McGurn: Abortion not a political issue

Center for Ethics and Culture sponsors lecture by former Bush speechwriter in spirit of discussion

By JOHN TIERNEY
Assistant News Editor

Abortion is an “intrinsically evil” and not a “political difference,” said William McGurn, the former chief speechwriter for President George W. Bush in a lecture entitled “Notre Dame: A Witness for Life” Thursday. McGurn argued that it is an issue on which people should be able to agree. “This is where people can come together, without compromising their other differences,” McGurn said. He said he proposed that Notre Dame hold a “summit of pro-life Democrats ... to come here to make the Notre Dame statement for life.”

Students seek spoon train world record

145 participants lie on South Quad Thursday, break Guinness record of 93 spooners to benefit charity

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

Lying side by side along South Quad, 145 students gathered Thursday afternoon to attempt to break the world record for the longest human spoon train. “We did this last year just for fun,” junior Charlie Mahoney, a co-captain of the event, said. “This year we wanted to break the world record.”

The 145 spooners participating in this year’s Spooning for Solutions spoon train will be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records after shattering the old record of 93.

While the record was technically broken last year with a train of 127 spooners, the organizers of the event did not fill out the required paperwork to submit the attempt to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Co-captain Deirdre Murdy said members of the ski team came up with the idea last year to encourage other members on campus to participate.

Explosion on campus injures grad student

Observer Staff Report

An explosion in Fitzpatrick Hall of Engineering left a student injured Thursday afternoon, according to a University spokesperson. Associate director of News and Information Julie Polc said The Observer a female graduate student suffered “moderately serious burns” after an experiment she was conducting in the basement of the building resulted in a small explosion.

“I would say the injuries were serious, but certainly not life-threatening,” Flory said. “She had burns, but not something they’re concerned about in the long-term.”

The student was taken to a local hospital in an ambulance after the Notre Dame Fire Department responded.

Flory said the student had been mixing a non-toxic chemical combination before the explosion occurred.

The explosion, which occurred around 1 p.m., caused a small fire, but Fitzpatrick Hall did not sustain any damages.

Flory said students were evacuated, but the building returned to normal operation shortly after.

Ebadi examines human rights

Nobel Peace Prize recipient says Islam is compatible with democracy

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

In Iran, 65 percent of students attending universities are women, but the law states a man’s life is worth twice that of a woman’s, said Shirin Ebadi, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003. “Gender discrimination exists,” Ebadi said through a translator. “The testimony of two women in court equals the testimony of one man.”


Along with gender inequality, she said religious discrimination is a pressing issue in Islamic countries. “A number of Baha’is live in Iran, but are deprived of social and civil rights,” Ebadi said.

Legally, if a Muslim commits a crime, they can be punished with 100 lashes, but if a non-Muslim commits a crime, they can be punished with execution.

Some Western theorists and radical Islamic governments contend that the Islamic religion is incompatible with human rights and democracy, but Ebadi said she rejects that idea.

Many moderate Islamic intellectuals believe human rights are compatible with Islam, she said. They maintain many moderate Islamic intellectuals believe human rights are compatible with Islam, she said. They maintain...
**INSIDE**

You didn’t know?

In all of my time at Notre Dame. I have never been champion of anything. Until now.

Last night, my bookstore team, the Miller Street Shooters, challenged the recently coronated Bookstore Basketball Champions and we prevailed. We ran an effective full-court break, had good dribble penetration, and I think it is my own ego that had a black paint in the defensive paint.

That’s right. We took down Four Girls and a Guy 21-13, making me and my friends the new Women’s Bookstore Basketball Champions.

My Team and I had to develop a gameplan for the matchup, and it was pretty simple.

Step one: Find their shooter. Girls teams are generally role players with one great girl (equivalent to your average male player). We quickly learned that person was junior Sierra Smith, the recently named Women’s MVP.

Step two: Defend outside shots. The first thing I learned from covering Notre Dame women’s basketball for three years was that most girls can easily shoot from distance. Throw in a heavy dose of height and that was our gameplan for the matchup, and it was pretty simple.

Step three: Be dudes. That’s right, I’m pretty sure.

Boys rule. Girls drool.

In the end, brains and brawn triumphed. We ran an offensive paint.

The “BFA/MFA Candidates’ Theses” will be held in the O’Shaughnessy Galleries in the Snite Museum of Art on Friday. The exhibit will be held at 10:00 a.m. Admission is free.

The “End of the Year Extravaganza” will be presented by the Psychology Club Friday. The festival will be held on North Quad and will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Kelly Fallon (right) smiles as a South Quad carnival worker shows off her newly painted Frisbee while Breanna Sammons (center) continues to work on her own. The event was part of this year’s week-long AnTostal.

**OFFBEAT**

Crew retrieves bloated carcass of bull from River

RUMPFORD, Maine — A public works crew retrieved the bloated carcass of a bull that had floated down the Androscoggin River and over a waterfall before landing on some boulders weeks ago. Crewman Dan Peare told the Sun Journal of Lewiston that he convinced his bosses that he and fellow crewmen could and should remove the animal before warm weather arrived for the weekend.

On Wednesday, Peare climbed down the river bank and attached a rope to the bull’s legs. They then pulled the 800- to 900-pound Hereford up into a dump truck and buried it behind the town garage.

The animal was first spotted in early April when it went over the falls and landed in a seemingly unreachable position atop a rock pike about 100 feet below the top of the river bank.

Officials capture three-legged alligator from beach

SEACREST BEACH, Fla. — It sounds more like something out of a freak show: a one-eyed, 3-legged alligator. The gator was captured Thursday morning in Seacrest Beach by Walton County officials. The animal was less than five feet long and had somehow found its way to the beach.

A family visiting from Chicago called it the perfect day at the beach. They learned how to tell apart an alligator from a crocodile. The rare gator was taken to a safe location and released into the wild.

**IN BRIEF**

A panel discussion entitled “The History and Future and Gender Studies” will be held at 10:00 a.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium on Friday. A reception will be held before the event at 9:00 a.m. in the Great Hall in the Hesburgh Center.

**Correction**

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalistic integrity at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-454-1, so we can correct our errors.
Students set to sail across lake in Fisher Regatta

Teams will attempt to stay afloat in a variety of make-shift boats in competition for Phoenix-based charity Saturday

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Tomorrow, 35 boats will set sail in hopes of claiming the glory of victory in the Fisher Regatta. Some teams will proudly row all the way across St. Mary's lake while others will sink seconds after the race begins, but only two teams will emerge victorious — one each from the men's and women's brackets.

Pat Hogan, the event's commissioner, said this year marks the 23rd year of the Regatta, and the number of entrants has gone up from last year's race, which will begin at 1 p.m. Hogan said planning the Regatta was slightly more difficult this year because of the economic downturn.

"Getting a sponsorship was challenging because so many companies have cutbacks, and the first thing to go is charitable donations," he said. "So getting responses from people was hard."

But he was successful in securing sponsorships from some campus favorites — Papa John's Pizza, Coca-Cola and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. Hogan said another challenge was setting a date for the Regatta, given that the weather could be anything from sunny skies to a blizzard.

"There is always the prevalent challenge of whether the weather will comply," he said. "The glorious weather of South Bend doesn't always comply with the wishes of the Regatta."

The event costs $40 to enter and the proceeds will go the Phoenix-based charity Andre House, which serves the poor and the homeless in the area. Hogan said the winning teams will receive a handful of exciting prizes.

"There are trophies for the winners, free pizza coupons from Papa John's and the ultimate pride of winning the Fisher Regatta," he said. "It's something to tell your grandchildren about.

The Regatta attracts many spectators each year because of the large number of unusual boats in which students proudly attempt to stay afloat.

"Last year, there was a 10-by-12 foot piece of plywood with Fisher-Price basketball hoops and they played five-on-five basketball," Hogan said. "They didn't make it very far, but you've got to give them respect."

Even though the event's boat-building rules operate on the honor system, Hogan said there are always teams that try to find loopholes.

"I don't want to name names," Hogan said. "But there's a dorm that always cheats."

Hogan, a junior, has been involved in planning the Regatta since his freshman year.

"You apply for [the committee] freshman year and then you're on it every year," he explained. "The freshmen are Fisher apprentices and your responsibilities increase every year. Junior year, you can be the Regatta commissioner."

When asked what the best strategy for winning was, Hogan advised that teams should try their best, and hope that their effort ends up being better than everyone else's.

"I know the exact best strategy. It's not only about getting yours, it's about preventing the other guy from getting theirs," he said. "My old basketball coach told me that."

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

THE OBSERVER

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Photo Ian Gavlick (igavlick@nd.edu)

Please recycle The Observer.
Fifth graders visit campus

Education classes host pen pals for ‘glimpse of college life’

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
New Writer

Younger kids are a rare site on campus, but two education classes hosted fifth graders from a local public school Thursday to give them a glimpse of college life.

The classes, “Education, Schooling and Society” and “Coloring Outside the Lines,” both taught by Professor Joyce Long, have been exchanging letters with students from Brown Intermediate Center all semester.

The two classes visited their pen pals at Brown earli­er in the semester, but Thursday was the first time the fifth graders came to Notre Dame.

Long said the visit benefited both groups of students. The elementary school students got a taste of college life, something that many of them had never experienced before.

“We know from their letters that the only thing they know about Notre Dame is football. Coming onto campus, they’re actually going to see what Notre Dame is like,” Long said.

“One of the things we hope they’ll get out of it is that this could be the end product of them engaging themselves in their studies.”

Another key purpose of this visit was to show the pen pals that attending college is possible for anyone, Long said.

“Mainly, the visit was to give motivational purposes and a glimpse of what is possible,” Long said.

During their visit, the students went to the digital movie theater in Jordan Hall for an interactive science lesson. They also spent time with their individual pen pals and ate a meal at South Dining Hall.

Melissa Cowell, a sophomore who plans to pursue a career in education, said she enjoyed spending time with her pen pal Ariel.

“It was a lot of fun,” Cowell said. “It was cool to see the kids’ reactions to the campus.”

During her visit with Ariel, Cowell took her on a campus tour.

Cowell said the fifth graders gained a sense of what college will entail from what they saw today.

“I think the visit was for motivational purposes and a glimpse of what is possible,” Joyce Long, professor.

“Mainly, the visit was for motivational purposes and a glimpse of what is possible.”

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney and Sr. Joy O’Grady, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, jointly appointed Sr. Mary Louise Gude to join the Saint Mary’s community as the new vice president for Mission.

The position for vice president to lead the Division for Mission was announced in Spring, following the departure of Sr. Rose Anne Schultz, the first vice president of the Division for Mission, who retired in 2008.

Gude has served as an assistant vice president for Student Affairs and as the director of the Department of Romance Languages at Notre Dame.

