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Pro-life task force hosts panel discussion

Special task force continues work, meets with various campus groups to develop recommendations

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Notre Dame is jumping into the public policy debate on conscience clauses today, in part due to the work of a special pro-life task force launched by University President Fr. John Jenkins earlier this semester.

The Task Force on Supporting the Choice for Life and the Notre Dame Law School are co-hosting a panel discussion on conscience clauses from the perspective of a Catholic university at

12:30 p.m. today in the McCartan Courtroom of the Law School. The event may lead to the creation of a white paper on the topic, organizers said.

The event is just one of several things the new task force — which was formed partly in response to the controversy surrounding President Barack Obama's Commencement visit last spring — is working on.

Task Force co-chair Margaret Brinig, professor of law and associate dean at the Law School, said that since the group started its

work earlier this semester, they've spent time talking to various groups on campus — she estimated 100 people in total.

"What we've done is worked in small groups and various people have had meetings with different groups," Brinig said.

She chairs the Task Force with John Cavadini, profes-

sor of theology and director of the Institute for Church Life.

Brinig said the Task Force's various groups are addressing various areas related to life issues, like pregnancy support and adoption, or, like today's event addresses, conscience clauses.

In talking with groups on campus, Brinig said they've met with the gamut of students, faculty and administrators.

"We've met with a whole bunch of the various Right to Life [campus groups] but also with the president of the stu-

dent body," Brinig said. "We've talked to a number of the different department heads and deans and people like that."

Brinig said the Alumni Association and various University administrators have been involved, as well as groups outside the University — including the locally headquartered Women's Care Center, and other organizations in Washington, D.C., Seattle and St. Paul.

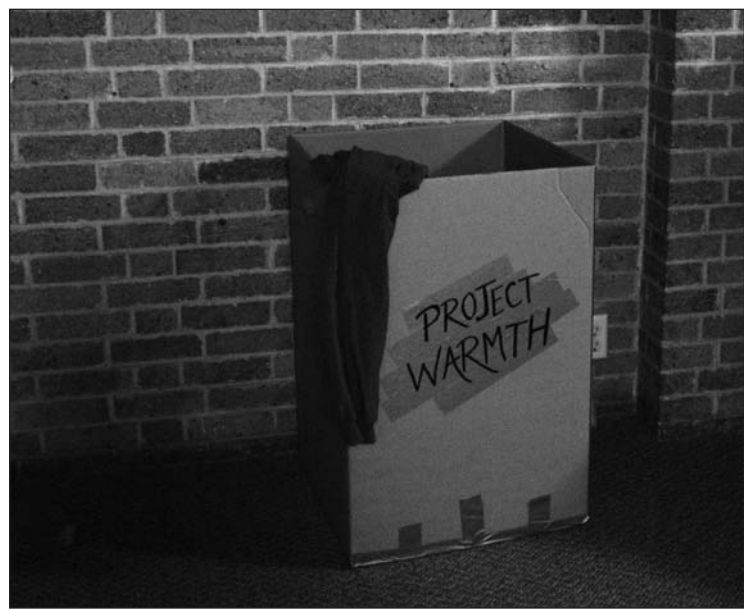
Discussions have produced

see PRO-LIFE/page 8



Brinig

Project Warmth holds winter clothing drive



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

A collection box for the project warmth winter clothing drive sits in Pangborn Hall.

By ADRIANA PRATT
News Writer

If the temperature in South Bend doesn't drop below 32 degrees, many homeless have nowhere to sleep and are left cold on the streets, Mike Hebbeler, director of student leadership and senior transitions at the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) said.

"What happens when it's 33 degrees? When people can't get shelter and there's no weather amnesty, they freeze," Hebbeler said. "It kind of struck me when I was hanging out downtown and there were homeless people who kept calling the weather line to check the weather and wait for it to drop one more degree.

And with the weather is growing colder, the CSC partnered with St. Michael's Laundry and the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore to launch Project Warmth, a campus-wide initiative that encourages students to donate winter outerwear to South Bend residents in need, hopes to raise both awareness and participation this season.

"If people can give something they're wearing or something that they're not wearing, it would be great," Hebbeler said.

St. Michael's Laundry picks up all of the donations, cleans them and brings them back to the CSC.

The Hammes Bookstore

see WARMTH/page 8

CCAC discusses off-campus safety

By MEGAN HEMLER
News Writer

Off-campus safety dominated the discussion of the Community Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC) Wednesday afternoon at the Downtown Office of the University.

The group is composed of representatives from Notre Dame, Holy Cross College and Saint Mary's College as well as officials from South Bend city offices and agencies.

The Coalition discussed the progress made so far on a number of proposals to increase overall safety in the South Bend community, especially the neighborhoods and apartment complexes immediately surrounding Notre Dame.

The neighborhood watch proposed at various safety meetings in recent months has not yet begun, associate vice president for Public Affairs Tim Sexton said.

"We want to make sure that as students come and go this program continues and is sustainable," Sexton said.

"I think the unique part is that there's an involvement of groups that haven't been involved before from both

see CCAC/page 8

Housing an issue for abroad returnees

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Like many students studying abroad this semester, junior Elizabeth Benson recently filled out a housing form to move back on campus in the spring, but unfortunately, no space is left in the residence hall she has lived in for the past two years.

Benson, who is currently studying in London, knew last spring that there would be no room in Breen Phillips Hall for the spring semester.

"Coming back to campus is really easy for people who live in dorms with enough space

for them," she said. "For everyone else, it's really frustrating to feel like you don't have a home, especially since you make such good friends within a dorm."

But the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLH) will most likely find spots on campus for all students returning from studying abroad — just not necessarily in the dorm of their choice, according to Grant Woodman, associate director of ORLH.

However, the Office will try to place students in the hall of their preference when possible, he said.

see HOUSING/page 6

On-Campus Housing Spring 2010



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

INSIDE COLUMN

Coaching candidates

Brian Kelly, Bob Stoops, Gary Patterson, Urban Meyer. We've all heard the names being thrown around on ESPN as the front-runners for our currently vacant (what's that, you didn't hear?) football head coaching position. While I'm sure any of these men would do a decent job running the program, I'm going to suggest some other candidates that haven't been getting as much buzz. Pay attention, Mr. Swarbrick.

Allan Joseph

Sports Wire Editor

Tiger Woods: Can you imagine the quality of fist pumps and awkward high-fives after every touchdown? Plus, he could live on campus and get ResLifed after crashing his car on his way to Reckers at parietals.

Officer Tim McCarthy: If he's clever enough to come up with 8 new puns a year for 50 years, he's clever enough to out scheme opposing coaches. Plus, have you ever heard 80,000 people more silent than during his announcements? The man commands respect.

Joe Girardi: The Yankees, baseball's greatest power, had fallen on hard times before Girardi arrived on the scene. Two years into his job, he's brought them back to the top. Why can't he do the same for this traditional power? Plus, Notre Dame might be the only place with enough money to hire him away from the Steinbrenners.

Mark May: It's simple. We hire Mark May, he can't be an analyst anymore, drastically improving the quality of ESPN football coverage. Plus, his hate for Notre Dame could be a valuable motivational tactic for the players.

Megan Fox: She might be the only thing that could convince Jimmy Clausen to stay for another year.

Manti Te'o: OK, maybe not as head coach. But he basically is the defense, anyway. So why not a player-coordinator?

Morgan Freeman: He's doing his best Nelson Mandela impression in Invictus, so he'll do his best Knute Rockne impression here. Plus, he was God (and has the voice of God). We're Notre Dame, and last I checked, God still loves us. Let's put him on the sidelines.

Brady Quinn: I know we're struggling, but he'll be a part of far more wins here than he will as a member of the Browns. Plus, our TV contract will become immensely more valuable as the prized 18-to-30 year-old female demographic will flock to NBC on Saturday afternoons.

Romeo Crennel: We tried Belichick's offense, so why not try his defense? His record as the Browns' head coach is an anomaly, I'm sure.

Notre Dame Stadium: Judging from the comments shouted out during the games, we quite obviously know better than the coaches. We could coach by democracy — it'd be revolutionary and would give us an excuse to storm the field after every win. The head coaches have to shake hands, after all.

There you have it, Mr. Swarbrick. Ten high-quality coaching suggestions that'll make a splash and keep Notre Dame relevant, as you want. The ball's in your court.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Allan Joseph at ajoseph2@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

A Dec. 1 Observer article titled "Notre Dame returns north" incorrectly stated that the women's basketball team defeated Oregon on Nov. 28. They in fact defeated No. 20 Oklahoma. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG?



Everistus Obiakor
freshman Dillon

"Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel." I like the way it is sung.



Justin Sherman
sophomore Duncan

"Jingle Bells."



Meredith Durant
freshman Pangborn

"12 Days of Christmas, because every year we act it out as a family."



Mary Kate Valdivia
freshman Welsh Family

"Here comes Santa Claus."



Kristin Alvarado
freshman Welsh Family

"12 Days of Christmas."

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



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Students shop at the As You Wish imports sale in LaFortune Student Center Wednesday.

IN BRIEF

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive today at Legends from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 574-299-1388 or visit givelife.org and use the code "irish."

Michael Desmond, Distinguished Advisor for Conversion Technology of BP America, Inc., will deliver a lecture today at 4 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library. The lecture, "Future Automobile Fuels: Fill up or Plug In?" is part of the Notre Dame Energy Center's Distinguished Lecture Series. It is free and open to students, faculty and staff.

Pasquerilla East Hall will hold its signature event, "Silent Night, Silent Auction," tonight from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Gift baskets and items will be auctioned to raise money for the charity Building Tomorrow.

The film "Bright Star" will play at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. For ticket information, call 574-631-2800, visit the box office or visit the performing arts Web site.

Dec. 10, the Saint Mary's Department of English will celebrate the career of retired professor Jeanne Rodes with a poetry reading at 7:30 p.m. on the second floor mezzanine of the Cushwa-Leighton Library.

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

OFFBEAT

School employee loses job due to alien search

MESA, Ariz. — A former Arizona school district employee is accused of using school computers in an experiment to find space aliens, costing the worker his job and the district more than \$1 million.

Schools officials say Brad Niesluchowski, who was Higley Unified School District's information technology director, downloaded free software on district computers in 2000.

The program, known as SETI(at)home, uses Internet-connected computers worldwide to analyze radio telescope data in an experiment to find extraterrestrial intelligence.

But Superintendent Denise Birdwell told the East Valley Tribune that the program also bogged down the district's system and interfered with technology use in classrooms.

Birdwell said it will take more than \$1 million to fix the problem, including removal of the SETI software. She says police are conducting a broader investigation.

Groom's ex girlfriend crashes Peruvian wedding

LIMA, Peru — Edwin Ortiz was just about to utter "I do," but the mother of his two children and her relatives had a different message: "Oh, no you don't." One moment, the 27-

year-old Peruvian was sitting happily in a large wedding hall with 17 other couples, declaring his love for his wife-to-be to TV cameramen in the southern town of Miraflores.

The next, two women relatives of his ex-partner burst into the room, rushed up to Ortiz and began pounding on his head and back while screaming at him. The burly women eventually shoved him and his mother outside into a parking lot, where the ex-partner joined in, Miraflores spokesman Julio Hincho said Wednesday.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 37 LOW 35	HIGH 30 LOW 26	HIGH 32 LOW 23	HIGH 34 LOW 25	HIGH 38 LOW 27	HIGH 37 LOW 28

Atlanta 51 / 35 Boston 61 / 38 Chicago 37 / 27 Denver 21 / 13 Houston 56 / 41 Los Angeles 66 / 66 Minneapolis 27 / 20 New York 60 / 39 Philadelphia 61 / 38 Phoenix 68 / 41 Seattle 47 / 33 St. Louis 42 / 26 Tampa 73 / 59 Washington 59 / 39

SMC sophomore strings rosaries for troops

Remi White has made some 500 sets of beads so far from parachute cords after getting involved in high school

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's sophomore Remi White has made about 500 rosaries to date, she said, as a part of the Ranger Rosary Ministry, which works with military chaplains to provide rosaries to troops deployed to combat zones and those at state-side bases and military hospitals.

As a junior in high school, she discovered the program with a friend on the Ranger Rosary Web site and it immediately grabbed her attention.

"We were both really interested in participating," she said. "We thought it was such a unique way to give back to the troops overseas that a lot of people wouldn't realize."

The project rose to a new level as more students became involved, White said. It became a school project with the entire school making rosaries.

White does not have a direct affiliation with the military, but said that she began the rosary project because she wanted to bring happiness to the troops.

"I believe [the rosaries] provide a sense of hope and strength to the troops," White said.

White continues to make the rosaries from parachute cords and dark beads with her high school friends during breaks from school.

Once the rosaries are finished,

they are sent to the Ranger Rosary home base in Annapolis, Md. St. John Neumann church is responsible for fulfilling the requests of the military chaplains by supplying the rosaries.

The church also checks to make sure that the rosaries have been made correctly.

White and her friends add a personal touch to the rosaries that they make.

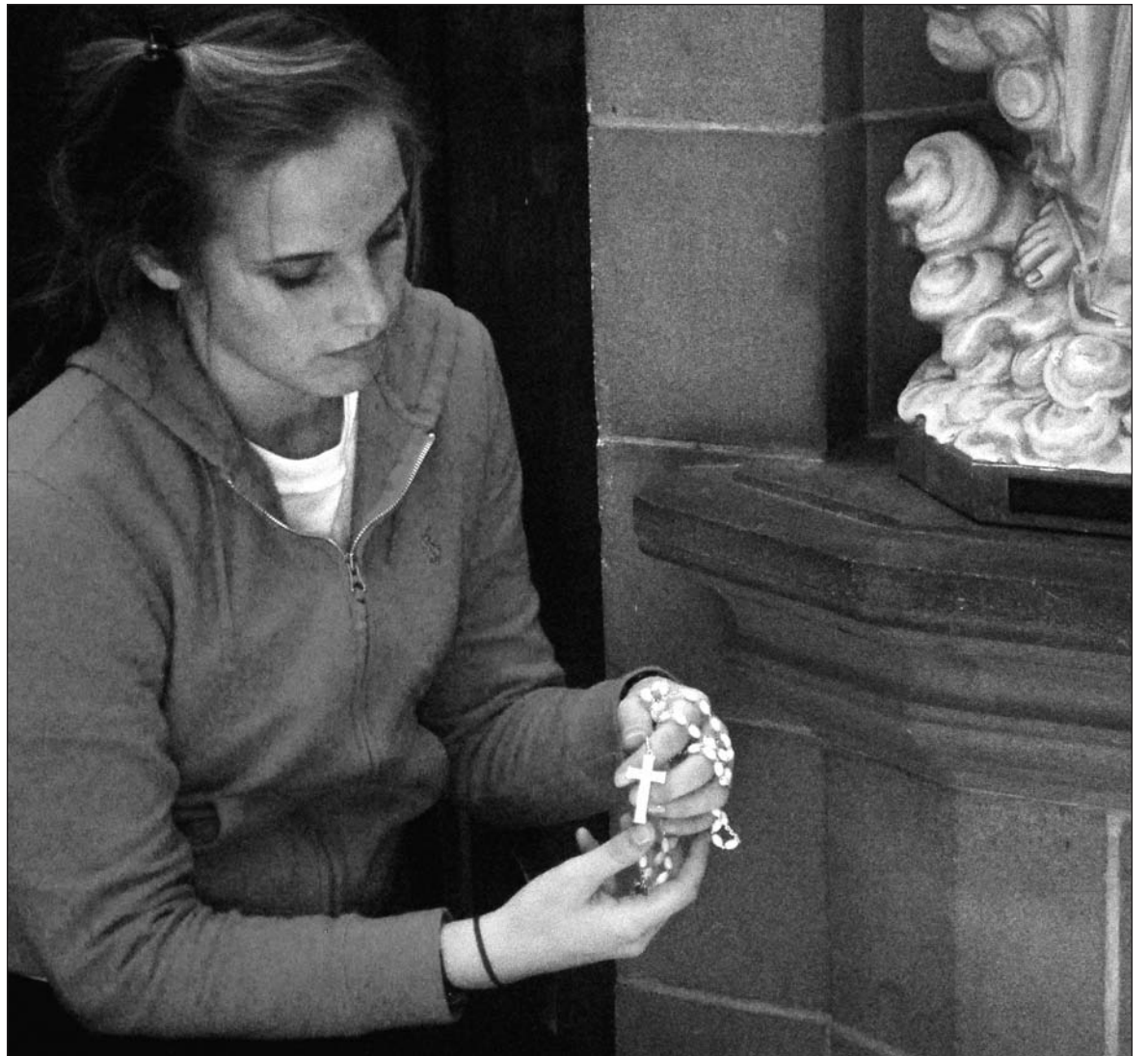
"We send a note along with the rosaries saying who we are and how honored we feel to participate in this project," White said. "In a way, it is a note of thanks, too. We thank them for all that they do, and tell them that they are in our thoughts and prayers everyday."

Individuals who are interested in making rosaries for service men and women can order a sample rosary making kit from St. John Neumann church, which includes enough materials to create five rosaries and a finished rosary as an example of the finished product.

The Rosary project sends an important message to the troops, White said.

"It is a reminder to know that God is always with them and that his love and support is always at their sides," White said. "It also reminds the troops that there are people back home thinking of them and praying for their safety."

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@nd.edu



GRACE KENESY/The Observer

Saint Mary's sophomore Remi White creates rosaries, used for prayer, to send to troops deployed in combat zones.

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Profs examine role of university in development

Visiting lecturer from Uganda Martyrs University discusses state of higher education in African countries

By SAM STRYKER
News Writer

Higher education is a key factor in global human development, two scholars said Wednesday.

Fr. Peter Kanyandago of Uganda Martyrs University and English Schooling and Society Professor Tamo Chattopadhyay discussed the role of universities in development in a lecture at the Coleman-Morse Lounge.

Kanyandago focused on development in his native Uganda, but said the country represented many nations.

"I take Uganda as my background, but what I am going to say can be applied to other areas," he said.

Of Uganda's 33 million people, 42 percent are Catholic. He said there are 29 universities in Uganda, of which one, Uganda Martyrs University, is Catholic-based and 28 of the 29 universities have been founded since 1988.

But only three percent of the population of university age actually attends.

"About 57 percent of the students who qualified for university cannot attend due to the lack of space," Kanyandago said.

He said higher education is key in this process of producing teachers, research and service to the community.

However, this development must come in an ethical manner according to Kanyandago.

"I believe that development cannot be genuine if it is not ethical, and ethics that do not promote human development are not of much use," he said.

Kanyandago described a key term, "endogeneity," which he defined as people using cultural and material resources to ensure relevance, self-reliance, ownership and participation.

