Playing drums with their feet

McKenna's tap class entertains crowds with dance numbers in South Dining Hall

By KATLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

The hall where students normally sit and eat was transformed into a song and dance concert stage Wednesday night, as the 72 members of Professor James-McKenna's tap dance class soft-shoe and Shirley Templed to several choreographed numbers. Dressed in white tops, black pants and tap shoes, the tap dancers showed off the moves they learned during the semester, from the "Boogie Woogie time step," to an Irish jig and the "reach for the moon" move.

"It's no funny, every semester at the beginning of the course, I show the students the dances they will learn," he said, sitting in his office a few hours before the recital. "And they all laugh and say, 'Oh right, we're going to learn that.'"

But he reassures them that three months from the start of class, they will know the songs. "And it's true," he said. "They all learn it."

Professor James McKenna leads his tap class in a rendition of Soulja Boy at Wednesday's recital.

ND frosh awarded $100K

By TESS CIVANTOS
News Writer

Freshman Kevin McShane plans to quit his dining hall job, now that he won a $100,000 scholarship—by throwing footballs into a giant Dr Pepper can.

The scholarship was part of the Dr Pepper half-time football challenge. Six grand-prize-winning college students each received a trip for two to either the ACC championship game, the SEC championship game or the Big XII championship game.

Two of the six Grand Prize winners attended each game, where they competed for the scholarship at half-time.

McShane chose the Dec. 6 Big XII Championship game, and took his older brother with him.

"We each had an eight-foot-high Dr Pepper can five yards away, and we each had 10 footballs—10 shots each," McShane said.

"It was pretty nerve-wracking," McShane said. "But it was really cold in Kansas City, so it was hard to get really excited!"

He chose the Big XII game because it sounded like the most exciting game out of his options, he said.

"My brother was really mad at me for picking Kansas City over Tampa Bay," McShane said, laughingly.

McShane chose to enter the contest on a whim.

"I saw a promotion on the Dr Pepper Web site for the halftime throw. I figured I could use the money, so why not give it a try?"

Holiday lights increase energy usage

By SARAH MERVOISH
News Writer

Tis the season for the sound of Christmas songs and the smell of Christmas cookies. And 'tis the season for Christmas decorations to adorn campus buildings.

But with strands of lights hanging in dorm hallways, individual dorm rooms and dining halls, it should come as no surprise that the Christmas season is also one of increased energy use.

While in the grand scheme of things Christmas lights are not significantly high-energy users, there are a few ways to decrease the amount of energy used during the Christmas season, said senior Lourdes Long, president of GreenND and an intern in the Office of Sustainability.

Long suggested two main ways to decrease energy use regarding Christmas lights— unplugging Christmas lights when they are not in use, and using Light-emitting diode (LED) lights, which are much more energy efficient.

"Just like the normal light bulb is no longer efficient, the same is true for Christmas lights. LED lights might be a little more expensive but they are sort of the next wave technology wise," Long said.

Scully receives medal from White House

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The student senate unanimously passed a resolution proposing the creation of a committee to work with the Office of Student Affairs to evaluate the University's policies concerning sexual assault during their final meeting this semester.

The resolution was the first ever proposed by the Senate Gender Issues Committee, student body vice president Grant Schmidt said.

Student body president Bob Reish, left, and vice president Grant Schmidt wear 'Stop the Violence' T-shirts at Wednesday's senate.
INSIDE COLUMN

The revised X-mas playlist

On Monday, Analise Lipari published a list of the best Christmas songs. Now, Analise is a really nice person. She’s always super positive, and she was the only Observer staffer who voted for my niece for Cleveland’s cutest baby. She’s also very knowledgeable in all things Scene. However, she really dropped the ball-shaped ornament on this one.

Not only did she show up with some serious clackers, but her Bing Crosby and Amy Grant choices were positively absurd.

I just couldn’t let her version stand as the official list. Please, figure out a lot more people will see this than saw hers, because no one really turns to the Scene page. That sounds mean, but it’s not because Sports is just way better.

On to the new Top 10 (or however many my word count allows):

10. “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” — I’ll give her that one. The “Gloria” part is really fun to sing.
8. “Grown Up Christmas List” by Amy Grant — I agree that Grant’s Christmas album is a staple, and most of the songs are absolutely beautiful. This one is by far the best for the idealistic college student.
7. “In Ho Ho and a Bottle of Rum” by Jimmy Buffett — I don’t know about you, but in my family, it’s just not Christmas without Jimmy Buffett and alcohol. Actually, it’s just not my family without Jimmy Buffett and alcohol.
6. “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” by Bing Crosby — I don’t think this one needs explaining.
5. “The Christmas Song (Drinkin’ Roastin’ an Open Fire)” — Appeals to kids from one to 92. This song has been covered well over 100 times, and after some exhaustive Rhapsody-ing, I decided that Nat King Cole’s original is still the best.
4a. A list with only Bing, Buffett and Bobcat, on “The Regis, Philbin Christmas album.” Didn’t see that coming. I listened to the whole thing, and I didn’t like it.
4b. On my search I also found “The Ann Arbor Chansaw Massacre Christmas Song” by Dead Schembechlers. It was excellent.
3. “This Christmas Day” by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. It’s absolutely impossible to pick one TSO song, but I gave it a shot. I’m already way over my word count, so skipping ahead.
1. “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas” by Gayla Peck — It’s my mom’s favorite, and I haven’t bought her a present yet. Merry Christmas, Mom.

Merry Christmas to everyone else as well!

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

Contact Laura Myers at lamyers2@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards in journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS GOING TO BE THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR CHRISTMAS BREAK?

Chris Toups freshmen
duncan

“Going to the beach.”

Keith Hetrick freshmen

keenan

“Not having to worry about anything.”

Laura McGrady sophomore

mcginn

“Sleeping.”

Paul Hotovy sophomore

keenan

“Roasting chestnuts on my open fire hearth.”

Soren Palumbo sophomore

sortin

“Relief from South Bend weather.”

SPORTS WRITER

The Celebration Choir sings Christmas songs in Coleman-Morse Lounge Wednesday night as part of its concert for Haiti.

OFFBEAT

Calif. KFC workers bathe in sinks

ANDERSON, Calif. — Three employees of a Kentucky Fried Chicken have been suspended for bathing in a deep sink used to clean dishes. The prank was discovered after one of the young women posted photos on a social networking site of the trio posing and cavorting in the streaming water in their underwear and swim wear.

The photos were filed in a gallery called “KFC moments.” Captions included “haha KFC showered” and “haha we turned on the jets.” A manager of the fast-food restaurant said the three were reprimanded and suspended Sunday. She said no manager was on duty when the photos were taken as the three had closed the restaurant for the night.

Cat bites Santa during photo shoot at NJ store

HAMILTON TOWNSHIP, N.J. — Santa Claus posed with a very large kitty on his lap — and now, unfortunately, he might need rabies shots.

Jonathan Bevitt was playing the jolly old elf during a Santa Paws photo event at a Petmart store when he was bitten Sunday on the wrist and hand. The event was to raise money for Penny Angel’s Beagle Rescue group.

The cat and owner disappeared after the incident. At least one person thought it was a bobcat, said Jon Kerr, president of Penny Angel’s. “It had absolutely huge paws, like 3 inches around,” Kerr said.

