Seven Cairo students to finish semester in London

University officials comment on chaotic situation in Middle Eastern metropolis

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Editor

Two weeks after traveling to Cairo with the intent of staying for a full semester, one week after losing Internet and cell phone connections and three days after their evacuation in Istanbul, several Notre Dame students left Turkey Thursday for either London or South Bend.

Seven of the 12 students will finish the semester at Notre Dame’s London Program, University spokesman Dennis Brown said. Two students flew to London Wednesday and five others arrived Thursday night. At least three of the remaining five students will return to Notre Dame’s South Bend campus this semester, Brown said.

The 12 undergraduates arrived in Cairo Jan. 20 to study at the American University in Cairo (AUC), but were evacuated Monday due to the ongoing protests in Egypt.

London calls students to intern

Alumni Association appoints new director

Observer Staff Report

Elizabeth “Dolly” Duffy, associate director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, has been appointed executive director of the association, as well as associate vice president for University Relations, according to a University press release.

Duffy will succeed Charles F. “Chuck” Lennon in July when he leaves the University after 30 years leading the most extensive alumni network in the nation.

“I’m absolutely thrilled to build on the strong outreach, programs and service that Chuck and this wonderful staff have accomplished over many years,” Duffy said. “It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with our alumni, parents and friends to deepen their connection to Notre Dame.

The association connects the University with its nearly 132,000 alumni. Lennon increased the number of clubs from 151 to 276 during his career.

“As we begin this next chapter in the history of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, I have great confidence that Dolly will build upon an organization that is committed to serve Alumni,” see ALUMNI/page 4

London calls students to intern

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

For many students, interning for a company involves fetching coffee and picking up laundry for their bosses. However, some Notre Dame students studying abroad in London are defying these stereotypes as they intern for a variety of organizations.

Junior Stephen LaBrecque is interning with Emmaus, a charitable organization in London. Emmaus enables the homeless to live in a community as “companions” in order to get back on their feet. They help a store sell donated items in order to fund the community. Sappenfield said interning with the group allows her to give back to the public.

“I have always believed that we all have a responsibility to contribute to the good of society, especially those who are vulnerable and face hardship,” she said. “Emmaus is an organization that echoes those beliefs.”

Clemson, who is coordinating with dioceses to market National Grandparent Day, "I wanted a way to get more involved in the city I am living in,” she said. “It is a great hands on experience.”

Junior Alyssa Sappenfield is interning with the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, said she chose to intern to be active in London.

“I was studying abroad in Cairo and already had a column written for this space a week ago to convince you to read about my life in Egypt. It went something like this: Right now, it is probably nearing lunchtime and you are reading The Observer while sipping on a coffee from Waddick’s. You’re dreading your next class and wishing you had gotten a few more hours of sleep. It feels like negative 12 degrees outside. Right now in Cairo, it’s dinner time. I’m tired from a long day of classes and am sitting in traffic on the bus back to my apartment in the Egyptian capital after violent protests began in the city.

This was originally supposed to be a column introducing The Observer’s new blog, The Cornerstone. We are working as an awards assistant for the US-UK Fulbright Commission. He said he spends most of his time finding various ways to promote the awards of the program.

“My duties include redesigning promotional material and advertisements, emailing out various department heads and soliciting chairpersons to increase the awareness of the awards,” he said. “I also have been looking into various ways to advertise for the awards via job websites and social networking sites.”

LaBrecque said he sought an internship during his time abroad for cultural and career-driven purposes.

“I was looking for an opportunity to meet local residents of London and I also wanted to gain some new work experience,” he said.

Junior Kelsey Clemson, who is interning for the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, said she chose to intern to be active in London.

“I wanted a way to get more involved in the city I am living in,” she said. “It is a great hands on experience.”
THE HOT SEAT: ONE PERSON, SIX QUESTIONS, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

Q: Where did you study abroad last semester? Stephane: Toledo, Spain

Q: What is the most useful thing you learned? Stephane: How to use public transportation like a boss

Q: What was the strangest thing you ate? Stephane: Rabbit and this orange mush that had fat on top of it, and I'm still not sure what it's called. We didn't get a name for it, we just ate it.

Q: What is your favorite memory? Stephane: When my mom came and met my host family, and they took my mom and me out for drinks and for a tour of the town.

Q: What was the most unexpected thing? Stephane: There are redheads in Spain! And my host family became like a real family to me.

Q: What did you miss the most? Stephane: Snacking: sour patch watermelons and dietes. And there is no substitute. Europe sucks at gummies. Nothing compares.

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

The cancelation of Wednesday’s annual Winter Career and Internship Fair due to extreme weather conditions has sparked both concern and questions from many students.

Sophomore Peter Thompson said the storm produced a dilemma for internship possibilities this summer.

“I am one of the fortunate ones who had an interview before the blizzard came on Tuesday,” Thompson said. “However, I would have liked to create a connection with a couple of employers at the fair on Tuesday to open up more possibilities for this summer and the future.”

Lee Svente, director of the Career Center, said weathering the storm would not be a wise decision with the high influx of employers coming in from the Chicago area.

“When Notre Dame cancelled the Board of Trustees meeting due to the blizzard, we took it as our cue to cancel the Career and Internship Fair,” he said. “That level of leadership was going to nix their event, we thought it would be good to follow suit.”

Svente said he and his staff have been contacting employers who were planning on coming to Wednesday’s event to inform them of the tentative rescheduled date.

“We are hoping to be able to hold the event on March 3, based on the availability of the Joyce Center,” he said. “We think we will actually be able to pick up more employers to come at the later date.”

In addition, Svente said he wants those students who had inter- views lined up for the following weeks to keep an eye on employers they remain interested in.

“The resumes for students who had an interview scheduled remain on Go IRISH,” Svente said. “Some employers need to follow through with the application process, so we ask students to monitor those deadlines through Go IRISH.”

In addition to the Career and Internship Fair, the Diversity Reception will also be held tentatively on March 3, Svente said.

