Notre Dame plugs into new technologies

By NICOLE TOCZAUER
News Writer

Learning Spaces looks to expand classroom beyond physical space to virtual environment

From lab and classroom equipment to hallway computers and residence hall printers, Technology Enhanced Learning Spaces is responsible for devices used every day by students and faculty.

Learning Spaces Manager Brian Burchett said the group’s goal is to make technology at Notre Dame accessible and easy to use.

“The name Learning Space is intended to convey the idea that teaching and learning can take place anywhere. It could take place in a lounge or out in the hallway,” he said. “But it doesn’t have to be physical space. It can be a virtual space, too.”

With a focus on registrar-see TECH/page 5

IPAD UPDATE:

50 University-owned iPads were distributed among undergraduate classes last semester.

The iPads are currently being used in Advanced Topics in Corporate Law.

University continues to integrate iPads into instruction in campus classrooms

By TORI ROECK
News Writer

While iPads may be considered a trendy device outside of a university environment, this semester, two new pilot classes are exploring the benefits of using these University-provided devices in the classroom.

Professors also are making adjustments based on last fall’s experiences.

Last semester 50 iPads were dispersed among different undergraduate classes, including assistant professor of management Corey Angst’s Project Management course.

The class used iPads mainly as e-readers, in addition to electronic pop quizzes and sharing documents and videos.

see IPADS/page 4

Rent-A-Text arrives at Saint Mary’s bookstore

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary’s Editor

Saint Mary’s students took advantage of the new textbook rental program at Shaheen Bookstore, which was acquired by Follett Higher Education Group on Oct. 20.

Thirty-six percent of students rented textbooks through the Rent-A-Text program, which accounted for 18 percent of the Bookstore’s total sales for the semester, Jim O’Connor, a regional manager at Follett, said.

Notre Dame, which started the same program last semester, had a similar success rate, with 25 percent of students renting their texts.

O’Connor said renting textbooks allows students to spend less for a semesters worth of books.

“The Rent-A-Text program offers another cost savings alternative to the students,” O’Connor said. “The greatest advantage is the lowering of the upfront expenditure by students for the purchase of their course required materials. Renting a textbook will result in a savings of over 50 percent as compared to the cost of a new textbook.”

Students who would like to rent books can either do so at the Bookstore, pre-register online at rent-a-text.com or do an express registration at the time of their first rental transaction, O’Connor said.

“All that is required is that the student is over the age of 18, have a valid government issued ID and a credit card for collateral,” O’Connor said. “The actual transaction may be tendered utilizing cash, check, credit card or student charge. The collateral is only utilized in the event of a non-return.”

Students wishing to purchase books they had rented can do so

see BOOKS/page 5

Legends touts ‘best lineup’

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

With its web page advertising this semester’s list of acts as “Our Best Lineup Ever,” Legends of Notre Dame Nightclub is not mincing words this spring.

The statement is supported with a video trailer promoting the array of artists performing at the nightclub this spring.

Aaron Perri, general manager of Legends, said the spring lineup is remarkable and a video trailer promoting the array of artists performing at the nightclub this spring.

“More than half of [the artists] are nationally touring acts, the same acts you would pay $20 to $50 to see in other cities,” he said. “I think we’ll have numerous shows that hit capacity. There are no real low points on our lineup.”

Perri, who has been in charge of booking the professional entertainment at Legends for the last seven and a half years, said he has

see LEGENDS/page 4

Pat O’Connor said that Legends will feature nearly 60 acts over the course of the semester, with a top-heavy lineup.

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see BOOKS/page 5

Legends touts ‘best lineup’
THE HOT SEAT: FIVE QUESTIONS, ONE PERSON, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Q: Who do you think is going to win the Superbowl next weekend?
Katelynd: The Steelers are going to annihilate the Packers. For sure.

Q: What is your favorite Kevin Costner movie?
Katelynd: Dances with Wolves! That is probably my favorite movie ever. I watched it a couple times over break.

Q: Who is your favorite dining hall worker?
Katelynd: Miss Tina, for sure! She always makes sure that I get a cookie right out of the oven. She takes care of us girls.

Q: What is something about you people should know?
Katelynd: I lived in Chile for a year, and it was amazing! The culture is so different, but it is really interesting to see the ways that American culture is used and combined with their own culture. My host family brought in a Christmas tree covered in fake snow, even though it was summer there at that time, because they had seen snow from American television.

Q: What is your creative outlet?
Katelynd: Last semester I was part of this Madrigals dinner where we had to dress up in Renaissance clothing, which was great. I also just tried out for another play here at SMC.

Know someone who should be in the hot seat? E-mail obsphoto@gmail.com

IN BRIEF

The ScreenPeace film festival starts today with a showing of “Countdown to Zero”. The film is being shown in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. The event will be introduced by David Cartright, Director of Policy Studies at the Kroc Institute. The event is free, but ticketed. Reserve tickets at 613-2800 or at the door.

The Greater Good Lecture Series keynote address will be given by Dr. Mark Alhoin, a New York Times bestselling author and entrepreneur. The lecture starts today at 1 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium at the Mendoza College of Business. The event is free and open to the public.

Today at 10:40 a.m. the 2nd lecture in the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series, “The Evolution of Sustainable Investing: From Individual Conscience to Institutional Accountability,” Barbara Krumsiek, the Chair, CEO and President of Calvert Group, Ltd. is giving the talk. The talk is free and is at the Jordan Auditorium in the Mendoza College of Business.

Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the American Red Cross is holding a blood drive at the Hammza Notre Dame Bookstore.

"Hurt Locker" is being shown as a part of the ScreenPeace film festival. The film is being shown at 9:30 p.m. Saturday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The event is free but ticketed. Reserve tickets at 613-2800.

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

By ABI HOVERMAN News Writer

Women are a common target in war zones, said anthropology professor Carolyn R. Nordstrom, who has seen villages where every woman and child has been brutalized.

Nordstrom, who has spent years researching conditions of war across the globe, was part of the panel "Women and War: In and Out of Uniform," held Wednesday in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall. The discussion explored women’s role in the military and impact during wars.

Nordstrom said villages are defenseless when male residents leave to fight.

“I walk into villages where every woman and child has been raped, where all the food has been stolen,” she said.

Panelist Rear Admiral Wendi B. Carpenter, who has represented the United States in NATO forums, said in war torn areas women take on a unique role.

“If you can increase opportunities, education and stability of women, you can decrease the chance of war breaking out,” she said.

“[Women can] get a hold of the men in the community and say no, we are not going to do it [go to war] anymore,” she said.

Carpenter, the first woman in the navy to be named an admiral, said women have made advances in the military in recent decades.

“We’ve got all kinds of female firsts out there, and the good thing is we’ve got the firsts out of the way,” she said. “Now we can move on to other things.”

Professor Michael Desch, chair of the Political Science Department, said technology has played a role in increased female military participation.

“Historically, the military has been male-dominated,” he said. “Males are physically stronger and larger than women, but with [weapons] technology today, there is no longer the functional advantage of being male.”

Michael Desch chair Political Science Department

“Historically, the military has been male-dominated. Men are physically stronger and larger than women, but with [weapons] technology today, there is no longer the functional advantage of being male.”

Casie E. Sweeney first lieutenant

“Be gender blind. If you have bias, you better get rid of it.”

Contact Abi Hoverman at ahoverman@nd.edu

Professor explores definitions of race

By CHRISTIAN MYERS News Writer

What is race? American Studies professor Jason Ruiz posited this “deceptively simple” question Wednesday in DeBartolo Hall, as he delivered the second lecture in the Martin Luther King Jr. Series for the Study of Race.

Ruiz challenged the audience to work together in pairs and share some of their own definitions of race.

For the first half of the lecture, students, staff and community members shared various definitions of race proposed in a community survey.

Several audience members proposed race has no scientific foundation, and one individual described the concept of race as “unnatural.”

The second half of the lecture consisted of Ruiz presenting some of his findings and several points about what race is and is not.

Ruiz first said the meaning and definition of the term race is contextual. It has changed over time and is different in different places. He outlined the origin of the term and concept “race” in the 19th century. He said a modern example is while they he is considered Latino, in the past various terms such as Hispanic, Mexican-American and Mexican-American would have been used.

“I’m the same person. I haven’t changed, but if I had somehow lived that long I would have been considered all of these different things,” Ruiz said.

Ruiz said race is also not biological. Ruiz rejected “essentialism,” the concept there are innate racial characteristics related to intelligence, athleticism and other attributes. He said humans in the same racial group are as genetically distinct as people in different racial groups.

“I’m the same person. I haven’t changed, but if I had somehow lived that long I would have been considered all of these different things.”