He said that endogeneity is key in ethical development.

"Development that is imposed from the outside, however good it is, cannot be genuine," he said.

Ethical development, he said, is more than just meeting basic needs. People must fulfill other needs in their life, such as the material, spiritual and emotional.

In addition to the lack of capacity, Kanyandago said there aren't enough educational facilities, there are issues with irrelevant curricula and some universities question the quality of the higher education in Uganda.

Kanyandago said Ugandan universities must begin to focus on food security, hunger and famine, among other things.

"Only two universities have departments of agriculture and animal husbandry," he said.

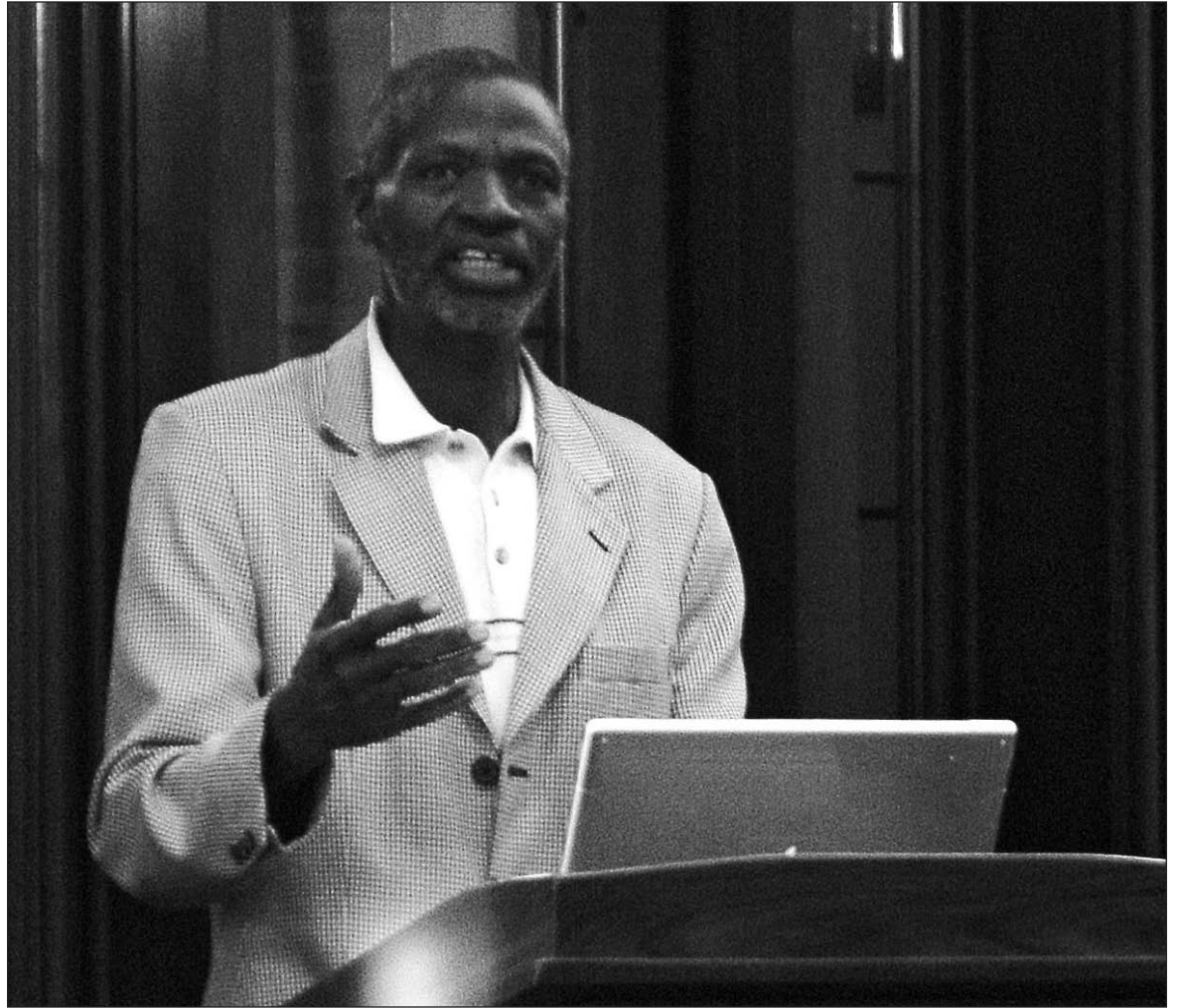
Kanyandago called for much more action to improve the quality of Ugandan education but remained optimistic about the situation.

"Despite what has been said, university education has contributed a lot to the development of Uganda," he said.

Chattopadhyay focused on what he called "the transnational perspective".

He said education is becoming the hot topic in terms of development in nations.

"There is a big buzz on



SUZANNA PRATT/The Observer

Fr. Peter Kanyandago of Uganda Martyrs University speaks about the role of the university in developing countries at the Coleman-Morse Center Wednesday.

knowledge for development," he said.

Chattopadhyay said universities are therefore playing an increasingly important role in development as they are centers of knowledge. The irony, he said, is that the most challenged nations developmentally have the least university

capacity.

This issue has been compounded by the focus on elementary education in developing nations.

"Much of the problem is that emphasis is placed on primary education at the cost of tertiary education," he said.

Chattopadhyay noted that despite these global issues, there is hope in the future.

"Think of the changes that are possible because we live in such an interconnected era," he said.

Contact Sam Stryker at sstryke1@nd.edu

ND astrophysicist to give lecture

Special to The Observer

University of Notre Dame astrophysicist Grant Mathews will give two presentations this month of his popular program titled "What and When was the Christmas Star?" in the Digital Visualization Theatre of Notre Dame's Jordan Hall of Science.

The programs, which are free and open to the public, will take place at 4 p.m. on Dec. 12 and 3 p.m. on Dec. 13.

The Gospel of Matthew records a peculiar astronomical event that occurred at the birth of Christ. Mathews has applied the

tools of modern astrophysics to the search for evidence of this event. His program will examine whether the "Christmas Star" was a nova, a super-nova or a planet alignment and discuss the possible identity of the "wise men from the East."

The public programs will be followed by a special video presentation of "A Season of Lights."



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Carbon trading legislation fails

SYDNEY — Australia's Senate on Wednesday defeated the government's plan to implement a carbon pollution trading system to fight global warming, dashing hopes of setting an example for other nations at U.N. climate change talks next week.

The scuttled proposal would have placed Australia alongside the European Union and a handful of other places that have or are considering "cap-and-trade" systems to cut greenhouse gas emissions, and tarnished Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's international reputation as a leader on the issue.

Instead, Rudd, will attend the next one U.N. conference with a big setback on his hands.

Illegal immigrant given consular post

ASUNCION, Paraguay — Paraguay named an undocumented U.S. immigrant to run its consulate in New York, discovering his illegal status only when the man returned home to get his diplomatic papers and was denied a U.S. visa.

Paraguay's foreign ministry acknowledged Wednesday that it was a mistake to name Augusto Noguera as the consulate's "first official," but said President Fernando Lugo annulled the decision as soon as he was informed of the U.S. Embassy's visa denial.

Vice Foreign Minister Manuel Maria Caceres told The Associated Press that the decision to name Noguera as a diplomat Sept. 21 was made in good faith since the ministry didn't know of his legal status in New York.

NATIONAL NEWS

Incomplete border tunnel found

SAN DIEGO — The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration says Mexican authorities discovered an incomplete tunnel that extends into San Diego and is equipped with a lift system, ventilation and lighting.

The DEA said Wednesday that the tunnel runs nearly 1,000 feet from its entry in Tijuana, Mexico, including 860 feet into the United States. There is no exit on the U.S. side.

The DEA says Mexican authorities arrested more than a dozen people inside the tunnel Wednesday. No arrests have been made in the United States.

The tunnel reaches a depth of 90 to 100 feet and authorities think it has been under construction for about two years.

Suspect charged with attempted murder

FORT WORTH, Texas — An Army psychiatrist who may face the death penalty after the mass shooting at Fort Hood was charged Wednesday with 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder relating to the scores of soldiers and two civilian police officers injured in the attack, military officials said.

Maj. Nidal Hasan has already been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder after the Nov. 5 shooting in a building at the Texas Army post where soldiers must go before being deployed. Army officials have said he was armed with two pistols.

The additional charges come less than 24 hours after Hasan's civilian attorney was notified that the Army plans to evaluate Hasan to test his competency to stand trial as well as his mental state at the time of the shooting.

LOCAL NEWS

Lawmaker pleads guilty to charges

INDIANAPOLIS — The 2008 Democratic candidate for Indiana's lieutenant governor pleaded guilty Wednesday to a charge that he misrepresented himself as a state legislator last summer to avoid arrest for public intoxication.

Former state Rep. Dennie Oxley II, 38, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor charge during a court hearing originally set to consider a defense motion to suppress evidence in the case.

A Marion County judge who accepted the plea gave Oxley a one-year jail sentence, suspending all but two days, which he has already served.

Stem cell research restrictions lifted

National Institute of Health approves new 13 stem cell lines for tax-paid research

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Scientists can start using taxpayer dollars to do research with 13 batches of embryonic stem cells and the government says dozens more cell lines should be available soon, opening a new era for the potentially life-saving field.

President Barack Obama lifted eight years of restrictions on these master cells last spring. But \$21 million-and-counting in new projects were on hold until the National Institutes of Health determined which of hundreds of existing stem cell lines were ethically appropriate to use.

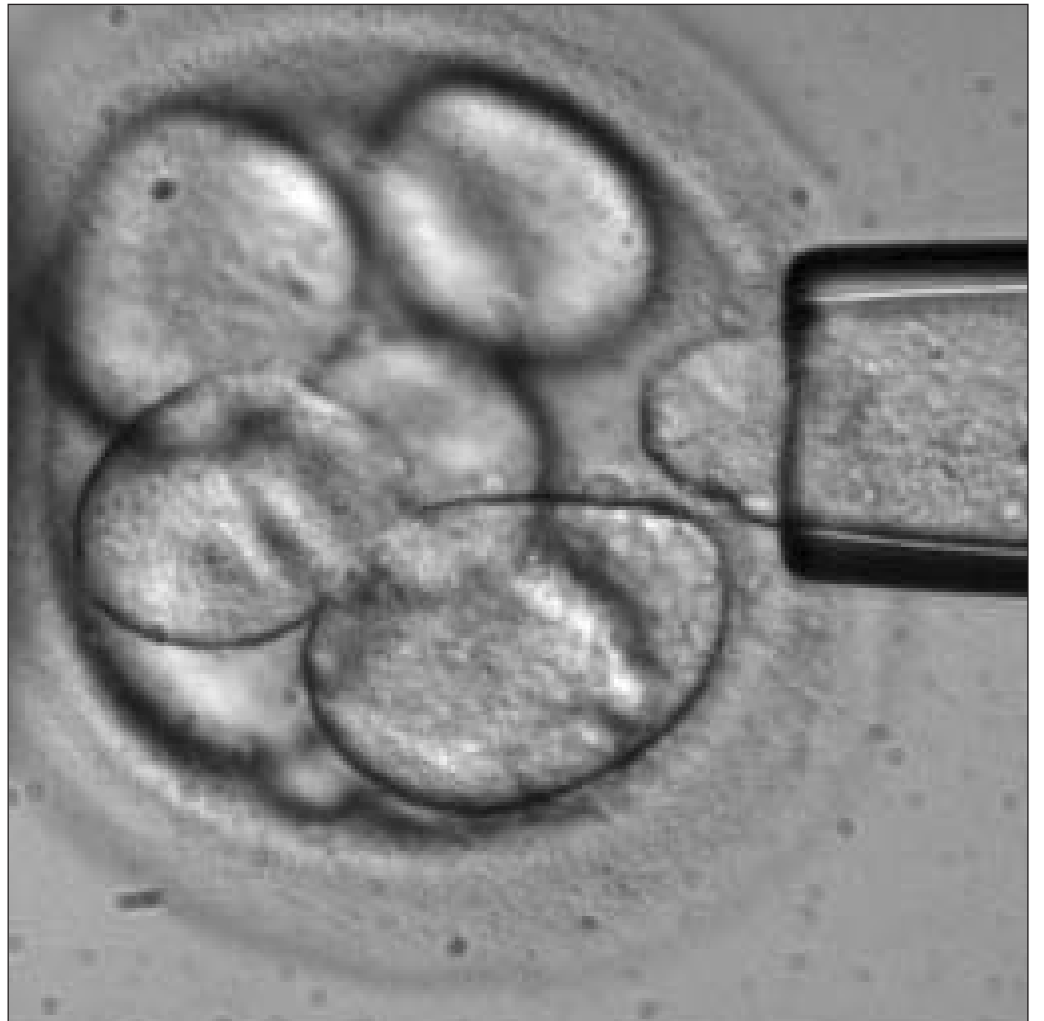
"This is the first down payment," Dr. Francis Collins, NIH's director, said Wednesday as he opened a master registry. "People are champing at the bit for the opportunity to get started."

Thirteen stem cell lines — created by Children's Hospital Boston and Rockefeller University — are first on that list. Another 96 embryonic stem cell lines are undergoing NIH review, and 20 or more could get a decision by Friday, Collins said.

And researchers have notified the NIH that they may apply for approval of another 250 stem cell lines.

"The field has been waiting with bated breath for this announcement," said Dr. George Daley of Children's Hospital Boston, whose lab created 11 of the newly approved lines. He has about 100 vials of cells from each batch already banked and ready to ship to researchers around the country.

The numbers mark a big change from the Bush administration, which had limited taxpayer-funded research to about 21 stem cell lines, those already in existence as of August 2001. Scientists say newer batches were created in ways that made them far better candidates for successful research. Indeed,



The federal government has cleared 13 new stem cell lines for testing, allowing companies to take cells from human embryos and use them for research.

only one of the Bush-era stem cell lines is among the 96 now under consideration.

Wednesday's announcement means that researchers who were awarded \$21 million in stem cell research grants earlier this year can start using the approved lines immediately, projects that include work to one day repair damaged heart tissue and grow new brain cells. Millions more in stem cell money is due out later this winter, funds from the economic stimulus package.

Embryonic stem cells can morph into any cell of the body, and scientists hope to harness them so they can create replacement tissue to treat, possibly even cure, a variety of diseases, from diabetes to Parkinson's to spinal cord injury.

Culling those cells destroys a days-old embryo, something many strongly oppose on moral grounds. But once created, the cells can propagate indefinitely in lab dishes.

Federal law forbids using taxpayer money to create or destroy an embryo. All the stem cell lines involved in Wednesday's announcement were created from fertility clinic leftovers — embryos that otherwise would have been thrown away — using private money. NIH is reviewing the rest to see if they also meet ethics requirements for use in taxpayer-funded health research. Among the requirements: That the woman or couple who donated the original embryo did so voluntarily

and were told of other options, such as donating to another infertile woman.

Why do scientists need so many choices? It's not just to supply the demand of a growing field. There's a lot of variability from batch to batch in how the stem cells perform, Daley said. Some are better at turning into blood-producing cells than muscle-producing ones, for instance.

It has to do with the genetics of the original embryo, and probably also with the recipe used to create and nurture the stem cells — an environment that can trigger genes to switch on and off at different times, explained Daley, who has government funding to study those important differences.

Legislators propose lowering consent age

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Legislators are hoping to lower the age of sexual consent in Puerto Rico from 16 to 14, arguing that complaints from protective parents are overwhelming courts and teens should not be prosecuted for their sexual curiosity.

"Many children have faced criminal proceedings for experimenting with their sexuality," said local Rep. Charlie Hernandez, a sponsor of the legislation. "That to me seems outrageous."

The proposal would reverse a 2004 amendment making it illegal to have consensual sex with anyone under 16, the minimum age for marriage with

parental blessing.

That decision was part of broader changes to Puerto Rico's penal code, making it difficult to gauge what consent age most lawmakers support.

The proposal to lower the consent age faces stiff opposition from religious groups, who say it would lead to more pregnancies and an increase in single mothers struggling to raise a child.

"This is nothing but a plan to initiate minors into a sexual life," said Juan M. Gaud, a member of the Alliance of Christian Lawyers. "We are raising 14-year-olds to be mothers."

But the 14-year-old limit is backed by the head of the government Women's Advocate Office, Ivonne Feliciano, who says education is key

to helping teens.

Rep. Liza Fernandez, co-president of the committee expected to endorse the change for consideration by the House and Senate, says parents too often file complaints that overwhelm courts when both teens consented to sex.

She said parents are out of touch who say girls ages 15 and 16 have no idea what they are doing when they agree to have sex.

"I don't know what world they're living in," she said. "They know what they are doing, even if it's irresponsible."

Puerto Rico's teen pregnancy rate has dropped every year from 2003 to 2007, the newest figures available, but the rate still remains slightly higher than that of the U.S., according to the island's health department.

Housing

continued from page 1

Woodman said about 360 students are returning from studying abroad to live on campus next semester and about 450 students are leaving campus to study abroad, graduate early or live off-campus.

"Normally students want to live in the community where they lived before. We want to keep that sense of community," he said. "But sometimes it's just a question of how many people are leaving and how many people are returning in a certain hall."

For the most part, ORHL leaves placement of students in certain halls and with certain roommates up to rectors, Woodman said. Generally, students work out an arrangement with their rector and friends before leaving to study abroad.

"In many cases, people work out deals with each other and friends take each others' spots," he said. "Rectors are good brokers of that."

Woodman said students who don't make an arrangement with a rector or friend submit a form through ORHL and are assigned to a hall that has space, but students can indicate preferences.

Like Benson, junior Marina Ramos, currently studying in Fremantle, Australia, heard last year that there would be no room for her to return to her residence hall spring semester.

"When I heard I wouldn't get back into my hall, I sent out a mass e-mail to see where there would be space," Ramos said. "I only heard back from about half the rectors and most of the responses were negative. It was very disheartening."

But several months later, Ramos heard that there was

space in Badin Hall and jumped on the chance to live there with a friend who is also abroad this semester.

"I don't know anyone in Badin and I would rather live where all my friends are living," she said. "But I will have the chance to meet some new people."

Benson said she also contacted several different rectors last spring along with two friends also studying abroad this fall to find somewhere to live on campus for the spring semester.

"Some of my friends were going abroad in the spring and told me a triple might be available in Badin for us so we emailed the rector," she said. "It seems like it's much easier for people studying abroad in the spring because they do rooms picks like usual."

For students who didn't arrange to live in a certain hall, the housing will be posted after finals at the end of the semester, Woodman said.

But with 360 students returning and 450 leaving, Woodman said he is confident that everyone who wants to live on campus will be able to do so.

