Seniors react to Commencement speaker choice
Opinions on Secretary of Defense Robert Gates vary; Gates previously told media he planned to step down in 2011

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

When senior Rochelle Rieger heard that U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates would speak at her Commencement, she felt a personal connection to Gates’ perspective. Rieger will graduate from Notre Dame’s Navy Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) in May and will begin serving as a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. “For what I’m doing after school, I think what he has to say will be very pertinent,” Rieger said. Gates will address the Class of 2011 and receive an honorary degree from the University at the May 22 Commencement ceremony. Gates has been secretary of defense since 2006, when he was nominated by President George W. Bush. Under President Barack Obama, he became the only defense secretary asked to remain in his role by a newly-elected president and the first secretary of defense to serve under both Democratic and Republican presidents.

He is also a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and former president of Texas A&M University. In a July 2010 interview with Foreign Policy Magazine, Gates said he planned to leave office in 2011. “It would be a mistake to wait until January 2012,” Gates said. “This is not the kind of job you want to fill in the spring of an election year.” In the interview, Gates said by January 2011 he would have been in his position longer than all but four of the country’s 21 previous secretaries of defense to serve under both Democratic and Republican presidents.

US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates arrives in Beijing earlier this month. Gates will deliver Notre Dame’s 2011 Commencement address.

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ACE teacher attends President’s address as honored guest

By LIZ O’DONNELL
News Writer

While most of the nation was watching President Barack Obama deliver his State of the Union address Tuesday night, Notre Dame political science professors said Obama now faces the challenge of working with both parties in Congress.

Professors say Obama must overcome divisions within government

By EMILY SCHRANK
News Writer

As honored guest

President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address Tuesday night. Notre Dame political science professors said Obama now faces the challenge of working with both parties in Congress.

ND community reflects on State of the Union address

Coalition discusses snow removal ordinance

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

“We understand that moving off campus, we have to be part of the community,” Soler said. But she suggested implementing a system where students could register their house to alert the city that it will be vacant over a break. “With the ordinance, when students are on break, is there a way their houses won’t be fined?” Soler asked. “What if they’re away for the weekend?” Coalition members were open to looking for ways to accommodate students on school breaks, and some suggested starting a volunteer program where willing city residents would shovel walks for those who can’t do it themselves in the 24 hours. This would benefit walks for vacant houses, and people that can’t physically shovel. “We can brainstorm. We know this is something that is a work in progress and we’re trying to come up with an answer,” Common Council Attorney Kathleen Gekandas-Farrand said. But South Bend Mayor Stephen Lukee said a volunteer program for shoveling walks could hold some liability...


**QUESTION OF THE DAY:**

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE IN 2010?**

**Inception.**

**Toy Story 3.**

**How to Train Your Dragon.**

**The Cracks.**

**Inception.**

**Inception.**

Paulina Rullan

freshman

Lyons

Tylers Kaplan

senior

off campus

James Liu

sophomore

Zahn

Ruqoing Huang

sophomore

Lewis

Tylers Sonsalla

freshman

Duncan

Kevin Park

junior

off campus


**OBBEAT**

Five-foot Monitor lizard wanders California neighborhood

RIVERSIDE — Animal services officers often call reports "huge," monstrous reptiles, only to arrive and find an itty-bitty garden snake.

The 5-foot Monitor lizard wandering around a condo complex in the city of Riverside was way bigger than animal control officer Jenny Seiler could have imagined.

"She said she saw it and almost jumped back in her truck," said John Welsh, spokesman for Riverside County Animal Services.

"The residents were freaked out because here’s the Godzilla-like creature walking down the sidewalk."

Black-throated Monitor lizards are carnivorous, legal to own in California and native to the African grasslands and parts of Asia.

Welsh thinks the scaly pet might have escaped its cage or gotten loose while its owner was away, and he hoped its owner comes to claim it soon.

"Crock circle" appears in Indonesian rice paddy

JAKARTA — Thousands of curious onlookers are flocking to central Indonesia to look at a "crop circle" in a rice field following rumors it was formed by a UFO.

Though clearly sculptured by humans — it looks like an intricately designed flower — the 70-yard-wide (70-meter-wide) circle has drawn so much attention that police have blocked off the area with yellow tape.

Villagers have started charging entrance fees.

The series introduces the subject of race as critical to the understanding of American life in America and, ultimately, at Notre Dame. The lecture will take place today in room 136 of DeBartoli Hall from 6 to 7 p.m.

The Department of Music is celebrating the birth of Mozart with continuous readings and musical performances of Mozart, free Viennese Coffee and cookies will be provided. The event will take place today from 12 to 4:30 p.m. in the Great Hall in O’Shaughnessy.

Lecture in the Martin Luther King Jr. series for the study of race given by Assistant Professor of American Studies, Jason Ruiz. The series introduces the subject of race as critical to the understanding and preservation of social life in America and, ultimately, at Notre Dame. The lecture will take place today in room 136 of DeBartoli Hall from 6 to 7 p.m.

Nanovic Institute will be showing the film Katyn tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in the DeBartoli Performing Arts Center Polish director Andrzej Wajda (Ashes and Diamonds, Man of Iron) recons the tragic story of the 1940 Katyn Massacre in which thousands of Polish citizens were executed by the Soviet secret police. The price range is $6, $5 for faculty/staff, $4 senior citizens, and $3 all students.

Tomorrow from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. Barbara J. Krummell will be giving a lecture entitled “The Evolution of Sustainable Investing: From Individual Conscience to Institutional Accountability.” The lecture will take place in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business. Krummell is Chair, CEO and President of Calvert Group, Ltd.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews.nd@gmail.com

**Corrections**

The Observer regrets an error in a professional publication and regrets 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 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

**Today’s Staff**

Laura McCrystal

Josefina Smith

Christian Myers

Sofia torbe

Photo

Tom La}

**OFFBEAT**

Five-foot Monitor lizard wanders California neighborhood

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Photo

Tom La
Undergraduate students can explore academic opportunities at Notre Dame at the sixth annual Majors Night on Thursday in the East Wing of South Dining Hall.

Majors Night is a joint initiative between student government and The First Year of Studies, said AJ McGauley, student government’s Academic Affairs Committee chair.

The event is open to all undergraduates and will take place between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

The purpose is to give the undergraduate students the opportunity to have all the departments and majors and minors present in the same room,” McGauley said. McGauley said although most students who attend are freshmen, the event is geared toward all undergraduate students who want to talk to a departmental program representative.

“I’m trying to make sure upperclassmen know that it’s worth their while to come,” he said.

Representatives from every major at Notre Dame should be present to speak to students, McGauley said.

“I meet in the fall with all five deans of the colleges and the School of Architecture and give them my current list of all the departments to make sure the list is exhaustive,” he said. “The idea is that it should be an exhaustive list of all the possible courses of study at Notre Dame.”

The Center for Social Concerns will distribute information about its seminars and the Catholic Social Teaching minor. The Office of International Study and the Career Center will also be present, McGauley said.

Several institutes that give grants and scholarships will be at Majors Night as well, McGauley said. These include the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Ford Program in Human Development and Solidarity, the Center for Undergraduate Scholarly Engagement and the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts.

When students enter the East Wing of South Dining Hall, they will receive a map of the booth locations, McGauley said.

There has been good attendance in past years, with 20 to 30 students walking around at any given point in time, McGauley said, but increasing attendance is one of student government’s goals for this year’s Majors Night.

“I’m trying to make sure upperclassmen know that it’s worth their while to come.”

AJ McGauley
Academic Affairs Committee Chair

“The most exciting thing about Majors Night is it gives freshmen opportunities to walk around and talk to professors.”

AJ McGauley
Academic Affairs Committee Chair

In honor of Heritage Week at Saint Mary’s College, students had the opportunity to tour Augusta Hall and the Heritage Room in Bertrand Hall, buildings owned by the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Sr. Miriam Conneen and Sr. M. Jeanne Finske gave tours to small groups of students at 12 and 2 p.m.

Wednesday Students met for the tour at Augusta Hall and were able to see the building’s chapel as well as a portion of the apartments set up for the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

In Bertrand Hall, the tour guides led students to the Heritage Room. “This has the history of the whole Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.” Finske said.

Finske talked about leaders who were instrumental in the history of the congregation. She said the Sisters of the Holy Cross originally split into three parts.

“The Congregation separated into three: the Maristines remaining in France, the Sisters of the Holy Cross who were in the United States ... and then eventually the sisters in Canada,” she said.

Students had an opportunity to see photographs of the early Sisters of the Holy Cross and pictures of the early days of the College, including a photo of Bertrand Hall. The hall was named in honor of the original location of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

They went to Bertrand (Mich.) first because the Bishop of Fort Wayne said, “We’ve already got an order of Sisters in Saint Mary’s of the Woods, so we don’t need another order of Sisters.” Finske said.

Finske said Fr. Edward Sorin asked if the Sisters could be located in Bertrand, 11 miles away from the location of the College today.

