Students March for Life in Washington

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Junior Veronica Stafford said the March for Life in Washington, D.C., represents the power of people coming together to show their support of one specific cause — in this case, the repeal of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling on abortion.

Stafford, along with other Notre Dame students, made the trip to Washington, D.C., over the weekend to show support in the repeal of the ruling in the annual march that brings together groups from all over the nation. Between 380 and 390 students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross attended the March held Monday. Junior Kyle Clark said. Clark is the co-commissioner of the trip to the March For Life through Notre Dame’s Right to Life club (RTL).

“It would be easy to just talk about pro-life issues. It’s altogether different to actually stand and walk outside in freezing temperatures for hours,” he said. “The March is a way for all of us here at Notre Dame, particularly in RTL, to stand together and proudly stand up for the basic right to life that is guaranteed in our nation’s founding documents but more importantly is a hallmark of our Catholic heritage.

“In this sense, the March fits perfectly with Notre Dame and its mission,” Clark said.

“As a Catholic institution, we have to stand up and expose the injustice of abortion, and there is no better way to do that than to travel and express that in the nation’s capital,” he said.

Stafford said groups at the March join together in praying for the end of abortion law in Washington, D.C., on Monday.

Residents may face snow fine

By MELISSA FLANAGAN
News Writer

A snow removal ordinance recently passed in South Bend may penalize off-campus students who do not clear their sidewalks in front of their houses within 24 hours of snow accumulation.

Student body president Catherine Soler said the new ordinance reinforces a policy that was already in place in South Bend.

“It’s been a long conversation in community meetings about people not shoveling their sidewalks, not just students but everyone,” Soler said.

The new ordinance will impose a fine of $15 to start and $25 for noncompliance if a sidewalk is not cleared within 24 hours after snowfall, according to The South Bend Tribune.

Soler said student government believes off-campus students who choose to be a part of the South Bend community and therefore assume all the responsibilities of a regular resident.

“We are members of the community,” Soler said. “If we want to be respected in other ways we have to participate as a normal citizen would.

Although students will be responsible for their sidewalks while school is in session, student government is...
**The Observer**

**PAGE 2**

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

**THE OBSERVER**

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The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4543 so we can correct our error.

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsolicited editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the editors in chief. Managing Editors, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Marc Gambler.

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Senior Annie Scully (left) and sophomore Margaret Kennedy encourage students in front of South Dining Hall to attend Eucharistic Adoration in the CoMo chapel, MWF, and in the Chapel of the Basilica on Fridays.

**IN BRIEF**

Professor Gang Cao will be presenting a colloquium on the “Spin-Orbit Interaction Rediscovered in Transition Metal Oxides” today from 4:30-5:30 p.m. in 118 Newland Science. Professor Cao is a physics professor at University of Kentucky - Lexington.

Melissa Belvecchic will give a lecture titled “On Campus with Robert A.M. Stern” today from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in 104 Bond Hall. Belvecchic is a partner with Robert A.M. Stern Architects in New York. A reception will follow.

A photo exhibit and remarks on “The Spirit of Holy Cross: Celebrating a Saint” will be held today at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Building rotunda. This event is part of Holy Cross Week which goes from January 20-26.

The Social Concerns Fair will take place today from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Rooms 4024 and 4036 in Geddes Hall. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the community, and find ways to get involved and make an impact.

**Offbeat**

Chicago salesman fired for wearing Packers tie

Oak Lawn, Ill. – A car salesman in suburban Chicago has been fired for refusing to remove a Green Bay Packers tie that he wore to work the day after the Packers beat the Chicago Bears to advance to the Super Bowl.

John Stone says he wore the Packers tie to work Monday at Webb Chevrolet in Oak Lawn to honor his late grandmother, who was a big Bears fan.

The sentimental gesture did not impress his boss, Jerry Roberts.

Roberts says the dealership has done promotions involving the Bears and he was afraid the tie could alienate the team’s fans and make it harder to sell cars.

Roberts adds that Stone was offered five chances to take off the tie but he refused.

Grand piano found on sandbar in Miami Bay

Miami – A grand piano recently showed up on a sandbar in Miami’s Biscayne Bay, about 200 yards from condominiums on the shore.

The piano, which weighs at least 650 pounds, was placed at the highest spot along the sandbar so it doesn’t get underwater during high tide.

While officials aren’t sure how it got there, they know it won’t be going anywhere unless it becomes a hazard to wildlife or boaters.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spokesman Jorge Pino says the agency is not responsible for moving such items. He adds, unless it becomes a navigational hazard, the U.S. Coast Guard won’t get involved.

For now, the piano has become a fancy roost for seagulls.

**OFFBEAT**

**Questions of the Day:** Who would you like to be a guest speaker at ND??

Jack Heinrich

Charley Berne

Melissa Coles

Michael Neuberger

Annie Cragg

Phil McAndrews

Junior Duncan

Freshman Fisher

Senior Lewis

Freshman Fisher

Sophomore Walsh

Lou Holtz.

“Warren Buffet... if Michael Neuberger is booked.”

“The Pope, because he’s an awesome dude we could learn a lot from.”

“President Obama.”

“Steve Martin, he has some of my favorite tweets.”

“Wiqur Burnz.”

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

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**Local Weather**

**Today**

High

Low

27

18

18

18

24

18

18

29

27

15

10

32

23

41

**Wednesday, January 26, 2011**

**Senior Annie Scully (left) and sophomore Margaret Kennedy encourage students in front of South Dining Hall to attend Eucharistic Adoration in the CoMo chapel, MWF, and in the Chapel of the Basilica on Fridays.**

**JAMES DONOHUE/ The Observer**

**Jorge Pino, spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, says the agency is not responsible for moving such items. He adds, unless it becomes a navigational hazard, the U.S. Coast Guard won’t get involved. For now, the piano has become a fancy roost for seagulls. Information compiled from the Associated Press.**

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**War and Women: In and Out of Uniform,** a panel discussion, will be held tomorrow from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Room of South Dining Hall. This event is being Co-sponsored by ROTC Women, the Gender Relations Center, Women in International Security, Feminist Voice and Women in Politics.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to observers.ud@gmail.com
COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Student government launches new website

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

At Tuesday’s meeting of the Council of Representatives (COR), student body president Catherine Soler walked members through an overview of the new student government website.

Assembled by newly-appointed student union webmaster Frank Soler, the revamped site is intended to offer students easier access to more information on the projects being undertaken by the different groups within student government.

“No one has more info about what they [the groups] are doing in student government instead of just contact info,” Soler said.

The new site more clearly outlined the dates and times of student government events and meetings.

“We have a news feed that connects to our calendar. I think it would be great if [the COR representatives] could get all of our events together here rather than the individual group sites,” she said. “We have our meeting schedule up, because all of our meetings are open to the public if people want to come.”