“I think the visit was to give motivational purposes and a glimpse of what is possible,” Long said.

Gude said she is positive about her new position.

“My position is one of service to the college community. Saint Mary’s has a rich heritage, and one facet of my job will be to nurture that heritage,” Gude said. “This happens in many and varied ways, and I look forward to the challenge.”

Gude said her responsibilities fall into three categories: to make the history and mission of the Sisters of the Holy Cross known to the College community and to interpret its relevance today, to supervise those college departments explicitly charged with implementing that mission and to act as a liaison between the College’s various constituencies in order to ensure mission effectiveness.

Gude graduated from Saint Mary’s College in 1963. After earning a master’s degree from the University of Montreal and a Ph.D. in French literature from the University of Pennsylvania, Gude returned to South Bend. She has served as an assistant vice president for Student Affairs and taught in the Department of Romance Languages at Notre Dame.

Gude has also served at Saint Mary’s as an assistant professor of French and department chair.

Contact Megan Loney at mlooney01@saintmarys.edu

SNC welcomes vice president for Mission

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

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Want to write news?
Email Megan Loney
mbuckley@nd.edu
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Tally has 87,215 Iraqis dead

**BAGHDAD** — Iraq's government has recorded 87,215 of its citizens killed since 2003 in violence ranging from catastrophic bombings to execution-style slayings, according to a list of war victims obtained by The Associated Press that break open one of the most closely guarded secrets of the war.

Camouflaged with tallies hid on hospital sources and media reports since the beginning of the war and an in-depth review of available evidence by The Associated Press, the figures show that more than 110,600 Iraqis have died in the violence since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

**Militants burn NATO fuel tankers**

**ISLAMABAD** — Dozens of militants armed with guns and gasoline bombs burned a truck terminal in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday and hurled five tanker trucks carrying fuel to NATO troops in Afghanistan, police said.

NATO and U.S. commanders are seeking alternative transport routes into landlocked Afghanistan amid mounting assaults on the critical main supply line through Pakistan.

Militants attacked the truck depot near the city of Peshawar before dawn, hurling gasoline bombs at the tanker fleet, said Abdul Khan, a local police official.

Security guards fled and the assailants made their escape before police arrived, Khan said.

Several trucks drove their vehicles out of the terminal while the others remained in tact, which were later doused by firefighters, he said.

NATO and the U.S. military insist that their losses on the transport route remain minimal and have had no impact on their expanding operations in Afghanistan.

Most of the fuel for U.S. troops in Afghanistan comes from Central Asia.

**Asia.**

**NATIONAL NEWS**

**Six years in prison for airing Hezbollah**

NEW YORK — A Pakistani immigrant whom a prosecutor called "Hezbollah's man in New York City" has been sentenced to nearly six years in prison for airing the Lebanese militant group's message on a local TV station.

Javed Iqbal was ordered by a federal judge in New York last Thursday to serve four years and nine months for putting the broadcasts of Al Manar among stations he sold to customers in New York.

Prosecutor Eric Snyder says Iqbal helped to spread Hezbollah's message. He says Iqbal, a Pakistani national, has also killed Afghan civilians.

Iqbal lawyer Josh Dratel says his client didn't intend to aid Hezbollah as he tried to build his legal practice. He said Iqbal was influenced by friends and family.

**Kans. gov. vetoes abortion bill**

TOPEKA — Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has vetoed a bill that would rewrite a state law restricting late-term abortions.

The measure vetoed Thursday would have required doctors performing late-term abortions to report how many weeks into a pregnancy they performed the operations in order to allow authorities to inspect those procedures at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The bill also would have allowed women who later believed their abortions were illegal to sue the doctors. Their husbands or, in the case of minors, a parent or guardian, also could sue.

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Ind. to crack down on puppy mills**

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Indiana law makers have approved a measure that would make it illegal to sell any dog born on or after July 1, 2009, at puppy mills and fast-food restaurants, including the Statehouse, to demand a crackdown on so-called puppy mills.

The Senate plan would require breeders to comply with U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations if they have more than 20 adult female dogs able to be bred.

**S.C. wildfires force thousands to flee**

Myrtle Beach, S.C. Wildfires have forced the evacuation of an estimated 2,500 people.

An evacuee talks on the phone while she waits to return to her home Thursday in Myrtle Beach.

**IRAQ**

**Suicide bombers kill 78 in Baghdad**

**BAGHDAD** — Suicide bomb attacks on essential civilian targets on a busy Baghdad street killed at least 78 people in Iraq's deadliest day in more than a year.

The toll — at least 31 dead in Baghdad and 47 to the north in Dawa province — follows a series of high-profile attacks that this month blamed on Sunni insurgents. The violence highlights potential security gaps as Iraqi forces increasingly take the lead role from U.S. forces in protecting Baghdad and key areas around the capital.

The insurgent push is still nowhere near the scale of violence in past years, but it has undermined confidence that Iraq's security gains were on solid footing at a time when the U.S. military is shifting its focus and resources to Afghanistan.

Thursday's attacks happened as American soldiers who specialize in clearing bombs from roads boarded a plane from Iraq to the Taliban heartland in southern Afghanistan, part of the largest movement of personnel and equipment between the two war fronts.

Iraqi authorities, meanwhile, say they have struck back at the heart of the insurgency: claiming they arrested one of the most wanted leaders of a local network based in and around the capital. The reported capture of Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the head of the Islamic State of Iraq, could mark a setback to insurgents as they try to intensify attacks after a relative lull.

In the past, however, Iraqi officials have reported al-Baghdadi's arrest, only to acknowledge later that they were wrong. The U.S. military has even said al-Baghdadi could be a figment of a local political party's campaign to discredit the U.S.-led coalition as a legitimate government.

A U.S. military command could not confirm the arrest, said a spokesman, 1st Lt. John A. Brittny.
Abortion
continued from page 1
to McGurn, "one issue on a political scorecard.
Notre Dame should stand united on the position that "the unborn belong to no political party; no human right is safe when the right to life is denied; and we will accept no calculus of justice that seeks to trade that right to life for any other," McGurn said. He agreed that other human rights, including war and capital punishment, "deserve serious treatment." But he argued that "all pleas for other important human rights are "false and illusory" if we do not defend with "maximum determination" the fundamental right to life upon which all other rights rest."

These other rights are contingent on the protection of the right to life, according to McGurn.

"The unborn child's right to life represents the defining civil rights issue of our day," McGurn said. As a civil rights issue, abortion is an issue of morality, not of politics, he said. "I don't think we have to share our politics to share our principles," he said. Catholics are called to be "witnesses of Christ," McGurn said. "I believe a witness, an institution must order itself so that all who look upon it see a consonance between its most profound truths and its most public actions," he said.

This witness to life is the essence of the Catholic character of the University, according to McGurn.

"This witness is the only real reason for a University of Notre Dame," he said. The witness is derived from the belief that "self-evident truths about the dignity of each human life" truly exist, McGurn said. Legalized abortions threaten these truths and the dignity of the human existence.

"A civilization which sanctions abortion as a human right is in some essential way writing its death warrant," McGurn said.

Notre Dame holds an important role in the debate over abortion, McGurn said. The University "remains one of the few institutions of higher learning with a true commitment to the fullness of a person's beauty and intellectual integrity," he said. "America is waiting to hear your voice."

Notre Dame should work to "engage" its guests who do not agree with Catholic teaching, such as President Barack Obama, who will deliver the Kennedy Commencement address next month, according to McGurn. This engagement should be "cordial" and "gracious," and the University should be open to debate, he said. However, abortion a witness who rejects the right to life to the University "on the idea that all that divided us was one political issue," was a watershed of the witness, McGurn said. Despite the University's decision to invite Obama for the Commencement address, McGurn argues that "the witness for life is alive at Notre Dame."

He cites the University Fund to Protect Human Life, the work of the Center for Ethics and Culture, and the University's support of the March for Life in January as examples of the strength of this witness.

McGurn said that he is not worried about what abortion will say at Commencement. "I am worried about the symbol," he said. He also encouraged those who disagree with the invitation to allow the seniors to have their graduation.

"I don't think people should have their graduation disrupted," McGurn said. "I think you can have a protest, but I don't think you should be rude."

He expressed his disappointment with the University President Fr. John Jenkins right now, however. He did not call for Jenkins' resignation. "Even if he resigned, my issue is that Notre Dame be a witness to life would still be here," McGurn said.

"I would just like Notre Dame to be as consistent in advancing her positions as President Obama is with his," he said.

McGurn's lecture was sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Culture, "in the spirit of Fr. Jenkins' call to dialogue," Center for Ethics and Culture director David Solomon said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierney1@nd.edu.

Obama at Notre Dame: Should Notre Dame Honor a Pro-Choice President?

A Student Panel Discussion and Forum

Tuesday, April 28th
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Hesburgh Auditorium (1st Floor Library)

Submit questions for the panelists to Andrew Nesi at anesi@nd.edu.

Sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters

Ebadi
continued from page 1

tain that it is actually the Islamic governments' interpretation of Islamic law that is incompatible.

"Non-democratic Islamic governments get power from religion and not votes from people, and they believe they have to guard Islam," she said. "If the government relies on its own interpretation of Islam, any political criticism of the government is deemed a criticism of Islam."

Ehadi said this interpretation of Islamic law is a means of retaining power.

"If Islam is interpreted this way, the government loses ground and the people will be able to take over," she said.

Ehadi said Western theologians who write about a "clash of civilizations" between Islamic and Western societies also contribute to the idea that Islam is not compatible with democracy. "Some who believe Islam is not compatible with human rights believe democracy and human rights are just Western philosophies and they are not compatible with Islam," she said. "I do not accept this theory."

She said there is no incompatibility in the idea of a culture clash between Western and Eastern civilizations.

"If there is a clash, how do you justify the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States?" she asked.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu.

There are human rights violations in Iran, Ehadi said. But Iranian citizens should have the job of implementing human rights — not foreign soldiers.

"We do not only oppose an attack on Iran, but we also oppose a threat on Iran because the government will oppress people based on national security," she said.

Ehadi criticized United States military presence in the region for expressing the hope that the new administration will set a better practice of foreign policy.

"America attacked Iraq on the excuse that Saddam Hussein is a dictator with weapons of mass destruction," she said. "However, when American soldiers didn't find weapons, they said bringing democracy was the goal. Was Saddam Hussein the only dictator in the world? The difference was there's a lot of oil in Iraq that doesn't exist in other countries."

Ehadi said the theory of human rights is an idea not confined to a specific culture, religion or geography. "These are international principles," she said. "It has nothing to do with East or West."

In order to resolve the problem of human rights violations, Ehadi stressed cooperation.

