banking icon Chevy Chase” — broke my heart.

Times are tough, I know, but I thought you were going to be okay. When other banks around the country failed, you seemed to remain resolute. I trusted my money with you. I knew you would keep it safe.

But I read that you are unable to survive the current financial crisis, and within the first three months of next year, Capitol One will buy you, for a sum of $252 billion in cash and stock, acquiring the 250 branches that have bordered the highways and byways of my youth.

I read that your branches will be “rebranded under the Capitol One logo.” But I’ll always remember your beautiful brick buildings, your white-columned porticoes, your large red signs and your plentiful ATMs. And I’ll never forget our good times together.

The first time I was aware of the concept of banking was at one of your branches. My Girl Scout troop was given a tour, and we all received little Chevy Chase duffel bags. I used mine for sleepovers and soccer practices until it was worn.

Growing up, I placed every check in my Chevy Chase Bank savings account. Per my parent’s rules, I could not take the money out until I went to college, but you kept it safe and my money grew, if only a little, with interest.

In 1997, I received my brand new card in the mail. My Girl Scout troop was given a tour, and we all received little Chevy Chase duffel bags. I used mine for sleepovers and soccer practices until it was worn.

The summer before I left for college, I opened a checking account, and received my first Chevy Chase Bank check card. You’ve watched as I worked in different jobs, and now you’ve given me a new card in my wallet.

And this summer, when my check card was due to expire and I was afraid I would not receive my new card before I left to return to school, I called you, nervously. You told me you would send it to me right away, and two days later, I received my brand new card in the mail.

I didn’t know at the time it would be the last new Chevy Chase Bank card I’d ever receive.

After I learned that Capitol One would soon buy my beloved bank, I opened my wallet. What’s in my wallet? My Chevy Chase Bank check card.

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

Contact Kaitlynn Reilly at kreaty@nd.edu

In Brief

Badin Hall is hosting A Conscious Christmas today from noon to 5 p.m. They will be selling Fair Trade goods from Nepal.

Community Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will be held at UAW Local #45 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 evening performances, $35 for matinee performances and $15 for children.

Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 will make these 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, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.

Questions of the Day: What do you like to do in the snow?

- Brenden Andrew: "I like to throw snowballs at cars."

- Brett Strand: "Sleigh rides. Only sleigh rides."

- Eileen Gillespie: "Make snow angels!"

- Lisa Floren: "I like to wear mittens—I don't touch snow without them."

- Ryan Kavanagh: "Tackle Tiffany."

The Observer regrets itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4514 so we can correct our error.

The views expressed in Inside Column are of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Mandral dinner to be held at College

Choir hosts three-night event, renaissance themed performances

By MANDI STIRONE

News Writer

This weekend, the Saint Mary’s Mandral choir, along with students, staff, faculty and community volunteers, will host the 36th annual Mandral Christmas Dinner.

The three-night event features four separate renaissance-themed performances and meal productions, said the Leighjon Chair of Music and director of the Mandral choir Dr. Nancy Menk.

While the event originally showcased a co-ed choir for two matinee and two evening shows, the program switched over to an all-women choir about four years ago due to trouble finding male volunteers, Menk said.

The 24-member Mandral choir is composed by Saint Mary’s students at all levels and in various fields of study, she said.

There are also student and faculty servers, actors, trumpet players and crew, she said.

Other participants, like the Andrews University Early Music Ensemble, who are playing the part of The Royal Consort, come from outside of Saint Mary’s, Menk said.

The menu for the dinner, provided by Saint Mary’s Sodexo Dining Services, consists of roast beef and joujou at the evening events, and stuffed Cornish game hen at the matinees.

There are also roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, a winter salad and bread.

In addition to the adult courses last year, a children’s menu and children’s ticket price of $15 was introduced.

"Now they have chicken fingers," Menk said.

The new menu and ticket option were implemented to try and draw more children to the event, Menk said.

"Kids love it," she said.

Though this is the 36th appearance of the dinner at Saint Mary’s, it is Menk’s 25th performance.

Menk said she enjoys performing, but her favorite part of the dinner is when the boar’s head is brought out.

The traditional song that is sung during this, The Boar’s Head Carol, had to be arranged differently after the choir became all-women, she said, so she asked a composer from Alaska, Grant Cochran, to modify a four-part male arrangement to a four-part female arrangement for the choir.

"It’s always fun to watch the people’s faces as we pass the boar’s head around on a platter," Menk said, "It’s a really traditional part of any Mandral dinner.”

The Mandral Christmas Dinner has become an important part of the Christmas celebration for many South Bend residents, Menk added.

Some people bring office parties while others make it a family tradition, she said.

"There are people who make it as part of their annual holiday traditions," she said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at mstirone1@saintmarys.edu
Studies continued from page 1

Director of Food Services Dave Pretkowskii before Fall Break to finalize the use of the dining halls as study space.

The east side of South Dining Hall will be available for study. In North Dining Hall, one of the south side will be open for quiet study while the other will serve as a group study space. Each of these rooms will be open Dec. 14 through Dec. 19, between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m. Student participants will pay the security costs of the two dining halls during these hours.

The Dining Halls may be used as study space during spring semester finals if Student Government sees a large turnout and positive response from students, Schmidt said.

ACASL, which has been addressing the issue of study spaces since last year, began to consider the use of the Career Center in early November, Breltentih said. University Vice President for Student Affairs Fr. Mark Poorman and Career Center director Lee Syve organized the use of the rooms with the help of Breltentih, who advised them about student needs.

"One of the nicest features about these rooms is that they are able to be reserved up in advance." Ryan Breltentih

Academic Affairs chair

Students must call the Interview Center to reserve a room in advance. If the program continues in the future, Breltentih said ACASL will explore online reservation options.

Contact Laura McCaray at lmccray@nd.edu

Haiti

continued from page 1

Notre Dame students help sort the 2,000 pounds of clothing collected in the Stepian Center this November.

Notre Dame graduate who began collecting clothing for those in impoverished countries after meeting Mother Teresa.

Erin Wash, a member of the Class of 2009 Council, discussed the idea of a drive bringing together the joint efforts of students and alumni at a conference last April, as reported in an Oct. 28 Observer article about the clothing drive.

In addition to the clothing drive, the project featured lectures and the showings of two documentary films to help raise awareness of the situation in Haiti.

Podolej said collection boxes were placed in various locations around campus.

"We all want thank the students, faculty, staff and alumni who helped donate." Gregory Podolej

member

Haiti Working Group

"The Air Force was instrumental in helping take [the clothing] down." Gregory Podolej

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The Observer} CAMPUS NEWS

Friday, December 5, 2008

NOTRE DAME RIGHT TO LIFE

MARCH FOR LIFE 2009

Join us in the nation's capital to proclaim the dignity of every human life, from natural conception to natural death.

January 22nd 2009

Register online at: www.nd.edu/~prolife

Dec. 19th deadline

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Questions? E-mail prolife@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Prime minister closes government
OTTAWA — Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper shut down Parliament on Thursday in an unprecedented attempt to keep his government in power, funding off a no-confidence vote he was certain to lose.