IN BRIEF

The special lecture “What and When was the Christmas Star? An astrophysics perspective” will be given by Grant Matthews, 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. in the Leighton Concert Hall of DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students and proceeds will benefit the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

The DeBartolo Performing Arts Center will host Cathy Mattias’ Christmas concert Sunday at 2 p.m. in Leighton Concert Hall. Come celebrate the holidays with the one and only Kathy Mattias, USA Today described Mattias as "one of Nashville’s most spiritual singers, and the songs she sings about love lost and humility are as fine as any she has recorded." Mattias’ Christmas performance includes her well-known holiday song "Mary, Did You Know?" among others.

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-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu.
Jewish club celebrates Hanukkah

Event included traditional foods, teaching of feast’s historical roots

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

During the holiday season, it's important to remember that Christmas is not the only celebration that is taking place during this time of year.

For this reason, the Jewish Club of Notre Dame hosted a party that celebrated the Jewish feast of Hanukkah this time of year.

Jewish club president Jenna Zigman said, "Part of our mission is to expose Catholics to Jewish tradition and history."

The event included traditional Hanukkah food as well as the teaching of the story of Hanukkah.

"This gift-giving is also mainly a result of the proximity of Hanukkah to Christmas," Zigman said. "One of the reasons this event is important is because it is right around Christmas time." Zigman said.

The Jewish Club served traditional Hanukkah food such as potato pancakes, known as latkes, and jelly doughnuts.

"Today, the Hanukkah celebration lasts for eight days to commemorate the eight days that the everlasting light remained lit. Attendees at the party on Wednesday learned that on each night of Hanukkah, one candle is lit on a special candelabrum called a menorah." Jenna Zigman

Jewish club president

"One of the reasons this event is important is because it is right around Christmas time." Jenna Zigman Jewish club president

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The Jewish Club served traditional Hanukkah food such as potato pancakes, known as latkes, and jelly doughnuts. The food for Hanukkah is traditional—items that are cooked in grease to commemorate the miracle of the oil.

"A piece of art is always a great gift to give someone for Christmas," Magee said. "It's different than buying something from a general store." Magee added: "I am very excited. It is always fun to see who stops by to look and ends up buying certain pieces that a student may have worked on or worked around all semester, and see it leave the studio for good."

"All crafters are required to receive the Dino art classes at the sale. "The artists each pay $25 to have a table," Call said. "This money goes directly to the 12 Days of Christmas project."

"Today, Jews exchange gifts every night of the eight-day feast.

"The main purpose of the event was to bring greater awareness to a holiday that many students might not know too much about."

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Lessons and Carols to be held at Church

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

In 1981, the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona (NSWC Corona) was established in the city of Corona to support the U.S. Navy's ships and airframes. Yet, three years ago, the center's leadership realized the need for a system in place to identify and train the center's future executive leaders. Promotions had been based primarily on technical, not leadership, skills. And for the long-term strength of the organization, employees would need a strategic way to achieve their career goals.

Enter the Executive Education Program at the University of Notre Dame. A team of educators was not only partnered with NSWC Corona to design an innovative employee development program that mapped career paths with the requisite skills, knowledge and abilities, but provided for a leadership succession plan, among other goals.

Now, the U.S. Department of Defense has been informed of the successful program and introduced the Silver Workforce Development Award for Executive Education in Technology and Logistics Workforce.
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Blue diamond sells for $24.3 million (LONG) — A rare blue diamond has been sold through generations of German royalty for a record-breaking 16.4 million pounds ($24.3 million) Wednesday in London, Christie’s said.**

The Wittelsbach Diamond, a 35.56 carat cushion-shaped gem, has often had its color and clarity compared to the famed Hope Diamond, now on display at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

The rare gem was snapped up by billionaire Russian Alexander Abramov, who had bid $1.5 million in a separate auction in May for a pink diamond.

**Malaysia frees 9/11 accomplice**

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysian officials Monday released a third man accused of helping to plan the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the first to be freed in a showdown over suspects that killed eight people.

Marion County prosecutors said the men on the wiretaps are Dale Hausner and Samuel Dieteman, referring to news reports.

**Northern News**

**Gov. Blagojevich refuses to resign**

Illinois governor will not heed President-elect Obama's suggestion to step down

Associated Press

CHICAGO — His career in shreds, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich clung defiantly to power Wednesday, ignoring a call to step down from President-elect Barack Obama and a warning that Senate Democrats will not let him appoint a new senator from the state.

"Every day he's calling his head," said Barbara Flynn Currie, a leader in the Illinois Senate and a Democrat. "Every day."

One day after Blagojevich's arrest, fellow Illinois politicians sought to avoid the taint of scandal-by-association.

Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. said at a news conference in Washington that he was the Senate's only voice in the government's criminal complaint. "Blagojevich was secretly recorded as saying might be willing to sell his appointment to Obama's vacant Senate seat. Jackson said he had been assured by prosecutors he was not a target of the investigation, and he emphatically said he had not engaged "whatsoever in any wrongdoing."

Other Democrats in Washington edged away from calls for a special election to fill Obama's place in the Senate, hoping that Gov. Pat Quinn would now become governor and fill the vacancy on his own. They would assure the party of holding the seat, and on a faster timeline than any Obama-appointed senator would allow.

Enshrouded in his downtown office, Blagojevich gave no sign he was contemplating his political demise and dispatched his spokes­woman, Raquel Rodriguez, to say it was "business as usual" in his 16th-Floor suite, where he is just a few blocks from Obama's transition headquarters.

"At the end of the day, the top priority for our office is to serve the people, and we have not lost sight of that, nor will we lose sight of that," Quinn said.

One day earlier, federal prosecutors released a thick document that includ­ed excerpts of wiretapped conversations in which the governor allegedly schemed to enrich himself by offering to sell Obama's Senate seat for campaign cash or a lucrative job inside or outside government.

Blagojevich, whose 52nd birthday was Wednesday, is charged with conspiracy and solicitation to commit bribery, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and 10 years, respectively.

More than 24 hours after the arrest, Obama joined other prominent Democrats in his state in calling for Blagojevich's resignation.

"The president-elect agrees with Lt. Gov. Quinn and many others that under the current circum­stances it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people of Illinois," Obama said. "Blagojevich and many others that under the current circum­stances it is difficult for the governor to effectively do his job and serve the people of Illinois." Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs said in response to ques­tions from The Associated Press.

Asked whether Obama supports a special election, Gibbs said Obama believes the Illinois General Assembly should consider how to fill the Senate seat and "put in place a process to select a new senator that will have the trust and con­fidence of the people of Illinois."

Top Senate Democrats were more pointed in a let­ter circulated among the rank and file for signa­tures.

"The Blagojevich resignation, followed by an appoint­ment made by a new gov­ernor, would be the most expeditious way for a new senator to be chosen and seated in a manner that would ensure the confidence of the people of Illinois and all Americans," wrote Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and the party's second-ranking leader, Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois.

They added that if Blagojevich chose to "ignore the request of the Senate Democratic Caucus and make an appointment we would be forced to exercise our Constitutional authority ... to determine whether such a person should be seated."
McShane continued from page 1

McShane said, "I entered my application on the Web site, and I got a call in November that I had won the trip."

McShane worked to win by practicing his throwing accuracy. "I practiced a lot over the Christmas break since, when we play all days on Fridays until dinner," she said. "I decided to start doing that so I had something to do in the morning but dinner, but I drink water or coffee so I don't hydrate myself."

McShane wrote her essay on how drinking Dr Pepper helped her keep his energy up as he played. Surprisingly, McShane said the essay might not have been part of the selection process.

