Students notified of study abroad decisions
Office of International Studies accepts 789 applicants; most popular programs include English-speaking locations

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

The Office of International Studies (OIS) received 1,499 applications for study abroad programs for the 2010-2011 school year, Director Kathleen Opel said.

Opel said not all of the 1,499 applications were “unique,” meaning that some students turned in multiple applications to OIS.

“The number of applications we received this year was just a bit higher than last year, probably by 10 or so,” she said.

Opel said they were able to offer acceptances to 789 people and place some others on waitlists. She said the most popular programs were mainly in English-speaking locations.

Students who applied to study abroad during the next academic year were notified on Feb. 5 about their acceptance decision from the programs they applied to,” Opel said.

Opel said they considered a number of factors in their decision aside from a student’s GPA.

“It would be really easy if (admissions) were only based off GPA,” she said. “First we examine every part of the application, everything written with the essay being the most important part.”

Among other factors that influenced the committee’s decision was the required academic letters of reference, sector reference and Dean’s approval.

“Most students understand and have met the guidelines we have laid out for the abroad programs,” Opel said. “We get a sense of who are those applicants who are best suited for the program as well as the program that best suits the students. We choose based on students who fit both criteria.”

Students accepted to a study abroad program have until Friday to notify OIS about their decision to either accept the invitation or withdraw.

The traditional favorites were London, Dublin and both Australia programs as well as Australia programs as well.

Fr. John Jenkins lectures on ethics

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

Making leadership decisions in an ethical context, a topic University President Fr. John Jenkins is certainly familiar with, was central to a lecture he held Tuesday.

“The Ethics of Leadership” lecture was the second of four main events hosted by the Mendoza College of Business as part of its annual Ethics Week.

Jenkins’ presentation was structured around balancing the moral and practical components of making leadership decisions, both in and outside of business.

Jenkins said ethical leadership is a “practical activity” and emphasized the importance of not only developing, but also implementing ethics in one’s life and career.

“If it’s something you do, Jenkins said. “Be good at it.”

“If you want to be an ethical leader, pay attention to the small things,” Jenkins said. “It’s about the

Mass held in celebration of Rhoades

By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

Notre Dame celebrated the arrival of Bishop Kevin Rhoades to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with a Mass of thanksgiving at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart Tuesday.

Rhoades, former bishop of the Harrisburg, Pa., diocese, succeeded Bishop John D’Arcy, who retired on Jan. 13. Both Rhoades and University President Fr. John Jenkins presided the mass.

“I hope he feels this is home and not a place to visit,” Jenkins said.

The Observer reported in a Nov. 16 article that Rhoades was one of some 80 bishops who denounced President Obama’s appearance at the 2009 commencement in a letter to Jenkins last spring.

Despite past tensions, Rhoades said he anticipates a close relationship with Notre Dame.

“I believe, as Pope John Paul II said when he visited the United States in 1987, that bishops should be seen not as external agents but as participants in the life of the Catholic university,” Rhoades said during his homily.

Rhoades defined this relationship as one of his new obligations as successor to D’Arcy.

“As I undertake my new responsibilities as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, I am very conscious of my responsibilities, my responsibility particularly to strengthen and promote the Catholic universities in my Diocese and especially to promote and assist in the preservation and strengthening of our Catholic identity,” Rhoades said.

Rhoades explored the role of these Catholic universities in the larger society.

“Our institutions make a vital contribution to the mission of our church and truly serve society,” Rhoades said. “They become places in which God’s presence in human affairs is recognized and in which every young person discovers the joy of entering into Christ’s being for others.”

Retired history prof.
Robert Burns dies Fri.

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

Robert Burns began at Notre Dame in 1957 and taught courses in Irish and British history. He also was the author of a two-volume study on “Irish Parliamentary Politics in the Eighteenth Century” and “Being Catholic, Being American: The Notre Dame Story,” a two-volume history of Notre Dame from its foundation in 1952.

Burns began at Notre Dame in 1957 and taught courses in Irish

Observer Staff Report
Retired professor of history Robert Burns died Friday after a long illness. He was 83.

Prior to teaching at Notre Dame, Burns served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He later graduated from Northeastern University and went on to obtain his master’s and doctoral degrees in history from Harvard.

Burns died Friday after a long illness. He was 83.
It ain’t broke, don’t fix it

“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.” The NCAA needs to adopt this cliché when looking at possible changes to the men’s basketball tournament. There has been a lot of talk recently about a possible expansion of the bracket, and it is completely bewildering why anyone would want to change anything that is so good. I mean seriously, what sports fan doesn’t love March Madness?

People, sports writers, fans, the blogosphere, have all been talking about expanding the tournament to include another round, as well as so many “deserving” teams being shunned.

Some, including Denver Post sports writer and ESPN contributor Woody Paige, have even made the suggestion that the tournament include all 347 Division I teams. Listen, I know it’s called March Madness, but that would be insanity.

The reason the NCAA holds the tournament is to reward those teams that have had quality seasons with a chance to compete for the national championship. Those who have had mediocre seasons have proven themselves contenders.

Some might challenge this by saying, “why not just give everyone a shot?”

The answer: everyone does have a shot. Every team (with the exception of those in the Ivy League and the independents) has a chance to earn an NCAA bid by winning their conference tournament. If an additional round were added, of the 64 additional teams added to the bracket, 60 of those would be crushed in the preliminary round. Sure, there would be some upsets, there always are. But winning the national championship is tough enough as it is. Winning six games in three weeks versus the best teams in the country is a formidable challenge, and only the best teams do so.

But the heartbreak of the selection committee is broken, college basketball fans, so don’t break your heart.

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

Contact Matthew Robison at mrobison@nd.edu

IN BRIEF

All of William Shakespeare’s 154 sonnets will be read aloud by Notre Dame administrators, faculty and students today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. today in O’Shaughnessy Hall. Sonnet Fest 2010 is sponsored by Shakespeare at Notre Dame and the Department of English.

A lecture entitled “Brothers Karamazov The Open: Turning a ‘problematic’ novel into redemptive religious art” will take place today from 1:55 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. in Room 210-214 in McKenna Hall.

A lecture, “Russian Classics on the Stalinist Stage: The Case of Boris Godunov, 1936,” will take place today at 4 p.m. in Room 210-214 in McKenna Hall.

Jane LaTour, author of “Sisters in the Brotherhoods: Working Women Organizing for Equality in New York City,” will discuss her book from today from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Room 117 of DeBartolo Hall.

Daily mass will be celebrated at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Jacqueline Vaughan Brogan will read poetry from her work “Damage” at the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore today from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observer.questions@gmail.com.
Halls to host polar bear plunge

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

Saturday at 2 p.m., Notre Dame students will be braving the ice-cold waters of St. Joseph Lake in the first annual Polar Bear Plunge, organized by Badin and Dillon Hall.

Despite the frigid temperatures, Badin Hall president Taylor Osicek is anticipating a strong turnout from the student body.

"We are hoping for an attendance of at least 250 for our first year. We are hoping that by using two dorms to sponsor the event, we can really generate some enthusiasm for the event," she said.

"We understand that some people are not familiar with the idea, so we hope to introduce them to the premise this year, and get them to participate next year," Osicek said.

Participation in the event is relatively straightforward and should be popular with Notre Dame students. Osicek said:

"Basically, it’s just running into a body of water in the middle of the winter and running out. It has kind of a cult-like following and mob mentality behind it that we hope will translate to Notre Dame well," she said.

Osicek said Badin and Dillon drew inspiration for the event from similar fundraisers that occur across major United States cities. She cited Chicago as an example, noting that on New Year’s Day participants run into Lake Michigan. Part of the appeal of the event is that it occurs in the winter.

"Kevin Boyle, the Dillon president, Kate McCabe, Badin’s vice president and I realized there are so much fundraising runs in the fall and spring, but thanks to the lovely South Bend weather, there is a total lack in the winter," Osicek said.

"We thought this would be a creative way to fill the void," Osicek said originally the Polar Bear Plunge was meant to raise funds for a local charity, but with recent events that have transpired in Haiti, organizers of the event have changed the focus of the event.

"Initially we were going to raise the money for the Center for the Homeless, but after the disaster in Haiti, we decided to give all the $5 donations from the participants to the fund that student government has started," she said.

Students can to pre-register in both dining halls Wednesday and Thursday, or register Saturday before the 2 p.m. start time at St. Joseph Beach.

Osicek said the event will entail more than just a swim in the lake.