"Let's plant the tree of cooperation like the earth," she said. "Let's be kind to each other. Kind."
**Market Recap**

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**Commodities**

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**In Brief**

Microsoft sales drop for first time

**Microsft sales drop for first time**

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. said Thursday its quarterly revenue fell from the previous year for the first time in its 23-year history as a public company, while its profit dived 32 percent.

The shortfall illustrated the toll the recession has taken on the world's largest software maker, even though Microsoft remains one of the richest and most profitable companies. In January, Microsoft said it needed to resort to its first mass layoffs, cutting 5,000 jobs, and on Thursday, a month later, it would do away with merit pay increases for employees in the next fiscal year.

Microsoft also noted earnings guidance for the rest of the year, and it offered no hope for a recovery in the current quarter.

"I didn't see any improvement at the end of the quarter," said Chief Financial Officer Chris Liddell, Microsoft's chief financial officer.

Wisc. to require cochlear implants

MADISON — Wisconsin could become the first state requiring private insurance companies to cover cochlear implants for children with severe hearing problems.

The state Legislature passed a bill Thursday requiring private health insurance plans to cover cochlear implants, hearing aids and related treatment for those under the age of 18. Gov. Jim Doyle has promised to sign it into law.

Doyle has promised to sign it into law.

"I didn't see any improvement at the end of the quarter," said Chief Financial Officer Chris Liddell, Microsoft's chief financial officer.

**GM to temporarily shut 13 plants**

Assembly plants closed for up to two months; thousands of employees lose jobs

**GM to temporarily shut 13 plants**

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. said Thursday it would temporarily close 13 assembly plants in the U.S. and Mexico — more than two months — laying off more than 26,000 workers to pare back a bloated labor force.

The closures, which will start in May, vary by factory from as short as three weeks to a long as 11, including the normal two-week July shutdown to change from one model year to the next.

GM said the shutdowns will help control high dealer inventories and bring manufacturing in line with sales. The company plans to cut production by 190,000 vehicles and reduce inventory from the current 67,000 to 525,000 by the end of July.

More than 26,000 hourly and salaried employees will be laid off at the affected assembly plants, but there will be thousands more layoffs and temporary factory closures when GM works out its schedules for engine, transmission and parts factories.

The troubled automaker has 22 assembly plants in North America as well as dozens of other parts and powertrain factories.

Laid-off hourly workers will get unemployment benefits and supplemental pay from the company that amounts to most of their base wages. Salaried workers also will get some income, GM North America President Troy Clarke said.

In a conference call with reporters Thursday, Clarke said the shutdowns are not a sign that GM is headed into bankruptcy-protected status.

Clarke would not say exactly how many workers would be laid off, nor would he say if any of the factories would be closed for good.

GM has told the government it plans to close five more factories as part of its restructuring plan, and its CEO said additional closures are possible.

He also said the company isn't making the cuts because it sees sales worsening beyond current projections.

"Instead of spending the whole year to get the inventory in line, we really needed to get it in line much quicker," he said.

GM normally shuts down its assembly plants for two weeks each summer to prepare for the new model year, but assembly plants that will see additional shutdown weeks are in Arlington, Texas; Bowling Green, Ky.; Detroit-Hamtramck, Mich.; Flint, Mich.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Lansing, Mich.; Lordstown, Ohio; Pontiac, Mich.; Shreveport, La.; Spring Hill, Tenn.; Wilmington, Del.; Wentzville, Mo.; and Silao, Mexico.

The longest shutdown is 11 weeks at Fort Wayne, which makes the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickup trucks.

The Associated Press first reported Wednesday that GM planned to tem­porarily close most of its factories.

Clarke said he can't remember the company ever having as many layoffs, and it plans to shut down plants in 2009. He said President Barack Obama's auto task force was aware of the shut­downs, but the decisions were made by GM management.

GM said Thursday a spokesman that GM will have to make difficult decisions during its restructuring. "He is committed to standing behind GM during this process to achieve a strong, viable auto industry in the long-term," the spokesman said.

**IMF: World Bank want more action**

Washington banking system is a "top priority," a senior Treasury official told Thursday. An "important component" of that effort are the "stress tests" that regulators are currently conducting on 19 of the nation's largest banks, the official said.

The tests measure how the banks will fare under a severe recession and are intended to determine which institutions need more capital. The additional money, if needed, could come from the private sector or government. The Treasury Department is expected to release the framework for the stress tests Friday.
 Spooners continued from page 1

ticipate in one of the ski team's favorite pastimes.

"We span at the top of the course for warmth," Murdy said. "We decided to do it again because it's really a great time."

New this year to the event was the added incentive to raise awareness for the Alpine Children's Charity, a charity founded by sopho-
more Nick DeTrempe, also a member of the ski team.

"The goal of this year's event was twofold," Mahoney said. "We want everyone to have a great time and also raise awareness for a great cause.

DeTrempe said he and his cousins founded the charity five years ago, and it has since raised over $800,000. The main fundraisers for the charity are ski-a-thons.

"We raise money for juvenile diabetes, HIV and AIDS and other illnesses," he said. "They wanted to associate the world record with the charity and our charity was the one they chose."

In order for the event to qualify for the Guinness Book of World Records, the spoon train organizers had to meet several requirements and deadlines.

"We had to sign up online and e-mail them forms which were signed," Murdy said. "Then, we also had to e-mail them forms which were signed."

She also said Guinness had strict guidelines that had to be adhered to in order for the attempt to count.

"We had to have two witness-
to count and testify the record was actually broken," Murdy said. "We also have to submit photos, a video and any press the event received."

Although the actual spooning portion only lasted about five minutes, Mahoney said planning for this year's attempt began in January.

"Last year we were a little late with our registration for the Guinness Book of World Records, so this year we made sure to register in advance," he said.

The organizers of the event enlisted the help of Breyan Tornifolio, rector of Pasquerella West Hall, and Gary Chamberland, a visiting instructor in the Theology Department, to serve as the official witnesses of the event. Although the group will have successfully broken the record pending approval from the people at Guinness, Mahoney said he hopes the event will continue.

"I really hope this will carry on," he said. "I'll be around for another year so I hope to try and break this year's record next year."

Contact Liz O'Donnell at codonine@nd.edu

Students participate in a spoon train Thursday to raise money for Alpine Children's Charity. 

VPI continued from page 1

fundraising."

She said VPI could improve by raising awareness about violence on a global scale and by partnering with other Catholic schools doing similar work.

Rakoczy Russell said VPI needs more experience before it can fully accomplish its goals.

"I'm not surprised that I don't feel they are full- hasted on the flagship piece but I feel pretty confident that we're heading in the right direction," Rakoczy Russell said.

But she said VPI has been successful enough to continue next year, and will host three major events per semester. The festival will be one of those events and will take place again next spring, she said.

The festival will begin with a film that "explores how music videos and their media influences our perception of sex and power," Rakoczy Russell said.

There will also be a corn hole tournament with an entry fee to raise money for SOS of Madison Center, the Rape Crisis Center for St. Joseph County, she said.

Rakoczy Russell said she hopes corn hole will be an attraction for those who would not have otherwise attended a GRC event and hopes that these people will have the opportunity to hear the festival's message.

"We're hoping with a festival like this that someone might come just because they like to play corn hole," she said.

The festival will also feature a speech from Ray Donald McPherson, who is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame and a voice of the NFL. His speech is entitled "Throwing a Hail Mary" and will take place at 6 p.m. on South Quad.

It will focus on social power and also speak about the explicit and implicit forms of violence, Rakoczy Russell said.

"Nothing from the way we try and talk to each other, or the way we tell or our silence on to overt things we do that endanger ourselves and others, like excessive drinking," she said.

She said VPI will have a great time and also make the event successful enough to continue each year.

The goal of this year's festival is to "reflect and bring awareness to several social issues," she said.

Sometimes the art is to way we communicate and language doesn't really cap-
ture the way things are going on,

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Investigators hope to find other women victimized by Markoff

Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston police placed an ad on Craigslist Thursday in an attempt to find other women who may have been victimized by Philip Markoff.

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office spokesman Jake Wark said that Boston investigators hope the ad, posted in the "erotic services" section of the Web site, will persuade other possible victims to come forth.

"Were you attacked or robbed at a Boston-area hotel after placing an ad on Craigslist?" the ad asked.

"If so, you may have information that could aid the investigation into the April 10 armed robbery of a woman at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel. Both victims were attacked by a man who said he was responding to a ad for massage.

The posting does not mention Markoff by name, and Wark says investigators aren't sure there are other victims.

Markoff, a Boston University medical student, is charged in the April 14 killing of Julissa Brisman, a 25-year-old massage therapist Markoff met through Craigslist. He is also charged in a robbery of another masseuse that police say he met through Craigslist.

Markoff has pleaded not guilty to charges of murder, armed robbery and kidnapping.

Meanwhile, supporters of Markoff have launched a new Facebook group to rally around him.

"This is a very sad and tragic case that hurts all of us involved in the ongoing investigation," Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said in a statement.

"It appears that Shylea had a rough go in life."

A court document filed in the family's custody case in the Genesee County Circuit Court to seize custody of seven other children who were living in the home identified the woman as 39-year-old Lorrie Thomas of Flint. Leyton said he did not know whether Thomas had a lawyer.

Officials said the woman was a blood relative of Shylea's who adopted her through the state. Authorities were reviewing evidence and results from an autopsy before deciding on charges, Leyton said at a late-afternoon news conference.

"I've asked the investigators to do more witness interviews," he said.

"Before I charged somebody with a crime of this magnitude, I want to be sure. There's more information I would like to have to help me make a decision," by Friday, the prosecutor said.

The case unfolded this week when other relatives of the girl told the state Department of Human Services about possible neglect and said they hadn't seen her in six weeks.

A case worker, Aaron Clum, visited the home Monday and was unable to confirm Shylea's whereabouts. Clum said in the court document that Thomas told him the family was moving to Virginia and the girl was on her way with a friend.

On Tuesday, the department asked Flint police to investigate. Thomas again insisted Shylea was bound for Virginia, Clum wrote, but that could not be confirmed.
Operatives not to be prosecuted yet

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Eric Holder left open the possibility Thursday to prosecute former Bush administration officials but ruled out filing charges merely over disagreements about policy.

"I will not permit the criminalization of policy differences," Holder testified before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

"However, it is my responsibility as attorney general to enforce the law. It is my duty to enforce the law. If I see evidence of wrongdoing I will pursue it to the full extent of the law," he said.

Holder has made similar statements in the past, but he and other senior Obama administration officials are being scrutinized on the matter since the government released four legal memos detailing harsh treatment of terror suspects authorized during the Bush administration.

Obama said last week that CIA operatives who followed the memos' instructions would not face prosecution. The president did not rule out charges against those who authorized and approved the methods — nor did Holder in his testimony.

Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., who chairs the Appropriations Committee, criticized what he called the lies of the Bush administration, yet he urged Holder to be careful in whatever course he took.

