Five student interns to teach for ACE

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

This year, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program is working with five student interns who have all committed to teach for ACE after graduation. Each of the students expressed a love for the work they are doing with ACE, and seemed excited to extend their internship into teaching jobs in new locations next year. Senior Laura Wilczek, a resident advisor from Howard Hall is one such student. She is majoring in English with a minor in Education. Wilczek and her classmates hope to teach English in Seoul after she finishes her work with ACE. Wilczek had attended a Catholic school until high school. When she started attending a Catholic school though, she said she began to feel passionate about her faith.

She said she thinks her teachers at her Catholic high school taught her from a different perspective than those she had encountered in public schools because they viewed their students as children of God rather than numbers. "Essentially, what I am trying to convey is my own positive experience at a Catholic school, and the belief I have in the Catholic school system is really why I want to dedicate my future to teaching at a Catholic school," Wilczek said.

Not only will Wilczek be using the education she received at Notre Dame to serve a cause she believes in, but she also thinks her work will bolster her education in ways that would not have been possible just through learning in a college classroom.

"I know that working in the ACE program I will not only be the teacher but the student as well sometimes," she said.

Kevin Veselik is a former resident of Zahm who now lives off-campus. Like Wilczek, he is passionate about Catholic education.

"Catholic schools are so important to our Church and our world, and ACE offers an opportunity to bring some energy and life to schools that might need it," he said.

Veselik is a member of the ACE intern program, which is working with five student interns to teach in Catholic schools next year. The students will be placed in different locations across the United States, including Chicago, St. Louis, and San Francisco.

Kristof speaks on new era of American politics

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assitant News Editor

Founding editor of the conservative periodical "The Weekly Standard," William Kristol said President-elect Barack Obama's leadership, if deemed successful by the American people, could lead to a new era in American politics in a lecture Tuesday at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Kristol's speech entitled "American Politics: A New Enterprise," he said, "was no big surprise," he said.

Kristol said the results, however, did not demonstrate an ideological shift for the country. "Americans remain more moderate than anything else," he said.

Kristol said the results were "not so surprising" due to a war in Iraq "judged by a majority of Americans as a mistake" and the current economic crisis.

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"In some sense, you could argue it was no big surprise," he said.
Non-sequiturs for finals

I am currently sitting in the library, working on the second of four papers I have due this week. Thus, the chance that I will put together a cohesive 400 word piece for you is equivalent to the chance that anyone will be running through Stonehenge after the Hawaii Bowl.

Tricked you — that wasn’t a prediction that we’ll lose, but a fact because no one will be on campus! Of course, we probably are going to lose. A college football team can’t win without emotion, and we don’t have any. (Bulletin board?)

Anyway, I have spent long hours in the ‘Burgh, as I fondly refer to this lovely building, and have had some meandering thoughts that I’ve decided to share with you.

♦ My roommate officially got together with her boyfriend over Thanksgiving. They are now “in a relationship” on Facebook — what’s more official than that? Thats great for her and all, but if she had waited a month that would be one less Christmas present she has to buy.

♦ I hate movies in which a character says “there’s a storm coming,” and then it starts raining and something bad happens, like someone dying or someone getting attacked by Voldemort. I mean, seriously, did the writer pop out “Symbionism 101” book and throw that in there? Did he also add some blue so it would be sad and some red to show anger?

♦ Every time I fear that I’ll never get “working on” the second of four papers due this week. Thus, the chance that anyone will be running through Stonehenge after the Hawaii Bowl.

♦ My eyes are three different colors at all times. It makes me wonder what I’m reading.

♦ My best friend bought her dad an iPod Nano for Christmas, and a pair of Facebook — what’s more official than that? Thats great for her and all, but if she had waited a month that would be one less Christmas present she has to buy.

In Brief

The 6th annual Christmas at the CoMo featuring the ND Celestial Festival of Instrumentalists will be held on tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center. The event will feature reflections on Christmas traditions by ND international students. A freewill offering will support the Holy Cross Missions in Haiti.

The special lecture “What and When was the Christmas Star? An astrophysics perspective” will be given by Grant Mathews, professor of physics, in the Jordan Hall of Science Digital Visualization Theater. The event, held on Friday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. is sponsored by Department of Physics.

Glee Club will perform its annual Christmas Concert Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Leighton Concert Hall of De Bartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students and proceeds will benefit the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Saint Mary’s will host the annual Finals Week Late Night Breakfast Monday from 10 to 11 p.m. in the Noble Family Dining Hall. All Saint Mary’s College students are invited. No meal plan is needed to attend and guests are welcome.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mailed detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
ACE
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Notre Dame's cross country and track teams.
He said he hopes to make a difference in the lives of the students he teaches.

"I'm hoping to meet great people, learn about and live in a new part of the country, and grow in my faith through ACE," he said.

Since he plans to teach high school Theology after ACE, he thinks ACE will allow him to confirm that this profession is right for him.

Jessica Stouffer, a chemical engineering major from Howard, also hopes to gain discernment from her experience in the ACE program. She said she has "no idea what I will want to do long-term, so this gives me a little more time to discern and plan."

"I don't want to pretend that I can predict the ways in which ACE will help and/or change me," she said. "I just need to do it, and assess my experience afterwards, to see what I have gained."

For Geoffrey Mooney, a resident of Alumni with a dual degree in mathematics and theology, his experience as an ACE intern thus far has been very enjoyable.
He said his favorite part of his current work has "definitely been talking up the program and simply being a 'face for ACE' at recruitment events."

"There is a wonderful feeling that comes along with having the mission and opportunities of ACE both with those who have never heard of the program and those who have wanted to be a part of it for several years," Mooney said. "Whether I'm speaking to a class, at extracurricular group events, or during a career fair, I get to share a piece of what I love and have a passion for with others."

Mooney said he thinks he will be teaching math next year, but is open to teaching other subjects as well because he hopes to challenge himself.
He said he is not sure what city he will be teaching in but that he has "total confidence that the Holy Spirit will help me make that decision next semester."

Like many of the other interns, Julie Garcia, a former resident of Lewis who now lives off-campus, has been the primary liaison for programs and service projects on campus and around South Bend throughout her career at Notre Dame. She is majoring in African Studies and minoring in African Studies and in order.

She expressed particular appreciation for her work that started when she dropped engineering as a freshman and decided to make a realization that she had always wanted to teach. She says she has "seen how great an impact one good mentor can make on a child's life, and I'd love to be able to do that for a living," and she also appreciates the communal lifestyle fostered by the ACE program.

Garcia's advice for students interested in the ACE program is to stop by the ACE office and express interest.

"They are so friendly and love getting to know who you are, even if you don't have any specific questions," she said. "Ask previous ACEers for advice, too. They can really tell you what it will be like. It's never too early to get a foot in the door."

Contact Nora Kenney at hkenney@nd.edu

Geoffrey Mooney
ACE intern

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"The most important thing I can say is to always be alert of your surroundings," she said.

Patrick Hechlinski, a crime prevention specialist for the South Bend Police Department, also spoke about what precautions off-campus students can do to stay alert.

Hechlinski advised students to always report a crime, even if it's minor.

"If you are a victim of a crime, be sure to report it," he said. Doing so enables the police department to be more aware of areas where extra security is needed.

Hechlinski also recommended that students be aware of automobile and advised that anything of value, such as iPods and phone chargers be removed from cars.

"Put yourself in the shoes of the bad guys," he said. If the object is of value and visible in a car, there is a higher rate of luck.

