Professor Emeritus dies at 79

Observer Staff Report

Nai-Chien Huang, professor emeritus of aerospace and mechanical engineering and mechanical engineering at the University of Notre Dame, passed away on Sunday in his home in Los Altos, Calif., after a long illness. He was 79 years old.

Huang joined Notre Dame's faculty in 1953, according to a University press release. Prior to joining Notre Dame's staff, he served on the faculties of the University of California at San Diego, Stanford University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Wisconsin. He retired in 2001.

A native of Nantong, China, Huang earned a bachelor's degree at the National Taiwan University in Taipei, graduating in 1953. He earned his master's degree from Brown University in 1958 and his doctoral degree from Harvard in 1963.

Huang studied engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned his master's degree in 1963. He earned his doctorate in 1966.

Huang, the Kenneth R. MCOB continues dean search

By SARA FELESSEN Titans

Dr. Roger Huang, interim dean of the Mendoza College of Business, said a focus on ethics is the College’s “DNA,” but also a crucial quality looked for in a candidate. He said he is responsible for all aspects of the College, from daily matters to strategic planning. He said he worked with Wu for a long time, involved in everything she handled and is aware of the pending issues.

He said his short-term position, however, presents some challenges. “There are some issues you’re not quite sure whether you should leave to the next dean or not,” he said. “I will ask for guidance from the Provost... if there are strategies involved which may be very long-term in nature. If we restructure an operation here, for example, by abolishing a program or something like that, it’s best to [consult] with someone who’s going to be here permanently.

Huang said on a general level, Mendoza will need a leader who knows academia as well as the business world, someone who is able to navigate both arenas easily. There are many dimensions to the search for a permanent successor. Previously, Mendoza’s Associate Dean, who was notified of his appointment shortly after Wu announced her departure last summer.

After 14 years as Dean of the business school, Wu left Notre Dame to serve as president and chief executive officer of Catholic Relief Services. Huang said it’s still uncertain as to when the University will announce the new dean.

“It’s difficult to tell... I don’t know what the time frame is,” he said. “I’m not involved in the search process. The Provost chaired the search committee, and the members of that committee were chosen by the College Council. We have done that; passed that stage. I believe they are now in the process of picking people to interview.”

As Interim Dean, Huang is ready to challenge himself academically after a four-month hiatus at his home in Turlock, Calif. “It has been weird to come back after so long,” he said. “It is a little nerve-wracking.”

Garcia returns to Notre Dame following fall

By ADAM LLORENS

Senior Marcus Garcia, who fell from his third-floor apartment window in the early morning hours of August 25, 2011, returned to campus on a weekend and began classes with the rest of the student body Tuesday.

Garcia said he is ready to challenge himself academically after a four-month hiatus at his home in Turlock, Calif. “It has been weird to come back after so long,” he said. “It is a little nerve-wracking.”

Garcia said it was difficult to be away from campus during his senior year.

“The hardest thing for me was, as a senior, missing the last football season,” Garcia said. “I missed out on a lot of ‘bats.’ Everyone else’s lives go on, but I was still stuck at home.”

The 21-year-old spent two weeks at Memorial Hospital in South Bend after the accident. His parents flew to South Bend to be with him during the initial surgeries. He returned home via train immediately following his hospital stay.

“The doctors said my parents and I had to ride an Amtrak train back to California because of damage done to my ear canals,” Garcia said. “A lot of my doctor appointments were at Stanford University.”

Although he said his health currently stands at 80 percent, Garcia said he feels great and is optimistic about his progress.

“I still have to get some more

MCOB continues dean search

By AMANDA GRAY

Off-campus students renting property from Campus Housing at South Bend may have noticed a change in how their apartments or houses are managed.

The rental company terminated its relationship with property management company Campus Apartments in November 2011, according to a University press release. The properties include Notre Dame Apartments and several homes near campus.

“We’re no longer employing a management company,” Kulisek said. “We are now self-managing the properties — we’re now involved on a personal level.”

The transition became official the first week of November 2011, Kulisek said. The management partnership with Campus Apartments began in 2008, according to an Observer article published at the time. The properties were initially purchased from Kramer Properties in February 2008.

“We made the decision to terminate our relationship with Campus Apartments because of dissatisfaction with previous management companies,” Kulisek said. “I felt our properties were under-performing and not meeting standards of our tenants and prospective tenants. I felt we could do a better job.”

Kulisek cited his role as a father as inspiration for this change in management.

“As a parent, I wouldn’t want this,” he said. “We found work orders unfilled, things that wouldn’t have accepted this performance from a landlord for my own children.”

Students living off-campus should be mindful of tenant-landlord relationships, according to offcampus.nd.edu, the off-campus student website provided by the student government’s Division of Student Affairs. Tenants entering into any rental agreement should make a concerted effort to learn about their legal responsibilities and become familiar with the protection granted to them under the law,” the website states.

With regard to maintenance and repairs, the website advises tenants to keep clear records.

Professor Emeritus<br>Professor Emeritus<br>Professor Emeritus
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Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com

In Brief

Fitness class registration begins this morning at 7 a.m. Log in to BeRec to sign up.

Patience Kahamba will give a lecture titled, “New Forms of Life from the Debris of the State in the Democratic Republic of the Congo” today from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Room C103 of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

The 2012 Notre Dame Student Film Festival will take place at 6:30 p.m. tonight in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The festival will screen films made by undergraduate students during the past year as class projects.

The Complexions Contemporary Ballet will perform tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The Student Activities Office will sponsor a Laugh Out Loud Comedy Improv Show tonight at 9:00 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Doors open at 8:30 p.m.

Iron Sharpens Iron Inter-denominational Ministry will meet tonight and every Thursday hereafter at 10 p.m. in Room 329 of the Coleman-Morse Center. ISI welcomes anyone on campus seeking sincere Christian fellowship to gather and sharpen their faith through weekly small-group Bible studies and prayer services, sports, schedules retreats and more.

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

Pa. Robbery Suspect Used Infection Threat

SHARON, Pa. – Police say a man tried to rob a western Pennsylvania gambling parlor by threatening to spread a staph infection.

Online court records don’t list an attorney for 41-year-old Fred Parker, of Coolspring Township.

Police say he walked into Lucky’s Internet Cafe in Sharoon on Monday night and began touching the walls and gambling machines, claiming he has MRSA – a serious staph infection that resists antibiotics.

Sharon police Chief Mike Menster says Parker then threatened to infect the cashier if he didn’t give Parker money. The chief tells The Herald newspaper of Sharon, “It’s our first case of robbery by threat of an infectious disease.”