"It seems to me the important question isn't whether or not there is widespread prosecution of people," Obey said. "The important question is whether or not we're going to strike the right balance between pursuing personal wrongdoing and making sure the country has the correct narrative about what did happen."

Congressional Democrats have expressed a strong desire to conduct their own investigation of those officials.

Officials are still awaiting the results of an internal Justice Department investigation into the actions of the memo-writers.

Besides the question of prosecutions, the release of the four memos has also sparked debate over how many more classified details of the interrogation program should be released.

"It is certainly the intention of this administration not to play hide and seek, or not to release certain things," said Holder. "It is not our intention to agenda or to try to hide things from the American people."

Republicans — including former Vice President Dick Cheney — have urged Obama administration to release other, still-secret documents detailing what intelligence was gained from the controversial interrogation techniques.

"I think you have an obligation to release the rest of the memos," said Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va.

Holder said he wasn't sure exactly which memos Cheney is referring to, because he hasn't seen them. The attorney general suggested such classified documents may exist at other agencies.

"I'm the attorney general and I don't control many of the memos you might be talking about," said Holder.

Suit filed against fertilizer company

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A company whose factory in northwest Missouri gave farmers fertilizer that critics say contained a cancer-causing chemical disputed the claims Thursday and defended its environmental record.

Prime Tanning Corp., of Hartland, Maine, issued a statement in response to a lawsuit filed Wednesday accusing it of knowingly distributing sludge containing hexavalent chromium as free fertilizer to farmers in four counties.

The metal, also known as chromium 6, is a known carcinogen. The company's St. Joseph plant was purchased this year by National Beef Leathers, a subsidiary of Kansas City-based National Beef Packing Co. that also was named in the lawsuit.

On Thursday, National Beef Leathers said it would stop distributing the sludge while it conducts its own investigation.

Environmental activist Erin Brockovich told a crowd in Cameron on Wednesday night that hexavalent chromium may be linked to what some area residents believe in a high number of brain tumors in the region.

State and federal agencies have tested several areas in and around Cameron in the last year in response to concerns about brain tumors, but not for chromium 6. The lawsuit depicted as the first time hexavalent chromium in fertilizer had been publicly identified as a possible cause.

"Based on our preliminary investigation, we believe there is no basis for the claims made in the litigation," said Grover Elliott, vice president and chief financial officer of Prime Tanning Co. "We look forward to cooperating fully with state and federal agencies in their review and investigation."

The lawsuit, filed by two northwest Missouri residents, accuses Prime Tanning of not telling the state that the sludge left over from tanning processes at the plant contained hexavalent chromium.

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Student response upholds University character

It has now been five weeks since President Barack Obama was announced as Notre Dame's May 17 Commencement speaker, and the controversy that this decision has generated has now unquestionably touched every member of the Notre Dame community, and so many others around the nation and the world.

Many of those contributing to the controversy exist completely outside of the Notre Dame bubble, and they continue to fuel the fire that the president's Commencement Invitation has started. Yet the University's students should be proud for avoiding being engulfed by the proverbial flames.

Our campus has been placed under a microscope in the past few weeks, but they — the outside protest groups and national media who have over-politicized a non-political issue — aren't here for us.

The outside groups with militant attitudes who see the Golden Dome as little more than a "golden opportunity" for their causes aren't here because they love the University or hope to defend its Catholic tradition. The Notre Dame name is a high-profile one that attracts significant media attention, it's the reason why so many have flocked to South Bend to use our campus as a platform for their political agendas.

Yet under this microscope, our students have thrived. As alumni groups tally up the donations they're withholding and pro-life radicals attempt to bombard our campus with graphic language and images, students on this campus have carried themselves with a level of class and maturity that seems to have eluded many others.

There are students on both sides of this issue, but we haven't let that rip us apart.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Torture and Catholicism

Some might applaud the recent release of the torture memos by the Obama administration as heralding a new era of accountability, and hopefully leading to an end of the heinous, dehumanizing practice of torture. However, Christie Pasevant ("Torture is in the eye of the beholder," April 21) recently decried the release of the torture memos, because torture is awesome, and we shouldn't question the things our wise (as long as it's conservative) government does.

Her article was, essentially, a long list of typical right-wing arguments in favor of torture and government secrecy, but it was also a slap in the face to official Catholic doctrine. According to the Catholic Catechism, "Torture which uses physical or moral violence to extract confessions, punish the guilty, frighten opponents or satisfy hatred is contrary to respect for the person and for human dignity." It continues, "In recent times it has become evident that these cruel practices were neither necessary for public order, nor in conformity with the legitimate rights of the human person."

It's quite obvious that the Catholic Church is unequivocally against torture (at least it has been since it did it all the time) but I haven't seen the outcry against torture as I have seen against, say, abortion, on this campus. Why is that? President Obama may have only indirect power over America's abortion rates — the past eight years have seen relatively little change in abortion, in spite of Bush being president and pro-life yet it is only Obama's stance on abortion that seems to matter to many on this campus.

Michele Sagala ("The real issue," April 21) argues that the President contradicts "some of our most fundamental beliefs on life as Catholics." Some? Over the past few months, I've counted a single one — abortion. Now, I haven't been a Catholic for a long time, but I remember there being a couple of other values that were important to your average Catholic: In fact, entire Sundays would pass without a single mention of abortion.

Considering that such evils as torture are being, or at least have been, practiced by America's leaders, I ask that Catholics on this campus wake up, and realize that there is more to Catholicism than an aversion to abortion.

James Spideli, senior off campus

APRIL 23

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A college degree is not a sign that one is a finished product but that a certain person is prepared for life."

Fr. Edward "Monk" Malloy
University president emeritus
Dear Fr. Jenkins,

I am a graduating senior in the class of 2012, and I am writing to you in order to express my support for the decision of Notre Dame to award the 2011 commencement speaker to President Barack Obama. I am an ardent supporter of President Obama and believe that he is the best possible candidate for the role of commencement speaker at Notre Dame.

I understand that some members of the community may have concerns about the choice of President Obama as commencement speaker. However, I believe that the decision was made with the best intentions, and that it will ultimately benefit our University.

As a senior, I believe that we should be proud to have a President of the United States as our commencement speaker. President Obama has demonstrated his commitment to our country and to our University in various ways, including his work on issues such as healthcare, education, and the economy.

I urge the University to continue to support President Obama and to look to him as a role model for all of us.

Sincerely,
Gary Caruso
Capital Class of 2012
Divinity in day drinking

In support of Fr. Jenkins

Dear Notre Dame students, faculty, staff and family members,

We are writing you all in regards to the growing criticism over the selection to welcome President Barack Obama for this year's Commencement. We stand in support of Fr. John Jenkins and our University administration's decision to host President Obama.

As Notre Dame students concerned with the many dimensions of social justice, we look to the words of our University's Mission Statement, which reads: “The University seeks to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that are the lot of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice.”

This ever-urgent call to work for the common good inspires us as students to uphold the principles of justice and solidarity. We recognize that all issues of life are important matters that people of good conscience are called to take seriously. This point must not be downplayed and we think it is important to have an honest and open conversation.

As Notre Dame students, we strive to be a concerned community that recognizes the complexity of the many issues that face our nation and our world. We respect diverse viewpoints on issues and we also believe in respectful dialogue. We think, however, that the debate is being neglected by those who would rather divide than work together for common ground and for the common good. We are concerned that in narrowing the focus to one aspect of life that has often proven polarizing and divisive many have lost the ability to recognize the other aspects of President Obama's work that continues to uphold the principles of justice and solidarity.

Furthermore we welcome a president to our University that has in many ways helped redefine the history of our nation. We have admired the work of those in the civil rights movement that made it possible for President Obama to come to our campus as our country's first African-American president. President Obama's work continues to bring that hope to many.

We are concerned that in narrowing the focus to one aspect of life that has often proven polarizing and divisive many have lost the ability to recognize the other aspects of President Obama's work that continues to uphold the principles of justice and solidarity.

Therefore, we welcome President Obama to speak at Commencement and respect him as a well-thought out and respected leader.

Left Newport Living. It doesn't matter if it poured during the game, or for the following five days, the rain-soaked game was made even more fun because of the tailgate.

Evidence No. 2: March 17, 2009

On March 12, it snowed. Five days later, God treated Notre Dame students to the warmest and most beautiful March day of all the March days (seriously, look it up, the high that day was five degrees warmer than any other that month). It's as if the man upstairs knew that the residents of Lafayette Apartments were going to throw the best party since incredibly lame people moved into Turtle Creek (actually, being omniscient, I guess he did know that).

Regardless, St. Paddy's Day gave us the hint that divine forces were at work in South Bend.

Evidence No. 3: April 18, 2009

Last weekend, Notre Dame students were witness to another miraculous turn of events as a month's worth of 40 and 50 degree, rainy days paved the way for the glorious three day stretch of sun that pinnacled with an immaculate high of 72 on PigTostal Saturday.

The Kirk, Jenkins and Swarbrick triumvirate might have (or might not have) done everything in their power to cancel this great event, but it is clear that the student body had the big guy on our side as PigTostal not only happened, but it happened on another beautiful day.

What does all of this prove? It is a coincidence that the only days of 2009 that have brought South Bend temperature above the 70-degree mark featured the two best day drinking parties of the year?

Or are there greater forces at work? Being a sometimes practicing Catholic, I have to believe in God, the Almighty; and as a Notre Dame student, I must also believe in Our Mother. I believe that things happen for a reason and that these miraculous meteorological mysteries can only have one explanation: God wants us to party.

So in the name of God, party I will.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. Read more of his work at www.thingsnotrademaidestudentlike.com. You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu.

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

Other recipients unworthy

I was alerted yesterday to the news that Notre Dame is to award honorary degrees to seven "disting­uished" people in addition to President Barack Obama. I was shocked to see the name Myles Brand in this group. This man is the current president of the NCAA and has been for about six years. I implore everyone — those for Barack and those against — to protest this man receiving an honorary degree.

Why you ask? Well, let's be serious here. This man had the chance to change the scheme of college football as we know it and create what we all know is the right system for the post-sea­son.— a well-thought out playoff system. When taking over the job, he said he would "listen and learn" and "work it out." He's done neither, done nothing for NCAA Football and we are stuck with bowls determining our National Championship team still.

While I wish Mr. Brand the best with his current health problems, I implore you to protest this man being given an honorary degree. He is obviously at odds with one of the most impor­tant things— football.

Kevin Kimberly
senior
O'Neill Hall
April 22

About the graduates

I would like to thank Jeff Immelt (*"A few thoughts on a special day,"* April 22) for taking the time to offer his thoughtful perspective on the controversy surrounding President Obama. As an engineering student who spent two summers interning with GE Aviation, I feel that GE is one of the finest companies in the world.