Hechlinski also stressed the importance of being alert and proactive about safety.

"Very importantly, even if you are at home, keep your doors locked," he said.

He said students should be alert even when putting trash in outdoor trashcans. Putting a television box in a visible waste container indicates that there are items of value within the house, he said.

The South Bend Police Department also offers two free programs to increase safety, Hechlinski said. The Student Watch Program is an alert system made exclusively for Notre Dame students. Through it, students are alerted via e-mail about any crime or specific questions, he said.

"They are so friendly and love getting to know who you are, even if you don't have any specific questions," she said. "Ask previous ACEers for advice, too. They can really tell you what it will be like. It's never too early to get a foot in the door."

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Geoffrey Mooney
ACE intern

COR
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They will also contain discounts to local restaurants that are not as often frequented by students.
"We want to integrate students in a lot of restaurants they already know, as well as restaurants that they may not be familiar with," student body vice president Grant Schmidt said.

The discount booklet idea originated as a campaign proposal Schmidt and student body president Bob Reich made last spring.

Reich said he thinks student interest in the booklets will be high.

"We did our personal survey on our campaign site when we were running," he said.

When Reich presented the discount idea at Tuesday's COR meeting, he initially proposed buying 300 booklets. However, COR members said that student government would order more booklets because reordering would not be feasible.

Schmidt, however, said he was concerned that the booklets would go unused.

"We didn't want to way over-purchase them and have them sitting there and then expire," he said.

Student government will sell the booklets for $10. The price will allow student government to make a $2 profit on the books. They will only need to sell half of the books that they order and still break even.

COR members were also concerned about the distribution of the booklets. Off-campus president Billy Lyman was concerned about off-campus students' ability to buy booklets if they were sold on-campus. Off-campus students would have an especially difficult time securing a booklet if they were only sold through the dorms.

"You don't have to make it preferred for off-campus, just give them a fair chance," Lyman said.

Junior class president Kim Kyrouch stressed the importance of advertising the booklets.

"As long as it's advertised enough and off-campus students know enough, they're going to have an equal chance," she said. "As long as the only way you're spreading the news isn't through the dorms, then you're okay."

In other COR news:

- Reich took time at the end of the meeting to congratulate Lymar for completing the off-campus listserv project. He said that the listserv has already sent two ballots.

- Reich also delivered COR members a memo that asked for suggested topics for next semester's agenda. Members were told to offer the suggestions in writing before the beginning of next semester.

- Schmidt also reminded COR members that the dining halls will only be available in the study space during exam week. He asked members to make sure that students are aware of this new program.

- Schmitt also announced that the campaign will send a copy of last week's COR newsletter to Student Senate and to Bill Kirk, who spoke at the meeting.

Contact John Tierney at jtierney@nd.edu

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Gender

continued from page 1

signed up to wear the T-shirts, and both Tighe and Campellings said there was a significant response from the male dorms to wear them.

"I think it's going to say a lot to women that men are taking a stand and we're saying that we don't want to let this happen," said Tighe, who added that men commit 90 to 95 percent of all rapes. "We're the ones that are perpetrating it and we're not going to let it happen again."

Tighe said men don't intend to be rapists, and emphasized that not all men are rapists, but it is important to be aware of what defines rape and sexual assault, and to be aware of what it takes to avoid committing it.

In order to avoid it, men need to change their habits, "especially our drinking habits, the way we party, the way we view women. We really have to start changing our habits," he said. Tighe sees the men who choose to wear the shirt as "a sign of solidarity and a sign of accountability."

"A man wearing the shirt is saying, I'm wearing this shirt and you can hold me accountable and I will hold other men accountable," Tighe said.

The resolution that Gender Issues committee hopes to pass tonight will revise rape and sexual assault policies in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the policies and strengthen resources for victims. The resolution cites that of more than 3,000 students surveyed, 61 percent listed sexual assault/rape as one of their top three issues, and 18 percent listed it as their top issue.

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Kristol

continued from page 1

liberal," he said.

Kristol said arguments could be made "that the Republican Party really stepped back not a great deal, or you could say this was the end of an era." Kristol called Obama "the first liberal Democrat to be elected in modern times," and cited the fact that the president-elect is the first Democrat since 1964 to receive more than 51 percent of the popular vote.

He also said Republicans would have to face being the minority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate after backlash against the Bush administration both in 2006, and 2008 resulted in a Democratic-controlled Congress.

"This is two elections in a row where a comfortable majoriy has voted Democrat," he said. "It could be the beginning of a new era."

Kristol said furthermore it is highly unlikely that the Republican Party would be able to retake Congress in 2010.

"Obama has at least four years with a Democratic Congress," he said. However, Kristol said the future would mostly depend on "how Obama governs." He cited the example of Franklin Roosevelt beating Herbert Hoover in the midst of the Great Depression, comparing it to how Obama is taking over for President George W. Bush in the midst of the current recession.

Any Democrat would have beaten Hoover, Kristol said, but Roosevelt was able to govern successfully and thus changed American politics. "Obama has to change American politics if he governs successfully," he said.

Kristol said Obama is lucky to take over in the middle of a recession, because strategically he cannot receive any blame for having caused the crisis. "Objectively, honestly, he has a very good hand to play," Kristol said.

Instead, many Americans will blame Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress, which Kristol said would damage the public perception that Republicans know how to run the economy.

"Voters right now think this is a problem that happened ... due to Republican negligence," he said. Kristol said after Bush's victory over Sen. John Kerry in 2004, the Republican Party reached its "high water mark."

Bush's failure to deliver on his campaign promises of Social Security privatization and immigration reform, as well as the unpopularity of the Iraq War and the gross mismanagement of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, led to Democratic victories in the past two elections, Kristol said.

"The voters punished Bush and the Republican Congress in 2006," he said. "At the end of the day, this happened during the Bush administration."

Kristol said Obama's biggest challenges lie in foreign policy, particularly when it comes to controlling nuclear proliferation in Iran and ending the Iraq War.

Kristol cautioned it is often hard to predict what will happen in the future, and any failure by Obama could result in the Republicans regaining control.

"It's amazing how quickly things can reverse," he said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmahon@nd.edu

2009-2010

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Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Greeks still rioting over shooting
ATHENS — Masked youths and soldiers marauded through Greek cities for a fourth night Tuesday, in an explosion of rage triggered by a decision that has unleashed the most violent riots in a quarter century.
The nightly scenes of burning street barricades, looted stores and overturned cars have threatened to escalate into what is becoming a popular protest against a government that has neglected the poor, modernizing the country and offending a section of society that has never accepted the reality of a modern state.

Reactions to Mugabe worsen
JOHANNESBURG — Renewed criticism against Zimbabwe’s President Robert Mugabe amid a cholera outbreak shows growing international outrage at the suffering there, but action to unseat his regime will be harder to come by.

National News
School attack plot thwarted
PITTSBURGH — Police here have charged a 17-year-old boy with planning a school shooting, the latest in a string of attempted attacks on campuses.

Local News
Norovirus outbreak affects Butler
INDIANAPOLIS — An outbreak of norovirus was reported at Butler University last month. Norovirus is a family of viruses that spreads person-to-person and cause flu-like symptoms, was first reported Nov. 22, said Marion County Health Department spokesman John T. Atkinson.

Ongoing conflict in eastern Congo
U.N.-backed peace talks are under way in Goma, Uganda, the new U.N. headquarters for the most expensive peacekeeping force in the world — is expected to be reinforced with an additional 3,000 soldiers, but they may take several months to deploy.