“We added different things like Transpo information and ‘365 Things to Do in South Bend,’ which is a blog.”

Catherine Soler
student body president

Outside of student government-related activities and information, the new site will contain links to information about the surrounding community.

“We added different things like Transpo information and ‘365 Things to Do in South Bend,’ which is a blog,” Soler said.

Soler said the site must undergo evaluation by the Student Activities Office before being launched.

Contact John Cameron at jcamero2@nd.edu

Aquinas lecture analyzes atheism

Aquinas brings faith and reason together (in his beliefs),” Incandela said. “When we do that, we’re participating in a theology that, in a sense, is being done through divine revelation.”

The College is a place to discuss theology openly, he said.

“We can do theology in public, and it can be fun,” Incandela said. “And I think that Saint Mary’s is a home for that theology.”

Barron’s renowned global media ministry ranges from YouTube to books to podcasts and DVDs, as well as the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). As an award-winning author, he has been invited to speak across America and abroad, including the Pontifical North American College at the Vatican and the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

As stated by his website, www.donbarron.com, he has a straightforward and revolutionary mission: to evangelize the culture.

A crowd of about 150 gathered in the student center to hear Barron. The lecture was sponsored by Joyce McMahon Hank, an alumnus, and member of the College’s Board of Trustees.

Contact Bridget Meade at bmeade01@saintmarys.edu

“Holy Cross will grow like a mighty tree and constantly shoot forth new limbs and new branches which will nourish by the same sap and endowed with the same life.”

Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.

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University of Notre Dame
UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Saint Mary’s students celebrate College history

By ALICIA SMITH
Saint Mary’s Associate Editor

As a continuation of the celebration of Heritage Week at Saint Mary’s College, students met for tea in Riedinger House, the residence for official friends of the College who visit campus.

Tea was offered at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Tuesday. The event was restricted to 25 students per session, said Kara O’Leary, director of Alumni Relations.

Students were provided with fresh fruit and cookies, as well as soft drinks, tea and water.

At the sessions, students had the opportunity to learn about Saint Mary’s College history, particularly about the Alumnae Association and Riedinger House.

The event was part of Saint Mary’s College Heritage Week, which celebrates the history and founding of the College.

O’Leary detailed the history of the Alumnae Association. “O’Leary said that the Alumnae Association was the oldest Catholic women’s alumnae group in the United States. The group is the seventh oldest alumnae association for women’s colleges in the United States.

The Alumnae Association began in June 1879 as a way for graduates of the College, then called Saint Mary’s Academy, to reunite.

“The stated purpose was, ’to preserve the bond of affection existing between our alma mater and her children,’ O’Leary said.

Since that time, the Alumnae Association has expanded and now includes more than 18,500 members with 60 different clubs.

O’Leary also said the Riedinger House played an interesting role in College history.

“The house was built in 1939, and it was the practice house for Home Economics majors,” she said.

Students lived in the house for a semester to learn how to manage a budget, plan meals, buy food, cook, keep house and entertain guests, O’Leary said.

O’Leary said the house was named after Adaline Crowley Riedinger, the first alumna to have her daughter graduate from Saint Mary’s College.

“The Riedinger family donated the major portion of the funds for the construction of the house,” she said.

According to O’Leary, the interior of the house was designed on 7/8th scale in order to save money during construction. The house cost around $21,000 to build, with $4,500 used for equipment such as the refrigerator, sewing machine and stove.

The house now houses official guests of the College when they visit campus.

Sophomore Meghan Feasey gave students a tour of the house.

Events continue throughout the week including the Heritage tour and tour of the convent at noon and 2 p.m. and Moreau Dinner held in the Nobel Family Dining Hall from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The Heritage Dinner will be held in Stapleton Lounge in Le Mans Hall from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, and s’mores and a meet-and-greet with the Sisters of the Holy Cross will take place at 2 p.m. in the Lillie O’Grady Room Friday. Heritage week will conclude with the All School Formal on Saturday.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@stmarys.edu
Snow

continued from page 1

in the midst of figuring out how to help students over breaks, Soler said.

“We want to make sure that students who are away over break aren’t penalized,” Soler said. “Hopefully we can work out a system and provide volunteers.”

Soler said the University hopes to create a volunteer system to help both off-campus students and those in the local community who are not able to shovel outside their homes. This project was still in planning stages, but Soler said Notre Dame and other local colleges want to set up a database of students willing to be contacted after snowfall in the area.

The various leasing companies around Notre Dame have different policies regarding shoveling. Mark Kramer, owner of Kramer Properties, said his policy is to shovel snow for students over breaks and after the heaviest snowfalls, but his tenants are responsible for clearing their sidewalks after light snowfall.

“If it’s just a light snow then it’s in their lease that students will take care of that part themselves,” Kramer said.

Senior Elise Gerspach leased her off-campus house through Kramer Properties. She said she agrees Kramer should be responsible for shoveling over breaks and the students should be accountable for their sidewalks while they are at school. However, some companies will shovel for their tenants after any amount of snowfall.

“It’s definitely an annoyance especially considering our next-door neighbor’s landlord did shovel for them last time it snowed,” Gerspach said. “Their sidewalk was literally shoveled right up to the borderline between our houses.”

One such landlord is Campus Housing, a leasing company managed by Campus Apartments. Property manager Sean Conley said his company shovels for its residents throughout the winter.

“We make sure everything’s cleaned for our students,” Conley said. “We’re constantly removing snow from sidewalks and if they have driveways then clearing the driveways.”

Conley said Campus Houses takes pride in the fact that their maintenance staff and landscapers keep their sidewalks clean.

“We don’t want to make it our students’ responsibilities,” Conley said. “We just want people to feel safe walking out their doors.”

Driving on snowy roads is also a concern for many students. Gerspach said she would like to see the city become more efficient in their own removal of snow on the streets.

“Maybe if my car didn’t slide out of control on my way to campus every time it snows I’d be more willing to shovel my sidewalk,” Gerspach said.

Contact Melissa Flanagan at mflanag@nd.edu

Pets

continued from page 1

Moss said, “She was my mother’s dog, and I probably won’t have another one in the future, but I don’t think she’s moving anywhere.”

Fisher Hall residents christened Ellie as the dorm’s unofficial mascot, and she often attracts crowds during dances and parties in the hall. Moss said.

“There’s one chair in the main lobby that I let her sit on, so it’s pretty much her throne,” Moss said. “She’s so friendly that she practically flirts with some students, and she puts up a little fuss if the assistant rectors don’t let her.”

Ryan Hall resident Breyan Tornilfo has enjoyed the companionship of Ella, a cocker spaniel-springer spaniel mix, since she arrived at Notre Dame five years ago.

