ND holds first Shakespeare Sonnet Fest

Students, faculty and staff read the Bard’s 154 poems in O’Shaughnessy

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
News Writer

Students, faculty and staff read aloud each of Shakespeare’s 154 sonnets Wednesday at the first Notre Dame Sonnet Fest in the Great Hall of O’Shaughnessy.

Students passed through the Great Hall, stopping to grab a cookie, a cup of hot apple cider and listen to a sonnet or two. Maryam Zomorodian, a Ph.D. candidate in English, came up with the idea for the Sonnet Fest last fall. “I thought it would be a good opportunity for us to bring together faculty, staff and students over poetry,” Zomorodian said.

Eighty-five total students, faculty and staff signed up to read a sonnet. About half of the readers were students and the remainder were faculty and staff. The sonnets were read continuously from 11 a.m. until around 3 p.m.

“Listening to a bulk of Shakespeare’s sonnets, poems or plays allows the listener time to become comfortable with the language and intention of each piece,” Scott Jackson, director of Shakespeare at Notre Dame and a coordinator of the Sonnet Fest, said. “The goal for those...”

see SONNET/page 6

Spring Visitation weekends approach

Event brings prospective minority students to campus in hope of drawing them to the University

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

As spring slowly approaches, high school seniors anxiously await their acceptance letters to the university of their choice. However, while many potential Notre Dame students begin to decide whether or not to make their home under the Dome, the University is reaching out to minority students in an effort to bring more diversity to campus.

Spring Visitation 2010—an event held annually for high-talented prospective minority students—will host its first group of high school seniors Feb. 25-28, with two more weekends in March. Spring Visitation is an all-expenses-paid visit for 225 minority students to come to campus and experience life at Notre Dame for a weekend in the hope they will select the University as their home for the next four years.

“Spring Visitation is an opportunity for the University to reach out to highly talented minorities,” Spring Visitation recruitment coordinator and senior Erdina Francillon said. “Our work is to specifically target...”

see SPRING/page 6

Observer chooses next top editors

Observer Staff Report

Madeline Buckley, Laura Myers and Sam Werner have been chosen to help oversee The Observer’s editorial operations in 2010-11. Incoming Editor-in-Chief Matt Gamber announced Wednesday. Buckley will assume the position of managing editor, the No. 2 spot at the paper, and Myers and Werner will serve as assistant managing editors.

A junior majoring in American Studies and Spanish with a minor in Journalism, Ethics and Democracy, Buckley will assist Gamber in managing all departments of The Observer’s print and online editions.

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Notre Dame Campus Ministry’s weekly Prayercast is approaching its three-year milestone, director of Folk Choir and Liturgy Resources Steve Warner said. “We got this idea about four years ago,” Warner said. “We had this idea about four years ago”...

see EDITORS/page 4

Prayercast offers homilies, liturgy

By SARAH GUNN
News Writer

Got Dance? — a dance workshop featuring 15 students from Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame — will be running Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in O’Laughlin Auditorium on Saint Mary’s campus.

Indi Dieckgrafe, professor of Dance at the College, hails the show as the long anticipated reward of “demanding dance.”

“I don’t know if people understand how involved the process is,” Dieckgrafe said of the preparation and development of the show. “Got Dance? is the culmination of months of work on the part of the Saint Mary’s Dance Ensemble, faculty and many other crew members. The group has been developing the show since the second week of classes of the fall semester. Dieckgrafe said the 15 members are the "cream of the crop.”

The dancers in the Ensemble have collaborated with professors to create the pieces for the show.

“We work from the ground up, we have to craft it,” Dieckgrafe said.

Some pieces are solely student choreographed. “Got Dance” will display an "eclectic, broad spectrum" of dance styles, including...
Thanks, parents

When was the last time you called your parents or grandparents or best friend just to say, “Thank you for everything.” Today in my Spanish class our teacher asked what we said the last time we talked to our parents. She called on a junior boy who answered, “Gracias por mi educación.” She jokingly asked him why he was just thanking them for the first time in the second semester of his junior year, and he just laughed. That little answer really got me thinking. I don’t think I ever specifically thanked my parents for putting aside hundreds of thousands of dollars for my college education and all the other things they paid for as I was growing up. I am sure many college students never have. I remember constantly complaining about painful nuisances like braces and dentist appointments, never thanking them for paying so I could maintain practically perfect teeth years later.

When is the time to thank your parents about dealing with you when you were a crying baby and did nothing but scream through the night? Or when she drove you “all over God’s kingdom” as my mom always said, so you could make it to every extracurricular your heart desired? Apologies and thankfulness often don’t come out until it’s too late.

How many family parties have you had to endure, or how many holidays have you had to dress up for just because your grandparents were coming over? I know at least once, I would rather eat Thanksgiving in my sweatpants than sit in a stuffy church. How many times have you seen your grandparents’ faces light up when they see you. Give them little care packages and how their faces light up when you call just to see how you are feeling, send them an email about how your life is going. If you have those grandparents to worry about rarely see. For those of you who still share a meal with the grandparents we have you little care packages and how their faces light up when they see you. Give them little care packages and how their faces light up when you call just to see how you are feeling, send them an email about how your life is going.

However, every year we dress up to the nines, and no matter in the second semester of his junior year, and he just laughed. That little answer really got me thinking. I don’t think I ever specifically thanked my parents for putting aside hundreds of thousands of dollars for my college education and all the other things they paid for as I was growing up. I am sure many college students never have. I remember constantly complaining about painful nuisances like braces and dentist appointments, never thanking them for paying so I could maintain practically perfect teeth years later.

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However, every year we dress up to the nines, and no matter
Carroll Hall wins contest for highest participation rate at 94 percent

By ANN-MARIE WOODS
News Writer

In its introductory year, the ImproveND survey ended with successful participation rates, as both undergraduate and graduate students took advantage of the opportunity to provide feedback regarding various aspects of University life, Heather Tonk, director of Strategic Planning, said.

“For a brand new survey of this type our goal was an overall participation rate of 50 percent,” Tonk said. “We are very excited to achieve that mark.”

Fifty-one percent of undergraduates, 41 percent of graduate students and 28 percent of Law students participated in the survey, which will be given every two years in order to track progress over time.

As an added incentive for completing the survey, the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research sponsored a contest for the residence hall that achieved the highest participation, as well as individual prizes from random drawings throughout the administration period.

“Carroll Hall won the contest for the highest participation rate for a dorm at 94 percent,” Tonk said. “They won the opportunity to be the first dorm to host a dance in the Purcell Pavilion.”

Additional prizes included gift cards to the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore and local eateries, free personal training and RecSports classes, an iPod shuffle and a private tour of Notre Dame Stadium, Tonk said.

While the data from the survey is still being analyzed, the Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research hopes to have the complete results by late March, which they will communicate to the student body via student government.

“Based on the results, various units will spend the summer months considering action plans to address opportunities for improvement,” Tonk said.

Students can expect to see concrete changes by next fall, as ideas gathered from the survey will be put into action throughout the summer.

“Results will begin to be implemented in the fall,” Julia Sama, the administrator who coordinated the survey project, said. “Some changes may take longer than others, [but] it’s hard to predict since we have not yet analyzed all of the survey results.”

Contact Heather Tonk
Director of Strategic Planning

Circle K president Megan Alexander said.

All the members attending the conference will be returning to the club next year to bring what they learn back to the school, Alexander said.

Their sponsorship was approved by SGA, to fund the attendance of nine members to their all-inclusive conference, she said.

The final sponsorship of the night was proposed by three clubs jointly: The Chinese Culture Club, Pacific Islander Club and the Around the World Club. They will be hosting China Night, to celebrate the Chinese New Year, Chinese Culture Club representative Joanne Chu said.

The two-hour program will feature dance, musical and martial arts presentations, and refreshments will be served. It will be held in Morey Little Theater Sunday, Chen said.

“It’s a good opportunity to celebrate Chinese culture,” SGA granted the sponsorship request for the council’s “NKY fun” — groups of volunteers that makes special visits to homes and hospital rooms.

“With TAP, I am using my accounting background and class to help others who need it,” Thompson said.

The most difficult part is trying to explain what TAP is, student assistant Dana Gates said. “We get examples in class, but each person is different. We care about what we do, so we want to get it right.”

“TAP has successfully adapted to people’s needs over the last few years,” Flynn said.

“I know that the amount of Spanish speakers is not a whole lot,” Thompson said. “I am only one of two at my site, so I think that the program could reach out to more students who could benefit from this program.”