“March 3 is the ideal date for us all, as most, if not all, of our initial employers will be able to return to campus, as will one hundred percent of our sponsors,” he said.

The blizzard, which wreaked havoc on the entire Midwest, has created problems for the companies and corporations who planned on making the trip to campus. Svente said despite this, the event would benefit from a later date.

“Armageddon took over Chicago and O’Hare was cancel- ling flights left and right,” he said. “But, the make-up date of March 3 will make for a better Career and Internship Fair for all.”

Contact Adam Llorens at allorens@nd.edu

With elections for student government upcoming, SGA holds meeting for election candidates

By ALICIA SMITH

All candidates who wish to run for SGA, Residence Hall Association, Student Activities Board and Student Diversity Board will be checking in at the SGA office. At least one member from each ticket must attend the meeting in order to be eligible to run.

The meeting will take place at 2:15 p.m. in the SGA office. At least one member from each ticket must attend one of the meet- ings in order to be eligible to run.

The meeting was offered to those who wish to run for SGA, Residence Hall Association, Student Activities Board and Student Diversity Board.

One of the meetings was originally scheduled for Wednesday, but was cancelled due to inclement weather.

At the meeting, Laura Smith, student body vice president, explained the rules of the election.

Students were told when and where they are allowed to post campaign materials. Students also received election rules.

Smith said students must have a 3.0 GPA in order to run.

“If you do not have it, Patrick [Daniel, director of Student Involvement] and the Student Involvement people will be checking and he will ask you to step down from campaigning,” she said. “The College is really strict on the GPA requirement.”

In addition, students may not participate in a study abroad program during their term, which lasts an entire academic year.

Smith said in order to run for student body president or vice president, students must be a rising junior or senior at the college.

Dates were also announced for campaigning and Election Day.

“You’re campaigning will start at 8 a.m. on March 3, 5 p.m. and then it will end that Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 11:59 p.m. No later than that,” Smith said. “And then voting will take place Thursday from midnight to Saturday 11:59 p.m.”

The ticket students must have their platform approved by SGA and the Student Senate in order to run.

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Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

SMC students ring in Chinese New Year

By ALICIA SMITH

Saint Mary’s College rang in the Chinese New Year Thursday with a tea party, complete with paper lanterns, music and sweets.

Held in the Warner Conference Room in the Student Center, the celebration featured two different types of Chinese tea, as well as other foods ranging from candies to biscuits.

Alice Siqin Yang, assistant director of Global Education, said the tea party was held to raise awareness about the country, as well as to share information about study abroad programs.

“I think it’s important for students nowadays to know more about Chinese history and Chinese culture and Chinese language,” she said.

During the event, students shared their experiences studying abroad in China.

Senior Julie Hagopian said students should consider the benefits of studying in China.

“Just jump,” she said. “Just go. It’s one of the best. Financially it’s one of the best-priced trips. You still get three credits for it.”

Hagopian said she had fears before her trip, but she did not regret her decision.

“It’s scary going to a place that you don’t know the lan- guage,” Hagopian said. “You’re not exactly familiar with the culture or the food, but that’s the beauty of it. You just have to jump in and figure it all out.”

Hagopian said it is important to share the Chinese culture with the Saint Mary’s commu- nity.

“General multicultural-ness is always important…to bring to the forefront that there are different cultures around the world,” she said. “Sometimes it’s not always represented as well in a beautiful, Midwestern, primarily white campus like our own, but reaching out makes it more clear that there are other cultures and they are just as vibrant as our own.”

Yang said other events pertaining to Chinese culture would be held. On Feb. 19, the College will host the event “Chinese New Year Celebration.” The event will be held in O’Hara Hall from 7:30 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Yang said the event will have a variety of different cultural aspects to it including song, dance and kung fu.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

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Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu
Cairo continued from page 1

“We are grateful for the assistance from the American University in Cairo (AUC) for the secure evacuation of our students,” said J. Nicholas Entrikin, Notre Dame’s vice president for Internationalization. AUC, along with other universities in the region, helped in transporting the students to Turkey.”

As the protests spread and grew, Notre Dame was forced to remain in AUC’s student residence in Zamalek, a residential district of Cairo. The Egyptian government’s efforts to stop protestors caused the students to lose Internet access to distract me.

But what I do know is what it felt like being there. What tear gas feels like. What life is like without Internet or phone access. What cars look like after protesters ran through them.

I’m sure most of you have read the headlines or watched CNN. In fact, you probably know more about the facts of the Egyptian revolution than me, since I was without Internet for almost a week. But what I do know is what it felt like being there. What tear gas feels like. What life is like without Internet or phone access. What cars look like after protesters ran through them.

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Intern
continued from page 1

Pilgrimages in England and develop guide material for the pilgrims, said the internship is providing her with valuable skills for life after Notre Dame.

“I am getting a lot of experience communicating with others to develop a pastorally sensitive and relevant handbook,” she said.

Sappenfield said she believes her work at Emmaus is preparing her for her postgraduate career. She said the nature of the organization is in accord with what she wants in a job.

“I am thinking of going to law school, specifically public interest law,” Sappenfield said. “I hope Emmaus will give me more hands-on service experience to prepare for a career in a field with social justice and community enrichment in mind.”

LaBrecque said one of the reasons he enjoys working with the Fulbright Commission is because the job is fast paced.

“Non-profits can’t afford a large staff, so the interns are given a lot of different projects and responsibilities,” he said.

LaBrecque said communication presents a challenge when interning in a foreign country.

“So far I’ve been laughed at for my American accent and I have to be conscious of the fact that there are differences of language,” he said. “For example, I was going to send out an email with the word ‘program,’ my boss alerted me to the fact that in the UK its ‘programme.’”

LaBrecque said encountering foreign languages proves to be a challenge with her internship.

“Accents are really hard to get used to,” she said.

“There are companions from Latvia, Poland, Scotland and other places,” Kelsey Clemson said working in a professional environment in the city of London has been rewarding.