“She is a great companion to have,” Tornilfo said. “The women like having her around, and it’s nice having her there when I get back from a meeting or while I’m in my room.”

Eberidge, Moss and Tornilfo all said their dogs comfort home-sick students and help them deal with difficult situations, such as the loss of a family member or a bad grade.

“Farley is very sensitive and will sit by a girl who is in trouble or in need of help,” Eberidge said. “She’s particularly good with girls who have broken up with their boyfriends, but she’s heard everything and she never breaks her heart.”

Similarly, Tornilfo said she encourages her residents to feel comforted by the dog and to confide in her because she is “the best secret keeper there is.”

Sr. Sue Dunn, who resides in Cavanaugh Hall, said her dog Lee is a substitute for Cavanaugh women who miss their own animals at home, she said.

“She came through when I had to break hard news to residents in the hall,” she said.

In addition to supporting students through trying experiences, residence hall dogs often receive a great deal of attention and special treatment, including walks and treats from students. This Christmas, Tornilfo said Ella even received a gift from one Ryan resident’s mother.

Moss also said one Fisher student carved a wooden picture frame for Ellie a few years ago, and Ella often rides the elevator and goes on rounds with security guards.

Eberidge said the women of Farley enjoy dressing their dog in costumes for every occasion, including dances and football weekends, and Farley knows which students keep dog treats in their rooms.

“We put her in a black taffeta dress for dances, and she wears either a football jersey or cheerleading costume to pep rallies, which people love to see,” Eberidge said. “Once, we had a luau, so some girls made her a grass skirt and used walnuts instead of coconuts for her top. We have a lot of fun with her.”

Although allergies to dogs present a point of concern, only Moss ran into issues with allergic students in the past, but this problem was resolved when the student moved from the first floor to an upper floor, and no problems have occurred since.

Despite the responsibilities of having a pet in a residence hall, the rectors unanimously agreed that pets make life in their halls more lively and interesting. Tornilfo said she “couldn’t imagine life at Hall H without a dog.”

Other dog owners living on campus include Fr. Austin Collins, resident of Dillon Hall and owner of an Irish setter named Big Red.

“It’s just fun having a dog,” Eberidge said.

Contact Kristen Durbin at kdurbin@nd.edu

Please recycle
The Observer.
The environmentally unconsolenced one; or, Why I love America

This past weekend I attended the Notre Dame Film Festival. It proceeded pretty much as you'd expect — couple great ones (big ups to the Westboro Baptist Church documentary), lotta decent ones, a clunker or two. There was one movie about garbage in America that followed a group called “Pick Up America,” a bunch of people whose idea of a good time is picking up trash by the side of the road and measuring it. They marshaled some impressively apocalyptic statistics about how there are a trillion kilobin pieces of plastic in the ocean that will be around for hundreds of thousands of years and 100 pounds of trash on the side of any ordinary road.

Personally, I didn’t much care for these eco-Nazi’s, nor their Goebbels-meets-Riefenstahl approach to youth indoctrination. The comparison to the Nazis works on more than one level; that documentary was an atrocity. A well-meaning, hectoring, sermonizing, passive-aggressive bomb (and not in the sense of explosive power, either), it proved what anyone who’s ever littered has long suspected: environmentalists are morons who hate fun.

But the documentary did have one stimulating effect: it reminded me why I love America so much. Where the documentary showed only the dark side of American power, I have a more positive outlook on the tens of trash that our industrial society is producing. Instead of taking litter as an index of everything that is wrong with society and humanity, I run the analysis backwards. A society is only as powerful, durable and long-lasting as the trash and toxic byproducts it creates.

Take that statistic about plastic I cited earlier. The environmentalists say “there is a 6:1 ratio of plastic to plankton in the ocean” and that most of that plastic will not biodegrade for hundreds of millennia. Is there nobody else who finds this totally badass? What other civilization in the history of the world has wielded so much power and influence over nature? What other civilization has fabricated objects, like these pieces of plastic, which will essentially last forever? This is a form of industrial immortality.

But we live in a society of intense political correctness. So instead of being proud that we’ve invented Coke can holders that can choke a fish or a duck, we’re ashamed of our “adverse environmental impact.” News flash, people; the only way to have zero impact on the environment is to cease to exist, one way or another. We have shaped this planet to reflect our glory and to suit our needs!

Take the greenhouse effect. What if someone told you, “Hey So-and-so, according to science, we’re producing so many heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere that soon the entire earth will be tropically warm, the beaches will move further inland so middle America isn’t so boring and basically it’s gonna be like the world is a Caribbean paradise.” This, as I understand it, is the scientific community’s predictions if “global warming” and “climate change” are left unchecked. I think the question most sane people would ask, faced with this eventuality, is “How can we build as many coal-fired factories with huge smokestacks as possible?” So be of good cheer, my friends.

Maybe the world is coming to an end if we don’t smart up and fix some piddling environmental issues. But, as one of my Facebook friends’ profiles says in their Favorite Quotes section, “If I got a party and parties weren’t meant to last.” In other words, eat, drink, be merry and let it. It’s all part of the one party I’m proud to belong to: the American Party, where the house is cheap, the girls are cute and actions don’t have consequences because you were too hammered to know what you were doing bro! I invite all of my readers to crack a bottle as they read this last paragraph and toast to America. And when they finish their bottle, I invite them to discard it wherever the mood strikes them.

Brooks Smith is a senior studying honors mathematics at the University of Notre Dame. He can be contacted at bsmit26@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
I’m assuming you must know this by now, but South Bend winters are harsh. The chilling winds can bite through any article of clothing, and the starkness of snowfall no matter where we are head- ed. Not only do these low temperatures pose a threat to our health, but if the ice hidden on any path poses a physical threat—a broken bone or a twisted ankle is on the horizon.

This is where you come in. As almost all of the campus knows, Notre Dame has an extensive underground tunnel system leading to and from nearly all the important buildings on campus. So here’s my simple proposition: Open the tunnels for students and faculty during these bone-chilling months of winter.

Now sure, you may be thinking that this could be dangerous, letting hundreds of peo- ple trek through these passages daily. However, with proper guidelines, disciplinary action and constant supervision, I do not think the concerns of the Notre Dame com- munity would be disrespectful regarding this. Instead, we all would be grateful. The num- ber of campus buses would decrease, the amount of snow-related injuries would decline and students would generally be hap- pier staying out of the harsh South Bend win- ter.

Just think about it. The opening of the underground tunnels would overall increase the effectiveness of the campus during the cold months. People wouldn’t be hesitant to head to the library or go visit their teacher during study hours and Notre Dame would be a more effective and healthy cam- pus.

Thanks for reading.