As a senior who has grown weary of reading all of the emotionally-charged letters surround­ing President Obama's invitation, I found it refreshing to have someone like Mr. Immelt recognize that one speech won't change what Notre Dame stands for and that graduation should be about the graduates.

Joe Jeray
senior
Sorin College
April 22

Peter Connolly
alumnus
Class of 1955
April 22

Core values root of problem

In his recent guest column in *The Observer* (*"A few thoughts on a special day,"* April 22), GE Chairman Jeff Immelt presented a compelling case for why "we must adhere to core values — core values that ground each institution at all times."

Exactly correct, Mr. Immelt, and therein lies the rub. By honoring the person who represents the complete antithesis of Notre Dame's core values (until now), Fr. Jenkins has done a grave disservice to the Catholic Church and to all who have labored these 167 years to uphold the mission of the University. It's not surprising, however, that this move would come from the company that owns NBC, the most biased and least objective of all TV networks.
Chill Out, Amp Up, Welcome to Exams

by Jess Shaffer

1. Someday – Slightly Stoopid
2. Perfect Day – Hoku
3. Boyz – MIA
4. Birds and Bees – Ben Lee and Mandy Moore
5. Spotlight – Mutemath
6. Bottle it Up – Sara Bareilles
7. I’m Like a Bird – Nelly Furtado
8. My Name is Jonas – Weezer
10. I Love College – Asher Roth
11. Crazy Rap – Afrouman
12. Hardcore Days & Softcore Nights – Aqueduct
13. Hey Girl – Dashboard Confessional
14. 1,2,3,4 – Plain White T’s
15. Time to Pretend – MGMT
16. Sound of Settling – Death Cab for Cutie

While spring is a time that ushers in a terrain of sunshine, flowers, bounding furry friends (i.e. squirrels) and awesome campus activities like AnTostal, it is also that time of year when the Library starts calling your name.

This is my playlist to embody the wide variety of emotions that compose the final days of the year: the depression, the frenzy, the stress and the blissful joy of spring.

Please enjoy this varied, albeit random, compilation of music.

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
Scene Writer

The work of Slightly Stoopid is as much about the music as it is about a lifestyle. They bring a little bit of California surfer life everywhere they tour.

Slightly Stoopid consciously protects its unique identity and averts becoming too mainstream by not signing with a major record label. They want to maintain creative control over what they produce. That being said, Slightly Stoopid has supported big-name music acts like Sublime, Blink-182, LB-Dub, G. Love & Special Sauce and Pennywise.

Self-proclaimed “road dogs,” Slightly Stoopid is almost constantly on tour, and performs nearly 200 concerts a year. They greatly emphasize improvisation in their music and in their audience during their shows. They will kick off their “Blazed and Confused” summer tour on July 10 with Snoop Dogg and Stephen Marley.

Slightly Stoopid will be making a stop in South Bend at Notre Dame’s very own Legends this at 10 p.m. When “the clock says it’s time to roll ya” be sure to head over to Legends act, at least take one thing away from this article — it’s “stoopid” not “stupid,” stup-id.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsen@nd.edu

The California band Slightly Stoopid takes the stage in Houston. They will play at Legends tonight at 10 p.m.
Social security is hemorrhaging money. Over the past couple of years, it has become clear that solid financial planning is necessary for an easy retirement. Sub stories about retirees going back to work evoke sympathy from even the coldest of hearts. Fortunately, one of these stories has turned into an envelope.

AnTostal week.

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By NICHOLAS ANDERSON

Scene Writer

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The week started on Monday with a live show that was the quarter dog with T-shirt tie dying, some son on campus.

Twelve years ago, Leonard Cohen was doing well: Moderate mainstream fame, a legion of religiously devoted fans and the most impressive catalogue of songs this side of Bob Dylan. Cohen is known for writing the ubiquitous "Hallelujah," decided it was about time to have to do once they get older, being overweight, as many are. Cohen packs the stage with performers who perfectly compliment his style. While Cohen is the center of attention, each member of the group provides a deep and appropriate solo spread throughout the concert. Javier Mas opens and carries "Who by Fire" with an intricately beautiful melody from a 12-string guitar and Dino Soldo's woodwinds create an atmosphere across several songs that carry the listener effortlessly. Every musician on stage masters their instrument and dedicates it to Cohen's will.

While the instruments talk about being proper or about money: he's there to share his passion from kindness and his life.

For a man who's primarily known for his songwriting, Cohen displays the abilities of an excellent multi-instrumentalist. Dressed in a double-breasted suit and fedora, Cohen looks like a member of the Rat Pack. About 20 years ago, Cohen ran a record store, but he's been involved with the music business since he was 17. Cohen is known for his songwriting, but a large group of people have only increased the authenticity of his songs. He's a man who's been to the depths his lyrics explore but has also been healed. He owes a debt to his songs and this concert is his best attempt at payment.

In such a large crowd of people, Cohen achieves something rare: a moment of silence. With the crowd still cheering from the previous song, the opening notes of "Hallelujah" are heard. After an upturn in crowd noise in anticipation, the stadium goes quiet for most of the remaining song. The souls of those onstage are offered to the song. Cohen hits every note with a power fueled by a mixture of pain and joy, which can clearly be seen on his face.

Leonard Cohen truly is a rare artist giving a rare performance. A five-decade career is delivered over 26 songs. "Live in London" serves as both a great introduction and end piece to his work. Cohen has surpassed the goal of finding music that is enjoyable and found music that matters.

By ERIC PRISTER

Scene Writer

The Notre Dame campus is wrapping up one of the traditional weeks of the year—AnTostal week.

And while it may not be the most exciting week for some, there is one thing that every­ student should love about the week, and the fact that it brings out the kid in each person on campus.

The week started Monday with T-shirt tie dying, something that definitely throws everyone back to his or her childhood. When else could someone wear a shirt that incorporated so many colors and get away with it? Outside O'Shaug, the AnTostal folk were giving away snap bracelets, which I'm pretty sure can only be purchased using tickets won at Chuck E. Cheese. Finally, that night was the quarter dog eating contest. No worrying about being proper or about eating overweight, as many have to do once they get older.

It's just a perfect opportunity to stuff hot dogs into your mouth without worrying about being judged. Tuesday continued the childhood fun with a game of freeze tag, straight from kindergarten gym class, at which they offered a huge favorite of most 10-year-olds—freeze pops. The eating contest got even better as people competed by consuming large amounts of Twinkies, and "Heavyweights." The packed 20,000-seat arena and makes it in front of 300-person club. The show runs an impress­ hours but moves at an incredible rate.

The Hula-Hooping on North Quad offered a moon bounce, an inflatable race, and给了 the fulfillment of everyone's childhood dreams — the AnTostal Spring carnival. Not only were they offering free popcorn and snow cones, but South Quad was filled with enough inflatables to make the rich kid from "Blank Check" jealous. The AnTostal carnival offered a moon bounce, an inflatable figure-8 race, an inflatable boxing ring and other games, which could keep a college student, not to mention a pre-teen, occupied for hours.

AnTostal offers something rare for college students, or anyone over the age of twelve for that matter. It allows everyone to stop worrying about school, stop worrying about relationship problems, stop worrying about finding a job and to just be a kid again. That is the greatest gift that could be given to the overworked, sleep deprived and stressed Notre Dame community.

By ERIC PRISTER

Scene Writer

The Notre Dame campus is wrapping up one of the traditional weeks of the year—AnTostal week.

And while it may not be the most exciting week for some, there is one thing that every­ student should love about the week, and the fact that it brings out the kid in each person on campus.

The week started Monday with T-shirt tie dying, something that definitely throws everyone back to his or her childhood. When else could someone wear a shirt that incorporated so many colors and get away with it? Outside O'Shaug, the AnTostal folk were giving away snap bracelets, which I'm pretty sure can only be purchased using tickets won at Chuck E. Cheese. Finally, that night was the quarter dog eating contest. No worrying about being proper or about eating overweight, as many have to do once they get older.

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Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

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Kids box against each other on a giant inflatable ring. Notre Dame students let loose on South Quad Thursday afternoon.
Cardinals outfielder Rick Ankiel makes a diving catch to rob Mets outfielder Gary Sheffield of a hit during St. Louis' 12-8 win over New York on Thursday. St. Louis has won seven straight at home.

Perfect player, in my opinion," manager Tony La Russa said. "We're lucky to have him, believe me.

Ankiel hit his first homer later in the fifth, making it 7-2 and chasing Hernandez. Lohse (3-0) is 11-2 in 21 starts at home this past two seasons although he barely qualified for this win. He escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the fifth on Gary Sheffields' double-play ball and left with a 4-2 lead. Five relievers finished for the Cardinals.

Lohse was hurt when he reached back to try to corral a grounder by Jose Reyes that Pujols batted at first for an error to start the fifth. Lohse didn't believe it was anything serious, although he underwent an MRI exam.

"I was trying to stop and grab the ball and the bracelets weren't working very well," Lohse said. "They worked too good because I stopped too quick."
**NCAA Women's Tennis Division I Top 25**

1. Georgia Tech 600 26-8-1
2. Texas 638 29-8
3. North Carolina 703 31-10
4. Arizona State 708 28-8
5. Rice 633 27-10
6. UC Irvine 622 26-10
7. Georgia Tech 600 26-8-1
8. California 626 25-11
9. Arkansas 456 26-11
10. Rice 633 27-10
11. Arkansas 47
12. Miami (Fla.) 67
13. Northwestern 84
14. Virginia 158 13-1
15. Hofstra

**NCAA Men's Lacrosse Division I Top 20**

1. Virginia 150 13-1
2. Cornell 145 9-2
3. Notre Dame 143 18-2
4. Princeton 139 12-8
5. Duke 131 18-2
6. Johns Hopkins 110 6-4
7. Johns Hopkins 110 6-4
8. Northwestern 107 10-4
9. Hobart 101 9-2
10. UNC 99 9-3
11. Yale 76 6-4
12. Maryland 75 6-5
13. Johns Hopkins 64 11-2
14. Loyola (Md.) 58 8-4
15. Bucknell 47 8-4
16. Massachusetts 30 7-4
17. Colgate 24 8-4
18. Georgia 24 6-4
20. Albany (N.Y.) 14 7-4

**ITA Women's Tennis Division I Top 25**

1. Northwestern 94
2. Duke 75
3. Georgia 74
4. Notre Dame 68
5. Bucknell 65
6. Miami (Fla.) 67
7. Southern California 62
8. Virginia 61
9. Georgia Tech 61
10. Tennessee 52 53-14
11. UCLA 51
12. Clemson 56
13. Stanford 46
14. Arkansas 47
15. Florida 43

**NBA Playoffs**

- Cleveland at Detroit (CLE leads 2-0)
- Orlando at Philadelphia (series tied 1-1)

**Friday, April 24, 2009**

**Around the Dial**

- **ESPN.com/USA Top 25**
- **NCAA Baseball**
- **NCAA Men's Lacrosse**
- **ITA Women's Tennis Division I Top 25**
- **NFL**
- **City asks Colts, Pacers for money**
- **Don Welsh, left, CEO of Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association, speaks at the Statehouse in Indianapolis on April 2.**

The committee was proposing a bill to help fund the agency that operates major Indianapolis sports stadiums.