Police say Parker left when the cashier refused, but was arrested a short time later based on his description.

Parker remained in jail Wednesday.

Opposition takes ride on NYC Subway

NEW YORK – A suspicious passenger of the four-legged variety led to the evacuation of a New York City subway car.

Stirrled riders aboard a Manhattan-bound train spotted an opossum curled up underneath a seat near the train’s heating duct around 4:30 a.m. on Friday.

The New York Times reports the animal apparently boarded the train at Coney Island in Brooklyn, where the platform is above ground. The subway car was evacuated several stops later in Manhattan as officers tried to remove it. When the marspul bared its teeth at them, animal control experts were called in.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

Local Weather

OFFBEAT

Pa. Robbery Suspect Used Infection Threat

“Wolf Like Me” by TV On The Radio.

“Sweet Home Alabama” by Lynyrd Skynyrd.

“My Way” by Frank Sinatra.

“God Gave Me You” by Blake Shelton.

“Rude Boy” by Rihanna.

“Thousand Ships” by Rachel Platten.

Katy McBride and Natalie Novosel can’t help but smile during the press conference following Notre Dame’s victory over Connecticut on January 7th. The Irish took over the No. 2 spot in the AP Top 25 poll with the win.

Charlie Bowen junior off-campus

Eric Bens junior Siegfried

Erich Kerekes freshman Morrissey

Michelle Lundholm junior Welsh Family

Mari Kelly freshman Walsh

Mike Della Penna senior off-campus

Thursday, January 19, 2011

The Observer • DAY-TO-DAY

Questions of the Day: What Was the Last Song You Listened To?

Charlie Bowens: "Wolf Like Me" by TV On The Radio.

Eric Bens: "Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Erich Kerekes: "My Way" by Frank Sinatra.

Michelle Lundholm: "God Gave Me You" by Blake Shelton.

Mari Kelly: "Rude Boy" by Rihanna.

Mike Della Penna: "Thousand Ships" by Rachel Platten.

Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com

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Have an idea for Question of the Day? Email obsphoto@gmail.com
By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Whenever a serious crime is committed, members of the surrounding community are plagued by burning questions regarding who is responsible, why the incident occurred and how it could have been prevented.

In his new book, "Homeless Come Home: An Advocate, a Riverbank, and Murder in Topeka, Kansas," professor Benedict Giamo examined these complex questions in the context of the story of David Owen, an advocate for the homeless who was brutally murdered in 2006 by members of the community he aimed to help.

Giamo has studied homelessness since the 1970s, but he was drawn to Owen's story by the blurred line between victim and perpetrator.

"Most of the time, the homeless are the victims, and in this case they were the perpetrators," he said. "But the victim also had a hand in his own death.

Giamo's interest in Owen's murder also stemmed from the interesting relationships between the story's broad issues and diverse characters, he said.

"[The book] is about homelessness, it is about social justice and it is about disability," Giamo said. "It raises these broader issues and tries to do it in an engaging manner through creative nonfiction to give an account as truthful to the crime, to the setting and to the characters as can be."

In researching and writing his book, Giamo wanted to find out why someone who had professed his life to helping the homeless would reach his demise at their hands.

Giamo said Owen was a fascinating yet polarizing character in his desire to re-unite the homeless with their families through somewhat questionable tactics.

"Owen wanted them [the homeless] to call their families and reconnect, but he would get in their faces and be aggressive," he said. "If the homeless resisted, he would even go so far as to trash their encampments."

An encounter between Owen and four residents of a homeless encampment ultimately led to his death. Owen was speaking to the group in hopes of encouraging them to reconnect with their families, but the conversation eventually took on a negative tone, Giamo said.

"When Owen would trash homeless encampments, he would photo graph before and after," Giamo said. "On that particular day, he had those pictures in his satchel and they [the homeless perpetrators] found the pictures and burned them."

Owen was brutally beaten and shot, and his body was found several weeks later. Giamo said four homeless individuals were eventually convicted of felony murder and kidnapping in the wake of Owen's death.

Members of the Topeka community characterized Owen for his difficult personality during their interviews with Giamo, he said, but the city's residents also recognized Owen's passion for and dedication to advocacy for the homeless.

"He was extremely committed to the point that he gave his life, but that was always followed by a sense of fanaticism," Giamo said. ""Homeless Come Home" is available for purchase through the University of Notre Dame Press.

Contact Anna Boarini at aboa21@ saintmarys.edu

Housing continued from page 1

"Some people have had a hard time getting a hold of us [since the change]," Kulisek said. "We're trying to make our place more tenant-friendly. Our website will contain links for other recommended businesses, and we are doing more promotions and sponsoring.

Sponsoring includes everything from t-shirts for the Late Night Olympics to other projects involving tenants.

"We want to build a base with what our tenants are involved in," he said. "If they have something they want us to sponsor, we want to know what it is."

Other changes include a completely new office staff, Kulisek said.

"We're willing to work with tenants on every property. We're really willing to listen to tenants and we're more flexible, and open," Kulisek said. "When people stop in and talk to us, they will see we're different."

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Professor publishes book on the homeless

By ANNA BOARINI
News Writer

Whenever a serious crime is committed, members of the surrounding community are plagued by burning questions regarding who is responsible, why the incident occurred and how it could have been prevented.

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Housing continued from page 1

"Always notify the landlord about any problems in person or over the telephone," the website states. "Follow that first notification with a signed, dated letter noting the problems that you stated in your conversation. Putting the situation in writing will not only look business-like, but will also establish a record if there are problems later."

After the relationship with Campus Apartments was terminated, improvements began immediately, Kulisek said.

"The biggest improvement made is for the services for our existing tenants, including maintenance and upgrades," he said.

The company changed its website as well. It now operates from www.campuslivingSR.com instead of the Campus Apartments address.
SMC playwright wins regional competition

By BRIDGET FEENEY
News Writer

While most students spent their winter break relaxing and recovering from the stress of final exams, student body president Pat McCormick said Balfour, the gown vendor, now offers an environmentally-friendly gown made of 23 plastic bottles.

"You can take [the "green" gown] home with you to take pictures," Hurley said. "If you want, after the ceremony, we’d have recycling bins that you can put them in, you also can put them in a recycling bin if you want, after the ceremony, and it would go right through and become plastic."

The Notre Dame emblem crest just because of that extra price, Hurley said. "I would like to add the crest just because of that extra price.

"Emily is a self-starter, so I did not have to work very hard at all," she said. "She jumped in and tried every technique I threw at her. Not all was useful, of course, but both of us learned mightily from the process.