Elizabeth Linnenmasters
freshman
Lewi Hall
Jan. 25

The worst recession since 1929 shat- tered American confidence in our econ- omy and in our government. Global stock exchanges crashed, and the whole world looked a little like the wreckage. Wall Street and Detroit teetered on the edge of insolven- cy, and Washington, when it finally realized the scale of the damage, had been brewing for years, reacted in panic.

An attempt to reshape our politics and our badly sputtering economy, a good place to start looking for models would be a business most Americans—Tea Partiers and Marxists alike—consider a crucial part of our national identity: football. Despite the poor corporate climate, the National Football League continues to attract fans, rake in profits, and dominate the television market. Why? Because the NFL puts out a good product—entertaining games with well-matched teams—that people will pay to watch. Perhaps econo- mists and policy-makers should take notice. After all, if there’s anything more American than football, then by golly, it’s growth. The NFL is the one sport behind the success of the NFL might sur- prise many of its most loyal fans, given how loudly we proclaim our collective love of free markets and our corresponding dis- dain for their ever-encroaching enemy: European-style socialism.

By American standards, our football league is red to the core. The league office sets a limit on how much each team can spend on its players and fines them heavily in the case of non-compliance. It diverts the re- venue from its gigantic television contracts equally between every team. It allows the visiting team to collect forty percent of the ticket sales at away games. All these regu- lations are explicitly designed to help small teams to compete, not to favor the big markets, like the Green Bay Packers, win Super Bowls alongside big-city rivals like New York and Dallas. What on earth is going on? Doesn’t seem deeply un-American that the richest teams are forced to cap their spending? It’s their money; they earned it. Let them do what they want with it, not force them to give it away to less successful teams, the Budweiser and General Motors, companies whose marketing departments make explicit the connection between owning their products and being a patriot, use this marketing power to buy tickets at a discount. Why do we cheer wildly when our favorite team wins a league run like a European professional team, but boo our tem- pers about common-sense regulations on healthcare, politics, and economics, which makes it seems like a glaring contradiction in our national psyche: We love our football the same way we love the bread and butter that has made it so profitable.

Well, maybe that’s the NFL, isn’t it far to the left. I mean, imagine. If our favorite sport is run by little Lenins and imitative Trotskyists, what must European football be like? Most likely every player, regardless of talent, is paid exactly the same salary, one mandated by some centralized bureau in some office in Brussels or Geneva, and the teams line up in alphabetical order to take turns winning the league title.

The reality is far different. In Europe, teams are allowed to spend whatever they want. There are no salary caps and re- venues are not shared equally. And so, the clubs’ global brands most likely will allow them to stay afloat, their days of wild spending appear to be over. Michael F. Platini, the president of European soccer’s governing body, seems to have no power. He has threatened any team that does not meet a salary cap and strict accounting rules with expulsion from the failed European Champions League, an absolute cash cow for every club involved.

For the sake of soccer’s long-term health, let’s wish Mr. Platini luck as he attempts to turn his sport into Europe’s version of the NFL, in the process regulat- ing one of his continent’s last Wild West markets. Let’s also hope that our own politicians and business leaders here in America turn more to the National Football League for a model than to the Bundestag. Let’s hope Mr. Platini has a game plan. After all, it is not only a threat to our immune system, but the idea of more money. Then there would be the inevitable com- petition to hawk their beer and their products and being a patriot, use this marketing power to buy tickets at a discount. Why do we cheer wildly when our favorite team wins a league run like a European professional team, but boo our tem- pers about common-sense regulations on healthcare, politics, and economics, which makes it seems like a glaring contradiction in our national psyche: We love our football the same way we love the bread and butter that has made it so profitable.

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Education reform necessary to return U.S. students to the top

The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer. This column first appeared in the Jan. 25 edition of The Observer. The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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This statement shouldn’t come as a surprise to most. There’s no need to fix the system. Students in America go to school 180 days a year. Meanwhile, children in Japan have a 243-day school year. It’s no surprise, then, that so many successful young people come out of Japan. It doesn’t matter how rigorous our school systems are, we can’t keep pace with Japan if our students go to school some 60 days less per year. And Japan isn’t even a country with only 200 plus school days a year.

Unfortunately, the length of the school year is not the only problem with the U.S. education system. From kindergarten through high school at least, students aren’t challenged enough to maximize their potential. Courses move only as fast as the slowest student can learn. Therefore, almost every other learner is breezing through the system, and that may be why our national psyche: We love our football the same way we love the bread and butter that has made it so profitable.

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"No Strings Attached" is a romantic comedy for the new decade. Ashton Kutcher is surprisingly endearing in the role of Adam, son of a famous TV star trying to make a name for himself in the television industry. Adam finds himself putting up with his reckless father’s divorces and remarriages all his life as he struggles to maintain a romantic life of his own.

Natalie Portman, transitioning well from more dramatic roles, is cast as Emma, a cute and somewhat funny young doctor, who for years has convinced her mother and sister she is independent and can take care of herself.

Having been camp friends from elementary school days, Emma and Adam reunite at a college party, then again years later through Adam’s desperate, drunk-en texting. Here begins the ingenious plan to use each other for sex with no jealousy, cuddling or emotional strings attached.

The rest of the film is fairly predictable in the sense that, no, Emma and Adam do not stay emotionally uninvolved to the end (shocking, isn’t it?). However, “No Strings Attached” manages to separate itself slightly from the cookie-cutter romantic comedy. Defined by some critics as a “sex comedy,” it maintains a somewhat realistic look at the character’s lives as far as sex, friendship, family and careers.

Attached is a fun, funny date night flick or comedy to see with a group of friends, but also a refreshing break from the over-the-top, cheesy, painfully predictable romantic comedies most have grown up with. Though not the greatest cinematic work Portman has ever been in and not the funniest work for Kutcher, the two have good on-screen chemistry.

Not to be forgotten is the rest of the cast, including Emma’s friend Shira, played by Mindy Kaling from “The Office,” Kevin Kline as Adam’s ridiculous and carefree father and Adam’s bizarro ex-girlfriend Vanessa, played by Ophelia Lovibond. Significant supporting actors bring more true-to-life facets at the forefront of the film, like friendship and family, lacking from most romantic comedies.

Credit also should be given to screenwriter Elizabeth Meriwether’s use of clever, intelligent humor throughout — from the entire cast — to keep the movie light, fun and modern. Reitman’s change in focus keeps the fairly simple plot moving between characters and events without becoming unbearably predictable.

Another spin on the formulaic romantic comedy is the score’s contribution to the fun, modern-day tone of the movie. While occasionally using the score to set the emotion of a scene, songs like “Ms. Jackson,” “I Wanna Sex You Up,” “99 Problems” and other songs of the young demographic’s time to remind the audience this is not a bad, fluffy romantic comedy of the 90s.