“In my experience so far, I have been really struck by the professionalism of my internship,” she said. “People seem to treat me like a co-worker rather than someone who is just helping out for four months. I definitely wasn’t expecting that.”

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu

 Associated Press

CAIRO — Menacing gangs backing President Hosni Mubarak attacked journalists and human rights activists Thursday in an ugly turn in Egypt’s crisis as government opponents pushed supporters out of Cairo’s main square in a second day of street battles.

Organizers called for protesters trying to topple the regime to fill every square in the huge capital on Friday.

The new vice president, widely considered the first successor Mubarak has ever designated, fueled anti-foreign sentiment by going on state television and blaming outsiders for fomenting unrest. The government has accused media outlets of being sympathetic to protesters who want the president to quit now rather than serve out his term, as he has vowed to do.

The Obama administration, meanwhile, was in talks with top Egyptian officials about the possibility of Mubarak immediately resigning and the formation of an interim government that could prepare the country for free and fair elections later this year. U.S. officials said Thursday. The talks were first reported by The New York Times.

The creation of a military-backed caretaker government in Egypt is one of several ideas being discussed as anti-Mubarak protests escalate in the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian cities, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive diplomatic talks that are continuing.

Among those options is a proposal for Mubarak to resign immediately and cede power to a transitional government run by Vice President Omar Suleiman.

White House and State Department spokesmen would not discuss details of the discussions U.S. officials are having with the Egyptians.

“The president has said that now is the time to begin a peaceful, orderly and meaningful transition,” said White House national security spokesman Tommy Vinter on Thursday night. “We have discussed with the Egyptians a variety of different ways to move that process forward.”

Mubarak, 82, told ABC television in an interview that he was fed up and wants to resign. But he said he can’t for fear the country would sink into chaos.

He said he was very unhappy with the process the country would sink into chaos.

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Snow day in college are a surreal experience. With the apocalyptic tones of meteorologists ringing in their ears, Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s students started to get a little ridiculous on Tuesday night.

Blizzard conditions? Snow measured in double-digits? The Career Fair has been cancelled? A snow day was imminent, it had to be.

People new warm-weather states started to get a little giddy, as many had never experienced a snow day in their entire academic career. Those experienced in winter weather cancellations fed the anticipation with nostalgia for snow days past.

But our campuses, smash-dash in the middle of lake-effect territory and well-stocked with removal equipment, haven’t closed since 2000. The sheer novelty of it was enough for 18-to-22-year-olds to resort to the tried-and-true snow day voodoo:

Wear your pajamas inside-out, flush an ice cube down the toilet, sleep with a spoon under the pillow. They knew to set their alarms for ungodly hours of the morning just to watch the cancellations list on WNDU — or, in fitting college fashion, obsessively refresh their email and the school homepage until the glorious news arrived: “Because of dangerous weather conditions, classes have been cancelled and the campus will be closed today.”

For the 80 percent of the student body stuck on either campus, Wednesday was truly an escapist through Catholic Disneyland. A few overly-brave people ventured out onto the maybe-frozen Saint Mary’s lake before being shooed off by Notre Dame Security Police. Some headed out the dorm courtyards and quads to build snow forts out of recycling-bin-shaped blocks. Others spent hours playing rugby and football in the powder before heading inside to watch marathons of television shows on DVD.

Despite a snow emergency issued by South Bend Mayor Stephen Lukecke that restricted travel, the valiant staff of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s food services kept the dining halls open for regular hours. You could even go to LaFortune Student Center and get a hot chocolate after sledding down the steps of Bond Hall on your dining hall tray from breakfast.

For everyone stranded off campus, it was a day to wander between apartment complexes on foot (toasty in Uggs and snow boots), inventing ways to include snow in their tailgate games left over from football season. Students even took South Bend’s snow removal ordinance to heart and braided the cord to shovel their sidewalks.

Wednesday had the best of college: spontaneity, friends, community — without the pesky business of classwork and schedules and predictability. When football game day has its own website and dorm Mass comes at the same time every week, sometimes the best parts of the tradition-laden “Notre Dame experience” are the unexpected things like snow days.
Please, no further help necessary!

For fear of sounding cranky like CBS commentator Andy Rooney, I am hesitant to complain about the substandard level of global technological instantaneous communications still wallowing in some quarters of cyber-space. Naturally, like most, I want my e-mail to pop into my box within seconds after it was sent from halfway around the world. I remain wild about language command software that allows my PCU to reply back at me like the infamous super computers such as HAL in the movie “2001, A Space Odyssey,” or WOPR of “War Games.” I would accept refusals of my requests so long as their methods of communication were either mechanical or monotonous. “Would you like to play Global Thermoelectric War?” could be poetry to my ear.

Lately, humans controlling computers frustrate me. These so-called “customer support professionals” hold the entire Internet — not to mention all of my proprietary personal information — at the tip of their keyboards. They should comfort me, not raise my problems and electronically put me on my butt as we hang up the phone. (If I was actually Andy Rooney, at this point I would diverge to ask the question, “Do you think anyone other than I still uses the term ‘hang up’ to describe pressing the end button on a cell phone?”)

But I am not Andy Rooney — at least not yet — and I am upset that I received no electronic butt-pats after I recently initiated two customer service help calls. The first occurred when my six-month complimentary Sirius Radio and data subscription expired. In an attempt to renew online, I could view both programs listed on my account, but could only renew one of them.

Surfing the Sirius site only confused me since new Ford vehicles like my Fusion hybrid are the first to utilize new technologies other companies do not. I reviewed my data options: Sirius Travel Link, Traffic or Traffic with Travel Link. Yet I read that Travel Link was exclusive to Fords, plus already included traffic data. I ended up adding a data package I thought was the Ford package that lasted just three days at a billed cost to me of 56 cents.

Soon afterwards I knew I failed to renew my data when I clicked for weather information I previously saw during my complimentary period. Rather than weather, a notice including a call button I could conveniently press to remedy my problem shown brightly on my dashboard. Naturally, I pushed the help button.

