New bus route packed on first trips

Students flood new service as ridership is ‘much higher than expected,’ no behavioral issues reported

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

For senior Tommy Schanzer, riding the weekend Transpo bus home after a night out was like an after party. “I got on and saw so many people I knew,” Schanzer, who rode the bus to his off-campus home from the Blarney Stone, commonly referred to as Finnegan’s. “It was a really fun, cool atmosphere.”

On Friday night, the first run of the new weekend bus route, 456 people rode the bus, according to Chip Lewis, chairman of the Board of Directors for Transpo. "That number was much higher than expected," he said. "We expect ridership will build from there." Lewis said it is likely that all the riders were students and there were no behavioral issues this weekend.

"Everyone was excited to have this option and we didn’t have any problems and we don’t anticipate any problems," he said.

The new Transpo route is an initiative of student government and partially funded by the Office of Student Affairs. Student body president Schanzer, riding the weekend party.

It may be crunch time at the North Pole, but Santa took a trip to South Dining Hall yester-

Day to make about 400 fleece blankets for cancer patients at this year’s Aidan Project.

The Project, sponsored by Circle K, Knott Hall and the class of 2012, was started in 2006 after current senior Aidan Fitzgerald was diagnosed with cancer. His room-

mate was involved with Circle K and thought the club’s annual blanket bash could be turned into a larger, more personal event for students.

Mendoza expands nonprofit program

The Mendoza College of Business is expanding its non-degree Nonprofit Executive Programs, which began in 2006, to offer more specialized training for people who work with nonprofit organizations. Marc Hardy, director of the Programs, said.

These programs are part of the Nonprofit Professional Development department of Mendoza, which includes both non-degree programs and a master’s degree in nonprofit administration, Hardy said. "All of our programs ... are really focused on helping leaders in nonprofits become better at what they do," he said.

The master’s degree is a two-year time and financial commitment, Hardy said, but the non-degree programs offer crucial training opportunities without the commitment of the degree. "Our (non-degree) program is really geared toward people who are working in the sector and just need to know specific information," he said. “Nonprofit organizations are becoming so complex and so large that people need to be...
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**Best of the blog world**

I love blogs. There are two blogs I read every day and plenty more I read regularly. They’re so much fun to get life advice and laughs from people all over the world. Here are a few of the hilarious, uplifting, and generally awesome blogs out there:

1. **ThePioneerWoman.com**. Pioneer Woman’s real name is Ree Drummond. She was a city girl liv- ing in LA until she fell in love with a cattle rancher and real-life cowboy from Oklahoma. Now she’s a home-schooling mom of four who writes a hilarious blog about her crazy experiences as a ranch wife. She’s darn good at it too — she won Blogger of the Year for 2008 and her recently published cookbook hit No. 1 on the New York Times bestseller list. If you check out her blog, don’t miss the mouth-watering recipe section, the “Black Heels to Tractor Wheels” section that tells the adorable story of how she met her husband and the fantastic photography tutorials.

2. **NieNieDialogues.com**. Nie Nie, or Stephanie Nielson, didn’t used to be famous. She was just a normal stay-at-home mom, raising her four cute kids and madly in love with her husband. Her blog was unique because it celebrated her love for domesticity instead of griping blogs do. But she was still relatively unknown and happy to stay that way.

3. **MyLifeIsAverage.com**. It’s so, so much fun to get life advice from a cowboy from dairy. He was being arrested for abuse of the 911 system and booked into the Clayton County Jail. He was not part of the mall’s Christmas staff. Police say Caldwell got in line Wednesday evening to have his picture taken with Santa Claus.

4. **NieNieDialogues.com**. Nie Nie, or Stephanie Nielson, didn’t used to be famous. She was just a normal stay-at-home mom, raising her four cute kids and madly in love with her husband. Her blog was unique because it celebrated her love for domesticity instead of griping blogs do. But she was still relatively unknown and happy to stay that way.

Stephanie bought her husband flying lessons for his birthday. And one day in August 2008, they were riding in a small plane with his flight instructor. And that plane crashed.

Stephanie spent two months in a coma, burned over 80 percent of her body. Her sister took in her little kids who didn’t understand why they couldn’t see their mom. Today she is sadly scarred but overjoyed to be back home with her fami- ly. Her blog is beyond words. Want to see the triumph of the human spirit and the beauty of family and love? See Nie’s in the role model. Her amazing story has also gained national attention. She’s been on Oprah and The Today Show. And now she’s in the Notre Dame Observer.

If you’re looking to waste time and laugh just don’t try it for you, here are a few other Web sites I love:

- **MyLifeIsAverage.com**. It’s so, so much better than FML.

- **SomelCardo.com**. You remember back when Facebook was just free and cool? You remember those bumper stick- ers that had black-and-white pictures of people and asked you to sign up? They were always hilarious? This site is where those stickers came from.

- **StumbleUpon.com**. This tool is addic- tive. You choose from a list of interests and it finds random sites that match your picks. Warning: It’s easy to spend hours “stumbling” so install with caution.

- **HasMe.co.uk**. You pick something you want to be “handed” and the this Web site sends you random e-mails to remind you about it. Very useful. Enjoy.

**Correction**

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Tess Civantos at tcivantos@nd.edu

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**QUESTION OF THE DAY:**

**SNUGGIE: ABOMINATION OR GIFT FROM GOD?**

"Gift! How else could I read a book and enjoy a snack while staying warm in my drafty dorm room?"

"Acceptable only when shared with a lady friend."

"Without a question a gift from God. I love my blanket with sleeves."

"Why wear a Snuggie when I can wear my tux?"

"Absolutely a gift from God, but only when worn to outdoor sporting events."

"Abomination. Wearing them right makes you look dumb."

Tess Civantos
News Writer

**Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com**

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**OFFBEAT**

**Tenn. man arrested after allegedly drunk-dialing 911**

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — A Middle Tennessee man was arrested after police said he drunk-dialed 911 and has called police 47 times over the last year. Murfreesboro police arrest- ed a 57-year-old man on Thursday after police responded to an emergency call to find him intoxicated in his home. According to the police report, officers asked him why he called 911 and he replied that he was "just drunk."

The Daily News Journal reported that police later learned that the man has repeatedly called 911 since September 2008. He was charged with abuse of the 911 system and booked into the Rutherford County Jail.

Man dressed as elf threat- ens Santa with TNT, arrested MORGAN, Ga. — A man dressed as an elf is jailed after police in Georgia say he told a mall Santa that he was carrying dynamite.

Police say Southlake Mall in suburban Atlanta was evacuated but no explosives were found.

Morrow police arrested 45-year-old William C. Caldwell III, who was being held without bond Thursday in the Clayton County Jail. He was not part of the mall’s Christmas staff.

Police say Caldwell got in line Wednesday evening to have his picture taken with Santa Claus.

Caldwell faces several charges, including having hoax devices and making terrorist threats.

Information compiled from the Associated Press

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**IN BRIEF**

A lecture, “Coordination among Opposition Parties in Authoritarian Elections,” will be held Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. in Room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center. The lect- ure is free and open to the public.

An exhibit, “Darkness and Light: Death and Beauty in Photography,” will continue at the O’Shaughnessy Galleries in the Snite Museum of Art through Dec. 20. Artist William Kremer is also a Notre Dame professor. The Suite is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free.

An opera, Puccini’s “Turandot,” will be shown at the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The showing will begin at 1 p.m. on Dec 11 and tick- ets can be purchased online at performingarts.nd.edu or at the box office.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform two Christmas concerts on Dec 12 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 to $8. Music will include carols, classical works and popular standards.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observer.news@nd.edu.
SMC doctors club promotes science

By ALISON MEAGHER
News Writer

The Saint Mary’s College Future Women’s Doctors Club held a two-day event at Coquillard Primary Center on Dec. 3 and 4 to promote interest in science and medicine to young girls.

“We wanted to empower young girls and get them interested in science,” said Catherine Cleary, the vice president of the Future Women’s Doctors Club, said.

The club was originally created to encourage and assist peers looking at gaining acceptance to medical, dental and graduate schools, but the group also arranges volunteer and internship positions with local doctors.

“Coquillard is a title one school. There is a lot of poverty there,” Cleary said. “Our group wanted to give them the same chance that other schools might have.”

The two-day program, entitled “The Girl Power Workshop,” was created for third and fourth grade girls. During the two days, the girls were able to dissect fish, make volcanoes, analyze fingerprints, play with magnets and pretend to be doctors.