"We are about 90 in the green this year," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

"When I heard I wouldn't get back into my hall, I sent out a mass e-mail to see where there would be space. I only heard back from about half the rectors and most of the responses were negative. It was very disheartening."

Marina Ramos
junior

SENATE

Senate reviews student government's progress



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Chief of staff Ryan Brellenthin, student body president Grant Schmidt and vice president at Wednesday's Senate meeting.

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Student Senate evaluated student government's progress this past semester and discussed suggestions for improvement for the remainder of the year at its meeting Wednesday.

"We're where we should be right now. All of our initiatives are in progress. They are making progress," student body vice president Cynthia Weber said.

Weber said this year's administration strived to pay attention to smaller details about student life and make time to address them.

"The little things matter, and having times during our regular meetings to talk about the little things," she said. "To follow up on those things or to use our existing relationships to get that stuff accomplished."

Student body president Grant Schmidt said, "If you ask what is the function of student government, it's to respond to the issues of the voice of the student body."

"I don't think there has been an issue on campus that we haven't discussed in [Senate] or you haven't discussed in your committee," he said. "Whether it's the little things such as the light between Siegfried and Knott, or the big things such as Transpo."

Weber also said this administration worked to become a focus group to represent the student body. Student government should have an idea of the student body's opinions and then form an educational, academic opinion on University issues, she said.

"When something happens on campus, something like the Commencement decision last semester or the change in the economics department," Weber said. "The idea that student government is educated on it and that we have a pulse of what student opinion is and that we have an educated opinion about it."

Weber said another goal of this administration was to increase the collaboration between student government and local South Bend leadership. Examples of this were community meetings to promote safe neighborhoods and the Transpo initiative, she said.

The final goal of student government was to increase its social consciousness of its role in the country and the world, Weber said.

"As leaders of the student union, of the student body of Notre Dame, to encourage collaborative efforts

to promote Notre Dame's impact on the world and that's exactly what the Global Water Initiative is designed to do this year, and the precedent that it's designed to set," she said.

Schmidt said it was important for senators and members of student government to know what they are working to accomplish.

"You should be clear why you come here every Wednesday night and I'm hoping these are the four main reasons," he said.

University Affairs chair Jeff Lakusta said he was impressed by this administration's willingness to take on larger issues and make an impact globally.

"Throughout the first three years that I was here, people tended to turn down big ideas just because it was too big," he said. "Under this administration it's been cool because we are not afraid to go after those bigger issues."

"We can have an impact on global water problems. I just think that's a cool thing to realize," he said.

Senators also discussed room for improvement for second semester.

Bradley McDonald of O'Neill Hall said pep rallies should be a priority next semester.

"It seems like the biggest issue this year revolved around pep rallies and I think that obviously needs to be addressed and the sooner the better, so next semester is prime time," he said.

Matt LaFortune, who will replace the current Alumni Hall senator next semester, suggested holding a pep rally for the blue and gold game to welcome the new coach and set the tone for the next season.

Taylor Ruby Gagan of Pasquerilla East Hall said Senate could open up communication with the student body by holding a town hall style meeting.

Weber said it may be possible to open the Schmidt's state of the student union address up to the student body.

"The state of the student union address is mandatory in the constitution but it doesn't necessarily have to happen in the context of Senate. We could open it up," she said.

Senators also filled out forms evaluating student government this year, and these forms were submitted anonymously to Schmidt and Weber at the end of the meeting.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Mass
With an African American Flavor
(aka Rejoice! Mass)



Sunday, Dec. 6

9:00p.m.

**Coleman-Morse Center
Chapel of Notre Dame Our Mother**



Campus Ministry

For information, contact Judy Madden 631-8508 or jmadden2@nd.edu

Want to write News?
E-mail Madeline at
mbuckley@nd.edu

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	10,452.68	-18.90	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,414	151	1,334	329,790,709

AMEX	1,806.68	+0.58
NASDAQ	2,185.03	+9.22
NYSE	7,222.42	+10.34
S&P 500	1,109.24	+0.38
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	9,804.96	+192.02
FTSE 100 (London)	5,327.39	+15.22

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	0.00	0.00	4.10
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-0.04	-0.05	111.25
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	-1.51	-0.24	15.65
E*TRADE FIN CORP (ETFC)	+2.34	+0.04	1.75

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.47	+0.048	3.32
13-WEEK BILL	-20.00	-0.01	0.04
30-YEAR BOND	-0.02	-0.001	4.27
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.86	+0.058	2.09

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)		-2.07	76.30
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)		+12.80	1,213.0
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		-2.30	82.30

Exchange Rates			
YEN			87.7750
EURO			1.5084
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.0493
BRITISH POUND			1.6675

IN BRIEF

Kia Sorento adopts crossover design

LOS ANGELES — Kia redesigned its Sorento from a sport utility vehicle to a compact crossover, but managed to do so without sacrificing interior space.

The new Sorento, which made its North American debut at the Los Angeles Auto Show on Wednesday, is about 3.5 inches longer and offers more cabin space than the previous SUV version. It also boasts retractable third-row seats that enable it to accommodate up to seven passengers.

The latest Sorento features a tabbed grille and wraparound headlamps, which gives it a sleeker profile than its predecessors. Among its high-end options are a panoramic sunroof, rearview camera monitor and push-button ignition.

Powering the Sorento is either a 2.4-liter, four-cylinder engine that will get up to 29 miles per gallon, or a slightly less fuel-efficient 3.5-liter V6.

"It means better fuel efficiency, better ride and handling and overall experience for the owner," Michael Sprague, vice president of marketing for Kia Motors America.

The 2011 Sorento will be available Jan. 2 at a starting price below \$20,000.

Wal-Mart to compensate workers

BOSTON — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has agreed to pay \$40 million to 87,500 Massachusetts employees who claimed the retailer denied them rest and meals breaks, manipulated time cards and refused to pay overtime.

The settlement — believed to be one of the largest of its kind in the state — seeks to resolve a class-action lawsuit filed in 2001.

An affidavit filed Wednesday by plaintiffs attorney Philip Gordon says people who worked for Wal-Mart between 1995 and this year will receive payments of between \$400 and \$2,500, depending upon their years of service.

The settlement needs approval from the Middlesex Superior Court.

A Wal-Mart spokeswoman said resolving cases of this kind serves the company's best interests.

In September, Wal-Mart agreed to pay \$3 million to settle complaints that it didn't its Massachusetts workers proper meal breaks.

Comcast deal to be reviewed

Cable TV provider expected to control NBC if approved by Federal Trade Commission

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Comcast Corp. will likely have to accept substantial conditions if the cable TV provider wants to win regulatory approval for control of NBC Universal's broadcast network, cable channels and movie studios.

Although federal regulators probably won't block a deal outright on anticompetitive grounds, they could prohibit Comcast, for instance, from denying rival subscription-TV services such as DirecTV access to NBC channels and other popular programming.

Under a deal expected to be announced Thursday, Comcast would control the Peacock network and about two dozen cable channels such as Bravo, CNBC and SyFy along with the cable lines to roughly a quarter of all U.S. households that pay for TV.

The regulatory review remains the biggest question mark now that all the corporate pieces appear to be in place. Vivendi SA is expected to sell General Electric Co. the portion of NBC Universal it doesn't already own. GE, in turn, would sell a 51 percent stake in the entire unit to Comcast.

A review by the Federal Communications Commission and either the Justice Department or the Federal Trade Commission could take a year or longer.

The deal is bound to face tougher scrutiny than past ones given a Democratic administration that has vowed to encourage diversity in media ownership and ramp up antitrust oversight overall.

"This is a new administration that has promised to be a tough cop on the beat," said Corie Wright, policy counsel for Free Press, a public interest group that opposes the deal. "Any conditions it



Regulators may not block Comcast's plans to take control of NBC Universal altogether, but they will push to require substantial concessions to protect competitors.

exacts should and will be painful because this would be a tremendous consolidation of market power."

Regulators probably won't stop the deal entirely because the two companies are in two different businesses with little overlap, Concept Capital analyst Paul Gallant said.

But federal reviewers will have to sort out the implications of allowing a company that already provides cable and Internet connections to so many Americans to take control of a vast media empire, too.

NBC Universal owns the NBC and Telemundo broadcast networks; 16 local TV stations; an array of popular cable channels including CNBC, Bravo and

Oxygen; the Universal Pictures movie studio and theme parks; and a stake in Hulu, which distributes free television programming online.

Comcast, meanwhile, has 23.8 million cable TV customers, 15.7 million high-speed Internet subscribers and 7.4 million customers for its phone service. The company also owns some cable channels already, including E! Entertainment and the Golf Channel, and a controlling interest in the Philadelphia 76ers and Flyers.

The biggest concern facing regulators centers on what happens when one company owns both distribution platforms and content, said Stifel Nicolaus analyst Rebecca Arbogast.

Before approving America Online Inc.'s purchase of Time Warner Inc. in 2001, regulators required Time Warner to offer online services other than just AOL on its high-speed cable Internet network.

In clearing News Corp.'s 2003 acquisition of satellite provider DirecTV, regulators prohibited the combined company from discriminating against competing subscription TV services and channels it didn't own.

A key challenge in these types of deals, Arbogast explained, is ensuring that rivals in the subscription TV market can still get access to popular programming owned by the merged company.

Livestock company to lose organic certification

Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. — Promiseland Livestock will lose its organic certification for four years unless it appeals a ruling issued last month because the company kept inadequate records and refused to let USDA inspectors review the records it did have.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture filed a formal complaint against Promiseland in 2008 and accused it of a number of violations of organic standards, including using non-organic feed and reselling conventional grain as organic.

A judge ruled Nov. 25 that the livestock company had violated USDA rules by refusing to provide records to inspectors when they visited

Promiseland's facilities in Nebraska and Missouri. But the judge did not rule directly on whether Promiseland's practices violated organic standards.

The Promiseland problems were uncovered as part of an investigation of milk producer Aurora Organic Dairy of Boulder, Colo., because Aurora had bought more than 12,000 cattle from Promiseland.

No one answered the phone at Promiseland's Bassett, Neb., headquarters Wednesday.

A USDA spokesman declined to comment on the Promiseland case Wednesday.

The Cornucopia Institute, a Wisconsin-based watchdog group, has filed several complaints against large-scale dairies that have promot-

ed their milk as organic, including Aurora.

Mark Kastel, Cornucopia's co-director, said he's glad that Promiseland will likely lose its organic certification, and that the USDA under President Barack Obama appears to be more aggressive in its response to complaints about companies not following the organic rules.

"The good news for consumers is the system worked," he said. "The bad news is that it took several years for it to happen."

Kastel said Promiseland made it harder for small organic dairy farmers to compete because it wasn't following organic standards in its operation, so Promiseland had lower costs.

Warmth

continued from page 1

offers a drop-off location and 20 percent discount for coat donations to purchase a new coat at the Notre Dame Bookstore, Varsity Shop and Hammes Bookstore on Eddy Street.

But the coat drive is about more than just getting a discount on a new coat, Julie Nave, marketing coordinator for Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore said in an e-mail.

Nave said contributions will go to thousands of families and their children in the South Bend area who are faced with making a choice between buying a winter coat or putting food on the table.

"What's better than the gift of warmth this holiday season?" she asked.

Hebbeler said the CSC

also started a new campaign this season, posting weather amnesty signs around campus to coincide with Project Warmth. If the temperature drops below 32 degrees, certain organizations open their doors for the homeless overnight. If the temperature is above 32, there is no weather amnesty.

"We put signs up right before Thanksgiving ... The idea behind the posters was just to open up student eyes," he said.

All donations from Project Warmth go to the Center for the Homeless, the Catholic Worker, St. Margaret's House and Hope Ministries.

There is a competition between the dorms to collect the most items. The dorm that donates the most wins a Rudy style varsity jacket embroidered with their dorm's name. The jacket gets passed around each year to the winning dorm as a trophy.

"I think it's safe to say that Zahm will win every year.

Zahm is looking for competition. Those guys should be praised because they help out a lot," Hebbeler said.

Other sites to drop off donations include La Fortune Student Center, Grace Hall and Flanner Hall. Service commissioners from each dorm are responsible for gathering the donations for St. Michael's and bringing the cleaned items to the shelters.

"The idea is to have service commissioners and perhaps other student groups that are involved in the community stop by the center, pick up the clothes and drop them off ... and have a meal with the residents," Hebbeler said. "The idea is to make it more than just a drop off and to engage people downtown."

Project Warmth will run through Dec. 9.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

"The idea is to have service commissioners and perhaps other student groups that are involved in the community stop by the center, pick up the clothes and drop them off... and have a meal with the residents."

Mike Hebbeler
director of student leadership and senior transitions
CSC

Pro-Life

continued from page 1

various ideas about things the Task Force could work on or could recommend that other campus groups pursue, Brinig said, including undergraduate research initiatives, academic courses, service projects and conferences, among other ideas.

In an e-mail announcing the Task Force's formation, Jenkins also wrote of his intention to participate in the national Right to Life March on Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C.

Brinig said the Task Force is helping to coordinate the details of a Mass near the time of this event, and other related activities.

Brinig said the Task Force will exist at least for the remainder of the academic year and said the group will finalize a set of recommendations to present to Jenkins.

In the meantime, they have also undertaken events like today's panel, which features three experts: Fr. Michael Place, chair of the

International Federation of Catholic Health Institutions, O. Carter Snead, associate professor of law at Notre Dame, and Brinig.

According to a University press release, the discussion will concern ongoing legal developments and how Catholic teaching and tradition could inform efforts to protect the rights of conscience of health workers, pregnant women, taxpayers and other citizens.

Snead said organizers hope to attract a "wide and diverse audience" to today's panel.

He said the event is intended to spur discussion and could also lead to a white paper on the topic.

The document would "offer suggestions for the contents of an ideal set of conscience ... protections for individuals, institutions and citizens" related to questions of abortion and embryo-destructive research.

The white paper would be written "from the perspective of a preeminent Catholic research university," Snead said.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

"What we've done is worked in small groups and various people have had meetings with different groups."

Margaret Brinig
co-chair
Task Force on Supporting the Choice for Life

CCAC

continued from page 1

residents and students," Bill Kirk, associate vice president for Resident Life said of the neighborhood watch.

Student body president Grant Schmidt said off-campus safety is a common concern to both neighborhood residents and students.

"Students and neighbors can really unite on this," he said.

The recent addition of a Transpo shuttle to operate

on the weekends was an effort to offer a safe transportation option for students, Schmidt said.

The new route will begin Friday and will run from Library Circle to South Street Station. Schmidt said that the total round trip time for the new route will be about 30 minutes and is free for Notre Dame students.

The Coalition discussed security measures over winter break, including free storage for students with the help of Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) and increased informational meetings and tips

from area landlords.

South Bend landlord Mark Kramer advised students to not only lock and alarm their residences, but also to call South Bend Police for a vacation watch of their off-campus house.

An off-campus safety meeting sponsored by student government will take place in the Carey Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library Monday at 7 p.m.

The next CCAC meeting will be held at Holy Cross College on Jan. 27 at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Megan Hemler at mhemler@nd.edu

Prof's book examines history of sin

Special to The Observer

G.K. Chesterton famously described original sin as "the only part of Christian theology which can really be proved." Not everyone agrees with Chesterton, but the abundance of evidence in support of his assertion is certainly compelling.

Familiarity with the effects of sin, overuse and abuse of the term and the exhaustion of religious vocabulary seem to have dulled the culture's appreciation for this intrinsic element of human life and striving.

Notre Dame theologian Gary Anderson's book, "Sin: A History," recently published by Yale University Press, examines how understandings and descriptions of sin have changed over two millennia of biblical tradition, from the metaphors of physical burden, such as a scapegoat might ritually carry away, to the incurrence of those grave debts which followers of Jesus ask his Father to forgive.

Anderson, professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible at Notre Dame, argues that such metaphors have more than mere literary significance.

"When Jesus teaches his disciples to pray for the forgiveness of their debts," Anderson says, "he gives witness to one of the most revolutionary moments in religious thought. For if sins are debts, then acts of virtue, like the giving of alms, are credits which fund a 'treasury of merits in heaven.' In the early church, the forgiveness of sin required some sign of personal amendment and pride of place went to acts of charity. For in serving the poor one was doing more than correcting

social injustice, one was channeling the infinite merits won by Christ on the cross into a fallen world."

According to James Kugel, Starr Professor Emeritus of

"When Jesus teaches his disciples to pray for the forgiveness of their debts he gives witness to one of the most revolutionary moments in religious thought."

Gary Anderson
Theology Professor

Classical and Modern Hebrew Literature at Harvard University, Anderson's book is "an extraordinary piece of detective work" which "shows how the central way of representing — and conceiving of — sin changed dramatically within biblical times, and

how this change in turn came to be elaborated in later Judaism and Christianity. This is an extremely important, indeed, mind-changing book for anyone interested in the history of these two religions."



Intercessors of the Lamb Conference - December 5-6, 2009

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me"

McKenna Hall

Father John Paul Joyce, a priest of the Intercessor of the Lamb Community and a gifted preacher and teacher will share the charism of Spirit-led intercession. Fr. John Paul brings to life the words of the Gospel with an intensity that ignites hearts. If you want to deepen your prayer life and explore the charism of communal intercession, join us!

Fr John Paul's community, the Intercessors of the Lamb, is a Catholic religious community founded by Mother Nadine Brown. The community is comprised of priests, consecrated brothers and sisters and lay families, whose charism is communal intercession (prayer for others), and whose spirituality is contemplative, Marian and charismatic. Mother Nadine's teachings are used for formation by Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity world-wide.

8:00 am on Saturday, December 5th check-in /registration

Sessions Saturday 9:00am, 2:00 pm, and 7:00 pm -

Sunday 8:00am and 1:00 pm.

Holy Mass on Saturday 11:30 in the Crypt.

Cost: Students - \$45, Priests and Seminarians — no charge. (If cost is a concern, please call us and let us know what you can contribute.)

For more information call

Dave and Jan Torma at 574-291-3381(home); 574-707-3381(cell)

email Jan at jtheartpraise@msn.com.

Nancy McCue at 574-272-3094(home); 574-220-5232(cell).

(Intercessors of the Lamb is not affiliated with the University of Notre Dame or Saint Mary's College.)

Fears of Great Lake giant carp increase

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Fears that giant, voracious species of carp will get into the Great Lakes and wipe out other fish have led to rising demands that the government close the waterway connecting the lakes to the Mississippi River — an unprecedented step that could disrupt the movement of millions of tons of iron ore, coal, grain and other goods.

The dispute could become an epic clash of competing interests: commerce, environmentalists and fishermen.

Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and five environmental groups threatened on Wednesday to sue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to force it to temporarily shut three shipping locks near Chicago because of evidence that Asian carp may have breached the electrical barrier that is supposed to hold them back from the lakes.