"By participating, you are automatically entered in a raffle for Notre Dame Snuggies, and gift cards for restaurants at Eddy Street Commons. We will have free hot chocolate, brownies and cookies provided along with some music playing," she said.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members discuss Web site to review housing

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR) discussed the ongoing development of a new Web site that would allow Notre Dame students to rate and review campus housing properties at their meeting Tuesday night.

The Web site, which will be accessed at rent.nd.edu, will enable students to look up off-campus houses and apartments and read reviews from other students, much like the system on www.ndtoday.com.

The idea for the Web site was first brought to student body president Grant Schmidt last year when he attended a college symposium. The need for a property review Web site was brought up as an issue in the student body elections last spring.

"Basically we want this to be an authentic way for students to review the different housing options they have off campus," Schmidt said.

Rent.nd.edu creator, sophomore Joey Rich, gave COR members a 10-minute demo about the utility of the site and its current functions.

"Anyone can sign up to make a listing but if you’re a Notre Dame student you get the special privilege of rating the properties," Rich said.

There is even a section where students can rate the landlords from “best friends” to “rotten people.”

The Web site currently has two categories in which to look for listings and reviews, either under houses or apartment complexes.

Many COR members expressed concerns with this feature as well as with the characteristic that only one person has control over the objective information about a property, such as amenities, number of rooms and pricing.

Rich said since rent.nd.edu is launched and receives more listings, a search feature will be added that will allow for more complex housing searches that include pricing and property features.

"The point of the Web site is not to rate your dorm, or your house," vice president Cynthia Weber said. "It’s about conveying information about a specific area to students."

Members of COR expressed concerns over monitoring of the Web site and the updating of objective information about the properties that will be listed. One of the major concerns was who would have the control over updating the property listings.

"The information that is key on this Web site is the subjective information, the reviews and ratings," Schmidt said.

"Students will look at the property and talk to a landlord before they decide on a property," she said. "This Web site will be a double-check."

Weber also responded to COR members’ worries about the current construction of the Web site.

"Web sites evolve and changes are made when you see how the visitors are using the site," she said. "You can’t make changes for the future until you see how the way the site is used.

The original plan was to launch rent.nd.edu last night, but after the discussion among COR members, Schmidt decided that further work needed to be done on the Web site.

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C O N C E R N  I N S T I T U T E

South Bend Food Bank opens new location

Camping in the first annual Polar Bear Plunge

Six people are pictured standing in the snow.

Student body president Grant Schmidt listens to discussion about the Web site in the COR meeting Tuesday.

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu

Maggie O’Brien/The Observer
Student government releases benefit CD

By JILL STINCHCOMB
News Writer

Student government recently released "Choir Above Water," a CD containing original music by Notre Dame students whose profits will benefit the Global Water Initiative.

The CD is being sold for $6 at the LaFortune Information Desk and online at the Student Shop ND until April 1. The proceeds will go to the non-profit organization The Water Project via the ND.

"We want to have a unifying effect among our community," said Rachel Roseberry, co-director of the Global Water Initiative. "We want to sustain the cause and support the musicians right up until April 1."

Sophomore Brian Powers, whose song "One Too Many Things" is featured on the CD, said he participated in the project to help a good cause.

"Music is such a huge part of my life and I love that something I put so much effort into can help someone else," Powers said.

He added, "I like that this gets exposure for the musical scene at Notre Dame, which can be kind of limited. The benefits are twofold."

Nicholas Gunty, a sophomore whose song "Wishing Pool" is featured on the CD, also said he contributed to support the cause.

"I wanted to contribute my talents to something that I thought was a noble cause," Gunty said. "Everyone should buy the CD. It's a worthwhile cause to give your money to regardless, and there are definitely some gems on the CD."

Roseberry said, "This is a unique opportunity for Notre Dame students to support both their fellow students and a cause larger than the Notre Dame community.

"The mission of our water initiative has been to unite different parts of the Notre Dame community to walk in the same steps as our students. Our long-term project is to give your money to regardless, and there are definitely some talents to the cause."

Rachel Roseberry
co-director
Global Water Initiative

"We've had a tremendously positive response to the CD. We've sold at least 100 CDs, and hope to sell more as it's a CD containing original music by Notre Dame students whose profits will benefit the Global Water Initiative," said Rachel Roseberry, co-director of the Global Water Initiative. "We've had a tremendously positive response to the CD."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Haitian man found alive in rubble

PORT-AU-PRINCE — University of Miami doctors working in Haiti are treating a man who, according to two other Haitians, had been trapped under the rubble since the Jan. 12 earthquake — but he may have been provided food and water during his reported ordeal.

The two Haitians, who could be confirmed by doctors at a university field hospital or at a Salvation Army medical center in Port-au-Prince where the man, emaciated and suffering from dehydration, was first brought by the two men, Monday.

Nery Ynclan, a University of Miami media officer in Haiti, said the patient was in stable condition Tuesday and being treated for dehydra-
thon and malnutrition. The man identified himself as Evans Monsgrace, 28, she said, adding that his family told doctors varying accounts of his ordeal.

Sri Lankan parliament dissolved

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka's presi-
dent dissolved parliament to make way for
spring elections a day after authorities arrest-
ed a key opposition leader, crippling the only serious threat to the ruling party's grip on power.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa's move Tuesday to call parliamentary elections fol-
lows his sweeping victory at the polls last
month, as he faces accusations of war crimes and human rights abuses.

Sheriff's deputies also asked residents to
move their vehicles and trash cans away from
canyons. Los Angeles County sheriff's
 deputies went door to door, urging people to
leave the door open to a negotiated solution, saying it would stop the work if the
West found a way to provide a possible pathway to
nuclear arms production.

Iran denies it wants to
produce weapons but has
defined resolution
saying the enrich-
tions on Iran in weeks, not
months," according to his
spokesman.

France also said Iran's
nuclear defiance.

Scandalized N.Y. gov. refuses to quit race

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Gov.

David Paterson, defying calls from
even fellow Democrats to drop out of the
race for a full term, said Tuesday that he would leave only if the voters turn him out through the ballot
box, or "in a box."

Paterson spoke to reporters after
several days of rumors he was leaving the
state Capitol about carousing in the
governor's mansion or partying in
the governor's box, or "in a box."

Democratic House Speaker Patrick
Bauer of South Bend says job creation will be
the theme for Indiana in the second half of the legislative ses-
sion. He says he hopes to get bipartisan sup-
sort to pass legislation that puts people
back to work, assists small businesses and
holds companies accountable for the
promises they make to create jobs.

Local News

Democrats plan new job legislation

INDIANAPOLIS — Look for Democrats in the Indiana General Assembly in the coming days that they say will be a

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Jenkins continued from page 1

day-to-day decisions you make ... Living an ethical life is about developing good habits, if you develop good habits, they’re called virtues.

Jenkins touched on how one should ethically approach especially difficult and complex decisions.

“Some of the toughest decisions aren’t habitual,” Jenkins said.

During the question and answer session following the lecture, conversation quickly turned to Jenkins highlighting his traverdal decision to invite President Obama to present the main address at the 2009 Commencement ceremony.

“This president is pro-choice, there’s no doubt about it, and that’s significant,” he said. “It’s about revisiting the office. “I know people seriously disagree and I respect that... You just have to decide what you think is right.”

The session concluded with questions regarding the future and the challenges it presents to the University as a place of higher education and moral formation.

“It’s always difficult to be different. I think there’s a gravitational pull towards acting like others... I think we’ve resisted that,” Jenkins said, citing the University’s unique incorporation of morality, faith and service into academics and student life.

“In the end, it’s people who are committed to being different, to living an ethical life. That difference is sometimes the greatest challenge.”

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jcameron20@nd.edu

Abroad continued from page 1

Rome and Toledo, she said. “The English language programs tend to be strong,” she said.

Sophomore Kelly Kraus, who was accepted into the London Program for Spring 2011, said she’s never traveled abroad and is very excited.

“I have never been abroad before so this definitely be a new experience for me,” she said. “I hope to also visit Ireland, France and Spain, among other places.”

For students who were wait-listed, Ols laid out a series of guidelines on their Web site to help with the process.

Opel said it is important to note there is no ranking on any of the waiting lists, and the who will be accepted depends on the accepted students who choose to withdraw.

“In some programs, a spot may open up for a male because another male dropped out, or there may be room for an engineering major,” she said.

“Although there were many qualified applications for each program, Opel said sometimes OIs is limited by the number of students it can extend invitations to based on the number of available slots at the school.

“In some programs we’re restricted in the number of students we can send and that sets off the number of total acceptances,” she said. “For example in the Hong Kong program, even if we have 50 terrific applicants, we can only send four students.”

Opel said movement on the wait list usually happens between now and April, but it does continue over the summer.

