Admissions office reports second-highest number of applicants in history

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

The University was unsure if the struggling economy would cause a decline in the number of applicants for the Class of 2013, but the Office of Undergraduate Admissions was pleased to receive the second-highest number of applications in history, said Dan Saracino, assistant provost for Undergraduate Admissions.

The university received about 14,000 applications after the regular action deadline passed about two weeks ago, exceeding last year’s number, the economy could be a factor in the decrease in applications from two years ago, Saracino said.

“Very few schools are reporting record numbers,” he said. Saracino said he attributes part of the increase in applications from last year to the decision to use the Common Application, which allows students to fill out a general application that will go to several colleges and universities. The Admissions Office will be reviewing the regular action applications through March, but they have admitted 1,723 students early action, 200 more students than were admitted under early action last year, Saracino said.

“We are using the same standards we used last year, and we feel that the numbers are solid,” he said.

However, while the University received about 14,000 applications after the regular action deadline passed about two weeks ago, exceeding last year’s number, the economy could be a factor in the decrease in applications from two years ago, Saracino said.

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“We are using the same standards we used last year, and we feel that the numbers are solid,” he said.

Students pack JACC to cheer on Irish men

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

With football season now over and the winter sports season in full force, even more students have shifted their support of Irish athletics from the field to the court.

Led by last year’s Big East Player of the Year, Luke Harangody, the Fighting Irish men’s basketball team has started the 2008-2009 season with an impressive 12-4 record.

Fitness classes free for week

Sample period ends Sunday; RecSports online registration starts today

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Pedaling up hills and down over straightaways and through to the finish, 20 students completed the Tour de Rock Wednesday.

Though snow covered the ground outside and temperatures stayed in the single digits, in the basement of Rockne Memorial Gym, there was more spandex than sweaters.

Angela Gallagher, a pediatric speech therapist at St. Joseph Medical Center in South Bend by day, teaches three cycling classes at Notre Dame, including the “Cycle N...”

Activists share stories to begin MLK celebration

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary’s College Multicultural Services and Student Programs hosted a discussion panel Wednesday in order to begin the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The panelists’ discussion focused on the importance of nonviolent protest and community organizations.

The panelists included Paula Crisostomo, who is portrayed in the movie “The Walkout,” opening in March 2009, Joanne Bland, co-founder and former director of the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma, Ala., Lynn Coleman, Assistant to the Mayor of South Bend, and Gladys Muhammad, Associate Director of the South Bend Heritage Foundation.

Monica Tetzlaff, facilitator and director of the Civil Rights Heritage Center at Indiana University South Bend (IUSB), led the discussion by asking the panelists questions.

Saint Mary’s Assistant Professor of History Amanda Littauer gave a brief presentation about the struggles of African American women who fought for civil rights at the start of the program.

Part of the presentation included a showing of a trailer for the film “The Walkout,” based on Crisostomo’s story. In 1968, she led a walkout involving Mexican-American students in the East Los Angeles high schools protesting their substandard education.

see ADMISSION/page 4

see BASKETBALL/page 4

see RECSPORTS/page 4
SECRET LIFE OF AN 11½-TEEN

Look for me Mondays at 8 p.m. and you'll take me to bed, this is so embarrassing, but I'm writing this because I'm thirty-two. Don't look at me; I'm twenty-five and the Big Guy's taken. Here's a recap for those of you who aren't as unhealthily obsessed as I am (that number is probably smaller than you think).

The show revolves around Amy, a painfully naive high school freshman who gets knocked up one time at band camp. Ben, an equally naive and doubly annoying freshman, is Amy's boyfriend turned husband, but not the father of Amy's baby. Ricky, the school player, is the father of Amy's baby. He is currently sleeping with the school slut, Adrian while dating Grace, the ultra-Christian, sworn virgin-until-marriage cheerleader. Oh, the drama.

"The Secret Life" is complete with horrendous acting and hard to believe story lines. It is ABC Family's car accident that I just can't peel my eyes away from. With the start of the second season (How did it make me to season two?), I have made a list of the top five most ridiculous moments:

1. Grace's mentally handicapped brother calls a prostitute (Stiller's mom) and he pays her $200 to be his date for the night. Nothing happens, don't worry... This is only somewhat ridiculous when you compare it to one of the only scenes with decent acting.

2. When Ben confesses his love for Amy after about two weeks of dating. Oh, and he pictures her in the hallways at school after she drops out hop ing it will make her come back... How she doesn't find this freaking creepy is beyond me.

3. When Ben and his best friend, Henry are on the phone with Henry's girlfriend trying to guess who she fantasizes about when she flies solo. (They think it's Shia Labeouf. Turns out, it's really Henry.) Meanwhile, she's in the car with her mom while she is having this conversation... This was at least amusing, but still a ridiculous conversation to have with your best friend, your girlfriend and her mom.

4. When single every one of the high school characters goes on get fake IDs, which are being produced out of an empty classroom in the high school by a 16-year-old boy with a lice infection. Each kid gets his or her picture taken through a box camera on the back of the cardboard cutout of the same Nevada driver's license. It actually passes as an ID so that Amy and Ben can legally go into the night clubs. Nothing goes untried, or all of us undergrads wouldn't be buying our own beer for this weekend.

5. When Grace and Ricky are baking cookies together and Ricky seductively licks the dough off of Grace's finger. She then nervously asks (on ABC Family mind you), "Does this count as oral sex?" Serious?

No, she was, and so is this show. But if you can look past the absolute absurdity of it, I'll bet that you'll soon be joining me in my pathetic addiction.

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

Contact Sarah Merves at smerves@nd.edu

OFFBEAT

Police say 11 jr man posed as female veterinarian

VINELAND, N.J. Police say a New Jersey man posed as a female animal doctor, ran an illegal veterinary practice and set up a phony rescue agency that may have duped pet lovers out of thousands of dollars.

Police say he inoculated pets and offered small animals for adoption for a fee. He also solicited donations, claiming the agency was a nonprofit. Authorities say it was not.

Gun goes off in Utah restroom, shuts down event

The man escaped with a few cuts to his arm, but the toilet made out much worse.

Police say a man's gun fell out of his holster while he pulled up his pants after using the bathroom at a Carl's Jr. restaurant Tuesday. The gun fired when it hit the floor and shattered the commode.

A few shards of porcelain cut the man's arm, and a woman in an adja cent restroom who was frightened by the noise reported she was having chest pain. Both people were checked at the scene and released. No charges are being filed.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

SECRET LIFE OF an 11½-TEEN

Sarah Merves

News Wire Editor

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News Wire Editor
Popular bar leaves the franchise, becomes J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

Students who tried to head out for 75-cent well drinks at Rum Runner's last night may have been surprised to find a plastic sign reading J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill covering the usual tropical-themed sign.

The Bar and Grill, owned by Shirley and John Witmer of Niles, Mich., which became a Rum Runner's franchise in 2002, is no longer associated with the Raleigh, N.C. based company.

Shortly after the new year, the Winters dropped the brand name, in favor of their legal business name, according to a recent article in the South Bend Tribune.

J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill manager Casey Constant was quoted by the Tribune saying the Rum Runner's franchise "required three to four months a week of [the dueling pianos] to maintain the franchise name."

However, at the 236 S. Michigan St. location, the dueling pianos show only took place on weekends while there was occasionally other local entertainment scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday nights.

"In a major metropolitan area you could do that every night. But we see a lot of regulars who go out on the same night every week so you need to change it up," he told the Tribune.

The restaurant is still going to host a live piano bar show on Saturday and Sunday, with the entertainment starting at 8 p.m., and the doors opening at 5 p.m. according to the voice mail message received when calling the location.

It will also continue to offer 75-cent well drinks on Wednesday nights and Thursday will be $2.50 You Call It with no cover charge. There will also be karaoke on both nights.

The location's hours will remain the same: opening at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday with a closing time of 2 a.m. The restaurant is closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night.

A new Web site is under construction according the voice message, but anyone interested in the entertainment schedule can call the location at (574) 288-5977.

If you're a diehard Rum Runner's patron and want to genuine franchise entertainment, the nearest location is in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Contact Liz HARTER at chartel1@saintmarys.edu

Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill, formerly part of the Rum
Runner's franchise, will remain in the same location.