Congo Cross Reunites Families in East Congo
Some 134 youngsters without parents separated in eastern Congo as a result of a conflict that began when Rwandan President Paul Kagame invaded the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1994. Since then, the Red Cross has reunified more than a quarter of a million people.

Obama faces Blagojevich scandal
President-elect elects him with Illinois governor concerning open senate seat

Chicago politics, an image Obama has tried to distance himself from during his career.

There were signs the continuing investigation could still involve him.

His statement that he did not have contact with Blagojevich about the Senate seat seems to conflict with that of top adviser David Axelrod, who told Fox News Chicago on Nov. 23: "I know he’s talked to the governor, and there are a whole range of names, many of which have surfaced, and I think he has a fondness for a lot of them."

On Tuesday, Axelrod issued a statement saying: "I was mistaken ... They did not then or at any time discuss the subject."

It also appears that Obama friend Valerie Jarrett, an incoming senior White House adviser, is the person referred to repeatedly in court documents as "Candidate 1." That individual is described as a female who was an "adviser to the president-elect" and as the person Obama wanted appointed to the Senate seat.

The current force of 17,000 U.N. peacekeepers — the largest U.N. peacekeeping force in the world — is expected to be reinforced with another 3,000 soldiers, but they may take several months to deploy.

U.N.-backed peace talks are under way in Nairobi, Kenya, led by special U.N. envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, who hopes the talks can establish a lasting cease-fire and allow aid deliveries into the troubled region. But neither Kenya nor Congolese president Joseph Kabila is attending.
Blagojevich conversations shock officials

Associated Press
CHICAGO — The words on the recording sounded as if they were strung by a tekst box. Instead, the feds say, it is the governor of Illinois, a Democrat, strategizing with his friend and former Springfield lobbyist, Harold-flax said.

"I was just thinking," Blagojevich said, "about the new..."

"Why don't we..."

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"Like just..."
It's become more and more noticeable recently, and it continues to be a little frightening that, for me at least, and likely for many of you, a year is just not long as it used to be.

Events that used to entail a hugely long period of waiting now race up and slip by before we can so much as touch them. Once one’s birthday was a day whose immensity was worth dancing over and whose passing was the source of momentous disappointment. Now it’s, "What? Seriously, I’m no longer a teenager? When did this happen?"

Christmas, too, or its season celebratory parallel, came around only once in a very great while. The one (or eight, or 12) day celebration itself seemed almost an impossibly, and the other, 364, an eternity. Now, it’s, "Wow. Is it really a whole year that I’ve had my iPod? Since Uncle Moe was ‘cleaning’ Grandpa’s liquor cabinet and found that unopened bottle of mint gin from Nixon’s first term? Since sister Mave broke down sobbing at the end of Mass during ‘O Holy Night’, and said she believed it, really did, and she could only hope she’d be half so happy that the baby came in summer? And is baby Zoos really six months old already?"

Of course, the answer is “yes,” though it may not feel that way. Because almost a year has gone by since last Christmas. And likewise, almost a semester has gone by since, er, the beginning of last semester. Which is, in its own way, pretty huge.

Focusing on the passage of a semester could very well involve the harmful sustaining of the ageist, classist, intellectualist “college” mindset. Still, there’s no denying that while one is involved with any kind of educational program, on the giving or receiving end, the semester is a significant unit of time.

So how are we (again, only quicker) at the end of one? For some of you at Notre Dame, this may signify the beginning of the end, or, for you early (or late) graduates, the end (more accurately: an end). For others, it’s the time to leave the new place they’ve only just managed to adjust to, and for those abroad in the spring, it’ll soon be time to start adjusting (those of us in year-long programs will have our own adjustment issues come next fall). Freshman, on the other hand, whether you’ve had the kind of semester about which an outraged, aging journalist could write the Very Long Novel, or whether your most shocking escapade was stumbling upon the taxidermy display in Galvin (third, second floor, next to the service elevator), you’ve still reached a major milestone in your life, and it’s definitely something to be proud of. Even if you wind up transferring, or even if your life plans change drastically and you wind up, as did my friend Penelope, taking a year off to teach orphans in Uganda, you will never have reached a whole year of life plans change drastically and you wind up, as did my friend Penelope, taking a year off to teach orphans in Uganda, you will never have reached a whole year of normal life when it gets back on course. Especially as, once it is on course, it’ll only start racing faster.

Enjoy your break, and use it well. Because before you know it, it’ll be Christmas again. Little Zoos will be walking, Uncle Moe will be pouring you a legal shot of mint gin this time, you’ll think of Nyquil, and, believe me you, you’ll find yourself a whole lot older than you were.

Good luck. I’ll see you in 2009.

And let me be the first to ask: how was your break?

Katherine Khorey is a junior English major and Russian minor about to finish her first term at Trinity College, Dublin. Before signing off for the month, she’d like to first state that she believes there is some value in “intellectualism,” and then to advise that those of you who have had first semesters worthy of Charlotte Simmons should seek counsel for the vitriol of Venice.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"This is really hard to swallow!"

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The thing to remember is that the future comes one day at a time".

Dean Acheson, Former Secretary of State

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Strive for excellence, not perfection".

H. Jackson Brown Jr. U.S. author

THE OBSERVER

And fall '08 went...where?

Wednesday, December 10, 2008
**The best women's soccer**

When your team loses a tight game, it can be a tough pill to swallow. But when you are the best team and you lose the one game you thought mattered, it can be almost impossible to believe.

This weekend, Notre Dame's women's soccer team lost a game that could have easily gone their way with one more break or one more call. Even though they lost, I cannot express how great of a team they are and how proud they make me to be a Domen. When Hockey won its first CCHA Championship, when Football went to two straight BCS Bowls, even when Women's Soccer appeared in the Finals two years ago — none of these compare to what this team has done.

This is a team that trailed less than five minutes the whole season featuring a starting lineup balanced between freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. When North Carolina scored the winning goal, these players did not give up. They worked hard until the last seconds — even apparently drawing a free kick that was never called. On the sidelines after the game as a couple of the players periodically returned to the benches you could see on their faces how much they wanted that game, but they did not hang their heads. Nor should they.

The 2008 women's soccer team is easily the greatest team in any sport that I have seen in my four years at Notre Dame and they are a legend for this university. They have represented us well this year, not only by their play, but by their character and class. The best team does not always win and that was the case on Sunday. Even so, this team was just as great in defeat as they have been in victory.

Congratulations to Kerri, Brittanay, Carrie, Eloise, Bebecora, and Kerry for leading the 2008 Fighting Irish to a truly great season!

Justin Queen, Senior
Kearm Hall
Dec. 8

**What are we fighting for?**

What are we fighting for ... To be hated again? I have read with interest the recent articles, blogs, viewpoints over the past several weeks with great fervor. Articles about soccer, basketball coaches and bowl games have capitivated my attention even as an alumnus many miles from university. I like many Notre Dame fans had my moments of angst and frustration with the recent events surrounding the football program. Why so passionate, why so interested? Whether we like it or not, the football program gives America a glimpse of what Notre Dame is all about.

Football does not define the University to those of us who know it and love it. But for good or bad, college football is a passion that brings us together and challenges us on how we examine many aspects of our university. The national media also love to hate Notre Dame which only fuels our passion too.