"When we got there, the people from Dr Pepper were talking about how we were picked," McShane said. "We picked randomly. I don't think they even read the essays."

McShane was not one of the original winners chosen, but he was chosen because the initial winners failed to respond, he said.

Besides allowing him to quit his dining hall job, McShane said, "In the long term I'm hoping this will enable me to come out of college with no debt."
Traditional newspaper article text
Assisted suicide televised in Britain

Broadcast shows terminally-ill American during his last moments at Swiss clinic

Associated Press

LONDON — The scene is difficult to watch, even for viewers insured to the subject of dying by a steady diet of violent Hollywood and television fare.

Craig Ewert, a former computer scientist from Chicago, is shown lying in bed with his wife at his side while he takes barbiturates. He asks for a glass of apple juice to mask the bad taste and help him swallow. Then he uses his teeth to turn off his ventilator — and dies on camera.

Britain’s obsession with reality television reached new heights Wednesday — “SUICIDE TV” — and dies on camera.

Photographs of Ewert’s final moments dominated Britain’s newspaper front pages Wednesday — “SUICIDE TV” screamed one tabloid — and prompted a debate in Parliament, where Prime Minister Gordon Brown was quizzed about the propriety of the decision to air the program.

Before he died, Ewert said taking his own life would mean less suffering for himself and his family.

“If I go through with it, I die as I must at some point,” he says in the documentary, which chronicles his 2006 decision to take his own life after being diagnosed with degenerative motor neuron disease.

“If I don’t go through with it, my choice is essentially to suffer, and to inflict suffering on my family, and then die.”

Care Not Killing, an anti-euthanasia group aligned with the Catholic Church and other religious organizations in Britain, denounced the broadcast as “a cynical attempt to boost television ratings” and persuaded Parliament to legalize assisted suicide.

“There is a growing appetite from the British public for increasingly bizarre reality shows,” said the group’s director, Peter Saunders.

“We’d see it as a new milestone. It glorifies assisted dying when there is a very active campaign by the pro-suicide lobby to get the issue back into Parliament.”

Mary Ewert wrote in the British press Wednesday that her husband had been enthusiastic about having his final moments televised.

“He was keen to have it shown because when death is hidden and private, people don’t face their fears about it,” she said, adding that he wanted viewers to understand that assisted suicide allowed him to die comfortably rather than enduring a long, drawn out and painful demise.

The documentary by Oscar-winning director John Zaritsky has previously been shown on Canadian and Swiss TV and at numerous film festivals, where it provoked little controversy. But it struck a raw nerve in Britain, where the divisive debate over assisted suicide remains unresolved.

Zaritsky said it would have been “less than honest” to make the film without showing the actual suicide because it would have left viewers wondering if the death was unpleasant, cruel, or carried out against Ewert’s will.

“By putting it out there, and putting it out there in its entirety, people can judge for themselves,” he said, adding that the documentary gives viewers an insight into how assisted suicide would work if it is legalized in more places.

Originally called “The Suicide Tourist,” the film was renamed “Right to Die?” for its British broadcast on Sky TV’s Real Lives digital channel, which draws far fewer viewers than the network’s myriad news, sports or movie shows. Still, it generated enormous publicity, with clips shown throughout the day on Sky News and rival channels.

The televised suicide in Britain follows a well-publicized case in Florida, where a teenager killed himself on camera last month and broadcast the chilling images live on an Internet site.

Ewert, who was living in Britain when he became ill, went abroad to end his life because assisted suicide is illegal in Britain.

In the film, he says he wanted to take action before the disease, which destroys cells that control essential muscle activity such as speaking, walking, breathing and swallowing, left him completely incapacitated.
Senators urge probe of fighter jet crash

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — California Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer joined the call for the Marine Corps to review its entire fleet of F/A-18D Hornet jets after a fiery crash killed two young girls, their mother and their grandmother.

In a joint letter Wednesday, the two senators asked Gen. James Conway, Marines commandant, to quickly complete the investigation of Monday’s crash and make the results public.

“We can all agree that in urban areas like San Diego County, where the military and civilian populations closely coexist, it is absolutely vital that all precautionary steps are taken to ensure the safety of both our civilian and military residents,” the letter read.

Marine spokesman Maj. David Nevers had no immediate comment on the request.

Initial reports suggest the jet may have suffered engine failure on a training exercise after takeoff from the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln about 50 miles offshore from San Diego. The jet was returning from an offshore training mission when it clipped a tree and slammed into the neighbor

dom area. The jet may have suffered engine

 ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jimmy Clausen of San Diego has been watching the Marine Corps since he was a child.

House Armed Services Committee.

The crash killed three people, including the children and their mother, in San Diego. The Marine Corps has not released the names of those killed.

Feinstein and Boxer asked Conway to quickly complete the investigation of Monday’s crash and make the results public.

“The crash was probably unrelated to the previous discovery of cracks in hinges on the wings of more than a dozen of the $57 million aircraft, the San Diego-area congressman said.

Boxer and Feinstein also urged the Marines to assist people affected by the crash, particularly Dong Yun Yoon, a Korean immigrant whose family perished when the plane hit his home near the base.

Yoon had asked for guidance from people who have suffered “more terrible things” at a news conference Tuesday. His appearance at the news conference was interrupted by a military jet flying overhead.

His church had identified his two daughters, Grace, 15 months, and Rachael, 2 months; and his mother, Suk Im Kim, 60. Kim was visiting from South Korea to help her daughter move across town and adjust to the arrival of her second child.

He said the overeating may be driven more by the need for calories than a preference for fatty foods. Fat is just a good way to get those extra calories.

“Bite for bite, there are more calories in a Big Mac than there are in an apple,” said Leibel, who wrote an editorial that accompanied the study in the journal.

A recent study in the Amish community increased risk of obesity, and carriers of two copies had almost a 70 percent increased risk.

The gene variation is also found in other populations; the frequency in Chinese is increased risk.

The frequency in Chinese is increased risk of obesity, and carriers of two copies had almost a 70 percent increased risk.

The gene variation is also found in other populations; the frequency in Chinese is increased risk.

They ate 100 extra calories per meal, which over the long term can put on weight, said Colin Palmer, who led the study at the University of Dundee in Scotland.

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The findings don’t mean that everyone with that version of the gene will eat too much and become obese, he said. They just might have a tendency to eat more fattening foods.

“It’s still your choice,” he said. “This gene will not make you overweight if you do not overeat.”

Palmer said the results support the theory that childhood obesity today could be connected to the widespread availability and low cost of high-calorie foods.

The research is published in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine.

The children were given three meals at school to evaluate their eating behavior. The meal included a mix of fruits and vegetables, ham, cheese, potato chips, chocolate candies and bread rolls.

The researchers found that children with the gene variation showed no difference in metabolic rates, levels of physical activity or the amount of food eaten.

“The only thing we could find was the fact that they were eating much richer foods,” said Palmer.

On average, those with the gene variant ate 100 calories more than those without it.

“I don’t know why. Most of the other genes thought to affect body weight influence appetite,” he said.