American Studies Professor Jason Ruiz speaks Wednesday on the subject of race in DeBartolo Hall.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

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Ruiz said although race is not a biological reality, race is a social reality. He presented a case study of Lake County, Indiana. He showed statistics of demographics, income and high school graduation rates for the towns of Gary, Munster and East Chicago. The study revealed municipalities with larger minority populations had significantly lower income and graduation rates.

Ruiz also used an example from his year of research at a high school in Long Prairie, Minn. For approximately 25 years the Latino community had a high school graduation rate of zero percent.

Ruiz said the problem arose from a cultural miscommunication. He said the mostly Caucasian schoolteachers and administrators believed Latino parents were ambivalent toward their children’s education because they were reluctant to participate in parent-teacher conferences.

Ruiz said he spoke to these parents and found they valued education highly, but were reticent to go to their own child’s school due to cultural taboos against questioning teachers and because the school did not provide translation.

The difference between race and ethnicity needs to be clarified, Ruiz said.

Ethnicity is determined by one’s heritage. He said racial categories do not coincide with ethnicities and are not as legitimate.

Ruiz said in America race is used more as a verb than a noun. Americans talk about race in terms of it acting on individuals and their bodies.

Ruiz’s final point was “colorblindness” is not a solution. He said the social reality of race should not be ignored, but instead addressed.

Contact Christian Myers at cmyers8@nd.edu

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Legends

continued from page 1

been arranging the lineup since last October, just finishing in mid-January. While variety is important, practicality is a major consideration, he said.

“At the end of the day, the booking process comes down to availability and affordability,” Perri said. The bold advertising and planning this spring is a continuing hallmark of Legends, Perri said. “Each semester we try something new and exciting,” he said. “We kicked this year off with an ambitious video marketing trailer and we’ll continue with our innovative marketing campaigns all semester.”

Perri said Legends operates like any professional nightclub, doing 95 percent of its own event planning. During the semester, Legends allows the Student Union Board (SUBLE) to host several shows.

SUBLE manager Julia Sutton said this freedom of planning has allowed the organization to contribute to Legends’ already stellar lineup, which includes Super Smash Bros., Big Sean, Axis of Awesome and John Mulaney.

“I feel like we have a really good variety of acts. There will be something for everyone,” she said. “Everyone on campus can get out to Legends and enjoy it this semester.”

Sutton said SUBLE has planned a variety of acts, ranging from more established groups to up and coming artists. She said SUBLE tends to focus on newer artists, who appeal to a wide range of students.

“Because we do our big concert outside Legends, we like to do up-and-coming stuff inside,” Sutton said. “Our primary purpose is to program for the entire student body, so we want to take up as many tastes as possible into account. We’re focusing more on quality of act.”

One thing SUBLE is trying differently this semester is bringing in slam poet Anis Mojgani, Sutton said. “We usually stick to comedy, but we thought Anis was too good to pass up,” she said.

While Legends may be advertising this as its “best lineup ever,” Perri said Legends is simply continuing to strive to be one of the best live entertainment venues in America.

“A couple of years ago Pollstar named Legends as one of the top 12 nightclubs in the country for live entertainment,” he said. “It’s important to note that we are not simply competing against nightclubs at other college campuses. We had a great lineup that year, but I believe this year is even better.”

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu

iPads

continued from page 1

Although student feedback was mostly positive, the e-reader through which the class read textbook and supplemental PDF files posed challenges because of its limitations.

“One of the criticisms that we saw in the survey [the class took] was that the students said you couldn’t annotate and you couldn’t highlight,” Angst said. “But in fact you can do those things, but you need [to purchase an] application to do it.”

Julian Velasco, associate professor at the Notre Dame Law School, who is using iPads in his Advanced Topics in Corporate Law class, requires students to purchase AnnotatePDF, the application to which Angst referred. He also is using different e-reader software.

“The software used to read the text [last semester] was very clunky software designed for the iPad, a 1.0 at best,” Velasco said. “I wanted to nip that in the bud, and I refused to use proprietary software.”

Academic Technologies consultant Jon Crutchfield believes the upgrades for Velasco’s class will improve students’ experience with iPads.

“Most of the technical issues [last semester] were the usability of the apps themselves,” Crutchfield said. “The apps that are available for Professor Velasco’s course are better than those available to the business school course.”

In addition to Velasco’s class, iPads will be used in Professor Lance Askildson’s course on the Impact of Language, Culture and Identity on Educational Practices. For this class, the iPads have two distinct purposes. “They’re both using iPads for coursework and trying to figure out how to use it to teach others languages,” Crutchfield said.

Because of the success of the iPad first semester and continued improvement, Crutchfield said he foresees an increase in the use of iPads and their equivalents at Notre Dame in the near future.

“We actually have web statistics that show that more iPads are accessing Notre Dame websites as time has gone on.”

Jon Crutchfield consultant
Academic Technologies

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Jon Crutchfield consultant
Academic Technologies
Books

continued from page 1

at any time, O’Connor said. He said there are no disadvantages to the program as long as students return the books at the end of the semester.

“The failure to return will result in a full charge for the book plus penalties since that rental book will need to be replaced to ensure inventory of that title is available for rent for an upcoming term by other students,” O’Connor said.

According to O’Connor, not every textbook in the library is available for rent in the bookstore, but there is a large database from which students may choose. Since the Shaheen Bookstore is part of the Follett Higher Education network a large national data base of rental eligible titles is immediately available,” O’Connor said. “A faculty member may visit rent-a-text.com to view this national list as they are determining a selection for a future term.”

O’Connor said there is a local rental list that is available if a book is being used for multiple terms. “A local rental title must meet certain criteria. The Store Manager will work closely with the faculty to identify potential additions to the national list,” he said.

Junior biology major Krystal Holtcamp said she rented her books this semester to help curb costs. “I thought it was a really good option to be able to rent books especially me as a science major it’s very helpful because my books are so expensive,” she said. Holtcamp said it was a simple process. "I had a great experience," she said. "All I had to do was show them my ID and they had it ready for me."

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@stmarys.edu

SMC TEXTBOOK RENTALS

$18% of overall sales at Shaheen Bookstore were rentals

$41% of total sales were used books or rentals

$ND last semester rentals: 25% of sales

Tech

continued from page 1

scheduled classrooms and adjacent hallways. Burchett said the group works with both fixed and portable technologies. Over the past few years, Learning Spaces has increased the amount of technology available in classrooms. “There are slightly more than 150 registrar classrooms. Of those classrooms, we have fixed technology, like ceiling monitors and projectors, in about 130,” he said. “A few years ago, we would have only had 60 percent of the rooms with technology. Now we’re over 80 percent.”

In the 20 remaining “low-tech” classrooms, faculty members are still able to use portable equipment. Burchett said: “We don’t want them to feel cut off from technology if they’re scheduled in one of those rooms,” he said.

In the classrooms with fixed technology, the professor operates equipment through a control panel. Their choices include the lectern computer, an individual laptop, a DVD player and a document camera. With each use, Learning Spaces records statistics in a database for analysis.

“It’s not surprising that the most overwhelmingly used device in the classroom is either the Windows computer that is provided or the laptop a professor brings,” Burchett said. “The document cameras will probably be used more because this year we completed a multi-year project of outfitting rooms with those. Document cameras are versatile as they enable professors to act spontaneously with less preparation. Professors can use them to display objects onscreen without having to insert a photograph into their power point.”

Burchett said Learning Spaces has noticed a desire to incorporate music in classes. “We have more faculty now who want to bring their iPod and plug it in to play music. One professor used the document camera to display a musical score while playing the symphonic piece,” he said. “Students could then visually see the standard notation while hearing the music.”

Burchett said faculty often asks for enhancements, with multiple projectors being among the most requested. “When we visit other schools like Purdue, we notice that it seems to be a trend to have more than one projector and more than one screen,” Burchett said. “We think that will be something that will happen here over the next three to five years as well.

With multiple screens, a professor might continue one static display, such as a power point, while simultaneously running a dynamic video or simulation on another. Burchett said only a few classrooms on campus allow this, but he predicts a shift to multiple screens in other classes in the future.

An experimental multiple-screen classroom is located in the basement of DeBartolo Hall. Burchett said eight displays line the walls, with four more hung in the center from the ceiling. Eight computers are connected to these screens and the remaining space on the walls is painted with whiteboard paint to enable further freedom in spatial use of the room.

The idea is that there isn’t a front or back of the classroom. The professor can route anybody’s computer to any screen, to all 12 screens or a combination,” Burchett said. “The furniture moves so that the room can be rearranged.”

Upon walking into the class, one section of the whiteboard reads. “Do not erase!” Scrawled underneath are comments left by faculty and students who have used the room. Burchett said that feedback from both sides is extremely valuable.