Immediately, I knew by the sing-song inflections of the customer service rep that I had connected with a female in India. After explaining my quandary and inability to renew the data package, she replied, “Yes, Gary. I’ll be happy, Gary, to set up and review your music account.”

I countered that I had successfully renewed my music but had no weather information. She continued, “Gary, we have several music options. Gary. And Gary, let me explain your payment options. Gary.”

“I know my options — I chose Sirius Everything over something I believe I cannot buy anyway for my new Ford,” I loudly shot back. I then pleaded, “I want my weather and traffic back. What the hell does my account indicate that I originally had, but cannot renew on line?”

“Gary, let’s see if you have music on channel 104, Gary.”

“I told you I have my music. Can you help me or not?” I barked back.

“Gary, would you be interested in paying for a full year of music, Gary, and receive two months free?” she matter-of-factly asked.

My head was about to explode. If I heard her sing my name one more time, it would have burst. I hung up on her.

Two days later, I attempted an online check-in for a Luftansa flight using my Expedia booking confirmation code. According to the web site, the airline had no record of me. I attempted to use another check-in option, namely, my United Airlines frequent flyer number submitted when I booked the flight. Again, nothing a mere day before what I thought for months was my scheduled flight. I panicked and called Expedia customer service ringing in — you guessed it — India.

A female voice, which I swear was the same voice from my Sirius Radio call, began in her sing-song way, “Gary, I’d be happy to confirm your itinerary, Gary. Gary, you are on flight...

Raising my voice, I interrupted, “I know the flights. I cannot check-in using the booking code the airline gave me or my frequent flyer number I used to book the flight.”

“Gary, I’d be happy to add your frequent flyer number to your itinerary, Gary,” she matter-of-factly replied.

Doesn’t anyone in customer services listen? Oh, for want of a stress-free solution, even if just to hear an inanimate monotone voice tell me, “I’m sorry, Gary, I can’t do that!”

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame ’73, serves in the Department of Homeland Security and was a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton’s administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at Gary.Caruso@usimmn.edu.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, North Dining Hall staff!

This morning my roommates and I woke up to the great news of class cancellations due to the snowocalypse that had reached South Bend overnight. After going back to sleep for an hour per hour, we then got to work on deciding what to do with our newly found freetime. First order of business: eat some food. We wanted nothing more than to go to North Dining Hall and enjoy some hot brunch after the long snowy night. Unsure of whether NH would be open as a result of the storm, we trekked across north quad and made it there without too much trouble because of the efficient snow removal. The even better news was that NHJ was open! The cart swipes were there, smiling at us as usual, the dessert bar was being restocked as we took our seats and the food was hot and ready. We certainly didn’t expect such a scene! The men and women of North Dining Hall (including the snow removal crew and the LaFortune workers and various support staff) made it to campus safely, all for our direct benefit. We cannot thank you enough for all that you do for us! While we slept in and lounged in our pajamas, all of you were out and about, braving the brutal road conditions and making your way to Notre Dame. It really says a lot about how much we need to appreciate the staff on campus. Don’t take your clear sidewalks, clean dorms, hot lunch and Starbuck’s for granted. Many people came to work this morning despite the blizzard so take a minute to say thank you and appreciate how good we have it here. Thanks Notre Dame for the snow day and thanks NDH for the best brunch we’ve had all year!

Taylor Sticha, Katie Hennessy, Sydney Speltz, Catherine de la Rosa, Mary Goodman, Anna Bennett, Mara Carlsw

Thank you, ‘Snow Essential Personnel’

Thank you for your dedication. While thousands of students, including myself, had the chance to step out of their hectic lifestyles for an entire day, you came to work. Because of you, I was able to admire the snow on beautifully cleared sidewalks, enjoy leisurely meals with friends at North and South dining halls, and even grab a cup of coffee at Starbucks to sip while reading a book. I wish I could have personally thanked every member of the “Snow Essential Personnel” team today. In fact, my sincerest gratitude goes out to every employee who makes living at Notre Dame such an honor and a privilege. As far as I’m concerned, you are the Fighting Irish.

Taylor Sticha, Katie Hennessy, Sydney Speltz, Catherine de la Rosa, Mary Goodman, Anna Bennett, Mara Carlsw

Looking forward to Valentine’s Day?

I would just like to say thank you to the dining hall workers and support staff who came in to work. We got a day off, but they had to come to campus even through the blizzard conditions. Thank you!

Lauren McCallick

Thank you

I would just like to say thank you to the dining hall workers and support staff who came in to work. We got a day off, but they had to come to campus even through the blizzard conditions. Thank you!

Paquilla Ware Hall

Write a Letter to the Editor

Share your feelings.

Raquel Falk

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Never” reached No. 17 on the Billboard Top 100. His second solo album was abort- ed when The Backstreet Boys returned to the studio. He starred in “House of Wax,” a movie adaptation of the 1953 movie, and released his latest album “Have It All” in 2009. A.J. McLean — Went to rehabili-
tion, released his single “Never Gone” before Kevin Richardson, who left the band in 2002, released his single “Welcome Home” in 2006. His second album is set to be released in 2011 after The Backstreet Boys “This Is It” tour.

Hovie Dorough — Has worked as a pro-
to be released in the United States on February 8. He is engaged, with a wedding date of May 14.

Brian Littrell — Littrell decided to become a contemporary Christian singer, releasing “In Christ Alone” from his “Welcome Home” album in 2006. His second Christian album is set to be released in 2011 after The Backstreet Boys “This Is It” tour.

By CLAIRE STEPHENS
Scene Writer
If there are any musical memories of our 90s childhoods left, pop boy bands are undoubtedly one of them. A pop cultural phenomenon, no girl under the age of 25 was lacking a favorite band member (Most guys, on the other hand, debated whether or not groups of all singers should even be called a band). Starting in 1984 with the creation of New Kids on the Block, followed by The Backstreet Boys, shortly after *NSYNC and 98 degrees, as well as Boys II Men, Dream Street, 2Bk, and more, the cultural craze rivaling Beatle mania swept through the United States, Europe and Asia.