“The event went well,” Cleary said. At first the girls were hesitant, but by the end they were showing me fish eyeballs. They thoroughly enjoyed it.”

Catherine Cleary
vice president
Future Women’s Doctors Club

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

Students and families from around the Notre Dame community pieced together puzzles to raise awareness and funds for autism at a puzzle competition Sunday afternoon sponsored by Special Friends, Ryan Hall and the Class of 2011.

Approximately 75 people competed in individual and team competitions for prizes including gift cards and a Nerf gun. The Special Friends Club pairs Notre Dame students with autistic children in South Bend and Granger, and many of the families and students involved with the club could be found gathered around puzzles in North Dining Hall.

Special Friends coordinator Lauren Schmitt said the event was oriented both towards raising awareness and fundraising.

“The symbol of autism is a puzzle piece because puzzles really help kids with autism work on their fine motor skills and focus their attention,” Schmitt said. “The event uses this symbol to raise awareness and to help fundraising for this cause.”

The money collected from entry fees and ticket sales will be donated to Special Friends and to the Sonya Ansari Center for Autism at the Logan Center in South Bend.

According to Ryan Hall president Courtney Vargas, Schmitt and Kayla Coggins, both residents of Ryan Hall, approached the Hall Council at the beginning of the year to find out how Ryan could get involved with Special Friends.

“The special part of the puzzle competition is that it is a combination of families from the community and students from Notre Dame,” Vargas said. “I think that it is a great event, and I hope that this is something that our dorm could be involved with in the future.”

Students from Notre Dame have a history supporting causes such as special needs and autism. Special Friends in particular is tied to a seminar on autism and early development taught by Professor Thomas Whitman. Special Friends vice president Sean Kickham assembled a puzzle while discussing his involvement with the club.

“I volunteered with autistic kids in high school, and when Special Friends started up two years ago, I knew that it was a good option for me to keep up that work,” he said.

The partnerships between the kids and Notre Dame students are the most integral part of the club’s work. South Bend mother Deanna Finfrock watched her four-year-old son Nolan play games with volunteers from Ryan Hall and his Special Friend partner Coggins.

“Nolan has a great time with the college kids,” Finfrock said. “These students are incredibly patient, and I love to see him having such a good time here.”

Finfrock said Nolan was recently diagnosed with autism and free events like the puzzle competition are the perfect option for her family in the midst of high medical costs. The programs sponsored by Special Friends focus on community participation from families like Nolan’s.

“I was drawn to Special Friends because I love to work with kids,” and Professor Whitman’s autism class got me interested in the group,” Coggins said. “I think that the student interaction with the kids is what really makes the work that Special Friends does a great idea.”

During Disabilities Week in the spring, Special Friends will be hosting an autism conference featuring a Yale neurologist who will discuss some of his recent research on this handi-cap and raise awareness for ways to help the cause.

Contact Megan Doyle at mdoyle11@nd.edu
Aidan
continued from page 1
by naming it after Fitzgerald. "This is a unique opportu-
unity on campus because you always see things about can-
cer fundraisers, but this is a way to treat cancer patients like human beings," Fitzgerald said. You wouldn’t think to give some-
one a blanket, but something that simple is personal and provides an opportunity to make a huge, lasting differ-
ce in someone’s life.
In the Project’s first year, 250 students made 100 blankets in the La Fortune Ballroom. It has since grown into the largest service event on campus and changed locations to South Dining Hall to accommodate for yearly growth. In addi-
tion, the event won a national award for the best service project last year.
After the fleece used for the blankets ran out in the first hour of last year’s Aidan Project, the event’s sponsors spent over $4,000 on fleece this year to be more prepared for a large volunteer turnout.
This year, the Project’s sponsors also decided to change the organizational structure of the event in order to get the dorms more involved.
“We have commissioners in each dorm to get the word out,” Fitzgerald said. “It’s not just about making blankets, it’s more about awareness of cancer, especially in people our age.”
Circle K president emeritus Katie Teitgen said coordi-
nators of the Project spoke to the Hall Presidents’ Council to get representa-
tives from each dorm to pro-
mote the event.
“We noticed that the best participation came from dorms with a direct connec-
tion to the Aidan Project, so we decided having someone talking about the event is bet-
ter than just putting up posters in the dorms,” Teitgen said.
Another change this year was the blankets use one layer of fleece instead of two at the request of local hospitals w h o s e p a t i e n t s r e c e i v e t h e b l a n k e t s . A c c o r d i n g t o Teitgen, the dou-
ble-layer blanket was too warm for young can-
cer patients because the hospita-
l s a r e c l i m a t e c o n t r o l l e d .
The Project focuses on raising awareness for youth cancer, so the majority of the blankets made go to children’s hospitals in South Bend, Mishawaka, Indianapolis and other Indiana communities, though some blankets also go to adult patients. According to Fitzgerald, the event’s coordinators hope to start sending more blankets to hospitals in the Chicago area as well.
“We also send proceeds from Aidan Project T-shirt sales to Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis,” Teitgen said. “It’s the biggest children’s hospital in the state, and Aidan is from Indianapolis, so it was natu-
ral to donate money and blankets there.
Volunteers and project committee members are also encouraged to bring a blan-
ket home with them to their hometown hospitals or to loved ones who suffer from cancer.
“We want to keep track of where the blankets are going, and we would love to spread word of the event more,” Teitgen said.
Although Fitzgerald will graduate this year, he and Teitgen are both confident the event will continue to be popular and successful in years to come.
“The Aidan Project is a pretty well known event, and there’s been a huge response so far,” Fitzgerald said. “It will be d i f f e r e n t because the event will have less of a personal connec-
tion.”
Teitgen said Circle K will continue the Project because its officers enjoyed it so much and students anticipa-
tate the event at the end of first semester because of its popularity and past success.
In addition, some of the event’s popularity derives from musician Pat McKillen’s annual perform-
ance at the event. McKillen’s friendship with Fitzgerald initially got him involved in the Project.
Students responded very positively to the event this year. Freshman Kristin Ruekert said the sense of community fostered by vol-
unteers working together was a unique and important part of the Project.
“What made me smile the most were the volunteers who weren’t students,” Ruekert said. “I thought their selflessness proved this world still has a lot of goodness in it, and I love that we can make a differ-
ce when we work togeth-
er.”
Sophomore Meg Larson said it was great that so many people participated in the event even when every-
one is busy during the Christmas season.
Although the Project is steadily becoming a larger event, it still promotes the same simple mission of making a difference in the lives of cancer patients.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Santa
continued from page 1
tures on Santa’s lap and told him what they wanted for Christmas.
One little boy wanted to know how he got down the chimney and what his elves were doing,” Deranek said. “It was fun to see the kids interacting with Santa.”
Geared towards families, the Santa Breakfast offered opportunities to make orna-
mants, candy cane reindeer, mini Christmas trees and mini-stockings for the chil-
dren who attended.
Omelets were served pan-
cakes, sausage and eggs all made by students. Target, Meijer, Krispy Kreme, Studebakers and Gordon’s Food services all made con-
tributions for the event.
Dance Marathon raised over $350 for the Riley Children’s Hospital from this event, and raised over $350 for the Riley Children’s Hospital from this event.
Teitgen said. “It’s not just about raising awareness for youth cancer because the event was so successful that it may become an annual event,” Deranek said. She believes that the event could become even bigger for future years.
“This event was a great fundraiser for us,” Deranek said. “The event focused on Christmas and having a fun breakfast with Santa for kids, but in doing so we were able to raise a lot of money for Riley Hospital.”

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iraq prepares for elections

BAGHDAD — Iraqi lawmakers approved plans Sunday to hold parliament elections early next year that are seen as an important step toward political reconciliation and easing the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

The vote — during an emergency session convened after the weekend deadlines followed marathon talks by political leaders to break an impasse over balloting provisions that would satisfy the nation’s rival groups.

I would like to congratulate the Iraqi people for this historical victory,” said Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi, who had held up the vote to block an anti-American candidacy bill that he also hailed political leaders for compromises that “got Iraq out from the bottleneck and our problem.”

Criminal rule called for in Guinea

CONAKRY — A regional African bloc on Sunday called for a criminal rule as the junta’s No. 2 assumed control of the country following an assassination attempt on its leader.

Gen. Moussa Dadis Camara, the vice president of the military junta, rushed back to Guinea’s capital following an rumored a Thursday assassination attempt on the country’s president.