“We want faculty feedback, but students often are the best evaluators of whether faculty are using technology effectively. I think everyone, whether you’re at a conference, training session, or class, has been subjected to death by PowerPoint,” he said. “There’s so much more that can be done with technology.”

To gather this information, Learning Spaces conducts surveys. One quick way to give feedback is through Student Government, who meets with Learning Spaces on a regular basis.

“And of course, people can always contact me directly if they want to, either by phone or in my office,” Burchett said. “If I’m in my office, come on in and tell me what you think.”

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Please support these local groups and businesses!
Robert Gates is not Stephen Colbert. Nor is he Bono. He has never appeared on the cover of Entertainment Weekly or been named one of People Magazine’s “Sexiest Man Alive.” Rather, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates was featured on the February 2010 cover of Time Magazine. In 2009, Esquire put him on its list of “The 75 Best People in the World.”

Gates may not be the most entertaining choice for Commencement speaker, or the first name a senior in a wishful state might think of. But he is a good choice, and an important one.

As the Class of 2011 prepares to graduate and to enter what is fearfully referred to as “adulthood,” it will hear from a man who is intricately linked with some of the most pressing issues facing America today. He is also connected to college students; before accepting his position as secretary of defense in 2006, Gates was the president of Texas A&M. He understands seniors’ mindsets as we approach Commencement day, and we expect he will be ready with a relevant and, yes, captivating speech. His penchant for dry one-liners is not a secret, nor is most Notre Dame students’ ability to understand sarcasm, we think.

Gates is the only defense secretary ever to keep his position under a new president and has kept his message consistent under both President George W. Bush and President Barack Obama. He is a figure who could be highly controversial, but is instead unifying.

Gates might be unpopular with some for one reason or another — his role in the Iraq war, his criticism of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” his Aggie pride — but no one can deny his leadership and his dedication to this country. He has made many important, tough decisions throughout his career and has stuck by the results. The experience gained in those moments of choice is something any graduating senior should be eager to learn from.

The choice of Gates as Commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient is symbolic for the University as well. Last year, the choice of Brian Williams as Commencement speaker was received by some as a retreat by Notre Dame, an attempt to deflect the controversy from Obama’s 2009 address. But the decision to honor a government official this year shows the University’s willingness not to back down, and to legitimize its choice of two years ago. Despite working for Obama, Gates will probably not invite the type of criticism so rampant in 2009, but when it issued this invitation, Notre Dame undoubtedly understood all of its nuances.

This is a selection the Notre Dame community and, more importantly, the senior class should embrace as the right choice for our University and for the Class of 2011. Gates has made many important, tough decisions throughout his career and leadership and his dedication to this country. He has made the building tolerable in the hallways and study carrels, making the building tolerable in the tunnel as much as I do, but I never thought I would appreciate living in another residence hall as much as I do. Don’t get me wrong; McCandless will always have a place in my heart — but I will never regret my decision to move into my cozy single with a shared bathroom on the second floor of Le Mans.

McCandless has its perks; it’s close to the gym so during the frigid months of December, January and February, I don’t have to freeze when I feel the need to work out. It’s also close to the parking lot, making it a whole lot nicer to walk home from my car at night. And, with the close proximity to parking, I have to struggle less when I attempt to carry in my bags of groceries back to my room after going to the store.

Additionally, the rooms have large windows in McCandless, so a lot of light can shine in during the day, which I always appreciate. The building itself is also newer, which means the rooms are less damaged, and it has air conditioning in the hallways and study carrels, making the building tolerable to live in during the summer months.

Despite the benefits of living in my old residence hall, last year I decided to branch out and try a new building.

My new room has twice the floor space of my old room. In my McCandless single, the only seating I had room for was on my bed. This year, I have upgraded to a futon. I also love Le Mans because of its location. Smack dab in the middle of campus, it is less than a five minute walk from Le Mans to every building on campus.

What I love most about Le Mans is the tunnel connecting Le Mans to the Student Center.

I never thought I would appreciate the tunnel as much as I do, but I quickly discovered its charm. As I write this column, it is below freezing outside. Because of the tunnel, I didn’t have to go outside in the frigid cold to get dinner.

On weekends, if I choose, I can stay inside all day long and still eat in the dining hall. At 11:30 p.m., when I run out of salsa to go with my tortilla chips, I can walk downstairs, go through the tunnel and buy some in the C-Store without ever stepping foot in the cold — not to mention when it rains.

Assuming I’m coming from my dorm, I will never have to walk in the pouring rain to eat meals again.

The tunnel, among other details, adds to the charm of this older building. With its hardwood floors, transom windows and random trap doors located in a variety of rooms, I have fallen in love with my residence hall.

There are days when I miss McCandless, but I will never regret choosing Le Mans.

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

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Alicia Smith
Associate Saint Mary’s Editor

INSIDE COLUMN
Tunnel Vision

There are days when I miss McCandless, but I’ll never regret choosing Le Mans.
In the heart of Milwaukee, near the shore of Lake Michigan, lost somewhere in the depths of memory, there is a playground.

This playground unfurls, in every direction, farther than the eye can see. It reaches into the heavens, almost into the clouds, as though it were a citadel — and, like a citadel, it is a holy place, one of everlasting light and joy: it is a place where death has no sting, where the gods still walk, where the lion lies down with the lamb. It is a place beyond the comprehension of men.

This playground exists now only in my memory: it was torn down long ago — not by man or by machine, but rather by the mercy of a march of time, by the Fall that each of us, in leaving its childhood behind, comes to know. In that time, my world was an extension of myself: things were as they seemed to me to be — and were emotionally charged as I felt them to be. So when I, at two years of age, stood before what seemed a second Garden of Eden — a playground that dwarfed me, that was quite literally larger than I could understand, that promised something that I can now recognize as salvation — I did not know to wonder whether I had deceived myself.

The destruction of this playground was of the greatest kind: I have witnessed it in the first place. Even now, through the mists of memory, I can barely see it. If I look at it squarely, it evaporates as something impossible. I can see it only out of the corner of my mind’s eye — can remember, that is, only how it seemed to me as a child. How beautiful it was, and how fleetingly.

“Go play,” my young mother and father said to me, beamng with pride at their firstborn son. They had brought me, for the first time, to Summerfest — the city’s annual lakeshore music festival: the presence of the playground was, I assume, merely a concession to the family values. But this did not deter me as I ran forward, my heart full of paradise.

I had played for what seemed like years — that must have been only minutes — when suddenly I was snatched by my parents and whisked away. “Where were you?” they demanded, desperate. “We thought that we had lost you! Why did you leave the playground?” I tried to articulate an answer — that they were wrong, that I had left the playground, that they had lost track of me only because the playground was really that big — that, in essence, I had no knowledge of the evil of my action and did not deserve to be sent forth from the Garden — but, in my youth, I lacked the words. I am sure that I would have screamed had I not been so gripped by horror and confusion.

I vowed to return. And I finally did, in a sense. But I was fifteen years old. And the playground was, well, just a playground: it no longer dwarfed me, no longer reached into the heavens, no longer promised salvation. And, I finally realized, it never had; in that original sin, I lost not only paradise but even the fact that I had once had it.

I would, at this point, typically wax philosophical about the loss involved in any Enlightenment. You can imagine how that would go. But I have, in the meantime, at the end of some journey that I do not yet fully understand, found salvation.

In the heart of Saint Louis, near the shore of the Mississippi River, as though pulled from the depths of memory, there is a playground. It is a place beyond the comprehension of men: it is called the City Museum, though it is not a museum and has nothing to do with a city — except, perhaps, the New Jerusalem. Indeed, it is difficult to describe at all.

I could mention its seven-storey slide, its network of caves and jet aircraft, its aquarium, its circus, and its Ferris Wheel without really explaining its essence: I can say, in the end, only that it is a playground commensurate with your imagination.

But more important than this place, this second paradise, is what it represents: it is an ethical miracle, a salvation that I in no way deserve but have been granted nonetheless. It is an act of grace.

This, the perfect playground, is not in itself proof of the Incarnation. But it is, at least, an indication — even if only a psychological one: it is a reminder that, whatever the conclusions into which life forces us — what- ever the iron cage of concepts that we build around ourselves — we can always be wrong. It is a reminder that we sometimes fare better than we deserve — better, even, than we thought possible. It is a reminder that what seems lost in the depths of memory may not be lost after all.

Daniel Sportiello | Bound Variables

Wednesday’s article, “The environmentally unconscious one, or, Why I love America,” Jan. 26), has to be a joke. In case it wasn’t a satire, I just want to state that the deeds of the environment are “unconcerned people” also marks the future generations and the environmentally conscious one responsible for what that brings to do.