The environmental groups went further than the governor and said the Great Lakes and the Mississippi should be permanently separated to avert what Granholm called "ecological disaster."

Col. Vincent Quarles, commander of the Corps' Chicago district, said the agency is considering all options but would not close the locks without first studying the possible effects.

Environmentalists fear that the fish, which consume up to 40 percent of their body weight daily in plankton, could starve out smaller and less aggressive competitors and cause the collapse of the \$7 billion-a-year Great Lakes sport and commercial fishing industry.

The carp — which can grow to 4 feet long and 100 pounds and are known for leaping out of the water when boats are near — were imported by Southern fish farms but escaped into the Mississippi in large numbers during flooding in the 1990s and have been making their way northward ever since.

The Mississippi and the Great Lakes are connected by a complex, 250-mile network of rivers and canals engineered more than a century ago. It runs from Chicago, on the southern edge of Lake Michigan, to a spot on the Mississippi just north of St. Louis.

The American Waterways Operators, a trade association representing the tug and barge industry, said closing the locks would lead to higher shipping costs because commodities would have to be sent overland via truck or train across Illinois before being put back onto vessels.

"The impact is going to be large," said Lynn Muench, the group's senior vice president for regional advocacy in St. Louis. "It could definitely impact day-to-day living."

Tens of millions of tons of goods are moved annually along the shipping canals or through the locks that lead into Lake Michigan. Muench had no estimate of the value of the cargo, which includes salt, sugar, molasses, cement, scrap metal and petroleum.

In the continuing struggle to

keep the fish out, Illinois environmental officials planned to dump poison Wednesday night in a nearly six-mile stretch of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal near Lockport to kill off the carp while the electrical barrier is turned off for maintenance. Crews planned to use large cranes with nets to scoop up an estimated 200,000 pounds of dead fish, which will be taken to a landfill.

The electrical barrier, which was installed in 2002 to repel fish with a non-lethal jolt, has long been the only thing standing between the carp and Lake Michigan, the gateway to the four other lakes. But officials said two weeks ago that DNA from Asian carp had been found between the barrier and one of the locks on the lake. No actual carp have been found in Lake Michigan.

Environmentalists and Granholm said the locks should be closed while the scope of the problem is established.

"This is an immediate threat to the Great Lakes, to our sport and commercial fishery, and as such it requires some emergency actions appropriate to the level of that threat," said Ken DeBeaussiaert, director of Michigan's Office of the Great Lakes. "Closing the locks to prevent the possible spread of the Asian carp into the Great Lakes is an appropriate response on an emergency basis."

The environmental groups also said the government should find a way to permanently separate — through physical barriers or other means — the Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds so the invasive species has no way of passing between the two.

Last fall, environmental groups offered several possible solutions, including erecting concrete walls, constructing more locks, even lifting barges over the locks.

The issue "takes on a whole new urgency because of the Asian carp emergency," said Andy Buchsbaum of the National Wildlife Federation. "We don't know where the carp are, and the risk of their being in the canals is too great."

Some fishing enthusiasts doubt the government will consider closing the locks. Dan Thomas, president of the Elmhurst, Ill.-based Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council, said too many industries and too many jobs would probably be affected.

"Ideally it's the way to go, but many things that are ideal don't always come to fruition because there are too many other circumstances," he said. "They can still be contained, but only with concerted effort and a sense of urgency to do what is necessary on a timely basis."

Scientists say more than 180 invasive species have entered the Great Lakes, multiplying rapidly and feeding on native species or competing with them for food. Millions of dollars have been spent trying to control the zebra mussel and the round goby fish, which already have moved between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins.

Police seek DNA of slain Yale student

Associated Press

HARTFORD — An attorney for the fiancée of a Yale lab technician charged with killing a graduate student said Wednesday he's been told authorities are seeking a sample of her DNA.

Robert Berke, attorney for Jennifer Hramadka, told The Associated Press that it's unclear why authorities want her DNA. He says he was told in September after Annie Le was killed that she is not a suspect.

"I've been advised that they're seeking a sample of her DNA," Berke said.

Hramadka's boyfriend, Raymond Clark III, is charged with killing the 24-year-old Le five days before Le's wedding in September.

Berke said investigators wanted to interview Hramadka shortly after the crime, but the interview did not take place.

Berke declined to comment on his reaction to the move.

A prosecutor and police declined to comment.

Clark and Hramadka were seen leaving a coffee shop in a car in which "blood-like stains" were found hours after Le was killed, according to search warrant affidavits unsealed Wednesday.

New Haven police said in September that they didn't expect to make more arrests in Le's killing.

Le's body was found stuffed behind a research lab wall in September on the day she was supposed to get married on Long Island. Autopsy results show Le was strangled, but the motive remains unclear.

Experts said investigators may seek someone's DNA to

exclude them as a suspect.

"It sounds like they have some DNA they don't know who it belongs to," said Dr. Bruce Goldberger, director of toxicology at the University of Florida. "They're trying to rule her in or rule her out as a contributor to that DNA."

Dr. John Howard, president of the National Association of Medical Examiners, cautioned against drawing conclusions about the move. He said investigators might want to address any claims or anticipated claims by the defense, such as that blood found was the suspect's fiancée's from a nosebleed.

Two days before Clark was arrested, investigators said they found blood "in plain view" on the kitchen floor near the entrance to his apartment, according to the search warrants. The warrants do not indicate the source of the blood found in Clark's apartment.

Authorities took plastic door panels and carpeting with "blood-like stains" from the Taurus in which Clark was riding in the hours after Le's disappearance.

Clark sent e-mails to Le "in the recent past," the affidavits said. Her e-mail address was found in a laboratory locker labeled "Ray," the documents said.

Clark has not yet entered a plea. His public defender, Joe Lopez, has said he intends to plead not guilty.

The affidavits show that police searched for evidence in Clark's home, two cars that he used and numerous lockers in the laboratory building where Le's body was found.

The suspect "has gone to great lengths to conceal evidence in multiple locations in unusual places," the affidavits said.

Investigators found a white rag, tweezers, scissors, a screwdriver and several plastic tubes in a clogged drain pipe in the building where Le's body was found, the affidavits said.

Portions of the affidavits released Wednesday were blacked out.

Police had previously revealed that they discovered other items linking Clark to Le's death, including a green-ink pen under Le's body with her blood and Clark's DNA. Police have said Clark signed into the secure building with a green pen on Sept. 8, the day Le disappeared.

They had also said DNA from Le and Clark was on a bloody sock found hidden in a ceiling. Elsewhere in the building, they found a pair of work boots labeled "Ray-C" that had blood-like stains on them, and a hospital scrub shirt with blood-like stains that was similar to the shirt Clark wore that day, police had previously said.

In arrest warrant affidavits released last month, Clark told investigators that he never socialized with Le or had contact with her outside of work. He told investigators that he knew Le for about four months, according to court papers.

Clark told police that Le left the building 15 minutes before him, carrying her notebook and two bags of mouse food. An extensive search of the crime scene failed to locate Le's notebook or her shoes.



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 Anita Johnson South Bend Symphony Orchestra Concert <i>"Home for the Holidays"</i> Sat-Sun, Dec. 5-6	 Jerry Seinfeld Comedian <i>Returns to The Morris!</i> Friday, Dec. 18	 Sesame Street Live! <i>"When Elmo Grows Up"</i> Wed. Dec. 30 - Sun. Jan. 3	 Kyoko Takezawa South Bend Symphony Orchestra Concert <i>"Scottish Fantasy"</i> Saturday, Jan. 9
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Upcoming Shows

Saturday-Sunday Dec. 12-13 The Nutcracker Ballet Presented by Southold Dance Theater Thursday, Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Gala Tom Milo Big Band Palais Royale 105 West Colfax Av.	Fri.-Sun., Jan. 22-24 Menopause The Musical Friday-Saturday Jan. 29-30 The Drowsy Chaperone Broadway Musical Friday, Feb. 5 Comedian Ron White Saturday, Feb. 13 South Bend Symphony Sunday, Feb. 14 Comedian Sinbad Thursday, Feb. 25 Comedian Brian Regan
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THE OBSERVER

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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

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Scene
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Are you there, world? It's me, Advent

I don't mean to sound bitter, but this happens every year. For my entire four-week span, I am largely ... ignored. I am, please recall, an entire season. I'm four whole weeks long — some years, nearly five; more than half the length of Lent and with no fasting or abstinence required. I have my own colors — two

Kate Barrett

Faith Point

of them, in fact — and my own music. I get some of the best readings in the entire Bible. By the time I pass the torch to the 12 Days of Christmas, I've been short enough that I haven't worn out my welcome but long enough that you could really sink your teeth into me. If you were paying attention, that is.

But no. By about Halloween — earlier if you frequent the big-box craft stores full of plastic poinsettias and more Christmas craft projects than you could do in a lifetime — the entire country is already breaking the speed limit trying to get to Christmas. A consumer's Christmas. Thanksgiving only gets any notice because the food is so good people can eat their way into fourteen hours of shopping on Black Friday.

Now, I didn't come here to whine, so I'm sorry if I sound all attitude-y. And I don't expect the whole world to stop and take notice of me. Well, not yet, anyhow. For now, I want to start small. If I could just get a few more of you people at Notre Dame to show me some love, it'd be a start. Trust me, Christmas means so much more when you've spent some time (four weeks,

say) with me first.

I am the season that's just about the exact opposite of the "brand identity" the retailers, the economists, the entertainers and the pop culture have developed for Christmas. Come on, give me a chance and I'll help you see that we all need a little time to allow God to transform our hearts, to prepare our lives for the coming of Christ. He came as an infant 2,000 years ago and we will celebrate that. We also believe that Christ lives in the world now, in the poor, the vulnerable, the victims of terrorism, war and poverty, and that he will come again to bring about the Kingdom of God in its fullness.

Maybe you've already friended me, so you know what the world is missing when it blows right by me to get to Christmas. Go tell a few people. Invite them to an Advent prayer or reconciliation service. Put some Advent music on your iPod (there's actually a lot of it, you know). Go to Mass more often or read the daily readings of the Church (<http://www.usccb.org/nab/>). It just doesn't get any better than the selections from Isaiah chosen for almost every day of Advent.

Waiting is very underrated. People are too used to speed, and you know, you get way too impatient with anything slow. But don't forget that half the fun of a big event is the windup, the anticipation, the waiting. I am the season of waiting, and yet most of you just race to decorate for and celebrate Christmas as early as possible. So I'm here to ask you, please, slow down. Christmas can wait. Get truly ready for Christmas by hanging out with — ahem — me for a

while. Otherwise, Christmas will come and you won't be ready. Oh, sure, you'll have turned in your papers and taken your finals; maybe you'll have all your presents wrapped, but will your heart be ready to welcome Christ the Lord?

After you slow down, quiet down. I am the season that calls us to "Prepare the way of the Lord," but those preparations get drowned out by too many other noises. Get away from the ads for free shipping and deep discounts, from the super-intense group study sessions, even from the Grinch, Charlie Brown and your favorite Christmas carols. Go to your hall chapel or the Basilica or the Grotto and enjoy the silence. Walk around the lakes, which are pretty cool even when the weather's not great.

The people of Israel, who also waited for the coming of the Lord, hoped that he would deliver them from oppression, from poverty, exile and pagan rulers. They asked John the Baptist what they could do to prepare. His response, which you'll hear when you listen to the gospel on my third Sunday, seems a perfect reminder of how we too can best prepare while we wait for the Lord to come: "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise."

Are you there, world? It's me, Advent.

This week's Faith Point was written by Kate Barrett, director of the Emmaus Program. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Envy is the ulcer of the soul."

Socrates
Greek philosopher

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Examine what is said, not him who speaks."

Arab Proverb

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please don't waste food

Everyday, especially in the morning, the Huddle Mart, Reckers, Irish Ink and many other shops on the University of Notre Dame's campus throw away large amounts of food that have gone bad. Vegetable salads, donuts, yogurts, etc. are just thrown into the trash can. Why does this happen all the time? The managers say this is a very common phenomenon. However, I don't consider this "common." Everyday, millions of people in our world are suffering from and dying of starvation, and we are just throwing away food and considering it "common."

Wasting food is a sin. It is a sin that none of us should allow. When you pray, when you give thanks you should put your gratitude into real use. We college students should not just let such things happen around us. When you are studying at LaFortune, at Reckers or at Irish Ink, have you ever been aware of the huge amount of wasted food every day? Food is precious as shown by a very famous Chinese poem that every 5-year-old child knows. The poem was written by one of the greatest poets of all time, Bai Li. It says, "Farmers weeding at noon, Sweat down the field soon. Who knows food on a tray, Thanks to their toiling day?"

These shops on campus can simply give away expired food at the end of the day. Those shops can give food to homeless people in the neighborhood or hungry students. The shops are not losing

anything, for they can't sell the leftover food. If they don't give food away for free, they are still going to throw it away in the morning. While we thank God with gratitude for the food He gives us, we are wasting it everyday on Notre Dame's campus. But giving food to people puts food to good use. This is what we should do. This is our responsibility.

This is very simple. Just put expired food on the counter and label it "free." People who want it will take it. However, some people might argue "then everyone will come and get it for free." Yes, this might happen. But this does not change the amount of food being sold. Those managers are just worrying about that people will not buy food anymore, and more food will be leftover and at last given away. In fact, people would rather buy salads for lunch around noon or buy donuts for breakfast in the morning. The amount of leftover food would not change because people are more willing to buy it during the day rather than have to wait until late at night to get it for free. This is just another way of dealing with leftover food. Nothing else will change. So why not just do everyone a favor?

Qiaoning Li
freshman
Farley Hall
Dec. 1

Thank you Weis

I just want to offer you my thanks for your five years of work as our football coach. Although the atmosphere around campus hasn't always been the kindest towards you, I, among others hopefully, appreciate the time you've given to this program. Thank you for having the courage to take a job that had a lot of baggage and was the center of some of the most difficult scrutiny in all of college athletics. And what made it worth it for you was not the paycheck, the perks, or the benefits. Rather, it was your love for Notre Dame and the love for the game of football. Although the University has decided to move on, there are those here at Notre Dame who would like to thank you for rising to the challenge, and we wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors.

Daniel Quinlan
junior
St. Edwards Hall
Nov. 30

So-called discounts

Imagine my surprise when I checked my email the Tuesday before Thanksgiving break to see that the Bookstore was holding student appreciation days. I thought my chance had finally come to receive a discount on namesake merchandise at the bookstore. Alas, my dreams were dashed after reading the fine print at the bottom only to learn that this phenomenal deal does not include books. To quote a friend, "The Bookstore practices amount to nothing less than usury" and to add to that, the Bookstore might as well be located in the seventh circle of hell. Side note: Bookstore price for Dante's "Inferno:" \$13, amazon.com price: \$8.57.

The outrageous prices the Bookstore charges are an enormous burden to all students and the amount of money printed in the Bookstore is shameful. If the Bookstore really appreciated students it would offer discounts on things they actually needed like books, calculators and computer hardware, software, and supplies (all of which are not items available for a discount). Sure it's great to give me a discount on my Christmas shopping, but give me a break. The "discounts" at the Bookstore will hardly cut into the absurd profit margins the Bookstore makes and prices will still be higher than what a reasonable person would expect to pay. Don't slap me in the face with student appreciation that in no way shows appreciation for students by giving them deals on items they actually need.

Christopher Marquard
senior
off campus
Nov. 24

Losing the meaning of a contract

My godfather was a dean at Notre Dame and a member of the University's athletic counsel for over 40 years. I have had the fun of hearing many behind the scenes stories of Notre Dame football etc. The most common themes were about Notre Dame "handshake" relationship with coaches and that Notre Dame athletes were students first. To that end Coach Weis has exceeded all former standards with the team cumulative average at 3.0.

We have not won as many games as we and Coach Weis would like but he is a Domer and true to his roots with the standards of excellence he has set for the young men he teaches every afternoon in the fall.

It seems tragic that we cannot refind the standards of excellence as a group of alumni and expect the University to honor its contract to Coach Weis.

Not honoring this contract reflects very poorly on us and Notre Dame. It shows that we do not live by the standards we expect of the world in which we live.

Let us as the Notre Dame family honor our word and honor our contract to the coach. That contract and its extension was what we wanted. We got it. Let's be real Domers and keep our word.

Regardless of the final decision, I will honor and respect my Alma Mater, but believe we will all be weakened by Notre Dame not honoring the contract it wanted.

Steve Sturtz
alumnus
Class of 1977
Nov. 24

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Come on Notre Dame

I just wanted to point out the irony I felt when I received a letter from Fr. Jenkins asking for money to continue the "great work of the University" on the same day he threw away \$18 million.

Molly Rivard
alumnus
Class of 2008
Dec. 1

Entertain us please.

Submit a Letter to the Editor at
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**BUILT TO SPILL
MAKES NO ENEMIES
WITH NEW ALBUM**

By ALEX KILPATRICK
Assistant Scene Editor

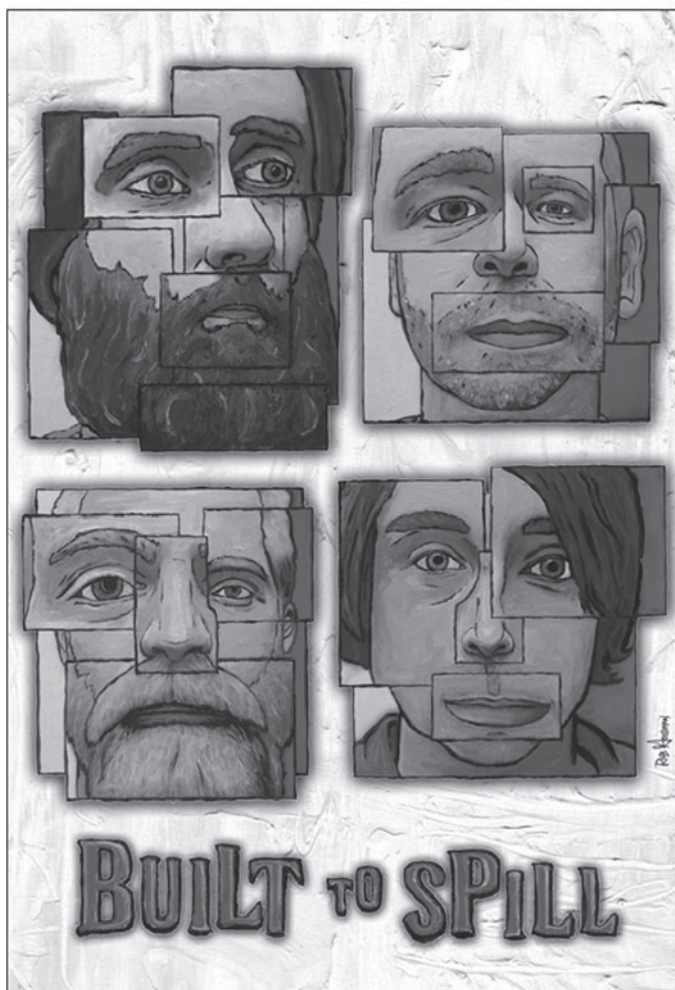
Well known among the indie rock crowd for their off-kilter yet influential musical style and a woodsy sound contrasted with heavy, catchy guitar hooks, the Boise-based band Built to Spill has been an influence on several other alternative rock bands in the Northwest, including, but certainly not limited to, Modest Mouse and Death Cab for Cutie. Built to Spill's front man Doug Martsch has cited Dinosaur Jr., Neil Young and Pavement as his own influences.