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Twas the night before finals when all thru the JACC,
Not a creature was stirring, not even K-Mac.
The netting was strung from the hoops with great care,
In hopes that the Legion soon would be there.
The freshmen were studying all quiet in CoMo,
While visions of plane flights started to grow.
And prods with their coffee, some with their tea,
Were writing the finals we all wished to see.
When out at the Gug there arose such a clatter,
Coach Weis had just realized that losses do matter.
Away to the window he limped very slow,
The swelling on his knee was starting to grow.
Looking out on the fields where they practiced all year,
A loss to the Warriors he started to fear.
He tossed me a stone with a gleam in his eye,
And in the darkness, yet another clatter.
Santa did come, he told me with joy,
The blue on the can so bright and magical.
It must have been a Christmas Miracle.
Not even the gunshots could cause them to stop.
The blue on the can so bright and magical,
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Bob Kessler
House of Six

I entered the house while my roommate did say,
"We're dogs to the Warriors on the Eve of Christmas Day?"
Embarrassed I was with the madness of that,
I symbolically threw down my Notre Dame hat.
As I entered the kitchen and found a cookie,
I picked up my phone and called my bookie.
They'll cover the spread, I said almost laughing.
Blinking is hard, but at least I'm not rapping.
I opened the fridge looking for my tasty stone,
A problem I saw, our fridge was dry to the bone.
I went right outside in the snow to our neighbors,
But they only had Bud, not the smooth Keystone flavors.
To the stores I thought, to buy me a rack,
I retired to my room all ready for bed,
Clouds of disappointment danced through my head.
Finals were coming, and I couldn't quite think,
I desperately needed that light and smooth drink.
In the morning I'd wake and go back to my work,
Because tests and papers continued to lurk.
And in the darkness, yet another clatter.
Coach Weis had just realized that losses do matter.
Away to the window he limped very slow,
The swelling on his knee was starting to grow.
Looking out on the fields where they practiced all year,
A loss to the Warriors he started to fear.
He tossed me a stone with a gleam in his eye,
And in the darkness, yet another clatter.
Santa did come, he told me with joy,
The blue on the can so bright and magical.
It must have been a Christmas Miracle.
Not even the gunshots could cause them to stop.
As he left the room and walked out of sight,
I said Merry Christmas. Have a good night.
Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The Observer

Thursday, December 11, 2008

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dropping the bowl

To whom it may concern,

Thank you so much for choosing to accept a bid to the Hawaii Bowl on Dec. 24, 2008. To quote our outstanding senior receiver and captain David Grimes, "Nice weather, beautiful women,"... sounds great to me.

It is so smart that you chose such a convenient bowl for Notre Dame fans to attend. First of all, the trip is not that far away and definitely cheaper than a trip to Hawaii, so it would be pretty easy, the trip takes no time at all, and I know that the hotels there are relatively inexpensive.

Also, I know that hardly anyone at this University celebrates Christmas. I would never expect members of the Notre Dame family to have already made plans away the highlight of their marching band season is also another great idea. I know that none of our school's songs or cheers will be performed, but the band never quit. We kept on cheering. Even Charlie, he hates the band... but one of your home games and the Irish fans, in a foreign stadium, appreciate it.

So, I hope that our football team, their families and our administrators have a great time in Hawaii. Enjoy yourselves, wear lots of suntan lotion, and don't get too discouraged by the lack of blue and gold in the stands at the game. I hope Santa finds you all in Hawaii, Go Irish, and have a Merry Christmas.

Happy Holidays,

Matt Babcock
Junior
Santa Barbara
Dec. 10

I was like to start by saying how honored I am to be a part of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish Band Tradition. I have faithfully practiced, performed and cheered on the Irish for four years. Not everyone makes the cut, so I understand we are not entitled to nothing. Being part of a tradition larger than yourself is a gift.

The most amazing part of this year was our starred trip to USC. It took a lot of donations and a lot of manpower in planning the trip, and I am forever in debt to all those who put effort into it. It was awesome. The band lived up to expectations and beyond. We out-performed and out-rassed about the fight before the game. I remember, with our students going crazy for all 90-plus minutes of an overtime thriller.

I have never seen a team like this before in any sport. The way you carried yourselves could not be paralleled, and the inspiration you generated cannot be surpassed. During a time when we all tend to lose sight of what playing for Notre Dame is all about, you showed us that sports can still be pure.

To the coaching staff, the trainers, and the entire team:

Thanks for keeping the magic alive. Go Irish!

Dan C. Collins
Junior
Alumni Hall
Dec. 9

University workers deserve respect

To the supporters of CLAP and others who seek better pay for University workers of the Dining Halls for their consistent performance in food quality and juxtaposed with tangerine-topped goods department.

Most of all, I remember how you carried yourselves can not be paralleled. I have never seen a team like this before in any sport. The way you carried yourselves could not be paralleled, and the inspiration you generated cannot be surpassed. During a time when we all tend to lose sight of what playing for Notre Dame is all about, you showed us that sports can still be pure.

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Daniel C. Collins
Junior
Alumni Hall
Dec. 9

BAD MINDING ON BOWL

I was embarrassed about the game even started, and even more embarrassed by the lack of cohesion in our team. We are not a team anymore. The band lived up to expectations and beyond. We out-performed and out-rassed about the fight before the game. I remember, with our students going crazy for all 90-plus minutes of an overtime thriller.

I have never seen a team like this before in any sport. The way you carried yourselves could not be paralleled, and the inspiration you generated cannot be surpassed. During a time when we all tend to lose sight of what playing for Notre Dame is all about, you showed us that sports can still be pure.

To the coaching staff, the trainers, and the entire team:

Thanks for keeping the magic alive. Go Irish!

Daniel C. Collins
Junior
Alumni Hall
Dec. 9

Good luck with exams!

during the coldest night I can remember the die-hard local fans cheered you by name until their toes was a plate worthy of royalty. The special dishes were all delicious and deserves proper recognition. The quality prime rib doused in Au Jus and juxtaposed with tangerine-topped salmon and delectable scalloped potatoes was a plate worthy of royalty.

I consumed the best mousse of my life last night and I want to thank the workers of the Dining Halls for their consistent performance in food quality especially in the desserts and baked goods department.

If only we could have these special dinners more often...

Mark Endy
Junior
Kerrey Hall
Dec. 9

More praise for ND soccer

To the women's soccer team: "Football" is known as the beautiful game ... I never understood what that meant until I saw the way you played this year. Having attended all but one of your home games and travelled to NC for the College Cup, I can barely express in words how amazing it was to witness your magical season.

When I look back, I remember seemingly endless good times and amazing moments. I remember the countless young soccer players who watched in awe and dreamed of suiting up for the Irish one day. I remember the die-hard local fans who made it out to every game and cheered you by name until their voices were gone. I remember a packed house against Minnesota during the coldest night I can remember, with our students going crazy for all 90-plus minutes of an unforgettable Christmas dinner served yesterday. The special dishes were all delicious and deserve proper recognition. The quality prime rib doused in Au Jus and juxtaposed with tangerine-topped salmon and delectable scalloped potatoes was a plate worthy of royalty.

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Mark Endy
Junior
Kerrey Hall
Dec. 9

Religion and football

I am writing in response to the Viewpoint letter "Comments on Weis" by Peter Hellas. In his letter, Hellas covers such topics as his high school football days, his cable TV show, Weis' obesity, Vince Lombardi and a "dumb spirit called Titan."

I wasn't sure what the point was, but at some stage it seemed like he was saying Weis' failure to become a spiritual role model has something to do with the football team losing.

As much as you'd like it to, Catholicism has nothing to do with winning football games.

Kevin Sullivan
Senior
Stafford Hall
Dec. 9

To the women's soccer team: "Football" is known as the beautiful game ... I never understood what that meant until I saw the way you played this year. Having attended all but one of your home games and travelled to NC for the College Cup, I can barely express in words how amazing it was to witness your magical season.