Contact Nikki Taylor
ntaylo01@saintmarys.edu

By MEGAN DOYLE
News Writer

As April 15 looms in the not-so-distant future, students from the Tax Assistance Program (TAP) are heading into South Bend to provide free aid and tax services for low-income and disabled taxpayers in the local community.

“Essentially, we are about providing free income tax assistance to people who cannot afford to pay a professional at the same time that we provide practical and hands-on practice for students,” TAP faculty coordinator Ken Milani said.

Nearly 100 volunteers from Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s in nine different locations in South Bend and Mishawaka from February through April. These students file more than 3,000 tax income returns, according to Milani.

“We clearly do something very different from a lot of other college programs when we go to the taxpayers,” Milani said.

Bringing the service to libraries and other community centers lessens the intimidation factor and makes participating in TAP more convenient for those that need the help the most, he said

Milani said volunteering at TAP is “an eye-opening experience” for students.

The major benefits for students really focus on the practical experience of working with clients in a real world situation that gives a real understanding of what it means to be among the working poor in South Bend,” Milani said.

Senior Caitlin Flynn is stationed at River Park Library for her second year with TAP.

“The most awesome part of TAP is that we provide the service for free,” Flynn said. “The fee to go to a professional for this is a big deal for a lot of these people, and it is really hard when someone’s return is too complicated for what we can do.”

To be involved with TAP, students must take a class on federal income taxes, spend the first four weeks of the spring semester in detailed training and pass an IRS exam. The students focus on learning the nuances of the tax code specific to the program’s low-income demographic.

“This is a really cool volunteer opportunity,” graduate student Dana Gates said. “It is a specialized service that not many people know how to do.”

Senior Ronnie Thompson said he is particularly excited to work on a “ NKY fun” — groups of volunteers

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) approved three sponsorships at their meeting Wednesday night.

Le Mans Hall Council president Maddy Peterek presented a sponsorship request for the council’s next three events. There will be a Valentine’s Day Breakfast Thursday morning in Le Mans.

They are also planning a Spa Day, with nail painting and other spa treatments for Le Mans residents the day of the all-school formal, Peterek said.

Also, on March 21 the Council will be having an all-hall Mass, and there will be refreshments to follow. SGA approved their sponsorship for all three events. The funds will be administered by SGA to ensure that the Le Mans Hall Council has already made through fundraising.

The Circle K council will be sending members to a convention and leadership retreat with other Indiana Circle K chapters, Circle K president Megan Alexander said.

All the members attending the conference will be returning to the club next year to bring what they learn back to the school, Alexander said.

Their sponsorship was approved by SGA, to fund the attendance of nine members to their all-inclusive conference, she said.

The final sponsorship of the night was proposed by three clubs jointly: The Chinese Culture Club, Pacific Islander Club and the Around the World Club. They will be hosting China Night, to celebrate the Chinese New Year, Chinese Culture Club representative Joanne Chu said.

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“It’s a good opportunity to celebrate Chinese culture,” SGA granted the sponsorship request for the council’s “NKY fun” — groups of volunteers

Procedures and rules for the next SGA elections were voted and passed at the meeting as well after a few minor changes. Campaigning for next year’s major boards will begin on Feb. 23;

Contact Nikki Taylor at ntaylo01@saintmarys.edu
Students use Rome as classroom

Dance
continued from page 1

t up dance, modern dance, tra- titional Chinese dance and classical dance. Dieckgrafe said she believes she can develop the project from the ground up, and the rest of the Editorial Board will assume their roles after the new school year begins. The new editors will continue to work on the resolution during the summer months.

The new editors will include: Peter Caputo — associate editor; Matthew John — copy editor; and Alex Ross — art director.


ted and proposed a Student Medical Amnesty Resolution, which is proposed by Nick Ruof and the rest of the Student Life Committee.

“We want to feel safe and confident in calling emergency response and not worry about the repercussions.” — Nick Ruof, Chairman, Committee on Residence Life

The resolution requests that the OIT install color printing solution in the LaFortune Computer Complex.

“We are excited to take on this challenge and provide a better experience for our students,” said Nick Ruof, Chairman, Committee on Residence Life.

The proposal — “A Resolution Proposing the Installation of a Color Printer in the LaFortune Computer Complex” — is aimed at improving the student experience and providing a better service for the community.

“The real challenge is actually trying to balance dance with the demands that come with the rehearsals,” said Brown.

Brown recognizes the work that the non-dancers have contributed to the performance.

“From the beginning, we have had a number of props and set features of the show,” Brown said. “This year for the concert, we have a number of props and set pieces that we can use in the performance.”

The show takes a lot of planning and it is not just about moving on stage, we — the dancers — are creating art.”

Bradley also wanted the students to use what they saw during their visit as part of their individual research projects.

Jennings, for example, was able to do research for her senior thesis on the nature of emperors.

“Seeing material evidence of dedication reinforced how widely accepted this practice was in the Roman Empire, which contrasts with our modern standards of monothemon and the relationship between religion and state. My experience in Rome helped me connect the archaeological evidence with the literary record.”

Bradley explained, “And we wanted also to see as much as we could of Roman sculpture and artistic pro- ductions—mosaics and frescoes and other forms of material remains—that would help us enrich our interpretation of the course’s theme.”

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I’m investigating how the Emperor Hadrian drizzled an unusual number of individuals, including his lover Antonius, and how this was reflected on his policies and the nature of the monarchy. Jennings says, “I can’t imagine there were some in their constant refer- ences to the Emperor Augustus"
Brazil heat wave kills 32 elderly people

BRASILIA — Thirty-two elderly people died in a southern Brazil city this week because of a heat wave that has pushed temperatures to unusually high levels, a health official said Wednesday.

All of the fatalities in the coastal city of Santos near Sao Paulo occurred between last Sunday and Monday, 90 years old with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes or hypertension, according to the health ministry in Santos.

The first deaths were registered Monday, when the temperature in Santos reached 39 degrees Celsius (102 Fahrenheit). Temperatures were well above 30 degrees (86 F) in the following days.

Kenya relocates thousands of animals

Nairobi — Kenyan authorities have begun a plan to restore a predator-prey balance in one of the country's most popular game parks, a government official said Wednesday.

The government will move thousands of zebras and wildebeests closer to the lions.

The government said it has three trips planned for moving the animals, and that the first trip will start Friday.

World & Nation

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Snow breaks mid-Atlantic records

WASHINGTON — Worst winter ever? The nation's capital was so cold last week that a foot of snow Wednesday, breaking records for the snowiest winter and demoralizing the Plains.

Conditions in the nation's capital were so bad that even airplane owners gave up grist for the roads, and forecasters were eying a third storm that could be brewing for next week.

For many families, the first storm was a fun weekend diversion. People even went skiing past Washington's monuments. But for many others, the first storm was a winter wonderland.

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Air Force de-certifies warheads unit

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has de-certified a unit responsible for maintaining an estimated 2,000 nuclear warheads at Kirtland Air Force Base in New Mexico, but top military officials won't discuss specifics of the decision.

De-certification means members of the 989th Munitions Squadron cannot perform their usual duties with nuclear weapons.

Air Force officials declined to specify what that means.

Air Force officials also declined to disclose what concerns prompted the action, but Ron Fry, a spokesman for the Air Force Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, said Wednesday the move wasn't prompted by any risk to the public.

LOCAL NEWS

Ind. launches plan to track student growth

INDIANAPOLIS —The Indiana Department of Education has launched a plan to document each student's academic growth instead of focusing on standardized tests to measure their progress and that of their schools.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Bennett said Wednesday:

"This model will help school districts to identify which teachers and teaching methods are most effective at improving all students' performance."

Bennett said many schools now concentrate on getting "bubbles" students who are close to passing annu-
al state tests over that hurdle, instead of spending more time and resources on those who score very low.

Iraq

Iraq orders Blackwater guards out

Mandate applies to about 250 security contractors with ties to company

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq has ordered hundreds of private security guards working for Blackwater Iraq to leave the country within seven days or face arrest on visa violations, the interior minister said Wednesday.

The order comes in the wake of a U.S. judge’s dismissal of criminal charges against five Blackwater guards who were accused in the September 2007 shootings deaths of 17 Iraqis in Baghdad.

It applies to about 250 security contractors who worked for Blackwater in Iraq at the time of the incident, Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani told The Associated Press.

Some of the guards now work for other security firms in Iraq, while others work for a Blackwater subsidiary, al-Bolani said.

He said all “concerned parties” were notified of the order three days ago and now have four days left before they must leave.

Blackwater guards also are facing murder charges in the United States and Iraq, strained relations between the two countries.