Leads after winning re-election, Harper successfully asked the unelected representative of the head of state for the power to close down Parliament until Jan. 26, hoping to buy enough time to develop a stimulus package that could prop up the economy.

"Today's decision will give us an opportunity to talk about all the parties — to focus on the economy and work together," Harper said after the private meeting.

Harper's chief of staff, Michelle Leon, who represents Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state, granted the unusual request to suspend Parliament. Had she refused, Harper would have had two choices: step down or face a no-confidence vote Monday he was certain to lose.

Cholera epidemic strikes Zimbabwe
HARARE, Zimbabwe — Zimbabwe declared a national emergency over a cholera epidemic and the health care system is one of the most devastating effects of the country's overall economic collapse.

Facing the highest inflation in the world, Zimbabweans are struggling just to eat and find clean drinking water. The Associated Press reported Thursday the government is seeking more international help to pay for food and drugs to combat the crisis.

The failure of the southern African nation's health care system is one of the most devastating effects of the country's overall economic collapse.

The boy's one-time guardian, who also stayed in the couple's home with the teenager, was also charged with abuse, accused of taunting, spit-ting on and drugs to combat the crisis.

The club denies they participated in the gun-fair death and rentals and free handgun lessons.

National News

Teenage workers charged with abuse
ALBERT LEA, Minn. — Two teenage girls who worked at a nursing home have been charged with abuse, accused of taunting, spitting on and drugs to combat the crisis.

The two Americans were killed when a suicide driver detonated an explosive-laden car near an Iraqi checkpoint in the northern city of Mosul, military spokesman Lt. Col. Dave Doherty said. Iraqi police said eight people were wounded, most of them civilians.

But the deadliest attacks occurred in Fallujah, the country's most heavily guarded city and once the symbol of Sunni Arab resistance to the U.S. occupation.

Iraqi's three-member presidential council signed off on the pact Thursday, removing the last legal barrier so that the agreement can take effect Jan. 1.

But the latest bombings underscore the fragility of Iraq's recent security gains, adding new urgency to U.S. efforts to train and equip an Iraqi security force capable of maintaining order after American troops have gone home.

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In Fallujah, the country's most heavily guarded city and once the symbol of Sunni Arab resistance to the U.S. occupation.

Two soldiers killed by suicide bomb

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Suicide bombers killed 17 people — including two American soldiers — and wounded more than 100 in a string of blasts in two Iraqi cities Thursday as a tentative deal for withdrawing all U.S. troops won final government approval.

Iraqi officials said the attacks killed 17 people, including two Americans, and wounded more than 100 in a string of blasts in two Iraqi cities Thursday as a tentative deal for withdrawing all U.S. troops won final government approval.

"The brazen attacks in areas where the U.S. military has struggled for years are a clear indication that questions about Iraq's ability to ensure its own security as the U.S. scales down its own combat role under the newly ratified U.S.-Iraqi security pact, which calls for an American withdrawal within three years.

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Economy continued from page 1

is going to take a long time to figure out completely.

"It's going to take months and years to fully understand the ramifications and the cost of this," Waller said.

But to begin to understand what is happening, Waller went all the way back in time to the 1990s, revisiting his high school days, watching the "Stewart Film." It's a Wonderful Life.

Prior to 1990s, if someone wanted to buy a home, he would go to a bank, which would give a loan for five years. The person receiving the loan would make mortgage payments for five years to the bank.

At the end of the five years, the person would ask for another five-year period, and the bank would roll the loan over.

This works well if everything is stable, Waller said. But if the markets become unstable, a bank might be unable to roll a mortgage. If one bank goes under, it can inspire a run on other banks.

The government bailed out the nation's biggest banks. In 2008, the government took over Swiss National Bank.

A systemic collapse in the financial system occurred when a bank went under, nobody said, "I'm not going to eat at Burger King any more," Waller said.

So investment banks took big losses on mortgage-backed securities due to their perceived profitability and low default probability.

But banks highly leveraged themselves and sold the housing bubble hacks, they were wiped out.

"There was a time when we had an industry called investment banks, and they don't exist any more," Waller quipped.

Prices fell for homes and interest rates edged higher. And soon, middle, high-income homeowners were defaulting.

In July 2007, two Bear Stearns mortgage-backed securities plunged, and this set off a chain reaction.

By 2008, the housing bubble burst, they were wiped out.

"There was a time when we had an industry called investment banks, and they don't exist any more," Waller quipped.

Reish said he recently used the discussion board to find a group of student body presidents at other schools who have implemented Good Samaritan clauses, which protect students from punishment for alcohol violations when they seek out help for a friend.

"Basically we want to be exploitive, but at the same time, not elitist," Reish said.

He said the site will lead into his bigger goal of creating an intercollegiate college council, which was part of his campaign platform.

"We are talking about continuing relationships outside of Notre Dame," he said. "Personal connections make a difference."

Weinstein said the site can really benefit the schools involved, especially at the pre-college level.

"We hope to encourage the participating schools in the listserv to encourage their government officers to use CollegeGovs and begin populating it with the critical information about their UniversitiesColleges and respective student government," he said. "That will make it such an inviable tool!"

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

University of Notre Dame
Chamber Orchestra
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE OF 
HANDEL'S "MESSIAH"
8:00 PM 
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008 
LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL 
DPC 
GENERAL ADMISSION $10 
STUDENT TICKETS $3
Market wary of employment report

NEW YORK — A period of relative calm on Wall Street ended Thursday as stocks tumbled in the final hour of trading on growing investor anxiety ahead of the government's November employment report.

The major indexes each slid more than 2.5 percent, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which dropped 216 points. The S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite index fell more than 75 points each — the biggest daily declines in nearly a year. The Dow was up 3.3 percent so far this year, and the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq are down about 14 percent.

Investors are worried that Friday's employment report would show a further deterioration in the job market, according to a survey by the Conference Board. Only 2.2 million jobs were added in the past six months, after gains of 3.7 million in the previous year.

Treasuries considering lowering rates

WASHINGTON — The head of the government's financial system rescue effort said Thursday that the Treasury Department is considering a program to encourage banks to make mortgage loans at lower rates to help revive the battered housing market.

Under the proposal being pushed by the financial services industry, the Treasury would seek to lower the rate on a 30-year mortgage to 4.5 percent by purchasing mortgage-backed securities from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

The goal of the industry's proposal would be to take advantage of the unusually large difference, or spread, between mortgage rates and yields on government debt. On Thursday, the spread on a 30-year Treasury note yield was 2.56 percent, while the spread on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage was 5.54 percent, according to financial publisher HSH Associates.

In recent years, there has been a need to lower mortgage rates to help refinance homeowners who can refinance their mortgages and reduce their monthly payments, and eventually help arrest the drop in home prices since the housing market slumped.

Treasury is striving to use the "right tools for the right job" in an effort to help as many homeowners as possible, said Kasherri, the department official in charge of the $700 billion rescue effort.

Analysts said that the government could use its ability to borrow money at low rates to reduce the government's borrowing costs. The government's borrowing costs have increased recently as some of the markets that support the economy — including the housing market — have slowed.

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After back-to-back disappointing seasons, Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick and University President Fr. John Jenkins decided to retain Charlie Weis as the head football coach. And they made the right call doing so.