The rock band produced some of the most ambitious, creative and inspiring indie rock albums of the 1990s. From their debut, 1993's "Ultimate Alternative Wavers" to 1997's "Perfect from Now On" to 1999's "Keep It Like A Secret," Built to Spill could do no wrong in the realm of genuinely inspired and critically acclaimed records.

The 90s brought such singles as "Car," "I Would Hurt a Fly" and "Carry the Zero." Since then, the band has seemed content with aimless jamming with not much of a foreseeable purpose.

Martsch's guitar playing is still laudable as always and the tunes are somewhat catchy in an offbeat way, but the newer albums have had something lacking in terms of the authentic creativity that Built to Spill was known for in the 90s.

Their newest album, "There Is No Enemy," however, is a pleasant surprise.



It's the same old laidback LP with typically slow but varying tempos, wayward vocals and layered guitar rhapsodies, but with an added level of emotional urgency which drives the album.

And the lyrics, as always, are not meant to be a reflection of Martsch's personal experience. According to Pitchfork, "his lyrics contain no personal meaning ... they are chosen more for their meter and suggestiveness than anything else."

The album starts off strong with opening track, "Aisle 13," a rocker which begins with loud electric guitars but slows to a steady beat with lead singer distinctive vocals, much akin to that of Modest Mouse front man Isaac Brock's, and the well-crafted lyrics, "Every day / Something strange / I can't explain / What happens to me / Often I / Am called by name / To clean up."

The next track, "Hindsight," has a catchy tinge of pseudo-twang on the guitars and somewhat insightful, somewhat nonsensical lyrics with lines like, "Hindsight's given me / Too much memory / There's too much never seen / It's always there" contrasted with

"What about Canada / It's paradise with pines and ice / Morning comes in freight ships while you're sleeping / Battling two ideas with no surprise."

"Nowhere Lullaby" is more of a slow dreamy piece with a steady soft guitar melody and soothing vocals with insightful lyrics, "Another nowhere lullaby / You can rest or you can try / And this waste it shines in every way," and "Good Ol' Boredom" has Martsch cueing up the multiple-layered guitar, especially towards the end.

"Life's a Dream" is more of a soft harmonious piece with endearing "ooh-la-la" backup vocals, horns during the bridge, and quieter but still catchy guitar hooks. The lyrics give the impression that the speaker is content with defeat: "Finally decided, and by decide I mean accept / I won't need all those other chances I won't get."

The next track, "Oh Yeah," starts out with a somewhat slow, eerie guitar and transitions into low heavy vocals, which are similar to that of a Pink Floyd ballad.

The questioning lyrics add a more philosophical element to the piece, "And if God / Does exist / I am sure He / Will forgive / Me for doubting Him / For He'd see / How unlikely He / Made Himself seem."

"Pat" begins with fast-paced rockin' guitar riffs and even faster-paced seemingly desperate lead vocals, but the guitar solo in the middle is very well-executed. The lyrics channel the same blistering sense of desperate urgency with, "Nothing's worse than never / Falling in a dream's where / We can see together." In contrast,

"Done" is a typically laid back slow-paced ballad, with ambling guitar melodies and drawling vocals, with the lyrics, "It's forgiven it's for you / All the problems will come true / Said it once I'll say it once again / It's all forgotten."

Altogether, the album is a creative effort on Martsch's part, back up to par with the Boise band's albums of the 90s. With the emotional level added to the intriguing lyrics and instrumentation, "There Is No Enemy" leaves the audience with better expectations for albums to come.

Contact Alex Kilpatrick at ackilpat@hotmail.com

There Is No Enemy
Warning Bros. Records Inc.

Studio: Warning Bros. Recording Inc.
Recommended Tracks: "Hindsight," "Nowhere Lullaby," "Done," "Oh Yeah," "Pat"



Weekend Events Calendar

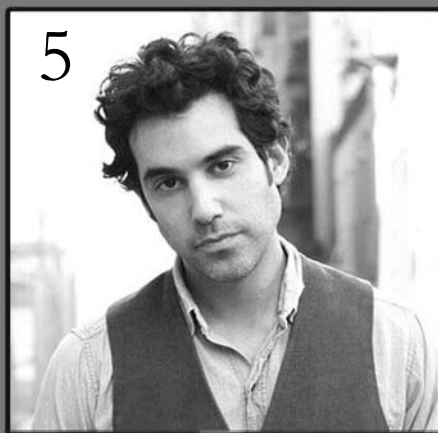
thursday



friday



saturday



sunday



'Taking Woodstock' @ 10 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall 101

This most recent film from director Ang Lee ("Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and "Brokeback Mountain") tracks the world changing events of Woodstock and their effect on one young man, Elliot Tiber. Working as an interior designer in Greenwich Village, Elliot is forced to return home to Bethel, New York, in order to help his parents and their failing motel. He soon discovers that a neighboring town has plans to host a music festival, and in hopes of drumming up business for the motel, gets involved. "Taking Woodstock" will also be playing on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3.

'Bright Star' 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. @ DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

John Keats is one of the most famed, admired and beloved poets of all time and, in this exciting new movie from director Jane Campion, we are given a glimpse into the tragic yet passionate life of such a talented and inspired man. The movie, "Bright Star," chronicles the intense but brief love affair between Keats and the girl next door, Fanny Brawne. Their romance is forced to bloom in secret, as the two are an unlikely match. Yet with each poetry lesson, Keats and Fanny fall deeper in love. "Bright Star" will be showing on Saturday again at 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students.

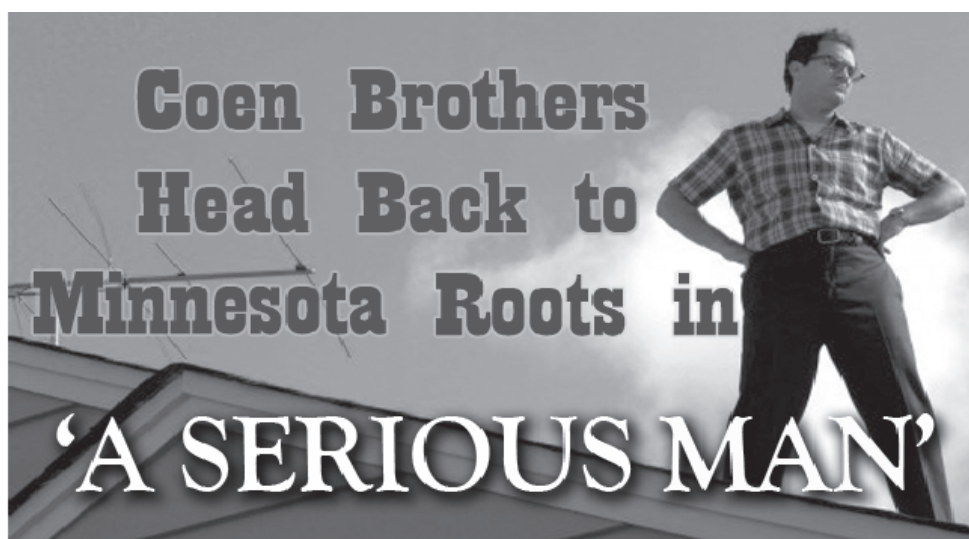
Joshua Radin Concert 10 p.m. @ Legends

Joshua Radin has become a fixture on the singer/songwriter scene with his music featured on such shows as "Grey's Anatomy," "Scrubs" and "American Idol." Originally educated in the fine arts, Radin pursued a music career at the request of friends and fans. He released his first album, "We Were Here," in 2006 to much acclaim. It was followed up by "Simple Times" in 2008. Radin has collaborated with several well known artists including Ingrid Michaelson and Imogen Heap. Influenced by the Beatles, Paul Simon and Bob Dylan, Radin has a soothing, smoky element to his voice. Radin will appear at Legends on Saturday night.

University Band Holiday Concert 7:30 p.m. @ DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

It's time to get in the holiday spirit, and what better way than holiday music? Join the University Band in celebrating the holidays this Sunday evening with their annual winter concert. Consisting of both Notre Dame students and South Bend residents, the University Band is a wonderful bridge between our campus and the greater South Bend community. The band is sure to play many Christmas favorites. This is an opportunity to support local musicians as well as enjoy some festive music. This is a ticketed, though free, event, so call the DPAC ticket office to reserve tickets.

Contact Genna McCabe at gmccabe@nd.edu



By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

"No Country for Old Men" and the Coen brother's newest film, an immaculately woven, darkest of dark comedies, "A Serious Man," are made for each other. Like two perfectly fitted pieces of a puzzle, together they form a universally bleak view of the world and speak volumes about human isolation and the fog of religion. Surprisingly, though, without an ounce of blood dropped and no Anton Chigurh, and no brilliantly deep Cormac McCarthy passages, "A Serious Man" reduces its counterpart to "lighter fare," and itself stands as one of the cruelest, most dreary portraits of human hope in film history. The two are perfectly complementary, yet so different in style and tone. Nonetheless, "A Serious Man" is to Judaism and Hashem what "No Country for Old Men" is to Christianity and God, the way the religion sees Him.

Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg) is getting

everything but the kitchen sink thrown at him. An uninspired college professor, he anxiously awaits the university board's decision on his tenure. Meanwhile, a student of his threatens to tear his career apart by blackmailing him for a passing grade in catch-22 fashion. To make matters worse, his seemingly ideal suburban family is anything but. His son, in order to feed his pre and post-Hebrew school weed craze, is stealing money from him, while his daughter has in turn been smuggling money out of Larry's wallet for some time now in order to save up for a nose job. Meanwhile, the line for the bathroom is always "a minute" away from no longer being an issue, only, Larry's genius but mentally unstable brother, Arthur (Richard Kind), simply won't get out. Oh, and Larry's heartless wife is leaving him for no particular reason for the patronizing, "serious man," Sy Abelman, whose idea of a divorce is a three-person bonding affair where Larry is, in the end, left with nothing. And then there's Larry's deteriorating health. And there goes the

kitchen sink.

Perhaps a reminiscent piece where the brothers reflect on their lives growing up in a middle-class suburban Jewish family in 1960s Minneapolis, "A Serious Man" is a breath of fresh air even amongst similarly themed films because of its distinct, culturally specific feel. But it goes from being a breath of fresh air to something truly great because of the brilliant but often transparent hand of the Coen brothers. They bring out the best in their hardly recognizable cast that includes none of their regulars, but the real success here is the marriage they form between comedy and a more than serious tragedy of the common man, which often go hand-in-hand one moment and then clash, creating a violent whirlwind of emotions the very next. Scenes of Larry breaking down out of nowhere despite remaining almost stoic throughout the rest of his ordeals contrast sharply with the film's odd, almost misplaced humor, making the film a seeming paradox in that it's a non-tragic tragedy.

A "non-tragic tragedy," "A Serious Man" manages to be so incredibly dark without being over-emotive and without getting caught up in "the man," but instead in "the man's hope." What "the man," or Larry, is is a

man broken down, lost, feeling as though life is choking him to death, and what he needs, as we are constantly reminded throughout the film by a piece of rock music, is "somebody to love." That need to connect leads Larry to turn to religion and the way of Hashem to guide him through his seemingly insurmountable problems, and it's God, or the expectation of God, that proves his undoing. Three rabbis he seeks out can't help him and, instead, they enthuse about a parking lot, tell him a useless (albeit grandly put together music montage that proves the highlight of the film) tale of a dentist, and decline to see him, respectively.

That's the central theme here: the need to have somebody to love, and, as the Coens put it — the bleak reality that no one is there. Not family. Not friends. Not God. We watch this unfold through the life of a man, one who we're never supposed to identify with, but instead look down on from a bird's eye view, almost like gods ourselves, unable or perhaps unwilling, as the film suggests, to do anything.

It's dark. It's darker than dark. It's black, "A Serious Man" is. Ultimately, it's black gold.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu

A Serious Man Focus Features

Director: Joel and Ethan Coen

Starring: Michael Stuhlbarg, Sari Lennick, Aaron Wolff



NFL

League concussion policies made more stringent

Players will no longer be allowed to return to a game or a practice in which they suffer a head injury if symptoms are present

Associated Press

NFL teams now have new, stricter instructions for when players should be allowed to return to games or practices after head injuries, guidelines that go into effect this week.

In the latest step by the league to address a hot-button issue, commissioner Roger Goodell sent a memo to the 32 clubs Wednesday saying a player who gets a concussion should not return to action on the same day if he shows certain signs or symptoms.

Those include an inability to remember assignments or plays, a gap in memory, persistent dizziness, and persistent headaches.

The old standard, established in 2007, said a player should not be allowed to return to the same game if he lost consciousness.

Wednesday's memo also says players "are to be encouraged to be candid with team medical staffs and fully disclose any signs or symptoms that may be associated with a concussion."

Nearly one-fifth of 160 NFL players surveyed by The Associated Press from Nov. 2-15 replied that they have hidden or played down the effects of a concussion.

The league said its concussion committee, team doctors, outside medical experts and the NFL Players Association developed the new standards.

NFLPA assistant executive director George Atallah said the union is "encouraged by this new policy." He added that the NFLPA "will continue to examine these issues

independently to recommend the best possible policies and procedures."

The new policy states, in part: "Once removed for the duration of a practice or game, the player should not be considered for return-to-football activities until he is fully asymptomatic, both at rest and after exertion, has a normal neurological examination, normal neuropsychological testing, and has been cleared to return by both his team physician(s) and the independent neurological consultant."

Teams were told this month they have to find an outside neurologist who can be consulted on concussions, and NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday all of those independent doctors have been approved and are in place.

Since last month's congressional hearing on NFL head injuries, momentum has been building for changes in league policy. The revised return-to-play rules come about a week after Goodell sent a memo to clubs informing them that the two co-chairmen of the league's concussions committee had resigned and that he has been looking into possible rule changes.

On Wednesday, Cleveland Browns running back Jamal Lewis was put on injured reserve with post-concussion symptoms, ending his NFL career. Lewis had previously said he would retire at the end of the season. His teammate, starting safety Brodney Pool, also went on IR after getting at least his fourth known concussion last weekend.

They were among 11 players listed on Wednesday's league-wide



Washington running back Clinton Portis attended to after suffering a concussion during their Nov. 8 game against Atlanta. The NFL tightened restrictions on concussed athletes returning to action.

injury report with concussions. Another eight were listed with head injuries.

The two starting quarterbacks from last season's Super Bowl — Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlisberger and Arizona's Kurt Warner — sat out last Sunday after saying during the week they planned to play

despite getting head injuries the previous week.

"The evidence demonstrates that team medical staffs have been addressing concussions in an increasingly cautious and conservative way," Goodell wrote in Wednesday's memo. "This new return-to-play statement rein-

forces our commitment to advancing player safety. Along with improved equipment, better education, and rules changes designed to reduce impacts to the head, it will make our game safer for the men who play it, and set an important example for players at all levels of play."

NCAA FOOTBALL

Clemson's C.J. Spiller named ACC Player of the Year

Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Multi-talented C.J. Spiller has run away with two awards from the Atlantic Coast Conference. He's looking for a third.

The Clemson all-purpose threat was named Wednesday as the league's top player following a vote of 40 members of the Atlantic Coast Sports Media Association. The senior was also chosen the ACC's top offensive player.

In player of the year voting, Spiller received 29 votes to

outdistance Georgia Tech quarterback Josh Nesbitt, who had eight. Virginia Tech running back Ryan Williams, the league's rookie of the year, had two votes and Yellow Jackets defensive end Derrick Morgan had one.

When Spiller received a text message with news of the award Wednesday, he said he lost it emotionally remembering all he'd gone through this year at Clemson.

"I'm happy to be named that, but my main reason coming back was to win this conference," Spiller said after

practice.

The 25th-ranked Tigers take on No. 12 Georgia Tech in the ACC championship game Saturday night.

Separate ballots were cast for the offensive, defensive and overall player of the year awards. Spiller had 24 votes in offensive player of the year voting to Nesbitt's 10. Morgan was the top defensive player with 21 votes in that category, and North Carolina defensive end Robert Quinn and Clemson safety DeAndre McDaniel had seven votes apiece.

Spiller was the nation's only player this season to account for touchdowns five different ways — rushing, passing, receiving, and on kick and punt returns — and had passing, rushing and receiving TDs in one game, a victory against North Carolina State.

He returned four kickoffs and a punt for scores this year and has eight total returns for TDs during his career.

He scored at least once in every game this season while leading Clemson to the Atlantic Division title and its spot in the league title game.

Spiller led the ACC with an average of nearly 184 all-purpose yards and was the league's fourth-leading rusher, averaging 76 yards a game.

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said Spiller would have his No. 28 jersey retired next fall. Swinney hopes his star tailback isn't through collecting awards.

"He is the Heisman (Trophy) to me," the coach said.

Spiller is the seventh Tiger to be named player of the year and the first since Michael Dean Perry in 1987.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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Skinny Pete: If there's one thing I know, it's never to mess with mother nature, mother in-laws and, mother freaking Ukrainians.

Charlie Croker: What happened? Left Ear: I had. A bad. Experience. Damn it. "I'm" deaf.

Handsome Rob: He only answers to "The Napster" now, Charlie Croker: Oh, no. I am not calling you The Napster. Lyle: Why not? You call him Left Ear. Left Ear: Well, I am. Lyle: And him Handsome Rob. Charlie Croker: Well, that's because he is Handsome Rob! Lyle: Well you can call me The Napster.

Stella: I trust everyone. It's the devil inside them I don't trust.