In Honor of MLK

Witness to a Movement:
The story behind the Smithsonian photo of MLK
and Father Hesburgh

Witness an intimate conversation between President Emeritus Theodore Hesburgh, CSC and a panel of ND and IUSB faculty and students as he reflects on his experience with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

Thursday, January 15, 2009
7:00 PM
Snite Museum of Art
Annenberg Auditorium

For more information, please call Nicky Magnuson at (574) 281-6881

Prof. backs Bush on Iran-Israel

The reported decision of President Bush to deny Israel's request for assistance in bombing Iranian nuclear facilities was helpful not only to the stability of the Middle Eastern region, but also to the maintenance of international law, according to Mary Ellen O'Connell, Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law in the Notre Dame Law School.

The New York Times reported on Jan. 10 that President Bush had denied a secret request by Israel last year for specialized bombs to be used for an attack on Iran's main nuclear complex.

"The reports say the president acted out of concern that bomb- ing would further destabilize the Middle East," O'Connell said. "It is important to note that such bombing would also violate international law. The U.S. issue with Iran is over violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

"We have been telling Iran it has serious obligations under international law. But there is no obligation more serious than the prohibition on the use of force. Supporting that obligation is the surest way to a more stable Middle East," the president acted wisely," she concluded.

O'Connell, author of "The Power and Purpose of International Law," has written and lectured on international legal regulation of the use of force and conflict and dispute resolution, especially peaceful resolution of disputes prior to an escalation to armed conflict. Particularly interested in the possibility of a classical revival in international law, she has been active in the American Society of International Law, the International Institute for Humanitarian Law, the International Law Association, and the Council on Foreign Relations.
Admission

continued from page 1

found that there were 200 more students that we wanted to admit but who were not accepted with the early action applications."

The average ACT score was 33 and the average SAT score, composed of the combined critical reading and math scores, was 1451. Saracino said these averages are basically the same as the averages last year.

The students accepted under early action came from a wide range of ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Saracino estimated that the average ACT score for the accepted regular action students will be about 20 points lower.

"Unless a student is clearly admissible, we don't admit them," he said.

However, Saracino said these averages give only a small glimpse to the profiles of accepted students. The most important factor in admission to the University, more important than test scores, is academic rigor, he said.

"We look to see if the student has sought out the most demanding course load that their high school offers," he said. "The average number of AP courses taken by admitted students is five."

Saracino said the uncertain economic climate also adversely affect the number of accepted students who elect to attend Notre Dame.

"We are wondering how the economy is going to impact the yield, or the percentage of admitted students who say yes to you," he said. "Our yield has always been one of the highest in the country."

The desirable size for the incoming freshman class is 1,985 students, and the Admissions Office will not accept more than 20 students in next years in anticipation of a lower yield rate. Saracino said.

"We don't want to admit too many students and then find out in May 1 that we have too many students admitted," he said.

The safer course is to put more students on the waiting list and then admit them later if the yield is lost, Saracino said.

Despite the economy though, the Office of Financial Aid still guarantees that they will meet the demonstrated need of every student, so the Admissions Office can assure admitted students that their need will be met, which will hopefully keep the yield rate up, Saracino said.

Saracino said many colleges and universities throughout the country are accepting more students as a way to increase the college's revenue, but Notre Dame has no plans to increase the student body, despite the housing crunch of new dormitories on campus.

"My understanding is that the additional housing spaces will be used to create more comfortable situations in other residence halls," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

RecSports

continued from page 1

Sculp" class offered Wednesday afternoon. "It's the most effective workout that I've ever done," Gallagher said after the hour-long class had finished. She taught the cycling class last semester for the first time, but has taught other fitness classes at Notre Dame for the past eight years.

The class, one of over 50 fitness classes offered by RecSports, took the group of 20, mostly women, up three "mountains" in a former racquetball court that has been renovated with fans, a sound system and pictures of bikers and nature scenes on the walls.

RecSports has invited Notre Dame students to sample all the courses it offers for free through Sunday. Students can sign up to take a class for the semester starting today at 7:30 a.m.

Jennie Phillips, the assistant director for Fitness and Recreation Services in the Office of Recreational Sports, said the University has offered students fitness classes since the mid-1980s.

Between May 2007 and April 2008, about 3,000 people participated in fitness classes, she said.

People come to the classes for the quality facilities, the fitness instructors and a positive environment.

"People will come if they are seeing that the classes are effective and they are having fun," Phillips said.

The weeklong free trial period gives people a chance to experiment with classes like "Zumba," "Triple Threat," "Yoga" and "Cardio Funk," Phillips said.

This semester RecSports added an "Aqua Drills" class, which consists of exercises in the deep end of the pool at Rockne Memorial.

The popularity of fitness classes tends to increase in the spring, Phillips said.

"Usually second semester we see a great number of participants because people have New Year's resolutions, they are getting ready for spring break and you can't really go outside. The big intercollegiate sports like football are over," she said.

The most popular classes last year were the classes, like "Body Sculpt" or "Flex N Tone." Yoga was also a popular class, Phillips said.

Classes like "Cycle N Sculpt" help students manage stress and keep up their overall health, including managing weight, Gallagher said. Most students at Notre Dame spend long hours sitting and studying, she said, and taking time off to work out helps the brain function better.

The regular fitness schedule begins Monday and most classes will end April 29. For the past five years, RecSports has offered a variety of free fitness classes during study days and final exam week at the end of the semester, Phillips said.

Online registration begins today at 7:30 a.m. through recsports.nd.edu. Visa and Mastercard are accepted, and cash and checks are accepted at the Rolfs Sports Recreational Center front desk.

Contact Kaidlynn Riedy at kriedy@nd.edu

Irish

continued from page 1

For the rest of the regular season, the Irish are set to face a challenging schedule of opponents including many from the Big East, one of the nation's premier college basketball conferences.

With the team's ranking staying consistently in the top 15, the campus atmosphere is hyped with excitement from the team's success.

"Our team is amazing," freshman Nathan Foldpausch said. "All of us are pleased with the strategy and tactics throughout the greater part of the games because it is especially enjoyable to watch a good team play."

The student section has been packed with fans and with the eager fans cramming in to the Joyce Center from courtyard to the upper bleachers.

"It's really exciting to go to the games," Willy Hsu said. "The team is doing so well."

Along with the normal cheers that students chant during football games, an array of other cheer tactics are also involved at basketball games.

"You get a cheer sheet that has information on players on the other team," Foldpausch said. "It's usually pretty funny."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Vatican secret confessional opens up ROME — One of the Vatican's most secret shrines, the so-called "tribunal of conscience," which handles confessions of sins so grave only the pope can grant absolution, is giving the faithful a peek into its workings for the first time in its 530-year history.

The Vatican has long lamented that fewer and fewer Catholics are going to confession, the sacrament in which the faithful can receive forgiveness if they sincerely confess their sins to a priest.

To combat the decline, the so-called "tribunal of conscience" invited the public into the frescoed halls of its imposing 16th-century palace for a two-day conference that ended Wednesday.

Venezuela severs ties with Israel CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela broke off diplomatic relations with Israel Wednesday to protest its military offensive in Gaza, the foreign ministry announced.

The decision by President Hugo Chavez's socialist government comes about a week after it ordered the Israeli ambassador in Caracas and seven embassy staff members to protest the Jewish state's actions in Gaza.

Venezuela "has decided to break off diplomatic relations with the state of Israel given the inhuman persecution of the Palestinian people," the foreign ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

Israel launched the offensive on Dec. 27, seeking to force the ruling Hamas militant group to stop rocket attacks into southern Israel. Palestinian authorities say strikes have killed more than 1,000 of their people. Thirteen Israelis have been killed, four by rocket fire from Gaza.

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National News

Obama's stimulus now $850 billion WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's economic recovery bill has grown to $850 billion after negotiations with both parties in Congress. The legislation, which was rewritten by some of the president-elect's tax proposals and may drive the price tag even higher.

For starters, Capitol Hill Democrats are trying to extend a tax cut for middle-income taxpayers despite concerns from Obama's transition team that it won't boost the economy.

Apple CEO takes medical leave SEATTLE — Apple Inc. co-founder and CEO Steve Jobs said Wednesday he is taking a medical leave until June, even though just a week ago the cancer survivor announced he would try to assure investors and employees his recent weight loss was caused by an easily treatable hormone deficiency.