“In 1855, they moved to this campus, and that’s the beginning date of Saint Mary’s College,” she said.

Students were also able to look at different displays about the heritage of the Congregation, including the traditional habits worn by the Sisters and artwork and music the Sisters had created.

In addition to the tours, the Moreau Dinner was held in the Nobel Family Dining Hall Wednesday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Heritage Week continues through Saturday with the Heritage Dinner held in Stapleton Lounge in Le Mans Hall Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Heritage Week will conclude with the All School Formal on Saturday.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu
IEI partners for new writing program

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

The Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI) at Notre Dame partnered with the Notre Dame Writing Center and local schools to create the Power of Writing Project (PWP), a program aimed at improving the writing skills of students grades five through eight. Joyce Johnstone, director of program development at IEI, said below-average writing scores on state performance tests highlighted the need for intervention in local schools.

"Unfortunately a number of the South Bend schools haven’t made Annual Yearly Progress, AYP scores," Johnstone said. "A lot of schools just struggle with this. It isn’t that they’re bad, it’s just one of the things they’ve been working on, and sometimes they need external help."

To enable the POW Project to provide that help, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education awarded nearly $200,000 in funding.

"After hearing what was going on with the schools in the South Bend Community School Corporation, we had the opportunity to bring this Power of Writing idea to the South Bend schools, and we submitted it to the commission to be funded," she said.

Power of Writing will provide training for local teachers and send Writing Center tutors into the community. "We’re doing the training in two different time frames, the first of which we just had, training for professional development called the ‘Simple Six,’" she said. "The second will be the extended summer writing curriculum workshop."

While several local Catholic schools will have teachers undergoing the training, only public schools receive Writing Center tutors.

"The initial work was targeted with the public schools, but because we do have the space we wanted to make sure they [Catholic schools] could have the opportunity to participate," she said. "The Catholic schools PV did not have the tutoring, we couldn’t afford it.

Johnstone said each aspect of the program will require funding, and competing teachers for the summer will consume a majority of the award.

"The bulk of the funds are going with in the past," LeStrange said. "People we’ve worked well with before, she would like to enlist in the program.

"They [local schools] know they have a lot of work to do. They’ve been doing some activities at the school level, so this just pushes it forward in a more comprehensive way, so there’s more structure," she said. "With funding and expertise, we are expanding those opportunities.”

Contact John Cameron at jcameron2nd@nd.edu

Student Senate

Group discusses student discounts, new website

By MELISSA FLANAGAN
News Writer

In its first meeting of the semester, Student Senate discussed the Students for South Bend Discount Program and brainstormed ways to attract more students to the new student government website.

The discount program aims to motivate students to become more involved in the South Bend community by offering discounts for local businesses. It is available for use by all Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross College students.

"We’ve established a meeting with downtown South Bend so we can present the program and list the merchants we’ll work with," Chair of Off-Campus Concerns Committee Emily LeStrange said.

LeStrange, along with representatives from Saint Mary’s and Holy Cross, plans to visit additional businesses she would like to enlist in the program.

"We’ve gathered a list of people we’ve worked well with in the past," LeStrange said.

Student government also ordered decals to advertise the program, which will be given to those who participate.

Contact Melissa Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu

Snow

continued from page 1

for the city if, for example, a volunteer was injured on the job.

Tim Sexton, Notre Dame’s assistant vice president for Public Affairs, said the city should work with their landlords so the landlords are responsible for shoveling the walks during breaks.

"It’s important for that to be in the lease," he said.

Sexton also said students who leave for break, but leave a car parked on the street of an off-campus house, have faced problems with city snow laws because the street around the car cannot be plowed.

He suggested that students use the parking garage at Eddy Street Commons. For a fee, students can leave their car in the garage for the month of winter break. Sexton said about 100 students took advantage of that over break.

Sexton said landlords should be mindful of the ordinance, but she hopes to work with landlords and the city to find a solution to student fines incurred during breaks.

The Coalition also addressed security at student homes over the winter break. Uniform Division Chief Jeffrey Walters said the South Bend Police Department staffed extra patrols around student houses over winter break. He said the department didn’t note an increase in break-ins over break, although he said the Clover Village apartment complex, formerly Turtle Creek, saw several recent burglaries.

"We want to have a police presence out there while students are away," Walters said.

The Coalition will meet again in March.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Student Body Vice President Andrew Bell speaks at Wednesday’s meeting, Bell discussed the new website.

Contact Melissa Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu

CAMPUS NEWS

Thursday, January 27, 2011

SUZANNA PRATTINI/The Observer

By JOHN CAMERON
News Writer

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Contact Melissa Flanagan at mflanag3@nd.edu
**Student Government Association**

**Group reviews election policy**

Association upholds 3.0 GPA minimum to run for student office

By MEGAN LONEY

In preparation for upcoming elections, Saint Mary’s Student Government Association (SGA) reviewed election policies at Wednesday’s meeting.

“We [SGA] have to approve the election policies before we can publicize them to the student body,” student body president Rachael Chesley said.

All of the election policies and a list of violations will be available on the student government website. Women’s Health and Wellness Commissioner Brienne Sackow said the grade point average (GPA) policy states that students running for office must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher at the time of election as stated in the official election policies.

“I think it is important to demonstrate the importance of education, but some people during last year’s election mentioned how this made it difficult to find a running mate,” Sackow said. “I think it’s something to discuss.”

Student Diversity Board President Morgan Gay agreed, suggesting that the GPA minimum could have the potential to exclude candidates, who, aside from their academic history, may have great leadership skills.

“If I feel like there are a ton of great leaders out there, but this [GPA requirement] may be the only thing that is stopping them from running,” Gay said.

Other board members, including Technology Commissioner Laura Ruiz, said the 3.0 GPA stipulation was a standard to which those running for student government should adhere.

“Classes are hard. Saint Mary’s is demanding, but I think that as far as representing the best of the best, as student government should do, having a minimum 3.0 GPA is a good line to draw for a minimum,” Ruiz said. “We are supposed to represent the best.”

Chesley added statistics to the conversation regarding students at Saint Mary’s and GPAs that she had gathered from the registrar. The median GPA of Saint Mary’s students is 3.295, the mean or average GPA is 3.221, and the total number of students with a 3.0 or above GPA is over 1,000.

SGA passed a motion to maintain the 3.0 GPA requirement. The group changed election policies to clarify that a student is not eligible to run for office if she is planning on studying abroad for a semester or academic year during her tenure in office.

Voting will take place Feb. 24 for SGA, Residence Hall Association (RHA), and Student Diversity Board (SDB). Voting for class board will be March 3.

“One thing we were passionate about was making sure that the information for elections was open for all students, not just those who have had previous experience with student government,” Chesley said.

Contact Megan Loney at mlonely01@stmarys.edu

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**ACE**

continued from page 1

he said was an incredible opportunity.

“I studied Political Science and Theology at Marquette University, so I was the Speaker of the House and [Cardinal Donald Wuerl] at such a historic speech was a dream come true,” Kelly said. “It was a blessing to sit with one of my students in witness to the advantage of Catholic education.”

Boehner invited one student, one parent and one teacher from each of the four Consortium of Catholic Academies’ inner-city schools to attend President Obama’s speech.

Kelly, a middle school teacher at the St. Thomas More Catholic School in Washington, D.C., is earning his master’s degree from Notre Dame through the ACE program. He said he especially enjoyed Obama’s discussion of education.

“I was encouraged by President Obama’s attention to the American educational system, especially his conviction that education begins within the home,” Kelly said. “I appreciated his support of America’s teachers, how he was most impressed when he challenged children watching the address to serve their country by seeking an educational profession.”

While Obama’s remarks about the educational system were only general level, Kelly said he believes it is one’s duty as a Catholic to carry this message to the nation’s parochial schools.

“It is imperative that we address the crisis in Catholic education for the good of our Church and the success of our children,” he said. “Our Christian faith requires solidarity in this effort.”

Kelly said although the government can help finance a child’s education, it is up to the student’s educators and parents to ensure his or her success.

“Politicians can help us fill empty desks in Catholic schools, but well-crafted educational policies will not work without execution by talented, dedicated teachers and supportive, invested parents,” he said.

In addition to attending Obama’s speech, Kelly said sitting with Cardinal Wuerl was also an honor.

 “[Wuerl] is deeply committed to spreading the Gospel in our nation’s schools, he should be,” Kelly said. This week marked the National School Choice week, which is dedicated to advocating for educational options for every child. Several politicians in Washington, including Boehner are strong proponents of this week.

Kelly said Boehner has been a longtime supporter of the Washington Opportunity Scholarship program, which enables low-income families to send their children to private or parochial school.

ACE affiliated schools are some of the schools that benefit from school choice legislation.

“ACE affiliated schools are some of the schools that benefit from school choice legislation,” Kelly said.