**Associated Press**

**INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts believe they've already done their part to help the city's cash-strapped stadium agency.**

And they're taking their argument outside the legislative halls and straight to the fans.

On Thursday, the team e-mailed a letter to season ticket holders defending its position that the $100 million contribution owner Jim Irsay made to building Lucas Oil Stadium should suffice.

But the Indianapolis Capital Improvement Board, which is expected to have a $43 million deficit because of operating costs at the Colts' new stadium and Conseco Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers, needs more money and city and state leaders are asking Indianapolis' two major sports franchises to chip in.

*The letter went out one day before a panel of lawmakers was set to meet to try to reach a compromise on a bill to fund the board before the Legislature adjourns Wednesday.*

*"The Colts made a 30-year commitment to the community," the letter reads. "These written agreements, signed nearly four years ago, committed the team to this community for the next 30 years with no option to renegotiate, regardless of any financial downturns that might arise."*

Colts officials contend some of the statements made during the continuing debate have been misleading or simply untrue, though the letter did not cite any specific remarks.

A team spokesman said the Colts would not elaborate on anything contained in the letter.

*"I'm glad to see them get out and start explaining their situation. When I met with Jim Irsay and (Colts president) Bill Polian, I told them they were getting blistered and I told them they needed to get their story out," said Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, the Senate Appropriations Committee chairman.*

He said it was important for the Colts to be involved in the solution to the CIB's troubles.

The Associated Press also left a message with an assistant to Rep. William Crawford, D-Indianapolis, the House Ways and Means Committee chairman.

**IN BRIEF**

- **Obama hosts Florida Gators at White House**
  - **WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has welcomed the Florida Gators to the White House and congratulated them on a second national championship in football in three years.**
  - Obama on Thursday welcomed the Gators to the East Room and said their excellence on and off the football field is worthy of praise.
  - Obama says being a champion doesn't end when the clock runs out and that the team volunteers 400 hours each year.
  - Obama says it's strong leadership that the team played hard and works in their communities.
  - In a moment of levity, Obama says he still supports a national playoff system instead of the current bowl system. But the president also says he's confident the Gators could've defeated any team out there.

- **Colts restructure Wayne's contract to save money**
  - **INDIANAPOLIS — Pro Bowl receiver Reggie Wayne has agreed to a restructured contract, which will give the Colts more room under this year's salary cap.**
  - Wayne's agent, Jody Branson, confirmed the deal was completed but did not provide details about how much Indianapolis would save.
  - Players frequently restructure contracts by accepting bonuses after agreeing to lower their annual salaries. The bonuses are then prorated over the remaining length of the deal, in Wayne's case three years, to lower the team's salary cap number in the first year.
  - Wayne has been the Colts' primary receiver the past two seasons and is expected to play a more prominent role this year after Marvin Harrison, the franchise's career receiving leader, was released in February.

- **Purdue will stay strong at quarterback position**
  - **INDIANAPOLIS — Purdue coach Danny Hope says Purdue will be strong as usual at quarterback, despite losing Curtis Painter to eligibility and Justin Siller to a suspension.**
  - The first-year coach said the spread offense is in good hands with fifth-year senior Joey Elliott and redshirt freshman Caleb TerBush.
  - Both have earned respect. Elliott, the No. 1 quarterback, has been voted a captain by his teammates.
  - TerBush, the backup, was given the offensive's Newcomer Award, which is given to the player who shows the most progress during spring practice.
  - "I think we're in better shape at the quarterback spot than a lot of people thought we would be," Hope said after Purdue's spring game.
  - Whichever quarterback takes over will face high expectations. Painter passed for 11,763 yards and 67 touchdowns in four years as a starter.
Curry declares for NBA draft, plans to hire agent

Associated Press

DAVIDSON, N.C. — The big schools didn’t want Stephen Curry, then were helpless in stopping his sweet-shooting stroke as he put甜 Davidsson into the national spotlight.

Now after three seasons and plenty of records, Curry is taking his game to the NBA, presenting more intrigue in how the skinny, baby-faced guard with the great genes will fare at the next level.

The nation’s leading scorer announced at an on-campus news conference Thursday that he’s skipping his senior season to enter the NBA draft. His father, former NBA sharpshooter Dell Curry, attended the announcement, along with his mother, Sonya, and Davidson coach Bob McKillop.

Curry said he will hire an agent, ending any chance that he’ll return to campus and perhaps break Pete Maravich’s NCAA Division I career scoring record.

“I think I’m mentally and physically ready to make that jump,” said Curry, who believes his unheralded Southern Conference team is among the nation’s best.

The 6-foot-3 Curry moved to point guard this season and averaged 28.6 points. He had 15 games of 30 or more points and three of 40 or more as teams couldn’t find a way to stop him.

Still, the decision tore at Curry’s stomach much more than he expected. Two days after scoring 26 points in Davidson’s loss to Saint Mary’s in the NIT, Curry said he’d quickly make up his mind after speaking with his parents.

Dell Curry told his son he’d likely be a lottery pick and probably wouldn’t improve his draft status by waiting a year. But the younger Curry wavered because of his desire to get his college degree. Davidson does not have a summer school program, and he unsuccessfully tried to get school officials to bend a policy that requires seniors to take the majority of their classes on campus.

“During the whole process, some days I would say, ‘I think I’ll be a six-footer,'” Curry said. “Then some doubts would come in and I’d say, ‘I’m going to leave.’ Then more doubts would come in and I would keep going back and forth.”

Curry told school officials Wednesday afternoon he would announce his decision on Thursday, but didn’t tell McKillop or his father what he’d do.

The uncertainty captivated the region, with four Charlotte-area television stations broadcasting the news conference live. Curry said he finally made up his mind 90 minutes earlier while “eating an omelet” in the school cafeteria.

“I took that and long to figure it out,” Curry said. “I decided to sleep on it last night. I was at peace this morning and that’s what I was looking for.”

Despite a weaker supporting cast than a season ago, Curry shot 45 percent from the field in 2008-09, including 29 percent from 3-point range. He was voted a first-team Associated Press All-American.

He finished his college career with a school record 2,635 points, which ranks 25th in NCAA Division I history, and 414 3-pointers, fourth on the all-time list.

If Curry had returned for his senior season, he would have had an outside shot at breaking Maravich’s four decade-old record of 3,367 points.

“He’s become the face of college basketball. He’s become the face of Davidson basketball,” McKillop said, tears in his eyes. "As special as he has been to us, he will be equally special in the NBA. I’ve been incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to coach him these three years. While Curry was perhaps the best shooter in college basketball, there are questions about how successful he’ll be in the NBA. Curry will have to beef up his slight frame to withstand the rigors of an 82-game schedule. He’s also still adjusting to the move to point guard, a position he’ll likely have to play to be a starter in the NBA.

Curry struggled at times when facing taller defenders with long arms, a likely nightly occurrence at the next level. But his lightning-quick release, surprising quickness, high basketball IQ and late growth spurt will likely be a lottery pick and make lottery teams take notice.

“He’s shown that he can play and he’s ready,” Dell Curry said.

Curry has plenty of high-profile fans, too. Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James attended a Davidson NCAA tournament game last year and sat courtside in December when Curry scored 44 points in a win over North Carolina State.

“He’s like a (Richard) Hamilton in our league. He never stops moving,” James said after that game. “He’s the type of player that’s going to guard no matter how big you are. Guys in the NBA don’t want to continue to chase guys like that.”

The major schools ignored Curry in high school because he was just 5-foot-9 in his junior year. He reached 6-feet as a freshman at Davidson and grew three more inches. After getting an MRI exam on an injured ankle in February, Curry said a doctor told him his growth plates showed he could sprout another two inches.

His father had a similar late growth spurt at Virginia Tech. Dell Curry then spent 16 years in the NBA, mostly with the Charlotte Hornets. He works in the Charlotte Bobcats’ front office.

Stephen Curry said he’ll finish classes this semester, then begin a rigorous workout program. He’ll attend the NBA pre-draft event in Chicago next month, then work out for a handful of teams based on the results of the draft lottery.

“If you look at my body compared to some point guards and (shooting) guards, I have a lot of work to do,” Curry said. “But if you saw me my freshman year, people were saying, ‘Who’s this kid in sixth grade walking around in college?’”

Friday, April 24, 2009

The Observer • SPORTS

NCAA Men’s Basketball

Curry declares for NBA draft, plans to hire agent...
Irish set to define title streak

By BRENDAN CORSONES
Sports Writer

The Irish have been constantly said he does not want to be in New Jersey.

"Straight Big East title Saturday practice, which may be why the Irish this weekend.

"All of the Big East has been showing speed," he said. "I would not count anybody out." Stone demands excellence in practice, which may be why the Irish have been constantly

Notre Dame last competed eight seed, while Notre Dame has been showing speed, "I would not count anybody out," Stone demands excellence in practice, which may be why the Irish have been constantly improving all season.

Louisville enters the tournament with the No. 1 varsity seed, while Notre Dame is seeded second. Notre Dame last competed

Coach Stone said he has confidence that this year's team had the stuff it takes to add another trophy to the mantle. "I think we should win this," he said, "but it will take a great performance from everyone."

The first preliminary races begin at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at Cooper River Park in Pennsauken, N.J. The day's first grand final will begin at 9:40 a.m.

Contact Brendan Corsones at bcorsone@nd.edu

Want more ND or SMC sports?
Check out The Observer sports blog, The Casual Observer, at:
observersportsblog.wordpress.com

VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE
NOW IS THE TIME FESTIVAL ON THE QUAD

Because there is a time for everything - a time for music, a time for dancing, and most of all, a time to gather and celebrate our commitment to overcome sexual violence

YOU THROW LIKE A GIP

A KEYNOTE BY DONALD MCPHERSON

For more than 20 years, Donald McPherson has used the power and appeal of sports to address complex social issues. He has created innovative programs, supported community service providers and has facilitated educational seminars and lectures throughout North America. He is a national leader and advocate for the prevention of sexual and domestic violence.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAMER

G O T H E R:

- University of Alabama
- Eastern Illinois University
- National Football League

- Super Bowl winner
- Two-time All-Pro
- Four-time Pro Bowl
- Two-time NFL Offensive Player of the Year
- National Football League

- Member of the College Football Hall of Fame
- College Football Hall of Fame
- College Football Hall of Fame

- Western New York Football Legends Hall of Fame
- Midwest Sports Hall of Fame
- Maryland Sports Hall of Fame
- naming rights to McPherson Stadium at the University of Alabama at Huntsville

- Program director of the United States Olympic Committee and other professional

- Donald McPherson, founder and CEO of McPherson Impact
- Donald McPherson, founder and CEO of McPherson Impact
- Donald McPherson, founder and CEO of McPherson Impact

- Member of the Board of Directors for the NFL Foundation for Human Services
- Founding member of the NFL Foundation for Human Services
- Founding member of the NFL Foundation for Human Services

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FRIDAY APRIL 24 2009
6:00-7:30 PM
SOUTH QUAD UNDER TENT
Rain Location: Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business

Kings fire coach Natt after dismal season

by Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento Kings fired interim coach Kenny Natt and his four assistants Thursday, a week after the club finished with the NBA's worst record.