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Junior
Kerrey Hall
Dec. 9

Good luck with exams!

( The pleas for letters will return next semester)
By JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Hap may not be for everyone, though Kanye West seems to be the persistent exception to this rule.

While a lot of listeners are skeptical of rap’s “Born-Again” newfoundness, the genre’s radio hits blast at parties, dances, and Legos’ Hip-Hop Night. Unfortunately, anyone with media access, ears, or a pulse knows Kanye West. After hits like “Gold Digger” and “Stronger,” West’s celebrity is ubiquitous in the entertainment business. His most recent release, “808s & Heartbreak,” is another excellent addition to his wildly successful discography that includes the “College Dropout” and “Late Registration.”

This new album rises to the daunting challenge of satisfying prevailing fans while also appealing to an even wider selection of music listeners. Focusing more on R&B and hip-hop than his previous releases, “808s & Heartbreak” continues to display West’s undeniable musical talent and prove his ability to blend what can only be called poetry with an extensive mix of musical influences.

“808s & Heartbreak” displays West’s vocal capabilities, which is often overlooked because of his compelling rap. Velvety and smooth vocals create a subtle power, vocal advantages which persist subtly throughout all the tracks. Additionally, airy chorus chanting and beautiful violin/strings instrumentation are frequently found in the tracks. “RoboCop” about a “spoiled little LA girl” utilizes the string backup subtly. “Paranoid” has a 1980s pop style that is both passed and simultaneously musically relevant and likeable. Overall, the subtle instrumental elements and West’s distinctive dictions and vocals, unlike the varying experiments in sound and emotions.

Focusing more on R&B and hip-hop than his previous releases, “808s & Heartbreak” continues to display West’s undeniable musical talent and genius ability to blend what can only be called poetry with an extensive mix of musical influences.

808s & Heartbreak
Kanye West

Label: Roc-A-Fella Records

Recommended Tracks: “Love Lockdown,” RoboCop and “See You In My Nightmares”

By JORDAN GAMBLE
Scene Writer

On Friday, take a break from “study­ing” (or whatever happens on study days) to check out the winter concert of the Undertones. Notre Dame’s men’s a cappella group, Scene talked to sophomore Griffin Dassatti about this weekend’s concert and other upcoming events for the Undertones. Scene: What is the Undertones’ winter concert like?

Dassatti: The winter concert is one of our favorite events of the year, and we’ve been preparing for it basically since our last concert in late December. We’ll be doing a lot of our traditional stuff, along with a few new numbers and, of course, some Christmas music just in time for the season. So far the response has been pretty good. I guess a lot of people like the idea of taking a break from studying Friday night.

Scene: What is the process like for arranging a cappella performances?

Dassatti: We arrange all of our own music, and some of the stuff we’ll sing on Friday was done by guys currently in the group, while others were taken from years past. As for how we arrange, I’d say there are two basic methods we tend to follow. Sometimes we’ll get a copy of the sheet music and directly transpose the notes the instruments are playing, meaning we’re literally doing the song a cappella. With other songs though, we might use that method as a basis and then add our own flair to it.

Scene: Who else is in the Undertones?

Dassatti: There are 12 of us in the group. 11 currently here. We have two sophomores (myself and Kyle Neilman), five juniors (Dominic Go, Mike Flattery, Tom Ronan, Mike Mahoney, and Chris Meister) and four seniors (Brian Green, Tim Cummings, Ben Willis, and Robert Curry). One other junior, Scott Architect, is in London this semester but he’ll switch places with Meister, who leaves in the spring for Cairo.

As for leadership, it kind of depends on what you’re looking for. Brian is our musical director, I’m the business manager — I’m in charge of organizing concerts/events/etc. — and Robert is our tour manager.

Scene: What kind of practice or meeting schedule do you have leading up to a concert?

Dassatti: Aside from a lot of small University events, we have four major concerts planned for this year. The first one was back in September, when we released our latest album, “Stranded.” We’ll have our traditional semester concerts — this Friday’s and one in the spring — and we’ve also planned an Undertones reunion concert for Feb. 28. There will be a lot of “Tunes alumni coming back to sing that one, and it’ll be a really great time.

Scene: What is the Undertones winter tour going to be like?

Dassatti: We’ll be touring for the second half of Christmas Break. We’ll start in Indianapolis and then spend a little over a week down south with stops in Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and Louisiana. Tours in general are a great time because you get to go around the country, meeting a lot of really cool people and just singing for people, which we love.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu
**Pizza on demand. This will let in the dorm or in the dining hall.**

**This week’s recipes:**

1. **English muffin pizzas**
   - 1. Toast an English muffin.
   - 2. Ladle some marinara sauce over each half of the English muffin.
   - 3. Top with cheese, vegetables and meats. There are options all over the dining hall. Look to the salad bar for bell peppers, shredded mozzarella and cheddar, red onion, banana peppers and mushrooms. Use the Mexican Bar for black olives and sliced chicken. Try the pasta bar for meatballs you can cut in half.
   - 4. Heat your entire pizza in the microwave until the cheese melts.

2. **Pour some honey into a bowl**
   - 1. Pick up a corn bread, feta and corn bread mix.
   - 2. Pour some honey into a bowl and toss together with the tomatoes and crumbled feta cheese.
   - 3. Break up the corn bread into bite-sized pieces and mix together with the tomatoes and crumbled feta cheese.
   - 4. Pour some of the honey mixture over each half of the English muffin.

**Feta, tomato, and corn bread sandwich**

Corn bread is delicious, but it rarely serves as more than the bread to go with the rest of your meal. This recipe mixes it with other ingredients to make a savory salad. Sadly, corn bread is not offered every day in the dining hall, but it does pop up pretty regularly, so keep an eye out!

1. Pick up a corn bread, feta cheese and diced tomatoes.
2. Pour some honey into a bowl and a couple splashes of balsamic vinegar to thin it out just a bit. Mix.

**English muffin pizzas**
These are an easy and tasty option whether you’re at home, in the dorm or in the dining hall. Pizza on demand. This will let you skip the long lines at North’s pizza bar, while still letting you choose some of your own ingredients.

1. Toast an English muffin until it browns.
2. Ladle some marinara sauce over each half of the English muffin.
3. Top with cheese, vegetables and meats. Use the Mexican Bar for black olives and sliced chicken. Try the pasta bar for meatballs you can cut in half.
4. Heat your entire pizza in the microwave until the cheese melts.

**Feta, tomato, and corn bread salad**

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1. Pick up a corn bread, feta cheese and diced tomatoes.
2. Pour some honey into a bowl and a couple splashes of balsamic vinegar to thin it out just a bit. Mix.
Tebow goes for second straight Heisman

Oklahoma's Bradford and Texas' McCoy to join Tebow as Heisman Trophy finalists in New York City this weekend

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tim Tebow will go for two against a pair of talented quarterbacks from Big Ten schools as he seeks a second Heisman Trophy is handed out Saturday night.

The Associated Press revealed Wednesday that Jones, who was named Heisman winner by his coaches in Oklahoma last season, will not practice Wednesday. He was pulled from the pile awkwardly by a Pittsburgh player. But Jones played the rest of the game. It was Jones' first game back after being away near the second time he has been banned by commissioner Roger Goodell for off-field woes.

Jones was not in the locker room Wednesday when it was opened to reporters and not available for comment.
**MLB**

Milwaukee pitcher CC Sabathia throws during the fifth inning of a Brewers home game. Sabathia and the New York Yankees are closing in on a seven-year, $161 million contract that would be a record for a pitcher.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — There is no recession for the New York Yankees.