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Prayer

continued from page 1

years ago on this coming Ash Wednesday, Warner said, “sometimes, over 200 broadcasts were produced.”

“We were committed to making sure we did it every week of the year,” Warner said. “Then we started adding extra broadcasts. For instance, we'll have a special one coming up for Saint Patrick's Day.”

The Prayercasts consist of a sung responsorial psalm, Gospel of the week with an accompanying homily, meditation and special prayers or intentions. Warner explained, “We have a team of about 10 homilists, Holy Cross guys — including a few guests every once in a while — that are working on this.” Warner said “We’re usually working about six weeks out to plan all of these things. Right now we’re already halfway through the Lenten season.”

With little to no advertising, around 250,000 visitors tuned in to the 20 to 25-minute long Prayercasts in the past three years, with around 7,000 hits a week coming from 52 countries, Warner said. Catherine Crecelius, a 2009 graduate and current Campus Ministry intern, listened to the program while she was abroad in Senegal.

“It’s a way to participate in an authentic Holy Cross and Notre Dame prayer experience, even when you’re not here.” Warner said. “For me, that happened when I was in Senegal. I was living in a place where I didn’t have very much Internet access and no connections to either Notre Dame people besides my friend Catherine or anyone there with me.”

Crecelius said it was a nice way to relate to the Notre Dame campus while she was away. “I could close my eyes, lay down in my bed and kind of be brought back to an environment that made me feel safe and like I was at home,” she said.

Crecelius said the Prayercasts are a way to stay connected with the campus. “It was really nice to have that ability to bring myself back to Notre Dame when I had been away from it and was homesick for the community,” Crecelius said.

Besides an audio port, the Prayercast is partnered with Masscast—a streaming Mass held at the Basilica assembled by students in Film, Television and Theatre, Warner said. “A 20 minute piece will probably take about two to three hours to create, including the engineering of the music — that is the mixing and the mastering of it — and that doesn’t include the hours of preparation that it takes for a homilist to actually write his own material,” Warner said.

Jenny Lewis, a graduate student in sacred music and graduate assistant with the Folk Choir, is the Prayercast’s producer. “My main job under the umbrella of working with the Folk Choir is producing the Prayercast every week,” Lewis said. “Once a month, on a Friday, we come into GoMo and we set up a portable record- ing studio, which is really high quality stuff we have now, as far as computers, software, microphones and things. After recording, Lewis takes the raw material and creates the finished product.”

“The finished Prayercasts are Warner’s favorite part of the process. “I really like listening to them afterwards,” he said. “I like hearing what happens when everyone comes at the gospel in different ways. Every week something new comes together as a result of that.”

For more information, visit www.ndprayercast.org or Notre Dame’s Tunes4U page.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu.

Sonnet

continued from page 1

attending to is shed any stereo- types they may have about the modern relevance of Shakespeare’s words, and allow themselves to experience his work for the first time or to refresh their memory of it — by lifting them off the page and into the air.”

Notable readers at the Sonnet Fest included University President John J. DeGioia, Provost Thomas Burach, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters John McGreevy, Notre Dame Chair of English, John Stanthorp, and Princeton University professor Caryl Emerson.

McGreevy said he was one of the first to recite a sonnet. “I was the first to recite in the morning,” he said. “Many different people were there from Arts and Letters.”

Some participants were able to choose their favorite sonnet to read, but most were assigned certain sonnets depending on their schedules. “Scheduling was tight,” Jackson said. “Some readers requested specific sonnets, and while I tried to facilitate those requests, in the end the sched- ule was dictated by the avail- ability of each reader and participant.” Jackson said Sonnet Fest was the first time reading that Shakespeare at Notre Dame has ever attempted. He said he hopes to spark interest in more public readings in the community.

“it is most exciting that such a far- reaching event like this will cre- ate the potential for future pub- lic readings of Shakespeare’s canon,” Jackson said. “The strong interest that we have received from the Notre Dame community demonstrates that we certainly have the interest to make something like that possible in the near future [in particular], but we will endeavor to make any selection process one that the community that supports us.”

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsen@nd.edu.

Spring

continued from page 1

minority groups since there is a diversity problem on campus. Fracillicion is a member of a five-person team that spends the year recruiting minority students to Notre Dame. Senior and senior Kristine Yuen, junior Steven Corrales and soph- omores Amanda Meza and Raymond Umipig spend much of their time researching potential applicants and then the spring semester organizing visits for the Spring Visitation weekends.

“Parents students come up here for Spring Visitation, we show them what Notre Dame is about,” Yuen said. “We take them to the differ- ent depart- ments, they meet the facul- ty, go to classes, mass and multi- cultural events.”

The numbers of minority students have been increasing over the past few years, per cent of the stu- dents who attended Notre Dame this year’s visit entered Notre Dame as members of the Class of 2013.

Corrales, who attended Spring Visitation as a high school senior, said his week- end on campus gave him a very good outlook on a school he had previously known little about.

“The Visitation changed my life,” he said. “I hadn’t been considering Notre Dame at all before I went there but completely changed; after a few months on campus I really saw myself here.”

Fracillicion said it’s very common for minority students like Corrales to come to visit the University and to know very little about such schools, the University and the community.

“The consensus, we have found that Notre Dame does not hold the same weight in the minority communities like it does in the white communi- ties,” she said. “Minorities have heard of Notre Dame, but we have to give them a reason to go here when they are also considering schools like Harvard and Yale.”

Meza said she knew the communi- ty spirit of Notre Dame that they hope to show to the stu- dents.

“The way campus impacts people who are here first is crucial,” she said. “It’s really the community. You can’t describe it, you have to experience it to know what it’s truly like, but it’s something that I want to give the same opportunity to others.”

Umipig agreed, and said, “Spring Visitation is really the best opportunity we have to expose these students to what Notre Dame has to offer them.”

All five recruitment officers believe Spring Visitation is n e c e s s a r y because of the lack of diversity within the stu- dent body. In the Class of 2013, minority- students account for 25 percent of the students.

“I don’t think the diversity on campus has really changed since I was a f r e s h m a n , ” Fracillicion said. “The numbers aren’t there but you don’t have to look at them to know that diversity is a problem; all you have to do is look around and you can see that it’s a problem.”

Yuen said diversity awareness needs to be raised so non- minority students have a bet- ter understanding of the issues facing Notre Dame’s lack of diversity.

“When people use the word ‘diversity’ there is a stigma that attaches to it,” she said. “Non- minorities hear the word and don’t think that it applies to them so there is a constant challenge.”

Fracillicion said the diversity situation at Notre Dame is not unique.

“The diversity issues at Notre Dame are issues that we are being faced in any area of affluence,” she said. “There needs to be recognition that this is something that requires a collective effort.”

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden3@nd.edu.
**Market Recap**

**Stocks**

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<th>10,038.38</th>
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**AMEX** | 1,786.24 | -7.13 |
| **NASDAQ** | 2,147.87 | -3.00 |
| **NYSE** | 6,819.12 | 16.64 |
| **S&P 500** | 1,068.13 | -2.39 |
| **NYSEAA** | 9,963.99 | +11.09 |
| **FTSE 100** | 5,131.99 | +20.15 |

**Commodities**

**Light crude (S/Bbl)** | +0.12 | 74.54 |
| **Gold ($/Troy oz)** | -1.10 | 1,078.1 |
| **Pork bellies (c/bbl)** | +1.45 | 84.39 |

**Exchange Rates**

| Yen | 89.950 |
| Euro | 1.3735 |
| Canadian dollar | 1.0623 |
| British pound | 1.5599 |

**Business**

**Greek unions stage walkout**

Workers strike over deficit slashing measures; Greece’s fiscal problems have shaken euro

Greece's prime minister briefed European Union summit leaders which will take up the debt crisis Thursday. Greece’s fiscal problems have shaken the euro and underscored the interconnectedness of the global economy. European stocks rose on hopes for a rescue plan that might take pressure off other struggling euro zone countries, such as Portugal and Spain, but it is unclear which wealthy EU nations will do to help Greece.

The EU’s largest economies, Germany and France, are ready to offer their support to Greece at the summit but will wait to see if other countries join the effort, a French diplomatic official said in a briefing ahead of the summit. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, did not provide specifics.

"Here’s the message: we are behind Greece,” the official said. “I don’t think (financial) aid needs to be extended to Greece tomorrow. I think a message needs to be given to markets that we will know how to reach Greece’s question.”

Officials in Germany said there is no urgent need for a bailout at the moment and any decision on such help “is imminent.” They also said EU rules prohibited the aid from guaranteeing another country’s debt.