Camara was airlifted Friday to the military junta, rushed back to Guinea’s capital following an assassination attempt on the junta’s president.

The exiled leader Capt. Moussa Dadis “Dadis” Camara was airlifted Friday to Morocco where he received surgery for traumatic to the cranium, Morocco’s chief military doctor Brig. Gen. Ali Abrouq said Sunday.

NATIONAL NEWS

Ohio inmate gets new execution drug

COLUMBUS — Condemned killer Kenneth Biros could become the first person in the country put to death with a single dose of an intravenous anesthetic instead of the usual three-drug process if his execution Tuesday goes as planned.

The execution could propel other states to consider use of the drug that stops the heart.

This vexed some blacks, though the test method, which includes a drug to the cranium, Morocco’s chief military doctor Brig. Gen. Ali Abrouq said Sunday.

Teen charged with murder of brother

RISING SUN, Ind. — Showing no emotion and wearing a white woman, and it does one brother waawan?

As one blogger, Robert Paul Reyes, wrote Tuesday, Woods had cheated on his gorgeous white wife with black women, the golfing great’s accident would have been a big deal.

The darts reflect blacks’ resistance to interracial romance. They also are a reflection of discomfort with a man who has married and had children with a white woman.

But Woods has declined to identify himself as black, which includes a drug that stops the heart.

Still, they tend to go directly for the black woman why the biracial Barack Obama in 2008 was able to fend off early questions about his black authenticity.

FRANCE

Europe still shows signs of Obama-mania

A poll released Friday and conducted in the five major European powers — France, Germany, Italy, Great Britain, Spain — and the United States, showed that Obama has retained the support of the vast majority of the Europeans polled, even as his rating sagged in the U.S.

The president’s continued high standing in Europe may be due in part to the deep-rooted hostility Europeans have harbored for his predecessor, George W. Bush.

Europeans seem to sense that even if he only shows his face at Copenhagen and has failed to sway his own Democratic Congress to do more on global warming, Obama will likely be bringing far more to the climate table than they could ever have expected from Bush.

Obama on Friday altered his plans and will join the crucial last week of the meeting amid shifts in the Chinese and Indian positions, revising some hope of a major breakthrough.

“It sounds like he’s still the boss for everyone in Britain. He’s fabulous,” said Sarah Hodgin, a civil servant from Essex, England.

In the small Spanish town of Arroyo de Luz, about 180 miles (300 kilometers) southwest of Madrid, Miguel Angel Bermejo Carrero made news when he renamed his bar in honor of Obama during the Democratic primary battle, even before it was clear Obama would be his party’s candidate.

The color of one’s companion has long been a major measure of “blackness” — which is a big reason for the biracial Barack Obama in 2008 was able to fend off early questions about his black authenticity.

Local News

Teen charged with murder of brother

HISUNG, Ind. — Showing no emotion and wearing a white woman, and it does one brother waawan?

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Transpo
continued from page 1
Grant Schmidt and student body vice president Cynthia Weber began working on creating a bus route for students to use on the weekends as a safe and reliable way to travel off campus for the weekend.

“Hopefully this will become a staple in how students get on and off campus on the weekends,” he said.

The route starts at Library Circle, runs through student neighborhoods and stops near the Lower Laumann Fiddler’s Hearth, Madison Oyster Bar and Carby’s Irish Pub, as well as Finnegans.

Schmidt said he was happy to hear about the high number of student riders on Friday. Numbers for Saturday’s ridership were not available on Sunday.

“It was really important for this weekend to be successful,” he said. “But the buses were literally packed.

He said the only issues he heard from students were people not knowing the time schedule of the bus route.

“Some students didn’t get used to approximating when the buses arrive,” he said.

Overall, riding the bus was a good time, Schmidt said.

On Saturday night, people were singing Christmas Carols together, he said. “People were enjoying themselves and actually enjoying a good time, Schmidt said.

Junior Ryan Hawley rode the bus both Friday and Saturday night and was able to flag down the bus on Twyckenham Drive after walking from his Irish Row apartment.

“It was really easy. I just stood on the route and

Energy
continued from page 1
was what really put us over the top and it was such a simple thing to do,” Vasto said. “One of the girls said that her eyes were actually burning when we set the lights back to normal. I also sent out a reminder to unplug everything, especially before Thanksgiving break, which was really key.

Vasto said the e-mail reminders were very helpful because her dorm mates wanted to win the competition and the e-mails helped them stay on top of everything.

“I think Cavanaugh girls are already pretty conscious about their energy use so simple reminders were all I really needed to do to get people to participate,” Vasto said. “Plus, we are pretty competitive.”

Vasto said her dorm’s residents were especially eager to participate because the winner’s savings were being donated to such a good cause.

“Because the money was going to the Global Water Initiative, we had greater reminders to unplug everything, especially before Thanksgiving break, which was really key,” Vasto said.

Besides helping provide clean water to people in need, one of the greatest benefits the competition provides is educating Notre Dame students about how they can be more environmentally conscious, Vasto said.

“The competition does a good job of raising awareness about our energy consumption on campus and how often we are unnecessarily wasteful,” she said. “There are so many simple things we can be doing to reduce our energy usage on a daily basis.

Nonprofit
continued from page 1
national partners in the next three years,” he said. “We are currently in negotiation with two national partners. We partner with nonprofits to create programs that fit their needs.

Currently, the nonprofit executive programs include Leaders in Transition, an annual program that guides its participants in a transition from a year of graduate volunteer service into the rest of their lives as they look to enter the workforce, Hardy said.

“People just need to get on and it dropped us right by my house,” he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of Matthew Degnan

Students used the new weekend Transpo bus route 7a to travel around South Bend and avoid high cab fares.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrcryst@nd.edu

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continued from page 1
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Nonprofit
continued from page 1
constantly updated and retrained on this information.

The current expansion of the nonprofit offerings is a result of a grant that the program received to create an endowment and bring programs to nonprofits at a low cost, Hardy said. Nonprofit organizations cannot always afford to send executives to educational and training sessions, but there is a constant need for education and training in this field, he said.

Two new training programs are scheduled to begin during the summer of 2010, Hardy said.

“We are going to be doing a program for alumni of the ACE program,” he said. “So they can better serve Catholic schools and organizations.

“The Alliance for Catholic Education, or A.C.E., is a program offered by Notre Dame in which participants teach for two years in Catholic schools and earn their Master’s degree in Education. Hardy said the new four-day training session for graduates of A.C.E will teach them how to be better board members and leaders in Catholic schools.

The University will also launch a new 10-day program this July specifically for Catholic nonprofit organizations,” Hardy said.

“The program is to help educate leaders of Catholic organizations learn how to become better nonprofit leaders,” he said.

In addition to these philanthropic programs, the University is looking to expand the training programs it offers to specific organizations for a fee, Hardy said. For example, the nonprofit professional development faculty already provides specialized training for Volunteers of America.

“All of our programs... are really focused on helping leaders become better at what they do.”

Marc Hardy
Director
Nonprofit Executive Programs

“Nonprofit Executive Programs is starting a project to provide a low-cost training program for our students,” he said.

Schmidt said the buses will run Friday and Saturday nights.

Saturday’s ridership were from Christmas break, we want to have a laminated card with the schedule for students to put in their pocket or purses,” he said. “And then we want to make a more student friendly version with all the bars labeled.”

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrcryst@nd.edu

Students used the new weekend Transpo bus route 7a to travel around South Bend and avoid high cab fares.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrcryst@nd.edu
Geothermal technology has been around for decades, it works and it’s increasingly affordable. At colleges that must maintain dozens of large buildings, the savings are magnified. Those involved in the decision to pursue geothermal technology say they wanted to use less coal-fired power, although the schools also had to save money to justify the move. The technology is a natural fit for schools like Boise State that sit atop geothermal springs. The school has already invested in a system, and future work will include an expansion. The school is also exploring the possibility of using geothermal power. A typical geothermal system works like this:
Notre Dame is a special place. Perhaps more than any other university, it holds almost mythological importance to its faithful. To many the future of Notre Dame is the future of morality or Catholicism or tradition itself. As Notre Dame goes, so go the giant intangible constructs, as they say. When it comes to creating devotion, this is excellent. But I am sure it has already occurred to you (looking at you here, Fr. Jenkins) that this can be problematic when trying to make decisions. Because every-one’s investment feels so large, everyone believes that what they want for the University must be accomplished, or we court disaster.