It’s not a secret that Americans are not the most environmentally conscious people in the world. But it is not just those Europeans who care about the environment. I am from South Korea, I learned how to recycle from elementary school, while I saw some of my American friends at Notre Dame simply not knowing how to recycle. “I didn’t know you can recycle plastic wrappers!”, a recent surprise from my American friend surprised me back. “How can you not know that?” Probably because America has been the country of material abundance, people who want to conserve the environment don’t practice simple things they can do. For example, not buying unnecessary stuff that you end up throwing away almost new, turning off your laptop and lights when not using and using water containers instead of buying bottled water.

America has been the leading soft power in the world. At the same time, however, it is the leading country in terms of destroying our environment. Americans produce the largest carbon dioxide emission per capita,而出 China and the rest of the world roughly by four times, according to the Guardian. Prof. Susan Rosato defined soft power as an attraction of the culture and politics that makes other counties want to emulate the country. But I do not want my country to emulate an America that is wealthy, but environmentally unconscious.

Despite that, “Picking Up America” reminds me why I still respect America: there are a lot of people who are conscious about the extended implications of their actions. In Korean (and Chinese), the literal translation of the word “America” is the “beautiful country.” I want America to stay beautiful, although there have been some discussions to change the name to the more objective “rice country.”

Joe Deters | senior

Apparently the South Bend City Council passed an ordinance that requires residents to clear the sidewalks in front of their homes within 24 hours of a major snowstorm. Being an off-campus resident, this brought a few things to mind:

1) What in the world is this city council doing that sidewalks are at the top of their agenda? I don’t see a whole lot of people taking leisurely strolls in the nuclear winter outside. These people should be more focused on gun safety and theft — I’m pretty sure the sidewalks aren’t robbing and killing people.

2) Shoveling your sidewalk after EVERY snowstorm in South Bend is equivalent to making your bed every day — I’m just going to sleep in it tomorrow night (or, more likely, in three hours for a nap). These people have probably lived in South Bend their entire lives, so it’s likely that they understand how often it snows here, and, therefore, how often people would have to shovel their sidewalks. If you want to make sure your citizens are working out the recommended 30 minutes-a-day, this is a round-about way of doing it.

3) If the city of South Bend cannot adequately clear the roads for cars in 24 hours following a snowstorm, how am I expected to clear my sidewalk? I’m a college student, I’m too busy going to classes and Club Fever to do that. But, if the city steps its game up, and I am not sliding up and down my street when I’m trying to drive to campus, I’ll go get my shovel.

Jee Seun Choi | junior

The Observer
Snoop Dogg certainly kept the Fever crowd waiting Wednesday night, but as soon as he took the stage shortly before 11, the packed house forgave him his tardiness. The generation-spanning rapper, and vocal USC fan, stepped into the limelight wearing an extra-large No. 3 Notre Dame football jersey with a large diamond necklace, and for the next 50 minutes few of the 1,200 in attendance had a care in the world.

While tickets for the show claimed it began at 8 p.m., the opening act of up-and-coming rapper Delano, a member of Snoop's Doggy Style Records, began around 9:30 and lasted a little more than half an hour. The sold-out crowd then waited, and waited, and waited some more while Club Fever pumped in some of Snoop's biggest hits, including "California Gurls" by Katy Perry.

Though the bars at Fever ran out of pitchers before 7:30, and by 10 p.m. no fan could move in any direction without bumping into two strangers, no one considered leaving. Rather, the crowd of South Bend's young and middle-aged adults, Notre Dame students and even Notre Dame alumni from as far as Chicago simply grew more and more excited.

Finally, amid rumors that if he did not take the stage by 11, Snoop would be fined $10,000, the Doggfather grabbed the microphone with only three minutes to spare. He then launched into one of his live performance antics, begging the crowd to shout his name louder with each verse of each song. If Snoop Dogg knows how to do anything better than produce massively-successful raps, it is throwing the crowd into a frenzy. Each song involved participation, even if it was only Snoop urging the crowd to wave its arms to his beat, to which the crowd eagerly obliged.

He played some of his more recent hits as well as some of his classics from the '90s. The classics, such as "Who Am I (What's My Name?)" struck a chord with the older half of the crowd and hits from the latter half of the past decade, "I Wanna Rock." "Sensual Seduction" and "Drop It Like It's Hot," sent the college-aged groups into a possibly drug-assisted euphoria.

Snoop introduced "Drop It Like It's Hot," a 2004 hit, with an old-school touch, rapping the first verse of "Jump Around" by House of Pain. As Snoop said to a loud roar, "Now that I know y'all can get up, now I want you to ..." and then he went on to "Like It's Hot.

Another highlight of the night occurred when Snoop paid tribute to his former friend and music partner Tupac Shakur. The rapper was infractions piled up during the East Coast-West Coast rap rivalry in 1996.

In such a short performance, Snoop managed to play nearly every one of his biggest hits. To the disappointment of the crowd, he left out his newest single, "Wet." "Wet," originally written as a wedding gift for Prince William intended to be the anthem of his bachelor party, is the second single off Snoop's upcoming album, "Doggumentary." Snoop teased the audience with references to the new song, only to dive into "Sensual Seduction." "What a let down.

Aside from making the crowd wait an unnecessary two hours and leaving out his newest song, Snoop didn’t miss a beat, and kept the crowd buzzing throughout his performance.

Apparently, he enjoyed the show as much as his fans did, saying as he left, "I'll be back to South Bend, Indiana, any time you [four-syllable profanity] want me back."

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

By MARY CLAIRE O’DONNELL
Scene Writer

Have you ever walked out of a movie theater and thought to yourself, "but is that a sequel?" Because I’m pretty sure that I’ve seen (insert actor’s name here) playing the same character before.

Don’t worry, you’re not going crazy, searching IMDb as soon as you return home and frantically exploring similar titles to appease your curious mind. There is just a contagion plaguing actresses in Hollywood: typecasting. It’s lethal, and it will not be eradicated.

In defense of some of the film industry, many actors and actresses avoid this plague and accept completely unexpected roles. They attempt to distance themselves from their fame as a child star or their first few movies. And many successfully make this transition.

When the late Heath Ledger first entered the American film industry, movie producers saw his good looks, accent and skill, which they deemed perfect for young adult romantic comedies; no one can deny he shined in those roles. But he knew that he wanted to be more than just a pretty face, so he broke out of his typecast and accepted different, more complex roles. That desire and drive earned him his first Oscar nomination (“Brokeback Mountain”) and Oscar win (“The Dark Knight”).

And Ledger is just one of many actors who have achieved this goal. But there are scores of others who either choose not to break their mold or who are unable to do so. But quite frankly, and I may be quite wrong, The Dark Knight” was a masterful performance, and the attitude of a spoiled Southern girl, convinced she deserved her Oscar. She was Blanche DuBois, a pretentious Southern belle with illusions of grandeur and an eye for abusive men in the film adaptation of Tennessee Williams’s “A Streetcar Named Desire.”

In our times, the contagion which infected Ledger has spread to Katherine Heigl. In her breakout role, she played the uptight girl accidentally impregnated by a one night stand in 2007’s “Knocked Up.”

Although her baby daddy was a TV star and the couple completely incompatible with her personality, the two realize they are perfect for each other before the credits roll. Cue 2009’s “Get Smart,” 2009’s “The Ugly Truth” and 2010’s “Life As We Know It.””

Spoiler alert: the same thing happens now.

I know, they’re all romantic comedies so they do all more or less have to follow a similar plot arc and reach a happy ending. But I have seen these movies done well. It is not done well if I can predict for you before the movie starts when, down to the minute, the climax of the movie occurs and both characters realize they’re madly in love with each other.

And for all you feminists out there, don’t worry, this isn’t just a disease plaguing actresses. Michael Cera has captivated audiences since 2007’s “Superbad.” He played the adorably dorky Evan, who along with his best friend Seth (Jonah Hill), wanted to attend a boozed up high school party and meet girls. He played an adorably dorky Paulie Bleeker that same year, accidentally impregnating and 2010’s “Life As We Know It.”

Parents and teachers are always encouraging young minds to be unique. Perhaps actors should seek out better mentors. Ones who will urgedthem towards new and distinct roles instead of allowing them to play the same characters repeatedly.
The Avett Brothers on the road to success

By ADRIANA PRATT
Associate Scene Editor

With smooth North Carolinian accents that melt in your ear like apple butter on a biscuit, it’s hard not to fall in love with the Avett Brothers at first sound. Watch their charming interviews and you’re toast. This band means business and charming interviews and you’re toast. This band means business and their folksy ballads and upbeat anthems. Joining them on stage will be cellist Joe Kwon, who joined the group in 2007, and fellow band mate Bob Crawford on the standup bass.