Contact Liz O’Donnell at
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Professor continued from page 1

Burns as a teacher who “really cared about us and kept in touch with his students.”

“Bob was an affectionate and humorous man both in and out of the classroom,” Schleifer said in a press release. “I will always think of him as a story broker. He always had an engaging story to tell, and he always expected an engaging story in return.”

Phillip Gleason, a Notre Dame historian and colleague of Burns, described him as “extraordinary in his adaptability, generosity and willingness to take on other duties in service to the University.”

Burns served the University beyond his teaching and scholarly role and contributed significantly to his Alma Mater’s Catholic identity.

“The accomplishment in which Bob took the greatest pride while in the dean’s office was his initiative of Notre Dame’s highly successful London program for juniors in Arts and Letters, which provided both students and faculty in the college an incomparably enriching experience,” Gleason said in the release.

Burns retired from Notre Dame in 1995.

“Bob was heatedly devoted to Notre Dame and served her in a great variety of ways,” Gleason said. “Perhaps the most lasting testimony to his love for the University is represented by his ‘Notre Dame Story’.

“He will be missed by his many friends, and the memory of Bob’s work should be long cherished here.”

Contact Katlyn Smith at
ksmith33@nd.edu

Rhoades continued from page 1

For Notre Dame, in particular, Rhoades said he hoped that the University would uphold its Catholic heritage.

“This is my prayer for the University of Notre Dame — that it may always be faithful to its Catholic mission by constantly growing in its commitment and witness to truth and charity,” he said.

That our Catholic ideals, attitudes and principles pervade all aspects of University life — teaching, research, curricular and extracurricular activities.

Rhoades also recognized his reception from the Notre Dame community.

“In the past few months, I have received an incredibly warm welcome from Fr. Jenkins and the whole Notre Dame community, including the priests and the resident students at Siegfried Hall and Morrissey Manor. [where] I celebrated dorm mass last week,” he said.

At the end of mass, Jenkins presented Rhoades with a bishop’s staff depicting Our Lady of Guadalupe, drawn by a member of the art department. The image had particular significance for Rhoades, who was ordained as bishop on the feast of Juan Diego, to whom our Lady of Guadalupe appeared.

In an interview with The Observer during a reception following the mass, Rhoades said he looks forward to integrating into the Notre Dame community.

“I am looking forward to having a lot of opportunities to be here on campus to celebrate liturgy and to really be a part of the community,” Rhoades said. “As Pope John Paul said and I said in my homily, the bishop shouldn’t be seen as an external agent, but as a real part of the community and that’s my hope and my prayer.”

Contact Katlyn Smith at
ksmith33@nd.edu

To the mean to the planet.
Please read the Observer.
MARKET Recap

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**Wednesday, February 10, 2010**

**GLOBAL MARKETS**

- **World stock markets have been tumbling.** The Dow Jones industrial average gained 150 points, while the Nasdaq gained 213 points.
- **Bonds also lost some of their safe-harbor appeal.** The 10-year Treasury note yield rose to 3.63 percent.

**IN BRIEF**

- **Private colleges look to rein in aid.** In the last year, the nation’s private colleges have laid off staff, shelved construction projects, slashed sports teams and turned down thermostat cuts to cut costs. But student financial aid has kept flowing.
  
- **Bond yields rise with return to stocks.** Global markets bounced back on Tuesday after investors moved back into bonds and a three-year note sale generated more buying interest.

**IN JAPAN**

- **Toyota recalls 437,000 hybrids.** The Japanese automaker issues additional recall on its popular Prius, among others.

**Associated Press**

**TOKYO** — Toyota is recalling 437,000 Prius and other hybrid vehicles worldwide to fix brake problems — the latest embarrassing safety fiasco at the world’s largest automaker.

- **Toyota officials went to Japan’s Transport Ministry earlier Tuesday to formally notify officials the company is recalling the 2010 Prius gas-electric hybrid.** The automaker is also recalling two other hybrid models in Japan, the Lexus HS250h sedan, sold in the U.S. and Japan, and the Sai, which is sold only in Japan.

- **The 223,000 cars being recalled in Japan include nearly 200,000 Priuses sold from April last year through March, according to papers the automaker filed with the ministry.** In the U.S., Toyota will recall 133,000 Prius cars and 14,500 Lexus HS250h vehicles. Nearly 53,000 Priuses are also being recalled in Europe. Toyota is suspending production of the Sai and Lexus HS250h in Japan until the updated software for those models is ready.

- **If drivers experience a delayed reaction when depressing the brakes in any of these models, they should keep pressing, according to Toyota and the transport ministry.** The Prius repairs will start in Japan on Wednesday. U.S. owners will start receiving letters about the recall next week.

- **Japanese media for failing to outline concrete steps to tackle the safety crisis and reassure customers.** In contrast to his halting English in response to questions from foreign reporters at last week’s news conference, Toyota seemed much better prepared Tuesday, reading from an English statement after doing so in Japanese.

- **We will do everything in our power to regain the confidence of our customers,” Toyota said.** He said he planned to go to the U.S. soon to talk with American workers and dealers to bring the ranks together.

Analysts said fears of an even bigger consumer backlash prompted Toyota into recalling the Prius.

**Toyota Motor Co.’s 2010 Prius hybrid vehicles wait for shipment at Tahara pier, near Toyota, central Japan, Tuesday.**
In 1983, U.S. News & World Report published their first-ever college rankings. It seemed an innocent enough way to gain some new readers, while potentially providing insight to prospective college students as to exactly which schools were very considered “the best.”

After all, this was more than a decade before use of the internet proliferated, which would make this kind of data extremely easy to find for future generations. Little did they know, however, that this simple list would ignite a firestorm in the academic community and create an entirely new line of thinking for high school students, parents, and counselors. The very concept of listing which college is “the best” is a completely insane concept, and it is an exercise in futility. Different colleges have different missions and each one has unique qualities about them. Even with just us comparing major research universities (or just liberal arts colleges, etc.) the range of schools is so broad, and many of the philosophies and cultures are so different, it doesn’t even make sense to compare them. The whole ranking system treats college education as a commodity, almost as if every school provides essentially the same experience, and that these other rankings ranked below them on the list, with complete disregard for any subjective, non-quantifiable considerations. The whole concept is so American, and it feeds off of the culture of competition that exists in this country.

Americans always want to be better than their neighbor at everything, and it feeds off of the culture of competition that exists in this country. Americans always want to be better than their neighbor at everything, and it feeds off of the culture of competition that exists in this country. Americans always want to be better than their neighbor at everything, and it feeds off of the culture of competition that exists in this country.

Competitiveness will deny it. The term “aspirational peer” is a term that is thrown around far too frequently on this campus, and it bothers me every time I hear it. The term is usually applied to schools that are perceived to be “better” academically than Notre Dame, such as Northwestern, Duke and Stanford, and it seems as though we are starving for support of the school continuing to accept us as peers. Why don’t we just focus on making Notre Dame the best college according to you, not a magazine. Andy Ziccarelli wants everyone to come out and support the Bengal Bouts this Saturday. Bonus points will be awarded to anyone who knows the origin of his nickname. Andy is a junior majoring in civil engineering and can be reached at aziccare@nd.edu

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Wednesday, February 10, 2010

"I finally figured out the only reason to be alive is to enjoy it." -Rita Mae Brown

U.S. writer
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new perspective

Julian and I want to thank all our supporters. We ran the race and we battled until the end but the other team came out on top. Our campaign has come to an end but what we stand for has not. There are few things in life that are as important as having an active voice. We should have a glass of wine, written in English. Writers write; you read, and that process is the enemy. There will always be those who did not know her, I can attest in the extreme, also had the most contempt for the reader. James discovered in her kitchen and a rosary on the bedside, and then slipped away over the years. Those who knew her, I can attest, are completely different people.

Miss Christman, professor emeritus of American studies at the University of Notre Dame, was a literary agent in New York who read “The Catcher in the Rye” when it was still in manuscript form, and once took Agatha Christie shopping for a bathing suit. But that was before she went back to school at the unheard of age of 52, to pursue a doctorate and a dream—a to teach young idealists how to change the world with their words.

Writer of notes and wearer of pearls, she spent time as a student, a professor, a mother, a wife, a daughter, and a friend. She was the embodiment of what many people believe a writer should be: someone who could do in intervals between wiping her way to making a point, she recalled her way to making a point, she recalled telling Mrs. Frederick Graham was played by Kyle Carter, a black man. “I fixed up a studio for my writing teacher and friend Melinda Henneberger, who remembers, “I fixed up a studio for myself in the attic of our home, and to it I would retreat and turn out stories and verse which I hoped would get me started commercially. My father didn’t press me to get a job, though he had six other children coming up behind me to educate. He was willing to let me try this out.”