SCHMIDT APPLIED TO SEVERAL SCHOOLS IN search of San Luis, making two trips to Colorado and discussing ways to bring real life events to the stage.

"I am working on a hook which teaches playwrights to use journalism (theory; Emily is a journalism major)," Baxter said. "We could not be more grateful for the second place award, our playwrights were paired with ‘San Luis, 1989’ is not finished, as the play is currently in consideration for two national playwriting awards.

"My play is currently competing with the other regional winners for the [Michael Kanin] National Student Playwriting Award," she said. "I am also up for the National Partners for the American Theatre’s Playwrighting Award, which is granted to a new and original voice in playwriting."

Regardless of the outcome of these awards, Schmidt said she is pleased with how things have turned out so far. She said she hopes more people will become better informed about the issues surrounding San Luis adressed in her play.

"The best part about winning this award has really been spreading the word about what happened in San Luis," she said. "Winning this award is a huge testament to the political power of the stage."

Contact Bridget Feeaney at bfeeane01@saintmarys.edu

Don’t Settle for Ordinary, When You Can Have Extraordinary!

The Observer • NEWS

Thursday, January 19, 2012

Group discusses ‘green’ gowns

By MARISA IATI
News Writer

Student Senate discussed the option of an environmentally-friendly commencement gown and a potential human rights event series at its meeting Wednesday night.

In December, Schmitt won the Notre Dame Student Independent Study (TAR), the play would not have been read at the Region III festival."

"We are also a Catholic institution, and we need someone who can parlay that experience of being both a student and the business school for doing good, who can translate that and do good for the world," he said.

Huang said it’s essential for a dean to not only understand Notre Dame’s mission but remain committed to it. "We’ve been doing business ethics, corporate responsibility, we’ve been covering that forever. After the 2008 economic crisis, suddenly [universities began] seeing that they’re doing business in the context of ‘business for good,’" he said. "We always will be focused on business ethics and corporate social responsibility issues. This is not fashionable for us." But he said a dean should also be able to lead the College into new phases of development. "Everything is dynamic," Huang said. "It’s not only about familiar with academia or the business world...it’s about having that strategic ability to be an entrepreneur—in fact, part of the vanguard in effecting change."
mobility in my leg, as I have been using electric scooters to get around,” Garcia said. “I am about 20 degrees short in range of motion on my right side, but that will be improved with physical therapy.”

His recovery will continue throughout the school year and beyond.

“There are still some surgeries to be had this summer, like some temporary den- drites I have to be re-placed,” the psychology and sociol- ogy double major said. “I feel good though, and I am definitely ready to be back on campus. The thing I missed the most is truly the academics.”

“His recovery will continue through- out the school year and beyond. There are still some surgeries to be had this summer, like some temporary den- drites I have to be re-placed,” the psychology and sociol- ogy double major said. “I feel good though, and I am definitely ready to be back on campus. The thing I missed the most is truly the academics.”

Garcia said he spent most of his time at home recovering and visiting with friends from home during the Christmas break. Garcia said: “I also went to the Notre Dame vs. Stanford football game in Palo Alto.”

The student body has also supported Garcia throughout his recovery. “The number of letters and cards I received was amazing,” Garcia said. “I get Face- book messages from people I have never met, saying I have been in their thoughts and prayers. That speaks a lot of the Notre Dame community.”

The Notre Dame community has been supportive in the af- termath of his accident, Gar- cia said. “I cannot say enough about everything the Office of Stu- dents Affairs did for me, espe- cially Fr. Tom Doyle and Sr. Sue [Dunn],” Garcia said. “Fr. Jenkins contacted my parents to make sure everything was going well.”

Garcia said his professors for the upcoming spring sem- ester have been understand- ing of his situation as well. “They understand it might take a while for me to ease into an academic setting,” Garcia said. The student body has also supported Garcia throughout his recovery. “The number of letters and cards I received was amazing,” Garcia said. “I get Face- book messages from people I have never met, saying I have been in their thoughts and prayers. That speaks a lot of the Notre Dame community.”

Garcia said he is both ex- cited and nervous to begin classes but knows he has the support of faculty and fellow stu- dents. “I cannot stress enough how great the faculty and students at Notre Dame are. It is great to have your support from so many people.”

Contact Adam Llorens at
alloren@nd.edu

Huang continued from page 1

In a written tribute, Joseph Powers, professor of aero- space and mechanical engi- neering, said his colleague epitomized the term of “a gentleman and a scholar.”

“He was a great teacher, always impeccable in his presentation and with a conspicuous reverence for knowledge. He loved Notre Dame, its students and fac- ulty, and was a great role model — including for me.”

Huang is survived by his wife of 49 years, Geraldine, and their two children, Shei- la and Nathan.
Bulls and bears, oh my!

In January, when America seems to focus entirely on weight-loss strategies and predictions about the coming year, the battle between the bulls and the bears emerges.

No, I’m not talking about a cross-sport match-up of Chicago athletic teams; I mean the bulls and the bears on Wall Street. “Bullish” and “bearish” are terms used to describe investor sentiment. Instead of saying “I think the stock market will go up,” we say, “I’m bullish.” Why? It’s a tradition. (And at Notre Dame who are we to argue with tradition?) It’s also fun to say, and it applies equally across different types of markets such as stock, interest rate, and commodity.

The opposite of bullish is bearish, which is the investor’s opinion that a market will fall.

It’s easy to remember which is which through an analogy based on the fighting habits of the two beasts. Bulls attack by ramming upwards with their horns, so bullish investors expect a market to go up. Bears do the opposite, attacking by swiping downward with their paws, so bearish investors expect a market to drop.

I’m bearish about the stock market in 2012. I don’t think we’re close to the end of the mess in Europe. Every day a summit of the European leaders gets delayed, something new gets downgraded, and the European Central Bank rolls out another grand plan to save the Euro. The situation has been building for two years now, and still there is no credible solution.

Every day, the U.S. stock market fluctuates based on the news coming out of Europe. Sure, some U.S. economic figures indicate that the economy is on the road to recovery, but collectively the data is mixed. Given the focus on the upcoming election, I don’t think we’ll see any economic turning points this year.

I might be totally wrong. Just because people make predictions doesn’t mean that they will come true. So why should we care about investor sentiment at all?

Actually, in the case of financial markets, sentiment can be a self-fulfilling prophecy. Often predictions do come true because people act based on their opinion about the future. Investors buy or sell financial assets because they think the assets will have greater or lesser value in the future than they do today. Bullish investors assign higher values to assets in the future, so they will be willing to pay more for the same assets today. Hence, the price will likely rise because of the mentality of the herd. Investor sentiment does influence markets.