“Of course, we are running through worst-case scenarios,” a German government official said on condition of anonymity. “Greece has to present a credible volume of cuts. Agreement on that would be an important signal from tomorrow’s summit.”

The head of France’s national assembly, Bernard Accoyer, said that European countries must show solidarity with Greece.

“The reality is obvious to everyone. The issue is not to let Greece go bankrupt,” he said.

Greece came under intense EU pressure to slash spending after it presented its second financial rescue plan. The country’s debts.
Power plant explodes during construction, safety, 'sub-standard'

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The brother of one of five workers killed in an explosion at a power plant under construction said his brother called the project “screwed up,” and a worker on the job the day before the explosion says safety on the job was “sub-standard.”

The concerns about pressure to get the job done and safety standards at the Kleen Energy Systems plant in Middletown were raised in interviews with The Associated Press on Wednesday, and add to a growing number of questions about work conditions at the site.

Carl Crabb told the AP that his brother, Ron, and other workers evacuated the building after they smelled gas. He said they made it outside the building, but Ron was killed.

“They had a lot of problems. I know he said the job was really screwed up.”

Carl Crabb

victim’s brother

Tom Alferi, 58, a steamfitter who worked on the plant as recently as the day before the explosion, said electrical and welding cords were strewn all over the site.

“It was a very messy place,” Alferi said. “They didn’t hire enough laborers. The safety on the job was substandard.”

Alferi said there was pressure in recent weeks to get the job done, but he described it as normal for that kind of job. He said his immediate concern was for those who lost friends and loved ones.

The son of another worker killed said Tuesday his father was working more than 80 hours per week and felt pressure to get the job done and wished he had not taken the assignment.

“They felt they were slipping further behind — lots of tension on the job,” he said.

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victim’s brother

John Edwards sex tape turned over to judge

Superior Court Judge Abraham Penn Jones listens at a hearing over John Edwards’ “private” videotape on Feb. 5.

Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. — A former aide to John Edwards turned over the sex tape he had kept of the senator with mistress Rielle Hunter.

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Associated Press

DALLAS — Charlie Wilson, the fun-loving Texas congressman whose backroom dealings funneled millions of dollars in weapons to Afghanistan, allowing the country’s underdog mujahedeen rebels to beat back the mighty Soviet Red Army, died Wednesday. He was 76.

Wilson died at Memorial Medical Center in Lufkin after having difficulty breathing after attending a meeting in the eastern Texas town where he lived, said hospital spokeswoman Yana Ogletree. Wilson was pronounced dead on arrival, and the preliminary cause of death was cardiopulmonary arrest, she said.

Wilson represented Texas’ 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House from 1973 to 1996 and was known in Washington as “Good Time Charlie” for his reputation as a hard-drinking womanizer. He once called former congresswoman Pat Schroeder a “whore,” and tried to take a beauty queen with him on a government trip to Afghanistan.

Wilson, a Democrat, was considered both a progressive and a defense hawk. While his efforts to arm the mujahedeen in the 1980s were a success — spurring a victory that helped in the 1980s were a success — spurring a victory that helped spur the downfall of the Taliban, which harbored al-Qaida terrorists.

After the Sept. 11 attacks — carried out by al-Qaida terrorists trained in Afghanistan — the U.S. ended up invading the country it had once helped liberate.

“People like me didn’t fulfill our responsibilities once the war was over,” Wilson said in a September 2001 interview with The Associated Press. “We allowed this vacuum to occur in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which enraged a lot of people. That was as much my fault as it was a lot of others.”

His efforts to help the Afghan rebels — as well as his partying ways — were portrayed in the movie and book. “Charlie Wilson’s War.” In an interview with The Associated Press after the book was published in 2003, he said he wasn’t worried about details of his wild side being portrayed.

“I would remind you that I was not married at the time. I’m in a different place than I was in at the time and I don’t apologize about that,” Wilson said.

Charlie Wilson was born June 1, 1933, in Trinity. He attended Sam Houston State University in Huntsville before earning his bachelor’s degree from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1956. Wilson served as a Naval lieutenant between 1956-60. He then entered politics by volunteering for John F. Kennedy’s presidential campaign. He served in the Texas House and then in the Texas Senate before being elected to the U.S. House in 1972.

“Charlie was perfect as a congressman, perfect as a state representative, perfect as a state senator. He was a perfect reflection of the people he represented. If there was anything wrong with Charlie, I never did know what it was,” said Charles Schnabel Jr., who served for seven years as Wilson’s chief of staff in Washington and worked with Wilson when he served in the Texas Senate.

As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Wilson helped secure money for weapons that were delivered to the mujahedeen by then-CIA agent Mike Vickers. The Soviets spent a decade battling the rebels before pulling the Red Army from Afghanistan in 1989.

Two years later, its economy in ruins, the Soviet Union fell apart.

Vickers, now assistant secretary of defense for special operations, said Wednesday that Wilson was a “great American patriot who played a pivotal role in a world-changing event — the defeat of the Red Army in Afghanistan, which led to the collapse of communism and the Soviet empire.”

Longtime friend Buddy Temple, who was with Wilson when he collapsed Wednesday, said that despite Wilson’s reputation as a playboy, he was serious about representing Texas. In 2007, he had a heart attack and underwent open heart surgery.

Temple said Wilson had been doing “very good” and said his former boss described himself as “a poster boy for heart transplants.”


Ogletree said Wilson is survived by his wife, Barbara, whom he married in 1999, and a sister.

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Hey guys! Just flew into Budapest, and boy are my arms tired! Anyway, a lot of stuff has happened over here, some interesting, some not. It’s a foreign country so the pros and cons details of everyday life automatically take on a special significance.

Anyway, here’s a quick recap of the events of the last few weeks. The first day I came here I went to the beautiful Hidep Székes Museum of Artistic Expressionism, named after a famous Hungarian painter. Inside were many beautiful paintings by the artist, including one very artistic piece of a little girl, finger to lip and clad in blue, staring over her shoulder as a Nazi tank rolled over her doll. The Van Gogh influence was obvious, but not overstated. Truly Székes deserves to be better known. It was so much cooler than anything back in the United States!

Then I went to a beautiful Hungarian restaurant, or ‘ristorante’ (that’s the local word for such things). The Hungarians have developed an exquisite and little-known cuisine which has at its core the art of deep-frying things in the lipids of various animals. I personally enjoyed the ‘almas disz’, which — just like it sounds — is an apple deep-fried in the same tank as a duck liver, both presented on a white china plate with a garnish of parsley and a generous sprinkling of Black Sea salt. As the Hungarians say, “Buen provecho!”

Then I went to a beautiful Hungarian restaurant, or ‘ristorante’...
Concern for human dignity lacking in porc panel

As club leaders of the Identity Project of Notre Dame (id/ND), we would like to address the GFC’s recent pornography panel and viewing of “The Price of Pleasure,” which our club sponsored along with the Theology Department. In our interactions with the GFC prior to the event, we had good reason to believe that this event would foster lively discussion about this widespread violation of human dignity, presenting theological, National Law and feminist arguments in our defense of culture and acceptance of pornography. Unfortunately, in retrospect, this was impossible to present these perspectives and address the issue of pornography appropriately (particularly due to the extremely graphic nature of the film).

Rather than dwell on this serious misunderstanding, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the fifth annual Edith Stein Project (“No Man is an Island: Creature, Culture, and Community”), held this coming weekend (Feb. 12-13) in McMahon Hall. This student-organized conference offers a variety of perspectives informed by Catholic faith on issues of gender, sexuality and authentic personhood (the full schedule is at http://www.nd.edu/~idnd/edithstein/sched-ule-10.html). All are welcome.

Praying to the god of wind and snow

“Uncle Lou,” the voicemail pleaded with piqued urgency, “can you tell God or Jesus to stop the wind but not the snow. Soon. Thanks. Bye.”

As a priest, I have an obligation to pray for intentions that people bring to me. As a priest at Notre Dame, this obligation necessarily includes 2 a.m. requests from stressed-out Dillon-ites to pass tests they haven’t studied for, and affirmative to dates that — let’s face it — they have little chance at landing (but keep hoping, my fellow Big Red, miracles do happen)! It also includes another autumn request from plaid-panted alumni for football wins, especially after Notre Dame’s 15 — paradise lost, or at least delayed. “Uncle Lou,” the voicemail pleaded with piqued urgency, “can you tell God or Jesus to stop the wind but not the snow. Soon. Thanks. Bye.”