Notre Dame football is a window to the world, on what Notre Damess stands for. And right now, with these recent events, the media coverage and our own negativity tainting the airwaves, I think ND should take a step back to see what we are fighting for. Is it really all about wins and losses or is being in contention for the BCS?

Rushchels, humiliating losses, bowl game choices and the reaction of the Notre Dame community all make me wonder where humility and character have gone among us who love Notre Dame. Maybe we should take this opportunity to learn from those who dislike this program so much, the Notre Dame haters. Notre Dame football has many haters.

Notre Dame is hated and often perceived as arrogant, because, in the past the football program won despite having high academic standards, turned down bowl games because they interfered with finals or Christmas, never failed to recognize those who came before and under­ stood that The Lady on the Dome is what they "were fighting for." This was humility and not arrogance. Humility would put the Notre Dame football fans in the spotlight for a comic. Notre Dame is in the grip of the media also love to hate Notre Dame which only fuels our passion too.

So where is ND football today, how do we regain the humility? ND haters are upset by Notre Dame's wisdom. The wis­ dom that allowed Notre Dame to compromise on high academic stan­ dards, accept bowl bids with a mediocre record, or compromise Christmas. ND had the wisdom to see the impact of our decisions before we made them. Wisdom that comes from experience and cannot be expected from college students sitting on a pile of snow or players asked to plant a bowl destination.

I do not totally fault the students for throwing snow which should have been showed or football players choosing a bowl destination based on "beautiful women", or their desire to return so to get ready for NFL scouts in senior bowl games.

However, wisdom should come from there coach and athletic directors. The wis­ dom to see the difficulty of leaving behind their classmates (especially the band), their coach and administrators. The wis­ dom that allows for our university to learn from those who dislike this pro­ gram so much, the Notre Dame haters.

FOR THE OBSERVER: What are we fighting for? Humility and not arrogance. Humility and not arrogance. Humility would put the parents of our student away our 5 star status, our super bowl rings, our snowballs, and our own interests and helped us realize that only together can Notre Dame achieve something bigger than ourselves.

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Have yourself a recessionista Christmas

It's the most wonderful time of the year, right? Yet, a lot of us are finding ourselves backed into a corner this season with too many people to send gifts to and not enough money to live up to retailers' standards. This perspective makes for a dismal outlook on what is supposed to be a season of endless cheerfulness and love that will soothe the soul like a nice cup of hot chocolate, so Scene has come up with a way to keep that happiness at an all-time high by eliminating the monetary pressures giving the gifts usually come with. There's no need to stress this season, here are gift ideas that will fit into a minimal budget.

For the easy-going significant other:
A mixed CD
This gift costs virtually nothing but at the same time can be truly touching. Load a CD with songs that remind you of your significant other and your blossoming relationship, and you'll be sure to get a loving thank-you in response. Also be comforted by the fact that every time your boyfriend or girlfriend hears one of those songs on the radio, they'll forever be reminded of you.

For the green gal: Organic aloe vera peace soaps
If your girl is hippie-chic, she'll love this gift. Made with organic aloe vera juice, these soaps will emanate a soothing fresh mint and herbal scent and come in a cute lime green shape with the word "Peace" printed on one side and a peace sign on the other and cost only $8. Visit midnightfarm.net for details.

For the Budding Fashionista: A Magazine Subscription
Sometimes it's easy to lose touch with the fashion world as a Notre Dame student, especially when so much time is devoted to schoolwork and virtually the only place to get a magazine is the bookstore. Make life easy for your fashion frenzied friends by buying them a subscription to a fashion magazine. InStyle has a going rate of two subscriptions for the low price of $29.95.

For the smartypants: "100 Words to Make You Sound Smart"
This book, costing only $5.95 and provided by Urban Outfitters, promises to enrich people's vocabulary by providing them with words that will fill those awkward gaps, entertain avid listeners, and impress that pinchy boss. Useful words of just one syllable (ex: glib), popular catch phrases from modern-day culture (Catch-22), classical terms (suise), and words derived from the names of influential people (Machiavellian) are all defined and showed in context in this golden piece.

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

The top new albums, DVDs, and Gadgets

Alarms
"Circus" - Britney Spears
In Britney's second comeback album the pop princess returns with an attitude. No doubt titled after her antics, which portrayed endlessly in the media, the album seems to be her latest breakthrough hit. The single "Womanizer" has reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and the second single "Circus" will no doubt share much of the success of it's predecessor. For the tweens on your Christmas list, and perhaps some older teens, it seems she has done it again.

"The Dark Knight"
Claimed to be the greatest film of the decade, "The Dark Knight" is definitely not a disappointment. Any film buff, film appreciator or critic will be hard pressed to find problems in this sequel to the popular "Batman Begins." With a dazzling story and brilliant performances, the film is an epic, memorable, must-have addition to any film buff's collection.

For the TV Junkie: TV Show T-Shirts
Falling around the $17.95 price range, the T-shirts provided by TVstoreonline.com capture funny quotes, memorable images, and famous phrases of the best shows around that will ensure "fan status" to anyone who wears them. Buy one of these shirts for the Dwight-lover or Scener-wannabes in your life and gain a fan of your gift-giving skills for life.

Gadgets
Eye-Fi
Eye-Fi is an SD memory card that makes your camera wireless, removing the need to ever plug it into your computer. The card also locates nearby Wi-Fi spots while you take pictures and records your location, rendering the data and tagging it to your pictures. $79.99-$99.99

Spike the Ultra Dinosaur
Spike the Ultra Dinosaur is worth a trip to Target or WalMart to check out his display. He walks, stands on his hind legs, grunts, and even eats a rock. Spike is one of those kid's toys you're dying to play with yourself. $29.99

For the Budding Fashionista: A Magazine Subscription
Sometimes it's easy to lose touch with the fashion world as a Notre Dame student, especially when so much time is devoted to schoolwork and virtually the only place to get a magazine is the bookstore. Make life easy for your fashion frenzied friends by buying them a subscription to a fashion magazine. InStyle has a going rate of two subscriptions for the low price of $29.95.

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Wednesday, December 10, 2008
"80s and Heartbreak" — Kanye West
Kanye returns in his fourth album, titled after the Roland TR-808 drum machine he uses in various tracks and the heartbreaking he experienced after the death of his mother and his break up with his fiancée. Trying for a more pop-oriented sound, the album concentrates on West’s emotions and lyrics using simplistic beats and Auto-Tune. Though it might not thrill the hip-hop lovers on your list, it will no doubt appeal to many others.

"Chinese Democracy" — Guns N’ Roses
For those who enjoyed Guns N’ Roses’ most recent album 15 years ago, you will be glad to hear that this latest attempt will probably not be their last. For a work surrounded by controversies, several law suits, and an inflated budget, the final product has been received relatively favorably. Though Guns N’ Roses fans are less prominent these days, there are likely some hard rock fans in your family that will make this an excellent investment.

"Day and Age" — The Killers
The third album by the Las Vegas band, "Day and Age" is the Killers’ entry into the pop-rock realm of music. Filled with songs that taste like a mouthful of candy, the fans will not be disappointed by the catchy hooks on the album. Though few songs stand out and remain memorable, there are plenty of the hard fans who will take whatever they can get from the captivating Brandon Flowers.

"Kung Fu Panda"
A cute animated film by DreamWorks animation studio, "Kung Fu Panda" presents the story of, well, a panda that learns Kung Fu. Many other valuable lessons are learned in the course of the film, which features great voice acting, including Jack Black. With enough slapstick and gags to keep a three-year-old’s attention and enough humor for everyone else, "Kung Fu Panda" is a great buy for any age.