Apple's stock dropped 7 percent.

Jobs, 55, said in a letter last week that he would remain at Apple's helm despite the health problem, and that he had already begun a "relatively simple and straightforward" treatment. But in an e-mail to employees Wednesday, Jobs backtracked.

"During the past week I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought," he wrote.

Local News

Man must serve for decapitation INDIANAPOLIS — A former racing mechanic convicted of murder and decapitating her to make her body hard to identify was sentenced Wednesday to serve the 60-year sentence to which he was sentenced, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

Indiana State Police Det. Michael C. Albrecht had appealed after a Marion Superior Court judge refused to reduce his sentence in 2005. The Indiana Supreme Court heard the new trial in the 1992 murder of 31-year-old Cynthia L. Albrecht. Both Albrechts had been employed by different owners of the now-defunct Championship Auto Racing Teams.

ECONOMY

Laid-off workers, job prospects stir anxiety WASHINGTON — As the nation's economic recovery begins, laid-off workers across the country are weighing their options and planning for the future.

Many are not finding new jobs and have lost confidence in the economic recovery. They are struggling to stay afloat as unemployment benefits are running out.

Many are also looking at the possibility of starting their own businesses or pursuing new careers.

However, for others, the economic recovery may have just begun.

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Bin Laden message not seen as threat

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday it was not aware of an audiotape believed to carry a message from Osama bin Laden reflecting the "isolation" of the al-Qaida leader whose influence over the terrorist network has waned.

"Wherever he is, he's in a deep hole," Vice President Dick Cheney said in an interview Wednesday with PBS' "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer." "He does not have much impact on the organization as best we can tell."

In a new message aimed at harnessing anger in the Midwest over the Gaza offensive, bin Laden urges Muslims to launch a jihad, or holy war, against Israel and condemned Arab governments as allies of the Jewish state.

"It appears this tape demonstrates his isolation and continued attempts to remain relevant at a time when al-Qaida's ideology, mission and agenda are being questioned and challenged throughout the world," said Gordon Johnstone, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House.

"This also looks to be an effort to raise money as part of their ongoing propaganda campaign. The United States promotes an alternative, hopeful ideology while continuing to partner with over 90 countries to pursue terrorists wherever they are," Johnstone said.

The al-Qaida leader also vowed that the terrorist network would open "new fronts" against the United States and its allies beyond Iraq and Afghanistan. He said President-elect Barack Obama has received a "hefty inheritance," from President George W. Bush — two wars and "the collapse of the economy," which bin Laden said will render the United States unable to sustain a long fight against the mughadeen, or holy warriors.

An explosion from an Israeli airstrike is seen on the outskirts of Gaza City on Wednesday. Israel showed no signs of letting up, striking some 60 targets.

Death toll exceeds 1,000 as Egypt, Hamas work towards a 10-day ceasefire deal Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt and Hamas are close to a deal for a 10-day ceasefire between the Islamic militant group and the Jewish state, which could be signed by the end of the week.

Egypt's foreign ministry spokesman Hosam Zaki, a British Broadcasting Corp.

Nine Israeli human rights groups accused Israeli troops of violating their human rights by endangering Gazan civilians and calling for a war crimes investigation. The groups wrote to Israeli leaders that the Gaza campaign has left civilians with nowhere to flee. Foreign Ministry spokesman Vidal Palmer said Israel supports freedom of expression, even if an opinion "is not based on any solid evidence and even if it is tainted with political bias."

Guerrillas in Lebanon sent rockets crashing into northern Israeli on Wednesday for the second time in a week, drawing an angry rebuke from Israel and threatening to drag the Israeli state into a second front.

Egyptian and Hamas officials told reporters that "we were still points Hamas had not agreed to. "We do not agree with the initiative as it stands now," he told Al-Jazeera TV.

The contradictory comments were the latest sign of cracks between Hamas leaders and the organization as best we can tell.'
Asia's fierce assault on Gaza's Hamas rulers has destroyed billions of dollars in damage to buildings, water pipes, roads and other structures in already impoverished territory, Palestinian surveyors said today.

Arab and Western countries will have to bear the brunt of the bill to rebuild — which Palestinian economists say could top US$1 billion.

The Israeli military said it has destroyed over 2,500 Hamas-linked targets since Dec. 27, including 250 tunnels used for smuggling in arms as well as large amounts of weapon stockpiles and rocket launchers.

Even with the Israelis offensive going full throttle, the international community is still to tackle the formidable postwar challenge.

Four top fundraisers for the Palestinians — the foreign ministers of France and Jordan, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who now controls only the West Bank, and the United Nations secretary general — were meeting in Paris on Thursday to discuss the reconstruction and the possibility of holding a new donors' conference.

The last one, held in December 2007, raised only $32 million, ministers vowed to raise $5 billion through the rest of 2010. However, donors may have a tougher time contributing, especially after the current global financial crisis.

Another concern is whether a cease-fire deal will lift the blockade Israel and Egypt imposed on Gaza after Hamas seized the coastal strip in June 2007 and ousted the Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"You cannot rebuild Gaza with open borders," said Tor Wennesland, the top Norwegian diplomat in the Palestinian territories.

Yet ending Gaza's lockdown would require compromises that seemed impossible before the Israeli offensive.

Hamas says it will reinstate some control by allowing a buffer force to deploy once the hopeful international monitors, agreed last week, are in place.

Gatekeepers to Gaza say it's no way they'll agree to Hamas, viewed as a violent Islamic group, gaining control over what enters and leaves Gaza. But if they accept a buffer force, they may be able to muffle the Islamic militant group's influence over Gaza.

In any arrangement, rivals Abbas and Hamas say they have to find a way to work jointly, not just to run the crossings but oversee reconstruction projects. The two have been unable to make their own power-sharing formula since Hamas deposed Abbas' Fatah movement in June general elections.

W.E.B. Du Bois also grew up in South Bend, unlike Crisostomo and Blund, whose parents were involved in activism and community action. "Growing up in South Bend, unlike Crisostomo and Blund, his parents were involved in activism and community action. "Growing up in South Bend, unlike Crisostomo and Blund, his parents were involved in activism and community action. "Growing up in South Bend, unlike Crisostomo and Blund, his parents were involved in activism and community action. "Growing up in South Bend, unlike Crisostomo and Blund, his parents were involved in activism and community action."
Economy off to weak start in ‘09

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy started off this year on weaker footing as recession-shocked Americans retrenched further, forcing retailers to ring up fewer sales and factories to cut back production.

The New York Fed’s new snapshot of business conditions nationwide, released Wednesday, suggested the country’s outlook has darkened over the last two months. The outlook “appears equally dim,” the report concluded.

In an unprecedented move last month, the Fed ratcheted down its rate to hover between zero and 0.25 percent. The Fed will keep rates in that range at its next meeting on Jan. 27-28 and probably for much — if not all — of this year, economists predict. The Fed also has pledged to use other unconventional tools to revive the economy.

The recession, which just entered its second year, already is the longest in a quarter-century and appears likely to be the longest downturn since World War II. Most retailers reported “generally negative” holiday sales and are cautious about sales prospects in the months ahead, according to the Fed report based on information collected of late November and Jan. 5.

Many retailers in the Philadelphia, Atlanta, Kansas City and Dallas districts expected continued weakness or sluggish sales,” the report said. “Expectations were mixed in the Cleveland district, and retailers in the Boston district were watchful.”

This week alone, regional department store chain Gottschalks Inc. put itself up for sale and said it had filed to reorganize in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, discount clothing chain Goody’s Family Clothing also filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, and luxury department store retailer Neiman Marcus Group Inc. said it was cutting about 375 jobs.