Admittedly, my opinion about the stock market isn’t going to influence anything, but if we stretch the definitions slightly, there are lots of things we can be bullish and bearish about that we do influence.

What’s your sentiment on classes? It’s probably mixed. If you’re bullish about all of your classes, you’re either a second semester senior or studying abroad. If you’re bearish, you’re probably an engineer.

I’m bearish about the amount of sleep I’ll get as the semester wears on, but bullish about coffee consumption on campus.

I’m bearish about ever being able to find a parking space in the D2 lot. If the University ever wanted to make more money by selling parking spaces in premium locations to students, they would be a hot commodity.

Hopefully we’re all starting the new semester bullish about our GPAs, but naturally, expectations change as we realize that our January predictions only have so much power. Ask me again at midterms.

Grace Concelman is a senior majoring in finance and philosophy. She can be reached at gconcelm@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
I'm not good at going places. Ever since the nightmarish day when I became lost in my own neighborhood, messed up my bike's handlebars and came home in tears, those who know me best are aware that when I leave the house I'll probably become lost somewhere along the way. It scares them even more when I'm not in my home state of Colorado, where I can always count on finding my direction thanks to the westward mountains. (They tell me there are no mountains in this part of the country.) This fact doesn't worry me as much as it frightens those I live with.

Last week, I was in need of some fun after all, and the never-ending escapade that is the Coach USA airport shuttle ain't no Chuck E. Cheese. And I was in need of some shuttle ain't no Chuck E. Cheese. And I was in need of some

First, I learned that no matter which one of your parents claims to be "bad at texting," he or she will manage to push the right buttons on the cell phone enough times when he or she knows you are alone, in America's third largest city, for the first time, trying to master its complex public transportation system, while there's snow on the ground.

Sitting at Millennium Station in Chicago, I learned that the idea of romance's burning flame becoming weaker with time is all a myth — just ask the grey-haired, leather pants-clad couple sitting in the seats across from me. Their lengthy goodbyes was quite unlike anything I've ever seen. Heart-warming as it may sound, let me just say it: wasn't. Rather than thinking "Oh, good for them," my head was filled with a steady stream of "Are you even allowed to say that at that age?"

I was pleased to see that, although "Tehow Mania" reaches its feverish peak in Denver, inscriptions of "John 3:16" still find ways to make it across the country, with or without the origina- tor of the "Jump Pass" sporting it on his eye black. Not that I have anything against Tehenow, I simply think that even he would be surprised to see it gracing the side of a lady's shopping bag in downtown Chicago.

I learned that, despite the GOP com- munity's laughter when every headline builds up presidential candidates debate every 11 hours, one flamboyant woman is still loud and proud about the fact that Barack Obama won in 2008. What impressed me was that, however you might feel about the President, I don't remember any other having a three- year, every celebrity celebration if you're ever feeling down in the dumps about lackluster approval ratings or an unfulfilled campaign promise. As Congress, the public, and me, continue to suggest you take the train like I did. You'll love what they're saying about you.

I watched this same loud woman master the train like me — except she was doing it with her three sugar- crazed kids running circles around her the whole time. The loud conversations, occasional tantrums and incessant question asking, annoying at first, soon became a lesson in patience,hood and love.

I learned that riding the train in the winter is much cooler than riding it in the summer, especially after you've seen the Polar Express. I was assured that, of all the lessons taught in grade school, the most important one for traveling is and always will be, "It's not polite to stare."

I learned that if you're carrying a heavy bag to make it onto the train, "That's a heavy looking bag!" every chance they get. It may seem to be common sense that you should not yell at strangers in public, but I learned that this is not absolutes. One nice gentleman, whose name I never caught, taught me by example that it's perfectly acceptable to yell at a stranger if she is an elderly Polish speaking woman who mistakenly cut in line in front of me. Then, by all means, make a scene. Some other elementary lessons about mole balls and spilled milk are not very vaguely familiar at the time, but I still can't figure out why...

Politics, love, religion and the art of communication, all among the many things I learned in a few hours on the train. And I did it all without the aid of the westward mountains.

John is a sophomore English major from Littleton, Colo. He is a fan of the Chicago Cubs, Dave Matthews Band and good Mexican food. He can be reached at jsandbe1@nd.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The Observer | ndsmcobserver.com
Thursday, January 19, 2012

This Week's Mix - Back to School

by Maria Fernandez

1. "Titanium" — David Guetta ft. Sia
2. "Fade into Darkness" — Avicii
3. "Princess of China" — Coldplay ft. Rihanna
5. "I Like How it Feels" — Enrique Iglesias
7. "She Doesn't Mind" — Sean Paul
8. "We Found Love" — Rihanna ft. Calvin Harris
9. "Hangover" — Taio Cruz ft. Flo Rida
10. "Ma Cherie" — DJ Antoine

New year, new semester, new music! This playlist will give you the energy you need to start school on the right track. Listen to it in your room, while you walk to class or before going out with friends. It will definitely get you pumped and ready for everything that is to come.

Listen online at ndsmcobserver.com/scene

By NEIL MATHIESON

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol

"Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol" accomplished exactly what it set out to do. It bounded us through countless TV ads and billboards, built off the newsmagazine franchise's three previous films and at the end of the Christmas holiday was the highest grossing film in theatres. The series always promises audiences extraordinary special effects coupled with high-octane action. The newest addition is no different as, without question, "Ghost Protocol" hits all of its marks and provides some absolutely stunning visuals. The scenes in Dubai are particularly jaw-dropping. However, all the pageantry in "Ghost Protocol" got to be overkill. Although it succeeds as a truly red-blooded action film, it has just enough lame dialogue, one-dimensional characters and convoluted plot to weigh it down.

In "Ghost Protocol" Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) is rescued from a Russian gulag only to have himself and his entire IMF (Impossible Missions Force) team framed as rouge agents perpetuating terrorist actions and nuclear proliferation. In order to clear their name they must catch the man who framed them. His name is Kurt Hendricks (Michael Nyqvist) a militant extremist, who not only wants to set off Russia's nuclear missiles at San Francisco but has obtained the launch codes to do so. Now Ethan Hunt and his team must travel around the world and engage in life-threatening covert operations in order to prevent catastrophe. It’s a race against time.