"Tropic Thunder"
One of the most publicized comedies of recent memory, "Tropic Thunder" made many laugh and offended a great many others. Fineley acted by actors on the upswing (and a few on the down), including Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr., the movie quickly finds its chemistry and simply works. The romances are fantastical and a treat for Stiller’s fans. A great buy for the viewpoint writer in your family.

"Wanted"
The film with bullets crisscrossed with nary sayings, boasts of fate, and Morgan Freeman turned into one of the big action surprises of the year. Based on a comic book series, "Wanted" stars Angelina Jolie as a female assassin and James McAvoy as an average Joe who is a bit too buff to actually be average. Together they keep the audience entranced throughout. Bullets curve, bloody violence reigns and action fans leave entertained.

200
Initially an experiment in artificial intelligence, the 200 game play 20 questions with the player until it guesses what the player is thinking, guessing correctly 80 percent of the time (98 percent of the time if it is given 25 questions). The 200 line continues to grow as it releases games that specialize in certain topics. This year’s releases include a Harry Potter Edition (shaped like the Golden Snitch, including removable wings) and a Simpson’s edition (shaped like a donut). Best yet, at www.20q.net, you can help train the next line of 200 by playing for free. $24.99

Alfred Hitchcock’s "The Birds" Barbie Doll
Introduced to Mattel’s Barbie Collector Black Label line for 2008, this Barbie features, yes, the iconic scene from Alfred Hitchcock’s "The Birds" when the heroine is attacked by vicious birds. It is a great gift for anyone on your list with a quirky sense of humor. $40

"Wii Fit Board"
The Wii Fit concept is great in itself, turning the fun of the Wii’s mobility into a way to exercise, but the board will soon be reinterpreted straight back onto the gaming side. Rayman, Donkey Kong, Barbie, Tetris and many more figures are appearing in games built for the board (so will be in the coming months). $128.99 (without console)

"Chinese Democracy" — Guns N’ Roses
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**The Observer • CLASSIFIEDS**

**Wednesday, December 10, 2008**

**NBA**

Butler's 33 leads straggling Wizards over Pistons

Timberwolves lose McHale's debut with poor free-throw shooting; Cavs continue to roll with blowout of Raptors

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Surely there was no way this was happening again. The Washington Wizards, mired at the bottom of the Eastern Conference, were down 12 in the second quarter at home and showing no life whatsoever.

It was enough to make a coach shake his head and mutter about being down too many points.

"I just walked down and said 'We've got to be playing a lot harder,'" coach Ed Tapscott said. "And, 'We need to bring more energy and effort in different areas and doing.' You can't expect to walk between possessions, walk during timeouts and then all of a sudden 'fire up.' We've just got to get ourselves going.

So Tapscott turned to his subs, and they responded. Caron Butler scored 16 points, most of them in the second half, after Butler and Songaila led a 15-7 run that cut the deficit to 46-43 at the half. Tapscott rewarded Songaila and Dixon by starting them in the second half in place of Javale McGee and Dee Brown.

Jazz 99, Timberwolves 96

Kevin McHale installed some much-needed energy and heart into his down-and-out Timberwolves in his first game as coach.

Next on his agenda should be teaching them how to shoot free throws.

Timberwolves 0Ktr hit the go-ahead shot with 1.7 seconds to play and the Utah Jazz capitalized on 16 missed free throws by Minnesota for a 107-94 victory Tuesday night over the redesigned lineup of the Washington Wizards.

"I think today was a perfect example of guys coming off the bench, bringing some energy, knocking down shots, making baskets," said Dixon, who scored 12. "It was an opportunity for us and we took it.

The Wizards improved to 3-5 under interim coach Tapscott, while the Wizards have lost four of five under their new coach. Tapscott has been a momentum-swinging backcourt layup when the Wizards were trying to make a late run.

Andray Blatche (eight points, five rebounds) Andray Blatche (eight points, five rebounds) and Nick Young (nine points) all provided inspired play off the bench, a needed lift after the Washington starters were unable to keep up with one player. It has to do with necessity given that the Wizards lost their first 11 points, followed by 14 of 16 from Hamilton, and the arena became as dimly lit as the Wizards' defense.

Washington trailed by 36-39 in the second quarter, but Butler and Songaila led a 15-7 run that cut the deficit to 46-43 at the half. Tapscott rewarded Songaila and Dixon by starting them in the second half in place of Javale McGee and Dee Brown.

Wizards forward Caron Butler gets by Pistons forward Rip Hamilton during Washington's 107-94 home victory Tuesday night.

Unplanned pregnancy? Do not go it alone. If you or someone you know needs confidential support, please call Mr. Sue Gaus, Dr. OR

16949-7819 or Ann Firrle at 376- 033-0688.

For more information, visit our web site: http://cosa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml

Merry Christmas.

If you or someone you care about has been medically assisted, visit: http://osa.nd.edu/departments/care

THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 2008

The Last SLICE of the OBSERVER for the SEMESTER

COME AND BE A GATE AND A GUEST!

HOLIDAY SEASON

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

To thorns of the Tykes to the

Thieves for letting The Observer use their
to help us this weekend.

You will most likely regret it.

If you have an item or service you would like to advertise, please call Mr. Sue Gaus, Dr. OR

376-033-0688 for more information.

We have got our cars.

Merry Christmas.
Francisco Rodriguez throws a pitch during last season's playoffs. Last season, Rodriguez saved 62 games for the Angeles, a Major League Baseball record. He signed a $37 million contract with the New York Mets Tuesday.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Record-setting closer Francisco Rodriguez and the New York Mets reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday on a $37 million, three-year contract.

The sides still have to work out a written agreement and the pitcher must pass a physical, two people familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract had not yet been completed.

K-Rod recorded 62 saves for the Los Angeles Angels this year, five more than the previous big league mark set by Bobby Thigpen of the Chicago White Sox in 1990, and then filed for free agency. His agent, Paul Kinzer, had hoped to get a five-year contract, possibly equaling the $15 million average salary Mariano Rivera is earning from the New York Yankees.

But with baseball executives worried about the national recession, Kinzer accepted a more modest deal.

With the agreement, the Mets are resuming negotiations with Brian Fuentes and closer saves leader Trevor Hoffman, two other free-agent closers, one of the people said.

Rodriguez's contract will contain an option for 2012 that could become guaranteed based on his performance, the person said.

A three-time All-Star who turns 27 next month, Rodriguez was regarded as the top closer on the market. While some teams were worried about his violent pitching manner and drop in velocity last season, he developed an outstanding curveball to go along with his other pitches.

Rodriguez and Kinzer arrived in Las Vegas last weekend and discussed Sunday night with general manager Omar Minaya, chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and other team officials at a steakhouse.

In such new free-agent market, Rodriguez was the first of the top-tier free agents to reach an agreement.

Pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, first baseman Mark Teixeira and outfielder Manny Ramirez are among the high-profile players still searching for deals.

The Mets were seeking a closer to replace Billy Wagner, who is likely to miss all of next season following elbow-ligament replacement surgery. Rodriguez's market value was depressed because several closers were free agents and most big-market teams were set with the back-end of their bullpens.

In Brief

NFL cuts 150 league jobs due to economic struggles

NEW YORK — The NFL pays its players billions of dollars a year and fattens its stadiums every week. But even the deep-pocketed league is shedding jobs.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday that the league is cutting more than 10 percent of its staff in response to the downturn in the nation's economy due to economic struggles.