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, December 3, 2009

page 15

NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Coaches' Poll

team	previous
1 Kansas	1
2 Texas	3
3 Villanova	4
4 Kentucky	5
5 Duke	7
6 Purdue	6
7 Syracuse	9
8 West Virginia	8
9 Michigan State	2
10 Washington	14
11 North Carolina	12
12 Tennessee	11
13 Connecticut	13
14 Georgetown	19
15 Ohio State	18
16 Gonzaga	NR
17 Florida	NR
18 Louisville	16
19 Clemson	19
20 Butler	10
21 UNLV	NR
22 Texas A&M	NR
23 Georgia Tech	25
24 Cincinnati	NR
25 California	23

NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Coaches' Poll

team	previous
1 Connecticut	1
2 Stanford	2
3 Ohio State	3
4 North Carolina	4
5 Tennessee	5
6 NOTRE DAME	6
7 Texas A&M	7
8 Baylor	8
9 Florida State	9
10 Xavier	10
11 LSU	11
12 Duke	12
13 Arizona State	13
14 Vanderbilt	16
15 Virginia	18
16 Georgia	19
17 Texas	14
18 Oklahoma	17
19 California	15
20 Pittsburgh	20
21 Michigan State	25
22 Maryland	NR
23 DePaul	21
24 Dayton	NR
25 Louisville	NR

NCAA Division III Women's Basketball Coaches' Poll

team	Prev
1 Hope	1
2 Illinois-Wesleyan	2
3 Amherst	2
4 Scranton	4
5 Washington-St. Louis	6
6 Bowdoin	7
7 Wisconsin-Whitewater	9
8 Howard Payne	10
9 George Fox	5
10 Marymount	16

NBA



Allen Iverson warms up for a game as a member of the Memphis Grizzlies. Iverson left retirement and signed yesterday with the Philadelphia 76ers, the franchise with which he spent over a decade.

Iverson leaves retirement for 76ers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Allen Iverson's first stint with the Philadelphia 76ers ended with the team yanking his nameplate off his locker and editing him out of video highlights before he was even traded.

The Sixers might want to find him a new locker and cue up some clips. Philly fans, pull out that No. 3 jersey from the closet. A.I. is a Sixer again.

In a move that appeared farfetched after their acrimonious split in 2006, the 76ers reunited with the briefly retired Iverson on Wednesday in a move designed to spike sagging attendance and fill in for the

injured Lou Williams.

Coach Eddie Jordan said Iverson likely will start and stay the entire season.

"I told him I would like for him to start, and that's where it sort of ended," Jordan said. "And he was really like a kid at Christmas."

Iverson will make his debut Monday night at home against Denver — one of three teams he's called home since leaving Philly. The 10-time All-Star-turned-journeyman is determined to prove he still has something to offer in that No. 3 jersey. His new boss is betting Iverson can help the staggering Sixers make a push in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

"He's like a rock star," team president Ed Stefanski said.

And he's back for his encore.

He antagonized his coaches and opponents his first time around. Perhaps humbled, he signed after being reduced to a bench player in Denver and Memphis and forced to accept the veteran's minimum salary to return to his NBA roots.

"If there's going to be a chance for him to do it and make it work, there's no doubt in my mind Philadelphia is the best spot for him to try and do it," Stefanski said.

Stefanski took a low risk financially to sign Iverson, but possibly derailed the

long-term improvement of a slumping team trying to build around a core of young players. Rookie Jrue Holiday, who started at point guard for Williams, heads to the bench, and Jordan's Princeton offense could hit the scrap heap.

The Iverson-to-Philly talks were underway once Williams was lost for eight weeks with a broken jaw. Stefanski said he never would have considered a second act for Iverson had it not been for the injury.

Iverson's reps asked Stefanski about a possible comeback last week. Iverson, his agent and business manager met with Stefanski and Jordan on Monday to jump-start contract talks.

IN BRIEF

Woods apologizes for unnamed 'transgressions'

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Tiger Woods said he let his family down with "transgressions" he regrets "with all of my heart," and that he will deal with his personal life behind closed doors. His statement Wednesday follows a cover story in *Us Weekly* magazine that reports a Los Angeles cocktail waitress claims she had a 31-month affair with the world's No. 1 golfer.

"I have not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves," Woods said on his Web site. "I am not without faults and I am far short of perfect. I am dealing with my behavior and personal failings behind closed doors with my family. Those feelings should be shared by us alone."

Woods did not offer details of any alleged relationship.

"I have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart," he said.

Hines Ward apologizes to team for distraction

PITTSBURGH — Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward extended his apology to quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to all of his teammates, saying he didn't mean to create an unnecessary distraction.

Ward called Roethlisberger on Monday to say he was sorry for questioning why the quarterback didn't play in the Steelers' 20-17 loss to Baltimore the night before. Ward said he wasn't aware a team doctor advised Roethlisberger not to play because of lingering headaches resulting from a concussion.

During a team meeting Wednesday, Ward apologized to the rest of the Steelers for his ill-chosen remarks made when he first learned the quarterback wouldn't play. Roethlisberger says the two talked and put the misunderstanding behind them.

Braves upgrade pitching by signing closer Wagner

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves took another major step toward solidifying their pitching staff for next season, agreeing Wednesday to a \$7 million, one-year contract with closer Billy Wagner.

Next up: the offense.

"The bullpen is one of the areas we needed to upgrade to get where we want to go," Braves general manager Frank Wren said during a news conference at Turner Field. "Billy was at the top of our list. The first day of free agency, we gave him a call."

The six-time All-Star gets \$6.75 million in 2010, and his deal includes a \$6.5 million club option for 2011 with a \$250,000 buyout. The option would become guaranteed if he finishes 50 games next season.

The signing of Wagner to replace last year's co-closers, Rafael Soriano and Mike Gonzalez, was Atlanta's second big move of an already busy offseason.

around the dial

NCAA Basketball
Southern California at Texas
9 p.m., ESPN2

NCAA Football
Oregon State at Oregon
9 p.m., ESPN

NCAA FOOTBALL

TCU's Patterson agrees to contract

No. 4 Horned Frogs will likely compete in BCS bowl game after undefeated season

FORT WORTH, Texas — Gary Patterson has always felt he has a better chance of competing for a national championship at TCU than at some other places with automatic BCS access.

With his No. 4 Horned Frogs set to play in a Bowl Championship Series game — and perhaps a national title, depending on this weekend's games — it might be hard to argue with him. And with his name being mentioned for the Notre Dame job, Patterson agreed Wednesday to a new contract intended to keep him at TCU through 2016.

"Like all of us, you always like to prove people wrong. A lot of people thought that TCU, because of where we started 12 years ago, we couldn't do this," Patterson said. "We've achieved something that all those other people talk about because they're part of a conference and yes, they have the access right now, a little bit quicker than we do. ... We've now jumped over a hurdle being able to get to a BCS game."

Patterson has led TCU to five 11-win seasons the past seven years. TCU just completed its first undefeated regular season since 1938, when it won its only AP national championship.

"Like I've said many times, I don't think people understand what kind of place TCU and Fort Worth is," Patterson said. "This was my first head coaching job, but it also, now going into 12 years, it's my home."

TCU (12-0, 8-0 Mountain West) will find out Sunday which of the big-money BCS games it will play in. The Frogs are fourth in the BCS standings, the highest ever this late in the season for a team from a conference without an automatic bid.

"We don't feel like our work is done," Patterson said. "We feel like we have a mountain to climb, a championship to win."

There is still a chance the Frogs could be the first BCS buster to play for the national championship if No. 3 Texas loses to Nebraska in the Big 12 championship game Saturday night and they stay ahead of Cincinnati in the final BCS standings. The other spot will be filled by No. 1 Florida or No. 2 Alabama, who face off in the SEC championship game.

Patterson has an 85-27 record in his ninth season at TCU. His contract had been through 2014, and the revised deal includes pay raises he and his assistant coaches. The private university doesn't release financial details.

Patterson, 49, came to TCU

as a defensive coordinator with coach Dennis Franchione after the 1997 season, when the Frogs were coming off a 1-10 season. He was promoted when Franchione left three years later for Alabama, though the school did a national search before making that move.

"We had a vision, as you can see on that pyramid," Patterson said, referring to the pyramid of goals in the team's meeting room. "That pyramid has not changed

"This was my first head coaching job, but it also, now going into 12 years, it's my home."

Gary Patterson
Horned Frogs coach

since we started, of reaching a BCS bowl, going to a national championship and doing a lot of things. And a lot of people laughed and a lot of people shook their heads and they were just saying, well, that's nice."

TCU wrapped up the regular season and outright Mountain West title with a 51-10 victory over New Mexico on Saturday. It was the Frogs' seventh consecutive victory by at least 27 points, a stretch that included BYU and Utah, last year's BCS buster.

The Frogs have a 14-game winning streak, matching the seven decade-old school record set in 1938 when Heisman Trophy winner Davey O'Brien was their quarterback.

Chris Del Conte, who took over as TCU's athletic director only six weeks ago, said he had not been contacted by Notre Dame or any other schools about talking to Patterson.

"We weren't going to wait until the fight came to us," Del Conte said. "I wanted to make sure they knew we wanted to keep them. That's why we acted swiftly and quickly."

Patterson was named this week as the Mountain West coach of the year, and TCU swept all the individual awards as well. Quarterback Andy Dalton was named the league's offensive player of the year, standout end Jerry Hughes got the defensive award and returner Jeremy Kerley was recognized for special teams.


It is the second year in a row that Patterson has gotten his contract extended. It was pushed to 2014 after last season, weeks after strong speculation that Kansas State was interested in hiring Patterson to lead his alma mater.

"As a famous coach once told me, just understand the grass is always green, but there's no great job. Every place has its problems," Patterson said. "I'm just really excited about getting an opportunity to know where I'm at, and what we've been able to do. Obviously, our system works here."

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MLB

Players call for seven-game divisional series

Talk of extra games comes as part of labor union talks; Players' Union head Michael Weiner in support

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Get ready for more postseason baseball games — and fewer off days.

Players would like to see the first round of playoffs expand to best-of-seven when their next labor contract starts in 2012, Michael Weiner said Wednesday in his first news conference since replacing Donald Fehr as the union head.

"There is a lot of sentiment for a seven-game division series," Weiner said. "I think a properly constructed postseason schedule could accommodate three seven-game series but still have it extend over a shorter period of time than what happened this year."

The first round has been best-of-five since it began in 1995.

Weiner hopes the length of the postseason can be shortened next year and was happy to hear commissioner Bud Selig say he will try to cut off days. Four extra days off were added in 2007 at the request of baseball's television broad-

casters. As a result, the Angels and Yankees played just eight games in the first 20 days of the playoffs.

"Everybody's in agreement that the postseason schedule needs some adjustment," Weiner said. "I'm a hockey fan as well as a baseball fan, and the pace of play this postseason was more of the way you expect a hockey season to go than a baseball season to go."

Because the postseason extended into November, the offseason marketplace began later than usual. Just nine of 171 free agents have reached agree-

ments, causing some agents to accuse owners of possible collusion.

"I'm concerned a little bit. It's been a little bit slow," Weiner said. "I think it's too early to draw any conclusions, though, with respect to how this market will play out."

Weiner was unanimously approved as executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association during the annual meeting of its executive board in Scottsdale, Ariz. The

47-year-old Harvard Law School graduate was hired by the union as a staff lawyer in 1988 and was promoted to general counsel in 2004. He succeeds the 61-year-old Fehr, who had been in charge since December 1983 and in June announced his intention.

During bargaining in 2002 and 2006, Weiner was among the union's chief negotiators. He praised management for "a recognition that the union is a fixture in the game" but admitted some baseball owners may push for a tougher proposal in bargaining to replace the contract that expires in December 2011.

"If there are owners who misjudge or underestimate the resolve of the players this time, I think they'll be met with the same surprise that owners of the past have met with when they misjudged the resolve of the players," Weiner said.

Baseball owners have said intend to propose the amateur draft be expanded to include players from outside the United States who currently are free agents before they sign. The union is willing to agree.

"There was plenty of sentiment for saying that players from Texas should be subject

to the same rules as players from the Dominican Republic," he said.

But the union will resist attempts by management to institute a slotting system of fixed salaries for draft picks.

"This union has always stood for the proposition that, you know, players should have the right to bargain individually for their compensation," he said.

Similarly, players historically have been against having payroll floors for teams. Boston Red Sox owner John Henry, concerned that

some clubs aren't spending revenue sharing money, has suggested that payroll floors may be necessary.

"If a club legitimately trying to compete has a plan that calls for them to be at a particularly low payroll for a given year as part of a longer-range plan to compete the following year or years after that, management should have that flexibility," Weiner said.

There also is another reason. "Players historically have

suspected that the request for a salary floor is a precursor to a request for a salary cap," he said, "and you know what the position of this union has been on salary caps."

Weiner anticipates some change in the drug program for next year but didn't specify what they will be. Baseball does not test for human growth hormone because there is not a validated urine test.

"I think the testing policy is working great," he said. "Does that mean that it can't be improved? Of course not."

He also was unconcerned the annual report from the drug program's independent administrator showed 108 players had therapeutic use exemptions (TUEs) this year to use otherwise banned substances because of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

"The number of new exemptions is a far lower number," Weiner said. "A healthy percentage of applications for new TUEs were rejected."

"There is a lot of sentiment for a seven-game division series."

Michael Weiner
Head of MLB Players' Union

"Everybody's in agreement that the postseason schedule needs some adjustment."

Michael Weiner
Head of MLB Players' Union

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NHL

Luongo, Canucks overcome Devils

Vancouver goalie makes 27 saves in win; Savard scores 200th goal in Bruins' victory

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — For one night, Roberto Luongo held the upper hand over Martin Brodeur in the duel to be Canada's starting Olympic goalie.

While a decision on who will get the bulk of the playing time at the Olympics in Vancouver in February is still a while away, Luongo laid out a compelling case Wednesday night in a showdown featuring two of the NHL's top goalies.

Luongo made 27 saves, and Henrik and Daniel Sedin had a hand in three first-period goals as the Vancouver Canucks beat the New Jersey Devils 5-2.

"I've got to check my phone to see if Steve Yzerman texted me," said Luongo with a smile, referring to the executive director of Canada's Olympic team.

If Yzerman was watching, he saw Luongo impressively shut out the Devils over the final two periods.

Luongo was at his best late in the second with Vancouver holding a 3-2 lead. Luongo, flat on his back, made three point-blank stops on Zach Parise who had his 10-game point streak snapped.

"It was a bang-bang play," Luongo said. "Once I made the initial save, I was just trying to get some low coverage. Luckily they didn't have much time to lift it over me."

The final shot in the sequence somehow rolled under Luongo and out of the crease.

"I didn't see it because I was laying on my back," Luongo said. "At that point, I was doing a Dominik Hasek impression."

That's not a bad way to impress Canadian Olympic hockey officials.

Alex Burrows, Sami Salo, Daniel Sedin, Alexander Elder and Jannik Hansen had goals for the Canucks, who won for the fifth time in seven games.

Niclas Bergfors and Travis Zajac scored for the Devils, who had won three straight and six in a row at home. Brodeur made 21 saves in one of his poorest outings of the season.

"It's that one game that people see us matched up," Brodeur said of the matchup with Luongo. "It is what it is. For me, it's just a disappointing loss for us."

And one that got out of hand quickly for the Devils.

After a tentative opening five minutes, the tempo turned fast and furious with the Canucks leading 3-2 after one period.

It was all Vancouver early, with the Sedins combining for four points as the Canucks jumped out to a 3-0 lead. It marked the 70th time both of the Sedins recorded multiple points in an NHL game.

Burrows got the Canucks rolling with his third goal in four games. Daniel Sedin

flipped a shot on net that Burrows deflected. It hit Brodeur's glove before trickling in at 6:33.

Salo got the second Canucks goal with a slap shot from the right point at 10:03 as Mikael Samuelsson, right in front of the crease, screened Brodeur.

The Canucks caught the Devils in a line change, leaving Daniel Sedin wide open in the left circle to rip a shot past Brodeur at 12:32.

Then the momentum shifted in New Jersey's favor.

Bergfors put the Devils on the board, taking a drop pass from Andy Greene to beat Luongo from the left circle at 16:05 with the teams skating 4-on-4.

New Jersey mounted its best sustained pressure in the final minute and it paid off as Zajac scored with 6 seconds left.

In the third, Elder put the Canucks up 4-2 at 1:36, flipping a shot from above the left circle between the legs of Devils center Rob Niedermayer and Brodeur.

Vancouver put the game out of reach at 5:18 as Hansen polished off a 2-on-1 break with Kevin Bieksa.

Luongo came up strong midway through the period when the Devils had a 5-on-3 power-play advantage for 1:06. He turned away Zajac and Patrik Elias, preserving the Canucks' 5-2 advantage.

"It was not a good start for us," Devils coach Jacques Lemaire said. "We were lucky to get two goals back and make it a game at that point. We did play better in the second period, but not good enough. It was one night when nothing was working and our guys didn't have the legs they had in other games."

Bruins 4, Lightning 1

It's been a busy week for Marc Savard.

A day after signing a seven-year contract extension that could keep him in black and gold for the rest of his career, the Boston forward scored his 200th NHL goal and Marco Sturm scored twice on Wednesday night to lead the Bruins to a victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning.

"Signed a contract and gets his 200th goal," Bruins coach Claude Julien said. "These things have a way of kind of happening."

Tim Thomas, making his second straight start since missing six games with an undisclosed injury, stopped 39 shots to give the Bruins their sixth victory in seven games. Patrice Bergeron had a goal and two assists, Mark Recchi had three assists, and Zdeno Chara had two assists to help Boston move back into first place in the Northeast Division.

"The expectation was so high. Us getting off to a slow start kind of threw everybody for a loop — fans, media," Julien said. "I think we're finding our game slowly."

NBA

Nets lose record-breaking 18th

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — All those losses in what's now the worst start in NBA history had already beaten down the New Jersey Nets.

So when the Dallas Mavericks hit them with a 49-point second quarter, the Nets simply had no fight left.

New Jersey was pounded into NBA infamy Wednesday night, falling 117-101 for its 18th straight loss to start the season.

"I think what happens is you know it wears on you," interim coach Tom Barrise said. "It's not a two-game losing streak. We play four games a week in this league and it's every day and every other day, and you know you hear it and you start to feel it a little bit."

The Mavericks made 17 of 19 shots and opened a 27-point lead in a nearly flawless second period, burying the Nets early in former New Jersey captain Jason Kidd's second trip back to his old home.

The Nets passed the 1988-89 Miami Heat and 1999 Los Angeles Clippers, who both dropped their first 17 games. New Jersey's next chance to end the streak comes Friday at home against Charlotte.

If the Nets defend the way they did Wednesday, the skid could last a while longer.

Dallas shot 81 percent in the first half, the first NBA team to make 80 percent of its shots in a half since the Denver Nuggets hit 82 percent against the Clippers on April 4, 2006, according to STATS, LLC.