She made some sales, netting $25 for a short story published in The Catholic World and $1.50 a line for some humorous poems that ran in The Saturday Evening Post. But “I didn’t think of any career... as a total lifetime undertaking,” she said in her memoir. “I expected to marry, and in the days of my youth few women ever continued their careers after marriage. Writing, in fact, fitted in better with my notion of a future as wife and mother than any other job. It was the kind of work I could do in intervals between wiping cute little noses and preparing succulent... meals.”

That never happened, despite two marriage proposals that I know of. And, even after her New York years, “there was a man I loved long and deeply but could not marry.” As a young woman, she was “left at the altar,” as she always put it, and to get over it joined the Navy as a WAVEs and was posted to Washington during World War II. In New York after the war, she worked her way up from the typewriter to become a sub-agent for Harold Ober — Mr. Ober to her. Never one to hesitate on communications, she called a prominent writer’s complaint that the play was down with an agenda of writer’s block after running a work in progress past “that horrid Miss Christian.”

She received her doctorate from NYU in 1973 and became associate professor in her 60s, fortunately for me and every other AmStud major at Notre Dame, where she made a habit of inviting entire classes for lunches. “But I am not one to notice what I write is good or bad, though I have written many novels, I have written five. And it was teaching that got me started.”

Kevin Murphy student Feb. 9

Liz Christian, enemy of the passive voice, who rocked some jaunty hats

My writing teacher and friend Elizabeth Christman, who wrote a spiffy new book every semester and was one of the finest novelists ever to walk this earth, is completely different people.

She was a late bloomer as a writer and published four novels, including the gloriously semi-trashy “A Nice Italian Girl,” which was made into a TV movie, and another about a woman who discovers that her husband is gay. As a Christian and as a writer, she was of the “don’t tell them, show them” variety. She left at the altar,” as she always put it, and to get over it joined the Navy as a WAVEs and was posted to New York after the war, she worked her way up from the typewriter to become a sub-agent for Harold Ober — Mr. Ober to her. Never one to hesitate on communications, she called a prominent writer’s complaint that the play was down with an agenda of writer’s block after running a work in progress past “that horrid Miss Christian.”

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There is an egregious travesty happening every day, every minute in our little Notre Dame bubble. In our dining halls, in our dorm rooms. In our on- and off-campus eateries. It is overlooked and under-advocated. That right, I’m talking about the merciless slaughter and consumption of alarming amounts of vegetables.

But the tragedy is not just the over-consumption and thoughtless killing. These vegetables are oppressed and belittled for their whole vitamin-enriched lives.

Think about it. Vegetables are given a bad rap. Kids turn their noses at them, choosing instead to munch on brightly colored fruits like apples or peaches, or deliciously cheesy snacks like Cheez-Its.

Vegetables are associated with mashed-up baby foods. From then on, children are turned off by the mere mention of peas, broccoli or carrots. The whole food group is relegated to the position of punishment for children, a food that must be eaten, segregated to the position of punishment for children, a food that must be eaten, a food which ruined poor M. Night Shyamalan could not make another movie with a disappointing twist at the end.

In eating amounts of vegetables, are we not only exacerbating the problem: consumption at alarming rates. Carrots are ruthlessly killed by the mere mention of peas, broccoli or carrots. The whole food group is relegated to the position of punishment for children, a food that must be eaten, segregated to the position of punishment for children, a food that must be eaten, a food which ruined poor M. Night Shyamalan could not make another movie with a disappointing twist at the end.

These problems are not only ones facing vegetables these days. Not only are they plagued by a disease like E-coli, which ruined poor spinach’s reputation, they find themselves second-class citizens when compared to their partners on the Food Pyramid, fruits. According to the Food Pyramid, which is a hierarchy I can believe in, vegetables are actually more important than fruits, meriting 3-5 servings daily compared to only 2-4 daily servings of fruit.

But still, fruits are given the top spot, that vegetables deserve. It is always “fruits and vegetables,” but why can’t it be “vegetables and fruits”? What do they have that veggies lack? It can’t be an alphabetical order thing, because it’s always “Sonny and Cher,” and last I checked, “c” came before “s” in the alphabet.

And why are fruits always the choice for decoration or gift baskets? It’s always a fruit bowl in the middle of the table, or a fruit basket sent as a “Get Well Soon” gift. Are vegetables not pretty enough for use as decoration? Sure, apples and pears are shiny and bright, but have you ever seen the deep purple color of a ripe eggplant? That’s the color of royalty right there. Sure, pumpkins and gourds are used at Thanksgiving, but that holiday only comes once a year. And shouldn’t vegetables be sent to people recovering from illnesses? The vitamins would probably greatly help the healing process, without all the sugar naturally found in fruit.

This is on behalf of the poor vegetables, persecuted and abused in silence everywhere. These vegetables have no voice. When they are slaughtered, they cannot express their pain in human terms. So, from now on, let’s all be Equal Opportunity Eaters. Decorators and Gifters. Don’t let the vegetables go underfed and for another year.

By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

Commercials, normally just money-making breakers that more often than not go unnoticed except for the occasional talking gecko, are as much the life-blood of the Super Bowl as are touchdown and fourth quarter nail-biting.

Chips and six different kinds of dips neatly laid out on the table, we all sit there, our eyes glued to the television screen, as millions and millions of dollars are (wisely or unwisely?) spent for the mere chance to capture the widest television audience of the year. And it’s that golden chance to not merely advertise but have a lasting effect on consumers that pushes companies to create elaborate, interesting, innovative, altogether entertaining commercials — the same commercials that we’ve now made a hobby of watching.

It’s the game that we care about, yes, but it’s the commercials that we stop all else for as we watch in anticipatory silence for our next favorite of the night. And it’s those favorites that we talk about and go on to remember not only in the moments after, but years later.

I still remember my favorite commercials from Super Bowls past, and it’s those standouts, like those from this year’s crop, that justify our infatuation.

With Sunday’s pickings still vivid, here are 10 commercials that stood out from the rest during the triumphant Saints win (sorry Colts fans, had to rub it in).

E-Trade Baby (girlfriend) E-trade has quickly become one of the staple ad campaigns of the Super Bowl with its hit baby commercial and this year’s follow-up only added to the company’s ad success. The baby, while sweet, does get on our nerves, but the voice-over and song are catchy.

Google While some might find this pick odd (as the fact that Google even felt the need to advertise odd), this simplistic, heartfelt and perfectly measured love story told in Google searches was the standout of this year’s Super Bowl. It’s quite beautiful actually. It was perplexing and somewhat weird at first, but once it becomes clear what’s happening, Google shows a heart and a creativity that in the end sheds light on just why the company is so amazing.

Monster (beaver violinist) Yeah, it has kind of been done before, but Monster’s 30-second tale of a beaver whose simple passion for violin eventually lands him a spot as a premiere violinist is memorable in its own right and spells out the company’s mission in a perfectly clear way. Doritos (boy slamming man) A little boy slaps his mom’s date and counts down “One, you don’t touch my mama. Two, you don’t touch my Doritos.” The cold stare that followed was priceless.

Doritos (snack-attack samurai) This was probably the most hilarious moment of the night. It consists of a man dressed in a Doritos-samurai outfit. It’s got the quirkiness weirdness of a Skittles-commercial and the punch of a spicy chip.

Volkswagen (punch buggy) Volkswagen’s cheery, simple punch buggy-athon capped off by Stevie Wonder getting Tracy Morgan was a nice little laugher. Add to that one of the year’s great songs in the background. “Two Weeks” by Grizzly Bear.

By MARIE CLAIRE O’DONNELL
Scene Writer

Marie Claire O’Donnell can be reached at madonna50ed@aol.com

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Observer.
Out in the unexplored reaches of the Internet lie untold riches in amusing videos, amazing songs and amicable, unwitting participants. A great source of these entertaining ways to put off work is the Interweb behemoth YouTube.

Now, rather than expounding at great length about the sheer variety of majestic moving pictures at your fingertips, I would like to direct your attention to the “drive-through sing your order” scene. It is one lush with variety and charming personalities on both sides of the order screens and is inspiring to all those who view it.

There is something surpassingly pure about being able to communicate your most heartfelt desires to people around the world through song. Only the greatest singers throughout history have been able to do it: Johnny Cash in “Ring of Fire,” Elvis Presley in “Blue Christmas,” Daniel Powter in “Bad Day” and 50 Cent in “Candy Shop.”