Goodell announced the cuts in a memo to league employees. The NFL is eliminating about 150 of its staff of 1,100 to New York NFL Films in New Jersey and television and Internet production facilities in Los Angeles.

"These are difficult and painful steps," he wrote in the memo. "But these are necessary in the current economic environment. I would like to be able to report that we are immune to the troubles around us, but we are not. Properly managed, I am confident the NFL will emerge stronger, more efficient and poised to pursue long-term growth opportunities."

MLB

Mets sign K-Rod to three-year deal

New York Mets general manager Omar Minaya announced Tuesday that the team signed free-agent closer Francisco Rodriguez to a three-year contract.

The deal is worth $37 million over three years. Rodriguez, who set a record with 62 saves last season, will replace Billy Wagner as the team's closer.

"Francisco has been one of the top closers in the game for the last seven years," Minaya said. "His ability to perform under pressure and his competitiveness made him an ideal fit for the Mets. We are excited to have him as our closer for the next three years."
Underclassmen helping lead the way for Belles

By ERIC PRISTER

Underclassmen have shined so far this year for Saint Mary's, and freshman Audrey Dalrymple and Eva Cavadini have led that movement. The two have combined for 13 first-place finishes through six meets and have recorded impressive times throughout the year. But according to Belles coach Ran Dombkowski, neither swimmer has reached her full potential, which gives hope to the Belles for both this season and the next three years.

"Both of those two first year swimmers come in with times that would be at or near some NCAA qualifying standards," Dombkowski said. "[They] have been getting used to the balance of college academics and athletics, but we are starting to figure out that balance a little."

Dombkowski attributes Cavadini's success to her excellent work ethic.

"Eva is probably one of the hardest workers on the team from the start until the finish of practice," Dombkowski said. "She hasn't been quite as fast as I think both she and I would like, but...once she settles into a little more comfort level with balancing her schedule...we'll see some impressive time drops next semester."

Times drops would be impressive for Cavadini, who has recorded seven first-place times so far this season, in a combination of freestyle individual and relay events, along with two first-place finishes in the 200-yard butterfly.

Dalrymple has also put on a strong showing so far this season, with six first-place finishes, including two firsts in the 200-yard medley relay and two firsts in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Because of the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday, Dombkowski says, he hasn't had a chance to rest his swimmers, as much as he would like. Dalrymple's strong performances, especially at the end of this semester, give the Belles coach hope of great things to come.

"Audrey's performances last time at Carthage/TYR invitational in the 100 and 200 breaststroke were both less than a second off our school records and just a couple of seconds from NCAA consideration," Dombkowski said. "To be at those times at an unrested invite only halfway through the season is very encouraging. I look for big things from Audrey next semester."

Dalrymple herself agrees with Dombkowski, believing that more success is still to come.

"Individually I am pleased where I am at so far this season, but I have set my goals high and will continue to work toward them."

Audrey Dalrymple
Belles freshman

Head Football Coach Charlie Weis

Autograph Session

(Limit 2 Items*)

Thursday, Dec. 11 (Must arrive by 8 a.m.)

Guglielmino Athletics Complex Auditorium

Available to Students, Faculty and Staff of Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross**

* Coach Weis will autograph up to two items. Due to time restrictions, personalized messages will not be available.

** All students or employees must have valid identification verifying their affiliation with Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s or Holy Cross and enter through the west door of the Guglielmino Athletics Complex by 8:00 a.m. on Thursday morning.
Ballesteros released after surgery on tumor

Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Seve Ballesteros thanked doctors and staff for giving him the chance to play the “mulligan of my life” on Tuesday when he was released from the hospital more than two months after brain surgery to remove a malignant tumor.

The 51-year-old Spanish golfing great will continue to be treated as an outpatient, but also the staff and well-wishers who showed support since he was hospitalized 66 days ago.

“Thanks to them I will be able to play the mulligan of my life.”

Seve Ballesteros
PGA Golfer

Ballesteros, one of Spain’s best-known sports personalities, was admitted Oct. 6 after fainting at Madrid’s international airport before boarding a flight to Germany. Since then, he has undergone four separate operations, including a 6½-hour procedure Oct. 24 to remove the brain tumor and reduce swelling around the brain. That was his third operation in eight days.

Ballesteros was released from intensive care last Wednesday — the first time he had been out of danger since his initial operation Oct. 15.

“Occasionally I was a rebel patient and therefore I ask them to forgive me and thank everyone for all the care received,” Ballesteros said.

A five-time major champion, Ballesteros is known for spectacular shots and fearless play, but still called his current ordeal “the hardest challenge of my life.”

“When you fight with faith and persistency you can overcome whatever drawback you come across. Our mind is stronger than we imagine,” Ballesteros said. “Just as I always did in my professional life, visualizing success helps achieve ones targets however impossible they seem.”

Ballesteros did not say whether he would continue his recuperation at a residence in Madrid, but said he was confident he could recover — both mentally and physically.

“I am a believer and will continue thinking positively to defeat the illness I suffer and encourage those who are going through something similar to do it with the same determination as myself,” Ballesteros said.

Ballesteros won three British Opens and two Masters titles. He also recorded 50 career victories on the European Tour and is widely recognized as having transformed European golf.

Perhaps his most memorable shot came from a parking lot next to the 16th fairway at Royal Lytham & St. Anne’s in the 1979 British Open. Leading by two shots in the final round, he drove into the car park, had a car removed to get his free drop, then fired his second shot into 15 feet and made birdie on his way to his first major.

After lobbying to have the Ryder Cup expanded to include continental Europe in 1979, Ballesteros helped beat the United States in 1985 to begin two decades of dominance. He also captained Europe to victory in 1997 at Valderrama, Spain.

Ballesteros retired in 2007 because of a long history of back pain and has since concentrated on golf course design.

RING IN 2009 WITH #1 IRISH HOCKEY!

Jan. 2:
MINNESOTA-DULUTH vs. UMASS-LOWELL (5:05 p.m. CT)
NOTRE DAME vs. UNION (8:05 p.m. CT)

Jan. 3:
UNION vs. UMD or UMass-Lowell (4:05 p.m. CT)
NOTRE DAME vs. UMD or UMass-Lowell (7:05 p.m. CT)
"Be still and know that I am God." —Ps 46:10

Silent Directed Retreat

January 5-11, 2009 at Moreau Seminary
(Open to all students, faculty and staff)

Applications available online: campusministry.nd.edu
or in 114 Coleman-Morse. Deadline is December 17.
Questions? Contact Tami Schmitz (tschmitz@nd.edu)
Red-hot Curry leads Davidson past West Virginia

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stephen Curry kept missing. His teammates kept telling him to shoot.

"Not a bad idea," Curry, the nation's leading scorer and one of the most popular college basketball players of this generation, thought before taking a terrible shooting start and took over the final 5 minutes to lead No. 23 Davidson to a 68-65 victory over West Virginia on Tuesday night in the Jimmy V Classic.

"I was frustrated but my teammates kept telling me to keep shooting," said Curry, who missed 12 of his first 13 3-point attempts before making the last three and scoring 13 of the Wildcats' last 15 points of the game. "I was trying to get some motion, but their defense with their long arms took that away."

That didn't matter to Andrew Lovedale, whose 15 points were second to Curry's 27.