Unfortunately, or possibly fortunately, Tom Cruise is no longer the film's most attractive eye candy. Paula Patton, playing Jane Carter — the only female member of the IMF, now claims this title. To accentuate her feminine quality one scene has Agent Carter in a catfight atop the Burj Khalifa wearing the tightest dress they could put her in. But she does more than just fulfill chauvinist fantasies. As an agent she is highly capable and can dish it out just as good, if not better, than the boys. Simon Pegg returns as the team's nerdy tech agent. He continues to steal scenes as well as all the laughs with his sharp comedic timing and bumbling antics. However, there is one person who takes all of this very seriously. That would be Tom Cruise, the Grand Poobah and the engine on which "Ghost Protocol" runs.

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol has put his all into giving audiences their money worth. However, one wishes just as much effort and time went into developing Ethan Hunt as a character. What motivates him? Is he a fanatic patriot, a disillusioned knight or a cynical but noble pragmatist like Bond? He is still largely undefined. This is the biggest obstacle preventing the films from achieving the same sort of fandom that the James Bond films evoke.

I do not discredit "Ghost Protocol" for its ludicrous believability. Because let's be honest. No government agency could ever be this efficient and effective. But, the screenplay written by Josh Appelbaum and Andre Nemec is clustered and the action sacrifices it. Its structure is far too unbalanced to be emotionally compelling. Then when there is time for character development and exposition it feels forced and sudden, like a drowning man gasping for air. In fact the action scenes are so extensive and frequent that I actually found myself losing concentration at instances. At one point I drifted off wondering what the International Monetary Fund was doing. I thought, "They can't be getting involved in such dangerous international liaisons." Before long my brain started functioning again.

Great films consist of intriguing stories accented by action sequences whereas Mission Impossible seems to have the formula backwards. The action is so far ahead of the horse. "Ghost Protocol" unnecessarily exhausts itself on delivering such grandiose spectacles that it neglects its most fundamental responsibility, a compelling story. As impressive and exhilarating as these scenes are in "Ghost Protocol" they are in no sense revolutionary. Inevitably the eroding quality of time will render the film's special effects dated and obsolete. All that will remain will be a pedestrian spy story featuring the one of the world's biggest movie stars in the twilight of his action career.

Is it pretentious to ask more of our Hollywood action films? I don't believe so. Just think of "Bourder of the Lost Ark," "Aliens" and "The Dark Knight" as examples. These were all Hollywood blockbusters that deliver both the electrifying action and effective. But, the screenplay written by Josh Appelbaum and Andre Nemec is clustered and the action sacrifices it. Its structure is far too unbalanced to be emotionally compelling. Then when there is time for character development and exposition it feels forced and sudden, like a drowning man gasping for air. In fact the action scenes are so extensive and frequent that I actually found myself losing concentration at instances. At one point I drifted off wondering what the International Monetary Fund was doing. I thought, "They can't be getting involved in such dangerous international liaisons." Before long my brain started functioning again.

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There is no doubt Tomas Alfredson’s follow-up to his 2008 hit “Let the Right One In,” “Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy,” is meticulous — a thinking man’s film. It’s brimming with moments that play out like still images, the characters so full of suspicion and distrust of one another that Alfredson beckons his audience to trust no one.

What might seem immersive and intriguing — a director urging his audience to stare into the whites of his actors’ eyes as the only way of telling truth from lies — is in fact as entertaining as watching people breathe for two hours. This cat-and-mouse chase where there is no clear-cut cat or mouse features an all-star cast including Gary Oldman, Tom Hurt and last year’s Best Actor winner, Colin Firth. The film retraces the Cold War from the eyes of George Smiley (Oldman), a retired espionage veteran who is called out of retirement to find a potential Soviet mole in the upper echelon of the British intelligence.

Oldman gives a praise-worthy performance and he and a few others (surprisingly, not including Firth) manage to carry the film on their backs for the majority of its seemingly overlong run time. However, “Tinker Tailor” proves too dry, too slow and maybe a casualty of a director trying to craft too meticulous of a spy thriller.

It may be that it takes about an hour to actually identify who is who in this film, or maybe that everyone, including Smiley, is brought into question at one point or another but it’s fairly obvious who the mole is the entire time. Either way, “Tinker Tailor” is one of those rare films that manages to move at a snail’s pace, all the while leaving the audience both in its dust and looking back forced to wait impatiently because we’re both confused about who the last conversation was about yet way ahead of the slow-moving mystery.

As far as that slow-moving mystery is concerned — the case of who-done-it — Alfredson directs more like a magician with an average trick but a terrible prestige rather than the seasoned veteran he is. When the identity of the mole is finally revealed there are no gasps or feelings of even remote surprise. No, there’s not even a semblance of a build-up. It’s almost one fluid motion that undermines everything else that comes before it as if to say, “Oh, by the way, here is that mole that we’ve spent the last hour and a half chasing.”

“Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy” might be worth your while if painstakingly slow movies are your cup of tea. For everyone else, maybe this movie might be easier with a cup of tea in hand. Just don’t make it chamomile. This 120-minute whodunit is already enough of a snore.
Ringing in the New Year conjures up familiar memories for all of us. VH1’s Top 100 One-hit Wonders, Super Bowl LII, and National Hangover Day come to mind.

So do the playoffs (Playoffs? Don’t you mean about playing?) We’re two rounds in with two rounds to go, but the NFL playoffs have already produced several memorable moments in 2012 and promise to deliver more. After a set of letdowns and forgettable matchups, Wild Card Weekend finally captured our attention with a wild finish between the Broncos and Steelers. Tebowmania reached its climax at Mile High, as Tim Tebow “pulled the trigger” à la John Elway and drove the Broncos to a thrilling overtime victory.

The naturally found a rhythm through the air, throwing for 146 yards and two scores. I think Brady Quinn’s chances of a starting gig in Denver were finally buried.

Last weekend, the return of the 49ers to glory (I’m totally unbiased here) reared its head, as No. 1 pick-torn-busted-turnover comeback quarterback Alex Smith led the Red and Gold to a come-from-behind victory over the previously unstoppable Saints. Smith did it with his arm and his heart, scoring twice in the final minutes of the fourth to send the Saints packing.

Is there a stadium that has seen more unforgettable playoff moments than Candlestick Park? I doubt it. In fact, there isn’t.

Steve Young fighting to stay on his feet before launching a strike to Terrell Owens with three seconds remaining to give the 49ers their third postseason victory in four years after losing a Super Bowl last year.

The 2002 NFC Wild Card game between the 49ers and Giants saw the men-gate a 24-point lead into the third quarter, until Jeff Garcia and Owens led a furious comeback, the second greatest in postseason history.