But only in these Internet sensations the subject is one we all can get excited about and share the desire for: food. Be it McDonalds or Taco Bell, in rap or folk song, these musical orders strike a chord in your very soul that resonates long after you have left that small Internet screen behind. The characters become friends that you shared an emotional journey with through trial and tribulation, misunderstanding and reordering, taking step after begrudging step towards the ultimate goal, fast food satisfaction.

Every time that I watch these videos I am struck by the desire to go out and to follow in these brave men’s footsteps. Those who came before have paved the way for us who stand on the shoulders of giants. I have begun the long and arduous process of composing a musical number worthy of the drive through speaker at Wendy’s on U.S. 30, and so too I challenge you reader. Watch these videos, take detailed notes and study the style, rhythm, rhyme and flow of these masters of the culinary musical art.

Add this goal to your bucket list, to-do list, procrastination list, grocery list, any list you want as long as it is on there and progress is being made. Don’t let your fear of singing in public stand in your way. Take that fear and own it. Those around you are sure to be just as impressed as you were when you first heard dulcet tones streaming forth from your speakers, crooning out the need for a Big Mac. This is not a journey for the faint of heart but I have faith that you and I together can make a difference in one late night drive-through worker’s life.

That being said, these videos are a great source of idle entertainment. They are perfect for that 10 minutes you have before you really should buckle down on your homework but you can still get away with puttering around on the Intranets. It is sure to bring a smile, or at least the hint of a smile to your face even on the bitterest of bitter cold days here in South Bend, where even polar bears would complain of nasty weather. At the very least it brings up comforting images of delicious fast food fantasies sure to make the most stone cold of palates water. So happy hunting everyone, enjoy the songs, enjoy the videos and enjoy some fast food.

Matt Brown can be reached at mbrown14@nd.edu

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NCAA Men's Basketball

No. 22 Vanderbilt upsets No. 12 Tennessee

Aminu, McFarland lead Demon Deacons' victory over Eagles; Illini defeat Badgers, ending Badgers' home win streak

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Jeffery Taylor scored 16 of his career-high 26 points in the first half, and No. 22 Vanderbilt never trailed Tuesday night in routing No. 12 Tennessee 90-71.

The Commodores (18-5, 7-2) grabbed sole possession of second place in the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division, one loss behind No. 3 Kentucky. They also swept the season series against their in-state rival for the first time since 2004-05 — the season before coach Bruce Pearl took over Tennessee.

Tennessee (18-5, 6-3) had a three-game winning streak snapped.

Jermone Beal scored 20 points and A.J. Ogilvy had 11 for Vanderbilt, which didn't miss reserve John Jenkins. The freshman who had been averaging 10.4 points was hospitalized with flu.

J.J. Prince led Tennessee with 20 points, Wayne Chism had 16, Melvin Goins 11 and Scotty Hopson 10. Brian Williams, suspended for nine games after a New Year's Day incident, returned to the roster after missing three games for the Vols' visit to Music City as they won, for the first time in four games in this series. They improved to a perfect 12-0 at home this season, 17 straight dating to a Jan. 25, 2009, loss to Florida.

The Commodores scored the first six points and led 44-27 at halftime. They hit eight of their first 11 shots as Tennessee missed 14 of its first 17 and eventually led by as many as 27 points twice.

The Volunteers got as close as 10 points early in the second half as Prince scored to pull them within 46-36. He missed the free throw and the chance to cut the lead to single digits for the first time since the opening minutes.

Vanderbilt responded with a 23-9 run to put the game away, and Festus Ezeli capped the spurt with two free throws with 12:38 left that gave the Commodores their biggest lead yet at 66-39. The sellout crowd taunted the Vols late by chanting "Lane Kiffin" — the name of the football coach that bolted Tennessee for Southern California last month.

Taylor hadn't scored more than 10 points in a game since Jan. 23 against Auburn. He couldn't miss against Tennessee as the sophomore was 4 for 5 from the field and perfect on all eight free throws in the first half since 13 against Missouri on Dec. 2.

An orange blazer for the rivalry, drew a technical foul at 12:14. It was just the second time Vanderbilt eventually pushed its lead to as many as 20 when Taylor hit two free throws to make it 30-10 with 8:46 remaining.

Wake Forest 92, Boston College 85

Al-Farouq Aminu had 22 points, Chas McFarland added 14 points and 11 rebounds and Wake Forest held off a late rally by Boston College to beat the Eagles on Tuesday night.

L.D. Williams added 14 points for the Demon Deacons (17-5, 7-3 Atlantic Coast Conference). They never trailed, were held without a field goal for the final 10.5 minutes, but made 14 of 18 free throws in the final 5:36 to win their third straight and fifth in six games.

Wake Forest leads both teams in the standings.

Tyrone Rocke scored a career-high 31 points — including 15 of BC's first 19 — and Corey Raji had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Eagles (12-12, 4-7). They played without leading scorer Joe Trapani, who didn't make the trip because of illness, and lost their third straight.

BC had dropped eight of 11 in 2010 and fell to 1-4 in ACC road games this season.

Illinois 63, Wisconsin 56

Mike Tisdale scored 27 points and Mike Tisdale added 19 on 8-of-11 shooting to lead Illinois to an upset over No. 11 Wisconsin on Tuesday night, snapping the Badgers' five-game winning streak.

The Illini beat Wisconsin for the first time since 2004-05, a game where the Illini won 75-67, snapping the Badgers' 11-game winning streak. The Badgers also lost their third straight at the Kohl Center and the top of the student section was sparse.

Illinois hit 55 percent of its shots including 15 of 19 over the final six games, including two games with No. 13 Ohio State and a rematch with the Badgers in the regular-season finale.

It was a shock for Wisconsin (18-6, 8-4), which got 15 points from Jason Bohannon, including 13 in the second half, and 12 from Trevor Hughes.

The Badgers built a 22-11 lead while only Tisdale could find the basket, hitting seven of nine free throws in the first half.

That's when McCamey took over.

McCamey, the Big Ten player of the week for his performances against Iowa and the Spartans, scored 15 of Illinois' final 20 points of the half and the Illini hit 10 consecutive shots straddling halftime to erase the double-digit deficit.

With 5:16 left, Wisconsin's Jordan Taylor fell to the court.

This one may have been better, because the Illini are now in prime position to challenge the Spartans for the regular-season conference crown. The team is easy for Illinois, which plays four more ranked teams in its final six games, including two games with No. 13 Ohio State and a rematch with the Badgers in the regular-season finale.

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Illinois (18-5, 7-2) became one of the nation's hottest teams after a 6-0 stretch that included 15 of BC's first 19 — including 15 of BC's first 19 — and Corey Raji had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Eagles (12-12, 4-7). They played without leading scorer Joe Trapani, who didn't make the trip because of illness, and lost their third straight. BC had dropped eight of 11 in 2010 and fell to 1-4 in ACC road games this season.

The Illini (17-8, 9-3) became the first team to beat Ryan three times at the Kohl Center after wins in 2005 and '06 and ended Wisconsin's 18-game home winning streak.

More important, Illinois won its fifth straight game after a 78-73 win over then-No. 5 Michigan State on Saturday that featured fans rushing the court.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 634 South Dining Hall. Deadlines for non-classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit classifieds for content without reducing meaning.

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NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Coaches Poll

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NCAA Division I Men's Ice Hockey USCHO Poll

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Nevada casinos win $7 million on Super Bowl

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Nevada casinos won almost $6.9 million on this year’s Super Bowl as bettors wagered $82.7 million on the NFL title game, gambling regulators said Tuesday.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board said the win was $179,000 more than in 2005, when the New England Patriots topped the Philadelphia Eagles and casinos won $15.4 million. Bettors wagered the most in 2006, when $94.5 million was bet on the Pittsburgh Steelers victory over the Seattle Seahawks.

Nevada casinos lost almost $2.6 million in 2008, when the New York Giants beat the favored Patriots.

Kornegay said the Hilton lost money on the game in part because it lost money on normally lucrative proposition wagers. Casinos usually profit by offering long odds on unusual circumstances players like to bet on — a successful 2-point conversion, for example.

Saints quarterback Drew Brees threw a 2-point conversion pass to Lance Moore in the fourth quarter that was initially called incomplete, but was overturned by referees following a Saints challenge.

Other unsuccessful proposition bets for the Hilton included an interception returned for a touchdown, which bettors won when the Saints’ Tracy Porter intercepted a pass from Colts quarterback Peyton Manning and returned it 74 yards for a touchdown to clinch the game.