"We knew he had a dry period where he couldn't make any shots," Lovedale said, "but I walked up to him at a timeout and said 'Keep shooting. We'll get you the ball.'"

Curry got his teammates the ball as well, finishing with a career-high 10 assists, although he did have eight turnovers. He was 9-of-27 from the field, but as a whole, we energized and pulled together down the stretch, which is what we have learned to do over the last two years.

The last of Curry's last 3s gave the Wildcats (7-1) the lead for good at 64-62 with 39 seconds to play. "He made two incredibly hard shots at the end," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said. "The first one was a really, really hard shot where he was fading and got his feet down and we guarded that well. I hoped our length would bother him and we kept running guys at him so he couldn't get settled with one guy on him."

"We all had our heads hanging a little bit because we couldn't get defensive rebounds, but as a whole, we were energized and pulled together down the stretch, which is what we have learned to do over the last two years."

The last of Curry's late 3s gave the Wildcats (7-1) the lead for good at 64-62 with 39 seconds to play. "He made two incredibly hard shots at the end," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said. "The first one was a really, really hard shot where he was fading and got his feet down and we guarded that well. I hoped our length would bother him and we kept running guys at him so he couldn't get settled with one guy on him."

"We all had our heads hanging a little bit because we couldn't get defensive rebounds, but as a whole, we were energized and pulled together down the stretch, which is what we have learned to do over the last two years."

West Virginia didn't have a second-leading scorer Alex Ruoff, who injured his shoulder early against Davidson and did an excellent job of switching when Curry tried to use a teammate as a screen, forcing him farther away from the basket. When Curry connected with just under 5 minutes to play, he turned his back at midcourt and let his shoulders slump. The crowd was back on his side and he didn't let them down.

"He is never flustered or frustrated by any adversity that faces him," Davidson coach Bob McKillop said. "I don't know how he does it, but that prevents him from having many shooting nights like he did tonight."

Da'Sean Butler had a career-high 24 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for West Virginia, while freshman Devin Ebanks had 13 points and 17 rebounds.

The Mountaineers finished with a 58-32 rebound advantage, 29-12 on the offensive end.

West Virginia didn't have its two starting guards, but as a whole, we energized and pulled together down the stretch, which is what we have learned to do over the last two years.

"Take any team and take away its two starting guards and see how they do against Davidson, and we had a chance to win the game," Huggins said. "If we get something that goes the other way, I don't know. We had a hard time scoring at the end of the game."

Davidson played without senior guard Max Paulhus Gosselin, the team's best defender, who was suspended for one game by the Southern Conference after he was charged with a flagrant foul in a weekend victory over North Carolina State. That meant Curry had to play all 40 minutes. "We missed Max because with him in the rotation I usually don't play 40 minutes," Curry said. "This was a special situation, but I worked on my endurance over the summer."

Curry had 44 points in that win over the Wolfpack, which followed his scoreless game against the junk defense of Loyola (Md).

This was Davidson's first appearance in Madison Square Garden since the 1972 NIT.

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Notre Dame Women - Connect
Boxers

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we had a lot of young guys, my seniors. A lot of the blue-liners were freshman and sophomores. I thought the young guys have a lot more confidence and experience."

Jackson agreed that the biggest change in Pearce’s game for the season is his consistency.

"He had to be more consistent so he could get rebounds like it was the sixth of his career, tying him with Morgan Cey for the second most in program history."

That first chance to move forward of Cey comes Friday night at Bowling Green. Pearce said he has said that he’s decided which undies he will be packing.

Pearce said watching Brown play, he had to be more consistent with his game. He also said that he has improved a lot from his work with Jackson, who played in Michigan State during his college days.

Jackson’s three goalies have at least one session a week where they work on early and work on very specific technical weak­nesses for each goalie. That group also watches film every week so where they need work.

"Jackson] knows a lot about goaltending. You might not expect that from him being such a great head coach. He is really good at pointing out our subtle details and working on those.

That extra work has Pearce climbing in the Irish record books. His 17 assists was the sixth of his career, tying him with Morgan Cey for the second most in program history.

As the first chance to move ahead of Cey comes Friday night at Bowling Green. Pearce said he hasn’t decided which undies he will be packing.

Contact Dan Murphy at dm602@nd.edu

Belles

continued from page 20

the Belles freshmen. Also in the last two games, nine different Belles all totaled at least five points.

"We are a completely different team this season," Newsom said. "Especially with the addition of a large freshman class. I don’t even think the two seasons are comparable. We defi­nitely missing having her, but we have learned other ways to be a successful team.

"I think we are getting better at our 3-point shooting. We are a completely different team this season," Newsom said.
THE OBSERVER

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

The Observer ◆ TODAY

page 19

BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

LUCY

NOW YOU MUMBLER!

THE DOME PIECE

DAVID CAVADINI

THE DOMINO

CROSSWORD

Across
33 Prefix with -bed
36 Abbr. heredity unit
37 Abbr. ribbon
39 Abbr. truck shape
41 Prefix with -ness
42 Prefix with -ness
43 Prefix with -ness
46 Mediums' meetings
49 Sunken ship (see)
50 Furrowed part of the head
56 Procter's sky-high feeling
60 Twisted cookie
61 Turn at roulade
62 Dark crust
64 Preacher's sky-high feeling
65 Stickly problem

Down
1 Down in history
2 Jim Carey's comedy, Me, Myself & I
3 Kingdom east of Fiji
4 Milk for all it's worth
5 Pay what you view
6 Travel by car
7 Crime related (for)
8 Sign at a pet shop
9 Bikini wearers' markings
10 TV channel for golfers?
11 Spike Franky
12 Shuttle's launch org.
13 Murder
15 Dekkerplant G.I.
16 Greek hrs
17 Pasta and potato-loving country?
19 Former rival of Pan Am
20 Sale price
21 Michelin's Mark
22 Director Kazan
23 Claim on property
24 Split soup
32 Prefix with dynamic
33 Scoop (cap)
34 Cape P.
35 Japanese P.M. during W.W. II
36 Merrel
37 Equine-looking fish
40 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

64 Direction of the wind
65 Sitarist Shankar
66 Lacto-
67 King Kong, e.g.
68 Stewed to the limits
69 Traveller's dream
70 Travel by car
71 Easily related (for)
72 Clickoff

64, 65

WILL SHORTZ

JUMBLE

HENRIardi ARIGION

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arigion

ABOOT

BELAF

PYSEDE

KOOPHU

Answer here:

Saturday's Jumbles: MAGIC BASIC DECENT SEKTON
Answer: What the single women did when they took a cruise — MIERBE THE BOAT