The University has had its name dragged through the mud over the past five years regarding its treatment of Weis, especially after the early firing of Tyrone Willingham (the first coach not to finish five years as coach since Hunk Anderson from 1931-1933). The athletic department is returning to the stability it had before Willingham’s dismissal, thereby avoiding major problems with rebuilding the program from scratch for the second time in five years.

One of the biggest criticisms from the media has been a racial one, that Willingham was fired because he is black and Weis was kept because he is white. The different treatment of the two men has nothing to do with their skin color, but with their abilities. Willingham was a mediocre coach and inapt recruiter with Notre Dame’s prestige, money and facilities behind him. He has shown his inability to produce on the field at Washington, resigning midway through a winless season.

Weis has shown some competence as a college football coach, though certainly not as much as what had been expected. While this past season has been subpar according to Notre Dame’s high standards for the football program, the team did show signs of improvement. The offense did not rank dead last in total offense and the defense continued to grow under the tutelage of defensive coordinator Corwin Brown.

There are still some holes left to be fixed (such as the offensive line and establishing a solid running game), but these are things that take time. Whoever was the coach of the Irish the last two seasons would have dealt with these issues; it just happened that Weis was the one who did.

Also, college coaching is only half what you are doing this season on the field; the other half is how you are preparing for the future with recruiting. And, according national recruiting Web sites like Scout.com and Rivals.com, Weis and his staff have been among the elite recruiters since his arrival at South Bend.

Some have argued that with these great recruiting classes, there should have been a better product on the field. However, most of Weis’ top recruits are still only freshmen and sophomores (his first class is not indicative of his recruiting since he did not become coach until late in the process that year). With some already beginning to shine — such as Michael Floyd and Ethan Johnson — and many others waiting in the wings, Weis should be able to produce a much better team next year — comprised mostly of his recruits.

But the most important reason, and one that many are drastically overblowing, is the monetary issue. Weis’ buyout, whether it is $5 million or $20 million (the two extremes reported), is money that should not be spent with the economy in the state it is today. With Jenkins pushing every department in the University to be more frugal to save money and jobs, spending $20 million to fire one coach and spending the additional money it would take to hire another would be exorbitant and hypocritical.

By keeping Weis, the University recommitted itself to stability in the football program and its own stated economic policies, while still setting up the football program for a bright future.

**Editorial Cartoon**

**Quote of the Day**

“One kind word can warm three winter months.”

Japanese proverb
We seniors have seen a lot of things happen in our four years. We have cheered for Notre Dame Football as students. It seems the past four years we have sat through a more tumultuous and disappointing spin of our team's history than ours. We have experienced the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Notre Dame Football in four years, and now that it is all over I'd like to use this space to the apologetically reminisce on all that has happened and what could still happen.

The Good:
Not learning much of anything about what would happen, and then winning the first game against Pit by a huge margin. — Upsetting a top five Michigan team on the road the following week. — Pass Right — The Stadium Pep Rally before the USC game. — College GameDay on Library Quad. — Green Jackets (in 2005 against UCLA) — Rising stars for the go-ahead points with under 2:00 to play. — Four years, and the meaning of hooking up. But when a right to throw snowballs. We define it. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come. — Not knowing much of anything about how to bring Notre Dame football fans to the please come. — An invitation to our football fans to the please come.
The Killers’ first two albums, “Hot Fuss” and “Sam’s Town,” were so well-done that the band surely set itself up to go nowhere but down. This is certainly the case with The Killers’ third studio album, “Day & Age.” The newest album has the vibrant vocal style of “Sam’s Town” and the pop sound of “Hot Fuss” without the genius or creativity of either album.

The first single, “Human,” released in late September, seemed promising, as it had the upbeat and innovative sound of The Killers’ previous efforts. The album as a whole, however, is quite a disappointment. The pop punk band attempts to be experimental by mixing contrasting genres and instead ends up sounding not like The Killers that we all love, but rather like a rip-off of other bands.

Rather than simply drawing influences from classic and glam rock, the band relies on its influences without adding new material this time around. In “Joy Ride,” the Las Vegas group abandons its usual sound and opts to mimic the likes of the Strokes and Modest Mouse, with an unexpected saxophone riff that doesn’t fit into the context of the song at all.

“Is This Your Life,” written by Brandon Flowers, draws influences from The Killers to create a new album, the quality of “Spaceman” is undeniable with self-effacing humor. Still, it does lack the confronting instrumentation and baffling combinations of musical genres that mark other songs.

“Day & Age,” on the other hand, is a pleasant surprise. Certainly, the track starts out slow and follows the same format as many classic rock songs. But the music quickly gains momentum and you can feel the emotion in Flowers’ vocals, reminding one of “Read My Mind” from “Sam’s Town.”

The impassioned ballad also has amazing lyrics.

Day & Age
The Killers
Produced by: Island Records
Recommended Tracks: “Human,” “A Dustland Fairytale”

Between The Lines:
Sara Bareilles Live at the Fillmore
Produced by: Sony
Recommended Tracks: “Bottle It Up,” “Fairytale,”

By ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK
Assistant Scene Editor

Many may remember Grammy nominee Sara Bareilles’ appearance at Legend’s Nightclub in Fall 2007 before her successful emergence on the popular music scene. Others may have seen her in her 2008 Summer Tour with Counting Crows and Maroon 5. Either way, seeing Sara Bareilles Live is not an experience easily forgotten. Perhaps unfortunately pigeonholed by her hit “Love Song,” nominated for Song of the Year at this year’s Grammy’s, Bareilles’ real staying power will come from her appealing live performances.

Clearly, not everyone can make it to a Sara Bareilles concert. But luckily, her music transcends. “Between The Lines: Sara Bareilles Live at the Fillmore” brings her live talent to personal music lovers. With a good mix of jazzy, up-beat tracks and mellow, relaxed tunes, she offers a wide range of emotions in a variety of sounds. The lyrics are intelligent and still relatable, dealing with romance, fame, and the changes life brings.

Bareilles meets the daunting task of having a mature musical approach that maintains the novel touch of youth. Bareilles’ quirks and comments throughout her performance are minimal. The few lengthier comments are excused with self-effacing humor. Still, they commentary is a nice peak into the artist’s personality, which comes across as casual, sweet, and unpretentious.

By JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Many may remember Grammy nominee Sara Bareilles’ appearance at Legend’s Nightclub in Fall 2007 before her successful emergence on the popular music scene. Others may have seen her in her 2008 Summer Tour with Counting Crows and Maroon 5. Either way, seeing Sara Bareilles Live is not an experience easily forgotten. Perhaps surprisingly

Sure, the Nevada-based band was clearly trying to avoid catering to the American population’s musical interests on “Day & Age.” Rather than sim­ ply drawing influences from classic and glam rock, the band relies on its interests without adding new material this time around.

In “Joy Ride,” the Las Vegas group abandons its usual sound and opts to mimic the likes of the Strokes and Modest Mouse, with an unexpected saxophone riff that doesn’t fit into the context of the song at all. This is Your Life” is undeni­ able, its potential to stick

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffel@nd.edu.