Flexing the economic muscle of their new billion-dollar ballpark and ignoring industries-wide nervousness over big-money deals, the Yankees landed the top free-agent pitcher when they agreed Wednesday to the framework of a $161 million, seven-year contract with CC Sabathia.

The amount is a record for a pitcher and the fourth-highest ever in baseball. It signaled a new willingness by the Yankees to spend in an attempt to regain dominance and win the World Series for the first time since 2000.

"I'm sure every team in baseball would love to have him. He's a guy who's an intimidating factor on the mound," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said at the winter meetings.

Sabathia's contract figure seems quite appropriate — in February the Yankees move across the World Series for the fourth-highest ever in baseball.

The Associated Press

**Yankees, Sabathia reach agreement**

The Associated Press

**NBA**

**In Brief**

Cassel leaves Patriots after father's death

San Jose, Calif. — New England Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel left the team Wednesday to join his family following the death of his father earlier in the week.

"Our thoughts are with him and his family during this time," Coach Bill Belichick said before practice. "Right now we're just taking it day by day. He's going to take care of what he has to do.

Belichick said that Greg Cassel died Monday night and Matt has left the team to be with his family in Southern California. Belichick said he didn't know when Cassel would rejoin the team or whether he would be able to start Sunday against the Oakland Raiders.

The Patriots are practicing this week in San Jose. They stayed on the West Coast after last Sunday's 24-21 win in Seattle.

Matt Cassel is from Norridge in the Los Angeles area and his father and mother Barbara died when he was 14. Greg Cassel was a script writer.

Suns acquire Richardson from Bobcats for Diaw, Bell

Phoenix — The Phoenix Suns jettisoned two familiar players to Charlotte, and got the Bobcats' leading scorer in exchange.

The 6-foot-6 Richardson is a two-time NBA slam dunk champion and an accomplished 3-point shooter who is averaging 18.7 points this season and 18.8 for his pro career.

Brett, a first-team all-defensive team selection in 2006-07 and second team last season, had made it clear he was not happy with the Suns switch from coach Mike D'Antoni's high-flying style to the more deliberate approach of new coach Terry Porter. He's averaging 9.4 points this season.

Owner says AFL could call off 2009 season

New York — The Arena Football League is poised to call off its 2009 season, the owner of its Los Angeles franchise told a newspaper.

Avengers owner Casey Wasserman said in a story posted on the Los Angeles Times' Web site Wednesday that the AFL needs to take the time to become more efficient because of the poor economy.

Wasserman is a former league chairman and one of the AFL's major power brokers.

Avengers spokesman John Tamanaha confirmed to The Associated Press that the team expects the 2009 season to be canceled. Wasserman told the newspaper the decision was not official, but he expected owners to vote to approve it this week.

The 16-team league has repeatedly delayed the start of free agency and the release of its 2009 schedule after an offseason of uncertainty.

**Around the Dial**

**Men's Basketball**

**AP Top 25**

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**Women's Basketball**

**AP Top 25**

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**MIAA Basketball**

**Conference Standings**

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\,
Sacred Heart  | 2-0               |
| Adrian         | 1-0               |
| CalPoly        | 1-1               |
| Trine          | 1-1               |
| Olivet         | 0-0               |
| Duke           | 0-1               |
| Assumption     | 0-2               |
| Kalamazoo      | 0-2               |

**NBA**

Celtics at Wizards

Trail Blazers at Jazz

8:00 p.m., TNT
Mullen named next MSU coach

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen will be the new football coach at Mississippi State, moving from the Southeastern Conference champions to one of the league’s perennial cellar dwellers.

Mullen arrived in Starkville on Wednesday afternoon and will be introduced at a news conference Thursday morning. He leaves Gainesville as the SEC’s first black football coach. Since

order to please fans, boosters and Byrne, but that Byrne wanted to head in a new direction.

While Groom was credited with improving the overall talent at Mississippi State despite NCAA sanctions he inherited, the former NFL assistant coach at Alabama could never get his complicated and conservative run-first version of the West Coast offense into gear.

The Bulldogs never cracked the top 100 under Groom and finished 113th out of 119 Bowl Subdivision teams with 274.9 yards per game of total offense and 115th in scoring with 15.3 points per game this season.

Byrne said he was looking for a coach who could juggle up that woeful offense and got him. Mullen led the Gators to a team record for points in a season this year and has Tebow in the running for a second Heisman Trophy.

He also helped develop quarterback Alex Smith into a No. 1 overall pick in the NFL draft as quarterbacks coach at Utah.

The Gators led the nation in scoring last year and are third this season with 45.5 points per game. Mullen directs the nation’s No. 18 offense (442.4 yards per game) and No. 11 rushing offense (292.7 ypg).

The Gators ran a spread option offense, the kind of attack that would match the skills of incoming quarterback Tyler Russell of Meridian, the Bulldogs’ top recruit who has left his nonbinding oral commitment to Mississippi State in place despite Croom’s departure.

Mullen is expected to begin recruiting immediately in an attempt to hold together the promising class Croom put together before resigning.

Mississippi State’s new coach spent two seasons apiece as wide receivers coach at Wagner and Columbia from 1994-97 after graduating from Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pa., where he played tight end.

He then spent three seasons as a graduate assistant at Syracuse and Notre Dame, where he met Meyer and later followed him to Bowling Green.

“He’s a great coach,” Meyer said. “I made a comment (when) someone wrote an article about us and I said, ‘Boy, his resume is pretty good.’” Meyer said. “When you work with a guy, you don’t realize it. He’s been with me as a graduate assistant at Notre Dame, we went together to Bowling Green, developed Josh Harris, went from there to Alex Smith at Utah, and then came here and Chris Leak and Tim. So the resume is pretty strong and I wish him all the best.”

They’re never too young to learn tradition

Share the excitement and tradition of Notre Dame football with your children this Christmas with A is for Ara: The ABCs of Notre Dame Football. This richly illustrated hardcover book will introduce your children to the greatest legends of ND football while they learn their ABCs!

Available at Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore or order online at Amazon.com or aisforara.com.

Written by Sean Callahan

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*Finals Week: December 15-18: 7am to 3:00am
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Good Luck with Finals

NCAA Football
UT’s Orakpo wins Lombardi Award

Associated Press
HOUSTON — Texas defensive end Brian Orakpo won the Rotary Lombardi Award on Wednesday night, the first Longhorn to take home the trophy in 24 years.
Orakpo is the first Houston native to win the Lombardi, awarded by the city's Rotary Club to the nation's top college lineman or linebacker. He's the third Texas player to win it, and the first since offensive tackle Tony Degrate in 1984. Texas defensive tackle Kenneth Sims won it in 1981.
The 6-foot-4, 260-pound Orakpo already won the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, awarded by the Charlotte Touchdown Club to the nation's top defensive player, and was the Big 12's Defensive Player of the Year. Orakpo finished the regular season with 10.5 sacks, 15.5 tackles for loss and four forced fumbles.
Orakpo beat out Ohio State linebacker James Laurinaitis, Southern Cal linebacker Rey Maualuga and Alabama offensive lineman Andre Smith. At a banquet before the announcement, the other finalists practically conceded the award to Orakpo, who played at nearby Lamar High School.