“Many retailers became convinced the Grinch did indeed steal Christmas,” Charles Plosser, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, said in a speech Wednesday.
Perfecting a playoff

Gary Caruso

"Capital Comments"

Sometimes the simplest solution is difficult to embrace or understand, especially when crowning a college football national champion. For more than half a century, an elite group of college football coaches and journalists "selected" the champions through the AP Coach's Poll and the USA Today Coaches polls. Yet frequently they could not agree at season's end. Hardy did the top two ranked teams play each other on New Year's Day. The system was regal with prejudices, closed-minded traditions and excuses. Most extravagantly through, "deserving" teams were willfully slighted. Such were the 1968, 1969 and 1973 undefeated Penn State teams. Only after years and enough sports writers lavishing imperviousness upon Penn State, did undefeated Joe Paterno teams finally translate into championships. Ironically, in December 1973, the top six ranked teams were unbeaten although half of them had a tie on their records. Sports writers then, like their counterparts today, incessantly castigated each others' prejudices with the subjective excuse — lower ranked teams like undefeated Penn State played a weaker schedule. Notre Dame has fallen on both sides of those media excuses. In 1988, undefeated teams like Alabama and Washington played to a tie in head-to-head competition. More than two decades later, Notre Dame suffered twice on the inconsistent application of the standard. In 1989, voters used the head-to-head loss to Miami to logically name the Hurricanes national champions. Yet, under the Bowl Competition system in 1993, both major polls listed a one-loss Notre Dame team behind a team they had beaten, a one-loss Florida State team. Voters wanted to give Coach Bobby Bowden his first national championship using ridiculous excuses like "FSU only lost by a touchdown and on Notre Dame's field." Eventually that outdated and closed thinking gave way to more equitable criteria within the current Bowl Championship Series. A new selection process could only be better if fewer voices and more computations selected the king of football. It kept the bowl system in tact, but still does not always determine the champion through play on the field. Now is the time for the BCS to morph into the BCP — Bowl Championship Playoff.

Some propose continuing the bowl series but adding a "plus one" final game. Others suggest a straight playoff system like with the 24-team Division II system, won this year by the Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs. The plus one approach alone is a lacking solution while the Division II schedule is overbearing. The solution is a playoff hybrid that elevates three bowls on a rotating basis and pits the four teams against each other with the plus one championship game played a week after New Year's Day. This year, imagine the Rose and Sugar Bowls as a national playoff that produces two teams vying for the championship a week later in the Orange Bowl. Bowl participation would be upgraded and expanded. Four teams would now play head-to-head to determine a champion. This season, the Irish won the championship over an equally talented Michigan State team whom they played to a tie in head-to-head competition. More than two decades later, Notre Dame suffered twice on the inconsistent application of the standard. In 1989, voters used the head-to-head loss to Miami to logically name the Hurricanes national champions. Yet, under the Bowl Competition system in 1993, both

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Gary J. Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His columns appear every other Friday. He can be contacted at GaryCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

Gary Caruso

"Dignity consists not in possessing honor but in the graciousness that we deserve them."

Aristotle

Greek philosopher
ND a good employer?

In Dec., Notre Dame received the 2008 Business of the Year Award from the Michiana Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Those in the administration, including the Office of Human Resources, Bob McQuade and members of the Notre Dame family around the world had reason to celebrate.

Celebration ... we celebrate the victory for our university, a good beginning. The award is "among other things, its staff development and programs, which are very strong benefits." For this, Notre Dame has reason to be proud and to celebrate.

However, for just one moment, we must remember; according to Pope Pius XI, "in the first place, the worker must be paid a wage sufficient to support him (her) and his/her family." Beyond health care, beyond staff development, Pius XI tells us, first, the worker must be able to support himself/herself and his/her family. Hence, when workers work mapping floors in office buildings downtown by day and at some building on our campus by night just to eat, they are not earning enough from their work at our University alone to support a family. When mothers barely spend a waking moment with their children because they work the night shift in our academic buildings and spend the day standing in lines in front of desks and sleeping when they can, we are not paying attention to the worker as a person.

Pope John Paul II demands (making this not an optional choice), "We must pay more attention to the one who works that to what the worker does. The self-realization of the human person is the measure of what is right and wrong." The question remains there — does health care (while necessary and important) make up for the lack of a wage sufficient for living a dignified life — does staff development fill in the gaps where food stamps and poverty programs leave a shortcoming? Hence. Congratulations Notre Dame, for being the Business of the Year of 2008, we are quite proud of you. It is our proper and hope to the God of the powerful and of those who have not yet realized the power within themselves that in the coming year you might see what those workers you employ actually live through and experience on a daily basis outside of your grand buildings, floors perfectly carpeted and walls freshly painted before accepting such an honor.

We are ND, and are called to a higher standard than this. We may not settle for less than our best when the quality and dignity of human lives are at stake.

Alicia Quirao
junior
Jan. 14

FILE SHARING HELP

Dear Mr. Miller,

Your article in Wednesday’s Observer ("A simple plea.", Jan. 14) piqued my interest. You see, like your friend Paul, I, too, am an avid listener of heavy metal. And while I agree that there is a cancer growing on the music industry, your characterization of it is wholly inaccurate. You claim that the music industry has manufactured genres in order to sell terribl

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By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

January’s offerings at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center are off to a strong start tonight at 7 when the David Dorfman Dance opens a three-night run of its latest program, “underground.” First performed at the 2006 American Dance Festival, “underground” takes its cues from the turbulence of 1960s politics.

Black, white and shades of gray in American activism inspired the company to take to the stage with “underground,” which is now touring nationally. The program explores the context and activities of the Weather Underground with an energetic, rock-heavy score and exuberant choreography.

“Underground,” through the medium of dance, seeks to ask questions about where the lines blur between activism and terrorism. Does an idealized political end justify violent means? The New York Times has called the program “a brave, ambitious departure from the norm,” and it is sure to excite and intrigue audiences in the Deco Mainstage Theatre until Thursday.

“Underground” will engage a variety of media throughout the performance. With a score by Jonathan Bepler, a video design by Jacob Pinholster (whose credits include “Wicked” and “Sprintalol”), frequent use of integrated text, dialogue and protest footage, “underground” reflects the company’s love of cross-disciplinary, collaborative performance art.

Surprisingly, these diverging elements work together to form a cohesive whole. “They don’t feel like artistry indulgences,” Joy Goodwin wrote in her New York Sun after the November 2006 premiere of “underground.”

In a statement on the company’s Web site, Dorfman recalls having a young teenager during the Weather Underground’s high profile series of riots, the “Days of Rage” in Chicago. “Although I was only 13,” he says, “too young to be protesting in the Chicago streets, I remember being awed by the audacity of the Weathermen.”

It is in the legacy of the group, however — in its “principles, and also in its foibles and failures and its departure from the norm, and it is sure to excite and intrigue audiences in the Deco Mainstage Theatre until Thursday.

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By STEPHANIE DEPREZ Artistic Scene Editor

It is an honorable thing to celebrate baseball season. My roommate yearly celebrates hockey season. We all gleefully (if not nervously) await football season. But this, my friends, is the greatest season of all. Basketball season? Oh, no! It’s awards season! This fabulous time of your life arrives every January — the glorious reprieve from the winter doldrums of post-Christmas time. You guessed it — movies and television. They usually do a pretty good job of grandest of spectator sports.

The Golden Globes are awards given out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, or HFPA. Hence all the winners thanking the “Hollywood Foreign Press.” But who are these mad men (and women)? They are a group of about 90 journalists who are based out of southern California and write about — you guessed it — movies and television. They work together to form a cohesive whole. They attend all the usual press conferences and screenings surrounding the promotion of a picture. At the end of the year they get together and vote on the best of the best from television and motion pictures and host the Golden Globe Awards, which is basically just a big televised charity dinner. The HFPA is mostly funded by the Golden Globes, and they donate the money from the ceremony to various causes of entertainment-related charities. The lesson here? If a bunch of people with the power to control the critical reception of your film tell you they want to host their own awards show, you go with it.

The Screen Actors Guild is the union for Actors who, well, do seven work (as opposed to stage), which ranges from movies to video games. They have the actor’s counterpoint to the lovely association of writers who hated Hollywood last year with a strike and left us lacking a Golden Globes ceremony. Like the Writer’s Guild of America (Owgal, SAG has been threatening to go on strike for pretty much the same reasons as WGA did last year, with internet rights and compensation for new electronic and alternative forms of distribution of their films. So far there has been no strike, but SAG is not yet content, and with good reason. Keep your eyes on "these guys and let's pray it gets resolved nicely so we won't have another black shoe season of overflowing reruns."