Between The Lines:
Sara Bareilles Live at the Fillmore
Produced by: Sony
Recommended Tracks: “Bottle It Up,” “Fairytale,”

Sara Bareilles Live at the Fillmore

Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at akilpat@hotmail.com.

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Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at akilpat@hotmail.com.
THE FINAL TASK
THE SENIORS GET THEIR THIRD CRACK AT A CHAMPIONSHIP—WITH PERFECTION ON THE LINE.
Weekend should give fans glimpse of the future

Irish senior forward has battled injuries since prepseason play

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

There's nothing more frustrating than getting hurt right before tournament time, just as Brittany Bock did.

Bock injured her knee in Notre Dame's 2-0 win over Marquette in the Big East semifinals, and there was a chance that it could have been the last game of her Irish career.

But from those years following the rise of women's soccer to glory in America, something has been lost - it's fallen off the radar.

The Irish senior, co-captain is no stranger to injury and overcoming it both mentally and physically.

"It's definitely frustrating," Bock said. "I was injured last spring and then I hurt my ankle in the preseason this year and now I have this. This one was different, in a way, because I didn't know how long I'd be out. But I've worked hard to get back. And this team is a super close group and my teammates have been telling me, 'We're not going to let you sit on the bench for your last game.'"

As it turned out, the Marquette game wasn't the last time Bock would wear her No. 10 Irish jersey. Bock took the field again last Friday to help Notre Dame defeat Florida State 2-0 and secure a spot in the College Cup.

Bock didn't score either of the goals against Florida State, but her value is measured in more than just statistics. Playing as both a forward and a midfielder, Bock is a leader on both ends of the field. Her physical style of play and ability to turn a game in Notre Dame's favor are what make her the glue of the top-ranked Irish.

"There are a few players that always just make a team click, Britt has epitomized that," Randy Waldrum, Irish coach.

Despite returning from injury, that physical style of play has never left Bock - that was evident as soon as she stepped on the field against Florida State.

"I was a little nervous coming back after the four games that I'd missed," Bock said. "Coach asked me if I was confident I could play and I told him yes. I was still iffy during practice, but I think in the first 10 seconds of the game, I tucked a girl. Then I think I tackled someone 10 times after that."

A spot in the Final Four only helped fuel the fire for Bock. The forward, along with classmates like Carrie Dew, was a senior in high school when Notre Dame last won the national title. Now, the seniors want one to call their own.

And with that chance, the Irish aren't taking any risks. Tournament play means a slower game and lower scores, games when deadball situations can send anyone packing. The Irish are grateful Bock is back.

"Britt's such a key for us," Waldrum said. "We're a different kind of team without her. Britt adds another dimension to us, especially in the air on deadball situations and corner kicks."

The Observer • IRISH INSIDER

Friday, December 5, 2008
**Irish senior forward Kerri Hanks carries the ball during Notre Dame’s 5-0 win over Cincinnati in the Big East quarterfinals on Nov. 2. The Irish went on to win the Big East championship and will head to Cary, N.C., this weekend for the College Cup.**

By FRAN TOLAN

Irish coach Randy Waldrum first saw senior forward Kerri Hanks play when she was just 10 years old. Apparently, Hanks — who has 113 goals and 73 assists in her Notre Dame career — was a natural.

"She was just a short version of what you see now," Waldrum said. "She was always very competitive and from a very young age, you could see she had some special ability.

Waldrum, who like Hanks hails from Texas, said the state’s soccer community is very tight-knit and he met Hanks through her family.

"Our friends were friends with her parents and I coached in camps with her brother," Waldrum said. "It’s just a small world out there but that’s how we got our eyes on her."

Hanks said she was not even completely sure how she came to know her future coach.

"It was just a family connection, one family to another to another," she said. "It’s kind of hard to explain."

Regardless of how the two met, though, they head to the College Cup in Cary, N.C., this weekend with a chance to finish off one of the best seasons in Notre Dame history.

**Just Missed**

Hanks played just two years of soccer at Allen High School before deciding to compete exclusively on United States national teams. She was recruited to come to Notre Dame as a freshman in 2004, the year the Irish last won their most recent national championship. But Hanks said she elected not to join the team that fall because she was busy "traveling.

"Kerri’s actually very modest," Waldrum said. "What she was actually doing after high school was playing with the U.S. [Under-19] national team when they won it all."

Hanks arrived at Notre Dame in the spring of 2005 but only after the Irish put the finishing touches on a 24-1-1 championship season. Hanks has not yet won a national title since arriving on campus.

"I was glad for the [2004] team but I just wished I was with that team," Hanks said. "Hopefully, this year I can come out with a win."

**Individual Accolades**

Since joining the Irish, Hanks has had an almost unparalleled career.

She was a second-team All-America selection as a freshman before becoming the youngest-ever Hermann Trophy winner as the top player in the country as a sophomore. That season, she joined former North Carolina great Mia Hamm as the only players to lead the nation in both goals and assists.

This season, Hanks has reached a new milestone virtually every week. When she recorded two assists in an NCAA quarterfinal win over Florida State last Friday, Hanks moved past Hamm into a tie for second place on the all-time assist list.

"I actually haven’t thought about all of [the honors] yet," Hanks said. "The records have obviously been great and I’m speechless about it still ... It hasn’t really set in yet.

Hanks is only the third player ever to notch 70 career goals and 70 assists. And after being nominated Sunday as one of 15 Hermann Trophy semifinalists, Hanks could become just the fourth player ever to win the award twice.

Still, Hanks said she would rather have a national championship trophy than any individual honor. And she said she wants to leave a legacy as a good teammate rather than a top statistical performer.

"I would rather win than have the records," she said. "I just want the younger players to look up to me."

Besides, Hanks said, it would have been much more difficult to put up such gaudy statistics if she did not play for a premier team like Notre Dame.

"It would be impossible without my teammates to finish off those assists and set up those free kicks for me to take," she said. "Without my teammates and [Waldrum] I wouldn’t be able to get those records."

**The Missing Piece to the Puzzle**

Hanks and her classmates have garnered virtually every team and individual honor except the national championship. The team has made it to the College Cup the past three seasons but has lost once in the semifinals and once in the championship.

"It would be unbelievable if we win," Hanks said. "It would sum up my career here."

Waldrum said Hanks is the right person to lead the team this weekend.

"She [has] what separates the good players from the great ones," Waldrum said. "Great players have that constant mentality to win at all costs.

But Hanks said she is critical of herself, as well.

"I expect my teammates to do the same to me, if I’m not doing my best," she said.

Once I step off the field it’s completely different. But if I do anything wrong, I’d expect my teammates to step up and yell at me."

For Hanks, this weekend is especially critical since it will include her final NCAA game.

She said she even has high expectations for Waldrum on the sidelines.

"Soccer is everything to me right now, especially heading into the Final Four," Hanks said. "I want everyone to leave it on the field, even Randy ... We potentially have one game left so we better make it."

Hanks said despite all she has accomplished, her career will not be complete without adding two more victories to Notre Dame’s undefeated record.