Nearly 20 years later, after many break ups, reunions, attempted solo careers and members leaving, which pop stars made the best of their fame and which have disappeared forever into obscurity? Starring rival fatales, The Backstreet Boys and *NSYNC, it’s up to you to decide which band members are doing well or failing miserably.

The Backstreet Boys — After a four year hiatus from 2002-2006, released “Never Going Back Again.” After Kevin Richardson, now married with a daughter, left the band. Since then, they have released two more albums in 2007 and 2009. The new four Backstreet Boys will be touring with the five remaining members of New Kids on the Block this summer.

Nick Carter — Carter remained with the band’s management company, The Firm, after the band left the company in 2002. In 2002 he was named Cosmogirl’s “Sexiest Man in the World” (beating Justin Timberlake). His solo album “Now or Never” reached No. 17 on the Billboard Top 100. His second solo album was aborted when The Backstreet Boys returned to the studio. He starred in “House of Wax,” a movie adaptation of the 1953 movie, and released his latest album “Have It All” in 2009. A.J. McLean — Went to rehabilitation for drug and alcohol addiction in 2001 and again in 2002 after an intervention lead by fellow band member Kevin Richardson. He performed in a solo tour in 2008, and his newest album “Have It All”没能..
The advantages to spending a semester in London extend beyond the countless pubs, beautiful buildings and fantastic shopping to be found in all corners of the city. This diverse metropolis of 7.5 million brings together all types of people, including famous actors and excited young college students. This particular college student gladly ran straight from class to the Apple store on Regent Street three hours before actor Colin Firth and director Tom Hooper of “The King’s Speech” were set to give an interview about the film to stand in line and hope for a seat. What followed was a remarkable hour in which Firth and Hooper shared stories about the trials and tribulations of making the Oscar-nominated film, as well as the sheer joy they both found in the project. The pair was riveting and proved an excellent way to start the semester with a bang.

By STEPHANIE DEPREZ
Scene Writer

This weekend is the Super Bowl. You know this. I know this. Everyone in the English speaking areas of North America knows this. And, let’s face it, it’s getting about as much press coverage as Egypt right now. Because, you know, the impending geographical riots between those who pack and those who steel is far more relevant to our lives than the truly violent riots going on in one of America’s most important allies in the Middle East. Not that I’m passing judgement at all, because if the world operated according to my wants and needs, we would spend all national news focusing on the halftime show, not the quarterbacks.

How dare! You sin! For shame! That any Notre Dame student would speak out against the – ahem – Super Bowl of Super ... is something unforeseen. Let me explain. I knew nothing of football before I arrived at McGlinn in August 2007. My knowledge of the sport consisted of that which I gathered in between spoonfuls of artichoke dip when my father (who never watches football) insisted on watching the Broncos the two times Denver went to the championship, and whatever was picked up driving around a car purchased from John Elway Toyota.

My first Notre Dame game (after my head stopped spinning from all the Irish gear in varying shades of blue, green and gold) was spent learning the finer points of why the lines of men were moving back and forth across the field with no discernable pattern, under the tutelage of a sophomore who had been drinking the Kool-Aid far longer than I. After four years, I do understand most of what happens on the field, though whenever those little yellow strips come flying from the zebras I moan and yell crass nothings to the air before turning to the closest male and ask under my breath, “What happened? Was that good?”

College football, you’ve won me over and been mastered. But this other stuff, this big stuff, with Hydro domes and billions of dollars and endorsements, I have no idea how it works. The game itself, sure. But the mania surrounding it is lost on me. I have no connection to Green Bay. I can’t even tell you what state it is in. (“Wisconsin, you idiot!”) And I drove through Pittsburgh ... sure. I understand the legions of Midwesterners donning oversized (and overpriced) jerseys to support their team. But I, personally, will be watching for the commercials and the halftime show. Call me a sinner, but at least I’m still watching.

I do commend the efforts that the media lords have put in to making the Super Bowl not Super Boring: commercials that represent billions of dollars invested in my own amusement, a halftime show featuring those crazy kids who provided the baseline for last year’s pop mash up from DJ Earworm, and an overabundance of sappy storylines that will guarantee I cry at least twice during the telecast (especially when the captain of the winning team lifts his son into his arms at the end of the game). So when I turn to the television at 6:30ish on Sunday, after dorm Mass, moved to accommodate the hordes who would have gone without had Mass stayed in the evening, I will calmly suck up the fact that I am not so interested in the football. I will perpetuate the cliché. I will remain ... Irish.

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A sneak peek at Scene Around the World

Watch the videos at ndsmcobserver.com/scene

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GREEN BAY PACKERS' Donald Driver practices on Thursday.

Green Bay Packers' Donald Driver practices the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XIV Sunday in Dallas.

**Associated Press**

IRVING, Texas — Donald Driver's 36th birthday celebration the other day was a relatively reserved affair, just some good conversation with his wife and kids. At a certain age, he jokes, it's better not to remind people of getting older.

Besides, the Green Bay Packers wide receiver hopes he's in it for a much bigger celebration come Sunday.

When the Packers face the Pittsburgh Steelers at Cowboys Stadium, it will be Driver's big birthday and the culmination of a 12-year wait.

"I don't think it's really going to hit me until Sunday when I walk out that tunnel, knowing that this is the biggest stage that I'm going to play on," Driver said. "And I have to win it all.

For Driver, winning would be the ultimate payoff for years of hard yards and crushing hits.

Driver has made a living doing the dirty work some wide receivers won't — going over the middle, exposing himself to big hits and holding onto the ball. And now that he's finally made it to the big game, all that punishment will be worth it with a win against the Steelers at Cowboys Stadium on Sunday.

Those bumps and bruises have added up. The Packers put him on the injury report Thursday after he was limited in practice with a quadriceps injury, an injury that kept him out of a game earlier in the season. Coach Mike McCarthy said Driver still needs to do some work, and was held out as a precaution.