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Dyeley, 30; Allison Smith, 50; John Micahel Dicks, 40
Happy Birthday:Move five and add an alias of your life that really suits you. Taking on something altogether out of the ordinary will be inspiring and refreshing and will give you the boost you need. Look for new opportunities and the belief that abundance is possible. 5 stars.
ABBEY (March 31-April 19): Jump at any chance to take a trip or to learn something new. Don't hesitate to pick up your ticket! Get involved in a group you believe in. This is the time to shine by announcing with others, 3 stars.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you let your personal life get in your way, working with you in this area will be guarded. Put your heart and mind into your work and push your problems to the limit. Now is the time to position yourself for the Jupiter stars.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Every time you take a chance at least do what your project in security comes through for you. Everlasting, hopeful attention will be the key to happiness and prosperity. Think before you act and you will avoid good. 3 stars.
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't overemphasize on someone who may or may not be in your life at the near. The practicality with which you express your opinions can't let you down. 6 stars.
LEO (July 23-Aug 22): Don't let your emotions cloud the way you will find you are traveling down the wrong path. There are plenty of opportunities available. 4 stars.
VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 22): The more you get to your people, the more you will discover about yourself and the people you are being interested in. Your family or people in your family. 4 stars.
LIBRA (Sept 23-Oct 22): Make your plans now for any off time you get during the holiday season. Travel should be taken care of in advance, so do so now. Connecting with someone you haven't seen in a while will be difficult emotionally but will bring some unexpected good results. 3 stars.
SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will send you a wild goose chase that will waste your time and possibly cost you a chance to hook up with people who are an unique and different. 2 stars.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Don't tell your secrets to anyone who may use them against you. You can expect the worst to come out in people when competition arises. Be protective in your actions and you will detour most from messing with you now or in the future. 4 stars.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make adjustments at home that will put your holiday needs at home. If you plan on having guests or inviting someone else, be sure to prepare a property. Or listen to new and set your plan for future benefits. 5 stars.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let your emotions get to the way of an important decision. Be clear about what you want and how things have to be in order to make it work. Do not deviate from the rules, even of a complete decision. 5 stars.
PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You'll be walking a fine line between your position and your making a decision. Don't ask for the things you currently have a chance with someone. It's okay to stop taking advantage but be really honest on favorably. 4 stars.

Saturday's Jumbles: MAGIC BASIC DECENT SEKTON
Answer: What the single women did when they took a cruise — MIERBE THE BOAT

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Recruits happy to learn that Weis will continue to coach ND

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

After the disappointing Irish loss at the hands of Southern California, Weis and the rest of the coaching staff hit the recruiting trail to attempt and convince potential commits that the program was in sure hands. With the uncertainty surrounding the head coaching position, most of the high school prospects currently committed to Notre Dame were hearing recruiting pitches from rival programs. Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame football for Scout.com, knows that Irish commits were bombarded with these sorts of comments.

"I think, originally, they were hearing a bunch of things," Frank said. "Stuff like, 'Coach Weis is not going to be back, he's not going to be coaching them,' and I think the big thing was when Notre Dame finally came out and said something, it made a lot of people more fortifiable with their situation." Frank said he feels that this is the nature of high school recruiting — especially when a season doesn't quite live up to expectations. "Well kids are going to be hearing things from other schools whether you have a 4-6 record or a 9-3 record or even a 11-0 record," Frank said. "That's the nature of the beast. I can't remember too many recruiting classes that have gone by where Notre Dame didn't lose one of their committed players at one point, but they usually gain some guy that nobody knows about as well."

Despite all the other programs attempts to get in the committed players' ears, the Irish coaching staff can restore the "The big thing is, I think you have to battle it from the word go, and say, look, here's what people are going to be saying about us and what's happening here and here's why what they're saying is not true," so I think you have to battle it head on and let people know what is coming," Frank said. "The big thing is staying on top of recruits that they have committed and let them know what to see RECRUITING/page 18

HOCKEY
Senior netminder earns CCHA honors in wins over Ferris St.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

When Notre Dame arrived at Ferris State for a pair of games last weekend, goaltender Jordan Pearce realized that he forgot a key piece of equipment — his lucky boxers. "I forgot the boxers this weekend so I was like, 'Oh, darn,' but didn't really let it bother him," Pearce said. Apparently it didn't. Pearce stopped 25 of the Bulldogs' 56 shots to pick up two more wins and his second shutout of the season on Saturday night — so much for the luck of the Irish.

"If I was really superstitious I would have been so worried about that I might not have gotten ready the same way," he said. Pearce was named the CCHA Goaltender of the Week for his performance at Ferris State. According to Irish coach Jeff Jackson, the award is a good recognition of how well the senior netminder has been playing all year. Pearce is currently second in the CCHA in both goals against average (1.66) and save percentage (.937). Only Alaska's Chad Johnson has slightly better numbers.

"Right now he's playing really well," Jackson said. "I just don't want him to get distracted by the awards or attention, but he's a pretty humble kid." The Alaska native had a red hot month of November. His 1.36 goals against average helped the No. 1 Irish a 12-game win streak, which is currently the longest in the country. The streak includes two shootout victories featuring game-saving stops from Pearce. For his efforts, he was named the B1G Financial Group's CCHA Player of the Week.

"You get confidence the more you play," Pearce said. "Last year I think, originally, they were hearing a bunch of things," Frank said. "Stuff like, 'Coach Weis is not going to be back, he's not going to be coaching them,' and I think the big thing was when Notre Dame finally came out and said something, it made a lot of people more fortifiable with their situation." Frank said he feels that this is the nature of high school recruiting — especially when a season doesn't quite live up to expectations. "Well kids are going to be hearing things from other schools whether you have a 4-6 record or a 9-3 record or even a 11-0 record," Frank said. "That's the nature of the beast. I can't remember too many recruiting classes that have gone by where Notre Dame didn't lose one of their committed players at one point, but they usually gain some guy that nobody knows about as well."

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Team hopes to regain scoring touch vs. UM

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to find its jumpshot after shooting only 34.4 percent its last time out. "We played hard, Mich. when they take on Michigan tonight.

After the offensive struggles against the Buckeyes last weekend, the Irish face another tough test in Thursday's game against 38.3 shooting percentage. "They're a really good defensive team. If you look at what they're doing defensively, by holding teams down, they kind of pack it in and kind of force you to shoot jumpers," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Michigan has surrendered more than 66 points only once this season, a 81-53 loss at USC on Dec. 2. The points per game is even more impressive considering Michigan's schedule so far this season. According to Jackson, Weis will be the fourth top-15 team the Wolverines have played, and Michigan has given up only 68.7 points in those games. Michigan lost to them No. 12 Texas A&M 59-56 and beat then-No. 13 Vanderbuilt "I think we are making progress as a team," Belles coach Jen Henley said. "We need to continue to work on the defensive end of the game and develop our team chemistry." The Belles are turning to seniors Conaty and Katie Rashid to help improve on their 4th place finish in the conference from last year. see BOXERS/page 18

BASKETBALL
Ohio State tough vs. Irish attack

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

With under 10 seconds to play Saturday against Ohio State and Notre Dame needing a three-pointer to tie the game, Kyle McAlarney fired away from at least six feet behind the 3-point line. It was probably the best shot he was going to get.

The Buckeyes stifled Notre Dame's, high powered offense, especially McAlarney and the Irish's 3-point shooting, like no other Irish opponent this season. McAlarney, who entered Saturday's game having hit 10, nine and seven of his 3-point attempts in the last three games, missed all six of his 3-point attempts on Saturday.

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SMC BASKETBALL
Belles set to face Manchester

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Coming off a pair of home wins, the Belles travel to Manchester tonight a 7 p.m. looking for a non-conference victory.

"I think we are making progress as a team," Belles coach Jen Henley said. "We need to continue to work on the defensive end of the game and develop our team chemistry." The Belles are turning to seniors Conaty and Katie Rashid to help improve on their 4th place finish in the conference from last year. see BOXERS/page 18

The Belles took a big step in the right direction with their two MIAA wins last week. The Belles freshmen are also getting plenty of playing time early this season to help replace the loss of Allison Kessler to graduation.

"I think our freshmen class is adjusting well," Henley said. "Our returning players are stepping up and doing their job. We are also having some young players taking advantage of their opportunities by getting more playing time."

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