"At this point, I feel the streak has definitely gotten the best of us. It's really not starting to get

to us now," guard Chris Douglas-Roberts said. "So when a team goes on a run, we kind of, it's almost like we give up, which is really unfortunate but that's what it looks like to me. We kind of give up and just lay down instead of trying to fight."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Kidd had 16 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who led by 31 points in the third quarter. Erick Dampier added 18 points and 11 boards, and Jason Terry also scored 18 points.

The Nets, the NBA's worst team in scoring and shooting, could only blame their defense this time, which gives new coach Kiki Vandeweghe something to address when he runs his first practice Thursday.

Vandeweghe, the Nets' general manager, replaced the fired Lawrence Frank and will coach the team the rest of the season — but not quite yet. Though his hiring was announced Tuesday, Vandeweghe won't coach his first game until Friday, leaving Barrise in charge one more time.

Vandeweghe handled the pregame coach's meeting with reporters, then sat in a seat

above center court with Del Harris, the former Dallas assistant who will join him on the bench.

"Nobody likes to lose. Period. And obviously we made it clear and you all know this is a developmental year, but nobody expected to be 0-17," Vandeweghe said before the game. "That's just obviously not acceptable and I think that it's not acceptable to anybody and especially the players."

The longtime losers had their chances to avoid history. They led Minnesota by 19 in the third quarter on opening night before losing 95-93 on Damien Wilkins' putback at the buzzer, and lost 81-80 on Nov. 14 at Miami when Dwyane Wade made a 3-pointer with 0.1 seconds left.

New Jersey hung around for a quarter in this one. The Mavs shot 71 percent in the first period, but the Nets turned six Dallas turnovers into 11 points and fought their way to a 28-all tie.

It was over a few minutes later. Dallas shot 89.5 percent in the second, hitting its final nine shots and making all 10 free throws while building a 77-50 lead.

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NBA

Ilgauskas sets Cavs' record for games played

Nine Hawks record double-digits in victory over Raptors; Magic becomes NBA's first 15 game winner

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — As 20,000 fans filled the arena with the droning sound of his nickname, Cavaliers center Zydrunas Ilgauskas choked back tears.

The big man, known simply as "Z," finally had his moment.

"That was one of the coolest things I've experienced in my life," he said.

Ilgauskas, who overcame severe foot injuries early in his career to become an All-Star center, scored 14 points and set a Cleveland team record for games played, and Shaquille O'Neal scored 12 as the Cavaliers dismantled Shaq's former team with a 107-90 win over the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night.

LeBron James just missed a triple-double as the Cavs handed the Suns their second straight lopsided loss.

Ilgauskas, forced to accept a backup role when the Cavs acquired O'Neal, became the team's career leader with 724 games played — finally. He had been expected to surpass former teammate and general manager Danny Ferry on Saturday against Dallas, but was never put in the game by coach Mike Brown.

The snub angered James, who called out Brown in support of his teammate.

When Ilgauskas checked in with 3:50 left in the first quarter, Cleveland fans broke into deafening chants of "ZZZZZZ" and gave the team's career leader in rebounds and blocks an extended standing ovation that began as soon as the 7-foot-3 center began peeling off his warmups.

"That's the closest I've ever come to tears on the basketball floor," Ilgauskas said.

Ilgauskas stoically stood in front of his locker after the game. He didn't field any questions and apologized to reporters for not being available since Saturday's puzzling benching.

"Obviously, I was very disappointed I didn't play in the last game," he said. "I know I'm a good player. It made me more disappointed and upset with acts that followed and this whole mess that has been created. I'm not going to go into any details. I'm going to be a bigger man and walk away from this. I know when I go to bed at night my conscience is clear."

"I love this team. I love my teammates. They are like a family to me. I'm going to come every day to work and try my hardest. Hopefully we can win a championship for this city because they deserve it. It has not been an easy ordeal."

Brown, who said Tuesday that he wished he would have handled Saturday's game differently, sidestepped the issue before the game. Afterward, team owner Dan Gilbert released a statement in which he said Ilgauskas had asked that his milestone not be acknowledged during the game.

"It is fitting that Z broke the record for most games played in a Cavaliers uniform," Gilbert said. "His journey to this point has been remarkable in many ways and we all have a great deal of respect and admiration

for what Z has accomplished."

O'Neal was proud to share in Ilgauskas' big night.

"I don't consider him my backup," he said. "I consider him my partner."

James finished with 12 points, 10 assists, eight rebounds and another chase-down block of Suns guard Jason Richardson, whom he victimized last season. The Cavs had seven players in double figures.

It was the second straight blowout loss for the Suns, who were throttled 126-99 by the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

Channing Frye scored 22 points and Steve Nash had 14 but also five assists and six turnovers for Phoenix, which was held to a season low in points.

Wearing throwback uniforms from the 1980s, the Cavaliers gave the Suns an old-school thumping. Cleveland raced to a 33-14 lead after one.

"We got nothing going at all in the first quarter," Suns coach Alvin Gentry said. "It was an uphill battle from there. We've got some work to do. We're a good basketball team. We're just struggling right now. There are things we've got to get corrected, but it's not anything we can't do when we get a couple of practice days."

"We're not in any kind of panic situation."

O'Neal's basket to open the second half put Cleveland up 59-29, and Phoenix could only get as close as 12 during garbage time in the fourth.

O'Neal spent 1 1/2 seasons with the Suns, who believed he was the missing piece to lead them to an NBA title. Instead, the All-Star center mostly slowed their high-octane offense and Phoenix won just one playoff game during O'Neal's stay in the Southwest.

Cleveland acquired Shaq for the same reason, and to this point, he has improved the Cavs, who have won 13 of 16 since an 0-2 start.

"They don't look bad at all. A lot of folks talk about how bad they look with Shaq. I disagree," Suns forward Amare Stoudemire said. "I think they look fairly good. Shaq played decent out there. He created some havoc defensively, got some baskets deep in the paint and rebounded well. Shaq's not looking horrible, I'll tell you that. He's looking pretty good and the Cavs are looking solid as well."

Hawks 146, Raptors 115

For a change, the Toronto Raptors couldn't lean on Chris Bosh and the Atlanta Hawks didn't have to lean on Joe Johnson.

The Hawks came out far better in that comparison of two of the NBA's top 11 scorers.

Al Horford had 24 points to lead nine scorers in double figures and the Hawks enjoyed their best offensive night in 16 years to beat the slumping Raptors on Wednesday night.

"It was fun. It was one of those nights where we couldn't miss," Horford said.

Bosh, who averages 25.2 points, had a season-low two points in only 16 minutes. That left the Raptors with far too lit-



LeBron James dunks the ball in the Cavaliers' victory Wednesday over the Suns. Cleveland moves to 13-5 after winning 13 of their last 16 games.

tle offense to keep up with the Hawks' highest-scoring game since Jan. 30, 1993, when they beat Philadelphia 149-123.

The Raptors suffered their fifth straight loss. The Hawks regained their momentum after losing three of four.

"We were simply outclassed," said Toronto coach Jay Triano. "They just destroyed us."

Atlanta, held below 90 points in its last three losses, enjoyed an offensive revival against the Raptors, who are next to last in the NBA with their average of 109.1 points allowed.

"We didn't magically appear last on the charts defensively," Bosh said, adding the team's "defensive effort hasn't been there for a while. ... I mean, tonight was just a total embarrassment."

Bosh sat out much of the first half with foul trouble and most of the second half after the Hawks led by more than 20 points. The two points were Bosh's low total since scoring one point at Milwaukee on Nov. 6, 2007.

Bosh's only points came on two free throws in the third period, but he was more concerned about his team's defensive lapses.

"We've got to care about it," Bosh said. "That's what it comes down to. Have some pride. Without that pride teams just score at will, like they did tonight."

"If we did care we wouldn't give up 145 points."

The Hawks had nine players in double figures for the first time since Dec. 4, 1987, against New Jersey.

"I think everybody pretty much knows we're an explosive team," Johnson said. "Our consistency is where we're lacking. We've got to figure it out on the road instead of just bringing it at home."

The Hawks were playing their first game since losing at

Detroit on Sunday. Coach Mike Woodson used the time to stress defense in practice.

"It got a little intense the last couple of days and we needed that," Woodson said. "We had been lagging from a defensive standpoint and rebounding the ball."

After they were outrebounded 53-27 in a 94-88 loss at Detroit on Sunday, the Hawks had 26 rebounds in just the first half against Toronto and claimed a 51-29 advantage for the game.

The Raptors arrived in Atlanta early Wednesday after losing to Washington in Toronto on Tuesday night and fell to 0-4 in the second game of back-to-backs.

"I think it had something to do with their back-to-back games," said Atlanta's Jamal Crawford, who had 16 points. "We jumped out early and didn't look back the whole game."

DeMar DeRozan had 21 points and Marco Belinelli added 16 for Toronto.

Eleven Atlanta players scored and Maurice Evans had nine points to narrowly miss giving the Hawks 10 players in double figures.

Josh Smith had 16 points, including 12 in the opening period, and four blocks. Marvin Williams added 15 points.

The Hawks stretched their lead by scoring 42 points in the second period, a season high for any period, for a 75-54 half-time lead. Atlanta kept on the pressure by adding 39 points in the third quarter.

Mike Bibby's three 3-pointers early in the first 4 minutes of the third quarter left each of the Hawks' starters in double figures.

Woodson left his starters on the bench most of the final quarter.

Magic 118, Knicks 104

With Rashard Lewis suspended for the first 10 games, the

Orlando Magic were concerned that not having their All-Star forward could lead to a slow start.

That never happened. And now that he's found his groove, Lewis is a big reason the Magic are the NBA's first 15-game winner.

Lewis scored 17 of his 20 points in the third quarter, helping the Magic (15-4) pull away for an easy victory over the New York Knicks on Wednesday night.

His suspension for testing positive for an elevated testosterone level is behind him, and Lewis just counts that as another positive for his team.

"There's a number of things that we want to do to let people know that we are a good team," he said.

Dwight Howard added 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Mickael Pietrus had 17 points as Orlando scored 41 points in the decisive third quarter. The Magic have won nine of their last 10 games.

Wilson Chandler had 24 points, and Danilo Gallinari added 20 points for the struggling Knicks, who have lost six of their last seven games. Reserve Nate Robinson didn't play for the Knicks even after the guard scored 24 points — 22 in the fourth quarter — in a loss to the Magic last week in New York.

"We want to win, and if he's conducive to winning, then he'll obviously be back in the lineup," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said. "If not, then not. I'm not going to explain everything. I did not play Darko (Milicic). No one asked me about that. Why didn't I play Marcus (Landry) last game? We could go through the whole thing."

"I won't sit here and explain it, and it's something that we're trying to build a winning group."

NHL

Bruins sign Savard to 7-year extension

Associated Press

BOSTON — Center Marc Savard passed on a chance to become a free agent next summer for an opportunity to finish his career with the Boston Bruins.

The team's leading scorer each of the past three seasons signed a seven-year contract extension, beginning next season, worth slightly more than \$28 million. The club announced the deal on Tuesday.

Savard said Wednesday the contract allows him to stay with a contending team in a city that loves sports.

"I think I stated earlier in some articles that I wanted to stay in Boston for the rest of my career and it looks like I'm going to have that chance," Savard said at a news conference. "So I'm happy about that. Over the last few years, I've watched this town grow back into a hockey town. And, hopefully, our goal as a team and as a staff comes true, that we can bring a (Stanley) Cup back to Boston."

The Bruins finished first in the Eastern Conference last season and won a playoff series for the first time in 10 years, sweeping the Montreal Canadiens in four games, before losing in the second round to the Carolina Hurricanes.

Going into Wednesday night's game against the Tampa Bay Lightning, Savard had four goals and six assists in 11 games. He missed 15 games

with a broken foot before returning. Last season, he led the Bruins with 25 goals and 63 assists.

Savard signed a four-year, \$20 million contract as a free agent in the summer of 2006 after playing for the Atlanta Thrashers. He previously played for the New York Rangers and Calgary Flames. None of those cities has had the recent success among its pro sports franchises as the Boston area.

"With all the incredible sports teams they have here and the fans' knowledge about all the events, it's incredible," Savard said. "Since day one, I look back at the playoffs and to see what could be really excites me, too, especially when we play the Canadiens in the playoffs and the way fans react. It's something that we'd like to try to finish here."

Savard came to Boston with the reputation as a playmaker but has become more than that with the Bruins.

"His competitive nature has always been there, but I see it maturing, I see it growing and it's really consistent and compatible with the identity of the team," Bruins general manager Peter Chiarelli said. "The face-offs and penalty killing, the shooting the puck more is another thing. I feel his game is rounding into a really solid, tremendous skill package with these other intangible things. And you've seen it year to year and it's been impressive."

NFL

Kicker Elam released by Falcons

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jason Elam figured he was down to his last miss.

He was right. The Atlanta Falcons released the 17-year veteran on Tuesday, having finally run out of patience with a kicker who had been one of the NFL's most accurate but struggled through a mystifying slump this season.

Elam was just 8 of 15 on field goal attempts from at least 30 yards, a success rate that was simply unacceptable — especially for a team contending in the NFC playoff race.

"To be honest with you, when I walked off the field after the last three games, I thought that was it," Elam told The Associated Press when reached on his cell phone. "I've always been able to kick myself out of these things, but it just wasn't happening for me. It was a bad November."

It also was an unceremonious ending for a 39-year-old kicker who is tied for the longest field goal in NFL history (63 yards), made more than 81 percent of his career attempts, and earned three Pro Bowl appearances during a 15-season tenure with the Denver Broncos, helping them win back-to-back Super Bowls in the 1990s.

Elam signed with the Falcons last year, returning to

the area where he grew up, and played a big role in Atlanta's surprising run to the playoffs. He made 29 of 31 field goals and all 42 of his extra-point attempts.

But something went wrong this season, and it was apparent right from the start. Elam struggled in the preseason, missed an extra point in the regular-season opener and botched crucial kicks in losses to Carolina and the New York Giants.

"This is not my dream ending, but I feel like it was a pretty good dream career," he said. "I never anticipated it lasting this long. I wish it was different circumstances that I was going out. But I gave them everything I've got. I can look myself in the mirror and feel good."

The Falcons (6-5) insisted that one miss didn't cost Elam his job. But the final straw came Sunday, when he was wide left on a 43-yarder with 6 1/2 minutes left in the fourth quarter that might have led to another Atlanta loss.

The Falcons rallied, throwing a fourth-down touchdown pass with 23 seconds remaining to pull out a 20-17 victory over the woeful Tampa Bay Buccaneers, but they couldn't afford to cut it so close again, not with vital games coming up against Philadelphia and unbeaten New Orleans.

"He hit some, but unfortu-

nately he missed some others," Falcons general manager Thomas Dimitroff told the AP. "We felt like we needed to make a move."

Atlanta signed Matt Bryant, who has kicked with four NFL teams, most recently spending four seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He had been playing with Florida of the fledgling United Football League and was brought in for a tryout Tuesday, four days after his team lost in the inaugural UFL championship game.

"Matt came in and kicked very well at our indoor facility," Dimitroff said. "He stroked it well, he had good pop and he showed some accuracy."

Bryant has the third-longest field goal in NFL history, a 62-yarder in 2006, and he's also endured personal tragedy: his 3-month-old son Matthew Tryson, died unexpectedly in 2008. One day after the funeral, Bryant returned to kicked three goals in Tampa Bay's victory over the Green Bay Packers.

"You know he's strong-willed, given what he's gone through in his background," Dimitroff said.

Elam wasn't the only member of the field-goal unit to lose his job. Long snapper Bryan Pittman also was cut, replaced by Joe Zelenka.

While Elam said he'll take a few days to decide on whether he wants to pursue a job with another team, he sure sounded as though he's ready to call it a career.

"I just want to be remembered as a consistent kicker," he said.

"I've always been able to kick myself out of these things, but it just wasn't happening for me."

Jason Elam
Former Falcons kicker

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McGraw

continued from page 24

really able to score inside, but I thought we could have gone inside [to them] a little bit more.”

The two teams exchanged leads three different times in the first half before the Irish's 11-0 run gave them a 35-27 halftime advantage.

However, Eastern Michigan didn't flinch. The Eagles began the second half on an 11-1 run to take the lead.

“This was a game where, coming back from a three day tournament, you're tired, thinking about the paper that's due and not getting enough rest,” McGraw said. “Overall I thought we just weren't in a good place and it showed.”

The Irish finally retook the lead at 45-42 when freshman guard Skylar Diggins converted a three-point play with 11:09 remaining and the team never looked back. Diggins finished with 15 points, six rebounds and three

steals, but was 0-for-4 from the three-point line.

“We weren't there mentally,” McGraw said. “We were lucky to win the game.”

Tavelyn James led all scorers with 21 points on 8-of-21 shooting for the Eagles (5-2), who fell to 0-10 all-time against ranked opponents.

“I thought James played extremely well,” McGraw said. “We couldn't catch her in transition. We didn't run the floor with her and she was fantastic.”

The Eagles defense held the Irish to 25-of-62, or 40 percent, shooting from the floor and just 4-of-15 shooting from behind the arc.

“I thought there zone defense gave us problems,” McGraw said. “They slowed us down a little bit and we didn't quite get the up tempo points we usually get.”

After the game, Irish athletic director Jack Swarbrick presented McGraw with a game ball and a bouquet commemorating her

“Overall, I thought we just weren't in a good place and it showed.”

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

“They slowed us down a little bit and we didn't quite get the up-tempo points we usually get.”

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Notre Dame guards Melissa Lechlitner and Lindsay Schrader guard an Eastern Michigan player in the Irish's 69-59 win on Wednesday. The No. 5 Irish advanced to 5-0 with the victory.

500th victory as coach of the Irish.

“I look back at all the assistant coaches and all the players that I've had, and I have

been so blessed to be able coach at the University of Notre Dame,” McGraw said of the honor. “It's such an amazing place and I count my lucky

stars every day when I come to the office.”

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Belles

continued from page 24

a 3-pointer from Sullivan and a series of layups by Murphy and senior forward Anna Kamrath but still trailed 42-29 at the break.

Saint Mary's came back on the court hoping to close the gap, but the shots weren't falling for the Belles as they missed 3-pointers, layups and even free throws throughout the second period.

The Polar Bears went on a scoring drive at the start of the half, stretching their lead to 18 with 10 minutes remaining.

The Belles began shooting better, but weren't able to find consistent success and Ohio Northern's lead increased to 59-41.

Each time the Belles made a scoring run, Ohio Northern would respond and pull away.

The Polar Bears outshot the Belles 52 percent to 32 percent from the floor, and out-rebounded them 43-40.

Each team had 26 turnovers, with the Belles scoring 23 points off of them and the Polar Bears 22.