The hard-hitting Steelers defense expects him to play. They know some receivers can be intimidated and Driver isn't one of them.

"Not Driver, no," Steelers linebacker James Farrior said. "He's been a great receiver for that team throughout the years. He doesn't mind getting hit, and it's not going to be a game where you're going to go down on him.

Driver said former teammate such as Robert Brooks and Antonio Freeman taught him the merits of going across the middle.

"That's where you're going to make your bread and butter," Driver said. "Because if people know that you're not afraid to go over the middle, you're going to be able to make plays. They know that they can hit you as hard as they can, you'll still stand up and smile and shake it off. And that's what I've done over my career."

Despite all the punishment, Driver wants to play out a contract that spans two more seasons.

"I want to walk away before I have to crawl away," Driver said.

Driver has taken a back seat to Greg Jennings as the team's No. 1 receiver in recent years, but says he doesn't mind a lower profile as long as it helps the Packers win.

"You've just got to accept your role and enjoy it," Driver said. "I think if we've been one of those guys that went out every day and complained, I'm not getting this, I'm not getting that, we wouldn't be where we are today. I think you have to be humble and understand the situation.

The Packers' younger receivers credit Driver for helping them learn the position, and they know how much it means for him to play in the Super Bowl.

"You could see that with Driver after the NFC championship when we beat Chicago," Jordy Nelson said. "He was a little emotional. He didn't know if anyone else caught it, but he was sitting back and taking it all in and probably thinking about all the years and all the work that he put into this to finally get this opportunity. Going in the game, Driver is telling his teammates not to let it slip away.

"It is hard getting here and that is what we stress to these guys all season long," Driver said. "When you get to this point in your career, you just want to win it all. This all separates you from all other great guys that play this game, by winning that championship."

And if he scores Sunday, you'd better believe he'll do "Lambeau Leap" into the stands — although he and his teammates will have to scout around for the right spot beforehand.

"You've got to do a Lambeau Leap!" Driver said. "You've just got to make sure you find the right fans."

NBA

**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — Blake Griffin is going to have his first All-Star game, and Kevin Garnett matched an NBA record Thursday when he was named the fourth straight selection as one of a record-tying four Boston Celtics to make the midseason season event.

Raja Bell, Paul Pierce and Ray Allen will accompany Garnett, who equaled Jerry West's NBA record of four All-Star selections and Karl Malone for the most consecutive selections.

The three-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year 2006 Detroit Pistons as the only teams to have four players picked as reserves by the coaches.

Griffin, the Rookie of the Year favorite of the Clippers, will become the first rookie All-Star since Yao Ming in 2003. Joining Griffin on the Western Conference team for the Feb. 20 game at Staples Center were Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili of the NBA-leading Spurs; forwards Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas and Paul Gasol of the Los Angeles Lakers; and guards Deron Williams of Utah and Russell Westbrook of Oklahoma City, who joins Griffin as the lone first-time selections.

Chris Bosh will go to Los Angeles with teammates LeBron James and Dwyane Wade, who were elected as starters. The other East reserves picked were Atlanta's Joe Johnson and Al Horford.

The reserves were selected in voting by head coaches in each conference, who had to vote for two forwards, two guards, a center and two players regardless of position.

They went for the winning teams in the East, whose reserves are represented by just three teams.

The voting was much more difficult in the West, where coaches bypassed the likes of Kevin Love, LaMarcus Aldridge, Blake Griffin and Lamar Odom at the forward spot.

"There hasn't been too many times where you've had this kind of a decision," said West coach Tom Izzo at the top of the Eastern Conference with such good talent." Wadesaid. "So looking at the All-Star team, you understand that most guys are going to be from a few teams. That's how it should be in the Eastern Conference. The West Conference is a different animal.

Tony Parker missed out despite being the second-leading scorer, while the Lakers' Monta Ellis, the Warriors' O'Neal and the leading scorer, also fell short.

"I think every year it's going to get harder and harder to make it, because there are so many great point guards that are coming into the league and it's going to continue to be a fight every year. That's another reason I feel so honored.

The starters were chosen by fan voting and announced Thursday by ESPN's Ray Lewis, Scott Howard, Chicago's Derrick Rose and Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony.

The other East starters, while the Lakers' Kobe Bryant, Kevin Garnett of the Celtics and Paul forwards Carmelo Anthony of the Knicks and Deron Williams of Oklahoma City, who joins Griffin as the lone first-time selections.

Yao is injured and Commissioner David Stern will choose his replacement. That gives another chance to Love, who has been seen as a strong 4.4 points and a league-best 15.5 rebounds, and shooting 53.9 percent in the range. He has 34 double-doubles, but was "viciously set up" by Minnesota Timberwolves' 11-37 record.

But the coaches couldn't overlook Griffin, even though the Clippers are also below .500. The No. 1 pick in the 2009 draft is the second consecutive star spectac- ular after sitting out last season following knee sur- gery, averaging 23 points and 12.7 rebounds while compiling a half Dozen of double-doubles.

"I think he's going to be the first guy on his way to being an All-Star game," Rivers said. That's how it should be in the Eastern Conference. The West Conference is a different animal."

"We are no doubt folk. Broke through the pick-and-roll, broke through the back, confident," Rivers said.

"I think everything is going to be fine," he added. "We're just going to have some fun out there, and hopefully we can win some games."

"They'll see what they think of it," he added. "We're not going to try and do a lot of things for them. We're going to do what we do, and see how it goes."
LIVE AT LEGENDS SATURDAY FEB. 5 10PM
ALL AGES | NO COVER | ND.SMC.HCC ID REQUIRED

Alpha Ro
Irish

continued from page 16

24 points, including 5-for-8 on 3-point attempts, in their first game since beating then-second-ranked Pittsburgh on the road nine days ago.

“I thought the layoff helped us,” Brey said. “We got energized. Our energy was great this week in practice, and our energy was good tonight again.”