Fr. Scully, director of Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives, has said that ACE schools, several of whom benefit from school-choice programs, are “sacred places serving civic purposes,” he said. “We owe it to the American people to provide their kids with an academically-fruitful and spiritually charismatic education as we shape strong and faithful citizens.”

Contact Liz O’Donnell at codonnell@nd.edu

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**Gates**

continued from page 1

ties of defense.

“I think the toughest thing in public life is knowing when to dance off the stage,” he said.

For seniors who do not share Rieger’s personal connection to Gates’ position, reactions to the University’s announcement varied.

Senior Colin Parker said while he does not know much about Gates, he is interested to hear a speech from a high-ranking government official.

“I’m not too familiar with his career, but I know he’s running two wars,” Parker said. “It could be really cool. He’s a really prominent guy with an interesting history.”

Senior Steven Ouyang said he was disappointed, but he heard Gates would speak at his graduation.

“He’s not a glamorous choice for a speaker,” Ouyang said. “And I don’t think he’s going to be a good choice to be a Commencement speaker. He’s been chosen and it is what it is.”

Senior Karl Kingery said he was a copy with the choice of Gates as Commencement speaker.

“I believe that he is a great man with great insights because he has served our country with pride the last few years,” Kingery said.

Rachel Roseberry, also a senior, said she looks forward to Gates’ visit to Notre Dame.

“I guess I hadn’t had a prior opinion on who was going to be speaking when I saw it thought that it was an appropriate choice,” she said.

Roseberry said she had not been impressed with Gates’ time as president at Texas A&M.

“I know a couple people from Texas A&M who really loved Robert Gates when he was president there, so I have high hopes for his Commencement speech here,” she said. “I like the fact that he has participated in a dialogue setting before so hopefully he’ll be able to go back to a less formal setting as they’re leaving a university.”

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrcrystal@nd.edu

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Coffee at the Como

For GLBT & Questioning Students at Notre Dame

The Core Council invites GLBT & Questioning Notre Dame students, their friends, and allies to an informal gathering at the CoMo.

Everyone is Welcome • Confidentiality is Assured

Coffee and Refreshments will be Served

Tuesday—February 1
316 Coleman Morse
7:00 p.m—9:00 p.m.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmcrcrystal@nd.edu

Write news. E-mail Laura at obsnewseditor.nd@gmail.com
Proposal estimated to cut jobs, slash production

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement director Joe T. Palermo said Tuesday that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement document says the agency’s preferred rules would impose standards for water quality and restrictions on mining methods that would affect the quality or quantity of streams near coal mines. The rules are supposed to replace Bush-era regulations that set up buffer zones around streams and were aimed chiefly at preventing plants from being built near streams.

The proposal, part of a draft environmental impact statement — would affect coal mines from Louisiana to Alaska.

The office, a branch of the Interior Department, estimated that the protections would trim coal production to the point that an estimated 7,000 of the nation’s 90,000 coal mining jobs would be lost. Production would decrease or stay flat in 22 states, but climb 15 percent in North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Peter Mail, a spokesman for the surface mining reclamation office, said the proposal’s aim is “to better strike the balance between protecting the environment and the environment while providing for viable coal mining.”

Mail said the document is the first working draft that was shared with state agencies, which are giving their comments on it. Comments also were expected from environmentalists, industry, labor and others at meetings held across the country.

“Input received from the pub- lic will help shape the final reg- ulations that will better protect streams and the public while helping meet America’s energy needs,” Mail said.
**Attorneys argue against reliability**

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — Defense attorneys for an elderly ex-CIA operative and anti-communist militant on trial for perjury argued Wednesday that a top prosecution witness’ history of schizophrenia episodes and hallucinations make him unreliable.

Government informant Gilberto Abascal is key to the federal charges against Cuban-born Luis Posada Carriles, a personal nemesis of Fidel Castro. Abascal claimed he was on a boat that helped Posada sneak into the U.S. through Miami in 2005, though Posada told immigration officials he came across the Texas border.

Posada, 82, also is accused of lying during federal immigration hearings in El Paso about his involvement in a series of 1997 bombings in Cuba. He is charged with 11 counts of perjury, obstruction and immigration fraud.

He told The New York Times in an interview that he was responsible for a series of 1997 hotel bombings in Havana that killed an Italian tourist.

In an effort to discredit Abascal, Posada’s attorney Arturo Hernandez introduced a medical evaluation from the Social Security Administration that indicated Abascal suffered from “severe schizophrenic symptoms” from 2002 until August 2004.

The symptoms stemmed from head injuries Abascal suffered after falling about 14 stories while working at a construction site in 2000, and he went to a Miami hospital emergency room in June 2004 with hallucinations.

**Snow storm shuts down East Coast**

Associated Press

A vehicle flips over on Kelley Drive in Philadelphia Wednesday after winter storms hit the East Coast. Philadelphia experienced snow and sleet and declared a snow emergency Wednesday.

**Witness attempts to cross border**

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The Los Angeles Times reports a Muslim cleric who was deported from Canada to Tunisia has been arrested near San Diego after allegedly sneaking across the border from Mexico and hiding in the trunk of a BMW.

Said Jaziri is a material witness in a case against two men charged with immigrant smuggling earlier this month.

The newspaper reported Wednesday that Jaziri is the 43-year-old former imam of a Montreal congregation who unsuccessfully fought his deportation three years ago, fearing he would be tortured in Tunisia.
INSIDE COLUMN

Scholar athletes

Just as Ben Hambrooke’s final layup in the waning seconds of the Notre Dame’s win over No. 2 Pittsburgh Monday dropped through the net, I felt something I haven’t felt in a while. Anybody who’s ever played a sport at a competitive level knows the feeling. There is no way to describe the relief coming directly after a big triumph, the feeling of kicking unbekel (as the Rocket might call it) out the door and not looking away the key.

Heck, it felt as though Wood had taken the shot myself — which is funny, since if I recall correctly I had accountability homework in front of me and a bag of chips in my lap. Not exactly Big East basketball material.

That small moment gave me cause to reflect on the personal definition of greatness. I, like almost all Domes, was a varsity athlete in high school. I dove in my sport, essentially dominated my life and my free time year-round. I used to spend countless hours training, fueled by the mere glimmer of hope that I might experience a moment like I experienced in Pittsburgh on Monday. But somewhere along the line, like many of us, I just came up a little short when it came to playing varsity athletics in college. I traded in my glove and bat for a pencil, calculator and a business textbook, and hung up my cleats in favor of an Observer press pass.

The reason why Hambrooke’s layup made me feel like I was back on the playing field is because I no longer feel like my exclusion from high-time athletics excuses me from knowing just how great at what I do now. I feel less like an observant fan and more like an active participant, if only in the unexplainable level of mojo that’s flowing through the campus.

Let’s face it: The 2009-10 season wasn’t one for the record books in Notre Dame athletic history. Whether it be the crippling football losses to Navy and Connecticut, the first-round exit in the NCAA tournament for the men’s basketball team, or the underwhelming hockey campaign, I think we all knew we could do better. This year has been more than evident of that. We even have a National Championship trophy to show for it — way to go, girls.

Just because most of us will never take the field/court/pitch in another truly meaningful athletic event again doesn’t mean we can’t help lead the charge back to greatness, to wake up the echoes. The arena has just changed. The same way that we counted on Byre’s boys to succeed in Pittsburgh on Monday, there are tons of people counting on us to succeed in our majors, internships, jobs, etc. When the stakes were highest, Ben made the layup. When the stakes are highest in my life, I intend to come through just the same. Whether I don’t really think I have a choice — I go to Notre Dame, and whether on the playing field or in the classroom, we’re driving toward greatness. Get on board.

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

Contact Chris Allen at callen10@nd.edu

Viewpoint

Rhetoric dangerous on abortion issue

Over the past several months, our country has seen a notable deterioration in the level of civility and rationality in public discourse. Reasonable voices advocating practical solutions to our nation’s problems have been silenced, drowned out by bitter partisans on both sides of the political spectrum who zealously cling to their own view of the world and reject all others without a second thought. These slaves to ideology would have Americans believe that every single issue is another front in a contentious, ongoing war between good and evil.

Nowhere is this divide more evident than in the controversy surrounding this past weekend’s 38th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade that established a woman’s constitutional right to have an abortion.

The rhetoric surrounding this divisive issue is filled with narratives on both sides. Social and religious conservatives would have you believe that every supporter of a woman’s right to choose is a heartless, baby-killing monster whose hands are stained with enough blood to doom them to an eternity in hell. These fervently dogmatic extremists have as their sole objective an absolute ban on the performing of abortions in the United States, without care or consideration for the human and societal consequences of such action. On the other side, the decision to have an abortion is one that no woman makes lightly. For many women, it is the most difficult choice they will ever have to make, affecting them for the rest of their lives, and it is a decision that can only be arrived at after weeks of anguish and contemplation. Demonstrating these women, as many on the right are wont to do, is both cruel and unjust.