"I’m just focused on winning right now," she said. "All that other stuff doesn’t mean anything to me yet."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

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**Just one thing left to do**

After compiling countless individual honors, senior Kerri Hanks looks to add a national title to her list of accolades.
Team looks to put finishing touches on undefeated campaign  

By FRAN TOLAN  
Associate Sports Editor  

Notre Dame travels to the College Cup in Cary, N.C. this weekend with a lofty goal — to finish off the best season in program history. The top-ranked Irish are 25-0-0 and will have to defeat two other top-10 teams to bring home the National Championship trophy.

"We have 25 wins going into the Final Four and that is just so hard to do in this day and age," Irish coach Randy Waldrum said. "If this team goes on and finishes out undefeated, this team is clearly the best in program history because the record shows it. If they win it all, then there's not much of an argument."

Waldrum said that the 2004 Irish are the current Notre Dame gold standard — for now.

"We have to continue to keep these players motivated because until we win it all, the '04 team is one of — if not the best — team here," he said.

Waldrum said he is especially excited for this weekend because the Notre Dame seniors will have one more chance at winning a title. The class has travelled to the College Cup the past two seasons before going home empty-handed.

"I am really, really happy," Waldrum said. "I'm most happy for our senior class to get one more shut at it."

Senior co-captain Brittany Bock, who missed four games due to a leg injury, returned to the field last Friday in a 2-0 win over Florida State. The forward said this year's squad is better than the two that came up short in recent years.

"This year, we're going in with an amazing record and I think this is the best team I've been on," she said.

The Irish will open play at 4:30 p.m. Thursday against Stanford at WakeMed Soccer Park. The Cardinal, who boasts a 21-1-1 record, are one of the four No. 1 seeds in the College Cup. The other semifinal will pit North Carolina against undefeated UCLA.

"All four No. 1 seeds made it and I can't remember the last time that happened," Waldrum said. "Between the four teams, there are only two losses (in their combined records). Any of the four is capable of winning it all.

Notre Dame dealt North Carolina its only loss of the season and Stanford's only setback came against UCLA.

Waldrum said he is not concerned with a possible matchup with the Tar Heels in their home state. The Irish defeated North Carolina 1-0 on Sept. 5 in Chapel Hill.

"Carolina has been a good place for us to play over the years," the coach said. "Plus, our kids kind of get motivated to play in North Carolina's backyard."

Notre Dame has gotten a goal from 19 different players this season, but Waldrum said he is most happy with the recent play of the Irish back line.

"We've always had a team that scores goals and creates offensive opportunities but the thing I'm most proud of has been the really good defense."

Senior co-captain Carrie Dew leads the unit, which has given up an average of 40 goals per game. Dew is the reigning Top Drawer Soccer national player of the week. The center back played last season with a knee brace but Waldrum said she has fully recovered from the injury.

"Carrie Dew is finally healthy, but because people love stats she's just not talked about as much [as the Irish forwards]," Waldrum said. "Defense is where we made the biggest upgrade this year."

The Irish back line will have to be stout today because goals should be hard to come by against Stanford goalie Kira Macker and the Cardinal defense. The unit has posted shutouts in 14 of its 21 wins.

Notre Dame and Stanford will take the field today at 4:30 p.m. The game will be broadcast live on ESPN2 and ESPNU.

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Irish sophomore midfielder Rose Augustin leans over the ball during Notre Dame's 1-0 overtime win over Minnesota in the NCAA Tournament third round on Nov. 21.
Bright Ideas serves a greater purpose

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

Starting tonight in the Washington Hall Lab Theater, Sorin's Theater for Charity will present its production of Eric Coble's "Bright Ideas," a dark comedy version of Shakespeare's classic tragedy, "Macbeth." The founder of Sorin's Theater for Charity, John Maltese, recently spoke to the Observer via e-mail to discuss the production, as well as the beneficary of the show's ticket sales, St. Jude's Primary School in Uganda.

Scene: Can you give us a synopsis of "Bright Ideas?"

Maltese: "Bright Ideas" is a dark comedy spoof of Shakespeare's "Macbeth." I view it as a critique of our current education system. Nowadays, every Notre Dame student could relate to how stressful it is to try and gain acceptance to a selective university. Eric Coble, the playwright, turns that idea on its head, by allowing to new parents, Joshua and Genevra Bradley, to get caught up in the same high-anxiety application process, but on behalf of their three-year old son, Mac.

"Bright Ideas" is actually a highly selective pre-school, and after reading a few too many parenting guidebooks, Josh and Gen get it in their heads that if Mac doesn't go to the right preschool, he will be ruined for life. In a desperate attempt to get him in off the waiting list, the parents decide that the only way to give Mac "a shot in life" is murdering the mother of the boy who got in ahead of him.

After plotting the perfect crime, Josh and Gen decide that the only way they can kill the [mother] and make it look like an accident is to invite her over for dinner and poison the pesto.

"Bright Ideas" is a hilarious tale about how most times, the grass is not greener on the other side. As Josh and Gen deal with new-found power, conflicting desires, and their own insecurities, chaos ensues.

Scene: Why did you choose this play?

Maltese: I chose the play because I thought that the high-pressure attitudes about getting the "best opportunities" and ensuring success through education were reflective of issues most students at Notre Dame can relate to today. The play also has all sorts of comedic elements that I thought would make for an entertaining hour and 45 minutes for student audiences. The minimalist staging was also convenient, since we try to keep a low budget to allow for the maximum amount of proceeds to go towards our charity.

Scene: What are some highlights from the performance?

Maltese: Sorin's rector, Father Jim King, C.S.C., plays two parts—a nerdy, "Office Space"-esque boss and a crusty old athletic director, Coach Angus. He does amazingly well in both parts in his theatrical debut. He steals the show. Also, Shay Thibon and Matt Goodrich, seasoned FIT students, drive the show as Josh and Gen, appearing in almost every scene. In the short two-week rehearsal period they each memorized a full length play and have created characters that you can see develop onstage as they (grow) from concerned parents to psychotic killers.

"Bright Ideas" is cast of 10 performers conveying nearly 20 different characters. Each character is quirky and unique, from Miss Caithness, the over-the-top drama teacher, to Mrs. Lennox, who can only speak to other parents using bag puppets, to the flamboyant airline steward who engages in an all-flight confrontation with Genevra over her cell phone use.

"Bright Ideas" represents every current class at Notre Dame, and also includes students from Saint Mary's. The biggest highlight is the good cause that this play is all about. My number one goal is selling out every night and raising over $6,000 for St. Jude's Primary School.

Scene: Can you tell us more about Sorin Theater for Charity and St. Jude's? Have you put on any previous plays for the same cause?

Maltese: I started Sorin Theatre for Charity last year in our inaugural showing of "Rumors" by Neil Simon. The play involved constructing the largest set that has ever been used in the Lab Theatre, a two-story set with five doors. The play ran two nights in the Lab theatre and sold out each night. We were turning people away at the door because of fire codes. This year we are back with seven nights of performances to avoid that problem.

I took an interest in Sorin's sponsorship of St. Jude's when I was selected to teach their last summer through the International Summer Service Learning Program through the Center for Social Concerns.