The Kings, once a model of stability during eight consecutive winning seasons and playoff appearances under coach Rick Adelman, will be looking for their fourth coach since Adelman was fired in 2006 by owners Joe and Gavin Maloof.

Natt, a longtime NBA assistant for Jerry Sloan and Mike Brown, was promoted after Sacramento fired Reggie Theus on Dec. 15. Natt went 11-47 in charge of the Kings, who finished 17-65.

Natt wasn't thought to be in the Kings' long-term plans, which was confirmed when the club formally announced it wouldn't pick up his contract option for next year.

Sacramento also fired assistant coaches Rex Kalamian, Jason Hamm, Randy Brown and Bubba Burrage. The Kings didn't disclose the status of Shareef Abdur-Rahim, the former Kings forward who became an assistant on a one-year contract this season.

The Kings' next coach will inherit a stripped-down roster after several salary-shedding moves by president of basketball operations Geoff Petrie during the season. Sacramento also has the best shot at the No. 1 pick in the upcoming draft in the lottery next month.

Sacramento is close to rock-bottom after its unsuccessful roster stumbled through the season in front of quiet crowds at half-empty Arco Arena, where the franchise had sold out 354 consecutive games before the 2007 season opener. The Kings had the lowest average attendance in the league this season leading up to the final week, and the club doesn't appear to be making much progress on its effort to build a new arena.

The Kings' coaching chaos has been a prime factor in their downfall. Eric Musselman, the former Golden State coach chosen by the Maloof family to replace Adelman, made it through just one contentious 33-49 season before being fired with two years left on his contract.

The Kings waited two months between firing Musselman and hiring Theus, the former Sacramento guard with scant head coaching experience. He was fired after a 6-15 start to his second season.
The Observer • PAID ADVERTISEMET
Friday, April 24, 2009

Undergraduate Male Athlete of the Year:
1. Carl Andersen
   o Senior Carl Andersen, one of the top basketball players on campus, led Morrissey Manor to their second straight Interhall Basketball title and undefeated season with 17 points in the championship game. Carl’s athleticism and ability to shoot from anywhere make him a tough opponent and an impressive player to watch. In addition to playing basketball, broomball and volleyball, Carl also plays Interhall and Collec football where he is one of the league leading wide receivers for both his Interhall and Collec football teams.

2. Alex Klupchak
   o Alex Klupchak, a senior from O'Neill Hall, can be found most afternoons playing several hours of pick-up basketball at Rolfs. Alex has a confidence and intensity that can be matched by few other players and his quickness and ability to drive the lane and shoot from deep make him a constant threat. As captain and leading scorer of his Collec and Interhall basketball teams, he led them both to appearances in the championship games, putting up 23 points in the Interhall Final. When not on the hardwood, Alex plays wide receiver on O'Neill's Interhall Football team and referees countless basketball and football games.

3. Casey McGushin
   o Casey "Pistol" McGushin is the captain and leading scorer for Soria's Interhall Basketball team where his driving ability and accuracy from deep behind the arc make him the Otter's number one threat. In addition, Pistol plays quarterback on the Otters' Interhall Football team and is the captain of the Little Giants flag football team who had an undefeated regular season, beating opponents by an average of 52 points.

Undergraduate Female Athlete of the Year:
1. Kathleen Stanley
   a. Kathleen Stanley helped McGlinn Hall capture the Interhall Women's Basketball & Flag Football championships. McGlinn upset the top seeded Purple Weasels of PW in a 41-33 victory to win the Interhall Women's Basketball title. In addition, Stanley plays in multiple soccer leagues, Interhall Lacrosse, and was a member of DVD Late Night who made an appearance in the Collec basketball final.

2. Mary Forr
   a. Mary Forr was a major component of Pasquerilla West's Flag Football team as their top wide receiver. She also led the Purple Weasels to the number one seed in the Women's Interhall Basketball tournament where they fell to McGlinn in the championship game. In addition, Mary was a key contributor on several Collec teams including Flag Football, Basketball, and Broomball.

3. Jenni Gargula
   a. Jenni Gargula plays quarterback for Welsh Family's Interhall Flag Football team that lost the championship game in the final minutes. Over the past three years, she has a perfect record in the regular season as the Whirlwind's quarterback. Jenni also brings an unmatched intensity to the point guard position on the Whirlwinds' Interhall Basketball team.

Graduate Male Athlete of the Year:
1. Matt Hamel
   a. After losing on penalty kicks in the GPS Soccer championship game, Matt Hamel helped the Insurance Weavers capture the Collec Basketball title en route to an undefeated season. Hamel brings an unmatched intensity and determination to all sports as the leading scorer of the GPS basketball team, Flannel, and a strong defender on his Collec Soccer team. In addition to playing basketball, soccer, broomball and volleyball, Hamel is one of the top officials for both soccer and basketball.

2. Braden Turner
   a. Braden Turner represents MSA in a variety of sports including basketball, flag football, and volleyball. He was captain of the MSA flag football team and a member of the MSA soccer team that lost in the finals on penalty kicks.

3. David Standa
   a. As captain of his self-titled team, Dave Standa led his team to the GPS basketball title with a victory over CEGOS. Dave played GPS basketball on Team Flannel who made it to the semifinals before losing to the eventual champions. He is also a key contributor to his league leading Floor Hockey team, Throat Level Midnight, who has beaten his opponents by an average of 10 goals.

Graduate Female Athlete of the Year:
1. Susan Pinnick
   a. Susan Pinnick represented the MSA program well, playing as many sports as she could. She was a member of MSA soccer team that lost the championship game on penalty kicks and a key component of her undefeated Collec soccer team. In addition, Susan played basketball, flag football, and volleyball.

2. Chrissy Vaughn
   a. Chrissy Vaughn was the captain of the Mighty Mendoza GPS soccer team that won their league. She always brought enthusiasm and leadership to her team as a key contributor to their successful season.

3. Brittany Baron
   a. Brittany Baron is the leader of MSA athletics as the captain of both their soccer and basketball teams. She was a member of the Collec championship basketball team, Insurance Weavers, and the GPS soccer runner-up as well as flag football and volleyball.

Team of the Year:
1. Interhall Men's Basketball Champions: Morrissey Manor Basketball
   a. By averaging 65 points a game, Morrissey Manor completed an undefeated season and claimed the number one seed in the Men's Interhall Basketball Championship. Led by senior Captain Carl Andersen's 17 points, they were able to defend their Interhall basketball title with a 69-62 victory over O'Neill Hall.

2. Collec Flag Football Champions: Weapons of Mass Destruction
   a. Weapons of Mass Destruction struggled in the regular season, but a 2-2 record was just enough to get them into the playoffs where their season took off. They upset both the number one and number two seeds en route to the Collec Flag Football Championship.

3. Collec Basketball Champions: Insurance Weavers
   a. Joe Martell, Matt Hamel, & Joe DeMort led the Insurance Weavers to an undefeated season. Averaging 71 points a game to their opponents' 38, they captured the Collec Basketball Championship over DVD Late Night with a 71-30 victory.

Game of the Year:
1. Men's Interhall Hockey Championship: Siegfried vs. Stanford
   a. The 44 seed Siegfried met the 1 seed Stanford Griffins in the Interhall Men's Hockey championship after both teams had to go into OT to win their semifinal games. The Siegfried Ramsblers pulled off the 3-1 upset over the heavily favored Stanford Griffins to take home the championship trophy.

2. Men's Interhall Football Championship: Siegfried vs. Keenan
   a. The top-seeded Siegfried Ramsblers defeated the seventh-seeded Knights of Keenan Hall 14-13 to capture the Men's Interhall Football Championship trophy and complete an undefeated season. Despite the inspired play of the Knight's wide receiver, James Zenker, Siegfried was able to seal the victory when they stopped Keenan's attempt at a two-point conversion with just over two minutes to play.

3. GPS Soccer Championship: Team NSA vs. Pick Up United
   a. Forty minutes wasn’t enough to settle the GPS Soccer Championship as the game went into overtime tied 2-2. Top seeded Pick Up United pulled out the victory over third seeded Team NSA in Penalty Kicks 5-3.

Fan of the Year:
1. Zahn Hockey
   a. Defending Interhall Hockey Champion, Zahn House, could always be found with a large contingent of fans including fans in costumes of all sorts. Even as the team started to struggle, their fan base stayed strong during the early morning hours at the JACC Ice Rink.

2. Welsh Flag Football
   a. Welsh Fam was never short of fans, especially for Flag Football. Even Father Greg never missed a game. It's hard not to play well when you have the fan support that the Whirlwinds do,

3. Purple Rain
   a. GPS Flag Football team, Purple Rain, always had a ton of support from their fans, even bringing a mascot. The fans for Purple Rain stayed strong even as the weather turned cold and rainy for the playoffs where the team lost in a hard fought semifinal game to Palis's Spider.

Voting is open until midnight, Sunday, April 26th
Check out
http://web.recsports.nd.edu/recspy/index.php
Shoe continued from page 28

The "Showdown" is played immediately before the Ohio State spring football game, the Scarlet and Gray Game. The Horseshoe's maximum capacity is 102,000, and typically the spring football game fetches nearly half of that.

"We'll start with less than that, but by the end be close to that," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "It will be quite the environment. I'm excited, and our guys are excited.

Such an atmosphere will be a brand new experience to the Irish.

"We had over 7,000 for a couple different games, but nothing truly comparable to this," Corrigan said. "We did play at Invesco Field out at Denver, so we have played in a venue of this nature, but nothing of this magnitude."

Even the NCAA tournament will not compare to Saturday's atmosphere as the Irish bid for a perfect regular season.

Having opened the season with 12 wins, the Irish could feel pressure to keep the streak alive. Rather, the team does not even think of the streak.

"You can only win the game that you are playing," Corrigan said. "We are not discounting (the streak), but it is just not something we can focus on because it does not contribute to us winning the game this weekend."