And finally last weekend, Smith commanded the great quarterbacks of old, delivering a frozen rope to Vernon Davis in tight coverage and giving life to a franchise mired in mediocrity. The two-eyed Davis embracing de facto Coach of the Year Jim Harbaugh is one of the rare times you’ll see me vote for The Catch III.

The 49ers will soon break ground on a new stadium in Santa Clara, but the history of The Stick will never be forgotten.

Finally, the heavily favored Packers fell to the Giants in spectacular fashion, and it could have been worse. Poor officiating kept both Packers drivers alive, preventing an even bigger blowout on the scoreboard. Eli Manning shredded the Packers defense, and the front seven pressured Aaron Rodgers, who still delivered an accurate football to everybody’s faces.

And we still have three games left! That’s the beauty of the NFL playoff system. Memorable moments are created in each leg of the journey to the Super Bowl, and home-field advantage is very real. With the exception of the Packers, the home team has won every playoff game this season, creating an incentive to perform during the latter round.

Unlike the playoffs in the NBA, which never seem to end, or the MLB, which always seems to be in season, the NFL does it right again. From handling the players’ lockout, to playoff scheduling, home-field advantage and Tebowmania, the NFL did it just about perfect this year.

If the previous four-and-a-half months are any indication, ESPN will explode when what we won Super Bowls with. “Balance is key,” Elway said. “We’re delighted at returning to the AFC’s upper echelon.”

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Barcelona rallies past Real Madrid in first leg, 2-1

AC Milan advances to quarterfinals in Italian Cup; Wolves knocked out of FA Cup by rivals

**Associated Press**

MADRID — Carles Puyol and Eric Abidal scored rare goals to rally Barcelona over defending champion Real Madrid 2-1 Wednesday night in the first leg of their Copa del Rey quarterfinal. Cristiano Ronaldo put Madrid ahead in the 11th minute on a counterattack with his 27th goal of the season, but Puyol tied it with a header off a corner kick in the 49th, his first goal since Oct. 16, 2010.

Abidal gave Barcelona control of the home-and-home, total-goals series in the 77th when he chested down Lionel Messi’s scooped pass inside the penalty area and flicked a left-footed shot into an empty net after beating an offside trap.

Ronaldo then nearly made it 3-1 when he hit the post in the 102nd and Pato then came off in the 116th.

Milan had taken the lead with a long shot from 35-year-old forward Stephan El Shaarawy in the 24th but Serbian midfielder Ivan Radonjanovic equalized in the 88th with a low free kick.

Milan’s 38-year-old striker Alexandre Pato scored in extra time to give AC Milan a win over Novara and put his team into the Italian Cup quarterfinals Wednesday but then exited with the latest in a series of muscle injuries.

In the 106th minute at the San Siro, Pato collected a pass from Robinho and smashed the ball into an empty net after beating an offside trap.

Robinho then nearly made it 3-1 when he hit the post in the 102nd and Pato then came off in the 116th.

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Philbin interviews for Miami head coaching position

Associated Press

MIAMI — Pushing ahead with his career in the wake of personal tragedy, Green Bay Packers offensive coordinator Joe Philbin interviewed for the Miami Dolphins’ head coaching job for a second time Wednesday.

Philbin met with team owner Stephen Ross and general manager Jeff Ireland in New York City, where Ross has an office.

Philbin decided to remain in consideration despite his son’s recent drowning in a Wisconsin river. After spending a week away, Philbin rejoined the Packers on Sunday for their divisional playoff loss to the New York Giants.

“We look at this as really a perfect fit,” general manager Jon Daniels said. “Obviously he has yet to pitch in the major leagues, but we feel he has proven himself with a 1.99 ERA over the past season. He led the league in strikeouts three times, in ERA twice and won two Gold Gloves.

“He said the pitcher is excited with the pitcher while scouting other team scouting Darvish, but only spent more time than any personal tragedy, Green Bay Packers offensive coordinator Mike McCarthy calls plays. The Packers have ranked in the top 10 in the NFL in yardage each of the past five seasons, including third in 2011.

McCoy completed his first interview with Miami on Monday. He won praise for adapting the offense at midseason when Tim Tebow became the starting quarterback, and the Broncos made an improbable run to the second round of the playoffs before losing Saturday at New England.

The Oakland Raiders also have received permission from Denver to interview McCoy, and they interviewed Bowles.

Bowles was assistant head coach and secondary coach before taking over the Dolphins when they fired Tony Sparano last month with three games to go in his fourth season as coach. Bowles became the sixth coach since 2004 for the Dolphins, who finished 6-10 and haven’t won a playoff game since 2000.

After being rejected by Fisher, Ross said the team planned to interview several more candidates. But they may want to move more quickly now that the Indianapolis Colts are looking for a new head coach. The Colts fired Jim Caldwell on Tuesday.

MLB

Darvish, Rangers agree to deal

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Yu Darvish is coming to America to pitch.

Japan’s best pitcher and the Texas Rangers agreed before Wednesday’s 4 p.m. CST deadline to a $60 million, six-year deal that was the highest posting fee that was the highest for a Japanese player before.

Darvish had a 93-38 record in Japan, where he returned for offseason training after his first and only visit to Texas two weeks ago. The Rangers plan to formally introduce Darvish on Friday night.

Tellem said the Rangers not only spent more time than any other team scouting Darvish, but also built a personal relationship with the pitcher while scouting him. He said the pitcher is excited about the opportunity in Texas.

“It’s a great team that’s been on a stage that he hasn’t been on before,” Tellem said. “He’s really thrilled to be coming here. This is where he wanted to be.”

Darvish had a 93-38 record with a 1.99 ERA over the past seven seasons in Japan. The 6-foot-5 right-hander was a two-time Pacific League MVP and a five-time All-Star. He led the league in strikeouts three times, in ERA twice and won two Gold Gloves.

Ryan was impressed by Darvish’s size and attitude about wanting to compete when they met for the first time earlier this month.

“The thing that stood out prob-ably is just his passion for the game and trying to be the best he can possibly be,” Ryan said Wednesday. “One of the motivations was getting to the major leagues here is it’s another challenge for him, it’s an opportunity on a stage that he hasn’t been on to show what he’s capable of doing.”

The deal surpasses what Daisuke Matsuzaka got when he left Japan and signed with the Boston Red Sox just more than five years ago. Dice-K got a $52 million, six-year deal and the Red Sox also had to pay a $51.111 million posting fee that was the highest for a Japanese player before what the Rangers bid for Darvish.