NBA Basketball

Magic at Bulls
8 p.m., CSN

Six NHL teams will open 2010-11 season in Europe

NEW YORK — The NHL is sending more teams across the pond. The league and its players’ association announced Tuesday that six clubs will open the 2010-11 season in Europe, the fourth straight year the NHL will begin play overseas.

The Boston Bruins, Carolina Hurricanes, Columbus Blue Jackets, Minnesota Wild, Phoenix Coyotes and San Jose Sharks will combine to play a total of six games in Europe at the start of next season. The Hurricanes and Wild will meet in a pair of games in Helsinki on Oct. 7-8, Columbus plays San Jose in Stockholm on Oct. 8-9; and the Bruins and Coyotes face off in Prague on Oct. 9-10.

“We are extremely pleased that six teams — more than ever — will open their season in Europe,” NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said in a statement.

Kobe not sure if he will play in NBA All Star Game

LOS ANGELES — Kobe Bryant isn’t sure if he’ll play in this weekend’s NBA All-Star game in Dallas because of his sore left ankle.

Bryant missed his second consecutive game Monday night against San Antonio, which lost to the Los Angeles Lakers 101-99.

“If I’m not able to play, I won’t play. But I’m healthy, I will,” he said.

Bryant said he can’t push off on his left foot.

“I can’t move to play. Can’t go,” he said, adding he would be a game-time decision Wednesday at Utah. “If I’m ready to go, I’ll play.”

Lakers trainer Gary Vitti would like Bryant to rest through All-Star weekend, capped by Sunday’s game.

Bryant said he couldn’t commit either way.

“I don’t know what it’s going to look like on Sunday. I’m not chairvoting,” he said, laughing.
Peppers considers fresh start

Associated Press
CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Julius Peppers no longer wants a long-term contract with Carolina, saying the Panthers have ignored him this offseason.

In an interview aired Tuesday morning on Charlotte radio station WFNZ-AM, the five-time Pro Bowl defensive end indicated he's irritated by the team's "silence" and has changed his stance on whether he wants to continue his career in Carolina.

"Last year, at the time, that was the option that I wanted most," Peppers said. "Now it's not."

While agent Carl Carey said last week he believes the Panthers aren't interested in retaining Peppers, Carolina's career sacks leader, team officials haven't announced their plans for the impending free agent. General manager Marty Hurney didn't immediately return a phone message Tuesday.

"How can you say you want to be somewhere when you're not really sure if they want you there because they're not even talking to you?" Peppers said.

It's another twist in a long-running saga between the two sides.

After being held to a career-low 2½ sacks in 2007, the Panthers still offered to make Peppers the NFL's highest-paid defensive player. Peppers on Tuesday provided conflicting reasons on why he rejected the contract.

"That deal was to make me the highest-paid defensive player, but slightly, very slightly," Peppers said. "I didn't really feel the sincerity behind that deal."

But later in the rambling answer during the radio phone interview, Peppers also indicated he wasn't worthy of such a deal.

I had 2½ sacks that season and they're coming to offer me being the highest-paid defensive player. Like, I can't even accept that," Peppers said. "I'm not deserving of that."

Peppers bounced back with a career-high 14½ sacks in 2008, then announced he wanted to play elsewhere and pleaded with the Panthers to let him leave in free agency. He said Tuesday he wanted out because he was upset with the team's direction under then-defensive coordinator Mike Trgovac.

"In my eyes I didn't see us getting better," Peppers said. "I had a million good reasons to love and admire Brendan," Brian Burke said in the story. "This news didn't alter any of them."

Brendan, 21, was in the second semester of his senior year at Miami University in Ohio, where he was student manager of the hockey team. He died Friday when his car slid sideways into the path of another vehicle. His friend, Mark Reedy, 18, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., also died in the accident.

Many mourners stood for the mass inside the packed St. John the Evangelist Church. Among those who attended were staff and players from Miami, wearing their jerseys with white letters and numbers, and staff and players from the Maple Leafs. Also there were NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, Boston Bruins general manager Peter Chiarelli, New Jersey Devils president and general manager Lou Lamoriello, Edmonton Oilers coach Pat Quinn and Boston Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein.

NHL
Funeral mass held for Burke's son

Associated Press
CANTON, Mass. — Brendan Burke, the son of Toronto Maple Leafs general manager Brian Burke and an advocate for gay rights, was remembered Tuesday for his compassion and courage four days after his death in a car crash on a snowy Indiana road.

"From birth, he had an unshakable faith in the genuine good that resides in all people," his brother Patrick said at a funeral Mass. "Along with that faith is hope, hope that he could bring that good out from inside of people and into the world by being open, caring and kind to everyone he met."

Brendan Burke played goalie at Xavierian Brothers High School in nearby Westwood but decided not to play as a senior because the locker room atmosphere was becoming harder to deal with, according to an article on ESPN.com in December.

That article related how he told his father on Dec. 30, 2007, that he was gay.

"I had a million good reasons to love and admire Brendan," Brian Burke said in the story. "This news didn't alter any of them."

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The Observer  ◆  SPORTS
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Claude Noel, interim head coach of the Columbus Blue Jackets, argues with officials during a game against the Dallas Stars on Feb. 4.

NHL

Noel gets used to new interim coaching position

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Since becoming the interim head coach of the Columbus Blue Jackets a week ago, Claude Noel has received over 1,000 calls, texts and e-mails offering congratulations.

Some are from folks back home in Kirkland Lake, Ontario, or from players and coaches dating back to his long career heating the buses of the AHL, ECHL and practically every other HL. Others? He’s not so sure.

“You know what’s wild? People send me texts with the number but no name — and I don’t know who it is!” Noel said, laughing at himself. “There might be 20 percent that are just numbers.”

It’s a vintage Claude (rhymes with “ude”) moment. As an assistant under Ken Hitchcock, who was fired after the Blue Jackets got off to a miserable 22-27-9 start this season, the players really liked Noel. He joked with them, acted up, played around and also worked hard with them.

He has his own way of saying things. He refers to players as “stallions.” He is constantly talking about letting go and “freeing the mind.” Offensive players aren’t forwards, wings or centers, they’re “shooters.”

But in the Noel dictionary, the most important word is among the shortest.

“That’s his big word — joy. He’s been saying it all year long,” goalie Steve Mason said.

Now he’s saying it as the head man, at least for the remaining 22 games this season. He’s off to a 2-0 start heading into Wednesday night’s game against San Jose, the top team in the Western Conference.

“He’s kind of serious with us,” captain Rick Nash said. “When he was an assistant coach he was a bit more fun. Now he’s more serious, and he has to be. In here, he’s all business.”

Noel, 54, said he hasn’t changed personalities. Perhaps his new position means he’s not the players’ best buddy anymore, but that doesn’t mean he’s not the same person.

“I can still be that way, but not to the level they saw me as an assistant,” he said, sipping a bottle of water in his office after Tuesday’s workout. “They’ll see that again. They might not see that level again in this hockey arena. Maybe at the end of the season.

His boss didn’t hire him because he was popular with the players. Noel, a veteran coach in the minors, also knows what he’s doing behind the bench and in the dressing room.

“I didn’t know about ‘joy’ and the mind and all the other phrases he’s grown fond of using,” general manager Scott Howson said on the day he promoted Noel. “I just knew that he was a good coach who has had tremendous success at the AHL level. It was more his track record and the people I know who knew him well along the way.

At the end of the season, Howson will evaluate Noel’s performance and will consider whether to knock the “interim” off his job title. If the Blue Jackets keep playing the way they have the last two games, winning by a combined 6-1 over Dallas and Buffalo, Noel will make Howson’s decision a difficult one.

Noel grew up in a small Ontario town, the son of a miner and a housewife who raised Claude, a brother and two sisters. He still gets emotional when he thinks back to the day in 1981 when he was playing for the AIL. Hershey Bears and his then-coach Bryan Murray (now GM of the Ottawa Senators) broke the news that Noel’s father had died.

“The flight home was gut-cracking,” Noel said, his voice cracking almost three decades later.

As a player, he toiled for remote outposts before finally getting a taste of the NHL, playing seven games with the Washington Capitals in 1980. He never made it back, spending most of the next 10 years plying his trade before eventually starting as a coach on the bottom rungs of the pro ladder.

And now, she’s saying that she’s not playing this year.”

Nolan, a Michigan native, has played her entire eight-year career in Detroit, winning three WNBA championships and being selected as an All-Star four times.

Her agent, Mike Cound, said it was “more or less correct” that Nolan’s agreement in September to extend her contract was contingent on the franchise remaining in Detroit. Instead, an Oklahoma-based ownership group bought the team in October and moved it to Tulsa.