Scott and Seth Avett will be headlining a show at the Morris Performing Arts Center Saturday at 8 p.m. to an audience infatuated with their folkly ballads and upbeat anthems. Joining them on stage will be cellist Joe Kwon, who joined the group in 2007, and fellow band mate Bob Crawford on the standup bass.

The band officially formed in 2001 in Charlotte, North Carolina under the title “Nemo Back Porch Project,” according to the Avett Brothers website. Scott Avett manned the banjo while Seth played the guitar and both contributed to the crowning vocals. Crawford joined the group after meeting up with the Avett brothers in an empty parking lot and playing some folk classics with them.

“These two guys showed up in a gold Ford Taurus station wagon wearing flannel shirts and cutoff pants. They were total grunge kids. We sat in the parking lot, just the three of us, and played ‘Going Down the Road Feelin’ Bad’ and ‘More Pretty Girls Than One.’” Crawford said on theavettbrothers.com

The band went from “Nemo Back Porch Project” to the Avett Brothers and began touring in 2002, occasionally accompanied by Kwon. Regional success turned into national acclaim and the band opened for acts such as Dave Matthews Band in 2009 and John Mayer in 2010.

Rick Rubin, a producer who has worked with legendary performers such as Johnny Cash, Neil Diamond and Jay-Z, signed the band to his American/Columbia Records label in 2008, according to spin.com. From this union came the Avett Brothers’ highly-acclaimed 2009 album, “I and Love and You.”

“I and Love and You” hit No. 1 on Billboard’s folk albums chart and Rolling Stone magazine named the Avett Brothers the “Artist to Watch of 2009.” In an interview with Fuse on Demand, Seth Avett noted the thematically heavy material that was covered on the album and from where the inspiration for the title was drawn.

“For the record, I wanted a title that was grand ... As I started to write the mission statement about it, just a lot of thoughts came up about the phrase itself, the phrase ‘I love you,’ which is, you know, arguably the most important phrase we have in any language. Every song we write, every day we live, that’s sort of the centerpiece of our existence,” Seth said.

The largest hits to come from the album thus far are its namesake song, “I and Love and You” and “Head Full of Doubt/Road Full of Promise.” Both exhibit the challenges faced during the transition from youth to adulthood and the seriousness that comes with growing older.

The Avett Brothers draw their material from their own life experiences and work to write songs that relate to the personal journey. “I think on the whole the album makes some comment on the fact that we are young men, but that youth is fleeting and it goes by very quickly. When you’re moving out of your 20s and into this time when you’re hoping to build something, it’s a beautiful thing and a scary thing,” Seth Avett said on the band’s website.

The Avett Brothers kicked off their 2009 tour to promote the album at Indianapolis’s venue “The Vogue” and haven’t looked back since. Head to the Morris Performing Arts Center on Saturday and let the Avett Brothers guide you on the journey all students face when preparing for life after college.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

On campus

What: Avett Brothers concert with opening act The David Wayne Parade
Where: The Morris Performing Arts Center
When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
How much: $25 for Pit Orchestra, Main floor, Boxes, Mezzanine, and 1st and 2nd Balconies; $22 for 3rd Balcony

Proceeds from the film benefit LIVESTRONG, Lance Armstrong’s nonprofit organization that provides support for cancer sufferers and their families. See a special screening of the award winning documentary “Ride the Divide” at the Eck Visitor’s Center this Sunday night at 7 p.m. Tickets are $15 at the door and $10 in advance.

Contact Alexandra Kilpatrick at akilpatr@nd.edu

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James, Wade honored by All-Star selection

Associated Press

NEW YORK — LeBron James and Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat are headed to the All-Star game together, and Derrick Rose gave the Chicago Bulls their first starter since Michael Jordan.

They will be joined in the Eastern Conference starting lineup by Amaré Stoudemire, who will become the first New York Knicks player to start in nearly two decades, and Orlando center Dwight Howard, the leading vote-getter in the conference with nearly two centuries, and Karl Malone.

They may be a little more laid-back in western Pennsylvania, but the die-harders here are similar to those notorious Eagles fans in Philadelphia when it comes to defending their turf.

“Ye’du be in Washington and the Dallas Cowboys come to town, the stadium is filled with Cowboys jerseys and Cowboys fans walking the streets, or New York Giants fans,” safety Ryan Clark said. “Here, it’s Pittsburgh or you may get jacked. That’s what I think is amazing about this place. People are born fans. Kids, I can meet kids, they have no choice. Like if they want to like somebody else, they may lose parents. I think that’s amazing.”

Rooting for the Steelers is a birthright for fans, and winning championships is an expectation for every player that puts on a black and gold uniform.

“Since I’ve been here, we feel like we’re always going to be in the hunt for the Super Bowl,” injured tackle Max Starks said.

Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, Lynn Swann and Co. set the standard when they won four Super Bowl titles in the late 1970s. There were some down times in the 80s and 90s, though Neil O’Donnell led the Steelers to the 1996 Super Bowl — a loss to Dallas.

After a 26-year drought, Roethlisberger helped the Steelers earn one for the thumb in February 2006. The Steelers added a record sixth title to their trophy case two years ago. Now, they’re going for No. 7.

“Expectations are sky high in this city dating back to the 70s when those guys won four Super Bowls,” corner- back Ike Taylor said. “We got Pitt basketball playing good ball and I jumped on the Penguins bandwagon a few years ago. Hopefully we can get the Pirates going sooner or later.”

That’s not likely.

The Pirates are coming off a record-setting 18th consecutive losing season, and their chances of contending wouldn’t be any worse if Taylor and eight Steelers were penciled into the lineup every day.

Good thing fans here have the Steelers, the Penguins and Panthers to cheer. About a dozen people lined up outside the Steelers practice facility Thursday, braving the cold, snowy weather in hopes that a player or two would sign an autograph.

“We love our Steelers,” said Art Boss, 72, who has been a student at Pitt. “The Packers don’t stand a chance next week.”

The Pirates accept classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the New Dame office, 524 South Durant Hl. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 5 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is $0.50 per character per line, with a maximum of 50 character per line. The Observer reserves the right to edit.
SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods began his new season with no bogeys, no birdies on the par 5s and no drama.

Looking for a new start after a disastrous year on and off the golf course, Woods felt little stress Thursday in the Farmers Insurance Open with a 3-under 69 on the North Course that left him five shots behind South Korean rookie Sunghoon Kang.

If the setting was familiar for Woods, so was his middle-of-the-pack position. In four of his six wins at this tournament, he has been at least five shots behind after the opening round.

“I’m happy with the way I played, absolutely,” Woods said. “I could have been a lot better if I took care of the par 5s a little bit more, but obviously, I didn’t do that.”

Kang, a 24-year-old rookie, finished with back-to-back birdies on the North Course for an 8-under 64, giving him a one-shot lead over Alex Prugh and Rickie Fowler. Another rookie, Chris Kirk, was another shot back at 66.

Phil Mickelson shot 32 on the back nine for a 5-under 67 to match the best score on the tougher South Course, which Woods won in a playoff. Also at 67 on the South was John Daly, whose last win came in 2004 at this tournament. He is the last player to win at Torrey Pines when Woods was in the field.

“This place means a lot to me,” Daly said. “The top golfers play here every year. That says something.”

Woods was in shorter grass on half of his 14 tee shots, although four of those misses came on the par 5s. He couldn’t get to the green in two, and didn’t make the birdie putts.

Even so, he looked more like the Woods who ended last year with a playoff loss at the Chevron World Challenge, not the guy who played so poorly for so much of the year that he didn’t win on the PGA Tour for the first time in his career.

It felt like a typical season-opener for Woods, including his position on the leaderboard. In his last four trips to this PGA Tour event, he has trailed by seven, six, five and two shots after the opening round and went on to win them all.
Ruffer
continued from page 16

Ragone will likely see significa-
tive action next year as well. Ruffer, a kicker from Oakton, Va., walked onto the team in 2008 and was named the starter before the 2010 season. He set a Notre Dame record by converting on the first 23 field goal attempts of his career. The streak finally came to an end when he missed a 36-yard attempt in Saturday's awards banquet. Kelly confirmed last week that Ruffer would be awarded a scholarship for next sea-son.

Smith, a safety from Knoxville, Tenn., was per-haps Notre Dame's most improved player this season. He finished second on the team with 93 tackles. Despite having no interceptions coming into the season, Smith posted a team-high seven picks in 2010, including a game-clincher against USC and three in the Sun Bowl win against Miami. He was named a 2011 captain at Saturday's awards banquet.