The SAG awards are voted on by over 100,000 members. This is for all intents and purpose, the most democratic awards ceremony. It is for actors by actors. It includes every single category that would be an Oscar at some point, and therefore commands the most respect when they decide to dole out awards. Their awards are proudly motion picture oriented, so sorry, Tins, you can't pick up anything here. Unless of course they invent a category called "Tina Fey God Award," which always is possible. But the real question is, why are they called the Oscars? Well, legend has it Margaret Herrick, Executive Secretary of the Academy back in the day, saw one of the first statuettes and said it reminded her of her Uncle Oscar. So there you have it, awards-season enthusiasm. Go forth, now, and watch knowledgeably, roof firerfly and back delightfully in all the glitz and glamour of the next two months.

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu
Let the Right One in (2008), 6:30 p.m., Browning Cinema

If you are a fan of "Twilight," this movie might just be the thing to satisfy your craving for another vampire-human love story. Edward Geller. In this film, 12-year-old Oskar is the victim of incessant bullying from his intimidatating and condescending peers, but that all changes once he befriends fellow 12-year-old Eli who has been stark as a pre-teen for many more years than normal. With the arrival of Eli also comes the arrival of suspicious disappearances and gruesome murders, an indicator of what might happen if he eventually steps up to defend Oskar. Be prepared to find yourself on an emotional rollercoaster as you contemplate the complex friendship these two children have formed and the decisions they make as they figure out life's difficulties and their own blossoming love. Tickets are $6, $5 faculty/staff and $3 for all students.

Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure, 3:00 p.m., Elkhart Civic Theatre

A performance full of danger, humor and a good dose of surprise that will keep audiences intrigued as they follow the story of the famous fictional detective Sherlock Holmes' final adventure. When the King of Belgium is about to be blackmailed by the famous opera singer Irene Adler, Holmes and his trusty sidekick Doctor Watson jump into the mix solving crimes and simultaneously trying to win hearts as they get mixed up in this mess of a case. Explore, discover and laugh with these two well-loved characters at the Elkhart Civic Theatre this weekend in an adaptation that promises nothing less than a good dose of quality entertainment. Tickets are $13 for adults and $11 for students and seniors.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

Mary Jesse Observer Graphic
After delay, Pitt holds on to No. 1 at home
Spartans survive scare from upset-minded Nittany Lions; Duke overcomes poor shooting to beat Georgia Tech

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The game started early, the game ended late, and for four days, so did top-ranked Pittsburgh.

Tyrelle Riggs was Pitt's leading scorer the first time in his career with 16 points, and the Panthers struggled early for the second time in as many games since reaching No. 1 before pulling away to beat South Florida 75-62 on Wednesday night.

"Teams are going to play us tough," said point guard Levance Fields, who had 13 points and 13 assists. "Everybody expects us to win by 20 or 30 points, but the Big East conference just isn't like that.

Sam Young scored 14 points and DeJuan Blair had 13 points and 18 rebounds to help Pittsburgh (16-0, 4-0) achieve the third-best start in school history. The 1972-73 team went 27-0 and coach Jimmy Dixon's 1981-82 team started 19-1, with an 89-72 loss to Cincinnati on Jan. 29, 2000. The Bulls have lost 24 consecutive road games against ranked teams.

Pitt plays its next five games against teams that are or recently were nationally ranked, starting Saturday at No. 20 Louisville. The Panthers didn't figure to have much trouble against South Florida, which is 8-46 in Big East play, 2-25 on the road.

But the Bulls hit a succession of off nights, an 18-point second-half shooting slump to rally from deficits of 7-0, 16-7 and 30-22 to keep the game close, and traded leads 41-40 and 41-42 in the second half — causing a few nervous fans in the late-arriving crowd of 12,508 to wonder if the real Panthers would show up.

That happened when Pitt went on a 15-4 run to stretch a 47-44 lead into a more comfortable 62-48 advantage with 8:51 remaining.

Fields hit a 3-pointer with 15:18 remaining to make it 50-44 and Georgia Tech's remand of 31-37 and of Brad Wanamaker's 3-pointer that gave Pitt its first double-digit lead at 55-44. Young finished it 60-47.

Biggar's career high was 19 points but that was the leading scorer in that game.

"Is that right?" Biggar, a 6-foot-8 senior, said of his first team-leading performance. "Well, that's good."

Among those finally reaching the courtside section for each timeout were from the line (37 percent) than they were from the free throw line and starting lineup at the line, hit enough free shots down the stretch to bury Penn State.

"Penn State played dreadful sports of interior defense midway through the game before changing down in the second half, setting up the tense closing minutes between Lucas and Battle.

Battle hit a jumper to close the deficit to four with 3:33 left. Then he darted into the lane before hitting Corney for an open layup to get within 69-67 with about 2.30 left.

Izzo said his team suffered from offensive lulls, and got frustrated by Battle down the stretch.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed we're still not finishing," Izzo said. "We have to do a better job of finishing." Izzo losses snapped Pitt's 58-game winning streak at home against Big Ten opponents.

Duke 70, Georgia Tech 56

Duke picked the right opponent to have a miserable night shooting. Gerald Henderson and Kyle Singler scored 19 points each and the third-ranked Blue Devils overcame their worst shooting game of the season in their seventh straight victory, pulling away for a win over sluggish Georgia Tech on Wednesday night.

Duke (15-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) was just 23-of-39 from the field, a 38-percent performance that would have been enough to get them beat on many nights. Not this one.

Georgia Tech (9-7, 0-3) turned it over 18 times, went only 7-of-19 from the free throw line and started with three straight ACC losses for the second straight season.

Lewis (16-4) hit a 3-pointer that pulled the Yellow Jackets within 42-41 with just over 8 minutes remaining. But Jon Scheyer hit twice from beyond the arc and Henderson also switched a 3, stretching the margin far enough beyond range for a team of Georgia Tech's limited offensive skills.

Zachary Packo, with 13 points, was the only player in double digits for the Yellow Jackets, who were a little more accurate from the field in the second half than they were from the free throw line (37 percent). Duke's previous worst shooting effort was a 41 percent against Virginia Tech on Jan. 4. But the Blue Devils, who also started slowly at the line, hit enough free throws down the stretch to bury the Yellow Jackets.

Georgia Tech surprisingly led through most of the first half, building its largest lead when Paul Cormeliin laid it off a nifty pass from Lewis Clinch to make it 23-15 about 12 minutes into the game.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 304 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for one-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

The Observer reserves the rights to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.
Bradford staying at Oklahoma

Bradford said Wednesday at a news conference: "I'm really looking forward to coming back and competing for a fourth straight Big 12 championship and another opportunity at a national championship."

His return also means another shot at a Heisman Trophy. Archie Griffin of Ohio State is the only quarterback taken in the first round of the draft in the last 10 years to win the Heisman.

"I'm really looking forward to playing at Oklahoma since I was little, and my three years here have been probably three of the best years of my life, and I really feel that there's no need to cut this experience short," Bradford said.

Bradford led the Sooners to the national championship game. The Heisman trophy winner announced that he will return for his junior year.

"Obviously it's frustrating to end with a loss and I want to come back and finish my career the right way: on a win," Bradford said. "I would say it had a little bit of an influence on my decision, but I really tried to keep that out of my mind because that could have limited myself to making the best decision for me."

Bradford also let it slip that he is a huge Dallas Cowboys fan.

Irvin is a Dallas police officer who exchanged gunfire with a suspect in a bank robbery.

Irvin, who is a former strong safety at Oklahoma, said he always wanted to come back to Oklahoma and finish his college career.

"Obviously it would have been nice to come back and finish," said Irvin, who was a first-round draft pick by the Dallas Cowboys.

Irvin is a former strong safety at Oklahoma, and he always wanted to come back to Oklahoma and finish his college career.

Irvin said he was surprised by the decision of Bradford, who is a two-time Cy Young Award winner and a two-time Heisman Trophy winner.

"I mean, he's a national champion, he's a Heisman Trophy winner," Irvin said. "I thought he would come back for his senior year."
This Weekend at Legends

10pm AN EVENING OF IMPROV COMEDY

Straight-Laced & HUMOR ARTISTS OF NOTRE DAME

Thu Jan 15

EVENING OF

Find True Love by Speed Dating

or Maybe Just Have Fun.