The Blue Demons (6-16, 0-9) remained within striking distance through most of the first half, only down two points with eight minutes remaining, but fell behind 37-24 entering the half thanks to an 18-4 run from the Irish. Coming out of the break, Notre Dame’s sharpshooters quickly put the contest out of reach, as Hansbrough hit two 3-pointers and fourth-year forward Tim Abromaitis added one more before the first media timeout.

“One of the things we wanted to do was come out and set the tone,” Hansbrough said. “And leave it all on the court. I think we did that.”

Senior guard Scott Martin followed Hansbrough as Notre Dame’s second-leading scorer with 15, while senior forward Tyrone Nash added 8 rebounds. Nash also hit the first 3-pointer of his four-year career as the shot clock expired late in the first half, on his way to 10 points. Nash’s only previous attempt came nearly exactly three years ago in a 95-69 Irish victory at Seton Hall on Feb. 6, 2008.

Abromaitis added 13 points for the Irish, who as a team shot 50.9 percent from the field. DePaul remains winless in conference play this season, but the lopsided win provides the same value to Notre Dame’s record as the nail-biter win over Pittsburgh did.

“It’s another Big East win,” Hansbrough said. “I told the guys before we played, ‘This is another Big East win.’ They all count the same so we need to treat them the same.”

Notre Dame’s two-game road trip, with its nine-day layover included, ends as the Irish will host Rutgers Sunday at noon and No. 15 Louisville Wednesday at 7 p.m.
Grant is the second-leading rebounder in the Big East with a 9.6 rebounds per game average. The Irish have faced a number of talented posts thus far in the conference season, and McGraw has once again tabbed senior forward Becca Bruszewski to lead the defensive effort against the Bulls (10-12, 7-7). “[Grant] is a great rebounder,” McGraw said. “She’s got size, and she’s just so athletic. We’ve played some other good posts that Becca Bruszewski has done a really good job on, so she’s going to get the challenge of guarding her again.” While their conference records are nearly mirror opposites, the two squads implement a similar style offense. Both teams like to run the floor, score in transition and put pressure on the defense to come up with key stops. “They’re an up-tempo team,” McGraw said. “They’re a little taller, but they have a lot of different things defensively. They’ll play man, they’ll play zone. They’ll really try to mix things up, really trying to break your rhythm. It should be a matchup of two up-tempo teams.” While Notre Dame has benefited from a competitive full court press by racking up six straight wins in the conference, the schedule heats up following Saturday’s contest against the Bulls and a home matchup against a Seton Hall team that remains winless in the conference. Notre Dame will host Rutgers (12-9, 5-3) next Saturday before traveling to No. 2 Connecticut (21-1, 9-0). McGraw said her players take each game with the same approach — preparation and determination. “We want to do especially well against the leadership of Becca, has really come out every game and been ready, no matter who we’re playing,” McGraw said. “That’s just great leadership. They don’t look past anyone. They don’t look past the challenge of playing everybody.” The Irish face the Bulls at 7 p.m. Saturday in Tampa.
As the top-ranked team in the country, it goes without saying that expectations for the Irish are sky-high. Coach Janusz Bednarski wouldn’t have it any other way. Both the men’s and women’s fencing teams head into the Northwestern duals this weekend as the best in the land, and both are determined to keep it that way.

“For the men, it will be about solidifying our spot as the best in the country,” Bednarski said. “For the women, it will be to continue our unbeaten streak.”

Both teams have been dominant in the early part of the season and will look to continue their winning ways as they travel to Northwestern on Saturday. The meet will feature, among others, Northwestern, Princeton, Stanford, Temple, North Carolina, Air Force and Temple. It will be a tough contest for an Irish men’s team coping with the loss of star junior Gerek Meinhardt, who will not compete for the remainder of the year due to injury. Meinhardt, who competes in the foil, was an NCAA champion and a U.S. Olympian in 2008. Bednarski, however, is far from worried.

“We certainly have other fencers who can step up,” he said. “It will be good to see some younger fencers get an opportunity.”

The women should also be favored to win, building on a prodigious win streak that has lasted the whole year. Eager to compete for the national championship they missed last year, the Irish are looking to use this weekend as a springboard to a potential championship season. The next few days should help show whether or not that dream can become a reality. The Northwestern duals will take place Saturday and Sunday in Evanston, Ill.

Contact Conor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu

MLB

Pettitte retires from Yankees

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andy Pettitte is going ahead with his decision to retire, leaving the New York Yankees with two huge holes in what appears to be a rather wobbly starting rotation.

The team scheduled a Friday morning news conference at Yankee Stadium for Pettitte to announce the choice he had been leaning toward making since the end of last season.

“I don’t think enough people know that he’s still the leader of this pitching staff until today,” former Yankees right fielder Paul O’Neill said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

A five-time World Series champion, Pettitte became the third-winningest pitcher in team history.

“Andy was probably the consummate team player,” former Yankees manager Joe Torre said. “He’s been a huge favorite of mine because he’s such a standup guy, and he hasn’t changed from day one. He’s a great teammate, and I think that’s why he won so many games. The guys that play behind him understand how intense he is, and it becomes contagious.”

Pettitte won’t disappear from public view entirely. He is expected to be a witness this summer at the trial of former teammate Roger Clemens, indicted on charges he lied to a congressional committee when he denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

Pettitte admitted using human growth hormone and said Clemens told him he had used HGH. Clemens testified Pettitte didn’t remember the conversation correctly.