Kamrath led Saint Mary's in points with 13, and was tied for second in steals with three.

Junior guard Liz Wade had eight assists and three steals in the game.

Sophomore guard Patsy Mahoney chipped in 10 points and five rebounds, sophomore Kelley Murphy had eight points with seven rebounds and sophomore guard Maggie Ronan put in 10 points and seven rebounds.

Up next for the Belles is the start of MIAA competition as they host conference foe Trine Saturday at 3 p.m.

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Pitt ready for high-powered Bearcats

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Cincinnati's undefeated Bearcats generate offense like they're playing a video game, scoring 41 or more points three times in their last five games. Their starting quarterback goes down, and the backup plays even better than the regular did.

No. 14 Pittsburgh couldn't help but being impressed while watching No. 5 Cincinnati pile up 711 yards behind backup quarterback Zach Collaros during a 47-45 victory over Connecticut, a team the Panthers trailed by 15 points before rallying to beat.

“They're throwing the ball all over the place,” Pitt defensive lineman Gus Mustakas said.

Throw it all over Heinz Field on Saturday, and the No. 5 Bearcats (11-0, 6-0 in Big East) will be trying to unleash their dare-you-to-stop-us offense in a BCS bowl.

Regardless, Pitt (9-2, 5-1) hasn't spent the week trying to rig up some gimmick defense to slow quarterback Tony Pike or wide receiver Mardy Gilyard, the players most responsible for Cincinnati's 28-21 win over the Panthers last season. Pike has thrown eight TD passes in his last two games, six against Illinois on Friday, but Pitt knows there is only one way to effectively control him.

Don't let him get the ball very often.

While the Bearcats don't give up yards and points as quickly as they produce them, they yield a lot — 1,338 yards and 102 points in their last three games. If the Panthers avoid turnovers, get a big day from freshman running back Dion Lewis (1,446 yards) and Bill



Cincinnati quarterback Tony Pike passes against Illinois in the Bearcats' 49-36 win over the Fighting Illini.

Stull (19 TD passes, 6 interceptions) spreads the ball among his receivers, their best defense against Cincinnati might be a good offense.

“Every time we go on the field, we think we can score on every possession,” coach Dave Wannstedt said. “That's the way it's drawn up. That's how we practice. That's what our kids believe.”

The Panthers played their poorest game of the season offensively while losing to rival West Virginia 19-16 on Friday, dropping them from No. 8 to

conference.

“If it comes to a shootout, we think we can hang with anybody,” tight end Nate Byham said.

Cincinnati, which is trying to complete the first 12-0 regular season in school history, leads the Big East in scoring (39.4), total offense (472.7 yards per game) and passing offense (322 yards). The Bearcats have allowed only nine sacks while scoring fewer than 28 points only once — a 24-21 victory over West Virginia.

“We definitely can match them because we're not going to let them come in here and do what they want to do,” Pitt tight end Dorin Dickerson said. “We're going to run our offense and run our defense and play our game. We're going to be the better team at the end of the day. That's what we're striving for, and that's what we have to do this week.”

Wannstedt wasn't happy with his team's preparation for West Virginia, although he didn't blame it on any premature thoughts about playing Cincinnati.

If Pitt needs any further incentive beyond the obvious, here's something to ponder: Nine wins for Pitt, rather than their first 10-win regular season since 1981, could mean the Papajohns.com Bowl in Birmingham, Ala., or the International Bowl in Toronto rather than, possibly, the Sugar Bowl.

“Coach Wannstedt hit on it,” linebacker Adam Gunn said. “Last year we were happy with nine wins, and we were excited to play in the Sun Bowl (a 3-0 loss to Oregon State). This year, we have nine wins, but we're not happy at all.”

Tourney

continued from page 24

Dealy and junior middle blocker Kellie Sciacca have both started 26 of the 27 matches this season and have played 93 and 91 total sets, respectively. The only match they did not start was the senior game against South Florida.

Dealy is currently second on the team with 3.30 kills per set and 93 total points. She is also tied for first in service aces with 23. Sciacca is second on the team with 90 total blocks.

Sophomore libero Frenchy Silva and junior outside hitter Stephanie Slatt have also seen significant playing time this season. Silva leads the team on defense with 3.42 digs per set and 308 total digs. Slatt, who specializes mostly in service, has 12 aces on the season.

Dealy said preparation this week has been different than it has been for regular season games.

"We talked about it on Tuesday and just made sure we're all really focused. It's a

really fun atmosphere."

The Irish (21-6) will take on Ohio (26-6) Friday in Ann Arbor, Mich., and the winner of that game will play the winner of No. 13-seed Michigan and Niagara Saturday.

The rest of the bracket includes No. 4-seed Stanford, Long Island, St. Mary's (Calif.) and California-Santa Barbara.

Notre Dame has lost its past two games, only its second losing streak all season. Before that, they had won 14 straight.

"I feel like with the last two losses, [the tournament] is a way to start fresh," Dealy said.

She said that although the seniors have been to the NCAAs before, they do not talk about it with the underclassmen.

"We try not to talk too much about the past," Dealy said. "But they're just really excited and their energy feeds down to everybody."

Dealy said that although the underclassmen are excited about their first tournament, the Irish will need to play the same way they have all season.

"It should be a challenge," she said, "but I feel like if everybody connects like we should connect, like how we have been the whole season, we should be really successful."

"I feel like if everybody connects like how we should connect ... we should be really successful."

Kristin Dealy
Irish outside hitter

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

Bowl

continued from page 24

they would vote on the issue Monday, and director of athletics Jack Swarbrick said the decision would be made later this week.

The team's 6-6 records limits their bowl possibilities, essentially, to four: the Little Caesar's Pizza Bowl in Detroit on Dec. 26, the EagleBank Bowl in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 29, the Humanitarian Bowl on the blue field in Boise, Idaho, on Dec. 30 or the GMAC Bowl in Mobile, Ala. on Jan. 6. All four have unfulfilled conference obligations.

ESPN.com predicts the Irish to visit Mobile and so does cbs.sportsline.com

Should the Irish go? Here are some effects to consider.

Pros:

◆ More money for the school. Always a good thing, even for a school with a huge endowment and television contract.

◆ More practice for the players, no matter who's coaching them. If a new coach is in place, they can

learn his system and adapt to his play calls, signals and terminology. It also will give him a feel for what he has to work with going into spring ball.

◆ One more chance to see Jimmy Clausen and Golden Tate play for the Irish.

Odds are at least one of them goes to the NFL, and it would give them a platform to go out on top. It would also allow the seniors to leave without the bitter taste of four straight losses in their mouths.

◆ A chance for some records. Sam Young could extend his consecutive starts streak and Tate could make a run at Jerome Bettis' total touchdown record of 20 in a season set in 1991 (Tate currently has 18).

◆ A platform to impress recruits who may be wavering after Charlie Weis was fired. If they saw the team play as a unit they may decide to stick with the Irish. It may also lure some new recruits to the school.

◆ A chance to get away. Clausen said after Stanford that going to a bowl is "like a vacation," and the Irish have been under a lot of stress this week. None of the above destinations are

exactly vacation getaways like Hawaii last year, but they're a change of scenery.

Cons:

◆ Notre Dame might get rocked. After Tyrone Willingham was fired in 2004, defensive coordinator Kent Baer took over as interim head coach for Notre Dame's 38-21 Insight Bowl loss to Oregon State. The team has had trouble with teams it should beat and may want to avoid an embarrassing end to the season.

◆ The team may not have a coach, and even if it does he may not be here before Notre Dame's bowl game due to his own coaching obligations. None of the offensive coaches have any experience calling plays.

◆ The locations and times of the bowls. Playing the day after Christmas isn't ideal, and none of the locations with the exception of Washington are major upgrades from South Bend.

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

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Scott

continued from page 24

team that has struggled to find consistent rebounding outside of senior forward

Luke Harangody.

"I'm just trying to concentrate on defense and rebounding, and letting the offense come to me, not trying to force too many things on offense," Scott said. "My confidence is building a lot. Just

everyday, taking a little bit every time, and we all feed off each other, and the guys are trusting me, so we're just getting better every day."

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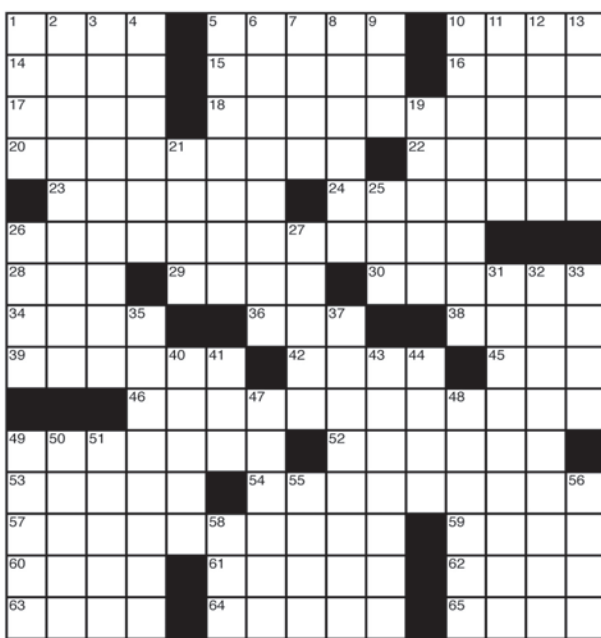
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 They're akin to khans
 - 5 Punts, e.g.
 - 10 Maintain
 - 14 Joining of opposite sides
 - 15 First word of the Lord's Prayer in French
 - 16 Drop
 - 17 ___ perpetuum (let it be everlasting)
 - 18 Sinclair Lewis novel
 - 20 Setting piece
 - 22 Exotic fish
 - 23 Venetian feature
 - 24 Rankle
 - 26 Series of sorties
 - 28 Half of bi-
 - 29 Big do
 - 30 Tricolor pooch
 - 34 Wind element
 - 36 Title not acquired by Miss Spain?: Abbr.
 - 38 ___ ring
 - 39 Set on the court
 - 42 Utah ski resort
 - 45 Mass ender?
 - 46 Gateway Arch designer
 - 49 Made a switch in a game
 - 52 Carriers of arms
 - 53 Beethoven dedicatee
 - 54 Has been around since, with "to"
 - 57 Bomb
 - 59 Funny Wilson
 - 60 Went after
 - 61 Tag words
- Down**
- 1 Galoots
 - 2 Refinery products
 - 3 Insurance company employees
 - 4 Like some traffic
 - 5 Suddenly break, as a twig
 - 6 Ones examining bodies of evidence?
 - 7 Juan's other
 - 8 Betrays, say
 - 9 Finish (up)
 - 10 They're out standing in their field
 - 11 Somewhat
 - 12 Not natural, in a way, after "in"
 - 13 ___ Allen furniture
 - 19 Hold (off)
 - 21 Coin "swallower"
 - 25 Trunk part
 - 26 Goddess of breezes
 - 27 Charles and others
 - 31 Kind of party
 - 32 What's barely done in movies?
 - 62 "Doctor Who" villainess, with "the"
 - 63 Italian rumbler
 - 64 Big ados
 - 65 Putin input?



Puzzle by Joe Kroll

- 33 First couple's home
- 35 Tab, for one
- 37 Actor Sim who played Ebenezer Scrooge
- 40 1991 and 1992 U.S. Open champ
- 41 Ill in modern Rome
- 43 Biblical money units
- 44 Fleischer and others
- 47 It doesn't end in 00
- 48 Natural
- 49 Quit
- 50 Unalaska native, e.g.
- 51 It may precede a storm
- 55 Play start
- 56 Work on a muffler, say
- 58 Walk-___

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brad Delson, 32; Nestor Carbonell, 42; Bette Midler, 64; Woody Allen, 74

Happy Birthday: Don't give in to pressure this year. Keep things simple and don't allow temptation to cost you a bundle emotionally or financially. Set a budget to ensure a safe and worry-free year. Handle sudden and unexpected changes with discretion. Don't spend irresponsibly in the year ahead. Your numbers are 3, 8, 17, 21, 28, 33, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Rethink your strategy and make inquiries that help you choose the right course of action. You can obtain goals that were not accomplished in the past. Success is just around the corner. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The people you have to deal with professionally and personally will test and challenge you. Listen carefully to what's required before you put your time and effort into what's being asked of you. Don't feel guilty if you don't want to participate. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't take chances when it comes to getting things done and dealing with others. Changing your mind will lead to conflicts you can do without. Don't lead someone on when you have no intention of accommodating the requests being made. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Your intuitive insight will enable you to choose what will work best for you. You will be able to see the possibilities that exist if you make some changes. Love and romance will be beckoning you. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's the generosity and kindness you offer the underdog that will help you realize what's truly important to you. Socializing with people you don't know well will bring you the greatest returns and lead to new friendships. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Getting together with old friends will give you a better perspective on your present situation. Greater personal growth can be expected from the experiences you engage in now. A much clearer view of what's ahead will develop. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have to think matters through carefully, especially when they have to do with your financial future or position. You have to find out first hand before making a promise or signing up for something. Rely on your own resources. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone who is withholding information or who is difficult to deal with will confuse you if you are too gullible. Keep your distance in order to finish what you started so you don't disappoint someone who is depending on you. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Temptation will set in, causing you to get involved in something that may be dubious. Consider how the choices you make will alter your future as well as the future of the people close to you. Don't get involved in something questionable. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Combine business with pleasure and you will leave a lasting impression. You will discover the importance of following through with your plans and enjoying what you do. Get in touch with someone from your past. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep the peace, no matter how hard it is. If you overreact or do things that someone doesn't like, you will pay dearly for your lack of consideration. Exaggeration will lead to conflicts. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't brag. Someone you know will be jealous and cause problems. You will have to defend yourself in order to save your reputation. A cash payout is heading your way -- be quiet about your good fortune if you want to hang onto it. ★

Birthday Baby: You are quick-witted and fast to make a decision. You are determined and dedicated to your own cause and can easily get others to follow you.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SCHAD & FREUDE

WILL GUAPPONE & BRI KRAFCIK



DAN POHLMAN

T.I.N.D



JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

CUROC

VELIA

SCEBIT

HYNDIG

A: " " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: RAPID FUNNY MEMBER ABUSED

Answer: When the surgeon hung the brain illustration on the wall, it became a -- "FRAME" OF MIND



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

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish edge Eagles

Irish use big runs in 69-59 victory at home

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

For much of the night, Notre Dame looked sluggish, distracted and out of sync. But in the end, the Irish were sharp enough when it counted most.

An 8-0 run capped by junior forward Becca Bruszewski's layup with 2:30 left all but sealed the game for the Irish as they went on to defeat Eastern Michigan 69-59 Wednesday night at Purcell Pavilion.

Bruszewski finished with 14 points and six rebounds while senior guard Lindsay Schrader added 15 points and seven boards for the No. 5 Irish (7-0).

"I thought Lindsey and Becca did a nice job offensively," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "They were



EILEEN VEIHMEYER/The Observer

Senior guard Melissa Lechlitner fights for position against two Eastern Michigan defenders in Wednesday's 69-59 victory over the Eagles. Lechlitner had eight points and four assists in the game.

see MCGRAW/page 21

FOOTBALL COMMENTARY

Bowl bid has pros and cons

Depending on who you listen to, the coaching search is all but over. One story has you believing Bob Stoops is buying houses in Elkhart,

while another makes you think Brian Kelly is in the Gug right now measuring his office for furniture. These reports can fog over the issue of whether or not Notre Dame, who finished the season 6-6, will choose to go to a bowl game if invited. The players said



Bill Brink

Managing Editor

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see BOWL/page 22

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Scott emerges as low-post threat off bench for Irish

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

After a slow start to the season, junior Carlton Scott has come on strong for the Irish, playing four solid games in a row and adding much needed depth to the Irish roster.

"I think [Scott] is a guy that can ignite some stuff with the plays he can make physically," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "It has just kind of come to him,

and I think that's been a process he's learned in the last four games. We continue to need him to embrace that role. It's very important for us."

Scott's minutes have increased over the four-game stretch, in which he recorded more than 20 minutes in three of those games and played a more significant role for the Irish on the court. He provides a boost on defense and in rebounding, which is the reason he thinks his playing time

has increased.

"I just did my role," Scott said. "Coach said I needed to defend and rebound more, and that's what I did. He said if I did that, it's hard to take me off the floor."

Scott struggled early in the season, particularly with his shot selection, so Brey was hesitant to give him early playing time. By focusing on defense and rebounds, Scott has been able to play more, which has improved his offen-

sive game as well.

"I just wanted him to think about helping us out there and just fitting in on offense," Brey said. "I think the first three or four games he was worried about 'when will I get a shot?' And we witnessed some very bad shots by him, shots where you go 'what is he thinking?' I took him out after one, and that was kind of the crossroads. To his credit, he's a sharp kid. He played key minutes for us in Chicago, and I

think now it's been four straight games where he has said, 'ok, I get my role, I can be efficient.'"

Scott's best game of the season so far has been Notre Dame's 80-62 win over Kennesaw State on Nov. 24. Scott scored seven and totaled 12 rebounds in 22 minutes of playing time. He is currently averaging 4.6 rebounds per game, which is second on a

see SCOTT/page 22

ND VOLLEYBALL

Team returns to NCAA stage

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

When the Irish take the floor against Ohio University Friday, they will be playing in their first NCAA tournament since 2006.

The six seniors on the 2009 squad were freshmen then, when the Irish lost in the first round to Wisconsin. The underclassman on this year's team, however, are headed to the tournament for the first time.

"We're all just excited to show how good we can be," sophomore outside hitter Kristen Dealy said.

Underclassmen have made a big impact on this year's team.



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Junior Kelly Sciacca goes up for a spike during a 3-1 Notre Dame win over Seton Hall Oct. 31.

see TOURNEY/page 22

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles shooters go cold in loss to Polar Bears

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's fought its way through a tough game against Ohio Wednesday until before falling 82-60, dropping their record to 3-2.

The Belles were down 82-56 until the last 10 seconds of the game when freshman guard Annie Doyle sunk back-to-back shots off of a steal by Jessica Centa and a takeaway of her own with two seconds left on the clock.

Saint Mary's started the game off strong with a layup from sophomore guard Katie Sullivan, but quickly fell

behind as the Belles' scoring troubles began. After a string of missed shots, fouls and turnovers by the Belles, the Polar Bears pulled ahead 16-13 with 10 minutes left in the first half.

The end of the first period was marked with Saint Mary's consistently missing its shots and Ohio Northern getting the defensive rebound. Sophomore forward Kelley Murphy did manage to attempt four shots from the line, missing two, at the end of the period.

The Belles also scored on two free throws from Centa,

see BELLES/page 21