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SMC SWIMMING & DIVING

Belles seek their first win against Hope, Alma

By KELSEY MANNING
Sports Writer

Though the Belles have struggled of late to gain their footing in a competitive MIAA conference, an oppor-tunity presents itself this weekend.

Saint Mary's (0-4) will take on Hope and Alma at 1 p.m. on Saturday as they take on the team will look ahead to the all-impor-tant MIAA Championships from Feb. 17-19. The MIAA champion is determined solely on the basis of the results of the title meet.

The Belles look to propel themselves into the champi-onship lanes with a victory on Saturday as they take on Hope and Alma at 1 p.m. strong individual perform-ances this past weekend. Watson garnered first-place finishes in the 500-yard and 1,000 freestyle, the latter time giving her sole posses-sion of the third-best time mark in Belles history in the event.

Griffin also took two firsts on Friday, winning the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly. Meanwhile, Dalrymple had three individual victories, earning first in the 100 breaststroke, 200 breast-stroke and the 200 individual medley.

After the upcoming meet, the team will look ahead to the all-important MIAA Championships from Feb. 17-19. The MIAA champion is determined solely on the basis of the results of the title meet.

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After the upcoming meet, the team will look ahead to the all-important MIAA Championships from Feb. 17-19. The MIAA champion is determined solely on the basis of the results of the title meet.

The Belles look to propel themselves into the champion-ship lanes with a victory on Saturday as they take on Hope and Alma at 1 p.m. strong individual perform-ances this past weekend. Watson garnered first-place finishes in the 500-yard and 1,000 freestyle, the latter time giving her sole posses-sion of the third-best time mark in Belles history in the event.

Griffin also took two firsts on Friday, winning the 100 backstroke and 100 butterfly. Meanwhile, Dalrymple had three individual victories, earning first in the 100 breaststroke, 200 breast-stroke and the 200 individual medley.
Successful weekend in the Big Apple following impressive performances at the NYU Invitational and the St. John’s Dual. Between the men’s and women’s teams, the Irish finished 21-1, further asserting their dominance as the teams to beat in collegiate fencing.

Sophomore James Kaull and senior Jacob Osborne look to continue their winning ways, as the duo combined for a 23-7 performance at NYU and a 16-4 showing at St. John’s.

The duals will take place all day Saturday and Sunday.

Contact Joe Wirth at jwirth@nd.edu

By LAURA COLETTI
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s looks to get another conference win under its belt when it visits Alma on Saturday at 3 p.m. The Belles (13-6, 6-4 MIAA) will try to defeat the Scots (1-17, 0-9) for the second time this season, having picked up a 70-63 win on Dec. 11.

While Belles coach Jennifer Henley likes to keep her team focused on the defensive side of the game, the Belles’ offensive output has been a large factor in the team’s success over the past few weeks. Saint Mary’s has gone 4-3 during that stretch and has produced over 60 points in each of those contests.

Junior Maggie Ronan was named MIAA Co-Player of the Week for games played through Jan. 22. Ronan garnered these honors largely due to her scoring output over the course of the past four games, in which she has averaged almost 22 points per game. Her latest offensive contribution for the Belles was a 31-point performance during Wednesday’s 76-66 win over Olivet, a new career-high.

The Belles are also receiving consistent performances from junior forward Kelley Murphy, who nearly averages a double-double with a team-high 14.8 points per game and 9.3 rebounds per game. Junior guard Patsy Mahoney is also a key player on the offensive end, scoring at a 13.3 point per game clip. Saint Mary’s has also displayed stellar free throw shooting of late, as the Belles are shooting 74 percent on the year.

According to Henley, eliminating turnovers and playing strong defense will be the keys to Saturday’s game against Alma. Henley has emphasized the importance of protecting the ball on the offensive end and keeping opponents out of the lane on the defensive end.

The Belles look to pick up their second win in a row and seventh in the conference, while the Scots will be searching for their first win since Nov. 20.

Contact Laura Coletti at lcoletti@nd.edu

Indianapolis Relays host twenty teams

By JOE WIRTH
Sports Writer

In one of their toughest tests of the season, the Irish will compete in the Indiana Relays this weekend at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. One of the featured events on the Irish schedule, Notre Dame will have to contend with some of the stiffest competition of the season. The contest features 20 teams and more than 1,200 entries. The Indiana Relays also marks the fourth road meet of the season for the Irish.

Senior Justin Schneider leads the Irish this year as one of the top multi-event performers in the country. The Irish boast another top-ranked athlete in sophomore Rebecca Tracy, who ranks seventh in the country in the 800-meter run. She also ran the second-fastest mile in the country at the Notre Dame Invitational with a time of 4:42.14.

The races will begin Friday at 3 p.m. at the Harry Gladstein Fieldhouse and will continue Saturday at 9 a.m. The Hoosiers boast two-time pole vaulting national champion junior Derek Drouin. The Hoosiers are tough from top to bottom and provide a balanced attack. The Hoosier men are ranked seventh in the country and the women are ranked 16th.

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Contact Joe Wirth at jwirth@nd.edu

Write Sports. E-mail Douglas at dfarmer1@nd.edu
Men’s Tennis

Irish compete at ITA qualifying match

By ANDREW OWENS

The first major step toward another successful season for the Irish comes this weekend as the team travels to Champaign, Ill., in a meet that features Oklahoma, Denver and Illinois.

Rewarding success, the NCAA grants the top 15 teams from the previous season the ability to host an event that qualifies a team for the Indoor Championships. After finishing No. 16 in the final ITA rankings last season, the squad was ranked within the top 15 for the majority of the season and will be hosting the Indoor Championships this weekend.

On Day 1, the Irish will face Oklahoma, and Illinois will play on Denver. The two winners will compete for a berth in the title match on Saturday.

In order for Notre Dame to qualify for a berth at the event this weekend, it will need to take down some of the toughest competition in the country. Irish associate coach Ryan Sachire is aware of the quality of the teams, but says Notre Dame will be up to the challenge.

Top seed Oklahoma went to the Elite Eight last year and is a bona fide top-20 team,” Sachire said. “If we win, we play Illinois or Denver, two teams that made the tournament last year. And as recently as 2007, Illinois was a finalist.”

Only 16 teams reach the ITA Championships, which will be played from Feb. 18 to 20 this season.

The Irish had the opportunity to choose the qualifying location where they would play, and ultimately decided on Illinois.

“We picked this site because it is close to home and we have an opportunity to win two matches and move on against pretty strong competition,” Sachire said.

The spring season is split into two parts, with the indoor season making up the first half.

“The entire part of the season from when we started on Jan. 11 total break will be indoors,” Sachire said.

Once the indoor part of the season is completed, the focus shifts to conference tournaments and eventually the NCAA tournament. Notre Dame has won several Big East Championships since joining conference and is no stranger to the NCAA tournament.

The match against Oklahoma will be played Friday at 3 p.m.

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Continued from page 16

lost a lot of games, but if you look, they were in it. With four minutes to go, Illinois was still in the game. They hang around because of the pace they play. They slow it down — they cut the game in half.”

Riding a three-game losing streak, Villanova’s deliberate pace clashes with a prolific offense. Villanova (8-11, 6-6 Big East) has struggled to put up points in conference play. While the Wildcats’ 43 points per game average is worst in the conference, they run a slow-paced offense in order to limit the number of possessions in the game and control the tempo.

“You have to stay patient, which is definitely not my strong point,” McGraw said. “It’s a tough game to play because you feel like you don’t have as much control of the game. They’re going to slow it down at every opportunity, and we like to play fast. We might be on defense for 30 seconds every possession — have to be ready to play it.”

In a matchup of opposite styles, Villanova’s deliberate pace clashes with a prolific offense in No. 11 Notre Dame (17-4, 6-1), which leads the Big East in scoring at 77 points per game. The Irish have eclipsed the 90-point mark eight different times this season and are undefeated in each game.

Despite the ability to score at will, McGraw said Villanova will keep the Irish from racking up a large point total due to the Wildcats’ style of play.

“I think it’s going to be a low-scoring game,” McGraw said. “They’re going to walk the ball up — it’s going to feel like a half instead of a full game. They’re going to try to keep the score in the 50s. We’d like it to be in the 70s. It will be a battle of tempo.”

Villanova’s primary threat is sophomore forward Laura Sweeney, the recipient of last season’s Big East Sixth Man Award. Sweeney leads the Wildcats in points (10.2 per game), rebounds (6.1 per game), steals (29) and blocks (25).

But the emergence of junior forward Devereaux Peters and freshman forward Natalie Achonwa has given McGraw much greater flexibility with her roster, allowing her to keep two posts in the game at all times.