These women do not choose to go through with an abortion because they feel that they have no other options, they choose it as a last resort because when all women feel confident and comfortable enough to give birth to their children, and until that day comes, we as a nation would be best served to follow the advice of former President Clinton, and ensure that abortion remains “safe, legal and rare.”

Ryan Williams is a sophomore. He can be reached at twill15@nd.edu.

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

Editorial Cartoon

LEAVE THE “INVESTING” TO THE EXPERT...

Observer Poll

Who do you want to win the Super Bowl?
- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?
- Green Bay Packers
- Pittsburgh Steelers

Quiz of the Day

"Fear not those who argue but those who dodge."

Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach
Austrian writer

www.ndsmcobserver.com

Submit a Letter to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at
Did you know that junk mail eats up 100 million trees a year? That the aver- age North American consumes 35,000 cookies in a lifetime? Some statistics impress us, others make us cringe. The ones we ought to think hardest about challenge us to acknowledge that each one of us makes choices that add up to become—quite significant. While what we use, or eat, or buy, or do with our free time may seem like a drop in the bucket—or even the tiniest fraction of a drop in the ocean—we matter. Especially if we join our little drops with others, we can and will have an impact. How about this: This year in Chicago, the local chapter of Catholic Charities will provide 2.2 million free meals to the hungry. That’s just over 6,000 meals every day.

Some high schools who are new undergrads in first grade were, we’ve seen major progress in our understand- ing of environmental issues such as energy use, recycling, and the true costs of our lifestyles. We’ve leapt into technology that keeps getting smaller, faster, more capable and more mobile. We’ve made slow but steady progress toward creating a more diverse society, welcoming of the talents and abilities of women and minorities. All of this momentum has happened because some mysterious theoretical floodgate opened and the waters of change poured through, but because individuals joined their little drops together until the bucket overflowed, and through the energies of so many tal- ented, committed people we learned to care for our natural resources and honor the diverse gifts of every member of our society.

Well, why don’t we gather up our energy, our considerable talents and our resources and the foundational truths of our Christian faith to make the same kind of difference in the Church and the world? Look back at that impressive sta- tistic about Catholic Charities in Chicago. Committed people in a city that knows much poverty decided that they couldn’t let their neighbors go hungry, and they did something about it. On our own cam- pus, look at the impact the Alliance for Catholic Education has made in the United States and beyond since the early 1990’s, when it grew with great bursts of energy out of a conversation among a few friends over dinner.

If nothing else, the 2011 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity took as its theme a verse from the Acts of the Apostles: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). That annual, world-wide week of prayer, planned jointly by Catholics and other Christian communities throughout the world, challenges all of us, from every Christian Church, to examine the truths we know from the earliest followers of Jesus Christ. We must devote ourselves in love to one another, and we must make a serious effort to live as disciples of Christ. Why can’t we join together the faith we share, each of our small drops of life—giving water, to create a new source of “alternative energy,” to bring hope to people who are thirsty for a fuller, deeper life, to bring community to people who need the help of others for their most basic needs?

Next week on our own campus we will celebrate Christian Unity Week. Here at Notre Dame and St. Mary’s our students are a tiny fraction of the 67 million faithful Catholics and many other millions of faithful Christians in the United States. Could we feel like merely a drop in the bucket? Sure. Or we could remember that a drop in a bucket can cause the bucket to overflow by adding a drop at a time. What if we started talking to each other over lunch? What if we all spent time praying about the gifts God has given us to use on behalf of each other? What if we gathered up a few other people and tried to do something, or a few somethings, that would lead us closer to God’s will for how we are to live in the world?

We ourselves cannot bring about the Kingdom of God — only God can do that. We can, however, join together with other believers in the kind of com- munion of life and faith into which the Church calls us. We can participate in the kinds of practices and habits God shows us through the example of Jesus; we can share in God’s saving work in the world, one drop at a time.

This week’s Faithpoint is written by Kate Barrett, director of the Emmaus Program. She can be reached at Katharine.S.Barrett.290@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
South Bend Roller Girls’ Roller Derby
USA Skating Center
3909 North Main Street, Mishawaka
7:30-10:30 p.m.
$10 tickets available at the door
Go with a group of friends and enjoy the South Bend Roller Girls’ first public exhibition! They’ve been practicing a lot for this event and are ready to show you their really cool skills. It is a great way to relax and have fun with friends while watching what promises to be a great battle between the “Smooth Criminals” and “The Pretty Young Things.” Don’t miss it!

Notre Dame Men’s Hockey vs. Miami Ohio
Joyce Center Ice Rink
7:35 p.m.
Single Tickets are on sale for $6-$14
Come support and cheer for the Fighting Irish hockey team as they take the ice against Redhawks of Miami Ohio on Friday Night. Join the white out in the student section and get there early for free t-shirts. After the game, come a celebrate in the Joyce Center’s Monogram Room with free Buffalo Wild Wings plus games and prizes. It will be a night of sport, food, and fun!

Reggeaton Night with DJ Casa at Legends
Legends Nightclub
12 a.m.
Student ID required or register for the guest list
Enjoy a night of Latin music and dancing in Legends’ Reggeaton Night with DJ Casa. You can laugh and have fun with the 3033 Improv Troupe, starring Bill Arnett, Alex Fendrich, Rush Howell, Danny Mora and Andy St. Clair who have performed at the Chicago Second City, at 10 p.m and then stay with your friends for a great Latino style party. Get ready to dance the night away!

“Lebanon” at Screenpeace Film Festival
Browning Cinema, DPAC
3 p.m.
Free entrance, pick up tickets at the door
If you are interested in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict the Middle East continues to face to this day, don’t miss this incredible movie. This film culminates the Kroc Institute’s ScreenPeace Film Festival. Afterwards, you will even be able to discuss the movie with several Kroc Institute professors and other students. It is a great way to end your weekend!

Contact Maria Fernandez at mfernan5@nd.edu

Scene Around the World

Social Media
Follow Scene on Facebook and Twitter to hear about our latest coverage of campus entertainment and pop culture at large.
Some Stuff Report

In 1987, ABC introduced America to the Tanner family. The story revolved around a recently widowed father trying to raise his three daughters with the help of his two best friends, all under one roof. As the family grew through the years, America did as well with the help of Danny’s patented father daughter speeches. Scene takes a look at whether the family has heeded its own advice in this “Where are they now?” special.

Danny Tanner (Bob Saget)

Everyone’s favorite TV father, the self-proclaimed “lean, mean, cleaning machine,” Danny Tanner tugged at viewers’ heartstrings with his quickness and devotion to his late wife. Saget hosted America’s Funniest Home Videos through 1997, and he continues his stand up comedy today.

Joe Gladstone (Dave Coulier)

We may love him as the goofy easygoing Uncle Jesse on “Full House,” but not everyone’s memories of Dave Coulier are so fond. A life of cartoons and bitter song lyrics graciously awaited him once he finished his turn as the Tanners’ loveable family friend. After the series wrapped in 1995, Coulier went on to show his voice with songs like “Bob & Doug” and “Farc of the Penguins” and starred on VH1’s reality show, The Surréal Life. Coulier even had a cameo in “The Event S t e v e n a Movie” but nether took the cake like the inspiration for the angry Alanis Morissette hit “You Oughta Know.” If there is one thing she can thank him for, it’s helping her rake in millions of dollars and bitter female fans. It’s OK Dave. You oughta know we still love you.

Jesse Katsopolis (John Stamos)

With his R&B Davidison beneath him, a leather jacket across his manly shoulders and a long flowing mullet any late 80s rock would envy, John Stamos roared into the lives of the Tanner family and onto our TV sets.

Uncle Jesse was the cool bad boy with a soft heart who was the cause of many woman’s mistaken theories that they can tame any rebel.

Since his “Full House” days, Stamos’ celebrity status has been solidified with a “Beach Boys” drummer gig, a lead role on “ER” and multiple appearances on “Glee.” None as impressive, though, as his “Step Brothers” claim to fame. Stamos was the glue that brought Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly together when they realized that the one male they would sleep with if they were girls was Uncle Jesse himself. Have mercy!

Thursday, January 27, 2011
TENNIS

Nadal loses bid for Australian Open and Grand Slam

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia—Rafael Nadal's bid to win four straight Grand Slam tournaments came to an end. The injured Nadal lost for the second straight year in the Australian Open quarterfinals, going down 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 Wednesday to fellow Spaniard David Ferrer.

Nadal, who appeared to have three good shots to changeover while trailing 3-0 in the third set, took a medical timeout for an apparent leg injury after three games. He was clearly out of sorts, failing to change his strokes and failing to return easily.

"This is a difficult day for me," Nadal said. "Today I can't do more than what I did, he played at his best level."

Nadal, who didn't bother chasing the winner on match point, won last year's French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open. He was trying to tie the Australian title and hold all four major trophies, which hasn't been achieved since Rod Laver won four in a row in 1969.

When pressed about the injury, Nadal said: "I don't have to tell you what I felt on the court, but it is obvious I did not feel at my best. I had a problem with the match at the very beginning, and after that, the match was almost over."