“No Strings Attached” is proof that Natalie Portman can do comedy well, proof that Ashton Kutcher can be more charming than “Punk’d” and hope for romantic comedies of the future.

Contact Claire Stephens at cstephe4@nd.edu
Walden Media and Disney co-produced “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” and the second movie in the series, “Prince Caspian.” After poor reviews and financial difficulties for “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” released in 2005, some Narnia supporters initiated a boycott of Disney. The American Library Association declared the book series “morally offensive,” and parents groups and churches lobbiedDisney to adapt C.S. Lewis’s beloved children’s series for the big screen. After some Narnia supporters threatened to boycott Disney over its treatment of Narnia’s “Morally Offensive” messages, Disney released “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” in 2005. The movie was a financial success, but it was also criticized for its treatment of Narnia’s religious themes. In the end,Disney released “The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian,” the second movie in the series, in 2008. The movie was released to mixed reviews, and some fans were disappointed with the movie’s lack of faithfulness to the Narnia books. However, overall the movie was a financial success, and it helped Disney continue its Narnia franchise. The third movie in the series, “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,” was released in 2010, and it was also a financial success. The fourth and final movie in the series, “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,” was released in 2010, and it was also a financial success. The movie was released to mixed reviews, and some fans were disappointed with the movie’s lack of faithfulness to the Narnia books. However, overall the movie was a financial success, and it helped Disney continue its Narnia franchise. The third movie in the series, “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,” was released in 2010, and it was also a financial success. The movie was released to mixed reviews, and some fans were disappointed with the movie’s lack of faithfulness to the Narnia books. However, overall the movie was a financial success, and it helped Disney continue its Narnia franchise. The fourth and final movie in the series, “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader,” was released in 2010, and it was also a financial success. The movie was released to mixed reviews, and some fans were disappointed with the movie’s lack of faithfulness to the Narnia books. However, overall the movie was a financial success, and it helped Disney continue its Narnia franchise.
Federer advances to semifinals against Djokovic

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Two points into the final game of his Australian Open quarter-final against Roger Federer on Tuesday, Stanislas Wawrinka stared himself into try returning a forehand smash.

Wawrinka playfully waved his racket over his head in a mock attempt to return it. Forget it, the ball sailed past him and Federer won the point.

It was that kind of match for Wawrinka.

Federer faced just one break point, won all 11 of his service games, got 77 percent of his first serves in and polished off his Beijing Olympics doubles gold medalist teammate 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 in an hour, 47 minutes.

“When it’s clicking it’s really a good feeling, and I don’t ask too many questions,” Federer said of his outstanding serve.

All facets of Federer’s game were working Tuesday as he advanced to the semifinals, where he’ll meet 2008 champion Novak Djokovic.

No. 3-ranked Djokovic overpowered Tomas Berdych 6-1, 7-6 (5), 6-1 in a night match at Rod Laver Arena.

“I was trying to change the pace, put him out of the comfort zone,” Djokovic said. “When he is in his comfort zone, he is a very difficult player, hits very strong, he has powerful strokes, powerful serve. So I needed to put some variety in the game.”

“He’s liking his chances in the semifinals.

“If I continue playing like this, I think I have a good chance,” Djokovic said. “But in the next match I have Federer. We all know he is the best player ever, so we all know it is going to be tough.”

Still in the realm of probability for the defending champion is a final against Rafael Nadal and a chance to prevent the Spanish left-hander from winning his fourth consecutive Grand Slam.

No man has held all four major titles since Rod Laver in 1969.

Nadal plays Spanishland David Ferrer in one quarterfinal Wednesday, while Andy Murray takes on Alexandr Dolgopolov in the other.

Federer is not looking ahead to Nadal just yet.

“It’s normal to follow Rafa in a big way because he’s going something particularly very special,” Federer said. “My focus is not playing him in the finals quite yet. He still has to win a few matches against really tough players ahead of him. I got my hands full … I’m not quite there.”

Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki is nearly there, advancing to a semifinal against China’s Li Na. The 20-year-old Danish player was under intense pressure early against French Open champion Francesca Schiavone before beating the Italian veteran 6-3, 6-4.

Li advanced to the semifinals for the second year in a row at Melbourne Park after beating Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-2, 6-4.

The other women’s semifinalists will be decided Wednesday when second-seeded Vera Zvonareva plays Petra Kvitova and U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters faces Sam Stosur.

The last match of the opening set and a half down to beat Radwanska.

Clijsters takes on Agnieszka Radwanska in the other semifinal. The two have won three straight Grand Slam titles since Rod Laver in 1969.

Melbourne Park after beating Francesca Schiavone before beating the Italian veteran 6-3, 6-4.

Wozniacki described Schiavone as a “fighter.”

“So it was difficult for me in the beginning, but I fought back and I’m so happy that I’m standing here as the winner.”

The match point was controversial, first called out by a line judge. An overrule by chair umpire Asztalos Juraj for Wozniacki to ask for a video ruling, which confirmed the initial call and ended the match.

Schiavone knew the match was over even before the replay — “I saw the ball was out, no chance,” she said.

NCAA Men’s Basketball

Gators surge past Bulldogs 104-91 in double overtime

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Chandler Parsons took control in the second overtime after the teams traded tying last-second shots, leading No. 24 Florida to a 104-91 win over Georgia on Tuesday night.

Trey Thompkins put back a missed shot by Khem Birch to give Florida the lead with 1:40 remaining. It was the right timing,” Wozniacki said. “I got the best that I could do.”

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“Getting the opening set and a half before Nadal just yet.”

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NCAA MEN’S BASKETBALL

Pirates stun No. 9 Orange

Associated Press
SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Jeremy Hazell led a long-range Seton Hall barrage with 28 points and the suddenly hot-shooting Pirates stunned No. 9 Syracuse 90-68 on Tuesday night, the Orange’s third straight loss.

Syracuse (18-3, 5-3 Big East) had lost two straight to top 10 conference foes, on the road at Pittsburgh a week ago and on Saturday at home to Villanova before a crowd of 33,736. In both games the Orange fell behind early — Pittsburgh scored the first 19 points of the game and Villanova hit eight 3-pointers in the first half.

That trend continued against Seton Hall 09-12, 3-6, which had lost three straight. The Pirates torched Syracuse’s zone defense for seven 3s in the first half, four by Hazell, and built a 13-point halftime lead.

Seton Hall, the worst shooting team in the Big East, finished 10 of 17 from beyond the arc and shot 54.1 percent for the game while holding Syracuse to 5 of 21 from long range and a season-low 36.1 percent from the field.