Yu Darvish delivers a pitch in a Japanese game May 21, 2010. Darvish agreed to a six-year deal with the Rangers on Wednesday.
Belles fall at home to No. 4 Calvin College

By NICK BOYLE
Sports Writer

Saint Mary’s was unable to hand No. 4 Calvin College its first loss Wednesday night, as the undefeated Knights took down the Belles 80-34.

Calvin (16-0, 8-0 MIAA) utilized a strong defensive performance in the victory, forcing the Belles (7-10, 3-5) to shoot 18 for 67 (26.9 percent) from the field.

“We struggled on offense tonight. We got some great looks, we just weren’t hitting [our shots],” Jennifer Henley, Belles coach, said. “We got some great looks, just we weren’t hitting [our shots].”

Calvin started the game with a bang, jumping out to a 14-2 lead in the first five minutes. Saint Mary’s responded with a 12-5 run to cut the lead down to 2:52.

The first half ended with the Belles down by 12. Calvin hit 21 second-half shots totaling 51 points, as the game ended with a 26-point margin in favor of the Knights.

“I thought our kids played a very good team tonight,” Henley said. “There’s a reason Calvin is ranked No. 4 (Division III) in the country.”

The Belles will next take the court Saturday night when they travel to Alma College for a conference game.

Contact Nick Boyle at nboyle1@nd.edu

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The second half featured a strong dominance from the Knights, as the visitors went up by 12.

“Any league win you can get is huge,” Brey said. “Last year, we breezed to 14 league wins. This year is going to be a scrapping, grinding, clawing next two months.”

The Big East’s depth has created a tough schedule for the Irish, given they must play Rutgers, No. 13 Connecticut and West Virginia twice this season.

“I thought our kids played a very good team tonight,” Henley said. “Both of them have not played as well as one would have expected.”

While Brey likes the chaotic nature of the Big East, he also said earning wins in that conference will be tough. The Belles are a tough task for the short-handed Irish.

“I think they’ve embraced it. I think they’ve met the challenge,” Brey said.

Contact Matthew DeFranks at mdefrank@nd.edu

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**SMC BASKETBALL**

Irish senior guard Scott Martin drives to the basket against Connecticut freshman center Andre Drummond during Notre Dame’s 67-53 home loss Saturday. Martin finished with 12 points.

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**Poland**

continued from page 16

said: “I was running Poland’s national team, which was one of the tops in the world at the time. Then I came to the United States, but I was looking for a chance to work at a university. I sort of fell into this job. I wanted to attract the athletic tradition, academic standards and the Catholic tradition of this place.”

Since his arrival, Bednarski has guided the Irish fencing program to three national championships in 2003, 2005 and 2011 and has overseen Notre Dame fencers who have gone on to thrive in international competition.

To junior James Kaull, Bednarski’s success stems from his precision and organization.

“He’s a fantastic organizer,” Kaull said. “We’re always where we’re supposed to be all the time. There’s never any confusion.”

The ability to run a program that includes over 50 athletes is a strongpoint of Bednarski’s that compliments his technical knowledge and expertise.

“He’s great with our individual lessons and techniques,” Kauli said. “He just really likes teaching the sport and helping people.”

The appointment from the US-FCA is the first of Bednarski’s career, although he did garner the association’s Midwest Coach of the Year award in 1997 and 1998.

“I sort of fell into this job. I was attracted to the athletic tradition, academic standards and the Catholic tradition of this place.”

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

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**Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.**

-1 Corinthians 15:58

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**Contact Connor Kelly at ckelly17@nd.edu**
McGraw continued from page 16

age with a 70.2-percent performance.

For the Irish, the opportunity to break single-game records offers a valuable chance to quantify their offense's success.

"It's great to have those records beaten," senior guard Natalie Novosel said. "We take pride in every game ... it's a really huge success."

Notre Dame is shooting 49.2 percent from the field while scoring 85.6 points per game, on pace to break the previous program record of 81.0 points per game set in the 1998-1999 season. The Irish are also averaging 19.9 assists per game and have an assist-turnover ratio of 1.2, better than the program's record of 1.15, set by the national champion 2000-2001 team.

Led by Novosel's 16.3 points per game, the Irish currently have four players averaging over 10 points per game. With so much talent on the floor, Notre Dame's greatest success is finding a role for everyone on the offensive end, Novosel said.

"I think that's why coach McGraw does such an amazing job of finding all this talent that she has and putting it all together," the senior said. "I think everybody has finally accepted their role on the team, I think that is why we are doing so well right now. Everyone is taking their role in stride and fulfilling their role to a tee because all the little things add up to what makes us such a good team right now."

Heading into the season, McGraw repeatedly referred to this year's team as "the best three-point shooting team in her 25 years at Notre Dame. But through 19 games, the Irish have battled inconsistency from behind the arc. Despite their struggles, the Irish have managed to shoot three-pointers at a 34.5 percent clip.

"We've had some games where we've shot it extremely well and some games where we have not and I think we've got to be smart on our shot selection," McGraw said.

For the Irish to heat up from three-point range it will take increased success in the transition game, Novosel said.

"I think it starts with our transition," she said. "Once we get going with our transition it opens up the outside and we are able to establish our post presence that enables us to have outside shots, an in-and-out look."

Whether the Irish improve their ability to shoot from range consistently or not, the offense promises to have continued success.

"We've got so many people who are really versatile right now = guards, post players alike," Novosel said. "It's really hard for [the opponent] to do box and one or triangle and two against us because there are so many options and weapons and I think that's what makes us so special right now."

Special indeed, and that's how they will be remembered in the record books.

Contact Joseph Monardo at jmonardo@nd.edu

Irish junior guard Skylar Diggins drives to the cup during Notre Dame's 120-44 win over Pittsburgh on Tuesday.
**Crossword**

**Across**
1. Company's number one numeral
7. Bit of dance attire for Fred Astaire
10. Elia
14. Toyota sedan
15. Recipient of three consecutive Hall of Fame Trophies
16. About
17. Arsenio, so to speak
19. Opening word of many an Italian letter
20. Kind of coach: Arch
21. Reveled in
22. Bypass
24. Flirt and sweet
26. King
29 & 30 They started in 1969
34. Scene shot targets

**Down**
1. Writing in a book
6. Many a times property: Alber.
7. Pigs
8. Following moon
5. Like the origin of the names for some males of the week
6. Pantry problem
14. Checkerboard
18. Check
19. Porter's hill
20. Dish served in a shell
21. "My word"
22. 7% of the Louvre
23. Way
25. Capital whose name comes from a language word for "to trade"
26. Jump on a stage
27. Drug drowzer
28. Hit that won the top prize ever Grammy for Song of the Year
29. Rehab candidate