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This weekend, Friday through Sunday, the Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCo.) will be performing Jason Robert Brown's "Parade." The musical tells the true story of a Jewish factory superintendent living in Atlanta, Ga., in 1913 who was wrongly accused of raping and murdering a 13-year-old employee.

"Parade" premiered on Broadway in December 1998 and was nominated for nine Tony awards, winning two of them, one for best book and the other for best score.

The story opens up in a town called Marietta, Ga., during the Civil War, with a Confederate soldier singing to his love and the town he will be leaving behind. Suddenly, though, it is 1913 and this same soldier is now a veteran, missing a leg from his time in the war. It is the day of the Confederate Memorial Day parade. Leo Frank, a Jewish man from Brooklyn who manages a pencil factory, feels out of place, both in his town and in his marriage. He does not understand the prejudice, but stays only for his good job and for his wife. Her friend Lucille is mad that he has chosen to go into work on the holiday, hoping to have a picnic with him instead. She lament's his crumbling marriage while the parade carries on outside.

Meanwhile, young Mary Phagan rides a trolley car to the factory so she can pick up her pay from Leo. Her friend Frankie Figs wants to take her to the picture show, but she needs to get paid and take the trolley home. That night, Leo is awoken by police officers that drag him to his factory to find the body of Mary Phagan. Leo is arrested and slowly becomes the main suspect in the case. A trial commences and Leo is the scapegoat for being different. What follows is the harrowing tale of one man's struggle for freedom. "Parade" deals with serious issues such as race, prejudice, truth, love, and every real person and between. It is not for the faint of heart, but holds important messages at its core.

Everyone involved in the PEMCo. production has risen to the challenge of taking on this tough material and put together a great ensemble. All the elements of production and cast, and the music to the set and lights, come together to create a great rendition of an acclaimed show. They do not shy away from the issues of the musical, but embrace them as a part of the story. "Parade" has a grace in handling its own material, paying careful attention to the truth of this real historical event. This story that shook America almost 100 years ago is rarely talked about anymore, but deserves to never be forgotten. "Parade" is a small reminder of our country’s past, and speaks to the way we should handle our present.

Tickets for the show are $6 for students and $8 for the general public. Following the Sunday performance, held at 3 p.m., composer Jason Robert Brown and National Touring Cast Member Keith Byron Kirk will be holding a talk with the audience. That evening at 8 p.m., Brown will also be giving a concert in the Snite Auditorium for PEMCo., and not just our cast. So Sunday you can get to see our show, but you can also see the composer, Jason Robert Brown and National Touring Cast Member Keith Byron Kirk, who will perform a free concert that evening at 8 p.m. In the Snite Auditorium, tickets are $2 with a "Parade" ticket stub, or $5 for general admission.

Performances of "Parade" are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. It will be performed in Washington Hall. Tickets are now available at the LaFortune Box Office.

Contact Maija Gustina at mgustin@nd.edu

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By STEPHANIE DEPREZ Assistant Scene Editor

Scene sat down with the cast and producers of Pasquerilla East Musical Company’s (PEMCo.) annual mainstage, "Parade." Amid a hectic dress rehearsal, last-minute tweaks and the knowledge that the show’s composer, Jason Robert Brown, had just stepped away from their ensemble roles to sit in the audience, they see their show in a new light.

"Parade" is the story of Leo Frank, a Jewish factory superintendent living in Atlanta, Ga., in 1913 who was wrongly accused of raping and murdering a 13-year-old female employee. The media sensationalized the story itself, but embrace them as a part of the story.

The story opens up in a town called Marietta, Ga., during the Civil War, with a Confederate soldier singing to his love and the town he will be leaving behind. Suddenly, though, it is 1913 and this same soldier is now a veteran, missing a leg from his time in the war. It is the day of the Confederate Memorial Day parade. Leo Frank, a Jewish man from Brooklyn who manages a pencil factory, feels out of place, both in his town and in his marriage. He does not understand the prejudice, but stays only for his good job and for his wife. Her friend Lucille is mad that he has chosen to go into work on the holiday, hoping to have a picnic with him instead. She lament’s his crumbling marriage while the parade carries on outside.

Meanwhile, young Mary Phagan rides a trolley car to the factory so she can pick up her pay from Leo. Her friend Frankie Figs wants to take her to the picture show, but she needs to get paid and take the trolley home. That night, Leo is awoken by police officers that drag him to his factory to find the body of Mary Phagan. Leo is arrested and slowly becomes the main suspect in the case. A trial commences and Leo is the scapegoat for being different. What follows is the harrowing tale of one man’s struggle for freedom. "Parade" deals with serious issues such as race, prejudice, truth, love, and every real person and between. It is not for the faint of heart, but holds important messages at its core.

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Contact Maija Gustina at mgustin@nd.edu

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By MAIJA GUSTIN Assistant Scene Editor

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“This is so play selections will never again meet with criticism,” Blake said in an e-mail to The Observer. “I was shocked to learn that the Notre Dame chapter of the NAACP, which One of the students leaders involved in the formation of the workshop. “It’s really important that Notre Dame works to promote the spirit of inclusion that everybody talks about but that they don’t really see in action,” Banks said. “PEMCo. didn’t come with purpose of breaking down barriers but that’s what it has done. We came up with a really, really constructive way to address the problem to get everybody — minorities, students, faculty, everybody — on board to tackle the problem,” Banks said. Blake and Banks both said “Parade” was not an extreme example, but another part of a pattern. The last time there was serious discussion about race and performing arts was with PEMCo.’s performance of “Ragtime” in 2007. By the numbers, “Ragtime” had a diverse cast, but it raised ire because of its controversial subject matter: a racially charged story, with violent black characters and repeated use of the “n” word in the script. Class of 2009 graduate Kyle Carter played Coalhouse — one of the show’s leads and a black character — in “Ragtime.” “Ragtime” was actual turmoil. “Ragtime” was people legitimately trying to get the show shut down,” Carter said. To address the controversy, PEMCo. hosted a panel discussion about the show. It brought heightened debate, Carter said, but not much progress. “I think [the workshop] will work better because it’s the second time around. That first panel was just rough and raw because it was the first time anyone had ever done anything like that,” said, “This is a subject that brings a lot of emotion. People who were around for ‘Ragtime’ are saying, ‘Don’t remember what happened? We’re seeing what’s happening now, let’s make this forum [the workshop] the best that it can possibly be and get literally the best dialogue possible with regard to diversity in theatre programs on campus.” Senior D.C. Smith, who plays several of the African-American roles in “Parade” joined PEMCo. this year and said a play like this, because of its basis in a real historical event, needs to be true to the script. “If the white person being the lead is necessary — I feel like you have to do what’s best to the play,” Smith said. Senior Erdina Francillon is the president of Shades of Ebony, and was one of the student leaders that worked with PEMCo. She said she understood the hesitation to “break the mold” in any show with roles not written for diverse actors, but she feels that “Parade” was a poor choice of musical to perform during Black History Month. “People are missing the point that minorities don’t always want to play these stereotypical roles,” Francillon said. Francillon said she hopes the workshop will give PEMCo. an audience of more diverse students while also shaking up preconceptions about racial typecasting. “These communities exist on campus — they’re performing communities … It’s the recruiting message [from PEMCo.] that isn’t effective,” Francillon said. “You can’t sit around and say, ‘our club is not diverse because they don’t come to us.’ You have to ask yourself why aren’t they interested? You can’t do the same thing every year and expect things to change.” She pointed to her racially diverse Miami high school where she performed in a play directed by PEMCo. “We did ‘Fiddler on the Roof’ — a show where every character is white — with people from all backgrounds. If you say it can’t be done, you’re not trying hard enough,” Francillon said. But Carter said he believes the group has tried, and succeeded, in casting minority students in significant roles. He has been in nine PEMCo. productions (and played two leads), but in only two of those shows — “Ragtime” and “Parade” — was casting confined to race, he said. “It’s disconcerting to me that this is the only time that people wanted to talk about it. Where was this in ‘Kiss Me, Kate’ when I was the lead in a show that had nothing to with me being black?” Carter asked. Kelly Rice, the show’s co-producer and Carter’s former co-star in “Kiss Me Kate,” said PEMCo.’s tight resources are also a hindrance. “Groups that are student thesps groups don’t have the reach, or the advertising capabilities or the time to specifically go up to every ethnic minority group and say ‘Hey, we think this is great for you,’” Rice said. “We have to do the broad advertising and hope we get enough people, and in the past we have. We’ve had great talent, we always find it, and if there is a specific role that we need to fill, then we take the time to find it.” For students like D.C. Smith, who are involved in both PEMCo. and performing groups in the black community, the controversy surrounding “Parade” has been difficult. “It’s kind of sad to see these two great groups that I’m a part of, because of the play selection, be at odds,” Smith said. He said he hopes Monday’s workshop can help bridge the gap. “If there would be a point where these two groups could come together, it would broaden the options for PEMCo.,” Smith said. “I’m all for diversifying it, because I think all it can do is make it better.” The workshop entitled, “Creating: Breaking the Mold” with speakers Keith Byrom Kirk, an Obie awards-winning Broadway actor and former star of “Parade” is Monday, February 15th from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm in DeBartolo 101. Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu
Ohio State guard William Buford shoots against Indiana forward Tom Pritchard during the Buckeyes' 69-52 win Wednesday.