I wanted to show I was serious about my decision to teach at St. Jude's — Sorin sends one Otter there every summer — and I wanted to use my knowledge and love of theatre/Philosophy major, to do some good in a personal way. I assistant directed — alongside Chelsea Moore, who is acting in "Bright Ideas" and acted in "Rumors" — and this year I am directing "Bright Ideas."

St. Jude's is a primary school that needs a lot of help. It is located in Bugembe, which is a rural, poor community in eastern Uganda. Walking around to various schools, one of the hardest things to hear when talking to principals of schools was their answer to my question: "What is your greatest need? What could help your school out the most?" One administrator responded: "Money, so we can feed our students." He didn't ask for Powerpoint projectors, white boards, or a higher salary. He didn't even ask for pens and textbooks, which students there don't have either. But he asked for food.

That blew me away, and proved that we need to keep working for the people there. A number of the students are also HIV-positive, and the school can't afford to give them proper nutrition, let alone pay for counseling or other appropriate actions. Many students are simply sent home because their parents cannot afford to pay their school fees.

Our number one priority is to fill those seats in the audience so we can give St. Jude's the good they need to make their good school even better.

Tonight's performance will begin at 8 p.m. in the Lab Theater of Washington Hall, and will continue through Thursday, Dec. 11. Tickets cost $7 for students at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross. The theater is located on the third floor of Washington Hall.

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CONTACT ANALISE LIPARI
WASHINGTON still looking for coach

Associated Press

Mike Leach has removed himself from consideration for the Washington coaching position, a person close to the Texas Tech coach said Thursday night.

"The person who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the move.

Texas came on the same day Fresno State coach Pat Hill also took his name out of the mix to replace Washington's Tyrone Willingham, who was fired and will coach his last game Saturday.

Tuberville's resignation at Auburn began another round of college football's season-ending coaching carousel.

A day after Tuberville surprised the school by resigning, two schools came up with new coaching candidates.

Tuesday: Utah State hired U.S. defensive coordinator Gary Andersen and Houston hired Oklahoma State defensive coordinator Mike Valley.

Texas Tech was working on a contract extension for Leach, who reportedly had met with Washington officials about the Huskies' opening earlier this week.

Meanwhile, Auburn's wish-list to replace Tuberville includes Leach, Louisiana Tech's Derek Dooley, Arkansas' Bobby Petrino and Jimbo Fisher at Florida State and Will Muschamp at Texas.

Hill, completing his 12th season at Fresno State, interviewed for the Washington job Saturday and said he had asked the school for an answer Wednesday.

On Thursday, he said: "I'm back in the market. I'm considering my options and what's going to do for our football team."

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For a picture with her young son, Wie asked if she would pose for a photo with her young son, who was eight shots clear of the cut.

Stacy Lewis, a former NCAA champion at Arkansas who tied for second at the U.S. Women's Open in her pro debut this summer, shot a 66 in the first round for a 7-under 65 that put her in a tie for the lead at 14-under 274 after 36 holes.

The first two rounds were strong indicators that a teenager who once had unlimited potential is closer than ever to recovering from injured wrists, shattered confidence and humbling performance.

After hitting only four drivers on the Legends course Wednesday, Wie took up her drivers Thursday, more punishing track — Wie was far more comfortable in the second round and hole enough putts for her lowest round on the LPGA Tour since a 65 at the Samsung World Champion course at LPGA Championship in 2005, the week of her pro debut (which also ended in disqualification).

Swing coach David Leadbetter wasn't around, but Wie didn't need advice to avoid mistakes and big numbers.

There was nothing close to a disqualification on the par 3s by lagging up times when she could have reached the green. On the fifth, she had only 30 yards off a slight hill, but played a short iron and then a wedge to 3 feet.

That began the late run of birdies. She hit two 7-foots on the 145-yard sixth, holed another 7-foot birdie and finished with a 65 to close out her birdie string of 18 shots in two rounds.

"I played good in the National League. I feel real comfortable," Renteria said on a conference call. "Maybe I know more of the game in the National League. It's my type of league. I like to play the game. The American League is different — you have to be smarter. You have to be careful and wait for hitting. That's no excuse for what happened in the American League, but it might be why I'm so excited to get back to the National League."

Renteria gets a $2 million signing bonus, $7 million next year and ninth year and $9 million in 2010. The Giants have a $1 million option for 2013 with a $500,000 buyout.

Giants general manager Brian Sabean has had a busy week, signing right-handed reliever Bobby Howry to a one-year contract Wednesday and following that up by securing Renteria. The sides had all but finalized a deal during a meeting Wednesday.

Renteria, a career .290 hitter, was back in Miami on Thursday after a quick visit in San Francisco.

"We really appreciate his interest and forward-looking to a relationship that's going to be fruitful on both sides. I don't think he needs any introduction," Sabean said.

"We're just thrilled to put him in our No. 2 spot in the lineup and at shortstop and move on to other business."

The Tigers declined to offer Renteria salary arbitration Monday while he was being pursued by three or four teams, Sabean said the Giants' strong interest meant a lot in the making of the deal.

"I want to go where the people want me to go. I don't go where they don't want me," he said. "The Giants want the best player, he was signing me. That's a great city to play baseball."

Renteria said he is looking to have a better year in 2009. He batted .276 with 10 homers and 55 RBIs this season for the Tigers, who afterward declined their $11 million option and gave him a $3 million buyout.

Sabean was not concerned about Renteria, especially considering he had a better second half.

"We have no reservations of him being a shortstop and what he's going to do for the team," the GM said. "It's an upgrade."
Antonio Pierce addresses the media after the New York Giants' Thursday practice. Pierce is expected to play Sunday against the Eagles, despite his involvement in the Plaxico Burress controversy.

**Pierce to meet with investigators**

**Associated Press**

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Antonio Pierce and the doctor who treated his New York Giants teammate Plaxico Burress after he accidentally shot himself at a Manhattan nightclub will talk to investigators Friday.

Pierce and Dr. Joysann Abisaab will be accompanied by their lawyers when they meet with the authorities, NYPD Deputy Commissioner for Public Information Paul Browne said. It is unclear when and where the parties will meet.

The authorities are especially interested in why neither Pierce, who drove Burress to New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, nor Abisaab called police to report the shooting early Saturday. Abisaab has since been suspected for not reporting the gunshot injury, as required by law.

Police are trying to determine whether Pierce tried to cover up the shooting. They say Pierce returned to New Jersey with Burress' gun in the glove compartment of his black Cadillac Escalade, and investigators have impounded the SUV to search it for any blood or gun residue.

Pierce's attorney said Pierce was caught off guard early Saturday when Burress somehow fumbled his gun — 40-caliber Glock — in the VIP section of a Manhattan nightclub and it discharged, hitting his right thigh. Pierce said in filings Thursday that the NFL knew about the incident range — probation to roughly two years in prison — if convicted. His trial is scheduled to begin March 2.

The Dallas Stars forward was suspended indefinitely on Tuesday just hours after he used a crude expression to describe former girlfriends now dating others while speaking to reporters.

Hockey's most notorious pest came to ground after he used a crude expression to describe former girlfriends now dating others while speaking to reporters.

Bachner did not immediately return a telephone message Thursday evening, seeking comment on Pierce's meeting with investigators.