Basically, Deanna is under no contractual obligation to compete for Tulsa or any other WNBA team at this time, nor is she under any obligation to comment on the topic,” Cound wrote in an e-mail. “She is considering all alternatives and Tulsa and Coach Richardson will be the first to know anything she decides.”

Nolan, who ranked eighth in the league in points this season, averaging 16.9 points per game, was designated one of the Shock’s two core players — meaning she would be guaranteed a maximum, one-year contract.
NHL
Devils struggle in week before Olympics

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Jacques Lemaire, who had six days to describe his 20-minute, on-ice discussion with the New Jersey Devils as a pep talk, said it was just a coach stating the obvious, at practice on Wednesday to a team that has lost four of its last five games and 10 of 14.

There was no shouting. No wild gestures. Maybe a couple of taps on the ice with his stick.

"Nothing it was about winning battles, competing for pucks, being harder on pucks, working on the power play," forward Zach Parise said. "Just things when you are going on stretches like this, what's causing it. There are just areas of our game that we have to sharpen up."

If you've watched the Devils in the past week or so, there are inexplicable periods where the team makes a couple of costly mistakes. In a 3-2 loss to the Flyers in Philadelphia on Monday night, the Devils squandered a 2-0 lead in the final two minutes of the second period.

Against the Rangers in Newark on Saturday night, New Jersey gave up three goals in a three-minute span. The Devils have led the division since Dec. 18.

"We're a good group of players. The one thing that has changed in the recent run is the Devils have lost a little confidence. When bad things happen, their play gets tentative and opponents have taken advantage."

"We're a good group of players. The one thing that has happened is guys are slowing down and in stretches like this, you try to do a little too much and you get out of position." The one thing that has changed in the recent run is the Devils have lost a little confidence. When bad things happen, their play gets tentative and opponents have taken advantage.

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Lemaire felt the team makes a couple of costly mistakes.

Bobcats end Wizards’ streak

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Raymond Felton hit a fadeaway 12-footer with 1.9 seconds left and the Charlotte Bobcats beat the Washington Wizards 94-92 on Tuesday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

After Antawn Jamison missed a scoop shot in the lane, the Bobcats got the rebound and didn’t call a timeout. Charlotte’s play broke down, and Felton drove to the left of the lane and let go a shot over Randy Foye’s outstretched arms that swished through.

Jamison missed another scoop shot in the paint at the buzzer for the Wizards, ending their unexpected and bizarre weeklong trip — even if they were likely to be stranded in Charlotte overnight because of another mid-Atlantic snowstorm.

Stephen Jackson scored 22 points for Charlotte.

The Wizards surprised the Magic in Orlando on Friday, then were scheduled to fly to Washington after the game and face Atlanta on Saturday. They never got there because of the first winter storm and the Hawks game was postponed. Charlotte ended up staying in Orlando for three more days until flying to Charlotte on Monday.

Butler was the hero in the comeback win at Orlando, and he got hot early in the fourth quarter to erase Charlotte’s 11-74 lead. Butler hit two jumpers, a 3-pointer and a mid-range jumper as the Wizards took an 85-83 lead with 5:11 left.

After Jackson was called for traveling, Mike Miller hit a 3-pointer at the other end. With 7 seconds left to put Washington ahead 92-91.

Flip Murray’s crossover dribble got him to the hoop and he was fouled. But he hit only 1 of 2 free throws with 33 seconds left.

Despite playing on a tender ankle that he practiced Monday and forced him to sit out Tuesday’s shootaround, Felton came through for Charlotte as it again reached 500.

All-Star Gerald Wallace added 17 points and 13 rebounds. Murray and Boris Diaw added 16 points apiece and Felton scored 11 for the Bobcats trying to snap a two-game losing streak.

Chandler didn’t start, but was effective in a 7-minute stretch in the first half. He had an alley-oop dunk, hit 3 of 4 free throws and had five points and four rebounds, but Charlotte trailed 37-32 when he went back to the bench.

The Bobcats rallied to take a 50-49 halftime lead on Diaw’s 3-pointer with 2 seconds left.

Chandler didn’t play in the third quarter, when Charlotte built a 73-66 lead before the Wizards scored the final four points.

He started the fourth and was replaced after 3 minutes as the Wizards rallied back short.

Team officials were told the latest storm would likely mean they wouldn’t be able to get back to Washington late Tuesday night. But since this was the Wizards’ final game before the All-Star break, several players were scheduled to stay in Charlotte and then fly to their homes or vacation spots on Wednesday.

Mike Miller had 19 points, Jamison 16 and Andray Blatche 15 for Washington, which fell to 0-2 against the Bobcats this season.
Ciobanu continued from page 20

b le major in anthropology and science pre-professional studies, she’s managed to post a 3.86 career grade- point average. In addition, Ciobanu is a member of the Notre Dame’s Academic Honors Program and has been named an ITA Scholar Athlete and Big East Academic All-Star for the past three years.

When it comes down to it, the one thing that really got me through rough patches and helped me be successful has been the support I’ve gotten from my friends, my teammates, my coaches, and my advisors,” Ciobanu said. “It has been comforting to have teammates and friends who have been there for me to support and encourage me when things got hectic.”

Ciobanu specifically pointed to her coaches as amazing sources of encouragement and enablers to help her achieve her academic goals. “I am so blessed to have played for such amazing coaches, who are not only great coaches but also great people,” she said. “Both Irish coach Jay Louderback and (assistant coach) Julia Scaringe have always been incredibly understanding when I needed to miss practice to make up a lab, to study for a final, or to go on mid school interviews. It’s truly refreshing to play for a school that cares about your development as a whole person, and will always try to help you out in anyway they can.

Ciobanu’s accomplishments on the tennis court are just as impressive. A three-year starter, she builds an overall record of 186-57 in matches. In her career, she has been ranked as high as No. 31 in singles and No. 39 in doubles. Last year, she helped the Irish to their first ever NCAA Semifinal appearance, the best performance in program history.

This year, Ciobanu is trying to slow everything down and truly appreciate her last season. “It’s nice to know that the late nights of studying and the tiring practices and work-outs have paid off, and it’s even nicer to be able to look back on it and realize that it was all worth it,” Ciobanu said. “But also bittersweet. Knowing how fast in-season goes by, I’ve just been trying to appreciate every single moment — all the great times, the laughs, the hard-fought matches, the ups and downs — really, just all of it. For me, being a leader so far this year has been more about having no regrets — holding on tight to each other and taking advantage of every opportunity, we have this semester. I feel really blessed to be able to appreciate something so incredible as it’s happening, and to know that every moment spent with my teammates of these last few months I have left at Notre Dame is incredibly precious.”

Irish continued from page 20

Championship in 1982, Tennessee and Connecticut have appeared in 19 of the 28 championships played. Tennessee is 8-5 all-time in the Dome, while Connecticut is a perfect 6-0. This year Tennessee’s record of 21-2 has the Lady Volunteers ranked fifth, while the Huskies’ perfect mark of 23-0 and the pursuit of their own consecutive-wins record makes them the undisputed No. 1 team in the country. If you do the math, there is a 70 percent chance that one of the two programs appears in the national championship game (19 divided by 28, carry the 8, round up, anyway). The real chance Tennessee or Connecticut makes it to the national championship? One hundred percent. If you’ve taken fundamentals of arithmetic and you don’t believe me, turn on ESPN and watch just one of their games.

Senior guards Ashley Barlow, Lindsay Schrader and Delisha Latta couldn’t care less about the numbers. They’re winning, and if they have a shot of making it to title game, they know they will have to knock off Tennessee or UConn in what will likely be portrayed as a stunning upset.

Unlike the men’s game, my problem is the absolute lack of parity in women’s basketball. Men’s basketball still has its traditional powerhouse homes in UCLA, Kentucky, North Carolina, Duke and others, but only North Carolina has won more than three championships in the past 30 years. March Madness is exciting because of the inevitable upset, the Cinderella story, not the dominance of one or two teams every year.

No one is denying that men’s basketball is a completely different animal than women’s. It has more viewer- ship, more fans and most importantly, more coverage. But why do the media have to portray two teams as defining the entire women’s game instead of six, seven or eight? Connecticut and Tennessee have the most championships and they deserve all the respect and attention that comes with that accomplishment. Notre Dame football enjoys being a product of that system, and rightly so. But when two programs absolutely dominate the coverage of their sport because of their success year in and year out, something’s got to give. Huskies coach Geno Auriemma and Lady Vols coach Pat Summit have become national icons, but what do they have over McGraw? More wins, more WNBA products, and more attention, yes, but more talent as a coach? I doubt it.