“Last year Devereaux was still coming into her own, and now she’s really playing at full strength,” McGraw said. “And then having Natalie Achonwa come off the bench — she’s a great offensive rebounder. Notre Dame looks to keep pace in the conference standings when it takes the court Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Purcell Pavilion.

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ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Creating separation

Posts Peters and Achonwa will keep team in check

By CHRIS MASOUD Sports Writer

After completing a five-game conference stretch that included victories over nationally ranked Georgetown and St. John’s, Notre Dame hit the road looking to extend its four-game win streak. Beginning with Saturday’s contest at Villanova, the Irish face four consecutive opponents with conference records of .500 or below.

Despite the brief respite in the conference schedule, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said every team in the Big East is dangerous, including a Wildcat team that is still searching for its first conference win.

“Every game is close — the same thing last year,” McGraw said. “[The Wildcats] are as good as anybody in the conference at any given time. They are very difficult to match up against.”

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ND MEN’S AND WOMEN’S SWIMMING & DIVING

Notre Dame gears up to raise confidence as season winds down

By MATTHEW ROBISON and VICTORIA JACOBSen Sports Writers

The Irish look to build momentum as the women’s team takes on Denver, Ohio State and Northwestern in the Shamrock Invitational, one of its final meets before the Big East Championships.

“[Our] swimmers are desperately searching for its first conference win,” said every team in the Big East is dangerous, including a Wildcat team that is still searching for its first conference win.

Despite the brief respite in the conference schedule, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said every team in the Big East is dangerous, including a Wildcat team that is still searching for its first conference win.

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ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Bulldogs to challenge Irish

By MEGAN FINNERAN Sports Writer

No. 4 Notre Dame returned from a training-filled winter break with a 5-2 victory over Illinois last weekend. Now, the Irish are ready for another challenge, as Arkansas, Utah and Yale come to campus for the ITA National Team Indoor Championship qualifier.

Everyone played well (against Illinois), and I think it’s important for everyone to keep up that competitive energy this weekend,” junior Kristy Frilling said.

After a strong performance in all facets of their game last weekend, the Irish will focus on detail for their matches against the Irish and hope to ensure an appearance at the Big East Championships.

ND FENCING

Local rival team poses challenge

By JOE WIRTH Sports Writer

The Irish will be in action against Cleveland State this weekend as a part of the Notre Dame Duals. The women will compete on Saturday, with the men slated to hit the strip on Sunday at the Joyce Center.

“It is very nice to host our local rivals who are maybe not travelling so much like other top teams,” Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. “They will come here. They would like to win. They will be good partners for us.”

Both the men’s and women’s teams are ranked No. 1 in the nation, and Janusz said his teams acknowledge that they bring out their opponent’s best shot in every dual.

The Irish are coming off a

See McCraw page 14

See Duals page 13

See sports writer page 12

FOOTBALL

Athletes apply for fifth-year eligibility

Observer Staff Report

Six football players will apply for a fifth year next season, the University announced Thursday.

Seniors Taylor Dever, Gary Gray, Andrew Nuss, Mike Ragone, David Ruffer and Harrison Smith will apply to Notre Dame’s Faculty Board on Athletics to receive one more year of eligibility.

Dever, an offensive tackle from Nevada City, Calif., started 10 games for the Irish this season and appeared in one more.

Gray, a cornerback from Columbia, S.C., spent his freshman year recovering from shoulder surgery. This season, he started every game, notching one interception and ranking third on the team with 66 tackles.

Nuss, an offensive guard from Ashburn, Va., played in 12 games for Notre Dame this season, missing only the season-opener against Purdue.

Ragone, a tight end from Cherry Hill, N.J., caught three passes for 32 yards, and was forced into a larger role when starter Kyle Rudolph was lost for the season with a hamstring injury. With Rudolph departing early for the NFL,
New Kids on the Ice

Notre Dame's outstanding freshmen lead the Irish into this weekend's showdown against Miami

Photo illustration by Dan Jacobs and Blair Chemidlin
Youth, experience lift Irish in CCHA

There are plenty of reasons Notre Dame shouldn’t be here right now. The roster is disproportionately young, rivals Michigan and Miami (Ohio) are as strong as ever, and the Irish built up enough negative energy last season to fill the soon-to-be-completed Compton Center. And, yet, here we are. No. 9 Notre Dame sits in second place in the CCHA, just two points behind the Wolverines. Though the Irish have been inconsistent at times, they have played well enough to put themselves in position to make a strong playoff push during this season’s stretch run.

“We just need to realize we’re in a great spot right now,” senior center Ben Ryan said.

Before the season started, when filling out my CCHA media ballot, I found Notre Dame — the team I know the most about — to be second place, the most difficult to place. Realistically, I thought the Irish could finish anywhere from first to ninth in the conference.

There was no denying that the freshman class — in addition to the returning upperclassmen — was extremely talented, and that Jeff Jackson and his coaching staff were among the best in the country, but so much was unknown about the Irish going into the season. Would the freshmen have trouble adjusting to the college game? Could the team expel the demons that plagued last year’s disappointing campaign?

Even though there’s still plenty of hockey left to be played, those questions seem to be answered. Jackson won two national championships during his time at Lake Superior State and took the Irish to the title game three years ago, but turning this team into a contender may be his most impressive coaching feat to date. Obviously, there’s still a lot of hockey to be played, but it seems safe to say the Irish will be a factor come playoff time.

Part of the credit for that success also lies with the attitude these freshmen have developed. Older players may have been daunted by taking on so much responsibility for a team that is expected to compete on a national stage, but it seems like these guys just don’t know any better — and that’s a good thing. The only way Notre Dame would truly bounce back from last sea-son’s disappointment is if they could wipe the slate completely clean, and what better way to do that than with a bunch of guys who knew nothing about the team’s struggles a year ago? At the photo shoot for today’s Insider, the players were given just one instruction: skate from the goal line and do a hard stop on the blue line. The result was, well, you can see for yourself on the cover. These freshmen are clearly a group of guys just having fun and seemingly immune to the pressures of being a nationally-ranked team.

Of course, the freshmen wouldn’t be able to do it themselves. The returning players, especially senior captains Joe Lavin, Ryan, Calle Ridderwall and Ryan Guentzel, are the perfect blend of talent and leadership that allow the team to be successful. Guentzel, in particular, has already scored more goals and notched more assists than in his first three years combined. After a tough 4-1 loss to Alaska two weeks ago, Jackson said this could be the point in the season where his team’s youth could start to show. It will be the responsibility of the upperclassmen to make sure that doesn’t happen. This year’s seniors played in the national championship game their freshmen year, and they’ll have to communicate to the younger players just what it takes to get back there.

Both the upperclassmen and the freshmen will have to be on their game if the Irish expect to take down Miami this weekend. The RedHawks are talented from top to bottom and, unlike Notre Dame, have only two freshmen on their roster.

Even though this weekend is only one series, and three points against Miami count just as much as three points against Bowling Green, a strong showing against the RedHawks would go a long way in building that team’s confidence and momentum for the stretch run. The game-night “White Out” atmosphere should be fantastic and will give the Irish — especially the freshmen — a preview for what to expect from playoff hockey.

Regardless of how this weekend turns out, just the fact that this series matters is a testament to how far this team has come so quickly. Before the season, many questioned how long it would take this team to “arrive.” Well, the Irish are here, and don’t plan on going away any time soon.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Sam Werner at sawner@nd.edu

Follow our LIVE blog from the press box at the Joyce Center: http://bit.ly/NDMiami
National freshman standouts Tynan, Lee lead group of 12 freshmen spurring Irish turnaround

By CHRIS ALLEN
Sports Writer

Out with the old, in with the new. The adage may sound tired, but to the Notre Dame hockey program it reads more like a description of its 2010-11 seaon.

The old: the 43-year-old Joyce Center where the Irish play is enjoying its final season of hockey. The new: nearly half of the team's roster.

After a disappointing 13-17-8 mark in the 2009-10 season, a sweeping youth movement of 12 freshmen has the No. 9 Irish back among the country's elite and back in the hunt for the CCHA title.

"I think we expected them to produce but maybe not to this level," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "If I had to say that there was a surprise, it's that the whole class had this level of an impact on our team."

Arguably the most notable of the newcomers wasn't even expected to suit up for the Irish this season. In the lead-up to the 2010-11 season, both Jarred Tinordi and Kyle Palmieri were drafted in the NHL Draft and back in the hunt for the Hobey Baker Award — college hockey's highest individual honor — as Notre Dame's representative.

"I've never seen anything like that, T.J.'s having an unbelievable year. I don't think anyone was expecting it, really. It's been really fun to watch," senior wing Calle Ridderwall said. "He's a playmaker — and a playmaker that knows how to score goals. That's rare to find. Usually guys are either playmakers or goal-scorers. In T.J., you have both of them. He just sees plays very well. He's really good mentally. When he's in the hockey game, he can see how things will develop." Ridderwall and Ryan Guentzel.