Last year, he retired against Andy Murray because of a right knee ailment that kept him off the tour for two months, again during the Australia Day national holiday.

Nadal picked up a virus two weeks ago in Doha at the start of the year. He sweated profusely in several of his matches. Nadal didn't want to elaborate on his injury, saying he didn't want to use injuries as an excuse.

"In general, I had a virus. When you have a virus, your body goes down and you have more risk of everything," he said. "That's probably what happened. That's the simple thing."

The fireworks that would have lit up the Australian night had Nadal won his fourth in a row came Wednesday night during the match — Australia Day celebrations forced a 10-minute interrup- tion for a pyrotechnics show in the sky outside Red Raver Arena. As the fireworks exploded, Nadal changed his shirt and left the stadium. He came back a couple of minutes later and took off his right shoe and rubbed his toes and sock.

After losing the second set, the usually digiety Nadal slumped in his chair at the changeover, com- menting on his streak.

The crowd cheered almost exclusively for him — "Come on, Rafa" — while often applaud- ing Ferrer's errors.

"It was the one big victory for me, but it's not like a victory really," seventh-seeded Ferrer said on court after the match. "He was playing with injury ... and I had him. But I played my game."

Nadal appeared to be over his problems, saying after his fourth-round win over Martin Cilic that he was "perfect physi- cally."

Murray won't have to get past Nadal this year, but he will have to beat Ferrer and either defending champion Roger Federer or 2008 champion Novak Djokovic to claim his first major title.

He advanced Wednesday with 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 win over unseeded Alexander Dolgopolov, after Kimilert Cilic and Farmers advanced to the women's semifinals.

Nadal advanced to a semifinal against No. 2 Zvonareva, whom he beat in the final at the U.S. Open. He'll face the fourth-place qualifier at the top tournament for the pair, with Cilic's holding a 6-3 advantage.

Nadal has some nervous moments in her 6-7, 7-6 (4) win over No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska. Cannons went off earlier when Zvonareva started the Australia Day proceedings by winning a 6-2, 6-4 win over Petra Kvitova.

Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki plays Li Na of China in another semifinal Thursday, before Federer and third-seeded Djokovic meet in a final semif- nal.

Dolgopolov has already beaten Murray and proceeded to finally win the 12th game.

PGA TOUR

Tiger set to begin 2011 season at Torreys Pines

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO—Tiger Woods at Torrey Pines felt like the start of any other season on the PGA Tour, except when he awoke at 3:30 a.m. Wednesday and realized he had plenty of time on his hands.

That was the crack-of-dawn tee time in the pro-am that had him longing to for so many years, a product of being the No. 1 player. He was 68th on the money list, and the next season doesn't start until next week, so he has plenty of time to rest a little longer, get his body in the right place.

"I get to sleep in a little bit," Woods said. "Got up at 3:30 this morning not knowing what to do."

He isn't the defending champi- on, even though Woods hasn't lost at Torrey Pines since 2004. That memory and all the success that followed since 2004 because of knee sur- gery, followed by an imploding personal life last year.

Woods said he is looking for- ward to the Farmers Insurance Open, which can be interpreted in so many ways.

It's a new year, and he would just as soon forget about the last one. Woods failed to win anywhere in the world for the first time in his pro career while going through a divorce brought on by his extramarital affairs.

He also expects a different look for the top attractions, as always, for the Farmers Insurance Open, which can be interpreted in so many ways.

"I think in order to play this game at a high level, it helps to have a clear mind," Woods said before going out for his 11 a.m. pro-am time on the South Course. "I've played at the high levels before in the past without a clear mind, but it helps to be consist- ent. It helps having your life in balance. Certainly, my life is much more balanced than it was in the past. That's exciting for me. I think it's exciting for my kids, and we're really looking for- ward to it."

Woods and Phil Mickelson are the top attractions, as always, even though it's odd to promote them as No. 3 and No. 5 in the world. Mickelson's distractions in the past included a 20-stroke victory last year at the end of the season for the WGC-Match Play.

"I've been antsy to get back and play," Mickelson said. "I didn't finish the off-season feeling ahead of- ed, and I wanted to try to make 2011 the year that I thought 2010 was going to be."

He also expects a different look for the Farmers Insurance Open, which can be interpreted in so many ways.

"I expect that he'll be the Tiger that we've known for over a decade, unfortunately," Mickelson said with a grin.

Woods said he's fresh going into a new season for the first time in about six years, although his two-month break was not pain-free. He had a cortisone shot in his right ankle two days ago after the Abu Dhabi World Challenge, which he said kept him out for a week.

"I didn't have much else on his mind besides golf," Woods said. "I've had so many darn sur- geries and everything. Granted, I had a cortisone shot, but I was line in a week. I haven't had an off-season like this. It's always been trying to somehow, Can I get myself to start up again? This was nice to actually practice and build."

Now it's time to evaluate his game. And there's no better to measure the progress than Torrey Pines.

His seventh win as a pro on this public course along the Pacific Bluffs was perhaps the most famous, the 2008 U.S. Open. He made a 12-foot birdie on the 72nd hole to force a playoff with Rocco Mediate, and beat him in a playoff decided by a one-stroke swing.

Not by coincidence, Woods will be playing with Mediate (along with Anthony Kim) the first two rounds of the PGA Tour this year moving around some of the pair- ings to create story lines.

Mediate expects to see the Woods he saw in his best form.

"My opinion, if he gets it and starts driving his ball where he's looking, the game is over," Mediate said. "It doesn't matter who's there. It's all about you. It's all about you. I've seen it. I've seen him around it. I've studied it. If you put him in the fairway, as good as he puts it as, as good as his short game is, he can get the ball back on the fairway. Tiger will become Tiger again."
NCAA BASKETBALL

Friers make No. 8 Villanova latest upset victim

Texas shuts down Cowboy offense; Minnesota beats Northwestern; Cincinnati rides late run past Rutgers

Associated Press

Thursday, January 27, 2011  

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Marshall Brooks scored 20 points and Providence upset a ranked team for the second time in five days with an 83-68 win over No. 8 Villanova on Wednesday night.

The Friars had gone 51 weeks and 17 games without a Big East victory before beating No. 19 Louisville 72-67 on Saturday but now have won two straight conference games. On Wednesday, they never trailed as the Wildcats couldn’t mount a serious comeback.

Providence (13-6, 2-5 Big East) led 34-25 at halftime and stretched the margin to as much as 18 points on a 3-pointer by Bryce Cotton that made the score 74-56 with 2:50 left.

Villanova (17-9, 8-1) was led by Maalik Wayns with 18 points and Antonio Pena with 17.

The Wildcats were coming off an 83-72 upset at No. 3 Syracuse on Saturday night and had beaten the Friars in their last eight meetings since a loss on Feb. 11, 2004. But Villanova’s top two scorers, Corey Fisher and Corey Stokes, only had seven points each and made just one 3-pointer from a low 32.5 percent from the field. Its three losses have come in its worst shooting games.

The Friars weren’t much better, hitting only 37 percent of their shots. But they made 8 of 26 shots from 3-point range, while the Wildcats missed their first seven and finished at 4 of 22.

Against Syracuse on Saturday, Villanova had hit 50 percent of its shots while Wayns and Fisher made 6 of 7 shots from behind the arc in the first half. On Wednesday, Wayns was 2 for 4 on 3-pointers, but Fisher missed all four of his attempts and Stokes went 1 for 9.

Providence charged into a 6-0 lead on 3-pointers by Gerard Coleman and Vincent Council, who each scored 16 points. It was 8-4 before Villanova tied it 8-all when Pena converted offensive rebounds.

But when Duke Mondon sank a 3-pointer just 5:52 into the game, Providence had the lead for good, 11-8. An eight-point run capped by a Brooks basket made it 24-14 with 6:16 left in the half.

Providence opened the second half with five straight points for a 39-25 lead. Villanova cut that to seven on Pena’s jumper with 10:07 to play that made it 50-43. But two free throws by Cotton and a layup by Kadeem Batts built the lead up to 54-43. Stokes, who had missed his first 11, finally connected when he made a 3-pointer with 8:54 remaining that made it 54-46. But that was much too little, much too late as the Wildcats continued to miss shots and failed to make key stops.

Until Saturday, the Friars had not won a Big East game since beating then-No. 19 Connecticut on Jan. 27 last year, also their last victory over a team ranked in The Associated Press Top 25.

Texas 61, Oklahoma State 46

Travis Thompson scored all 14 of his points in the second half, Jordan Hamilton added 12 points and 11 rebounds and No. 7 Texas beat Oklahoma State 61-46 Wednesday night as the Cowboys marked the 10-year anniversary of a plane crash that killed 10 people with ties to the basketball program.

The Longhorns (17-3, 5-0 Big 12) wore the same orange “Remember the 10” T-shirts as Oklahoma State during warmups, then deployed the same stiff defense that has provided them a perfect start to conference play.