A South Bend native, freshman guard Skylar Diggins is having a sensational year for any player, let alone a freshman. But the national recogni- tion she would be getting if she played for Auriemma or Summit, the recognition Maya Moore and Candace Parker benefitted from, is nowhere to be seen. Maybe the Irish are the real benefactors of the system. Maybe Notre Dame sneaks under the radar as a No. 3 seed, pressure-free, all the way to a defining game against Connecticut or Tennessee, and wins. But does anyone outside of Notre Dame notice?

I believe this team can win a national championship. I want it to be our fourth, or fifth, or sixth title, but I’ll take it. Rome wasn’t built in a single day, but another Irish title is another step to eliminating the disparity in a sport that deserves better.

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

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

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Wade makes impact with passing, defense

By TIM SINGLER
Sports Writer

Associated Press

The Cavaliers’ spurt was the lead to 44-35 with 9:30 remaining. It was when the Bearcats began their comeback attempt from 29-18, but McGraw was not pleased overall with the first half effort, as she did not believe the offense played up to its potential.

“Offensively we did not shoot the ball all that well,” McGraw said.

Notre Dame extended the lead out as far as 20 points to start the second half, but that was when the Bearcats began to make their comeback bid.Utilizing an 11-2 run midway through the second half, Cincinnati was able to reduce the lead to 44-35 with 9:30 left to go in the game.

That deficit was as close as the Bearcats would get, as junior guard Lindsay Schrader decided to turn it on. Schrader was dominant on the low post throughout the second half, finishing with a team-high 16 points to go along with three steals and fourrebounds. Also playing well offensively for the Irish was junior forward Becca Bruszewski, who managed 14 points and 8 rebounds.

Notre Dame quashed the comeback attempt from Cincinnati with a renewed defensive intensity and cruised to the final whistle keeping the Bearcats at a safe distance.

“We played all man-to-man and we got up to pressure the ball,” McGraw said. “In the backcourt we really got up and pressured the ball and I was really pleased with that.”

The Irish won the rebound battle 35-32, but McGraw was not particularly pleased with the rebounding in the second half.”

The win moved the Irish up to second place in the Big East standings, placing them ahead of No. 9 West Virginia (21-3; 8-2 Big East) and No. 16 Georgetown (19-3; 8-1 Big East). The Irish still trail undefeated No. 1 Connecticut in the standings (23-0; 10-0 Big East).

Notre Dame will next take the court against DuPaul (16-8; 5-5 Big East) in this year’s Pink Zone Game to benefit research into breast cancer. Tip-off will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Contact Jared Jedicik at jjedicik@nd.edu

NBA

LeBron leads Cavs to 12th straight victory

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 32 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to their 12th straight win Tuesday night, a 104-97 victory over the New Jersey Nets.

The Cavaliers (42-11) also have the best record in the league. New Jersey (44-47) has the NBA’s worst record and has lost seven straight. The Nets played without point guard Devin Harris, who has a sprained left shoulder. Courtney Lee led the Nets with 24 points.

James, who was named the Eastern Conference’s player of the week for the fifth time this season Monday, was 13-of-21 from the field with 11 assists and three rebounds.

Jawad Williams scored a career-high 17 points while Anderson Varejao added 15 for Cleveland.

The Nets built an eight-point lead in the first quarter thanks primarily to 11 points by Jarvis Hayes, who hit three 3-pointers. Cleveland scored the last seven points of the quarter and went ahead for good early in the second period.

The Cavaliers’ spurt was capped when with a highlight reel play at both ends of the court. It began when Shaquille O’Neal blocked Brook Lopez’s shot at the basket. The 7-foot-1, 325-pound center grabbed the ball and dribbled up the floor before finding James on the wing. James made a perfect alley-oop pass to Varejao, who finished the play with a dunk, bringing the crowd to its feet.

O’Neal then gave Varejao a resounding chest bump and the Nets called timeout.

James converted his own dunk off a lob pass from Daniel Gibson moments later.

Associated Press

Cleveland’s LeBron James converted his own dunk off a lob pass from Daniel Gibson moments later.

The win gives Cleveland the longest winning streak in the league.

(42-11) also have the best record in the league.

The Observer ◆ SPORTS
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
THE OBSERVER

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**FENCING**

Team prepares for regionals after perfect regular season

By KEVIN BALDWIN  Sports Writer

Irish fencers may well be on their way for a return to nationals as they get ready to host the Midwest conference championship on March 6. Both the men’s and women’s teams just turned in an undefeated performance at the Notre Dame Open this past weekend, concluding their perfect regular season.

“Right now the team’s fencing really well — everyone’s confident, everyone’s been training really hard at practice and it’s really good to start seeing things pay off,” junior foilist Zach Schritz said. “We’ve got the conference tournament coming up and the NCAA’s and I think we’ll be a strong team in both of those tournaments.”

Standing at 33-0 and 35-0, respectively, the men’s and women’s fencing teams, described by Irish coach Janusz Bednarski as “one of the best in the history of the program” also feature the strongest rosters in recent memory, touting numerous All-Americans in addition to two members of the U.S. National team.

Surrounded by that level of talent, it is little wonder that many members of the team’s large freshman class have risen quickly into nationally recognized competitors.

“Expectations are good but we will have to come out and perform,” Bednarski said. “I think the upperclassmen are doing a good job of shapping the freshmen, we’ve got a very young team, the upperclassmen have taken on to that and come out and do really well,” Schritz said.

With only three weeks until the start of the postseason, the Irish are certain to see some heated competition as many teams, including No. 5 Northwestern, will be out for redemption after the swift defeat the Irish doled out last weekend.

“Expectations are good but how it will happen, you never know its always a mystery how it will happen, you never know its always a mystery how you will fence in the most important competition especially when you have such young kids like we have,” Bednarski said.

Contact Kevin Baldwin at kbaldwi2@ind.edu

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**FOOTBALL**

Kelly moves walk-on tryouts to fall semester

Observer Staff Report

Irish coach Brian Kelly will not do away with Notre Dame’s long-standing walk-on tradition, but he will change the timetable during which new players try out for the team. Director of Football Media Relations Brian Hardin said Tuesday.

“The walk-on program will not change under coach Kelly, we’re simply moving the tryouts from spring until fall. That’s when coach Kelly has always had walk-on tryouts,” Hardin said. “The primary reason is so that our coaches can spend as much time evaluating the current roster as it stands right now.”

Hardin said 25 walk-on players are currently working out with the team, and their status will not be affected by the change.

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**ND WOMEN’S TENNIS**

Ciobanu impresses on and off court

By JOHN HELMS  Sports Writer

Senior Cosmina Ciobanu has had an unbelievable career at Notre Dame while showcasing an unbelievable work ethic. She’s been pretty good at tennis, too.

Ciobanu was awarded the Big East Scholar Athlete award this weekend, an honor going to a male and female athlete from each Big East school. The award, given only to those with “outstanding academic achievement and exceptional athletic performance” comes with a $2,000 scholarship towards graduate studies.

Ciobanu’s achievements in the classroom are certainly outstanding. A dou-

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**ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

No road worries

By JARED JEDICK  Sports Writer

The No. 4 Irish picked up the defensive intensity, causing 23 turnovers against Cincinnati Tuesday to earn a 66-50 win for their 22nd victory this year and their seventh in a row.

“Overall, defensively, I was really pleased. We caused 23 turnovers and we held them to 50 points,” Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Junior guard Melissa Lechlitner had six points in Notre Dame’s 66-50 win at Cincinnati Tuesday.

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**FENCING**

Irish have chance to take out powerhouses

Sitting at 21-1 and an 8-1 record in the Big East, Muffet McGraw’s squad has the campus talking about women’s basketball again. As expected, the comparisons have been drawn to the 2001 national title team.

But consider this. Since the establishment of the Women’s NCAA Division I national championship, touting numerous All-Americans in addition to two members of the U.S. National team.

Surrounded by that level of talent, it is little wonder that many members of the team’s large freshman class have risen quickly into nationally recognized competitors.

“I think the upperclassmen are doing a good job of shaping the freshmen, we’ve got a very young team, the upperclassmen have shown some of the freshmen the ropes and the freshmen have really taken on to that and come out and do really well,” Schritz said.

With only three weeks until the start of the postseason, the Irish are certain to see some heated competition as many teams, including No. 5 Northwestern, will be out for redemption after the swift defeat the Irish doled out last weekend.

“Expectations are good but how it will happen, you never know its always a mystery how you will fence in the most important competition especially when you have such young kids like we have,” Bednarski said.

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**FENCING**

Irish senior Cosmina Ciobanu hits a backhand during a 5-2 win over North Carolina at the Eck Tennis Pavilion on Feb. 27, 2009.