And what represents the University to these faithful? Football. So I am sure your decision is a nerve-wracking one. Choosing a coach to please one faction of the faithful may upset another faction. You are, perhaps, tempted to choose a “compromise candidate,” one who will be the least objectionable to all concerned. One that makes no one angry. I urge you not to do this. Not when an ideal candidate exists — one who will make everyone overjoyed.

I write to nominate for the position of head football coach a life-size cardboard cutout of Lou Holtz. Or perhaps, if Notre Dame coach hasn’t put as large a drain on University coffers as has been speculated, you could even spring for a Lou Holtz Fathead. Listen to this: For a fraction of the cost of luring a successful coach from another school you can put one on the wall of the locker room. Research shows these things are about 108 bucks. Expensive as far as stickers go, but better than a fire sale in the world of Division I coaches. No private jets required to fly him around. Lou Holtz Fathead travels United States Postal Service. No worries about Lou Holtz Fathead getting distracted by family, charity work or dying children wishing for play-calling privileges, about jumping ship for an NFL team. Lou Holtz Fathead is as focused as they come. Once you put him in the locker room he won’t even go home to sleep. And for that price you can even get a second Lou Holtz Fathead on a cardboard stand for the sidelines, halftime interviews and press conferences. Lou Holtz Fathead is unflappable. No more worries about how a coach will interact with the media. Lou’s winning smile will never leave his face. It will inspire players on and off the field.

Imagine halftime with players circled around Lou Holtz Fathead, all anxious-ly taking a knee. Lou Holtz Fathead smiles. His enthusiasm makes everyone want it just a little more. At practice, Lou Holtz Fathead will never tell any-one it’s okay to be undisciplined, and he’ll never berate a player. He will handle all situations with characteristic aplomb.

Most importantly, Lou Holtz Fathead would embody Notre Dame history and tradition without endangering it. In The Observer, the wider sports media, even in dorm rooms and classrooms, well-meaning fans, students and alumni pontificate without a hint of irony about the sacred tradition that is Notre Dame winning football games. Lou Holtz Fathead speaks directly to this group. By selecting an image of 1988 Lou Holtz for Lou Holtz Fathead we get all that he meant to the school without that thing at South Carolina, or that kind of lip shit he does. No one will ever be able to claim Lou Holtz Fathead is anything but emblematic of a time when Notre Dame really meant something, as a team and also a school. Lou Holtz Fathead has never done a single thing to advance the legality of abortion. Put that in your pipe, Randall Terry, and smoke it. In fact he’s never challenged the hierarchy of the Catholic Church at all. Lou Holtz Fathead has never lied on a resume, has never been accused of infidelity, of poor sportsmanship, of racism or aiding or abetting terrorism. He has never, ever, once, suggested that Notre Dame should lower its academic standards to improve its football program. I have it on good authority he would keep his views on homoeroticism to himself. Mark May would still disagree with him, but come on. That’s part of the fun.

It’s time to return Notre Dame to a tradition of supporting Notre Dame tradition. Allow our football team, and by implication Notre Dame itself, and by further implication the Notre Dame faithful, to mean something again. Imagine, if you will, players running out of the locker room, helmets gleaming in expectation of the victory to come. One by one they good-naturedly slap Lou Holtz Fathead on the behind, only on his front, since Lou Holtz Fathead, will, admittedly, not have a behind.

Do you have goosbumps? I just got goosbumps there.

Chris Manley is a member of the class of 2004 and a residing faculty member. He can be reached at cmanley1@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Negotiating with NBC. It is now $8 billion worth of negotiations for the NBC contract is abolished. We can afford it.

Four-and-a-half-hour football games hurt team. While we may have opposing teams also have to play during that four-and-a-half-hour span, they don’t have to do it seven times a year. And while the game is still only 60 minutes in terms of pure playing time, having to muster re-acclimation into that fourth hour is difficult. For visitors, who often make the Notre Dame game their marquee game, this is feasible — once a year. In addition, the length of the games hurt the running attack, as it allows opposing D-lines to catch their breath. (Granted, Notre Dame is stopped repeatedly, allowing people to rest. The cumulative effects over the length of a season mean that Notre Dame teams are less effective at the end of the year — this probably contributed to the numerous losses of Van-Go-led teams in November. Even Holtz’s teams in the early ‘90s suffered let-downs at home late in the second half.

If Notre Dame has to join a conference in order to recruit at the top level, and positive side effect might be the end of that goofy contract — three-and-a-half-hour games are acceptable, four-and-a-half-hour games without roman numerals after them are a joke.

ON THE SITE

**Global warming skeptic**

There is a lot of research taking place these days that points to global warming as an imminent threat. The great leader, Barack Obama and the scientists who are trying to find the cause of global warming are moving ahead with legislation and international meetings to begin limiting greenhouse gas emissions on a grand scale. Europe, in its infinite wisdom, is also pushing climate change legislation.

Not only are we limited as to how much food we can take to go, but we have a set variety of food. Sure, the dining hall has a set variety of food as well, but that selection is much more than that of Grab and Go. Also, being able to get our food to go from the dining hall would allow us to be able to select hot food, refrigerate it and heat it up later instead of being constricted to enough food day-to-day may enjoy Grab and Go as it is, but I feel that a change is needed. I appreciate the fact that we have a zero-credit option for when we don’t have time to sit down and eat, but a switch to packing a take-out box with a wider variety of food from the dining hall seems to be a much better way to feed students on the go.

Mitchell Myers Keough Hall Dec. 4

**Grab and Go system unfair**

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Lindsey Marugg freshman Pasquerilla West Hall Dec. 5

**Editorial Cartoon**

"Your relationship is corroding our state..."

Mark Easley sophomore Keough Hall Nov. 30
Best Video Woodie – Matt and Kim’s “Lessons Learned”

With one of the most impressively jaw-dropping and imaginatively simple music videos ever made, Matt and Kim streaked off into vibrant animation.

The Breaking Woodie, which awards the year’s best new developing artist, had a wide range of nominees, from 18-year-old acoustic pop musician and devout vegan Christian Ingle (a.k.a. Never Shout Never) lies in his gifted music and rampant Internet exposure. Set for release this week, his fifth EP “Hot Topic” is only his second after signing with Warner Bros. Records this past May. His spring and summer consisted of touring with smaller acts and surfaced repeatedly on college playlists nationwide. Never Shut Never’s debut full-length album “What Is Love?” hits iTunes in January 2010.

Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never


Breaking Woodie – Never Shut Never

The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show.

MTV provided necessary stage, performers, music, and bar with little respect for the legal drinking age declaring boldly, loudly and in its own edgy manner, “This ain’t your father’s Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show.\n
The Woodie Awards Red Carpet brought out publications ranging from Rolling Stone to daily college newspapers, like yours truly, The Observer. While Asher Roth declared his affection for his favorite star, Mary Louise Parker. As Parker walks away, an incredibly confident back-up singers, opened the show, bursting onto the stage on fixed gear bicycles. An inspired performance, backed by nearly naked singers started the show on a high note. "Hey!" Though the Dead Weather remained reclusive on stage, White finally found a female counterpart in The Devil Cong. Dancing crowds, frantic performance, and of course with comfort, quickly came my tendency to agree with Cindi Lauper's assessment, "Great music should be for everyone. It was midday, and people were at lunch, and many people people people were eating sandwiches. Well there was just about 10 people there. Paradoxical to their Woodie recognition as a college favorite, the band didn’t seem to give much credit to its college audience, saying “Great music should be for everyone.” Contrary to this opinion, Janelle Monae praised college audiences saying “These are the early adopters, they know what’s important in music even before anyone else does.”

College students plan on returning to the birthday of its success any time soon. “We’ll see, right now I’m going to keep the snowball rolling and see where it goes. I really do have a passion to have a touch, and I’m going to keep the snowball rolling and see where it goes.”

The Woodie Awards Carpet oddly enough, combined electro-infused acts from off-the-radar fan favorites. The Woodie Awards Red Carpet brought out publications ranging from Rolling Stone to daily college newspapers, like yours truly, The Observer. While Asher Roth declared his affection for his favorite star, Mary Louise Parker. As Parker walks away, an incredibly confident back-up singers, opened the show, bursting onto the stage on fixed gear bicycles. An inspired performance, backed by nearly naked singers started the show on a high note. "Hey!" Though the Dead Weather remained reclusive on stage, White finally found a female counterpart in The Devil Cong. Dancing crowds, frantic performance, and of course with comfort, quickly came my tendency to agree with Cindi Lauper's assessment, "Great music should be for everyone." Contrary to this opinion, Janelle Monae praised college audiences saying “These are the early adopters, they know what’s important in music even before anyone else does.”