The Cowboys (14-6, 2-1) shot just 32 percent while being held to their lowest shooting output of the season and having a 13-game home winning streak snapped.

Marshall Moses had 14 points and 11 rebounds to lead Oklahoma State, which held a reunion for families of the men killed in the crash and retired the No. 10 jersey during a halftime ceremony. The 10th anniversary of the crash of one of the team planes on the way back from a road game at Colorado is Thursday.

Families of eight of the 10 killed returned to Stillwater for the reunion, and former coach Eddie Sutton and three former players addressed the crowd at halftime.

But that remembrance ceremony fell right in the middle of the big run that gave Texas control of the game.

Hamilton hit a 3-pointer with 2 seconds left in the first half and another in the opening seconds after halftime as the Longhorns broke open a close game with 14 points in a row. Thompson’s layup after Dogus Balbay saved the ball under the basket put Texas up 41-27.

Moses had a left-handed dunk and Oklahoma State immediately cut its deficit in half with a 7-0 response, but Thompson helped the Longhorns restore their lead with five straight points during a 7-minute stretch when he scored all 11 of Texas’ points.

Minnesota 81, Northwestern 70

Blake Hoffarber scored 20 points while playing point guard in place of Al Nolen. Trevor Mbakwe rammed his way to 18 points and 14 rebounds, and 16th-ranked Minnesota beat Northwestern 81-70 on Wednesday night.

Mbakwe got his 12th double-double of the season while matching his career high in points and moving back in the starting lineup for the first time in four games, helping the Gophers (16-4, 5-3 Big Ten) win their fourth straight despite the loss of their senior leader Nolen, who broke his right foot last weekend.

Colton Iverson added 15 points, Ralph Sampson III had 14 points and the Gophers started a free throw line for a season-high 46 attempts. They drew 32 fouls on the Wildcats (11-3, 3-6) and wound them with hard, muscle and decent passing despite a struggle to shoot from outside the lane and only eight healthy players in the rotation.

John Shurna played 16 minutes for Northwestern, his chipped after a bad cut forced him out early in the first half. Morris Thompson led the way with 18 points and Drew Crawford had 15, all on 3-pointers, before fouling out.

The Wildcats had been just as competitive as the Gophers, losing just one non-conference game and only to opponents in the top half of the Big Ten, until they wilted in a 32-point loss at home to Wisconsin last weekend.

Crawford went scoreless in that game, and coach Bill Carmody was critical of his team’s overall ability to carry out the scouting report against the disciplined Gophers.

They were on their way to being buried again, falling behind 29-16 near the 3:53 minute mark of the first half as freshman Austin Hollings grabbed a rebound under the basket and flicked it as he fell out of bounds to Sampson for an easy layup. Mbakwe was too strong for the Wildcats’ weak underneath, throwing down three rim-rattling dunks.

Cincinnati 72, Rutgers 56

Rashad Bishop dribbled his career high with 20 points and led a late run that swept Cincinnati to a 72-56 victory over Rutgers on Wednesday night.

Bishop made a 3-pointer and a fast-break dunk that completed an eight-point run and put the Bearcats (18-3, 5-3 Big East) in control with 3:23 to go. Yance Gates added 11 points and 12 rebounds for Cincinnati, which has won its last 13 home games — its best streak in six seasons.

Jonathan Mitchell scored 20 points for the Scarlet Knights, who failed in their attempt to win back-to-back Big East road games for the first time in 11 years.

Rutgers (12-8, 3-5) scored only 26 points in the second half against the Big East’s toughest defense.

The Bearcats had won its last two games, including a 66-60 victory at Seton Hall that put the Scarlet Knights in position to make a couple of breakthroughs in Cincinnati. They had won three straight Big East games since the 2003-04 season, and hadn’t won back-to-back road games in conference play since 1999-00.

But they had no success lately against the Bearcats, who have used a suffocating defense to pull off victories.

Cincinnati pulled out to an early five-point lead, but couldn’t get any traction on a Big East press.

The Bearcats have a deep bench — they substituted four players on seven occasions at one point and are at their best when forcing turnovers. Rutgers was ready for it.

The Scarlet Knights had only four turnovers in the first half and shot 50 percent from the field against one of the nation’s stingiest defenses. Cincinnati leads the Big East and is fourth nationally allowing only 56.5 point per game.

Mitchell’s 3-pointer and three- point play put Rutgers ahead 18-15. Dane Miller made a 15-foot fadeaway and a tip-in that gave Rutgers its biggest lead, 26-20. Dion Dixon’s two free throws and 3-pointer highlighted a closing run that put the Bearcats up 31-30 at halftime.

Cincinnati’s pressure started paying off in the second half.

The Bearcats didn’t score for the first 4 minutes, 33 seconds, missing five field goals and a pair of 3-pointers. Sean Kilpatrick’s 3-pointer broke the slump and started a seven-point run that included a technical foul on Rutgers coach Mike Rice for a technical foul on Rutgers coach Mike Rice for a technical foul on

The Scarlet Knights turned it over seven times in the first 10 minutes, helping Cincinnati ahead 45-36 on Larry Davis’ put-in during a fast break.

The Observer ◆ SPORTS page 13
White returns to slopestyle as rare underdog

Associated Press
ASPIN, Colo. — Ever the innovator of tricks, Shaun White has fallen behind the times.

His routines are a little rusty, his maneuvers in need of a little polishing.

That’s what a year off from snowboard slopestyle competition will do.

For once, the two-time Olympic halfpipe gold medalist won’t be favored when he takes part in the slopestyle event at the Winter X Games this week. For once, he has to learn new tricks to catch up with the rest of the field.

This was going to be fun. He’s always game for a good challenge.

A pioneer in the halfpipe, White took a hiatus from slopestyle competitions in the wake of the 2010 Vancouver Games, where he easily captured gold.

Now, he’s returning to slopestyle, an event that tests riders’ ability to handle a variety of terrain as they go over rails, jumps and other obstacles.

White won that competition in 2009 and plans to be in the thick of things again this time, possibly even in years to come.

That’s because there’s a strong possibility the International Olympic Committee will add the snowboarding slopestyle event — along with skiing slopestyle and skiing halfpipe — to the program for the 2014 Sochi Winter Games.

If the committee does, count White in.

“I would really shine some cool light on the sport,” the 24-year-old White said Wednesday, surrounded by a panel of Winter X athletes. “It has many aspects to it.”

Lately, he’s been brushing up on his slopestyle skills, even landing a double cork 1080 off a jump in practice Wednesday. He was almost as proud of pulling that off as he was when he first nailed the Double McTwist 1260, the most unpredictable and dangerous trick in his arsenal, a trick that heavily accelerated the progression in the halfpipe.

He’s become the undisputed king of the pipe and will go for a fourth straight Winter X title this week.

Yet he’s still trying to get back up to speed in slopestyle and close the gap on riders such as Norway’s Torstein Horgmo, a spin machine while in the air.

“I’m really excited to get geared up,” said White, who’s won 15 medals at Winter X, including 10 gold. “I’m pretty confident.”

By competing in two events this weekend — both finals are Sunday — White is receiving a glimpse of what it could be like down the road, should slopestyle be added to the Olympic mix.

Only a few snowboarders are competing in both events at Winter X, including Olympic bronze medalist Scotty Lago who’s still planning on participating even though he broke his jaw earlier this month while filming in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

In order to make it work, White has had to squeeze in halfpipe training at night with the women.

It’s led to some good-natured razzing, especially with his long, flowing red hair.

The running joke is, “Who is that chick? Who’s the red head?” White said with a smile.

Snowboarder Gretchen Bleiler, the defending superpipe champ at Winter X, couldn’t resist chiming in.

“Her hair is so flowing,” Bleiler playfully teased. “Her pants are so tight.”


White, of Carlsbad, Calif., has cut back on contests this season, but hardly on training. He’s still coming up with outlandish maneuvers.

But nothing quite as adventurous as last winter when he worked on the McTwist, a move in which he hurtles himself 15- to 20-feet above the halfpipe, then does two head-over-heels flips and 3 1/2 rotations.

A risky trick that nearly ended his season — and his Olympic aspirations — at Winter X last January.

Working on the jump during a practice run, White misjudged his position above the pipe and came down hard, slamming his face against the pipe and falling flat on the ice.

About an hour later, the world’s best halfpipe rider won the event, demonstrating his toughness.

“I try to pride myself on not falling too often,” said White, who announced another partnership Wednesday, this one with BF Goodrich Tires. “When you crash in a certain fashion as I did, where my helmet was literally torn off my head and flew away, it was a pretty heavy crash.

“But I was proud of taking a hit like that and bouncing back.”

Snowboarder Shaun White attempts a trick at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. White will compete in slopestyle competition in the upcoming Winter X Games.