"Sharing the team lead in goals with Tynan is yet another freshman, wing Anders Lee. Lee has led the Notre Dame scoring attack as part of a group of freshman forwards that have supplemented the already-dan-

gerous senior trio of Ryan, Ridderwall and Ryan Guentzel. The group includes Lee, Mike Voran, David Gerths, Jeff Costello and Bryan Rust. The contribution of the multitude of forwards has grown throughout the seaon, with all of the players seeing time on some of the top lines. Ridderwall said that despite their inexperience at the college level, the freshmen have brought physically back to Notre Dame.

"Obviously, with Lee, he's a big kid. Even though he's a freshman, he's bigger than a lot of the older guys. I think his physical play is helping around the net it's helping us score a lot of goals," Ridderwall said. "Voran and Gerths are both physical guys. They can make plays, and then turn around and hit someone. I think the physical play those guys are bringing is huge. All of those freshman wings have offensive talent. I think it's a good mix between power forwards and goal scorers."

Getting defensive

While the arsenal of forwards has been busy disrupting the lives of opposing defenses, a fresh infusion of talent on the Irish defense has brought immedi-
ate and hard work to his unit.

Shrewd play

"Their skill takes care of itself when they're working hard. It's just like anybody else. All the freshmen are really competing well, all 12 of them. We really appreciate that. Johns and Taker are two big kids with big frames and a lot of skill, that's good for us."

Rounding out the plethora of Irish freshmen are two goal-tenders, Steven Summerhays and Joe Rogers. Though sophomore Mike Johnson has seen the lion's share of the time in goal during the season, both players have elevated their game, with Summerhays seeing the occasional start. The freshman from Alaska has started five games to the tune of a 3.45 goals against average. Johns said that his relationship with his freshman understudies has helped the goaltending unit improve as a whole.

"I definitely think I look at myself as a leader, but I think we have a very close relationship, the three of us." Johnson said. "I think we're more friends than I would say that I'm a leader. And I think that in practices, we all work hard, so that really pushes us to get better. They're pushing me, I'm pushing them, so it's a really good relationship."

Feet on the ground

"With the freshmen off to such a good start and the team enduring a level of success they haven't experienced in nearly two years, the team leaders have worked to ensure that the group adjusts well to the success and doesn't fall into complacency. The trio of Ridderwall, Ryan and Guentzel is no stranger to early success, as Notre Dame reached the national championship game in their freshman season with each player contributing on the ice. Ridderwall said he believed early success was more of a positive development in building confidence than a dangerous pitfall.

"I think as a freshman it helps to have early success. A lot of our freshman got off to a good start, and building momentum early helps their confidence not only on the ice, but away from the ice," he said. "Sometimes people struggle coming to college when it comes to hockey and when it comes to all the stuff on the side."

As the team heads into the final stretch of the regular seaon, one thing is clear regardless of the outcome of games against Irish hockey. While the program honors the past greats of the Joyce Center over the coming weekends, this group of 12 play-

ers stands as a testament to the future that lies a few hundred feet south in the new Compton Family Center. The speed of Ty-
Preparation gives way to excitement for series

By ALLAN JOSEPH
Sports Writer

With No. 11 Miami (Ohio) coming to the Joyce Center for a pivotal series near the end of the regular season, there seems to be some disagreement over how important this weekend actually is.

Irish senior captain Joe Lavin is hoping his squad takes a businesslike approach.

“I think it’s just like another weekend,” he said.

Senior center Ben Ryan, however, couldn’t hide his excitement.

“It’s a huge weekend,” he said. “I mean, they are just two hockey games and they could be against anyone else, but the fact that that’s a team that we’re going to have to go through at the end of the season... I think this weekend, being able to send a message that we’re right there with them, would be huge.”

For his part, Irish coach Jeff Jackson struck a middle ground.

“Hey, it’s crunch time in the season, but it’s no different how it’s going to be two weeks from now against Bowling Green,” he said.

“There’s six points on the table. It’s about playoff standings. It’s going to be no different than last Saturday’s game against Ohio State in regards to the three points on the line.”

No. 9 Notre Dame (16-9-3, 13-6-1 CCHA) faced the RedHawks (14-9-3, 11-7-2-1) in Oxford during early December and split the series, winning the first game 5-4 before dropping a 5-2 decision the next night. In each of those games, the Irish were unable to keep up with their fast-starting opponents in the first period, falling behind 2-0 in the early parts of the game before mounting a comeback. Part of the slow start could be attributed to settling into the game before a hostile crowd in Miami’s Goggin Ice Center.

This week, however, Lavin felt a different vibe in his locker room, which was largely unchanged instead of the tension that can come before a marquee series.

“We just had a different culture this week — we’ve kept things pretty light but we’re working hard,” he said. “We’re just search- ing for that enthusiasm, and I feel like we’ve got it this week. We’re excited for the weekend.”

The week has also been filled with preparation, not for the RedHawks attack, but on the weaker areas of Notre Dame’s game.

“We’ve done a lot of preparation [and] we’ve just been focusing on what we need to do,” Lavin said.

“If we can play good defense, it’ll turn into offense and we’ll be set.”

The Irish have been focusing especially on transitioning from the defensive zone to the attack without turning the puck over.

“The losses that we’ve had... they prevented us and we didn’t have the preparedness well coming out of our zone making passes, making smart plays,” Ryan said.

“Against Miami, if you turn the puck over, they’ve got so many tal- ented forwards that it’s going to be bit more because they’re such a high quality team.”

With a young team that is espe- cially inconsistent on the road, the friendly confines of the Joyce Center could make the difference in a tight game.

“Sometimes when the season gets long and we’re on the road, espe- cially with such a young team, we can get away from what made us successful,” Lavin said. “We really respect everybody for coming to watch us. The band’s great, the fans are great, and we’ve just look- ing forward to coming back home.”

We just need to make sure we work hard for them because they’re paying to come watch us play.”

“Notre Dame takes on the RedHawks at 7:35 p.m. Friday night in a game televised by CBS College Sports nationwide Saturday night, the teams meet again at 5:05 p.m. for a matchup televised by FS Detroit as part of Hockey Day in Michigan. Both games are in the Joyce Center.

Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu

Johnson’s strong play propels Irish performance

By SAM GANS
Sports Writer

Most Notre Dame students born in February 1989 are currently either interviewing for a job after graduation or determining their grad school plans.

Irish goaltender Mike Johnson, however, is not even halfway through his time at the university.

A native of Verona, Wis., Johnson — who turns 22 next Tuesday — did not enroll in col- lege directly after completing high school. Rather, the sopho- more chose to follow the junior hockey route, playing a total of two seasons for both the St. Louis Bandits, of the North American Hockey League, and the United States Hockey League’s Cedar Rapids RoughRiders. The experi- ence helped Johnson to focus fully on hockey, as well as adjust to life away from home.

“I think that was a really important step for my develop- ment,” Johnson said. “The level of competition (in the USHL) is unbeatable in America for junior hockey. And it helped make the transition to col- lege a lot easier. It also taught me a lot about living on my own.”

Johnson learned how to skate around the time he could walk. Though he didn’t play organized hockey until 3rd grade and didn’t move between the pipes until a 6th grade year, Johnson always felt natural on the ice alongside his younger brother, Eric, who will join the Irish squad as a freshman in the fall.

“[Eric and I] would always skate together on ponds,” Johnson said. “That’s when we were really little, before we start- ed playing. And then we wanted to play, because all of our friends did, and it just took off.”

Ultimately, Johnson developed his skills to the point of being recruited to play college hockey. And as comfortable as he felt in the rink, he felt just as much so on Notre Dame campus and in South Bend.

“When I came on my visit, I felt like I was at home here. I could feel it,” Johnson said. “And obvi- ously, the academics help and it’s got a great hockey program. The overall combination was unbeat- able.”

Upon arriving at Notre Dame, Johnson began last year backing up former Irish netminder Brad Phillips, before moving into the starting slot in the middle of the season. Though Johnson’s stats (1.910 save percentage, 2.60 goals-against) are similar to last year, he has allowed four or more goals in nine games, which has been outstanding for us at times, and the nights even when he’s not outstanding, he’s usually still good.”

Though Johnson has reduced his number of poor games, con- sistency in his area he is still focus- ing on, including this weekend against Miami.

“Once the playoffs come around, you’re going to need to win a lot of games in a row,” Johnson said. “Really bringing it on Friday night and then coming back on Saturday with another strong performance (is impor- tant).”

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