Never a network to miss an opportunity to force more commerce into an event. Matt & Kim were followed, for the first and likely final time in their career, by Pete Wentz, who opened with a toast. In a normal situation, the hipster-heavy audience would have alternatively booed or laughed the Fall that Boy front man off-stage. They instead welcomed him loudly cheering heavy with enthusiasm and alcohol. He’s a celebrity, he deserves at least a bit of much respect looking at you.

The presenters, equipped with shoddy but high concept jokes, tended to be either bad writing or a clear lack of celebrity. All presenters were vexed by a slow Teleprompter, a clear lack of celebrity. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show. The Woodie Awards, the leading college music awards show. While this may not be true, it is the leading college music awards show.
NFL

Vick victorious over former team in return to Atlanta

Drew Brees takes advantage of a late Redskins’ missed field goal to rally the Saints and remain undefeated

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Michael Vick took the snap, sprinted to his right, made a quick cut to the left, broke a tackle and dove into the end zone. He didn’t do it alone.

Turns out, No. 7 still rules Atlanta.

Making quite a return to the Georgia Dome, Vick accounted for a pair of touchdowns — one running, the other passing — and backstopped Atlanta’s former home as the Philadelphia Eagles thoroughly dominated the short-handed Atlanta Falcons 34-7 on Sunday.

The Eagles (8-4) pulled two games ahead of the reeling Falcons (6-6) in the NFC wild-card standings, bringing a little more clarity to the playoff race. But most of the attention was on Vick’s first game in Atlanta since he went off to prison for dogfighting.

Vick, a three-time Pro Bowler with the Falcons and one of the NFL’s most dynamic players before his stunning downfall, ran for a 5-yard touchdown in the third quarter, his first score since Oct. 15, 2006. With the game out of hand, his first nine games with the

13-0 in a game they had dominated. New Orleans recovered at the 1-yard line and ran one of them, Vick, for an 8-yard touchdown, a 53-yard gain, wide open toward the stands. Weaver managed to get it to a fan on the second try.

Vick did keep the ball after his TD pass. And when it was done, he lingered on the field for a little while before getting up off the turf, pulled away from his teammates and headed toward the stands.

He tried to flip the ball into the woods.

Still, the day was everything — and then some — that Vick couldn’t have hoped for. He played sparingly in his first nine games with the Eagles, but coming back to the city that once hailed him as its biggest star finally gave him a chance to shine.

Vick went 2-0-2, setting up his touchdown throw with a 43-yard completion to Reggie Brown, and ran four times for 17 yards.

The Falcons sure could’ve used their former quarterback.

Five offensive starters, including quarterback Matt Ryan, were sidelined by injuries. That was simply too much to overcome, even with a clutch of key offensive players, running back

Brooks hist and receiver DeSean Jackson.

Atlanta scored on the final play to avoid a shutout.

Before the game, Vick chatted with Falcons owner Arthur Blank and several former teammates, including receiver Roddy White.

When it was time to get down to business, No. 7 and the Eagles out of the tunnel, served as one of the captains for the coin toss and got a chance to take a couple of snaps on Philadelphia’s very first drive.

After all, that he did was watch — until the Eagles faced third-and-1 at the Atlanta 5 on the opening drive of the third quarter and lead-

ing 13-0 in a game they had domi-
nated. Trottling on the field to those familiar boos, Vick lined up in a shotgun and pulled off the sort of pass that was so familiar when he played for the home team.

Shotting the hole and taking a look, Vick darted into the end zone for a touchdown that looked as though it lifted a huge weight off his shoul-
ders. With the boss now drowned out by thunderous cheers, Vick layed off the turf, pulled away from his teammates and headed toward the stands.

The ball deflected back into the hands of fullback Leonard Weaver, who turned toward Vick, apparently to ask if he wanted to keep it.

Already heading toward the Eagles bench, Vick just pointed toward the stands. Weaver man-
age to get it to a fan on the second try.

Chris Redman, filling in for Ryan, had a miserable game after leading the Falcons to a last-second win the week before. Redman was picked off twice, one of them returned 83 yards for a touchdown by Sheldon Brown.

Saints 33, Redskins 30

LANDOVER, Md. — Oh, what a charmed life the unbeaten New Orleans Saints are leading these days.

There’s surely no other way to explain the shanked punt that turned into a 29-yard gain, the Drew Brees interception that some-
how morphed into another touch-
down for Robert Meachem, or the fact that the Washington Redskins missed a 23-yard field goal that would have sealed a victory with less than 2 minutes to play.

It seemed inevitable that Brees, operating with no time-
outs, would lead an 80-yard, game-
tying drive that took just 33 seconds and tied the game with 1:19 remaining. And, of course, in over-
time, the Saints benefited from a replay reversal and won Sunday’s game

18-yard field goal 62 9 over the extra period.

The victory improved the Saints to 7-2, clinching a berth in the NFC South, although it was a far-from-

perfect performance. The defense gave up 455 yards to the Redskins, and the offense had to make up a 10-point deficit in the fourth quar-
ter. Washington (3-9) blew a late four-quarter lead to lose for the third straight week.

Brees finished 35 for 49 for 499 yards with two touchdowns and one interception for the Saints, who won a sub-40 degree game for the first time since 1999. Meachem caught eight passes for 142 yards and scored the late game-tying touchdown, and quarterback Chris Simms, a stand-in over the middle that made the score 30-30.

Meachem also scored a fluke first-half touchdown by forcing a fumble after an interception.

After Meachem’s late touchdown, the Saints had a chance to win in regulation after Jonathan Vilma’s interception, but Hartley — playing his first game of the season in place of injured veteran John Carney — was well short with a 58-yard field goal attempt on the last play of regu-
lation.

The Redskins won the toss and had the ball to start overtime, but Mike Sellers fumbled when he was upended by Chris McAlister after making a catch — a turnover that was only verified after a meticulous replay review. Brees then took over, and the ball was at the Washington 37.

Brees needed only seven plays to march New Orleans to the 1 before Hartley made the game-winning kick.

Jason Campbell completed 30 of 42 passes for 367 yards and three touchdowns with one interception for the Redskins. Campbell fre-
quently picked on Eagles’ cornerback

pick Malcolm Jenkins, and much-
maligned 2008 second-rounders Devin Thomas and Fred Davis had big games once again. Thomas had seven catches for a career-high 100 yards and two touchdowns, and Davis had five receptions for 53 yards and a touchdown.

The Redskins’ season-high yardage output came against Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, who ran Washington’s defense from 2004-07 and was passed over for the head coaching job when Joe Gibbs retired. Players on Sunday expected former Eagles’ quarterback to try to punish his old team relentlessly, but his players frequently showed signs of still feeling mad and couldn’t shut the Redskins down when two Redskins were trying to mount a comeback in the fourth quarter.

Santonissi’s missed field goal ba\lded the Saints out, but it wasn’t the first big New Orleans break of the game. Meachem’s first-half touchdown was an especially unforgettable play.

Facing third-and-26 at the Redskins 44, Brees backpedalled under pressure and threw a de-

dard pressure deep pass deep over the middle toMeachem, who snatched it for a 52-yard gain.

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Around the Nation

NCAA Football AP Top 25

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NCAA Football Coaches’ Top 25

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Division III Women’s Basketball Coaches’ Poll

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NHL

Devils at Sabres 
7 p.m., Versus

NFC

Ravens at Packers
8:30 p.m., ESPN

IN BRIEF

NFL cuts revenue-sharing program, NFLPA to protest move

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The NFL has told the players’ union it will cut the $100 million annual supplemental revenue-sharing program that subsidizes lower-revenue teams.

That plan, which is a small portion of the $6.5 billion shared in full by all 32 teams, will be cut because the 2010 season will not have a salary cap.

We are simply going forward on the terms the union approved in March of 2006,” NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Those terms pertain to only years with salary caps, the league says.

The NFL Players Association will challenge the league’s move this week, a person familiar with the union’s plans told The Associated Press on Sunday. The person spoke anonymously because the NFLPA has not officially announced its intentions.

Tiger’s caddy Williams offers support for his boss

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Tiger Woods’ caddie said Saturday he supports his boss while the world’s No. 1 golfer copes with allegations of extramarital affairs.