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Ohio State didn't need to big game from Evan Turner on Wednesday night.

The Buckeyes (19-6, 9-3 Big Ten) have won eight straight Big Ten games and four in a row over the Hoosiers. It is Ohio State's longest winning streak in the rivalry since 1968-70.

Dallas Lauderdale matched his career high with 14 points for the Buckeyes, and seniors Mark Titus and D.J. augmentared their 100th career wins.

Fortunately for the Buckeyes, they didn't get a full dose of Turner, who has already tied a Big Ten record by winning five games this season.

Ohio State opened the game by scoring the first nine points. When Turner sat down, the Buckeyes took advantage by cutting the lead to 13 in the first half.

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NCAA Division I Men's Indoor Track and Field Rankings

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NBA

Denver Nuggets guard Chauncey Billups, right, works the ball inside past Dallas Mavericks guard Jose Juan Barea in the third quarter of the Nuggets’ 127-91 victory in an NBA basketball game in Denver Tuesday.

**Associated Press**

DENVER — Carmelo Anthony scored 19 points in his return from an ankle injury and the Denver Nuggets had their biggest win of the season, routing the Dallas Mavericks 127-91 on Tuesday night.

Anthony, the NBA’s second-leading scorer, returned after missing eight consecutive games with a left ankle sprain. However, the Nuggets were without Kenyon Martin, who missed the game because of tendinitis in his left knee.

The 36-point victory margin against a Dallas team Denver eliminated in last season’s semifinal round of the playoffs surpassed the Nuggets’ previous high of 28 points, which they achieved twice in wins against Toronto and New Jersey in November.

Nene led Denver with 21 points, Chauncey Billups added 16 and Chris Andersen had 14 to go with 10 rebounds. The Nuggets won at home for the 23rd time in 27 games.

Dallas, losing to Denver for the sixth time in the last seven meetings, was led by Dirk Nowitzki, who had 17 points on 5 of 17 shooting from the floor.

Jason Terry had 16 points and Josh Howard 14 for Dallas.

Up by 26 at the half, the Nuggets pulled ahead 78-46, connecting on three of a row, two by Arron Afflalo and the third by Anthony.

The Mavericks tried to get back in the game with a 14-5 run but Denver answered with a 7-0 burst touched off by a pair of baskets by Anthony, pulling in front 90-60 with 3:13 remaining in the third quarter and taking a 93-70 lead into the final period.

At halftime, the Nuggets led 65-39. Dallas managed to pull to 49-35 on a three-point play by Nowitzki with 4:13 left in the second quarter but the Nuggets scored 16 of the next 20 points leading up to the break. Nene had five points in the flurry, including a three-po of play in which he muscled in a layup underhanded as Kidd grabbed his arm.

Billups’ culminated the spree by hitting consecutive 3-pointers in the final seconds of the period.

Notes: Hall of Fame quarterback John Elway watched the game from a courtside seat. . . . The Nuggets are 21-2 when holding opponents below 100 points. . . . Dallas has made a 3-pointer in 98 consecutive games. . . . Dallas split its back-to-back set that began Monday with a 127-117 win at Golden State.

In Brief

Six NHL teams to start 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.

Former Knicks star Carl Braun dies at 82

NEW YORK — Carl Braun, who was chosen for five consecutive All-Star games as a member of the New York Knicks, died Wednesday of natural causes. He was 82.

Braun died in Florida, the team said. He is the second former Knicks star to die in a week. Hall of Famer Dick McGuire, Braun’s teammate, passed away last Wednesday.

“Carl Braun was the first superstar of the New York Knicks and a cornerstone of our franchise’s early success,” team president Donnie Walsh said in a statement.

“Watching him play at the old Garden was a privilege for us New Yorkers in the 1940s and 50s. He is a true legend in our sport and he will be missed.”

Braun was an All-Star from 1953-57 — he missed the 1956 game because of injury — and retired as the team’s career scoring leader with 10,449 points. He’s still in fifth place in the career list behind Patrick Ewing, Walt Frazier, Willis Reed and Allan Houston.

Court upholds dismissal of suit against two Pacers

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld a decision dismissing a lawsuit by a Parker of Auburn Hills employee against two Indiana Pacers players over her injuries in a 2004 brawl.

The court released a decision Wednesday sustaining an Oakland County judge’s decision to throw out the case against then-Pacers players Jermaine O’Neal and David Harrison and the team itself.

The Nov. 19, 2004, brawl involved players and fans at a game between the Pacers and the Detroit Pistons.

Palace worker Julie Socia was hurt when a spectator threw a chair as she was clearing a tunnel so players could leave. She said the defendants had a duty not to endanger her, while the defendants say a third party was responsible.

around the dial

NBA Basketball

Magic at Cavaliers 8 p.m., TNT

Men’s NCAA Basketball

St. Mary’s at Gonzaga 11 p.m., ESPN2
NBA

Cavaliers look to continue streak against Magic

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — Lebron James hopes Thursday’s matchup with the Orlando Magic is as successful as his Super Bowl commercial with Dwight Howard.

Cleveland, on a 12-game winning streak which is also the longest in the league this season, can tie the franchise record with a victory in a first-round matchup of last season’s Eastern Conference finals.

“I don’t think it’s going to be easy,” James said. “The Magic are a very good team. They’re not giving us a break to do it. It’s going to be a fun one.”

Orlando eliminated Cleveland in six games last spring, but the Cavaliers won the first meeting this season, 101-97 on Nov. 6.

Thursday’s game is the Magic’s first trip to Cleveland this season. James and Howard are close, but not close enough to call themselves best friends.

James, at 6-foot-8, and Howard, at 6-11, are polar opposites, but Cleveland’s coach, Mike Brown, said he is excited to have them on the same floor.

“LeBron and I have pretty “LeBron and I have pretty close physical similarities,” Brown said. “They’re two of the most athletic players in the game.”

But it ain’t about me vs. him. I’ve played against some of the greatest guys ever and I’ve stood up (to them). If I can stand against them, I can stand against anyone.”

Cleveland’s Lebron James goes for a shot against the New York Nets’ Brook Lopez in a game on Feb. 9 in Cleveland.

Atlanta Braves hope for outfielder Damon

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves appear interesting in adding leadoff man Damon to the top of their lineup.

The Braves have made an offer to free-agent outfielder according to a person familiar with the negotiations. The person spoke Wednesday on condition of anonymity because the negotiations remain private.

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The Braves are interested in Damon, who has been playing in the Mexican League.

Braves manager Bobby Cox said last week he envisions playing at a position with Damon.

Damon has played left field, center field and right field in his career.

But the Braves need in their outfield spots and possibly sharing the right field. Heyward made only a brief appearance at Triple-A. But if we don’t have a center physically strong enough to contain him.

So Cleveland went out and got one.

O’Neal, who has thrown a few verbal jabs at Howard in the past, could only remember winning at least 12 straight games two other times in his career. Both of those seasons ended with championships.

“Hopefully this is deja vu of what’s to come,” he said. “The Cavaliers acquired O’Neal over the summer for precisely these types of matchups. Howard averaged 25.8 points and 13 rebounds in the East finals against Cleveland, which didn’t have a center physically strong enough to contain him.

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So Cleveland went out and got one.
Wilson and Tootoo bring Nashville a win on the road

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rookie Colin Wilson scored the go-ahead goal on a second-period power play, Dan Ellis made 37 saves, and Nashville Predators star Pekka Rinne played his way into the record books with his fourth career shutout Wednesday night.

The Blue Jackets, who came in just 8-6-2 when leading after two periods, had their lead on Nash's goal. While Kristian Huselius helped the Blue Jackets on their 16th power play of the season with a shot for position in a physical game, Rinne earned his 32nd career shutout, tying Doug Murray of the Los Angeles Kings for the most in the NHL this season.

Wilson, a 20-year-old center, scored a breakaway goal with 1:57 left in the game for his second of the season and third NHL goal. Rinne stopped 37 of 38 shots.