They've been saying, 'Give the award to 'Rak already,'" Orakpo said. "It's just fun to be out here. I started my career here in Houston and for a major collegiate award to be presented in Houston, it's a 1-2 combo. You can't beat that."
The Longhorns (11-1) face the Buckeyes (10-2) in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 1, but Orakpo said he's still upset that Texas won't get to play for the national championship three days later. The Longhorns beat Oklahoma earlier in the season, but the Sooners will face Florida for the title because they finished ahead of Texas in the Bowl Championship Series standings.
"It was very unfortunate, but we have to move on," Orakpo said.
Maualuga can relate. An early loss to Oregon State ruined Southern Cal's championship hopes and the Trojans (11-1) will play Penn State (11-1) in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 1.
"We can't show how good we are when we can't play teams like Florida or Alabama or Texas," said Maualuga, the Pac-10's Defensive Player of the Year. "Hopefully, down the line, there's a playoff system. As for now, we've just been happy we get to play in the Rose Bowl."

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NCAABasketball

Griffin, Sooners overwhelm Maine

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Blake Griffin had another double-double and Oklahoma remained undefeated.

The 6-foot-10 sophomore had 22 points and 10 rebounds to lead the fifth-ranked Sooners to a 78-52 victory over Maine on Wednesday night.

Griffin made his first six shots and finished 11-of-13 from the field in recording his seventh double-double of the season. He played 22 minutes and 14 of his points came on dunks.

Oklahoma (9-0) is off to its best start since the 2003-04 team opened with 10 straight wins.

"Hopefully we can keep it going all season," Griffin said. "It goes back to not taking anyone lightly. We can't stop there. We can't be satisfied with what we do in nine or 10 games."

Freshman Willie Warren added 19 points and reserve Ray Willis had 13 points for the Sooners, who shared the spotlight with the Oklahoma football team.

At halftime, the football Sooners were given a rousing ovation as they celebrated their third straight Big 12 championship. No. 2 Oklahoma faces top-ranked Florida on Jan. 8 in the BCS championship game.

Mark Sweddy had 10 points to lead the Black Bears (5-5), who shot 29 percent from the field and had 20 turnovers.

"We knew we had our work cut out coming in here," Maine coach Ted Woodward said. "They have a tremendous player in Blake Griffin. We were a little bit physically overmatched."

Griffin, who has had 15 or more rebounds in a game six times this season, had three blocks, three assists and two steals. He left the game for good with 5:54 to play and the Sooners ahead 71-40.

Oklahoma led by as many as 23 points in the first half and was ahead by as many as 32 in the second. The Sooners had 28 points off turnovers while committing only nine themselves.

Tony Crocker had 10 points for Oklahoma, which shot 45 percent from the field, but was 7-of-28 from 3-point range.

"I'm pleased with the win," Oklahoma coach Jeff Capel said. "Our athleticism overwhelmed them a little bit, a lot of people who can match up with him (Griffin) physically."
Plaxico loses one million from NY

Giants wide receiver Plaxico Burress will miss out on $1 million of his signing bonus after shooting himself in the leg.

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants have refused to pay suspended receiver Plaxico Burress a $1 million portion of a signing bonus from a contract signed in September.

NFL Players Association union spokesman Carl Francis confirmed Wednesday evening that the Super Bowl champions decided to not make the payment, which was due Wednesday.

"We will file a claim in the appropriate forum to enforce his right to receive and keep the monies entitled to him under his player contract," Francis said in an e-mail.

Giants general manager Jerry Reese waved his hands earlier in the day when asked whether the team would make the payment.

The union on Tuesday filed a grievance challenging the Giants' decision to suspend and fine Burress last week, just days after the Super Bowl hero accidentally shot himself in a Manhattan nightclub on Nov. 29.

The union said the team violated the collective bargaining agreement by suspending Burress on the reserve-non football injury list, pending him for a game and fining him two weeks pay for missing a team meeting in September. The two sides eventually agreed to cut the fine in half, saving Burress about one game's pay — more than $200,000.

The shooting was the latest run-in that Burress has had with the Giants since signing as a free agent in 2005. He has admitted to being fined dozens of times for violating team rules. In addition to his suspension in September, he also was fined $45,000 by the league for abusing an official and throwing a ball into the stands in a game with San Francisco on Nov. 19.

Burress accidentally shot himself at the Latin Quarter nightclub, less than 48 hours before the Giants played the Washington Redskins. The 31-year-old was not going to play in the game because of a hamstring injury.

Burress faces charges of criminal possession of a weapon relating to the shooting. He pleaded not guilty. He is due back in court on March 31.

The focus of the investigation the past week has been on the rule of Giants middle linebacker Antonio Pierce. He talked to investigators on Friday about the shooting. Neither Pierce's attorney nor the police would reveal what was said.

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Associated Press

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GOOD LUCK ON FINALS!

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Eugene/Southern Oregon ~ Fairfield County ~ Fort Worth ~ Germany ~ Gettysburg
Greater Boston ~ Greater Orlando ~ Greater Sarasota ~ Greater Tampa Bay
Greensburg/Uniontown ~ Hanover Township ~ Harrisburg ~ Houston ~ Idaho
Jersey Shore ~ Kalamazoo ~ Kokomo ~ Lansing ~ Laredo ~ Las Vegas
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Marion ~ Maryland ~ McHenry County ~ Memphis ~ Mid Hudson Valley ~ Nashville
North Florida ~ Northeastern New York ~ Northwestern Wisconsin
Northern Alabama ~ Northern Colorado ~ Northern New Mexico ~ Oklahoma City
Orange County ~ Palm Beaches ~ Pensacola ~ Philadelphia ~ Pioneer Valley
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- John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163
- Dr. Swan Swier-Pakulski, Counseling Center, 631-4865
- Ann E. Kline, Health Services
- Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 631-7163

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Skrba
continued from page 24

Michigan's offensive rebounding helped them kill clock on its next possession. Notre Dame's chances even though they didn't result in points, McGraw said. "It took time away, even though they didn't score," she said. "It took time we needed on Nov. 29 and had not played since then. "She played well, she did a lot of good things," McGraw said. "She defended well, she rebounded well. I thought actually she had the best game of anyone." Michigan guard Becca Bruszewski finished with 16 points on 4-for-5 shooting. Guard Melissa Lechlitner had 11 assists and helped the Wolverines even the game and overtime. Barlow and Bruszewski scored to start the second half and Notre Dame went up five, its largest lead of the game, but Minnfield's 3-pointer helped the Wolverines even the score. The score flip-flopped until 5:35, when Barlow and Solomon sank shots to give Notre Dame a 50-46 lead. Skrba made a jumper, 1:19 left, and Minnfield hit two free throws to tie the score, and fouled Barlow. M i n f i e l d made sure Michigan got the time it needed. In the first half, guard Mallory hit a 3-pointer to put the Irish ahead by four, but they fell behind 10-9 with 15:40 to go. Mallory hit a 3 to regain a two-point lead, but the score yeared back and forth until Wolverine guard Carmen Reynolds hit a 3-pointer to put Michigan up five with 7:16 left in the first half. Bruszewski made two free throws and a jumper to give Notre Dame the lead, which it held going into the half. "We had lots of opportunities," McGraw said. "We just didn't take advantage." The Irish travel to face Valparaiso Saturday at 2:35 p.m.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Half
continued from page 24