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Freshmen
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Bayliss, returning all starters from last year and adding a tal- ened group of freshmen.
“The thing that stands out for us this fall has been our depth,” Bayliss said. “We have 10 to 12 players who have demonstrated with quality wins that each is capable of playing and winning at a No. 5 or No. 6 level on a top-25 team. It is difficult to project now what our lineup could be, but at least two of our freshmen have shown that they can win at an elite level.”
The Irish got big matches from Hayes this weekend at No. 1 singles, who came up with a big win over William & Mary in a dominating fashion.
“Stephen stood out in a great team effort,” Bayliss said. “He played up in the court and dictated play, only allowing Anderson to hold serve once.”
In addition, for the Irish to con- tinue to play well the rest of the season it will be crucial for them to win the doubles points on a consistent basis.
When they played William & Mary over the weekend the Irish were able to earn the doubles point with sweeping all three doubles matches.
The Irish will also need leader- ship from the top of their lineup.
“As the season develops it will be important for our top guys to continue to hold their current lev- els or improve them,” Bayliss said.
“It can get pretty lonely at the top when you look at the schedule our guys are going to face. Each has moved to an elite level and I want to see them hold it at least where they are. If we can continue to improve our dou- bles it can become a strength for us, something that has not hap- pened since 2007. Our guys have made a pretty big commitment and I am happy with what I have seen so far.”
The Irish will travel to the National Indoor Qualifier this weekend where they will face Oklahoma on Friday.
Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabarek@stmarys.edu

Schneider
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dedication creates a unique bond.
“A huge part of training has been being part of a team,” Schneider said. “It’s very difficult to balance athletics with academ- ics and a social life, but it’s nice to know you’re not alone. Track may seem like an individual sport, but we’re committed to this team and each other.”
Both Schneider and the team have started off the season strong, and both look poised to repeat as indoor Big East champions in a few weeks. In addition to team and individual league titles, Schneider hopes to finish the sea- son by breaking more records and earning All-American honors in both the indoor and outdoor sea- sons.
As for his plans after graduation this May, the only thing more ver- satile than Schneider’s athleticism might be his future.
“My mom was born in Seoul, so I have an opportunity to compete for Korea at the 2012 Olympics in London,” he said. “If that doesn’t work out, I have a job offer at New Balance to design performance shoes. I’m just going to keep my options open, and see what oppor- tunities come up.
Contact Jack Hefferon at whifeede@nd.edu

NFL
Louisiana Superdome undergoes renovations

Associated Press
NEW ORLEANS — The 36- year-old Louisiana Superdome is getting its biggest overhaul since Hurricane Katrina tore away a lot of the roof and flooded the arena with millions of gallons of water.
And it comes at just the right time, as America’s oldest domed stadium still called home by an NFL team gets ready to host the college football’s BCS Championship in 2012, the men’s college basket- ball NCAA Final Four that year and the Super Bowl in 2013.
Come will be the groundlevel oval familiar to Super Bowl viewers. In comes a jazzier, new rectangular configuration.
Workers are also adding thou- sands of larger leather seats with cupholders, new conces- sion stands and other upgrades as part of an $85 million makeover.
Doug Thornton, the vice president of the Dome manage- ment company SMG, said fans can expect a very through upgrade.
“There is definitely going to be a wow factor,” Thornton said. “When you come in the door you are going to see a completely different Dome. The entire configuration on the lower bowl will be changed from an oval to a rectangle.”
The first phase of the upgrade has already added 16 new private box suites and a new press box.
On Wednesday, a giant exca- vator demolished metal risers that had long supported the second-tier seating inside the vast stadium, which opened in 1975 and later required major repair work after Katrina flooded much of New Orleans through burst levees in 2005.
That year the dome was best known for hosting some 30,000 hurricane refugees clamoring for rescue. In the aftermath of the 2005 storm, 9.7 acres of Dome rooftop had to be replaced, $5.0 million in concrete, some 10,000 additional seats replaced and 3.8 million gal- lons of water extracted from the Dome and its garages.
On Wednesday, workers with huge saws and crowbars bud- ged the risers into piles of debris to be hauled away.
The current work will com- plete a renovation project that came as part of the 15-year lease extension between New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson and the state of Louisiana that was reached in 2009.
The new configuration will allow the addition of 3.540 new seats on the ground level and construction of a new “club area,” with 4,500 large leather seats with cup-holders — including a private club for the use of those ticketholders.
All told, the plan also calls for the remodeling of 137 suites and four club lounges, widening the plaza concourse from 18 feet to 60 feet and adding concession stands.
The upgrades are expected to boost the revenue that Benson is able to generate in Super Bowls and reduce the state’s obligations to the club.
Officials say renovation work is scheduled to be completed by June 20 just before a major event, the Essence Musical Festival, is scheduled to be held at the venue starting July 1.
“We’ll have it done,” Thornton said. “We unfortunately picked up a couple of weeks we didn’t think we’d have.”
The bonus time came when the last Super Bowl champion Saints were knocked out of the playoffs. Work was not sched- uled to begin until Jan. 24.
Including the $225 million spent to restore the Superdome after Katrina, offi- cial say Louisiana has spent $305 million on the building since 2005.
The latest move is expected to tip the Superdome for com- petitive for future sporting events and comes as other domed arenas have either or are undertaking improvements.
Among them is the venerable Rose Bowl stadium. Last year the Pasadena City Council approved a $125 million renovation plan for that 88-year-old stadium to boost luxury seat- ing, add more concession stands, a new scoreboard and other improvements for the site of the annual Rose Bowl game.

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Cole
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half, the Comet lead balloononed to a game-high eight points. Over the next 11:10, it was all Saint Mary’s, ripping off a 26-6 run to turn an eight-point deficit into a 12-point lead. During that stretch, Ronan chipped in 10 of her 31 points and fresh- man forward Domini Paradiso scored seven of her 13 points.
“We took advantage of our strength and drove the ball to the basket,” Henley said. “We did a good job of holding them in spurs with no points and forcing the bad shot.”
In the second half, the Belles shot 17-for-24 from the free- throw line, compared to Olivet’s 3-for-17. We tell our kids to attack the basket, to get to the foul line, to try and get that three- point play,” Henley said. “From a conference standpoint, we have made more free throws than most teams have attempted.”
Down the stretch, it was Ronan and junior guard Patsy Mahoney, who finished the game with 15 points, icing the game with clutch free throws.
The Belles return to action Saturday in a road tilt with Alma (1-17, 0-9). Tip-off is set for 3 p.m.
Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefranks@nd.edu

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Vick enjoying return to Hawaii’s Pro Bowl

AP

Eagles quarterback Michael Vick throws a football during practice for the 2011 Pro Bowl at Kapolei High School in Honolulu.

KAPOLEI, Hawaii — While every Pro Bowl player endured a long trip to get to Hawaii, the journey for Michael Vick in many ways was the longest.

Less than two years after being released from federal prison, the Philadelphia Eagles’ quarterback is making his fourth Pro Bowl appearance — and first since serving 18 months for his role in a dogfighting operation.

“This one feels great due to the fact that I’ve been through so much and trained to getting back to this position,” he said after the NFC opened practice Wednesday. “It’s paramount for me and my family and I’m just thankful.”

After starting the year as a backup to Kevin Kolb, the 30-year-old Vick is coming off the best season of his career, leading the Eagles to an NFC East title.

“I’m enjoying the guys and I’m enjoying being out here playing football,” he said. “This is what you work for. You work hard to get in this position. I’m ecstatic to be here.”

Vick was selected to start Sunday after leading the NFC with more than 1.5 million votes, far ahead of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, the NFC’s second-leading vote-getter at 948,410.

“I’m going to try to put on a great show for the fans,” Vick said.

In the past, Vick’s running is largely what got him into the Pro Bowl. He takes satisfaction that his passing was better than it has ever been this season.

“I feel like this one, I had to work hard to get it,” he said. “It came in a different fashion. Everything just came together and it worked out for me.”

Vick set career highs in yards passing (3,018), touchdown passes (21), touchdowns rushing (nine), completion percentage (62.6) and passer rating (100.2). The Eagles (10-6) and eliminated in the first round of the playoffs by Green Bay. Philadelphia was 8-3 in games he started and finished.

His last throw, however, still stings. He threw an interception in the end zone with 33 seconds left to seal Philadelphia’s 21-16 loss to the Packers.

While Hawaii is nice, Vick’s goal is to get to the Super Bowl. The question is, whether he’ll be with the Eagles or another team.

Vick doesn’t have a contract for next season, and he could become a free agent if the NFL labor situation allows. The Eagles want him back and Vick wants to stay in Philadelphia, which gave him a shot when it seemed no one else would.

“Hopefully, I’ll be with the Eagles next year. We’ll see what happens,” said Vick, who added that he expects “everything to go according to plan.”

“We’ll see what happens over the next couple months. I just got to be patient and take it day by day,” he said.

Vick, who made his three previous Pro Bowls in six years with the Atlanta Falcons. He is being coached this week by the Falcons’ staff, though none of those coaches were in Atlanta when Vick was.