Pierce was in no mood to discuss the shooting incident after practice at Giants Stadium. Clad in a sweat-soaked gray pullover, the linebacker walked up to the wooden lectern, clenched the sides with gloved hands and spoke mostly about the Giants' game on Sunday against the Philadelphia Eagles. He insisted he won't be distracted with the Giants (11-1) on the verge of clinching the NFC East title and a first-round bye in the playoffs.

**IN BRIEF**

Federal judge to decide fate of five suspended players

MADISON — A federal judge will be asked to decide Friday whether five suspended NFL players deserve a chance to play this weekend.

At issue is whether the league had a duty to notify its players and their union that a dietary supplement the five took contained a banned ingredient. The NFL Players Association argues in a lawsuit filed Thursday that the NFL knew about the tainted supplement but failed to share that information with players whose careers were on the line.

The union filed the lawsuit to block the suspension of five of the six players who were benched this week for violating the league's anti-doping policy. The union wants Kevin Williams and Pat Williams of the Minnesota Vikings and Charles Grant, Deuce McAllister and Will Smith of the New Orleans Saints, to be eligible to play Sunday.

Union attorneys will go before U.S. District Judge Paul Magnuson at 10:30 a.m. in St. Paul on Friday to ask for a preliminary injunction. They said in filings Thursday that the players are critical to their teams' playoff hopes.

Four counts dropped against Bonds, 10 charges remain

SAN FRANCISCO — Federal prosecutors dropped four counts of lying to a grand jury against Barry Bonds, leaving him in face trial next year on 10 counts of making false statements plus an addition obstruction of justice charge.

Bonds faces the same potential sentence range — probation to roughly two years in prison — if convicted. His trial is scheduled to begin March 2.

The National Hockey League faces a potential penalty after hockey's most notorious pest came to ground after he used a crude expression to describe former girlfriends now dating others while speaking to reporters.

**AVERY MEETS WITH BETTMAN ABOUT LENGTH OF SUSPENSION**

NEW YORK — Sean Avery surged past camera crews and reporters Thursday, choosing to save his comments this time for NHL commissioner Gary Bettman during a three-hour disciplinary hearing.

The Dallas Stars forward was suspended indefinitely on Tuesday just hours after he used a crude expression to describe former girlfriends now dating others while speaking to reporters.

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**Around the Dial**

NCAA Basketball

USA Today Top 25

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NCAA Basketball

AP Top 25

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NCAA Football

Ball State at Buffalo

8:00 p.m., ESPN 2

**CHCA Conference Standings**

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TODD GLASS
Last Comic Standing finalist
FRIDAY DEC 5 @ 10PM

LIVE@LEGENDS: THIS WEEKEND

margot & the nuclear so and sos

saturday december 6 @ 10 pm
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Eric Shanteau looks as healthy as any other swimmer on deck at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center.

But there are still those nagging fears that all cancer victims must overcome: What if the doctors didn't get it all? What if the dreaded disease is hiding somewhere in his body, waiting to strike again?

Shanteau, one of the most inspiring athletes of the Beijing Olympics, is competing this week for the first time since his surgery for testicular cancer. He hopes, he thrills of the race will help him get on with the rest of his life, a mindfield of doubts that reveals itself with every little ache and pain.

"You're like, 'Is that cancer? Is it coming back?'" said Shanteau, one of several Olympians taking part in the U.S. Short Course National Championships that began Thursday. "That's kind of what I've had to learn to deal with, and what I'm still just learning to deal with."

He's off to a good start in Atlanta. Shanteau finished second to Olympic gold medalist Ryan Lochte in the 200-yard backstroke, his first attempt last season.

"This was sort of a way for me to take a little bit of control," Shanteau said.

He returned to training about 5 1/2 weeks after his surgery. His first attempt lasted mere seconds—as soon as he extended his arms above his head, he felt an intense stretching sensation in his groin area, where doctors made a deep incision to remove the cancerous testicle.

He took another week off, felt fine and has been training every day for the past two weeks. He swam the 200-meter breaststroke, breaking 2 minutes for the first time since Beijing.

"Everyone prepares you for the pain. Everyone prepares you for the fear, the anxiety, the dread," said Shanteau, who finished the race in 1 minute, 42.59 seconds. "I knew it was coming. It's off to a good start in."

Shanteau turned to many of the same support groups that had called on him to serve as a face for the victims, the one who was supposed to provide hope but found himself overwhelmed by the dread of being stricken again.

"I expected to just be free and clear and done with it after the surgery," he said.

"But that's not how my thought process was. I started thinking, 'What if it comes back? Is it going to come back?'"

"That's what brought him back to the pool much quicker than Olympic stars such as Michael Phelps and Natalie Coughlin, both still on break since Beijing.

"This is sort of a way for me to take a little bit of control," Shanteau said.

He felt fine and has been training every day for the past two weeks. He swam the 200-meter breaststroke, breaking 2 minutes for the first time since Beijing.

"This was sort of a way for me to take a little bit of control," Shanteau said.

"I didn't want to go all the way through that should."
SMC BASKETBALL

Squad enters MIAA play with confidence

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Fresh off its first conference victory of the season against Trine, Saint Mary's will try to stay undefeated in the MIAA when it hosts Calvin Saturday at the Angola Athletic Center.

Wednesday, the Belles knocked off Trine 80-72 in the opening game of MIAA conference play. Senior forward Erin Newsom scored a team-high 18 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to pace the Belles. It was her third double-double of the season.

As a team, Saint Mary's could not have played much better. The team shot 51-for-59 from the floor against the Thunder. Their 88 percent shooting percentage was the highest percentage ever for the Belles under coach Jean Healey.

The win also marked the first time since 2002 the Belles have won their MIAA opener.

Over Thanksgiving break, the team played tough competition in preparation for conference play

"The Wheaton game was a great win for us," senior forward Nicole Beier said. "It was frustrating to lose another close game, but I think that the team is moving in the right direction."

The Belles knocked off Wheaton for the first time in 10 tries before dropping two games in the Saint Mary's Thanksgiving Classic. Saint Mary's fell to eventual tournament champion Otterbein by three points in the first game and dropped another against No. 21 Chicago in the second.

"The games over break have prepared us well for our upcoming conference games," Beier said.

Looking ahead to the MIAA competition that awaits the Belles this season, Beier and the team have two important goals heading forward.

"Our ultimate goal is to win conference this season and reach the finals of the postseason conference tournament," Beier said.

Saint Mary's has performed well in the paint this season, dominating the boards by an average margin of six rebounds per game. Junior forward Anna Kammrath leads the team this season with 10.8 rebounds per game, just in front of Newsom's 9.2 boards per game.

The Belles will have their hands full this weekend with Calvin, who finished third in the conference last season, one spot ahead of Saint Mary's. In two matchups last season, the Knights claimed victory another against No. 21 Chicago in the Saint Mary's Thanksgiving Classic. Saint Mary's fell to eventual tournament champion Otterbein by three points in the first game and dropped another against No. 21 Chicago in the second.