10pm Jan 16

Live Music from Chicago's Premier Latin Band

Legends

Latin Explosion

Bachata Six straight hours of Music Cumbia Salsa

The hottest tracks from the one and only

Merengue DJ Del Rio

10pm Fri Jan 16

djkidscratch

Midnight Sat Jan 17

Violator all star dj's

CHICAGO'S POWER 92

#1 IN THE STREETS

VIROCA

Legends of Notre Dame's Hip Hop Nightclub

NO COVER

ND, SMC, HCC ID REQ'D

Legends.nd.edu
Pats' Pioli hired as Chiefs GM

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Scott Pioli, who helped build New England's dynasty in football, is now in charge of rebuilding the Kansas City franchise which hasn't won a playoff game in 14 years. The 43-year-old Pioli will be introduced on Wednesday as the new general manager, replacing Carl Peterson.

"He will have complete charge of football operations," Ryan Succop, a spokesman for Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt, told The Associated Press. "He will report only to Clark." The 50-year-old Peterson, who was general manager in Cleveland. He helped build a young team coming off a 2-14 season, but he was stepping into a situation that seems ripe for a quick turnaround.

That nucleus is loyal, thoughressive, and the team will be playing next year in a new, 51,000-seat stadium. Arrowhead, which opened in time to play notori ous for being loud and rough on visiting teams, is undergoing a $325 million renovation, which includes new locker rooms, wider concourses and enhanced amenities in addition to new practice facilities. The club has enlarged indoor field and a brand new state-of-the-art head house for the team.

In addition, the Chiefs are about to gain an estimated $1 million under the salary cap, which was created when extra money that Wuyliffe came in handy because Kansas City owns the overall No. 4 pick in the draft. Besides, there are a number of promising young players who Edwards was counting on as the foundation of his rebuilding project.

Pioli, the son-in-law of former rushing boss Bill Parcells, has been honored many times for his contribution to the Patriots' three Super Bowl championships. With Pioli working with Belichick, the Patriots used an effective mix-and-match approach during the 2000-02 seasons, trading a number of players for draft picks. Pioli, who spent six seasons with the Jets' 49ers and Oakland Raiders, was also named scout of the year by the Pro Football Writers Association.

"I'm proud to call Pioli's NFL career started when Belichick hired him as a personnel assistant for the 1996 Jets. The 1997 Belichick then brought him to New England shortly after he became head coach of the Patriots.

From 2000-08, the Patriots were an NFL-best 102-42 in the regular season and rang up 14 playoff wins. To sum up in words everything Scott Pioli has meant to this organization and to me personally would be difficult. If not impossible," said Belichick. "From the day I met him, he has demonstrated a passion for football and respect for the game that is second none.

A club spokesman confirmed there had been no determination made on Edwards' status. That may have been a point of discussion between Pioli and Hunt when they negotiated their deal. Hunt signed off on the rebuilding project that Edwards launched this year and said in training camp that he knew it was a painful process early on.

And it certainly was. Despite injury, including season-ending mishaps to the top two quarterbacks, the Chiefs beat only Oakland and Denver and set a number of team records for defensive futility. Their 10 sacks were an NFL-low since the stat was kept beginning in 1981. Yet, when he announced the resignation on Dec. 15 of president, CEO and general manager Peterson, Hunt said he thought Edwards was the best man for the Chiefs program going forward. But he also said the new general manager would have "significant input" into the final decision.

Edwards' first season in Kansas City was a hit. The Patriots went 9-7 in 2006 and captured the last wild-card playoff spot. They were routed by Indianapolis, 41-10, in the playoffs. Edwards' contract was just the fifth man to take two different teams to the Super Bowl in his first year, he also did it in 2001 with the Jets.

He wanted to begin dismantling an aging team and start rebuilding that next season, but ran into opposition from a front office that felt there was enough left for another playoff run. But after an encouraging 4-3 start to the season he was fired for lack of a game and Edwards was not named at several key positions began creating problems. The Chiefs ended 2007 on a nine-game losing streak and Hunt agreed it was time to tear down and rebuild.

Now Pioli takes charge of those efforts.

Patriots vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli holds the Vince Lombardi trophy during New England's 2005 Super Bowl parade.

Robert Kraft

Patriots owner Robert Kraft praised Pioli as an "integral part of the many title-winning years the New England Patriots have celebrated this decade." Kraft said he is "thrilled" in his evaluation of Pioli and has done a tremendous job mining all possible resources to help coach Belichick and his staff field the players needed to win consistently. He has played an important role in building a championship tradition with players that I am proud to call Patriots." Kraft

Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin catches passes during practice

Wednesday, Boldin may play in Saturday's NFC Championship.

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona receiver Anquan Boldin practiced Wednesday, and says he will play in Sunday's NFC Championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Boldin, who with Larry Fitzgerald forms arguably the best receiving tandem in football, said a trip to a Dallas choreograph has greatly improved his strained left hamstring. The injury kept Boldin out of the Cardinals' 33-13 victory at Carolina in Saturday's playoff divisional game.

"I'll be out there Sunday," he said after practice.

Boldin said he was able to participate in all phases of practice, but in shorter spurts than normal. He said he expected to be "real effective" in what would be the biggest game of his career.

"I don't see there being any problems, no hindrances or anything like that," Boldin said. "I'll just be myself and resume my regular role." Coach Ken Whisenhunt held out final judgment on Boldin's status until he sees how the receiver does as the week progresses, but the coach was optimistic.

"If he continues to progress like we think he is, I have no doubt he would play," Whisenhunt said.

Boldin also injured his hamstring on a 71-yard touchdown pass from Kurt Warner in the second quarter of Arizona's 32-24 wild card playoff victory over Atlanta. He tested the hamstring before the Carolina game and said he would have played if the team's medical staff had let him.

"Would it have been the smartest thing in the world? No," Boldin said. "but that's just me wanting to be on the field." Boldin also cherishes another shot at the Eagles, because he felt he did not play well in Philadelphia's 45-20 Thanksgiving night rout of Arizona.

"It's rare you get a second chance at anything," Boldin said. "so I'll make the most of it Sunday."
No sophomore slump for Maxwell

By MEAGHAN VESELJK
Space Writer

Swimming against the top competition in the country is nothing new for sophomore Samantha Maxwell, who has picked up right where she left off at the end of her stellar freshman season.

And now, Maxwell is on the Big East record in the 200-yard breaststroke and swimming in the Big East Championship. Maxwell has placed in the top ten in the 100 and 200-yard breaststroke, and has become a central factor on the 200 and 400-medley relays.

Nationally ranked while swimming for her high school team in Chandler, Ariz., Maxwell was a four-time regional champion and a national record holder in the 50-yard breaststroke, and earned All-American honors in each of her four high school seasons.

In her freshman season at Notre Dame, Maxwell's performance quickly became evident to her coaches and teammates, who can only track back to her high school performance as she lash out of the pool each day, her career and the role as her mentor as well as her coach.

"When I started Maxwell swimming I hated it at first," said Maxwell, "so little the sport just sort of took over. I developed the desire of trying to move up to the next big meet or get another qualifying time." Maxwell's parents weren't the only ones trying to encourage her to pursue her abilities.

"My parents put me in swimming because I was awful at every other sport I tried," Maxwell said. "When I started swimming I hated it at first, and it took me just to finish one lap without stopping. As I grew older and better little by little the sport just sort of took over. I developed the desire of trying to move up to the next big meet or get another qualifying time." Maxwell's parents weren't the only ones trying to encourage her to pursue her abilities. It was her coaches who helped her to achieve her goals.

"My goals for the season are to go to the NCAA championships and really try to make an impact there. Last year I was able to make it back for second two years. This year I would like to be more competitive at that meet and make it back to the finals heats at night," Maxwell said. Contact Meaghan Veaseljk at meavel01@saintmarys.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Pitt's McCoy will enter '09 NFL draft

By W. TOBIN WANNSTEDT

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Record-setting Pittsburgh running back LeSean McCoy is passing up his final two seasons of eligibility to enter the NFL draft.

McCoy broke several of Tony Dorsett’s records while leading the Panthers to a 9-4 record and into the Sun Bowl.

McCoy said at a news conference Monday that he has made his final decision and will forgo his junior season.

"I have frequently played both choices in my mind. I have considered my alternatives and I have prayed," McCoy said in a statement issued by the school. "I have made my final decision and will forego my junior season.