unbeaten streak that includes 10 conference wins (two in shootouts). With a home-and-home series with Bowling Green this weekend — in Ohio Friday, at the Joyce Center at 7 p.m. Saturday — the Irish will have a chance to overtake Miami, who they tru by three points with two games in hand, in the conference standings. "The standings are pretty important for us. One of our objectives is to finish in the top four of the standings, so we put a little bit for emphasis on that than the national standings," senior goaltender Jordan Pearce said. Pearce has been a big part of the Irish streak, helping opponents to 1.36 goals per game throughout the past month. Two of those wins came in impressive fashion against this weekend's opponent, the Falcons. Issouf Sow had one of 8-3, 4-5-1-0 CCHA left to the Irish 5-4 and 9-1 on Nov. 21-22. Bowling Green hasn't won since sweeping a series with struggling Northern Michigan on Nov. 14-15, but that doesn't make the Falcons any less of a formidable opponent, Jackson said. After this weekend's games, Notre Dame will have a three-week break before starting the daunting second half of their schedule. The Irish face two-game series with Michigan, Nebraska-Omaha and Alaska, all three of whom are in the Top 25. "Our second is half is just like last year. People wonder why we won into a little bit of a slump last year and part of it was our schedule," Jackson said. "We have a tough road schedule and even our home games are going to be challenging." Notre Dame's power play has been dominant at times — it was against the Falcons, when the Irish went 8-for-18 over the two weekend — and has been a major factor in the Irish dominance of late. Special teams were a major concern a year ago, and Jackson said they could separate this team from his last.
**Terriers continued from page 24**

Then the real fun starts for the Irish — they begin Big East play on New Year’s Eve at DePaul before squaring off against four more conference opponents before classes resume.

"Every time this time of year comes around, it’s exciting for me and for us as a team because it’s all basket-ball," McAlarney said. "School, especially around this time of year, can be a big distraction, so having finals over with leading up to Big East season will be good for us."

Kyle McAlarney  
Irish senior

"School, especially around this time of year, can be a big distraction, so having finals over with leading up to Big East season will be good for us."

“I would be lying if I said we’re not looking forward to Big East play but you’ve still got to take these games seriously," Harangody said. "We’ve still got a lot of things to do, to clean some things up in these games. That’s what’s nice about these games. And with Boston University coming in — they’re a good team and it should be a good challenge for us.

Harangody said the team did not play well on Saturday and deserved to drop in the rankings. "We didn’t deserve that top-10 ranking and we know that," he said. "We realize that rankings don’t really mean anything right now so we’re not really thinking about that."

Still, Harangody said the Irish are capable of performing much better than they did against Ohio State. They will get their first chance to prove it against Boston University.

Everyone’s hungry to get back on the court and prove we’re that top team," Harangody said. "I think we’ll be ready Saturday.

Contact Erin Tolain at etolian@nd.edu

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**Frosh continued from page 24**

people want to bring me down.”

Fellow Olympian Kelley Hurley and her sister Courtney lead the women’s epee division, while Ashley Serretti anchors the women’s saber.

After posting very successful individual accomplishments in the fall, the Irish face their first test as a team January 24 and 25 when they compete at St. John’s and New York University. Columbia, Northwestern, and reigning national champions Ohio State will all be at the invitation-

"It’s very hard for coaches to predict," Bednarski said. "I’ve been in this business for so long. There are so many factors we can’t control, especially on such a young team. But anything can happen if we make it to the Blooms Four.”

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

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**Belles continued from page 24**

at 30-30 heading into halftime. The Belles would lead most of the second half. However, Manchester shooters got hot down the stretch making over 60 percent of their field goals in the second half.

Erin Newsom continued her strong on-court performance for the Belles finishing with a team high 14 points and 12 rebounds. Murphy added 13 points coming off the bench, including going 7-for-8 from the charity stripe.

Contact Alex West at awest@nd.edu

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**SPORTS**

**Frosh**

**Belles**

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Unscramble these four jumbles, one word per column, to form four ordinary words.

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ON DUD
FANNY
JUMP
ROM
SHU

WORD WHEEL
by Mike Argirion

STUCO
NO "WHAT THE SERVERS TURNED UP KITCHEN WAS BACKED UP."

Jumbles:

LEWLOW

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoons.

ANSWERS (unscrambled)

WILL SHORTZ

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

THREE WAYS TO KEEP YOUR GOAL COMPLETED
by Mike Argirion

Jumbles:

LEWLOW

A S N E Y

B I N O

R A T O R

I X A

A R G I R I O N

Jumbles:

LEWLOW

A S N E Y

B I N O

R A T O R

I X A

A R G I R I O N

For answers, call 1-800-858-2544, 1-800-814-5554.

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23 Lawyers org.
24 Author of The Doors
27 Prominent artist for The New Yorker
29 Cease, e.g.
30 Fit for a king
31 Blunder
32 Long andeward
33 Creep (going)
36 Name that's an anagram of 27:
39...

For words, see 1-800-814-5554.

46 or addresses:
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-47 A duo
-48 Crafty
-50 Tournament
-51 Problem

38 sofa
-53 McCrady
-54 Sport sprinting a city desk

49 Yellow
-55 Pilates
-56 Studio

51 Like some music
-52 Musically

52 Sport utilizing a
to form the surprise answer, as

Answers: 

Answer: Often follows when a business falls into the 


tip

horoscope

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THREE WAYS TO KEEP YOUR GOAL COMPLETED
by Mike Argirion

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**ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Down to the wire**

Irish suffer overtime loss to the Wolverines

By BILL BRINK

Sports Editor

Once Michigan guard Jessica Minnfield forced overtime, Wolverines forward Stephanie Skrba took full advantage of it. Back-to-back layups from Skrba gave Michigan a one-point lead, and the Wolverines hung on to beat No. 8 Notre Dame 63-59 in overtime at the Joyce Center on Thursday.

Irish forward Kellie Watson hit a 3-pointer to give Notre Dame a 37-36 lead. Skrba, however, drove for a layup, then drove again after Notre Dame (7-1) turned the ball over under its own basket.

"It's a little concerning right now, " said Notre Dame guard Brittany Mallory, who finished with 16 points the day on Michigan. "I think we were playing really poorly, and we just played unselfish basketball." 

FENCING

**Bednarski is confident in potential of very young squad**

14 freshmen replace talented senior class

By CHRIS MASOUD

Sports Writer

Led by sixth-year head coach Jianusz Bednarski, members of the Irish fencing team are sharpening their blades as they eagerly await the start of intercollegiate play. Following a season that saw the Irish achieve second place at the NCAA Fencing Championships, the fighters have high hopes for the 2009 season.

"We have a very strong team," Bednarski said. "Maybe not the strongest in the nation, but we can fight anybody."

Bednarski is the only coach in Notre Dame's history to win a national title in his first season and win multiple national titles in fewer than five seasons. "Although laden with talent, the team features 14 freshmen and will miss the support of a very strong senior cast from 2008," Bednarski believes the experience of Olympians Gerek Meinhardt and Kelley Hurley will play an important role in the team's success.

"Experience in the Olympic games shows two things," Bednarski said. "First, it shows that you are a good defender who can play at the highest level of professional fencing. Second, it shows that you can fight on the big stage in front of all the cameras. This will bring rapture to the team's success."

"Fencing is my passion and the strongest in the nation, but we can fight anybody." Bednarski is confident in the potential of very young squad that an Olympic background comes with a price tag. "Any loss is hard to swallow because of turnovers and a lack of rebounds." Bednarski believes the experience of Olympians Gerek Meinhardt and Kelley Hurley will play an important role in the team's success.

"Experience in the Olympic games shows two things," Bednarski said. "First, it shows..."