Freshman guard Mallory Kimmel finished 14th in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:19.84. She also finished 12th in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:23.04. This is the last meet of the season for the Belles. After break, they take a winter training trip before resuming competition Jan. 10 against Hope.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles head to TYR meet in Wisconsin

Observer Staff Report

The 2-2 Belles travel to Kensho, Wis. to compete in the TYR Invitational. This is the first competition for Saint Mary's since the Patrick Weeks Knight Invitational in Crawfordsville, Ind., on Nov. 22.

Freshman Eva Cavadiini finished second in the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:27.85. She also finished seventh in the 200 butterfly in 2:32.32. Mullory Kimmel finished 14th in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 1:19.84. She also finished 12th in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:23.04. This is the last meet of the season for the Belles. After break, they take a winter training trip before resuming competition Jan. 10 against Hope.

Please recycle The Observer.
Boilers continued from page 20

ND SWIMMING

Teams go to Columbus for OSU Invitational

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

This weekend, Notre Dame travels to Columbus to participate in the Ohio State Invitational in what will be their final competition of 2008.

The men’s team returns to the meet after a fourth-place finish in 2007. It will face off against Ohio State, Cleveland State, Minnesota and Penn State in the swimming events while Iowa, South Carolina and Duke will only participate in the diving events. The meet will be the second this year that Notre Dame will face off against both Ohio State and Cleveland State. In their previous meeting, Notre Dame lost to the Buckeyes 172.5-86.5 but defeated the Vikings by a score of 128-89.

"In a lot of ways this is the focal point of the fall semester," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "It's the first time this season we have a chance to swim in prelims and finals in the same event on the same day—a similar format to the Big East Conference and NCAA Championships."

The No. 20 women’s team returns to the pool for the first time since its loss to Purdue.

"We’re excited because it has been a few weeks since we have competed," Irish coach Brian Barnes said. "It’s a good thing and it gives us a chance to swim one or two times a day with a lot of rest, and that’s going to favor some of our best performances of the year."

The Irish women will face off against Ohio State, Bowling Green, Cleveland State, Minnesota, Miami (Fla.), and Penn State in diving events while Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida State will only participate in the diving competitions.

The action in Columbus is slated to begin Friday morning and finish Sunday evening.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

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9:00 am – 10:00 pm
9:00 am – 5:00 pm

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Joyce Athletic Center
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574.631.5683

Refreshments will be served at all locations
Lecture: How to get your manuscript published with Jim Langford, editor, Corby Publishing
5:15pm – 6:15pm

Free tall coffee* available from Irish Ink Café
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.
Senior distance runner Patrick Smyth, who finished his cross-country career with a 10th-place finish at the NCAA Championships, will look for his third track and field All-American honor this season. Smyth finished eighth in the 5000-meter run at the national outdoor track finals last season. Notre Dame also brings back some notable multi-event athletes.

Senior Alyssaflas finished the 2007-2008 indoor season at the NCAA Championships, where she broke the school record in the pentathlon and became Notre Dame's first multi-event All-American with a ninth-place finish. She finished 15th in the heptathlon at the outdoor national championships.

Sophomore Justin Schneider earned all-conference accolades as a freshman, finishing second in the heptathlon at the Big East indoor championships and second in the decathlon at the Big East outdoor championships. "We have a lot of really good kids, there's no doubt," Piane said. "It's impossible to name them all."

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

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Your Irish Row or Irish Crossings lease now gives you free access to the new Irish Row Fitness Center and Lounge. Tanning will be available for a fee to residents only.

You'll find brand new, state-of-the-art cardio equipment and free weights in the fitness center and comfortable seating, a large widescreen TV and kitchen in the lounge; all just steps outside your front door.

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What more could you need? But hurry, units are filling fast.

IF THE I RISH COME DOWN THE STAIRS IN TRANSITION, AND AGAINST OHIO STATE, IF NOTRE DAME CAN BREAK THE BUCKEYES' FULL-COURT PRESS, THE IRISH COULD GET SOME OPEN looks for their shooters. "They have a 2-3-1 press every made basket, every made free throw, and then go back to a zone," Brey said. "That takes a kind of mental toughness and co- concentration to attack both defenses; when to attack the press to score, and when to attack it and then attack their zone."

The Buckeyes, coached by Thad Matta, average 65.8 points per game to Notre Dame's 82.1, but Ohio State only allows 47.3 points per game to Notre Dame's 68.7. They spread their scoring around their lineup, with guard Evan Turner as Ohio State's leading scorer with 13.8 points per game.

Note: uMcAlarney, who is no fan of shaving, has been on his hot streak while sporting his on-again, off-again beard. "I know he rotates in and out of shaving, has been on his hot streak while sporting his on-again, off-again beard. "I know he rotates in and out of shaving, has been on his hot streak while sporting his on-again, off-again beard. "I know he rotates in and out of shaving, has been on his hot streak while sporting his on-again, off-again beard. "I know he rotates in and out of shaving, has been on his hot streak while sporting his on-again, off-again beard."
The Observer apologizes for the absence of The Dome Piece.
David had a Fever last night.
**ND BASKETBALL**

Harangody may sit out against Ohio St.

*By CHRIS HINE*

Follow us on twitter @NDHoops

On Saturday, the Irish will try to pick up another resume-building win when they take on Ohio State at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, but they may have to do it without junior forward Luke Harangody.

Harangody, who missed No. 7/7 Notre Dame’s (6-1) last two games because of pneumonia he contracted during the Maui Invitational last week, planned on participating in practice Thursday and Friday, but said it will be a game time decision as to whether or not he will play against the Buckeyes (4-0).

“I talked to [coach Mike Brey] about how we need to play this safe, because you don’t want a relapse coming back in the Big East season when you’ve got a big game every other day,” Harangody said before practice Thursday.

**ND TRACK AND FIELD**

Indoor season begins with Blue-Gold Meet

*By LAURA MYERS*

Sports Writer

The Irish begin their indoor season Friday with a meet that will have big implications.

Notre Dame hosts Big East rivals DePaul and Marquette as well as Detroit-Mercy in the Blue and Gold Meet at the Loftus Center.

It is the only meet in December for the Irish, giving it added meaning heading into winter break.

The real purpose of this meet is to have something before the semester ends,” coach Joe Piane said. “Most of these kids have been working since September, and it’s nice to get an early start.”

Along with being the team’s first test, times gained today can help individuals qualify for the Big East championship meet in February.

“We use this meet as a motivator,” Piane said. “If the athletes do qualify, we can use those times as a starting point. If they don’t qualify, we can use it as a motivation to really work hard over break and at the next meets.”

At the 2007 Blue and Gold Meet, more than 40 Big East qualifying times were reached.

**HOCKEY**

Irish travel to face Ferris State

*By SAM WERNER*

Sports Writer

On March 14, Ferris State skated off the Joyce Center ice with a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three CCHA quarter-final series against the Irish. Notre Dame came back, though, and won the next two days-over-die games to advance to the CCHA semifinals and, eventually, the NCAA championship game.

Tonight, the Irish will head to Big Rapids, Mich., in the first meeting between the two teams since a 6-3 Irish win shut the door on the Bulldogs’ 2007-2008 campaign.

“Anytime you end a team’s