"NFL scouts project the 5-foot-11, 210-pound McCoy as a late first-round or second-round pick.

"Losing McCoy is a major setback to Pitt, which played in its first bowl game and had its first winning record in four seasons largely because of his running and a strong defense."

When you have exceptionally gifted players, you realize the NFL can be a reality sooner rather than later," said Wannstedt, the former Bears and Dolphins coach. "Certainly that is the case with LeSean and we worked to make sure he had the information needed to make the best decision about his pro prospects.

McCoy rushed for 1,488 yards and 21 touchdowns this season, and 2,916 yards and 32 TDs in two seasons, or more yardage and touchdowns than former Heisman Trophy winner Dorsett had in his first two Pitt seasons.

This season, McCoy’s top games included 183 yards against West Virginia, 169 against Notre Dame, 116 against Navy and 149 against Syracuse.

McCoy had 251 yards in two games against the Mountaineers, including 145 in Pitt’s 13-9 upset win in 2007 that kept West Virginia out of the BCS title game.

"One of my goals in coming here was to help my teammates and coaches bring Pitt back to its rightful place among the prominent teams in college football," McCoy said.

In late November, McCoy said he would return to Pitt because he felt he needed more time to mature and had more to accomplish in college.

McCoy changed his mind following a 3-0 bowl game loss to Oregon State on Dec. 31, apparently after talking to former Pitt receiver Larry Fitzgerald of the Arizona Cardinals, among others. Fitzgerald, a former Heisman Trophy runner-up, also left Pitt after two seasons.

Pitt’s staff believes McCoy began wavering about leaving when he got away from his teammates and coaches and returned to his home in Harrisburg, Pa. The team’s poor performance — the lowest since 1972 — apparently didn’t influence his decision.

He ran for 85 yards in the loss.

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NBA

Pacers, Knicks, Heat top 100 points in victories

Associated Press

Thursday, January 15, 2009

The Observer

pacers to cut Detroit's lead to with 30 points, Allen Iverson helped the Pacers snap a three-game losing streak.

Rodney Stuckey led Detroit with 30 points, Allen Iverson had 23 points, and Rasheed Wallace added 17 points and 15 rebounds. The Pistons have lost three in a row.

It was Indiana's first overtime win in five tries this season.

Murphy's second 3-pointer of the extra period put the Pacers up 103-58 with just under 2 minutes to play.

Detroit's Andre Drummond made a layup to cut it 103-56. But Ford came back with a jumper that bounced several times before going in with 38.5 seconds remaining. The Pacers won 105-100. The Pacers made five of seven free throws in the final 30 seconds.

The Pacers led 78-77 in the fourth quarter before Detroit's Avery Bradley made a 3-pointer, then a layup to give Detroit an 82-78 lead.

Detroit led 92-87 before Indiana's Jarrett Jack made back-to-back mid-range jumpers to cut Detroit's lead to one. Jack led with just over 2 minutes left in regulation.

With Detroit leading 93-91, Jack drove to the basket and missed a layup. He thought he was fouled, and he issued a technical foul for arguing the non-call.

Detroit's Tayshaun Prince made a free throw, but Detroit retained possession because of the technical foul. Missed a jumper, but Prince rebounded. Prince missed a jumper, and Indiana's Jeff Foster rebounded with 11 seconds left, giving Indiana a chance to tie or win.

Granger hit the tying jumper but missed the free throw, giving Prince with 3.9 seconds left. Detroit's Richard Hamilton missed an open jumper from the left baseline, but the ball went out of bounds off an Indiana player, and Detroit set up for a final chance with 0.7 seconds left. Wallace threw up an awkward shot that missed everything, and the game went to overtime.

Knicks 128, Wizards 122

NEW YORK — David Lee had 30 points and 10 rebounds, reserve Al Harrington scored 27 points, and the New York Knicks handed the Washington Wizards their third straight loss with a victory Wednesday night.

Quentin Richardson added 26 points for the Knicks, who have piled up the points in the first three meetings with the Wizards this season and can complete a season sweep by grabbing the back end of a home-and-home series Friday in Washington.

Chris Duhon finished with 17 points and nine assists for the Wizards, who averaged 118 points in their two earlier victories over Washington and were even better Wednesday. But they could never shake the Wizards until the final minutes.

Lee New York led by three before Lee got a layup off an inbounds pass and Richardson followed with a 3-pointer to make it 119-111 with 1.25 remaining.

Lee, among the league leaders in rebounding and field goal percentage, added six assists. He was coming off a 24-point performance in the Knicks' surprising victory at New Orleans on Monday.

Washington's Nick Young scored 33 points, establishing a career high for the third time in four games, and Caron Butler added 20 points, but the Wizards stumbled when he had to leave with five fouls.

The injury-plagued Wizards have been without Gilbert Arenas and Brendan Haywood all season and then recently lost DeShawn Stevenson (back) and Etan Thomas (torn ligaments in his left knee). But that's meant more time for Young, who was 13-of-17.

The Wizards were opening a stretch where 10 of 13 games were against teams with winning records before青春与能力

Bucks squared several opportunities to tie, first when Richard Jefferson, who had 15 points, threw a pass away then was blocked on the ensuing possession by Shawn Marion.

Cook, meanwhile, went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final 21 seconds to give the Heat a 102-99 lead with 6.9 seconds left.

Bucks rookie Joe Alexander, who had hit a layup moments earlier to finish with 13 points, shot an air ball a 3-point attempt and the Heat ran off the final fraction of a second for the victory.

Marion finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Miami also got 21 points from rookie Michael Beasley and 18 points from Udonis Haslem. Andrew Bogut scored 12 points and had 11 rebounds for the Bucks.

Wade, revered in this town because of his role in taking Marquette to the NCAA Final Four in 2003, could have gotten a majority of gear from the Bucks pro shops, which stocked No. 3 Heat jerseys, socks and other memorabilia.

In this one. The Wizards shot 61 percent and the Knicks 59.2 percent in the first half, which ended 67-66 behind 21 of Harrington.

Washington made eight of its first 12 shots, New York start Sebastien Levert, his first 12 shots, New York started 2-for-6 from the field, but contributing by distributing the ball.

It looked to be easy even without the NBA's leading scorer adding his 29.1 average when the Heat took an 84-74 lead with 10:57 to play. But the Bucks came back thanks to 25 points by Luke Ridnour and 16 by Michael Redd.

Ridnour's basket cut it to 97-93 with 2:09 to play and Wade missed his final four shots with Redd, a fellow Olympian, hounding him.

Redd added a putback basket to make it 97-95, but the Bucks squared several opportunities to tie, first when Richard Jefferson, who had 15 points, threw a pass away then was blocked on the ensuing possession by Shawn Marion.

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Rincon
continued from page 20
run together in practice, along with two upperclassmen.
“Our group is really competitive,” Rincon said. “We all practice hard, we dream, and push each other.
They’ve had their meeting with Rincon’s visit to campus last spring, and he said they made the transition to basketball for him.
Rincon said the 400-meter race is one of the most grueling events in track.
“You can’t pace yourself like you can in track, you can’t smoke and push too far, you can’t burn off the first 200,” he said. “It really takes strength and endurance and everything, so it’s pretty tense.
Just like when he runs the event, Rincon is determined not to get beaten too early in the season.
“I want to win the Big East in the 4000,” he said. “It’s lofty, and it will be tough, but that’s when you’ll know you’re not done once I got here.”
Rincon did not begin running until his freshman year of high school, but it soon became
rebounding team.
We’ve been comfortable with our rebounding this year and we haven’t been beaten up too much there,
Theresa Louisville, who put up two points in the first half, out-rebounded the Irish 48-43 in an 87-73 Cardinals overtime win at the Joyce Center.
“I think we held our own throughout the entire game and we didn’t get out-rebounded, but it was kind of a draw. But it didn’t beat us,” said the defensive board heat at St. John’s and Ohio State.
That’s a good feeling and it was really the culprit of it all,”
Louisville grabbed 16 offensive boards, but some of those came as a result of long range shots.
“Some guys did the job to be in position to rebound the basketball and you don’t get a good bounce,” Grey said.
“And then you’ve got to scramble out and match up to do the best you can. We made a living off of offensive rebound threes. When it happens for you, it can help.
Rincon said there’s still no excuse for allowing these types of plays to happen.
“It’s not bad luck. We still need to grab loose balls because that’s how you get rebounds. We might be because a couple of those loose balls they grabbed and then lost the ball to Hanagody.
Hillesland added: “You’ve got to go get them, and it can be tough because sometimes you’re natural instinct on the person, but when you get a pass to a shot instead of blocking him out you want to go to where you think the action’s going to be, which is inside. But a lot of times you line up and there are those that can be backbreaking plays on the road when a team can get an offensive rebound and knock down a three.”
One constant on the boards this year for the Irish has been Hanagody, whether he’s grabbing one in early in the sea-
Thursday, January 15, 2009

The Observer • TODAY

page 19

BLACK DOG

CANT BELIEVE THEY PUT THAT INTO THE NEWS?