Jordan Theodore had 19 points on 7-of-10 shooting for the Pirates while Fuquan Edwin had 13 points, Jeff Robinson 12 and Herb Pope 10.

Kris Joseph led Syracuse with 17 points, all but one coming long after the game was decided, and Rick Jackson had 12 points and 11 rebounds, his 14th double-double of the season, Scoop Jardine and Brandon Triche each had 11 points.

After their first meeting 17 days ago, a sloppy 61-56 Syracuse victory, Orange coach Jim Boeheim winced at the stat sheet. The Pirates missed all 17 3-point attempts in the first half.

It was a much different story on Tuesday, and Boeheim was wining again. Seton Hall hit its first three from beyond the arc, two by Hazell, and led 26-15 on Theodore’s 3 from the right wing with 12:07 left.

And they weren’t through. In the final 6 minutes of the half, Seton Hall slowed the pace to a crawl and the strategy paid big dividends. Hazell drained two 3s from the wing, the second at the shot clock buzzer, and Theodore followed with another — all three in a span of less than two minutes — to put the Pirates up 37-23 with 3:49 left.

The Orange missed their first six 3s, three by James Southerland, before Mookie Jones, playing for the first time since last month, hit from the wing with 2:02 left.

MLB

Rangers add catcher Napoli from Angels

Associated Press
The Texas Rangers traded former catcher Frank Francisco and cash to Toronto for catcher-first baseman Napoli on Tuesday, giving the AL champions a much-needed versatile bat off the bench and the Blue Jays more bullpen depth.

It was the second time in five days Napoli was traded, quickly returning to the AL West where he acquired Napoli and outfielder Juan Rivera from the Los Angeles Angels on Friday for outfielder Vernon Wells.

“It’s been a crazy couple of days,” Napoli said. “I know the division well and the lineup they have, the type of players they have.”

Napoli was on a cruise last week when he found out he had been traded the first time. He didn’t even talk to Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos until Tuesday, then found out he was going to Texas.

“It was kind of weird to me. Obviously there was something going on,” Napoli said. “It’s great. I’m excited. I can’t wait to get to spring training and try to win a job and help these guys win.”

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Napoli “brings a lot to the table” in his ability to catch, play first base or designated hitter.

Anthopoulos said he had inquired previously about Francisco, and a deal came together when Texas was among several teams who had already asked him about Napoli. The deal involves arbitration-eligible players that have not settled their 2011 contracts.

“Frank Francisco is a guy we’ve liked for quite some time,” Anthopoulos said. “He has closing experience and will compete for a chance to close. This is going to be an open competition.”

Kevin Gregg agreed to a two-year contract with Baltimore this winter after saving 37 games for the Boston Red Sox. Octavio Dotel saved 22 games while with Pittsburgh, the Dodgers and Colorado last year and Jen Rauch, who signed with Toronto last week, had 21 saves filling in for injured Joe Nathan in Minnesota.

Francisco accepted salary arbitration in December instead of becoming a free agent. He asked for $4,875,000 and Texas offered $3.5 million, only a slight hike from his $3.3 million salary for the 2011 season.

Napoli, who hit .238 with team-leading 24 home runs and 68 RBIs in 140 games last season, requested $6.1 million from the Angels for 2011 while they proposed $5.3 million.

After beginning last season as Texas’ starting catcher, Francisco blew two save chances the first week of the season. Hard- throwing reliever Felix Hernandez was given a chance in that role, and went on to set a major league rookie record with 40 saves and become the AL rook- ie of the year.

Francisco was 6-4 with a 3.76 ERA in 56 appearances before missing the final month of the season and the postsea- son with a muscle strain. He has a career mark of 17-15 with 32 saves and a 3.75 ERA in 277 appearances for Texas since 2004.

“He is only wish Frankie all the best in Toronto,” Daniels said. “He was a very good part of what we were doing for a number of years and I think the organization has done a good job of adding to our bullpen and our pitching depth over the last couple of years in which we felt we could make this type of move.”

The Rangers recently signed veteran left-hander Arthur Rhodes and agreed to terms on a $1.25 million contract with arbitration-eligible reliever Darren O’Day.

When free agent third base- man Adrian Beltre signed with the Rangers this month, said Michael Young would become their primary design- ated hitter and fill in at all the infield positions. That included moving veteran outfielders Josh Willingham and Brandon Mitchel- line rookie standout Mitch Moreland at first base, a posi- tion he’s never played before.

“(Napoli) adds a powerful dynamic to the lineup against anybody. He can catch. He’s caught some good pitching on winning clubs. He is a guy I thought we probably needed.”

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Tiger prepares for 2011 season opener

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods can’t start a new year without helping someone else shine.

And the last one wasn’t very good.

Some of his peers couldn’t help but chuckle when the pro-am tee times for the Farmers Insurance Open were posted in the locker room. For more than a couple of them, Woods had had the first available tee time, a perk for being the best player on the PGA Tour, and they’d been passed over.

Those pro-am times are determined by the previous year’s money list.

Woods was No. 68 on the money list.

He tees off at 11 a.m., which is about the time he used to finish.

“I can’t imagine he’ll be too thrilled with that,” Pat Perez said.

And there’s the world’s ranking.

Woods lost his No. 1 spot nearly three months ago to Lee Westwood. That was the first time Woods has been ranked behind someone younger than him. He turned 35 over the holidays.

Woods has known this day was coming, even when his game appeared untouchable.

In time, there would be a player or two who in this case, younger than him and not as intimidated.

Sure, there was a brief challenge from Sergio Garcia. And if you’re as high as No. 3, and Paul Casey did the same a year later.

Now, the youth brigade is coming in bunches.

Ahead of him in the ranking is Kaymer, the 29-year-old German who won the PGA Championship last year to become the youngest major champion since Woods. Kaymer also won the European Tour money title, and started the year with an eight-shot victory over what will be one of the strongest fields the European Tour will see all year. He’s probably the most formidable player in the world when he’s Judithing,” Padraig Harrington said.

That’s what they used to say about Woods. But in his most recent tournament, the Chevron World Challenge, Woods blew a four-shot lead in the final round to U.S. Open champion Rory McIlroy. The last time Woods had lost a lead that large?

“Hard to appear invincible,” McDowell said that day. “Of course, he’s made himself appear more human in the last 12 months. But there’s something about him, not about his golf game, and I fully expect that mystique to return.”

McDowell is 31 and right behind Woods in the world ranking at No. 4.

Woods also has to contend with younger players like Rory McIlroy, Paul Casey and perhaps even Kaymer. Woods won a World Golf Championship in Europe, not to mention Dustin Johnson is a young guy and Anthony Kim from the American side.

So many talented, young players will not make Woods task any easier. The bigger question is whether Woods is equipped for the fight.