**Horoscope**

**EUGENIA LAST**

**Celebrities Born on This Day:**
- Jan 15: Movie Starlet and Comedian Mary Kornman
- Jan 16: Tricia Borchers
- Jan 17: Johnathan Nelson
- Jan 18: Eddie Bernice Johnson
- Jan 19: Patrick Lawlor
- Jan 20: Christian Slater
- Jan 21: Clive Davis
- Jan 22: Christy Nockels
- Jan 23: Tyler Ward
- Jan 24: Penny Marshall
- Jan 25: Gail Finger-Knox
- Jan 26: Michael J. Fox
- Jan 27: Bryan White
- Jan 28: Dave Thomas
- Jan 29: Jerry Mathers
- Jan 30: John Travolta
- Jan 31: Oliver Stone

**Happy Birthday:**
- Jan 15: Angela Lansbury
- Jan 16: John Goodman
- Jan 17: Colleen Dewhurst
- Jan 18: Yoko Ono
- Jan 19: Jim Treliving
- Jan 20: Scott Bairstow
- Jan 21: Steve Tisch
- Jan 22: John Travolta
- Jan 23: Drew Carey
- Jan 24: Mike Wallace
- Jan 25: Steve Perry
- Jan 26: Billy Joel
- Jan 27: Tom Hanks
- Jan 28: Graham Nash
- Jan 29: Jay Leno
- Jan 30: John Travolta

**Puzzles**

**Crossword**

**The Observer**

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ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Century marksmen

By JOSEPH MONARDO
Sports Writer

In the midst of a 15-game winning streak, the second-ranked Irish and their potent offense are getting it done. Having already eclipsed 100 points twice in a season for the first time, Notre Dame is well on its way to achieving one of the most successful offensive seasons in program history.

On Tuesday’s 120-44 rout of Pittsburgh (6-11, 0-6 Big East), the Irish (18-6, 6-0) have finally put turnovers and broke several program records with an offensive performance most coaches could only dream of.

“It’s a lot of fun to see great execution and not a lot of turnovers,” coach Muffet McGraw said. “I think we’re very fond of the ball, and we really did a nice job looking for each other. It was a great team effort so it was a lot of fun.

“There were some amazing numbers on the offensive side.”

Against Pittsburgh, Notre Dame’s 33 assists were the most for the Irish since 1990, the 76-point margin of victory was Notre Dame’s largest ever in Big East play, 120 points were the most in a conference home game, 48 baskets were the most at home in program history and with eight players scoring in double figures, the Irish set a program record.

Amazing numbers indeed.

And perhaps even more amazing, the victory was especially sweet for Notre Dame’s best offensive performance of the season. On Dec. 30, the Irish defeated Mercer 128-42 while breaking multiple school records.

Notre Dame set marks for most points in a game, most points in a half with 72 and most free throws made with 43 while tying the program record for shooting percent-

see McGRAW/page 14

MEN’S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Trip to Puerto Rico provides escape, experience for squad

By MEGAN GOLDEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame traveled to San Juan, Puerto Rico, on Jan. 5, picking up its second Copa Coqui title in three years. The chance to escape the heavy South Bend snowfall was widely accepted by Irish swimmers, who got a taste of warm weather and Puerto Rico culture.

Throughout the four years the Irish have made the trip to San Juan, the Notre Dame Club of San Juan has played a large role in welcoming the team. During this particu-
lar trip, the club set up Sunday Mass and a dinner for the team.

“One of the things that keeps us in close contact with this group is the Notre Dame alumni club. The club in San Juan has been just wonderful for us,” Irish coach Tim Welsh said. “They roasted a pig and had a big pig roast dinner with members of the alumni club. The priest was an alum of Notre Dame, and his parents were there. It was a wonderful event.

The Copa Coqui meet is named after male Coqui frogs, which are known for singing “ko-kee” during all hours of the night. Welsh said the little frog has become the topic of conversation following this annual meet.

“When you’re in San Juan, you can hear those little frogs everywhere, they seem like they’re in the bushes and all over the place,” Welsh said. “The people in San Juan tell us that those little Coqui frogs are everywhere in the Caribbean, but they only sing in Puerto Rico. We don’t know if that’s true, but it’s nice to like to talk that little story.”

The Irish had plenty of time to take in the sunny skies and high temperatures, staying at a resort near a local beach.

“Our hotel was right on the beach, so most of the team relaxed there or tried to catch some waves between prac-

see Welsh/page 14

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Chaotic Big East to test Irish

By MATTHEW DeFRANKS
Sports Writer

A year after a record 11 berths in the NCAA tournament, the Big East is back to its old chaotic ways. After placing four teams in the top-10 of the preseason Associated Press poll, the conference now owns just two places in the top-10.

Notre Dame (11-8, 3-3 Big East) will host one of those teams, top-ranked Syracuse, on Saturday at Purcell Pavilion. Syracuse (20-6, 7-0) is considered the only Big East team that has lived up to its preseason expectations.

“I think it’s good for us because we’ve been chaotic,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “In the midst of the chaos, that’s good for a team trying to find itself. We’re thrilled to be 3-3 (in the Big East) and in the middle of the pack right now. The chaos is a good thing given who we are right now.”

Notre Dame’s performance this season has been mostly inconsistent, ranging from lopsided losses to Missouri, Gonzaga and Cincinnati to an impressive road performance against preseason No. 9 Louis-

see BREY/page 13

FENCING

Tumultuous journey leads Bednarski to ND

By CONOR KELLY
Sports Writer

During the late seventies Irish coach Janusz Bednarski was an economics professor at the University of Economics in Warsaw in his home country of Poland. At that time controlled by the Soviet Union. Frustrated by the economic environment of the Soviet Union. Frustrated by the economic environment of Poland, Bednarski decided to switch teaching to physical education and coaching.

“At that time there was no market for me to continue my work,” Bednarski said. “So I switched.”

The decision has worked out well for Bednarski and has brought him across the globe to teach his craft. Over forty years later, Bednarski is 4,000 miles from his home and the coach of the defend-

ing national champion Irish, as well as the 2010-2011 NCAA coach of the year.

The United States Fencing Coaches Association honored Bednarski with their highest award Monday.

Bednarski first came to the United States after leading Poland’s national team for ten years until 1988, when he left to take a post at a private fencing club near Colorado Springs. Bednar-
ski worked with many of the top American Olympic fencers, eventually ascending to head coach of the American Olympic team in 1993. Just two years later, he would find himself in South Bend.

“It was almost kind of an accident that I ended up at Notre Dame,” Bednarski said.

see POLAND/page 13