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

HUNI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRON

THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

WILL SHORTZ

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Happy Birthday: Posts to finish off yesterday is unfinished. It will be getting more for less but will count in these economic times. As long as you stick in a budget, you will do fine. A growing enterprise or contract can be closed by not only if you get promised and light load for what you deserve. You numbers are 1, 11, 19, 37, 57, 41.

ABRAS (March 22-April 20): Your best month will eventually get as if you are expecting now, you will be disappointed. Do what you can for people who can help you in the future. Look at a long-term picture.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you are willing to stick to your plans and not allow yourself to swing up in the face of proven success, you will succeed. You must be most and stick to a safe schedule.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You will have no more than one person to blame as if you don’t put things to perspective. Relate to your practical sense and you will thrive through whatever is coming your way. Don’t show your true colors, everyone will work as if.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you can size down or cut corners, it will ease the stress created by overextending. Any source of income should be more meaningful than you think. (See your number.) Talk to someone with experience and you will get good vital advice.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have power, but not on the people closest to you. Be a diplomat if not, everyone will cause you grief by not sharing important information. A change is a personal relationship and will be emotional for you in the future.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may have to take on a second job or develop a service that is in demand. Taking a chance in overseeing the process will either fulfill the purpose. Put travel and dealing with supervision on hold for now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have to go where the money is. It’s time for you to take advantage of the situation – as had to be at times in the future, as it can be a gold mine for you. You have enough will to quiet up the rig on your presence.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You are a thinker and a doer. You are discerning. Impulsive responses will not get you what you want. Sit back and stick to a safe schedule.

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Birthday Baby: She’ll always be a short term investment, so you gotta do what you gotta do.

Hey man, hotels are expensive. It’s like a short term investment, so you gotta do what you gotta do.

Yowda, I heard you got a girlfriend over spring break?

That’s pretty convenient.

Wasn’t that where you wanted to go for spring break?

You, I did.

She’s from Cancun.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

Cluid

Gatnic

Guajar

Now arrange the circled letters to form two surprise names, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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FOOTBALL

Team signs Frank Verducci as new offensive line coach

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Notre Dame announced yesterday that former Cincinnati Bengals coach Frank Verducci will be taking over as the new offensive line coach for the Irish. Verducci, who has coached for several colleges and NFL teams in the last 27 years, will replace former line coach John Latina who resigned after four years with the Irish.

Verducci comes to South Bend from the Cleveland Browns where he served as an assistant offensive coach for two years under Romeo Crennel and Irish coach Charlie Weis. Weis said he hopes Verducci will go on to coach for several years in professional football and at the Div. I level.

Verducci has been in the NFL for the past decade with the Cincinnati Bengals, Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills before joining the Browns. During that time he worked primarily with offensive linemen at both tight ends and guards. He has also coached at many major college programs, most notably spent seven years in Iowa before leaving for the NFL.

In that time, the Iowa offense averaged 170 rushing yards per game, including three seasons during which the Hawkeyes rushed for over 200 yards per game. Notre Dame is hopeful that Verducci can rejuvenate an Irish run game that has been dormant in the past few years. This season, the team averaged only 109 yards per game. In 2007, that number dipped down to 72 yards per game, which was 115th out of 119 FBS schools.

Alum with help in the trenches, Verducci is also expected to help on the recruiting trail. He was a recruiting coordinator during part of his career with the Hawkeyes and is known for roping in big-talented players.

"In addition, the name Verducci in New Jersey high school football is legendary as both his father and uncle were coaching icons," Weis said. "This should aid our recruiting efforts in New Jersey and in the Northeast."

Verducci grew up in New Jersey and played fullback at U.S. Merchant Marine Academy before

MEN’S BASKETBALL

On the rebound

Irish work to improve under the boards against league foes

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

When Rob Kurz graduated last spring, he took his 7.3 rebounds per game with him. Kurz, along with forward Luke Harangody, helped the Irish attain the fourth-best rebounding margin in conference play.

Last season, the Irish out-rebounded Big East opponents by just over three boards per game. This season, Notre Dame is tenth in the league.

Since Kurz’s departure, the Irish have tried to replace his presence on the glass at both ends of the floor, but at times, they have struggled despite having the league’s leading rebounder in Harangody (14.0 per Big East game).

In the last two games this season that could have been avoided with better rebounding performances — a 71-65 loss to St. John’s and a 67-62 loss to Ohio State. In each game, the Irish were out-rebounded, and dug themselves into a hole by allowing crucial offensive boards at pivotal moments in the second half.

"The loss to St. John’s was just not paying attention to details," senior Zach Hillesland said. "The rebounding was the big thing there. They got to the offensive boards a lot and they got a lot of confidence because of that."

After the St. John’s loss, Notre Dame recommitted itself to rebounding and saw some improvement. The Irish went toe-to-toe on the glass with Georgetown in a win at the Joyce Center and demolished Seton Hall on the boards in another victory.

"I mean, we’re never going to be a team where you go, ‘We’re plus-10 in a Big East game.’ We just can’t make it be something that shreds us," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "For the most part, last year we’ve just not been that crushing"

Men’s Track

Rincon excels in first season at Notre Dame

Middle-distance runner has two wins

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Jordan Rincon is off to a fast start — and middle, and finish.

The Irish freshman middle-distance runner has won an event at both of the team’s meets so far, outrunning several of the preeminent team-mates.

"I’m happy with the early success," Rincon said. "I didn’t really expect it, but I’m really competitive and I’m a sore loser. I don’t like to lose. I push myself at practice all the time."

Mean. I knew I could come here and compete, which is all I wanted to do each game.

At the Blue and Gold Meet on Dec. 5, Rincon easily won the men’s 400-meter race with a time of 48.34, a full second-and-a-half better than the mark needed to qualify for the Big East Championships.

Rincon followed that with a close win in the 600-meter contest Saturday at the Indiana Open. He defeated Irish senior Billy Buzaid by .4 seconds to take the top spot. Buzaid finished second.

Rincon said he and Buzaid

see RINCON/page 18

SMC Basketball

Belles fall to Albion, 77-72

Squad suffers first MIAA loss at the hands of the rival Brits

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary’s dropped a league contest for the first time Wednesday night as the host Belles fell 77-72 to Albion.

Saint Mary’s went on an 11-0 run midway through the second half to take a 48-47 lead. But the Belles could not maintain the advantage. Albion took the lead on its next possession and did not trail for the remainder of the game.

With the loss, the Belles fell to 8-7 overall, including a 6-1 mark in MIAA action. The Brits, meanwhile, improved to 3-3 against conference opponents.

Albion built a nine-point lead late in the first half after going on a 14-4 run. But the Belles answered shortly before halftime.

Senior Meghan Conaty and sophomores Alex Scaro and Samantha Presti combined for nine points and six rebounds.

But the Brits came out firing after halftime and took a commanding 46-37 advantage.

Conaty scored three points and three rebounds. Freshman guard Mary Murphy added 16 points on 6-for-9 field goal shooting but it was not enough.

Albion had a big advantage from the foul line as they made 20 free throws to the Belles’ 12. The Brits made 83.3 percent of their attempts from the line while Saint Mary’s converted just 60 percent.

Along with Newsom and Mahoney, senior Nicole Beller and freshman Kelley Murphy scored in double figures for Saint Mary’s.

The Belles remain a half-game ahead of Hope for first place in the MIAA standings, and will look to rebound next Wednesday when they travel to take on Kalamazoo.