"I think that was the most impressive thing he did tonight," Blue Jackets coach Marc Denis said. "When you stop 37 shots, you probably deserve a shutout. That was a very, very good night for him."}

Gagne's overtime goal sets Flyers ahead; Blue Jackets shut out Sharks; Kunitz sets franchise record for Penguins

Associated Press

New Jersey had gotten even at 1-1 on New York's first power play when Martin Brodeur made a diving glove save on the goal line to prevent his tap-in from going in. The play was reviewed and videotape didn't help Hartfart.

"We're an amazing goalie," Carter said. "Words cannot describe how good he is and how much he means to this team."

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HOUSTON — Houston Texans owner Bob McNair watched with admiration as the New Orleans Saints celebrated their first Super Bowl victory. McNair is confident that Gary Kubiak will lead the Texans to one very soon.

The Texans announced Wednesday that Kubiak has signed a contract extension that runs through the 2012 season, a vote of confidence after the team finished 9-7 — the first winning record in the franchise's eight-year history.

“We have a foundation in place,” McNair said. “We don’t have to go out and establish the foundation, which is what we’ve been doing the last eight years. We’ve got some outstanding players, and we just have to keep building on that.”

“In evaluating where we were and looking at our coaching situation,” McNair added, “I believe Gary can take us to the Super Bowl.”

Houston is 31-33 in Kubiak’s four seasons, though the team is still seeking its first playoff berth. The 48-year-old Kubiak took over the Texans in January 2006 after the team finished 2-14. His original contract was due to expire after the 2010 season.

“Bob has taken a hard look at where we were four years ago and where we are today and with that, made the decision that we’re heading in the right direction,” Kubiak said. “I want to finish what I started. We still have a long way to go, but I’m enjoying the work, I’m enjoying the challenge.”

McNair admitted he was disappointed that the team missed the playoffs again last season. But he said the team has showed “a lot of progress” under Kubiak and he wanted to maintain continuity by keeping him in charge.

“The most disruptive thing you can do is go in every two or three years and change your coaching staff,” McNair said. “When you do that, the new coach might have different schemes that he wants to employ and all of a sudden, the players you have don’t fit that scheme. It just sets you back several years.”

The Texans ranked fourth in total offense last season (383 yards per game), but assistant head coach Alex Gibbs left for Seattle and offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan went to join his father, Mike, in Washington. Kubiak hired former Denver offensive coordinator Rick Dennison to replace Shanahan and former Atlanta offensive coordinator Greg Knapp to become Houston’s quarterbacks coach. Dennison worked on the Broncos’ staff during Kubiak’s 11 years as Denver’s offensive coordinator, and Knapp coached Houston quarterback Matt Schaub for three seasons with the Falcons.

Both Dennison and Knapp are also signed through the 2012 season.

“We have strengthened our coaching staff,” McNair said. “I’m pleased we were able to finalize our contractual nego-

What’s the big idea?

Seriously, we want to know. At GE, we’re so hungry for innovators that our leadership fund the best ideas through our Imagination Breakthrough program. And whether you’ve got big ideas about engineering, finance, manufacturing, marketing and sales, human resources or information technology, GE has an opportunity for you.
The closest the Suns got was 91-83 with 2:14 to play. The Trail Blazers last won in Phoenix on Feb. 4, 2004, but they have beaten the Suns four straight times — three in Portland — for the first time since Dec. 5, 1999.

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Ducks defeat Oilers in record-setting home win

Avalanche come back in overtime to defeat Thrashers; Coyotes skate closer to first playoffs since 2002 with win over Wild

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Todd Marchant scored the go-ahead goal with 11.39 left in the third period and the Anaheim Ducks beat Edmonton 3-2 on Wednesday night, setting a franchise record with their 11th straight home victory and extending the Oilers' club-record road losing streak to 11 games.

Bobby Ryan scored twice, and Jonas Hiller made 31 saves during the first period and the Anaheim Ducks staved off a triple threat. Moreau scored short-handed and Jonas Hiller made 17 of his 31 saves. The Ducks are 13-5-0 in their second straight on the road. The Oilers haven't won a road game since Dec. 11, when they concluded a 5-1 trip with a 5-2 victory at St. Louis. That also was the last time they scored more than four goals in a game. The defeat tied their longest road winless streak — set in 1990-91 when they went 0-15-7.

Marchant, who won nine-plus seasons with Edmonton, redirected James Wisniewski's slap shot from the right point past Deslauriers' glove for his first game-winner of the season less than a minute after the Oilers had killed off an interference penalty against Steve Staios. Ryan opened the scoring at 13:58 of the first period, converting a pass from behind the net by Corey Perry after Perry worked the puck free from defenseman Ladislav Smid. The Oilers came up empty during a 5-on-3 power play they had for a minute and 32 seconds early in the second period, but were able to tie the score while killing off a tripping penalty against Staios. Moreau's persistent forechecking behind the net caused Steve Eminger to cough up the puck and it bounced out in front, where Potulny scored his first career short-handed goal on a one-timer from the slot. Moreau put Edmonton ahead 2-1 at 14:53 of the second with his 15th short-handed goal. Ryan carried the puck into the right circle and beat Deslauriers to the glove side for his team-high 27th goal.

The teams met again Saturday at Edmonton before heading into the Alberta games.

The Thrashers thought they had a 3-1 lead when a ruling on the ice gave them a goal with 2:08 left in the second, but a video review showed the puck didn't completely cross the goal line and it was overturned. Moments after killing a Colorado power play, the Thrashers opened the scoring in the first. Antropov won a faceoff in his own zone and got the puck to Bergfors, who skated into the Avalanche zone and used a screen by Little to beat Anderson. Colorado struck back 46 seconds later when Clark beat Hedberg. Coyotes 3, Wild 2

COYOTES, WILD 2

With their first trip to the playoffs since 2002 inching closer and closer to a certainty, the Phoenix Coyotes may want to find a way to face Minnesota in round one.

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Pitchers continued from page 24

by ALLAN JOSEPH

Shannon Kelly and two freshmen, Jackie Bowe and Brittany O’Donnell, who will be throwing innings for us.

The remaining Irish defense will remain similar to last season with only one infield position to be held by a new player.

“Our infield defensively is to be solid, make consistent plays,” Gumpf said. “We will be working on getting better every day we are out there and return as a consistent team.” Last year, the Irish team featured many strong hitters including senior Christine Lux and sophomore Dani Miller.

“Our hitters this year potentially could be even better than last year’s squad,” Irish assistant coach Kris Ganoff said. “With what we have returned and our added freshmen, I would look for the Irish to come out swinging.” The Irish start their season this weekend playing in the Kajikawa Classic, hosted by Arizona State. The Irish will play last year’s NCAA Champion team and pre-season top-ranked team, the Washington Huskies.

“We always play a tough but balanced pre-season schedule,” Gumpf said. “It prepares us for the Big East competition.”

Playing the big name teams from highly competitive softball conferences, such as the Big 12, SEC and Pac 10, help prepare the Irish for their in-conference portion of the schedule, which kicks off March 27 against Seton Hall.

“When it comes to Big East, every team is running for us,” Gumpf said. “Each team is our biggest game on the day we play them.” Notre Dame will also play other competitive programs before starting their Big East portion of its schedule, including No. 16 Ohio State, Auburn, Purdue, San Diego State and Oregon.

“If we stay focused throughout each part of our season, we should put ourselves in a good spot for the postseason.”

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Irish coach

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Irish coach

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The Thunder were led in that game by a breakout performance from senior left fielder Breaunn Bohlen, who scored 24 points as well as chalking up 16 rebounds and three assists off the bench in an 82-70 win over the University of Iowa. Kansas State’s Potts added 11 points.

“We led that game slip away,” Belles coach Jennifer Henley said. “We expect a strong sophomore guard Lindsey Brenneman leads the Thunder with 14.3 points per game and 13.6 points per game. Bohnen is second among active players, averaging nine points per game. In the frontcourt, junior forward and captain Annie Bowen will look to establish herself in the paint.

Saint Mary’s will depend on sophomore guard Patsy Mahoney and senior Liz Wade to defend the powerful Wheaton backcourt and to junior forward Jessica Centa and senior forward Anna Kammrath for a presence at the post. The Belles are expecting a tough offensive threat from the Thunder.

“Wheaton is a very good team,” Henley said. “They have some great shooters and have some great shot blockers.

Despite the scheduling of the conference game in the middle of the MIAA homestretch and only two days before the one-on-one leading Hope, Henley does not see that as a distraction. Instead, she sees it as a positive for her team.