Steve Williams has been Woods’ caddie the last 10 years. He refused to discuss Woods’ private life, although he said the golfer had confided in him.

“That’s what friends are for,” he told the New Zealand Herald. “You support them through good and bad. It’s like marriage, really.”

Williams also told the newspaper he expected to carry Woods’ bag in San Diego the last week in January.

He said Woods called to say he was withdrawing from the Chevron World Challenge in California because of injuries from a Nov. 27 car crash.

Williams was to have driven in a dirt track car race at Tw Marus, north of Wellington, on Saturday night but withdrew because of engine trouble.

Flyer Carcillo suspended by NHL for role in brawl

PHILADELPHIA — The NHL suspended Flyers forward Dan Carcillo four games for his role in a fight that earned him a whopping 19 penalty minutes and a game misconduct.

Carcillo landed a big punch on Washington’s Matt Bradley as he dropped his gloves Saturday night. Following Carcillo’s punch, Bradley fell to the ice and left the game.

Despite being in the process of dropping his gloves, Bradley wasn’t penalized.

Flyers general manager Paul Holmgren said on Sunday that he did not agree with the decision.

Carcillo was tagged with 2 minutes for cross-checking, 2 minutes for instigation, 5 minutes for fighting, a 10-minute misconduct and a game misconduct in Philadelphia’s 8-2 loss.

He will start the suspension beginning Monday at Montreal.

Around the Dial

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Associated Press

NEW YORK — Alabama and Texas get to play in a national title game. For TCU, Cincinnati and Boise State, the math doesn’t quite add up but they still get a spot in a BCS bowl.

The quirky, often imperfect method of choosing a national champion succeeded but none will play for the national title. All three were included in the BCS, but none will play for the title, which will renew the annual debate about college football’s way of determining the best team in the land.

If we were to talk about fairness, the first thing we’d do is destroy that whole system,” said Jay Coakley, a sociology professor who authored the textbook, “Sport in Society: Issues and Controversies.” “That’s the least fair thing in all of college sports. It doesn’t even pretend to be fair.”

Seeking its first national title since 1992, Alabama opens as a 3-point favorite for the game at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. That’s the place where Vince Young almost singlehandedly led Texas to a victory over Southern California in 2006 to claim the national title.

The other BCS matchups: Oregon against Ohio State in the Rose Bowl, Iowa against Georgia Tech in the Orange, Florida against Cincinnati in the Sugar and TCU against Boise State in the Fiesta.

“We’re here to prove a point,” TCU coach Gary Patterson said after his team’s fate was announced. “We voted for No. 2 in polls today when we voted. We believe we have a great football team and we’re out to show we could be the No. 1 team in the nation.”

The Longhorns (13-0) have been on both sides of the BCS debate in the past. Just last year, their chances for a national title were squashed when they lost a three-way tiebreaker for the Big 12 South title.

This time around, Texas defeated Nebraska 13-12 in the Big 12 title game Saturday to secure its spot in the national championship, though the less-than-dominating performance certainly left things open for debate. Still, there was a big gap between Texas and TCU in the BCS rankings, the coaches’ poll and The Associated Press poll, which is not included in the BCS formula.

The AP awards its own national championship.

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The Irish have become accustomed to winning at the highest levels, capturing multiple medals at junior world cup events this season. This weekend, they will be playing at the USAF North American Cup in Pittsburgh only confirmed those expectations.

In general our fencers play well together, having strong bouts, and it was a good tournament for us,” head coach Janusz Bednarski said. “It was a very tough competition with a lot of very good fencers from Canada, Mexico, even from Switzerland. In some of the matches, even though we lost, it was more than 220 fencers, so it’s a big tournament that requires good preparation.”

The Irish took home the gold medal on women’s epee as senior Kelley Hurley bested an elite field of international fencers, including her sister sophomore Courtney Hurley. Due to a forward break during the final, the two siblings were seeded together in the single-elimination bracket.

“Whenever wins go up, and it was hard luck that they were forced to face each other,” Bednarski said. “It’s kind of the reward for the combination of the years of experience and hard work that our fencers on both sides of the pond have put in. We always have to work on the fact that every year, we’re a little bit stronger and the ultimate goal is to win the gold medal.”

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Associated Press

LANCASTER — LaSalle High School boys basketball coach Mike Drakulic does not think there is a “big game” in the regular season.

“I’ve been around for a long time and I’ve coached at LaSalle for 25 years, and not one game is bigger than the next,” Drakulic said. “It’s all about who is playing the best at the end of the season.”

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Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Once they warmed up against the San Diego Chargers looked like they did every December.

LaBainian Tomlinson scored his 150th career TD and stiff-armed Hall of Famer Jim Brown for an extra yard to give his team the lead. The career rushing list as the Chargers won their seventh straight and 15th in a row in December by beating the Cleveland Browns 20-3 on Sunday.

Antonio Gates set a career high with 167 receiving yards for the Chargers (9-3), who dragged their feet early and only led 13-7 at halftime. But Philip Rivers led San Diego on touchdown drives of 85 and 83 yards in just over nine minutes in the third quarter to open a 27-7 lead.

Tomlinson’s 4-yard TD run with 5:58 left in the third quarter gave the Browns (2-5) up by two, and placed the running back in elite company among NFL greats.

Tomlinson reached 150 TDs faster than any player in league history, hitting the milestone in his 137th game. Emmitt Smith needed 160 games to reach 150 and Jerry Rice did it in 158. Tomlinson’s 167th game.

In the fourth quarter, Tomlinson burst up the middle for 11 to give him 12,315 yards, three more than Brown, who attended the game. Tomlinson finished with 64 yards on 12 carries and 12.321 yards. Tony Dorsett (12,331) is seventh all time.

Rivers threw two TD passes — both on short routes — as the Chargers continued their surge following a 2-3 start.

With Dallas and Cincinnati looming on the schedule, San Diego couldn’t afford to overlook the Browns (1-11), who have lost seven straight against mounting injuries.

At halftime, San Diego seemed to be in control.

At the end of the third quarter, the Chargers had little concern.

San Diego thoroughly dominated the Browns in the third, outgaining Cleveland 208-10 — 164-0 in passing yards — while holding the ball for 12:06.

Rivers was 7 for 8 in the quarter with four completions going to Gates for 114 yards. The highlight of San Diego’s aerial assault came when Gates, the former Kent State basketball star, boxed out Abram Elam and Hank Potz for a 56-yard reception.

Cleveland quarterback Brady Quinn threw three TD passes for the Browns, who have lost a franchise-record 10 straight home games and have yet to play in an angry Pittsburgh squad on Thursday. The Steelers lost at home to Oakland 27-24 on Sunday.

San Diego Browns made the score respectable by scoring 16 points in the fourth as Quinn hit running back Jerome Harrison for two TDs.

Phil Dawson’s 49-yard field goal with 39 seconds left made it 30-23, but Tomlinson recovered the subsequent onside kick with 23 seconds remaining.

The teams played out of a rain storm went 25 of 45 for 271 yards. Nate Kaeding kicked field goals of 32, 42 and 22 yards for the Chargers, who amassed 267 total yards in the second half.

Leading just 13-7 at halftime, the Chargers quickly went to work against the Browns’ banged up defense, which was missing four starters because of injuries. Rivers completed a short pass to the lightening- quick Darren Sproles, who did the rest and zigzagged his way 31 yards into the end zone.

The Chargers were sleep-walking during the first, giving up an early TD while barely resembling a team pushing for a playoff spot.

San Diego trailed 7-3 and was in danger of falling further behind when Dawson missed a 43-yard field goal.

Rivers needed just 13 seconds to give the Chargers their first lead. He threw a short pass in the flat to backup fullback Mike Tolbert, who ran away from linebacker Jason Trusnik, picked up a nice down-field block and went 66 yards for the TD.

The Browns drove inside San Diego’s 5 and were poised to tie it or take the lead when Quinn was stripped (from behind) by linebacker Shaun Phillips and the Chargers recovered.

Browns Stadium was less than half full at kickoff and any late arrivals missed the Browns’ first TD. Quinn’s 11-yard pass to Mohamed Massaquoi in the third quarter was picked up by a running back Jerome Harrison for two TDs.