Some of the answers might arrive this week at Torrey Pines, a public course along the Pacific bluffs that Woods has owned since 1999. And his U.S. Open title in 2008 was the seventh time he had won as a headliner at Torrey Pines. He has not lost on this golf course since 2004, although he missed the last two years. He has never finished out of the top 10.

But just like last year, no one is quite sure what to expect.

His new swing coach, Sean Foley, said he spent six hours a week with Woods on the practice range at his home the last few months, and he liked what he saw. He said Woods no longer has to think as much about what he’s doing. The swing repeats more easily.

What he can’t tell him is how the mechanics.

How will that translate with a scorecard in hand?

“If you want to anticipate what happens in the future, look to the past,” Foley suggested.

People lose touch of, because we’re such bandwagon society, is that for a decade there, it might have been one of the greatest 10-year runs in the history of athletics. Obviously, he struggled last year. But I look forward to watching him compete. When Kaymer won in Abu Dhabi, it was his ninth win in his 10th start on the European Tour. That still doesn’t compare with Woods, who won 28 times — including six majors — in his first 100 starts on the much stronger PGA Tour.

History is easily forgotten, although in this case, it’s understandable.

Woods has overcome swing changes in 1998 and 2004. He has overcome knee surgeries, one at the end of 2002, two during 2008. Even so, he has never been humbled like he was last year, when his private failures became public, and so embarrassing.

His performance was such that no one fears him.

Ian Poulter had some fun with Woods on Twitter early Tuesday, after seeing that Woods had offered to answer questions from his tweets before leaving Florida for San Diego.

Poulter kept egging on Woods to get involved with Twitter.

“Come on tiger when you are going to join the lads for some fun,” said one Poulter tweet. That was followed by Poulter’s message to Westwood that “im not sure if that sods writing his own tweets. He doesn’t want to play.”

Westwood submitted this question to Woods: “Is it true you’ve dyed your hair Ginger, signed a deal with LJP clothing and bought a White Ferrari cos you in awe of poulter?”

Woods didn’t take the bait. There were no replies.

WARNING!

Images available for viewing on the website of the associated press.

NFL

Welker apologizes for taunts

Associated Press

BOSTON — New England Patriots wide receiver Wes Welker says he regrets comments made referring to foot-fetish reports involving New York Jets coach Rex Ryan.

“Yeah, sure I do,” he told the Boston Herald, according to a report on the newspaper’s website Tuesday.

The Herald said Welker expressed his regret at an airport in San Francisco while awaiting his flight to Honolulu for the Pro Bowl on Sunday.

At a news conference on Jan. 13, three days before the Jets beat the Patriots 28-21 in a divisional playoff game, Welker made about a dozen references to toes and feet, a not-so-subtle dig at Ryan. Patriots coach Bill Belichick benched Welker for the first offensive series of that game.

In the week before the game, the Jets’ Antonio Cromartie used an explosive in referring to the Patriots’ Tom Brady.

Welker told the Herald that it’s sometimes tough to keep from responding to opponents’ remarks.

“It’s not always easy to keep a lid on it,” he said, “but, at the same time, there’s a greater goal, and that’s winning the game and playing good football. That’s what matters. All that other stuff doesn’t matter at the end of the day.”

Welker was on the field as a punt returner for the Jets’ first two games but sat out the Patriots first possession despite having led them with 86 catches this season. CBS said during the game broadcast that he was benched for his comments three days before the game.

Asked as his postgame news conference why Welker was on the bench, Belichick said, “I don’t have any comment on that.”

Welker told the Herald he didn’t want to go into details, but “I don’t think it’s worth putting coach in that situation,” he said. “So in a sense, I do regret it. ... As much as you might want to get enticed into that stuff, at the end of the day, it’s just not worth it.”

Among phrases Welker used during his pregame news conference were, “putting your best foot forward,” “sticking your toe in the water” and “being good little foot soldiers.”

He told the Herald “the best way to stick up for your teammate is on the field.”
seconds in a stunning finish that came down to the wire. "I knew I was in front of her on the homestretch but not by much," Tracy said. "But I remembered my friend telling me before the race of how great it would be if I beat [MacLeod]. So it just pushed me even more."

Not bad for an athlete who was too small to play soccer and didn't begin to run competitively until she was in fifth grade. Once she started running, Tracy steadily improved, winning state championships after state championships at Barrington High School in northern Illinois. She continues to build on her past success in the college ranks, shaving a whopping seven seconds off of her personal best from a year ago in her first mile time of the season.

"Last year, I was really intimidated by making the big jump to the NCAA," the miler said. "Seeing all the great runners at regionals was remarkable but now I am striving to be one of the great runners at regionals as well."

"Senior year seems rushed, even for my 5000," the sophomore said. "I didn't know what I was capable of doing."

"Sophomore miler" Rebecca [Tracy] is really finding her stride." Connelly said after Saturday's meet. "She is just starting to find the confidence that she needs to perform at such a high level that she is capable of doing."

But if there is a glowing confidence from Tracy, it is buried deep behind her modest grin and calm disposition.

"I was more than just a little bit nervous before [Saturday's] race," the sophomore said. "I didn't know how it would go being the first one of the year. Yet I knew this would be the one to set the tone for the rest of the season."

Almost everything from the 19-year old seems rushed, from her hectic pre-med schedule to the pace at which she spoke, which should be predicted by somewhere who runs a mile in under five minutes. When asked whether she had come to class, the sophomore answered in the broadest of terms.

"Not really, unless I am late or forget something," Tracy said. "I usually power-walk through."

"Her power-walk is basically equivalent to the standard sprint. So the next time you feel a gust of wind, don't worry, Rebecca might just be late for Organic Chemistry."

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DeSmet
continued from page 16
DeSmet has adjusted to college fencing quite successfully, as he has managed to keep his fencing at its highest level, a top division.

Unlike many collegiate sports, fencers continue to fence as individuals throughout their college years. "I try to treat them as equal as possible with them both equal weight," DeSmet said. "I haven't had any conflicts just yet but when I do I will evaluate and play it by ear."
Burn

continued from page 16

Prior to the road upset, every time Notre Dame scored less than 60 points in a game, it stumbled to that low total thanks to abysmal shooting.

The Irish shot a disappointing 18.8 percent from 3-point range in a 22-point trouncing to Marquette, 20 percent from deep in a loss to St. John’s, and a 7 percent performance from deep in the second half against Kentucky.

At Pittsburgh, the Irish shot 9-of-18 from behind the arc and took just 39 total shots. The vast majority of those shots came with only seconds left on the shot clock — neither team scored a single fast-break point.

“We knew going in that we wanted to work [the shot clock] down. We were just happy to be hitting those shots when we had those opportunities.”