Indeed, this weekend the Irish face a formidable foe in the Buckeyes. Last year Ohio State scored 12 goals against Notre Dame's defense.

They are extremely good in transition opportunities," Corrigan said. "That is something we know we have to make sure to watch."

The last line of defense against such transition opportunities will be senior goalie Scott Rodgers, recently nominated for the national player of the year award, the Tewaaraton Trophy.

"That is a wonderful honor for Scott," Corrigan said. "I hope he gets it, and it will happen if we are successful."

Rodgers and Notre Dame face Ohio State at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Adrian continued from page 28

weeks, so relying on practices to make the differences they need is not effective enough to make the crucial changes.

"We have had very little practice time as of late between our matches," Campbell said. "We have to learn from our last match and make the adjustments immediately on the court."

Though there is little time for running team practices Coach Campbell knows what the team needs to change for the best chances for winning this Saturday.

"We have to see where we can improve our play and play with confidence," Campbell said. "We simply have to focus on one point at a time."

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Orange
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Big East. Junior attack Gina Scioscia, the conference’s third highest goal-scorer, was named to the second team.

"The league’s really competitive, with three teams in the top ten nationally and this is a pretty competitive week, so any recognition that the players receive is awesome," Coyne said.

Overall, the Irish offense has averaged 15.81 points per game to put them at the top for the Big East and fifth in the nation. On the defensive end, this year’s team has one of the best all-around defenders Notre Dame has seen in Burke and Notre Dame’s all-time winningest goalkeeper in senior Erin Goodman. Burke leads the team with 45 ground balls and 28 caused turnovers and is fifth with 26 draw controls. Goodman has started in 52 consecutive games for the Irish with a .673 winning percentage off her record of 35-17.

"Everyone here [at the tournament] wants to win, and is playing to win," Coyne said. "We’re confident in our game plan.

Hoping to put their leading talents to use tonight, the Irish start their tournament run for their first Big East title tonight against the Orange at 5:30 p.m. in Georgetown’s Multi-Sport Facility.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

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Relays

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the 4x1,600 and finished second in the 4x800 relay." The Irish have won the 4x1,600 relay the last three years and in five of the last seven years.

Both teams will be facing steep competition, including No. 11 Minnesota.

Piane said he wants his team to stay focused. "Our focus right now if for the Big East Championship," Piane said. "After that we can worry about the NCAA's." However, the Irish have a significant number of athletes already qualified for the NCAA Regionals on May 29. "I don't have the numbers in front of me, but I think there are around a dozen who have already qualified on the men's team," Piane said. "And on the women's team I think we have eight who have already qualified."

Several members of the team are posting times that are among the best in the nation. In the men's 10,000-meter race, senior Patrick Smyth has recorded the second best time in the country. Smyth also holds the fourth-best time in the country in the 5,000-meter race.

On the women's team, junior Lindsey Ferguson posted the nation's 11th best time in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and senior Mary Saxer holds the nation's fourth-best mark in the pole vault.

Piane said he doesn't want his runners and throwers to be worried about their numbers in the individual meets right now. "Right now, we're not necessarily looking for great numbers," Piane said. "But rather we're just looking to be really competitive."

The Drake Relays begin Friday morning in Des Moines and the Hillsdale Relays, in Hillsdale, Mich., begin Friday as well. Contact Alex West at awest@hcc-nd.edu.

Playoff Baseball

By CHRISS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will be playing in unfamiliar territory on Saturday when they travel to Trine University to close out the 2009 MIAA regular season. Under fourth-year head coach Erin Sullivan, the Belles have never played a season finale free of playoff implications.

Saint Mary's (22-10, 6-6 MIAA) went on a tear to start the regular season, sweeping its first two opponents in back-to-back doubleheaders and winning six of its first eight games. But after a lackluster week that saw the Belles drop four straight against perennial powers houses Hope and Adrian, they were virtually eliminated from Playoff contention.

"We've never known when our last game was, so this is a bit of an odd year for us," Sullivan said. "But we've adjusted well and we know that we can be spoiler on Saturday. They always play well against Trine."

Although the playoff-exiled Belles cannot knock top-ranked Trine (26-8, 10-2) out of postseason play, they can still drop the Thunder's No. 1 seed to as low as No. 3. Trine is coming off a doubleheader split against Adrian on Thursday, dropping the first game by a score of 2-0 and holding on to a 7-5 victory in the second.

Freshman standout Monica Palicki and Angela Gillis are slated to start on the bump for the Belles, as they look to complete their sensational collegiate debuts on a high note. Palicki will bring a 2.98 ERA and an opponent's batting average of .259 into the first game, while Gillis seeks to add to her team-leading 12 wins, 29 strikeouts and 2.08 ERA.

"We have a really good rivalry going on with them for the last couple of years and I know they're really excited," Sullivan said. "The seniors want to end on a good note, and the freshmen haven't seen Trine yet, so they want to see what's so great about them and come out strong."

The Belles will need strong performances at the plate and on the mound to upset the MIAA's best team on paper. Junior All-American Ashley Peterson looks to improve upon her 480 batting average, .210 slugging percentage and five home runs, each of which is good enough for second overall in the league. But Saint Mary's will have to contend with a stingy Thunder pitching staff that has slashed its opponent's batting average to .253 against right-handers and its ERA to 2.56.

Nevertheless, Sullivan said she is confident in her squad's ability to adjust from one at bat to the next. "We're not going to change anything specific," Sullivan said. "We know their pitchers. They move the ball a lot, throw a lot of dropped balls. We move up in the box, catch it early, and hit the ball before it breaks."

Saint Mary's will take the field for the last time this year Saturday at 3 p.m. at Trine University Softball Field. Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu.
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to produce runs, strand ing a total of 12 runners, eight in scoring position, through four innings of game two Wednesday. In the first inning, the Irish finally broke through after senior Jeremy Barnes' single with the bases loaded drove in two runs. Before that, the Irish were two for their last 13 at-bats with the bases loaded.

Pitching has not been an issue as of late. Senior Sam Elam went six innings in game one against the Wolverines, allowing just two earned runs and recording nine strikeouts, but couldn't get enough offense behind him to avoid the loss. In game two, junior Ryan Richter was able to stymie the Michigan offense again, allowing just three earned runs in five innings to get the win. The Irish are going to need to push it all together if they are to have any chance of tak­
ing down Louisville in hostile territory.

The Cardinals are nearly unbeatable at home, having lost there just four times all season, each of which came by one run. They have also won eight of their last nine games against Big East opponents. Schrage knows that with such a difficult task at hand, his team is going to need to dig deep this weekend to come out with the victory.

"[Louisville] hits up and down the lineup," he said. "They have really good pitch­
ing and plenty of depth. We're going to have to be at the top of our game to beat them."

Game one of this weekend's Big East matchup is slated to begin today at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

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**MEN'S LACROSSE**

**Filling the 'Shoe'**

Laxers to face Bucks at 'Horseshoe' with 30,000 in attendance

By DOUGLAS FARMER

A typical college lacrosse game played in front of a large crowd would have one to two thousand fans. Saturday at Ohio State, Notre Dame will play in front of upwards of 30,000 fans at Ohio Stadium.

No. 3 Notre Dame (12-0, 4-0) GWLL faces Ohio State (7-6, 3-1) at Saturday at "The Horseshoe." the Buckeyes’ football stadium, in the "Showdown in the Shoe." Ohio State hosted Denver in the inaugural "Showdown," in 2008, and close to 30,000 fans were in attendance.

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**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

Talented group hopes to nab school's first Big East title

By MEAGHAN VESELIK

They may have some of the most successful players Notre Dame has ever seen, but the No. 11 Irish have yet to make it past the first round of the Big East tournament, a record they will try to amend tonight as they take on No. 8 Syracuse.

"Syracuse is a very potent team, but defensively we know their tendencies. "Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "We're confident we can be in the game from the beginning, if we play relaxed and get through the first few minutes."

This weekend marks Notre Dame's third consecutive appearance in the Big East tournament since its inception in 2007, when the team lost 12-10 to the Hoyas after trailing 11-6 with 14 minutes to play. Last season's tournament, held in Notre Dame Stadium, saw history repeat itself as the Hoyas defeated the Irish in sudden-death 15-14 after three overtime periods.

Not only is Notre Dame looking to improve its tournament record, but also its record against Syracuse. The Irish (12-4, 5-2 Big East) last faced the Orange (13-3, 6-1) April 11 at the Carrier Dome, where they lost 14-13. Overall, they are 3-9 versus the Orange, losing their last three contests against them.

If they advance to the second round, Notre Dame will take on the winner of the second semifinal contest between Georgetown and Louisville on Sunday at 1 p.m.

What the Irish do have going into this tournament are some of the top players in the conference and in Notre Dame history. "We had a tough match against Hope. " said Campbell. "The biggest challenge is to not let down after a tough loss."

The Belles' schedule has been intensely packed with matches in the past few weeks. The Belles lost against Hope, the second half of its Big East schedule.

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**SMC TENNIS**

Belles hope to add to MIAA resume

By MOLLY SAMMON

As the season comes to a close, Saint Mary's is searching for a winning against Adrian College on Saturday to keep its hopes high before the quickly approaching MIAA Conference tournament.

"We never overlook an opponent, but [Adrian College] has had a tough season in the conference," Belles coach Dave Campbell said.

In terms of competition, the Bulldogs (2-11, 0-4 MIAA) are not one of the strongest teams on the Belles schedule. They have been shut out by three of the four MIAA Conference teams they have faced so far this season.

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**BASEBALL**

Irish begin tough stretch at Cards

By ALEX BARKER

Notre Dame begins the second half of its Big East schedule today as it travels to Louisville to face the Cardinals in a three-game set.

The Irish (23-15, 8-7 Big East) are entering a significant stretch of the schedule where all four conference opponents they will face are currently ahead of them in the standings. After the Cardinals (24-11, 11-4), they host two home series against Connecticut and South Florida before ending the season at St. John's.

Irish coach Dave Schrage said he feels that each of the upcoming conference series will pose tough tests for his team. "Our last four [series] are all important," he said. "We have 12 tough games ahead of us as every team we play is ahead of us in the standings. We are really going to have to play well to do well."

In order to take down the Cardinals, Notre Dame will need to get much more consistent hitting out of its lineup in combination with continued strong performances on the mound.

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**ND TRACK & FIELD**

Teams turn attention to relay races

By ALEX WEST

With several individuals already qualified on both the men's and women's teams for the NCAA Regionals in late May, the Irish focus this weekend is on the Drake and Hillsdale Relays.

Although the men's and women's 4x800-meter and 4x1,600 relay teams cannot qualify for the NCAA this weekend, Irish coach Joe Plane said he is confident that the relay teams will repeat past recent success in the events.

"I'd like to think both teams will be competitive," Plane said. "Last year the men's team won the 4x1,600."