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Irish finish fourth in Columbus

By MOLLY SAMMON Sports Writer

"The Big Ten always provides great competition. It was clearly the fastest competition we’ve seen all season." Tim Welsh Irish coach

The Irish finished off the season's competitions with a fourth-place finish at this weekend's Ohio State Invitational. Notre Dame coach Tim Welsh hoped the result would help the team figure out its strengths and weaknesses as the team takes a break before 2010. "I think that the experience of this weekend helped us take a major step towards being ready for what we have next season," Welsh said. "We put a lot of focus on preparing for this meet, and this is kind of like the final exam for the fall semester.

Of the 12 teams that competed in Columbus, the Irish earned their fourth-place spot thanks to six first-place finishes. Three ninth place finishes helped the Irish against the Big Ten foes, which annually provides really great competition in collegiate swimming. Big Ten foes, which annually thanks to six first-place finishes in the 2009-10 season's upcoming events.

"We’ll go back into a very hard training phase, trying to strengthen our basic conditions, working on the fundamentals and working on the things we need to improve," Welsh said. "We’ll start focusing on specifics and on the meet conditions ahead of our meet against the Buckeyes on January 8-9.

The team’s next competition will be a dual meet against the Northwestern Wildcats on Jan. 9 at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

Knicks prevent Nets from back-to-back wins

By JOHN HELMS Sports Writer

It was the first chance for many of the Notre Dame athletes to showcase their talents this year, as the Irish opened up their season on Friday with the annual Blue and Gold meet. They didn’t disappoint, as the Irish posted 17 first place finishes against visiting school DePaul, Detroit Mercy and Marquette.

While the Irish graduated 18 seniors from last year’s team, Notre Dame coach Joe Piane said he thought this year’s squad was just as talented, and that he was excited to watch his team perform in their first test against the Big East. "We’re really interested in the sprinters and field events kids because they have had opportunities to compete, whereas the cross country kids have been competing throughout the fall," Piane said.

Piane’s team didn’t disappoint, as the sprinters and field event athletes helped the Irish to an 82-74 Big East qualifying victory.

There were many highlights for the Irish on the field. Notre Dame dominated the men’s pole vault, in which Irish vaulter sophomore Kevin Schipper, senior Matt Schipper, senior Jim Merchun and junior Andrew Kolbeck posted four Big East qualifying marks. The Irish also took the top three spots in the women’s long jump as sophomore Maddie Schipper, senior Joanna Schultz, junior Natalie Johnson and senior Samantha Williams. The Irish are now off until Jan. 15, at which point they will host the Notre Dame Indoor Opener at the Loftus Center.

Contact John Helms at jhelms@nd.edu
New England loses second straight to Miami

Associated Press

MIAMI — When Tom Brady missed repeated chances to put the game away in the fourth quarter, Chad Henne and the Miami Dolphins took advantage.

Henne threw for a career-high 335 yards and directed a 51-yard drive for the winning field goal with 1:02 left, and Miami rallied past New England 22-21 on Sunday. The Dolphins (6-6) overcame an early 14-point deficit to treat an arm injury, but returned without missing a play. He finished 19 for 29 for 352 yards and two touchdowns, and also threw two interceptions.

Leading 21-19, the Patriots had first-and-goal at the Miami 6 in the second quarter. On one play each time Brady and the Patriots went three and out. On one play Vontae Davis, who stepped in front of Henne's pass went three and out. On one play Vontae Davis, who stepped in front of Henne's pass.

But New England twice failed to score inside the Miami 10. The Patriots were stopped on downs at the Miami 5 and the Miami 6.

Henne went 29 for 52 with one interception.

Peyton Manning keeps finding ways to win.

On the Dolphins' first play of the fourth quarter, Will Smith, who had never had a sack in his career, directed a 51-yard drive for the winning field goal with 1:02 left, and Miami rallied past New England 22-21 on Sunday. The Dolphins (6-6) overcame an early 14-point deficit to treat an arm injury, but returned without missing a play. He finished 19 for 29 for 352 yards and two touchdowns, and also threw two interceptions.

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Tamil Nadu University, Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. A. Mahalingam

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to present my research findings at the recent conference. The experience was truly enriching and I am grateful for the chance to engage with such knowledgeable and passionate professionals in the field.

I would like to highlight a few key takeaways from the conference that I found particularly insightful. Firstly, the emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration was truly inspiring. It is clear that the future of research lies in bringing together experts from diverse fields to tackle complex issues.

Secondly, the innovative use of technology and data-driven approaches in research was evident. As a researcher, I believe that embracing these tools is crucial for staying ahead in our field.

Lastly, the strong sense of community and support among attendees was heartening. It is reassuring to know that we are not alone in our endeavors, and that there is a network of like-minded individuals who can offer guidance and encouragement.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this wonderful event. I look forward to future conferences and the continued exchange of ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. A. Mahalingam

Researcher, Tamil Nadu University
UCF

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another typical performance, as the pre-season All-American scored 29 points and brought down seven rebounds. After a slow start, shooting the ball early, Harangody made eight of his 10 attempts from the field and helped Notre Dame dominate the second half.

“We’ve done that this sea-son, and every time we’ve been at home we’ve had a second half surge,” Harangody said. “I don’t know what it is but we just come out there and pick up the defensive intensity. This is a great team tonight, and this is big for us.”

Notre Dame went on to the second half for Notre Dame

the Knights settled down a

Dame went on an 8-0 run to

41-41 at halftime, Notre

thought our poise to start the

first half, making some

throw after being fouled to

making an early 3-pointer

quick start behind

on the Irish up 11-4. The

the first half surge,”

Harangody said. “I don’t know

second half surge,”

Brey was relieved to hear his floor general would not be

missing significant amounts of
time.

“We’d have to say he’s ques-
tionable for Wednesday [against IUPUI],” Brey said. “If we are betting men on Tony Jackson, that guy is going to take a couple Motrin and be out there.”

Junior guard Ben Hansbrough also scored in double digits for the Irish, talying 10 points and four assists. Toney had nine assists and four points before leaving, following the ankle injury.

Central Florida was led by forward Keith Clanton, who

assisted in double digits for the Irish, tal-
ying three aces, 19 kills

and led the Irish senior Michele

Weissenhofer had a chance at a

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Notre Dame in last year’s Final,

10 attempts from the field

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Noguiera scored two goals to beat

Notre Dame in last year’s Final,

and in Friday’s semifinal, the

Hermann Award candidate netted

the only goal of the game.

Was it realistic to think the Irish
defense could keep Noguiera and

the high-powered Tar Heel

defense quiet for 90 minutes?

Friday night, as was obvious to

anyone who watched the game.

North Carolina was the superior
team on the field.

North Carolina was the superior
team on the field.

Irish fans cheer on their team during the College Cup this weekend. Notre Dame lost to North Carolina 2-0 Friday night. The Tar Heels went on to win the NCAA Championship Sunday.

Herman

continued from page 20

match was the exceptional

play of Bobcat outside hitter

Ellen Herman, who tal-

tied three aces, 19 kills

and 17 digs to lead all

players. Herman’s success

against Notre Dame dates

back to the last meeting

between the two schools, a

2007 matchup in which

Herman logged 26 kills.

“Notre Dame’s loss is a

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“...To say that any of them

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much as the others aren’t as

important is entirely false,” Brown said prior to a match.

“They all bring special

ing things to the team. I think

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different ways. They’re a

two very close class, and

they have great comradery.

It’s just a tremendous
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In addition to Sricca

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more libero Frenchy Silva

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Although the hopes of an

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return to the tournament

next year and beyond.

Contact Chris Masoud at

cmasoud@nd.edu

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Contact Chris Masoud at

cmasoud@nd.edu

Bowl

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think it’s a tough situation,
especially with younger

guys and those who aren’t

in the mix for playing. It

extends the season even

further with finals coming

around and we don’t know

where it will be or who

our opponent is going to

be with our 6-6 record. It’s

tough to think that Stander might go from last

football game I ever play

in my life.”

Even though the Irish

will not be playing post-

season football, wide

receivers coach and

recruiting coordinator Rob

Ianello will continue to

oversee football opera-

tions until a new coach is

named.

Contact Sam Werner at

swerner@nd.edu
Waldrum continued from page 20

said. “But it doesn’t take away how proud I am of our girls and their effort.”

Tar Heel midfielder Lucy Bronze made a strong run down the right side, slipping past the Irish defense, and put a low cross into the six-yard box that Nogueira touched in for the game-winner.

The Irish were forced to play much of the game in their own defensive end, managing just eight shots against North Carolina’s 26. The Tar Heels also held a 10-2 advantage in corner kicks.