“Colby is our big week during the conference,” she said. “It’s nice to have a large game to stay on schedule rather than be off an entire week.

Saint Mary’s looks to avenge its early loss to the Thunder at 7 p.m. tonight in the Angela Athletic Facility.

Contact Allie Mangan at ajoseph20@nd.edu

Hockey

Canadians take our Capitals 6-5

Associated Press

MONTREAL — After coming back with three third-period goals to send the game to overtime, the Washington Capitals finally saw their team-record winning streak come to an end within 8 seconds of making it to a shootout.

The Capitals saw their points streak to eight games prior to Saturday night’s 7-4 loss to the Washington’s 14-game streak with a 6-5 victory Wednesday night. Washington, which hadn’t lost in nearly a month, fell three wins short of tying the NHL record of 17 games.

Brooks Laich drew the Capitals even at 5, scoring his third goal of the game with 18.4 seconds left and goalie Jose Theodore off for an extra attacker.

“As we always battle hard,” coach Bruce Boudreau said. “Normally we’d say that was a good point but we were trying to do something special so it’s a deflating loss. I think it was 7 seconds left to get to the shootout where we would have felt pretty confident tonight that we have been successful, but those things happen.”

Trailing 2-2 after Plekanec scored Montreal’s fourth goal of the second with 1:04 left in the period, Washington battled back with goals in the third — including two by Laich — to send the game to overtime.

“Tomas Plekanec scored his second goal of the game with 5:52 of overtime and the Montreal Canadiens extended Washington’s 14-game streak with a 6-5 victory Wednesday night. Washington, which hadn’t lost in nearly a month, fell three wins short of tying the NHL record of 17 games.

Alex Ovechkin extended his points streak to eight games with an assist on Backstrom’s 26th goal, which tied it at 2 early in the second. Ovechkin also scored his second assist on Laich’s hat trick goal.

Washington’s Michal Neuvirth stopped 12 of 14 shots before he was replaced just before 1:30 in the second with the score tied at 2. Theodore, who allowed three of Montreal’s four second-period goals, made 21 saves the rest of the way.

Metropolit got his 12th goal of the season on a power play with 1:45 into the second to give the Canadians their third one-goal lead of the game.

Lapierre beat Theodore with a shot from the slot shortly after the ensuing faceoff to put Montreal up 4-2 at 12:57.
**Pink**

continued from page 24

Valvano. Adding significance to the event, Yow recently paid a visit to the Northwest Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund in the spring of 2009, after her 22-year battle with the disease, which has provided a galvanization in the basketball community to support the fund.

The Irish first became involved with the Women’s Basketball Network by playing in their own “Think Pink” game. The game collected only a fraction of the sum of money for breast cancer research, but it provided an inspirational space and would lead to the move- ment that has brought things around steam at Notre Dame in the years to come.

“We started with ‘Think Pink’ three years ago,” recalled Menio said. “We started very small in the 2007-08 season. I think the budgets back then were shockers, that kind of thing, and we raised maybe $2,000.

Menio, along with the entire staff of the women’s basketball program, realized that there was a great opportunity to expand on this initial game and spread the event across Notre Dame’s campus and the South Bend area, as well as to the entire country.

“Last year we got a bunch of people on campus together and said, ‘Let’s see if we can challenge the top 20 teams in the country in attendance to do something’,” Menio said. “We said, ‘hey, bring it.”

And the Notre Dame and South Bend community did bring it, earning more money for breast cancer research and awareness than any of the other 19 programs involved.

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And the Norte...
**Schad & Freude**

We interrupt your regularly scheduled Schadenfreude for a "New Perspective"

While we congratulate the "Old Perspective" on winning the election, we would like to provide a "New Perspective" and let you know that we think the election showed a "Bad Perspective" on the part of the "Student Perspective." A "New Perspective" is going to be needed if we are going to allow for the "New Prospects" that people should actually care about student government. This "New Perspective" will live in the hearts, minds, and souls of those who value "Perspectives," "New Perspectives," and "Obnoxious Slogans."

Yours in Retrospective, Eons Christmas

**Crossword**

Across
1. Heel-itis—bles
2. They may have nibbled
14. Laurding
15. Expensive way to find a hospital
17. Enemy encounter
19. Unlikely section in a religious partition
20. Last word in "O'Hara Squares"
21. "The Glass Bead Game" novelist
22. Lead
23. High fives, once
25. Textbooks, a.k.a.
28. Asks (for)
29. Busness
32. Web...
33. Basques
34. Absolutely Ironic
35. Japanese flower-arranging form
37. Selfish, as an attitude
40. Gets upset

Down
1. 10 superiors
2. Felters
3. Citi Field mascot
4. See eye to eye
5. Garner of "Mogambo"
10. Dunlop
11. Adorned with a chain
12. Adorned with a chain
15. Adored
16. Ace
17. One of the Will Shortz
18. B砍d
19. One of the Will Shortz
20. B砍d
22. One of the Will Shortz
23. One of the Will Shortz
24. One of the Will Shortz
25. One of the Will Shortz
26. One of the Will Shortz

**Horoscope**

CELEBRITIES Born on THIS DAY: Elizabeth Bradley, 36; Laura Donn, 45; George Stephenson, 40; Glyn Norwood, 55.

Happy Birthday! You will have to make some serious decisions regarding the people and things that you see as important. Your decisions will be based on the advice of those you trust, as well as your own personal values. You may need to make some difficult choices, but in the end, you will be happy with your decisions.

**Jumble**

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

One Thursday, February 11, 2010, the Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.
Raising the stakes in ‘Pink’

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Irish host annual ‘Pink Zone’ game Sunday to raise funds for breast cancer research

Born from humble origins here on campus a year ago, Notre Dame’s annual “Pink Zone” game, which serves to raise money for breast cancer research and awareness, will tip-off Sunday against DePaul. The event has rapidly grown in the past year to take on a national significance.

“It was really exciting how it started,” Coordinator of Basketball Operations Stephanie Menzo said. “It was a bunch of people just coming together on campus. It was myself, [Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the President] Frances Shavers, and it was somebody from Rolfs, and someone from the Physics department. It was just a lot of people. The great thing about this event is that it is so grass-roots here on campus. People can give just a dollar here and a dollar there.”

Irish coach Muffet McGraw and her players are excited for the opportunity to make a difference in the community with such an important issue.

“It feels great,” McGraw said. “It is a great game for the community. Last year was a really emotional day with seeing all the survivors on the court. It is such an important cause.”

The origins of the event stem from the formation of The Kay Yow/WBCA Cancer Fund on Dec. 3, 2007, in support of former North Carolina State coach Kay Yow’s battle with breast cancer. The fund is also a branch of the V-Foundation, a cancer research foundation formed by ESPN and the late North Carolina State men’s basketball coach, Jim Valvoda.

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Irish coach Jeff Jackson’s latest accolades that draw the attention of elite teams this year. But if Notre Dame isn’t one of the nation’s top-100 of the NHL’s Central Scouting’s mid-term rankings and five USHL All-Stars. Yet it is not these accolades that draw the attention of Jackson and associate coach Andy Stagger, Notre Dame’s lead recruiter.

“We don’t really evaluate based on NHL capability or potential,” Stagger said. “It is really more if we think they could help us here … We look for kids that are really competitive, that know the game well — are smart hockey players — and kids that skate well.”

This class certainly has had its chances to compete, and win in doing so. Three members, left wing Jeff Costello, right wing David Gerths and defenseman Kevin Lind won gold-medals with the U.S. Junior Select Team that won the World Jr. A Challenge in early November.

“As a class, [competing] is a thing of theirs,” Stagger said. “Talking to some guys who play against him, Jeff Costello tends to stand out as a player that other kids don’t necessarily enjoy paling against, which is a good thing”

Costello was drafted 146th overall in the 2009 NHL Entry Draft by the Ottawa Senators, and currently leads the Cedar Rapids Rough Riders of the USHL with 21 goals and 13 assists.

Draked six spots after a game with some key starters. A pre-season ranking, some of those who voted did see potential in the Irish, which hopefully promises that they will be ranked within the first few weeks of play, if all goes well.

“In the voters’ minds we lost some key players from last season,” Gumpf said. “It also gives us an opportunity to rise in the rankings early.”

The Irish graduated five seniors at the end of the 2009 season, including celebrated pitcher Brittany Bargar. But the coaching staff boasts that they do not predict the Irish will struggle at the mound with four pitchers and varying the rotation.

“I expect Jody Valdivia to lead the way with her experience and success from last year,” Gumpf said. “We also have junior