At practice Wednesday, Vick loosened up throwing passes to Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, who is making his first Pro Bowl appearance in his third season and succeeded Vick in Atlanta.

“Matt is great. The coaching staff is great. We’re just having a good time,” he said. “I like what they’re doing in the offense and it’s been easy. We’re going to go out and try to have fun and everybody enjoy each other.”

Vick looked sharp and fluid as he completed a 20-yard out to Arizona Cardinals receiver Larry Fitzgerald. On the next play, Vick faked a handoff to Peterson and then hit Falcons tight end Tony Gonzalez going across the middle.

The Pro Bowl is the last stop in a remarkable comeback season for Vick.

After his 2007 arrest and later conviction, he went from living in a 20,000-square-foot mansion near Atlanta to broke and bankrupt. His reputation paid a bigger price as he went from hero to hated.

Vick served 18 months at Leavenworth, Kan.
Filppula’s goal powers Wings to 3-1 victory

Associated Press

DETROIT — Valterri Filppula scored 5:32 into the third period, putting the Detroit Red Wings ahead to stay in a 3-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Wednesday night.

Jimmy Howard made 23 saves, and Darren Helm and Johan Franzen added goals for Detroit. The Red Wings snapped New Jersey’s four-game winning streak and dealt the Devils their first loss in regulation in eight games.

Brian Rolston scored for New Jersey and Martin Brodeur made 26 saves.

Filppula’s goal snapped a 1-1 tie. New Jersey had a goal disallowed with 2:28 remaining when officials ruled Howard was pushed into the net by an attacking player.

Franzen scored with 43.6 seconds to play after the Devils were unable to pull Brodeur for an extra skater.

With the game tied after two periods, Detroit began putting more pressure on and eventually broke through. The puck came to Ruslan Salei at the point. He sent it to Jiri Hudler on the right side, who sent it to Franzen for a wide-angle pass. Filppula beat Brodeur with a wrist shot for his 12th goal of the season.

MLB

Cuetto re-signs with Cincinnati

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Johnny Cuetto plans to bring a lot more of his large, extended family to spring training in Arizona next month.

Cuetto flew into town, took a physical and finalized a $27 million, four-year contract on Wednesday that allows the Cincinnati Reds to avoid arbitration with the right-handed starter, who has outpitched another young player. It gives the 24-year-old pitcher a chance to provide more money for his family in the Dominican Republic.

"He’s the only one right now that takes care of his entire family," he said. "It’s tough. They’re happy and he’s happy to be able to provide for them," agent Bryce Dixon said after Cuetto signed his deal. "The first thing he’ll do is take more of them to America with him, to Cincinnati and see the city." Cuetto signed on Saturday.

Cuetto gets $3.4 million this year, $5.4 million in 2012, $7.4 million in 2013 and $10 million in 2014. Cincinnati has a $10 million option for 2015 with a $500,000 buyout.

Right-handed starter Edinson Volquez is the only Reds player still in arbitration. Volquez asked for $2 million and the Reds offered $1.5 million.

General manager Walt Jocketty said the club had offered Volquez both a one-year deal and a multiyear contract.

Cuetto’s deal is the latest in an offseason spending spree by the defending NL Central champions. They’ve committed more than $150 million to four players: Cuetto, right-hander Bronson Arroyo, outfielder Jay Bruce and first baseman Joey Votto, the NL’s Most Valuable Player.

“This is a big day for us, and we’ve had a number of big days this offseason,” Jocketty said.

“We felt it was important to continue our efforts to try to sign the young nucleus of our club to long-term deals for number of reasons.

“For the ballclub, it gives us some financial flexibility for our payroll going forward. It’s important we have some of these key guys around for a few position players. This is the first of our young pitchers we’ve signed to a long-term deal.”

Cuetto went 12-7 last season, establishing career highs in wins and innings. He led the staff with 138 strikeouts and made 18 quality starts. The bullpen blew six save chances around him, the second-highest total for any pitcher in the majors. Cincinnati was shut out in three of his seven losses.

Cuetto was especially good late in the season, when the Reds were closing in on their first playoff appearance in 15 years. He posted his best ERA in any of his last seven appearances. He started the third and final game of the Reds’ playoff series.

NBA

Bosh unable to travel with team

Associated Press

MIAMI — Chris Bosh plans to get dressed up in a suit, make some moves and have some fun — probably not a video game — as he visits New York on Thursday night.

He’ll be watching from afar, and there’s still no target for his return to the Heat lineup.

Bosh remained home when the Heat flew to New York on Wednesday, still unable to play because of a sprained left ankle. There’s no timetable for his return, either, and it seems highly likely that his absence will stretch into next week after the Heat begin a round of four games in five days starting with the matchup in New York.

“I think it’s better,” Bosh said. “Every day it’s getting better. Getting frustrated during that period of time is not a good thing.”

Bosh hasn’t played this season as he recovers from blood clots in his lung and right calf. He’s expected to return in February.

He’s not a fan of the idea of playing with the Heat as they try to get by his injury problems.

“I’m just thankful it wasn’t anything worse,” Spoelstra said.

Without Bosh, the Heat plan to go with a smaller lineup against the Knicks, meaning LeBron James will log plenty of minutes at power forward.

The NBA’s collective bargaining agreement time reining MVP is fine with that plan.

“We want guys to play with confidence,” James said. “We don’t want anyone to play out of what they can do, but we want them to play at a high level and play with confidence. It’s a great opportunity. We want CB back as quick as possible, but it’s given us an opportunity to play with confidence.”

Miami returns home Friday to face Detroit. Saturday’s sched-
Body believed to be Reed’s brother

Associated Press

LULING, La. — A body pulled from the Mississippi River has been tentatively identified as the brother of Baltimore Ravens safety Ed Reed, authorities said Wednesday at a news conference attended by the NFL star.

St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne said tattoos on the body recovered late Tuesday appear to match those belonging to 28-year-old Brian Reed, who jumped into the river after an encounter with a sheriff’s deputy. An autopsy was planned for Thursday.

Ed Reed said his brother was driving another brother’s car on Jan. 7 and was suffering “mental issues” that day. The family reported the car as being driven without authorization to “basically slow my brother down and just bring him in, bring him home,” Reed added.

“We’re just hopeful the Reed family can have some peace now,” Greg Champagne, St. Charles Parish Sheriff

“We’re just hopeful the Reed family can have some peace now.”

“The family has said investigators found Brian Reed’s shoes and jacket, but there was no sign of him until earlier this week. The body was first spotted Sunday, but search teams were impeded by river conditions. The current is swift as it winds toward the Gulf of Mexico, lodging debris against the levee and then pushing it back toward the channel. Boats searched the river, and sonar and divers were called in.

Champagne said the body was mired in a “jungle of debris” and for a time he was uncertain it could be recovered.

“We’re just hopeful the Reed family can have some peace now,” he said.

Brian Reed is survived by a 2-year-old son.

“We were Reed’s brother

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THE OBSERVER

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HOCKEY COMMENTARY

The hunt for consistency

Heading into final stretch, ninth-ranked Notre Dame looks to build a winning streak

By JACK HEFFERON
Sports Writer

Five weeks from now, the No. 9 Irish will be playing in their first CCHA playoff game. If they don’t fix a problem that has been plaguing them all season, however, it could very well be their only postseason game.

The Irish (16-9-3, 13-6-1-1 CCHA) have struggled with consistency all year long. The season began in St. Louis, where Notre Dame dominated Holy Cross before falling 5-4 to No. 16 Boston University. The Irish then reeled off four consecutive wins and a tie before dropping a winnable game at Bowling Green on a weekend that came to be the first of many up-and-down series.

Jeff Jackson’s squad rebounded the next night to take the win and carried that momentum into a 3-1 victory in a tough environment at Michigan. Of course, the Irish dropped the second game in the series.

After those weekends, the young Notre Dame squad has had issues finding its stride for consecutive games. The Irish split series at North Dakota, Miami and Ohio State, as well as at home against Northern Michigan and Alaska. Notre Dame also struggled in the Shillelagh Tournament against an inferior Minnesota State team but tied No. 2 Boston University the next night that began with the home opener, the Irish have managed only one three-game win streak.

Tough road series have opened with ugly losses (6-3 at North Dakota and 6-1 at Ohio State), only to see the Irish bounce back in the second games. Just as often, the squad has taken the first game with ease and then allowed the second game of the series to slip away.

“I felt like we played very well from the start and was never in doubt,” senior multi-event athlete Allan Joseph said.

Don’t think the Irish aren’t aware of the issue.

“We obviously haven’t been that consistent this year,” senior forward Calle Ridderwall said.

The key for Notre Dame will be finding a way to balance their emotions over two games, especially for the young players. The first game of a road series can be intimidating, especially in an arena such as North Dakota’s that seats nearly 13,000 fans. On the flip side, winning the first game at home leads to a sense of complacency that can come back on Saturday night. In the... see BALANCE/page 18