Scott Martin
senior guard

Scott Martin started out in the zone last night,” Scott said. “Martin said. “We were just happy to be hitting those shots when we had those opportunities.”

Martin opened Notre Dame’s scoring with two 3-pointers in the opening minutes. In the second half, senior forward Carleton Scott hit multiple 3s, ending the night five-of-six from deep. Even when the Irish took their first lead since leading 8-5, it was on a 3-pointer courtesy of senior guard Ben Hansbrough, giving Notre Dame a 42-41 lead.

“I just felt like I was in the zone last night,” Scott said. “[Martin] started out in the zone, and I guess he passed it on, and I passed it on to Ben. That’s the great thing about our team, anybody can start feeling it at any moment.”

In the burn offense, Notre Dame works the shot clock down to 10 seconds before looking to attack the hoop, on every possession, to the extent that on some possessions Notre Dame endures a shot clock violation, and thus a turnover, rather than give the ball back to its opponent quickly.

“We are still just as aggressive as we normally are, it just takes us longer to get to it,” Martin said. “We don’t stop looking to score, we just wait for it, wait for it, let the clock burn down a little bit, then we have our aggressive mindset the rest of the shot clock.”

Thus, the Irish force their opponent to play defense for 30 seconds at a time, rather than the usual 15 to 20.

“I felt it was definitely frustrating [Pittsburgh] a little bit,” Martin said. “When you have to play defense for 30 seconds every time down the floor, it gets old. I could tell they were getting a little frustrated.”

As Pittsburgh’s frustration grew Monday night, its deep bench stewed, not having an opportunity to create a difference in the game. Notre Dame avoided foul trouble, and its starters controlled the pace throughout the slow-paced, close match. This storm resultant in a Notre Dame upset that Brey said may be the biggest of his career.

Now, the Irish head into a nine-day break before heading to DePaul on Feb. 3 for the second half of its Big East season. With the break, the NCAA tournament will be on Notre Dame’s mind, an invitation to which could come as a result of the burn, just as it did last season.

“If it wouldn’t b for [the burn], we wouldn’t have gotten a bid last year,” Brey said. “So you have a great selling point.”

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Belles

continued from page 16

weren’t falling.”

Henley said she feels confident in her squad entering tonight’s game.

“Last time we played Olivet, we did a good job forcing them into turnovers,” Henley said. “Unfortunately, we had turnovers as well, which kept it a close game. As we prepare to play them tomorrow, we need to cut down our turnovers. We need to do a better job of defending our drive against Olivet and limit the number of points they get in the paint.”

Junior forward Kelley Murphy led a balanced attack for the Belles, with 24 points the last time they faced Olivet. Three other players reached double-figures in scoring during the contest, and the four together combined for all but nine of Saint Mary’s points.

“We have a pretty balanced attack on offense, so I can’t really pick out one person in particular [to lead us offensively],” Henley said. “We as a team need to step up our defense if we want to be successful. Tomorrow is all about defense. It has really been a focus of ours all season long.”

Henley expects the game to be close, and knows what her team has to do in order to achieve the outcome they are looking for.

“Olivet always plays us tough,” she said. “They do a nice job of attacking the paint in their offense. We really need to focus on that and keep them off the foul line.”

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CROSSWORD

Acriss
1. Cry at the start of a vote
2. Calmness
3. Calmly
4. (New York City, pharmacy chain)
5. Land west of the Pacific
6. This is terrible
7. Grief
8. “Baby” singer, 1999
9. Liberal, with “the”
10. “Soon enough, my friend”
11. Big miss
12. Former “S.N.L.” comic, Gastesy
13. French theologian who wrote “Scot to the North”
14. Joan Stilwell, for one
15. Seat of Albany County, N.Y.

Biggie
1. Kicks off a “Bumper” crop

Bigly
1. Happier a la lorraine (L.G.)

Bennett
3. What’s My Line?

Bennet
4. “Am... nah!”

Beth
5. Women’s gym

Elizabeth
6. London

Elizabeth
7. BBC

Estonia
8. Sacred chasubles

Tenea
9. Poker phrase... or what’s needed?

Tenes
10. I like you, in a telethon

Jumbles
11. Down over the track

Tenes
12. Sacred chasubles

Tenea
13. Poker phrase... or what’s needed?

Tenes
14. I like you, in a telethon

SOLICIT
15. Move from site to site?

Licit
16. Hall of TV fame

Licit
17. Copa Accords party, for short

Licit
18. One way to use

Licit
19. Mary a Judith Beiber fan

Licit
20. Completely imagined

Licit
21. Noisy restaurant

Licit

SOLICIT
22. Classic candy with nougat

Licit
23. Now “kava”

Licit
24. The rated TV show

Licit
25. “S.O.P.”

Licit
26. “I’m a Charley”

Licit
27. Block of quad lapidary

Licit
28. Pass master

Licit
29. Where “Charley” premiered, with “L.”

Licit

ROMIN
1. Greenwood, MD?

ROMIN
2. Quaint (of a house)

ROMIN
3. Quaint (of a house)

ROMIN
4. Eulogy

ROMIN
5. Last clue

WILL SHORTZ

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

ROMIN
MOCTE
CROLIF
BROTED

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NOW arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Yesterday’s Answer:

PRIZE DROP
MEMBER

THIS SCRABBLE WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Burn, baby, burn**

Offense’s change of pace slows down Pittsburgh

By DOUGLAS FARMER

Nearly half of Notre Dame’s field goals came from behind the 3-point arc Monday night. Nonetheless, the No. 14 Irish topped second-ranked Pittsburgh 56-51. Why the low scores despite the hot shooting? One word: Burn.

Irish coach Mike Brey first instituted the burn offense late last season. Since then, whenever Notre Dame (17-4, 6-3 Big East) breaks out the burn, it tests the patience of the players, its opponent and its fans. “It is a drastic style of play,” Brey said Tuesday afternoon. “Everybody gets less shots, everybody touches the ball less. The mental concentration and sacrifice of reps on the offensive end I think is underrated and it tells you how this group really believes.”

**SMC BASKETBALL**

Belles look to rise in standings

By LAURA COLETTI

Saint Mary’s continues its second round of MIAA Conference play when it faces Olivet tonight at 7:30.

The Belles (12-6, 5-4) are looking to rebound from a 74-60 road loss to Calvin over the weekend. They defeated Olivet (6-11, 5-4) once already during the 2010-11 season, a 72-67 victory away from home. The winner of tonight’s game will move into sole possession of fourth place in conference standings, behind only Calvin (9-0), Hope (8-1), and Albion (6-2).

Freshman guard Jen Henley said she liked parts of what she saw in her team against Calvin, even if the result was a loss. “We got good looks in our offense against Calvin in the first half,” Henley said. “Our shots just..."