Clemens said Thursday he hasn’t been able to speak with Pettitte lately because of the ongoing case. But he insisted he held no hard feelings toward Pettitte and congratulated him on his career.
CROSSWORD

Across
1. One likely to die on the road? (8)
2. What something may go down to (14)
7. Porter girl
10. Dubbed? (9)
17. Response to great news (10)
18. Big tip exporter (11)
21. Baltimore’s choice (11)
22. Kind of replication (11)
23. Sticks up for, maybe? (11)
25. Sofia city
26. Org. with towers (11)
27. Lush, e.g. (11)
29. Thingamajig (11)

Down
1. Creator of TV’s “Archer” (8)
2. Bim’s neighbor (14)
3. Boxer who wrote “Blasted” (11)
4. Switch sides? (11)
5. Some county fair contest entries (11)
6. Folks getting into dirt (11)
7. jet (11)
8. Bucks, e.g. (11)
9. Rock’s Brian (11)
10. Fakies (out) (11)
11. Not going anywhere (11)
12. Camer of drum cases, maybe (11)
13. First in line, say (11)
15. Over and over (11)
20. Like M&M’s (11)
22. Sacrifice you? (11)
24. At times (11)
26. Across, to (11)
27. Debogger? (11)
28. Court (11)
30. Passings (11)
31. Film in which Eddie Murphy voices the dragon Mushu (11)

60. Be covered
61. Relationship in the 2009 film “Love You, Man” (11)
63. 1974 hit with Spanish lyrics (11)
64. “Got It” (11)
65. The Alien Brothers Band, e.g. (11)

WILL SHORTZ

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PLEASANDVILLE

JAMES SOLLITTO, CODY ECKERT and JOHN FLATLEY

THE MATING RITUAL

SCOTT MITCHELL and MATT MOMONT

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

JUMBLE

Make these jumbles, one word at a time, to form four ordinary words.

HASOU
RUILD
CAHBAN
UNDOAR

The Manicurist said Nails are this

Now arrange the correct letters to form the surprise answer, as
suggested by the above cartoon.

An: “____”

Yesterday’s Jumble: SMOKY DERRY FAULTY BY GONE
Answer: Occasionally a family does this to make ends meet — ENDS MEAT

(Assertions to come)

EUGENIA LAST

THE OBSERVER PAGE

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY
Bette Midler, 70; John Lithgow, 69; Nicole Richie, 26

HELP! You need to act fast and get yourself up for what’s to come, or you as
will find yourself imitating someone else who has better control of what causes you way in this
time. This can be an exciting time if you are prepared and know what you’re doing. Your numbers are 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This is the time to be creative. Your contributions will
reach people’s minds and maybe even make a significant
impact. Your energy is flowing smoothly. Expect a personal
situation to get off on the right foot.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Emotional blackmail is apparent and can cause you to mis
s out on really good opportunities. Prepare to get a firm no!
if you want your friend’s business. Take a firm approach or
donor you will not succeed.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)
The time is right to take action. No matter what challenge
comes your way, you will overcome the obstacle and emerge
from it stronger and more knowledgeable.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)
Unexpected options will appear out of nowhere. Having
a plan to work with can make things more comfortable.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your aggressiveness can be an asset when you want
something. Always use caution when you are trying to
attract attention.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Let your past go and look toward the future. Interacting
with new people will give you new perspectives.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Problems at home or within your personal life will only get
worse if you don’t deal with them sooner than later. Don’t be
too critical of others or you will find yourself in trouble.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Your past experiences with others will help you more
as you face new challenges. Just think about making changes at home, take action.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You’ll need many more options and a little more time. Don’t
take things as you go; try to think it through first.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You have so much going for you, and you are

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)
Nothing will be as easy as it used to be. Start for
this time. It’s unlikely that you will get all the work
because it will not be as easy as it used to be.

BIRTHDAY CALENDAR
Key West — Hop aboard a barge to enjoy the party in the

WEEKEND JAMBOREE

JIMMY DURANTE TRIBUTE SHOW

$200 for both events

Thursday, February 10, 7 p.m.
Friday, February 11, 8 p.m.

North Kitchen Building

Tickets available at the gate.

The Observer • TODAY

Friday, February 4, 2011 page 15

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Men's Basketball

No. 8 Notre Dame vaults into Big East second place

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Editor

ROSEMONT, Ill. — No. 9 Notre Dame moved into second place in the Big East with a 83-58 victory over DePaul Thursday night at Allstate Arena. The Irish (18-4, 7-3 Big East) have only won two games on the road all season, their last two, and this trend-changer has raised Notre Dame above the five other teams in the conference with six wins, at least for the time being.

"I'm proud of our group. We talked about our goal of winning two-in-a-row on the road," Irish coach Mike Brey said after the game. "This group has done a lot this year, but hasn't done that yet. I think our leaders did a great job." Senior guard Ben Hansbrough led the Irish with 13 points and seven assists.

Irish look to recover from loss

By ANDREW OWENS
Sports Writer

Despite the cold currently experienced in the South Bend winter, the season is heating up for the Irish, as they will play a doubleheader Sunday, as they host No. 14 Duke and Toledo.

"Duke is very good," associate head coach Ryan Sachire said. "They're a top 15 team this year and they were a top 15 team last year when they went to the Sweet Sixteen. They are loaded from top to bottom."

Part of the challenge for the Irish will be getting the bad taste of their mouth from a weekend loss to No. 16 Illinois. Freshman Greg Andrews and junior Casey Watt won a doubles match to give the Irish an early 1-0 advantage. The Illini, however, finished the match 68-58.

Women's Tennis

Notre Dame ready to bounce back in N.C.

By MATT ROBISON
Sports Writer

The No. 4 Irish experienced something Sunday that they are not quite used to: a loss. This weekend, Notre Dame (2-1) looks to bounce back from a surprise defeat to No. 23 Arkansas as they face No. 6 North Carolina and Wake Forest in the Tar Heel State.

"North Carolina was a final four team last year and will be tough on the road," Irish coach JayLouderback said. "They are well-coached and always compete really well."

The Demon Deacons, although not ranked as high as Notre Dame and the Tar Heels, will still pose a challenge to the visiting Irish.

"Wake Forest has a new coach with a few new players so we don’t know a whole lot about them," Louderback said. "They are usually a tough team to play indoors at their place.

More than anything, Louderback said, the loss to Arkansas was an awakening for a team that had not encountered any adversity in the early going, allowing them to see those areas that need improvement.

"I think we learned some things about our team and what we need to work on," Louderback said. "We have some new doubles teams and some new singles players..."