“I think through the course of the season Notre Dame has matured tremendously,” Tar Heel coach Anson Dorrance said. “The game plan [Notre Dame] had was a good one. They made it very difficult for us to score.

In the first half, North Carolina wasted no time putting pressure on the Irish defense. The Tar Heels took the ball straight down the field in the first minute and drew a foul just outside the penalty box. Notre Dame dodged an early bullet when Nogueira’s shot sailed over the crossbar.

The Irish bounced back with their best opportunity of the half just a few minutes later when sophomore Melissa Weissenhofer led a counterattack that caught the North Carolina defense out of position. Henderson hit Augustin on a through-ball inside the penalty box, but Augustin’s shot was deflected wide by Tar Heel goalkeeper Ashlyn Harris.

“They were a good team and they pressed us a lot,” Augustin said. “We tried to settle it down and we almost got through on a few.

Just before the end of the half, North Carolina had two opportunities to capitalize on loose balls inside the Irish penalty area, but those shot attempts were cleared off the end line by sophomore Molly Campbell.

Early in the second half, the two teams traded a number of offensive opportunities, with the Notre Dame defense standing strong to keep the game scoreless.

Just as the Irish were gaining the momentum, senior defender Haley Ford, who has struggled with injuries for much of the season, went down with a leg injury minutes into the half that forced her to sit out the rest of the game.

But as they have done all season, the Irish continued to fight through adversity.

In the 67th minute, Notre Dame looked to have taken the lead, but Augustin’s volley from the left side of the penalty area bounced off the crossbar and the Tar Heels were able to clear.

From that point on, North Carolina regained control of the match forcing play onto the Irish’s defensive third. Nikki Weiss made several saves down the stretch, finishing with six on the night, before allowing Nogueira’s goal-ahead goal.

“We were a little frustrated in our inability to score, but we’re used to taking lots of shots,” Nogueira said. “But we kept taking them and it paid off eventually.”

The Irish had one last opportunity to get the equalizer in the final seconds, but Henderson’s through-ball intended for senior Michele Weissenhofer was cleared away by a sliding effort from North Carolina’s 1-0 loss to North Carolina Friday night.

Senior defender Molly Campbell throws the ball into play during Notre Dame’s 1-0 loss to North Carolina Friday night.

Irish fall in pair of shutout losses

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

No. 15 Notre Dame failed to light the lamp in a pair of shutout losses to top-ranked Miami as the Irish suffered their first weekend sweep in more than a year, falling 1-0 Friday and 4-0 Saturday.

“Friday we had scoring chances and we just didn’t put the puck in the net,” junior left wing Calle Ridderwall said. “Saturday we had a couple chances that probably should have gone in, but the bottom line is that you’ve got to bury the puck in the back of the net and we’re not doing that right now.”

Notre Dame (7-7-4, 4-4-4-2 CCHA) had not been swept since Oct. 24-25, 2008, when the RedHawks (11-2-5, 8-1-3-1) handed the Irish consecutive losses at the Joyce Center. Miami has now beaten Notre Dame six straight times dating back to Oct. 6.

The lone goal of Friday night’s contest came at 18:42 in the first when freshman defenseman Joe Hartman beat Irish freshman goalie-tender Mike Johnson, who was otherwise perfect in making 25 saves.

“Johnson was good in both games,” Ridderwall said. “You obviously can’t win a game not scoring any goals though. And Saturday we didn’t help him enough defensively.”

Saturday’s game was closer than the score indicated, as the Irish only trailed 1-0 for most of the game after Tommy Wingels’ goal midway through the opening period.

But third-period goals by Pat Cannone, Carter Camper and Justin Vaive put the game out of reach.

“I think we can learn a lot from Miami,” Ridderwall said. “Their special teams were fantastic all weekend. Just a very fast team, and we’ve been wanting to play quicker. Definitely the speed of their game and their offensive ability.

The Irish will try to right the ship this weekend, but they’ll have another tough series when they play a home-and-home with conference-rival Michigan.

HOCKEY

Irish fall in pair of shutout losses

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Editor

No. 15 Notre Dame failed to light the lamp in a pair of shutout losses to top-ranked Miami as the Irish suffered their first weekend sweep in more than a year, falling 1-0 Friday and 4-0 Saturday.

“Friday we had scoring chances and we just didn’t put the puck in the net,” junior left wing Calle Ridderwall said. “Saturday we had a couple chances that probably should have gone in, but the bottom line is that you’ve got to bury the puck in the back of the net and we’re not doing that right now.”

Notre Dame (7-7-4, 4-4-4-2 CCHA) had not been swept since Oct. 24-25, 2008, when the RedHawks (11-2-5, 8-1-3-1) handed the Irish consecutive losses at the Joyce Center. Miami has now beaten Notre Dame six straight times dating back to Oct. 6.

The lone goal of Friday night’s contest came at 18:42 in the first when freshman defenseman Joe Hartman beat Irish freshman goalie-tender Mike Johnson, who was otherwise perfect in making 25 saves.

“Johnson was good in both games,” Ridderwall said. “You obviously can’t win a game not scoring any goals though. And Saturday we didn’t help him enough defensively.”

Saturday’s game was closer than the score indicated, as the Irish only trailed 1-0 for most of the game after Tommy Wingels’ goal midway through the opening period.

But third-period goals by Pat Cannone, Carter Camper and Justin Vaive put the game out of reach.

“I think we can learn a lot from Miami,” Ridderwall said. “Their special teams were fantastic all weekend. Just a very fast team, and we’ve been wanting to play quicker. Definitely the speed of their game and their offensive ability.

The Irish will try to right the ship this weekend, but they’ll have another tough series when they play a home-and-home with conference-rival Michigan.
ND Women’s Soccer

Twice denied

Team falls to Tar Heels in College Cup for second year in a row

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — For the second straight year, the Irish were beaten in the College Cup by a late second-half goal off the foot of North Carolina forward Casey Nogueira.

Nogueira’s finish from close range with 7:58 remaining sent the Irish home with a 1-0 defeat in the NCAA Semifinals Friday night at Aggie Soccer Stadium.

“They were the better team tonight, no question about it.” Irish coach Randy Waldrum

Despite loss, Irish are closing the gap on North Carolina

In some ways, it now seems as if it was always inevitable.

North Carolina has nine more College Cup titles than Notre Dame has appearances. Was it really realistic to think the Irish could catch the Tar Heels on the biggest stage in women’s college soccer?

North Carolina senior Casey

Men’s Basketball

Abromaitis nets 31 in win

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Associate Sports Editor

The first half of Notre Dame’s game against Central Florida Sunday featured 17 lead changes and 11 ties.

The second half had none, as the Irish stormed out after halftime to outscore the Knights 49-31 and secure a 90-72 victory.

With NBA legend Michael Jordan in the press box to watch his son Marcus, a freshman guard at UCF, junior forward Tim Abromaitis had the best game of his career.

Moved into the starting lineup, Abromaitis scored 31 points on 10-of-17 shooting to lead the Irish.

“I think it’s really my teammates who set me up for those 31 points,” Abromaitis said. “I got a lot of easy shots out there, just off good penetration and getting good cuts. It’s a lot of the teamwork that went into it.”

Senior Luke Harangody had

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Volleyball

Notre Dame falls in first round of NCAAs

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Highlighted by a 15-game winning streak, Notre Dame’s 2009 season culminated in the longest losing skid of the year on Friday.

Notre Dame fell to Ohio University in the opening round of the NCAA championships, the third straight loss and the final match in the careers of a senior class defined by winning.

“Although the outcome was not what we had hoped for, I’m extremely proud of our team and their effort tonight, and Ohio deserves plenty of credit for earning the win,” Irish head coach Debbie Brown said to und.com.

“We’ve battled through injuries lately and persevered many times throughout the season. This team will miss our very special six-person senior class.”

The Irish (21-7) hobbled the Bobcats’ (27-6) to five sets (25-22, 25-16, 20-25, 25-15, 15-7), but in the end could not stop an overpowering offense defined by execution of the fundamentals. Lifted by 10 aces, Ohio finished with a .236 attacking percentage compared to Notre Dame’s .125.

Nevertheless, the statistic line featured the impressive numbers Irish fans have to expect from their main contributors. Junior middle blocker Kellie Sciacca led the Irish offensive with 16 kills, and sophomore outside hitter Kristen Dealy recorded her ninth double-double of the season with 10 kills and 16 digs. Senior outside hitter Christina Karlin added 10 kills to round out the attack.

But the real story of the